

## BIRDLIST FOR ROYALSTON ESTATE

No	Common Name	Frequency	Notes	Seen
1	Bar Throated Apalis	C	Throughout thicket and forested areas	
2	Yellow breasted Apalis	HC	In the thicker forest	
3	Pied Avocet	FC	Main dam and marsh areas	
4	Black Collared Barbet	C	Throughout thicket and forested areas	
5	Cape Batis	C	Thicker forested areas	
6	Southern Red Bishop	C	Reeds and sedges near dams and vleis	
7	Yellow Bishop	C	In the marsh areas especially where there are reeds	
8	Little Bittern	R	Very Secretive in the thick water vegetation at all the dams	
9	Bokmakierie	C	Thicket surrounded by grasslands	
10	Southern Boubou	C	Throughout thicket and forest	
11	Terrestrial brownbul	HC	Thick forest always near the ground feed in the leaf matter	
12	Cape Bulbul	C	Throughout thicket and Forest	
13	Golden Breasted Bunting	R	More in the Acacia bush with openings	
14	Olive Bushshrike	C	In the thicket forests	
15	Denham's Bustard	HC	Nomadic. Frequents grasslands, shrublands, fynbos and cultivated fields	
16	Common Buzzard	SC	Thicket and all forest areas	
17	European Honey Buzzard	SR	Bushy areas and big trees	
18	Forest Buzzard	C	Perches overlooking grasslands in summer	
19	Jackal Buzzard	C	Thicket and all forest areas	
20	Green Backed Camaroptera	C	very hard to see margins of thicker forest	
21	Brimstone Canary	FC	Thicket and Acacia forests	
22	Forest Canary	C	Dune Forest and thickets	
23	Yellow Canary	R	When the yellow daisies flower in the grass	
24	Yellow Fronted Canary	C	Thicket and Acacia forests	
25	Cape Canary	C	Easy to see when the yellow daisies are blooming in the fields	
26	Grey backed Cisticola	R	Open Grassland	
27	Lazy Cisticola	C	Throughout scrub and thicketed areas	
28	Levaillant's Cisticola	C	Always near water. Vleis and bullrushes near dams	
29	Zitting Cisticola	FC	In all the open grass fields. Flies up and high hard to see	
30	Red Knobbed Coot	C	All the Dams	
31	Reed Cormorant	C	All the dams	
32	White Breasted Cormorant	FC	Any dam with fish stocks	
33	Burchell's Coucal	C	All areas where there is bush and bird nests	
34	Black Crane	R	Thick marginal vegetation at all the dams	
35	Cape Crow	C	Throughout	
36	Pied Crow	C	Throughout	
37	African Emerald Cuckoo	SC	Summer migrant. Most beautiful of all the cuckoos	
38	Diederick Cuckoo	SC	Summer migrant.	
39	Black Cuckoo	SC	Summer migrant.	
40	Jacobin Cuckoo	SR	Rare Summer migrant	
41	Red Chested Cuckoo	SC	Summer migrant.	
42	Klaas's Cuckoo	SC	Summer migrant.	
43	Black Cuckooshrike	C	Thicker forest and acacia bush	
44	Grey Cuckooshrike	C	The thickest forest areas near the main lake	
45	African Darter	FC	Main lake	
46	Cape Turtle Dove	C	Throughout	
47	Emerald Spotted wood dove	C	Thicket and forested areas.	
48	Laughing Dove	C	Throughout	
49	Lemon Dove	FC	Very difficult to see. Stays on ground in heavy forest areas	
50	Red Eyed Dove	C	Throughout	
51	Tambourine dove	C	Thicket and forested areas.	
52	Fork Tailed Drongo	C	Throughout	
53	Yellow Billed Duck	C	Throughout all the water ways	
54	African Fish Eagle	C	All around the dams roosts on dead trees with good vantage	
55	Crowned Eagle	R	Thickest forest or Airborne	
56	Booted Eagle	R	Often seen flying over. Will roost on tall trees occasionally	
57	Long Crested Eagle	FC	Resident in the area	
58	Little Egret	C	Main Lake and feeder marsh	
59	Western Cattle Egret	FC	Always near concentrations of game	
60	Amur Falcon	SR	A rare summer visitor. Likes open grassland small flocks	
61	Lanner Falcon	R	Airborne fly by	
62	Peregrine Falcon	C	Can pop up anywhere	

63	African Firefinch	FC	Thick vegetation near water	
64	Common Fiscal	C	Throughout	
65	Fiscal Flycatcher	C	Throughout	
66	African Dusky Flycatcher	C	Thickets and forest	
67	African Paradise Flycatcher	SC	Thickest and forest in summer	
68	Blue mantled Crested Flycatcher	C	Thick vegetation	
69	Egyptian Goose	C	Throughout prefer near water	
70	Spur-winged Goose	R	Near water	
71	African Goshawk	R	Noisy flyer. Likes thicker forest	
72	Gabar Goshawk	R	Possibly the Acacia forest and bigger Alien trees	
73	Cape Grassbird	C	Throughout all the grassy areas	
74	Little Grebe	C	All the Dams	
75	Sombre Greenbul	C	Throughout all the thicket and forest areas	
76	Common Greenshank	SC	Seen at main Lake in summer	
77	Helmeted Guineafowl	C	Throughout	
78	Hamerkop	C	Always near water or vleis and marshes	
79	African Harrier Hawk	C	Nests and roosts in big trees hunts where there are bird nests	
80	African Marsh Harrier	FC	Common. Rarely seen. Nest raider. Always attracts a crowd	
81	Black Crowned Night Heron	R	Thick vegetation very close too, or in the water	
82	Black Headed Heron	C	Waters edge and marshes and vleis	
83	Goliath Heron	C	1 pair resident at main Lake	
84	Grey Heron	C	Waters edge and marshes and vleis	
85	Purple Heron	R	Vlei area feeding the main Lake	
86	Squacco Heron	R	Thick vegetation very close too, or in the water	
87	Brown backed Honeybird	R	Present but lucky to see. Likes loose trees, wattle and acacia	
88	Greater Honeyguide	C	Near bee hives Likes bigger trees aliens . Near main gate	
89	Lesser Honeyguide	C	Near bee hives Likes bigger trees aliens .	
90	Scaly Throated Honeyguide	R	Near bee hives Likes thicker vegetation	
91	African Hoopoe	C	Throughout	
92	Crowned Hornbill	R	Rare. Seen in drought periods	
93	African Sacred Ibis	C	closer to shallow water and marshes and vleis	
94	Hadeda Ibis	C	Throughout	
95	Rock Kestrel	FC	Fly by. May settle on big dead trees or on top of bushes	
96	Brown Hooded Kingfisher	C	In the scrublands and thickets. Not a fish eater	
97	Giant Kingfisher	FC	Around all the dams. One of the fish eating kingfishers	
98	Half-Collared Kingfisher		Seen at dam in front of lifestage units	
99	Malachite Kingfisher	R	Around dams where there is margin vegetation	
100	Pied Kingfisher	C	Around all the dams. One of the fish eating kingfishers	
101	Black Winged Kite	FC	Open veld and vleis with odd bush or dead trees	
102	Yellow Billed Kite	SC	Mostly Airbourne from August to April	
103	Blacksmith Lapwing	C	Open grassland and edges of all the dams.Always near water	
104	Crowned Lapwing	C	Open grassland	
105	Red Capped Lark	C	On the ground in the grasslands	
106	Rufous Naped Lark	C	Grassland with odd bushes	
107	Cape Longclaw	C	Open grassland	
108	Bronze Mannikin	FC	Small flocks near waterand scrub. Human food sources	
109	Brown Throated Martin	C	Over the water	
110	Rock Martin	C	Rock faces and structure. Hawks insects over grassland	
111	Common Moorhen	C	Water with Margin vegetation	
112	Red Faced Mousebird	C	Thicker forest a shy retreating bird	
113	Speckled Mousebird	C	Forest patches and fruit bearing trees likes near water	
114	Neddicky	C	Smallest bird. Scrub and forest patches	
115	Fiery Necked Nightjar	NC	Plentiful even in gardens at night	
116	Black headed Oriole	C	Likes big trees, exotics and dead trees	
117	Western Osprey	R	Sometimes seen over main Lake	
118	Common Ostrich	C	Stocked into the Estate anywhere open	
119	African Wood Owl	NC	Nocturnal in the thicker forest	
120	Cape Eagle Owl	NC	Nocturnal. Bigger trees or rock faces	
121	Spotted Eagle Owl	NC	Nocturnal in the thicker forest and bigger trees	
122	Grass Owl	R	Hoping to find this in the vleivegetation and grasslands	
123	Western Barn Owl	NR	Likes buildings or old nests not afraid to be near humans	
124	African Olive Pigeon	FC	Thickest forest areas often seen when trees have fruit	
125	Speckled Pigeon	C	Around people and structure. Where there is easy food	
126	African Pipit	R	Grassland and short shrubbery	
127	Plain Backed Pipit	C	Most common in the Estate. Grasslands	
128	Kittlitz's Plover	C	Around the Main Lake	

129	Three banded Plover	C	Around all areas where there is water	
130	Common Ringed Plover	R	Being seen more often along margins of main Lake	
131	Karoo Prinia	C	Thick scrub dead or alive	
132	Plain Backed Puffback	C	Thicker forest and acacia bush	
133	Common Quail	C	Grasslands. Difficult to see. Summertime only	
134	Red billed Quelea	R	Becoming more common often with flocks of Bishop birds	
135	African Rail	FC	Bullrushes at the margins of all the dams and vleis	
136	White Necked Raven	FC	All over. Near buildings and humans	
137	Brown Scrub Robin	FC	Thick forest. Beautiful singing bird	
138	White Browed Scrub Robin	R	Open areas near the forest edges	
139	White Starred Robin	C	Not often seen but plentiful in undergrowth of thick forest	
140	Cape Robin Chat	C	All over	
141	Choristor Robin	R	A rare visitor	
142	Ruff	SFC	Main lake	
143	Common Sandpiper	C	Main Lake	
144	Black Saw-wing	C	All over flies low black with a forked tail	
145	Secretary Bird	R	A rare grassland visitor	
146	Streaky Headed Seedeater	C	All over the forested area	
147	South African Shelduck	C	Main lake	
148	Cape Shoveler	C	Main lake	
149	Cape Sparrow	C	Throughout the estate. Near human food sources	
150	Southern Grey Headed Sparrow	C	Likes dead trees and areas of thicker forest	
151	House Sparrow	R	near people and human food sources	
152	Black Sparrowhawk	C	Bird destroyer. Stakes out a territory not afraid of humans	
153	Little Sparrowhawk	FC	Rarely seen. Sticks to thick forest	
154	African Spoonbill	C	Shallow water around margins of main Lake	
155	Red Necked Spurfowl	C	Grassland with access to thickets	
156	Black Bellied Starling	C	Thicker forest and acacia bush	
157	Cape Glossy Starling	C	More open bush. Shorter tail and more shiny than black belly	
158	Common Starling	C	Buildings near people	
159	Red Winged Starling	C	Buildings and bigger scattered trees.	
160	Pied Starling	R	dead trees and thorn bush also near human food sources	
161	Black Winged Stilt	C	Main dam and marsh areas	
162	African Stonechat	C	Throughout grassy areas with odd bush or fences	
163	White Stork	SFC	Grasslands and tallest trees in summer	
164	Amethyst Sunbird	C	Wherever there are trees or flowers in bloom	
165	Collared Sunbird	FC	Wherever there are trees or flowers in bloom	
166	Southern Double Collared Sunbird	C	Wherever there are trees or flowers in bloom	
167	Greater Double Collared Sunbird	C	Wherever there are trees or flowers in bloom	
168	Malachite Sunbird	FC	Open areas and acacia bush,	
169	Grey Sunbird	C	Prefers thicker indigenous forest	
170	Barn Swallow	SC	Hawks insects over grasslands all day	
171	Lesser Striped Swallow	SC	Likes to nest under eaves of houses or bridges mud nest	
172	Greater Striped Swallow	SR	Likes to nest under eaves of houses or bridges mud nest	
173	Pearl Breasted Swallow	SC	Hawks insects over grasslands all day	
174	White Throated Swallow	C	Hunts largely over water	
175	African Swamphen	R	Thick vegetation in and at waters edge	
176	Alpine Swift	R	Open Sky	
177	African black Swift	SC	Mostly in open sky. Roost in holes or structures at night	
178	Little Swift	SC	Mostly in open sky. Roost in holes or structures at night	
179	Palm Swift	R	Open Sky. Roost in Palm Trees	
180	White Rumped Swift	SC	Mostly in open sky. Roost in holes or structures at night	
181	Southern Tchagra	R	Noy often seen Scrub and thorn bush near open land	
182	Cape Teal	C	All dams especially main lake	
183	Red Billed Teal	C	All dams especially main Lake	
184	Caspian Tern	R	Pops up at the main lake from time to time	
185	Swift Tern	R	Around main Lake	
186	Whiskered Tern	R	Pops up at the main lake from time to time	
187	Spotted Thick-knee	NC	Nocturnal; Grassland and open veld	
188	Water Thick-knee	C	Always very close to water	
189	Olive Thrush	C	Bushy areas in the undergrowth	
190	Red Fronted Tinkerbird	C	Anywhere where there is a bit of cluster forest or thicket	
191	Chestnut vented Tit Babbler	R	Not often seen. Scrub both dead or alive	
192	Narina Trogon	R	Should be in the thickest areas of forest very difficult to find	
193	Knysna Turaco	C	All the forest and thicket areas. Fruit bearing trees	
194	Cape Wagtail	C	Anywhere	

195	African Reed Warbler	<b>SFC</b>	Bullrushes and vegetation around dams and vleis	
196	Knysna Warbler	<b>SHC</b>	Beautiful call like bells ringing. Margins of thick forest	
197	Little Rush Warbler	<b>SC</b>	Bullrushes and vegetation around dams and vleis	
198	Lesser Swamp Warbler	<b>SC</b>	Bullrushes and vegetation around dams and vleis	
199	Yellow Throated Woodland Warbler	<b>C</b>	Any forest or thicket areas difficult to see or photograph	
200	Willow Warbler	<b>SR</b>	Summer Migrant margins of thick bush	
201	Common Waxbill	<b>C</b>	Vlei areas near water	
202	Swee Waxbill	<b>C</b>	Edge of thickets and sometimes near water	
203	Cape Weaver	<b>C</b>	Throughout but nests near water	
204	Southern Masked Weaver	<b>C</b>	Throughout have seen the nest sites at lake del a Vie dam	
205	Spectacled Weaver	<b>C</b>	Single pair breeders. Thorn bush. Nest has a funnel	
206	Thick Billed Weaver	<b>C</b>	Best weaver nest of all with 2 supports always on water	
207	Village Weaver	<b>C</b>	Coarsely woven nest is usually suspended from at tree or reeds over water	
208	Cape White-eye	<b>C</b>	Throughout the estate	
209	Long Tailed Widow Bird	<b>FC</b>	Vleis and grassland areas. Looses its colours and tail in winter	
210	Fan Tailed Widow bird	<b>C</b>	Vleis and grassland areas. Looses its colours and tail in winter	
211	Green Wood Hoopoe	<b>FC</b>	Scattered thickets and bigger trees with odd dead ones	
212	Cardinal Woodpecker	<b>FC</b>	Loose dead trees or acacia	
213	Knysna Woodpecker	<b>C</b>	Dead trees and thicker forest	
214	Olive Woodpecker	<b>C</b>	Thicker forest and acacia bush	
215	Pin tailed Whydah	<b>C</b>	Loses tail and colour in winter	

<b>INDEX:</b>	
<b>R</b>	Rare
<b>C</b>	Common
<b>FC</b>	Fairly Common
<b>SC</b>	Seasonally Common
<b>NC</b>	Common at night
<b>SFC</b>	Seasonally Fairly Common
<b>HC</b>	Habitat Common
<b>SHC</b>	Seasonally Habitat Common
<b>SR</b>	Seasonal and Rare

I have compiled this list to be a guide to those residents who would like to do birding in the Royalston estate. I have been through the estate and have seen or heard most of these birds. I do believe that all the birds I have listed will be found on the estate, even though a number may just be passing vagrants. There are also perfect habitats for other birds that I have not seen or heard, and the Eastern Cape is experiencing a bumper year as far as rarities are concerned so with a bit of luck one or two may land up on the Estate. The possibility exists that there may be numerous other species present as the habitats look extremely favourable for these. Should you find birds not on this list please let me know so I can modify it. Let us use this list as a point of departure. My name is Barry Kurten and you may contact me at 0847793448 or email: [barry.kurten@telkomsa.net](mailto:barry.kurten@telkomsa.net)