




Adopt Moreletaspruit forum

Avifauna Report

Avian / Lepidoptera Survey & Photography

**Avifauna Report for the Hartbees-/Moreletaspruit (rivers) catchment
29 January 2014**

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The bird species list compiled for this report was sourced from the South African Bird Atlas Project 2 (SABAP2; <http://sabap2.adu.org.za/>). The SABAP2 database contains records of Southern African bird species recorded in five minute by five minute cells called pentads (~9 x 9 km). Together with the first SABAP that ended early 1990's, the database is the largest of its kind in the world and is accessible to anyone from the public. In November 2013, SABAP2 reached five million records of Southern African bird species. The SABAP2 project does not record bird abundances, but merely species present during a survey, however reporting rates are derived from the submitted surveys called cards. A species that are always recorded in a certain pentad has a reporting rate of 100%, and e.g. a species recorded once out of two surveys has a reporting rate of 50%. SABAP2 is a citizen science project meaning that anyone from the public can access, register and submit data.

Only pentads covering more than 50% of the Hartbees-/Moreletaspruit catchment was included in this report. Subsequently, two pentads were identified: 25°40' South_28°15' East and 25°45' South_28°15' East (Fig. 1).

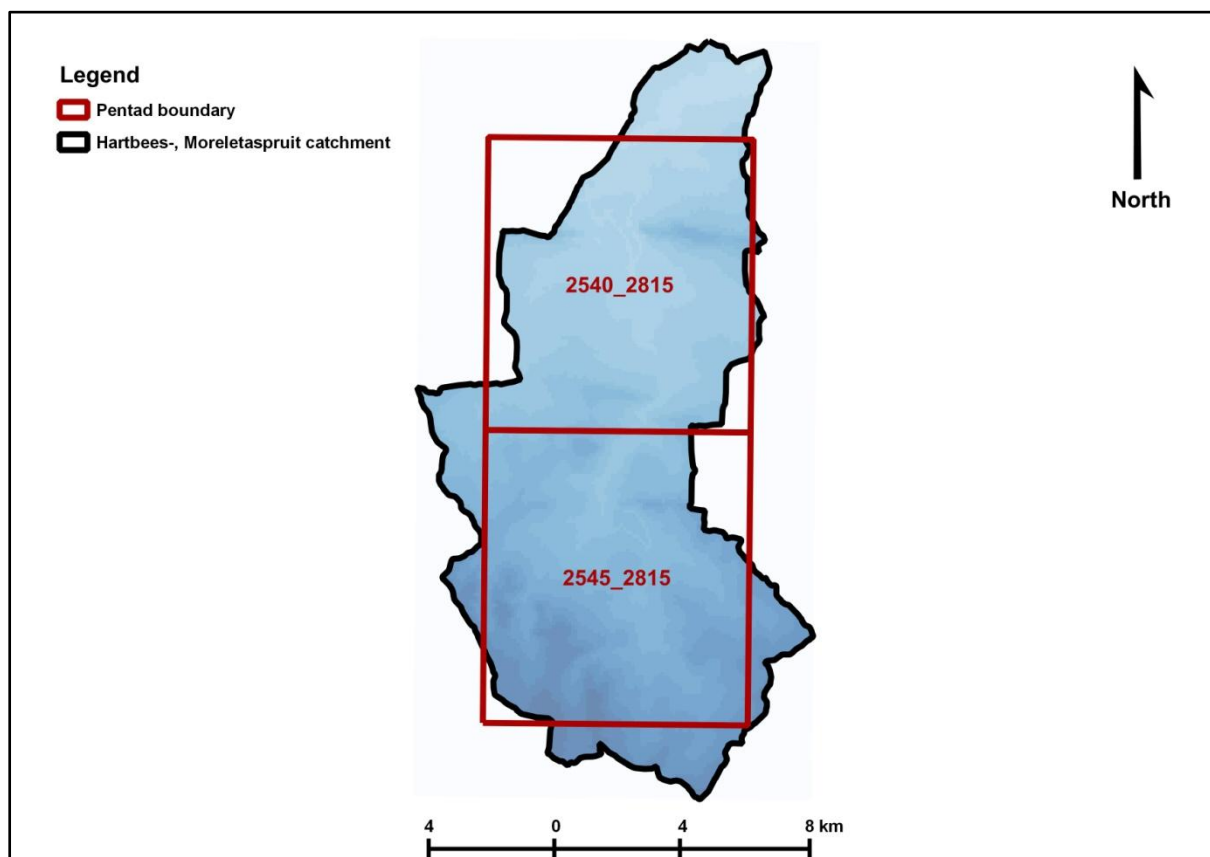


Figure 1. Map of Hartbees-/Moreletaspruit (rivers) catchment indicating pentads used in compiling the avifauna report from SABAP2 data. The darker shading in the catchment indicates higher elevations.

The species in these two pentads were well-documented due to their urban/suburban location. Since 2007, more than three cards (separate surveys in the form of species lists) were submitted monthly for both pentads. The lists for these pentads were combined in this report resulting in a total of 286 species recorded since the start of SABAP2 (Records accessed: 29 January 2014), for the Hartbees-/Moreletaspruit catchment (Table 1).

Table 1. Bird species list for the Hartbees-/Moreletaspruit catchment (SABAP2 accessed: 29 January 2014).

Common Name	Latin Name
Apalis, Bar-throated	<i>Apalis thoracica</i>
Babbler, Arrow-marked	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>
Barbet, Acacia Pied	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>
Barbet, Black-collared	<i>Lybius torquatus</i>
Barbet, Crested	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>
Batis, Chinspot	<i>Batis molitor</i>
Bee-eater, European	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
Bee-eater, Little	<i>Merops pusillus</i>
Bee-eater, Swallow-tailed	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>
Bee-eater, White-fronted	<i>Merops bullockoides</i>
Bishop, Southern Red	<i>Euplectes orix</i>
Bishop, Yellow	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>
Bishop, Yellow-crowned	<i>Euplectes afer</i>
Bittern, Little	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>
Bokmakierie, Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>
Boubou, Southern	<i>Laniarius ferrugineus</i>
Brubru, Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>
Bulbul, African Red-eyed	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>
Bulbul, Dark-capped	<i>Pycnonotus tricolor</i>
Bunting, Cinnamon-breasted	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>
Bush-Shrike, Grey-headed	<i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i>
Bush-Shrike, Orange-breasted	<i>Telophorus sulfureopectus</i>
Buzzard, Jackal	<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>
Buzzard, Lizard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>
Buzzard, Steppe	<i>Buteo vulpinus</i>
Camaroptera, Grey-backed	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>
Canary, Black-throated	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>
Canary, Yellow-fronted	<i>Crithagra mozambicus</i>
Chat, Anteating	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>
Chat, Familiar	<i>Cercomela familiaris</i>
Cisticola, Desert	<i>Cisticola aridulus</i>
Cisticola, Lazy	<i>Cisticola aberrans</i>
Cisticola, Levallant's	<i>Cisticola tinniens</i>
Cisticola, Rattling	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>

Cisticola, Wailing	<i>Cisticola lais</i>
Cisticola, Zitting	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Cliff-Chat, Mocking	<i>Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris</i>
Cliff-Swallow, South African	<i>Hirundo spilodera</i>
Coot, Red-knobbed	<i>Fulica cristata</i>
Cormorant, Reed	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>
Cormorant, White-breasted	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Coucal, Burchell's	<i>Centropus burchellii</i>
Courser, Bronze-winged	<i>Rhinoptilus chalcopterus</i>
Crake, Black	<i>Amaurornis flavirostris</i>
Crane, Blue	<i>Anthropoides paradiseus</i>
Crombec, Long-billed	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>
Crow, Cape	<i>Corvus capensis</i>
Crow, Pied	<i>Corvus albus</i>
Cuckoo, Black	<i>Cuculus clamosus</i>
Cuckoo, Diderick	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>
Cuckoo, Jacobin	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>
Cuckoo, Klaas's	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>
Cuckoo, Levillant's	<i>Clamator levaillantii</i>
Cuckoo, Red-chested	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>
Cuckooshrike, Black	<i>Campephaga flava</i>
Darter, African	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>
Dove, Laughing	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>
Dove, Red-eyed	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>
Dove, Rock	<i>Columba livia</i>
Drongo, Fork-tailed	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
Duck, African Black	<i>Anas sparsa</i>
Duck, Comb	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>
Duck, Fulvous	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>
Duck, Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Duck, White-faced	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
Duck, Yellow-billed	<i>Anas undulata</i>
Eagle, Booted	<i>Aquila pennatus</i>
Eagle, Long-crested	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>
Eagle, Verreaux's	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>
Eagle, Wahlberg's	<i>Aquila wahlbergi</i>
Eagle-Owl, Spotted	<i>Bubo africanus</i>
Egret, Cattle	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Egret, Great	<i>Egretta alba</i>
Egret, Little	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Egret, Yellow-billed	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>
Eremomela, Burnt-necked	<i>Eremomela usticollis</i>
Eremomela, Yellow-bellied	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>
Falcon, Amur	<i>Falco amurensis</i>
Falcon, Lanner	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>
Falcon, Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>

Finch, Cut-throat	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>
Finch, Red-headed	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>
Finch, Scaly-feathered	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>
Firefinch, African	<i>Lagonosticta rubricata</i>
Firefinch, Jameson's	<i>Lagonosticta rhodopareia</i>
Firefinch, Red-billed	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>
Fiscal, Common	<i>Lanius collaris</i>
Fish-Eagle, African	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>
Flufftail, Buff-spotted	<i>Sarothrura elegans</i>
Flufftail, Red-chested	<i>Sarothrura rufa</i>
Flycatcher, Fairy	<i>Stenostira scita</i>
Flycatcher, Fiscal	<i>Sigelus silens</i>
Flycatcher, Marico	<i>Bradornis mariquensis</i>
Flycatcher, Pale	<i>Bradornis pallidus</i>
Flycatcher, Southern Black	<i>Melaenornis pammelaina</i>
Flycatcher, Spotted	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
Francolin, Coqui	<i>Peliperdix coqui</i>
Francolin, Crested	<i>Dendroperdix sephaena</i>
Go-away-bird, Grey	<i>Corythaixoides concolor</i>
Goose, Egyptian	<i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>
Goose, Spur-winged	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>
Goshawk, African	<i>Accipiter tachiro</i>
Goshawk, Gabar	<i>Melierax gabar</i>
Grassbird, Cape	<i>Sphenoeacus afer</i>
Grebe, Little	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Green-Pigeon, African	<i>Treron calvus</i>
Greenshank, Common	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Guineafowl, Helmeted	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
Gull, Grey-headed	<i>Larus cirrocephalus</i>
Hamerkop, Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
Harrier-Hawk, African	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>
Helmet-Shrike, White-crested	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>
Heron, Black-headed	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>
Heron, Goliath	<i>Ardea goliath</i>
Heron, Green-backed	<i>Butorides striata</i>
Heron, Grey	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Heron, Purple	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Heron, Squacco	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Honeybird, Brown-backed	<i>Prodotiscus regulus</i>
Honey-Buzzard, European	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>
Honeyguide, Greater	<i>Indicator indicator</i>
Honeyguide, Lesser	<i>Indicator minor</i>
Hoopoe, African	<i>Upupa africana</i>
Hornbill, African Grey	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>
Hornbill, Southern Yellow-billed	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>
House-Martin, Common	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>

Ibis, African Sacred	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>
Ibis, Glossy	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
Ibis, Hadedda	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>
Indigobird, Purple	<i>Vidua purpurascens</i>
Jacana, African	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>
Kestrel, Lesser	<i>Falco naumanni</i>
Kingfisher, Brown-hooded	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>
Kingfisher, Giant	<i>Megaceryle maximus</i>
Kingfisher, Half-collared	<i>Alcedo semitorquata</i>
Kingfisher, Malachite	<i>Alcedo cristata</i>
Kingfisher, Pied	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
Kingfisher, Woodland	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>
Kite, Black-shouldered	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
Kite, Yellow-billed	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>
Korhaan, Northern Black	<i>Afrotis afroides</i>
Lapwing, African Wattled	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>
Lapwing, Blacksmith	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>
Lapwing, Crowned	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>
Lark, Eastern Clapper	<i>Mirafraga fasciolata</i>
Lark, Rufous-naped	<i>Mirafraga africana</i>
Lark, Sabota	<i>Calendulauda sabota</i>
Longclaw, Cape	<i>Macronyx capensis</i>
Lovebird, Rosy-faced	<i>Agapornis roseicollis</i>
Mannikin, Bronze	<i>Spermestes cucullatus</i>
Marsh-Harrier, African	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>
Martin, Banded	<i>Riparia cincta</i>
Martin, Brown-throated	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>
Martin, Rock	<i>Hirundo fuligula</i>
Masked-Weaver, Lesser	<i>Ploceus intermedius</i>
Masked-Weaver, Southern	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>
Moorhen, Common	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Mousebird, Red-faced	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>
Mousebird, Speckled	<i>Colius striatus</i>
Mousebird, White-backed	<i>Colius colius</i>
Myna, Common	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
Neddicky, Neddicky	<i>Cisticola fulvicapilla</i>
Night-Heron, Black-crowned	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Nightjar, European	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>
Nightjar, Fiery-necked	<i>Caprimulgus pectoralis</i>
Nightjar, Freckled	<i>Caprimulgus tristigma</i>
Olive-Pigeon, African	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>
Oriole, Black-headed	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>
Ostrich, Common	<i>Struthio camelus</i>
Owl, Barn	<i>Tyto alba</i>
Owl, Marsh	<i>Asio capensis</i>
Owlet, Pearl-spotted	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>

Palm-Swift, African	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>
Paradise-Flycatcher, African	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>
Paradise-Whydah, Long-tailed	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>
Parakeet, Rose-ringed	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
Parrot, Brown-headed	<i>Poicephalus cryptoxanthus</i>
Peacock, Common	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>
Petronia, Yellow-throated	<i>Petronia superciliaris</i>
Pigeon, Speckled	<i>Columba guinea</i>
Pipit, African	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>
Pipit, Striped	<i>Anthus lineiventris</i>
Plover, Common Ringed	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Plover, Kittlitz's	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>
Plover, Three-banded	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>
Pochard, Southern	<i>Netta erythrophthalma</i>
Prinia, Black-chested	<i>Prinia flavicans</i>
Prinia, Tawny-flanked	<i>Prinia subflava</i>
Puffback, Black-backed	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>
Pytilia, Green-winged	<i>Pytilia melba</i>
Quailfinch, African	<i>Ortygospiza atricollis</i>
Quelea, Red-billed	<i>Quelea quelea</i>
Rail, African	<i>Rallus caerulescens</i>
Reed-Warbler, African	<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>
Reed-Warbler, Great	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>
Robin-Chat, Cape	<i>Cossypha caffra</i>
Robin-Chat, White-throated	<i>Cossypha humeralis</i>
Rock-Thrush, Cape	<i>Monticola rupestris</i>
Rush-Warbler, Little	<i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>
Scimitarbill, Common	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>
Scops-Owl, African	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>
Scrub-Robin, Kalahari	<i>Cercotrichas paena</i>
Scrub-Robin, White-browed	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>
Secretarybird, Secretarybird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>
Seedeater, Streaky-headed	<i>Crithagra gularis</i>
Shelduck, South African	<i>Tadorna cana</i>
Shikra, Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
Shrike, Crimson-breasted	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>
Shrike, Lesser Grey	<i>Lanius minor</i>
Shrike, Magpie	<i>Corvinella melanoleuca</i>
Shrike, Red-backed	<i>Lanius collurio</i>
Snake-Eagle, Brown	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>
Sparrow, Cape	<i>Passer melanurus</i>
Sparrow, Great	<i>Passer motitensis</i>
Sparrow, House	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Sparrow, Southern Grey-headed	<i>Passer diffusus</i>
Sparrowhawk, Black	<i>Accipiter melanoleucus</i>
Sparrowhawk, Little	<i>Accipiter minullus</i>

Sparrowhawk, Ovambo	<i>Accipiter ovampensis</i>
Sparrow-Weaver, White-browed	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>
Spoonbill, African	<i>Platalea alba</i>
Spurfowl, Natal	<i>Pternistis natalensis</i>
Spurfowl, Swainson's	<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>
Starling, Cape Glossy	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>
Starling, Pied	<i>Spreo bicolor</i>
Starling, Red-winged	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>
Starling, Violet-backed	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>
Starling, Wattled	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>
Stonechat, African	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>
Stork, Black	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
Stork, White	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
Sunbird, Amethyst	<i>Chalcomitra amethystina</i>
Sunbird, Malachite	<i>Nectarinia famosa</i>
Sunbird, Marico	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>
Sunbird, White-bellied	<i>Cinnyris talatala</i>
Swallow, Barn	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Swallow, Greater Striped	<i>Hirundo cucullata</i>
Swallow, Lesser Striped	<i>Hirundo abyssinica</i>
Swallow, Pearl-breasted	<i>Hirundo dimidiata</i>
Swallow, Red-breasted	<i>Hirundo semirufa</i>
Swallow, White-throated	<i>Hirundo albigularis</i>
Swamp-Warbler, Lesser	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>
Swift, African Black	<i>Apus barbatus</i>
Swift, Alpine	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>
Swift, Common	<i>Apus apus</i>
Swift, Horus	<i>Apus horus</i>
Swift, Little	<i>Apus affinis</i>
Swift, White-rumped	<i>Apus caffer</i>
Tchagra, Black-crowned	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>
Tchagra, Brown-crowned	<i>Tchagra australis</i>
Teal, Cape	<i>Anas capensis</i>
Teal, Red-billed	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>
Thick-knee, Spotted	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>
Thrush, Groundscraper	<i>Psophocichla litsipsirupa</i>
Thrush, Karoo	<i>Turdus smithi</i>
Thrush, Kurrichane	<i>Turdus libonyanus</i>
Tinkerbird, Yellow-fronted	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>
Tit, Southern Black	<i>Parus niger</i>
Tit-Babbler, Chestnut-vented	<i>Parisoma subcaeruleum</i>
Turtle-Dove, Cape	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>
Wagtail, African Pied	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>
Wagtail, Cape	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>
Warbler, Dark-capped Yellow	<i>Chloropeta natalensis</i>
Warbler, Garden	<i>Sylvia borin</i>

Warbler, Icterine	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>
Warbler, Marsh	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>
Warbler, Willow	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
Waxbill, Blue	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>
Waxbill, Common	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
Waxbill, Orange-breasted	<i>Amandava subflava</i>
Weaver, Cape	<i>Ploceus capensis</i>
Weaver, Thick-billed	<i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>
Weaver, Village	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>
Wheatear, Mountain	<i>Oenanthe monticola</i>
White-eye, Cape	<i>Zosterops virens</i>
Whydah, Pin-tailed	<i>Vidua macroura</i>
Whydah, Shaft-tailed	<i>Vidua regia</i>
Widowbird, Long-tailed	<i>Euplectes progne</i>
Widowbird, Red-collared	<i>Euplectes ardens</i>
Widowbird, White-winged	<i>Euplectes albonotatus</i>
Wood-Hoopoe, Green	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>
Woodpecker, Bennett's	<i>Campethera bennettii</i>
Woodpecker, Cardinal	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>
Woodpecker, Golden-tailed	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>
Wren-Warbler, Barred	<i>Calamonastes fasciolatus</i>
Wryneck, Red-throated	<i>Jynx ruficollis</i>

The Red Data Book attempts to document losses at species level and identify and document sites where potential biodiversity losses can be minimised (Barnes, 2000). Six Red Data bird species were found occupying the catchment. These were: Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*, Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*, Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*, Secretarybird *Sagittarius serpentarius*, Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* and Half-collared Kingfisher *Alcedo semitorquata*. All five these birds have reporting rates between 0.2% and 1.5% (SABAP2). The statuses of all except the Lesser Kestrel are Near-Threatened, meaning that these are likely to become Vulnerable in the near future. Vulnerable birds, according to Barnes (2000), are those that have a 10% chance of going extinct in the next 100 years. Both the Lanner- and Peregrine Falcon are aerial predators catching prey on the wing predominantly, however the low reporting rates suggest that the birds were passing through the area and are not residents. The same can be said for the Lesser Kestrel (Vulnerable), Black Stork and Secretarybird. However, the predominantly cobalt blue Half-collared Kingfisher is mainly residential where its is recorded, but its shy and inconspicuous habits together with its preference for dense, marginal vegetation adjacent to perennial rivers and streams (Hockey et al., 2005)

probably result in the low reporting rates. More, intensive surveys of the Hartbees- and Moreletaspruit will probably result in more records of this easily over-looked bird where it feeds on fish in clearer waters. Unconfirmed reports also showed the species occurred within the catchment as recent as November 2013 downstream from the Hartbees-spruit near the Colbyn Valley boundary.

There are also exotic bird species occupying the catchment e.g. Common (Indian) Myna *Acridotheres tristis*, the 8th most common bird recorded in the catchment. Native to India, and introduced to South Africa around 1900 AD, this species is family of the starlings and follows an omnivorous diet. It only became well-established in Pretoria about the 1980's (Hockey et al., 2005). Although the Common Myna receives much criticism from birdwatchers and –lovers alike, occasional competition only exists in the form of ousting other cavity-nesting birds from their nests in urban/suburban areas. An example of such evicted species is the Green Wood-Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus*, a bird with a reporting rate of 60% in the catchment (SABAP2; Hockey et al., 2005). Other exotic species include the Rosy-faced Lovebird *Agapornis roseicollis* (one record suggests a possibly escapee) and House Sparrow *Passer demosticus*. The Common Peacock *Pavo cristatus* also has a low reporting rate of 0.2%, considered an accidental visitor or escapee. Of importance is another exotic species with resident feral populations in the catchment: the Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*. Apart from Durban, the Tshwane metropolis hosts the largest population specifically around Johannesburg where this species has a reporting rate of ~60% (SABAP2). The Hartbees-/Moreletaspruit catchment is the most Northerly distribution of this species in South Africa, where the birds are possibly dispersing individuals from areas South of the catchment. This very vocal species started breeding in Johannesburg in the 1980's. The Rose-ringed Parakeet forages on fruit from various plants and its preference for a wide range of habitats probably resulted in its establishment around urban/suburban areas. As with the Common Myna, this parakeet breeds in tree cavities where the ousting of indigenous birds have been recorded (Hockey et al., 2005). The Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* is an introduced duck species from Europe, mainly for wing shooting in South Africa. The high (11%; SABAP2) reporting rate suggests that the bird is breeding within the catchment, however this species threaten the genetic integrity of other *Anas* spp. Eradication measures were implemented in KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape provinces (Hockey et al., 2005).

The five most common species show in Table 2. Three of these are granivorous birds, following a vegetarian diet. The Dark-capped Bulbul *Pycnonotus tricolor* feeds mostly on fruit. The Hadedda Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash* feeds off invertebrates mostly by probing the soil with its decurved bill. All these species are known to occupy urban/suburban areas including parks, gardens and/or lawns according to Hockey et al. (2005).

Table 2. The five most common species found in the Hartbees-/Moreletaspruit catchment. Larger reporting rates equate to more common species.

Common Name	Latin Name	Reporting rate
Dove, Laughing	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	97.1
Ibis, Hadedda	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	96.0
Bulbul, Dark-capped	<i>Pycnonotus tricolor</i>	94.4
Masked-Weaver, Southern	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>	94.1
Sparrow, Cape	<i>Passer melanurus</i>	93.2

These five species share one common trait and that is preference for relatively open habitats with scattered trees or woody plants (Hockey et al., 2005). The catchment is located on the boundary of the Savanna Biome (Mucina and Rutherford, 2006) and the presence of the urban/suburban land-uses might also explain the high reporting rates of these birds. Moreover, the Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis* (Fig. 2) follows productive lines in arid areas, such as rivers (Hockey et al., 2005). The same may apply in the catchment, with the two perennial rivers flowing through this relatively small catchment supplying favourable habitat for this species. Other reasons for the high reporting rates may be supplementary feeding {as suggested by Stark and Sclater (1906)} in the form of garden feeders, supplying all these species (except the 'Hadedda') with additional, easily obtainable food sources and even water. The 'Hadedda' probably benefits from the many potential nest sites in the form of large, suburban trees (indigenous and exotic species) together with the numerous lawns providing its primary food source: invertebrates. Trees of this stature only occur naturally in valleys and forested areas and the older suburbs act as these natural areas usually containing the only large trees in the landscape. The SABAP2 data confirms this. Reporting rates for the 'Hadedda' decrease away from populated places such as the Tshwane metropolis, especially to the North-West of Pretoria. Immediate North of the catchment, the reporting rates also decrease for this species.



Figure 2. The Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*, a granivorous species, is the most common bird found in the Hartbees-/Moreletaspruit catchment (SABAP2). This species adaptability has been noted as early as 1906 by Stark and Sclater. Photo: Rion Lerm.

Approximately 16% of the species recorded in the catchment are dependent on permanent water. Some of these include the Ardeids (herons, egrets) and kingfishers. These birds' dependence is mostly centred on food sources in the form of fish as most dependant species are carnivorous with some omnivores such as the Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*. The continued existence of these species will depend on the future water quantity and quality of the perennial water sources inside the Hartbees-/Moreletaspruit catchment, that will in turn provide favourable food sources and to a lesser degree, nesting sites.

Apart from participating in the SABAP2 (with strict protocol), 'Friends-groups' (especially those situated along the Hartbees- and Moreletaspruit rivers) can participate in a more informal project: myBirdPatch. This project is also governed by the Animal Demography Unit, Cape Town (as with the SABAPs), but has more informal rules and regulations with regards to recording bird species in a demarcated area. Moreover, the species recorded within these areas are incorporated in the SABAP2. More information on myBirdPatch can be obtained from: <http://mybirdpatch.adu.org.za/>. Projects such as mentioned above are pivotal in detecting changes in animal communities over time, but constant surveys need to be submitted in order to make informed decisions regarding

the disappearance (Near-Threatened and threatened species) or appearance of exotic species.

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