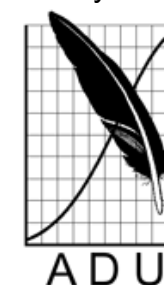


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SOMERSET WEST – SABAP1 AND SABAP2 COMPARED

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SOMERSET WEST – SABAP1 AND SABAP 2 COMPARED

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Introduction

The field surveys for SABAP1 ran from January 1987 to December 1991 and was based on surveying a quarter degree grid cell (QDGC) – an area of 15' latitude by 15' longitude. Data checklists covered one calendar month or any shorter period up to a month.

The current SABAP2¹ project started on 1 July 2007 and surveys are done in a pentad – which is 5' latitude by 5' longitude. There are 9 pentads to a QDGC and each is approximately 9x7 km². Surveys should be a minimum period of 2 hours and a maximum of 5 days.

For the purpose of this paper the data of the 9 pentads of SABAP2 are collated to compare it to the QDGC data of SABAP1.

Members of the Somerset West Bird Club agreed to do regular atlas surveys in the 9 pentads of the Somerset West QDGC (3418BB). The result of a sustained effort over the first few years of the project was that this square became among the first in the country to achieve "Green status" (4 data cards for each pentad) and then "Red status" (11 cards in each pentad). It was also first QDGC to record a data card for each month for each pentad.

¹ SABAP2 is an ongoing project and data are regularly added to the database, therefore this paper should be viewed as a discussion of work in progress – Ed.

Area description

The Somerset West QDGC is one of diverse habitats. It ranges from the Hottentots Holland mountains which are up to 1 200 masl to coastline with good portions of mountain and coastal fynbos, interspersed by agricultural developed areas (vineyards, orchards and pastures) as well as commercial forests. Seasonal as well as perennial wetlands occur in the area and a substantial part is built up with residential, commercial and industrial development.

The pentads are as follows

- **North West 3415_1845:** Macassar – including the Eersterivier estuary, Helderberg Village and several wine farms. This pentad holds the record for the highest species count on one card in the province (137 spp) and has a total of 196 species.
- **North 3415_1850:** Helderberg Nature Reserve – including Erinvale Estate, portions of established residential areas and a few farms.
- **North East 3415_1855:** Vergelegen – including some of Lourensford Estate and is mainly mountainous and difficult to access. It has yet to record a Cape Turtle Dove among its 117 species.
- **West 3420_1845:** Strand – including the old AE&CI works and the Dick Dent Bird Sanctuary.
- **Central 3420_1850:** Somerset West to Gordons Bay. Now mainly a developed area with remnants of all habitat types.
- **East 3420_1855:** Sir Lowry's Pass including mountains and Wedderwill estate.
- **South West 3425_1845:** Steenbras River mouth. Only a small section of the coastal road and the road to Steenbras dam – 95% of the area is ocean. Cape Turtle Dove has yet not been recorded among the 84 species.



- **South 3425_1850:** Steenbras Dam – including a small section of Gordon’s Bay and the Kogelberg Nature Reserve. The dam area is not accessible to the public.
- **South East 3425_1855:** Palmiet River Dam – including several citrus farms and mountain slopes.

Cards and species per pentad

Pentad	Cards	Species
North West	98	196
North	55	161
North East	33	117
West	61	170
Central	42	150
East	65	156
South West	41	84
South	44	98
South East	29	131
Total	468	246

Several of the eastern and southern pentads require permission to enter the area to cover them comprehensively. Many of these landowners are national, provincial and municipal government departments.

The high card count in the North West pentad may be attributed to easier accessible terrain and the high numbers of water birds which make atlasing in these areas attractive.



Fig1 – The Somerset West Quarter Degree Grid Cell with 9 pentads and landmarks

Habitat changes in the atlasing area

The area surrounding Somerset West has been developed extensively over the 20 years since the end of SABAP1 and even during the course of SABAP2. This is especially so in the Central and North Western pentads where certain wetland and fynbos species are becoming more difficult to locate. The development of up-market



estates in the Northern and North Western pentads and the growth in suburban trees and shrubs has probably had a beneficial effect on the number of species in those areas but to the detriment of grassland species. There were extensive fires in the eastern and southern pentads in recent years which had an effect on a number of species being displaced for part of the period under survey. Considerable expansion to the low-cost housing projects on the Cape Flats, which falls just outside the survey area, probably has affected the Western pentads. Habitat disturbance and loss may have affected the presence of some more sensitive species, but numbers of birds thriving on human settlement may have increased.

Data availability and biases

At the time of writing (24 September 2012) the 9 pentads had between 29 and 98 cards each and the total number for the QDGC was 468 cards. This number is less than the total of 736 cards for SABAP1, but sufficient data are available in both datasets for a meaningful comparison. In both projects the data distribution is well balanced over all the seasons. The average number of species per card declined marginally from 57.2 (SABAP1) to 54.5 (SABAP2).

In SABAP1 the following factors may have biased the collection of data (pers. comm. from atlasers participating in SABAP1):

- 1 The Macassar area was rarely visited. Hence the low reporting rates of shore birds.
- 2 Rare species were deliberately sought after especially for seasonal records – eg Flufftails and African Rail.
- 3 The cannons on Gantouw Pass were regularly visited. This would increase reporting rate for habitat specific species eg Cape Rock-jumper, Ground Woodpecker and Victorin's Warbler.

For both projects the topographical composition of the survey area stayed the same with relatively inaccessible mountainous areas in the east and south. Areas around the Steenbras Dam may have been more accessible to the public in the past (SABAP1), as entrance control to these areas are now enforced strictly. Socio-economic factors – crime rates, unemployment, general safety and property rights – may have influenced easy access to private land. During SABAP1 it may have been easier to get access to privately owned farming areas, where access control is enforced stricter nowadays.

Results and discussion

In SABAP1 a total of 260 species were recorded in the QDGC and currently the count for SABAP2 is at 246 species – a combined total of 277 species had been recorded in the 2 projects. A further 5 species had been recorded as incidental sightings during SABAP2. These 5 incidental sightings have not been included in the analyses as only data from full protocol cards were used. The species recorded as incidentals are: Red Knot, Common Chaffinch, Hottentot Buttonquail, Woolly-necked Stork and Long-crested Eagle. Two more species were recorded as incidentals in SABAP2, but were included in the analyses as they had been recorded during SABAP1 – they are: Eurasian Hobby and Brown-backed Honeybird.

Appendix A contains a full list of all the species recorded in both SABAP1 and SABAP2. The species are ranked by change in reporting rate – with 104 species showing increased reporting rates and 124 displaying a decrease in reporting rate.

This method places emphasis on the more common species and an alternative method was used to rank by the relative change factor (Appendix A) For example the 12% decrease in Blacksmith Lapwing



records from 73% to 61% is far less significant than the 10% of Whitewinged Tern from 12% to 2%.

The first fact noted was there were considerable changes even among the more common birds. For example of the top 10 species in SABAP1 only 2 remained in the top 10 for SABAP2 – Cape White-eye and Egyptian Goose. Of the top 20 in SABAP1 12 remained. (Table 1).

Table 1 - the top 50 birds in reported in SABAP2 in comparison with SABAP1

Species	SABAP1 n=736			SABAP2 n= 468		
	Rank	Records	Change factor	Rank	Records	Change Factor
Cape Robin-Chat	13	548	74.5	1	433	92.5
Karoo Prinia	20	525	71.3	2	431	92.1
Hadeda Ibis	91	187	25.4	3	423	90.4
Cape White-eye	9	604	82.1	4	413	88.2
Egyptian Goose	5	647	87.9	5	403	86.1
Fiscal Flycatcher	33	409	55.6	6	397	84.8
Cape Bulbul	18	535	72.7	7	385	82.3
Red-eyed Dove	15	541	73.5	8	384	82.1
Speckled Pigeon	11	575	78.1	9	381	81.4
Cape Wagtail	26	495	67.3	10	375	80.1
Cape Canary	24	502	68.2	11	371	79.3
Common Fiscal	3	660	89.7	12	365	78.0
Common Starling	4	652	88.6	13	354	75.6
Cape Turtle-Dove	1	697	94.7	14	348	74.4
Helmeted Guineafowl	6	626	85.1	15	344	73.5
Southern Double-collared Sunbird	37	400	54.3	16	340	72.6
Pied Crow	36	400	54.3	17	337	72.0
White-breasted Cormorant	47	353	48.0	18	328	70.1
Cape Weaver	8	606	82.3	19	323	69.0

Species	SABAP1 n=736			SABAP2 n= 468		
	Rank	Records	Change factor	Rank	Records	Change Factor
Kelp Gull	35	405	55.0	20	322	68.8
Cape Sparrow	10	601	81.7	21	297	63.5
Reed Cormorant	40	383	52.0	22	296	63.2
Levaillant's Cisticola	54	323	43.9	23	291	62.2
Blacksmith Lapwing	17	537	73.0	24	288	61.5
Little Grebe	43	370	50.3	25	287	61.3
Yellow-billed Duck	29	442	60.1	26	281	60.0
Cape Spurfowl	12	559	76.0	27	279	59.6
Malachite Sunbird	42	371	50.4	28	269	57.5
House Sparrow	31	418	56.8	29	267	57.1
Olive Thrush	22	521	70.8	30	266	56.8
Red-knobbed Coot	21	522	70.9	31	258	55.1
Cattle Egret	7	614	83.4	32	257	54.9
Southern Boubou	28	451	61.3	33	254	54.3
African Sacred Ibis	32	416	56.5	34	254	54.3
Red-winged Starling	25	496	67.4	35	248	53.0
Grey Heron	46	363	49.3	36	244	52.1
Laughing Dove	2	674	91.6	37	240	51.3
Cape Grassbird	41	380	51.6	38	240	51.3
Yellow Bishop	30	425	57.7	39	235	50.2
Fork-tailed Drongo	224	4	0.5	40	234	50.0
Cape Sugarbird	14	542	73.6	41	233	49.8
Common Moorhen	55	319	43.3	42	233	49.8
Greater Striped Swallow	49	343	46.6	43	223	47.6
Rock Dove	52	329	44.7	44	215	45.9
Black-headed Heron	48	352	47.8	45	211	45.1
Jackal Buzzard	77	209	28.4	46	207	44.2
White-rumped Swift	60	290	39.4	47	204	43.6
Bokmakierie	19	534	72.6	48	201	42.9
Brown-throated Martin	74	219	29.8	49	201	42.9
Hartlaub's Gull	27	463	62.9	50	199	42.5



There were 20 species of which the reporting rate increased by more than 15% (Table 2). Some of these can be attributed to a western expansion of range of birds which adapted to human habitation eg Swee Waxbill, Fork-tailed Drongo and the Hadede Ibis. Some can be attributed to better survey coverage in pentads in the more remote areas eg Fiscal Flycatcher, Karoo Prinia, Familiar Chat, Jackal Buzzard and Rock Kestrel. There is a predictable increase in the reporting rate of the Pied Crow but a less predictable one in raptors, three of which fall into this group of species showing an increase. Black Sparrowhawks appear to have to some extent replaced the Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk. There are several shore birds in the list – African Black Oystercatcher, Swift Tern and Whitebreasted Cormorant – as well as wetland species such as Levallants Cisticola, Lesser Swamp Warbler and to an extent Southern Masked-weaver. These increases can probably be attributed to the concentration of atlasers on known wetland areas within pentads to swell the species numbers. It may be significant that all these species are regular at Macassar Sewage Works and the Eersterivier estuary which has the highest number of cards in SABAP2.

Table 2 – Species showing the largest increase in reporting rate

	SABAP 1		SABAP 2		% change
	Rank	RR n=736	Rank	RR n=468	
Hadede Ibis	91	25.4	3	90.4	65.0
Fork-tailed Drongo	224	0.5	40	50.0	49.5
Swift Tern	132	10.1	54	42.1	32.0
Fiscal Flycatcher	33	55.6	6	84.8	29.3
Swee Waxbill	247	0.3	73	29.3	29.0
Southern Masked-weaver	113	17.1	55	40.6	23.5
White-breasted Cormorant	47	48.0	18	70.1	22.1
African Black Oystercatcher	121	14.1	64	36.1	22.0
Karoo Prinia	20	71.3	2	92.1	20.8

	SABAP 1		SABAP 2		% change
	Rank	RR n=736	Rank	RR n=468	
Familiar Chat	129	10.7	71	30.1	19.4
Lesser Swamp Warbler	107	19.2	62	37.6	18.4
Southern Double-collared Sunbird	37	54.3	16	72.6	18.3
Levallant's Cisticola	54	43.9	23	62.2	18.3
Cape Robin-Chat	13	74.5	1	92.5	18.1
Pied Crow	36	54.3	17	72.0	17.7
Black Sparrowhawk	164	4.9	96	22.4	17.5
Pin-tailed Whydah	89	25.8	51	42.5	16.7
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	261	0.0	111	16.0	16.0
Jackal Buzzard	77	28.4	46	44.2	15.8
Yellow-billed Kite	146	7.9	94	23.1	15.2

27 species showed a decreased of more than 15% in reporting rate. These include the top 2 SABAP1 birds – Laughing and Cape Turtle Dove. The former is much more difficult to find outside built-up areas and the latter seems to have been supplanted by Red-eyed Doves as these built-up areas become more thickly wooded. Some of these decreases are presumably because of development and habitat destruction, eg Greywing Francolin, Fiery-necked Nightjar, Crowned Lapwing, Acacia Pied Barbet, Cape Longclaw and Speckled Mousebird. Some are still reasonably common in natural areas but have become scarce in residential areas eg, Bokmakierie and African Hoopoe. Some decreases are the logical result of the way of collecting data. In SABAP1 most people probably included the Helderberg Nature Reserve in their surveys and this probably explains the decrease in Cape Sugarbird and Protea Seedeater which do not occur in some pentads though the latter was also affected by the fires. Some species, eg Southern Pochard, Hamerkop, Brimstone Canary, Burchells Coucal and Giant Kingfisher became generally scarce and some eg Cattle Egret and Cape



Sparrow can be explained by the fact that they do not occur so much in the more remote fynbos dominated pentads which attracted relatively more surveys in SABAP2. The decline in Blackshouldered Kites has been noted for some time in the South Western Cape and is presumably caused mainly by the use of pesticides and intensive farming methods.

Table 3 – Species showing the largest decrease in reporting rate

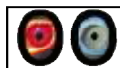
	SABAP 1		SABAP 2		% change
	Rank	RR n=736	Rank	RR n=468	
Crowned Lapwing	16	73.0	82	25.9	-47.1
Black-shouldered Kite	23	69.7	86	25.2	-44.5
Laughing Dove	2	91.6	37	51.3	-40.3
Grey-winged Francolin	70	31.9	208	0.6	-31.3
Bokmakierie	19	72.6	48	42.9	-29.6
Cattle Egret	7	83.4	32	54.9	-28.5
Speckled Mousebird	34	55.3	77	27.1	-28.2
Acacia Pied Barbet	73	30.0	180	2.6	-27.5
Cape Longclaw	67	33.4	149	6.4	-27.0
Hamerkop	72	30.6	169	4.1	-26.5
African Hoopoe	50	46.3	97	22.0	-24.3
Cape Sugarbird	14	73.6	41	49.8	-23.9
Protea Seedeater	90	25.7	185	1.9	-23.8
Giant Kingfisher	59	39.8	107	16.2	-23.6
Brimstone Canary	44	49.6	74	28.8	-20.7
Southern Pochard	84	27.4	140	7.1	-20.4
Hartlaub's Gull	27	62.9	50	42.5	-20.4
Cape Turtle-Dove	1	94.7	14	74.4	-20.3
Cape Sparrow	10	81.7	21	63.5	-18.2
Burchell's Coucal	96	23.6	159	5.8	-17.9
Victorin's Warbler	93	24.7	138	7.3	-17.5
Alpine Swift	53	44.3	78	27.1	-17.2
Fiery-necked Nightjar	88	26.2	130	9.2	-17.0
Cape Spurfowl	12	76.0	27	59.6	-16.3

	SABAP 1		SABAP 2		% change
	Rank	RR n=736	Rank	RR n=468	
Red-knobbed Coot	21	70.9	31	55.1	-15.8
Little Swift	57	40.6	88	25.0	-15.6
African Snipe	112	17.1	188	1.7	-15.4

Table 4 indicates a number of species recorded during SABAP1, but these were not recorded again during SABAP2 – total of 30 species. As reflected in the reporting rate, most of these were recorded less than 1% and therefore should be considered as vagrant or rare visitors to the area.

Table 4 – Species recorded during SABAP1 but not during SABAP2 (reporting rate reflected is that of SABAP1 n=736)

Species	Reporting rate
Mute Swan	7.5
Cape Eagle-Owl	2.3
Striped Flufftail	1.8
Half-collared Kingfisher	1.6
Black Cuckooshrike	1.1
Forest Canary	0.7
Wattled Starling	0.5
Greater Painted-Snipe	0.5
Knysna Warbler	0.4
Black-headed Oriole	0.4
European Bee-eater	0.4
Eurasian Hobby	0.4
Greater Double-collared Sunbird	0.3
Olive Bush-Shrike	0.3
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	0.3
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	0.3
Namaqua Sandgrouse	0.3
Parasitic Jaeger	0.3



Species	Reporting rate
Whitechinned Petrel	0.3
Shy Albatross	0.3
Blue-mantled Crested-Flycatcher	0.1
Sand Martin	0.1
Grey-backed Sparrowlark	0.1
Jacobin Cuckoo	0.1
Common Cuckoo	0.1
Black Tern	0.1
Common Redshank	0.1
Baillon's Crake	0.1
Little Sparrowhawk	0.1
Cape Vulture	0.1

Many of these can be described as vagrants or regional rarities and some have been seen more recently but not recorded on the atlas eg Larklike Bunting, European Bee-eater, Black Cuckooshrike and Wattled Starling. Striped Flufftail and Cape Eagle-Owl are probably still resident but difficult to find while Knysna Warbler and Forest Canary are possibly resident since they are present on Table Mountain. One surprising species is Greater Double-collared Sunbird which has not extended its range westwards like its cousin the Amethyst Sunbird. Some of these species are now rare anywhere in the South Western Cape – Half-collared Kingfisher, Greater Painted-Snipe, Black-headed Oriole, Olive Bush-Shrike but many of the rest still occur within a 100 km radius from Somerset West.

In Table 5 a total of 19 species are reflected which were recorded during SABAP2 but not during SABAP1. Again the reporting rate of most of these species is below 1%, therefore it should not be considered as species that have extended their range to the Somerset West QDGC. The top four species in the list may be considered as species having extended their range into new territory.

Ongoing monitoring should be done to confirm this possible range extension over time.

Most of these can be described as vagrants to the area and the “grape-vine” for reporting such species has become more sophisticated. However Southern Grey-headed Sparrow and Amethyst Sunbird have become established. Long-billed Pipits are confined to certain mountain slopes which may not have been visited so regularly in SABAP1. The inclusion of Common Peacock reveals confusion with the status of this species as they have always been in the area but "officially" the on only feral population is on Robben Island. White-faced Duck have increased over the whole of the Western Cape in recent years.

Table 5 – Species recorded during SABAP2 but not during SABAP1 (reporting rate reflected is that of SABAP2 n=468)

Species	Rep Rate
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	16.0
Amethyst Sunbird	12.6
Long-billed Pipit	6.0
White-faced Duck	4.9
Common Peacock	2.4
Antarctic Tern	1.1
Ruddy Turnstone	0.9
Lark-like Bunting	0.6
Black-chested Snake-Eagle	0.4
Chestnut-vented Tit-Babbler	0.4
European Honey-Buzzard	0.4
European Roller	0.4
Little Tern	0.4
Marabou Stork	0.4
African Openbill	0.2



Species	Rep Rate
Denham's Bustard	0.2
House Crow	0.2
Long-crested Eagle	0.2
Subantarctic Skua	0.2

Decline in scarcer species

In Table 6 species are ranked by the factor of decrease (see Appendix A) and clearly shows the decline, often radical, of many interesting species which were never easy to find but now are considerably more difficult. An attempt is made to suggest reasons for decline by category.

Table 6 – Decline in scarcer species

Species	SABAP1 Records n=736	SABAP2 Records n=468	Change Factor
Grey-winged Francolin	235	3	-96.1
Black Cuckoo	52	1	-94.1
African Rail	27	1	-89.0
Cardinal Woodpecker	53	2	-88.8
Protea Seedeater	189	9	-86.1
Cape Clapper Lark	20	1	-85.4
Wood Sandpiper	38	2	-84.7
Acacia Pied Barbet	221	12	-84.3
Marsh Sandpiper	36	2	-83.9
Pied Starling	17	1	-83.1
African Snipe	126	8	-81.8
Eurasian Golden Oriole	62	4	-81.6
Cape Rock-jumper	72	5	-80.3
African Marsh-Harrier	25	2	-77.6
Lesser Honeyguide	36	3	-76.8
Hamerkop	225	19	-76.6
Ground Woodpecker	91	8	-75.7
White-winged Tern	91	9	-73.1

Species	SABAP1 Records n=736	SABAP2 Records n=468	Change Factor
Spotted Flycatcher	49	5	-72.3
Whiskered Tern	47	5	-71.3
Bank Cormorant	18	2	-70.3
Sanderling	9	1	-70.3
Cape Longclaw	246	30	-67.8
Horus Swift	8	1	-67.1
Buff-spotted Flufftail	15	2	-65.3
Maccoa Duck	15	2	-65.3
Crowned Cormorant	67	9	-65.1
Red-chested Flufftail	66	10	-61.5
Burchell's Coucal	174	27	-60.8
Southern Pochard	202	33	-59.1
Willow Warbler	12	2	-58.5
Arctic Tern	12	2	-58.5
Ruff	47	8	-57.8
Black-necked Grebe	23	4	-57.0
African Wood-Owl	17	3	-56.6
Curlew Sandpiper	82	15	-55.3
Victorin's Warbler	182	34	-54.6
Red-chested Cuckoo	145	28	-53.4
African Penguin	5	1	-52.1
Black Stork	5	1	-52.1
Hottentot Buttonquail	5	1	-52.1
White-fronted Plover	71	15	-50.1
African Olive-Pigeon	156	33	-50.1
Cape Siskin	138	30	-49.0
Fiery-necked Nightjar	193	43	-48.1
Crowned Lapwing	537	121	-47.7
Black-shouldered Kite	513	118	-46.9
Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk	147	35	-45.5
Lanner Falcon	82	20	-44.6



Because of the increased problems in gaining access to remote areas there is possibly a factor of under-recording of some of these species. For instance most of the records of the Eastern pentad do not include surveys of the section from Sir Lowry's Pass to the Cannons and therefore Cape Rockjumper, Cape Siskin and Victorin's Warbler are under-recorded.

1. **Wetland species:** African Rail, Hamerkop, African Snipe, Red-chested and Buff-spotted Flufftail, African Marsh Harrier, Maccoa Duck, Burchells Coucal. More intensive farming has made many wetlands and dams less bird-friendly. There has also been major destruction of the Cape Flats wetlands south of the N2 – most of which are just outside the QDGC but which must have had a effect on the birdlife in the general area.

2. **Migrants:** Black and Red-chested Cuckoos, Willow Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher, Eurasian Golden Oriole. Reasons not really known. Reflects regional trend.

3. **Migrant water birds:** Wood Sandpiper, Whitewinged and Whiskered Tern. Probably the same reason as 1 and 2 combined.

4. **Mountain species:** Cape Rockjumper, Ground Woodpecker, Protea Seedeater and Victorin's Warbler. Fires and lack of access.

5. **Coastal species:** White-fronted Plover, Bank and Crowned Cormorant. Coastal development. On the other hand – African Black Oystercatcher has increased.

6. **Fynbos species:** Grey-winged Francolin, Clapper Lark. Habitat destruction .

7. **Woodland and Grassland species:** Cape Longclaw, Cardinal Woodpecker, African Wood-owl, African Olive-Pigeon, Lanner Falcon. Habitat destruction.

Looking at these records now it seems almost impossible that nearly a third of all SABAP1 cards included Grey-winged Francolin. The

author remembers a good stake out for these birds, now surrounded by a township. This species has probably been hunted as food.

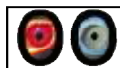
The decline in two species, Acacia Pied Barbet and Eurasian Golden Oriole had begun before the start of SABAP2. Author had an Acacia Pied Barbet visiting his garden every month in 1985-6 and almost never subsequently. Similarly the Eurasian Golden Oriole had been a regular summer visitor to several gardens. Both have now virtually disappeared from the area and the Oriole from the Western Cape in general

Increase in scarcer species

The species in Table 7 is ranked by the factor of increase (see Appendix A).

Table 7 – Increase in scarcer species

Species	SABAP1 Records	SABAP2 Records	Increase Factor
Swee Waxbill	2	137	98.2
Fork-tailed Drongo	4	234	97.8
Greater Flaming	2	43	94.3
Mallard	4	32	85.3
Secretarybird	6	32	78.7
Terek Sandpiper	1	5	77.4
White-backed Duck	5	24	76.6
South African Shelduck	5	22	74.7
Forest Buzzard	15	57	71.3
Water Thick-knee	10	36	70.0
Blue Crane	19	67	69.4
Caspian Tern	16	52	67.3
Bar-tailed Godwit	2	6	65.0
Black Sparrowhawk	36	105	64.2
Common Ringed Plover	9	25	62.7



Species	SABAP1 Records	SABAP2 Records	Increase Factor
Swift Tern	74	197	61.4
Greater Honeyguide	11	29	61.1
African Purple Swamphen	13	34	60.9
Plain-backed Pipit	11	27	58.8

Some of the species have already been discussed above but these are mostly scarcer species. They can be categorized as:

1 **Wetland and estuarine species:** South African Shelduck, African Purple Swamphen, Greater Flamingo, Common Ringed Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Water Thick-knee, Caspian Tern, Terek Sandpiper. These species have been recorded more often, particularly at Macassar which is the best site to have a chance of seeing them. White-backed Duck spread to certain dams in the area during the atlas period. The increase in Mallards is still worrying.

2 **Others:** Forest Buzzard records have increased mostly due to the breeding population of "Mystery" or Elgin Buzzards in the area. Secretarybirds and Blue Cranes were recorded quite often on the Vergelegen and Wedderwill estates which were not visited much in SABAP1. Alien vegetation clearing particularly at Vergelegen has had a beneficial effect. Plain-backed Pipits were seen after the fires in the Eastern pentads. Greater Honeyguides were mostly recorded in the Eastern areas.

Rare species visiting the area

A Franklin's Gull was seen once at Macassar in between the atlas projects as was a Red-backed Shrike at Dick Dent Bird Sanctuary. Southern Tchagra, Southern Black Korhaan and European Marsh-Warbler were seen many years ago. Knysna Woodpecker, Streaky-headed Seedeater and Agulhas Long-billed Lark may surprise

atlasers in the Somerset West QDGC. These all have been recorded in adjacent QDGCs. A probable Tawny Eagle record seen and photographed in the Helderberg Nature Reserve had not been included in this paper as the record was unconfirmed at the time of writing. The Eersteriver estuary is more wader friendly - a rarity there is always possible and may add to the list of species discussed in this paper.

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- Local landowners for allowing access to the more remote areas.

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Appendix A – List of all species observed in both atlas projects ranked in order of the change factor from SABAP1 to SABAP2

Species	Change Factor
Amethyst Sunbird	100.0
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	100.0
Long-billed Pipit	100.0
White-faced Duck	100.0
Common Peacock	100.0
Antarctic Tern	100.0
Ruddy Turnstone	100.0
Black-chested Snake-Eagle	100.0
Chestnut-vented Tit-Babbler	100.0
European Honey-Buzzard	100.0
European Roller	100.0
Little Tern	100.0
Marabou Stork	100.0
African Openbill	100.0
Denham's Bustard	100.0
House Crow	100.0
Subantarctic Skua	100.0
Lark-like Bunting	100.0
Swee Waxbill	98.2
Fork-tailed Drongo	97.8
Greater Flamingo	94.3
Mallard	85.3
Secretarybird	78.7
Terek Sandpiper	77.4
White-backed Duck	76.6
South African Shelduck	74.7
Forest Buzzard	71.3
Water Thick-knee	70.0
Blue Crane	69.4
Caspian Tern	67.3

Species	Change Factor
Bar-tailed Godwit	65.0
Black Sparrowhawk	64.2
Common Ringed Plover	62.7
Swift Tern	61.4
Greater Honeyguide	61.1
African Purple Swamphen	60.9
Plain-backed Pipit	58.8
Hadeda Ibis	56.1
Common Ostrich	55.9
Long-billed Crombec	51.8
Streaky-headed Seedeater	51.8
Grey Plover	51.8
Yellow-billed Kite	49.1
Black Harrier	48.3
Familiar Chat	47.5
Common Whimbrel	47.3
Sombre Greenbul	46.7
Sandwich Tern	44.2
African Black Oystercatcher	43.8
Black Crake	42.3
Glossy Ibis	41.9
Southern Masked-Weaver	40.7
Great Egret	40.5
Capped Wheatear	38.9
African Harrier-Hawk	38.7
Booted Eagle	37.4
Pied Avocet	36.3
Lesser Swamp-Warbler	32.5
Rock Kestrel	31.9
African Jacana	30.7
Olive Woodpecker	29.3
Little Bittern	28.9
African Fish-Eagle	26.4



Species	Change Factor
Peregrine Falcon	25.6
Pin-tailed Whydah	24.4
Common Tern	24.0
Lemon Dove	22.3
Jackal Buzzard	21.8
Kittlitz's Plover	21.4
Fiscal Flycatcher	20.8
African Pipit	20.5
White-breasted Cormorant	18.7
Brown-throated Martin	18.1
African Dusky Flycatcher	18.1
Levaillant's Cisticola	17.2
White-throated Swallow	17.2
Cape Bunting	16.9
Namaqua Dove	16.2
Barn Owl	15.2
Neddicky	14.6
Southern Double-collared Sunbird	14.4
Pied Crow	14.0
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	13.4
Common House-Martin	13.2
Karoo Prinia	12.7
Cape Rock-Thrush	11.7
White-throated Canary	11.4
Kelp Gull	11.1
Cape Robin-Chat	10.8
Little Grebe	9.9
Reed Cormorant	9.7
Large-billed Lark	9.7
Cape Teal	9.7
Cape Crow	9.5
Little Rush-Warbler	9.1
Cape Wagtail	8.7

Species	Change Factor
Cape Shoveler	8.0
White-necked Raven	7.9
Cape Canary	7.5
Zitting Cisticola	7.2
Common Moorhen	6.9
Malachite Sunbird	6.6
Cape Bulbul	6.2
Cape Gannet	5.8
African Goshawk	5.7
Red-eyed Dove	5.5
White-rumped Swift	5.0
Sentinel Rock-Thrush	4.2
African Marsh-Warbler	4.2
African Darter	4.1
Common Waxbill	4.0
Grey-backed Cisticola	3.9
Cape White-eye	3.6
Diderick Cuckoo	3.6
Little Stint	2.9
Grey Heron	2.8
Common Greenshank	2.7
Red-billed Teal	2.2
Speckled Pigeon	2.1
Rock Dove	1.4
Greater Striped-swallow	1.1
House Sparrow	0.2
Yellow-billed Duck	-0.1
Cape Grassbird	-0.3
Common Quail	-0.9
Egyptian Goose	-1.0
African Sacred Ibis	-2.0
Pied Kingfisher	-2.8
Little Egret	-2.9



Species	Change Factor
Black-winged Stilt	-2.9
Black-headed Heron	-2.9
African Black Swift	-3.8
Barn Swallow	-3.9
Cape Cormorant	-4.3
African Black Duck	-5.5
African Paradise Flycatcher	-6.0
Southern Boubou	-6.1
Common Fiscal	-7.0
Yellow Bishop	-7.0
Helmeted Guineafowl	-7.3
Rock Martin	-7.3
Spur-winged Goose	-7.8
Common Starling	-7.9
Black Saw-wing	-8.3
Red-capped Lark	-8.3
Blacksmith Lapwing	-8.5
Cape Waever	-8.8
Bar-throated Apalis	-9.2
Malachite Kingfisher	-9.3
Steppe Buzzard	-9.3
Southern Red Bishop	-10.2
Purple Heron	-10.7
Olive Thrush	-10.9
Red-faced Mousebird	-11.1
Common Sandpiper	-11.2
Grey-headed Gull	-11.6
Osprey	-12.0
Sooty Shearwater	-12.0
Red-winged Starling	-12.0
Cape Turtle-Dove	-12.0
Cape Spurfowl	-12.0
Red-knobbed Coot	-12.5

Species	Change Factor
Cape Sparrow	-12.5
Spotted Thick-knee	-13.4
Three-banded Plover	-14.2
Spotted Eagle-Owl	-14.4
Great White Pelican	-14.6
Cape Batis	-15.2
Orange-breasted Sunbird	-15.4
Yellow Canary	-15.5
Cloud Cisticola	-17.7
Cape Sugarbird	-19.3
Hartlaub's Gull	-19.3
Cattle Egret	-20.6
African Spoonbill	-22.6
White Stork	-22.8
Banded Martin	-22.8
Black-crowned Night-Heron	-23.0
Karoo Scrub-Robin	-23.1
Great Crested Grebe	-23.6
Little Swift	-23.8
Alpine Swift	-24.0
Bokmakierie	-25.6
Brimstone Canary	-26.4
Yellow-billed Egret	-26.7
Laughing Dove	-28.2
Verreaux's Eagle	-29.6
Fairy Flycatcher	-31.2
Pearl-breasted Swallow	-31.6
African Stonechat	-32.2
White-backed Mousebird	-32.9
Speckled Mousebird	-34.2
Martial Eagle	-34.8
African Hoopoe	-35.6
Klaas's Cuckoo	-36.6



Species	Change Factor
Giant Kingfisher	-42.1
Lesser Kestrel	-43.6
Lanner Falcon	-44.6
Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk	-45.5
Black-shouldered Kite	-46.9
Crowned Lapwing	-47.7
Fiery-necked Nightjar	-48.1
Cape Siskin	-49.0
African Olive-Pigeon	-50.1
White-fronted Plover	-50.1
African Penguin	-52.1
Black Stork	-52.1
Blackrumped Buttonquail	-52.1
Red-chested Cuckoo	-53.4
Victorin's Warbler	-54.6
Curlew Sandpiper	-55.3
African Wood-Owl	-56.6
Black-necked Grebe	-57.0
Ruff	-57.8
Willow Warbler	-58.5
Arctic Tern	-58.5
Southern Pochard	-59.1
Burchell's Coucal	-60.8
Red-chested Flufftail	-61.5
Crowned Cormorant	-65.1
Buff-spotted Flufftail	-65.3
Maccoa Duck	-65.3
Horus Swift	-67.1
Cape Longclaw	-67.8
Sanderling	-70.3
Bank Cormorant	-70.3
Whiskered Tern	-71.3
Spotted Flycatcher	-72.3

Species	Change Factor
White-winged Tern	-73.1
Ground Woodpecker	-75.7
Hamerkop	-76.6
Lesser Honeyguide	-76.8
African Marsh-Harrier	-77.6
Cape Rock-jumper	-80.3
Eurasian Golden-Oriole	-81.6
African Snipe	-81.8
Pied Starling	-83.1
Marsh Sandpiper	-83.9
Acacia Pied Barbet	-84.3
Wood Sandpiper	-84.7
Clapper Lark	-85.4
Protea Seedeater	-86.1
Cardinal Woodpecker	-88.8
African Rail	-89.0
Black Cuckoo	-94.1
Grey-winged Francolin	-96.1
Blue-mantled Crested-Flycatcher	-100.0
Sand Martin	-100.0
Grey-backed Sparrowlark	-100.0
Jacobin Cuckoo	-100.0
Common Cuckoo	-100.0
Black Tern	-100.0
Common Redshank	-100.0
Baillon's Crake	-100.0
Little Sparrowhawk	-100.0
Cape Vulture	-100.0
Greater Double-collared Sunbird	-100.0
Olive Bush-Shrike	-100.0
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	-100.0
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	-100.0
Namaqua Sandgrouse	-100.0



Species	Change Factor
Parasitic Jaeger	-100.0
Whitechinned Petrel	-100.0
Shy Albatross	-100.0
Knysna Warbler	-100.0
Black-headed Oriole	-100.0
European Bee-eater	-100.0
Eurasian Hobby	-100.0
Brown-backed Honeybird	-100.0
Wattled Starling	-100.0
Greater Painted-Snipe	-100.0
Forest Canary	-100.0
Black Cuckooshrike	-100.0
Half-collared Kingfisher	-100.0
Striped Flufftail	-100.0
Cape Eagle-Owl	-100.0
Mute Swan	-100.0