

a short description of the birds pictured overleaf

left hand side

egyptian goose

This noisy and conspicuous species is regularly seen on the lawn or perched in the taller trees. The pair remain mated for life and defend their territory aggressively by chasing intruders away with loud honking calls.

hadeda ibis

One's attention is usually attracted by its loud ha-ha-de-dah call from which its name is derived. It is often seen flying overhead, especially in the early morning and evening, or probing the lawn for insects and worms.

helmeted guineafowl

Normally found in small groups, this distinctive species has not always been present in the south-western Cape and was introduced from the eastern Cape a century ago to control agricultural pests in vineyards.

rock pigeon

Originally a bird of the mountains, this large and colourful pigeon has adapted to an urban life and uses buildings as roosting and nesting sites. Look for it on the roof of the hotel.

red-eyed dove

This is the common dove of the garden and sometimes gathers in small flocks when certain trees are in fruit. Its call is a resonant syncopated cooing koo-roo-kuku.

giant kingfisher

Its raucous call usually indicates the presence of this large kingfisher as it flies overhead or along the Liesbeeck River. The male is illustrated and the female differs in having russet colourations on her abdomen instead of on the breast.

lesser double-collared sunbird

The Lesser Double-collared Sunbird is an exquisite jewel that is regularly seen feeding on the many flowering plants in the **vineyard hotel & spa's** diverse and beautiful garden.

right hand side

olive thrush

A rather unobtrusive species usually seen scratching in leaf litter in thick shrubbery for insects and snails. It has been recorded breeding in all months in the Cape, but mostly from August to November.

cape robin

This colourful relative of the Olive Thrush also feeds in shrubbery and has a sweet whistling call. It hides its nest in thick cover but despite this it is still the main host of the parasitic Red-chested Cuckoo.

fiscal shrike

It is usually seen perched conspicuously watching for its prey. The black and white plumage resembled the dress of the Fiskaal or tax collector in the early days of Dutch settlement, hence its name.

european starling

A garrulous and colourful species introduced from Britain to the Cape by Cecil John Rhodes in 1899. It spread rapidly and had reached Durban by 1973. In the winter months it gathers in large flocks to feed and roost.

red-winged starling

Like the Rock Pigeon, originally a species of the mountains, but now well adapted to an urban environment where it builds its bulky nest on buildings. Unlike its garrulous relative it has a sweet whistling call.

cape white-eye

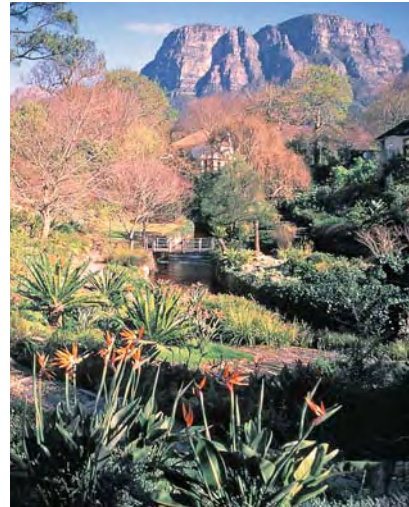
The most common garden resident, this delightful and active little species occurs in small flocks, maintaining contact with melodious twittering calls. The nest is an exquisite little cup of fine fibres bound with cobweb.



leopard tortoises - gloria & herbert

through the garden

garden & bird guide



A view of the garden along the river with Crane Flowers (Strelitzias) in the foreground; Lesser Double-collared Sunbirds and Cape White-eyes visit these plants regularly to feed on nectar as well as the insects attracted to them.

For more detailed birding information than it is possible to provide here, guests and visitors should acquire *Essential Birding* by Callan Cohen and Claire Spottiswoode, an excellent detailed guide to the best birding localities of western South Africa.

Further recommended field guides, all comprehensively illustrated and available in local book stores are:

Newman's Birds of Southern Africa

Sasol Birds of Southern Africa

Roberts' Birds of Southern Africa

Bird photographs and information supplied by Peter Steyn.

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through the garden

garden & bird guide



there's more to us than meets the eye!



vineyard hotel & spa

the perfect setting

welcome to our garden a paradise for tranquillity

The Western Cape Peninsula is your floral wonderland, containing more species in a 500 square kilometre area than the whole of Australia or the British Isles. With a typical Mediterranean climate, it supports some 2600 indigenous plant species, 150 which are considered rare, threatened or endemic. Some of these are awaiting your discovery in our garden.

the landscaped garden

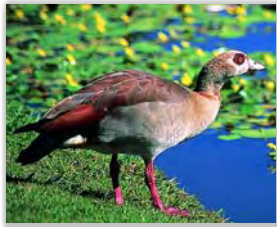
Since 1980 the well known landscape architect Ann Sutton has set about designing the 6 acres of garden. Based on the theme of watergardens and features, it has developed into one of the most beautiful landscaped gardens in the Western Cape. The Liesbeeck river flows through the bottom of the garden and it is worthwhile to indulge in a leisurely stroll along the many paths and follow the River Walk boards to experience a blend of indigenous and typical Cape Flora, surrounded by spectacular mountain views. Black and White Stinkwood, Yellowwood, Hard Pear, Wild Olive, Coral and Cabbage trees, mingle with Silver Birch, Camellias and Azaleas. Admire the much photographed pin-cushions, broken here and there by a flamingo hedge of Bougainvillea. Meander along discreetly camouflaged steps leading to the fountain, whilst a hadeda bird might be seen on the branches of a tall tree, and encounters with squirrels and tortoises are quite possible.

birdwatching around cape town

There are seven endemic birds that could be seen within easy reach of Cape Town, but several of them are elusive. However, the Cape Sugarbird and the exquisite Orange-breasted Sunbird are two that may be found feeding on proteas and ericas on the upper reaches of the nearby Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. A visit to these beautiful gardens, irrespective of the time of year, will invariably reward the visitor with many other species too.

No visit to Cape Town would be complete without an excursion to Cape Point in the Table Mountain National Park, home to over 1,000 plant species, eleven of which occur nowhere else. Birds are rather sparse except for coastal species such as the endangered African Black Oystercatcher. However, in inclement weather, seabirds are often driven close inshore and the Cape Gannet, as well as occasional albatrosses, may be seen. Don't neglect to visit Boulder's Beach at Simon's Town for superb close views of the African Penguin, the only penguin resident on the continent.

For waterbirds Rondevlei Nature Reserve is recommended for a variety of herons and egrets, White Pelicans, various shorebirds and the colourful Purple Gallinule. The reserve's museum and the only elusive Hippo in the Cape Peninsula is also well worth a visit.



egyptian goose



view of the hotel from liesbeeck river



haded ibis



helmeted guineafowl



the health & fitness centre



rock pigeon



red-eyed dove



giant kingfisher



lesser double-collared sunbird



garden and bird guide

The beautiful garden leading down to the Liesbeeck River is planted with a wealth of indigenous trees and other plants that attract a variety of birds and this brochure features some of the more common species.

Inevitably there is a seasonal variation depending on the plants that are flowering, or which trees are in fruit, but most of the birds illustrated are present in all seasons. In spring, from early September onwards, the strident *Piet-my-vrou* call of the elusive Red-chested Cuckoo may be heard and in summer the occasional Common Buzzard soars overhead, having migrated from the steppes of Russia.

Take time to walk slowly along the paths, especially along the river, and your experience will be enhanced by the wonderful selection of indigenous plants, trees and birds you may encounter in this tranquil environment.



SOUTH EAST CORNER OF THE VINEYARD BY SIR CHARLES D'OYLY, 1833

1799 "The house fitted harmoniously into the landscape, surrounded by indigenous shrubs and trees. Beyond the garden stretching in all directions, were the vines which gave the house, built by Lady Anne and Andrew Barnard, its name - The Vineyard"

extract from "A History of the Vineyard" by Jill Baikoff.

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