

Dap Naude Dam and Woodbush Birding Route

A. The Forest Drive



The Woodbush Forest Reserve is a pristine afro-montane Mist Belt forest with a 15- 30 metre high canopy made up of single stemmed trees. It has many small streams running through ferns and mossy gullies. Characteristic trees are the broad leaved Yellowwood, Lemonwood, Wild Quince and Strangler Fig. It is best to park and walk. Look out for White-starred Robin, Orange Ground Thrush, Black-fronted Bush-shrike and Knysna Turaco. Specials include Cape Parrot, Black-fronted Bush-shrike, Orange Ground Thrush, Brown Scrub-robin, Barretts Warbler, Grey Cuckooshrike, yellow-streaked Greenbul, Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher, Forest Canary, Square-tailed Drongo, African Cuckoo Hawk, African Crowned Eagle, Narina Trogon and African Goshawk.

B. Debengeni Falls



The Debengeni Falls, on the Ramadipa River, descend approximately 80 metres into a big pool. Birds to look out for include Grey and Mountain Wagtail, Narina Trogon, African Dusky Flycatcher, Chorister Robin-chat. Buff-spotted Flufftail and Scaly-throated Honeyguide can be heard. Rufous-breasted Sparrow-hawk breeds in the area.

D. Look out for Red-backed Mannikin, African Fire-finch and Sweet Waxbill in the verges. Where the forestry road crosses the stream, close to the R71, Half-collared Kingfisher and African Finfoot can be seen if the water level is high. In the forests on the road to the falls Tambourine and Lemon Dove, Chorister Robin-chat, Blue-mantled Crested-flycatcher and Yellow-streaked Greenbul can be found. Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon have been seen occasionally.

C. View Site

Look out for Cape Parrot as they fly in the valley below.

E. Houtbosdorp Road

Summer visitors include Steppe Buzzard, Black, Klaas's, African Emerald, Diedrick's, Levillant's, Jacobin, Red-chested and African Cuckoo. In winter look out for Forest Buzzard. Jackel Buzzard, Long-crested Eagle, prinia's, widow's and waxbills and Buffy Pipet are resident.

F. The River at 'O' Road Junction

Stop and have a look for Yellow-billed and African Black Ducks, Little Grebe, Reed Cormorant, Brown-hooded Kingfisher, African Stonechat and the White-throated Swallow, a summer visitor.

G. 'P' Road

Long-crested Eagle are seen here and Warblers and Cisticolas in the grass.

H. Indigenous Forest near Dap Naude Dam Wall



Dap Naude Dam was built in 1958 to provide water to Polokwane and has a surface area of 28 hectares.

Listen for Olive Woodpecker, Southern Double-collared Sunbird, Thrushes and Robins.

J. Reedbeds and Grassland at Dap Naude Dam

Look out for Prinia's, Widow's, Cisticola's, Canaries and Cape Grassbird.

K. Magoebaskloof Trail Huts

Knysna Turaco are common here and listen for Blue-mantled Crested-flycatcher, Square-tailed Drongo, Barratt's Warbler, Thrushes and Robins. African Goshawk and Little Sparrowhawk may be seen.

In the indigenous forest near the wall, look out for Olive Woodpecker and Southern Double-collared Sunbird. The grasslands are also good for prinias, cisticolas, widow birds, canaries and the Cape Grassbird.