

BOULDER DAM (HOLE 15):

A truly magnificent feature on the GWE alongside the 15th hole with a vast number of roosting spots, favoured by Heron, Egret, Sacred Ibis, Cormorant and Coot. The Southern Red Bishop favour these reed beds and they roost and breed here along the dam edges and with a bit of luck the Malachite Kingfisher will provide a flash of turquoise. It is home to the Lesser Swamp Warbler with Levillant's Cisticolas enjoying the surrounding grasslands.



CRESTED GREBE DAM (HOLE 16):

An unusual name for the dam. The first sighting of the Great Crested Grebe was recorded here with the bird being photographed on the dam in March 2012. A variety of duck and the resident Spotted Thick-knee's can always be found on or around the dam on the 16th. It is a very deep dam, originally a borrow-pit where soil and gravel was excavated for use in the construction of the Rockland's course. Lookout for White-breasted Cormorants on and around the dam.



WEAVER DAM (HOLE 17):

Originally referred to as 'O' dam adjacent to the 17th hole. The central island seen from the 17th tee is now home to hundreds of Southern Masked Weavers that busy themselves with nest building. The reed beds around the dam edges are popular breeding and nesting sites for Southern Red Bishops and Warblers. Coot, Yellow-billed Duck and Egyptian Geese are the most common species to be seen with occasional sightings of the Malachite Kingfisher.



THE COUNTRY CLUB
JOHANNESBURG



Key Birding Dams

Greater Woodmead Estate



WATER RESOURCES:

There are 13 dams on the estate of which six, Swan Lake, Gallinule Dam in the north, Weaver Dam, Crested Grebe and Boulder Dam in the west and Dabchick Dam adjacent to the main entrance gate in the east form part of the estates well designed irrigation system. Swan Lake Dam lies on the Woodmead stream drainage path north of the 11th tee and is the major source of water on the estate. Water is pumped from the Sandspruit to the Gallinule Dam, east of the 10th green on Woodmead, and then piped to the nearby Swan Lake. Here, the water is pumped to the Weaver, Crested Grebe, Boulder and Dabchick Dams for reticulation to the fairways and greens of both courses.

KEY BIRDING DAMS: Woodmead

LILY POND (HOLE 5):

Lily Pond is aptly named with its abundance of water lilies. Red-knobbed Coot favour sections on the dam and build large stick-rafts for nestling purposes. The Common Moorhen can be seen trotting over the large lily pads and very occasionally a Kingfisher can be spotted. The dam on the 5th periodically needs dredging as it becomes overgrown with lilies that prevent water flow.



NIGHT HERON (HOLE 12):

The degree of difficulty with the redesign of the 12th hole has increased and is now a challenge for long hitters going for the green. There is an abundance of large fish such as Carp, Bass, Tilapia and Barbel in this dam. Brightly coloured Koi are visible at the water's edge. The dam is clear of reeds and water plants and is the only dam with a fountain.



SWAN LAKE (HOLE 17):

Swan Lake which was deepened in 2012 is now the biggest dam on the estate, It is popular with Coot, Black Swans and a variety of Duck. Swan Lake is a feature of the second and 13th holes on Woodmead. Small pockets of reed beds attract Southern Red Bishops, Weavers and Warblers. It is a noisy dam with much bird activity.



GALLINULE DAM (HOLE 18):

Gallinule Dam located next to the tee boxes on hole 18 hosts secretive Purple Gallinule (renamed African Swamphen). The Swamphen is easily identifiable by its massive red bill, long legs and purplish colouration. In the breeding season the Southern Red Bishops roost and breed in the reed beds. Red-knobbed Coot can frequently be observed building their island nests with Moorhen venturing out along the dam wall and surrounding fairway.



KEY BIRDING DAMS: Rocklands

SACRED IBIS DAM (HOLE 7):

In 2013 the dam at the 7th was re-constructed and is now a very pleasing feature to this difficult hole which sees many golf balls finding the water hazard. Flocks of African Sacred Ibis have always favoured this dam with its shallow surrounds. The inclusion of boulders have provided Cormorant, Egret and Scared Ibis a resting and preening area.

