



**FALSE BAY DAY TRIP, CUSTOM
TOUR 18 DECEMBER 2017**

By Dominic Rollinson



Cape Sugarbird (photo John Tinkler)

Highlights: Cape Gannet, Bank and Crowned Cormorants, Peregrine Falcon, African Oystercatcher, African Penguin, Cape Spurfowl, Cape and Sentinel Rock Thrushes, Cape Rockjumper, Cape Bulbul, Orange-breasted Sunbird, Cape Sugarbird, Sweet Waxbill, Cape Siskin, Bryde's Whale

Today I showed Rosalie from the United States around some of the top birding spots along the eastern shores of False Bay to the east of Cape Town.

After fetching Rosalie from Seepoint we made our way to the small town of Rooiels, which was our first birding destination of the day. The main target here was **Cape Rockjumper**, which was surprisingly easy to find today, and we eventually managed to find two or three groups, with the birds calling nonstop during our time here. On the rocky slopes we also came across **White-necked Raven**, **Familiar Chat**, **Cape and Sentinel Rock Thrushes**, **Cape Bunting**, and **Cape Siskin**, while both **Rock Kestrel** and **Peregrine Falcon** were seen hunting overhead. We heard a number of **Ground Woodpeckers** high up on the slopes but unfortunately could not get any visuals. In the fynbos around the village we came across **Orange-breasted Sunbird**, **Cape Bulbul**, and many **Cape Sugarbirds**. A single **Cape Gannet** was scoped just offshore as well as a Bryde's Whale.



Orange-breasted Sunbird (photo John Tinkler)

We moved into some nearby fynbos, where despite hearing **Victorin's Warbler** we could not get any views. We did, however, find **Yellow Bishop**, **Karoo Prinia**, **Southern Double-collared Sunbird**, **Cape White-eye**, and **Neddicky**.

From here we moved to the penguin colony at Stony Point in Betty's Bay. Many **African Penguins** were seen here at point-blank range, allowing for some nice photographic

opportunities. We also saw **Cape, Crowned, and Bank Cormorants** breeding on the nearby rocks. **Hartlaub's** and **Kelp Gulls** were seen nearby, as well as a flyby **African Oystercatcher**. Rock Hyraxes were seen lazing about the rocks among the penguins.



African Penguins

Our next stop was the beautiful Harold Porter National Botanical Garden. Here we added **Cape Spurfowl, Fiscal** and **African Dusky Flycatchers, Speckled Mousebird, White-necked Raven, Olive Thrush, Sombre Greenbul, Cape Batis, Cape Robin-Chat, Brimstone Canary, and Sweet Waxbill**.

From Betty's Bay we made our way back toward Cape Town and decided to pop in briefly at the Strandfontein Sewage Works to add a few waterbirds to the list. Unfortunately the wind was blowing a gale, which meant that many of the waterfowl were not as visible as normally. However, we did add **Yellow-billed Duck, Cape Shoveler, Cape Teal, and Spur-winged Goose**. Waders were also in abundance and included **Common Greenshank, Marsh and Curlew Sandpipers, Little Stint, Ruff, and Grey Plover**, as well as a single **African Snipe**. Exploring the many pans further yielded **Greater Flamingo, Glossy Ibis, White-throated Swallow, Cape Spurfowl, Spotted Thick-knee, and Black-shouldered Kite**.

We finished a thoroughly enjoyable day with a species count of 81 with many new species for Rosalie.