

INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS 2022



ICC DURBAN · SOUTH AFRICA · 14 - 20 AUGUST 2022



<http://www.iocongress2022.com/>



ENDEMIC BIRDS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



Blue Crane (*Grus paradisea*)

Also known as the Stanley or Paradise Crane, the Blue Crane is the national bird of South Africa. They communicate mainly through guttural sounds like a bugle, which both genders use. In South Africa this species is under legal protection as part of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds.

Interesting Fact:

Both the Xhosa and Zulu tribes in Africa revere the Blue Crane. Zulu royalty were the only tribe members traditionally allowed to wear Blue Crane feathers, while only Xhosa warriors were permitted to wear Blue Crane feathers into battle.



Cape Parrot (*Poicephalus robustus*)

The Cape Parrot, also known as Levaillant's Parrot, Krynsna Papagaai or Woudpapagaai, is the largest of this African genus. Found mostly in the Eastern Cape and some KZN coastal forests, community projects are aimed at encouraging the bird's adoption as a national mascot for the umbrella protection of forest catchments, as well as increasing food supply by eradicating alien species and reforesting areas adjacent to existing indigenous forests.

Interesting Fact:

To help raise awareness, our very own congress chair Colleen Downs, a UKZN zoologist, founded the Cape Parrot Big Birding Day. Now in its 22nd year, the event sends volunteers and schoolchildren into coastal forests to search for these rare birds or signs of their presence. Sadly, however, South Africa's only endemic parrot may disappear before it is more widely known.

INTRODUCING 2022 SPC CHAIR



Welcome Professor William Cresswell

The IOU are proud to announce that Professor William Cresswell of the University of St Andrews will be the 2022 IOCongress Scientific Programme Chair.

Will Cresswell is Professor of Biology at St Andrews University and has been studying predator-prey interactions, and the ecology of migrant birds for the last 30 years. Current research priorities are to understand the factors determining the density and distribution of Palearctic migrants wintering in West Africa so that we can address their continuing declines in the face of anthropogenic habitat and climate change. As part of the solution he is also involved with capacity building in the region through the AP Leventis Ornithological Research Institute that trains future African ornithologists and conservationists. Will has wide experience as a scientific editor for several ornithological and behavioural journals, and through organising conferences and symposia at the European and African level. He is particularly interested in creating a diverse and equal opportunity global ornithological conference, to showcase early career ornithological research from biodiverse countries, as well as the state of the art.

Symposia are aimed at the general ornithologist and provide up-to-date coverage of research in ornithology and its application for conservation and education. Symposia are an opportunity for an integrated synthesis of new and timely topics of broad appeal and we particularly encourage early career researchers to propose symposia topics.

“Visit the IOCongress 2022 website for all submission guidelines.
All submissions must be done through the conference website.
<http://www.iocongress2022.com/>”

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