

Are you interested in our birds and butterflies and nature in general?



Would you like to help collect information to protect nature?



Got a biology project to do? Do you need an interesting topic?

Have a look at this!

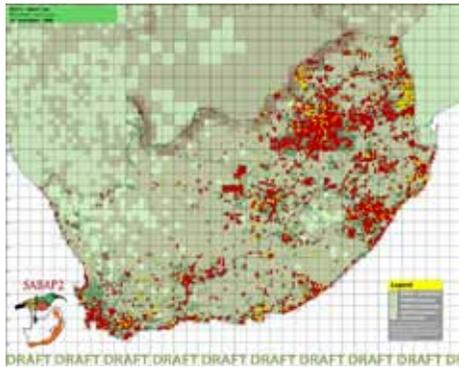
www.adu.org.za



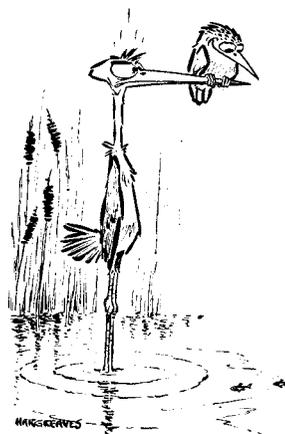
Atlas of the birds of southern Africa

Did you know that over 900 different species of birds have been recorded in South Africa? That is almost 10% of all the bird species in the world. Some, like the barn (European) swallow, are migratory species flying from one part of the world (Europe) to another (South Africa) twice a year. That is nearly 20 000 km there and back! But when do they arrive and when do they leave and are these birds telling us something about how our climate is changing? If you visit <http://sabap2.adu.org.za> regularly, you will be able to track when these swallows arrive in spring and depart again in autumn.

You will also be able to see maps showing where different birds can be found in South Africa and see how ordinary people through bird-watching are making a difference to South Africa's bird-life.



Draft map of barn swallow distribution in South Africa based on data collected by volunteers.



CWAC CWAC CWAC

What goes CWAC . . . and lives in the water? Yes, of course you know, a duck! But do you know how many duck species there are in South Africa? Do you know any of their names? Are ducks the only waterbirds we have? What about coots, darters, flufftails, snipes and green-shanks – are you confused?

Click to <http://cwac.adu.org.za> for the answers, and also to become involved in counting waterbird in your area.



- The **Animal Demography Unit** is at the University of Cape Town.
- We collect information about the animals of southern Africa.
- The information is used to plan to protect them all into the future.
- Volunteers take part in all our projects. You and your friends and family can also join!

- The ADU appreciates and thanks all the individuals and organizations who contribute to the ADU's projects.
- We work closely with BirdLife SA on the bird projects and with the Lepidopterists' Society of South Africa on the butterfly atlas.
- Most of the funding for these projects is provided by SANBI (South African National Biodiversity Institute).

Animal Demography Unit
2009

BirdLife South Africa
National Biodiversity Institute
SANBI



Bird Ringing

Bird ringers catch birds in special nets or traps, put a unique metal ring with a number on the bird, and measure it. All the data is kept at the Animal Demography Unit. This data shows how far birds fly and how old birds become. The furthest migration is 15 000 km for a ruff flying from South Africa all the way to Siberia in Russia. The oldest bird is a wandering albatross at 40 years. Visit the website to see lots more information and many maps of migration routes: <http://SAFRING.adu.org.za>. If you find a bird with a ring please report it on the website, or phone us at 021 6504998.



A blue crane looking very smart with his rings!

Wicus Leeuwenr



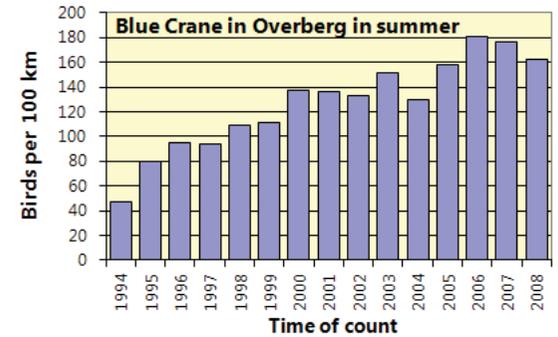
CAR



Interested in big birds and changing numbers? Help do counts by car along minor roads through farmlands to monitor cranes, storks, bustards and secretarybirds. Many of these magnificent species are threatened, particularly by powerlines, agrochemicals and habitat loss. Find out more on the Coordinated Avifaunal Road-counts (CAR) webpage: <http://CAR.adu.org.za>



Teachers and learners scanning a farm for big birds.



Data collected by volunteers in the CAR project show that blue crane numbers in the Overberg in summer have increased three-fold over a 15-year period.



BIRP



The Birds in Reserves Project collects birding information in protected areas in South Africa. Would you like to learn more about which bird species are found in your Nature Reserve? Click your way to the BIRP website <http://birp.adu.org.za> to find out!! Better still, would you like to become a CITIZEN SCIENTIST? Yes!! You and your friends can become involved in such a project. Visit your local reserve and fill in your BIRP form today. While you are doing that . . . who knows what else you may stumble upon!!

Reptiles

Nile crocodiles, puff adders and cape cobras are creatures of which we are at least wary, if not downright afraid! But these are just a few of a fascinating and diverse group of animals, the REPTILES, which are mostly harmless and which are a vital component of the ecosystem of which we are also a part. Visit

<http://sarca.adu.org.za> to find out more

about reptiles in South Africa, and click the link to the online "Virtual Museum" to see thousands of photographs and over 400 distribution maps. Go on – don't be scared!



The map shows where Ruffs have been caught and ringed, and caught again.



Butterflies

Butterflies are nature's "fairies". In South Africa we have about 671 main types of butterflies. Some of them are in danger of dying out forever because the places (habitats) where they live are being destroyed. Find out about all our butterflies, what they look like and where they occur. You can also help us monitor butterflies by sending in photos of butterflies you see in your garden or anywhere else.

Visit the SABCA website (<http://sabca.adu.org.za>) where you can enter the world of our flying jewels.

