

Conservation Corner

By Cliff Dorse

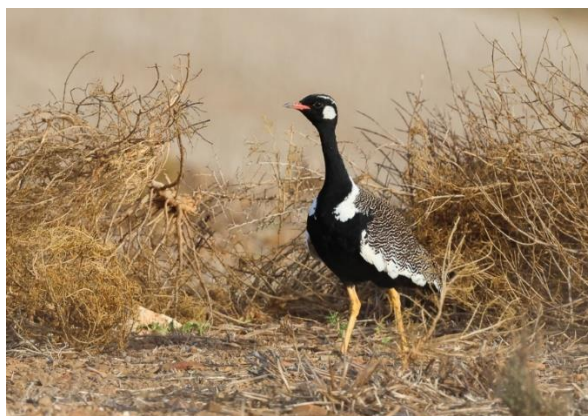
The City of Cape Town covers 2,451 km² and is one of the most biodiverse cities in the world. Birds are often over-looked as a component of this diversity but, remarkably, over 400 bird species have been recorded within the City's boundaries.

Of the regularly recorded bird species (excluding vagrants and marine species that habitually do not come ashore), 25 are of conservation concern:

- 8 are listed as Endangered, and another 8 as Vulnerable
- 8 are associated with wetlands, showing the critical importance of these habitats
- 6 are birds of prey

City bird species that are resident or regular visitors and considered to be of Conservation Concern

<u>Endangered</u>	<u>Vulnerable</u>	<u>Near-threatened</u>
Fynbos Buttonquail	Verreaux's Eagle	Crowned Cormorant
Cape Cormorant	Lanner Falcon	Blue Crane
Bank Cormorant	Striped Flufftail	Maccoa Duck
Martial Eagle	Southern Black Korhaan	Greater Flamingo
African Marsh Harrier	White Pelican	Lesser Flamingo
Black Harrier	Secretary Bird	African Oystercatcher
FAfrican Penguin	Caspian Tern	Cape Rockjumper
Antarctic Tern	Knysna Warbler	Curlew Sandpiper
		Painted Snipe



Southern Black Korhaan are decreasing and are now classified as Vulnerable

Photos: Cliff Dorse



The African Marsh Harrier is dependent on extensive wetland habitats

Within the City, the species most at risk over the long term are those that are sensitive to disturbance and/or require extensive home ranges. For example, species such as the Black Harrier and Southern Black Korhaan require large natural areas. This makes the coastal lowlands around Silverstroomstrand critical if these species are to persist within the City.

A significant good news story is that the Knysna Warbler was considered to be locally extinct for many years, but a few birds were miraculously discovered in the thickets above Newlands in 2023.

This article first appeared in the Cape Bird Club Newsletter on 28 July 2024. This PDF version can be accessed on [the Cape Bird Club website](#).