

Birding Guide



CAPE WEST COAST/WESKUS



Bird Watching Spots

Where the Berg River meanders into the Atlantic Ocean on the Western Coast of Southern Africa is the town Velddrif. The tidal action between the ocean and the river, with its estuary and tidal flats, creates some of the multiple habitats which makes this one of the very best birding areas on the Western Coast of Southern Africa.

The Southern African Bird Atlas Project 2 (SABAP2) records bird species according to strict protocols. Over 220 bird species have officially been observed in this area since 2007. The observation of species is dictated by the seasons, with summer always having the highest number of species. Winter months have their own interesting surprises with some migrant birds such as Common Whimbrel, Grey Plover and young Curlew Sandpipers not leaving for the northern hemisphere because of the mild winter conditions.

A variety of waders, such as Plovers and Sandpipers, can usually be observed at low tide. There are a number of easily accessible viewing points such as Laaiplek Harbour (-32.7703 ; 18.1488) and at the adjoining SA Fisheries Museum (-32.7710 ; 18.1514). Expect to see Kelp, Hartlaub's and Grey-headed Gulls, African Black Oystercatchers on the far bank of the river, Greater and Lesser Flamingo, Grey Heron and Cape Cormorant of which over 100 000 have been counted flying low over the Berg River coming in to roost in the late afternoon. On the border between Laaiplek and Port Owen is Rooibaai (-32.7786 ; 18.1508) where one can sometimes be surprised by unexpected waders at low tide. On the eastern side of the Carinus Bridge is a wooden walkway (-32.7869 ; 18.1743) which takes one closer to Greater and Lesser Flamingo with different duck species at high tide and waders at low tide.

At the famous Bokkomlaan (-32.7876 ; 18.1869) you can park your vehicle and stroll along looking at Great White Pelicans, or relax at one of the eateries. Enjoy the views and look out for the African Marsh-Harrier over the

reeds as well as Kingfishers, Grey Heron, African Darter, Black-winged Stilt, Gulls and Terns.

Leisurely boat trips on the river are available, with the possibility of observing more bird species. Contact the Velddrif Visitors Information Centre for details on 022 783 1821.

Access to some of the salt mines and farms east of the Carinus Bridge is only possible by prior arrangement with the property owners. There may be costs involved.

A list of birds in the greater Berg River area is available at Velddrif Visitors Information Centre.

Eddie du Plessis

Berg Estuary Ramsar Site

- Country: South Africa
 - Site number: 2466
 - Area: 1 162,8 ha
 - Designation date: 01-02-2022
 - Coordinates: 32°51'S 18°15'E
- <https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/2466>



Tips for enjoyable birding

- Remember your binoculars.
- 1 Carry insect repellent and medication for bites and stings with you, especially during flower time.
- 2 Take care when walking on the wooden walkways.
- 3 Take care of your personal security and your belongings.
- 4 Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times, and preferably not be taken into sensitive birding areas.
- 5 Be careful where you tread so as to not destroy bird nests on the ground.
- 6



Conservation

Laaiplek Harbour	022 783 0447
Rocherpan Nature Reserve	087 158 0104

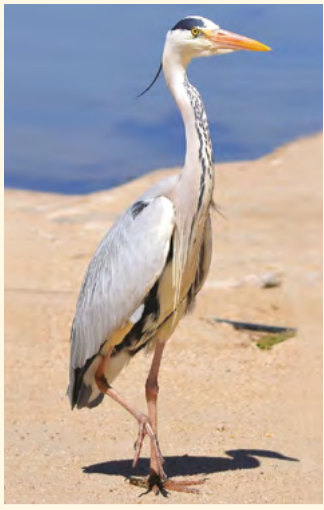
Emergency Numbers

Ambulance	022 713 4590 or 10177
Medical Doctor	022 783 0027/083 658 4056
NSRI	082 990 5966
Police	022 783 8025/8/0 or 10111
Provincial Hospital, Vredenburg	022 709 7200
Private Hospital, Vredenburg	022 719 1030

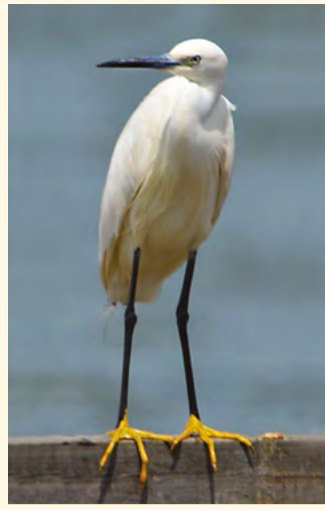
Visitors' Information Centre

Voortrekker Road, Velddrif
 t: +27 (0)22 783 1821
 e: velddrif@bergrivertourism.co.za
 w: www.velddrif.bergrivertourism.co.za

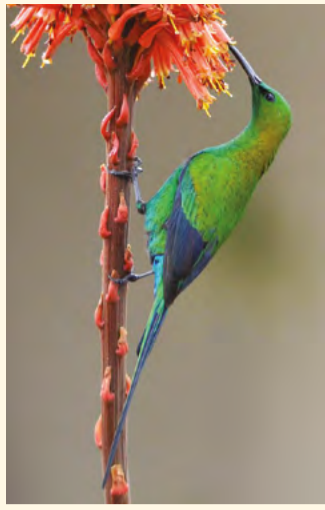




Grey Heron
Bloureier



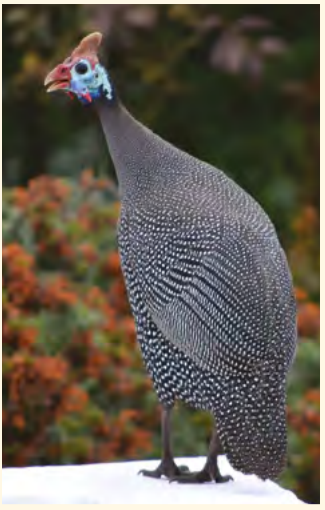
Little Egret
Kleinwitreier



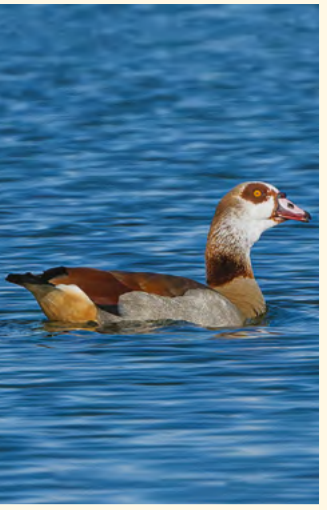
Malachite Sunbird
Jangroentjie



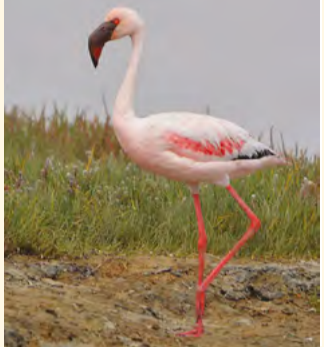
Red Faced Mousebird
Rooiwangmuisvoël



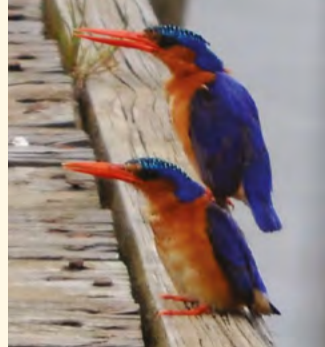
Helmeted Guineafowl
Gewone Tarentaal



Egyptian Goose
Kolgans



Lesser Flamingo
Kleinflamink



Malachite Kingfisher
Kuifkopvisvanger



Cape Cormorant
Trekduiker



Bokmakerie
Bokmakerie



Eurasian Whimbrel
Kleinwulp



White-breasted Cormorant
Witborsduiker



Southern Double-collared Sunbird
Klein-rooibandsuikerbekkie



Hartlaub's Gull
Hartlaubse Meeu



Purple Heron
Rooireier



African Black Oystercatcher
Swarttobie



Hadedda Ibis
Hadedda



Black-winged Stilt
Rooipootelsie



African Spoonbill
Lepelaar



Red-knobbed Coot
Bleshoender



Three-banded Plover
Driebandstrandkiewiet



Reed Cormorant
Rietduiker



Cape Bulbul
Kaapse Tiptol



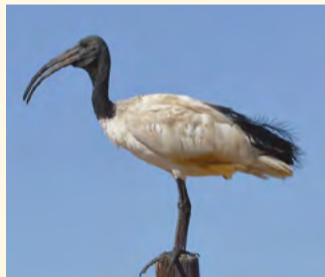
Curlew Sandpiper
Krombekstrandloper



Black-crowned Night Heron
Gewone Nagreier



Crowned Lapwing
Kroonkiewiet



African Sacred Ibis
Skoorsteenveër



Greater Flamingo
Grootflamink



African Darter
Slanghalsvoël



Blacksmith Lapwing
Bontkiewiet



Grey-headed Gull
Gryskopmeeu



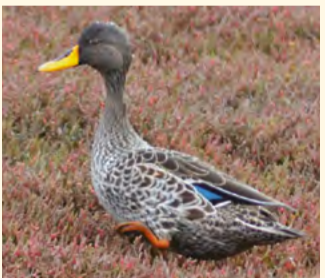
Cape Spurfowl
Kaapse Fisant



Jackal Buzzard
Rooiborsjakkalsvoël



Kelp Gull
Kelpmeeu



Yellow-billed Duck
Geelbekeend



Caspian Tern
Reusesterretjie



Pied Kingfisher
Bontvisvanger



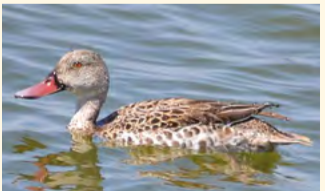
Pied Avocet
Bontelsie



Little Grebe
Kleindobbertjie



Greater Crested Tern
Geelbeksterretjie



Cape Teal
Teeleend



Great White Pelican
Witpelikaan



Pied Crow
Witborskraai



Blue Crane
Bloukraanvoël



Common Green Shank
Groenpootruiter



Common Starling
Europese Spreeu



White-backed Mousebird
Witruismuisvoël



Cape Sparrow
Gewone Mossie