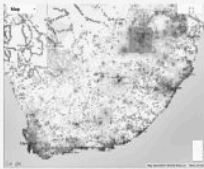


South African Bird Atlas Project (SABAP)

SABAP is a citizen science project driven by volunteers who are mapping the



distribution and relative abundance of birds across southern Africa. To gather data, volunteers select a geographical 'pentad' on a map and record all the bird species seen within a set time frame, in order of species seen. Volunteers upload the information to the SABAP2 database where several agencies use it for research and analysis, including the South African National Biodiversity Institute, BirdLife South Africa, and academics at various universities.

Bird Ringing/Banding

BIRD RINGING is the process whereby registered ringers permanently mark wild birds to study their lifecycles (births, deaths, age of breeding and survival rates), habits, populations and movements. To do this metal rings (marked with unique numbers) are attached to the bird for future identification.



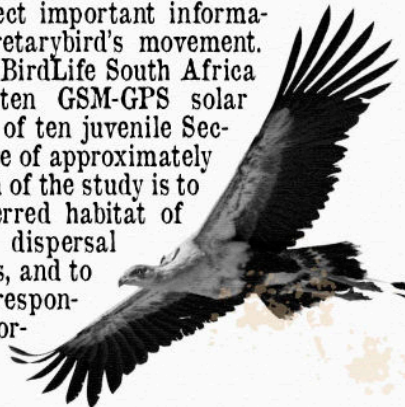
SECRETARYBIRD Research Revealed

SECRETARYBIRDS walk large distances every day or move over 1 000 km from their nest sites, which makes it difficult to study the species, therefore researchers need to make use of new technologies to monitor the birds such as trackers to monitor their long distance movements and camera traps to monitor their nests.



GPS Satellite Tracking Devices

GPS DEVICES collect important information about the Secretarybird's movement. From 2012 to 2015, BirdLife South Africa researchers fitted ten GSM-GPS solar trackers to the back of ten juvenile Secretarybirds at the age of approximately eight weeks. The aim of the study is to determine the preferred habitat of Secretarybirds and dispersal patterns of juveniles, and to identify the threats responsible for the high mortality recorded in Secretarybirds.



Coordinated Avifaunal Roadcounts (CAR)

BIRD ROADCOUNTING is a census of birds (including Secretarybirds) performed annually by volunteer birdwatchers. The purpose is to provide population data for science by determining findings about our natural habitats and the birds that use them. If repeated at regular intervals, the counts allow us to track changes in bird population. At least ten volunteers perform each individual count who then break up into small parties and follow assigned routes counting every bird they see.



Nest Cameras



NEST CAMERAS gather a lot of information on the diet, behaviour and chick development at the nest of Secretarybirds without causing disturbance and affecting the birds' behaviours.

FOUND A NEST?

Help BirdLife South Africa grow their database of Secretarybird breeding events by sending your sightings to melissa.whitecross@birdlife.org.za. Provide the date and time of sighting and GPS location of nest.



SOURCES: Whitecross, M.A., Retief, E.F and Smit-Robinson, H.A., 2019. Dispersal dynamics of juvenile Secretarybirds *Sagittarius serpentarius* in southern Africa. *Ostrich*, 90(2): 97-110. ; South African Bird Atlas Project 2. <http://sabap2.adu.org.za/> cited on 10 July 2019 ; Coordinated Avifaunal Roadcounts. <http://car.adu.org.za/> cited on 10 July 2019 ; South African Bird Ringing Unit. <http://safring.adu.org.za/> cited on 10 July 2019 ; BirdLife South Africa e-newsletter May 2019. <https://www.birdlife.org.za/newsletters/may-2019/> cited on 12 July 2019.

Find out more on the BirdLife South Africa website at <https://www.birdlife.org.za/what-we-do/environmental-education/bird-of-the-year-2019/> or visit the Facebook page @BirdLifeSouthAfrica
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