



COMPLETE SOUTH AFRICA: BIRDING AND MAMMAL TOUR REPORT

07 AUGUST – 11 SEPTEMBER 2022

By Dominic Rollinson and Dylan Vasapolli



*This mega tour focused on both birds and mammals – here a **Lioness** curiously watched us.*

Overview

This 37-day comprehensive tour of South Africa took in many of the country's great birding and wildlife hotspots, incorporating a multitude of habitat types and also included some spectacular scenery in iconic tourist destinations. The tour was divided into two legs: western and eastern South Africa. The western South Africa leg started in the Kalahari's Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park before making our way through the semi-deserts of the Northern Cape province to the west coast at Langebaan. Next was a few days around Cape Town, one of the most beautiful cities in the world, before we headed east to the Agulhas Plains and eventually the forests and wetlands of the Garden Route. The eastern South Africa leg started in the east-coast city, Durban, before transferring to the Drakensberg Mountains and exploring the incredible Sani Pass. We slowly worked our way up the east coast of South Africa, calling in at the likes of Eshowe, St Lucia and Mkhuze Game Reserve. From here, we pressed onwards to the famous Kruger National Park, where we spent several days trying to find all the many birds and mammals within. The tour concluded in Johannesburg, following a few days of birding between Kruger and Johannesburg.



***Orange-breasted Sunbird** in the Cape Fold Mountains – one of South Africa's most beautiful endemic birds.*

This tour was run for a private group, at a more relaxed pace than most of our birding tours and we included other non-birding activities to enjoy the culture, history and wildlife of the country. Despite this we still managed to rack up an impressive list of birds with over 450 species recorded, and with many of the country's endemics and near-endemics seen well. The list of highlights for this mega tour is too long to include all, but standouts were our time spent exploring the vastness of the Kgalagadi, roaming through the rugged Namaqualand mountains, taking in the scenic Table

Mountain and surrounding Cape Peninsula, traversing our way up the Sani Pass into Lesotho, seeing our first White Rhinos in Mkhuze Game Reserve, the sheer splendor of the Kruger National Park and all its wildlife, and the beautifully quaint rolling hills of Dullstroom. A detailed daily account can be read below, and comprehensive bird and mammal lists can be found at the end of this report.

Detailed Report

Day 1, 06th August 2022. Upington to Kgalagadi Lodge

We started this five-week-long trip in the late morning in Upington and had most of the afternoon to make the drive north to the edge of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. After picking up some lunch in Upington we hit the open road and made regular stops along the way. First up was a massive **Sociable Weaver** nest which also had a few **Scaly-feathered Weavers** as residents of the colonial nest. All along the drive we encountered these massive nests, some of which the enormous weight of the ever-growing straw nests had broken the electricity poles they were built on. Nearby we also saw **Black-chested Prinias** (in their non-breeding dress), several **Grey-backed Sparrow-Larks**, our first of many **Chat Flycatchers** and a group of three **Kori Bustards** – one of the heaviest flying birds on the planet! At our lunch stop we were entertained by a large kettle of circling **White-backed** and **Lappet-faced Vultures** with a **Tawny Eagle** showing too.



This Marico Flycatcher was particularly friendly at the Kgalagadi Lodge.

In the late afternoon we arrived at our comfortable lodge just outside of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park and after unpacking we took a gentle stroll through the red dunes which yielded

several Kalahari specials. **Southern Masked** and **Scaly-feathered Weavers**, **Shaft-tailed Whydah** and **Red-headed Finches** were drinking from a small water feature, with **Marico Flycatcher**, **Ashy Tit**, **Crimson-breasted Shrike**, **Kalahari Scrub Robin** and a **Pearl-spotted Owlet** all showing for us. We ended our first evening on tour at the restaurant where we enjoyed a tasty meal and managed to catch the end of the important rugby match between the South African Springboks and the New Zealand All Blacks which was easily won by the Springboks!

Day 2, 07th August 2022. Exploring the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park

After an early breakfast we made our way into the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (shared by South Africa, Botswana and Namibia) and ended up birding around Twee Rivieren camp before heading into the park proper. The camp was very birdy and it didn't take long until we added some further special birds to our list. **Burchell's** and **Namaqua Sandgrouse** flew overhead while lower down **Ashy Tit**, **Crimson-breasted Shrike**, **Common Scimitarbill**, **White-backed Mousebird**, **Acacia Pied Barbet**, **African Palm Swift**, **Golden-tailed Woodpecker**, **Pririt Batis**, **Black-faced Waxbill** and **Marico Flycatcher** all posed nicely for us. We were also entertained by large groups of **South African Ground Squirrels** and a mating pair of **Yellow Mongoose**. Once it started to warm up, we jumped back into our vehicle and headed into the park. As we drove along the Nossob River we had our first large mammals of the trip including **Gemsbok** (Southern Oryx), **Springbok**, (Red) **Hartebeest**, **Common Wildebeest** and **Black-backed Jackal**. The birding was a little slow, however we did steadily add to the list with **Common Ostrich**, **Black-chested Snake Eagle**, **Sabota Lark**, **Namaqua Dove** and multiple **Pale Chanting Goshawks** and **Secretarybirds**.



*We had good looks at **Secretarybirds** in the Kalahari.*

After lunch we cut west towards the Auob River and drove through the dune fields which yielded a different selection of birds including the likes of **Fawn-colored Lark**, **Ant-eating Chat**, **Red-crested** and **Northern Black Korhaans** and **Lanner Falcon**. Once we reached the Auob River we followed it south towards Twee Rivieren producing some great afternoon birding. Along the riverbed we enjoyed our first looks at **Red-necked Falcon** and **Gabar Goshawk** while we had repeat views of colorful **Crimson-breasted Shrikes**. Unfortunately, we just missed seeing a Leopard as it made its way over the ridge, but we did see our first **Steenbok** of the trip.

Days 3-5, 08-10th August 2022. Into the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park

The next three full days were spent within the park as we stayed at our exclusive lodge located on the edge of a dry salt pan which had a constant stream of animals coming to visit it. Our days were spent enjoying morning and sunset drives, undertaking walks with our expert tracker, Corné, and finding out more about the nomadic lifestyle of the Bushmen who have lived in the Kalahari for centuries. Although the area did not produce a large diversity of birds, we did get multiple looks at many dry western species including **Chestnut-vented Warbler**, **Desert Cisticola**, **Crimson-breasted Shrike**, **Namaqua** and **Burchell's Sandgrouses**, **Red-headed Finch** and a number of the cute and tiny **Pygmy Falcon**.



Red-headed Finches posed wonderfully for us in the Kalahari.

While enjoying a morning drive along the Auob River we came across a massive flock of **Red-billed Quelea** which had **Gabar Goshawk** and **Lanner Falcon** hanging around to pick off any birds which strayed from the main flock! Along this riverbed we also encountered **Red-necked Falcon**, **Martial Eagle**, **Bateleur**, **Lilac-breasted** and **Purple Rollers**, **Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill**, **Rufous-eared Warbler**, **Cape Starling** and **Swallow-tailed Bee-eater**. Mammals were

a constant feature of the riverbed and aside from the more numerous antelope we also encountered a large herd of **Giraffe** and a lone **Cape Fox** sleeping under a bush. Perhaps the highlight of our time along the Auob was a distant but prolonged sighting of two **Cheetahs**, as they made their way along a dune – well spotted Carolyn! Our night drives were relatively quiet although we did see **Spotted Eagle-Owl** and **Black-backed Jackal** with **Western Barn Owl** seen as it flew overhead giving its eerie screeching call. While accompanying Corné on a morning walk we were fascinated to discover just how close a Leopard had come to our accommodation during the night, and we also saw the spoor of Lion, Striped Polecat, Springhare and African Wild Cat!

Day 6, 11th August 2022. Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park to Augrabies

Today was mostly a travel day and so we left our lodge early and had a late breakfast along the Auob River which produced further sightings of **Common Ostrich**, **Kori Bustard**, **Desert Cisticola**, **Fawn-colored Lark** and **Swallow-tailed Bee-eater**. We took our time driving south through the park which produced views of **Red-necked Falcon**, **Crimson-breasted Shrike**, and **Black-faced Waxbill**.

Once out of the park it was the long road south to Upington, where we picked up some lunch and made our way west along the Orange River, enjoying a picnic lunch along the way. A quick stop was made in the town of Keimoes for **Rosy-faced Lovebirds** which showed at their usual spot. We arrived at the camp in Augrabies Falls National Park late in the afternoon and after unpacking we took a casual stroll around the camp where we added new birds in the form of **Hadada Ibis**, **Cape Robin-Chat** and **White-throated Canary**. Of course, the highlight of any trip to Augrabies is the falls themselves and we took some time enjoying the impressive falls with beautiful **Broadley's Flat Lizards** adding a splash of color to the rocks in the area.



Meerkat were rather abundant in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

Day 7, 12th August 2022. Augrabies birding and transfer to Pofadder

We started the morning with a stroll around the lush and green camp which bagged us a whole bunch of new birds including the likes of **Three-banded Plover**, **Red-faced Mousebird**, **African Hoopoe**, **Crested Barbet**, **Cardinal Woodpecker**, **Pririt Batis**, **Namaqua Warbler**, **Brubru**, **Orange River White-eye**, **Pale-winged Starling**, **Karoo Thrush**, **Karoo Scrub Robin**, **Fiscal Flycatcher** and **Dusky Sunbird**. Our stroll around camp also included another walk down to view the impressive falls, this time with many **Rock Hyraxes** out enjoying the sun. We then took a drive around the park and enjoyed the spectacular views of the gorge and listened to Tom explaining the fascinating history and geology of the gorge. The birding along the edge of the gorge was good too and we added **Black Stork**, **Yellow-bellied Eremomela** and managed fantastic views of the skulking **Cinnamon-breasted Warbler**.



*The normally skulking **Cinnamon-breasted Warbler** at Augrabies Falls National Park.*

After lunch we kept heading west and made our way to the small town of Pofadder where we were based for the next two nights. After checking into our hotel, we headed southwest out of town and birded some of the roads in the area. We waited a while at one of the Sclater's Larks spots where these elusive desert nomads are known to come and drink, but unfortunately they were not around for us. We did however encounter a lovely pair of **Karoo Korhaans** which showed beautifully for us.

Day 8, 13th August 2022. Pofadder birding

This morning we headed out early and made our way west of Pofadder to the Koa Dunes area where we had good looks at a couple of singing **Red Larks**. The area was alive with birds which

included huge flocks of **Grey-backed Sparrow-Larks** (unfortunately no Black-eared Sparrow-Larks around though) as well as **Namaqua Sandgrouse**, **Red-headed Finch**, **Lark-like Bunting**, and **Yellow** and **White-throated Canaries**. We then took a slow and very birdy drive back to Pofadder, adding **Ludwig's Bustard**, **Spike-heeled** and **Karoo Long-billed Larks**, **Wattled Starling**, **Karoo** and **Tractrac Chats**, **Mountain Wheatear** and **Nicholson's Pipit**.



Red Larks were seen easily at the Koa Dunes, near Pofadder.

In the afternoon, we took a drive north of Pofadder to the border town of Onseepkans, right on the Orange River. The drive between Pofadder and Onseepkans is very scenic and we made a few stops en route to marvel at the geology and incredible vistas. We then birded on the outskirts of Onseepkans and along the Orange River and found some good birds such as **Orange River White-eye**, **Rosy-faced Lovebird**, **Brown-throated Martin**, **Hamerkop** and **Namaqua Warbler**. We watched the Namibian side of the river and added a few birds to our Namibian list including **White-throated Swallow**, **Great Egret**, **African Darter**, **African Sacred Ibis** and **Blacksmith Lapwing**. We drove back to Pofadder while enjoying a stunning sunset to end off another highly enjoyable day in the deserts of western South Africa.

Day 9, 14th August 2022. Pofadder to Springbok and Goegap Nature Reserve birding

A few of us decided to partake in a very early drive to see if we could find any nocturnal birds and animals on the roads outside Pofadder. It was a bitterly cold morning with some light drizzle which did not make things any easier for us, and besides a couple of **Scrub Hares** we did not see much on the mammal front. However, we scored big on the nocturnal bird front when we found a wonderful **Cape Eagle-Owl** which we continued to watch for the next 30 minutes as it called continuously. An excellent start to the morning!

After breakfast, we packed our bags and then drove some of the roads around Pofadder in a last-ditch effort to find Sclater's and Stark's Larks. Sclater's Lark would not play along but we did get quick views of a single **Starks' Lark**, which felt good. Other nice birds seen along the drive included **Short-toed Rock Thrush**, **Greater Kestrel** and **Black-chested Snake Eagle**.



Karoo Long-billed Larks were common around Pofadder.

We then made our way further west towards the town of Springbok and arrived in the late afternoon where we spent a couple of very enjoyable hours at the scenic and botanically diverse Goegap Nature Reserve. We were a couple of weeks too early for the full splendor of the floral carpets for which this reserve is so famous, nevertheless there were a few flowers out for us to enjoy. Along with the flowers, we enjoyed a good selection of new birds such as **Jackal Buzzard**, **Booted Eagle**, **Red-capped Lark**, **Karoo Eremomela**, **Malachite Sunbird**, **Cape Bunting** and a pair of **Verreaux's Eagles** which were being mobbed by the multitudes of **Pied Crows** and **White-necked Ravens**. We also came across some unusual mammals in the form of **Dassie Rat** and **Smith's Red Rock Rabbit** (quite a mouthful).

Day 10, 15th August 2022. Springbok birding

We opted out of the long drive west to Port Nolloth to find Barlow's Lark, another South African endemic lark and instead spent a leisurely morning around Goegap Nature Reserve which turned out to be highly productive. After hitting Springbok's high street for some winter clothes shopping, we headed back into Goegap Nature Reserve and did a good drive through this scenic little reserve. The birding was excellent and could not have started better when we found a group of **Black-eared Sparrow-Larks** which gave us good but brief views before they flew off. We had about given up on this highly nomadic special and so it was exciting to claw it back. We then found a

nice group of birds at the base of a koppie which had **Grey Tit**, **Layard's Warbler**, **Fairy Flycatcher**, **Karoo Eremomela**, **Karoo Prinia**, **Southern Double-collared Sunbird**, **Cape Bulbul** and **Bokmakierie**. In the open plains we found our first **Large-billed Larks** and then bumped into a group of **Black-headed Canaries** with both black-headed and black-and-white-headed morphs seen (sometimes split as Damara Canary).

After some lunch and some time off, we headed out again in the afternoon and this time went west of Springbok to some patches of mountain fynbos which had **Cape Clapper Lark**, **Grey-winged Francolin**, **Grey-backed Cisticola**, **Layard's Warbler**, **Cape Weaver**, **Bokmakierie** and best of all, a small group of **Ground Woodpeckers** which we even saw mating!



Layard's Warbler was seen a few times around Springbok.

Later that evening we did a night drive which, although it did not produce any Freckled Nightjars, did bag us our only **Bat-eared Fox** of the trip.

Day 11, 16th August 2022. Transfer from Springbok to Langebaan, birding en route

Today was mostly a driving day but we did do some birding and flower viewing en route to the coastal town of Langebaan, where we were based for the night. We made good progress in the morning as we made our way south, with a **Ludwig's Bustard** being the best bird of the morning. After an enjoyable lunch at a nice farm stall, we headed to Langebaan via Eland's Bay which had some impressive floral displays. We enjoyed spending time photographing the floral carpets, with orange, yellow, pink and white being the dominant colors on show. Late in the afternoon, we popped into a salt works at Velddrif, along the Berg River, where we saw **Cape Shoveler**, **Cape Teal**, **Black-necked Grebe**, **Greater** and **Lesser Flamingos** and our primary target **Chestnut-**

banded Plover. Closer to Langebaan, we saw a single male **Southern Black Korhaan**, another South African endemic, as well as a few groups of **Blue Crane**, South Africa's national bird.

Day 12, 17th August 2022. West Coast National Park birding and transfer to Simon's Town

The weather was a little miserable today as we made our way into West Coast National Park and as such, we were mostly confined to the vehicle because a series of rain showers swept by. In between the showers we did have some good weather with the sun occasionally peeking out and managed some nice birds along the way. We spent most of our time within the Postberg section of the park, which is only open in August and September each year when the flowers are out in full force. Some of the birding and wildlife highlights included **Cape Spurfowl**, **Spotted Thick-knee**, and best of all, a couple of **Black Harriers** which showed really well for us. Another highlight was watching a small herd of (Cape) **Mountain Zebra** as they fed in a field of flowers.



(Cape) Mountain Zebra in the flowers of West Coast National Park.

We enjoyed our lunch at Abrahamskraal Bird Hide, which overlooks the only permanent freshwater in the park, and here we saw **Red-knobbed Coot**, **Common Moorhen**, **Three-banded Plover**, **Lesser Swamp** and **Little Rush Warblers** and **Yellow Bishop**. Near to the hide saw a couple displaying **Karoo Larks**, here of the grey coastal form. A quick stroll around the Geelbek Manor area added **African Hoopoe** and **Bar-throated Apalis**, before we started making our way out of the park and south along the west coast to Simon's Town where we were to spend the next four nights. That evening we enjoyed a lovely dinner at a Simon's Town restaurant with sticky toffee pudding being the highlight (even causing Ralph to break out into song)!

Day 13, 18th August 2022. Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve birding and sightseeing

After a late breakfast, we headed further south along the Cape Peninsula and spent the morning at Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve where we visited Cape Point and Cape of Good Hope (the most southwesterly point of Africa) and enjoyed taking in the impressive scenery of the area. Despite the poor weather, we took a walk below the upper lighthouse to view the lower lighthouse and the sheer cliffs with breeding **Cape Cormorants**. Other good birds in the reserve included **Cape Gannet** and **White-chinned Petrel** out at sea, protea-loving **Cape Sugarbirds** and gorgeous **Orange-breasted Sunbirds**.



Cape Sugarbird in Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve.

After lunch we had most of the afternoon off and, as today was Tom's birthday, we headed out for an early dinner to cap off another enjoyable day, despite the miserable weather.

Day 14, 19th August 2022. Cape Town sightseeing and Kirstenbosch birding

Most of the day was spent enjoying the many impressive sights around Cape Town. The morning also involved a quick trip to Wynberg police station because a distracted driver bumped into the back of our vehicle, thankfully nobody was injured, and it didn't take too long to sort things out. Once these formalities were taken care of, we went to visit the Herschel Memorial Obelisk which was erected in 1842 and commemorates Sir John Herschel and marks the spot where Herschel's telescope stood. Herschel is considered the father of Southern Hemisphere astronomy and produced a comprehensive catalogue of the Southern Hemisphere's night skies and made huge contributions to the invention of photography (and was the first person to coin the word). Herschel

also heavily influenced Charles Darwin and his theory of evolution, with the two men meeting in Cape Town in 1836.

After a fascinating history lesson, we headed to the slopes of Table Mountain. We walked leisurely along its contours and enjoyed the views over the city of Cape Town, and saw some nice birds including **Cape Robin-Chat**, **Rock Kestrel** and **Neddicky**. After lunch, we headed to the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront and spent a while looking around the various shops, and further enjoying the lovely views of Table Mountain from this pretty and popular area. Late in the afternoon we made our way back south and stopped in at the world-famous Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden, where we had a nice walk around. We found some good birds including the likes of **Cape Spurfowl**, **African Dusky Flycatcher**, **Malachite Sunbird** and **Forest Canary**, with the highlight being eye-level views of a **Spotted Eagle-Owl** on its nest on top of a rock. The eagle-owl capped off a long and busy, but thoroughly enjoyable, day in Cape Town.



Southern Boubou on the Cape Peninsula.

Day 15, 20th August 2022. Birding the eastern shores of False Bay

Today we headed east for the day to the opposite side of False Bay as we went in search of **Cape Rockjumpers** and other Cape specials. We took along packed breakfasts, and our first stop was at Rooi Els where we ate our breakfast and then headed for a walk. The **Cape Rockjumpers** showed very easily for us and over the next couple of hours we also added **Jackal Buzzard**, **Cape Grassbird** and **Cape Rock Thrush**. A quick seawatch produced distant views of **Shy Albatross**, **White-chinned Petrel** and **Sooty Shearwater**.

Around the corner in Betty's Bay, we stopped at Stony Point and enjoyed the **African Penguins**, and saw the likes of **Crowned**, **Bank**, **Cape** and **White-breasted Cormorants**. We then bought some lunch and had a picnic lunch in the Harold Porter Botanical Garden where we saw **Klaas's**

Cuckoo, Speckled Mousebird, Cape Batis, Southern Boubou, Sombre Greenbul, Olive Thrush, Fiscal Flycatcher, Sweet Waxbill, Cape Siskin and Streaky-headed Seedeater. In the gardens we were on the lookout for cheeky **Chacma Baboons** but thankfully they kept their distance today and did not try to gatecrash our picnic!

On our way back from Betty's Bay, we popped into Strandfontein Sewage Works (our first sewage works birding of the trip!) and here we added an assortment of water birds such as **Fulvous Whistling Duck, Cape Shoveler, Yellow-billed and Maccoa Ducks, Southern Pochard, Cape and Red-billed Teals, African Swamphen, Greater and Lesser Flamingos, Black-headed Heron, Levaillant's and Zitting Cisticolas and White-throated Swallow.**

Day 16, 21st August 2022. East to Agulhas Plains, with Cape Agulhas en route

This morning we departed from the Cape Peninsula and started making our way east and into the Agulhas Plains. We had decided the evening before that a trip to Cape Agulhas (the most southerly point on the African continent) would be a good idea and so we made our way through the farmlands and arrived at Cape Agulhas. We spent a good couple of hours enjoying this incredibly beautiful area and even took a climb up to the top of the lighthouse, which had spectacular views of the surrounding area. A quick seawatch added a single **Brown Skua** and a few **Shy Albatrosses**.



Grey-winged Francolin in the Agulhas Plains.

After lunch we continued east and enjoyed some birding in the farmlands in the Agulhas Plains, which was very rewarding, finding **Denham's Bustard, Blue Crane, Southern Red Bishop and Cape Clapper Lark.** It was a long drive but we made good time and eventually arrived at our lovely accommodation along the Breede River, close to the small coastal town of Infanta. We

mostly took the afternoon easy, but also enjoyed a walk around the lodge grounds and down to the river where we saw **African Fish Eagle**, **Bokmakierie**, **Yellow** and **Cape Canaries** and **African Pipit**. That evening we enjoyed a lovely dinner on the banks of the Breede River, looking forward to the day in De Hoop Nature Reserve planned for the following day.

Day 17, 22nd August 2022. De Hoop Nature Reserve birding

After a late breakfast we made our way to the nearby De Hoop Nature Reserve which is another scenically beautiful reserve with some great birds to be seen too. Along the drive to the reserve, we added **Cape Clapper** and **Agulhas Long-billed Larks**, **Grey-winged Francolin**, **Denham's Bustard**, **Great Crested Grebe**, **Spotted Thick-knee**, **Cape Vulture**, **Pearl-breasted Swallow**, **Southern Tchagra** (well spotted Carolyn), and enjoyed our best looks at **Black Harrier** of the trip. In the nature reserve, we enjoyed great looks at large numbers of mammals such as **Common Eland**, **Blesbok** (the Cape subspecies, often split as Bontebok), and (Cape) **Mountain Zebra** as well as some smaller mammals such as **Cape Hare**, **Yellow Mongoose** and **Steenbok**. Before we left the reserve, we headed to Koppie Alleen, a large dune next to the sea, and from here we spotted huge numbers of **Southern Right Whales**, many of them with calves in tow. Always an impressive sight to witness!



Pied Starlings were common in De Hoop Nature Reserve.

Later in the afternoon, we took a walk along the river in some glorious afternoon light and had good views of **Water Thick-knee** as well as **Eurasian Whimbrel** and **Common Greenshank**. Later that evening, as it was getting dark, we enjoyed good looks at **Fiery-necked Nightjar** as well as a single **Spotted Eagle-Owl**; a lovely way to end the day! After our meal we decided to

head out for a short night drive, which did not produce much of interest except a **Cape** (Large-spotted) **Genet** which was a new mammal for the trip.

Day 18, 23rd August 2022. Agulhas Plains to the Garden Route

We had a lengthy drive ahead of us and so, after breakfast, immediately hit the road and headed west towards the Garden Route. We enjoyed a pontoon ferry crossing over the Breede River and then continued through the farmlands where we saw a lovely **Cape Grysbok**. Then Dom got the blood pumping when he shouted ‘Caracal’ after a figure crossed the road, but this annoyingly turned out to be a domestic cat. At least it was the correct taxonomic family though!

The rest of the drive passed by uneventfully and we arrived in Wilderness in the mid-afternoon. After unpacking and relaxing a bit, we walked some of the Half-collared Kingfisher Trail. This was mostly rather quiet but did eventually produce lovely views of **Knysna Turaco** as well as **Cape Batis**, **Southern Boubou**, **Terrestrial Brownbul** and the cute **Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler**. Walks in the Wilderness area are usually pretty and peaceful, and this afternoon was no different.



The beautiful Knysna Turaco.

Day 19, 24th August 2022. Wilderness forest and wetland birding

Today would be our final full day in the Cape and we decided to get an early start in some nearby forests, to see which of the remaining forest specials we could find. On our way to the forest, we saw several **Black-winged Lapwings** and **Plain-backed Pipits** and a single **Denham’s Bustard**. The forest birding was a little on the slow side, nevertheless we ticked over steadily and after the morning in the forest we had accumulated a good list of our target birds including **Knysna Turaco**,

Narina Trogon, Black-headed Oriole and Amethyst and Greater Double-collared Sunbirds. We tried coaxing out a calling **Buff-spotted Flufftail** but unfortunately this forest skulker would not play along.

In the afternoon we did some wetland birding, which did not produce many new birds, however, we did get nice looks at **Great Crested, Little and Black-necked Grebes, Grey-headed Gull, Whiskered Tern, African Marsh Harrier and Malachite Kingfisher.** To finish off the day we birded some forest patches where we managed to see a secretive **Knysna Warbler**, had brief views of **Knysna Woodpecker** and then spotted a **Forest Buzzard** as it flew overhead. These were three very important targets for the area.



*This **Spotted Eagle-Owl** joined us during our dinner.*

In the evening, we enjoyed a traditional South African braai and were even visited by a **Spotted Eagle-Owl**, which was completely unperturbed by our presence. This was a great end to our time in the Cape!

Day 20, 25th August 2022. Flight to Durban, and continuation with Eastern Leg

We had an hour or so this morning to do some final forest birding around Wilderness to see if we could find any missing targets, so Carolyn and Dom walked around the campsite at Ebb and Flow. We managed good views of **Chorister Robin-Chat, Forest Canary and Sweet Waxbill**, but unfortunately the singing **Grey Sunbird** and **Olive Bushshrike** remained unseen. We then packed the vehicle and set off on the long drive east to Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth) from where the group would fly to Durban. That afternoon the group said goodbye to Dom and that evening met up with Dylan, who would be guiding the remainder of the tour in the eastern half of South

Africa. We made our way to our nearby accommodation where, following a lovely dinner, we settled in for the evening.

Day 21, 26th August 2022. Transfer to Sani Pass

Today was mostly a travel day, transferring to the foothills of the Drakensberg Mountains at the base of Sani Pass. Following the groups' late arrival the previous day, we started out in a leisurely way, before settling in for a long drive with several roadside stops. The first stop was at the Thurlow section of the Midmar Dam Game Reserve. Recent burns had attracted large numbers of **Plains Zebras** and **Blesbok**, with smaller numbers of (Red) **Hartebeest** also present, an early highlight. Birding sections of the Midmar Dam revealed the likes of **African Spoonbill**, **African Darter**, **Blue-billed Teal**, **Common Greenshank**, **African Jacana** and **Malachite Kingfisher** amongst many others. The immediate surrounds supported flocks of non-breeding **Long-tailed** and **Fan-tailed Widowbirds** along with others like the dashing **Cape Longclaw** and the dapper **African Wattled Lapwing**. **Lanner Falcon** was also noted as a bird of interest, before we tore ourselves away and pressed onwards to Underberg. A lunch stop added our first **Drakensberg Prinia**, along with more widespread species such as **Cape Robin Chat**, **Amethyst Sunbird** and **Cape Canary**. We eventually arrived at our lovely lodge, set in the foothills at the base of Sani Pass. A late afternoon walk added the likes of **Cardinal Woodpecker**, **Southern Bald Ibis** and **Cape Weaver**, amongst others.

Day 22, 27th August 2022. Birding the Sani Pass

The day trip up Sani Pass is always an exciting and action-packed day, and today was no different. Despite being in winter, which generally results in 'slower' birding with several species not being present due to altitudinal movements (like Bush Blackcap), we started the day off well on the lower slopes of the pass, with sightings of the prized **Gurney's Sugarbird**, along with **Buff-streaked Chat**, **Cape Rock Thrush**, **Drakensberg Prinia** and **Malachite Sunbird**. Here we also did well to find a herd of **Mountain Reedbuck**. A flock of **Sweet Waxbills** at the South African border was a welcome distraction, before a **Cape Vulture** obliged on the higher slopes, as did several **Grey Rhebok**. After crossing the border into Lesotho, we continued towards Black Mountain, hoping for some of the main specials of the area. Several birding stops along the way added the likes of **Ground Woodpecker** and **Sentinel Rock Thrush**, along with more typical Karoo species like **Sickle-winged Chat** and **Grey Tit**. We also finally connected with our first flock of **Drakensberg Siskin**. A stop at the now breeding **Bearded Vultures** produced the goods, and some patience on our part was rewarded as we watched the adults change-over, and enjoyed several great looks at these special birds through the scope. After a concerted effort we also finally tracked down the sought-after **Drakensberg Rockjumper**. Our final stop of the day came at the Sani Top Lodge, where cold beers and gin and tonics celebrated several lifers and a good day out, with additional sightings coming of **Bearded Vultures** and **Drakensberg Rockjumpers** whilst enjoying the drinks. We made our way back down the pass and settled in for the evening following a great day out in the field.



*After a long search, we finally enjoyed great views of **Drakensberg Rockjumper**.*

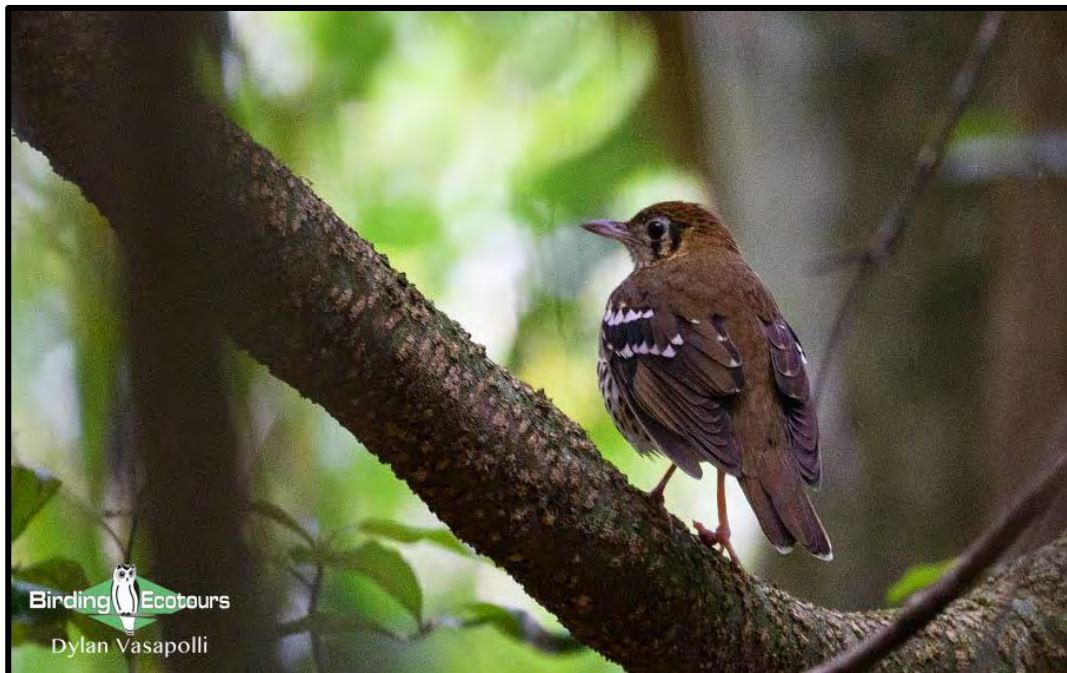
Day 23, 28th August 2022. Transfer to Eshowe

Facing another long transfer, back up the coastline to Eshowe (where we would spend the next two nights), we set off fairly early in the morning after breakfast. We spent a short while trying to track down Wattled Cranes in the Underberg region, but sadly came up short. Many **Grey Crowned Cranes** were a good consolation prize, as were the likes of a hunting **Osprey**, **Long-crested Eagle**, **Rock Kestrel**, **South African Shelduck** and **Buffy Pipit**. Today the famous Comrades Marathon (between Pietermaritzburg and Durban) was being run, and as a result many of the usual roads we would normally take to get to Eshowe were blocked and we had to try several back-routes. Although the route we took turned out to be longer than anticipated, it was incredibly scenic, and we arrived at our comfortable lodgings in Eshowe in the late afternoon.

Day 24, 29th August 2022. Birding Eshowe and Mtunzini

We awoke to an overcast day with a strong threat of rain looming. Some birding during our breakfast delayed things a bit, as we notched up our first views of the delightful **Purple-crested Turaco**, along with others like **African Green Pigeon**, **White-eared Barbet**, **Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird**, **Red-capped Robin-Chat**, **Dark-backed Weaver** and **Black-bellied Starling** all in quick succession. The nearby Dlinza Forest was our first main stop of the day, but sadly with the wind picking up and drizzle beginning to fall, our time here produced a very limited number of birds. Top of our list was **Spotted Ground Thrush**, and we were pleased to find a showy bird without too much effort, despite the miserable conditions (well spotted, Tom!). A **Barratt's Warbler** was a big surprise, but almost no other birds were found. Our luck eventually turned on our way out, as we found a big feeding party of birds. A bright **Narina Trogon** kicked things off, before **Crowned Hornbills** stole the show for a bit, followed by **Grey Cuckooshrike**. Several

smaller birds like **Southern Black Tit**, **Black-backed Puffback**, **Yellow-breasted Apalis**, **Olive** and **Collared Sunbirds** were also present. The hide also added a party of **Red-backed Mannikins** and a delightful **Tambourine Dove**, while hulking **Trumpeter Hornbills** were sighted nearby. We then headed down to the coast at Mtunzini, where we visited the lovely Umlalazi Nature Reserve following lunch. The weather was perhaps at its most bleak during our time here, with activity very low. Nevertheless, **Red Duikers** bounding around brought some life to the party, before we heard the skulking **Red-chested Flufftail** and opted to try for it. Luck was on our side once again, as in no time we had enjoyed several good views of this ultra-shy bird. Before we knew it, the day had run out, and we headed back inland to Eshowe, where heavy rain brought an end to the day.



*The shy **Spotted Ground Thrush** paused for a few moments from hopping along the forest floor.*

Day 25, 30th August 2022. Transfer to St Lucia

Thankfully, we only had a short transfer to contend with today, as we made our way further up the coast to the delightful coastal town of St Lucia. Our morning began after breakfast, as we made our way to the Ongoye Forest. The weather was still a bit unsettled, and meant we had a quiet stint in the forest, with little calling and moving about. We unfortunately did miss our main target, Green Barbet, unfortunately, with not even a peep heard. We had to make do with the likes of **Grey Cuckooshrike**, **Ashy Flycatcher** and **Yellow-throated Longclaw** (in the grasslands surrounding the forest). Whilst enjoying a cup of coffee to warm up, we were lucky to witness the release of a **Common Herald Snake** (Red-lipped Herlad), a snake species. This was caught and removed from a nearby development and released back into the wild here, where it would likely be able to live peacefully, away from humans. A lunch break at the Waterfront in Richard's Bay added a few species to our list, most notably the massive **Goliath Heron**, while others such as

Woolly-necked Stork, African Fish Eagle and African Hoopoe were all enjoyed. The remainder of our journey to St Lucia went smoothly, following a much-wanted courier collection of some items misplaced from earlier in the trip. We settled in for the evening at our comfortable lodge.

Day 26, 31st August 2022. Birding the iSimangaliso Wetland Park

Armed with a picnic lunch, we entered into the Eastern Shores of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where we would spend the day. We sadly hadn't quite been able to shake off the bad weather just yet, and endured another mixed weather day – mostly cold, windy and drizzly, interspersed with the odd bit of sunshine. Sadly, this did make for a slow day birding-wise, with the tracts of coastal forest mostly quiet, and those birds that were heard calling, often not being seen. Our struggles did reward us with sightings of **White-eared Barbet, Yellow-bellied Greenbul, Black-bellied Starling, Dark-backed Weaver, Collared Sunbird** and the sought-after **Rudd's Apalis**. Frustratingly, **Woodward's Batis** and **Green Twinspot**, amongst others, remained as heard-only birds. Waterbirds were arguably the most well-represented of the birds, we enjoyed **White-faced Whistling Duck, Red-billed Teal, Black Crape, African Wattled Lapwing, African Jacana**, both **Woolly-necked** and **Saddle-billed Storks, Great and Intermediate Egrets** and the bright **Malachite Kingfisher**. Nearby open areas held species such as **Collared Pratincole, Little Bee-eater, Red-breasted Swallow** and **Croaking Cisticola** amongst others.



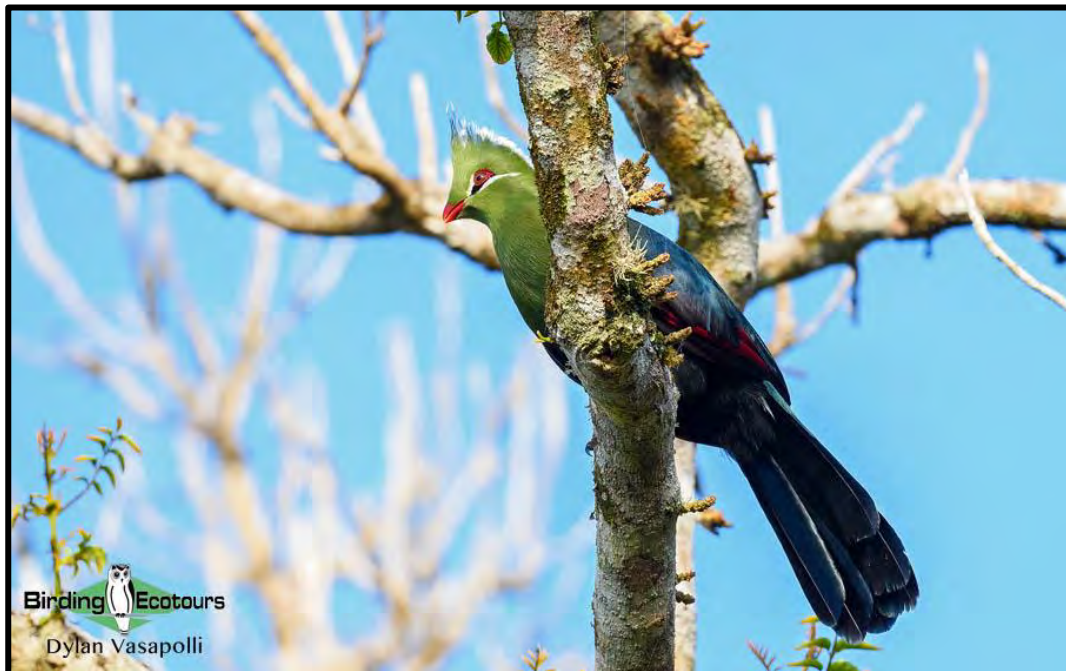
*The weather made birding difficult, but we enjoyed many mammals, like this **African Buffalo**.*

Unlike the birds, a steady stream of mammals seen throughout the day helped keep us distracted. Things started off with a pod of **Hippopotamus** very early on, followed by a great many more throughout the day, before we enjoyed a great, and humbling, **African Elephant** sighting –

ensuring that adequate respect was paid. A wide range of bovids were also seen ranging from the stately **Greater Kudu** and **Plains Zebra** to **African Buffalo** and **Waterbuck**, and many in between – some of which were complete with **Red-billed Oxpecker**. Following a good dinner, we rounded the day off with a wonderful sighting of the scarce **Swamp Nightjar** on the edge of town.

Day 27, 1st September 2022. Transfer to Hluhluwe

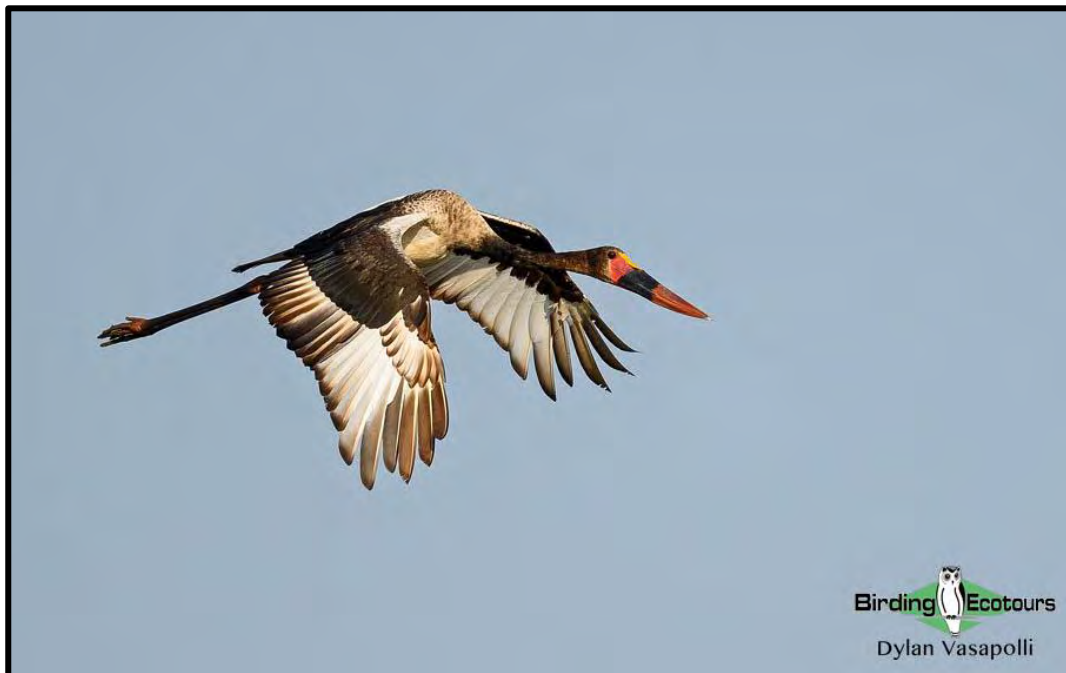
We awoke to finally see the bad weather broken, with the sun out, and headed over to the nearby iGwalagwala Trail, which runs through some of the coastal forest on the edge of town. We hoped to plug some of the species we had missed yesterday and made extremely slow progress on the trail, such was the supreme quality of the birding! After the first 30 minutes, we had barely moved from the parking lot, and had notched up the sought-after **Livingstone's Turaco**, a shy **Olive Bushshrike**, snazzy **Blue-mantled Crested Flycatchers**, bright **Red-capped Robin-Chats** and the comparatively dull **Grey Sunbird**, amongst others. **Green Malkoha** frustrated us once more, remaining unseen, while **Woodward's Batis** was eventually seen after a herculean effort. Several other species were seen, ranging from various barbets, to woodpeckers, bulbuls, bushshrikes, flycatchers, sunbirds and weavers. We had to pull ourselves away from the excellent birding here, as we checked out from our lodge, and began the journey north to the Hluhluwe area, where we would be based for the next two nights. We had planned to go via the Western Shores of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, but were denied access because of our trailer, so we had to change our plans slightly. Some wetland and coastal birding followed, where we enjoyed feisty **Southern Brown-throated Weavers** nesting, as our main highlight, and a **Humpback Whale** as a mammalian highlight. We arrived at our lovely lodge, set inside a small nature reserve, the Kuleni Game Park, where we took the afternoon off.



Livingstone's Turacos were conspicuous in the sun this morning.

Day 28, 2nd September 2022. Birding Mkhuze Game Reserve

An early start was in order for what is usually one of the most exciting days of the trip – our full day within the Mkhuze Game Reserve. Before we got into the reserve proper, we spent a short while birding the always excellent Muzi Pan, where we notched up nearly 80 species in the space of about 30 minutes. Waterbirds were the main feature here, and high water levels greeted us, with large tracts of surrounding vegetation totally inundated. Vast numbers of waterbirds were present, many of which were moving up and down the wetland system. One of the best finds was large numbers of **African Pygmy Goose** – in excess of 20 individuals – a pretty scarce species in South Africa at the best of times, so to find more than 20 birds was quite exceptional. An excellent **Saddle-billed Stork** was another highlight, while in the surrounding trees, we all enjoyed brilliant views of a **Grey Penduline Tit** – the smallest bird in southern Africa. The vast numbers of **White-faced Whistling Ducks**, along with **Spur-winged Geese** and **Knob-billed Ducks** moving about were a sight to behold, as were the sheer numbers of **African Spoonbills**, **Grey** and **Squacco Herons**, **Western Cattle**, **Great** and **Little Egrets** and **Reed Cormorants**. Careful scanning also revealed **African Openbill**, **Yellow-billed Stork**, **Pink-backed** and **Great White Pelicans**, along with others we had seen previously such as **Black Crake** and **Collared Pratincole**. A **Burchell's Coucal** was spied sitting atop some vegetation, while we enjoyed a number of different hirundines flying about – including **Black Saw-wing** and **Wire-tailed Swallow**. After entering Mkhuze Game Reserve, we made our way to the excellent Kumasinga Hide, where we enjoyed some coffee and our breakfast, with regular interruptions from the highly sought-after **Pink-throated Twinspots**, and various other birds. In fact, it took a little while to get through our breakfast as we familiarized ourselves with the likes of **Crested Barbet**, **Chinspot Batis**, **Orange-breasted Bushrike**, **Brubru**, **White-crested Helmetshrike**, **Southern Black Tit**, **Scarlet-chested Sunbird** and **Green-winged Pytilia** – all of which regularly interrupted us.



*This massive **Saddle-billed Stork** was an early highlight of this incredible birding day!*

We eventually made our way into the hide, where we spent a few hours soaking up the immense numbers of birds and mammals that visit this waterhole. Truly, this hide never fails to impress, and we were entertained with non-stop action. From small and dainty seedeaters such as **Red-billed Firefinch** and **Golden-breasted Bunting**, to numerous **Emerald-spotted Wood Doves** and bright **Cape Starlings**, a wide variety of birds were seen here. The mammals were equally impressive, with two **White Rhinos** walking down, and then frolicking in the water for an hour, easily being the main highlight. The antics of the many resident **Nyala**, **Impala**, **Common Wildebeest**, **Plains Zebra** and **Common Warthog** were all enjoyed as well. We also got to grips with a **Giraffe** here. Just as we were on our way out, we connected with another highly sought-after bird from this region – **Neergaard's Sunbird** – which gave us excellent views! We explored a bit more of the reserve, taking in scenic vista's and enjoying the large Nsumo Pan. We picked up various other birds such as **Bateleur**, **Wahlberg's Eagle**, **Red-fronted Tinkerbird**, **Black-crowned Tchagra**, **Bearded Scrub Robin** and **Grey Tit-Flycatcher**, amongst many others we were now familiar with. In the late afternoon, with our day list in the vicinity of 120 species, we made our way back to our lodge, where we settled in for the evening, following a great day out. After our dinner, we rounded the evening off with fine views of a **Fiery-necked Nightjar** and many different scorpions on a night walk around the lodge.



*The delightful, and highly sought-after **Pink-throated Twinspot** was common around our lodging – here a female hopped across the road in front of us.*

Day 29, 3rd September 2022. Transfer to Songimvelo Private Nature Reserve

This was set aside mainly as a travel day, with a long transfer to the private Songimvelo Nature Reserve, near Barberton, on the cards. We did however ensure that we had enough time for a short early morning birding walk around the lodge, before breakfast. This again, was excellent, with a

vast number of birds being seen – more than 60, in a short space of time. Here the patches of sand forest are of importance, and we bettered our views of the sought-after **Pink-throated Twinspot**, with many excellent sightings throughout the walk. We also enjoyed fine views of the shy **Gorgeous Bushshrike**, along with others such as **Crested Guineafowl**, **Red-fronted Tinkerbird**, **Golden-tailed Woodpecker**, **Common Square-tailed Drongo**, **Grey-headed** and **Orange-breasted Bushshrikes**, **Rudd's Apalis**, **Bearded Scrub Robin**, **Purple-banded Sunbird** and **Green-winged Pytilia**. A close **Giraffe** sighting on foot was also enjoyed. Following breakfast, we settled in for a long drive, eventually arriving at the Songimvelo Nature Reserve in the mid-afternoon. Here we were met by our guide, Lindo, and then set off on our part game-drive/part check-in-drive, to our exclusive lodge, set deep within the park. Birds were somewhat limited, though we did enjoy the likes of **African Hoopoe**, **White-crested Helmetshrike**, **Southern Black Tit** and **Red-billed Oxpecker**. Mammals, however, were a bit more prominent and we enjoyed herds of **Blesbok**, **Plains Zebra**, **Impala** and **Greater Kudu**.

Day 30, 4th September 2022. Birding Songimvelo, and transfer to Kruger National Park

We started the day off with a lovely morning drive, as we explored Songimvelo Nature Reserve. There is a fairly wide mix of habitats present in the reserve, with good numbers of birds regularly keeping us busy, along with numerous mammals. The rocky woodlands hosted exciting species such as **Mocking Cliff Chat**, **Lazy Cisticola**, **Striped Pipit**, **Violet-backed Starling**, **Yellow-throated Bush Sparrow** and **Golden-breasted Bunting**, while more riverine woodlands held the likes of **White-fronted Bee-eater**, **Black-headed Oriole**, **Grey-headed Bushshrike**, **White-throated Robin-Chat** and **African Firefinch**.



White-throated Robin-Chat is a stunning South African near-endemic.

A coffee break along a river yielded **Giant Kingfisher**, **African Black Duck**, **Water Thick-knee** and various swallows including the scarce **Grey-rumped Swallow**. A **Brown Snake Eagle** with its snake prey was another highlight. Mammals seen included **Hippopotamus** on foot, along with a variety of plains game, such as **Plains Zebra**, **Common Eland**, **Greater Kudu**, **Waterbuck**, **Blesbok**, **Common Duiker** and **Giraffe**. After an excellent morning, we reluctantly checked out of our exclusive lodge, and made our way towards the Kruger National Park – where we arrived in the mid-afternoon. We had a short game drive as we made our way to our camp, Lower Sabie, arriving just on the gate closing time. We acquainted ourselves with some of the more common bushveld species, such as **Crested Francolin**, **Southern Red-billed** and **Southern Yellow-billed Hornbills**, the stunning **Lilac-breasted Roller**, **Magpie Shrike**, **Burchell's Starling** and **Blue Waxbill**, while also enjoying the first of many **White-backed Vultures**. The most exciting bird sighting was a lovely sighting of a pair of **Double-banded Sandgrouse**, right next to the road. Mammals were a bit limited, but several herds of **African Elephants** and a delightful party of **Common Dwarf Mongoose** were notable.

Days 31-33, 5th-7th September 2022. Birds and mammals in the Kruger National Park

The world-famous Kruger National Park needs no introduction, with this massive conservation area host to over 600 species of birds, and almost all of Africa's large mammals, including 'The Big 5'. Our days were a mix of drives, combined with the occasional camp walk, which allowed for some great birding opportunities. We made use of an open safari vehicle for the full duration of these three days, allowing us excellent views of the many birds and mammals seen whilst on drives. Our three full days in the Kruger National Park are covered under this one segment, as the days tended to blur together with similar species being seen throughout.

The large size of this conservation area makes this the perfect area for raptors, with many breeding within the park – and indeed the raptors often form part of the main attraction. Vultures were well represented, as always, and we enjoyed numbers of **White-backed Vultures**, with smaller numbers of **Hooded**, **Lappet-faced** and **White-headed Vultures** being seen. **Bateleurs** were a regular sight, as were **Wahlberg's Eagles** and **Brown Snake Eagles**, and **African Fish Eagles**, around water bodies. **Martial** and **Tawny Eagles** were seen occasionally, and we also enjoyed scarcer species such as **Gabar Goshawk**, **Little Sparrowhawk** and a stately pair of **Secretarybirds**. The massive **Southern Ground Hornbill** was eventually seen, and as it usually goes, after the first sighting we enjoyed more family groups. Various waterbirds were seen throughout the park with a wide range of ducks, geese, herons and shorebirds all well represented. Some of the standout species were **African Black Duck**, **White-crowned Lapwing**, **African Jacana**, **Ruff**, **Wood Sandpiper**, hulking **Saddle-billed** and **Marabou Storks**, **Striated Heron**, **Hamerkop** and stately **Goliath Herons**.

Wooded areas are naturally well represented, and bushveld species such as **Grey Go-away-bird**, **Burchell's Coucal**, **Red-faced Mousebird**, **Green Wood Hoopoe**, **Common Scimitarbill**, **African Grey Hornbill**, **Acacia Pied Barbet**, **Black-collared Barbet**, **Golden-tailed Woodpecker**, **Brown-headed Parrot**, **Chinspot Batis**, **Brown-crowned Tchagra**, **Southern Black Tit**, **Long-billed Crombec**, **Arrow-marked Babbler**, **White-browed Scrub Robin**, **Grey Tit-Flycatcher**, **Marico Sunbird**, **Red-billed Buffalo Weaver**, **Jameson's Firefinch** and **Golden-breasted Bunting** were all seen. More riverine species seen included **African Green Pigeon**, **Mourning Collared Dove**, **Greater Blue-eared Starling**, **White-browed Robin-Chat**,

Purple-banded Sunbird and **Spectacled Weaver**. Reedbeds and the likes held onto scarce species (for Kruger) such as **African Yellow Warbler** and **Orange-breasted Waxbill**, along with the ubiquitous **Red-faced Cisticola**. The more open, savanna-dominated areas held several other species, from the massive **Kori Bustard** and **Common Ostrich**, to the smaller **Red-crested Korhaan**, **Purple Roller** and even the dainty **Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark**. It took some searching, but we also eventually found the uncommon **Yellow-billed Oxpecker**, amongst the more common **Red-billed Oxpecker**. Night-time birds were somewhat limited, with only **African Scops Owl** and **Pearl-spotted Owlet** being seen, whilst a calling **Verreaux's Eagle Owl** remained heard only.



*The Kruger camps are an excellent place to find owls – we enjoyed several views of **African Scops Owl** throughout our stay.*

Whilst searching for, and looking at all of these birds, we enjoyed many excellent mammal sightings, and our first full day got off to a great start, with an **African Wild Dog** sighting as soon as we left the camp. We would go on to enjoy another great **African Wild Dog** sighting, with the animals having recently fed off an unfortunate animal, as they were all still stained with blood. **Lions** were seen daily, with several excellent sightings, including a pride with cubs. Just a single **Leopard** was seen, but as always, seeing these shy cats requires a good dose of luck! We were treated to a few **White Rhino** sightings after careful searching. **African Elephant** and **African Buffalo** were seen daily, as were other large animals such as **Giraffe** and **Hippopotamus**. The strange-looking **Spotted Hyaena** was also seen occasionally. A sighting of two **Honey Badgers** scampering through the bushveld was thoroughly enjoyed, while night walks and night drives added others such as **Scrub Hare**, **Thick-tailed Greater Galago**, **Common Genet** and **Black-backed Jackal**. Aside from the common plains game, we also found scarcer species such as **Slender Mongoose**, **Nyala**, **Cape Bushbuck** and **Steenbok**.



African Wild Dogs are one of the main mammalian attractions within Kruger – here some hungry pups were begging for food from the adults!

Day 34, 8th September 2022. Transfer to Dullstroom

Our last morning in Kruger dawned and saw us enjoy a birding walk around the Satara camp, where we had been based for our previous two nights in the park. We had a birdy walk around the camp, enjoying further sightings of the likes of **Brown-headed Parrot**, **Grey-headed Bushshrike**, **White-crested Helmetshrike**, **Grey Tit-Flycatcher**, **White-throated Robin-Chat**, **Lesser Masked Weaver** and **Red-billed Firefinch**, amongst others. Once we got going a pride of **Lions**, complete with one of *the* albino brothers, was a fitting farewell to our time in the park. Once we exited Kruger, we made our way to the quaint village of Dullstroom, set in the high mountains, where we would be spending the evening. We settled in at our glorious lodge for the evening, and following dinner, enjoyed a night drive that delivered the rare **African Grass Owl**, and several **Striped Flufftails** that were heard hooting from the surrounding valleys. Both of these are easily some of South Africa's most difficult to find birds, and while we didn't get to see the flufftails, it was nonetheless a privilege spending time with these birds. We also enjoyed several mammals, from antelope such as **Grey Rhebok** and **Mountain Reedbuck**, to **Oribi** and **Hewitt's Red Rock Hare**.

Day 35, 9th September 2022. Birding Dullstroom and transfer to Rust de Winter

We kicked this travel day off with a visit to the nearby Verloren Vallei Nature Reserve, where we spent a few hours exploring. It was a relatively quiet morning, but we slowly notched up some of the region's targets as we went along. Various coveys of **Grey-winged** and **Red-winged Francolins** broke the silence and although it took some searching, we eventually found individuals of both species. **Eastern Long-billed Lark** was also eventually seen, after being heard only, and

we did well to find a single **Yellow-breasted Pipit**. Some of the rockier areas held the likes of **Wing-snapping Cisticola**, **Mountain Wheatear** and **Nicholson's Pipit**, while bushier areas produced the likes of **Cape Grassbird**, **Levaillant's Cisticola**, **Cape Longclaw** and **Cape Canary**. A single **Southern Bald Ibis** was also seen. Following a lovely brunch in the village, we set off for the Rust de Winter area, where we would be spending the final two nights of the tour. We arrived at our wonderfully appointed lodge in the mid afternoon and settled in for the evening, with the likes of **Green Wood Hoopoe**, **Golden-tailed Woodpecker**, **Black-headed Oriole**, **Arrow-marked Babbler**, **Groundscraper Thrush** and many others all keeping us company.



Red-winged Francolin put on a great show for us around Dullstroom.

Day 36, 10th September 2022. Birding Rust de Winter

Our last full day began with a walk around the expansive grounds of our lodge, exploring the mix of riverine and broad-leafed woodland. The riverine woodland in particular was humming early on – noisy **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbirds** calling constantly, while a **Lesser Honeyguide** zipped through at a pace, before a bright **Red-headed Weaver** popped into view. The taller tree canopies held onto the likes of **Little Sparrowhawk**, **Orange-breasted Bushshrike** and **Grey Tit-Flycatcher**, while the denser thickets lower down produced the likes of **Kurrichane Thrush** and **Grey-backed Camaroptera**. We also did well to find a nesting pair of **Black Sparrowhawks**! After breakfast, we headed out for a short drive through the surrounding acacia thornveld. Though it was quite warm, we enjoyed a productive drive enjoying several new species such as **Bearded** and **Bennett's Woodpeckers**, along with several acacia thornveld specials such as **Crimson-breasted Shrike**, **Burnt-necked Eremomela**, **Southern Pied Babbler** and **White-browed Sparrow-Weaver**, amongst others. A stop for the normally reliable Verreaux's Eagle Owls sadly failed to produce the birds – with the usual roost seemingly abandoned. We returned in time for

lunch, and had a relaxing afternoon, reminiscing about the good times we'd had on this comprehensive South African tour!



*A big commotion revealed this **Little Sparrowhawk** sitting with its freshly caught (**Dark-capped Bulbul**) prey, right outside the rooms.*

Day 37, 11th September 2022. Departure from Johannesburg

Most of the group had a mid-morning flight from Johannesburg, which necessitated an early start from the lodge. We arrived at the airport in good time, and bid farewell to most of the group, as they transited to Victoria Falls for the last few days of their mega tour.

Ralph (who was only departing later in the afternoon) and I headed off to the wonderful Klipriviersberg Nature Reserve, on the south side of the city, where we spent a few hours getting some final birding (and exercising) in. One of the resident **Verreaux's Eagles** (which breed just outside the reserve) put in an appearance, and we also did well to notch up several other species such as **White-fronted Bee-eater**, **Red-throated Wryneck**, **Brubru**, **Black-chested Prinia**, **Chestnut-vented Warbler**, **Fiscal Flycatcher**, **Red-headed Finch** and **Black-throated Canary**, amongst others. Several **Yellow Mongoose** were also seen.

Following a good lunch, we made our way back to the airport, where the tour came to a formal end.

Bird List - Following IOC (13.1)

Birds 'heard only' are marked with (H) after the common name, birds seen by the guide only are marked with (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. CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable

Common Name	Scientific Name
Ostriches (Struthionidae)	
Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>
Ducks, Geese, Swans (Anatidae)	
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
Fulvous Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>
Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>
South African Shelduck	<i>Tadorna cana</i>
African Pygmy Goose	<i>Nettapus auritus</i>
Blue-billed Teal	<i>Spatula hottentota</i>
Cape Shoveler	<i>Spatula smithii</i>
African Black Duck	<i>Anas sparsa</i>
Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>
Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>
Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>
Southern Pochard	<i>Netta erythrophthalma</i>
Maccoa Duck – VU	<i>Oxyura maccoa</i>
Guineafowl (Numididae)	
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
Crested Guineafowl	<i>Guttera pucherani</i>
Pheasants & Allies (Phasianidae)	
Crested Francolin	<i>Ortygornis sephaena</i>
Red-winged Francolin	<i>Scleroptila levaillantii</i>
Grey-winged Francolin	<i>Scleroptila afra</i>
Natal Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis natalensis</i>
Swainson's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>
Cape Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis capensis</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)	
Fiery-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus pectoralis</i>
Swamp Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus natalensis</i>
Square-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus fossii</i>
Swifts (Apodidae)	
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>
Turacos (Musophagidae)	
Grey Go-away-bird	<i>Crinifer concolor</i>
Purple-crested Turaco	<i>Gallirex porphyreolophus</i>
Livingstone's Turaco	<i>Tauraco livingstonii</i>
Bustards (Otididae)	
Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>
Ludwig's Bustard – EN	<i>Neotis ludwigii</i>
Denham's Bustard	<i>Neotis denhami</i>
Karoo Korhaan	<i>Eupodotis vigorsii</i>
Red-crested Korhaan	<i>Lophotis ruficrista</i>
Southern Black Korhaan - VU	<i>Afrotis afra</i>
Northern Black Korhaan	<i>Afrotis afraoides</i>
Cuckoos (Cuculidae)	
Burchell's Coucal	<i>Centropus burchellii</i>
Green Malkoha (H)	<i>Ceuthmochares australis</i>
Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>
Sandgrouse (Pteroclididae)	
Namaqua Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles namaqua</i>
Double-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles bicinctus</i>
Burchell's Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles burchelli</i>
Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)	
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</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>
Tambourine Dove	<i>Turtur tympanistria</i>
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>
African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>
Flufftails (Sarothruridae)	
Red-chested Flufftail	<i>Sarothrura rufa</i>
Striped Flufftail (H)	<i>Sarothrura affinis</i>
Buff-spotted Flufftail (H)	<i>Sarothrura elegans</i>
Rails, Crakes & Coots (Rallidae)	
African Rail (H)	<i>Rallus caerulescens</i>
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>
Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>
African Swampphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>
Cranes (Gruidae)	
Grey Crowned Crane - EN	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>
Blue Crane – VU	<i>Grus paradisea</i>
Grebes (Podicipedidae)	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
Flamingos (Phoenicopteridae)	
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>
Stone-curlews, Thick-knees (Burhinidae)	
Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>
Oystercatchers (Haematopodidae)	
African Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus moquini</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Stilts, Avocets (Recurvirostridae)	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
Plovers (Charadriidae)	
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>
White-crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus albiceps</i>
Black-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus melanopterus</i>
Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>
African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</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	<i>Charadrius pallidus</i>
Jacanas (Jacanidae)	
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>
Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopacidae)	
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Coursers, Pratincoles (Glareolidae)	
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>
Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)	
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>
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Skuas (Stercorariidae)	
Brown Skua	<i>Stercorarius antarcticus</i>
Penguins (Spheniscidae)	
African Penguin – EN	<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>
Albatrosses (Diomedidae)	
Shy Albatross	<i>Thalassarche cauta</i>
Petrels, Shearwaters, Diving Petrels (Procellariidae)	
White-chinned Petrel - VU	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>
Storks (Ciconiidae)	
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>
African Openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>
Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>
Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>
Gannets, Boobies (Sulidae)	
Cape Gannet – EN	<i>Morus capensis</i>
Anhingas, Darters (Anhingidae)	
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>
Cormorants, Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)	
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>
Crowned Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo coronatus</i>
Bank Cormorant – EN	<i>Phalacrocorax neglectus</i>
Cape Cormorant – EN	<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>
White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>
Ibises, Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)	
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>
Southern Bald Ibis – VU	<i>Geronticus calvus</i>
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Herons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)	
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola raloides</i>
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Hamerkop (Scopidae)	
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
Pelicans (Pelecanidae)	
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>
Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>
Secretarybird (Sagittariidae)	
Secretarybird – EN	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>
Ospreys (Pandionidae)	
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Kites, Hawks, Eagles (Accipitridae)	
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>
Bearded Vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>
Hooded Vulture – CR	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>
White-backed Vulture - CR	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
Cape Vulture – VU	<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>
White-headed Vulture - CR	<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>
Lappet-faced Vulture - EN	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>
Black-chested Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>
Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>
Bateleur – EN	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Martial Eagle – EN	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus wahlbergi</i>
Tawny Eagle – VU	<i>Aquila rapax</i>
Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>
Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>
African Goshawk	<i>Accipiter tachiro</i>
Little Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter minullus</i>
Black Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter melanoleucus</i>
African Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>
Black Harrier – EN	<i>Circus maurus</i>
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>
African Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>
Forest Buzzard	<i>Buteo trizonatus</i>
Jackal Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>
Barn Owls (Tytonidae)	
Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>
African Grass Owl	<i>Tyto capensis</i>
Owls (Strigidae)	
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>
African Scops Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>
Cape Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo capensis</i>
Spotted Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl (H)	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>
Mousebirds (Coliidae)	
Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>
White-backed Mousebird	<i>Colius colius</i>
Red-faced Mousebird	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>
Trogons (Trogonidae)	
Narina Trogon	<i>Apaloderma narina</i>
Hoopoes (Upupidae)	
African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Wood Hoopoes (Phoeniculidae)	
Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>
Common Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>
Ground Hornbills (Bucorvidae)	
Southern Ground Hornbill - VU	<i>Bucorvus leadbeateri</i>
Hornbills (Bucerotidae)	
Southern Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus rufirostris</i>
Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>
Crowned Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros alboterminatus</i>
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>
Trumpeter Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes bucinator</i>
Rollers (Coraciidae)	
Purple Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>
Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)	
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>
Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
Bee-eaters (Meropidae)	
Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>
White-fronted Bee-eater	<i>Merops bullockoides</i>
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>
African Barbets (Lybiidae)	
White-eared Barbet	<i>Stactolaema leucotis</i>
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus bilineatus</i>
Red-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus pusillus</i>
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>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Honeyguides (Indicatoridae)	
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>
Scaly-throated Honeyguide (H)	<i>Indicator variegatus</i>
Woodpeckers (Picidae)	
Ground Woodpecker	<i>Geocolaptes olivaceus</i>
Bennett's Woodpecker	<i>Campethera bennettii</i>
Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>
Bearded Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus namaquus</i>
Knysna Woodpecker	<i>Campethera notata</i>
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>
Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)	
Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>
Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicolus</i>
Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>
Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
African & New World Parrots (Psittacidae)	
Rosy-faced Lovebird	<i>Agapornis roseicollis</i>
Brown-headed Parrot	<i>Poicephalus cryptoxanthus</i>
Wattle-eyes, Batises (Platysteiridae)	
Cape Batis	<i>Batis capensis</i>
Woodwards' Batis	<i>Batis fratum</i>
Chinspot Batis	<i>Batis molitor</i>
Pirit Batis	<i>Batis pririt</i>
Bushshrikes (Malaconotidae)	
Grey-headed Bushshrike	<i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i>
Olive Bushshrike	<i>Chlorophoneus olivaceus</i>
Orange-breasted Bushshrike	<i>Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus</i>
Gorgeous Bushshrike	<i>Telophorus viridis</i>
Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>
Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>
Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Southern Boubou	<i>Laniarius ferrugineus</i>
Crimson-breasted Shrike	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>
Vangas & Allies (Vangidae)	
White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>
Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae)	
Grey Cuckooshrike	<i>Cebilepyris caesius</i>
Shrikes (Laniidae)	
Magpie Shrike	<i>Urolestes melanoleucus</i>
Southern White-crowned Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus anguitimens</i>
Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>
Figbirds, Old World Orioles, Piopios (Oriolidae)	
Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>
Drongos (Dicruridae)	
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
Common Square-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus ludwigii</i>
Monarchs (Monarchidae)	
Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher	<i>Trochocercus cyanomelas</i>
African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>
Crows, Jays (Corvidae)	
Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>
White-necked Raven	<i>Corvus albicollis</i>
Rockjumpers (Chaetopidae)	
Cape Rockjumper	<i>Chaetops frenatus</i>
Drakensberg Rockjumper	<i>Chaetops aurantius</i>
Fairy Flycatchers (Stenostiridae)	
Fairy Flycatcher	<i>Stenostira scita</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Tits, Chickadees (Paridae)	
Southern Black Tit	<i>Melaniparus niger</i>
Ashy Tit	<i>Melaniparus cinerascens</i>
Grey Tit	<i>Melaniparus afer</i>
Penduline Tits (Remizidae)	
Grey Penduline Tit	<i>Anthoscopus caroli</i>
Larks (Alaudidae)	
Spike-heeled Lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>
Karoo Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda subcoronata</i>
Agulhas Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda brevirostris</i>
Eastern Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda semitorquata</i>
Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix leucotis</i>
Black-eared Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix australis</i>
Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix verticalis</i>
Sabota Lark	<i>Calendulauda sabota</i>
Fawn-colored Lark	<i>Calendulauda africanoides</i>
Karoo Lark	<i>Calendulauda albescens</i>
Red Lark – VU	<i>Calendulauda burra</i>
Cape Clapper Lark	<i>Mirafra apiata</i>
Rufous-naped Lark	<i>Mirafra africana</i>
Stark's Lark	<i>Spizocorys starki</i>
Large-billed Lark	<i>Galerida magnirostris</i>
Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>
Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)	
Sombre Greenbul	<i>Andropadus importunus</i>
Yellow-bellied Greenbul	<i>Chlorocichla flaviventris</i>
Terrestrial Brownbul	<i>Phyllastrephus terrestris</i>
Dark-capped Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus tricolor</i>
African Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>
Cape Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus capensis</i>
Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)	
Black Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne pristoptera</i>
Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>
Grey-rumped Swallow	<i>Pseudhirundo griseopyga</i>
Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Pearl-breasted Swallow	<i>Hirundo dimidiata</i>
White-throated Swallow	<i>Hirundo albigularis</i>
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Red-breasted Swallow	<i>Cecropis semirufa</i>
Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>
Crombecs, African Warblers (Macrosphenidae)	
Cape Grassbird	<i>Sphenoeacus afer</i>
Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>
Leaf Warblers & Allies (Phylloscopidae)	
Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus ruficapilla</i>
Reed Warblers & Allies (Acrocephalidae)	
Lesser Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>
African Yellow Warbler	<i>Iduna natalensis</i>
Grassbirds & Allies (Locustellidae)	
Barratt's Warbler	<i>Bradypterus barratti</i>
Knysna Warbler – VU	<i>Bradypterus sylvaticus</i>
Little Rush Warbler	<i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>
Cisticolas & Allies (Cisticolidae)	
Red-faced Cisticola	<i>Cisticola erythrops</i>
Lazy Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aberrans</i>
Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>
Grey-backed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola subruficapilla</i>
Levaillant's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola tinniens</i>
Croaking Cisticola	<i>Cisticola natalensis</i>
Neddicky	<i>Cisticola fulvicapilla</i>
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Desert Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aridulus</i>
Cloud Cisticola (H)	<i>Cisticola textrix</i>
Wing-snapping Cisticola	<i>Cisticola ayresii</i>
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>
Black-chested Prinia	<i>Prinia flavicans</i>
Drakensberg Prinia	<i>Prinia hypoxantha</i>
Karoo Prinia	<i>Prinia maculosa</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Namaqua Warbler	<i>Phragmacia substriata</i>
Bar-throated Apalis	<i>Apalis thoracica</i>
Rudd's Apalis	<i>Apalis ruddi</i>
Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flava</i>
Rufous-eared Warbler	<i>Malcorus pectoralis</i>
Cinnamon-breasted Warbler	<i>Euryptila subcinnamomea</i>
Green-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>
Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>
Burnt-necked Eremomela	<i>Eremomela usticollis</i>
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>
Karoo Eremomela	<i>Eremomela gregalis</i>
Sylviid Babblers (Sylviidae)	
Layard's Warbler	<i>Curruca layardi</i>
Chestnut-vented Warbler	<i>Curruca subcoerulea</i>
White-eyes (Zosteropidae)	
Orange River White-eye	<i>Zosterops pallidus</i>
Cape White-eye	<i>Zosterops virens</i>
Laughingthrushes & Allies (Leiothrichidae)	
Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>
Southern Pied Babbler	<i>Turdoides bicolor</i>
Sugarbirds (Promeropidae)	
Cape Sugarbird	<i>Promerops cafer</i>
Gurney's Sugarbird	<i>Promerops gurneyi</i>
Starlings, Rhabdornises (Sturnidae)	
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>
Black-bellied Starling	<i>Notopholia corusca</i>
Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>
Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>
Burchell's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis australis</i>
Pied Starling	<i>Lamprotornis bicolor</i>
Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>
Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Oxpeckers (Buphagidae)	
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>
Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>
Thrushes (Turdidae)	
Spotted Ground Thrush - VU	<i>Geokichla guttata</i>
Groundscraper Thrush	<i>Turdus litsitsirupa</i>
Olive Thrush	<i>Turdus olivaceus</i>
Karoo Thrush	<i>Turdus smithi</i>
Kurrichane Thrush	<i>Turdus libonyana</i>
Chats, Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)	
Karoo Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas coryphoeus</i>
Kalahari Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas paena</i>
Bearded Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas quadrivirgata</i>
White-browed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>
Grey Tit-Flycatcher	<i>Myioparus plumbeus</i>
Southern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pammelaina</i>
Chat Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis infuscatus</i>
Marico Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis mariquensis</i>
Fiscal Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis silens</i>
Ashy Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa caerulescens</i>
African Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>
Cape Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha caffra</i>
White-throated Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha humeralis</i>
White-browed Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha heuglini</i>
Red-capped Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha natalensis</i>
Chorister Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha dichroa</i>
White-starred Robin (H)	<i>Pogonocichla stellata</i>
Cape Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola rupestris</i>
Sentinel Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola explorator</i>
Short-toed Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola brevipes</i>
African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>
Buff-streaked Chat	<i>Campicoloides bifasciatus</i>
Karoo Chat	<i>Emarginata schlegelii</i>
Tractrac Chat	<i>Emarginata tractrac</i>
Sickle-winged Chat	<i>Emarginata sinuata</i>
Ant-eating Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Mocking Cliff Chat	<i>Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris</i>
Mountain Wheatear	<i>Myrmecocichla monticola</i>
Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>
Familiar Chat	<i>Oenanthe familiaris</i>
Sunbirds (Nectariniidae)	
Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>
Orange-breasted Sunbird	<i>Anthobaphes violacea</i>
Olive Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra olivacea</i>
Grey Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra veroxii</i>
Amethyst Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra amethystina</i>
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>
Malachite Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia famosa</i>
Neergaard's Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris neergaardi</i>
Marico Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>
Purple-banded Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris bifasciatus</i>
White-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris talatala</i>
Southern Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris chalybeus</i>
Dusky Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris fuscus</i>
Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches (Passeridae)	
Yellow-throated Bush Sparrow	<i>Gymnoris superciliaris</i>
Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Weavers, Widowbirds (Ploceidae)	
Red-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>
Sociable Weaver	<i>Philetairus socius</i>
Scaly-feathered Weaver	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>
Thick-billed Weaver	<i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>
Spectacled Weaver	<i>Ploceus ocularis</i>
Cape Weaver	<i>Ploceus capensis</i>
Eastern Golden Weaver	<i>Ploceus subaureus</i>
Holub's Golden Weaver	<i>Ploceus xanthops</i>
Southern Brown-throated Weaver	<i>Ploceus xanthopterus</i>
Lesser Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus intermedius</i>
Southern Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>
Dark-backed Weaver	<i>Ploceus bicolor</i>
Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>
Southern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>
Yellow Bishop	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>
Fan-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes axillaris</i>
White-winged Widowbird	<i>Euplectes albonotatus</i>
Long-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes progne</i>
Waxbills, Munias & Allies (Estrildidae)	
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>
Red-backed Mannikin	<i>Spermestes nigriceps</i>
Sweet Waxbill	<i>Coccygia melanotis</i>
Black-faced Waxbill	<i>Brunhilda erythronotos</i>
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
Quailfinch	<i>Ortygospiza atricollis</i>
Red-headed Finch	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>
Orange-breasted Waxbill (G)	<i>Amandava subflava</i>
Violet-eared Waxbill	<i>Granatina granatina</i>
Blue Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>
Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>
Pink-throated Twinspot	<i>Hypargos margaritatus</i>
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>
African Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rubricata</i>
Jameson's Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rhodopareia</i>
Indigobirds, Whydahs (Viduidae)	
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>
Shaft-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua regia</i>
Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)	
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>
Cape Longclaw	<i>Macronyx capensis</i>
Yellow-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx croceus</i>
African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>
Nicholson's Pipit	<i>Anthus nicholsoni</i>
Buffy Pipit	<i>Anthus vaalensis</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Plain-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>
Striped Pipit	<i>Anthus lineiventris</i>
Yellow-breasted Pipit - VU	<i>Anthus chloris</i>
Finches, Euphonias (Fringillidae)	
Black-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>
Forest Canary	<i>Crithagra scotops</i>
Cape Siskin	<i>Crithagra totta</i>
Drakensberg Siskin	<i>Crithagra symonsi</i>
Yellow Canary	<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>
Brimstone Canary	<i>Crithagra sulphurata</i>
Streaky-headed Seed eater	<i>Crithagra gularis</i>
White-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra albogularis</i>
Cape Canary	<i>Serinus canicollis</i>
Black-headed Canary	<i>Serinus alario</i>
Buntings (Emberizidae)	
Lark-like Bunting	<i>Emberiza impetuani</i>
Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>
Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>
Species seen:	444
Species heard:	8
Species seen by guide only:	1
Total species:	453

Mammal List

The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following the IUCN Red List: EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Hyraxes (Procaviidae)	
Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>
Elephants (Elephantidae)	
African Elephant – VU	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>
Rabbits and Hares (Leporidae)	
Hewitt's Red Rock Hare	<i>Pronolagus saundersiae</i>
Smith's Red Rock Hare	<i>Pronolagus rupestris</i>
Cape Hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i>
Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>
Dassie Rats (Petromuridae)	
Dassie Rat	<i>Petromus typicus</i>
Squirrels and Relatives (Sciuridae)	
South African Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus inauris</i>
Smith's Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>
Old World Mice, Rats and Gerbils (Muridae)	
Sloggett's Vlei Rat	<i>Otomys sloggetti</i>
Four-striped Mouse	<i>Rhabdomys pumilio</i>
Karoo Bush Rat	<i>Myotomys unisulcatus</i>
Bushbabies (Galagidae)	
Thick-tailed Greater Galago	<i>Otolemur crassicaudatus</i>
Old World Monkeys (Cercopithecidae)	
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>
Vervet	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>
Blue Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mitis</i>
Bats (Chiroptera)	
Wahlberg's Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Epomophorus wahlbergi</i>
Cats (Felidae)	

Common Name	Scientific Name
Cheetah	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>
Lion – VU	<i>Panthera leo</i>
Leopard – VU	<i>Panthera pardus</i>
Civets, Genets, Linsangs and allies (Viverridae)	
Common Genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>
South African Large-spotted Genet	<i>Genetta tigrina</i>
Hyaenas and Aardwolf (Hyaenidae)	
Spotted Hyaena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>
Mongoose and Fossa (Herpestidae)	
Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>
Cape Grey Mongoose	<i>Herpestes pulverulentus</i>
Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>
Common Dwarf Mongoose	<i>Helogale parvula</i>
Meerkat	<i>Suricata suricatta</i>
Canids (Canidae)	
Black-backed Jackal	<i>Lupulella mesomelas</i>
Cape Fox	<i>Vulpes chama</i>
Bat-eared Fox	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>
African Wild Dog – EN	<i>Lycaon pictus</i>
Eared Seals (Otariidae)	
Afro-Australian Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>
Mustelids (Mustelidae)	
Honey Badger	<i>Mellivora capensis</i>
Horses, Asses and Zebras (Equidae)	
Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>
(Cape) Mountain Zebra - VU	<i>Equus zebra</i>
Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae)	
White Rhinoceros	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>
Hogs and Pigs (Suidae)	
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Hippopotamuses (Hippopotamidae)	
Hippopotamus – VU	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>
Bovids (Bovidae)	
African Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>
Common Eland	<i>Tragelaphus oryx</i>
Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>
Nyala	<i>Tragelaphus angasii</i>
Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>
Gemsbok	<i>Oryx gazella</i>
Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>
Mountain Reedbuck	<i>Redunca fulvorufula</i>
Southern Reedbuck	<i>Redunca arundinum</i>
Grey Rhebok	<i>Pelea capreolus</i>
Common (Blue) Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>
(Red) Haartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>
Blesbok	<i>Damaliscus pygargus</i>
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>
Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>
Klipspringer	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>
Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>
Oribi	<i>Ourebia ourebi</i>
Cape Grysbok	<i>Raphicerus melanotis</i>
Natal Red Duiker	<i>Cephalophus natalensis</i>
Blue Duiker	<i>Philantomba monticola</i>
Common Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>
Giraffes and Okapis (Giraffidae)	
Giraffe	<i>Giraffa giraffa</i>
Bowhead Whales and Right Whales (Balaenidae)	
Southern Right Whale	<i>Balaena glacialis</i>
Rorquals (Balaenopteridae)	
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>
Total species seen:	65