



Birds of the dam and fields

Voëls van die dam en die lande



Blue Crane

Bloukraanvoël

South Africa's national bird. Tall and blue-grey; pairs and flocks feed in the open fields.



Hadeda Ibis

Hadeda

Loud "ha-ha-hadeda" at dawn and dusk. Probes the lawns for worms with its long, curved bill.



African Fish Eagle

Visarend

White head and chest, chestnut body. Listen for its ringing call over the dam.



Red-knobbed Coot

Bleshoender

Black water bird with a white face shield. Swims and dives in the dam all year.



Egyptian Goose

Kolgans

Brown patches around the eye and on the chest. Pairs honk loudly around the dam.



Spur-winged Goose

Wildemakou

Africa's largest goose: glossy black and white with a red face and spurs on its wings.



Greater Flamingo

Grootflamink

Tall and pinkish-white. Filters food from shallow water with its bent bill.



Great White Pelican

Witpelikaan

Huge white water bird with a yellow throat pouch. Visits the dam to fish.



Jackal Buzzard

Rooiborsjakkalsvoël

Dark with a rusty-red chest. Soars over the veld; its call sounds like a jackal's yelp.

Look, don't touch · Kyk, moenie raak nie. Never feed, chase or catch wild animals.

Photos via Wikimedia Commons (CC BY, CC BY-SA): Ron Knight, Diego Delso, Derek Keats, shi zhao, Charles J. Sharp, Giles Laurent, Alan Manson.



Birds of the veld and night

Voëls van die veld en die nag



Cape Spurfowl

Kaapse fisant

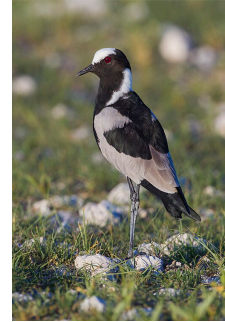
The farm "pheasant": dark, finely streaked, with orange legs. Calls loudly at first light.



Helmeted Guineafowl

Tarentaal

Spotted grey with a bony helmet. Noisy flocks walk the veld and roost in tall trees.



Blacksmith Lapwing

Bontkiewiet

Its "tink-tink" sounds like a hammer on an anvil. Dive-bombs anyone near its nest.



Speckled Pigeon

Kransduif

Red eye-patch and white-spotted wings. Nests on buildings and rocky ledges.



Cape Sparrow

Gewone mossie

The male has a bold black-and-white head. Busy around the kitchens and lapas.



Cape Wagtail

Kwikstertjie

Grey-brown with a dark breast band, wagging its tail non-stop. Fearless around people.



Spotted Thick-knee

Dikkop

Big yellow eyes for night hunting. Rests by day and calls eerily after dark.



Spotted Eagle-Owl

Gevlekte ooruil

Grey with ear tufts and yellow eyes. Hoots softly at night from trees and roofs.



Barn Owl

Nonnetjie-uil

Pale, heart-shaped face. Hunts rats and mice silently at night; it screeches, never hoots.

Look, don't touch · Kyk, moenie raak nie. Never feed, chase or catch wild animals.

Photos via Wikimedia Commons (CC BY, CC BY-SA): Wayne de Villiers, Charles J. Sharp, Yathin S Krishnappa, peterichman, Derek Keats, Maciej, Steven Ward.



Mammals

Soogdiere: most are shy and come out at dusk or at night



Caracal

Rooikat

Sandy cat with long black ear tufts. Very shy; hunts at dusk and during the night.



Small-spotted Genet

Muskeljaatkat

Slender and spotted with a ringed tail. A good climber, out only at night.



Black-backed Jackal

Rooijakkals

Fox-like, with a silver-black saddle. Listen for its wailing call at night.



Bat-eared Fox

Bakoorjakkals

Huge ears hear termites and beetles underground. Often seen in pairs at dusk.



Cape Grey Mongoose

Kaapse grysmuishond

Small, speckled grey and quick. Seen by day, darting across paths.



Cape Porcupine

Ystervark

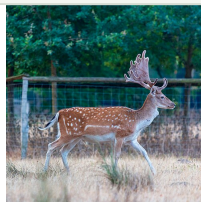
Africa's biggest rodent. Its quills come loose when touched; it cannot shoot them.



Cape Clawless Otter

Groototter

Clawless front "hands" feel for crabs and frogs. Watch the dam at dawn and dusk.



Fallow Deer

Takbok

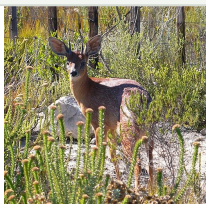
A true deer, brought to the Cape long ago. Spotted coat; males grow broad, flat antlers.



Common Duiker

Gewone duiker

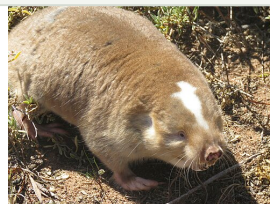
Small grey-brown antelope. "Duiker" means diver: it dives into the bush when startled.



Cape Grysbok

Kaapse grysbok

Small reddish antelope flecked with white. Found only in the Cape; out at dusk.



Cape Dune Mole-rat

Duinmol

The big digger behind the large sand heaps. Feeds on roots and bulbs underground.



Common Mole-rat

Gewone molrot

Small and grey. Lives in family colonies and leaves rows of little heaps.

Look, don't touch · Kyk, moenie raak nie. Never feed, chase or catch wild animals.

Photos via Wikimedia Commons (CC BY, CC BY-SA, CC0): Derek Keats, Guérin Nicolas, Giles Laurent, Yathin S Krishnappa, Martin Kraft, Steven Lek, Mark Paxton, Dietmar Rabich, Farid Amadou Bahleman, Jimfbleak, Dwergenpaartje, Jimmy Whatmore.



In and around the dam

In en om die dam: fish, frogs, crabs and terrapins



Common Carp

Karp

A big, bronze bottom-feeder that stirs up the mud looking for food. Not native: brought from Asia.



Smallmouth Bass

Kleinbekbaars

Bronze-green with dark bars and red eyes. A fierce hunter and an anglers' favourite. Not native.



Mozambique Tilapia

Bloukurper

Deep-bodied fish. The mother keeps her eggs, and later the babies, safe inside her mouth.



Cape River Frog

Kaapse rivierpadda

Large, green-brown frog of the dam edge. Leaps into the water with a splash as you approach.



Clicking Stream Frog

Grasdakpadda

Small and striped. Hard to see, easy to hear: a quick "tik-tik-tik" from the grass at night.



Raucous Toad

Lawaaiskurwepadda

Squat and warty, with a loud, rasping call after rain. Wash your hands if you touch one.



Cape River Crab

Kaapse rivierkrap

Freshwater crab, olive to orange. Hides under rocks at the water's edge; mind the pincers.



Marsh Terrapin

Moerasskilpad

Flat, olive-brown water turtle that suns itself on rocks. It can bite and smells musky: look, don't pick it up.

Look, don't touch · Kyk, moenie raak nie. Never swim, fish or canoe without permission.

Photos via Wikimedia Commons (CC BY-SA, CC0, public domain): George Chernilevsky, USFWS Mountain-Prairie, Greg Hume, Abu Shawka, JonRichfield, Ryan van Huyssteen.



Reptiles and spiders

Reptiele en spinnekoppe

VENOMOUS: KEEP AWAY

Giftig: bly weg



Cape Cobra

Kaapse geelslang

Yellow to brown or speckled. Rears up and spreads a hood when threatened. Very venomous.

See a snake? Stop, step back slowly, keep others away and call a TNE staff member. Never try to catch or kill it. Use a torch at night.



Puff Adder

Pofadder

Thick and slow, with pale chevrons. Lies still on paths instead of moving away. Very venomous.



Mole Snake

Molslang

Large, grey-brown to black. Not venomous; eats moles and rats, a farmer's friend.



Common Egg-eater

Eiervreter

Harmless, with no real teeth. Swallows eggs whole; hisses and rasps its scales to bluff.



Cape Skink

Gestreepte skink

A shiny, striped lizard, not a snake. Basks on rocks and walls in the sun.



Rain Spider

Reënspinnekop

Big and hairy; often comes indoors before rain. Scary-looking but harmless to people.

Look, don't touch · Kyk, moenie raak nie. Never feed, chase or catch wild animals.

Photos via Wikimedia Commons (CC BY-SA, public domain): Marius Burger, Danny S., Ctac, Mond76, Serban Proches, JMK.