



## COMPLETE SOUTH AFRICA CUSTOM TRIP REPORT

15 NOVEMBER - 17 DECEMBER 2022

By Dominic Rollinson, Michael Wright and Martin Benadie



*Ground Woodpeckers were surprisingly abundant in the Drakensberg Mountains.*

### Overview

After two years of COVID-related postponements we were excited to finally get this trip underway. This 33-day private, custom tour for Dan, Bobby and Prue had been designed to incorporate as much of South Africa's beautiful scenery, birds and wildlife as possible. Ample time was factored in at most destinations, which ensured we were less rushed and could enjoy other non-birding/wildlife pursuits from time to time.

We went from the beautiful southwestern Cape, east along the Cape Fold Mountains, to the laid-back atmosphere of the Garden Route, then caught a flight to Durban on the east coast. We spent time in the imposing Drakensberg Mountains before heading to the Zululand coastal plain and then onto the highveld grasslands of Wakkerstroom. Next was the western leg, which included time in the highveld around Johannesburg, a few days in the glorious Kalahari, and mammal-watching around Kimberley, before catching flights back to Johannesburg, where the trip ended.

The impressive trip list of 530 bird species is testament to the diversity of habitats that we covered during this month-long birding and wildlife tour. All the highlights cannot be listed here but some of the standout species included **Kori and Ludwig's Bustards, Red-chested Flufftail, African Finfoot, Grey Crowned, Wattled and Blue Cranes, Spectacled Petrel, Bearded Vulture, Southern Banded Snake Eagle, Pel's Fishing Owl, Ground Woodpecker, Cape Parrot**, both **Cape and Drakensberg Rockjumpers**, a number of South African lark endemics and **Short-tailed and Yellow-breasted Pipits**. We also targeted several dream species which had been on Dan, Bobby and Prue's bucket lists for a long time, these included **White Stork, African Pygmy Kingfisher, Knysna Turaco and Secretarybird**.



*It took a while, but we eventually had amazing views of **White Storks** in Wakkerstroom.*

### Detailed Report

#### **Day 1, 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Cape Town arrival and Kirstenbosch birding**

Our group from New Zealand were met and welcomed at Cape Town International Airport by Michael Wright, their guide for the first seven-night leg of the 33-day tour. They were relieved and beyond delighted to finally touch down on beautiful South African soil after such a long flight. We departed the airport for our Newlands accommodation and quickly added numerous regular urban bird species along the way.

After checking in we made our way to a very busy but beautiful Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens to stretch our legs, grab a tasty lunch and ease into some birding for the trip. One of our first good finds was a **Bar-throated Apalis** feeding very near some drinking **Bronze Mannikins**, with a **Four-striped Mouse** climbing a bush stem nearby. The **Southern Double-collared Sunbirds** were very active, as always. We were pleased to find a resplendent **African Paradise Flycatcher** displaying in the trees nearby, and a pair of **Cape Spurfowl** with five chicks in attendance, before settling down for our lunch.



*Lemon Dove graced us in Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens (photo Michael Wright).*

Feeling nourished, we headed back into the gardens and discovered a gorgeous, and very relaxed **Lemon Dove** on the path. We then located a **Spotted Eagle-Owl** in the trees overhead, before heading toward the proteas, pincushions and ericas, where we found a magnificent **Cape Sugarbird**. Unfortunately, we missed the **Swee Waxbills**, **Klaas's Cuckoo** and **African Olive**



**Pigeon** that we had heard, but trusted we would locate these elsewhere soon. We ended the day with a sighting of **Cape Siskin** in Cecelia Forest as a strong drizzle set in.

### Day 2, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Strandfontein Sewage Works and Cape of Good Hope National Park

We started the day with great views of an **Amethyst Sunbird** pair in the guest house garden, and then headed through morning traffic for Strandfontein Sewage Works. We proceeded through the control entrance and spotted **Great White Pelicans** on Zeekoeivlei wetland, so stopped to obtain quick views. We pulled up under the gum trees to scope these and within a minute a **Black Sparrowhawk** female flew nearby with prey in its talons. It swooped into a tree close by and so we followed, and its partner soon arrived. We easily found their nest overhead and enjoyed this great sight. We then heard and quickly located **Common Chaffinch** overhead, and then turned our attention to the waterbody and picked up many regulars, including **Little Rush** and **Lesser Swamp Warblers**.



*Greater Flamingos showed their glorious colors, with some **Red-knobbed Coots** in tow (photo Michael Wright).*

We arrived at the entrance to the Strandfontein Sewage Works and immediately got onto **Greater Flamingos** at very close range, and these were accompanied by two **Fulvous Whistling Ducks** and many other ducks, teals, coots and moorhens. We added **Pin-tailed Whydah** and **Common Waxbills**, and then proceeded to a nearby pan where we soon located two **Baillon's Crakes** which were real highlights, although an aggressive **Common Moorhen** sent them into hiding a few times.

We added several other species including **African Swamphen**. We continued to the next pan and quickly added **Lesser Flamingos**, **Pied Avocets** and many others. A short while later we added **Curlew Sandpiper** and then happened upon a **Maccoa Duck**, and then added a small group of **Black-necked Grebes**.

After a few hours around the sewage works, we headed out to Cape of Good Hope National Park for the afternoon, and caught a brief glimpse of a **Peregrine Falcon**, and a low-hovering **Rock Kestrel** overhead. Some distant **Afro-Australian Fur Seals** and **Cape Cormorants** were also added. We entered the park and quickly found a **Southern Rock Agama** and a few **Black Girdled Lizards**. Pushing deeper into the park, we found a good stand of pincushions and were delighted to be greeted by numerous attractive male and female **Orange-breasted Sunbirds** and **Malachite Sunbirds**. Proceeding further, we added a few **Cape Sugarbirds** and a few more sunbirds. We arrived at Cape Point and found a **Chacma Baboon** in the car park and then commenced the walk up to the lighthouse. The weather was fortunately ideal and, while savouring the gorgeous views, we discovered two extremely confiding **Cape Grassbirds** hopping no more than two meters from us in the shrubs. We summited the hill, and the glee on Dan, Bobby and Prue's faces at being here was most evident. On the walk down we enjoyed a singing **Cape Bunting** and watched many **Cape Cormorants** on their nests at close quarters, and soaring along the precipitous cliff-face.



*This gorgeous male **Bontebok** strolled right past us (photo Michael Wright).*

We returned to the vehicle and made our way to the Cape of Good Hope, and while driving the shoreline we found a few **Common Ostriches** feeding on the dunes almost on the beach, which is always a strange sight. After the customary photos at the sign ("Cape of Good Hope the most south-western point of the African continent") our guests dipped their feet in the chilly Atlantic Ocean waters whilst viewing a few **African Oystercatchers** nearby and hundreds of **Afro-**



**Australian Fur Seals** on the offshore rocky island. The sun was descending fast, so we made our way back to the entrance and were pleased to have a lone male **Bontebok** come running along and cross the road within 20 meters of us.

**Day 3, 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Darling, Velddrif, St Helena Bay and Langebaan**

We awoke for breakfast and were pleasantly surprised to find two **Sweet Waxbills** perched in a tree, sunbathing in the morning light. We proceeded to Milnerton Lagoon and located numerous ducks, flamingos and terns, including **Greater Crested Terns**, **Sandwich Terns** and a single **Common Tern**. A stop at Bloubergstrand beach for photos of the iconic Table Mountain background, blessed us with a **White-backed Duck** with two chicks and **Maccoa Ducks** at a nearby pan.

Travelling north along the R27 we paused briefly to rescue a **Mole Snake** that would have otherwise become roadkill. On the road to Darling, we added a calling **Cape Clapper Lark**, and two distant **Black Harriers**.



*Chestnut-banded Plover on the gravel tracks between the salt pans (photo Michael Wright).*

We headed north towards Velddrif and stopped for two **Blue Cranes**. Thereafter, we made a stop at the saltworks at Velddrif and located **Chestnut-banded Plovers**, **Black-necked Grebes**, as well as over 1,000 flamingos, what a sight! A brief visit to the Berg River paid great dividends in the form of a female **African Rail** with a tiny – and delightful – chick. Many other birds were also found, including several **Grey Plovers** and a **Common Greenshank**.

Our next visit was St Helena Bay. We had to make an alternate plan when we discovered that the district road connecting to Vredenburg was closed for repairs. We improvised by finding a small, open, accessible patch that added **Large-billed Lark**, **Cape Long-billed Lark** and numerous **Grey-backed Cisticolas**.

We returned to Langebaan and checked-in to our lovely accommodation and were greeted by a glorious male **Malachite Sunbird** in the garden. We then journeyed down the road for a beachside dinner and made a brief visit to the beach, which revealed a flock of close to 1,000 **Cape Cormorants** feeding slowly out in the bay.

#### Day 4, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022. West Coast National Park

After a scrumptious breakfast we started off for West Coast National Park, where we would spend almost the entire day. Before entering we added a flock of **Cape Penduline Tits** (one of the day's big targets), a few singing **Bokmakieries** and several other regulars. Upon entering, our first stop was Seeberg Hide, and we quickly added **Grey Tit**, **Pearl-breasted Swallow**, and **Common Ostrich**, practically on the beach. From the hide we were pleased to find **Ruddy Turnstone** and a few **Little** and **Caspian Terns**, amongst many others. Next stop was Seeberg View Point, which brought us another **Large-billed Lark**.



*This male **Southern Black Korhaan** was about to swallow an **Armoured Ground Cricket** whole (photo Michael Wright).*

We advanced to Geelbek and added several **Angulate Tortoises** along the way, as well as our first nearby **Black Harrier**. Tides were still high on arrival, so we enjoyed a good lunch with a surprise



**Cardinal Woodpecker** in the tree overhead. A visit to the hide added **Eurasian Whimbrel**, numerous **Common Greenshanks** and many other waders. We headed towards Abrahamskraal and along the way our clients were over the moon when we came upon a **Southern Black Korhaan** on the roadside, which then took great interest in an **Armoured Ground Cricket** and proceeded to run toward us in the road to catch, kill and swallow this choice morsel.

Upon arriving at Abrahamskraal, we added **African Spoonbill**, a flock of drinking **Yellow Canaries** and three **Black Crakes**, one of which was a chick. We proceeded to the end of the peninsula and saw a tremendous number of **Black Harriers**, counting seven en route to the beach at Tsaarsbank. Here we added **Crowned Cormorants** to our ever-growing species list. On our way back toward the southern gate exit we were delighted to find a **Cape Gysbok**, and shortly thereafter we also added a **Cape Grey Mongoose** scurrying over the road. We departed the park around 6 pm and headed back to Cape Town, where we would make Simon's Town our base for the next four nights. A pelagic out of Hout Bay was planned for the next morning, and we had some reserve days in the event of adverse weather.

#### Day 5, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Pelagic out of Hout Bay

Our pelagic day had finally arrived, and we awoke to discover **Cape Sugarbirds** visiting the proteas in the garden, as well as **Cape Bunting** and **Bokmakierie**. We departed early for Hout Bay harbour, with great anticipation, and were pleased to board the boat with the rest of the clients. As we headed out of the harbour for the open ocean we were amused by the many **Afro-Australian Fur Seals** splashing about and playing King of the Castle on the floating pontoons.



*All smiles as we headed out for a deep-sea pelagic from Hout Bay (photo Michael Wright).*



We explored deeper waters and encountered some high seas as swell heights grew. We located four fishing trawlers in all, which led to a total of 29 bird species being found, as well as a school of **Dusky Dolphins**. Dan, Bobby and Prue managed to lay eyes on 22 of these species, with the most surprising of these being four **Spectacled Petrels**, which had not been seen in many weeks. Other great sightings included **Shy Albatross**, both **Indian** and **Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatrosses**, **Black-browed Albatross**, **Northern** and **Southern Giant Petrels**, as well as **Cape** (Pintado), **Great-winged** and **White-chinned Petrels**. In addition, we enjoyed both **European** and **Wilson's Storm Petrels**, **Cape Gannet**, **Brown** (Sub-Antarctic) **Skua**, **Sooty Shearwater**, **Sabine's Gull** and **Arctic Tern**. We arrived back in harbour late in the afternoon after a thoroughly satisfying and memorable experience and headed for a well-deserved early dinner back in Simon's Town.

#### **Day 6, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Rooi-Els, Betty's Bay, Rooisand, Sir Lowry's Pass**

This morning we set off to explore the east coast of False Bay. After absorbing the tremendous coastal beauty of the scenic Clarence Drive, we arrived at Rooi-Els and immediately set eyes on a lovely male **Cape Rock Thrush**. We parked the car and headed on foot down the track and while scoping the mountain slopes, we located three **Klipspringers** basking in the morning light. We noticed a few birders paused in the distance and made our way over, and before meeting up, no less than two pairs of **Cape Rockjumpers** came bounding along the edge of the gravel road and two came less than ten meters from us while actively feeding. While enjoying these big targets, we had a small flock of **Cape Siskins** also fly in and begin feeding nearby. We enjoyed this scene for some 20 minutes, and then returned slowly to our vehicle, finding more **Cape Sugarbirds** and **Yellow Bishops** along the way.



*One of the male **Cape Rockjumpers** that entertained us (photo Michael Wright).*

Next stop was Stony Point in Betty's Bay for the ever-charming and endearing **African Penguin** colony, which our clients fell in love with. We spent well over 30 minutes taking in the amazing scenes and watching the penguins' antics, and then located a number of resident **Rock Hyraxes** of all ages. We made our way to the cormorant colonies and found many hundreds of **Cape Cormorants**, a number of **Bank Cormorants** and a couple of **Water Thick-knees** amongst them.

Our appetites started kicking in and so we ventured along to the delightful Harold Porter National Botanical Gardens. Upon entering, we found some **Cape River Frogs** on the edge of the ponds and then sat down to a great lunch. We then explored the gardens and found several **Black Saw-wings** and an **Alpine Swift** feeding overhead. An adult **African Dusky Flycatcher** and juvenile then showed themselves, with a **Bar-throated Apalis** in close attendance. We crossed the bridge and when we hit the forest stand, we discovered a **Brimstone Canary**, and a little further along, both a **Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher** and two **African Paradise Flycatchers** flitted in the tree canopy above us.

We came across a large family of **Chacma Baboons** resting and playing on the side of the path and, after being amused by the youngsters' play, we went to appreciate the refreshing waterfall. We returned to the gardens and located a stunning male **Orange-breasted Sunbird** feeding only a few meters from us. After photographing this beauty at length we decided to exit, since we still needed to cover both Rooisand Nature Reserve and Sir Lowry's Pass before returning to our Simon's Town accommodation.



*A Cape Sugarbird male with its impressive tail flowing in the breeze (photo Michael Wright).*

After finding some **Plain's Zebra** and **Springbok** on the way to the Rooisand parking lot, we set out along the raised timber walkway, and within 50 meters an **African Snipe** erupted out of the



grass and flew across the wetland, fortunately settling within view. After enjoying this welcome treat, we made our way to the bird hide and saw five feral horses across the pan. We also found a tern roost, many **Common Greenshanks** and many plovers along the way. The bird hide added two **African Spoonbills**, a **Great Egret** and numerous other regulars. We returned to our vehicle and again an **African Snipe** shot out of the grass on the path edge.

We left this sight for Sir Lowry's Pass and before reaching the main road we found two **African Marsh Harriers** soaring in the skies overhead. After enjoying these great birds, we journeyed up the Houw Hoek Pass, noting several **Jackal Buzzards** and **Common Buzzards** along the way. We arrived at our stakeout in the late afternoon, in search of the magnificent skulking **Victorin's Warbler**. Within a few minutes we heard them calling and were most fortunate to have a bird present itself well for a few seconds, long enough for all to see and a few photo snaps to be taken. Light was fading fast so we descended the glorious pass, down to the Cape Town coast, and returned to Simon's Town for another delectable dinner and good night's rest.



*Jackal Buzzards were seen frequently on the Cape leg of this tour.*

### **Day 7, 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022. Table Mountain, Cape Town CBD, V&A Waterfront and Du Toitskloof Pass**

Today there was a lot more focus on the typical tourist sites around Cape Town, rather than bird targets, as our clients did not want to miss out on seeing these before heading off deeper into the country. After a tasty breakfast we made our way to the Table Mountain Aerial Cableway, as there was glorious sunshiny and windless weather. The clients were awestruck by the scenery up the mountain and returned three hours later with glowing reports. They also managed to find a **Cape Crag Lizard** atop the mountain. We next explored the sites around the Cape Town city bowl and the magnificently entertaining V&A Waterfront for a few hours.

Later in the afternoon we headed off past Paarl and some winelands, up the Du Toitskloof Pass in search of one last remaining target – the endemic **Protea Canary**. We stopped at our chosen location and within minutes were fortunate to locate a few **Protea Canaries**, to the great satisfaction of our guests. We also enjoyed watching a female **African Paradise Flycatcher** nearby, as well as a **White-necked Raven** descending the cliffs. As it was getting late and we needed to return all the way to Simon's Town for the night, we set off back down the pass, arriving just before dark.



*A Protea Canary striking a pose for us (photo Michael Wright).*

#### **Day 8, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022. Simon's Town to De Hoop Nature Reserve**

Upon awakening, we looked out from our accommodation balcony to find a few **Cape Sugarbirds** feeding on the many proteas in the garden. Just before sitting down for breakfast, we heard a **Klaas's Cuckoo** calling, and ventured down the road in search of it. We then sat down to breakfast and were entertained by a **Rock Kestrel** landing on the street lamppost just outside the dining room window.

Dominic Rollinson arrived at 9 am to meet the group, as he was taking over the guiding from Michael for the next leg of the tour. After making acquaintance and relating the great sightings and stories of the tour to date, Dom and the group departed Cape Town en route to Hermanus.

We arrived in the lovely seaside town of Hermanus around lunchtime and enjoyed a wonderful lunch overlooking the bay with **Southern Right Whales** breaching less than 100 meters away – an amazing start to the next leg of the trip! After an eventful lunch, we carried on east and had some good birds en route to our overnight accommodation, including **Grey-winged Francolin**, **Cape Spurfowl**, **Namaqua Dove**, **Blue Crane** (South Africa's national bird), **Jackal Buzzard**



and **Southern Red Bishop**. We arrived at our beautiful accommodation on the edge of the Breede River and enjoyed a relaxed evening and delicious dinner.



*The Agulhas Plains are the stronghold of **Blue Cranes**.*

### **Day 9, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022. Birding the Agulhas Plains**

We started the day with a quiet stroll around our accommodation and soon found **Bar-throated Apalis**, **Southern Tchagra**, **Grey-winged Francolin**, and had a couple of flyover **Denham's Bustards**. After breakfast we made our way to De Hoop Nature Reserve and had some great birds en route, including the likes of **South African Shelduck**, **Agulhas Long-billed** and **Large-billed Larks**, **Cloud Cisticola**, **Cape Vulture**, **Lanner Falcon** and **Fiscal Flycatcher**.

In the reserve itself, the good birding continued, and we soon found **Bokmakierie**, **Horus Swift**, **Diederik Cuckoo**, **Southern Boubou**, **Pearl-breasted Swallow** and a graceful **Black Harrier**. We enjoyed our picnic lunch in the camp site, where we had a group of curious **Cape Spurrows** which were hanging around looking for leftovers. The highlight of De Hoop was probably working hard to find a **Knysna Woodpecker**; we heard it calling and eventually found it as it went about quietly feeding in a large fig tree. Later in the afternoon we made our way back to our accommodation and came across a brief flock of swifts which contained **Little**, **White-rumped** and **Common Swifts**. De Hoop is well known for its high concentrations of large mammals and today we managed to find **Chacma Baboon**, (Cape) **Mountain Zebra**, **Grey Rhebok**, **Bontebok** and **Steenbok**.

**Day 10, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Agulhas Plains to the Garden Route**

We had an early morning today as we birded the dry wheat fields nearby and eventually found our target **Karoo Korhaan** and were also lucky enough to find a pair of **Bat-eared Foxes** – always great to see. After our early morning out, we enjoyed a lovely sit-down breakfast before we started making our way further east to the Garden Route. Of course, we had several birding stops as we made our way through the Agulhas Plains, which resulted in us adding **African Hoopoe**, **Lesser Honeyguide**, **Brown-hooded Kingfisher** and **Olive Bushshrike**.



*This cute **Bat-eared Fox** was a welcome surprise in the Agulhas Plains.*

After a long drive eastward, we made a quick stop for our first proper forest birding of the tour and Prue was overjoyed to see her first **Knysna Turaco** – what a bird! Here, we were lucky to have a pair of **African Black Ducks** fly overhead and enjoyed the likes of **African Olive Pigeon**, **Tambourine Dove** and **Sombre Greenbul**.

We arrived at our wonderfully set accommodation that evening and had looks of **Fiery-necked Nightjar** as we sat outside for our hearty home-cooked meal.

**Day 11, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Garden Route birding**

We were up early again this morning and headed out to a nearby patch of forest which is normally incredibly productive, and today was no different. We walked along the road through the forest and within very little time had accumulated an impressive bird list which included the likes of **Knysna Turaco**, **African Goshawk**, **African Olive Pigeon**, **Cape Batis**, **Grey Cuckooshrike**, **Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher**, **Black Saw-wing**, **Black-bellied Starling**, **White-starred Robin**, **Collared and Greater Double-collared Sunbirds** and **Forest Canary**. **Knysna Warbler**



then proved incredibly obliging and posed out in the open for us. We had a fantastic time with a loose group of at least six **Narina Trogons** which were calling and showing well all around us. Unfortunately, the calling **Buff-spotted Flufftail** would not show itself. In the agricultural areas surrounding the forest patch we saw large numbers of **Black-winged Lapwing** as well as **Plain-backed Pipit** and **Black Cuckoo**.



*Knysna Warbler was incredibly obliging.*

We enjoyed a picnic lunch at the Big Tree – a massive Outeniqua Yellowwood – and the fine birding continued with **Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler**, **African Emerald Cuckoo**, **Green Wood Hoopoe**, and a couple of extremely inquisitive **Chorister Robin-Chats**.

After our forest birding at the Big Tree we continued a short distance to George and managed incredible views of **Red-chested Flufftail**. We were overjoyed with our flufftail sighting, as it showed amazingly well and Bobby even managed a photograph of the bird as it walked across the path! While birding the general area, we also managed to see a pair of **Forest Buzzards** and a confiding **Klaas's Cuckoo** and had glimpses of the skulking **Victorin's Warbler**.

### **Day 12, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Karoo and wetlands birding**

We were in the (very) early morning routine and so decided another pre-dawn start was a good idea. This time we headed north from the lush coastal forests of Wilderness, over the Outeniqua Mountains, and into the drylands of the Karoo around Oudtshoorn, where we spent the morning. With this being the only Karoo birding of the trip, we were very keen to clean up on most of our Karoo targets. Our first stop was near Oudtshoorn, where we enjoyed our picnic breakfasts with many of our targets showing in the surrounding bush. **Karoo** and **Yellow-bellied Eremomelas**,

**Rufous-eared** and **Chestnut-vented Warblers**, **Karoo Lark**, **Cape Penduline Tit**, **Fairy Flycatcher**, **Karoo Scrub Robin** and **White-throated Canary** all showed well and did not require too much work to find them.



*Karoo Eremomela did not prove too tricky around Oudtshoorn.*

We spent the rest of the morning driving the area's roads and searching for other drier-country specials. A stop in a rocky area produced good views of **Karoo Chat** and brief views of **Layard's Warbler**, while a nearby dry riverbed added **Namaqua Warbler**, **Common Reed Warbler** and **Pirit Batis**. There were a few roadside raptors around too and we added **Pale Chanting Goshawk** and **Booted Eagle**. We had some fun observing an extremely confiding female **Southern Black Korhaan**, which did not seem at all perturbed by us watching it at close range.

We ended our time in the dry country with a trip through the incredibly scenic Meiringspoort mountain pass which cuts through the Swartberg Mountains and connects the Klein Karoo with the Great Karoo. We marvelled at the beauty of the area and were enjoying our lunch when Dan somehow spotted three **Klipspringers** on the rock face opposite us – certainly an improvement on our views from earlier in the trip. Unfortunately, **Common Scimitarbill** showed briefly only for Dom, but thankfully we all saw it well later in the trip.

After a long day out, we eventually made it back to our accommodation and took it easy for the rest of the afternoon. We had good views of **Great Egret** as it flew overhead during our checklist session.



**Day 13, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Forest birding, transfer to Gqeberha and flights to Durban**

Today we had the morning to enjoy the Wilderness area before transferring east to Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth). We birded the same patch of forest again for a couple of hours before breakfast and today managed to find **Olive Woodpecker**, **Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler**, **Terrestrial Brownbul**, and a flock of **Common House Martins** overhead.



*The cute and colorful Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler.*

After our delicious breakfast we bade goodbye to our gracious hosts, and tried for Half-collared Kingfisher at a spot just down the road but were unfortunately unsuccessful. After a few hours on the road we stopped in at Cape Recife, near Gqeberha, to try and find a few coastal birds. We could not find Damara Tern, however **Roseate Tern** was not too difficult, as an inspection of the tern roost revealed a few of these uncommon terns. Other good birds in the area included **Grey-headed**, **Hartlaub's** and **Kelp Gulls**, **Grey Plover** and **Cape Gannet**. We thoroughly enjoyed watching a **Humpback Whale**, and Bobby managed some amusing shots where the gannet looked similar in size to the whale!

We then caught our early evening flight to Durban and checked in late to our accommodation, after a long but enjoyable day out.

**Day 14, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Durban to the Drakensberg with birding en route**

Late the previous day, news had broken of southern Africa's second record of **White Wagtail** - a species which normally winters as far south as East Africa. The bird had been showing at a site just north of Durban and so we decided to leave very early to arrive on site just after sunrise. We were the only birders on site (fair enough, it was a Monday morning) and thankfully within minutes

we spotted the **White Wagtail** as it fed in the manure heap. We were elated to find the bird and, after seeing some other common species such as **Cape Starling**, **Burchell's Coucal**, **Kurrichane Thrush** and **Rufous-winged Cisticola**, we made our back south to look for a certain rare swallow.

We made our way inland of Durban to Roselands, in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands, one of the last few South African strongholds for **Blue Swallow** with three breeding pairs on the property. We thoroughly enjoyed chatting to our local guide, James, who told us about this particular pair and also about all the amazing work the centre does, particularly with environmental education for school groups. James took us to the breeding site and within a few minutes the male pitched up, and then the female. We had fun watching the pair interacting and even managed some photos of them perched on the hillslope. After seeing the swallows, we birded the nearby grasslands where we found **Red-necked Spurfowl**, **African Yellow Warbler**, **Cape Grassbird**, **Drakensberg Prinia**, **Brimstone Canary**, **Cape Longclaw** and **Red-collared and Fan-tailed Widowbirds**.



*This male **Blue Swallow** posed nicely for us.*

After a highly successful time at Roselands, we continued inland towards the Drakensberg Mountains, stopping along the way at Xumeni Forest where **Barratt's Warbler** and **Orange Ground Thrush** did not prove too difficult. Later that afternoon we arrived at our beautifully situated accommodation at the base of Sani Pass. We enjoyed another home-cooked meal with a cacophony of calling frogs providing the background track for the evening.



*Red-collared Widowbirds were looking resplendent in their full-breeding dress.*

### Day 15, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Sani Pass and Lesotho birding

There was much excitement and anticipation this morning as we made our way up the famous Sani Pass which is probably the best area to see all of the Drakensberg's bird specials. Local bird guide, Stuart McLean, who must know the area and its birds better than anybody else, met us in the early morning and after a quick review of the target birds, we started making our way up the pass.

A few stops on the lower reaches of the pass yielded some good birds in the form of **Red-winged Francolin** (thanks Stuart for running back and forth for these birds), **Red-throated Wryneck**, **Bokmakierie**, **Greater Double-collared Sunbird** and **Black Saw-wing**. We then walked a nearby field for **Short-tailed Pipit** which gave us good flight views. Ascending the pass further, we added the likes of **African Black** and **Alpine Swifts**, **Cape Vulture**, **Peregrine Falcon**, **Wailing Cisticola**, **Bush Blackcap**, **Cape Rock Thrush**, **Buff-streaked Chat**, **Gurney's Sugarbird**, **Malachite Sunbird**, **Nicholson's Pipit** and **Cape and Cinnamon-breasted Buntings**.

In the late morning, we really started to get into the higher altitude zone and as such the bird assemblage started to change too. We lost the widespread generalist species, which were replaced with the hardy high altitude/mountain specialists such as **Ground Woodpecker**, **Drakensberg Siskin**, **Bearded Vulture** and the most sought-after **Drakensberg Rockjumper**. Once we were through the Lesotho border formalities (done in the blink of an eye, very different from most other African border posts) we started to get into a number of bird species found here at their eastern extent. **Yellow Canary**, **Mountain Pipit**, **Mountain Wheatear** and **Sickle-winged Chat** were common here while **Fairy Flycatcher**, **Grey Tit**, **Layard's Warbler**, **Large-billed Lark** and **Sentinel Rock Thrush** took a bit more effort to track down. We heard a distant **African Rock Pipit** but despite our best efforts we could not see the bird. The river was scanned and we found a few **African Black Ducks**, which are always great to see. The fields had large numbers of distant



**Cape Crows** and **Southern Bald Ibises**, however Dan's most-wanted bird, White Stork, would elude us still!



*Mountain Pipits were rather numerous in the Lesotho highlands.*

We were lucky enough to be staying at Sani Top Chalets tonight and so did not have to head back down the pass this afternoon, as we would normally do on a day trip. This meant we had the afternoon to take some time off and do as we please. It was rather special to be up here for sunset and to see the area in the golden light and this evening we enjoyed our dinners alongside a roaring fire.

#### **Day 16, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Descending Sani Pass and birding the general area**

We awoke early (Bobby got some impressive sunrise photos over the escarpment) and set out to bird the Lesotho highlands to see if we could eke out any other missing specials. We searched for Black Stork but eventually had to accept defeat here, but we did get more good looks at **Large-billed Lark**, **Sentinel Rock Thrush**, **Jackal Buzzard** and **Sickle-winged Chat**. Stuart showed us the monstrously huge **Maluti River Frog** (and that was just a juvenile) and **Common River Frog** (formerly known as Drakensberg River Frog). After breakfast, we spent a bit more time photographing the cute **Sloggett's Vlei Rats** around the chalets before we started making our way back down the pass.



*This male **Sentinel Rock Thrush** was seen around our high-altitude accommodation on top of Sani Pass.*

We still had a couple of missing targets around the lower altitudes below the pass and started with lunch in Stuart's garden, which yielded a single **Greater Honeyguide** as well as some showy **Amethyst Sunbirds**. After lunch we drove the nearby roads in search of Wattled Crane, which Stuart had seen recently with a chick. Unfortunately, the cranes were nowhere to be seen and we had to leave this Vulnerable species for another day. We also tried several fields for White Stork but amazingly could not find a single bird – they had clearly not yet arrived in the area. We said goodbye to Stuart and enjoyed another fine meal while listening to the frog chorus.

### **Day 17, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022. Transfer from Drakensberg to St Lucia with birding en route**

As **Cape Parrots** were first on the agenda this morning, we had a pre-dawn departure from Sani Pass area (adding **Spotted Eagle-Owl** en route) to ensure we arrived at Marutswa Forest at sunrise. We arrived on site in good time but the parrots were nowhere to be seen! We were just starting to get worried when a group of seven **Cape Parrots** flew overhead with two birds sitting in a nearby tree and socialising for a while. While watching the parrots, we enjoyed some forest edge species such as **Knysna Turaco**, **African Olive Pigeon**, **Red-fronted Tinkerbird**, **Crowned Hornbill** and **Forest Canary**.

We had a long way to drive today and we also had many targets and birding stops to fit in, which meant it was a bit of a frenetic day, but thankfully we managed most of our targets. After the parrots we birded the Karkloof area where we found a pair of **Wattled Cranes** (a new bird for Prue), before making our way down to the coast where we added **Red-headed Quelea** north of Durban. We then made a quick stop for Black Coucal near Eshowe, but with the extreme heat of midday, we did not have any luck here and so pressed on to the picturesque Ongoye Forest. We

enjoyed a late lunch in the shade of the forest and eventually had brief views of **Green Barbet**, but sadly Yellow-streaked Greenbulbs were dead quiet. To finish off the day's birding we stopped in at the coastal town of Mtunzini where we found **Palm-nut Vulture** as well as **Purple-crested Turaco**, **Grey** and **Purple-banded Sunbirds** and our main target, the peculiar **mudskipper**, an amphibious fish. After a long day's drive with many of our targets found, we eventually arrived safely in St Lucia in the late afternoon and enjoyed some time off at our beautiful lodge.



*A male Red-headed Quelea north of Durban.*

### **Day 18, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022. St Lucia and Isimangaliso Wetland Park birding**

We headed out for a couple of hours of forest birding before breakfast and had a really great time out. Some of the highlights of the birding included **Southern Crested Guineafowl**, **Trumpeter Hornbill**, **White-eared Barbet**, **Green Malkoha**, **Rudd's Apalis**, **Ashy Flycatcher**, **Brown Scrub Robin**, **Red-capped Robin-Chat**, **Collared**, **Grey**, **Olive** and **Purple-banded Sunbirds**, **Dark-backed Weaver**, **Green Twinspot** and the beautiful **Livingstone's Turaco**.

After a scrumptious sit-down breakfast, we headed to the Eastern Shores section of Isimangaliso Wetland Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a fantastic birding destination. Today the birding was a little slow but we had some great waterbirds including the likes of **Goliath** and **Purple Herons**, **Great Egret**, **White-faced Whistling Duck** and **Spur-winged Goose**. We then drove the grassland loop which yielded us **Red-breasted Swallow**, **Little** and **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters** and one of the big targets of the trip, the strange-looking **Secretarybird**. Unfortunately, we did not have any luck with two of our raptor targets, Southern Banded Snake Eagle or African Cuckoo-Hawk.





*We had good **Secretarybird** sightings in the Eastern Shores section of the Isimangaliso Wetland Park.*

After some lunch and some time off, we headed out in the late afternoon for our private estuary cruise. The wind was rather strong but we had a fun couple of hours as we slowly made our way up the estuary on a large spacious boat and enjoyed close-up views of **Nile Crocodiles** and **Hippopotamuses** (complete with a hippo-grunting song). We were also able to see a number of birds up close, such as **Blue-cheeked Bee-eater**, **Malachite Kingfisher**, **Water Thick-knee**, **Purple Heron** and **Caspian Tern**. We had fleeting glimpses of **African Finfoot** and, despite our best efforts, the bird would not show itself again.

### **Day 19, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022. Isimangaliso Wetland Park birding and turtle tour**

Today was 24-hour nation-wide birding day and so, for fun, we decided to enter ourselves as a team (The Kiwis in SA) and see how many we could record for the day. We again went into Eastern Shores and finally got lucky with **African Cuckoo-Hawk**, which showed well for us. Another good find was a single **Rufous-bellied Heron**, a difficult bird to find in South Africa. The morning produced further sightings of some tricky birds such as **Black-chested** and **Brown Snake Eagles**, **African Pygmy Kingfisher** (another big trip target), **Black Crake**, **European Roller**, **Black-throated Wattle-eye**, **Chinspot Batis**, **Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher** and **Red-billed Oxpecker**. We then had better looks at a pair of **Secretarybirds**, with the rarest sighting of the day being brief looks at **Rosy-throated Longclaw**.



*Brown Scrub Robin sang in the undergrowth in St Lucia.*

As we were going to be out on a turtle tour for most of the afternoon and only arriving back late in the evening, we decided to have a big lunch and then some time off. We then jumped in our vehicle and made our way through the Eastern Shores of Isimangaliso towards the beaches of Cape Vidal. The drive through the park gave us another **African Cuckoo-Hawk** sighting as well as good looks at **African Buffalo, White Rhinoceros, Plains Zebra, Common Warthog, Greater Kudu, Bushbuck, Impala** and the diminutive **Natal Red Duiker**. We arrived on the beach in the early evening and drove around 12 miles (20 kilometers) along the beach in the hopes of finding a nesting Loggerhead or Leatherback Turtle. Unfortunately, we could not find any (live) turtles tonight (we did find a dead Loggerhead Turtle) but nevertheless thoroughly enjoyed being out in this special ecosystem in the darkness. Our turtle guide was very informative and even though we did not see the turtles themselves, we still gained a good understanding of turtle ecology and conservation. The vast numbers of crabs along the shoreline were certainly something to witness. We got lucky on our nocturnal drive back through the park when we saw a couple of **Spotted Hyenas** and a pair of **Swamp Nightjars**. We ended our day list on a respectable 113 species!

#### **Day 20, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022. St Lucia to Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Game Reserve**

We did the same forest trail as a couple of mornings back, in the hopes of finding Buff-spotted Flufftail but, besides hearing a calling bird, we did not see this elusive forest skulker. We did, however, have some good forest birding and managed to find **Woodward's Batis** (at last) as well as **Green-backed Camaroptera, African Emerald Cuckoo** and **Scaly-throated Honeyguide**. We then made our way down to the estuary mouth to have a good look through the shorebirds/waders that were on offer. There was a large tern roost and here we picked out **Caspian, Greater Crested, Lesser Crested, Sandwich, Common** and **Little Terns**, other birds here



included **Grey-headed Gull**, **Yellow-billed Stork**, **Sanderling** and **White-fronted** and **Three-banded Plovers**.

After another fine breakfast, we packed our bags and headed out of St Lucia through the Western Shores section of Isimangaliso Wetland Park. We had a good drive and managed to find **Striped Kingfisher**, **Lemon-breasted Canary**, **Osprey** and, at long last, a **Southern Banded Snake Eagle**.

As we arrived at Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Game Reserve, we had a couple of new and exciting birds, including **Mocking Cliff Chat** and **White-winged Widowbird**, while a few **White-backed Vultures** flew overhead. As we drove through the reserve to our camp, we added **Eastern Nicator**, **Crested Barbet**, **Black Cuckooshrike** and **Red-backed Shrike**. After another long but productive day, we arrived at Hilltop Camp, settled into our accommodation and enjoyed a tasty dinner.

### Day 21, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Game Reserve birding and game-viewing

We had the exciting prospect of a full day of birding and game-viewing in the park today and decided to stretch our legs first thing and take a (muddy) walk along the forest trail around camp. The birding was slow but we did manage to see a showy troop of **Blue (Samango) Monkeys** which were good fun to watch. Along the forest trail, we also saw **Narina Trogon**, **Red-capped Robin-Chat**, **Red-fronted Tinkerbird**, **Golden-tailed Woodpecker** and **Violet-backed Starling**.



*Narina Trogon was seen on a number of occasions on this tour.*

After breakfast, we left the camp and drove the park's large network of roads in search of our bird and animal targets. As we drove through the park, we kept adding new birds including **Southern**



**Black Tit, Jacobin Cuckoo, Bateleur, Grey-headed and Gorgeous Bushshrikes, White-crested Helmetshrike, Grey Tit-Flycatcher, Sabota and Flappet Larks, and White-throated Robin-Chat.** Later that afternoon after some mid-afternoon down-time, we headed out for another quick drive which was mostly quiet although we did add **Long-tailed Paradise Whydah** and **Village Indigobird**.

As with any visit to Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Game Reserve, large numbers of mammals were seen on our various drives today and included **African Elephant, Chacma Baboon, Vervet Monkey, White Rhinoceros, African Buffalo, Greater Kudu, Nyala, Impala, Bushbuck, Common Wildebeest** and **Natal Red Duiker**.

### **Day 22, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Hluhluwe-iMfolozi to Mkhuze Game Reserve**

We made a pre-dawn exit from Hilltop Camp this morning as we wanted to get out of the park as soon as possible to start our search for the enigmatic Pel's Fishing Owl. As is often the case when one is in a rush driving through a game reserve, we had a fantastic mammal sighting as a large male **Lion** sat in the road in front of us. Even though we were in a bit of a rush, we stopped a while and enjoyed this impressive sight.



*Red-billed Oxpecker showed beautifully for us in Zululand.*

Once we were out of the reserve, we met up with local bird guide Themba Mthembu - who knows the area and its birds incredibly well - and proceeded to a nearby riverine forest to search for **Pel's Fishing Owl**. We had to walk a good distance through the forest but we did not mind as it is thankfully an incredibly pretty forest with massive fig and fever trees along the edge of the river. The birding while looking for the owl was good too and we added **Broad-billed Roller, White-**

**browed Robin-Chat** and **Red-faced Cisticola**. After a while Themba excitedly gestured us over and pointed out a subadult **Pel's Fishing Owl** sitting up in a nearby fig tree. We couldn't believe our luck and enjoyed watching it as it watched us for a few minutes, before it decided it was time to move off to another tree. We walked back through the forest feeling overjoyed and with great anticipation for what the rest of the day had in store for us.

When we got back to the car, we found **Burnt-necked Eremomela** and **Grey Penduline Tits** and then moved to Muzi Pan where we had **Southern Brown-throated Weaver** and **Pink-backed Pelican**. We then said goodbye to Themba and went to bird other nearby areas. We moved to a nearby sand forest area where we saw **Pink-throated Twinspot** and heard **Neergaard's Sunbird** and **African Broadbill**. Just as we were honing in to these birds Bobby was unfortunately stung by a massive wasp and was in a lot of pain. We decided to get out of the area and, thankfully, the pain subsided after a while, and we moved on to the nearby Mpempe Pan.

Mpempe Pan was its usual birdy self and in amongst the many **Black-winged Lapwings** in the area, we found a pair of **Senegal Lapwings**, as well as a single **Caspian Plover** and a pair of **African Wattled Lapwings**. Dan then did well to spot a group of **Lemon-breasted Canaries**, which showed even better than before.



*Caspian Plover seen in the Mpempe Pan floodplain.*

After birding the morning outside of the reserve, we eventually made it into Mkhuze Game Reserve in the late afternoon. After checking into our accommodation, we took it easy for the remainder of the afternoon to be rested for our night drive scheduled for the evening. After a quick and easy dinner we boarded our game drive vehicle and managed good looks at **Gorgeous Bushshrike** before the light faded. The night drive was highly enjoyable and we found **Square-tailed** (many), **Fiery-necked** and **European Nightjars**, **African Scops Owl**, **Spotted Eagle-Owl** and a **Large-**

**spotted Genet.** It was an incredibly busy day but a highly enjoyable one and we all slept well that night.

### Day 23, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Mkhuze Game Reserve to Wakkerstroom

Today was mostly a travel day, but we spent the morning birding the reserve and enjoyed some time at Masinga Hide in the sand forest, which is always highly rewarding. We significantly improved on our **Pink-throated Twinspot** sighting here, with an incredibly obliging pair, and added **Grey Waxbill** and **Bearded Scrub Robin**.



*Pink-throated Twinspot was one of the highlights of Mkhuze Game Reserve.*

With a long drive ahead of us today, we made our way out of the reserve and hit the road north to the Highveld grasslands of Wakkerstroom. The drive was mostly uneventful until we decided to bird the grasslands around Dirkiesdorp and here we found both **Black-bellied** and **White-bellied Bustards** as well as **Wing-snapping Cisticola**. We made it into our lovely Wakkerstroom accommodation in the late afternoon and enjoyed another tasty meal that evening.

### Day 24, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Wakkerstroom grassland birding

Today was the final full day with Dom as the guide and we were keen to try and finish this leg on a high. The day started off rather worryingly as we could not locate two of our passports and then Dom misplaced his key. Thankfully everything worked itself out; the passports and keys were found and we could finally join our local guide, Lucky Ngwenya, who had been sitting watching the chaos unfold for half an hour.



We talked through our target list with Lucky and devised a plan for the day and were soon on our way out. As we headed out of town we added **Long-tailed Widowbird**, **Eastern Long-billed Lark**, **Ant-eating Chat**, **Sentinel Rock Thrush**, **Southern Bald Ibis** (much closer views than before) and **Denham's Bustard**. We then decided to try for Rudd's Lark near Groenvlei, but unfortunately the birds were not singing and we could not locate any of these rare larks. Thankfully the **Yellow-breasted Pipits** obliged, as did a single **Cuckoo-finch**. We then birded a nearby hillslope which gave us **African Rock Pipit**, **Cape Longclaw** and **Wailing Cisticola**.

It was then time for our delicious sit-down breakfast back at our accommodation, before we headed back out to see what else we could find. We discussed another lark special of the area, Botha's Lark, and Lucky informed us that the birds had not been showing this season, which was very worrying. We decided to cut our losses with this species and rather focus on other species that we were still missing.



*Crazy-looking Long-tailed Widowbirds were seen in the Wakkerstroom grasslands.*

White Stork - a dream bird of Dan's since he was a child - was our number one priority for the remainder of the day. Although Lucky had seen them in a field recently, we were worried about missing this target bird, as they were clearly late arriving in South Africa this season. We need not have worried though! As we rounded a bend in the road, a large flock of 46 **White Storks** suddenly appeared for us. It was a fantastic moment and we decided to enjoy our lunch with a backdrop of White Storks feeding peacefully at close range.

After the storks, we birded the nearby area and added **Blue Korhaan**, **South African Cliff Swallow**, **Pale-crowned Cisticola**, **Spike-heeled Lark** and finished the day with a flushed **Marsh Owl**, before the weather closed in and we decided to head back to our accommodation. It had been a wonderful day and Dom felt like he could now end his leg after finally finding **White Stork**.



*Marsh Owl was seen in the grasslands near Wakkerstroom.*

### **Day 25, 09<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Wakkerstroom to Joburg, with birding north of Pretoria**

We had to be at OR Tambo International Airport near Johannesburg around noon, so after breakfast we immediately hit the road and made our way west. We met our guide for the remainder of the trip, Martin Benadie, at the airport and said our goodbyes to Dom. It had been a fun couple of weeks travelling through the Cape and eastern South Africa, and the group was looking forward to the final western South Africa leg. We made our way through eastern Johannesburg and headed north through Pretoria and beyond.

A short lunch stop was enjoyed in Dinokeng Game Reserve (with our first **Burchell's Starlings**). We then started birding in and around Rust De Winter in varied habitats, ranging from acacia and broad-leafed woodland to open grassland and agricultural areas. Following the recent good rains in the area, the vegetation was lush and green and the bird activity was excellent. Some of the afternoon highlights included **Southern Red-billed Hornbill**, **Cinnamon-breasted Bunting**, **Magpie Shrike**, **Black-throated Canary**, **Grey Go-away-bird**, **Red-chested Cuckoo**, **Woodland Kingfisher**, **Pearl-breasted Swallow**, **Chinspot Batis**, **Red-billed Buffalo Weaver**, **White-winged Widowbird**, **Wahlberg's Eagle**, **African Grey Hornbill** and **Arrow-marked Babbler**. There was much excitement when a mixed-species falcon flock was located, which included a female **Red-footed Falcon**, together with several **Lesser Kestrels** and **Amur Falcons**. We arrived at Zenzele River Lodge in the early evening after another bird-filled day.



*Amur Falcons were seen north of Pretoria.*

#### **Day 26, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Transfer to Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park**

We had an enjoyable early morning birding walk around Zenzele River Lodge. The birding was great and we all wished we had a bit more time here. Nonetheless, we enjoyed great views of nesting **Red-headed Weaver**, **Thick-billed** and **Village Weavers**, **Black-headed Oriole**, **Striated Heron**, **Hamerkop**, **Woodland Kingfishers** galore, **Black Cuckooshrike**, **Southern Black Tit**, **Orange-breasted Bushshrike**, **Black Crake**, **Violet-backed Starling** and **African Grey Hornbill**, to mention a few.

After an early breakfast we drove back to Johannesburg for our mid-morning flight to Upington. We did some shopping (and lunch) in Upington before undertaking the 155 mile (250 kilometer) drive to the entrance of Kgalagadi National Park – with much excitement thinking of the days ahead. Roadside birding was far from boring and some special finds included our first **Chat Flycatcher**, **Ant-eating Chat**, **Capped Wheatear**, **Ludwig's** and **Kori Bustards**, **Northern Black Korhaan** and a large roosting aggregation of **White-backed Vulture** with two enormous **Lappet-faced Vultures** also in attendance. **Sociable Weavers** and their gigantic nests were also numerous on the drive. We all marvelled at their incredible nest architecture, which took on various forms. Our overnight stop was just outside the park, and some late afternoon birding included species such as **Lilac-breasted Roller**, **Sociable Weaver**, **Red-billed Quelea**, **Black-chested Prinia**, **Wattled Starling**, **Swallow-tailed Bee-eater**, **Marico Flycatcher** and **Common Scimitarbill**.

#### **Day 27, 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Kgalagadi Transfrontier birding and wildlife viewing**

We took a morning birding walk around our Lodge, where some of the highlights were singing **Fawn-coloured Lark**, **Sociable Weaver**, **Black-chested Prinia**, **Kalahari Scrub Robin**,



**Groundscraper Thrush**, diminutive and delightful **Pygmy Falcons**, **Chestnut-vented Warbler**, **Pririt Batis**, **Common Swift** and a **Great Spotted Cuckoo**. We then headed into the park and, after the entrance formalities and filling up with diesel, we did some quick birding around Twee Rivieren Camp. This proved very productive for the likes of **Brubru**, **Crimson-breasted Shrike**, **Acacia Pied Barbet**, **African Red-eyed Bulbul**, **Cape Sparrow**, **White-backed Mousebird**, **Golden-tailed Woodpecker**, **Ashy Tit** and our first endearing **Scaly Weavers**. A mammal highlight was finding a **Cape Fox** but we also enjoyed our first views of **Gemsbok**, **Springbok**, **South African Ground Squirrel**, (Red) **Hartebeest** and **Black-backed Jackal**.



*The striking Ashy Tit was seen in the Kalahari.*

We then drove approximately 85 miles (140 kilometers) on to Mata Mata area (via various loops and waterholes) taking in the spectacular Kgalagadi scenery and landscapes. The birding was as diverse and varied as the scenery and included **Cape Penduline Tit**, **Yellow-bellied Eremomela**, **Lesser Grey Shrike**, **Marico Flycatcher**, **Common Ostrich**, **Namaqua Dove**, **Sabota Lark**, **Pygmy Falcon**, **Red-headed Finch**, **Lanner Falcon**, **Spotted Thick-knee** (with chicks), **Verreaux's Eagle-Owl**, **Black-chested Snake Eagle** (which had just caught a **Cape Cobra**), **African Hoopoe**, **Cinnamon-breasted Bunting**, **Shaft-tailed Whydah** and **Bateleur**.

After settling into Kalahari Tented Camp, lunch and a break, we set off on another fruitful afternoon drive in the park and saw species such as **Tawny Eagle**, **Lilac-breasted Roller**, **Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill**, **Secretarybird**, **Gabar Goshawk**, **Red-necked Falcon**, **Rosy-faced Lovebird** and **Common Buzzard**. We lost count of the number of **Sociable Weaver** nests adorning the camelthorn trees. We also had good numbers of **Giraffe**, **Common Wildebeest**, **Gemsbok**, **Springbok** and **Yellow Mongoose**. Just as we got back into Kalahari Tented Camp, we enjoyed a stunning **Puff Adder** crossing the road. Other interesting reptiles today included **Kalahari Tent Tortoise**, **Ground Agama** and **Bibron's Gecko**.

**Day 28, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Kgalagadi Transfrontier birding and wildlife viewing**

We woke in the early hours of the morning to **Rufous-cheeked Nightjar** calling around camp and then did an early morning departure out of camp to make the most of the cooler temperatures and increased wildlife activity. Great views were again obtained of many species seen yesterday, as well as **Tawny Eagle**, **Lesser Grey Shrike** and **Diederik Cuckoo**. The Kgalagadi is known for raptors and the morning did not disappoint in this regard! **Lanner Falcons** were observed hunting **Red-billed Queleas** and **Red-headed Finches**, while **Black-chested Snake Eagle**, numerous **Black-winged Kites**, **Pale Chanting Goshawks**, **Greater Kestrel**, **Pygmy Falcon**, **Gabar Goshawk**, **Bateleur** and **Red-necked Falcon** were all seen. A definite highlight was a breeding male **Shaft-tailed Whydah**, together with **Desert Cisticola**, and a bizarre record of a female **Greater Painted-snipe** at Dalkeith Waterhole! On the mammal front we enjoyed great views of a male black-maned Kalahari **Lion** in his prime, together with various antelope species.



*Pale Chanting Goshawk was a common feature of the Kalahari.*

To get a break from the driving we did an afternoon birding walk around Mata Mata Camp. Even though the late afternoon was still quite hot, we were able to get great views of species such as the stunning **Violet-eared** and **Black-faced Waxbills**, a flock of **Rosy-faced Lovebird**, **Yellow-billed Kite**, **Crimson-breasted Shrike**, **Groundscraper Thrush** and **Green-winged Pytilia**.

A tasty dinner was enjoyed back at Kalahari Tented Camp, while taking in the golden sunset, a fitting end to another glorious day. A **Western Barn Owl** was later seen and **Rufous-cheeked Nightjar** were quite vocal again together with **Southern White-faced Owl** adding to the ambience which makes the Kalahari so special.

**Day 29, 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Kgalagadi Transfrontier birding and wildlife viewing**

After a quick breakfast we again left camp quite early for the drive back down to the Twee Rivieren area of the park. An **African Wild Cat** was found in camp just before we left – an exciting start to the day! As we again took in various waterholes on the drive, a definite highlight was finding an active pride of eight **Lions** around Craig Lockhart waterhole. On the birding front we also located several flocks of **Burchell's Sandgrouse** coming in to drink, but hunting **Lanner Falcons** made quenching their thirst difficult! One unfortunate sandgrouse succumbed to a large female **Lanner Falcon**. **Ludwig's** and **Kori Bustard** again gave satisfying views and we also found **Namaqua Sandgrouse**, **Pearl-spotted Owlet** and **Verreaux's Eagle-Owl**. Another mammal highlight was finding two separate groups of **Meerkats** (Suricates) and we spent some time sitting and watching their antics. A large **Cape Cobra** was also seen. We checked back into Kgalagadi Lodge for lunch and a break from the Kgalagadi heat at this time of year.



*Sociable Weavers and their massive colonial nests were numerous in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.*

A late afternoon drive was again made back into the park and we drove up towards Kij Kij waterhole. A stunning female **Lion**, many **White-backed Vultures**, a flock of **Little Stint** and **Rufous-eared Warbler** were some of the memorable sightings. This area had some recent rains and we could not get over the sheer number of active **Leopard Tortoises** seen! A tasty dinner was enjoyed back at Kgalagadi Lodge before retiring for the evening. It was somewhat sad that our Kgalagadi adventure was coming to an end.

**Day 30, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Kgalagadi Transfrontier to Marrick Safaris, near Kimberley**

Our morning pre-breakfast walk around Kgalagadi Lodge delivered the likes of **Ashy Tit**, **Groundscraper Thrush**, **Black-chested Prinia**, **Green-winged Pytilia**, **Black-faced Waxbill**



and various other species already seen. We had a very long drive ahead of us to Kimberley today and so an early start was made.

On the drive down to Upington we again enjoyed views of **Common Swift**, **Pale Chanting Goshawk**, **Kori Bustard**, **White-backed Vulture** and **Ant-eating Chat**. A brief stop was also made along the Orange River for the localised **Orange River White-eye**. Good views were eventually obtained of this species, together with **African Red-eyed Bulbul**, **Icterine Warbler** and a breeding male **Village Indigobird**. Lunch was then enjoyed at a quaint restaurant in Groblershoop before the last stint on to Marrick Farm and Kimberley. Unfortunately, we arrived at Marrick just as a storm broke and the late afternoon and evening were mostly rained out. We did however add **Red-billed Firefinch** around the farm homestead, together with the likes of breeding **Southern Masked Weaver**, **Greater Striped Swallow**, **Red-faced Mousebird**, **White-rumped Swift**, **Fork-tailed Drongo**, **Cape Sparrow** and **Black-chested Prinia**.



*White-backed Vulture, the most widespread vulture in the Kalahari.*

### Day 31, 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Birding Marrick Safaris and surrounds

We awoke to a beautiful, clear morning and decided to go on an early morning walk on the Marrick property. Following last night's rain, the walk was extremely productive and we tallied 64 species! Notable mentions included **White-faced Whistling Duck**, displaying **Northern Black Korhaan**, **Glossy Ibis**, **African Hoopoe**, **Acacia Pied Barbet**, **Pririt Batis**, **Crimson-breasted Shrike**, **Sabota Lark**, **Neddicky**, **Wattled Starling**, **Marico Flycatcher**, **Kalahari Scrub Robin**, **Scaly Weaver**, **Green-winged Pytilia**, **Blue Crane**, **White-bellied Sunbird** and no less than five **Ludwig's Bustards**!



*The brightly colored **Crimson-breasted Shrike** was hard to overlook.*

After breakfast we decided to take another walk in a grassland area on the Marrick property. Better views were obtained of **Ludwig's Bustard**, as well as **Kittlitz's Plover**, **Lesser Kestrel**, **Amur Falcon**, **Spike-heeled Lark**, **Pink-billed Lark**, **Eastern Clapper Lark**, **Desert Cisticola**, **Zitting Cisticola** and **Quailfinch**, as well as the resident herd of **Black Wildebeest**.

We returned to the farmstead for lunch, after which we undertook a short drive in the district near Marrick. The highlight was probably seeing no less than 150 **Abdim's Storks**, as well as **Alpine Swift**, **White-backed Mousebird**, **Long-tailed Paradise Whydah**, **Village Indigobird** and **Black-throated Canary**.

Today was action packed and we opted for a late afternoon 'Sengi Drive', where a rocky outcrop area was targeted for the endearing **Karoo Rock Sengi**. Good views were eventually obtained of the sengi, and birding around the outcrop was equally good for many bird species, such as **Fairy Flycatcher**, **Common Scimitarbill**, **Pririt Batis**, **Ashy Tit**, **Chestnut-vented Warbler** and **Fiscal Flycatcher**. There was incredible swift activity in the skies too, with **Common**, **Alpine**, **Little** and **Bradfield's Swifts** all recorded! An interesting mammal here was a **Mountain Reedbuck**. Another afternoon highlight was locating three **Temminck's Coursers** in a nearby open area! Magic stuff!

We again returned to the homestead for dinner and then undertook a night drive on the Marrick property. This proved extremely productive for mammals and we enjoyed no less than two **Aardvark** sightings, five **Aardwolf** encounters, **Smith's Rock Rabbit**, many **Springhares** and **Cape Hare**.

**Day 32, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Transfer to Johannesburg**

This morning had us catch a mid-morning flight back to Johannesburg from Kimberley. Since we had gone to bed late the previous night, we only ate breakfast and then hit the road. After a pleasant flight back to Johannesburg it was decided to spend the afternoon at Marievale Bird Sanctuary with a picnic lunch. This proved a great call and we had an amazing afternoon weather-wise and some epic birding! Amongst the over 80 species recorded for the afternoon were waterfowl such as **Blue-billed, Cape and Red-billed Teals, Cape Shoveler, Fulvous Whistling Duck, South African Shelduck and Southern Pochard**. Other memorable sightings were **White-winged Tern, Great Crested Grebe, Diederik Cuckoo, African Swamphen, Spotted Thick-knee, Pied Avocet, African Wattled Lapwing, Goliath, Purple, Squacco and Black Herons, African Spoonbill, African Marsh Harrier, Levallant's Cisticola, Pied Kingfisher, Sand Martin, Mountain Wheatear and Fan-tailed and Long-tailed Widowbirds**, amongst many other species and sightings for the afternoon. It was a fitting and tranquil end to an amazing South Africa itinerary for Bobby, Dan and Prue!



*Sand Martins were seen on a couple of occasions on this tour of South Africa.*

**Day 33, 17<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Departure from South Africa**

Owing to long onward flight arrangements today, a leisurely breakfast was enjoyed while allowing for some time to repack for the flight home. We did some birding in the hotel gardens for the likes of **Karoo Thrush, Red-headed Finch, Black-collared Barbet, Cape Robin-Chat, Red-faced Mousebird, Grey Go-away-bird, and Red-eyed Dove**. We then drove back to OR Tambo International Airport and checked in for flights back home to New Zealand. The trip ended on an amazing 530 bird species seen and enough memories to last a lifetime!



**Bird List - Following IOC (13.1)**

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

The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following BirdLife International: CE = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, NT = Near Threatened. The Namibian endemic is bolded.

Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Ostriches (Struthionidae)</b>	
Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>
<b>Ducks, Geese, Swans (Anatidae)</b>	
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
Fulvous Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>
White-backed Duck	<i>Thalassornis leuconotus</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>
Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>
Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>
Southern Pochard	<i>Netta erythrophthalma</i>
Maccoa Duck - VU	<i>Oxyura maccoa</i>
<b>Guineafowl (Numididae)</b>	
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
Southern Crested Guineafowl	<i>Guttera pucherani</i>
<b>Pheasants &amp; Allies (Phasianidae)</b>	
Crested Francolin	<i>Ortygornis sephaena</i>
Red-winged Francolin	<i>Scleroptila levaillantii</i>
Grey-winged Francolin	<i>Scleroptila afra</i>
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>
Cape Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis capensis</i>
Swainson's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>
Red-necked Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis afer</i>
<b>Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)</b>	
European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Rufous-cheeked Nightjar (H)	<i>Caprimulgus rufigena</i>
Fiery-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus pectoralis</i>
Swamp Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus natalensis</i>
Square-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus fossii</i>
<b>Swifts (Apodidae)</b>	
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
African Black Swift	<i>Apus barbatus</i>
Bradfield's Swift	<i>Apus bradfieldi</i>
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
Horus Swift	<i>Apus horus</i>
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>
<b>Turacos (Musophagidae)</b>	
Grey Go-away-bird	<i>Crinifer concolor</i>
Purple-crested Turaco	<i>Gallirex porphyreolophus</i>
Livingstone's Turaco	<i>Tauraco livingstonii</i>
Knysna Turaco	<i>Tauraco corythaix</i>
<b>Bustards (Otididae)</b>	
Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>
Ludwig's Bustard - EN	<i>Neotis ludwigii</i>
Denham's Bustard	<i>Neotis denhami</i>
White-bellied Bustard	<i>Eupodotis senegalensis</i>
Blue Korhaan	<i>Eupodotis caerulescens</i>
Karoo Korhaan	<i>Eupodotis vigorsii</i>
Southern Black Korhaan - VU	<i>Afrotis afra</i>
Northern Black Korhaan	<i>Afrotis afraoides</i>
Black-bellied Bustard	<i>Lissotis melanogaster</i>
<b>Cuckoos (Cuculidae)</b>	
Burchell's Coucal	<i>Centropus burchellii</i>
Green Malkoha	<i>Ceuthmochares australis</i>
Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>
Jacobin Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>
Diederik Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>
Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>
African Emerald Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx cupreus</i>
Black Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus clamosus</i>
Red-chested Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Sandgrouse (Pteroclididae)</b>	
Namaqua Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles namaqua</i>
Burchell's Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles burchelli</i>
<b>Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)</b>	
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>
African Olive Pigeon	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>
Lemon Dove	<i>Columba larvata</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>
<b>Finfoots (Heliornithidae)</b>	
African Finfoot	<i>Podica senegalensis</i>
<b>Flufftails (Sarothruridae)</b>	
Buff-spotted Flufftail (H)	<i>Sarothrura elegans</i>
Red-chested Flufftail	<i>Sarothrura rufa</i>
<b>Rails, Crakes &amp; Coots (Rallidae)</b>	
African Rail	<i>Rallus caerulescens</i>
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>
African Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>
Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>
Baillon's Crake	<i>Zapornia pusilla</i>
<b>Cranes (Gruidae)</b>	
Grey Crowned Crane - EN	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>
Wattled Crane - VU	<i>Grus carunculata</i>
Blue Crane - VU	<i>Grus paradisea</i>
<b>Grebes (Podicipedidae)</b>	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
<b>Flamingos (Phoenicopteridae)</b>	
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>



Common Name	Scientific Name
Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>
<b>Stone-curlews, Thick-knees (Burhinidae)</b>	
Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>
Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>
<b>Oystercatchers (Haematopodidae)</b>	
African Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus moquini</i>
<b>Stilts, Avocets (Recurvirostridae)</b>	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
<b>Plovers (Charadriidae)</b>	
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>
Senegal Lapwing	<i>Vanellus lugubris</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>
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>
Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>
White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>
Chestnut-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius pallidus</i>
Caspian Plover	<i>Charadrius asiaticus</i>
<b>Jacanas (Jacanidae)</b>	
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>
<b>Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopacidae)</b>	
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
African Snipe	<i>Gallinago nigripennis</i>
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
<b>Couriers, Pratincoles (Glareolidae)</b>	
Temminck's Courser	<i>Cursorius temminckii</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>
<b>Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)</b>	
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>
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>
Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>
Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>
<b>Skuas (Stercorariidae)</b>	
Brown Skua	<i>Stercorarius antarcticus</i>
Parasitic Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>
<b>Penguins (Spheniscidae)</b>	
African Penguin - EN	<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>
<b>Austral Storm Petrels (Oceanitidae)</b>	
Wilson's Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>
<b>Albatrosses (Diomedidae)</b>	
Black-browed Albatross - EN	<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>
Shy Albatross	<i>Thalassarche cauta</i>
Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross - EN	<i>Thalassarche chlororhynchus</i>
<b>Northern Storm Petrels (Hydrobatidae)</b>	
European Storm Petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>
<b>Petrels, Shearwaters, Diving Petrels (Procellariidae)</b>	
Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>
Northern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>
Cape Petrel	<i>Daption capense</i>
Great-winged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma macroptera</i>
White-chinned Petrel - VU	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>
Spectacled Petrel - VU	<i>Procellaria conspicillata</i>
Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris borealis</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>
<b>Storks (Ciconiidae)</b>	
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>
Abdim's Stork	<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>
Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
<b>Gannets, Boobies (Sulidae)</b>	
Cape Gannet - EN	<i>Morus capensis</i>
<b>Cormorants, Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)</b>	
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>
<b>Ibises, Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)</b>	
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>
Southern Bald Ibis - VU	<i>Geronticus calvus</i>
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>
<b>Hérons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)</b>	
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>
White-backed Night Heron	<i>Gorsachius leuconotus</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Rufous-bellied Heron	<i>Ardeola rufiventris</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>
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
<b>Hamerkop (Scopidae)</b>	
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>



Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Pelicans (Pelecanidae)</b>	
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>
Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>
<b>Secretarybird (Sagittariidae)</b>	
Secretarybird - EN	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>
<b>Osprey (Pandionidae)</b>	
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
<b>Kites, Hawks, Eagles (Accipitridae)</b>	
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>
Palm-nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>
Bearded Vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>
African Cuckoo-Hawk	<i>Aviceda cuculoides</i>
White-backed Vulture - CR	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
Cape Vulture - EN	<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>
Lappet-faced Vulture - EN	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>
Black-chested Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>
Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>
Southern Banded Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus fasciolatus</i>
Bateleur - EN	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>
Martial Eagle - EN	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>
Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus wahlbergi</i>
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
Tawny Eagle - VU	<i>Aquila rapax</i>
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>
Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>
African Goshawk	<i>Accipiter tachiro</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>
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
Forest Buzzard	<i>Buteo trizonatus</i>
Jackal Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>
<b>Barn Owls (Tytonidae)</b>	
Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Owls (Strigidae)</b>	
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>
African Scops Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>
Southern White-faced Owl (H)	<i>Ptilopsis granti</i>
Marsh Owl	<i>Asio capensis</i>
Spotted Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>
Pel's Fishing Owl	<i>Scotopelia peli</i>
<b>Mousebirds (Coliidae)</b>	
Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>
White-backed Mousebird	<i>Colius colius</i>
Red-faced Mousebird	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>
<b>Trogons (Trogonidae)</b>	
Narina Trogon	<i>Apaloderma narina</i>
<b>Hoopoes (Upupidae)</b>	
African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>
<b>Wood Hoopoes (Phoeniculidae)</b>	
Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>
Common Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>
<b>Hornbills (Bucerotidae)</b>	
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>
<b>Rollers (Coraciidae)</b>	
Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>
Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>
<b>Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)</b>	
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>
Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>
Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>
African Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>
Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Bee-eaters (Meropidae)</b>	
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>
Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>
White-fronted Bee-eater	<i>Merops bullockoides</i>
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
<b>African Barbets (Lybiidae)</b>	
White-eared Barbet	<i>Stactolaema leucotis</i>
Green Barbet	<i>Stactolaema olivacea</i>
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus bilineatus</i>
Red-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus pusillus</i>
Acacia Pied Barbet	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>
Black-collared Barbet	<i>Lybius torquatus</i>
Crested Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>
<b>Honeyguides (Indicatoridae)</b>	
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>
Scaly-throated Honeyguide	<i>Indicator variegatus</i>
Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>
<b>Woodpeckers (Picidae)</b>	
Red-throated Wryneck	<i>Jynx ruficollis</i>
Ground Woodpecker	<i>Geocolaptes olivaceus</i>
Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>
Knysna Woodpecker	<i>Campethera notata</i>
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>
Olive Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos griseocephalus</i>
<b>Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)</b>	
Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>
Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicolus</i>
Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>
Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>
Amur Falcon	<i>Falco amurensis</i>
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
<b>African &amp; New World Parrots (Psittacidae)</b>	
Cape Parrot - VU	<i>Poicephalus robustus</i>



Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Old World Parrots (Psittaculidae)</b>	
Rosy-faced Lovebird	<i>Agapornis roseicollis</i>
<b>African &amp; Green Broadbills (Calypomenidae)</b>	
African Broadbill (H)	<i>Smithornis capensis</i>
<b>Wattle-eyes, Batises (Platysteiridae)</b>	
Cape Batis	<i>Batis capensis</i>
Woodward's Batis	<i>Batis fratum</i>
Chinspot Batis	<i>Batis molitor</i>
Pirit Batis	<i>Batis pirit</i>
Black-throated Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira peltata</i>
<b>Bushshrikes (Malaconotidae)</b>	
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>
Southern Tchagra	<i>Tchagra tchagra</i>
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>
Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>
Southern Boubou	<i>Laniarius ferrugineus</i>
Crimson-breasted Shrike	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>
<b>Vangas &amp; Allies (Vangidae)</b>	
White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>
<b>Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae)</b>	
Grey Cuckooshrike	<i>Cebilepyris caesius</i>
Black Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga flava</i>
<b>Shrikes (Laniidae)</b>	
Magpie Shrike	<i>Urolestes melanoleucus</i>
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>
Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>
<b>Figbirds, Orioles, Turnagra (Oriolidae)</b>	
Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Drongos (Dicruridae)</b>	
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
Common Square-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus ludwigii</i>
<b>Monarchs (Monarchidae)</b>	
Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher	<i>Trochocercus cyanomelas</i>
African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>
<b>Crows, Jays (Corvidae)</b>	
Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>
White-necked Raven	<i>Corvus albicollis</i>
<b>Rockjumpers (Chaetopidae)</b>	
Cape Rockjumper	<i>Chaetops frenatus</i>
Drakensberg Rockjumper	<i>Chaetops aurantius</i>
<b>Fairy Flycatchers (Stenostiridae)</b>	
Fairy Flycatcher	<i>Stenostira scita</i>
<b>Tits, Chickadees (Paridae)</b>	
Southern Black Tit	<i>Melaniparus niger</i>
Ashy Tit	<i>Melaniparus cinerascens</i>
Grey Tit	<i>Melaniparus afer</i>
<b>Penduline Tits (Remizidae)</b>	
Grey Penduline Tit	<i>Anthoscopus caroli</i>
Cape Penduline Tit	<i>Anthoscopus minutus</i>
<b>Nicator (Nicatoridae)</b>	
Eastern Nicator	<i>Nicator gularis</i>
<b>Larks (Alaudidae)</b>	
Spike-heeled Lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>
Eastern Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda semitorquata</i>
Cape Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda curvirostris</i>
Agulhas Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda brevirostris</i>
Sabota Lark	<i>Calendulauda sabota</i>
Fawn-colored Lark	<i>Calendulauda africanoides</i>
Karoo Lark	<i>Calendulauda albescens</i>
Cape Clapper Lark (H)	<i>Mirafra apiata</i>
Eastern Clapper Lark	<i>Mirafra fasciolata</i>
Rufous-naped Lark	<i>Mirafra africana</i>
Flappet Lark	<i>Mirafra rufocinnamomea</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Pink-billed Lark	<i>Spizocorys conirostris</i>
Large-billed Lark	<i>Galerida magnirostris</i>
Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>
<b>Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)</b>	
Sombre Greenbul	<i>Andropadus importunus</i>
Yellow-bellied Greenbul	<i>Chlorocichla flaviventris</i>
Terrestrial Brownbul	<i>Phyllastrephus terrestris</i>
African Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>
Dark-capped Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus tricolor</i>
Cape Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus capensis</i>
<b>Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)</b>	
Black Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne pristoptera</i>
Banded Martin	<i>Neophedina cincta</i>
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>
Grey-rumped Swallow	<i>Pseudhirundo griseopyga</i>
Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>
Blue Swallow - VU	<i>Hirundo atrocaerulea</i>
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>
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
Red-breasted Swallow	<i>Cecropis semirufa</i>
Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>
Greater Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis cucullata</i>
South African Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon spilodera</i>
<b>Crombecs, African Warblers (Macrospenidae)</b>	
Cape Grassbird	<i>Sphenoeacus afer</i>
Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>
Victorin's Warbler	<i>Cryptillas victorini</i>
<b>Leaf Warblers &amp; Allies (Phylloscopidae)</b>	
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus ruficapilla</i>
<b>Reed Warblers &amp; Allies (Acrocephalidae)</b>	
Lesser Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>
African Yellow Warbler	<i>Iduna natalensis</i>
Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>



Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Grassbirds &amp; Allies (Locustellidae)</b>	
Knysna Warbler - VU	<i>Bradypterus sylvaticus</i>
Barratt's Warbler	<i>Bradypterus barratti</i>
Little Rush Warbler	<i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>
<b>Cisticolas &amp; Allies (Cisticolidae)</b>	
Red-faced Cisticola	<i>Cisticola erythrops</i>
Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>
Grey-backed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola subruficapilla</i>
Wailing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola lais</i>
Rufous-winged Cisticola	<i>Cisticola galactotes</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	<i>Cisticola textrix</i>
Pale-crowned Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cinnamomeus</i>
Wing-snapping Cisticola	<i>Cisticola ayresii</i>
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>
Black-chested Prinia	<i>Prinia flavicans</i>
Karoo Prinia	<i>Prinia maculosa</i>
Drakensberg Prinia	<i>Prinia hypoxantha</i>
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 flavida</i>
Rufous-eared Warbler	<i>Malcorus pectoralis</i>
Green-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>
Karoo Eremomela	<i>Eremomela gregalis</i>
Burnt-necked Eremomela	<i>Eremomela usticollis</i>
<b>Sylviid Babblers (Sylviidae)</b>	
Bush Blackcap - VU	<i>Sylvia nigricapillus</i>
Layard's Warbler	<i>Curruca layardi</i>
Chestnut-vented Warbler	<i>Curruca subcoerulea</i>
<b>White-eyes (Zosteropidae)</b>	
Orange River White-eye	<i>Zosterops pallidus</i>
Cape White-eye	<i>Zosterops virens</i>
Southern Yellow White-eye	<i>Zosterops anderssoni</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Laughingthrushes &amp; Allies (Leiothrichidae)</b>	
Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>
<b>Sugarbirds (Promeropidae)</b>	
Cape Sugarbird	<i>Promerops cafer</i>
Gurney's Sugarbird	<i>Promerops gurneyi</i>
<b>Starlings, Rhabdornis (Sturnidae)</b>	
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>
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>
<b>Oxpeckers (Buphagidae)</b>	
Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>
<b>Thrushes (Turdidae)</b>	
Orange Ground Thrush	<i>Geokichla gurneyi</i>
Groundscraper Thrush	<i>Turdus litsitsirupa</i>
Olive Thrush	<i>Turdus olivaceus</i>
Kurriichane Thrush	<i>Turdus libonyana</i>
Karoo Thrush	<i>Turdus smithi</i>
<b>Chats, Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)</b>	
Karoo Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas coryphoeus</i>
Bearded Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas quadrivirgata</i>
Kalahari Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas paena</i>
White-browed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>
Brown Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas signata</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>
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</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>

Common Name	Scientific Name
White-browed Robin-Chat (H)	<i>Cossypha heuglini</i>
Red-capped Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha natalensis</i>
Chorister Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha dichroa</i>
White-starred Robin	<i>Pogonocichla stellata</i>
Cape Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola rupestris</i>
Sentinel Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola explorator</i>
African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>
Buff-streaked Chat	<i>Campicoloides bifasciatus</i>
Sickle-winged Chat	<i>Emarginata sinuata</i>
Karoo Chat	<i>Emarginata schlegelii</i>
Mocking Cliff Chat	<i>Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris</i>
Ant-eating Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>
Mountain Wheatear	<i>Myrmecocichla monticola</i>
Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>
Familiar Chat	<i>Oenanthe familiaris</i>
<b>Sunbirds (Nectariniidae)</b>	
Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>
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>
Southern Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris chalybeus</i>
Neergaard's Sunbird (H)	<i>Cinnyris neergaardi</i>
Greater Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris afer</i>
Purple-banded Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris bifasciatus</i>
White-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris talatala</i>
<b>Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches (Passeridae)</b>	
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>
<b>Weavers, Widowbirds (Ploceidae)</b>	
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>



Common Name	Scientific Name
Eastern Golden Weaver	<i>Ploceus subaureus</i>
Southern Brown-throated Weaver	<i>Ploceus xanthopterus</i>
Lesser Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus intermedius</i>
Southern Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>
Dark-backed Weaver	<i>Ploceus bicolor</i>
Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>
Red-headed Quelea	<i>Quelea erythrops</i>
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>
Yellow-crowned Bishop	<i>Euplectes afer</i>
Southern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>
Yellow Bishop	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>
Fan-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes axillaris</i>
White-winged Widowbird	<i>Euplectes albonotatus</i>
Red-collared Widowbird	<i>Euplectes ardens</i>
Long-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes progne</i>
<b>Waxbills, Munias &amp; Allies (Estrildidae)</b>	
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>
Red-backed Mannikin	<i>Spermestes nigriceps</i>
Sweet Waxbill	<i>Coccyzygia melanotis</i>
Green Twinspot	<i>Mandingoa nitidula</i>
Black-faced Waxbill	<i>Brunhilda erythronotos</i>
Grey Waxbill	<i>Glaucostrepera perreini</i>
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
Quailfinch	<i>Ortygospiza atricollis</i>
Red-headed Finch	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</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>
<b>Indigobirds, Whydahs (Viduidae)</b>	
Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>
Dusky Indigobird	<i>Vidua funerea</i>
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>
Long-tailed Paradise Whydah	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>
Cuckoo-finch	<i>Anomalospiza imberbis</i>
<b>Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)</b>	
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>
Cape Longclaw	<i>Macronyx capensis</i>
Yellow-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx croceus</i>
Rosy-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx ameliae</i>
African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>
Mountain Pipit	<i>Anthus hoeschi</i>
Nicholson's Pipit	<i>Anthus nicholsoni</i>
Plain-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>
African Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus crenatus</i>
Short-tailed Pipit	<i>Anthus brachyurus</i>
Yellow-breasted Pipit - VU	<i>Anthus chloris</i>
<b>Finches, Euphonias (Fringillidae)</b>	
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
Forest Canary	<i>Crithagra scotops</i>
Black-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>
Lemon-breasted Canary	<i>Crithagra citrinipectus</i>
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</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 Seedeater	<i>Crithagra gularis</i>
White-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra albogularis</i>
Protea Canary	<i>Crithagra leucoptera</i>
Cape Canary	<i>Serinus canicollis</i>
<b>Buntings (Emberizidae)</b>	
Lark-like Bunting	<i>Emberiza impetuari</i>
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>
Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>
Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>

<b>Total seen</b>	<b>530</b>
Total heard only	7
Total recorded	537

### Mammal List

Mammals 'heard only' are marked with (H) after the common name, all other species were seen.

Common name	Scientific name
<b>Hyraxes (Procaviidae)</b>	
Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>
<b>Elephants (Elephantidae)</b>	
African Elephant – VU	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>
<b>Rabbits and Hares (Leporidae)</b>	
Smith's Red Rock Hare	<i>Pronolagus rupestris</i>
Cape Hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i>
Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>
<b>Springhares (Pedetidae)</b>	
Springhare	<i>Pedetes capensis</i>
<b>Dassie Rats (Petromuridae)</b>	
Dassie Rat	<i>Petromus typicus</i>
<b>Squirrels and Relatives (Sciuridae)</b>	
South African Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus inauris</i>
Eastern Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>
<b>Old World Mice, Rats and Gerbils (Muridae)</b>	
Sloggett's Vlei Rat	<i>Otomys sloggetti</i>
Four-striped Mouse	<i>Rhabdomys pumilio</i>
<b>Elephant Shrews and Sengis (Macroscelididae)</b>	
Karo Rock Sengi	<i>Elephantulus pilicaudus</i>
<b>Bushbabies (Galagidae)</b>	
Thick-tailed Greater Galago (H)	<i>Otolemur crassicaudatus</i>
<b>Old World Monkeys (Cercopithecidae)</b>	
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>
Vervet Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>
Blue Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mitis</i>



Common name	Scientific name
<b>Cats (Felidae)</b>	
African Wild Cat	<i>Felis lybica</i>
Lion – VU	<i>Panthera leo</i>
<b>Civets, Genets, Linsangs and allies (Viverridae)</b>	
South African Large-spotted Genet	<i>Genetta tigrina</i>
<b>Hyaenas and Aardwolf (Hyaenidae)</b>	
Spotted Hyaena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>
Aardwolf	<i>Proteles cristatus</i>
<b>Mongoose and Fossa (Herpestidae)</b>	
Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>
Cape Grey Mongoose	<i>Herpestes pulverulentus</i>
Egyptian Mongoose	<i>Herpestes ichneumon</i>
Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>
Meerkat	<i>Suricata suricatta</i>
<b>Canids (Canidae)</b>	
Black-backed Jackal	<i>Lupulella mesomelas</i>
Cape Fox	<i>Vulpes chama</i>
Bat-eared Fox	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>
<b>Eared Seals (Otariidae)</b>	
Afro-Australian Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>
<b>Mustelids (Mustelidae)</b>	
Spotted-necked Otter	<i>Lutra maculicollis</i>
<b>Horses, Asses and Zebras (Equidae)</b>	
Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>
(Cape) Mountain Zebra – VU	<i>Equus zebra</i>
<b>Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae)</b>	
White Rhinoceros	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>
<b>Hogs and Pigs (Suidae)</b>	
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>

Common name	Scientific name
<b>Hippopotamuses (Hippopotamidae)</b>	
Hippopotamus – VU	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>
<b>Bovids (Bovidae)</b>	
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>
Black Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes gnou</i>
Common (Blue) Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>
(Red) Hartebeest	<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>
Cape Grysbok	<i>Raphicerus melanotis</i>
Natal Red Duiker	<i>Cephalophus natalensis</i>
Common Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>
<b>Giraffes and Okapis (Giraffidae)</b>	
Southern Giraffe	<i>Giraffa giraffa</i>
<b>Bowhead Whales and Right Whales (Balaenidae)</b>	
Southern Right Whale	<i>Balaena glacialis</i>
<b>Rorquals (Balaenopteridae)</b>	
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>
<b>Oceanic Dolphins (Delphinidae)</b>	
Dusky Dolphin	<i>Lagenorhynchus obscurus</i>
<b>Total species seen:</b>	<b>61</b>

**Reptile List**

Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Land Tortoises (Testudinidae)</b>	
Leopard Tortoise	<i>Geochelone pardalis</i>
Angulate Tortoise	<i>Chersina angulata</i>
Parrot-beaked Tortoise	<i>Homopus areolatus</i>
Kalahari Tent Tortoise	<i>Psammobates oculifer</i>
Bell's Hinged Tortoise	<i>Kinixys belliana</i>
<b>Marsh Terrapin (Pelomedusidae)</b>	
Marsh Terrapin	<i>Pelomedusa subrufa</i>
<b>Typical Snakes (Colubridae)</b>	
Mole Snake	<i>Pseudaspis cana</i>
Cape Cobra	<i>Naja nivea</i>
<b>Vipers (Viperidae)</b>	
Puff Adder	<i>Bitis arietans</i>
<b>Skinks (Scincidae)</b>	
Cape Skink	<i>Trachylepis capensis</i>
Striped Skink	<i>Trachylepis striata</i>
<b>Chameleons (Chamaeleonidae)</b>	
Flap-necked Chameleon	<i>Chamaeleo dilepis</i>
<b>Geckos (Gekkonidae)</b>	
Bibron's Gecko	<i>Chondrodactylus bibronii</i>
Tropical House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus mabouia</i>
Marbled Leaf-toed Gecko	<i>Afrogecko porphyreus</i>
<b>Monitors (Varanidae)</b>	
Nile Monitor	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>
<b>Agamas (Agamidae)</b>	
Southern Rock Agama	<i>Agama atra</i>
Ground Agama	<i>Agama aculeata</i>
Southern Tree Agama	<i>Acanthocercus atricollis</i>



Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Cordylid lizards (Cordylidae)</b>	
Cape Crag Lizard	<i>Pseudocordylus microlepidotus</i>
Drakensberg Crag Lizard	<i>Pseudocordylus melanotus</i>
Black Girdled Lizard	<i>Cordylis niger</i>
Large-scaled Girdled Lizard	<i>Cordylis macropholis</i>
<b>Crocodiles (Crocodylidae)</b>	
Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>

<b>Total seen</b>	<b>24</b>
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### Amphibian List

Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Typical Toads (Bufonidae)</b>	
Guttural Toad	<i>Sclerophrys gutturali</i>
<b>Sedge and Bush Frogs (Hyperolidae)</b>	
Painted Reed Frog	<i>Hyperolius marmoratus</i>
Tinker Reed Frog	<i>Hyperolius tuberilinguis</i>
Bubbling Kassina	<i>Kassina senegalensis</i>
<b>True Frogs (Pyxicephalidae)</b>	
Common River Frog	<i>Amietia delalandii</i>
Cape River Frog	<i>Amietia fuscigula</i>
Maluti River Frog	<i>Amietia vertebralis</i>
African Bullfrog	<i>Pyxicephalus edulis</i>
<b>Old World Tree Frogs (Rhacophoridae)</b>	
Southern Foam Nest Frog	<i>Chiromantis xerampelina</i>

<b>Total seen</b>	<b>9</b>
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