

Cape Parrot Newsletter

CONTENTS

Research & News 2

International Ornithological Congress 3

Contact persons for CPBBD May 2022 4

Map of areas covered for CPBBD 5

25th Cape Parrot Count!

The Cape Parrot count is in its 25th year! The annual Cape Parrot Big Birding Day (CPBBD) was initiated in 1998 and held annually since. The Cape Parrot is a flagship species for South Africa's Afrotropical/temperate indigenous forest patches and their surrounding grasslands. The present Cape Parrot population consists of three subpopulations, the southern group in the Amatole's in the Eastern Cape, the central group from Ncogbo and Mthatha in the Eastern Cape through to the Midlands in KwaZulu-Natal, and a disjunct northern group mainly in the Magoeboeskloof, Limpopo Province.

Standard bird counting techniques are unsuitable for Cape Parrots as their cryptic colouration combined with dense forest habitats often makes them difficult to locate once perched, but their loud, harsh calls whilst in-flight make them conspicuous. They are most active during the first few hours after dawn and before sunset when they leave and return to their roosts in forest patches, although these periods can be extended during misty conditions. These characteristics allow for a 'total count' of the

parrots. The count relies heavily on volunteers so please consider joining one of the teams (list of coordinators and areas are on Page 4).

We are very grateful to those who have participated over the years, to those who keep it up every year, and to the coordinators who rally their teams. The count helps us to monitor the species and motivate for various conservation measures. Help us to keep this going for at least another 25 years.

Cape Parrot Counting Day 2022



Wanted
Volunteers to
help count the
endangered
Cape Parrot in
the wild

Sat 7th May (pm) & Sun 8th May (am)

Join us in our annual evening and morning Cape Parrot count to help save one of South Africa's most endangered birds

Contact: Prof Colleen T. Downs
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University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg
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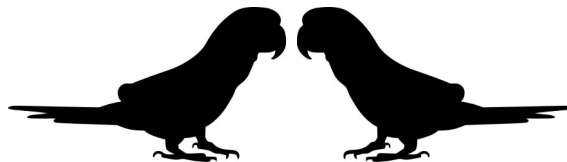


Research & News

New Research on Beak and Feather Disease Virus

The beak and feather disease virus (BFDV) is of concern in the conservation of wild Psittaciformes globally. A total of 612 samples were analyzed from five populations of parrots of the Southern Hemisphere. The virus was not detected in any of the sampled birds. The results suggest that geographical and temporal differences in the virus distribution may exist. They also provide a baseline for future studies looking at temporal aspects and the spread of the disease. The authors expressed the need for further research as this disease is a critical component in the efforts to conserve wild Psittaciformes.

Reference: Ortiz-Catedral, L.; Wallace, C.J.; Heinsohn, R.; Krebs, E.A.; Langmore, N.E.; Vukelic, D.; Bucher, E.H.; Varsani, A.; Masello, J.F. A PCR-Based Retrospective Study for Beak and Feather Disease Virus (BFDV) in Five Wild Populations of Parrots from Australia, Argentina and New Zealand. *Diversity* **2022**, *14*, 148. <https://doi.org/10.3390/d14020148>



Illegal Trade of African Grey Parrot Increasing

The United for Wildlife Taskforce Intelligence Bulletin sent in February 2022 had an alert about Grey parrot trafficking increasing on e-commerce and social media platforms to supply domestic markets especially in Nigeria and Kenya.

For more info see: https://mcusercontent.com/36bb9ba83c68595392655c2fe/files/eb9e368c-618b-42db-1f38-90d4d43b8918/VW0063_Online_parrot_trafficking_20221118_Final.docx_2_.pdf

International Ornithological Congress



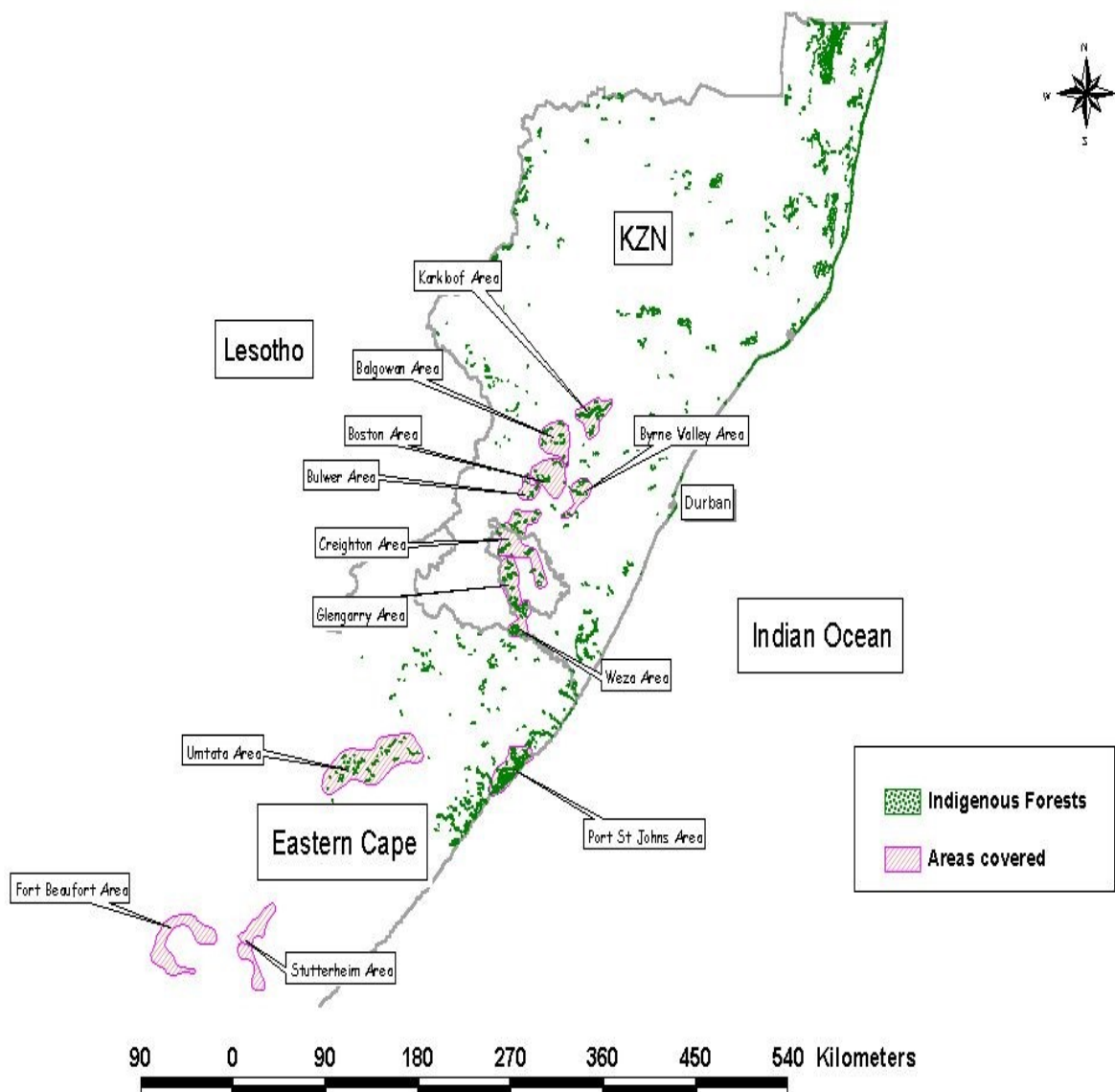
The International Ornithological Congress (IOC) will be hosted in South Africa from the 14th to the 20th of August 2022. South Africa's only endemic parrot, the Cape Parrot, was chosen to be the symbol of the congress and was drawn by artist Nicky Kirby. The conference was originally planned to be a hybrid event,

being hosted in Durban, but due to the uncertainty of the COVID pandemic, it was decided that a fully virtual event would be the best option. A virtual congress will look and feel different than one which takes place in person, but this virtual attendance will offer multiple ways to engage, explore, network, and socialize. The organizers of the congress plan to make the event as accessible as possible not only to students and early career researchers, but to the local birding community as well. This will be achieved by the availability of virtual passes for certain talks and symposia. The virtual platform will be available to all registered attendees for the duration of the congress as well as post congress. All live sessions will be recorded and available to watch on demand. Please visit www.iocongress2022.com for more info and follow the social media channels for updates and interesting content.

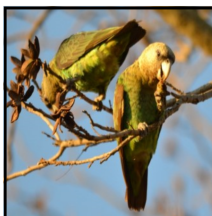
Contact persons for Cape Parrot Big Birding Day 07 & 08 May 2022

(See next page for map)

Area	Name	Tel	Email
Overall co-ordinator	Colleen Downs	033 260 5127; 082 920 2026	downs@ukzn.ac.za
Karkloof	John and Jenny Robinson	033 502 9090; 082 443 3805	tomrob@mweb.co.za
Midlands conservancies: Dargle/ Nottingham Rd/ Balgowan, Fort Nottingham	Sally Cummings	033 330 7175; 072 119 4253	sally.j.cumming@gmail.com
Byrne Valley	James Ballantyne	079 516 1261	jabe@absamail.co.za
Boston	Barbara & Glyn Bullock Crystelle Wilson	084 304 9842; 084 352 9864 082 723 5158	grbullock@telkomsa.net crystelle.wilson@gmail.com
Bulwer	Russell Hill	082 923 9649	carolhill@futurenet.co.za
Creighton/Donnybrook	Malcolm Gemmell Colleen Downs	082 789 5000	info@buttonbirding.com
Ngeli, Mpur/Glengarry	Eebee Ally Preshnee Singh	072 466 5466 076 666 9488	eebee.sa@gmail.com preshnee.singh@gmail.com
Alfred Nzo Region, namely: Ntswa, Gomo, Bulembu, Tonti, Amanzinyama and Xhama Forest	Dean Ricketts	0824325104	Dean.Rickets@deaet.ecape.gov.za dricketts@webmail.co.za
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Hogsback	Cassie Carstens	082 321 3302	hogsback@wildbirdtrust.com ; cassie@wildbirdtrust.com
Stutterheim	Donald Kemp Ian Taylor Andre van Deventer	073 427 2119; 043 683 1661 083 251 2145	donald@barkaybirds.co.za ian@rancetimber.co.za Andre@RanceTimber.co.za
Wild Coast (Port St Johns & Ntafufu)	Sabine Von Lengeling	0606786443	ntafululodge@gmail.com
Mbotyi	Colleen Downs	033 260 5127; 082 920 2026	downs@ukzn.ac.za
KWT/Alice	Peter Mather-Pike	043 740 3566; 082 924 8514	peter@calith.co.za
Magoebaskloof/ Woodbush	David Letsoalo Marianne McKenzie	083 568 4678 082 835 4185	dpaletsoalo@gmail.com marianne@mckenzie.co.za
Wolkberg/ Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve	John Davies	076 527 9632	johnd@ewt.org.za



**Main areas covered by coordinators on the Cape Parrot Big Birding Day
(Limpopo areas not shown)**



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<https://cpwg.ukzn.ac.za/>

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