

# Cape Parrot Newsletter

## Number 13 - February 2012



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## Cape Parrot Big Birding Day 2012

### The 15<sup>th</sup> annual count

*Reminder:* Perhaps the February 2012 beautiful picture of a Cape Parrot in flight by Rodnick Biljon in the 2012 Africa Geographic Southern African Birds calendar has reminded you of the annual Cape Parrot Big Birding Day (CPBBDD) (Figure 1). So hopefully you have booked Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May and Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2012 to participate in our **fifteenth** CPBBDD. This year's count is particularly important if the outbreaks of Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease Virus (PBFDV) or Psittacine Circovirus Disease (PCD) as it is now being referred to, are widespread and seriously affecting the population. Let's hope the weather co-operates this year as last year many areas were drenched so it made seeing parrots difficult. Please contact Prof Colleen Downs or one of the coordinators in your area (See Appendix 1 on page 6). The CPBBDD report for 2011 is available at [http://biology.ukzn.ac.za/biology/cpwg/CPBBDD\\_report\\_72011.PDF](http://biology.ukzn.ac.za/biology/cpwg/CPBBDD_report_72011.PDF).



Figure 1. Cape Parrot in flight (R. Biljon©)

## Eskom Bird Red Data Book Contribution

The Eskom Bird Red Data book is currently being updated under the auspices of BirdLife SA. Prof Colleen Downs recently completed the section on the Cape Parrot. The importance of the annual Cape Parrot Big Birding Day (CPBBD) was highlighted in several ways. Firstly, it gives population trends and numbers. Secondly, observers report illegal hunting, cutting down of forest, and capture of parrots. Thirdly, it gives important distribution data for the Cape parrot. The significance of the latter was highlighted when doing the Cape Parrot section for the Eskom Bird Red Data book. The distribution of the species is obtained from SABAP2 maps (see [http://sabap2.adu.org.za/spp\\_summary.php?Spp=4132](http://sabap2.adu.org.za/spp_summary.php?Spp=4132)). It is evident that many localities where Cape Parrots occur in the former Transkei have not been atlased (Figure 2). Fortunately the distribution data from the last two years CPBBD can be uploaded and the SABAP2 Cape Parrot distribution map will be updated and be more correct. Birders are encouraged to submit observations of birds, particularly Cape Parrots, as the accuracy and precision of the distribution maps relies on observers submitting their observations.

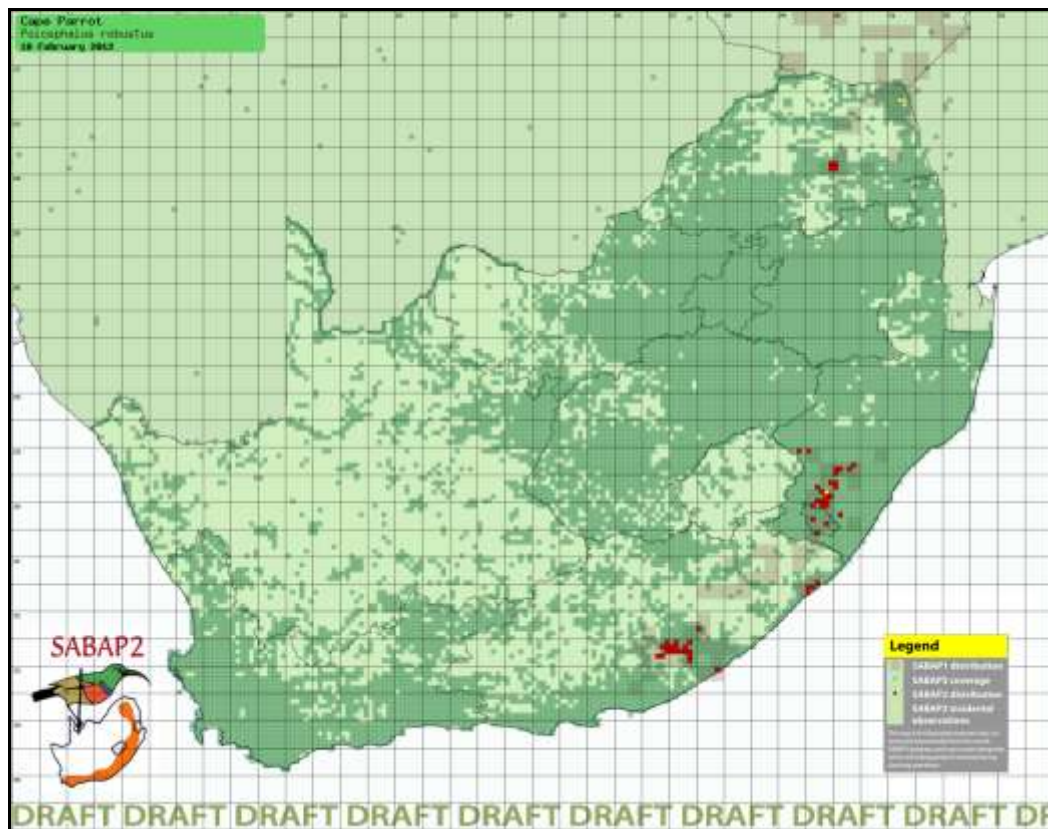


Figure 2. Map of the SABAP2 distribution, overlaid on the SABAP1 distribution for the Cape Parrot

([http://sabap2.adu.org.za/spp\\_summary.php?Spp=4132](http://sabap2.adu.org.za/spp_summary.php?Spp=4132), downloaded Feb 2012).

## Non-Detriment Findings for Cites Appendix II Exports

In February 2012 Prof Mike Perrin (University of KwaZulu-Natal) and Michelle Pfab (South African Biodiversity Institute) organised a meeting of various role players including the Cape Parrot Working Group executive, researchers, conservation body representatives, law enforcement (including Hawks) representatives and aviculturists to assess the non-detriment findings (NDF) for Cites Appendix II exports of Cape Parrots and Grey-headed Parrots. Very fruitful discussions were held and recommendations made. Of concern are the increased unquantified exports of these birds in recent years largely due to the ongoing nomenclature or naming confusion. It is hoped that the NDF will contribute to greater regulation of exports of these species to ensure that only legally legitimate, captive-bred individuals are traded both locally and internationally.

**Background:** The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is a conservation tool of major importance, numbering some 147 signatories. It aims to protect

species from the detrimental effects of over-exploitation for international trade, to ensure sustainable utilization of others, and to encourage international co-operation between signatory Parties in achieving this aim. The Convention has three appendices that provide different levels of regulation for the species listed in each. The Convention is administered at the national level by Management and Scientific Authorities. Determining when international trade (of an individual shipment or on an annual basis) is likely to prove non-detrimental to the survival of species is essential to achieving the aims of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). If species become threatened with extinction as a result of use that is incompatible with their survival, Parties to CITES face the prospect of including more species in Appendix I. Indeed, every transfer of a species from Appendix II to Appendix I as a result of a lack of appropriate regulation of trade, particularly from a scientific perspective, can be considered as a failure of the Parties to fulfil their obligations under the Convention. Clearly, action is needed to improve the situation and to assist Scientific Authorities in making non-detriment findings.



**Figure 3. The view from Owl Cottage in Magoebaskloof where Cape Parrots are frequently seen (Photo T. Warne©).**

## Places to stay and see Cape Parrots

Many ask where they can visit and stay to see parrots. Each newsletter we will try to highlight some possibilities. If your guest house is close to a place where visitors can see Cape Parrots and you would like it highlighted in the newsletter, please contact us. Below are some suggestions:

- 🌿 Owl Cottage in the Magoebaskloof: frequently see Cape Parrots when the pecans are flowering or are bearing fruit. See the website [www.owlcottage.co.za](http://www.owlcottage.co.za) or contact Tig Warne 082 853 9950 (Figure 3).
- 🌿 Ashtonvale Guest farm in Bulwer, KwaZulu-Natal: close to the Marutswa Forest Broadwalk. Contact Carol Hill email: [carolhill@futurenet.co.za](mailto:carolhill@futurenet.co.za); 039 8320053 or 0829239649.
- 🌿 Crab Apple Cottages in the Dargle Valley, KwaZulu-Natal. For more information, please see the website: [www.crabapple.co.za](http://www.crabapple.co.za) or contact Kelly Hodgkins email: [kelly@imspmb.co.za](mailto:kelly@imspmb.co.za); 033 345 0319.

(If you have a place to stay where Cape Parrots can be seen and want it highlighted, please send details to [downs@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:downs@ukzn.ac.za))



Figure 4. Painting of Cape Parrots by Linda Hampson.

## Painting of Cape Parrots by Linda Hampson

The painting of Cape Parrots by Linda Hampson has been entered in the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation Art Competition, in the Endangered Species category (Figure 4). It now goes forward, digitally, for selection and if selected, the artwork is exhibited at the Mall Galleries, London, 21–26 May 2012. Here's hoping!!

## Captive Breeding Programme

Shaun Wilkinson, the Cape Parrot Studbook Keeper, based at Monte Casino Bird Gardens in Johannesburg (email: [shaun@montebg.co.za](mailto:shaun@montebg.co.za)) has updated the Cape Parrot studbook. Owners of Cape Parrots are requested to update him on all chicks produced, transfers or deaths to keep the studbook up to date. Studbook participants are entitled to a complimentary copy of the studbook.

A recent paper by Young et al. (2012). Survival on the ark: life-history trends in captive parrots. *Animal Conservation* 15(1): 28-43. (see <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1469-1795.2011.00477.x/abstract>) highlights the role of captive breeding programmes in conservation.



**Figure 5. A two year old pair of Cape Parrots bred by William Horsfield at Amazona Endangered Parrot Breeding Facility, KZN in their permanent home in Gauteng.**

## Contact details

Prof. Colleen Downs, School of Life Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal, P/Bag X01, Scottsville, 3209.  
Email: [downs@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:downs@ukzn.ac.za) Tel:+27-33-2605127, cell: 0829202026

**Appendix 1. Contact persons for Cape Parrot Big Birding Day 2012-  
5 & 6 th May 2012**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Tel</b>	<b>Email</b>
Overall co-ordinator	Colleen Downs	033 260 5127; 0829202026	<a href="mailto:downs@ukzn.ac.za">downs@ukzn.ac.za</a>
Karkloof	Garreth Powell	033 5029059; 0794858200 033-5029090/ 082-4433805	<a href="mailto:gpsafari@gmail.com">gpsafari@gmail.com</a>  <a href="mailto:tomrob@mweb.co.za">tomrob@mweb.co.za</a>
	John and Jenny Robinson		
Dargle/ Nottingham Rd/ Balgowan	Nikki Brighton	033 234 4289 083 473 3074	<a href="mailto:cowfriend@telkomsa.net">cowfriend@telkomsa.net</a>
Byrne Valley	Malcolm Anderson	033 2122744 082 5723455	<a href="mailto:mmanderson@mweb.co.za">mmanderson@mweb.co.za</a>
Boston	Barbara & Glyn Bullock	033 997 1783; 0843049842; 0843529864	<a href="mailto:grbullock@telkomsa.net">grbullock@telkomsa.net</a>
Bulwer	Russell Hill	039 8320053 082 9239649	<a href="mailto:carolhill@futurenet.co.za">carolhill@futurenet.co.za</a>
Creighton/Donnybrook	Malcolm Gemmell	039 8331029 082 7895000	<a href="mailto:buttonbirding@futurenet.co.za">buttonbirding@futurenet.co.za</a>
Ngeli	Colleen Downs	See above	
Mpur/Glengarry	Andy Ruffle	039 695 0829; 0728933794	<a href="mailto:andy_ruffle@yahoo.co.uk">andy_ruffle@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Alfred Nzo Region, namely: Ntswana, Gomo, Bulembu, Tonti, Amanzinyama and Xhama Forest	Dean Ricketts	0824325104	<a href="mailto:Dean.Ricketts@deaet.ecape.gov.za">Dean.Ricketts@deaet.ecape.gov.za</a>
Mthatha Langeni / Matiwane Ngcobo	Gary Harvey Bertus Bouwer	083 452 0883; 043-740 2993 (w) 082 856 3982; 043-726 0513 (w)	<a href="mailto:vanessa@starsec.net">vanessa@starsec.net</a> <a href="mailto:gary@starsec.net">gary@starsec.net</a> / <a href="mailto:starsec@mweb.co.za">starsec@mweb.co.za</a> <a href="mailto:bertus@starsec.net">bertus@starsec.net</a>
Hogsback	Graham Russell	045 9621084 0823746583	<a href="mailto:gandm@procomp.co.za">gandm@procomp.co.za</a>
Stutterheim	Neill Harvey Donald Kemp	043-6832384	<a href="mailto:alliedin@eci.co.za">alliedin@eci.co.za</a>
Wild Coast (Port St Johns)	Kathryn Costello	047 5641240	<a href="mailto:outspan@wildcoast.co.za">outspan@wildcoast.co.za</a>
Mbotyi	Nita Ross Karen Challis	039-2537200/01	<a href="mailto:info@mbotyi.co.za">info@mbotyi.co.za</a>
KWT/Alice	Gertie Griffith	043 7352195	<a href="mailto:gerken@intekom.com">gerken@intekom.com</a>
	Peter Mather-Pike	043 7403566 0829248514	<a href="mailto:pamp@supafeeds.co.za">pamp@supafeeds.co.za</a>
Limpopo Province	David Letsoalo	0835684678	<a href="mailto:info@krm.co.za">info@krm.co.za</a>

# Cape Parrot Counting Day 2012<sup>7</sup>



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

## Sat May 5th (pm) & Sun May 6th (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  
School of Life Sciences,  
University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg  
Tel: 033-2605127/04 (w), 033-3860947 (h),  
0829202026 Email: [downs@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:downs@ukzn.ac.za)