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*The Black Harrier *Circus maurus* is endemic to southern Africa. It has the smallest range of any harrier species in the world and is therefore potentially at risk. The main threat it faces is habitat loss, especially the disappearance of renosterveld. Assessing its population accurately is difficult because it is nomadic and its breeding depends on local conditions. In years of good rainfall, it will breed in certain areas and then disappear in subsequent years if conditions become unsuitable. In flight, it is easily identified by its contrasting black and white plumage pattern, especially its distinctive white rump. It hunts in typical harrier fashion, with low quartering flights and then suddenly pouncing on its prey.*

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