

# Cape Parrot Newsletter

## Cape Parrot Counting 2017

The annual Cape Parrot Big Birding Day (CPBBD) is in its 20th year and will be on the 6th and 7th May 2017. The annual count provides information on Cape parrot population trends and numbers as well as distribution data. Sometimes reports of incidences on illegal hunting, cutting down of forests, and capture of parrots also come to light. Participating in the count is a good way to assist in a conservation effort and often volunteers get to go to places they would rarely visit. Every year a group of students from the University of KwaZulu-Natal assist in monitoring the forests around Ingeli in southern KZN which has the typical forests where Cape Parrots occur. See page 4 of this newsletter for more information on how you can get involved with the Cape Parrot count this year. Please encourage as many people as possible to participate and let us keep this going for maybe another 20 years!

### Cape Parrot Counting Day 2017



**Wanted**  
Volunteers to help count the endangered Cape Parrot in the wild

Sat 6th May (pm) & Sun 7th May (am)

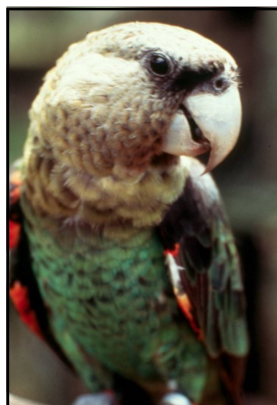
Join us in our annual evening and morning Cape Parrot count to help save one of South Africa's most endangered birds

Contact: Prof Colleen T. Downs  
School of Life Sciences,  
University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg  
Tel: 033-2605127/04 (w), 033-3860947 (h),  
0829202026 Email: [downs@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:downs@ukzn.ac.za)



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CAPE PARROT  
(*Poicephalus robustus*)



Ingeli forest - typical vantage point when looking out for Cape Parrots

# Top 5 FAQs - Answered

The following questions about Cape parrots and the Cape parrot count have been frequently asked:

## 1. Why is the Cape parrot counting day over one weekend every year?

The aim of the Cape parrot count is to estimate the overall wild Cape parrot population each year. Cape parrots are nomadic and move depending on food availability. By coordinating with all areas where the parrots occur, and getting everyone to count them at the same time, we prevent the problem of double counting the same individuals thereby preventing an overestimation of the population.

## 2. Why a morning and evening count on the Cape parrot counting weekend?

Again Cape parrots move depending on food availability so they will be spread out and moving throughout the day while foraging. By counting in the morning before sunrise and in the evening before sundown we can count them when they are less spread out, as they are leaving and returning to their roosts.

## 3. What is so special about Cape parrots?

Cape parrots are rare and are South Africa's only endemic parrot. This means that you will not find wild Cape parrots anywhere else in the world. They are a true proudly South African species.

## 4. What are the major threats facing Cape parrots?

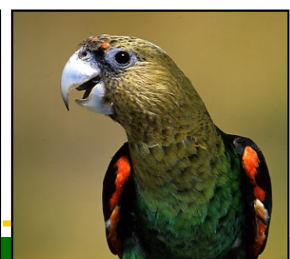
Loss of habitat, decreased food availability, fewer nesting sites, diseases and illegal trade.

## 5. What needs to be done to help conserve these birds?

The main things that can be done is to conserve natural Cape parrot habitat, control illegal trade, and educate people about Cape parrots and the importance of conserving them.

# Upcoming ZSSA 2017

This year there will be a Combined Congress of the Entomological Society of Southern Africa (ESSA) and the Zoological Society of Southern Africa (ZSSA) which will take place from 3-7 July in Pretoria. Symposia announced so far, that may have relevance for parrots, include topics of conservation, population ecology, diseases, and science for society. Hopefully there will be something interesting and relevant from this event to report on in the next newsletter issue.



# Places to stay and see Cape Parrots

Self catering cottage called "Nibelheim" in Hogsback

Parrots in the garden on most days when the apple trees are fruiting.

Contact:

Graham & Michele Russell

Phone: 0459621084 or 0823746583

Email: [gandm@procomp.co.za](mailto:gandm@procomp.co.za)

Website: [www.nibelheim.co.za](http://www.nibelheim.co.za)

In the Amatole region there are a number of B&Bs in Stutterheim and Hogsback and Shire

Eco Lodge on the forest edge run by Rob Scott is recommended

Website: [www.shire.co.za](http://www.shire.co.za)

Creighton KwaZulu-Natal, the guest house run by Malcolm and Gail Gemmell is recommended. Malcolm has been a stalwart in organising and co-ordinating the CPBBB in the greater Creighton area and runs Button birding

Website: [www.buttonbirding.com](http://www.buttonbirding.com)

KZN Bulwer - Hillside Lodge are offering a discount of up to fifty percent, depending on numbers in the group for CPBBB.

The cape parrot is present almost every day and can be viewed from the chairs on the veranda.

Website: [www.hillsidelodge-bulwer.com](http://www.hillsidelodge-bulwer.com)

In Bulwer KwaZulu-Natal, there is the excellent Marutswa Board Walk close to the village.

Website: [www.treeroutes.co.za/project-marutswa-forestboardwalk-bulwer](http://www.treeroutes.co.za/project-marutswa-forestboardwalk-bulwer)

There are bird guides who know the parrots and other forest specials. There are several B&Bs in Bulwer. In addition the nearby Ashtonvale Guest Farm, run by Carol and Russell Hill who have co-ordinated the CPBBB in the Bulwer area the past 14 years, is also recommended.

Website: [www.ashtonvaleguestfarm.co.za](http://www.ashtonvaleguestfarm.co.za)

Self catering cottage called "Owl cottage" that sleeps 6 right in the Kloof at Haenertsburg, A.44.2 on R71 Magoebaskloof

Flocks of 30+ Cape Parrots feeding on pecans especially in February.

Contact: Phil And Tig Warne

Phone: 082 853 9950

Website [www.owlcottage.co.za](http://www.owlcottage.co.za)

Wild Coast Drifters has 5 little basic lodges along the Wild Coast between Mkambati and Port St Johns. They are at Msikaba, Port Grosvenor, Luphatana, Manteku and Ntafufu.

All have extensive indigenous forests around them and Cape Parrots sighted at all sites from time to time. Self catering.

Bookings can be made through [Belinda@drifters.co.za](mailto:Belinda@drifters.co.za)

Khululeka Retreat at the Ntafufu River mouth on the Wild Coast

Contact:

Armin von Lengeling

Phone: 0721943644

Email: [stay@khululeka.co.za](mailto:stay@khululeka.co.za)

Website: [www.khululeka.co.za](http://www.khululeka.co.za)

Granny Mouse House in Hogsback

Contact:

Ingrid

Phone: 0459621259 or 0832611144

Email: [ingi@iafrica.com](mailto:ingi@iafrica.com)

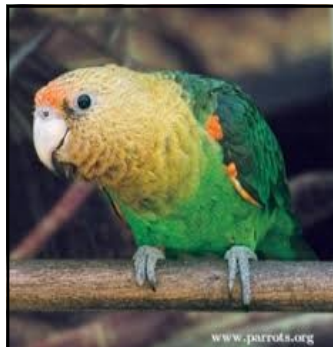
Website: <http://www.grannymousehouse.co.za>

Ingeli Forest Lodge is nestled below the Ingeli Mountain range and surrounded by breath taking indigenous forests

Contact: Clinton Armour

Phone: 0395530600

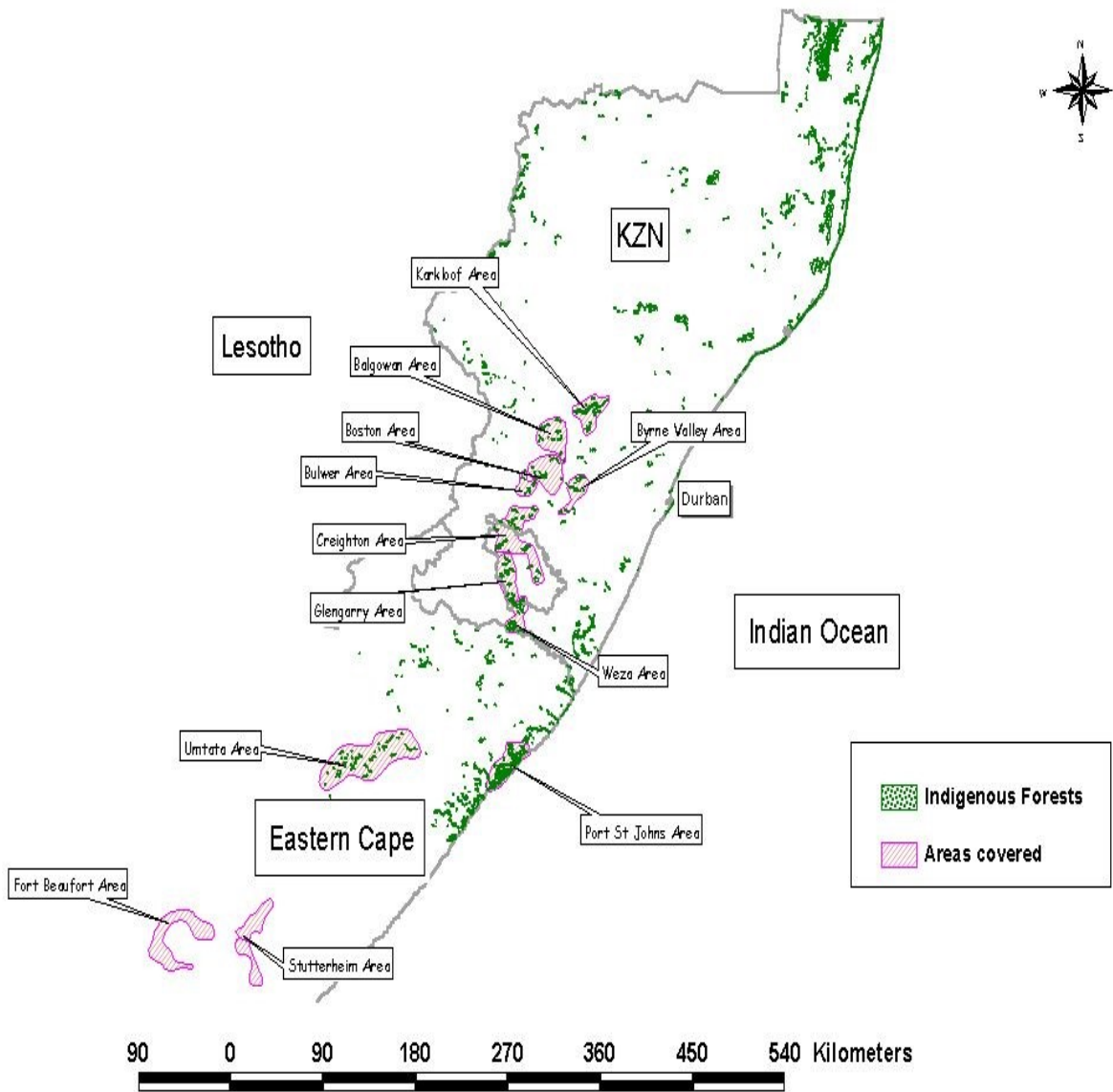
Website: [www.ingeliforestlodge.com](http://www.ingeliforestlodge.com)



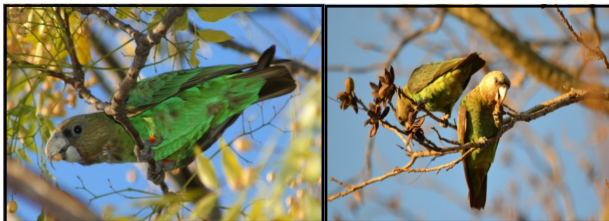
# Contact persons for Cape Parrot Big Birding Day May 2017

(See next page for map)

Area	Name	Tel	Email
Overall co-ordinator	Colleen Downs	033 260 5127; 082 920 2026	<a href="mailto:downs@ukzn.ac.za">downs@ukzn.ac.za</a>
Karkloof	John and Jenny Robinson	033 502 9090/ 082 443 3805	<a href="mailto:tomrob@mweb.co.za">tomrob@mweb.co.za</a>
Midlands conservancies: Dargle/ Nottingham Rd/ Balgowan, Fort Nottingham	Sally Cummings Nikki Brighton Roy Tabernor	033 330 7175; 072 119 4253 082 487 0922	<a href="mailto:sally.j.cumming@gmail.com">sally.j.cumming@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:nikki@cowfriend.co.za">nikki@cowfriend.co.za</a> <a href="mailto:royandval@bundunet.com">royandval@bundunet.com</a>
Byrne Valley	James Bannatyne Malcolm Miller	079 516 1261 083 253 0645	<a href="mailto:jabe@absamail.co.za">jabe@absamail.co.za</a>
Boston	Barbara & Glyn Bullock Crystelle Wilson	084 304 9842; 084 352 9864 082 723 5158	<a href="mailto:grbullock@telkomsa.net">grbullock@telkomsa.net</a> <a href="mailto:wilsonc@wirelessza.co.za">wilsonc@wirelessza.co.za</a>
Bulwer	Russell Hill	074 126 7274 082 923 9649	<a href="mailto:carolhill@futurenet.co.za">carolhill@futurenet.co.za</a>
Creighton/ Donnybrook	Pete Everett and Mike Arnold	082 039 61499 082 871 5922	<a href="mailto:everett@futurenet.co.za">everett@futurenet.co.za</a> ; <a href="mailto:saltspringsfarm@gmail.com">saltspringsfarm@gmail.com</a>
Ngeli	Eebee Ally Preshnee Singh	072 466 5466 076 666 9488	<a href="mailto:eebee.sa@gmail.com">eebee.sa@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:preshnee.singh@gmail.com">preshnee.singh@gmail.com</a>
Mpur/Glengarry	Andy Ruffle	039 695 0829; 072 893 3794	<a href="mailto:andy_ruffle@yahoo.co.uk">andy_ruffle@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Alfred Nzo Region, namely: Ntswa, Gomo, Bulembu, Tonti, Amanzinyama and Xhama Forest	Dean Ricketts	082 432 5104	<a href="mailto:Dean.Ricketts@deaet.ecape.gov.za">Dean.Ricketts@deaet.ecape.gov.za</a>
Mthatha Langeni / Matiwane Ngcobo	Helen Dalton Bertus Bouwer	084 801 9560; 043 726 0513 (w) 082 856 3982; 043 726 0513 (w)	<a href="mailto:Helen@starlightsa.com">Helen@starlightsa.com</a>
Hogsback	Cassie Carstens Tony Moody	082 321 3302 045 9621131; 073 689 5742	<a href="mailto:hogsback@wildbirdtrust.com">hogsback@wildbirdtrust.com</a> <a href="mailto:aim@apttech.co.za">aim@apttech.co.za</a>
Stutterheim	Donald Kemp Francois Sparks Neill Harvey	073 427 2119, 043 683 1661 043 683 5247 043 683 2384	<a href="mailto:donald@barkaybirds.co.za">donald@barkaybirds.co.za</a> <a href="mailto:francois@rancetimber.co.za">francois@rancetimber.co.za</a> <a href="mailto:alliedin@eci.co.za">alliedin@eci.co.za</a>
Wild Coast (Port St Johns)	Kathryn Costello	047 5641240	<a href="mailto:outspan@wildcoast.co.za">outspan@wildcoast.co.za</a>
Mbotyi	Wendy Ayliffe Taz Moola	039 253 7200/01	<a href="mailto:info@mbotyi.co.za">info@mbotyi.co.za</a>
KWT/Alice	Peter Mather-Pike Gertie Griffith	043 740 3566; 082 924 8514 043 735 2195	<a href="mailto:peter@calith.co.za">peter@calith.co.za</a> <a href="mailto:gerken@intekom.com">gerken@intekom.com</a>
Limpopo Province	David Letsoalo	083 568 4678	<a href="mailto:info@krm.co.za">info@krm.co.za</a>



Main areas covered by coordinators on the Cape Parrot Big Birding Day (Limpopo areas not shown)



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Preshnee Singh

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