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SOUTH AFRICA KRUGER AND CAPE: BIRDING AND WILDLIFE TRIP REPORT

06 – 20 NOVEMBER 2022



*Seeing a **Leopard** up close is a thrilling experience – and one we were privy to on this tour.*

Overview

This private tour was run for the Saw Mill River Audubon Society (SMRA). It incorporated a Kruger and highveld leg, followed by a leg in and around Cape Town and the Western Province. This tour was fully subscribed by various members of the SMRA. This tour was operated during the early summer period in South Africa, thus timed to maximize the birding potential due to the onset of the breeding season in South Africa. This time frame also sees the start of the rains over eastern South Africa, and the Kruger and Highveld leg had mixed conditions, with rain on many of the days. This did affect the birding to some degree, but the group soldiered on and maximized the birding that was possible, ensuring a wide range of birds and some top specials. The Cape leg had the group experience virtually perfect sunny conditions, a welcome change after the rainy first leg.



The view out over the Cape of Good Hope, from Cape Point, and into the Atlantic Ocean was sublime.

The tour started in the major metropolis of Johannesburg, before transiting to the Dullstroom highlands – set on the Drakensberg escarpment. We then made our way into the lowland bushveld of the immense Kruger National Park. Several days were spent in the mixed woodlands north of Pretoria, before the group flew down to Cape Town for the remainder of the tour. Here the group based themselves in the picturesque hamlet of Simonstown, from where day trips were undertaken all around the Cape Peninsula and further afield, across False Bay towards Betty's Bay and up the West Coast. Following two weeks of touring around arguably the most captivating parts of South Africa, the tour concluded with a little under 400 species of birds recorded, and nearly 50 mammals. Highlights were many, but our time in the Kruger was special, with numerous **Leopard**

sightings, along with further separate sightings of a pride of **Lions** and **Cheetahs** feeding on their respective kills, being particularly special standouts. A highly successful pelagic out into the deep was enjoyed by all, with numerous albatrosses and other pelagic birds showing.

A detailed account of the tour can be found below, and the full bird, mammal and reptile lists can be found at the end of the report.



*Watching **Lions** at night, especially a whole pride, devouring a carcass was very special!*

Detailed report

Day 1, 06th November 2022. Arrival into Johannesburg

The group had late afternoon and evening arrivals into South Africa. While no formal birding was undertaken today, we nevertheless had some opportune birding around the airport, the expansive grounds of our lodge, and a little bit in between these two destinations. We managed to collect our first birds, with some notable species going to the likes of **Hadada Ibis**, **Black-headed Heron**, **Speckled Pigeon**, both **Speckled** and **Red-faced Mousebirds**, **Fiscal Flycatcher**, **Karoo Thrush**, **Cape Robin-Chat**, **Black-throated Canary**, and the colorful **Southern Masked Weaver**.

Day 2, 07th November 2022. Birding Johannesburg, and transfer to Dullstroom

Following a good rest, we set off in the morning to bird some nearby wetland areas, which were extremely productive. Early highlights went to several ducks, from the tiny **Blue-billed Teals**, to the dapper **Southern Pochards** and **Maccoa Ducks**, along with the likes of **Squacco Heron** and **Black-crowned Night Heron**, amongst masses of other herons, egrets and ibises. After a bit of a

search, we finally got some good views of one of many **Lesser Swamp Warblers** that were jumping about, with the similar **African Reed Warbler** giving good comparative views nearby. Another LBJ (little brown job) followed soon after, with a **Tawny-flanked Prinia** popping up. Some further exploring delivered a set of young **African Spoonbills**, along with the hulking **Goliath Heron**. Both **Fulvous Whistling** and **White-faced Whistling Ducks** gave us brief views, with bright **Southern Red Bishops** and **African Stonechats** showing well to make up for it. While we were taking in all these birds, both **Ovambo** and **Black Sparrowhawk** put in appearances, much to the delight of the group! Eventually, we had to tear ourselves away, as breakfast was calling. After which we loaded up and began the trip to Dullstroom.

There was little of interest along the way, and we made our way to our exquisite guesthouses, complete with scenic views, where we checked in. After a short rest, we headed out back to the Dullstroom area, where we spent the afternoon birding. A nearby dam proved to be rather quiet, but the surrounding reedbeds proved a hotbed, delivering great species such as **African Marsh Harrier**, **African Yellow Warbler** and **Drakensberg Prinia**, amongst others. The charming **Levaillant's Cisticolas** weren't far away, and we all thoroughly enjoyed our first **Malachite Sunbird**. After some patient waiting, we finally heard our main quarry, the rare Cape Eagle Owl, and with the light rapidly fading, we frantically began scanning the distant hillsides. After some careful scanning, we did manage to see the owl, though views were challenging in the environment, and combined with the poor light, our sighting left us all with mixed feelings about this special bird. We settled in for a good meal, and following which, headed out for a short night drive. Things were slow with little about, though a hooting **Striped Flufftail** added to the ambience of the night – which made this the third month in a row we'd recorded this special bird from the area. We also enjoyed a few mammals, from **Scrub Hare** to a **Black-backed Jackal**, and several antelopes, such as **Common Duiker**.



Buff-streaked Chat is a denizen of the Dullstroom area.

Day 3, 08th November 2022. Birding Dullstroom, and transfer to the Kruger National Park

Sadly, we awoke to low-lying clouds and a fairly persistent drizzle, but this didn't deter a hardy group determined to find some of the high-altitudinal specials of the area. A bright **Bokmakierie** and several boisterous **Buff-streaked Chats** kicked things off well, with a fine supporting cast of the likes of **African Wattled Lapwing** and **Long-tailed Widowbird**. In between bouts of rain, things picked up further, with additions including the sought-after **Eastern Long-billed Lark**, along with the likes of **Wailing Cisticola** and **Cape Bunting**. The rain sadly intensified and forced us to have our coffee stop within the vehicles. We continued our birding, this time largely limited to the vehicles as we drove along the roads. We all enjoyed an incredible sighting of the scarce **Yellow-breasted Pipit**, followed by several more sightings, along with others such as **Mountain Wheatear** and **Yellow Bishop**. With the rain continuing to intensify, and thick mist rolling in, we eventually decided to abandon the birding and headed for breakfast. Unfortunately, part of the group was delayed for a time whilst checking out of the lodge.

Following a good brunch, where we warmed up a bit, we settled in for the long drive to the world-famous Kruger National Park, arriving in the mid-afternoon. We were scheduled to spend the night at Satara Rest Camp, and slowly made our way there, stopping for several interesting sightings en-route. Early stops were made for the likes of **Senegal Lapwing** and a lovely **Great Spotted Cuckoo**, while early mammal highlights went to **African Elephant** and **Common Dwarf Mongoose**, amongst others. We also acquainted ourselves with the more widespread bushveld species, from **Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill** and **Magpie Shrike**, to **Golden-breasted Bunting** and **Burchell's Starling**. The ubiquitous **Lilac-breasted Roller** was enjoyed by all, as were several great raptor sightings, from a **Tawny Eagle** devouring its prey to a vulture tree complete with the spectacular **Lappet-faced** and **White-headed Vultures**. Many other typical bushveld species were seen during our drive, from various francolins and spurfowls, to starlings, larks, waxbills and the like. Our final bit of excitement came in the form of a group of male **Lions**, walking away, including one of the famous albino lions of this sector of Kruger. Even though the views were distant and brief, they whet our appetite for more. We settled in for the evening following a good, albeit long, day out.

Day 4, 09th November 2022. Birding the Kruger National Park

We were all excited for our first full day in the Kruger, and following a cuppa in the morning, we headed out on our first official safari drive, naturally with a distinct birding flavor. It seems we had broken our weather duck, and a bright and sunny day awaited. We spent the morning exploring the more open savannah areas around Satara, where we connected with the hoped-for specials, like **Kori Bustard** and the nomadic **Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Larks**, both of which were seen in good numbers. We did well on bustards today, enjoying both **Black-bellied Bustard** and several **Red-crested Korhaans** as well, whilst nearby distractions included a few **Double-banded Sandgrouse** and bright **Red-breasted Swallows**. We had an almost continuous stream of raptors, with several excellent **Bateleur** sightings, along with others such as **Wahlberg's Eagle**, **African Hawk Eagle** and **Black-chested Snake Eagle**. A riverine area held a mixed pair of normal and melanistic **Gabar Goshawks**, then we noticed a mighty **Verreaux's Eagle-Owl** quietly minding its business (well spotted, Barbara!). We spent some time enjoying the owl preening, before we eventually moved on. As the day warmed up, the birds quietened down, and a stop at a roadside dam was productive, yielding a family of **Hippopotamus** and our first **Nile Crocodile**, along with

several waterbirds ranging from **Squacco Heron** and **Knob-billed Ducks**, to small **African Jacanas**, and shorebirds such as **Common Sandpiper** and **Common Greenshank**, along with the majestic **African Fish Eagle**. We eventually returned back to camp in time for a late brunch, from where we had a bit of down time in the heat of the day.

Since we had a night drive planned in the evening, we did a short afternoon drive. Things were still warm and relatively quiet on the afternoon drive, but we added several new species such as **Southern Black Tit**, **European Bee-eater**, **Spotted Flycatcher**, and **Yellow-throated Longclaw**, amongst others. Arguably the most notable sighting was being surrounded by a large herd of breeding **African Elephants**. We returned for dinner and then our night drive, which started off well with the scarce **White-tailed Mongoose** showing, before we added both **Common** (Small-spotted) and **South African Large-spotted Genets**. A quiet period followed, and then we found a large pride of **Lions** busy devouring a carcass. We couldn't believe our luck, and spent some time with the **Lions**, watching them and thankful for this special window into their lives. We eventually tore ourselves away with smiles stretching from ear to ear. Amazingly, that wasn't all, and we enjoyed looks at several **Black-backed Jackals**, along with several **Spotted Hyenas**, before a fine **African Civet** popped up next to the vehicle. We capped off the already excellent drive with a much better **Common** (Small-spotted) **Genet** sighting, before retiring for the evening, following a good day out!



*Raptors, such as this **Wahlberg's Eagle**, abounded during our time in the Kruger.*

Day 5, 10th November 2022. Birding the Kruger National Park

Another morning dawned, and following our morning cuppa, we set off on a birding walk around the Satara camp. Unfortunately, the weather was a bit unsettled, and we had some intermittent rain to deal with as we went along. The tough nature of this group shone through once more, and they

weren't deterred in the slightest. We started off well, with a lovely sighting of a **Pearl-spotted Owlet**, which was quickly followed up by views of bright species such as **Crested Barbet** and **White-throated Robin-Chat**. Some fruiting trees were absolutely buzzing, and we quickly notched up the likes of **Black-collared** and **Acacia Pied Barbets**, **Brubru**, **Orange-breasted Bushshrike**, **Chinspot Batis**, **Burnt-necked Eremomela**, **Yellow-breasted Apalis**, **Violet-backed Starling**, and an unexpected **Icterine Warbler**. We had to drag ourselves away, as we continued our loop through the camp, adding **Golden-tailed Woodpecker** and the beautiful **Woodland Kingfisher**. As we were enjoying the latter, calling away and showing off in all its splendor, the rain intensified and forced us to retreat to an early breakfast. Following breakfast, we gathered our things and loaded up just in time, as the heavens truly opened with an absolute deluge coming down. We were making our way to another rest camp in the Kruger, Lower Sabie, where we would be spending the next two nights.



*Another 'cat devouring a kill' sighting – this time belonging to two **Cheetahs**!*

We had a lot of rain on our drive, but whenever there was a break in the weather, a number of birds and mammals weren't far away. The absolute highlight went to two **Cheetahs** rapidly devouring their freshly caught kill, right next to the road. Other notable sightings included the likes of **Southern White-crowned Shrike** and **Purple Roller**. Our lunch stop, aside from wonderful food, delivered an exciting **Greater Painted-snipe**, along with many bright **Greater Blue-eared Starlings**. The afternoon drive to camp was just magical! **African Wild Dog** showed for some, as did a great deal more mammals including **Klipspringer** and eventually **African Buffalo**. Our cat excitement wasn't done yet though, as we found a stunning **Leopard** sprawled in a tree, with part of its kill hanging nearby. We could scarcely believe our luck, and soaked it all in! We again added multiple bird species to our list as well, including the scarce **Grey-headed Kingfisher** and **Dark Chanting Goshawk** to more widespread species such as **Scarlet-chested Sunbird** and **Lesser**

Masked Weaver. Water bodies added the prized **Saddle-billed Stork**, along with **White-crowned Lapwing** and a great deal more. After settling in at our new camp, we enjoyed some sundowners on the banks of the mighty Sabie River, before having a scrumptious dinner, all the while reflecting on the many species we had found today.

Day 6, 11th November 2022. Birding the Kruger National Park

Our final full day in Kruger had come more quickly than we had hoped, but we made the most of it by heading out on a full day game drive. Following our ritualistic morning coffee and biscuits, we set off in our open vehicles, and our first stop was at the nearby Sunset Dam. As always, a wide range of waterbirds were present and we notched up the likes of **Yellow-billed** and **Saddle-billed Storks**, along with the stunning **White-crowned Lapwing** and both **Giant** and **Pied Kingfishers** with their fish prey. Shorebirds present included **Little Stint**, **Kittlitz's Plover**, **Wood Sandpiper** and **Common Greenshank**, amongst others. Continuing on, we made a few stops for various species such as **African Hawk Eagle**, **African Green Pigeon**, **Jacobi** and **Levaillant's Cuckoos**, **White-headed** and **Hooded Vultures** and **Green-backed Camaroptera** amongst others, before we ran into a male **Lion** lying on the edge of the road. We spent a while watching this massive cat, before we were rewarded as it broke out into a full roar which reverberated right through us, and left us in complete awe! Several more excellent **Lion** sightings followed. The weather was cool, calm and overcast – perfect for our needs, and indeed it was as hoped for, with high bird activity throughout the day. Stops were made frequently and bouts of activity added various new species from **Brown-crowned Tchagra** and **Southern Black Tit**, to **White-crested Helmetshrike** and **Grey Penduline Tit**. More widespread species were also enjoyed with notable mentions going to **Brown Snake Eagle**, **Southern Ground Hornbill**, **Black-headed Oriole** and **Red-backed Shrike**. Some of the group was also privy to a wonderful sighting of a **Leopard** up in a tree, busy devouring its recently caught **Steenbok** kill.

A stop for lunch allowed us the chance to stretch our legs, and a quick walk around the picnic site quickly added the likes of **Ashy Flycatcher** and **Kurriichane Thrush**. The main reason for venturing this far afield from our camp was for the added chance of finding White Rhino in this part of the park. Following our lunch stop, we didn't need to wait for too much longer before we came across two **White Rhinos** wallowing in a waterhole, with several **African Buffalos** wallowing on the other side of the waterhole. We slowly started working our way back to camp, and once again had a very productive drive with loads of activity. Bird wise, we added **White-fronted Bee-eater**, **Malachite Kingfisher**, **Cardinal Woodpecker** and **Trumpeter Hornbill**, amongst others. We also enjoyed further views of species such as **Dark Chanting Goshawk**, **Black-bellied Bustard**, **Southern White-crowned Shrike** and various raptors. Mammal wise, the highlight went to another **Leopard** we found up in a tree, also with its **Steenbok** kill – this time though, right next to the road. **Spotted Hyenas** along with **Slender** and **Common Dwarf Mongooses** were also noteworthy, amongst the more common species. We eventually returned to camp in the mid-afternoon, with enough time for a short rest before our early dinner. We enjoyed a lovely meal on the banks of the Sabie River, whilst being distracted by **Collared Pratincoles**, following another truly great day out in the park.



*This was getting ridiculous – yet another ‘big cat on a kill’ moment – here a **Leopard** was busy eating its Steenbok prey. We could scarcely believe our luck!*



*A **Southern Ground Hornbill** with a number of scorpions in its beak.*

Day 7, 12th November 2022. Transfer from Kruger to Rust de Winter

Today saw us leaving the Kruger, and transiting some distance to the Rust de Winter area north of Pretoria. With this being a long transfer, it meant we were only able to undertake a short bit of birding in the morning. We opted for a camp walk, and again had some unsettled weather keeping us company. The birding was good though, and we notched up many species. The riverine area and the bushes surrounding it held noisy **Red-faced Cisticolas** and **Sombre Greenbuls**, while the likes of **Collared Pratincole**, **Goliath Heron** and **White-crowned Lapwing** patrolled the river itself. We picked up the scarce **White-fronted Plover**, here its rare inland race, though it soon disappeared before everyone could get onto it. The more treed areas yielded the range-expanding **Purple-banded Sunbird**, with the similar Marico Sunbird nearby for comparison, along with others such as the flashy **African Paradise-Flycatcher**, **White-browed Robin-Chat** and the scarce **Bearded Scrub Robin**. While watching **Terrestrial Brownbuls** busily feeding, some drizzle began falling and we beat a hasty retreat to breakfast – arriving just as the heavens opened up.

Following breakfast, we gathered our things and loaded up, making our way out the park. Still with a long drive ahead of us, we kept our stops to a minimum, but as always when driving through the Kruger, lots of birds and mammals were inevitable. We enjoyed looks at **Woolly-necked Stork**, **Hooded Vulture** and **White-crested Helmetshrike**, before we bumped into a **Leopard** in the road. We came to a sudden halt, and watched as the cat went into stalk-mode, with several **Impala** nearby. We quietly waited in anticipation of a kill, with the **Leopard** lying virtually flat on the ground, with the **Impala** not 10m away. It wasn't to be though, as the cat bailed out of the hunt, and scurried away as the **Impala**, who were totally unaware, then kicked up a big racket. Not five minutes later, and a group of **Spotted Hyaenas** came walking up to the area, no doubt interested in the noise of the **Impala**. We sadly had to say our goodbyes to this incredible place, and settled in for the long drive to our next destination. Whilst we didn't have any further birding planned for the day, stops along the route gave up species such as **Long-crested Eagle**, **Grey-headed Gull**, **Southern Black Flycatcher**, **Fan-tailed Widowbird**, **Village Weaver** and **Brimstone Canary**. Following several massive and intense rain storms along the way, and having to negotiate several deep pools in the roads as a result, we eventually arrived at sunset at our delightful lodge, scenically set along the Elands River. We settled in for the evening after a long day.

Day 8, 13th November 2022. Birding Rust de Winter

Our one and only sunny day to date felt like a distant memory, as we yet again awoke to drizzle and light rain. The group didn't let this deter them, and we started our morning off with an early coffee, before heading out. We would focus our morning on the nearby acacia thornveld areas, searching for the associated species. The weather held for the most part, which allowed us to find several new species. The bright **Crimson-breasted Shrike** showed well early on, before we picked up on the tiny **Zitting Cisticola**. **Chestnut-vented Warbler** and **Kalahari Scrub Robin** were seen in quick succession, before finding a **Pearl-spotted Owllet**. A male **Marico Sunbird** popped up to mob the owl, before we moved onwards. Further stops yielded excellent views of both **Black** and **Red-chested Cuckoos**, **Southern Boubou**, **Red-billed Quelea**, along with a brief **Black-faced Waxbill** for some, and repeat views of **Burnt-necked Eremomela** (following our views

earlier on in Kruger). We also did well to find two more **Pearl-spotted Owlets**. As if on cue, the rain started up as we were due to head back for breakfast, bringing our morning birding to a close.



*We were extremely lucky to find a yellow-headed **Red-headed Weaver** around Rust de Winter. This condition, known as xanthochromism, is a rare genetic condition where the usual red color is replaced by yellow.*

We had a bit of time off over the midday period, and our afternoon was spent birding around the lush riverine woodlands of our scenic lodge. Here the trees provided refuge for the likes of **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird**, **Black Cuckooshrike**, **Woodland Kingfisher** and **Red-headed Weaver**, while **Giant Kingfishers** and **Striated Herons** patrolled the river itself. A shy **Little Rush Warbler** showed well from within its reedy confines, before we latched onto a **Striped Pipit** drinking from the rocky scree slopes just above. A flyover **Booted Eagle** was a surprise find. We settled in for the evening, and geared up for the next leg of the trip, with us setting off to Cape Town for the remainder of the tour, tomorrow.

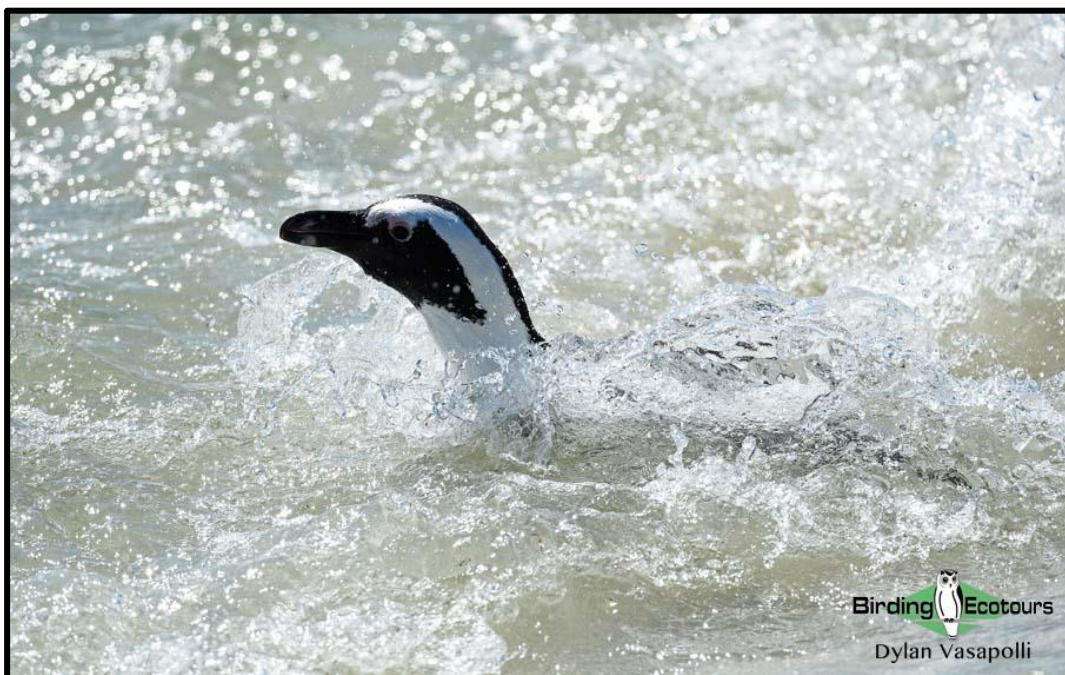
Day 9, 14th November 2022. Transfer to Johannesburg, and flight to Cape Town

This was largely a travel day, as we first made our way to the Johannesburg airport, arriving in good time, before taking a domestic flight to Cape Town. We would spend six nights, basing ourselves at the incredibly scenic Simonstown, undertaking day trips around the Cape Peninsula, around False Bay and up the West Coast. No birding was done today, bar a few incidental sightings as we transited – such as **Northern Black Korhaan** near Rust de Winter, and the likes of **Common** and **Red-winged Starlings** around Cape Town.

Day 10, 15th November 2022. Birding Boulders Beach and Cape Point

Awaking to bright sunny skies, a change from the Kruger leg of this trip, we started our day off at the nearby Boulders Beach – which has a famous African Penguin colony. We spent a short while enjoying these comical birds, and managed to familiarize ourselves with several other widespread species in this portion of South Africa – notably **African Oystercatcher**, **Kelp Gull**, **Cape Cormorant**, **Southern Boubou**, **Karoo Prinia**, **Cape Robin-Chat** and **Southern Double-collared Sunbird**. A visit to the Cape Point section of the Cape of Good Hope National Park followed, and we spent the rest of the day exploring this scenic reserve, on the south-western tip of Africa! We took in Cape Point itself, along with the nearby Cape of Good Hope, and also took a trip through the excellent coastal fynbos spread through the reserve, visiting lesser-known spots.

The birding was good, and before we knew it, it was late afternoon, and we had to tear ourselves away from this incredible reserve and make our way back to our lodge. Several groups of the massive **Common Ostrich** were favorites with the group, as were numerous nectar-feeding birds; Cape Sugarbirds, Malachite Sunbirds and Orange-breasted Sunbirds. A male **Namaqua Dove** was a good find – well out of range here, and the group enjoyed sifting through the various shorebirds on some of the beaches. **Pied Avocets** and **African Oystercatchers** were obvious and easy to tell, but careful scanning also revealed **Kittlitz's**, **Common Ringed** and **White-fronted Plovers**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Sanderling** and **Common Greenshank**. We also got acquainted with some marine birds such as **Crowned Cormorant** and **Greater Crested Tern**, and some regional specials such as **Cape Grassbird**, **Grey-backed Cisticola**, **Cape Siskin** and **Cape Bunting**. A large **Mole Snake** was also enjoyed, as were several 'Bontebok' – a unique subspecies of **Blesbok** restricted to the fynbos biome. We settled in for the evening, following another good day out!



We spent some time watching the antics of the Boulders Beach African Penguins.

Day 11, 16th November 2022. Cape Pelagic birding

We had been given the ‘all clear’ for our pelagic to proceed today – weather and sea conditions all aligning to ensure we got out to experience this avian spectacle! The waters off Cape Town are rich, and a wide array of pelagic birds gather to take advantage of the fishing fleets operating in the area – some fishing boats having in excess of 10,000 birds in their wake. It was with much anticipation that we therefore gathered in the early morning at Hout Bay, from where we boarded our boats (two were needed for the whole group) and set out. Several mammals presented us with early highlights – close-ups of a **Humpback Whale**, along with both **Long-beaked Common** and **Dusky Dolphins**, before we saw our first **Albatross** – a **Shy**. These are special birds, and evoke a sense of awe – not least because of the famous Robert Cushman Murphy quote that says, “I now belong to a higher cult of mortals for I have seen the albatross”. We soaked in our views, before carrying on our journey out to the deep. We were in luck today, as we found numerous fishing vessels, all with many birds in tow, and spent several hours working through them. **White-chinned Petrel** and **Shy Albatross** dominated the numbers, but we also picked up the other expected albatrosses, **Black-browed** and both **Indian Yellow-nosed** and **Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatrosses**, along with both **Northern** and **Southern Giant Petrels**, a few lingering **Cape Petrels**, several **Great-winged Petrels**, small numbers of **Cory’s** and **Sooty Shearwaters**, and a rare **Spectacled Petrel**. **Sabine’s Gull** were also present, as was **Arctic Tern**, along with **Brown Skua** and **Parasitic Jaeger** and several of the dainty **European Storm Petrels**. Seal Island, just offshore from Hout Bay, gave us our final marine cormorant – **Bank Cormorant**, along with a massive **Southern Elephant Seal** (a vagrant from the Antarctic peninsula) in between the throngs of **Brown Fur Seals**. We had a relaxed afternoon following an exciting day at sea.



*A majestic **Shy Albatross** flies over the ocean off Cape Town.*

Day 12, 17th November 2022. Birding Rooi-els and Harold Porter Botanical Gardens.

An early start saw us heading from where we were based in Simonstown to the other side of False Bay, to Rooi-els and the sleepy hamlet of Betty's Bay. We would spend the bulk of the day here, before eventually returning to our base, late in the day. The primary purpose of this day was to try for a number of the regional endemics of the Western Cape and fynbos region that aren't possible on the Cape Peninsula, such as Cape Rockjumper and Victorin's Warbler. We started the day off at Rooi-els, where **Cape Rockjumper** would be our main target. Luck wasn't with us today, as despite a long and dedicated search over the entire morning, we would only end up hearing the birds distantly and not getting any views. Virtually all of our time was spent searching for this species, but we were able to also find other specials such as numerous **Cape Siskins**, **Cape Rock Thrush**, **Fiscal Flycatcher**, **Cape Spurfowl** and **Yellow Bishop**, amongst others. After a quick lunch in Betty's Bay, we spent our afternoon exploring the delightful Harold Porter Botanical Gardens on the edge of town. It was much birdier here and the manicured grounds and more wooded patches gave us a showy **Bar-throated Apalis** along with **Sombre Greenbul**, **Cape Batis**, **Olive Thrush**, **African Dusky Flycatcher** and **Sweet Waxbill**. Numbers of **Alpine** and **African Black Swifts** cruised overhead, interrupted by the odd **Jackal Buzzard** and **Black Saw-wing**. The wild fynbos-dominated parts of the gardens delivered the likes of **Cape Rock Thrush**, **Cape Sugarbird**, **Orange-breasted** and **Malachite Sunbirds**, along with **Brimstone** and **Cape Canaries**. We tried for Victorin's Warbler as well in several places, but our luck hadn't improved and meant we missed this species as well. We settled in for another fine evening to round off our day.



Orange-breasted Sunbirds are always a delight in the fynbos.

Day 13, 18th November 2022. Birding Kirstenbosch and Strandfontein

No trip to the Cape Town area is complete without a visit to one of its most iconic attractions – the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden. Our morning started off here, as we took in the incredible views of the gardens against the backdrop of Table Mountain behind. We spent the morning exploring the gardens, searching out its specials. We did well to find a **Lemon Dove**, one of the gardens' more secretive birds, but the bird quickly walked away before everyone could see it. **Forest Canary**, on the other hand, showed well to all for an extended period of time, as did a surprise **Bronze Mannikin** – a new species onto the Cape Peninsula. Raptors obliged with **Booted Eagle** and **Common** and **Jackal Buzzard** all putting in views. We also managed to find one of the resident **Spotted Eagle Owls**, and struck some gold with **Brown-backed Honeybird** as well. Most of the other widespread species also obliged during our time here.

After lunch, we moved on to the Strandfontein Bird Sanctuary – based at the local sewage works – where we would spend the afternoon. As always, the pans here were pumping with birds, and it almost got overwhelming at times, with the sheer number and diversity of birds to be seen. With little difficulty, we managed to find the regionally rare **Fulvous Whistling Ducks** that had been hanging around, and also took in the vast numbers of **Cape Teal**, **Cape Shoveler** and **Southern Pochards**, while also finding a few **Red-billed Teals**, **Yellow-billed Ducks** and, after a long search, **Maccoa Duck**. Both **Greater** and **Lesser Flamingo** were present en-masse, with only a single **Great White Pelican** seen, and a few **Black-necked Grebes** were successfully picked out in between the smaller **Little Grebes**. A massive gull and tern roost, dominated by **Kelp** and **Hartlaub's Gulls**, also delivered **Caspian Tern** and **Grey-headed Gull**. A few other widespread species were seen, but little else of interest. A good, joyous evening rounded out the day.



Greater Flamingo is an elegant bird, and we saw them in great numbers.

Day 14, 19th November 2022. Birding the West Coast

The final full day of the tour had arrived, and we were up bright and early, and heading up the west coast for the day. We would focus our efforts on the West Coast National Park. One of the primary reasons for visiting the park, aside from its excellent strandveld habitat, is to take in the Langebaan Lagoon and its many hundreds of thousands of shorebirds. This lagoon is one of the major wintering sites for shorebirds in all of Africa, with simply vast numbers of birds present. As this is a tidal lagoon, timing is everything, and for us to behold this spectacle meant we had to be present at one of the hides on the lagoon by mid-morning. We made good progress, with stops along the way for South Africa's National Bird, **Blue Crane**, along with the obligatory view of Table Mountain, and arrived on cue. We got comfortable in one of the hides, and slowly started working our way through the throngs of shorebirds feeding out on the vast tidal mudflats in front of us. **Grey** and **Common Ringed Plovers**, **Eurasian Whimbrel**, **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Little Stint** and **Sanderling** dominated the numbers, but careful scanning gave us the sought-after **Eurasian Curlew** and **Terek Sandpiper**, along with other expected species such as **Kittlitz's** and **White-fronted Plovers**, **Bar-tailed Godwit**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Common Greenshank** and **Marsh Sandpiper**. The tides came in, and the waders all dispersed to their high-tide roosts elsewhere, and we continued with exploring the rest of the reserve.



A **Southern Black Korhaan** finally showed, after much searching!

A fine adult **Black Harrier** showed well, and was complimented by an **African Marsh Harrier** soon after. We also enjoyed seeing the likes of **White-throated Swallow** nesting up close and personal, and superficially similar **Pearl-breasted Swallow** was a good addition as well. We enjoyed a slight breather over lunch, before resuming. We were finally able to track down **Southern Black Korhaan** and, as is always the case, we soon found several more following our first sighting. Other sections of the strandveld in the park yielded **Namaqua Dove**, **European Bee-**

eater, Karoo Prinia, Karoo Scrub Robin and Southern Double-collared Sunbird. Eventually, we had to pull ourselves away, and returned to our base, where we settled in for our final dinner together. A good time was had, reminiscing about all the good sightings from the trip.

Day 15, 20th November 2022. Departure from Cape Town

Our last day dawned, and we had a leisurely morning, before checking out of the hotel, all packed and ready. We had a bit of time to kill, and briefly visited the Strandfontein Bird Sanctuary once more. Here we took in the sight of thousands of waterfowl, hundreds of flamingoes, and all sorts of other birds, before eventually heading to the airport, where the tour concluded.

Bird List - Following IOC (12.2)

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

The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following BirdLife International. CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable

Common name	Scientific name
Ostriches (Struthionidae)	
Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>
Ducks, Geese, Swans (Anatidae)	
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
Fulvous Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>
Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>
Blue-billed Teal	<i>Spatula hottentota</i>
Cape Shoveler	<i>Spatula smithii</i>
Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>
Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>
Southern Pochard	<i>Netta erythrophthalma</i>
Maccoa Duck - EN	<i>Oxyura maccoa</i>
Guineafowl (Numididae)	

Common name	Scientific name
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
Pheasants & Allies (Phasianidae)	
Crested Francolin	<i>Ortygornis sephaena</i>
Red-winged Francolin (H)	<i>Scleroptila levaillantii</i>
Cape Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis capensis</i>
Natal Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis natalensis</i>
Swainson's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>
Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)	
Square-tailed Nightjar (H)	<i>Caprimulgus fossii</i>
Swifts (Apodidae)	
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>
African Black Swift	<i>Apus barbatus</i>
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>
Turacos (Musophagidae)	
Grey Go-away-bird	<i>Crinifer concolor</i>
Purple-crested Turaco	<i>Gallirex porphyreolophus</i>
Bustards (Otididae)	
Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>
Red-crested Korhaan	<i>Lophotis ruficrista</i>
Southern Black Korhaan - VU	<i>Afrotis afra</i>
Northern Black Korhaan	<i>Afrotis afraoides</i>
Black-bellied Bustard	<i>Lissotis melanogaster</i>
Cuckoos (Cuculidae)	
Burchell's Coucal	<i>Centropus burchellii</i>
Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>
Levaillant's Cuckoo	<i>Clamator levaillantii</i>
Jacobin Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>
Diederik Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>
Klaas's Cuckoo (H)	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>
Black Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus clamosus</i>
Red-chested Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Sandgrouse (Pteroclididae)	
Double-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles bicinctus</i>
Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)	
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>
Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>
Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>
African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>
Flufftails (Scolothruridae)	
Striped Flufftail (H)	<i>Scolothrura affinis</i>
Rails, Crakes & Coots (Rallidae)	
African Rail (H)	<i>Rallus caerulescens</i>
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>
African Swamphe	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>
Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>
Cranes (Gruidae)	
Blue Crane - VU	<i>Grus paradisea</i>
Grebes (Podicipedidae)	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
Flamingos (Phoenicopteridae)	
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>
Stone-curlews, Thick-knees (Burhinidae)	

Common name	Scientific name
Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>
Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>
Oystercatchers (Haematopodidae)	
African Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus moquini</i>
Stilts, Avocets (Recurvirostridae)	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
Plovers (Charadriidae)	
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>
White-crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus albiceps</i>
Senegal Lapwing	<i>Vanellus lugubris</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>
Painted-snipes (Rostratulidae)	
Greater Painted-snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>
Jacanas (Jacanidae)	
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>
Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopacidae)	
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Courasers, Pratincoles (Glareolidae)	
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>
Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)	
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>
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
Skuas (Stercorariidae)	
Brown Skua	<i>Stercorarius antarcticus</i>
Parasitic Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>
Penguins (Spheniscidae)	
African Penguin - EN	<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>
Albatrosses (Diomedidae)	
Black-browed Albatross - EN	<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>
Shy Albatross	<i>Thalassarche cauta</i>
Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross - EN	<i>Thalassarche chlororhynchos</i>
Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross - EN	<i>Thalassarche carteri</i>
Northern Storm Petrels (Hydrobatidae)	
European Storm Petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>
Petrels, Shearwaters, Diving Petrels (Procellariidae)	
Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>
Northern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>
Cape Petrel	<i>Daption capense</i>

Common name	Scientific name
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>
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>
Storks (Ciconiidae)	
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>
Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>
Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>
Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>
Gannets, Boobies (Sulidae)	
Cape Gannet - EN	<i>Morus capensis</i>
Cormorants, Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)	
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>
Crowned Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo coronatus</i>
Bank Cormorant - EN	<i>Phalacrocorax neglectus</i>
Cape Cormorant - EN	<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>
White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>
Ibises, Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)	
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>
Hérons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)	
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Hamerkop (Scopidae)	
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
Pelicans (Pelecanidae)	
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>
Kites, Hawks, Eagles (Accipitridae)	
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>
Hooded Vulture - CR	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>
White-backed Vulture - CR	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
Cape Vulture - VU	<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>
White-headed Vulture - CR	<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>
Lappet-faced Vulture - EN	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>
Black-chested Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>
Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>
Bateleur - EN	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>
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>
Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>
African Hawk-Eagle	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>
Dark Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>
Ovambo Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter ovampensis</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>
Jackal Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>
Owls (Strigidae)	
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>

Common name	Scientific name
African Scops Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>
Cape Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo capensis</i>
Spotted Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>
Mousebirds (Coliidae)	
Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>
White-backed Mousebird	<i>Colius colius</i>
Red-faced Mousebird	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>
Hoopoes (Upupidae)	
African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>
Wood Hoopoes (Phoeniculidae)	
Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>
Common Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>
Ground Hornbills (Bucorvidae)	
Southern Ground Hornbill - VU	<i>Bucorvus leadbeateri</i>
Hornbills (Bucerotidae)	
Southern Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus rufirostris</i>
Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>
Trumpeter Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes bucinator</i>
Rollers (Coraciidae)	
Purple Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>
Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)	
Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>
Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>
Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
Bee-eaters (Meropidae)	

Common name	Scientific name
White-fronted Bee-eater	<i>Merops bullockoides</i>
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
African Barbets (Lybiidae)	
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>
Acacia Pied Barbet	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>
Black-collared Barbet	<i>Lybius torquatus</i>
Crested Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>
Honeyguides (Indicatoridae)	
Brown-backed Honeybird	<i>Prodotiscus regulus</i>
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>
Woodpeckers (Picidae)	
Red-throated Wryneck	<i>Jynx ruficollis</i>
Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>
Olive Woodpecker (G)	<i>Dendropicos griseocephalus</i>
Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)	
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>
Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicolus</i>
African & New World Parrots (Psittacidae)	
Brown-headed Parrot	<i>Poicephalus cryptoxanthus</i>
Wattle-eyes, Batises (Platysteiridae)	
Cape Batis	<i>Batis capensis</i>
Chinspot Batis	<i>Batis molitor</i>
Bushshrikes (Malaconotidae)	
Orange-breasted Bushshrike	<i>Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus</i>
Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>
Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>
Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>
Southern Boubou	<i>Laniarius ferrugineus</i>
Crimson-breasted Shrike	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Vangas & Allies (Vangidae)	
White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>
Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae)	
Black Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga flava</i>
Shrikes (Laniidae)	
Magpie Shrike	<i>Urolestes melanoleucus</i>
Southern White-crowned Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus anguitimens</i>
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>
Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>
Figbirds, Old World Orioles, Piopios (Oriolidae)	
Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>
Drongos (Dicruridae)	
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
Monarchs (Monarchidae)	
African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>
Crows, Jays (Corvidae)	
Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>
White-necked Raven	<i>Corvus albicollis</i>
Rockjumpers (Chaetopidae)	
Cape Rockjumper (H)	<i>Chaetops frenatus</i>
Tits, Chickadees (Paridae)	
Southern Black Tit	<i>Melaniparus niger</i>
Penduline Tits (Remizidae)	
Grey Penduline Tit	<i>Anthoscopus caroli</i>
Larks (Alaudidae)	
Eastern Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda semitorquata</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix leucotis</i>
Sabota Lark	<i>Calendulauda sabota</i>
Rufous-naped Lark (H)	<i>Mirafraga africana</i>
Flappet Lark	<i>Mirafraga rufocinnamomea</i>
Large-billed Lark (H)	<i>Galerida magnirostris</i>
Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)	
Sombre Greenbul	<i>Andropadus importunus</i>
Terrestrial Brownbul	<i>Phyllastrephus terrestris</i>
Dark-capped Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus tricolor</i>
Cape Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus capensis</i>
Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)	
Black Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne pristoptera</i>
Banded Martin	<i>Neophedina cincta</i>
Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>
Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</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>
Mosque Swallow	<i>Cecropis senegalensis</i>
Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>
Greater Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis cucullata</i>
Crombecs, African Warblers (Macrosphenidae)	
Cape Grassbird	<i>Sphenoeacus afer</i>
Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>
Leaf Warblers (Phylloscopidae)	
Willow Warbler (H)	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
Reed Warblers & Allies (Acrocephalidae)	
Lesser Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
African Yellow Warbler	<i>Iduna natalensis</i>
Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Grassbirds & Allies (Locustellidae)	
Little Rush Warbler	<i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>
Cisticolas & Allies (Cisticolidae)	
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>
Levaillant's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola tinniens</i>
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Desert Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aridulus</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>
Bar-throated Apalis	<i>Apalis thoracica</i>
Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flava</i>
Green-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>
Burnt-necked Eremomela	<i>Eremomela usticollis</i>
Sylviid Babblers (Sylviidae)	
Chestnut-vented Warbler	<i>Curruca subcoerulea</i>
White-eyes (Zosteropidae)	
Cape White-eye	<i>Zosterops virens</i>
Laughingthrushes & Allies (Leiothrichidae)	
Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>
Sugarbirds (Promeropidae)	
Cape Sugarbird	<i>Promerops cafer</i>
Starlings, Rhabdornises (Sturnidae)	
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>
Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>
Burchell's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis australis</i>
Pied Starling	<i>Lamprotornis bicolor</i>
Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>
Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>
Oxpeckers (Buphagidae)	
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>
Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>
Thrushes (Turdidae)	
Groundscraper Thrush	<i>Turdus litsitsirupa</i>
Olive Thrush	<i>Turdus olivaceus</i>
Kurrichane Thrush	<i>Turdus libonyana</i>
Karoo Thrush	<i>Turdus smithi</i>
Chats, Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)	
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>
Southern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pammelaina</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>
White-browed Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha heuglini</i>
Cape Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola rupestris</i>
African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>
Buff-streaked Chat	<i>Campicoloides bifasciatus</i>
Mountain Wheatear	<i>Myrmecocichla monticola</i>
Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>
Familiar Chat	<i>Oenanthe familiaris</i>
Sunbirds (Nectariniidae)	
Orange-breasted Sunbird	<i>Anthobaphes violacea</i>
Amethyst Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra amethystina</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>
Malachite Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia famosa</i>
Southern Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris chalybeus</i>
Greater Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris afer</i>
Marico Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>
Purple-banded Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris bifasciatus</i>
White-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris talatala</i>
Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches (Passeridae)	
Yellow-throated Bush Sparrow	<i>Gymnoris superciliaris</i>
Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Weavers, Widowbirds (Ploceidae)	
Red-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>
Thick-billed Weaver	<i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>
Spectacled Weaver	<i>Ploceus ocularis</i>
Cape Weaver	<i>Ploceus capensis</i>
Lesser Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus intermedius</i>
Southern Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>
Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>
Southern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>
Yellow Bishop	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>
Fan-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes axillaris</i>
White-winged Widowbird	<i>Euplectes albonotatus</i>
Long-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes progne</i>
Waxbills, Munias & Allies (Estrildidae)	
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>
Swee Waxbill	<i>Coccygia melanotis</i>
Black-faced Waxbill	<i>Brunhilda erythronotos</i>
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
Red-headed Finch	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>
Blue Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>
Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Jameson's Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rhodopareia</i>
Indigobirds, Whydahs (Viduidae)	
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>
Long-tailed Paradise Whydah	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>
Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)	
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>
Cape Longclaw	<i>Macronyx capensis</i>
Yellow-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx croceus</i>
African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>
Striped Pipit	<i>Anthus lineiventris</i>
Yellow-breasted Pipit - VU	<i>Anthus chloris</i>
Finches, Euphonias (Fringillidae)	
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
Forest Canary	<i>Crithagra scotops</i>
Black-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>
Cape Siskin	<i>Crithagra totta</i>
Yellow Canary	<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>
Brimstone Canary	<i>Crithagra sulphurata</i>
Streaky-headed Seed eater	<i>Crithagra gularis</i>
Cape Canary	<i>Serinus canicollis</i>
Buntings (Emberizidae)	
Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>
Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>
Species seen:	369
Species heard:	9
Species seen by guide only:	1
Total recorded:	379

Mammal List

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

Common name	Scientific name
Hyraxes (Procaviidae)	
Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>
Elephants (Elephantidae)	
African Elephant - EN	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>
Rabbits and Hares (Leporidae)	
Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>
Squirrels and Relatives (Sciuridae)	
Eastern Gray Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>
Smith's Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>
Old World Mice, Rats and Gerbils (Muridae)	
Four-striped Grass Mouse	<i>Rhabdomys pumilio</i>
Old World Monkeys (Cercopithecidae)	
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>
Vervet	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>
Bats (Chiroptera)	
Wahlberg's Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Epomophorus wahlbergi</i>
Cats (Felidae)	
Lion - VU	<i>Panthera leo</i>
Leopard - VU	<i>Panthera pardus</i>
Cheetah - VU	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>
African Wild Cat	<i>Felis lybica</i>
Civets, Genets, Linsangs and allies (Viverridae)	
African Civet	<i>Civettictis civetta</i>
Common Genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>
South African Large-spotted Genet	<i>Genetta tigrina</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Hyaenas and Aardwolf (Hyaenidae)	
Spotted Hyaena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>
Mongoose and Fossa (Herpestidae)	
White-tailed Mongoose	<i>Ichneumia albicauda</i>
Cape Grey Mongoose	<i>Herpestes pulverulentus</i>
Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>
Common Dwarf Mongoose	<i>Helogale parvula</i>
Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>
Canids (Canidae)	
Black-backed Jackal	<i>Lupulella mesomelas</i>
African Wild Dog - EN	<i>Lycaon pictus</i>
Eared Seals (Otariidae)	
Brown Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>
Earless Seals (Phocidae)	
Southern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga leonina</i>
Horses, Asses and Zebras (Equidae)	
Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>
Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae)	
White Rhinoceros	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>
Hogs and Pigs (Suidae)	
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>
Hippopotamuses (Hippopotamidae)	
Hippopotamus - VU	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>
Bovids (Bovidae)	
African Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>
Nyala	<i>Tragelaphus angasii</i>
Cape Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus sylvaticus</i>
Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>
Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>
Blesbok	<i>Damaliscus pygargus</i>
Bontebok (Blesbok subspecies)	<i>Damaliscus pygargus dorcas</i>
Common Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>
Common Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>
Klipspringer	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>
Giraffes and Okapis (Giraffidae)	
Southern Giraffe	<i>Giraffa giraffa</i>
Rorquals (Balaenopteridae)	
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>
Oceanic Dolphins (Delphinidae)	
Dusky Dolphin	<i>Sagmatias obscurus</i>
Short-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>
Species seen:	45
Total recorded:	45

Reptile List

Common name	Scientific name
Crocodiles (Crocodylidae)	
Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>
Colubrids (Colubridae)	
Spotted Bush Snake	<i>Philothamnus semivariegatus</i>
Dragons (Agamidae)	
Southern Rock Agama	<i>Agama atra</i>
Girdle-tail Lizards (Cordylidae)	
Black Girdled Lizard	<i>Cordylus niger</i>
Typical Geckos (Gekkonidae)	

Tropical House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus mabouia</i>
Skinks (Scincidae)	
African Striped Skink	<i>Trachylepis striata</i>
Rainbow Mabuya	<i>Trachylepis margaritifera</i>
Red-Sided Skink	<i>Trachylepis homalocephala</i>
Monitor Lizards (Varanidae)	
Nile Monitor	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>
Mole and Western Keeled Snakes (Pseudaspidae)	
Mole Snake	<i>Pseudaspis cana</i>
Tortoises (Testudinidae)	
Angulate Tortoise	<i>Chersina angulata</i>
Leopard Tortoise	<i>Stigmochelys pardalis</i>
African Side-necked Turtles (Pelomedusidae)	
Cape Terrapin	<i>Pelomedusa galeata</i>
Species seen:	13
Total recorded:	13