

CHECK LIST OF THE BIRDS OF NOETZIE

Noetzie township is part of the Farm Noetzie 394, situated about 10 km east of Knysna at 34° 5' S and 23° 8' E in grid square 3423AA Knysna. We bought our cottage there in 1976 when the rest of the Farm was largely under pine plantations, except for the indigenous forest on the east side along the Noetzie River and some coastal fynbos on the steep slopes just above Noetzie.

We spent an annual holiday there most years until 1993 when I retired; later we moved to Cape Town from Johannesburg, so we were able to visit more frequently. Over the last thirty years my wife and I have made lists of the birds we have recorded at Noetzie. Our cottage is in indigenous forest overlooking the lagoon, with a view east through the canopy up the Noetzie River. All we can see is the river and the indigenous forest opposite of the Sinclair Nature Reserve ("Sinclair") and that of the Noetzie Farm on our left. The view from our balcony is the picture 'Dune Forests and Lagoons' on page 30 of the 8th Edition of Newman's Birds, 2002 ("Newman").

Because of the situation of our cottage, in the forest canopy with restricted views of the river and of the sky, birds of the forest and forest margin are well represented but birds of the fynbos, beach and sea and species such as swifts, swallows and raptors tend to be under recorded. On each visit I usually make several canoe trips up the river and walk in the indigenous forest along its banks in the Sinclair Nature Reserve. I visit the beach most days and used to make visits to the fynbos and the plantations above Noetzie, but since Pezula Private Estate was established in 2002, access to what were the plantations and the fynbos on the cliff top is no longer permitted. The plantations have been almost completely removed and fynbos is becoming re-established. Several small dams have been constructed and the few houses already built have gardens around them, although the cultivated areas are small in relation to the whole. The effect is that the habitat of that large part of the Noetzie Farm has changed radically, which has no doubt had a great effect on the avifauna, which is not apparent from this check list.

During the survey period visits were made in 87 months, mostly in December (20) and January (16). March had 10 visits and November had 8 visits; the remaining 33 visits were spread over the other months, August having 1, July 2 and the other months 4, 5 or 6. Friends Deryck Day, Rob Thompson, Christo Walwyn and the late Ken Newman contributed records of 6 visits for which I am most grateful, the remaining 81 visits being those of my wife and myself. A few records have been contributed by other Noetzie owners and friends.

In the species list that follows I have used the names and family order from the new VIIIth Edition of Roberts Birds of Southern Africa published by the John Voelcker Bird Book Fund ("Roberts") and I have referred also to The Atlas of Southern African Birds 1997 published by BirdLife South Africa ("the Atlas"). I have used the new common names and scientific names, but have given the old common names as well.

I have had anecdotal evidence of a few species that I have omitted from the check list because of lack of detail. These are Denham's (Stanley) Bustard from the fynbos and Verreaux's (Giant) Eagle Owl and Emerald-Spotted Wood-Dove from the forest. All these are possible, in fact I have been surprised not to record the latter, or the Tambourine Dove, as both are recorded for the Atlas in Knysna.

I welcome records of birds seen at Noetzie, so that this check list can be revised and updated regularly. Separate records for each month should be submitted on the bird list that is available on the Noetzie Conservancy Owners' Association ("NCOA") web site www.noetzie.co.za. They can be posted to me at 7 Farmsedge, 14 Pekalmy Road, Bergvliet, 7945 Cape Town.

Donald T Fabian

3 April 2007

SPECIES LIST

Family: Phasianidae

1. Cape Spurfowl (Cape Francolin) *Pternistis capensis*
Cape Spurfowl is recorded only once in November 1988 by Deryck Day. The species is recorded in the Atlas for Knysna towards the end of its range to the east and is found in fynbos, so there is no reason why it should not be seen more often.
2. Red-necked Spurfowl (Rednecked Francolin) *Pternistis afer*
Small coveys of Red-necked Spurfowl are seen regularly in the fynbos and forest margins. They were recorded in all months of the year on 41% of visits.
3. Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*
Common Quail was recorded once in December 1994 along the road by Rob Thompson. Grassland and pastures are its preferred habitat, so its absence from the fynbos is not surprising, although it is recorded sparsely for Knysna in the Atlas with a peak in November/December.

Family: Anatidae

4. Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*
The Egyptian Goose was recorded on 62% of visits throughout the year. There is usually a pair on or around the lagoon.
5. Spurwinged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*
The Spurwinged Goose was recorded on four visits only, twice in June and once in January and March.
6. African Black Duck *Anas sparsa*
There is usually a pair or a family of African Black Ducks on the lagoon. They were recorded on 69% of visits throughout the year,
7. Yellow-billed Duck *Anas undulata*
Yellow-billed Ducks have been recorded on the lagoon on six visits only, three in December 1977, 1979 and 2000 and one each in January 1980, April 1989 and June 1998.

Family: Indicatoridae

8. Scaly-throated Honeyguide *Indicator variegatus*
The Scaly-throated Honeyguide was recorded on 45% of visits, always at the rapids at the end of the tidal effect on the lagoon. This area is its call site where its call can be heard most months of the year. Sometimes the river is so low that a canoe cannot get to the rapids, or it would probably be recorded on every visit.

9. Lesser Honeyguide: *Indicator minor*
A Lesser Honeyguide has been recorded twice in the canopy by our house, once being harassed by a Cape Batis in December 1998 and again in the same place in January 1999.

10. Brown-backed Honeybird (Sharp-billed Honeyguide) *Prodotiscus regulus*
A Brown-backed Honeybird was recorded once in the canopy by our house on 29th December 2003. It was heard calling and then it was seen.

Family: Picidae

11. Knysna Woodpecker *Campethera notata*
12. The Knysna Woodpecker was recorded in all months on 32% of visits. A pair bred in a nest log by our house in December 1996. One chick was eaten by a tree snake, but the other fledged. On 11th January 2001 a bird was seen feeding a young one.
13. Olive Woodpecker *Dendropicos griseocephalus*
The Olive Woodpecker was recorded on 76% of visits throughout the year. A pair roosted in the nest log by our house, but did not breed in it while we were there.

Family: Upupidae

14. African Hoopoe (Hoopoe) *Upupa africana*
An African Hoopoe was present in the garden of Aubrey Wynne-Jones's house on the cliff top in January 2003.

Family: Phoeniculidae

15. Green Wood-Hoopoe (Red-billed Wood-Hoopoe) *Phoeniculus purpureus*
The Green Wood-Hoopoe was recorded in small parties in the forest and forest margin throughout the year on 70% of visits.

Family: Trogonidae

16. Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina*
The Narina Trogon was recorded in the forest in most months on 24% of visits, more frequently in October and November when it is calling more often.

Family: Alcedinidae

17. Halfcollared Kingfisher *Alcedo semitorquata*
The Halfcollared Kingfisher was recorded throughout the year on the Noetzie river on 45% of visits. A pair were seen feeding young on 6th January 2001.
18. Malachite Kingfisher *Alcedo cristata*
The Malachite Kingfisher was recorded infrequently on the lagoon on 20% of visits, mostly from January to June.

Family: Dacelonidae

19. Brownhooded Kingfisher *Halcyon albiventris*

The Brownhooded Kingfisher was recorded infrequently in the forest margins on 11% of visits.

Family: Cerylidae

20. Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maximus*

This noisy species was recorded throughout the year on the lagoon and up the Noetzie river on 90% of visits.

21. Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

The Pied Kingfisher was recorded on the lagoon and by the sea throughout the year on 61% of visits.

Family: Coliidae

22. Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus*

The Speckled Mousebird was recorded from November to June, more frequently from April to June, in the fynbos and forest margin bordering Sinclair on the east side of the lagoon and in the forest margin on the west of the lagoon, on 31% of visits.

Family: Cuculidae

23. Jacobin Cuckoo *Clamator jacobinus*

There is one record of a Jacobin Cuckoo in January 1996 flying along the sea edge of Sinclair.

24. Redchested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius*

The Redchested Cuckoo was heard calling every year from October to January on 90% of visits in those months, but seldom seen. A young bird was being fed by a Cape Robin in January 1981 just below our house.

25. Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*

Klaas's Cuckoo was heard calling from September to January on 45% of visits in those months but seldom seen. It was also heard calling on 20% of visits in April.

26. African Emerald Cuckoo (Emerald Cuckoo) *Chrysococcyx cupreus*

The African Emerald Cuckoo was heard calling on 80% of visits in October and November, on 30% in December and on 10% in January. It was rarely seen.

Family: Centropodidae

27. Burchell's Coucal *Centropus burchellii*

Burchell's Coucal was occasionally seen in the fynbos and forest margin bordering Sinclair on the east side of the lagoon. It was recorded on 11% of visits.

Family: Apodidae

28. Alpine Swift *Tachymarpris melba*

One Alpine Swift was recorded in December 1982.

29. African Black Swift *Apus barbatus*

Flocks of African Black Swifts were recorded between September and May, with no records in February, April or June to August. They were recorded on 26% of visits in the months of September to December and infrequently in the other months. There could be some confusion with Common Swifts (European Swifts) *Apus apus*.

30. White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer*

White-rumped Swifts were recorded from October to March on 27% of visits in those months. They regularly breed in nests of Greater Striped Swallows under the eaves of houses on the lagoon.

Family: Musophagidae

31. Knysna Turaco (Knysna Loerie) *Tauraco corythaix*

Knysna Turacos were recorded in every month of the year on 90% of visits.

Family: Tytonidae

32. Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Barn Owls were heard calling in the lagoon corner on three visits in January, April and May 1998.

Family: Strigidae

33. Cape Eagle-Owl *Bubo capensis*

A Cape Eagle Owl was seen several times in December 2002 feeding on insects on the lawn of Aubrey Wynne-Jones's house on the cliff top. In January 2003 a pair were flushed on two occasions in the young plantation just above the same house. In January 2006 after the removal of the plantation one was seen perched on the telephone line nearby.

34. Spotted Eagle-Owl *Bubo africanus*

A Spotted Eagle-Owl has been heard on four occasions only, thrice in December, in 1977, 1987 and 1997 and once in October 2000.

35. African Wood-Owl (Wood Owl) *Strix woodfordii*

The African Wood-Owl is heard regularly around the lagoon area, particularly on moonlit nights. It was recorded in every month of the year on 59% of visits.

Family: Caprimulgidae

36. Fiery-necked Nightjar *Caprimulgus pectoralis*

The Fiery-necked Nightjar is often heard calling around the lagoon area. It was recorded in most months of the year on 28% of visits.

Family: Columbidae

37. Speckled Pigeon (Rock Pigeon) *Columba guinea*

The Speckled Pigeon has been seen infrequently between November and March flying over the lagoon corner. It was recorded on 19% of visits in those months.

38. African Olive-Pigeon (Rameron Pigeon) *columba arquatrix*

The African Olive-Pigeon is often seen flying over the forest. It was recorded in most months of the year on 28% of visits.

39. Lemon Dove (Cinnamon Dove) *Aplopelia larvata*

The Lemon Dove is a common resident of the forest floor. It is present throughout the year and was recorded on 77% of visits. It bred near our house in December 1979 and was a common visitor to our bird table until monkeys forced us to discontinue it.

40. Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*

Somewhat surprisingly the Laughing Dove has only been recorded once, in the plantations, in November 1988. It does not venture into the forest, but even so, it has almost certainly been overlooked.

41. Cape Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia capicola*

The Cape Turtle-Dove was often seen along the road and in the plantations. It was recorded in most months on 23% of visits.

42. Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata*

The Red-eyed Dove was also often seen above the cliffs in the firebreak, along the road and in the plantations. It was recorded in most months on 23% of visits.

Family: Heliornithidae

43. African Finfoot (Peter's Finfoot) *Podica senegalensis*

There is a very old record from Andrew Brown of African Finfoot on the Noetzie River. It is a little surprising that it has not been seen while this study has been done. The nearest known birds are the pair that live around the causeway on the Kaaiman's River.

Family: Rallidae

44. Red-chested Flufftail *Sarothrura rufa*

There is a doubtful record of a Red-chested Flufftail calling in the large reedbed in January 1981.

45. Striped Flufftail *Sarothrura affinis*

A pair of Striped Flufftails were heard calling over three days in the large reedbed in January 2004.

46. Black Crake *Amauornis flavirostris*

Black Crakes have been recorded on the lagoon on four occasions, all between November and April.

47. Common Moorhen (Moorhen) *Gallinula chloropus*

A Common Moorhen was present on the lagoon in December 2003 and January 2004.

48. Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata*

A Red-knobbed Coot was seen on the lagoon in June 2002.

Family: Scolopacidae

49. Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

A Wood Sandpiper was seen in the lagoon corner in December 1993.

50. Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Common Sandpipers have been seen at the edge of the lagoon on twelve occasions, all between September and February.

Family: Burhinidae

51. Water Thick-knee (Water Dikkop) *Burhinus vermiculatus*

A pair of Water Thick-knees was living in the fynbos and forest margin bordering Sinclair on the east side of the lagoon during 1994 to 1998. They were recorded on eleven visits during October to February.

52. Spotted Thick-knee (Spotted Dikkop) *Burhinus capensis*

Spotted Thick-knees were seen on four occasions in 1978 to 1985 around the homestead in the plantations.

Family: Haematopodidae

53. Eurasian Oystercatcher (European Oystercatcher) *Haematopus ostralegus*

Ken Newman saw an Eurasian Oystercatcher flying along the beach in December 1982.

54. African Black Oystercatcher *Haematopus moquini*

The African Black Oystercatcher is commonly seen on the beach in all months of the year. It was recorded on 85% of visits and has bred on the inaccessible rocks off Sinclair. A pair were seen mating on the beach on 5th February 2000.

Family: Charadriidae

55. Whitefronted Plover *Charadrius marginatus*

One or two pairs are usually seen on the beach in all months of the year. They breed successfully despite interference from dogs and humans, not to mention gulls. They were recorded on 80% of visits.

56. Blacksmith Lapwing (Blacksmith Plover) *Vanellus armatus*

The Blacksmith Lapwing has been recorded once in May 1998 in the lagoon corner.

Family: Laridae

57. Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

The Kelp Gull is always to be seen on the beach, often in substantial numbers. Young birds are often present but breeding locally has not been observed. It was recorded in all months on 92% of visits.

58. Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*

Single Caspian Terns have been seen on four occasions from December to February.

59. Swift Tern *Sterna bergii*

Swift Terns are often to be seen resting on the beach, sometimes in large flocks of more than 100 birds. They were recorded in all months on 38% of visits.

60. Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

There are sometimes one or two Sandwich Terns among the flock of Swift Terns on the beach. They were recorded from November to March on 16% of visits in those months.

61. Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Common Terns have been seen in small numbers on the beach from October to June. They were recorded on 11% of visits in those months.

62. Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Arctic Terns have been seen from October to May. They were recorded on 12% of visits in those months.

63. White-winged Tern *Sterna leucopterus*

One White-winged Tern was seen flying over the lagoon and up the river in April 1989 and another in February 2002

Family: Accipitridae

64. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

There has often been an Osprey on the lagoon between October and February; It was recorded on 43% of visits in those months. There is also one record for March.

65. African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer*

The African Fish Eagle is seen and heard regularly on the lagoon and up the Noetzie River throughout the year. It was recorded on 52% of visits. Some years ago there was a nest in a large yellowwood tree near the lily pond above the rapids.

66. African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogone) *Polyboroides typus*

There is one record of a Gymnogone flying above the fynbos on 11th January 2001.

67. Gabar Goshawk *Melierax gabar*

On 2nd October 1999 a medium sized dark goshawk with a prominent white rump flew across the Noetzie River, where there is some open space within the forest. It was assumed to be this species. Although the species is not recorded in the Atlas in this square, it is recorded in nearby squares.

68. African Goshawk *Accipiter tachiro*

An African Goshawk was recorded on five visits between 1987 and 1998, circling and calling high above the forest in the lagoon corner. It is likely to be under-reported in this survey.

69. Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk (Redbreasted Sparrowhawk) *Accipiter rufiventris*

There is one record of a Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk in March 1988, It is shown in the Atlas for this square and is likely to be present in the forest and under-reported

70. Steppe Buzzard *Buteo vulpinus*

Steppe Buzzards were recorded on 42% of visits from December to January, with single records in April and October.

71. Forest Buzzard *Buteo trizonatus*

Forest Buzzards were recorded on nine visits from October to April. It is possible that some of these records may actually be Steppe Buzzards, but the area is the habitat of the Forest Buzzard and it must certainly be present.

72. Jackal Buzzard *Buteo rufofuscus*

Jackal Buzzards have been recorded circling above the lagoon area on five visits in March, April, September and December.

73. Booted Eagle *Aquila pennatus*

In January 1998 a pair of Booted Eagles flew over the firebreak along the cliff top where I was walking.

74. African Crowned Eagle (Crowned Eagle) *Stephanoaetus coronatus*

The African Crowned Eagle is regularly heard and seen flying over the forest or perched in a tree along the river. It was recorded throughout the year on 13% of visits. On 11th December 1999 a juvenile bird was seen perched on a tree across the river. In September 2005 one took a monkey off the roof of one of the houses in the corner of the lagoon.

Family: Falconidae

75. Rock Kestrel *Falco rupicolus*

Rock Kestrels have been recorded on 10% of visits. There are not many suitable cliffs at Noetzie; they have been seen more frequently further along the coast.

76. Eurasian Hobby (Hobby Falcon) *Falco subbuteo*

There are two records in January and March of small flocks of Eurasian Hobbies flying overhead

77. Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*

There is one doubtful record of a Lanner Falcon on 19th January 2001. The area is not really prime Lanner territory, although it is recorded in the Atlas in adjacent squares. It may have been a Peregrine Falcon, which has been seen near The Heads on several occasions.

Family: Podicipedidae

78. Little Grebe (Dabchick) *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Little Grebes are regularly seen on the lagoon in all months of the year, where they have been recorded on 28% of visits.

79. Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

There is one record of a Black-necked Grebe seen by George Booyesen on the lagoon on 20th March 2004.

Family: Sulidae

80. Cape Gannet *Morus capensis*

Cape Gannets are often seen flying offshore and occasionally a dead bird is found on the beach. They were recorded on 18% of visits.

Family: Anhingidae

81. African Darter (Darter) *Anhinga rufa*

One or two African Darters are present on the lagoon in all months of the year. They were recorded on 68% of visits.

Family Phalacrocoracidae

82. Reed Cormorant *Phalacrocorax africanus*

Reed Cormorants are present on the lagoon in all months of the year, juveniles often being present although they do not appear to breed here.. They were recorded on 87% of visits.

83. White-breasted Cormorant *Phalacrocorax lucidus*

White-breasted Cormorants are present on the lagoon in all months of the year. They were recorded on 82% of visits.

84. Cape Cormorant *Phalacrocorax capensis*

Single birds have occasionally been seen on the rocks along the beach. There are likely to be others that have been fishing out at sea that have not been reported.

Family: Ardeidae

85. Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

A single Little Egret is often present, fishing at the edge of the lagoon or where the river runs into the sea. It has been recorded on 56% of visits.

86. Yellow-billed Egret *Egretta intermedia*

A Yellow-billed Egret was seen in a reedbed on the lagoon in April 1989.

87. Great Egret (Great White Egret) *Egretta alba*

A Great Egret has been recorded three times on the lagoon, in January 1986, December 1997 and April 2000.

88. Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Grey Herons are seen occasionally on the lagoon and beach. They were recorded on 18% of visits.

89. Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala*

There are a few records of Black-headed Herons on the lagoon and alongside the road in the fynbos. They have been recorded on 8% of visits.

90. Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath*

A Goliath Heron was present on the lagoon for three days in March 1998, reported by Derek Bond-Smith.

91. Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

A Purple Heron has occasionally been seen in the large reedbed. It was recorded on 10% of visits.

92. Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

The Black-crowned Night Heron is rarely seen on the lagoon. There is a tree overhanging the lagoon where one sometimes appears at dusk, so that it is possibly

more common than appears. A young bird was seen in June 2000. It was recorded from January to June on 9% of visits

93. White-backed Night Heron *Gorsachius leuconotus*

White-backed Night Herons nested in a tree overhanging the Noetzie River in March 1985. In June 1991 one was seen on two occasions flying along the river at dusk.

94. Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

In February 2002 a pair of Little Bitterns was heard calling in the large reedbed in the Noetzie River and on 9th February 2002 one was seen flying over the reeds.

Family: Scopidae

95. Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*

A Hamerkop was present on the lagoon in April and May 1998.

Family: Threskiornithidae

96. Hadedda Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash*

Hadedda Ibis can be heard and seen most mornings and evenings as they fly across the lagoon. They feed sometimes in the lagoon corner and roost on trees up the Noetzie River. They were recorded on 78% of visits.

Family: Oriolidae

97. Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus larvatus*

The Black-headed Oriole is a common resident of the forest and plantations, easily identified by its call. It was recorded on 66% of visits.

Family: Dicruridae

98. Forktailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis*

The Forktailed Drongo is often seen, singly or in pairs, perched on a prominent branch or post. It was recorded on 82% of visits.

Family: Monarchidae

99. Blue-mantled Crested-Flycatcher (Bluemantled Flycatcher) *Trochocercus cyanomelas*

The Blue-mantled Crested-Flycatcher is a common resident of the forest, easily identified by its call and seen singly or in pairs, often in bird parties. It was recorded on 70% of visits.

100. African Paradise-Flycatcher (Paradise Flycatcher) *Terpsiphone viridis*

The African Paradise-Flycatcher is regularly seen in the forest margins from October to April. It was recorded on 64% of visits in those months.

Family: Malaconotidae

101. Black-backed Puffback (Puffback) *Dryoscopus cubla*

The Black-backed Puffback is a common resident of the forest margins. It was recorded on 71% of visits.

102. Southern Tchagra *Tchagra tchagra*

The Southern Tchagra has been recorded twice in the fynbos at the forest edge, in March 1985 and April 1998. It may well be overlooked.

103. Southern Boubou *Laniarius ferrugineus*
The Southern Boubou is a common resident of the forest margin, easily identified by its call. It was recorded on 91% of visits.
104. Bokmakierie *Telophorus zeylonus*
The Bokmakierie has been recorded once in April 2001 where the plantations were being cleared. With the removal of the plantations and the development of Pezula, it is likely to become much more common.
105. Olive Bush-Shrike *Telephorus olivaceus*
The Olive Bush-Shrike is a common resident of the forest, easily identified by its call. It was recorded on 85% of visits. A young bird was seen being fed by a parent on 15th January 1998.
106. Cape Batis *Batis capensis*
The Cape Batis is a common resident of the forest, usually seen in the canopy, singly or in pairs. It was recorded on 90% of visits.

Family: Corvidae

107. Pied Crow *Corvus albus*
There is one record of a Pied Crow flying overhead on 1st May 2003.
108. White-necked Raven *Corvus albicollis*
The White-necked Raven is often heard and seen flying over the forest. It was recorded on 80% of visits.

Family: Laniidae

109. Common Fiscal (Fiscal Shrike) *Lanius collaris*
The Common Fiscal has been seen rarely along the road and in the plantations. It was recorded on 8% of visits

Family: Campephagidae

110. Grey Cuckooshrike *Coracina caesia*
The Grey Cuckooshrike is an uncommon resident of the forest. It has usually been seen in pairs in the canopy, where it is quite sluggish and not at all shy. It was recorded on 15% of visits.

Family: Hirundinidae

111. Barn Swallow (European Swallow) *Hirundo rustica*
The Barn Swallow is a regular summer visitor, recorded from December to March in small numbers feeding over the lagoon corner. It was recorded on 24% of visits in those months.
112. White-throated Swallow *Hirundo albigularis*
The White-throated Swallow is an uncommon summer visitor, recorded from October to February in very small numbers. It was recorded on 8% of visits in those months.

113. Pearl-breasted Swallow *Hirundo dimidiata*
A small flock of Pearl-breasted Swallows was seen hawking insects over the lagoon in November 2002 and again in October 2003.
114. Greater Striped Swallow *Hirundo cucullata*
Greater Striped Swallows are regular summer visitors from October to April, breeding under the eaves of houses in the lagoon corner. They were recorded on 33% of visits in those months.
115. Rock Martin *Hirundo fuligula*
Rock Martins are rarely seen flying around the rocks above the lagoon corner. They were recorded on 6% of visits.
116. Common House Martin (House Martin) *Delichon urbicum*
A small flock of Common House Martins was seen flying over the lagoon in April 1998.
117. Black Saw-wing (Black Saw-wing Swallow) *Psalidoprocne holomelaena*
The Black Saw-wing is a common resident of the forest along the Noetzie river, usually seen in small parties and breeding in holes in the rocks and banks of the river. It was recorded on 66% of visits.

Family: Pycnonotidae

118. Cape Bulbul *Pycnonotus capensis*
The Cape Bulbul is a common resident of the forest margin and cultivated gardens of houses on the beach. It was recorded throughout the year on 32% of visits.
119. Sombre Greenbul (Sombre Bulbul) *Andropadus importunus*
The Sombre Greenbul is probably the commonest bird of the forest and forest margins, its call being heard on most days, although it is not always easily seen. It was recorded throughout the year on 92% of visits.
120. Terrestrial Bulbul *Phyllastrephus terrestris*
The Terrestrial Bulbul is a common resident of the forest, its distinctive call indicating a small flock of birds as they forage on the ground and in the under storey. A pair bred just below our house in January 1987. It was recorded throughout the year on 83% of visits.

Family: Sylviidae

121. Cape Grassbird (Grassbird) *Sphenoeacus afer*
The Cape Grassbird was recorded sporadically in the fynbos from September to March, but has not been recorded since Pezula has prevented access. It is probably present throughout the year, being more obvious when it is singing. It was recorded on 13% of visits.
122. Little Rush-Warbler (African Sedge Warbler) *Bradypterus baboecala*
The Little Rush-Warbler is heard throughout the year calling in the reed beds on the edges of the lagoon. It is more obvious during December and January at the peak of the breeding season. It was recorded on 51% of visits.

123. Knysna Warbler *Bradypterus sylvaticus*
Until summer 1997/8 the Knysna Warbler was sparsely recorded, the occasional single bird being seen in the dense understorey of the forest margin. But in December 1997 there was an influx of birds, with pairs calling in at least five different locations around the lagoon, often during the very early morning, so much so that I was often being asked what bird it was that was calling so much. Since those years it has been recorded regularly in all months of the year except March, June and July, in the latter two months probably because visits have been few. In total it was recorded on 24% of visits.

124. African Reed-Warbler (African Marsh Warbler) *Acrocephalus haeticatus*
The African Reed-Warbler is an uncommon visitor to the reed beds bordering the lagoon. It has been recorded on only 6 visits, 7% of the total, from December to June. Its call is less obvious than those of the other reed warblers and it is probably more common at Noetzie than appears, being difficult to identify with certainty. The Atlas shows summer increases in abundance in all areas, with arrival August-September and a protracted period of departure after breeding.

125. Lesser Swamp-Warbler (Cape Reed Warbler) *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*
The melodious calls of the Lesser Swamp-Warbler are heard in the reed beds bordering the lagoon, where it is present during most of the year in small numbers. Only in June and July was it not recorded. It was recorded on 51% of visits.

126. Yellow-throated Woodland-Warbler (Yellow-throated Warbler) *Phylloscopus ruficapilla*
The Yellow-throated Woodland-Warbler is a relatively common resident of the forest where it is seen singly or in pairs, often in bird parties, mainly in the canopy. One was seen feeding young on 5th January 2001. It was recorded on 33% of visits.

Family: Zosteropidae

127. Cape White-eye *Zosterops pallidus*
The Cape White-eye is one of the commonest birds of Noetzie, present in the forest, forest margins and gardens. It was recorded throughout the year on 93% of visits.

Family: Cisticolidae

128. Lazy Cisticola *Cisticola aberrans*
There is one record of a possible Lazy Cisticola in the fynbos on 19th January 2002. It had a plain back, an eye stripe, a long tail flicked up and down like a prinia, a reddish crown, no spots on the tail and called 'wheet, wheet'. It is recorded in the Atlas as far west as Plettenberg Bay, whereas the Tawny-flanked Prinia, with which it can be confused, is not recorded west of Port Elizabeth.

129. Grey-backed Cisticola *Cisticola subruficapilla*
The Grey-backed Cisticola was recorded three times in the fynbos during the survey period. It is possibly under-recorded as access to the fynbos was difficult, even before Pezula closed it off, but because it is quite vocal, its presence should be obvious.

130. Levillant's Cisticola *Cisticola tinniens*

Levaillant's Cisticola was recorded on two visits, in April 1989 and April 2000. The lagoon is not really marshy enough for this cisticola and there is little rank vegetation, so it is not surprising that it was so little seen. With the increase in dams in the fynbos in Pezula and more rank vegetation, it is likely to be much more common there than it was.

131. Neddicky *Cisticola fulvicapilla*

The Neddicky was sparsely recorded in the fynbos and forest margins on 11% of visits throughout the year.

132. Karoo Prinia (Spotted Prinia) *Prinia hypoxantha*

The Karoo Prinia was recorded throughout the year in the fynbos and forest margins on 18% of visits.

133. Bar-throated Apalis *Apalis thoracica*

The Bar-throated Apalis is a very common resident of the forest and forest margins, easily recognisable by its loud call. It was recorded throughout the year on 86% of visits

134. Green-backed Camaroptera (Bleating Warbler) *Camaroptera brachyura*

The Green-backed Camaroptera is a common resident of the forest and forest margins. It is easily identified by its bleating call as it forages in the lower strata. It was recorded throughout the year on 41% of visits.

Family: Muscicapidae

135. Cape Rock Thrush *Monticola rupestris*

There are two records of Cape Rock Thrush in January 1980 and March 1985 from the rocky shore line in Sinclair.

136. Olive Thrush *Turdus olivaceus*

The Olive Thrush is a common resident of the forest, being recorded throughout the year on 62% of visits.

137. African Dusky Flycatcher (Dusky Flycatcher) *Muscicapa adusta*

The African Dusky Flycatcher is a common resident of the forest, often seen singly or in pairs as it hawks insects from a favourite perch. A pair bred for several years in December in a niche in the stone wall of one of the houses on the lagoon. It was recorded throughout the year on 85% of visits.

138. White-starred Robin (Starred Robin) *Pogonochla stellata*

The White-starred Robin is an uncommon resident of the forest. It has been recorded in six months scattered throughout the year, on 10% of visits. Young birds were seen being fed in January 1987 on the edge of the Noetzie River. A juvenile bird was seen around our house on 27th April 2000.

139. Cape Robin-Chat (Cape Robin) *Cossypha caffra*

The Cape Robin-Chat is a very common resident of the forest and gardens. Its alarm call is often heard; the cause may be a nearby tree snake or a Cape Grey Mongoose. It is seen singly or in pairs and was a regular visitor to our bird table. It was recorded on 86% of visits.

140. Chorister Robin-Chat (Chorister Robin) *Cossypha dichroa*
The Chorister Robin-Chat is a very common resident of the forest, a little more shy than the Cape Robin-Chat. Its locality call is often heard at dusk. It was recorded throughout the year on 90% of visits.
141. Karoo Scrub-Robin (Karoo Robin) *Erythropygia coryphaeus*
There are two records of the Karoo Scrub-Robin, one in December 1993 and the other in December 1997, when it was seen in the tall fynbos alongside the road down to the beach on both occasions. It is recorded in the Atlas for adjacent squares.
142. African Stonechat (Stonechat) *Saxicola torquatus*
The African Stonechat has been recorded along the roadside in January and April 1998 and in March 2005. It is likely to be much more common now with the removal of the plantations and the increase in the number of dams in Pezula.

Family: Sturnidae

143. Redwinged Starling *Onychognathus morio*
The Redwinged Starling is a common resident, often seen and heard as it flies about the cliffs. It was recorded throughout the year on 34% of visits.
144. Black-bellied Starling *Lamprotornis corruscus*
The Black-bellied Starling is a common resident of the forest, recorded throughout the year on 43% of visits. A pair inspected a nest-log by our house and roosted in it for some time, but did not breed while we were present.
145. Common Starling (European Starling) *Sturnus vulgaris*
The Common Starling is not at all common at Noetzie, being recorded on only three occasions, in December 1987, November 1988 and April 1999.

Family: Nectariniidae

146. Orange-breasted Sunbird *Anthobaphes violacea*
The Orange-breasted Sunbird is a common resident of the fynbos. The fact that it was recorded on only 29% of visits throughout the year is more an indication of the poor coverage of the fynbos in this survey than of its status.
147. Amethyst Sunbird (Black Sunbird) *Chalcomitra amethystina*
The Amethyst Sunbird is a common resident of the forest margins and the fynbos, easily identified by its monotonous call. It was recorded throughout the year on 49% of visits.
148. Southern Double-collared Sunbird (Lesser Double-collared Sunbird) *Cinnyris chalybeus*
The Southern Double-collared Sunbird is a common resident of the fynbos, gardens and forest margins, venturing less into the forest canopy than *Cinnyris afer*. A pair nested outside our kitchen door in December 2000, but the young were eaten by a tree snake. It was recorded throughout the year on 56% of visits.
149. Greater Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris afer*

The Greater Double-collared Sunbird is a common resident of the forest, often seen foraging in the canopy. It was recorded throughout the year on 70% of visits.

Family: Promeropidae

150. Cape Sugarbird *Promerops cafer*

There is one record of a Cape Sugarbird from the garden of a house on the beach. It is reported in the Atlas for this square and could be expected to be found in the fynbos.

Family: Ploceidae

151. Dark-backed Weaver (Forest Weaver) *Ploceus bicolor*

There are two records of a Dark-backed Weaver seen in the forest, one in December 1978 and the other in January 1979, probably the same bird. It is recorded in this square in the Atlas and is at the western end of its range.

152. Yellow Bishop (Cape Bishop, Yellow-rumped Widow) *Euplectes capensis*

There are two records of the Yellow Bishop, one from December 1987 and one from January 2007, both in the rank vegetation around dams in the fynbos. With the advent of Pezula, this species is likely to be much more common.

Family: Estrildidae

153. Sweet Waxbill *Coccyzygia melanotis*

A small flock of Sweet Waxbills was seen along the track down to the lagoon corner in October 1998 and in January 1999.

154. Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*

A small flock of Common Waxbills was seen in the reeds in the lagoon corner in October 1998 and in November and December 1999.

Family: Passeridae

155. Southern Grey-headed Sparrow (Grey-headed Sparrow) *Passer diffusus*

A pair of Southern Grey-headed Sparrows was seen at the nest-log by our house on 9th February 2000 and again on 28th October 2000, when a pair of Olive Woodpeckers was fussing them.

Family: Motacillidae

156. Cape Wagtail *Motacilla capensis*

The Cape Wagtail is a common resident of Noetzie, a pair often being seen foraging along the shore line or the high tide mark and among the debris along the lagoon. It was recorded throughout the year on 65% of visits.

157. Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys*

A pair of Plain-backed Pipits was observed carrying food to a nest in a flower bed alongside the lawn of a house in Pezula in January 2007.

Family: Fringillidae

158. Cape Canary *Serinus canicollis*
The Cape Canary has been sparsely recorded in the fynbos on 8% of visits. As already mentioned for *Anthobaphes violacea*, this is probably a reflection more of the poor coverage of the fynbos in this survey than of the status of *Serinus canicollis*.
159. Forest Canary *Crithagra scotops*
The Forest Canary is a common resident of the forest, where small parties are often seen foraging in the under-storey. They are regular visitors to our bird bath and were recorded throughout the year on 37% of visits.
160. Yellow Canary *Crithagra flaviventris*
The Yellow Canary has been sparsely recorded in the forest canopy, where it has been seen feeding on fruits of *Apodytes dimidiata*. It has been recorded throughout the year on 7% of visits.
161. Brimstone Canary (Bully Canary) *Crithagra sulphuratus*
The Brimstone Canary is a regular visitor to the forest canopy below our house, where it is seen feeding on the fruits of White Pear *Apodytes dimidiata* and Red Candlewood *Pterocelastrus rostratus*. It was recorded throughout the year on 21% of visits.
162. Streaky-headed Seedeater (Streakyheaded Canary) *Crithagra gularis*
Streaky-headed Seedeaters were recorded in October 1999, January 2001, March 2002 and April 2003. In all cases they were feeding on the fruits of Milkwood, *Sideroxylon inerme* and White Pear *Apodytes dimidiata* next to our house.
163. Cape Siskin *Crithagra totta*
Large flocks of Cape Siskins were seen on 21st and 22nd January 2001 where the plantations had been cleared. Before that they were recorded only once, in January 1987. Once again, because of the bias of this survey away from the fynbos, they are likely to have been overlooked.

Donald T Fabian

3 April 2007