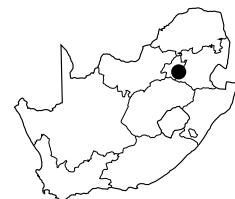


Marievale Bird Sanctuary, Nigel, Gauteng

26° 21' S 28° 30' E (2628BC)



An IBA and part of the Blesbokspruit Ramsar site. Has extensive *Phragmites* and *Typha* reedbeds, also sedgebeds, wet grass, and open water with floating-leaved vegetation. Good numbers of Glossy Ibis, Yellowbilled Duck and Redknobbed Coot occur all year; Squacco Heron may be quite common in summer. Hottentot Teal and Spurwinged Goose numbers peak in winter. A good selection of rails occurs, and Spotted Crake is also recorded. Purple Heron, Little Bittern, Grass Owl and Marsh Owl also occur. Increases are apparent in the number of species (summer and winter) and total count (summer). Blesbokspruit is severely threatened by discharge of mine water which drastically increases total water volume, maintains artificially high water levels in the dry season, and contains many pollutants, including salt.

| | Summer (5) | | Winter (5) | | | Summer (5) | | Winter (5) | |
|------------------------------|------------|------|------------|------|---------------------------|------------|------|------------|------|
| | Mean | Max. | Mean | Max. | | Mean | Max. | Mean | Max. |
| 006 Great Crested Grebe | 3 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 116 Spurwinged Goose | 3 | 11 | 62 | 128 |
| 008 Dabchick | 2 | 6 | 11 | 30 | 165 African Marsh Harrier | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| 055 Whitebreasted Cormorant | 1 | 4 | 5 | 14 | 210 African Rail | 5 | 8 | 7 | 15 |
| 058 Reed Cormorant | 30 | 54 | 21 | 61 | 213 Black Crake | 13 | 20 | 10 | 19 |
| 060 Darter | 1 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 217 Redchested Flufftail | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 062 Grey Heron | 1 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 223 Purple Gallinule | 9 | 21 | 13 | 32 |
| 063 Blackheaded Heron | 3 | 7 | 6 | 24 | 226 Moorhen | 41 | 93 | 31 | 54 |
| 064 Goliath Heron | 3 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 228 Redknobbed Coot | 310 | 650 | 302 | 645 |
| 065 Purple Heron | 3 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 245 Ringed Plover | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 067 Little Egret | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 248 Kittlitz's Plover | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| 068 Yellowbilled Egret | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 249 Threebanded Plover | 1 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| 069 Black Egret | 2 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 258 Blacksmith Plover | 24 | 77 | 11 | 14 |
| 071 Cattle Egret | 80 | 237 | 6 | 31 | 260 Wattled Plover | 4 | 14 | 1 | 5 |
| 072 Squacco Heron | 11 | 33 | 1 | 4 | 264 Common Sandpiper | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 076 Blackcrowned Night Heron | 2 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 266 Wood Sandpiper | 5 | 21 | 0 | 0 |
| 078 Little Bittern | 2 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 269 Marsh Sandpiper | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 091 Sacred Ibis | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 270 Greenshank | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 093 Glossy Ibis | 40 | 173 | 23 | 109 | 272 Curlew Sandpiper | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 094 Hadeda Ibis | 6 | 12 | 8 | 14 | 274 Little Stint | 6 | 28 | 0 | 0 |
| 095 African Spoonbill | 2 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 284 Ruff | 6 | 26 | 0 | 0 |
| 096 Greater Flamingo | 0 | 0 | 7 | 21 | 286 Ethiopian Snipe | 7 | 17 | 24 | 81 |
| 097 Lesser Flamingo | 0 | 0 | 2 | 12 | 295 Blackwinged Stilt | 1 | 6 | 1 | 5 |
| 099 Whitefaced Duck | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 315 Greyheaded Gull | 0 | 1 | 3 | 15 |
| 100 Fulvous Duck | 13 | 47 | 0 | 0 | 322 Caspian Tern | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 102 Egyptian Goose | 7 | 13 | 7 | 10 | 338 Whiskered Tern | 0 | 2 | 3 | 15 |
| 103 South African Shelduck | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 339 Whitewinged Tern | 3 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| 104 Yellowbilled Duck | 56 | 163 | 72 | 114 | 393 Grass Owl | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 105 African Black Duck | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 395 Marsh Owl | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| 106 Cape Teal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 428 Pied Kingfisher | 1 | 5 | 0 | 1 |
| 107 Hottentot Teal | 15 | 37 | 35 | 62 | 431 Malachite Kingfisher | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 108 Redbilled Teal | 3 | 10 | 6 | 14 | 713 Cape Wagtail | 4 | 8 | 7 | 11 |
| 112 Cape Shoveller | 1 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 714 Yellow Wagtail | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 113 Southern Pochard | 4 | 11 | 2 | 11 | Total | 744 | 966 | 707 | 964 |
| 115 Knobilled Duck | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | No. of species | | | 66 | |

