**IBA OF GAUTENG**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>IBA No.</th>
<th>Approx. size (ha)</th>
<th>Protection status</th>
<th>Qualifying criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blesbokspuit</td>
<td>SA021</td>
<td>3 060</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>C4,ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve</td>
<td>SA022</td>
<td>17 950</td>
<td>Fully</td>
<td>C1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devon Grasslands</td>
<td>SA130</td>
<td>75 330</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>A1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IBA OF THE NORTH WEST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>IBA No.</th>
<th>Approx. size (ha)</th>
<th>Protection status</th>
<th>Qualifying criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pilansberg National Park</td>
<td>SA023</td>
<td>49 580</td>
<td>Fully</td>
<td>A1, A3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botsalano Nature Reserve</td>
<td>SA024</td>
<td>5 480</td>
<td>Fully</td>
<td>A1, A3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magaliesberg</td>
<td>SA025</td>
<td>165 890</td>
<td>Partial</td>
<td>A1, A4i</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?**

BirdLife South Africa relies on the public, especially birders and nature enthusiasts, as well as landowners, government and NGO partners, to assist us in conserving IBAs. You can get involved in the following ways:

- **Join BirdLife South Africa**: visit [www.birdlife.org.za](http://www.birdlife.org.za)
- **Join your local bird club**
- **Join an existing Local Conservation Group**, or assist us to start one around your local IBA
- **Bring to our attention any threats to an IBA**, and join us in advocating for the IBA’s protection
- **Become an IBA Champion for a priority IBA**
- **Donate to the IBA Fund to support ground level conservation work in IBAs**

**CONTACT DETAILS**

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www.birdlife.org.za/conservation/important-bird-areas/iba-directory
**HABITAT TYPES**

Gauteng today consists mostly of urban areas. In large cities like Johannesburg the natural grasslands have been transformed into large man made forests. However, large areas of natural grasslands remain in the southern parts of the province, which changes into open bushveld in the northern parts. The North West Province contains mostly grasslands in the east and bushveld in the west. Large areas of this province has been transformed for agricultural purposes, but has also more recently seen a growth in game farming. A number of natural pans in the North West Province host many waterbird species.

**FLAGSHIP SPECIES FOR THE REGION**

Despite the enormous degree of habitat transformation in these two provinces, a large number of bird species have been recorded. More than 350 bird species are recorded annually in Gauteng alone, and combined the two provinces support more than 600 species. Notable IBA trigger species in these two provinces are Cape Vulture, which breeds in the Magaliesberg mountains, African Grass Owl, White-backed Vulture, Secretarybird, Blue Crane (particularly in the Devon Grasslands IBA), Yellow-throated Sandgrouse and Short-clawed Lark (particularly in the Botsalano Nature Reserve IBA). Waterbirds occur at large numbers in the many pans, rivers and manmade wetlands. The Barberspan and Leeupan IBA for example regularly hosts more than 20 000 waterbirds.

**THREATS TO GAUTENG AND NORTH WEST’S BIRDS**

Habitat transformation for agricultural purposes and to create space for more urban areas remain the biggest threat to the biodiversity in these two provinces. The associated infrastructure, such as roads, powerlines and fences also poses many threats to species such as vultures and Secretarybirds, for example through powerline collisions and electrocutions. The water quality of rivers and wetlands is also negatively impacted. Waste water purification struggles to keep up with the increasing demand, and herbicide and pesticide run-off from agricultural lands pollute river systems.

The remaining fragments of Highveld grasslands in southern Gauteng begin to morph into bushveld when you enter the Cradle of Humankind. The rise of the majestic Magaliesberg mountains signal the bushveld hinterland in the North-West Province, where you need only point your eyes skyward to appreciate the gliding Cape Vultures circling overhead.