

Birds of the Klein Karoo

a revised checklist of known species



This checklist is updated from Martin's 2005 *Birds Recorded from the Klein Karoo, 2nd Edition*, and expanded with additional species recorded through other open sources, such as eBird and iNaturalist. Those species with an asterisk have been observed and recorded within in the Klein Karoo Biosphere Reserves. Species with a (R) after their name are "rare" species to the Klein Karoo, either as vagrants, accidental & extralimital occurrences, older records of species likely extirpated from the region, or possible range expansions into the region. Those species with and (I) are ones introduced to the area. More species are expected to occur in the Klein Karoo (Little Karoo), so please note any of your new observation records in eBird and iNaturalist, or contact us.

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Tropicbirds

- Red-billed Tropicbird (R)

Ostrich

- Southern (Common) Ostrich*

Grebes

- Great Crested Grebe
- Eared (Black-necked) Grebe (R)
- Little Grebe*

Cormorants & Darters

- Great (White-breasted) Cormorant*
- Long-tailed (Reed) Cormorant*
- African Darter*

Pelicans

- Great White Pelican (R)

Flamingos

- Greater Flamingo (R)

Hérons & Egrets

- Gray Heron*
- Black-headed Heron*
- Goliath Heron (R)
- Purple Heron (R)
- Great Egret*
- Yellow-billed (Intermediate) Egret*
- Cattle Egret*
- Little Egret*
- Black-crowned Night Heron (R)
- Little Bittern*

Hamerkop

- Hamerkop*

Storks

- White Stork (R)
- Black Stork (R)*
- Abdim's Stork (R)

Ibises & Spoonbills

- African Sacred Ibis*
- Glossy Ibis
- Hadada Ibis*
- African Spoonbill*

Ducks & Geese

- White-faced Whistling Duck
- South African Shelduck*
- Yellow-billed Duck*
- African Black Duck*
- Cape Teal*
- Red-billed Teal
- White-backed Duck
- Red-billed Teal
- Hottentot Teal (R)
- Maccoa Duck (R)
- Cape Shoveler
- Southern Pochard
- Egyptian Goose*
- Spur-winged Goose*
- Mallard (I)
- Muscovy Duck (I)

Secretarybird

- Secretarybird*

Vultures & Raptors

- Osprey
- Cape Vulture (R)
- Yellow-billed Kite
- Black Kite
- Black-winged Kite*
- European Honey (Common) Buzzard (R)
- Verreaux's Eagle
- Booted Eagle*
- Martial Eagle (R)

- African Fish-eagle*
- Wahlberg's Eagle (R)
- Black-chested Snake Eagle (R)
- Crowned Eagle (R)
- Steppe Buzzard*
- Jackal Buzzard*
- Forest Buzzard (R)
- Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk
- Little Sparrowhawk (R)
- Black (Sparrowhawk) Goshawk
- African Goshawk (R)
- Gabar Goshawk (R)*
- Southern Pale Chanting Goshawk*
- African Marsh Harrier (R)
- Black Harrier*
- African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogone)
- Amur Falcon (R)*
- Peregrine Falcon (R)
- Lanner Falcon*
- Rock Kestrel*
- Lesser Kestrel (R)*

Quail, Spurfowl, & Guineafowl

- Grey-winged Spurfowl (Francolin) (R)
- Red-winged Spurfowl (Francolin) (R)
- Cape Spurfowl (Francolin)*
- Common Quail*
- Hottentot Buttonquail
- Helmeted Guineafowl
- Indian Peafowl (I)

Flufftails

- Red-chested Flufftail (R)

Cranes

- Blue Crane*

Rails

- Black Crake
- Common (Eurasian) Moorhen*
- Red-knobbed Coot

Bustards

- Denham's Bustard (R)
- Ludwig's Bustard (R)*
- Kori Bustard (R)
- Karoo (Bustard) Korhaan *
- Southern Black (Bustard) Korhaan (R)

Plovers

- Kittlitz's Plover (R)
- White-fronted Plover (R)
- Common Ringed Plover (R)
- Three-banded Plover*

Lapwings

- Crowned Lapwing
- Blacksmith Lapwing*

Sandpipers

- Common Sandpiper (R)
- Marsh Sandpiper (R)
- Wood Sandpiper (R)
- Ruff (R)
- Common Greenshank (R)
- Curlew Sandpiper (R)*
- Little Stint (R)
- African Snipe (R)

Stilts & Avocets

- Pied Avocet*
- Black-winged Stilt*

Terns

- Whiskered Tern (R)

Thick-Knees

- Spotted Thick-Knee (Dikkop)*
- Water Thick-knee (Dikkop) (R)

Couriers

- Double-banded Courser (R)
- Burchell's Courser (R)

Sandgrouse

- Namaqua Sandgrouse*

Pigeons & Doves

- Rock Pigeon*
- Speckled Pigeon*
- Africa Olive (Rameron) Pigeon*
- Red-eye Dove*
- Cape Turtle (Ringneck) Dove
- Laughing Dove*
- Lemon Dove (R)*
- Namaqua Dove*
- Tambourine Dove (R)*

Turacos

- Knysna Turaco (R)

Cuckoos

- Red-chested Cuckoo (R)
- Jacobin (Pied) Cuckoo
- Black Cuckoo (R)*
- Klaas' Cuckoo*
- Diderick Cuckoo*
- Great-spotted Cuckoo (R)

Owls

- Barn Owl*
- Cape Eagle-owl*
- Spotted Eagle-owl
- African Wood Owl (R)

Nightjars

- Fiery-necked Nightjar*
- Rufous-cheeked Nightjar (R)*
- Freckled Nightjar (R)*
- European Nightjar (R)

Swifts

- Common Swift*
- African Black Swift*
- White-rumped Swift*
- Horus Swift
- Little Swift*
- Alpine Swift*
- African Palm Swift (R)

Mousebirds

- Speckled Mousebird*
- White-backed Mousebird*
- Red-faced Mousebird*

Kingfishers

- Pied Kingfisher*
- Giant Kingfisher*
- Half-collared Kingfisher*
- Malachite Kingfisher*
- Brown-hooded Kingfisher*

Bee-eaters

- European Bee-eater*
- White-fronted Bee-eater (R)*

Hoopoes

- African Hoopoe*
- Green (Red-Billed) Woodhoopoe
- Common (Greater) Scimitarbill (R)

Barbets

- Pied (Acacia) Barbet*

Honeyguides

- Greater Honeyguide*
- Lesser Honeyguide*

Woodpeckers

- Ground Woodpecker*
- Knysna Woodpecker (R)
- Cardinal Woodpecker
- Olive Woodpecker (R)
- Rufous-necked Wryneck (R)

Larks

- Cape Clapper Lark*
- Eastern Clapper Lark (R)
- Karoo Lark*
- Karoo Long-billed Lark*
- Spike-heeled Lark*
- Red-capped Lark*
- Large-billed Lark*
- Black-eared Sparrow-lark (R)*
- Gray-backed Sparrow-lark*

Swallows

- Barn Swallow*
- White-throated Swallow*
- Pearl-breasted Swallow*
- Greater-striped Swallow*
- Lesser-striped Swallow (R)*
- Rock Martin*
- Common House Martin*
- Banded Martin
- Brown-throated (Plain) Martin*
- Sand Martin (Bank Swallow) (R)*
- Black Saw-wing (R)

Drongos

- Fork-tailed Drongo*

Cuckooshrikes

- Black Cuckooshrike (R)
- Grey Cuckooshrike (R)

Old-World Orioles

- African Black-headed Oriole (R)*

Crows & Ravens

- Cape Crow*
- Pied Crow*
- White-necked Raven*

Tits

- Gray Tit*
- Southern (Cape) Penduline Tit*

Bulbuls & Greenbulbs

- Cape Bulbul*
- Black-fronted (Red-Eyed) Bulbul (R)*
- Sombre Greenbul*
- Terrestrial Brownbul (R)*

Thrushes

- Olive Thrush
- Karoo Thrush*

- Cape Rock-thrush
- Sentinel Rock-thrush (R)

Scrub-Robins

- Karoo Scrub Robin*
- Red-backed (White-Browed) Scrub Robin (R)*

Chats

- Cape Rockjumper*
- Mocking Cliff-chat (R)
- Mountain Wheatear*
- Capped Wheatear
- Familiar Chat*
- Karoo Chat*
- Tractrac Chat*
- Sickle-winged Chat*
- Southern Ant-eating Chat (R)*
- African Stonechat*

Robin Chats

- Cape Robin Chat*

Macrosphenid Warblers

- Cape Grassbird*
- Victorin's Warbler

Crombecs

- Long-billed Crombec*

Eremomelas

- Yellow-bellied Eremomela*
- Yellow-rumped (Karoo) Eremomela*

Warblers

- Garden Warbler
- Chestnut-vented (Tit-babbler) Warbler*
- Layard's (Tit-babbler) Warbler*
- African Reed Warbler*
- Lesser Swamp Warbler*
- Little Rush Warbler*
- Willow Warbler*
- Knysna Warbler
- Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler

Cisticolas

- Zitting Cisticola*
- Cloud Cisticola*
- Gray-backed (Red-headed) Cisticola*
- Levillant's Cisticola*
- Piping Cisticola (Neddicky)*

Prinias

- Karoo Prinia*
- Namaqua Warbler*
- Rufous-eared Warbler*

- Green-backed Camaroptera*
- Kopje (Cinnamon-breasted) Warbler *

Apalises

- Bar-throated Apalis*

Flycatchers

- Spotted Flycatcher
- African Dusky Flycatcher*
- Fiscal Flycatcher*
- Fairy Flycatcher*
- Chat Flycatcher*
- Southern Black Flycatcher
- African Paradise Flycatcher
- African (Blue-mantled) Crested Flycatcher (R)

Batises

- Cape Batis
- Pirit Batis*

White-Eyes

- Cape White-Eye*

Wagtails

- Cape Wagtail*
- Gray Wagtail (R)
- African Pied Wagtail (R)*
- Western Yellow Wagtail (R)

Pipits

- African Pipit*
- Long-billed Pipit*
- Plain-backed Pipit*
- Yellow-tufted (African Rock) Pipit*

Longclaws

- Orange-throated (Cape) Longclaw

Shrikes & Bushshrikes

- Southern (Fiscal) Shrike*
- Red-backed Shrike*
- Southern Boubou*
- Black-backed Puffback (R)
- Southern Tchagra
- Bokmakierie*
- Olive Bushshrike (R)

Starlings

- Common (European) Starling*
- Wattled Starling
- Black-bellied Starling (R)*
- African Pied Starling*
- Red-winged Starling*
- Pale-winged Starling

- Common Myna

Sugarbirds & Sunbirds

- Cape Sugarbird
- Malachite Sunbird*
- Orange-breasted Sunbird
- Southern Double-collared Sunbird*
- Greater Double-collared Sunbird*
- Dusky Sunbird*
- Amethyst Sunbird

Sparrows, Weavers, & Whydahs

- House Sparrow*
- Cape Sparrow*
- Southern Grey-headed Sparrow*
- Cape Weaver*
- Southern Masked Weaver*
- Village Weaver
- Southern Red Bishop*
- Yellow Bishop
- Red-billed Quelea*
- Pin-tailed Whydah*
- Dusky Indigobird (R)

Finches

- Common Waxbill*
- Sweet Waxbill*
- African Firefinch (R)
- Red-billed Firefinch (R)
- Red-headed Finch

Canaries

- Cape Siskin
- Cape Canary*
- Black-headed Canary*
- Brimstone Canary*
- Yellow Canary*
- White-throated Canary*
- Black-throated Canary (R)
- Protea Canary*
- Forest Canary (R)
- Streaky-headed Seedeater*

Buntings

- Cape Bunting*
- Golden-breasted Bunting (R)
- Cinnamon-breasted Bunting (R)
- Lark-like Bunting*

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