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 <u>"Developing the Garden Route & Klein Karoo as avitourism destination"</u> and many interesting birding destinations in Hessequa are now listed and described in <u>GoBirding</u> 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 <u>Hessequa systematic atlasing Subproject</u> (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.

		3355_2045 Grootvaders 0	3355_2050 Spitskop 0		3355_2100 Gysmanshk 0	3355_2105 Oudebosch 0	-	3355_2115 Welbedacht 0			3355_2130 Bergfontein 0	3355_2135 Gouritsprt 0			FP required	Visitors Stilbaai BG
		3400_2045 De Slange R 0	-	3400_2055 Kruisrivier 0	3400_2100 Spiegelsriv O	-	3400_2110 Vetrivier 0	3400_2115 Vuilbaards 0	3400_2120 Goukouvlei 0	3400_2125 Valsrivier 0	3400_2130 Wydersriv 0	3400_2135 Middelrug 0	3400_2140 Baviaansh 0		Cards submitt	1 2-3 4-6
		3405_2045 Karringmelk 0		-	3405_2100 Krombeksriv 0	-	3405_2110 Brakrivier 0	3405_2115 Riversdal 0	3405_2120 Soetmelksr 0	-	-	3405_2135 Grootheuwl 0	3405_2140 Buffelsdrif 0			7-10 11-15
	3410_2040 Zout Kloof 0	-	-	-	-	3410_2105 Jakkalsfntn 0	-	-	3410_2120 Soebatters 0	3410_2125 Soutpan 0	-	3410_2135 AlbertiniaO 0	-			
-	3415_2040 Kadiesrivier 0	3415_2045 Brakkekuil O	-	-	-	3415_2105 Frans-se-Krl 0	-	-	-	-	3415_2130 Luinsklip 0	3415_2135 WildHondk 0		3415_2145 Heuningklf O		
		3420_2045 PortBeaufrt 0	3420_2050 Witsand 0		3420_2100 Puntjie 0	3420_2105 MossIbnkftn 0	-	3420_2115 Swrtjongens 0	-	3420_2125 Stilbaai-O 0	3420_2130 Ratelpos 0	3420_2135 Ystervarkfnt 0	3420_2140 Miskraalkop 0	-	-	
				- ,				3425_2115 Kleinjongen 0	-							

Figure 1: Full protocol cards planned for the 2023/24 summer (Dec 2023, Jan, Feb 2024)

3. Results

83 full protocol cards were submitted as shown in Figure 2. These cards covered the objectives fully, but with many pentads receiving more than one card. 7 additional pentads have also received cards. 48 cards were submitted by the U3A Stilbaai Bird Group and 35 by visitors to Hessequa. Of the 40 priority summer pentads, 6 were atlased by visitors and 34 by the members of the Bird Group.

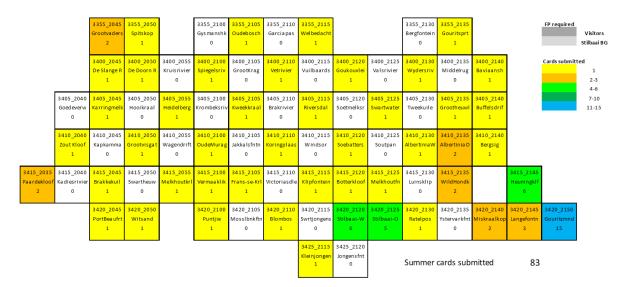


Figure 2: Full protocol cards submitted for the 2023/24 summer (Dec 2023, Jan, Feb 2024)

4. Summary

The objectives set for the summer have been achieved in full and a significant number of additional cards have also been submitted. This was achieved by the atlasers of the U3A Stilbaai Bird Group, as well as visitors to Hessequa.

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

The following Hessequa birding sites are currently listed on GoBirding

- Albertinia and surrounding area
- Garcia Pass Sites
- Gourikwa Private Nature Reserve
- <u>Goukou River Causeway</u>
- Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve
- Heidelberg
- Jongensfontein
- <u>Stilbaai</u>
- <u>Witsand</u>