



**SOUTH AFRICA: BIRDING AND WILDLIFE ADVENTURE  
CUSTOM TRIP REPORT**

**9 - 20 MARCH 2020**

**By Dylan Vasapolli**



*The secretive **Red-chested Flufftail** was one of the main sightings on the tour.*

## Overview

This 12-day custom tour was specifically set up for a group of four returning clients, John, Margo, Gerry, and Chris, taking in different parts of South Africa compared to the previous tour. The tour began in Johannesburg, and after a brief introduction to the largest city in the country we ventured northward to the diverse Rust de Winter area, our first dedicated stop where we spent a few nights. After thoroughly exploring the area we continued northward to the montane forests of the Magoebaskloof hills east of Polokwane before eventually returning back to Johannesburg and continuing to the mother city, Cape Town, for the next leg of the tour. After a belated arrival in Cape Town we transferred inland, first to Paarl, where we got our first taste of fynbos, and then to the Tankwa Karoo, which we set about exploring. Following our time in this stark area we veered back to the coast, calling in at Langebaan on the west coast north of Cape Town for our final stop of the tour. After exploring the delightful West Coast National Park and surroundings the tour came to an end back in Cape Town.



*Finding the unique **Bat Hawk** was one of the biggest surprises of the tour.*

Taking place at the end of the austral summer, in March, rain was a strong possibility on the eastern leg of the trip, and we were very fortunate to have only a limited amount of rain that had a rather negligible impact on the birding, while the Cape leg saw us experiencing the sunny, windy days characteristic of the season. The tour generally ran smoothly, although at the very end of the tour the national state of disaster declared by the South African government due to the COVID-19 pandemic caused some restrictions, which required a bit of change but fortunately didn't adversely affect the tour. As a whole the birding was good, and we did well to record well over 300 species on this route with many of this area's prized specials successfully being found.

Some of the tour highlights included **Purple-crested Turaco, Karoo Korhaan, Red-chested Flufftail, Blue Crane, African Oystercatcher, Chestnut-banded Plover, Eurasian Curlew, Red-necked Phalarope, Black-winged Pratincole, Bank and Crowned Cormorants, Little Bittern, Black Heron, Cape Vulture, Bat Hawk, Lesser Spotted, Booted, and Verreaux's Eagles, Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk, Jackal Buzzard, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, Woodland Kingfisher, Olive Woodpecker, Lanner and Amur Falcons, Cape Parrot, Black-fronted Bushshrike, Crimson-breasted Shrike, White-crested Helmetshrike, Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher, Fairy Flycatcher, Grey Tit, Cape Penduline Tit, Karoo, Cape Clapper, and Flappet Larks, Yellow-streaked Greenbul, Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler, Icterine, Marsh, and Olive-tree Warblers, Barratt's Warbler, Red-faced and Grey-backed Cisticolas, Drakensberg Prinia, Namaqua, Rufous-eared, and Cinnamon-breasted Warblers, Barred Wren-Warbler, Karoo Eremomela, Layard's Warbler, Cape Sugarbird, Kalahari and Brown Scrub Robins, White-throated and Chorister Robin-Chats, Karoo and Tractrac Chats, Orange-breasted, Scarlet-chested, and Marico Sunbirds, Long-tailed Widowbird, Green Twinspot, Swee and Black-faced Waxbills, Dusky Indigobird, Shaft-tailed and Long-tailed Paradise Whydahs, Cuckoo-finch, Bushveld Pipit, Forest and Protea Canaries, and Lark-like Bunting.** While mammals weren't a big feature on this route, we did manage to pick up a few, including **Samango Monkey, Black-backed Jackal, Banded Mongoose, Hippopotamus, African Buffalo, Common Eland, Springbok, and Cape Fur Seal.** Various lists can be found at the end of this report.

### Detailed Report

#### **Day 1, March 9 2020. Arrival in Johannesburg**

The group arrived in Johannesburg in the late morning, and we transferred to our comfortable lodge nearby and settled in. We relaxed for a bit, enjoying catching up with one another, before getting going later in the afternoon with a trip to the nearby Korsman Bird Sanctuary, where we spent the remainder of the day. Westdene Pan, on which the sanctuary is based, had a very high water level and thus had a far reduced number of waterbirds present on the dam itself. Despite this we still enjoyed some good birding around the pan and surrounding suburbs, which were great in allowing us to familiarize ourselves with some of the area's birds. The pan and surrounding grassy areas held species such as **Swainson's Spurfowl, Goliath and Black-headed Herons, Little Bittern, Intermediate Egret,** numbers of **Egyptian and Spur-winged Geese, African Sacred Ibis, White-breasted and Reed Cormorants, African Darter, and Black Crake** among others and also held **Levaillant's Cisticola** and **Lesser Swamp Warbler.** The suburbs surrounding the pan were also heaving with birds, and we enjoyed a wide array of various species, including **Speckled and Red-faced Mousebirds, Grey Go-away-bird, African Olive and African Green Pigeons, Black-collared and Crested Barbets, Green Wood Hoopoe, Thick-billed Weaver, and Red-headed Finch.** Following a pretty successful afternoon we enjoyed the first of many sundowners.



**Day 2, March 10 2020. Transfer from Johannesburg to Rust de Winter, birding en-route**

We were up at sunrise, and following breakfast we checked out of our comfortable lodge and made the short transfer to the excellent Rietvlei Nature Reserve near Pretoria. Here we spent the morning birding the reserve, driving some of its many roads, exploring the various picnic sites and hides, and coming up with a decent array of species. The huge and ungainly **Common Ostrich** entertained us early on, and the grasslands also supported the likes of **Swainson's Spurfowl**, **Rufous-naped Lark**, **Zitting** and **Levaillant's Cisticolas**, **Banded Martin**, **Pied Starling**, **African Stonechat**, **Red-collared** and **Long-tailed Widowbirds**, **Common Waxbill**, **African Pipit**, and **Cape Longclaw**, with the undoubted highlight being a great sighting of the scarce **Cuckoo-finch** – a juvenile bird feeding on and near the road, very close to us, for some time! A high water level meant that there weren't too many waterbirds on the various waterbodies, but we did eke out **Yellow-billed Duck** and **Hamerkop** among other more widespread species. A single **Hippopotamus** was perhaps the highlight for us here. The last of the areas we explored were the wooded areas around the picnic sites and on the verges of the river, and this area was fortunately very birdy following the slightly disappointing waterbirds. Here we enjoyed **Grey Go-away-bird**, **Diederik Cuckoo**, **Spotted Thick-knee**, **Red-faced Mousebird**, **African Hoopoe**, **African Grey Hornbill**, **Red-throated Wryneck**, the stunning **Crimson-breasted Shrike**, **Bokmakierie**, **Cape Grassbird**, **Black-chested Prinia**, **Willow Warbler**, and **Groundscraper Thrush**. During our time in the reserve we also found a number of mammals, namely **Black-backed Jackal**, **Yellow Mongoose**, **Plains Zebra**, **African Buffalo**, **Common Eland**, **Waterbuck**, **Black Wildebeest**, **Red Hartebeest**, and **Blesbok**.



*The diminutive Pearl-spotted Owlet showed well.*

Following a satisfying lunch we completed the journey to Rust de Winter, where we checked into our stunning lodge. The latter part of the day was spent birding on the property, and we had our first taste of birding in the acacia thornveld that dominates this area. Although a bit on the quiet side, a glorious sighting of a **Pearl-spotted Owlet** started our afternoon well, and we also enjoyed **Brown Snake Eagle, Striped Kingfisher, Black-headed Oriole, Chinspot Batis**, a large group of the snazzy **White-crested Helmetshrike, Red-backed Shrike, Red-billed Oxpecker, Spotted Flycatcher**, stunning **Blue Waxbills**, and **Cinnamon-breasted Bunting**. Also present in the area were the majestic **Greater Kudu, Nyala, Impala**, and our first **Vervet Monkeys**. We settled in for the evening, enjoying our sundowners overlooking this stunning area.

### Day 3, March 11 2020. Full day birding Rust de Winter and surroundings

We had an early start as we departed for some of the backroads around the small village of Rust de Winter. The area is cloaked primarily in dry acacia thornveld, and we set about slowly working it and enjoyed a wonderful morning of birding. A coffee stop early on saw us in the midst of an immensely active area, and we didn't have to move far with birds all around us for some time. The trees held **Jacobin Cuckoo, Orange-breasted Bushshrike, Black-backed Puffback, Southern Boubou**, and **Chestnut-vented Warbler** (Tit-babbler), while the powerlines were adorned with **Amur Falcon, Woodland Kingfisher, Red-breasted and Lesser Striped Swallows**, and both **Burchell's and Cape Starlings**, and the grassy edges hosted **White-throated Robin-Chat, Rattling Cisticola**, secretive **Marsh Warblers**, and **Black-faced Waxbill** among others. Continuing we picked up further bouts of activity, which provided **Diederik Cuckoo, Brown-hooded Kingfisher, Magpie Shrike, Long-billed Crombec, Burnt-necked Eremomela, Marico Sunbird**, and **Red-billed Quelea**. With the morning warming up quite substantially already the activity did drop off notably, and our last stop of the morning yielded **European Bee-eater, Southern White-crowned Shrike, Red-billed Buffalo Weaver, Scaly-feathered Weaver** (Finch), **White-winged Widowbird**, and **Jameson's Firefinch**. As we made our way back to the lodge for a late breakfast the birding didn't stop, and we added **Lesser Spotted Eagle, Common Buzzard, Lilac-breasted Roller, White-fronted Bee-eater, Southern Red-billed Hornbill**, and **Black-throated Canary** rounding up what was a fantastic morning.

We took it easy over the midday period and resumed birding later in the afternoon with a visit to the nearby Rust de Winter Dam Nature Reserve. In general the afternoon was relatively quiet with a surprising paucity of birds, but we did pick up a few bouts of activity, starting near the gate, where we found a confiding **Flappet Lark** along with **Cinnamon-breasted and Golden-breasted Buntings, Southern Black Flycatcher**, and **Long-tailed Paradise Whydah**. The dam boosted high water levels – a testament to the goods rains of this season, which meant that the water specialists were somewhat lacking here, and we found only a few, which included **African Fish Eagle, Squacco Heron, White-winged Tern**, and **Giant Kingfisher**. It took some searching, but our birding in the woodland on the dam's edge was eventually rewarded with a heap of activity, which provided over 20 species of birds bounding around one spot, some of which were **Crested Francolin, Natal Spurfowl, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird**, the scarce **Icterine Warbler, Brown-crowned Tchagra, Grey-backed Camaroptera, Burnt-necked Eremomela, Spotted Flycatcher, Cape White-eye**, and **Yellow-fronted Canary**. Besides birds we also noted mammals such as **Common Warthog, Blue Wildebeest, Greater Kudu, Waterbuck**, and the inquisitive **Banded Mongoose**, while a **Water Monitor** was the reptilian addition. All too soon

our time in the reserve had come to an end, and we made our way onward to our sundowner spot, where we settled in and enjoyed the glorious sunset before retiring for the evening.



*The stunning White-throated Robin-Chat is a frequently overlooked denizens of the area.*

#### **Day 4, March 12 2020. Birding Rust de Winter and surroundings**

We started the day early once more as we headed to the nearby Zaagkuilsdrift Road, where we would spend the morning birding this famous area. We had a good start to the morning, finding a **Greater Honeyguide** shortly after getting onto the road, and we continued with our first coffee/tea stop a short while later producing many birds. The wetland areas held **Knob-billed Duck, Black Heron, African Darter, Striated Heron, African Fish Eagle, and Pied Kingfisher**, while the surrounding woodlands held **Natal Spurfowl, Burchell's Coucal, Red-faced Mousebird, Woodland Kingfisher**, the scarce **Eurasian Hobby, Southern Boubou, Long-billed Crombec**, a pair of the prized **Cape Penduline Tits, Marico Flycatcher, White-browed Scrub Robin, Green-winged Pytilia, and Jameson's Firefinch**. We slowly worked the road, picking up others including **Wahlberg's Eagle, Namaqua Dove, Lilac-breasted and European Rollers, Crimson-breasted Shrike, Wattled Starling, White-browed Sparrow-Weaver, Shaft-tailed Whydah, and Village Indigobird**. Then we neared the outskirts of the village of Kgomo-Kgomo, which include a large floodplain. Although it was warming up considerably the surrounding dry acacia scrub produced a few skittish **Olive-tree Warblers** – our views of which left us wanting more – before we started to explore the floodplain. There wasn't much water around, and birds were likewise a bit sparse, but we did eke out **White-faced Whistling Duck, Red-billed Teal, African Jacana, Wood Sandpiper, the snazzy Black-winged Pratincole, Yellow-billed Stork, Black-chested Snake Eagle, Yellow-crowned Bishop, and White-winged Widowbird**, with a few **Cape Vultures** passing by overhead and a number of **Sedge Warblers** frustrating us from the



reeds. We then returned to the acacia thornveld surrounding the village, which we worked for a little while, eventually laying eyes on a **Barred Wren-Warbler**, with further attempts at **Olive-tree Warbler** only yielding even poorer views, although a number of **Long-billed Crombecs** and **White-bellied Sunbirds** did keep us company.

For lunch and bit of a break we returned to the lodge before heading out in the afternoon again to explore some of the backroads around Rust de Winter. We began with trying for **Verreaux's Eagle Owl**. The site was very overgrown with grass and vegetation and was difficult to negotiate, but our efforts were rewarded as we obtained excellent views of a pair of these large owls. Sadly an approaching storm front saw the wind picking up (with ominous thunder and some drizzle) and the birding dropping off, and we eventually called it a day with not much moving around. We settled in for another run of sundowners back at the lodge with the approaching storm front looming in the distance. A good dinner capped off our stay here, and the storm front eventually caught up with us. It kept raining throughout the evening.



*After a concerted effort we found the large Verreaux's Eagle Owl.*

### **Day 5, March 13 2020. Transfer from Rust de Winter to Magoebaskloof**

We began the day with an early morning walk around the lodge and surroundings, but it was by and large quiet and very slow – probably due to the windy, cool, and overcast conditions, some leftover traces of the previous evening's storm. A group of **Arrow-marked Babblers** and a few **Southern Black Flycatchers** were present near the lodge, and we had to wait a while until our next bird, which was a lone **Southern Black Tit**, came foraging along. A **Black Sparrowhawk** shot overhead and left us wanting a bit more before we headed farther into the woodlands surrounding the lodge, and, with a bit of sun poking through the clouds, found our first real activity. It started well with a pair of vocal **Bushveld Pipits** that gave us some exceptional views, along

with others such as **Red-backed Shrike**, **Chinspot Batis**, **Golden-breasted Bunting**, and **Black-throated Canary**. We eventually tracked down a calling **Emerald-spotted Wood Dove** before birding the lodge surroundings once more, which delivered **Lesser Honeyguide** and **African Paradise Flycatcher**. Following breakfast we gathered our things and had to bid this stunning lodge farewell as we set off for the Magoebaskloof hills, where we would spend the next two nights. Our first birding stop en route was near Polokwane, where we tried for **Short-clawed Lark** and had to put a lot of effort into searching the area extensively until we eventually heard an individual. It wasn't to be, though, as the bird just kept getting farther away from us, no matter how much closer we went, frustrating us all the while, and finally we gave up without having been able to lay eyes on this localized species. We made our way through the Magoebaskloof hills and checked into our comfortable hotel before heading out for the afternoon. As montane forest birding goes, it is often quiet, and we had a pretty slow afternoon despite the good and sunny weather. We eventually found some activity in the forest, which started with a lively **Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler** that eventually showed well before a party began forming with **Yellow-streaked Greenbul** popping up. A harsh call revealed the scarce **Black-fronted Bushshrike**, and we managed to get views of this sought-after species, while others such as **Grey Cuckooshrike**, **Square-tailed Drongo**, and **Forest Canary** all left us wanting more with only brief views. We settled in for our customary sundowner, hoping for a flyby of the scarce Cape Parrot, but we were only rewarded with some parrots calling in the distance.



*We had several great and extended views of the localized and scarce **Black-fronted Bushshrike**.*

#### **Day 6, March 14 2020. Full day birding the Magoebaskloof area**

We started the day with an early breakfast, after which we set out to the Woodbush Forest Reserve area, where we would spend the remainder of the morning. En route we encountered a group of



perched **Cape Parrots** that showed exceptionally well atop some dead trees, after which we continued to the montane forest proper. We had a very quiet initial period, and just as we were about to give up and progress a bit farther we saw a **Yellow-streaked Greenbul** flitting about the trees next to our car, and before we knew it we were in the midst of an immense bird party that kept us enthralled for the next half an hour or so. Here we enjoyed a very confiding pair of **Black-fronted Bushshrikes** along with **Cape Batis**, **Cape White-eye**, **Bar-throated Apalis**, **Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher**, **Olive Woodpecker**, **Chorister Robin-Chat**, **Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler**, and a few brief **Forest Canaries**. We eventually had to draw ourselves away from all the activity, but another spell of activity a bit farther along produced **Common Square-tailed Drongo**, **Grey Cuckooshrike**, **Olive Bushshrike**, and a great sighting of **African Harrier-Hawk**. We then moved away from the montane forests and into some more open grassland areas, where we spent some time, noting **Jackal Buzzard**, **Drakensberg Prinia**, **Cape Grassbird**, **Yellow Bishop**, **Sweet Waxbill**, and **African Firefinch**, while a **Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk** gave us a good flyby, as did the many **Black Saw-wings** present in the area. A number of **African Black Ducks** were noted on a nearby dam before we headed back into the montane forest. Here we picked up a few more scarce birds such as a glorious family of **Green Twinspots**, while a **White-starred Robin** left us wanting more. We also managed to improve our views of **Forest Canary** while a noisy pair of **African Crowned Eagles** displayed overhead.



*The prized **Cape Parrot** was one of many highlights of the Magoebaskloof area.*

We took a break over lunch at one of the area's great breweries and then over the early afternoon and resumed birding later in the day. We wanted to try our hand at the Debengeni Falls but found the area to be temporarily closed, so we continued to the Tzaneen Dam Nature Reserve, where we spent the rest of our time. We had a few rain showers to contend with while here, but our undoubted highlight came from a stunning **Bat Hawk** we found perched right next to the road which gave us

all excellent views. Other birds seen while we worked the area included **Emerald-spotted Wood Dove**, **African Green Pigeon**, the stunning **Purple-crested Turaco**, **Red-faced Cisticola**, **Yellow-breasted Apalis**, **Scarlet-chested** and **Collared Sunbirds**, and **Dusky Indigobird**. Then we returned to the hotel for the evening.

### Day 7, March 15 2020. Transfer from Magoebaskloof to Cape Town

With a relatively long transfer day for us, as we ultimately had to make our way to Cape Town, we had only a limited time in the morning available and spent it birding around the hotel grounds. It was a cool morning with a bit of wind and some fog, but as the sun gradually came out things started picking up. First were sightings of both **African Pied** and **Cape Wagtails**, followed by a brief and very unexpected **Common Buttonquail** that was flushed from a flower bed before our first 'proper' bird was a pair of skulking **Barratt's Warblers**. We heard their contact call, and after a bit of patience and some playback we were eventually rewarded with some good, albeit typically brief, views of this bird. A vocal **Brown Scrub Robin** was not as difficult and showed extremely well before a **Green-backed Camaroptera** played a bit of hide-and-seek with us. Before we returned to our accommodation for breakfast we also found **Cape Batis**, **Sombre Greenbul**, **Cape White-eye**, **Greater Double-collared Sunbird**, and **African Firefinch**. After breakfast we made the longish drive back to Johannesburg, from where we took a flight to Cape Town, and except for a two-hour delay of our flight things went smoothly, although it did turn into a late evening for us, as we checked in at our comfortable accommodation in Paarl after dark.



*The stunning **Greater Double-collared Sunbird** kept us entertained in the morning.*

**Day 8, March 16 2020. Transfer from Paarl to the Tankwa Karoo**

We had a relatively short transfer today, and due to our late evening had a slightly more relaxed breakfast before checking out and beginning our birding along the nearby Du Toitskloof Pass. Despite a recent fire that had raged through the area there was still some natural vegetation left, which was very birdy, and soon after getting out of the car we were rewarded with **Karoo Prinia**, the stunning **Cape Sugarbird**, and the beautiful **Orange-breasted Sunbird**. As we slowly worked the fynbos we found our main target for the area, the scarce and sought-after **Protea Canary**, which showed well for us on a number of occasions. We spent some more time in the area and managed to add a few more-widespread species to the list here, which included **Rock Martin**, **Cape Rock Thrush**, **Fiscal Flycatcher**, **Red-winged Starling**, **Southern Double-collared Sunbird**, and **Cape White-eye**, while a **Victorin's Warbler** frustrated us by remaining out of sight. We continued to the Gydo Pass near Ceres, which was our next stop, but it being later in the morning it was quiet on the birding side. We did, however, manage to see **Alpine** and **African Black Swifts**, **Cape Robin-Chat**, **Grey-backed Cisticola**, **Neddicky**, and **Cape Bunting** before we got lucky with a pair of displaying **Verreaux's Eagles** that put on a show high overhead. We broke for lunch in town and then completed the journey to the Tankwa Karoo, where we would be based for two nights as we explored the area.



*The highly prized **Cinnamon-breasted Warbler** is one of the main targets of the area, and we were treated to a real show from this individual.*

We arrived in good time and checked into our rustic yet comfortable lodge before setting out on a walk around the property for the afternoon. It was an excellent walk, and we made a good head start on many of the area's specials. Early sightings were **Rock Martin** and **Cape Bunting**, but our first real excitement came when we watched a nearby **Karoo Scrub Robin** hopping around



before we heard a **Layard's Warbler** (Tit-babbler) call, which showed well in no time. A short distance farther we heard the shrill notes of the highly prized **Cinnamon-breasted Warbler**, and a quick scurry farther along had us in prime position. We spent a good five minutes watching this scarce bird sitting atop an aloe, preening, and going about its business. We eventually drew ourselves away and continued exploring the slightly mountainous area, where we picked up **Familiar Chat**, the dainty **Fairy Flycatcher**, **Southern Double-collared Sunbird**, **Common Waxbill**, **White-throated Canary**, and **Lark-like Bunting**. We then settled in for sundowners and a good meal before retiring for the evening.

### Day 9, March 17 2020. Full day in the Tankwa Karoo

Following an early breakfast, we headed into the vast open expanses of the Tankwa Karoo and set about finding its many special birds. Our morning started with a pair of **Steenboks** near the road, while **Rufous-eared Warbler** proved to be our first bird of the day, which, although it was a bit distant, showed well! A few groups of **Grey-backed Sparrow-Larks** were working the area along with **Yellow Canary** and **Lark-like Bunting**. We had paused for our first **Large-billed Lark** when we picked up the faint calls of **Karoo Eremomela**, one of the most prized species of the region. A short distance away a small group of the eremomelas moved around, a bit of playback brought them close to us, and we all reveled in this great sighting, taking in the birds' subtle colors. A pair of the scarce **Tractrac Chats** were also working the area and proved a good distraction once we had our fill of the eremomelas.



*The prized **Karoo Eremomela** is another of the main targets of the dry karoo.*

**Karoo Korhaan** was proving a tough customer to find, and we had to work very hard before we eventually found a calling group, one of which showed as it crossed a track but ultimately left us

wanting more. A stop for a low-flying **Black-chested Snake Eagle**, a rare bird in the area, allowed us to track down the sought-after **Karoo Lark** as well. At a final stop in the Karoopoort area we were enjoying a stunning **Namaqua Warbler** that fortunately hadn't taken too long to find. During the course of the morning we encountered many other species, including **Pale Chanting Goshawk**, **White-backed Mousebird**, **Rock Kestrel**, **Bokmakierie**, **Cape Bulbul**, **Red-capped Lark**, **Karoo Chat**, **Mountain Wheatear**, **Long-billed Crombec**, **Karoo Prinia**, **Chestnut-vented Warbler**, **Southern Double-collared Sunbird**, **Cape Weaver**, and **Cape Bunting**.

Following our highly successful morning outing, and with the heat fairly intense, we returned to our comfortable lodge for a break over the midday period. The afternoon saw the heat intensify further and the wind pick up seriously, and we deferred our plans until later in the day, hoping for a slight reprieve. By the time we did get going, settling on a walk around the property, the heat was more bearable, but the wind was just as strong as before, and we did have a quiet afternoon filled with limited activity. We did pick up a few species such as **Karoo Scrub Robin**, **Pied Starling**, **White-throated** and **Yellow Canaries**, **Cape Bunting**, and a **Three-banded Plover** at a dam but little else. We settled in for another enjoyable evening in the Tankwa Karoo.

#### **Day 10, March 18 2020. Transfer from the Tankwa Karoo to Langebaan**

We had a long transfer ahead of us today, and following an early breakfast we checked out and started the journey to the coastal town of Langebaan, where we would be based for two nights as we explored the west coast. We made a few birding stops en route as we passed through the scenic Cederberg Mountains. Our first stop saw us trying for the secretive **Red-chested Flufftail**, and after hearing a bird and patiently trying for a while we were rewarded with excellent views of a male as it walked about in the open, albeit for a brief period. **Little Rush Warbler** showed in the same wetland, while some nearby acacias held **Fairy Flycatcher** and **Layard's Warbler**. **Cape Clapper Lark** was next to present itself, and we enjoyed great views of this prized endemic sitting atop a rock, with a **Karoo Lark** nearby for good comparison. Our birding stops halted as we commenced the drive proper, and soon enough we were arriving at Velddrif, where we had our picnic lunch and set out to bird some of the saltworks in the area. A number of common species were quickly noted, including **Kelp** and **Hartlaub's Gulls**, **Little Egret**, **Pied Kingfisher**, and **Common Starling**, while some of the drier agricultural fields produced a fine pair of **Blue Cranes**, the national bird of South Africa, along with **Capped Wheatear**.

Just as we arrived at the saltworks the wind drastically picked up, much to our dismay, and we tried birding on foot, but it was just too difficult; we were barely able to keep anything still, and huge amounts of salt and dust being blowing around further worsened things. We resorted to birding from the car, which proved to be a good move as we found some of the key species of the area, such as **Lesser Flamingo**, **Black-necked Grebe**, **Chestnut-banded Plover**, and a rarity in the form of a **Red-necked Phalarope**, which showed well! Other species seen here included **Great Crested Grebe**, **Cape Teal**, **Greater Flamingo**, **Little Stint**, **Kittlitz's** and **Common Ringed Plovers**, **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Little Stint**, and **Caspian Tern**. We eventually cut our losses here and continued to Langebaan, where we checked in and freshened up before heading out for the afternoon. We drove into the nearby excellent West Coast National Park, where we had time to explore the area around the Seeberg hide. The renosterveld scrub was quiet but did produce a number of **Cape Spurfowls** and **Common Ostriches** along with **Grey-backed Cisticola**, **Karoo Scrub Robin**, and **Yellow** and **White-throated Canaries**, while the hide itself held a fairly

‘normal’ suite of shorebirds including **Common Whimbrel, Grey Plover, Common Greenshank, Sanderling, Curlew Sandpiper, White-fronted, Kittlitz’s, and Common Ringed Plovers, Ruddy Turnstone,** and the stunning **African Black Oystercatcher.** With time running out we called it a day and made our way to another part of the town, where we settled in for our sundowner within view of a pair of **Verreaux’s Eagles** and their large nest. We couldn’t have asked for a better way to end the evening!



*The endemic Cape Clapper Lark is a sought-after fynbos endemic!*

### Day 11, March 19 2020. Full day birding the West Coast

We had a full day at our disposal, and used it to explore the large West Coast National Park, since we had only scraped its surface yesterday. Despite the good and sunny weather it was an extremely quiet morning as we worked our way south from the Seeberg area to the Abrahamskraal waterhole, which is the only source of freshwater in the park. There were a number of the more common and widespread species present along the way, such as **Cape Spurfowl, White-backed Mousebird, Bokmakierie, Cape Bulbul, Grey-backed Cisticola, Karoo Prinia, Pied Starling, Cape Robin-Chat, Southern Double-collared Sunbird, Cape Weaver, and Cape Bunting,** but little else, and our search for some of the specials was tough. We eventually found a vocal **Grey Tit** near the waterhole before enjoying our picnic breakfast overlooking the waterhole. As usual there was a hive of activity around Abrahamskraal, and we spent some time enjoying all the birds, which included a flock of **Common Ostriches, Cape Shoveler, Cape Teal,** a few families of **Black Crake** all sporting chicks, **African Swamphen, Little Grebe, African Sacred Ibis, Grey Heron, Lesser Swamp Warbler, and Karoo Scrub Robin,** among others. We then pressed onwards to the Geelbek area on the southern end of the lagoon for a dose of wader/shorebird watching to coincide with the correct tides. There were heaps of birds seen on the incoming tide, all as they



gradually got closer and closer to the hide, and we spent a while enjoying the many species seen. The majority of the birds seen here were **Common Greenshanks** and **Curlew Sandpipers**, while **Grey Plover**, **Eurasian Whimbrel**, **Sanderling**, and **Common Ringed Plover** were also fairly common, and there were only a few **Eurasian Curlews** and **Little Stints** present. **Pied Avocet** and **Black-winged Stilt** were dotted about between as were a handful of **African Oystercatchers**, while numbers of **Greater Flamingos** and **Great White Pelicans** frequented the deeper water. **Hartlaub's** and **Kelp Gulls** and **Caspian**, **Sandwich**, and **Greater Crested Terns** worked the lagoon while we watched. As the birds moved away to their high-tide roosting areas we too moved on.

A change in the day's plans had to be made due to the very recently implemented COVID-19-related restrictions, meaning that we would have to have an early dinner, so we opted to forgo lunch and 'survive' on the snacks we had. We called in at the coast to try our hand at any pelagic species, but a dedicated watch could only reveal **Kelp Gulls** and nothing else. The shoreline had a bit more activity, and throngs of gulls were all busily feeding on a beached whale in the distance. We also enjoyed the antics of some of the local **Cape Fur Seals**, while a pod of dolphins went unidentified. The rocks gave us all the marine **Cormorants**, namely **Cape**, **Crowned**, **Bank**, and **White-breasted**, before we started making our way out of the park to a slightly early dinner. We wrapped the tour over a bottle of wine, reminiscing about the many birds and excellent sightings we had had.



*One of the many **Greater Flamingos** frequenting the Langebaan Lagoon*

### **Day 12, March 20 2020. Departure from Cape Town**

The last day of the tour had sadly arrived, and following a great breakfast we checked out and made our way to Cape Town International Airport, where the tour would come to a close. After

some time at the airport due to changes that needed to be made for flights for the group we said our good-byes at the end of a successful South African tour.



*Protea Canary is a difficult fynbos endemic, and we fortunately had a great sighting on this tour!*

I would just like to thank the group for making the trip all the more enjoyable and for contributing to all the excellent birds seen and the good times had. The highlights were too many to mention, although our success with a stunning male Red-chested Flufftail was a major highlight! Despite a few slight hiccups toward the end the tour went ahead smoothly and was a success. I look forward to doing this again with the group in the near future!

**Bird List - Following IOC 10.1**

Birds 'heard only' are marked with (H) after the common name, birds seen only by the guide are marked with a (G) after the common name, all other species were seen.

The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following BirdLife International: VU = Vulnerable, NT = Near Threatened. South Africa endemics are bolded.

| Common name                                 | Scientific name                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Ostriches (Struthionidae)</b>            |                                   |
| Common Ostrich                              | <i>Struthio camelus</i>           |
| <b>Guineafowl (Numididae)</b>               |                                   |
| Helmeted Guineafowl                         | <i>Numida meleagris</i>           |
| <b>Pheasants &amp; Allies (Phasianidae)</b> |                                   |
| Crested Francolin                           | <i>Dendroperdix sephaena</i>      |
| Natal Spurfowl                              | <i>Pternistis natalensis</i>      |
| <b>Cape Spurfowl</b>                        | <b><i>Pternistis capensis</i></b> |
| Swainson's Spurfowl                         | <i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>      |
| <b>Ducks, Geese, Swans (Anatidae)</b>       |                                   |
| White-faced Whistling Duck                  | <i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>        |
| Spur-winged Goose                           | <i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>    |
| Knob-billed Duck                            | <i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>     |
| Egyptian Goose                              | <i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>       |
| Cape Shoveler                               | <i>Spatula smithii</i>            |
| African Black Duck                          | <i>Anas sparsa</i>                |
| Yellow-billed Duck                          | <i>Anas undulata</i>              |
| Cape Teal                                   | <i>Anas capensis</i>              |
| Red-billed Teal                             | <i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>        |
| <b>Swifts (Apodidae)</b>                    |                                   |
| African Palm Swift                          | <i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>           |
| Alpine Swift                                | <i>Tachymarptis melba</i>         |
| African Black Swift                         | <i>Apus barbatus</i>              |
| Little Swift                                | <i>Apus affinis</i>               |
| White-rumped Swift                          | <i>Apus caffer</i>                |
| <b>Turacos (Musophagidae)</b>               |                                   |



| <b>Common name</b>                          | <b>Scientific name</b>            |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Knysna Turaco (H)                           | <i>Tauraco corythaix</i>          |
| Purple-crested Turaco                       | <i>Tauraco porphyreolophus</i>    |
| Grey Go-away-bird                           | <i>Corythaixoides concolor</i>    |
| <b>Bustards (Otididae)</b>                  |                                   |
| Karoo Korhaan                               | <i>Eupodotis vigorsii</i>         |
| <b>Cuckoos (Cuculidae)</b>                  |                                   |
| Burchell's Coucal                           | <i>Centropus burchellii</i>       |
| Jacobin Cuckoo                              | <i>Clamator jacobinus</i>         |
| Diederik Cuckoo                             | <i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>       |
| <b>Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)</b>          |                                   |
| Rock Dove                                   | <i>Columba livia</i>              |
| Speckled Pigeon                             | <i>Columba guinea</i>             |
| African Olive Pigeon                        | <i>Columba arquatrix</i>          |
| Red-eyed Dove                               | <i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>  |
| Ring-necked Dove                            | <i>Streptopelia capicola</i>      |
| Laughing Dove                               | <i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>    |
| Emerald-spotted Wood Dove                   | <i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>        |
| Namaqua Dove                                | <i>Oena capensis</i>              |
| African Green Pigeon                        | <i>Treron calvus</i>              |
| <b>Flufftails (Scolothruridae)</b>          |                                   |
| Red-chested Flufftail                       | <i>Scolothrura rufa</i>           |
| <b>Rails, Crakes &amp; Coots (Rallidae)</b> |                                   |
| Black Crake                                 | <i>Amaurornis flavirostra</i>     |
| African Swamphen                            | <i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i> |
| Common Moorhen                              | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>        |
| Red-knobbed Coot                            | <i>Fulica cristata</i>            |
| <b>Grebes (Podicipedidae)</b>               |                                   |
| Little Grebe                                | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>     |
| Great Crested Grebe                         | <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>         |
| Black-necked Grebe                          | <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>       |
| <b>Flamingos (Phoenicopteridae)</b>         |                                   |
| Greater Flamingo                            | <i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>      |

| <b>Common name</b>                             | <b>Scientific name</b>         |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Lesser Flamingo – NT                           | <i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>     |
| <b>Buttonquails (Turnicidae)</b>               |                                |
| Common Buttonquail (G)                         | <i>Turnix sylvaticus</i>       |
| <b>Stone-curlews, Thick-knees (Burhinidae)</b> |                                |
| Spotted Thick-knee                             | <i>Burhinus capensis</i>       |
| <b>Oystercatchers (Haematopodidae)</b>         |                                |
| African Oystercatcher                          | <i>Haematopus moquini</i>      |
| <b>Stilts, Avocets (Recurvirostridae)</b>      |                                |
| Black-winged Stilt                             | <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>   |
| Pied Avocet                                    | <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>  |
| <b>Plovers (Charadriidae)</b>                  |                                |
| Blacksmith Lapwing                             | <i>Vanellus armatus</i>        |
| Crowned Lapwing                                | <i>Vanellus coronatus</i>      |
| Grey Plover                                    | <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>    |
| Common Ringed Plover                           | <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>    |
| Kittlitz's Plover                              | <i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>    |
| Three-banded Plover                            | <i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>  |
| White-fronted Plover                           | <i>Charadrius marginatus</i>   |
| Chestnut-banded Plover – NT                    | <i>Charadrius pallidus</i>     |
| <b>Jacanas (Jacanidae)</b>                     |                                |
| African Jacana                                 | <i>Actophilornis africanus</i> |
| <b>Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopacidae)</b>       |                                |
| Eurasian Whimbrel                              | <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>       |
| Eurasian Curlew – NT                           | <i>Numenius arquata</i>        |
| Ruddy Turnstone                                | <i>Arenaria interpres</i>      |
| Ruff   | <i>Calidris pugnax</i>         |
| Curlew Sandpiper – NT                          | <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>     |
| Sanderling                                     | <i>Calidris alba</i>           |
| Little Stint                                   | <i>Calidris minuta</i>         |
| Red-necked Phalarope                           | <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>      |
| Wood Sandpiper                                 | <i>Tringa glareola</i>         |
| Common Greenshank                              | <i>Tringa nebularia</i>        |

| Common name                                   | Scientific name                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Couriers, Pratincoles (Glareolidae)</b>    |                                      |
| Black-winged Pratincole – NT                  | <i>Glareola nordmanni</i>            |
| <b>Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)</b>       |                                      |
| Grey-headed Gull                              | <i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i> |
| Hartlaub's Gull                               | <i>Chroicocephalus hartlaubii</i>    |
| Kelp Gull                                     | <i>Larus dominicanus</i>             |
| Caspian Tern                                  | <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>            |
| Greater Crested Tern                          | <i>Thalasseus bergii</i>             |
| Sandwich Tern                                 | <i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>       |
| White-winged Tern                             | <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>        |
| <b>Storks (Ciconiidae)</b>                    |                                      |
| Yellow-billed Stork                           | <i>Mycteria ibis</i>                 |
| <b>Cormorants, Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)</b>  |                                      |
| Reed Cormorant                                | <i>Microcarbo africanus</i>          |
| Crowned Cormorant – NT                        | <i>Microcarbo coronatus</i>          |
| Bank Cormorant – EN                           | <i>Phalacrocorax neglectus</i>       |
| White-breasted Cormorant                      | <i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>         |
| <b>Cape Cormorant – EN</b>                    | <b><i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i></b> |
| <b>Anhingas, Darters (Anhingidae)</b>         |                                      |
| African Darter                                | <i>Anhinga rufa</i>                  |
| <b>Ibises, Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)</b> |                                      |
| African Sacred Ibis                           | <i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>      |
| Hadada Ibis                                   | <i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>           |
| Glossy Ibis                                   | <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>          |
| African Spoonbill                             | <i>Platalea alba</i>                 |
| <b>Hérons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)</b>            |                                      |
| Little Bittern                                | <i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>            |
| Striated Heron                                | <i>Butorides striata</i>             |
| Squacco Heron                                 | <i>Ardeola ralloides</i>             |
| Western Cattle Egret                          | <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>                 |
| Grey Heron                                    | <i>Ardea cinerea</i>                 |
| Black-headed Heron                            | <i>Ardea melanocephala</i>           |



| <b>Common name</b>                         | <b>Scientific name</b>         |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Goliath Heron                              | <i>Ardea goliath</i>           |
| Great Egret                                | <i>Ardea alba</i>              |
| Intermediate Egret                         | <i>Ardea intermedia</i>        |
| Black Heron                                | <i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>       |
| Little Egret                               | <i>Egretta garzetta</i>        |
| <b>Hamerkop (Scopidae)</b>                 |                                |
| Hamerkop                                   | <i>Scopus umbretta</i>         |
| <b>Pelicans (Pelecanidae)</b>              |                                |
| Great White Pelican                        | <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>   |
| <b>Kites, Hawks, Eagles (Accipitridae)</b> |                                |
| Black-winged Kite                          | <i>Elanus caeruleus</i>        |
| African Harrier-Hawk                       | <i>Polyboroides typus</i>      |
| Cape Vulture – EN                          | <i>Gyps coprotheres</i>        |
| Black-chested Snake Eagle                  | <i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>    |
| Brown Snake Eagle                          | <i>Circaetus cinereus</i>      |
| Bat Hawk                                   | <i>Macheiramphus alcinus</i>   |
| Crowned Eagle – NT                         | <i>Stephanoaetus coronatus</i> |
| Long-crested Eagle                         | <i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>   |
| Lesser Spotted Eagle                       | <i>Clanga pomarina</i>         |
| Wahlberg's Eagle                           | <i>Hieraaetus wahlbergi</i>    |
| Booted Eagle                               | <i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>     |
| Verreaux's Eagle                           | <i>Aquila verreauxii</i>       |
| Pale Chanting Goshawk                      | <i>Melierax canorus</i>        |
| African Goshawk (H)                        | <i>Accipiter tachiro</i>       |
| Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk                | <i>Accipiter rufiventris</i>   |
| Black Sparrowhawk (G)                      | <i>Accipiter melanoleucus</i>  |
| Yellow-billed Kite                         | <i>Milvus aegyptius</i>        |
| African Fish Eagle                         | <i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>      |
| Common Buzzard                             | <i>Buteo buteo</i>             |
| Jackal Buzzard                             | <i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>        |
| <b>Owls (Strigidae)</b>                    |                                |
| African Scops Owl (H)                      | <i>Otus senegalensis</i>       |
| Verreaux's Eagle-Owl                       | <i>Bubo lacteus</i>            |
| Pearl-spotted Owlet                        | <i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>     |

| Common name                         | Scientific name                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Mousebirds (Coliidae)</b>        |                                |
| Speckled Mousebird                  | <i>Colius striatus</i>         |
| White-backed Mousebird              | <i>Colius colius</i>           |
| Red-faced Mousebird                 | <i>Urocolius indicus</i>       |
| <b>Hoopoes (Upupidae)</b>           |                                |
| African Hoopoe                      | <i>Upupa africana</i>          |
| <b>Wood Hoopoes (Phoeniculidae)</b> |                                |
| Green Wood Hoopoe                   | <i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>   |
| <b>Hornbills (Bucerotidae)</b>      |                                |
| Southern Red-billed Hornbill        | <i>Tockus rufirostris</i>      |
| Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill     | <i>Tockus leucomelas</i>       |
| African Grey Hornbill               | <i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>      |
| <b>Rollers (Coraciidae)</b>         |                                |
| Lilac-breasted Roller               | <i>Coracias caudatus</i>       |
| European Roller                     | <i>Coracias garrulus</i>       |
| <b>Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)</b>    |                                |
| Brown-hooded Kingfisher             | <i>Halcyon albiventris</i>     |
| Striped Kingfisher                  | <i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>       |
| Woodland Kingfisher                 | <i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>    |
| Giant Kingfisher                    | <i>Megaceryle maxima</i>       |
| Pied Kingfisher                     | <i>Ceryle rudis</i>            |
| <b>Bee-eaters (Meropidae)</b>       |                                |
| White-fronted Bee-eater             | <i>Merops bullockoides</i>     |
| European Bee-eater                  | <i>Merops apiaster</i>         |
| <b>African Barbets (Lybiidae)</b>   |                                |
| Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird           | <i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>  |
| Acacia Pied Barbet                  | <i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>  |
| Black-collared Barbet               | <i>Lybius torquatus</i>        |
| Crested Barbet                      | <i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i> |
| <b>Honeyguides (Indicatoridae)</b>  |                                |
| Lesser Honeyguide                   | <i>Indicator minor</i>         |

| <b>Common name</b>                                   | <b>Scientific name</b>              |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Greater Honeyguide                                   | <i>Indicator indicator</i>          |
| <b>Woodpeckers (Picidae)</b>                         |                                     |
| Red-throated Wryneck                                 | <i>Jynx ruficollis</i>              |
| Golden-tailed Woodpecker                             | <i>Campethera abingoni</i>          |
| Olive Woodpecker                                     | <i>Dendropicos griseocephalus</i>   |
| <b>Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)</b>               |                                     |
| Rock Kestrel   | <i>Falco rupicolus</i>              |
| Amur Falcon  | <i>Falco amurensis</i>              |
| Eurasian Hobby                                       | <i>Falco subbuteo</i>               |
| Lanner Falcon  | <i>Falco biarmicus</i>              |
| <b>African &amp; New World Parrots (Psittacidae)</b> |                                     |
| Cape Parrot – VU                                     | <i>Poicephalus robustus</i>         |
| <b>Wattle-eyes, Batises (Platysteiridae)</b>         |                                     |
| Cape Batis   | <i>Batis capensis</i>               |
| Chinspot Batis                                       | <i>Batis molitor</i>                |
| <b>Bushshrikes (Malaconotidae)</b>                   |                                     |
| Black-fronted Bushshrike                             | <i>Chlorophoneus nigrifrons</i>     |
| Olive Bushshrike                                     | <i>Chlorophoneus olivaceus</i>      |
| Orange-breasted Bushshrike                           | <i>Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus</i> |
| Bokmakierie  | <i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>          |
| Brown-crowned Tchagra                                | <i>Tchagra australis</i>            |
| Black-backed Puffback                                | <i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>             |
| Southern Boubou                                      | <i>Laniarius ferrugineus</i>        |
| Crimson-breasted Shrike                              | <i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>      |
| <b>Vangas &amp; Allies (Vangidae)</b>                |                                     |
| White-crested Helmetshrike                           | <i>Prionops plumatus</i>            |
| <b>Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae)</b>                 |                                     |
| Grey Cuckooshrike                                    | <i>Ceblepyris caesius</i>           |
| <b>Shrikes (Laniidae)</b>                            |                                     |
| Magpie Shrike  | <i>Urolestes melanoleucus</i>       |
| Southern White-crowned Shrike                        | <i>Eurocephalus anguitimens</i>     |



| <b>Common name</b>                             | <b>Scientific name</b>               |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Red-backed Shrike                              | <i>Lanius collurio</i>               |
| Lesser Grey Shrike                             | <i>Lanius minor</i>                  |
| Southern Fiscal                                | <i>Lanius collaris</i>               |
| <b>Figbirds, Orioles, Turnagra (Oriolidae)</b> |                                      |
| Black-headed Oriole                            | <i>Oriolus larvatus</i>              |
| <b>Drongos (Dicruridae)</b>                    |                                      |
| Common Square-tailed Drongo                    | <i>Dicrurus ludwiggii</i>            |
| Fork-tailed Drongo                             | <i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>            |
| <b>Monarchs (Monarchidae)</b>                  |                                      |
| Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher                | <i>Trochocercus cyanomelas</i>       |
| African Paradise Flycatcher                    | <i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>           |
| <b>Crows, Jays (Corvidae)</b>                  |                                      |
| Pied Crow                                      | <i>Corvus albus</i>                  |
| White-necked Raven                             | <i>Corvus albicollis</i>             |
| <b>Fairy Flycatchers (Stenostiridae)</b>       |                                      |
| Fairy Flycatcher                               | <i>Stenostira scita</i>              |
| <b>Tits, Chickadees (Paridae)</b>              |                                      |
| Southern Black Tit                             | <i>Melaniparus niger</i>             |
| Ashy Tit (H)                                   | <i>Melaniparus cinerascens</i>       |
| Grey Tit                                       | <i>Melaniparus afer</i>              |
| <b>Penduline Tits (Remizidae)</b>              |                                      |
| Cape Penduline Tit                             | <i>Anthoscopus minutus</i>           |
| <b>Larks (Alaudidae)</b>                       |                                      |
| Short-clawed Lark (H)                          | <i>Certhilauda chuana</i>            |
| Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark                       | <i>Eremopterix verticalis</i>        |
| <b>Karoo Lark</b>                              | <b><i>Calendulauda albescens</i></b> |
| Cape Clapper Lark                              | <i>Mirafra apiata</i>                |
| Rufous-naped Lark                              | <i>Mirafra africana</i>              |
| Flappet Lark                                   | <i>Mirafra rufocinnamomea</i>        |
| Large-billed Lark                              | <i>Galerida magnirostris</i>         |
| Red-capped Lark                                | <i>Calandrella cinerea</i>           |

| Common name  | Scientific name                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)</b>                      |                                     |
| <b>Cape Bulbul</b>                                 | <i>Pycnonotus capensis</i>          |
| Dark-capped Bulbul                                 | <i>Pycnonotus tricolor</i>          |
| Sombre Greenbul                                    | <i>Andropadus importunus</i>        |
| Yellow-bellied Greenbul (H)                        | <i>Chlorocichla flaviventris</i>    |
| Yellow-streaked Greenbul                           | <i>Phyllastrephus flavostriatus</i> |
| <b>Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)</b>            |                                     |
| Black Saw-wing                                     | <i>Psalidoprocne pristoptera</i>    |
| Brown-throated Martin                              | <i>Riparia paludicola</i>           |
| Banded Martin                                      | <i>Riparia cincta</i>               |
| Barn Swallow                                       | <i>Hirundo rustica</i>              |
| White-throated Swallow                             | <i>Hirundo albigularis</i>          |
| Pearl-breasted Swallow                             | <i>Hirundo dimidiata</i>            |
| Rock Martin  | <i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>        |
| Greater Striped Swallow                            | <i>Cecropis cucullata</i>           |
| Lesser Striped Swallow                             | <i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>          |
| Red-breasted Swallow                               | <i>Cecropis semirufa</i>            |
| <b>Crombecs, African Warblers (Macrosphenidae)</b> |                                     |
| Cape Grassbird                                     | <i>Sphenoeacus afer</i>             |
| Long-billed Crombec                                | <i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>          |
| <b>Victorin's Warbler (H)</b>                      | <i>Cryptillas victorini</i>         |
| <b>Leaf Warblers &amp; Allies (Phylloscopidae)</b> |                                     |
| Willow Warbler                                     | <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>       |
| Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler                   | <i>Phylloscopus ruficapilla</i>     |
| <b>Reed Warblers &amp; Allies (Acrocephalidae)</b> |                                     |
| Lesser Swamp Warbler                               | <i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>  |
| Sedge Warbler (H)                                  | <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>   |
| Marsh Warbler                                      | <i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>       |
| Olive-tree Warbler                                 | <i>Hippolais olivetorum</i>         |
| Icterine Warbler                                   | <i>Hippolais icterina</i>           |
| <b>Grassbirds &amp; Allies (Locustellidae)</b>     |                                     |
| Barratt's Warbler                                  | <i>Bradypterus barratti</i>         |

| <b>Common name</b>                                    | <b>Scientific name</b>          |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Little Rush Warbler                                   | <i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>    |
| <b>Cisticolas &amp; Allies (Cisticolidae)</b>         |                                 |
| Red-faced Cisticola                                   | <i>Cisticola erythrops</i>      |
| Rattling Cisticola                                    | <i>Cisticola chiniana</i>       |
| Grey-backed Cisticola                                 | <i>Cisticola subruficapilla</i> |
| Levaillant's Cisticola                                | <i>Cisticola tinniens</i>       |
| Neddicky  | <i>Cisticola fulvicapilla</i>   |
| Zitting Cisticola                                     | <i>Cisticola juncidis</i>       |
| Tawny-flanked Prinia                                  | <i>Prinia subflava</i>          |
| Black-chested Prinia                                  | <i>Prinia flavicans</i>         |
| Karoo Prinia  | <i>Prinia maculosa</i>          |
| <b>Drakensberg Prinia</b>                             | <b><i>Prinia hypoxantha</i></b> |
| Namaqua Warbler                                       | <i>Phragmacia substriata</i>    |
| Bar-throated Apalis                                   | <i>Apalis thoracica</i>         |
| Yellow-breasted Apalis                                | <i>Apalis flavida</i>           |
| Rufous-eared Warbler                                  | <i>Malcorus pectoralis</i>      |
| Green-backed Camaroptera                              | <i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>    |
| Grey-backed Camaroptera                               | <i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i> |
| Barred Wren-Warbler                                   | <i>Calamonastes fasciolatus</i> |
| Cinnamon-breasted Warbler                             | <i>Euryptila subcinnamomea</i>  |
| Karoo Eremomela                                       | <i>Eremomela gregalis</i>       |
| Burnt-necked Eremomela                                | <i>Eremomela usticollis</i>     |
| <b>Laughingthrushes &amp; Allies (Leiothrichidae)</b> |                                 |
| Arrow-marked Babbler                                  | <i>Turdoides jardineii</i>      |
| <b>Sylviid Babblers (Sylviidae)</b>                   |                                 |
| Chestnut-vented Warbler                               | <i>Sylvia subcoerulea</i>       |
| Layard's Warbler                                      | <i>Sylvia layardi</i>           |
| <b>White-eyes (Zosteropidae)</b>                      |                                 |
| Cape White-eye  | <i>Zosterops virens</i>         |
| <b>Sugarbirds (Promeropidae)</b>                      |                                 |
| Cape Sugarbird  | <i>Promerops cafer</i>          |
| <b>Starlings, Rhabdornis (Sturnidae)</b>              |                                 |
| Common Myna   | <i>Acridotheres tristis</i>     |



| <b>Common name</b>                                 | <b>Scientific name</b>             |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Common Starling                                    | <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>            |
| Wattled Starling                                   | <i>Creatophora cinerea</i>         |
| Cape Starling                                      | <i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>         |
| Burchell's Starling                                | <i>Lamprotornis australis</i>      |
| Pied Starling                                      | <i>Lamprotornis bicolor</i>        |
| Red-winged Starling                                | <i>Onychognathus morio</i>         |
| <b>Oxpeckers (Buphagidae)</b>                      |                                    |
| Red-billed Oxpecker                                | <i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>    |
| <b>Thrushes (Turdidae)</b>                         |                                    |
| Groundscraper Thrush                               | <i>Turdus litsitsirupa</i>         |
| Karoo Thrush                                       | <i>Turdus smithi</i>               |
| <b>Chats, Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)</b> |                                    |
| Karoo Scrub Robin                                  | <i>Cercotrichas coryphoeus</i>     |
| Kalahari Scrub Robin                               | <i>Cercotrichas paena</i>          |
| White-browed Scrub Robin                           | <i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>     |
| Brown Scrub Robin                                  | <i>Cercotrichas signata</i>        |
| Southern Black Flycatcher                          | <i>Melaenornis pammelaina</i>      |
| Marico Flycatcher                                  | <i>Melaenornis mariquensis</i>     |
| Fiscal Flycatcher                                  | <i>Melaenornis silens</i>          |
| Spotted Flycatcher                                 | <i>Muscicapa striata</i>           |
| African Dusky Flycatcher                           | <i>Muscicapa adusta</i>            |
| Cape Robin-Chat                                    | <i>Cossypha caffra</i>             |
| White-throated Robin-Chat                          | <i>Cossypha humeralis</i>          |
| Chorister Robin-Chat                               | <i>Cossypha dichroa</i>            |
| White-starred Robin                                | <i>Pogonocichla stellata</i>       |
| <b>Cape Rock Thrush</b>                            | <b><i>Monticola rupestris</i></b>  |
| African Stonechat                                  | <i>Saxicola torquatus</i>          |
| Karoo Chat   | <i>Emarginata schlegelii</i>       |
| Tractrac Chat                                      | <i>Emarginata tractrac</i>         |
| Mountain Wheatear                                  | <i>Myrmecocichla monticola</i>     |
| Capped Wheatear                                    | <i>Oenanthe pileata</i>            |
| Familiar Chat                                      | <i>Oenanthe familiaris</i>         |
| <b>Sunbirds (Nectariniidae)</b>                    |                                    |
| Collared Sunbird                                   | <i>Hedydipna collaris</i>          |
| <b>Orange-breasted Sunbird</b>                     | <b><i>Anthobaphes violacea</i></b> |

| <b>Common name</b>                                  | <b>Scientific name</b>          |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Amethyst Sunbird                                    | <i>Chalcomitra amethystina</i>  |
| Scarlet-chested Sunbird                             | <i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i> |
| Malachite Sunbird (H)                               | <i>Nectarinia famosa</i>        |
| Southern Double-collared Sunbird                    | <i>Cinnyris chalybeus</i>       |
| Greater Double-collared Sunbird                     | <i>Cinnyris afer</i>            |
| Marico Sunbird                                      | <i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>     |
| White-bellied Sunbird                               | <i>Cinnyris talatala</i>        |
| <b>Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches (Passeridae)</b> |                                 |
| House Sparrow                                       | <i>Passer domesticus</i>        |
| Cape Sparrow  | <i>Passer melanurus</i>         |
| Southern Grey-headed Sparrow                        | <i>Passer diffusus</i>          |
| <b>Weavers, Widowbirds (Ploceidae)</b>              |                                 |
| Red-billed Buffalo Weaver                           | <i>Bubalornis niger</i>         |
| White-browed Sparrow-Weaver                         | <i>Plocepasser mahali</i>       |
| Scaly-feathered Weaver                              | <i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>   |
| Thick-billed Weaver                                 | <i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>    |
| <b>Cape Weaver</b>                                  | <b><i>Ploceus capensis</i></b>  |
| Lesser Masked Weaver                                | <i>Ploceus intermedius</i>      |
| Southern Masked Weaver                              | <i>Ploceus velatus</i>          |
| Village Weaver                                      | <i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>       |
| Red-billed Quelea                                   | <i>Quelea quelea</i>            |
| Yellow-crowned Bishop                               | <i>Euplectes afer</i>           |
| Southern Red Bishop                                 | <i>Euplectes orix</i>           |
| Yellow Bishop                                       | <i>Euplectes capensis</i>       |
| White-winged Widowbird                              | <i>Euplectes albonotatus</i>    |
| Red-collared Widowbird                              | <i>Euplectes ardens</i>         |
| Long-tailed Widowbird                               | <i>Euplectes progne</i>         |
| <b>Waxbills, Munias &amp; Allies (Estrildidae)</b>  |                                 |
| Green-winged Pytilia                                | <i>Pytilia melba</i>            |
| Red-headed Finch                                    | <i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>   |
| Green Twinspot                                      | <i>Mandingoa nitidula</i>       |
| African Firefinch                                   | <i>Lagonosticta rubricata</i>   |
| Jameson's Firefinch                                 | <i>Lagonosticta rhodopareia</i> |
| Blue Waxbill  | <i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>   |
| Sweet Waxbill                                       | <i>Coccygia melanotis</i>       |

| <b>Common name</b>                       | <b>Scientific name</b>             |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Common Waxbill                           | <i>Estrilda astrild</i>            |
| Black-faced Waxbill                      | <i>Estrilda erythronotos</i>       |
| <b>Indigobirds, Whydahs (Viduidae)</b>   |                                    |
| Village Indigobird                       | <i>Vidua chalybeata</i>            |
| Dusky Indigobird                         | <i>Vidua funerea</i>               |
| Pin-tailed Whydah                        | <i>Vidua macroura</i>              |
| Shaft-tailed Whydah                      | <i>Vidua regia</i>                 |
| Long-tailed Paradise Whydah              | <i>Vidua paradisaea</i>            |
| Cuckoo-finch                             | <i>Anomalospiza imberbis</i>       |
| <b>Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)</b>   |                                    |
| Cape Wagtail                             | <i>Motacilla capensis</i>          |
| African Pied Wagtail                     | <i>Motacilla aguimp</i>            |
| Cape Longclaw                            | <i>Macronyx capensis</i>           |
| African Pipit                            | <i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>          |
| Nicholson's Pipit                        | <i>Anthus nicholsoni</i>           |
| Bushveld Pipit                           | <i>Anthus caffer</i>               |
| <b>Finches, Euphonias (Fringillidae)</b> |                                    |
| <b>Forest Canary</b>                     | <b><i>Crithagra scotops</i></b>    |
| Black-throated Canary                    | <i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>       |
| Yellow-fronted Canary                    | <i>Crithagra mozambica</i>         |
| Yellow Canary                            | <i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>      |
| White-throated Canary                    | <i>Crithagra albogularis</i>       |
| <b>Protea Canary – NT</b>                | <b><i>Crithagra leucoptera</i></b> |
| Cape Canary                              | <i>Serinus canicollis</i>          |
| <b>Buntings (Emberizidae)</b>            |                                    |
| Lark-like Bunting                        | <i>Emberiza impetuani</i>          |
| Cinnamon-breasted Bunting                | <i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>           |
| Cape Bunting                             | <i>Emberiza capensis</i>           |
| Golden-breasted Bunting                  | <i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>       |
| <b>Total seen</b>                        | <b>323</b>                         |
| Total heard/guide only:                  | 11                                 |
| Total species recorded:                  | 334                                |



**Mammal List**

| <b>Common name</b>     | <b>Scientific name</b>                 |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Elephantidae</b>    |  |
| African Elephant       | <i>Loxodonta africana</i>              |
| <b>Cercopithecidae</b> |  |
| Samango Monkey         | <i>Cercopithecus mitis labiatus</i>    |
| Vervet Monkey          | <i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>         |
| Chacma Baboon          | <i>Papio ursinus</i>                   |
| <b>Sciuridae</b>       |  |
| Smith's Bush Squirrel  | <i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>                |
| Eastern Gray Squirrel  | <i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>            |
| <b>Soricidae</b>       |  |
| Forest Shrew           | <i>Myosorex varius</i>                 |
| <b>Herpestidae</b>     |  |
| Yellow Mongoose        | <i>Cynictis penicillata</i>            |
| Slender Mongoose       | <i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>            |
| Banded Mongoose        | <i>Mungos mungo</i>                    |
| <b>Canidae</b>         |  |
| Black-backed Jackal    | <i>Canis mesomelas</i>                 |
| <b>Otariidae</b>       |  |
| Cape Fur Seal          | <i>Arctocephalus pusillus pusillus</i> |
| <b>Equidae</b>         |  |
| Plains Zebra           | <i>Equus quagga</i>                    |
| <b>Suidae</b>          |  |
| Common Warthog         | <i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>          |
| <b>Hippopotamidae</b>  |  |
| Hippopotamus           | <i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>          |
| <b>Bovidae</b>         |  |

| <b>Common name</b> | <b>Scientific name</b>               |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Impala             | <i>Aepyceros melampus</i>            |
| Red Hartebeest     | <i>Alcelaphus buselaphus caama</i>   |
| Springbok          | <i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>        |
| Black Wildebeest   | <i>Connochaetes gnou</i>             |
| Common Wildebeest  | <i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>         |
| Blesbok            | <i>Damaliscus pygargus phillipsi</i> |
| Waterbuck          | <i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>          |
| Steenbok           | <i>Raphicerus campestris</i>         |
| Common Duiker      | <i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>            |
| African Buffalo    | <i>Syncerus caffer</i>               |
| Nyala              | <i>Tragelaphus angasii</i>           |
| Common Eland       | <i>Tragelaphus oryx</i>              |
| Greater Kudu       | <i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>      |
| <b>Total seen</b>  | <b>28</b>                            |

### Reptile List

| <b>Common name</b>                 | <b>Scientific name</b>       |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Tortoises (Testudinidae)</b>    |                              |
| Leopard Tortoise                   | <i>Stigmochelys pardalis</i> |
| <b>Monitor Lizards (Varanidae)</b> |                              |
| Nile Monitor                       | <i>Varanus niloticus</i>     |
| <b>Total seen</b>                  | <b>2</b>                     |