

WESTERN CAPE AND SUBTROPICAL SOUTH AFRICA TRIP REPORT

9 - 31 OCTOBER 2015

By Dylan Vasapolli



Secretarybird – one of the group's main targets



Overview

This trip was a combination of two consecutive tours, first the 8-day Western Cape Tour, followed directly afterwards by the 15-day Subtropical South Africa tour. Despite both these tours being based in South Africa, they cover vastly different biomes and ecological regions, making the combination truly great for birding. Starting in the endemic-rich regions of the Fynbos and the Karoo, we transferred to the lush coastal forest on the eastern edge of the country, which was followed by visiting various bushveld regions, including the world-renowned Kruger National Park, through to the Highveld plateau, and ending off in thornveld more characteristic of the dry north-west. This combined tour visits South Africa's premier birding destinations and offers some of the best birding in the country. Not to be missed, however, is the amazing plethora of mammals and large game, which was also enjoyed. During October 2015 the weather overall was brilliant and hampered us only on very few occasions. The rains were a little late in coming, and therefore many of the areas were rather dry in comparison with previous years. However, the birding was as good as ever, if not a slight tad better, and the number of specials found on the trip, exceeding 500, certainly attests to this!

Day 1, October 9. Cape Town to Simon's Town

After finding our way through the bustling city of Cape Town with everyone on board, we immediately set off for Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens, where we'd begin the tour. With a lot of sun about, birding around the gardens was good initially, but it did begin to slow down as we neared lunchtime. Regardless, we had a good compliment of species, finding soaring Jackal Buzzard, Cape Spurfowl, a family of Spotted Eagle-Owls, and pleasing numbers of both Alpine and African Black Swifts and Black Saw-wings, along with getting ourselves acquainted with the more common residents, such as Cape Bulbul, Olive Thrush, Karoo Prinia, Cape Batis, Cape and Forest Canaries, and the introduced, very localized Common Chaffinch.

After a hearty lunch we set off to Tokai, hoping they would have re-opened it by now after the devastating fire earlier in the year, sadly to no avail. We checked in at Avian Leisure in Simon's Town, dropped our things off, enjoyed a southern right whale frolicking about just in front of Avian Leisure, and took the scenic route to Kommetjie via Scarborough. Kommetjie held all the marine Cormorants (Bank, Cape, Crowned, and White-breasted) along with African Oystercatcher, Greater Crested and Sandwich Terns, Kelp Gull, and a surprise Bokmakierie. We rounded the day off at the Silvermine wetlands, enjoying the likes of Cape Sugarbird, Malachite Sunbird (what stunners!), a skulking Cape Grassbird, an even more skulking Little Rush Warbler, Lesser Swamp Warbler, Common Waxbill, and possibly the highlight of the day, Malachite Kingfisher.

Day 2, October 10. Cape Peninsula birding

We started the morning at Rooi-Els and immediately began birding the road. Cape Rock Thrushes perched on the telephone wires, Familiar Chats flitted from roof to roof, and Cape Buntings moved mouse-like between the rocks. The fynbos was alive with activity and held Grey-backed Cisticola, Cape Grassbird, Orange-breasted Sunbird, and Yellow Bishop. After what seemed like a long time scanning all the numerous boulders we eventually got onto one of the resident pairs of Cape Rockjumper. We spent a bit of time with them, waiting as they gradually came down the hill, until we had satisfied ourselves. We began following a Victorin's Warbler that started calling, and every bit of progress we made in its direction seemed to make no difference – soon we were halfway up the hill, and the bird seemed no closer. Eventually we got within range and enjoyed brilliant looks at this skulker (although this particular individual was lacking a tail).



We headed off to Betty's Bay and the Stony Point penguin colony there, and enjoyed knockout views of lots and lots of **African Penguins**. We also were able to enjoy good looks at all the marine **Cormorants** (**Bank**, **Crowned**, **Cape**, and **White-breasted**) again, along with our first **Cape Gannet** and **White-chinned Petrel** out to sea. A quick lunch at Harold Porter National Botanical Garden, followed by a productive walk around the garden, turned up **Swee Waxbill**, **Brimstone Canary**, **Cape Siskin**, **Bar-throated Apalis**, our first **African Paradise Flycatcher**, and **Sombre Greenbul**.

We then zipped off to Strandfontein Sewage Works for the last few hours of the day, where the incredible number of waterbirds kept us in awe. Hundreds and hundreds of **Greater Flamingos** littered the ponds, and in between we noted **Great White Pelican**, **African Sacred** and **Glossy Ibises**, **Great Crested**, **Black-necked**, and **Little Grebes**, **Southern Pochard**, **Maccoa Duck**, **Cape Shoveler**, **Cape Teal**, **Pied Avocet**, and **Black-winged Stilt**, and just as we were exiting we found two **Spotted Thick-knees** and on closer investigation two nearby **Water Thick-knees**. The birds weren't very tolerant of one another and would rear up, spread wings, and chase after the others if they ventured too close.

We had been given the green light for tomorrow's pelagic to go ahead, and we all went to bed in high spirits.

Day 3, October 11. Pelagic off Cape Point

After an early breakfast we headed off to the pier, boarded our vessel, Bateleur, with skipper David, and set off into the deep. With a relatively mild ocean, travel was quick out into the trawling grounds, halted only by stops for looks at our first pelagic birds: White-chinned Petrel (far improved views than what we'd had the previous day from Stony Point), Sooty and Great Shearwaters, Northern Giant Petrel, Wilson's Storm Petrel, Shy and Blackbrowed Albatrosses, and Brown Skua. An opportunistic stop to look at our first Cape Petrel also yielded our first highly sought-after Black-bellied Storm Petrel, as well as some unseasonable Antarctic Prion.

Riding on a slight high, we pulled in behind a stern trawler with a huge number of birds in her wake and began slowly sifting through them all. Incredible number of **Albatrosses** gave us all the usual suspects, **Black-browed**, **Shy**, **Atlantic Yellow-nosed**, and **Indian Yellow-nosed**, along with several great looks at a young **Wandering Albatross**, and a very brief **Southern Royal Albatross**. We were also able to compare both **Northern** and **Southern Giant Petrels** and enjoyed repeat views of both **Wilson's** and **Black-bellied Storm Petrels**. Numerous **Cape Petrels** with their checkered upperparts added a flash of color every now and again, and, just as things were beginning to slow down, I latched onto a **Southern Fulmar** coming up behind us. The bird showed brilliantly as it flew up alongside us and continued on its way past the trawler. Cape fur seals provided a bit of entertainment aside from the birds, catching fish from the net and throwing them around in the air.

We returned back to shore after a brilliant outing, where, after we quickly returned to our accommodation to freshen up, we headed off to the Cape Point section of the Table Mountain National Park. We took a slow drive around and enjoyed repeat views of some of the customers we'd had already, Levaillant's Cisticola, Karoo Prinia, Malachite Sunbird, Cape Sugarbird, and Cape Siskin. A highlight was running into a pair of Kittlitz's Plover in a recently-burned patch of ground. Bontebok, red hartebeest, Cape gray mongoose, and a humpback whale in False Bay were the mammalian highlights.





Southern Fulmar on the pelagic trip

Day 4, October 12. West Coast birding

We opted for a quick bit of morning birding at the nearby Silvermine Nature Reserve, part of Table Mountain National Park, before coming back for breakfast and then heading up the West Coast. The birding was really good and we enjoyed repeat views of **Malachite Kingfisher** along with **Fork-tailed Drongo**, **Greater Striped Swallow**, better looks at **Lesser Swamp** and **Little Rush Warblers**, and a surprise **Little Bittern** that unfortunately showed rather briefly.

Despite some delays in getting through Cape Town we soon found ourselves at the gate to the West Coast National Park, from where we entered and immediately began birding. **Karoo Lark** was first up, followed by **Yellow Canary**, a group of **Red-faced Mousebirds**, our first **Common Ostrich**, and an uncooperative **Chestnut-vented Warbler**. We made our way to the Geelbek hide, to catch the tides while they were still good, and got our timing just right. Unfortunately, there was nothing out of the ordinary, but we did enjoy the large numbers of waders made up mainly of **Whimbrel**, **Grey** and **Common Ringed Plovers**, **Common Greenshank**, **Marsh Sandpiper**, **Ruff**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Sanderling**, and **Little Stint**. Small numbers of **Lesser Flamingo** amongst more **Greater Flamingos** were a pleasing sight, as were groups of **South African Shelduck**, **African Spoonbill**, and the large **Caspian Tern**. **African Marsh Harrier** graced our presence gliding over the reeds, and **African Fish Eagle** was scoped out in the distance.

We broke for lunch at the restaurant and did a brief walk afterwards, adding Wattled Starling, Yellow Canary, Pearl-breasted Swallow, and Karoo Thrush. Then we set off to Abrahamskraal and enjoyed Karoo Scrub Robin, European Bee-eater, our first Southern Red Bishop, Banded Martin, stunning looks at Southern Black Korhaan and Greywinged Francolin, and our first Black Harrier. En route to the Seeberg hide we ran into White-backed Mousebird, Red-faced Mousebird, White-throated Canary, Cape Penduline Tit, and repeat views of Black Harrier.



Just before arriving at our overnight accommodation we picked up our last new bird for the day, **Pied Starling**. Mammals for the day inside the park included common eland, common duiker, and steenbok.

Day 5, October 13. West Coast birding and transfer to Ceres

We started the day, pre-breakfast, in the farmlands near Vredenburg. We ran into a Black Sparrowhawk zooming over the road en route, and just before the town we encountered our first group of Blue Cranes, complete with chick in tow. It wasn't long before we had found Red-capped and Large-billed Larks, Sickle-winged and Ant-eating Chats, Capped Wheatear, Cape Longclaw, and large numbers of Spur-winged Geese in the fields. Cape Long-billed Lark was playing a bit tougher, but persistence eventually paid off with knockout views of an individual. Grey-backed Sparrow-Larks were hard to come by this time around, and it was only after much effort that we got onto some birds. Unfortunately, Cloud Cisticola frustrated us by staying out of sight, and the Secretarybird nest I had found the previous year was unfortunately not in use anymore, and the birds were nowhere to be seen. After a great breakfast we popped into the Langebaan quarry, where we enjoyed great views of the local Verreaux's Eagle pair, before heading to Velddrif and the Kliphoek Salt Pans. Birding was great around here with many of the same species as yesterday, along with **Pied** Kingfisher, Reed Cormorant, and African Darter. Rafts of Black-necked Grebe littered the salt pans, many of the highly-desired Chestnut-banded Plovers scuttled around the pan edges, and we got onto a long-staying Red-necked Phalarope.

Before long we had to saddle up and head to Piketberg for lunch and then onward to Ceres. After arrival we took a stroll around the neighborhood and enjoyed the likes of **Pin-tailed Whydah**, **White-rumped Swift**, and a few others before retiring for the night.

Day 6, October 14. Tankwa Karoo birding

Armed with breakfast and lunch packs we set off for the famed Tankwa Karoo. We spent the morning birding around the Karoopoort area, affectionately known as the gateway to the Tankwa, where the birding kept us enthralled the entire morning. We made good inroads into the specials, with Mountain Wheatear, Chestnut-vented, African Reed, and Namaqua Warblers, Fairy Flycatcher, Cape Siskin, and Streaky-headed Seedeater all showing well

After some breakfast we continued toward our lunch stop. Regular birding stops were made and yielded Yellow-bellied and the much-wanted Karoo Eremomelas, Rufous-eared Warbler, Pale Chanting Goshawk, Booted Eagle, Black-headed Canary, Lark-like Bunting, Spike-heeled and Karoo Larks, and a nice suite of Karoo, Familiar, Sicklewinged, and Tractrac Chats. Layard's Warbler frustrated us as it refused to come out into the open. Lunch was interrupted by Acacia Pied Barbet and Namaqua Dove, before we continued on our way.

The afternoon session was slightly quieter than the morning, but still delivered **Pririt Batis**, a lovely family of **Karoo Korhaans**, two groups of **Namaqua Sandgrouse**, and one of our main targets, **Black-eared Sparrow-Lark**. We spent a bit of time trying to obtain good views of the sparrow-larks and then headed back to Skitterykloof for the last few hours of the day.

Unfortunately, the wind had drastically increased and made the afternoon birding somewhat unenjoyable. Besides a few **Namaqua Doves** and yet another uncooperative **Layard's Warbler** the world was very quiet on the birding front, and we decided to call it a day and made our way back to Ceres, again stopping a few times, of course.





The attractive Acacia Pied Barbet

Day 7, October 15. Ceres to Cape Town

We decided on a quick pre-breakfast trip to the Karoopoort region to try and clean up on the missing specials. We were hoping for a windless (or as close to this as can be) morning, but unfortunately this was not to be, with a very strong wind moving over the area. This drastically slowed down the birding, but we at long last managed brilliant views of Layard's Warbler as it came in for a close-up. Karoo Scrub Robin and a group of grey rhebok bade us farewell as we headed back to Ceres, feeling a little disappointed.

After breakfast we made our way to Paarl Mountain, which was a hive of activity. Protea Canary took a bit of work to find, but we were eventually rewarded with great views. Cape Sugarbird, Malachite and Southern Double-collared Sunbirds, and Southern Boubou kept us busy while we searched.

After a lunch in Paarl we set off to the Strandfontein Sewage Works to bird out the remaining hours of the day. The birding was good as usual, and although we had much of the same as on our previous outing a few days prior, we came up trumps with Purple Heron, Red-billed Teal, African Swamphen, African Jacana, Grey-headed Gull, and Whiskered Tern. The improved numbers of Great White Pelicans and the impressive numbers of Greater Flamingos and Pied Avocets, together with more views of Cape gray mongoose on the mammalian side, were some of the highlights.

With David and Catriona departing separately tomorrow, we bade our farewells to them after a scrumptious dinner.

Day 8, October 16. Cape Town to Durban

We set off early for Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens. Just as we were loading up the van an African Goshawk came calling loudly over our overnight accommodation and gave good views as it displayed over its turf.

Kirstenbosch was really good and on top of the regulars produced African Olive Pigeon, Booted Eagle, African Harrier-Hawk, and Olive Woodpecker. Swee Waxbill together with Common Chaffinch and Spotted Eagle-Owl were group favorites.

After a lovely breakfast we popped into the Newlands Forest conservation area, before heading onward to the airport. Klaas's Cuckoo was the highlight here, as was another African Harrier-Hawk. After the necessary formalities at the airport we got on the plane



and flew to Durban, from where we would begin the second leg of the trip - the 15-day Subtropical South Africa tour.

After arrival in Durban in the late afternoon we checked in and took an afternoon walk. Due to the clouds it got dark rather quickly, and this cut our walk a bit short. Regardless, it was good getting acquainted with some of the more typical eastern South African species. These included the all-time favorite Purple-crested Turaco, White-eared Barbet, Kurrichane Thrush, Black-bellied Starling, Spectacled Weaver, Red-capped Robin-Chat, Greenbacked Camaroptera, Kurrichane Thrush, Olive Sunbird, Lesser Striped Swallow, and African Palm Swift. The local group of vervets also made their rounds.

Day 9, October 17. Durban to Underberg

As usual we began the day with a pre-breakfast excursion – this time to nearby Ballito. There is still a bit of natural bush around this holiday metropolis, and we spent the first few hours combing the area for its specials. A male **Tambourine Dove** posed beautifully, while the loud **Black-collared Barbet** and **Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird** called continuously. A **Little Sparrowhawk** dashed overhead, and **Yellow-bellied Greenbul** and **Southern Tchagra** kept to the scrub on the edge of the forest. A few groups of **Southern Black Tit** moved through the woodland on the edge, while **Collared**, **Amethyst**, and **Purple-banded Sunbirds** were in evidence throughout the area. The reeds at the wetland held **Red-faced Cisticola** and noisy colonies of **Village** and **Thick-billed Weavers**. We also had improved views of **Greenbacked Camaroptera**, and **Brown-hooded Kingfisher** drew a lot of attention. Before long we had to pull ourselves away from this birding site to head back for breakfast and ultimately onward to Ingeli.

Today was mainly a driving day, as we had quite a large distance to cover, and we made good progress to Ingeli. We arrived at the Blue Swallow site a little before noon and settled in for a bit of a wait. A distant pair of **Grey Crowned Cranes** was the first bit of excitement, but they remained fairly far-off. **Wailing Cisticola** and **Rufous-naped Lark** kept us company while we waited. Eventually, after around 30 minutes, we got onto a distant **Blue Swallow**, and some further persistent scanning revealed a few of these birds working their way over the grass. The birds unfortunately never ventured very close to us, and we had to be content with fairly distant views. Just as we were about to start making our way onward, we had a bird come close, fly over our heads, and continue on its way. Nice!

After a good lunch break at Ingeli Forest Resort we set out to do some forest birding. The small wetland that passes through at the base of the forest was really cooking and produced simply beautiful views of Barratt's Warbler, along with Greater Double-collared Sunbird, African Yellow Warbler, Swee and Common Waxbills, Black-headed Oriole, and a flushed Red-chested Flufftail. In the forest proper we had to work quite hard for the birds in the heat of the afternoon, but we came away with great views of Orange Ground Thrush and Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler, while the views we had of Knysna Turaco and Chorister Robin-Chat left a bit to be desired. All too soon we had to pack it in and cover the last bit of ground to get to Underberg, arriving just by sunset.





A view of the super-skulking Barratt's Warbler

Day 10, October 18. Sani Pass

We were met at our overnight accommodation by Stuart McLean and Aldo Berruti, who would be taking us up the famous Sani Pass road. We wasted no time and immediately set off, beginning the birding just outside Himeville and slowly making our way to the initial ascent. Here we managed to get repeat views of Grey Crowned Crane, together with Drakensberg Prinia, a lovely covey of Red-necked Spurfowl moving through some open lawn, Red-winged Francolin, Red-throated Wryneck, Cardinal Woodpecker, Black Cuckoo, Red-collared and Fan-tailed Widowbirds, Red-billed Ouelea, Common Quail, and Intermediate Egret. A massive herd of common eland was a nice surprise en route.

Once we began the ascent proper, stops were a regular feature and included birding the scrub thickets for **Bush Blackcap**, which eventually obliged after a bit of effort. While working the blackcap we also notched up Golden-breasted Bunting, Brown-backed Honeybird, and Cape Rock Thrush. African Firefinch whizzed overhead, never to be seen again. Mountain reedbuck and grey rhebok were seen on the mammalian front. A breakfast stop was set in prime rocky grassland and delivered Buff-streaked Chat, Long-billed Pipit, and our first Gurney's Sugarbird.

Continuing up the pass, with the incessant slow trilling of **Barratt's Warbler** calling, we exited South Africa and continued to the final reaches of the pass – the switchbacks. Here we were able to get on Drakensberg Rockjumper, African Rock Pipit, and Ground **Woodpecker** – some of the area's principal targets.

We continued into Lesotho, with stops to admire flocks of Drakensberg Siskin, a small group of Southern Bald Ibis, Sentinel Rock Thrush, Sickle-winged Chat, and Yellow Canary. Before long we were slowly combing mountainside heath for Mountain Pipit, and just as we were about to give up and head to another spot a bird obliged and came in for breathtaking views. We continued further in, and after finding nesting **Grey Tit** we had pretty much exhausted the area's specials.



We headed back to Sani Mountain Lodge, where we took it easy for a bit and commenced scanning for vultures. **Cape Vulture** obliged beautifully, flying directly over us, while the highly-prized **Bearded Vulture** did not cooperate as well and remained rather distant.

After an excellent day on the pass, with virtually all the target species having been found, we headed back down to Underberg. We had an incredibly sighting of **Cape Longclaw** on the descent, as two birds sat bathing in a puddle right next to the vehicle, and also lucked out onto a **Gurney's Sugarbird** nest. A quick stop at the Himeville Nature Reserve produced a few blesbok and **Long-crested Eagle**, while **African Rail** was heard only. A lovely dinner capped off a brilliant day!

Day 11, October 19. Underberg to Eshowe

The morning saw us tackle some nearby forest, and we headed off to the Marutswa Forest Boardwalk. The area was alive with birds, and the first birds on the card were a pair of **African Firefinches**. This was soon followed by a flyby of two **Cape Parrots** – brilliant! We worked the forest edge for quite a while, turning up Forest Canary, Crowned Hornbill, Red-chested Cuckoo, Black Sparrowhawk, Lanner Falcon, and Olive Woodpecker, before we had another flyby from the parrots. Bush Blackcap started calling from a set of thickets, but after saturating views the previous day we let the bird be. We set off into the forest and almost immediately turned up Knysna Turaco, which hung around, giving us all good views, unlike a few days prior. We worked at an Olive Bushshrike for what seemed like ages, only to get the briefest of flight views, so we decided to find a more cooperative bird. Unfortunately, only a few of us got onto a stunning Grey Cuckooshrike before it disappeared. White-starred Robin took a few tries, but we were eventually rewarded with stunning looks at this beautiful bird. We had one last encounter with the noisy Cape Parrot before venturing back for breakfast. Just as we exited the forest, I caught sight of some large birds with lots of white in the wing flying over the forest – Southern Ground Hornbills! Unfortunately, they disappeared into the valley quite quickly, leaving us wanting more.

After replenishing our energy levels we headed to Durban and opted to bird the Umgeni River and its mudflats, and this proved to be a good choice. Although the waders were not brilliant, we did at least add **Common Sandpiper**, and an impressive tern roost was thoroughly scanned, delivering **Caspian**, **Greater Crested**, **Common**, **Little**, and **Lesser Crested Terns** – a good haul! The massive **Goliath Heron** patrolled the banks, together with **Little Egret** and **Woolly-necked Stork**, while **Wire-tailed Swallow** flitted overhead.

After a quick lunch break in Durban we headed off to Amatikulu Nature Reserve, only to find that it had recently burnt – whether it was a controlled burn by the reserve's management or a run-away fire was unclear. Sadly, this moved the Swamp Nightjar roost, and we couldn't find the bird. It was not all bad, though, as the burnt ground did turn up **Plain-backed Pipit** and **Yellow-throated Longclaw**, while the surrounding vegetation held **White-fronted Bee-eater**, **Black Cuckooshrike**, and the stunning **Scarlet-chested Sunbird**. The resident plains zebras were well enjoyed by all.

Day 12, October 20. Birding around Eshowe and Mtunzini

We started the day off with a morning walk around the property of our Eshowe accommodation. This was a good move as we found a very cooperative **Narina Trogon**, which posed beautifully, along with finally getting good looks at **Chorister Robin-Chat**, and a group of **Terrestrial Brownbul** moved through the thickets.

We then headed off to the famous Dlinza Forest Aerial Boardwalk, where we spent the next few hours of our morning. This too was cooking, and a vigil from the canopy tower produced African Goshawk, Dark-backed Weaver, African Green Pigeon, Trumpeter Hornbill, African Emerald Cuckoo, and, frustratingly, a calling Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon that



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just refused to come into view. But after what felt like an eternity we had a brilliant fly-by of a male showing its white hind-neck, before we latched onto some more perched in distant trees. We enjoyed good scope views before heading down onto the forest trails below. Here **Spotted Ground Thrush** played with us a bit, but we were eventually rewarded with great views. Scaly-throated Honeyguide too played with us, calling from the canopy, and after much maneuvering we got into a position to see it, and we all managed views of the bird. **Square-tailed Drongo** also gave good views. The dainty blue duiker too was very cooperative, foraging on the ground right next to the path.

Feeling most satisfied we headed back for a well-deserved breakfast before heading onward to Mtunzini and Umlalazi Nature Reserve. As it was late morning the birding was rather slow, but we still came away with virtually everything we were looking for. The reed beds held Rufous-winged Cisticola, and the surrounding scrub thickets delivered Grey Sunbird, Yellow-breasted Apalis, White-browed Scrub Robin, Black-backed Puffback, and a flyover **Palm-nut Vulture**, among others. A Natal red duiker posed beautifully on the way out, a very special mammal.

After a great lunch in Mtunzini we headed to the north of Eshowe and birded the Lake Phobane area. This area is typical aloe bushveld, with some thickets, and holds a number of really great birds. Gorgeous Bushshrike wasn't too difficult to see, and after not too much effort we were rewarded with great views and even some scope views of it perched in the thickets. Here we added Diederik Cuckoo, Common Scimitarbill, Long-billed Crombec, White-bellied Sunbird, our first Violet-backed and Cape Starlings, Blue Waxbill, Whitewinged Widowbird, and a lovely Brown Snake Eagle. A small stream produced a surprise pair of Mountain Wagtails that showed beautifully, while we also enjoyed a few very cooperative Yellow-throated Longclaws.



A male African Emerald Cuckoo



Day 13, October 21. Eshowe to St Lucia

We undertook an early morning walk around the grounds and enjoyed a good sampling of the usual suspects, together with a vocal pair of **Grey-headed Bushshrikes**.

Then we set off for the Ongoye Forest – and were greeted by howling winds on arrival. This made the birding very difficult, but we all managed to latch onto a **Green Barbet** before it got blown off its perch. A very confiding pair of **Narina Trogons** showed beautifully, and we had to work hard for **Yellow-streaked Greenbul**, of which we eventually enjoyed brilliant views. We also had brief looks at an Ongoye red squirrel as it dashed across the road and out of sight.

Soon we were on our way to St Lucia, and just out of the forest an opportunistic stop yielded **Red-breasted** and **Grey-rumped Swallows** along with a **Black-chested Snake Eagle**. We pulled in at Enseleni Nature Reserve, but as it was nearing midday the birding was quite slow. However, **Klaas's Cuckoo**, **Terrestrial Brownbul**, and **Yellow-bellied Greenbul** all showed well, while a **Lemon Dove** flushed from the path, and after much stalking we were rewarded with some views of it walking along the forest floor.

After lunch in Richards Bay we continued to St Lucia, checked into our accommodation, and immediately set off to the estuary. **Rudd's Apalis** halted us on our way and showed well, while we were greeted by healthy numbers of shorebirds at the estuary. Intensive scanning sadly didn't produce anything out of the ordinary, but it was good to enjoy large numbers of **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Little Stint**, **Ruff**, **Common Greenshank**, and **Common Ringed** and **Grey Plovers**. **Great Egret** stood sentinel over some monstrous Nile crocodiles, and a pod of hippopotamus grunted noisily from the shallows.

After dinner, we tried for **African Wood Owl** around the grounds, and after quite some effort we were rewarded with great views of a bird.

Day 14, October 22. iSimangaliso Wetland Park

We tackled the Igwala Gwala Forest Trail first thing in the morning and enjoyed a productive walk. Rudd's Apalis showed well to start things off, while two Green Twinspots dashed overhead. Brown Scrub Robin stuck to the leaf litter and went about its business unperturbed by our presence, while boisterous Livingstone's Turacos moved about in the canopy. Woodward's Batis showed well, as did Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher. A noisy group of Crested Guineafowl kept us entertained for a little while, before a Green Malkoha started up, but it unfortunately just refused to come into the open. A small party held Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, Grey and Collared Sunbirds, Dark-backed Weaver, and Ashy Flycatcher, while a raft of Black Herons were feeding in the shallows at the water's edge. Just before arriving back for breakfast we picked up on the loud song of Eastern Nicator, but, try as we might, we just couldn't see the bird. Finally I got onto it, but just like that the bird flew away. We'd have to try again...

After a hearty breakfast we tackled the Eastern Shores of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. The overcast conditions, coupled with a heavy breeze, did not make for brilliant birding, but we still enjoyed the usual compliment of species. The area was very dry, with all the seasonal pans lacking any water. We still managed to eke out **African Wattled Lapwing** along with **Croaking Cisticola**. The mammals, however, were out in full force, and we enjoyed the likes of common warthog, blue wildebeest, African buffalo, greater kudu, waterbuck, southern reedbuck, and the cherry on the top, a small group of white rhino.

We eventually arrived at Cape Vidal and immediately set off birding around the camp. After much effort we got onto some beautiful **Green Twinspots**, but they were not the most cooperative birds, and eventually we had to move on. **Brown Scrub Robin** sang from the dark thickets around the camp. The resident samango monkeys were doing their rounds, but a quick vigil at the beach didn't yield too much.



We slowly made our way back towards town and ran into a smart **Brown Snake Eagle** and a few **Collared Pratincoles** on the way. A pack of banded mongooses greeted us when we arrived back in town.

Day 15, October 23. St Lucia to Mkhuze Game Reserve

We again opted for a brief morning walk along the Igwala Gwala Forest Trail to see if we couldn't get the few birds we had missed the previous morning. Finally **Eastern Nicator** showed very well, and we all enjoyed good views, while **Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher** was seen well again. Try as we might, though, we just couldn't get visuals of a calling **Green Malkoha**, and therefore had to be content with some brilliant views of **Pink-throated Twinspot**.

When the gates opened we shot into the Western Shores for a quick morning drive. This was brilliant and delivered Pale-crowned Cisticola, African Cuckoo-Hawk, a group of Senegal Lapwings, African Pygmy Kingfisher, Burchell's Coucal, and quite a few sightings of Black-bellied Bustard. We also got onto a Broad-billed Roller, but it didn't hang around long, unfortunately. Aside from the excellent birding we enjoyed our first giraffes as well as some African elephants feeding next to the road. A stop at the bridge produced the expected Southern Brown-throated Weaver along with good views of Eastern Golden and Thick-billed Weavers.

Before long we found ourselves on the shores of Muzi Pan, where we enjoyed a plethora of birds on the mudflats. Top honors here went to Pink-backed Pelican, Greater Flamingo, Squacco Heron, White-faced Whistling Duck, Hottentot Teal, Collared Pratincole, and Grey-rumped Swallow.

We then moved into Mkhuze Game Reserve proper and made our way to the main camp. En route we enjoyed our first **Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill** along with repeat (and far superior) views of **Broad-billed Roller**, **Emerald-spotted Wood Dove**, and a perched **Eurasian Hobby**. A few white rhinos were seen just before camp.



Broad-billed Roller



After having checked in we opted for an afternoon birding walk around the camp. This was excellent, and we enjoyed extended views of many great species. Top of the lot went to a male **Neergaard's Sunbird**, slowly working around at the top of a flowering tree and presenting itself in all its glory. **Marico** and **Purple-banded Sunbirds** were present as well and gave us great comparative views. **Grey Tit-Flycatcher**, **Lesser Honeyguide**, **Goldentailed Woodpecker**, **Willow Warbler**, **Pink-throated Twinspot**, **Golden-breasted Bunting**, **Green Wood Hoopoe**, and **Chinspot Batis** were some of the other highlights on this walk.

After dark **Fiery-necked Nightjar** serenaded the sky, but couldn't be seen. However, thick-tailed greater galago showed rather well.

Day 16, October 24. Mkhuze Game Reserve

By now routine, we were up at dawn for a pre-breakfast birding walk around the camp. It was nice and overcast, and the birding was great. **Red-fronted Tinkerbird** showed very well, calling loudly from the top of an exposed branch, **Bearded Scrub Robin** daintily snuck into its nest within a hollow log, and a bird party contained, amongst others, **Brubru**, **Orange-breasted Bushshrike**, **Cardinal Woodpecker**, **Pale Flycatcher**, **Long-billed Crombec**, and **Grey Penduline Tit**.

A midday jaunt to the kuMasinga Hide and Nsumo Pan was a little on the quiet side but did deliver **Striped Kingfisher**, **White-backed Vulture**, **Black Crake**, **Marabou** and **Yellow-billed Storks**, **African Openbill**, huge rafts of **Great White** and **Pink-backed Pelicans**, and a **Western Osprey** among many **African Fish Eagles**. The kuMasinga Hide was a magnet for mammals, with regular herds of plains zebra, blue wildebeest, impala, and nyala coming down, along with a family of white rhino.

The afternoon was spent exploring the Loop Road and environs, and while it was relatively slow going we still managed to get onto the highly-desired Lilac-breasted Roller, Wattled Starling, White-crested Helmetshrike, and Sabota Lark, along with quite a few raptors. Tawny Eagles were fairly regular, as were White-backed Vultures, but we also did get a lovely sub-adult Lappet-faced Vulture, along with stumbling into nesting Wahlberg's Eagles.

A night drive after dinner sadly wasn't very productive, but with lots of wind and even some rain we admittedly didn't have the best conditions. **African Scops Owl** was heard during the evening, and the mammal highlights were probably white-tailed mongoose, large-spotted genet, and suni.

Day 17, October 25. Mkhuze to Wakkerstroom

We began the day around Nsumo Pan, but despite intensive scanning were not able to come up with anything out of the ordinary. The large rafts of pelicans, together with hundreds of **African Openbills** and good numbers of **Collared Pratincoles**, were good to see, however. We also enjoyed African elephant and African buffalo around the dam's edge. We paid the picnic site a quick visit, and this proved to be worthwhile as we managed to get onto a very cooperative **Lemon-breasted Canary**.

All too soon we had to bid farewell to Mkhuze and set off to Wakkerstroom. We birded on the way, and even before Piet Retief we had secured a pair of **White-bellied Bustards** right next to the highway. The pair showed very well, and we also enjoyed **Southern Bald Ibis**, **Lanner Falcon**, **Jackal Buzzard**, and **African Marsh Harrier** in the same area. We headed out to the Dirkiesdorp area, and ultimately onwards to Wakkerstroom.

For the rest of the day we enjoyed the likes of Black Cuckoo, Quailfinch, brief views of Orange-breasted Waxbill, Banded Martin, South African Cliff Swallow, Black-throated Canary, and at the wetlands around the town Black-crowned Night Heron, African Marsh



Harrier, African Rail, Black Crake, and African Snipe. The most bizarre sight was that of well over 50 African Swamphens all sitting atop a reed bed!

Day 18, October 26. Wakkerstroom Birding

We set off, armed with packed breakfasts, for the grasslands lying to the north of Wakkerstroom. We made good early on the roads with a large flock of Blue and Grey Crowned Cranes, mixed in with some Spur-winged Geese. We also got onto our first group of Blue Korhaans, but they remained a bit distant, unfortunately. A lovely covey of Greywinged Francolins was next up. Fickland Pan delivered Rudd's Lark as expected, and after a bit of work we finally enjoyed some great views. The pan itself was absolutely loaded with waterfowl, and sifting through them all produced the majority of the waterfowl occurring in the region - Maccoa Duck, Southern Pochard, White-backed Duck, South African Shelduck, and Cape Shoveler being the highlights. Soon we continued northward and began searching for Botha's Lark, which, despite a few hours of searching, we were unable to come up trumps with, unfortunately. The birding generally was still good, though, delivering Buffstreaked Chat, sublime views of both Cloud and Wing-snapping Cisticolas, and a plethora of Larks, namely Eastern Clapper, Spike-heeled, Pink-billed, Red-capped, and Rufousnaped. Long-tailed Widowbirds, despite being a common resident, are just so extravagant, one cannot help but admire them! We were able to improve on our views of Blue Korhaan as well. On the mammalian front we enjoyed yellow mongoose and charming groups of meerkats.

We headed back to town for a late lunch, just in time, as the heavens opened up shortly after our arrival there. Later we took an afternoon walk around the grounds of our accommodation and enjoyed the likes of **Horus Swift**, **Common House Martin**, **African Black Duck**, **Drakensberg Prinia**, and **Malachite Sunbird**. We paid a visit to the wetlands again, but we didn't get very far before we were rained out.



The endemic Rudd's Lark



Day 19, October 27. Wakkerstroom to Kruger National Park

The rain had fortunately subsided in the morning, but it was still rather gloomy and overcast when we headed up the hill behind the town. Practically the first bird of the morning was a Ground Woodpecker perched next to the road, and scanning around revealed a few more of them. Sentinel Rock Thrush, Buff-streaked Chat, and Wailing Cisticola all fiddled around the rocks, and our first target of the morning appeared – Eastern Long-billed Lark. But we had to be content with relatively distant views, as the bird just wouldn't come any closer. Red-winged Francolins started calling, and in no time at all we had them in the scope, and one poor, bedraggled individual even crossed the road just in front of us. As we headed onward, we stumbled into another Eastern Long-billed Lark right next to the road, and it gave great views. We then set off on a walk through the wet grass, looking for our next target, Yellow-breasted Pipit. After quite a bit of searching we were eventually rewarded with two individuals, which posed beautifully for us. A lone female White-bellied Bustard too was seeking some respite from the wet grass. With sodden feet we made our way back to the van and continued onward. A pan held breeding Black-headed Herons and African Spoonbills, and in the grasslands surrounding it we found both Blue and Grey Crowned Cranes. But try as we might, we just couldn't turn anything into a Denham's Bustard or a Secretarybird.

We eventually called it quits and headed back for a magnificent breakfast and onward to Kruger National Park. This was largely just a travel day, with us arriving at the park's southern entrance in the midafternoon. We were immediately halted by **Saddle-billed Stork**, and the bushveld up to Skukuza gave **Groundscraper Thrush**, **Grey Go-away-bird**, **Southern Red-billed**, **Southern Yellow-billed**, and **African Grey Hornbills**, **Magpie Shrike**, **Burchell's Starling**, and **Red-billed Buffalo Weaver**, among others. We were also halted by sightings of white rhino, African elephant, a cute common dwarf mongoose, spotted hyaena lazing about right next to the road, and the sighting of the day, a group of cheetah quietly sitting just off the road – always brilliant to see in the Kruger!

Day 20, October 28. Kruger National Park

With a full day to explore in the park, we were off early in our open safari vehicle. The birding was good and started off with **African Hawk-Eagle**, **Bateleur**, **Lizard Buzzard**, and a group of **Retz's Helmetshrikes**. We followed up on a wild dog sighting, but to no avail. We soon ran into a few lions next to the road, and as we headed onward to breakfast we were halted by **Arrow-marked Babbler**, **White-browed Robin-Chat**, and **Lesser Masked Weaver**, along with some **Hooded Vultures** beginning to catch thermals. A lovely **Western Barn Owl** kept us company while we enjoyed our breakfast.

It was a rather warm day, and the transit back to camp was a bit quiet. We narrowly missed a leopard crossing the road in front of us, and we could hear the impala barking right next to us. **Bateleur** was well enjoyed by all, as was a flying group of **Brown-headed Parrots**. **Purple**, **Broad-billed**, and **Lilac-breasted Rollers** were all encountered before we arrived back at camp.

Greater Blue-eared Starlings kept us company at lunch, together with a Golden-tailed Woodpecker.

Our afternoon drive was slow initially, with rather brief views of **Jacobin Cuckoo** not helping proceedings, before we ran into a roadblock. We quickly found out that the reason for the jam was the now famous **Pel's Fishing Owls** that had been sighted near the Kruger Gate, and after some careful maneuvering we managed to get into a position to see them. Wow – despite the views through branches and leaves, what a bird to get, and in southern Kruger, even better! The rest of the drive pretty much waned in comparison, but we still enjoyed good



views of Hamerkop, at long last, together with Crested Francolin, Natal and Swainson's Spurfowls, Common Scimitarbill, Little Bee-eater, Red-billed Firefinch, and a Red-crested Korhaan complete with a tiny chick in tow. Try as we might, we couldn't pull a leopard out of the hat, but headed back to camp feeling most satisfied nevertheless.

A night drive after dinner was excellent and delivered, among others, white-tailed mongoose, large-spotted genet, thick-tailed greater galago, lesser galago, klipspringer, black rhino, and a lovely **Freckled Nightjar** on the birding front.

Day 21, October 29. Kruger to Dullstroom

We began the morning with an early bird walk around the camp. Jo had started off a little earlier than the rest of us, and on meeting up with him we learnt that he had seen African Finfoot in front of the restaurant just a few moments ago. We quickly moved down to the river and spent some time scanning for the bird, but sadly we were unable to relocate it. Striated Herons flew up and down the river, while Purple-crested Turacos and African Green Pigeons moved about in the canopy. The riverside thickets held Jameson's Firefinch, Red-faced Cisticola, nesting Spectacled Weavers, and a brilliant White-throated Robin-Chat. We also enjoyed the antics of the resident Yellow-breasted Apalis, Violet-backed Starling, Yellow-bellied Greenbul, Collared Sunbird, White-fronted Bee-eater, Chinspot Batis, and Long-billed Crombec.

A regal **Martial Eagle** soared overhead at breakfast, but the drive out of the park was deadly quiet. **Scarlet-chested Sunbirds** bade us farewell as we exited the Kruger, and then we crossed over the escarpment to Dullstroom. Groups of **Swee Waxbills** and **African Firefinches** littered the road in places en route, and we enjoyed the scenic drive.

On arriving at our overnight accommodation we dropped off our luggage and headed out to look for **Black-winged Lapwing**. Fortunately, the birds played along, and we enjoyed some great views of a small group hanging out with some **Crowned Lapwings**. We gave **Cape Eagle-Owl** a stakeout in the dying hours of the day, but it was very quiet, and we had all but given up. We were somewhat disappointed, after our monster walk up the hill without having seen the bird, and were just about to start getting back into the van, when I heard the unmistakable hooting of the owl. We quickly rushed to get a view of the mountain and began scanning the hillside in the dying light. Yes, the even more unmistakable shape of the owl was out in the open, atop some rocks! We managed to get some scope views before the light all but faded, and we headed to dinner feeling a little better.

Day 22, October 30. Dullstroom to Zaagkuilsdrift

We set off into the grasslands north of town in search of the "Big 3", Denham's Bustard, Secretarybird, and Wattled Crane. We had a good start with a stately **Secretarybird** at the first scanning point. Vocal **Red-winged Francolins** called from rocky outcrops, while **Eastern Long-billed Lark** and **Yellow-breasted Pipit** noisily displayed from the surrounding areas. We slowly continued on our way, and, lo and behold, ran into a **Wattled Crane** right next to the road. The bird unfortunately flushed and flew quite some distance, and after a long walk through some wet grass we were rewarded with good scope views of this brilliant bird! Not to be outdone, a displaying male **Denham's Bustard** in the same valley as the crane was thoroughly enjoyed and brought a very successful morning's birding to an end

Having collected a few things for lunch, we headed out to the Groblersdal area for some afternoon birding in the broad-leaved woodlands in the region. Despite it being around midday the birding was very good, and we encountered Lazy Cisticola, Grey-backed Camaroptera, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Green-capped Eremomela, Pearl-breasted Swallow, and Mocking Cliff Chat. A stop at one of the rivers was really productive and



delivered White-backed Night Heron, Half-collared and Giant Kingfishers, and a Gabar Goshawk moving along the river course.

All too soon we had to pack it in and head off to Rust de Winter Nature Reserve, where we birded around one of the rivers. It was oddly rather quiet here, but we eventually pulled out a **Bearded Woodpecker** along with a beautiful **Pearl-spotted Owlet**.

We soon moved on to our overnight accommodation in the Zaagkuilsdrift region, where a lovely bush braai followed, and after dinner we headed out on a night drive. The night drive was incredibly productive, and we had great views of **Fiery-necked Nightjar**, **Marsh Owl**, and a rather uncooperative **Southern White-faced Owl** that only showed briefly. The highlight of the night drive, however, was probably the African civet we came across next to a river.



Green-capped Eremomela in full cry

Day 23, October 31. Departure

Not letting the tiredness from the late night keep us in bed, we started the last morning with some nice and early birding in the rich acacia woodlands that cover this region. The birding was great, and we managed to get almost all of our targets. These included the striking Southern Pied Babbler, the incredible Crimson-breasted Shrike, and the petite Greenwinged Pytilia, along with some more toned-down species such as Marico Flycatcher, Scaly-feathered Weaver, Brown-crowned Tchagra, Namaqua Dove, White-backed Mousebird, Kalahari Scrub Robin, Burnt-necked Eremomela, Cape Penduline Tit, Barred Wren-Warbler, and Black-chested Prinia. After persistently scanning some dry open plains we also found a small grouping of Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Larks.

After a good breakfast we made the grind back to Johannesburg to prepare for the various departures. A male **Northern Black Korhaan** and **Desert Cisticola** were the last birds we added before arriving at the airport.

After having dropped Jo, we headed out and birded the nearby Korsman Bird Sanctuary and Bullfrog Pan, where among others we found Maccoa Duck, Black-necked Grebe, White-winged Tern, Sand Martin, Red-headed Finch, and a good variety of other waterbirds.



Appreciable numbers of **Greater Flamingos** are always great to see this close to Johannesburg.

But all too soon the day expired, and the last few drop-offs were made.

A big thank you must go out to all the participants for making this trip a truly great one. We certainly had some wonderful birding moments and highlights that I will treasure for a long time!

WESTERN CAPE AND SUBTROPICL SOUTH AFRICA BIRD LIST 16 - 31 OCTOBER 2015

Bold = country endemic

Status: NT = Near-threatened, VU = Vulnerable, EN = Endangered

Common Name (IOC 5.4)	Scientific Name (IOC 5.4)	Trip
	STRUTHIONIFORMES	
Ostriches	Struthionidae	
Common Ostrich	Struthio camelus	1
	ANSERIFORMES	
Ducks, Geese and Swans	<u>Anatidae</u>	
White-faced Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna viduata	1
White-backed Duck	Thalassornis leuconotus	1
Spur-winged Goose	Plectropterus gambensis	1
Egyptian Goose	Alopochen aegyptiaca	1
South African Shelduck	Tadorna cana	1
Cape Teal	Anas capensis	1
African Black Duck	Anas sparsa	1
Yellow-billed Duck	Anas undulata	1
Cape Shoveler	Anas smithii	1
Red-billed Teal	Anas erythrorhyncha	1
Hottentot Teal	Anas hottentota	1
Southern Pochard	Netta erythrophthalma	1
Maccoa Duck - NT	Oxyura maccoa	1
	PHASIANIFORMES	
Guineafowl	<u>Numididae</u>	
Helmeted Guineafowl	Numida meleagris	1
Crested Guineafowl	Guttera pucherani	1
Pheasants and allies	Phasianidae	
Grey-winged Francolin	Scleroptila afra	1
Red-winged Francolin	Scleroptila levaillantii	1
Crested Francolin	Dendroperdix sephaena	1
Cape Spurfowl	Pternistis capensis	1
Natal Spurfowl	Pternistis natalensis	1
Red-necked Spurfowl	Pternistis afer	1



Swainson's Spurfowl	Pternistis swainsonii	1
Common Quail	Coturnix coturnix	1
	SPHENISCIFORMES	
<u>Penguins</u>	Spheniscidae	
African Penguin - EN	Spheniscus demersus	1
	PROCELLARIIFORMES	
Austral Storm Petrels	<u>Oceanitidae</u>	
Wilson's Storm Petrel	Oceanites oceanicus	1
Black-bellied Storm Petrel	Fregetta tropica	1
Albatrosses	<u>Diomedeidae</u>	
Wandering Albatross - VU	Diomedea exulans	1
Southern Royal Albatross - VU	Diomedea epomophora	1
Black-browed Albatross - NT	Thalassarche melanophris	1
Shy Albatross	Thalassarche cauta	1
Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross - EN	Thalassarche chlororhynchos	1
Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross - EN	Thalassarche carteri	1
Petrels, Shearwaters	<u>Procellariidae</u>	
Southern Giant Petrel	Macronectes giganteus	1
Northern Giant Petrel	Macronectes halli	1
Southern Fulmar	Fulmarus glacialoides	1
Cape Petrel	Daption capense	1
Antarctic Prion	Pachyptila desolata	1
White-chinned Petrel - VU	Procellaria aequinoctialis	1
Sooty Shearwater - NT	Ardenna grisea	1
Great Shearwater	Ardenna gravis	1
	PODICIPEDIFORMES	
Grebes	<u>Podicipedidae</u>	
Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis	1
Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus	1
Black-necked Grebe	Podiceps nigricollis	1
	PHOENICOPTERIFORMES	
<u>Flamingos</u>	Phoenicopteridae	
Greater Flamingo	Phoenicopterus roseus	1
Lesser Flamingo - NT	Phoeniconaias minor	1
	CICONIIFORMES	
<u>Storks</u>	Ciconiidae	
Yellow-billed Stork	Mycteria ibis	1
African Openbill	Anastomus lamelligerus	1
Woolly-necked Stork	Ciconia episcopus	1
Saddle-billed Stork	Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis	1
Marabou Stork	Leptoptilos crumenifer	1
	PELECANIFORMES	





1

1

Accipitridae

Elanus caeruleus

Polyboroides typus

Kites, Hawks and Eagles

Black-winged Kite

African Harrier-Hawk







	MUSOPHAGIFORMES	
Turacos	<u>Musophagidae</u>	
Livingstone's Turaco	Tauraco livingstonii	1
Knysna Turaco	Tauraco corythaix	1
Purple-crested Turaco	Tauraco porphyreolophus	1
Grey Go-away-bird	Corythaixoides concolor	1
	CUCULIFORMES	
Cuckoos	<u>Cuculidae</u>	
Burchell's Coucal	Centropus burchellii	1
Green Malkoha	Ceuthmochares australis	Н
Jacobin Cuckoo	Clamator jacobinus	1
Diederik Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx caprius	1
Klaas's Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx klaas	1
African Emerald Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx cupreus	1
Black Cuckoo	Cuculus clamosus	1
Red-chested Cuckoo	Cuculus solitarius	1
	STRIGIFORMES	
Barn Owls	Tytonidae	
Western Barn Owl	Tyto alba	1
Owls	Strigidae	
African Scops Owl	Otus senegalensis	Н
Southern White-faced Owl	Ptilopsis granti	1
Cape Eagle-Owl	Bubo capensis	1
Spotted Eagle-Owl	Bubo africanus	1
Pel's Fishing Owl	Scotopelia peli	1
African Wood Owl	Strix woodfordii	1
Pearl-spotted Owlet	Glaucidium perlatum	1
Marsh Owl	Asio capensis	1
	CAPRIMULGIFORMES	
<u>Nightjars</u>	<u>Caprimulgidae</u>	
Fiery-necked Nightjar	Caprimulgus pectoralis	1
Freckled Nightjar	Caprimulgus tristigma	1
	APODIFORMES	
<u>Swifts</u>	<u>Apodidae</u>	
African Palm Swift	Cypsiurus parvus	1
Alpine Swift	Tachymarptis melba	1
African Black Swift	Apus barbatus	1
Little Swift	Apus affinis	1
Horus Swift	Apus horus	1
White-rumped Swift	Apus caffer	1
	COLIIFORMES	
Mousebirds	<u>Coliidae</u>	



Speckled Mousebird	Colius striatus	1
White-backed Mousebird	Colius colius	1
Red-faced Mousebird	Urocolius indicus	1
Treat faces from the face from the face face face from the face from the face from the face face from the face fac	TROGONIFORMES	
Trogons	Trogonidae	
Narina Trogon	Apaloderma narina	1
Trainia 1105011	CORACIIFORMES	
Rollers	Coraciidae	
Purple Roller	Coracias naevius	1
Lilac-breasted Roller	Coracias caudatus	1
Broad-billed Roller	Eurystomus glaucurus	1
Kingfishers	Alcedinidae	
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	Halcyon albiventris	1
Striped Kingfisher	Halcyon chelicuti	1
African Pygmy Kingfisher	Ispidina picta	1
Malachite Kingfisher	Corythornis cristatus	1
Half-collared Kingfisher	Alcedo semitorquata	1
Giant Kingfisher	Megaceryle maxima	1
Pied Kingfisher	Ceryle rudis	1
Bee-eaters	Meropidae	
Little Bee-eater	Merops pusillus	1
White-fronted Bee-eater	Merops bullockoides	1
European Bee-eater	Merops apiaster	1
T	BUCEROTIFORMES	
Hoopoes	Upupidae	
African Hoopoe	Upupa africana	1
Wood Hoopoes	Phoeniculidae Phoeniculidae	
Green Wood Hoopoe	Phoeniculus purpureus	1
Common Scimitarbill	Rhinopomastus cyanomelas	1
Ground Hornbills	Bucorvidae	
Southern Ground Hornbill - VU	Bucorvus leadbeateri	1
Hornbills	Bucerotidae	
Southern Red-billed Hornbill	Tockus rufirostris	1
Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	Tockus leucomelas	1
Crowned Hornbill	Lophoceros alboterminatus	1
African Grey Hornbill	Lophoceros nasutus	1
Trumpeter Hornbill	Bycanistes bucinator	1
	PICIFORMES	
African Barbets	Lybiidae	
White-eared Barbet	Stactolaema leucotis	1
Green Barbet	Stactolaema olivacea	1
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird	Pogoniulus bilineatus	1





Southern Tchagra	Tchagra tchagra	1
Black-backed Puffback	Dryoscopus cubla	1
Southern Boubou	Laniarius ferrugineus	1
Crimson-breasted Shrike	Laniarius atrococcineus	1
Brubru	Nilaus afer	1
Cuckooshrikes	Campephagidae	
Grey Cuckooshrike	Coracina caesia	1
Black Cuckooshrike	Campephaga flava	1
Shrikes	Laniidae	
Magpie Shrike	Urolestes melanoleucus	1
Southern Fiscal	Lanius collaris	1
Figbirds, Orioles	Oriolidae	
Black-headed Oriole	Oriolus larvatus	1
Drongos	Dicruridae	
Square-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus ludwigii	1
Fork-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus adsimilis	1
Monarchs	Monarchidae	
Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher	Trochocercus cyanomelas	1
African Paradise Flycatcher	Terpsiphone viridis	1
Crows, Jays	Corvidae	
Cape Crow	Corvus capensis	1
Pied Crow	Corvus albus	1
White-necked Raven	Corvus albicollis	1
<u>Rockjumpers</u>	<u>Chaetopidae</u>	
Cape Rockjumper	Chaetops frenatus	1
Drakensberg Rockjumper	Chaetops aurantius	1
Fairy Flycatchers	<u>Stenostiridae</u>	
Fairy Flycatcher	Stenostira scita	1
<u>Tits, Chickadees</u>	<u>Paridae</u>	
Southern Black Tit	Melaniparus niger	1
Grey Tit	Melaniparus afer	1
Penduline Tits	<u>Remizidae</u>	
Grey Penduline Tit	Anthoscopus caroli	1
Cape Penduline Tit	Anthoscopus minutus	1
Nicators	<u>Nicatoridae</u>	
Eastern Nicator	Nicator gularis	1
<u>Larks</u>	Alaudidae	
Spike-heeled Lark	Chersomanes albofasciata	1
Eastern Long-billed Lark	Certhilauda semitorquata	1
Cape Long-billed Lark	Certhilauda curvirostris	1
Black-eared Sparrow-Lark	Eremopterix australis	1
Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark	Eremopterix leucotis	1



Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark	Eremopterix verticalis	1
Sabota Lark	Calendulauda sabota	1
Karoo Lark	Calendulauda albescens	1
Rudd's Lark - VU	Heteromirafra ruddi	1
Eastern Clapper Lark	Mirafra fasciolata	1
Rufous-naped Lark	Mirafra africana	1
Pink-billed Lark	Spizocorys conirostris	1
Large-billed Lark	Galerida magnirostris	1
Red-capped Lark	Calandrella cinerea	1
Bulbuls	Pycnonotidae	
Cape Bulbul	Pycnonotus capensis	1
Dark-capped Bulbul	Pycnonotus tricolor	1
Sombre Greenbul	Andropadus importunus	1
Yellow-bellied Greenbul	Chlorocichla flaviventris	1
Terrestrial Brownbul	Phyllastrephus terrestris	1
Yellow-streaked Greenbul	Phyllastrephus flavostriatus	1
Swallows, Martins	Hirundinidae	
Black Saw-wing	Psalidoprocne pristoptera	1
Grey-rumped Swallow	Pseudhirundo griseopyga	1
Brown-throated Martin	Riparia paludicola	1
Sand Martin	Riparia riparia	1
Banded Martin	Riparia cincta	1
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	1
White-throated Swallow	Hirundo albigularis	1
Wire-tailed Swallow	Hirundo smithii	1
Blue Swallow - VU	Hirundo atrocaerulea	1
Pearl-breasted Swallow	Hirundo dimidiata	1
Rock Martin	Ptyonoprogne fuligula	1
Common House Martin	Delichon urbicum	1
Greater Striped Swallow	Cecropis cucullata	1
Lesser Striped Swallow	Cecropis abyssinica	1
Red-breasted Swallow	Cecropis semirufa	1
South African Cliff Swallow	Petrochelidon spilodera	1
Crombecs, African Warblers	Macrosphenidae	
Cape Grassbird	Sphenoeacus afer	1
Long-billed Crombec	Sylvietta rufescens	1
Victorin's Warbler	Cryptillas victorini	1
Leaf Warblers and allies	Phylloscopidae	
Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler	Phylloscopus ruficapilla	1
Willow Warbler	Phylloscopus trochilus	1
Reed Warblers and allies	<u>Acrocephalidae</u>	
Lesser Swamp Warbler	Acrocephalus gracilirostris	1

African Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus baeticatus	1
African Yellow Warbler	Iduna natalensis	1
Grassbirds and allies	Locustellidae	
Little Rush Warbler	Bradypterus baboecala	1
Barratt's Warbler	Bradypterus barratti	1
Cisticolas and allies	Cisticolidae	
Red-faced Cisticola	Cisticola erythrops	1
Lazy Cisticola	Cisticola aberrans	1
Rattling Cisticola	Cisticola chiniana	1
Grey-backed Cisticola	Cisticola subruficapilla	1
Wailing Cisticola	Cisticola lais	1
Rufous-winged Cisticola	Cisticola galactotes	1
Levaillant's Cisticola	Cisticola tinniens	1
Croaking Cisticola	Cisticola natalensis	1
Neddicky	Cisticola fulvicapilla	1
Zitting Cisticola	Cisticola juncidis	1
Desert Cisticola	Cisticola aridulus	1
Cloud Cisticola	Cisticola textrix	1
Pale-crowned Cisticola	Cisticola cinnamomeus	1
Wing-snapping Cisticola	Cisticola ayresii	1
Tawny-flanked Prinia	Prinia subflava	1
Black-chested Prinia	Prinia flavicans	1
Karoo Prinia	Prinia maculosa	1
Drakensberg Prinia	Prinia hypoxantha	1
Namaqua Warbler	Phragmacia substriata	1
Bar-throated Apalis	Apalis thoracica	1
Rudd's Apalis	Apalis ruddi	1
Yellow-breasted Apalis	Apalis flavida	1
Rufous-eared Warbler	Malcorus pectoralis	1
Green-backed Camaroptera	Camaroptera brachyura	1
Grey-backed Camaroptera	Camaroptera brevicaudata	1
Barred Wren-Warbler	Calamonastes fasciolatus	1
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	Eremomela icteropygialis	1
Green-capped Eremomela	Eremomela scotops	1
Karoo Eremomela	Eremomela gregalis	1
Burnt-necked Eremomela	Eremomela usticollis	1
<u>Laughingthrushes</u>	<u>Leiothrichidae</u>	
Arrow-marked Babbler	Turdoides jardineii	1
Southern Pied Babbler	Turdoides bicolor	1
Sylviid Babblers	<u>Sylviidae</u>	
Bush Blackcap - NT	Lioptilus nigricapillus	1
Chestnut-vented Warbler	Sylvia subcaerulea	1

Layard's Warbler	Sylvia layardi	1
White-eyes	Zosteropidae	
Cape White-eye	Zosterops virens	1
Sugarbirds	Promeropidae	
Cape Sugarbird	Promerops cafer	1
Gurney's Sugarbird	Promerops gurneyi	1
Starlings, Rhabdornis	Sturnidae	
Common Myna	Acridotheres tristis	1
Common Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	1
Wattled Starling	Creatophora cinerea	1
Black-bellied Starling	Notopholia corrusca	1
Cape Starling	Lamprotornis nitens	1
Greater Blue-eared Starling	Lamprotornis chalybaeus	1
Burchell's Starling	Lamprotornis australis	1
Pied Starling	Lamprotornis bicolor	1
Violet-backed Starling	Cinnyricinclus leucogaster	1
Red-winged Starling	Onychognathus morio	1
<u>Oxpeckers</u>	Buphagidae	
Red-billed Oxpecker	Buphagus erythrorynchus	
Thrushes	<u>Turdidae</u>	
Orange Ground Thrush	Geokichla gurneyi	1
Spotted Ground Thrush - EN	Geokichla guttata	1
Groundscraper Thrush	Turdus litsitsirupa	1
Kurrichane Thrush	Turdus libonyana	1
Olive Thrush	Turdus olivaceus	1
Karoo Thrush	Turdus smithi	1
Chats, Old World Flycatchers	Muscicapidae	
Karoo Scrub Robin	Cercotrichas coryphoeus	1
Bearded Scrub Robin	Cercotrichas quadrivirgata	1
Kalahari Scrub Robin	Cercotrichas paena	1
White-browed Scrub Robin	Cercotrichas leucophrys	1
Brown Scrub Robin	Cercotrichas signata	1
Grey Tit-Flycatcher	Myioparus plumbeus	1
Southern Black Flycatcher	Melaenornis pammelaina	1
Pale Flycatcher	Melaenornis pallidus	1
Marico Flycatcher	Melaenornis mariquensis	1
Fiscal Flycatcher	Melaenornis silens	1
Ashy Flycatcher	Muscicapa caerulescens	1
African Dusky Flycatcher	Muscicapa adusta	1
Cape Robin-Chat	Cossypha caffra	1
White-throated Robin-Chat	Cossypha humeralis	1
White-browed Robin-Chat	Cossypha heuglini	1





Common Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs	1
Forest Canary	Crithagra scotops	1
Black-throated Canary	Crithagra atrogularis	1
Lemon-breasted Canary	Crithagra citrinipectus	1
Yellow-fronted Canary	Crithagra mozambica	1
Cape Siskin	Crithagra totta	1
Drakensberg Siskin	Crithagra symonsi	1
Yellow Canary	Crithagra flaviventris	1
Brimstone Canary	Crithagra sulphurata	1
Streaky-headed Seedeater	Crithagra gularis	1
White-throated Canary	Crithagra albogularis	1
Protea Canary	Crithagra leucoptera	1
Cape Canary	Serinus canicollis	1
Black-headed Canary	Serinus alario	1
Buntings, New World Sparrows	Emberizidae	
Lark-like Bunting	Emberiza impetuani	1
Cape Bunting	Emberiza capensis	1
Golden-breasted Bunting	Emberiza flaviventris	1
TOTAL		507

WESTERN CAPE AND SUBTROPICL SOUTH AFRICA MAMMAL LIST 16 - 31 OCTOBER 2015 **Common Name (IUCN) Scientific Name (IUCN)** TRIP **CHOROPTERA** Vespertilionidae Neoromicia capensis 1 Cape bat **PRIMATES** Cercopithecidae Chacma baboon Papio ursinus 1 1 Vervet Chlorocebus pygerythrus 1 Samango monkey Cercopithecus mitis labiatus Galagidae Thick-tailed greater galago Otolemur crassicaudatus 1 Southern lesser galago Galago moholi 1 **LAGOMORPHA** Leporidae Scrub hare 1 Lepus saxatilis Natal red rock hare 1 Pronolagus crassicaudatus **RODENTIA** Sciuridae 1 Ongoye red bush squirrel Paraxerus palliatus ornatus





Hippopotamus	Hippopotamus amphibius	1
	Giraffidae	
Giraffe	Giraffa camelopardalis	1
	Bovidae	
African buffalo	Syncerus caffer	1
Eland	Tragelaphus oryx	1
Greater kudu	Tragelaphus strepsiceros	1
Nyala	Tragelaphus angasii	1
Bushbuck	Tragelaphus scriptus	1
Waterbuck	Kobus ellipsiprymnus	1
Mountain reedbuck	Redunca fulvorufula	1
Southern reedbuck	Redunca arundinum	1
Grey rhebok	Pelea capreolus	1
Blue wildebeest	Connochaetes taurinus taurinus	1
Red hartebeest	Alcelaphus buselaphus caama	1
Bontebok	Damaliscus pygargus pygargus	1
Blesbok	Damaliscus pygargus phillipsi	х
Impala	Aepyceros melampus	1
Suni	Neotragus moschatus	1
Klipspringer	Oreotragus oreotragus	1
Steenbok	Raphicerus campestris	1
Oribi	Ourebia ourebi	1
Natal red duiker	Cephalophus natalensis	1
Blue duiker	Philantomba monticola	1
Common duiker	Sylvicapra grimmia	1
	Balaenopteridae	
Humpback whale	Megaptera novaeangliae	1
	Balaenidae	
Southern right whale	Eubalaena australis	1
	Delphinidae	
Common bottlenose dolphin	Tursiops truncatus	1
TOTAL		58

