



ROCKY
African Black Oystercatcher
Haematopus moquini

Rocky's population numbers increased recently because of very effective conservation efforts. Have a look at the Fact Sheets about Conservation to find out more. Oyks were not the only birds that benefited from this. Many more shorebird species have reaped the benefits of Oystercatcher Conservation. Some of these species benefited because they have a lot in common to Oyks, but there are still differences in the way they live and do things. Continued efforts to raise awareness, using oyks, will benefit these and other species. Read the Fact Sheet about Rocky's Life History to remind yourself again how and where Oyks feed and how and where they make their nests. Then come back and spot the differences and similarities with these birds that share the same environment.

IUCN STATUS: LEAST CONCERN

THREATS: SENSITIVE TO DISTURBANCE ON BEACHES (E.G. FROM RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND FREE-RUNNING DOGS).

BEHAVIOUR: MONOGAMOUS, NON-BREEDING MIGRANT FROM ARCTIC TUNDRA, IN SOUTH AFRICA SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER.

USUALLY FOUND IN SMALL, VERY ACTIVE FLOCKS RUNNING CLOSE TO TIDAL ZONE AND AROUND WASHED-UP KELP.

HABITAT: OPEN SANDY BEACHES AND ROCKY SHORES, LESS OFTEN IN ESTUARIES.

FORAGE AREA: FEED ON INVERTEBRATE PREY BURIED IN THE SAND IN THE UPPER INTERTIDAL ZONE EDGE OF THE TIDAL ZONE - FOLLOWS THE WATER'S EDGE.

DIET: SHRIMPS, SMALL MOLLUSCS, POLYCHAETE WORMS, INSECTS AND WASHED-UP FISH AND INVERTEBRATE SCRAPS.



Sanderling
Calidris alba



Damara Tern
Sternula balaenarum

IUCN STATUS: CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

THREATS: HUMAN DISTURBANCE AROUND NESTING SITES. THE BAN OF OFF-ROAD DRIVING HAS BENEFITED THEM GREATLY.

BEHAVIOUR: MONOGAMOUS, BREED IN NAMIBIA AND CAPE COAST DURING SEPTEMBER TO APRIL.

PARTIAL MIGRANT (MIGRATE NORTH INTO AFRICA IN NON-BREEDING SEASON).

HABITAT: COASTLINES, BAYS, ESTUARIES, LAGOONS AND SALT PANS.

FORAGE AREA: FEED IN SHALLOW, INSHORE WATERS OF BAYS, ESTUARIES, LAGOONS AND SALT PANS AND IN SURF ZONE.

DIET: SMALL FISH AND SQUID

BREEDING SITES: COLONIES OF UP TO 40 PAIRS. ON GRAVEL AND STONY PLAINS, SALT PANS AND DUNES, SOMETIME SHELTERED BAYS, OFTEN SEVERAL KMS INLAND. AVOIDS BEACH AREAS WITH PREDATORS.

NEST: EGGS ARE LAID IN NON-DESCRIPT SCRAPER, SOMETIMES LINED WITH SHELL CHIPS OR SMALL STONES.

NESTING DEFENSE BEHAVIOUR: PROTECT NEST AGGRESSIVELY, DIVE BOMBING INTRUDERS (MOBBING).

IUCN STATUS: LEAST CONCERN

THREATS: SUFFOCATION AND ENTANGLEMENT FROM POLLUTION (OIL, PLASTIC BAGS AND FISHING LINES).

BEHAVIOUR: MONOGAMOUS, USUALLY IN COLONIES OF SEVERAL HUNDREDS. BREED ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN COASTS BETWEEN SEPTEMBER AND FEBRUARY.

HABITAT: HARBOURS, BAYS, INLETS, ESTUARIES, BEACHES AND ROCKY SHORES.

FORAGE AREA: USUALLY FORAGING WITHIN 10 KM OF THE SHORE. MAY FORAGE AND ROOST IN NEAR-COASTAL INLAND HABITATS (LAGOONS, RIVERS, WETLANDS).

DIET: CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSCS, FISH AND MARINE AND TERRESTRIAL INVERTEBRATES, FREQUENTLY ROBS OTHER SEA BIRDS OF FOOD.

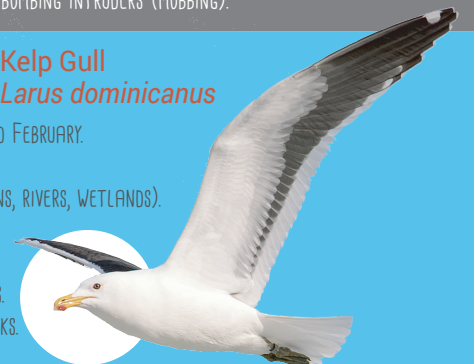
ALSO SCAVENGES REFUSE, SEWAGE AND CARRION.

BREEDING SITES: ON SEA CLIFFS, ROCKY OUTCROPS, OFFSHORE ISLANDS, LOW SANDY, PEBBLY OR ROCKY BEACHES, ESTUARIES AND SANDBANKS.

NEST: BULKY, DRIED PLANTS OR SEAWEED ON BARE ROCK, SAND OR MUD IN WELL-VEGETATED SITE AT THE BASE OF BUSHES, TREES OR ROCKS.

NESTING DEFENSE BEHAVIOUR: AGGRESSIVE MOBBING BEHAVIOUR WHEN INTRUDERS APPROACH NESTS.

Kelp Gull
Larus dominicanus



White-fronted Plover
Charadrius marginatus

IUCN STATUS: LEAST CONCERN

THREATS: HABITAT LOSS, NEST DISTURBANCE BY TOURISTS AND OFF-ROAD VEHICLES.

BEHAVIOUR: MONOGAMOUS. WHEN NON-BREEDING, THEY MOVE IN PAIRS OR SMALL FLOCKS. COMMON RESIDENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

HABITAT: SANDY BEACHES, COASTAL DUNES, ROCKY SHORES AND ESTUARIES AND INLAND RIVERS AND PANS WITH SANDY SHORES, OFF-SHORE ISLANDS.

FORAGE AREA: UPPER INTERTIDAL ZONE

DIET: POLYCHAETE WORMS, SNAILS, CRUSTACEANS.

BREEDING SITES: BREEDING PAIRS ARE SOLITARY AND TERRITORIAL, ALTHOUGH NESTS CAN BE CLOSE TOGETHER. FEED DURING DAY, BUT MAY FEED DURING BRIGHT MOONLIT NIGHTS.

NEST: SHALLOW SCRAPER IN SAND, ABOVE HIGH-WATER MARK, ON DUNES AND SANDBARS.

NEST DEFENSE BEHAVIOUR: EGGS AND CHICKS ARE WELL CAMOUFLAGED. ADULT WILL PRETEND TO HAVE A BROKEN WING TO LURE PREDATOR AWAY. CHICKS HIDE WHEN IN DANGER.