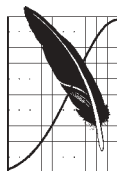
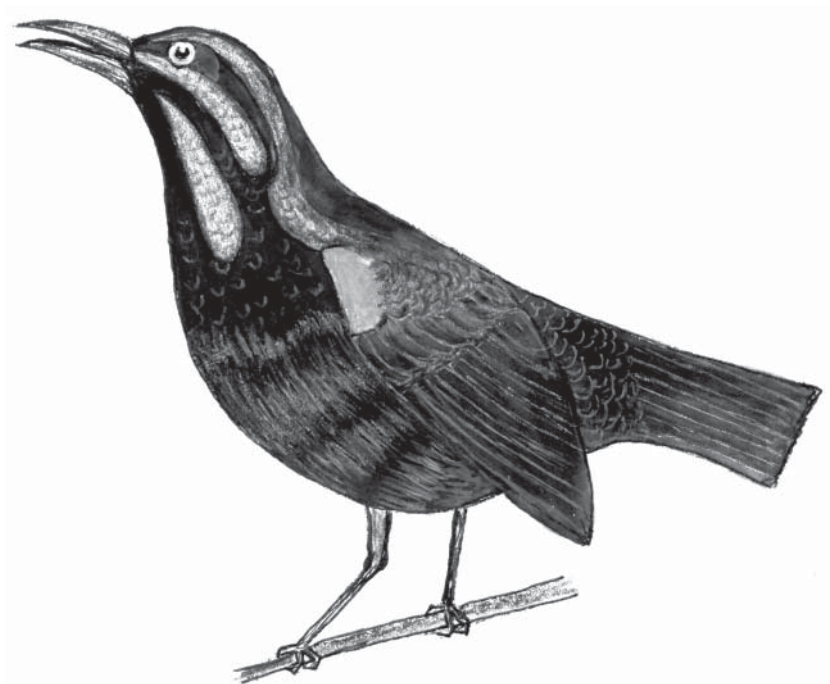


# THE ATLAS OF THE BIRDS OF SUL DO SAVE, SOUTHERN MOZAMBIQUE

Vincent Parker



**AVIAN  
DEMOGRAPHY  
UNIT**



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# sappi

Birds are one of the foremost indicators of environmental health and it is only through the study of bird species and their habitats that their conservation can be assured. A bird atlas provides basic information on both species and habitat that is essential in the planning of conservation projects. This first Mozambican bird atlas is a welcome addition and an important link to the series of southern African bird atlases, which already provide invaluable information on the subcontinent's rich birdlife.

This bird atlas, the result of three years of collaborative efforts between universities, governments, NGOs, the community-at-large and Sappi, is a unique source of information on the distribution and status of birds in southern Mozambique, south of the Save River. With the increasing human pressure on this part of Mozambique, this publication can only enhance people's appreciation of the rich avian diversity for which the region is renowned.

Sappi is committed to sound environmental management and environmental education, including the sponsorship of a wide range of tree, wild-flower and bird books, as well as support for various lecture and research posts at a number of universities in South Africa. Sappi is proud to have been associated with the research and publication of this worthwhile bird atlas.



P. Dutton

*Terns at dusk, Santa Carolina Island.*

# The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) – Fórum Natureza em Perigo (FNP) – in Mozambique

The EWT started its Mozambique operations in 1989 in the Bazaruto Archipelago and later in the Maputo Elephant Reserve by supporting the National Directorate of Forestry and Wildlife (DNFFB) with the rehabilitation of these areas. Training, employment of game guards and logistical support were its main roles in these early stages. The EWT has also been involved in the restoration of the Maputo Zoo.

The EWT (or FNP as it is locally known) was officially registered as a Non-Government Organization in Mozambique in 1995, and opened a regional office in

downtown Maputo. The Regional Director, António Reina, has been coordinating our activities ever since.

Our main activities revolve around community-based natural resource management, with particular emphasis on employing and training individuals as game guards within rural areas where biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management is imperative. Catuane, a community on the northern border of Ndumu Game Reserve, has such a programme which functions as a law enforcement and educational body to safeguard the area's fauna and flora and ensure a conservation



P. Dutton

*Bazaruto Island.*

*Coastline, Maputo  
Elephant Reserve.*



J. Ledger





future for the zone. The FNP inaugurated the Clube Ornitológico de Moçambique which acts as the educational arm to the Mozambique Bird Atlas Project and has played an important role in promoting birdwatching and environmental awareness amongst the young people of Maputo.

The FNP has a voice in various committees and forums dealing with environmental issues arising from current industrial expansion. We represent the Peace Parks Foundation in Mozambique, and are involved in

the planning stage of the Kruger Park–Gaza and Maputaland Trans-Frontier Conservation Areas.

The FNP is steadily expanding its activities. Its responsibilities are great because of its position in being one of the few wildlife NGOs in Mozambique, and we expect to be called into all corners of Mozambique in the future.

*António Reina, Regional Director, Maputo and José Alves, Mozambique Desk, Johannesburg*



J. Ledger



*Futi Channel, Maputo Elephant Reserve.*

*Community guards, Catuane.*

J. Alves

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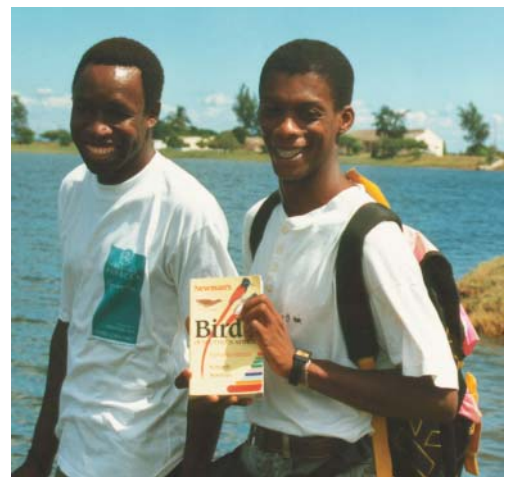


## Clube Ornitológico de Moçambique

During 1995, the Mozambique Bird Atlas Project conducted a number of talks on bird identification at the Universidade Eduardo Mondlane in Maputo, in order to promote public participation in the Atlas Project. As a result of these talks, a group of staff and students of the Department of Biological Sciences at the University got together with representatives of the Maputo branch of the Endangered Wildlife Trust (Fórum Natureza em Perigo) to form a bird club, which became known as Clube Ornitológico de Moçambique. Carlos Bento was elected the first chairman, and Almeida Guissamulo vice-chairman. They have continued in office until the present.

The Clube was officially launched at a function at the Polana Hotel on 9 March 1996. The aims of the Clube are to facilitate the sharing of knowledge about the birdlife of Mozambique, and to raise public awareness of the birdlife and of the need for the conservation of biological diversity. In order to further these aims, the Clube collaborates with government institutions, including the National Directorate of Forestry and Wildlife (DNFFB) and the Ministry for Environmental Affairs (MICOA), and with foreign institutions, including BirdLife South Africa and BirdLife International.

The headquarters of the Clube are at the Natural History Museum, Maputo. The Museum has offered the use of its facilities to the Clube, and future meetings will be held in the new auditorium. The Clube plans to continue offering talks and audiovisual presentations on birdwatching, and birdwatching outings



around Maputo to the public. It is preparing a similar program of presentations for schools in Maputo, and is planning to offer training in birdwatching skills to community guards involved in conservation initiatives.

*Top:* Young birders who attended the Clube's World Birdwatch Day activities in October 1997.

*Above right:* Chairman of the Clube, Carlos Bento (right), and vice-chairman, Almeida Guissamulo.

## The Natural History Museum, Maputo

The Natural History Museum was founded on 9 July 1913. It was then known as the Provincial Museum and was affiliated to the now defunct Escola Cinco de Outubro. In January 1959, it was transferred to the Instituto de Investigação Científica de Moçambique. After independence in 1976, it was transferred to the Universidade Eduardo Mondlane, and remains under the

administration of the University to the present.

The Museum has produced checklists of the birds, reptiles, molluscs of Mozambique and an atlas of butterflies. More than 200 scientific papers have been published by its staff. The Museum employs five researchers, including the present director, Dr Augusto Cabral.

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## Sponsors

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B. Ryan

*Trumpeter Hornbill.*



## Foreword

Mozambique, situated on the east coast of southern Africa, has an area of 800 000 km<sup>2</sup> and a coastline of 2500 km adjoining the Indian Ocean. Mozambique also has a large and diverse wildlife.

Owing to the civil war, the country's birds have not until now been studied very systematically but nevertheless more than 700 species have been recorded regularly, with a further 45 vagrants on record.

In the light of the effects of recent ecological changes, our current knowledge of Mozambique's rare, vulnerable and endangered birds is insufficient.

For the wetland birds, the most serious problem is the fact that riverine and alluvial habitats have been under very heavy human pressure. The floodplain grasslands of the Zambezi Delta, the Gorongosa National Park and Maputo Reserve are being degraded by hydrological changes related to exploitation of the rivers. Severe droughts are aggravating the situation, drying up large areas of Gaza, Maputo, Manica, Inhambane and Tete provinces.

The main danger to forest birds is the excessive clearance of forests for firewood.

I am certain that this new atlas of the birds of southern Mozambique will be of great value in verifying and monitoring these ecological changes and their effects on birdlife, for Mozambique is endowed with abundant bird and wildlife resources that hold promise for sensitive and sustainable development.



*Dr Augusto Cabral*  
*Natural History Museum, Maputo*

## Prólogo

Moçambique, situado na costa oriental da África austral, tem uma superfície de 800 000 quilómetros quadrados e uma costa de 2500 km ao longo do Oceano Índico. Moçambique possui também uma fauna selvagem abundante e diversa.

Devido à guerra civil, a avifauna do país não tinha, até hoje, sido estudada de forma muito sistemática. Apesar disso, mais de 700 espécies foram registadas regularmente, às quais se acrescentam 45 acidentais.

Devido aos efeitos das mudanças ecológicas recentes, o nosso conhecimento sobre as espécies de aves raras, vulneráveis e em perigo em Moçambique é insuficiente.

Para as aves aquáticas, o problema mais sério reside na enorme pressão que os habitats ribeirinhos e aluviais têm sofrido. As planícies de inundação do Delta do Zambezi, o Parque Nacional da Gorongosa e a Reserva Especial do Maputo estão sendo degradados pelas mudanças hidrológicas relacionadas com a exploração dos rios. As secas severas estão a agravar a situação, afectando extensas áreas das províncias de Gaza, Maputo, Manica, Inhambane e Tete.

A maior ameaça para as aves florestais é o desbravamento excessivo das florestas para a produção de combustível vegetal.

Estou certo que este novo atlas das aves do sul de Moçambique será de grande valor na verificação e monitorização destas mudanças ecológicas e dos seus efeitos na avifauna, pois Moçambique possui recursos abundantes de aves e fauna selvagem, que prometem um desenvolvimento sensível e sustentável.



*Dr Augusto Cabral*  
*Museu de História Natural, Maputo*

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