

Hessequa systematic atlasing: Summer 2023/24 report

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1. Background

The Hessequa subproject of SABAP2 covers the area of the Hessequa municipality. It lies between the ocean in the south and the Langeberg in the north and stretches from the Gourits River in the east to Breede River at Witsand in the west. From Witsand the boundary follows the Breede River upstream to Malgas and then cuts away to Grootvadersbos against the Langeberg.

Hessequa offers a wide diversity of habitats with beautiful scenery added in.





And has hundreds of kilometres of dirt road to ensure peaceful atlasing far away from the main roads.





Hessequa forms the south western part of the project "[Developing the Garden Route & Klein Karoo as avitourism destination](#)" and many interesting birding destinations in Hessequa are now listed and described in [GoBirding](#) on BirdLife SA's website. Select the Western Cape and scroll down page one, as well as the subsequent pages for the individual listings. For more information about Hessequa's sites see the "More resources" paragraph at the end of this report.

If you are heading to this area, please atlas a pentad or two to contribute to the "Hessequa systematic atlasing Subproject". Read more about this SABAP2 subproject under the "Subproject" tab on the SABAP2 website [Hessequa systematic atlasing Subproject](#) (just be patient, it will open).

The aim is to atlas all 75 pentads of Hessequa in a chessboard pattern with half of the pentads done in summer and winter and the other half in autumn and spring.

2. Summer objectives

The objective for the summer months of December 2023, January 2024 and February 2024 is shown in Figure 1 below. 46 full protocol cards were required to meet the objectives. That is made up of single cards for 38 pentads plus 4 cards each for the two "home" pentads covering Stilbaai all marked in grey on Figure 1.

5. Acknowledgements

Our most sincere thanks go to

- Tania Anderson and Michael Brooks of the SABAP2 team for uploading this project as a subproject of SABAP2 and for distributing information about this project.
- All the visitors to Hessequa who submitted full protocol cards. The continuing support from visitors will be greatly appreciated.
- The atlasers from the U3A Stilbaai Bird Group for their unwavering support over almost ten years already.
- All the landowners in Hessequa for their friendly support over all these years.
- Estelle van Rooyen for the photos in this report.

6. More resources

For more information about the U3A Stilbaai Bird Group go to our web page at

<https://www.u3astilbaai.org/birdgroup/index.html>

The following Hessequa birding sites are currently listed on GoBirding

- [Albertinia and surrounding area](#)
- [Garcia Pass Sites](#)
- [Gourikwa Private Nature Reserve](#)
- [Goukou River Causeway](#)
- [Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve](#)
- [Heidelberg](#)
- [Jongensfontein](#)
- [Stilbaai](#)
- [Witsand](#)