



**CAPE PENINSULA DAY TRIP, CUSTOM TOUR
10 JANUARY 2018**

By Dominic Rollinson



African Oystercatcher

Highlights: African Oystercatcher, Cape Spurfowl, Spotted Eagle-Owl, Olive Woodpecker, Cape Bulbul, Cape Grassbird, Cape Batis, Orange-breasted Sunbird, Swee Waxbill, Cape Siskin, Forest Canary

Today I showed Danny from the UK around some of the Cape Peninsula's top birding spots.

After fetching Danny in Rondebosch we made our way to the greenbelts around Constantia to target a few forest species. The morning started off relatively slow but soon picked up once it started to warm up. Some of the better birds seen included **Common Buzzard, Black Saw-wing, Forest and Cape Canaries, Common Chaffinch, Cape Bulbul, Swee Waxbill, Southern Double-collared Sunbird, and Olive Woodpecker.**

We then moved round the corner to Cecilia Forest, where despite the hot conditions no raptors were using the thermals. We thus focused on some of the fynbos and forest species and soon came across **Cape Siskin, Cape Grassbird, Neddicky, Karoo Prinia, Cape Batis, Malachite Sunbird,** and a flyover **African Olive Pigeon.**



Cape Grassbird (photo John Tinkler)

The beautiful Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden was next on the itinerary. We made our way to a spot where a pair of Buff-spotted Flufftails had set up a territory; however, despite we were waiting in silence for an hour the birds did not put in an appearance. A friend let me know he saw them later that evening; right place at the right time, I guess! We wandered around the well-maintained garden for a couple of hours and came across **Sombre Greenbul, Olive Thrush, Cape Robin-Chat, Bar-throated Apalis, African Paradise and African Dusky Flycatchers, Orange-breasted Sunbird,** and a **Spotted Eagle-Owl** at its day roost.

After a quick lunch we moved to the Strandfontein Sewage Works, to add a few waterbirds to the list. We soon came across a number of new waterfowl species for the day, including **Yellow-billed Duck, Cape Shoveler, Cape Teal, Red-billed Teal, South African Shelduck,** and **Spur-winged Goose**. Waders were also in abundance and included **Common Greenshank, Marsh Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit, Little Stint, Ruff,** and **Three-banded Plover**, as well as a few **African Oystercatchers**. Exploring the many pans further yielded **Lesser** and **Greater Flamingos, Glossy Ibis, Great White Pelican, White Stork,** and **Intermediate** and **Little Egrets**, as well as both **Hartlaub's** and **Grey-headed Gulls**. A number of species were seen in the adjoining bush, such as **Cape Spurfowl, Spotted** and **Water Thick-knees, African Marsh Harrier, White-necked Raven, Cape Longclaw,** and **Black-shouldered Kite**. The farmland near the sewage works provided **Capped Wheatear, Red-capped Lark,** and **African Pipit**.



White Stork

To finish off the day we moved to Rondevlei on the western side of Zeekoevlei. This little reserve produced a few new species for the day, including **Caspian Tern, Wood Sandpiper, Pied** and **Malachite Kingfishers**, and a brief sighting of **Little Bittern**.

We finished a thoroughly enjoyable day with a species count of 99.