

Wakkerstroom Area Bird List – as per BirdLife South Africa's  
Checklist of Birds 2023

Apalis, Bar-throated	Cisticola, Cloud
Avocet, Pied	Cisticola, Croaking
Barbet, Acacia Pied	Cisticola, Lazy
Barbet, Black-collared	Cisticola, Levallant's
Barbet, Crested	Cisticola, Pale-crowned
Batis, Cape	Cisticola, Wailing
Batis, Chinspot	Cisticola, Wing-snapping
Bee-eater, European	Cisticola, Zitting
Bee-eater, Little	Coot, Red-knobbed
Bee-eater, White-fronted	Cormorant, Reed
Bishop, Southern Red	Cormorant, White-breasted
Bishop, Yellow	Courser, Temminck's
Bishop, Yellow-crowned	Crake, African
Bittern, Little	Crake, Baillon's
Blackcap, Bush <i>VU SLS</i>	Crake, Black
Bokmakierie	Crake, Corn
Boubou, Southern	Crake, Spotted
Brubru	<i>Crane, Blue NT VU</i>
Bulbul, Dark-capped	Crane, Grey Crowned <i>EN</i>
Bunting, Cape	Crane, Wattled <i>CR VU</i>
Bunting, Cinnamon-breasted	Crow, Cape
Bunting, Golden-breasted	Crow, Pied
Bush-Shrike, Olive	Cuckoo, Black
Bustard, Black-bellied	Cuckoo, Diederik
Bustard, Denham's <i>VU NT</i>	Cuckoo, Klaas's
Buttonquail, Black-rumped <i>LC EN</i>	Cuckoo, Red-chested
Buttonquail, Common	Cuckooshrike, Black
Buzzard, European Honey	Darter, African
Buzzard, Forest <i>LC NT SLS</i>	Dove, Laughing
Buzzard, Jackal	Dove, Namaqua
Buzzard, Common	Dove, Red-eyed
Camaroptera, Green-backed	Dove, Cape Turtle
Canary, Black-throated	Dove, Rock
Canary, Cape	Drongo, Fork-tailed
Canary, Forest	Duck, African Black
Canary, Yellow-fronted	Duck, Fulvous Whistling
Chat, Ant-eating	<i>Duck, Maccoa NT EN</i>
Chat, Buff-streaked	Duck, White-backed
Chat, Familiar	Duck, White-faced Whistling
Chat, Mocking Cliff	Duck, Yellow-billed

Eagle, African Fish	Harrier, Montagu's
Eagle, Booted	Hawk, African Harrier-
Eagle, Crowned <i>VU NT</i>	Helmet-shrike, White-crested
Eagle, Long-crested	Heron, Black-crowned Night
Eagle, Martial <i>EN</i>	Heron, Black-headed
Eagle, Verreaux's <i>VU LC</i>	Heron, Goliath
Eagle, Wahlberg's	Heron, Green-backed
Egret, Great	Heron, Grey
Egret, Little	Heron, Purple
Egret, Western Cattle	Heron, Squacco
Egret, Yellow-billed	Honeybird, Brown-backed
Falcon, Amur	Honeyguide, Greater
Falcon, Lanner <i>VU LC</i>	Honeyguide, Lesser
Falcon, Red-footed <i>NT VU</i>	Hoopoe, African
Finch, Cuckoo	Ibis, African Sacred
Finch, Red-headed	Ibis, Glossy
Firefinch, African	Ibis, Hadedda
Fiscal, Southern	Ibis, Southern Bald <i>VU SLS</i>
Flamingo, Greater <i>NT LC</i>	Indigobird, Dusky
Flamingo, Lesser <i>NT</i>	Jacana, African
Flufftail, Red-chested	Kestrel, Greater
Flufftail, White-winged <i>CR</i>	Kestrel, Lesser
Flycatcher, African Dusky	Kestrel, Rock
Flycatcher, African Paradise	Kingfisher, Brown-hooded
Flycatcher, Fiscal	Kingfisher, Giant
Flycatcher, Spotted	Kingfisher, Half-collared <i>NT LC</i>
Francolin, Coqui	Kingfisher, Malachite
Francolin, Grey-winged	Kingfisher, Pied
Francolin, Red-winged	Kite, Black
Goose, Egyptian	Kite, Black-winged
Goose, Spur-winged	Kite, Yellow-billed
Goshawk, African	Korhaan, Blue <i>LC NT SLS</i>
Grassbird, Cape	Korhaan, White-bellied <i>VU LC</i>
Grebe, Black-necked	Lapwing, African Wattled
Grebe, Great Crested	Lapwing, Blacksmith
Grebe, Little	Lapwing, Black-winged
Greenbul, Sombre	Lapwing, Crowned
Greenshank, Common	Lark, Botha's <i>EN E</i>
Guinea fowl, Helmeted	Lark, Eastern Clapper
Gull, Grey-headed	Lark, Eastern Long-billed
Hamerkop	Lark, Pink-billed
Harrier, African Marsh <i>EN LC</i>	Lark, Red-capped
Harrier, Black <i>EN NE</i>	Lark, Rudd's <i>EN E</i>
Harrier, Western Marsh	Lark, Rufous-naped

Lark, Spike-heeled	Rail, African
Longclaw, Cape	Robin, White-starred
Martin, Banded	Robin-chat, Cape
Martin, Brown-throated	Robin-chat, Chorister
Martin, Common House	Roller, European <i>NT LC</i>
Martin, Rock	Ruff
Martin, Sand	Sandpiper, Common
Moorhen, Common	Sandpiper, Curlew <i>NT LC</i>
Moorhen, Lesser	Sandpiper, Marsh
Mousebird, Red-faced	Sandpiper, Wood
Mousebird, Speckled	Saw-wing, Black
Myna, Common	Secretarybird <i>NT EN</i>
Neddicky	Seedeater, Streaky-headed
Nightjar, Fiery-necked	Shelduck, South African
Nightjar, Freckled	Shoveler, Cape
Oriole, Black-headed	Shrike, Lesser Grey
Osprey, Western	Shrike, Red-backed
Ostrich, Common	Snipe, African
Owl, African Grass <i>VU LC</i>	Snipe, Great <i>NA NT V</i>
Owl, Marsh	Sparrow, Cape
Owl, Spotted Eagle-	Sparrow, House
Owl, Western Barn	Sparrow, Southern Grey-headed
Petronia, Yellow -throated	Sparrowhawk, Black
Pigeon, African Olive	Sparrowhawk, Rufous-breasted
Pigeon, Speckled	Sparrow-weaver, White-browed
Pipit, African	Spoonbill, African
Pipit, African Rock <i>NT SLS</i>	Spurfowl, Swainson's
Pipit, Buffy	Starling, Cape
Pipit, Nicholson's	Starling, Common
Pipit, Plain-backed	Starling, Pied
Pipit, Yellow-breasted <i>VU E</i>	Starling, Red-winged
Plover, Common Ringed	Starling, Violet-backed
Plover, Kittlitz's	Starling, Wattled
Plover, Three-banded	Stilt, Black-winged
Pochard, Southern	Stint, Little
Pratincole, Black-winged <i>NT</i>	Stonechat, African
Prinia, Black-chested	Stork, Black <i>VU LC</i>
Prinia, Drakensberg	Stork, White
Prinia, Tawny-flanked	Sugarbird, Gurney's <i>LC NT NE</i>
Puffback, Black-backed	Sunbird, Amethyst
Quail, Common	Sunbird, Greater Double-collared
Quail, Harlequin	Sunbird, Malachite
Quailfinch, African	Swallow, Barn
Quelea, Red-billed	Swallow, Greater Striped

Swallow, Lesser Striped	Weaver, Village
Swallow, Pearl-breasted	Wheatear, Capped
Swallow, South African Cliff	Wheatear, Mountain
Swallow, White-throated	White-eye, Cape
Swamphen, African	Whydah, Long-tailed Paradise
Swift, African Black	Whydah, Pin-tailed
Swift, Alpine	Widowbird, Fan-tailed
Swift, Common	Widowbird, Long-tailed
Swift, Horus	Widowbird, Red-collared
Swift, Little	Widowbird, White-winged
Swift, Palm	Wood-hoopoe, Green
Swift, White-rumped	Woodpecker, Cardinal
Tchagra, Black-crowned	Woodpecker, Golden-tailed
Teal, Cape	Woodpecker, Ground <i>LC NT SLS</i>
Teal, Blue Billed	Woodpecker, Olive
Teal, Red-billed	Wryneck, Red-throated
Tern, Caspian <i>VU LC</i>	
Tern, Whiskered	
Tern, White-winged	
Thick-knee, Spotted	
Thrush, Cape Rock	
Thrush, Groundscraper	
Thrush, Karoo	
Thrush, Kurrichane	
Thrush, Olive	
Thrush, Sentinel Rock <i>LC NT SLS</i>	
Tit, Southern Black	
Wagtail, African Pied	
Wagtail, Cape	
Warbler, African Reed	
Warbler, Barratt's	
Warbler, African Yellow	Abbreviations
Warbler, Great Reed	V – vagrant (report to rarities@birdlife.org.za)
Warbler, Lesser Swamp	CR – critically endangered
Warbler, Little Rush	EN – endangered
Warbler, Sedge	VU – vulnerable
Warbler, Willow	NT – near threatened
Warbler, Yellow-throated Woodland	LC – least concern
Waxbill, Blue	NA – not assessed
Waxbill, Common	Red List
Waxbill, Orange-breasted	NE – near endemic
Weaver, Cape	E – endemic
Weaver, Southern Masked	SLS – endemic to South Africa, Lesotho & Swaziland
Weaver, Thick-billed	<i>Updated 1123</i>

#### Tips for birding in and around Wakkerstroom

- Most of the roads in the surrounds are gravel and their condition is generally good enough for any vehicle to use. However, the condition will vary from month to month depending on when they were last graded. There are sections of the road that become quite rocky or severely corrugated at times. Also, after heavy rains some sections can be slippery and even impassible for a short period, without a 4x4 wheel drive vehicle.
- Pull well off the road whenever you stop. These are public roads, and some can carry quite a bit of traffic. Other road users may not be as interested in the rich fauna and flora as you are.
- Do not climb over fences or enter farms without prior permission. Most landowners are obliging if permission is asked for before their property is entered.
- Take along warm clothing, a raincoat or anorak – no matter what the weather is like when you leave. It is bound to change before you get back.
- Do not head due east in the early morning and due west in the evening. This way, you will not be looking directly into the sun.
- Early mornings are best for birding so make the effort to get out by sunrise.

#### Bird Guides

There are three trained bird guides in the Wakkerstroom area, all of whom have completed their training at the BirdLife South Africa Centre. It makes for a memorable day's birding to make use of the guides. They will almost guarantee you sightings of the area's specials and they take great pride in their profession. Guests are asked to book in advance to avoid disappointment. The guides accompany you in your vehicle for the duration of the tour.

To book a guide during your stay, please contact:

Thandulwazi Ndaba 082 289 3396 / [thandulwazi.ndaba@birdlife.org.za](mailto:thandulwazi.ndaba@birdlife.org.za)

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#### Hides in the area

Iain Drummond Hide can be reached from the Oude Stasie Road. There is parking next to the road 500m south of the Oude Stasie itself. From here you walk a few hundred metres down towards the wetland to the hide – a good spot to see Red-chested Flufftail. At sunset, at certain times of the year this part of the wetland also provides the interesting spectacle of thousands of birds flying into the wetland to roost – Pied Starling, Long-tailed and other widowbird, Cattle Egret, swallow and more.

Crane Hide is reached by turning into the BirdLife South Africa Centre's driveway. Please park at reception. The hide is approximately an 800m walk through the grassland. As its name suggests, this hide has some great views of Grey Crowned Cranes. Marsh and Grass Owls are also a possibility, especially at dusk in winter. The grassland surrounding this hide is perhaps the best place in the district to get the elusive, but common Pale-crowned Cisticola and in some summer months Corn Crake is a possibility.

The best viewing opportunities of the wetland are from the raised road that heads north out of the village towards Amersfoort. You can pull off to the side of the road or park below in the Wetland Reserve itself. From here you will also be able to access both the WOW and Clive Beck Hides. Here the spectacle of hundreds of South African Cliff Swallows and White-rumped and Little Swifts wheeling in the air above the road bridge over the Utaga River provide a summer treat. There is also a good chance, especially early in the morning of spotting the Cape Clawless Otter in the river below the road. The much rarer Spotted-necked Otter has also been seen in some of the open pools close by.

