



EASTERN SOUTH AFRICA: CUSTOM TRIP REPORT

17 - 27 JANUARY 2018

By Dylan Vasapoli



*Although a common bird, the gaudy **Purple-crested Turaco** is always a highlight.*

Overview

This 11-day custom tour focused on birding along the eastern/subtropical route in South Africa, taking in the birding Meccas of Wakkerstroom, Mkhuze Game Reserve, St Lucia, and the Sani Pass. Taking place during mid-summer meant that rain was a regular threat, and while we had more clear days than not, we did still have to put up with a fair amount of rain, especially in the last five days, which did hamper us somewhat. This is a small price to pay, however, for being part of the best time of the year for birding locally, and we were certainly privy to this, enjoying the vast majority of the main specials on this route. We started well in Johannesburg, where we managed to connect with the tricky **Maccoa, White-backed**, and **Fulvous Whistling Ducks**, with the dry thornveld on the south side of the city giving us **Northern Black Korhaan, White-backed Mousebird, Amur Falcon, Kalahari Scrub Robin**, and **Shaft-tailed Whydah**, among others. The endemic-rich grasslands of Wakkerstroom gave up **Southern Bald Ibis, Black and Montagu's Harriers, Denham's and White-bellied Bustards, Blue Korhaan, Grey Crowned and Blue Cranes, Rudd's and Botha's Larks**, a plethora of cisticolas, **Buff-streaked Chat**, and **Yellow-breasted Pipit**, while bird-rich Zululand provided us with many of its gems, including **Crested Guineafowl, Southern Banded Snake Eagle, Palm-nut Vulture, Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon, Livingstone's Turaco, Black Coucal, Green Malkoha, Narina Trogon, Gorgeous Bushshrike, Woodward's Batis, Rudd's Apalis, Stierling's Wren-Warbler, Spotted Ground Thrush, Bearded and Brown Scrub Robins, Neergaard's Sunbird, Grey Waxbill, Green and Pink-throated Twinspots, and Lemon-breasted Canary**. Our last port of call in the southern Drakensberg didn't disappoint, and here we found **Bearded Vulture, Ground Woodpecker, Drakensberg Rockjumper, Bush Blackcap, Gurney's Sugarbird, Mountain and African Rock Pipits**, and **Drakensberg Siskin**, among others.

In total, the tour recorded just shy of 400 bird species, with 381 being seen and an additional 10 heard only, and over 30 mammals.

Detailed Report

Day 1, 17th January 2018. Arrival at Johannesburg, and birding the East Rand

After the arrival of John, Margaret, and Gerry at Johannesburg, I met up with them in the mid-afternoon at our spacious guesthouse before we headed off for some afternoon birding. We began at the nearby Bullfrog Pan, which was kind to us, revealing many of the key waterbirds for the area. Highlights were **Maccoa, White-backed**, and **Fulvous Whistling Ducks, Hottentot Teal** (many of the ducks with chicks in tow), **Greater Flamingo, Goliath and Squacco Herons, African Swamphen, African Jacana**, and good comparative views of both **Whiskered and White-winged Terns**, along with **Lesser Swamp, African Reed, and Little Rush Warblers**. A flyby **African Harrier-Hawk** was a welcome distraction, and the surrounding open lands gave up **Helmeted Guineafowl, Crowned Lapwing, Red-winged Starling** and some of the stunning **Southern Red Bishops**. From here we visited the Korsman Bird Sanctuary, just a bit further down the road, which gave us a few new additions to the above species. These included **White-faced Whistling Duck, Cape Shoveler, Southern Pochard, Swainson's Spurfowl, Black Heron, African Wattled Lapwing, Ruff**, and **Levaillant's Cisticola**. The surrounding suburbia provided a few treats as well, including the strange **Grey Go-away-bird, Speckled Mousebird, Karoo**

Thrush, and Amethyst Sunbird. With the sun going down we headed back to our guesthouse and enjoyed a fine dinner after a good introductory day.

Day 2, 18th January 2018. Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve and transit to Wakkerstroom

Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve, on the southern end of Johannesburg, was our first port of call for the day, and we spent the entire morning here and enjoyed a picnic lunch in the reserve before beginning the long, three-hour drive to get to the quaint ‘town’ of Wakkerstroom. The birding in and around Suikerbosrand was excellent, but it took us a while to actually get into the reserve, as the entrance road was incredibly birdy! Highlights here were many, but included **Amur Falcon, Northern Black Korhaan, Diederik Cuckoo, Red-throated Wryneck, Bokmakierie, Sand Martin, South African Cliff Swallow, Black-chested Prinia, Ant-eating Chat, Red-billed Quelea, Yellow-crowned Bishop, White-winged, Red-collared,** and the spectacular **Long-tailed Widowbirds, Common Waxbill, Pin-tailed Whydah, Black-throated Canary, and Cinnamon-breasted Bunting.** We focused on the acacia thornveld birds on entering and enjoyed success, finding specials such as **Klaas’s Cuckoo, White-backed Mousebird, Chinspot Batis, Brubru, Red-backed Shrike, African Red-eyed Bulbul, Bar-throated Apalis, Chestnut-vented Warbler, Kalahari Scrub Robin, Fiscal Flycatcher, White-bellied Sunbird, White-browed Sparrow-Weaver, Shaft-tailed Whydah, and Yellow Canary.** The open, higher-lying areas of the reserve were quiet, but we found **Eastern Long-billed Lark, Wailing Cisticola, Mountain Wheatear, and Malachite Sunbird.**

Our lunch was regularly interrupted with many birds moving around the picnic site, in particular **Red-faced Mousebird, Black-collared and Crested Barbets, African Paradise Flycatcher, Willow Warbler, and Streaky-headed Seedeater.** In addition to the birds the reserve also held mammals, including **Plains Zebra, Common Eland, Hartebeest, and Blesbok.** After a great time in the reserve, a little shy of 100 bird species, we began the long, three-hour drive to Wakkerstroom, where we arrived in the afternoon. After checking into our comfortable B&B we took a short drive up the mountain, where we enjoyed some late-afternoon birding and, more importantly, sundowners overlooking this quaint and famous ‘town’. We found **White Stork, Southern Bald Ibis, Cape Crow, Banded Martin, Sentinel Rock Thrush, Buff-streaked Chat, Cape Weaver,** and the spectacular **Cape Longclaw** before settling in.

Day 3, 19th January 2018. Wakkerstroom birding

With a full day of birding lined up, targeting the many grassland specials that this region holds, we headed out with local guide, David Nkosi, who’d join us for the first half of the day. We began the morning searching for the tricky **Yellow-breasted Pipit** on the mountain behind the town, and we had to search through a few fields before eventually finding our target and being treated to excellent, close-up, and prolonged views of a pair of these difficult birds. Other birds we enjoyed here were **Red-winged Francolin, Common Quail, Eastern Long-billed and Red-capped Larks, and Wing-snapping Cisticola.** A transfer to the lower-lying plains of Dirkiesdorp for **White-bellied Bustard** was fruitful, and we enjoyed great looks at a family of three birds as they wandered around the drier plains. **Long-crested Eagle, Spike-heeled Lark, and Groundscraper Thrush** were also noted before we started searching nearby areas for **Denham’s Bustard,** which we also managed to find, although the birds were a bit skittish. A pair of **Blue Cranes** in the same field showed off their glamour and didn’t slink away like the bustards.



*We had great looks at the uncommon **White-bellied Bustard**.*

We worked our way to our breakfast stop in some acacia woodland, but not before finding the likes of **African Yellow Warbler**, **Croaking Cisticola**, **Fan-tailed Widowbird**, and the nomadic **Cuckoo-finch**. Our picnic breakfast was regularly interrupted with birds ranging from **Lazy Cisticola** and **Drakensberg Prinia** to **Brown-hooded Kingfisher** and a number of calling **Coqui Francolins**, although none of them showed. We made a bee-line for the Daggakraal area, which is home to the nomadic and incredibly range-restricted **Botha's Lark**. Fortunately David knew of an active nest in the area, and the birds didn't disappoint – with us enjoying fantastic looks at an adult as it incubated what appeared to be a freshly-hatched chick. Keeping our disturbance to an absolute minimum we were soon on our way, this time bound for Fickland Pan, where the arguably even more range-restricted, Endangered (IUCN), and endemic **Rudd's Lark** occurs. David knew of an active nest in the area as well, but it wasn't as easy as Botha's Lark had been, with us waiting in the car a safe distance away from the nest (we knew roughly where the nest was but couldn't actually see it from our position) for over half an hour before a bird suddenly flew in, perched in the track in front of us for a short while and giving us some excellent views before again flying to the nest, disappearing for a few seconds, and promptly flying away again. Having been successful, we made our way back to town for a late lunch. Throughout the morning we enjoyed some good roadside birding while transiting between all these sites, enjoying numerous **Southern Bald Ibises**, a number of **Secretarybirds** (six separate sightings), **African Marsh** and **Montagu's Harriers**, **Jackal Buzzard**, **Grey Crowned Crane**, **Alpine**, **Common**, **African Black**, and **Horus Swifts**, **Red-footed** and **Amur Falcons**, **Wailing** and **Pale-crowned Cisticolas**, **Buff-streaked Chat**, **Quailfinch**, **African Pipit**, and **Cape Canary**. Following lunch we took a walk around our B&B property, finding a few more species such as **Malachite** and **Giant Kingfishers**, **Black-headed Oriole**, **Cape Grassbird**, **African Yellow Warbler**, **Pied Starling**, **Olive Thrush**, **Amethyst Sunbird**, and **Village Weaver**.



*The highly-prized **Botha's Lark** coming to its nest*

The vast wetlands on the edge of the town were our last port of call for the day, and we enjoyed some excellent birding here with **Spur-winged Goose**, **South African Shelduck**, **Red-billed Teal**, **Glossy Ibis**, **Little Bittern**, **Grey and Squacco Herons**, **Black-crowned Night Heron**, **Intermediate Egret**, **Hamerkop**, a surprise rarity in the form of **Western Marsh Harrier**, **Grey Crowned Crane**, **African Rail** (heard only), **African Snipe**, and **Pied Kingfisher**, among other waterbirds we had already seen on the tour. We had a few mammals entertain us during the day; these included **Yellow** and **Slender Mongooses**, the delightful **Meerkat**, **Mountain Reedbuck**, and a bizarre **Cape Porcupine** lying in the open in front of its burrow in the middle of the day – not a common sight for a nocturnal mammal! We settled on the bank of the river for our sundowners, where a vocal **Red-chested Flufftail** called and called from the cover just off the pathway but refused to show itself, rounding off a truly fantastic and highly successful day, with our daily total just shy of 140 species.

Day 4, 20th January 2018. Wakkerstroom to Mkhuzo Game Reserve

We headed into the grasslands surrounding Wakkerstroom to search for a few species we had missed yesterday, most notably **Blue Korhaan**. We got onto some calling birds early on and eventually managed to find them, but they remained far off and left us wanting more. Not five minutes later we bumped into another group, much closer to the road, and enjoyed some excellent views of this prized species. A number of **Denham's Bustards** were also noted in the area. We pressed on a little bit further and enjoyed a showy **Eastern Clapper Lark** along with a breathtaking adult **Black Harrier** before heading back for breakfast. A **Common Duiker** and another group of **Meerkats** were seen on the mammalian side. Following a hearty meal we packed and began the longish drive to Mkhuzo Game Reserve, stocking up on food for the next few days en route, before arriving in the early afternoon. A few of the nomadic **Monotonous Larks** were present near the gate but remained far off the road and left us with only distant views.

We checked into our chalets in Mantuma Camp, dropped our things, and took an afternoon drive to the kuMasinga Hide, where we spent the rest of the day. A **Common Buttonquail** on the road was a welcome surprise, while at the hide itself we enjoyed the rare **Dwarf Bittern** (which was quite aggressive and regularly chased away the regular **Purple-crested Turacos**), **Emerald-spotted Wood Dove**, **Purple-crested Turaco**, **Little Bee-eater**, **Common Scimitarbill**, **Trumpeter Hornbill**, **Black-bellied Starling**, **Red-billed Oxpecker**, **Yellow-throated Petronia**, brief views of **Pink-throated Twinspot**, **Blue Waxbill**, **Dusky Indigobird**, and **Golden-breasted Bunting**. A number of mammals were also using the water at the hide, and we had a regular procession of mammals including **Vervet Monkey**, **Nyala**, **Common Wildebeest**, and **Impala**. We came across a large covey of **Crested Guineafowls** en route back to camp and were also treated to some close views of **Bearded Scrub Robin** once we were back in camp. We settled in for a good braai and were joined by the resident (and naughty) **Thick-tailed Greater Galago** looking for some easy food.



A White-crested Helmetshrike sits still for a few moments.

Day 5, 21st January 2018. Birding Mkhuzi Game Reserve

We had a full day to explore the many habitats in this bird-rich reserve – one of the premier birding spots in South Africa! We began our morning in the mixed woodland and open thornveld in the west of the reserve before we gradually made our way to the glorious Nsumo Pan in the south, where we enjoyed our picnic breakfast in the mid-morning on its shore. Following some time here and checking out the hides we returned to the kuMasinga Hide for the midday throng of activity, where we spent a bit of time before eventually making our way back to camp, where we relaxed for a little bit and enjoyed an earlier dinner before setting off on our night drive.

It was another spectacular day with many highlights, and we had to a great start finding a wealth of life in the early morning. The woodland was kind to us, and we enjoyed species such as **Hooded** and **White-backed Vultures**, **Bateleur**, **Jacobin Cuckoo**, **Striped** and **Woodland Kingfishers**, **Little Bee-eater**, **Common Scimitarbill**, **Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill**, **Acacia Pied**

Barbet, Brubru, Black-backed Puffback, Brown-crowned Tchagra, White-crested Helmetshrike, Black Cuckooshrike, Southern Black Tit, Flappet and Monotonous Larks, Red-breasted Swallow, the sought-after Stierling's Wren-Warbler, Violet-backed Starling, Pale Flycatcher, Marico Sunbird, and numbers of Red-billed Quelea.

Nsumo Pan was in excellent shape, full of water and bustling with life, which was fantastic to see in contrast to what it was a few years prior to this with a serious drought ongoing, leaving this reserve practically barren. Birds came in thick and fast with huge numbers present all around, including **White-faced Whistling and Knob-billed Ducks, Hottentot and Red-billed Teals, Yellow-billed Stork, African Openbill, African Spoonbill, Squacco and Goliath Herons, Great, Little, and Intermediate Egrets, both Great White and Pink-backed Pelicans, African Fish Eagle, Black-winged Stilt, Common Ringed Plover, African Jacana, Ruff, Curlew and Common Sandpipers, Little Stint, Common Greenshank, and Whiskered Tern.** The surrounding vegetation was also very birdy, and we found it difficult to pull ourselves away, enjoying the likes of **Little Sparrowhawk, African Pygmy Kingfisher, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, Crowned Hornbill,** great looks at the prized **Gorgeous Bushshrike, Yellow-breasted** and the localized **Rudd's Apalises, Black-bellied Starling, and Grey Sunbird,** among others.

The kuMasinga Hide in the heat of the day also proved to be a good move, with large numbers of birds (and mammals) coming to drink, although many species were the same as those seen during the previous day. **Dwarf Bittern** showed well once again, as did the comical **Purple-crested Turaco** along with many others, including **African Hoopoe, Cardinal and Golden-tailed Woodpeckers, Grey-headed and Orange-breasted Bushshrikes, Sombre Greenbul, Terrestrial Brownbul, Wire-tailed Swallow, Green-backed Camaroptera, White-browed Scrub Robin, Lesser Masked Weaver, Green-winged Pytilia, and Long-tailed Paradise Whydah.** As it happens, we sadly had a slow night drive, eventually coming away with a **Bronze-winged Courser** along with **Spotted Thick-knee, European and Fiery-necked Nightjars, and Common Buttonquail.** We had to make do with a few **Scrub Hares** on the mammalian side of things. However, while we were enjoying a night cap a vocal pair of **Verreaux's Eagle-Owls** put on a good show for us, giving us some great views! Other mammals seen during the course of the day included **Chacma Baboon, Common Warthog, Hippopotamus, Giraffe, and Greater Kudu,** among a few others.

Day 6, 22nd January 2018. Mkhuze to St Lucia

We began the day with a morning walk around the camp, which was a little slow. We had to work hard for birds but did come away largely successful with species such as **Red-faced Mousebird, Red-fronted Tinkerbird, Yellow-bellied Greenbul, Long-billed Crombec, Rudd's Apalis, African Yellow White-eye, Bearded Scrub Robin, Purple-banded Sunbird,** some far improved views of **Pink-throated Twinspot, and Red-billed Firefinch.** After a hearty breakfast, we packed our bags. While checking out at the reception we heard the tell-tale call of **Neergaard's Sunbird** – a rare and highly sought-after species – which didn't take long to be tracked down and showed very well as it went about feeding through a flowering vine. Finally we tore ourselves away and left toward the eastern entrance of the park. **Long-crested and Wahlberg's Eagles, Common Buttonquail, and Broad-billed Roller** were the last birds of interest before exiting the reserve.



The difficult Neergard's Sunbird is one of the major specials of the area.

Then we birded the edge of Muzi Pan, along with the more barren Mpempe Pan, on our drive to St Lucia. Muzi Pan held a number of waterbird species, many of which were the same as those present on Nsumo Pan yesterday, with the exceptions being **Black Heron** and **Great Reed Warbler** – although we had to be content with brief views of the warbler as it moved in the thickets on the edge of the pan. Mpempe Pan held a few different species on its vast grazed plains, and here we enjoyed **Black-winged Lapwing**, **Kittlitz's Plover**, **Collared Pratincole**, **Grey-rumped Swallow**, **Banded Martin**, **Quailfinch**, a small group of the regionally-scarce **Western Yellow Wagtail**, and eventually a lone **Lemon-breasted Canary** – our main target here. Some further exploring delivered a young **Yellow-throated Longclaw** (which initially had us thinking that it was a Rosy-throated Longclaw), along with a vocal **Coqui Francolin**, **Sand Martin**, and a **Peregrine Falcon** that appeared out of nowhere and caught a wader/shorebird from the shoreline before disappearing just as rapidly as it had appeared.

We eventually made our way to the nearby 'tourist town' of St Lucia. After checking in at our comfortable B&B we made our way to the estuary, where we spent the remainder of the afternoon. Although it was a bit breezy we enjoyed many birds, including **Crested Guineafowl**, the scarce **Saddle-billed Stork**, **Pink-backed Pelican**, **African Swamphen**, **Water Thick-knee**, **African Oystercatcher**, **Pied Avocet**, many waders including **White-fronted Plover**, **Marsh Sandpiper**, **Caspian** and **Greater Crested (Swift) Terns**, and many **Thick-billed**, **Eastern Golden**, and **Southern Brown-throated Weavers** in the reedbeds.

Day 7, 23rd January 2018. iSimangaliso Wetland Park

We started the morning by heading into the eastern shores of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. Conditions were trying, with the weather a bit miserable (cold, windy and drizzly), but we slowly worked our way through the various loop roads and enjoyed our picnic breakfast at Mission Rocks before eventually arriving at Cape Vidal, where we spent some time birding before heading back to town for some lunch.

The birding was a bit slow, but nevertheless we managed to eke out a few specials. We did well with raptors, finding the scarce **Southern Banded Snake Eagle** along with **Brown Snake Eagle**, **Martial Eagle**, and **Amur Falcon**, while some other highlights were **Tambourine Dove**, **Livingstone's Turaco**, **Burchell's Coucal**, scope views of the difficult **Green Malkoha**, **Common Swift**, **White-eared Barbet**, **Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird**, **Square-tailed Drongo**, **Rufous-winged** and **Croaking Cisticolas**, **Rudd's Apalis**, **Brown Scrub Robin**, **Collared Olive**, **Grey**, and **Purple-banded Sunbirds**, **Spectacled Weaver**, **Grey Waxbill**, and **Brimstone Canary**. Mammals seen included **Samango Monkey**, **Red Bush Squirrel**, **White Rhinoceros**, **Bushbuck**, and **Natal Red Duiker**.

The afternoon saw us tackling the western shores, and although the day had warmed up a bit, conditions were still terrible with a strong wind blowing, and there wasn't much to keep us busy. Among the few species seen the highlights were **Western Osprey**, **Striped Kingfisher**, **Southern Black Flycatcher**, **Plain-backed Pipit**, and **Lemon-breasted Canary**. We also added a few mammals to the list, including **African Buffalo** and **Southern Reedbuck**.

Day 8, 24th January 2018. St Lucia to Eshowe via Amatikulu and Mtunzini

Although still mostly overcast, the conditions were a bit better today, and we headed for the iGwala Gwala Forest Trail on the outskirts of town at first light. Here we spent a few hours birding the coastal forest before heading back for breakfast. We had a pretty good morning, finding most of our main target species. Some of the highlights included **Woolly-necked Stork**, great views of **Livingstone's Turaco**, **Woodward's Batis**, **Southern Boubou**, **Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher**, **Terrestrial Brownbul**, **Sand** and **Common House Martins**, **Black Saw-wing**, **Black-bellied Starling**, **Red-capped Robin-Chat**, **Dark-backed Weaver**, nesting **Grey Sunbird**, and eventually a pair of **Green Twinspots** that unfortunately didn't hang around too long.

Following breakfast we gathered our things and continued further along the coast to the small Amatikulu Nature Reserve, where we spent a while before transferring inland to Eshowe via Mtunzini.

Amatikulu was on the quiet side. The conditions were slowly starting to worsen again, and we had to make do with a superb **Crowned Eagle** flyover, along with **Common Buttonquail** (a very good season and tour for this usually tricky species!), **African Pygmy Kingfisher**, **White-fronted Bee-eater**, **Lesser Honeyguide**, **Black-crowned Tchagra**, **Croaking Cisticola**, **Scarlet-chested Sunbird**, and **Yellow-throated Longclaw**. We had our lunch overlooking one of the dams, complete with **Goliath Heron**, **Intermediate Egret**, **Black Crake**, and **African Jacana**.

Mtunzini was next, and just as we exited the highway to head towards this small village for our main target, **Palm-nut Vulture**, we struck gold and found a pair along the offramp. We had splendid views. We continued onward to our next stop in the sugar cane farmlands, where we tried for **Fan-tailed Grassbird** (Broad-tailed Warbler) and the rare **Black Coucal**. On arriving in the area, we found the former quickly, but it took some searching before we eventually found the coucal – a rare, nomadic species that is notoriously difficult to find, so we counted ourselves fortunate! In this area we also found **African Marsh Harrier** and **Rufous-winged Cisticola** before we arrived in Eshowe just as the rain started putting an end to our day.



*The rare **Black Coucal** perched in the open for a short while.*

Day 9, 25th January 2018. Eshowe to Underberg

With today mostly being a travel day as we transferred to Underberg we only had a few spare hours in which to do some birding around Eshowe. We started at the nearby Dlinza Forest Aerial Boardwalk. This forest, with its excellent trails and canopy tower, is always a highlight and normally provides some good birding. This morning wasn't any different, and we did well, finding our main target at the canopy tower, **Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon** – a few individuals of which perched on open snags above the canopy – without much effort. We then headed onto the forest trails and the other main target for this forest, **Spotted Ground Thrush**, took a little while to find. But tracking its distinct contact call eventually led us to a somewhat skittish individual, although with a bit of persistence we enjoyed some great views of this bird as it perched quietly in the lower strata. There was a wealth of life in the forest, and we managed to find **Lemon Dove**, **African Emerald Cuckoo** (heard only), **Narina Trogon**, **Cape Batis**, **Square-tailed Drongo**, **African Dusky Flycatcher**, **Chorister Robin-Chat**, and **Black-bellied Starling**, among others. The dainty **Blue Duiker** showed well on the mammalian side.

All too soon we had to pull ourselves away and head back for breakfast, before beginning the long drive to Underberg in the southern Drakensberg. The drive was mostly uneventful, although we did enjoy the likes of **Crowned Eagle** and **White-necked Raven** en route before arriving at the small town of Bulwer, where we pulled in at the Marutswa Forest to have our picnic lunch. Sadly the place had become quite degraded since my last visit, with the main center now vandalized and no one present. With the weather deteriorating we decided to quickly head out to the forest to try and get some birding in. A family of **Southern Ground Hornbills** halted us on the way – always fantastic to see these birds outside of large game reserves! Just as we got into the forest we enjoyed looks at the dainty **White-starred Robin** before the heavens opened up and we were forced back to the car. We heard a few other species but didn't have enough time to try for them. We waited a while, but with the weather not improving we called it a day and completed the journey to Underberg. After arriving at our luxurious lodge in the mountains at the base of Sani Pass the

weather cleared for just long enough for us to unload all our things before the rain resumed – for the remainder of the day.

Day 10, 26th January 2018. Sani Pass

Dreading the weather for the day, we were pleasantly surprised when we woke to clear and sunny skies, the beginning of what would bode for a great day for us, as we journeyed up the famous Sani Pass with local legend Stuart Mclean. A pair of **Grey Crowned Cranes** greeted us right outside our windows as we made our way onto the lower slopes of the pass. We did well, finding **Red-necked Spurfowl**, **Black** and **Jacobin Cuckoos**, **Bokmakierie**, **Pied Starling**, and **Golden-breasted Bunting** early on. Continuing a bit further we birded some riverside vegetation for **Bush Blackcap** and weren't disappointed, enjoying stellar looks at this prized species, along with a good supporting cast including **Giant Kingfisher**, **Greater Honeyguide**, **Red-throated Wryneck**, **Cape Batis**, **Cape Grassbird**, **African Yellow Warbler**, **Fan-tailed Grassbird**, **Olive Thrush**, **Yellow Bishop**, and a number of the spectacular **Swee Waxbills**, along with a surprise **Forest Canary**.

Breaking for breakfast further up into a protea stand saw us connecting with the hoped-for **Gurney's Sugarbird**, along with **Wailing Cisticola** and **Malachite** and **Greater Double-collared Sunbirds**, while the South African border gave us our first **Barratt's Warbler** along with **Sentinel Rock Thrush**, **Drakensberg Prinia**, and **Red-winged Starling**. Moving into the higher reaches of the pass saw us enjoy an incredibly confiding **Barratt's Warbler** along with **Jackal Buzzard**, **Alpine Swift**, our first **Ground Woodpecker**, **Cape Bunting**, and eventually the highly sought-after **Drakensberg Rockjumper**. While enjoying watching these spectacular birds bounding around effortlessly on the steep slopes we also found another sought-after species for the area, **Drakensberg Siskin**, and enjoyed our first looks at this bird. **African Rock Pipit**, however, frustrated us, remaining out of sight.



The unique Drakensberg Rockjumper is always a treat to see.

We continued up the last switchbacks at the top of the pass before heading into Lesotho. Our first stop inside this country gave us the sought-after **Mountain Pipit**, while **Sickle-winged Chat**, **Karoo Prinia**, and **Yellow Canary** showed nearby. A river held a few **African Black Ducks** along with **Brown-throated Martin**. Pressing on further, we made our way to the **Bearded Vulture** nest and found the youngster moving about the general area and watched as it came in to land, alighting on the rocky slopes. We enjoyed some incredible scope views at length of this prized species. Rare Black-headed Canaries were seen a few days ago, and we spent some time searching for them, without luck, sadly. Despite not finding the canaries, there were many other species to keep us occupied, which included numerous **Cape Vultures** and **Horus Swifts** overhead, groups of **Ground Woodpeckers**, a pair of **Drakensberg Rockjumpers**, a party of **Grey Tits**, **Cape** and **Sentinel Rock Thrushes** side-by-side offering great comparative views, **Mountain Wheatear**, numbers of **Drakensberg Siskins**, and eventually an **African Rock Pipit** that actually showed itself (after we had heard many calling)! Following a hearty lunch we turned around and headed for the Sani Top Chalets, where we had a beer to celebrate our highly successful day. Groups of **White Stork**, **Southern Bald Ibis**, and **Cape Crow** saw us off as we headed back down the pass. The only notable bird on the way back was a lone **Grey-winged Francolin**. Then the rain started once more, and we retired for the day. We had little to complain about, however, as we had had a truly wonderful day, finding practically all of our targets and managing to see just over 100 species for the day. Although mammals weren't in big supply, we did find **Rock Hyrax** and **Sloggett's Vlei Rat**.

Day 11, 27th January 2018. Departure from Durban

With a midday departure from King Shaka Airport in Durban we had no time to do any birding. We had an early breakfast before packing and getting on the road. Travel was smooth, and we arrived at the airport in good time, where the trip ended.

Many thanks to John, Margaret, and Gerry for the many laughs, good times, and an extremely successful birding tour of the eastern subtropical route of South Africa. I am looking forward to the next one!



The scenic southern Drakensberg brought this trip to a close.

Bird List – Following IOC 8.2

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. South African endemics and near-endemics (**BirdLife South Africa**) are bolded.

Common name	Scientific name
Ducks, Geese and Swans (Anatidae)	
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>
Hottentot Teal	<i>Spatula hottentota</i>
Cape Shoveler	<i>Spatula smithii</i>
African Black Duck	<i>Anas sparsa</i>
Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>
Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>
Southern Pochard	<i>Netta erythrophthalma</i>
Maccoa Duck -VU	<i>Oxyura maccoa</i>
Guineafowl (Numididae)	
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
Crested Guineafowl	<i>Guttera pucherani</i>
Pheasants and allies (Phasianidae)	
Coqui Francolin (H)	<i>Peliperdix coqui</i>
Grey-winged Francolin	<i>Scleroptila afra</i>
Red-winged Francolin	<i>Scleroptila levaillantii</i>
Red-necked Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis afer</i>
Swainson's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Grebes (Podicipedidae)	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Flamingos (Phoenicopteridae)	
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
Storks (Ciconiidae)	
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>
African Openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>
Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>
Ibises, Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)	
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>
Southern Bald Ibis - VU	<i>Geronticus calvus</i>
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>
Hérons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)	
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>
Dwarf Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sturmii</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</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>
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Hamerkop (Scopidae)	
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Pelicans (Pelecanidae)	
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>
Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>
Cormorants, Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)	
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>
White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>
Anhingas, Darters (Anhingidae)	
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>
Secretarybird (Sagittariidae)	
Secretarybird - VU	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>
Ospreys (Pandionidae)	
Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Kites, Hawks and Eagles (Accipitridae)	
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>
Palm-nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>
Bearded Vulture - NT	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>
Hooded Vulture - CR	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>
White-backed Vulture - CR	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
Cape Vulture - EN	<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>
Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>
Southern Banded Snake Eagle - NT	<i>Circaetus fasciolatus</i>
Bateleur - NT	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>
Crowned Eagle - NT	<i>Stephanoaetus coronatus</i>
Martial Eagle - VU	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>
Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraetus wahlbergi</i>
Little Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter minullus</i>
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
African Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>
Black Harrier - EN	<i>Circus maurus</i>
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>

Common name	Scientific name
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>
Bustards (Otididae)	
Denham's Bustard - NT	<i>Neotis denhami</i>
White-bellied Bustard	<i>Eupodotis senegalensis</i>
Blue Korhaan - NT	<i>Eupodotis caerulescens</i>
Northern Black Korhaan	<i>Afrotis afraoides</i>
Flufftails (Sarothruridae)	
Red-chested Flufftail (H)	<i>Sarothrura rufa</i>
Rails, Crakes and Coots (Rallidae)	
African Rail (H)	<i>Rallus caerulescens</i>
Black Crake	<i>Amaurornis flavirostra</i>
African Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>
Cranes (Gruidae)	
Grey Crowned Crane - EN	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>
Blue Crane - VU	<i>Grus paradisea</i>
Buttonquail (Turnicidae)	
Common Buttonquail	<i>Turnix sylvaticus</i>
Stone-curlews, Thick-knees (Burhinidae)	
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>

Common name	Scientific name
Plovers (Charadriidae)	
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>
Black-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus melanopterus</i>
Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>
African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</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>
Jacanas (Jacanidae)	
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>
Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopacidae)	
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>
Curlew Sandpiper - NT	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
African Snipe	<i>Gallinago nigripennis</i>
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Courser, Pratincoles (Glareolidae)	
Bronze-winged Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus chalcopterus</i>
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>
Gulls, Terns and Skimmers (Laridae)	
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>
Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)	
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>
Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon	<i>Columba delegorguei</i>

Common name	Scientific name
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>
Turacos (Musophagidae)	
Livingstone's Turaco	<i>Tauraco livingstonii</i>
Purple-crested Turaco	<i>Tauraco porphyreolophus</i>
Grey Go-away-bird	<i>Corythaixoides concolor</i>
Cuckoos (Cuculidae)	
Burchell's Coucal	<i>Centropus burchellii</i>
Black Coucal	<i>Centropus grillii</i>
Green Malkoha	<i>Ceuthmochares australis</i>
Jacobin Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>
Diederik Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>
Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>
African Emerald Cuckoo (H)	<i>Chrysococcyx cupreus</i>
Black Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus clamosus</i>
Red-chested Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>
Barn Owls (Tytonidae)	
Western Barn Owl (H)	<i>Tyto alba</i>
Owls (Strigidae)	
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>
Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)	
European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>
Fiery-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus pectoralis</i>
Swifts (Apodidae)	
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>
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Horus Swift	<i>Apus horus</i>
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>
Mousebirds (Coliidae)	
Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>
White-backed Mousebird	<i>Colius colius</i>
Red-faced Mousebird	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>
Trogon (Trogonidae)	
Narina Trogon	<i>Apaloderma narina</i>
Rollers (Coraciidae)	
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>
Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)	
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>
Bee-eaters (Meropidae)	
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>
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>

Common name	Scientific name
Hornbills (Bucerotidae)	
Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>
Crowned Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros alboterminatus</i>
Trumpeter Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes bucinator</i>
African Barbets (Lybiidae)	
White-eared Barbet	<i>Stactolaema leucotis</i>
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus bilineatus</i>
Red-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus pusillus</i>
Acacia Pied Barbet	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>
Black-collared Barbet	<i>Lybius torquatus</i>
Crested Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>
Honeyguides (Indicatoridae)	
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>
Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>
Woodpeckers (Picidae)	
Red-throated Wryneck	<i>Jynx ruficollis</i>
Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>
Ground Woodpecker - NT	<i>Geocolaptes olivaceus</i>
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicops fuscescens</i>
Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)	
Red-footed Falcon - NT	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>
Amur Falcon	<i>Falco amurensis</i>
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Wattle-eyes, Batises (Platysteiridae)	
Cape Batis	<i>Batis capensis</i>
Woodward's Batis	<i>Batis fratrum</i>
Chinspot Batis	<i>Batis molitor</i>
Helmetshrikes (Prionopidae)	
White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>
Bushshrikes (Malaconotidae)	

Common name	Scientific name
Grey-headed Bushshrike	<i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i>
Olive Bushshrike (H)	<i>Chlorophoneus olivaceus</i>
Orange-breasted Bushshrike	<i>Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus</i>
Gorgeous Bushshrike	<i>Telophorus viridis</i>
Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>
Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>
Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>
Southern Boubou	<i>Laniarius ferrugineus</i>
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>
Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae)	
Grey Cuckooshrike (H)	<i>Coracina caesia</i>
Black Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga flava</i>
Shrikes (Laniidae)	
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>
Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>
Figbirds, Orioles & Turnagra (Oriolidae)	
Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>
Drongos (Dicruridae)	
Square-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus ludwigii</i>
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
Monarchs (Monarchidae)	
Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher	<i>Trochocercus cyanomelas</i>
African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>
Crows, Jays (Corvidae)	
Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>
White-necked Raven	<i>Corvus albicollis</i>
Rockjumpers (Chaetopidae)	
Drakensberg Rockjumper - NT	<i>Chaetops aurantius</i>
Fairy Flycatchers (Stenostiridae)	

Common name	Scientific name
Fairy Flycatcher (H)	<i>Stenostira scita</i>
Tits, Chickadees (Paridae)	
Southern Black Tit	<i>Melaniparus niger</i>
Grey Tit	<i>Melaniparus afer</i>
Larks (Alaudidae)	
Spike-heeled Lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>
Eastern Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda semitorquata</i>
Sabota Lark	<i>Calendulauda sabota</i>
Rudd's Lark - EN	<i>Heteromiraфра ruddi</i>
Eastern Clapper Lark	<i>Miraфра fasciolata</i>
Rufous-naped Lark	<i>Miraфра africana</i>
Flappet Lark	<i>Miraфра rufocinnamomea</i>
Monotonous Lark	<i>Miraфра passerina</i>
Botha's Lark - EN	<i>Spizocorys fringillaris</i>
Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>
Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)	
African Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>
Dark-capped Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus tricolor</i>
Sombre Greenbul	<i>Andropadus importunus</i>
Yellow-bellied Greenbul	<i>Chlorocichla flaviventris</i>
Terrestrial Brownbul	<i>Phyllastrephus terrestris</i>
Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)	
Black Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne pristoptera</i>
Grey-rumped Swallow	<i>Pseudhirundo griseopyga</i>
Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Banded Martin	<i>Riparia cincta</i>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
White-throated Swallow	<i>Hirundo albigularis</i>
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
Greater Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis cucullata</i>
Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>
Red-breasted Swallow	<i>Cecropis semirufa</i>

Common name	Scientific name
South African Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon spilodera</i>
Crombecs, African Warblers (Macrosphenidae)	
Cape Grassbird	<i>Sphenoeacus afer</i>
Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>
Leaf Warblers and allies (Phylloscopidae)	
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
Reed Warblers and allies (Acrocephalidae)	
Lesser Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>
African Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>
African Yellow Warbler	<i>Iduna natalensis</i>
Grassbirds and allies (Locustellidae)	
Little Rush Warbler	<i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>
Barratt's Warbler	<i>Bradypterus barratti</i>
Fan-tailed Grassbird	<i>Schoenicola brevirostris</i>
Cisticolas and allies (Cisticolidae)	
Lazy Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aberrans</i>
Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</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>
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>
Bar-throated Apalis	<i>Apalis thoracica</i>
Rudd's Apalis	<i>Apalis ruddi</i>
Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>
Green-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Stierling's Wren-Warbler	<i>Calamonastes stierlingi</i>
Laughingthrushes & allies (Leiothrichidae)	
Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>
Sylviid Babblers (Sylviidae)	
Bush Blackcap - VU	<i>Lioptilus nigricapillus</i>
Garden Warbler (H)	<i>Sylvia borin</i>
Chestnut-vented Warbler	<i>Sylvia subcoerulea</i>
White-eyes (Zosteropidae)	
Cape White-eye	<i>Zosterops virens</i>
African Yellow White-eye	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>
Sugarbirds (Promeropidae)	
Gurney's Sugarbird - NT	<i>Promerops gurneyi</i>
Starlings, Rhabdornis (Sturnidae)	
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
Black-bellied Starling	<i>Notopholia corusca</i>
Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>
Pied Starling	<i>Lamprotornis bicolor</i>
Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>
Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>
Oxpeckers (Buphagidae)	
Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>
Thrushes (Turdidae)	
Spotted Ground Thrush - EN	<i>Geokichla guttata</i>
Groundscraper Thrush	<i>Turdus litsitsirupa</i>
Kurriehane Thrush	<i>Turdus libonyana</i>
Olive Thrush	<i>Turdus olivaceus</i>
Karoo Thrush	<i>Turdus smithi</i>
Chats, Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)	
Bearded Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas quadrivirgata</i>
Kalahari Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas paena</i>
White-browed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Brown Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas signata</i>
Grey Tit-Flycatcher (H)	<i>Myioparus plumbeus</i>
Southern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pammelaina</i>
Pale Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pallidus</i>
Fiscal Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis silens</i>
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
African Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>
Cape Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha caffra</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 - NT	<i>Monticola explorator</i>
African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>
Buff-streaked Chat	<i>Campicoloides bifasciatus</i>
Sickle-winged Chat	<i>Emarginata sinuata</i>
Ant-eating Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>
Mountain Wheatear	<i>Myrmecocichla monticola</i>
Familiar Chat	<i>Oenanthe familiaris</i>
Sunbirds (Nectariniidae)	
Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>
Olive Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra olivacea</i>
Grey Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra veroxii</i>
Amethyst Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra amethystina</i>
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>
Malachite Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia famosa</i>
Neergaard's Sunbird - NT	<i>Cinnyris neergaardi</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)	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>
Yellow-throated Petronia	<i>Gymnoris superciliaris</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Weavers, Widowbirds (Ploceidae)	
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>
Thick-billed Weaver	<i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>
Spectacled Weaver	<i>Ploceus ocularis</i>
Cape Weaver	<i>Ploceus capensis</i>
Eastern Golden Weaver	<i>Ploceus subaureus</i>
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-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>
Waxbills, Munias and allies (Estrildidae)	
Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>
Green Twinspot	<i>Mandingoa nitidula</i>
Pink-throated Twinspot	<i>Hypargos margaritatus</i>
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>
Blue Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>
Swee Waxbill	<i>Coccygia melanotis</i>
Grey Waxbill	<i>Estrilda perreini</i>
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
Quailfinch	<i>Ortygospiza atricollis</i>
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Lonchura cucullata</i>
Indigobirds, Whydahs (Viduidae)	
Dusky Indigobird	<i>Vidua funerea</i>
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>
Shaft-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua regia</i>
Long-tailed Paradise Whydah	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>
Cuckoo-finch	<i>Anomalospiza imberbis</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)	
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
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>
Mountain Pipit - NT	<i>Anthus hoeschi</i>
Plain-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>
African Rock Pipit - NT	<i>Anthus crenatus</i>
Yellow-breasted Pipit - VU	<i>Anthus chloris</i>
Finches, Euphonias (Fringillidae)	
Forest Canary	<i>Crithagra scotops</i>
Black-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>
Lemon-breasted Canary	<i>Crithagra citrinpectus</i>
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</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>
Cape Canary	<i>Serinus canicollis</i>
Buntings (Emberizidae)	
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>
Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>
Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>
Total seen	381
Total heard only	10
Total recorded	391

Mammal List

Common name	Scientific name
Mongoose (Herpestidae)	
Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>
Common Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>
Meerkat	<i>Suricata suricatta</i>
Bovids (Bovidae)	
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>
Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>
Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>
Natal Red Duiker	<i>Cephalophus natalensis</i>
Common Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>
Blesbok	<i>Damaliscus pygargus</i>
Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>
Blue Duiker	<i>Philantomba monticola</i>
Southern Reedbuck	<i>Redunca arundinum</i>
Mountain Reedbuck	<i>Redunca fulvorufula</i>
Common Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>
African Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>
Nyala	<i>Tragelaphus angasii</i>
Common Eland	<i>Tragelaphus oryx</i>
Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>
Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>
Giraffes, Okapis (Giraffidae)	
Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>
Hippopotamuses (Hippopotamidae)	
Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>
Hogs, Pigs (Suidae)	
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>
Hyraxes (Procaviidae)	
Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Rabbits, Hares (Leporidae)	
Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>
Horses, Asses, Zebras (Equidae)	
Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>
Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae)	
White Rhinoceros	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>
Old World Monkeys (Cercopithecidae)	
Samango Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mitis labiatus</i>
Vervet Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>
Bushbabies, Galagos (Galagidae)	
Thick-tailed Greater Galago	<i>Otolemur crassicaudatus</i>
Old World Porcupines (Hystricidae)	
Cape Porcupine	<i>Hystrix africaeaustralis</i>
Old World Rodents (Muridae)	
Sloggett's Vlei Rat	<i>Otomys sloggetti</i>
Squirrels, Chipmunks, Marmots, Prairie Dogs (Sciuridae)	
Red Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus palliatus</i>
Total seen	33