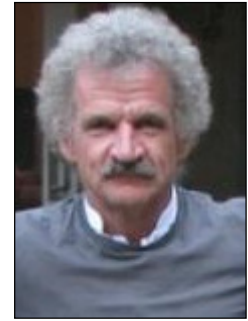


CURRICULUM VITAE

ROBERT EDWARD SIMMONS

B.Sc. (Hons.) 1978, Astronomy & Physics (London)
M.Sc. 1983, Biology (Acadia, Canada)
Ph.D. 1989, Zoology (Witwatersrand, RSA)
Post-doc 1989 and 1994 (Witwatersrand and Uppsala, Sweden)



SYNOPSIS

- Ecologist, conservation biologist and environmental consultant specialising in population ecology, conservation biology and wind/solar farm impacts.
- Research background in UK, Canada and Africa with interests in mating systems, siblicide, latitudinal effects on breeding, and conservation of threatened birds.
- Previously employed as Namibia's State ornithologist and managed Namibia's Biodiversity Programme.
- Currently a Research Associate with FitzPatrick Institute, Centre of Excellence; and Research Fellow, Institute of Zoology, London.
- Supervising students assessing impact of cats on biodiversity and long term research on raptorial and wading birds with NRF funding.
- Consultant in Namibia and South Africa assessing impact of renewable energy industry, power lines and diamond mines on vulnerable birds.
- Academic H-Index 24, i10 index 50 (over 100 citations per year).

PERSONAL DETAILS

Citizenship: British citizen + South African Permanent Resident
Present address: c/o FitzPatrick Institute, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, South Africa, 7701
E-mail: Rob.simmons@uct.ac.za

ACADEMIC TRAINING

B.Sc. Hons:	Astronomy and Physics, London University	1975-1978
Master's degree:	Biology and Ornithology, Acadia University, Canada	1979-1983
Doctoral degree:	Zoology, Ornithology, University of the Witwatersrand, RSA	1984-1989
Post-doctoral research:	University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, RSA	1988-1989
	Uppsala University, Sweden	1993-1994

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ministry of Environment & Tourism, Namibia, as:

- Wetland biologist (1990-1992);
- State ornithologist (1992-2003).

Honourary Research Associate at the University of Cape Town (2000-present).
Honourary Research Associate at the Institute of Zoology, London

Undertaking research in:

- Long-term assessment of Black Harrier ecology and vulture conservation;
- Impact of domestic cats on biodiversity around Greater Cape Town;
- Evolution and sexual selection of the giraffe
- Climate change research on arid-adapted birds
- Collision-prone birds at wind and solar farms in South Africa and Namibia

- Long-term population assessments of migrant palearctic waders

Research topics explored :

- Long-term regional and Namibian wetland bird counts;
- Case studies of Namib desert coastal wetlands (Sandwich Harbour, Walvis Bay and Cunene River);
- Global population estimates of desert-breeding Damara Terns;
- Climate change effects on breeding of Greater and Lesser flamingos;
- Population estimates of all Namibian endemic birds;
- Effects of the Epupa Dam on Cunene River ecology;
- Blue Crane declines in southern Africa;
- Evolutionary ecology of giraffe;
- Papuan Harrier ecology and conservation;
- IUCN conservation assessments of all Namibian birds;
- Rapid biodiversity assessment of Angola's Iona National Park (with Dr Brian Huntley);
- Interactions between wind farms and Black Harriers.

1. Published work includes:

- Patterns of endemism of plants and vertebrates in Namibia to assess placement of protected areas;
- Assessment of the avifauna of Namibia's perennial rivers;
- Long-term (25-30yr) fluctuations of avian populations at premier coastal wetlands on the desert coast;
- Breeding adaptations of desert-breeding penguins and Damara Terns;
- Namibia's first Red Data Book on threatened birds (publ. 2015).

Within the National Biodiversity Programme, as chair and co-chair of Working Groups on Wetlands and Mountains from 1999-2003, our goal was to increase awareness, research, and understanding of these two threatened ecosystems in Namibia. Book published 1998.

In collaboration with UCT's FitzPatrick Institute staff and students, I research the ecology and conservation of the *Endangered* Black Harrier in South Africa using genetic analysis and satellite tagging. This has spawned 3 theses, 3 published papers, conference presentations and numerous popular articles leading to a better understanding of the conservation needs of the Black Harrier, now in its 16th year. I also run a blog site: <http://blackharrierspace.blogspot.com/2015/01/the-season-for-migration-east.html>

CURRENT IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (of 50 completed)

I co-founded Birds & Bats Unlimited, an environmental consultancy company assessing avian impacts at wind and solar farms, diamond mines, power lines and other developments in southern Africa. <http://www.birds-and-bats-unlimited.com>

Recent EIAs include:

- Impact assessment of birds at a CSP solar site in the Kalahari (Kenhardt);
- Impact assessment of birds at CSP solar site in Ilanga (Northern Cape);
- Impact assessment of collision-prone birds at wind farms in the Karoo (Witberg);
- Impact assessment of collision-prone birds and bats at a wind farm in the Karoo (Tooverberg)
- Impact assessment of birds and bats at wind farms in coastal northern Cape (Kleinsee)

Present Collaborative Research

- Mega transect E-W across Namibia assessing aridity/climate change effects on bird communities (with C. Seymour - SANBI);
- Long-term health and genetic assessment of *Endangered* Black Harriers, particularly between agricultural and protected areas (with S. Garcia-Heras, F. Mougeot, B. Arroyo, J Fuchs);
- Wetland bird population trends in Namibia over last 25-30 years (with B. Erni - UCT Stats Dept);
- Revisiting giraffid evolution (with Profs R. Altwegg and A Chinsamy-Turan - SANBI and UCT);
- Impact of domestic cats on wildlife around Cape Town (with J. O'Riain, UCT).

POST GRADUATE STUDENT RECORD

Resume: Robert Edward Simmons

As an Honorary Research Associate at the University of Cape Town I have supervised 17 students (11 of whom were UCT students): 3 Honours, 8 Masters, 3 PhDs. These students, from all over the world, researched the effects of climate change and renewable energy on vulture populations, Damara tern ecology, domestic cat biodiversity impacts, Kenyan wading birds, pesticides in Kenyan Fish Eagles, the use of harriers as a surrogate for biodiversity value and the first avian sensitivity map for Lesotho.

COLLABORATIVE LINKS WITH SOUTH AFRICAN AND OVERSEAS INSTITUTES

Hosted sabbatical leave and collaborated with:

- Dr Ian Jamieson (Univ Dunedin, NZ), 1998
- Dr Tom Scott (Univ California, Humbolt, USA), 2003
- Dr Andrew Balmford (Cambridge University) 2005
- Professors Brian Huntley and Rhys Green (Univ of Durham and Cambridge/RSPB) 2013-2015
- Drs Bea Arroyo and Francois Mougeot (IREC, Ciudad Real, Spain) 2015-2016

As a research associate with the **Institute of Zoology London**, I have collaborated with Dr Richard Pettifor on clutch size evolution of Cape Wagtails in 2005 in South Africa, and assisted Dr Guy Cowlshaw with implementing his long-term study of baboon ecology in Namibia.

NRF Evaluation: Ranked C1, C2 grade researcher in 2006, 2010 and 2016 evaluations.

NRF Funding: Have been 100% successful with all applications for funding over the last 10 years, to undertake climate change research, cat impacts research and Black Harrier ecology and conservation.

Birdlife South Africa: I was appointed the Black Harrier **Species Guardian** and received funds 2013-2015.

Reviewer for:

- National Geographic Awards (USA);
- WWF (SA);
- IUCN threatened species committee (for CITES committee);
- Whitley Awards (UK);
- National Research Foundation (SA).

Referee for the following scientific journals:

Ambio, American Naturalist, Anatomical Record, Animal Behaviour, Auk, Austral Ecology, Behavioural Ecology & Sociobiology, Behavioral Ecology, Biological Conservation, Biol J. Linnean Soc, Bird Study, Condor, Hydrobiologia, Ibis, J of Applied Ecol, J of Avian Biology, J of Biodiversity, J of Zoology (London), J of African Raptor Biology, J of Raptor Research, Madoqua, Oecologia, Oikos, Oryx, Ostrich, PLOs1, Scientific Society Namibia, S Af J Science, S Af J Zool, Wilson Bulletin.

Editorial experience

- Associate Editor *Ibis* (2009-2012),
- formerly associate editor for *Ostrich* (15 y)
- Founder, editor, and co-manager of Gabar, a pan-African journal of raptor conservation and research from 1986-1988. (still published 30 years later)
- Principal editor of: *The status and conservation of wetlands in Namibia* (1990)
- Edited Romanian National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2007)
- Principal author/editor *Birds to Watch in Namibia: red, rare and endemic species* (2015)

Publications and Citations:

2 books, 9 book chapters, 6 Proceedings, 104 peer-reviewed papers, 4 book reviews, 70 popular articles .

H-Index 24, i-10 index 50, (Nov 2016), full information at:

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=Mjv8zisAAAAJ>

Referees

Prof Brian Huntley brian.huntley@durham.ac.uk;
Prof J Midgley jeremy.midgley@uct.ac.za;

Prof Ian Newton ine@ceh.ac.uk
Dr CL Seymour c.seymour@sanbi.org.za