

SOUTH AFRICA: CUSTOM TRIP REPORT – BIRDS, MAMMALS AND SOUTH AFRICAN SIGHTS

6-22 April 2018

By Jason Boyce



The stand out mammal on our tour – we managed to see 5 different **Leopards** on this trip!



Overview

This report covers a private tour to South Africa for a couple, Jim and Barb, and a family. The tour covered a large part of South Africa; Jim, Barb, and I started in southern KwaZulu-Natal, where we spent time exploring the Oribi Gorge, Ntsikeni Vlei, and Karkloof. We targeted a few tricky species and were largely successful here. After an enjoyable couple of days in Wakkerstroom we headed onto Nelspruit to pick up our remaining clients and made our way into the world-renowned Kruger National Park. Skukuza delivered some wonderful sightings (including a pack of **African Wild Dogs!**). Thereafter we headed into the Sabi Sands Game Reserve for a few up-close-and-personal game sightings – I don't think we will ever forget the incredible **Leopard** sightings that we were privileged to have!

No South African trip is complete without a spin through the stunning landscapes of the Western Cape. We spent the first two nights in Hermanus and visited Cape Agulhas – the southernmost tip of Africa, where the Indian and Atlantic Oceans' currents meet. We were based in Simonstown on the Cape Peninsula over the next three days and had time to enjoy the ocean, the peninsula including the Cape of Good Hope (as well as a **Southern Elephant Seal!**), and Cape Town's Victoria & Albert Waterfront. We also managed to fit in a pelagic trip out of Simonstown and had amazing sightings of four albatross species among other impressive pelagic life.

Detailed Report

Day 1, 6th April 2018. Arrival in Durban

On a morning flight from Johannesburg Jim and Barb arrived in Durban around 10:30 a.m., and we planned for today to be a relaxing day, getting into the swing of things in KwaZulu-Natal. After we did some necessary shopping and grabbed some lunch our Land Rover, let's just say, lived up to its reputation and unfortunately let us down. Not too much time was lost, and we were soon dropped off at the Oribi Gorge Hotel, where we would spend two nights. Not too many species were found today, but we managed to do some birding in the late afternoon. Highlights included **Violet-backed Starling**, **African Green Pigeon**, **Black Saw-wing**, an exciting couple of **Black-collared Barbets**, and a few of the more common things in the area like **Southern Black Flycatcher**, **African Stonechat**, and the smart-looking **Red-winged Starling**. Tomorrow we would have a lot of time to explore the gorge properly and to target some tricky species that lurk in the area. Targets in the area included Knysna Woodpecker, Brown Scrub Robin, Black-bellied Starling, Green Twinspot, and Trumpeter Hornbill among other species.

Day 2, 7th April 2018. Oribi Gorge

We spent a full day exploring the beautiful Oribi Gorge Nature Reserve and surrounds. We kicked things off with a great breakfast at the hotel and then headed out, picking up a **Jackal Buzzard** on the way to the entrance. The gorge has some stunning forested habitat as well as some rocky grassy slopes, which together host a good diversity of species. Our first species in the mature forested sections included **Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler**, **Cape Batis**, **White-starred Robin**, **Olive Sunbird**, and **Cape White-eye**, and **African Goshawk** put in an appearance overhead. As the day progressed we were beginning to realize that many species were not very vocal and did not tend to show very well. We struggled for quite a while with some species in the area, including **Green Twinspot**, **Brown Scrub Robin** (both of which we managed to eventually get visuals of),



and, most frustratingly, **Knysna Woodpecker.** We only heard the latter a few times and were not able to get any visuals. A confiding **Green-backed Camaroptera** was a welcome addition to our list after a fairly slow morning. A moment of great excitement (that I'll always remember) happened when we spotted an **African Finfoot** swimming down the river in the gorge. We managed to get some pretty good looks and a picture or two before this mystical creature disappeared and despite our best efforts wasn't to be seen again.



A record shot of the mystical African Finfoot

The back farm roads delivered a few new species as well; these came in the form of White-necked Raven, Pied Crow, Quailfinch, and Greater Striped Swallow. The forested gorge was alive with birdsong, and we recorded the ever-present Sombre Greenbul, Collared Sunbird, Southern Boubou, Black-bellied Starling, African Firefinch, and Dark-backed Weaver on the drive back to our accommodation.

Day 3, 8th April 2018. Ntsikeni Vlei

Today was a fairly long day. We made our way west from Oribi Gorge and soon north toward Ntsikeni Vlei. The weather was definitely not on our side today, and most of the day was misty and drizzling, but we did manage to find some time during the middle of the day when the sun popped through and the rain stopped. Nstikeni Vlei is a little-known birding spot within South Africa, but it can surely produce some fantastic birds. There had been a lot of rain in the area, which made the roads a little slow, but once we managed to get into the reserve we picked up some cracking birds! **Black Harrier** was one of our first specials; a beautiful adult sat on the side of the road finishing up a meal it must just have caught. A covey of **Red-winged Francolin** was also a great surprise, one or two posing for a picture as well. Other species on the entrance road toward the lodge included **Denham's Bustard**, **Grey Crowned Crane**, **Red-capped Lark**, **Cape Crow**,



Sentinel Rock Thrush, and Ant-eating Chat, as well as Black Wildebeest, Blesbok, and a single Black-backed Jackal. We enjoyed our picnic lunch at the lodge and then tried our luck for some of our biggest targets of the day, members of the flufftail family. We first gave some of the resident Striped Flufftails a go, but despite a good hour of trying different spots we were unsuccessful and couldn't get any birds to respond. We then tried Red-chested Flufftail – we certainly had more success with this species. A male bird responded nicely and gave some great views at the back end of a small clearing. A first flufftail and a new family for Jim and Barb. Success!



Sarothruridae (Flufftails): a very special bird family with only four representatives in South Africa. Pictured here is **Red-chested Flufftail** – a first member of the family for both Jim and Barb.

Other species in the area that we enjoyed during the course of the day were **White-necked Raven**, **Jackal Buzzard**, a beautiful pair of **Secretarybirds**, **Buff-streaked Chat**, **Pied Starling**, and both **Fan-tailed** and **Long-tailed Widowbirds**. Our day had come to an end, and we started our journey north to Underberg. Many thanks to Dalu, the caretaker and local guide at Ntsikeni Vlei – we will return for more excellent birding.

Day 4, 9th April 2018. KwaZulu-Natal Mistbelt Grasslands IBA and Blue Swallow

Late summer and early fall in the southern hemisphere can be a tricky time to bird, and, if you have the choice, most species in South Africa are easier to find and photograph in the spring and early summer. We were making the most of the late-summer birds, though, and picked up a nice suite of species around Donnybrook in the indigenous forest patches of the KwaZulu-Natal Mistbelt Grasslands IBA. On the drive toward the forest a pair of **Lazy Cisticolas** entertained us for a little while before a flock of **African Olive Pigeons** also showed nicely. Further into the



forest we found Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler, Terrestrial Brownbul, Chorister Robin-Chat, White-starred Robin, and Dark-backed Weaver. A pair of Olive Woodpeckers showed rather nicely, while a few minutes later we noticed a large raptor soaring in the distance, a beautiful adult Martial Eagle. Red-throated Wryneck was heard calling on the road out of the forest. We stopped and spotted the wryneck swaying in the wind on a rather flimsy perch. The bird was fairly confiding, and we managed a few good pictures.

We headed east from Donnybrook and descended into the valley on the Hela Hela Pass road. We were fortunate to come across a beautiful light-phase **European Honey Buzzard** catching a few thermals above us. We also found the likes of **Swee Waxbill**, **Yellow-fronted Canary**, and **White-browed Scrub Robin**, while **Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird** called continuously. Our highlight of the day came around lunch time – we spent some time in the grasslands atop the hillsides in the area looking for a prized species, the **Blue Swallow**. It took us some time, but we did manage to find a pair of these majestic birds – truly magical to watch them take flight over the rolling grasslands! A **Lanner Falcon** flyby late in the day was also welcome.



Blue Swallow is very habitat-specific, and unfortunately this 'mistbelt grassland' habitat is under threat in South Africa.

Day 5, 10th April 2018. Karkloof Forest

Some of the most beautiful indigenous forest in the area is near Karkloof, and the Benvie Farm must certainly have some of the most beautiful gardens in KwaZulu-Natal. We started our morning in the roadside forest near Benvie. There was a good amount of activity, about including much bird song. We picked up the likes of **Swee Waxbill**, **Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher** posing nicely for us, **Dark-backed Weaver**, and **Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler**, and **Bush Blackcap** allowed us a very brief glimpse and then, frustratingly, disappeared. We arrived at the entrance gate, where, much to our surprise, a confiding **Forest Buzzard** greeted us. The buzzard was perched at eye-level and watched us as we enjoyed seeing this uncommon *Buteo* species. The gardens were lovely and echoed with the calls of **Knysna Turaco**, **Sombre Greenbul**, **Olive Sunbird** as well as **Burchell's Coucal**, which all gave us visuals. We spent a bit of time here and



eventually managed to see **Orange Ground Thrush** – unfortunately, however, the pair was not interested in hanging around.



A Forest Buzzard at eye level? A great sighting!

After our time in the Midlands area we headed north (on a fairly long drive) to the famous Wakkerstroom grassland and wetland areas. Wakkerstroom is indeed well known among local and international birding circles for some spectacular grassland birding including a few endemic and endangered lark species.

Day 6, 11th April 2018. Wakkerstroom Birding

On a full day of birding the Wakkerstroom area we were joined by a BirdLife-South-Africa-trained local guide, Lucky. Lucky knows the area intimately and of course offered some fantastic local knowledge for a few trickier species. We started with checking an area for Bush Blackcap, but this time this species eluded us. We did, however, pick up the likes of **Drakensberg Prinia**, **Long-billed Pipit**, and **Wailing Cisticola**. Later that morning we successfully connected with **White-bellied Bustard** as well as **Black-winged Lapwing** – two of our bigger targets for the day. The bustards were fairly confiding and allowed us to watch them for some time. We had really nice sightings of **Southern Bald Ibis** in the same area as we were starting to move on. Rudd's Lark and Botha's Lark proved tough, and we didn't manage to find them today, much to our disappointment. Considering the very difficult weather conditions throughout the day, with some light rain and wind, we still had an enjoyable day out, even managing to see a national rarity late in the day. A single **Red-necked Phalarope** had pitched up at the Wakkerstroom wetlands a few days prior to our arrival. It was hanging around in one of the roadside pools, and with some scanning we picked it up and enjoyed some scope views too.





One of the female White-bellied Bustards that we enjoyed in the Wakkerstroom grasslands.

That afternoon saw us head out for a few more targets, one being **African Rock Pipit**. The site for the pipit produced a couple **Amur Falcon** too – a species that would soon move north on migration to escape the Southern African winter months, only returning again in November. The pipit itself took some work, but eventually in some light drizzle we managed to see a pair of these tricky-to-see passerines.

Day 7, 12th April 2018. Wakkerstroom to Nelspruit

It was another overcast morning in Wakkerstroom. We headed out into the grasslands to the north once again to see if we could get a few better visuals of Blue Korhaan. A pair of Lanner Falcons were spotted on one of the telephone poles alongside the road, and a few meters further on we did manage to find three distinctive 'miniature bustards'; these of course were the Blue Korhaans, which were slightly closer than on the previous day. We also enjoyed spending some time birding the wetland system right within the town. Here we managed to get a few more visuals of the Rednecked Phalarope that we picked up yesterday as well as of the sought-after African Rail, which for once decided that it was OK to step into the open for a couple seconds! One of the bridges over the wetland system at Wakkerstroom often has breeding South African Cliff Swallow, but due to it getting closer to the winter months there were only a few around. But we still managed to get great looks at them cruising slowly by our vehicle. From here we started our long drive to Nelspruit, where we would start the second leg of the tour.



Day 8. 13th April 2018. Kruger National Park

Our remaining clients arrived in Nelspruit in the late morning, which gave us some time to enjoy a walk through the Nelspruit's Lowveld National Botanical Garden, which is beautiful and well worth an early-morning walk. The birds weren't overly active this morning, but we did enjoy seeing Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird (or "mini-barbet", as we like to call it), Yellow-breasted Apalis, Emerald-spotted Wood Dove, Olive Woodpecker, Southern Black Tit, and Southern Black Flycatcher. We grabbed some take-away lunch, met up with the others at the airport, and started our eastern journey into the Kruger National Park. Having arrived safely at Malelane Gate we made a stop on the bridge overlooking the Crocodile River, which defines the southern border of the park. As usual the bird and mammal activity that one can see from this bridge was incredible. Here we had our first looks at Hippopotamus, African Elephant, Waterbuck, and South Africa's largest reptile, Nile Crocodile. We also picked up a few interesting birds here: Pied Kingfisher, Water Thick-knee, and the intriguing Red-billed Oxpeckers that spend most of their time on the larger animals, searching for ticks and insects.



The fascinating **Red-billed Oxpecker**

We were going to staying overnight in Skukuza for two nights, from where we would have enough time to explore the area as well as manage a day trip to one of the popular eastern camps, Lower Sabie.

Day 9, 14th April 2018. Skukuza, day trip to Lower Sabie

We had an early start today as we headed east into the glorious 'bushveld' sunrise to spend the day out near Lower Sabie. Lower Sabie now has a really good restaurant that overlooks the Sabie River – and so this would be our stop for brunch. One the way we enjoyed taking in the sights and sounds and of course did some birding too, **Yellow-billed** and **Black Storks**, the giant **Tawny** and **Martial**



Eagles, and Red-crested Korhaan being some of the highlights. The day was certainly made special by the large diversity of mammal species. Some of the most interesting mammals that we managed to see today included Chacma Baboon, Vervet Monkey, and Thick-tailed Greater Galago (Bushbaby), which we only managed to hear in the camp at night, Black-backed Jackal, Banded, Common Slender, and Common Dwarf Mongooses, Leopard, African Elephant, Plains Zebra, Common Warthog, Hippopotamus, Cape Buffalo, Greater Kudu, Nyala, Bushbuck, Impala, Waterbuck, and the dainty Klipspringer. A fantastic list of mammals, and some good memories of them for all!

We took a drive once again in the afternoon and were incredibly fortunate to stumble upon a male **Leopard** working his way up one of the drainage lines, presumable in the hope of ambushing some prey. We also added a few avian goodies on this afternoons drive; these included **Brown-headed Parrot**, **African Hawk-Eagle**, and a lovely **Pearl-spotted Owlet**.

Day 10, 15th April 2018. Kruger National Park and Sabie Sands Game Reserve

We started the day with a morning game drive in the Skukuza area by leaving as soon as the gate opened. This paid off really early as we were incredibly lucky to encounter a small pack of **African Wild Dogs** that were relaxing on and alongside the road. What an awesome surprise! We also spent some time at the Lake Panic Bird Hide, where we found some antelope species including **Nyala** and **Bushbuck**, both coming to have a drink.



African Wild Dog – always a treat!

We had somehow not managed to find **Giraffe** (which we did catch up with this morning) or White Rhinoceros the day before, and so this morning we were keeping our eyes peeled for both of these animals. We knew that we had a few more days within the Greater Kruger area, but we still wanted



to try and pick them up before leaving the Kruger National Park. **Mosque Swallow** was a nice surprise this morning as we were making our way out, a species that is seemingly extending its range to the south. Luck was on our side, and we picked up a stunning **White Rhinoceros** right alongside the road, a treat for all!

We arrived in the Sabie Sands Game Reserve with plenty of time. A really great lunch was followed by an exceptional afternoon game drive. We headed out on an open Toyota Landcruiser to see what we could find. We were lucky to bump into a few bird species that we hadn't picked up yet; these included **Magpie Shrike**, **Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill**, the beautiful **Lilac-breasted Roller**, and **Lappet-faced Vulture**. The tracker managed to catch sight of a male **Leopard**, and we were treated to close-up (really close-up!) views of it trying to track down the scent of another male leopard in his territory. We surely won't forget tracking this leopard later in the evening toward our camp and eventually right into our camp! The powerful animal almost made its way into the kitchen's back door but luckily moved off slowly after some scent-marking.



One of the many male **Leopards** that we managed to spend time with on the trip! This was the individual that came incredible close to grabbing a meal minutes before I snapped this photograph.

We ended the day by spotlight and the presence of a stunning **Spotted Eagle-Owl** surveying the bush from a large dead tree.

Day 11, 16th April 2018. Full day in Sabie Sands Game Reserve

This day was one of my personal favorites, a full day within the Sabie Sands Game Reserve enjoying game drives on open vehicles. Our driver-guide led us out of the lodge grounds at dawn, with our tracker riding on the jump seat scanning for tracks that would tell us where animals have been moving overnight. We had done so well up to this point with leopard sightings, and sure



enough we were once again lucky to see another male **Leopard** moving through thicker bush. I don't think any of us will forget watching this animal within three meters of a small bachelor herd of **Impala**, but for some reason the opportunity didn't present itself exactly right for him to take his chance. A thrilling moment! We also watched a number of **Spotted Hyenas** for some time and enjoyed their antics. A couple bird species that are worth mentioning were **Saddle-billed Stork**, **Black Cuckooshrike**, **Bushveld Pipit**, **Stierling's Wren-Warbler**, **Black-bellied Bustard**, and **Southern White-crowned Shrike**.



Spotted Hyena: A real highlight was watching these strange animals at a den site and then moving off to this waterhole for a quick drink and a cool-off.

Later that evening toward the end of the game drive our guides had finally managed to track down a small pride of **Lions**. We headed to their location just as the sun was setting and spent some time with three lazy (the cliché was very appropriate for these three) **Lions**. They hardly moved but being up so close and personal to these impressive animals was a treat.

Day 12, 17th April 2018. Transfer to Hermanus, Western Cape

Today would essentially be a travel day, but not before enjoying another morning game drive as well as a lovely breakfast. By 10:00 we were on the way to the airport and arrived in Hermanus that evening at about 18:30, of course just in time to catch the now later sunset in the Western Cape! Everyone had earned some much-needed rest and retreated to their rooms ready for the Western Cape leg of the trip.

Day 13, 18th April 2018. Agulhas Day Trip

The town of Hermanus has a beautiful view over the Atlantic Ocean, and during the latter months of the year it is a superb place to keep a look out for both Humpback and Southern Right Whales.



We unfortunately didn't see any during this visit but enjoyed the views nevertheless. We headed south-east to the town of Agulhas to visit the southernmost tip of Africa and the point where the Atlantic and Indian Oceans meet. As can be seen in the picture below we had a marvelous, sunny morning and thoroughly enjoyed exploring Agulhas. We also climbed the famous Agulhas lighthouse right to the top, where the view was just brilliant. Lunch at a local spot called Suidpunt Potpourri was delightful – as too was the fynbos habitat rolling across the sandy landscape.



Looking south from the southernmost tip of Africa – with the Atlantic Ocean to the right while the Indian Ocean is to the left.

We spent time checking out some of the local sites for Knysna Woodpecker, but once again the weather was against us, and while things had been looking promising weather-wise for most of the day, much to our frustration the afternoon was covered in rain showers, and we didn't manage to find this South African endemic.

Day 14, 19th April 2018. Hermanus to Simonstown via Betty's Bay and Harold Porter

We left the scenic town of Hermanus and headed west toward Cape Town itself. We would be spending the next three nights in Simonstown on the Cape Peninsula, a beautiful setting overlooking False Bay. On the way we made a few stops important birding sites in the area. The first of these was Betty's Bay, world-famous in the birding world for the African Penguin colony at Stony Point. Hundreds of Penguins call this small point their home, along with good numbers of breeding cormorants as well as African Oystercatcher. The penguins were great to watch, some preening, others waddling between the water and the land, and some out in the deep blue, fishing for a meal. We did manage to see not only the more common Crowned and Whitebreasted Cormorants but both Bank and Cape Cormorants as well. The latter two are on the IUCN endangered species list and can sometimes be tricky to find. After we spent some time here we made our way to the Harold Porter National Botanical Garden, where we also enjoyed lunch. A walk through the 'fynbos' garden produced Cape Sugarbird, Malachite Sunbird, and Sombre Greenbul as well as a fly-by Peregrine Falcon. Our last stop before heading to our guest house in Simonstown was the Strandfontein Sewage Works - here the main attraction for the day for us were the flocks of Greater Flamingos – it was stunning to see a pink wash all over the settling ponds. We checked into our accommodation later that afternoon and drove back to town for a good evening meal – freshly-caught fish has never tasted any better!



Day 15, 20 April 2018. The Cape Peninsula

One of the best things to do when visiting Cape Town, whether you are a naturalist or just a general tourist, is to go and see Cape Point. This famous landmark set in the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, which is part of Table Mountain National Park, was where we spent most of the day. Other than a few interesting bird species, such as **Red-winged Starling**, **Cape Bunting**, the endemic **Orange-breasted Sunbird**, the endemic **Cape Siskin**, and **Cape Gannet**, there were some really interesting mammals. Along the rocks of the Cape of Good Hope we saw a few large **Cape Fur Seals** as well as a giant (and fairly out-of-place) **Southern Elephant Seal**. These beasts are annual visitors but still considered a national rarity, and of course this was a fantastic surprise. Other mammals included **Bontebok**, **Common Eland**, and **Chacma Baboon**. After a quick ride up to the top of the hill by funicular, the view from the old lighthouse, which stands 238 meters above sea level and was completed in 1859, is absolutely tremendous! A must-visit site for any world traveler!

We took an afternoon venture to the western shores of the peninsula to the well-known village of Kommetjie (a spot that both Jim and Barb had enjoyed visiting over the years), which was full of life, not to mention the surfers enjoying the surf. Here we admired our second-to-last Cape Town sunset before heading to the Blue Water Café for a fantastic dinner, where we chatted about what we could expect tomorrow on the pelagic trip.

Day 16, 21st April 2018. – Simonstown Pelagic Trip.

Jim, Barb, and I made our way down to the Simonstown harbor. where we embarked on a Birding Ecotours pelagic trip early that morning.



The beautiful sight of Cape Point from our pelagic boa.



We were joined by Birding Ecotours' resident guide Wian van Zyl, who with his sharp eyes was a great asset aboard, and together we had a cracking day at sea. When you charter a boat off Cape Point you never know what weather you will encounter beyond the point – we were incredibly fortunate to have a perfect day out with just enough swell to keep the birds up and moving around. On the way out we started to connect with our first pelagic species of the morning, **Sooty Shearwater**, **White-chinned Petrel**, and slightly later **Cory's Shearwater** were all showing after about an hour of travel.

Once we hit the deep water a few more individuals of the same species cruised by, giving us more time to get to grips with the birds. (For many on board this was their first time seeing these incredible pelagic birds!) Up ahead we noticed a few boats on the horizon. One was an oil tanker, in which of course we were not interested, but the other two were both long-ling fishing boats – yes, we were in business. As we approached we started to pick up species fast: **Brown Skua**, **Great Shearwater**, the massive **Northern Giant Petrel**, and our first albatross species in the forms of **Black-browed**, **Shy**, and **Indian Yellow-nosed Albatrosses**, and a single **Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross** flew past too. A few minutes later the calls of "Jaeger" rang from the boat. It was a surprise **Long-tailed Jaeger** – a very special sighting! Other goodies for the day included **Cape Gannet** and **Greater Crested Tern**, thousands of **Cape Fur Seals** within the bay, and a whale breaching, which was presumed to be a **Southern Right Whale**.

Thanks to all for a super day out at sea – once again the cold Cape waters delivered the goods, and everybody was incredibly happy with our day.



A smart Cory's Shearwater zipped by the boat for an inspection.

Massive congratulations must also go to our client Susan, who completed the Freedom Day Swim from Robben Island to Blouberg on the same day on which we did the pelagic trip.



One of the main reasons for heading to Cape Town was for Susan to have the chance to compete in the swim. She did more than just take part but finished in a very good time. Well done, Susan!

Day 17, 22 April 2018. Final day in the Cape

Well, our tour had almost come to an end, but we had one more morning to enjoy breakfast and then a walk around the Boulder's Beach **African Penguin** colony. We also entertained ourselves in the local craft markets and curio shops, where a few purchases were made, gifts for friends back home. After driving to Cape Town we stopped at the world-renowned Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, and soon we were at the Victoria & Albert Waterfront, where most of us would spend the night before flights home the next day.

A big thank you to our clients for a wonderful tour! I thoroughly enjoyed it, and I trust you did too.

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 are bolded.

Common name	Scientific name
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Ducks, Geese, Swans (Anatidae)	
White-faced Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna viduata
Spur-winged Goose	Plectropterus gambensis
Egyptian Goose	Alopochen aegyptiaca
South African Shelduck	Tadorna cana
Hottentot Teal	Spatula hottentota
Cape Shoveler	Spatula smithii
African Black Duck	Anas sparsa
Yellow-billed Duck	Anas undulata
Cape Teal	Anas capensis
Red-billed Teal	Anas erythrorhyncha
Maccoa Duck - VU	Oxyura maccoa
Guineafowl (Numididae)	
Helmeted Guineafowl	Numida meleagris
Pheasants and Allies (Phasianida	ae)
Coqui Francolin	Peliperdix coqui
Red-winged Francolin	Scleroptila levaillantii



Common name	Scientific name
Crested Francolin	Dendroperdix sephaena
Cape Spurfowl	Pternistis capensis
Natal Spurfowl	Pternistis natalensis
Red-necked Spurfowl	Pternistis afer
Swainson's Spurfowl	Pternistis swainsonii
Common Quail (H)	Coturnix coturnix
	,
Penguins (Spheniscidae)	
African Penguin - EN	Spheniscus demersus
Albatrosses (Diomedeidae)	
Black-browed Albatross - EN	Thalassarche melanophris
Shy Albatross	Thalassarche cauta
Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross - EN	Thalassarche chlororhynchos
Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross - EN	Thalassarche carteri
Petrels, Shearwaters, Diving Petrels	(Procellariidae)
Northern Giant Petrel	Macronectes halli
White-chinned Petrel - VU	Procellaria aequinoctialis
Cory's Shearwater	Calonectris borealis
Sooty Shearwater - NT	Ardenna grisea
Great Shearwater	Ardenna gravis
Grebes (Podicipedidae)	
Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis
	,
Flamingos (Phoenicopteridae)	
Greater Flamingo	Phoenicopterus roseus
Storks (Ciconiidae)	
Yellow-billed Stork	Mycteria ibis
Black Stork	Ciconia nigra
Woolly-necked Stork - VU	Ciconia episcopus
White Stork	Ciconia ciconia
Saddle-billed Stork	Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis
Marabou Stork	Leptoptilos crumenifer
Ibises, Spoonbills (Threskiornithida	e)



Common name	Scientific name
African Sacred Ibis	Threskiornis aethiopicus
Southern Bald Ibis - VU	Geronticus calvus
Hadada Ibis	Bostrychia hagedash
Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus
African Spoonbill	Platalea alba
Herons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)	
Striated Heron	Butorides striata
Squacco Heron	Ardeola ralloides
Western Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis
Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea
Black-headed Heron	Ardea melanocephala
Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea
Great Egret	Ardea alba
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta
Hamerkop (Scopidae)	
Hamerkop	Scopus umbretta
Pelicans (Pelecanidae)	
Great White Pelican	Pelecanus onocrotalus
Gannets, Boobies (Sulidae)	
Cape Gannet - EN	Morus capensis
Cormorants, Shags (Phalacrocorac	-
Reed Cormorant	Microcarbo africanus
Crowned Cormorant - NT	Microcarbo coronatus
Bank Cormorant - EN	Phalacrocorax neglectus
White-breasted Cormorant	Phalacrocorax lucidus
Cape Cormorant - EN	Phalacrocorax capensis
Secretarybird (Sagittariidae)	
Secretarybird - VU	Sagittarius serpentarius
Triangle In Eq. (A. 1997)	\ \
Kites, Hawks, Eagles (Accipitridae	
Black-winged Kite	Elanus caeruleus
African Harrier-Hawk	Polyboroides typus





Common name	Scientific name	
Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	
Red-knobbed Coot	Fulica cristata	
Cranes (Gruidae)		
Grey Crowned Crane - EN	Balearica regulorum	
Wattled Crane - VU	Grus carunculata	
Blue Crane - VU	Grus paradisea	
Buttonquail (Turnicidae)		
Common Buttonquail	Turnix sylvaticus	
Stone-curlews, Thick-knees (Bu	urhinidae)	
Water Thick-knee	Burhinus vermiculatus	
Spotted Thick-knee	Burhinus capensis	
Oystercatchers (Haematopodid	lae)	
African Oystercatcher	Haematopus moquini	
Stilts, Avocets (Recurvirostrida	ae)	
Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus	
Pied Avocet	Recurvirostra avosetta	
Plovers (Charadriidae)		
Blacksmith Lapwing	Vanellus armatus	
White-crowned Lapwing	Vanellus albiceps	
Black-winged Lapwing	Vanellus melanopterus	
Crowned Lapwing	Vanellus coronatus	
African Wattled Lapwing	Vanellus senegallus	
Three-banded Plover	Charadrius tricollaris	
Jacanas (Jacanidae)		
African Jacana	Actophilornis africanus	
Cara Jarin and Cara (C. 1	1)	
Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopacid		
African Snipe	Gallinago nigripennis	_
Red-necked Phalarope	Phalaropus lobatus	
Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola	_



Common name	Scientific name
Gulls, Terns and Skimmers (Larid	ae)
Grey-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus
Hartlaub's Gull	Chroicocephalus hartlaubii
Kelp Gull	Larus dominicanus
Greater Crested Tern	Thalasseus bergii
Sandwich Tern	Thalasseus sandvicensis
Skuas (Stercorariidae)	
Brown Skua	Stercorarius antarcticus
Long-tailed Jaeger	Stercorarius longicaudus
Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)	
Rock Dove	Columba livia
Speckled Pigeon	Columba guinea
African Olive Pigeon	Columba arquatrix
Red-eyed Dove	Streptopelia semitorquata
Ring-necked Dove	Streptopelia capicola
Laughing Dove	Spilopelia senegalensis
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	Turtur chalcospilos
Tambourine Dove	Turtur tympanistria
African Green Pigeon	Treron calvus
Turacos (Musophagidae)	
Knysna Turaco	Tauraco corythaix
Purple-crested Turaco	Tauraco porphyreolophus
Grey Go-away-bird	Corythaixoides concolor
Cuckoos (Cuculidae)	
Burchell's Coucal	Centropus burchellii
Burchen's Coucar	Centropus varchettii
Barn Owls (Tytonidae)	
Western Barn Owl	Tyto alba
Orala (Staria: 1)	
Owls (Strigidae)	D. LC. i
Spotted Eagle-Owl	Bubo africanus
Pearl-spotted Owlet	Glaucidium perlatum
Marsh Owl	Asio capensis



Common name	Scientific name
Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)	
Fiery-necked Nightjar (H)	Caprimulgus pectoralis
Swifts (Apodidae)	
African Palm Swift	Cypsiurus parvus
Alpine Swift	Tachymarptis melba
African Black Swift	Apus barbatus
Little Swift	Apus affinis
White-rumped Swift	Apus caffer
Mousebirds (Coliidae)	
Speckled Mousebird	Colius striatus
Red-faced Mousebird	Urocolius indicus
Rollers (Coraciidae)	
Purple Roller	Coracias naevius
Lilac-breasted Roller	Coracias caudatus
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)	
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	Halcyon albiventris
Striped Kingfisher	Halcyon chelicuti
Malachite Kingfisher	Corythornis cristatus
Giant Kingfisher	Megaceryle maxima
Pied Kingfisher	Ceryle rudis
Bee-eaters (Meropidae)	
Little Bee-eater	Merops pusillus
White-fronted Bee-eater	Merops bullockoides
European Bee-eater	Merops apiaster
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Hoopoes (Upupidae)	
African Hoopoe	Upupa africana
Wood Hoopoes (Phoeniculidae)	
Green Wood Hoopoe	Phoeniculus purpureus
Common Scimitarbill	Rhinopomastus cyanomelas
Ground Hornbills (Bucorvidae)	



Common name	Scientific name
Southern Ground Hornbill - VU	Bucorvus leadbeateri
Hornbills (Bucerotidae)	
Southern Red-billed Hornbill	Tockus rufirostris
Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	Tockus leucomelas
Crowned Hornbill	Lophoceros alboterminatus
African Grey Hornbill	Lophoceros nasutus
Trumpeter Hornbill	Bycanistes bucinator
African Barbets (Lybiidae)	
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird	Pogoniulus bilineatus
Acacia Pied Barbet	Tricholaema leucomelas
Black-collared Barbet	Lybius torquatus
Crested Barbet	Trachyphonus vaillantii
Honeyguides (Indicatoridae)	
Scaly-throated Honeyguide (H)	Indicator variegatus
Woodpeckers (Picidae)	
Red-throated Wryneck	Jynx ruficollis
Golden-tailed Woodpecker	Campethera abingoni
Knysna Woodpecker (H) - NT	Campethera notata
Ground Woodpecker (H) - NT	Geocolaptes olivaceus
Bearded Woodpecker	Chloropicus namaquus
Cardinal Woodpecker	Dendropicos fuscescens
Olive Woodpecker	Dendropicos griseocephalus
Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)	
Rock Kestrel	Falco rupicolus
Amur Falcon	Falco amurensis
Lanner Falcon	Falco biarmicus
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus
African & New World Parrots (Ps	
Brown-headed Parrot	Poicephalus cryptoxanthus
Wattle-eyes, Batises (Platysteirida	
Cape Batis	Batis capensis





Cape Crow Pied Crow White-necked Raven Tits, Chickadees (Paridae) Southern Black Tit Larks (Alaudidae) Spike-heeled Lark	Corvus capensis Corvus albus Corvus albicollis Melaniparus niger Chersomanes albofasciata
White-necked Raven Tits, Chickadees (Paridae) Southern Black Tit Larks (Alaudidae)	Corvus albicollis Melaniparus niger
Tits, Chickadees (Paridae) Southern Black Tit Larks (Alaudidae)	Melaniparus niger
Southern Black Tit Larks (Alaudidae)	
Southern Black Tit Larks (Alaudidae)	
Larks (Alaudidae)	
` '	Chersomanes alhofasciata
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Chersomanes albofasciata
Spike-heeled Lark	Chersomanes alhofasciata
	Chersomanes albojasciala
Eastern Long-billed Lark	Certhilauda semitorquata
Sabota Lark	Calendulauda sabota
Eastern Clapper Lark	Mirafra fasciolata
Pink-billed Lark (H)	Spizocorys conirostris
Red-capped Lark	Calandrella cinerea
Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)	
Cape Bulbul	Pycnonotus capensis
Dark-capped Bulbul	Pycnonotus tricolor
Sombre Greenbul	Andropadus importunus
Terrestrial Brownbul	Phyllastrephus terrestris
Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)	T
Black Saw-wing	Psalidoprocne pristoptera
Brown-throated Martin	Riparia paludicola
Banded Martin	Riparia cincta
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica
White-throated Swallow	Hirundo albigularis
Wire-tailed Swallow	Hirundo smithii
Blue Swallow - VU	Hirundo atrocaerulea
Rock Martin	Ptyonoprogne fuligula
Greater Striped Swallow	Cecropis cucullata
Mosque Swallow	Cecropis senegalensis
South African Cliff Swallow	Petrochelidon spilodera
Crombecs, African Warblers (Macr	<u> </u>
Cape Grassbird (H)	Sphenoeacus afer
Long-billed Crombec	Sylvietta rufescens







Common name	Scientific name
African Stonechat	Saxicola torquatus
Buff-streaked Chat	Campicoloides bifasciatus
Ant-eating Chat	Myrmecocichla formicivora
Mountain Wheatear	Myrmecocichla monticola
Familiar Chat	Oenanthe familiaris
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Sunbirds (Nectariniidae)	
Collared Sunbird	Hedydipna collaris
Orange-breasted Sunbird	Anthobaphes violacea
Olive Sunbird	Cyanomitra olivacea
Amethyst Sunbird	Chalcomitra amethystina
Malachite Sunbird	Nectarinia famosa
Southern Double-collared Sunbird	Cinnyris chalybeus
Greater Double-collared Sunbird	Cinnyris afer
White-bellied Sunbird	Cinnyris talatala
Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches	s (Passeridae)
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus
Cape Sparrow	Passer melanurus
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	Passer diffusus
Yellow-throated Petronia	Gymnoris superciliaris
Weavers, Widowbirds (Ploceidae)	
Red-billed Buffalo Weaver	Bubalornis niger
Spectacled Weaver (H)	Ploceus ocularis
Cape Weaver	Ploceus capensis
Southern Masked Weaver	Ploceus velatus
Village Weaver	Ploceus cucullatus
Dark-backed Weaver	Ploceus bicolor
Fan-tailed Widowbird	Euplectes axillaris
Red-collared Widowbird	Euplectes ardens
Long-tailed Widowbird	Euplectes progne
Waxbills, Munias and Allies (Estri	ldidae)
Green Twinspot	Mandingoa nitidula
Red-billed Firefinch	Lagonosticta senegala
African Firefinch	Lagonosticta rubricata
Jameson's Firefinch	Lagonosticta rhodopareia





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Common name	Scientific name
Total Seen	333
Total Heard Only	13
Total Recorded	346

Mammal List

Common Name	Scientific Name
Bats	
	n
Fruit Bat species	Rousettus sp.
Rodents	
Tree Squirrel	Paraxerus cepapi
Scrub Hare	Lepus saxatilis
Primates	
Chacma Baboon	Papio ursinus
Vervet Monkey	Chlorocebus pygerythrus
Samango Monkey	Cercopithecus mitis labiatus
Thick-tailed Greater Galago (H)	Otolemur crassicaudatus
Carnivores	
African Wild Dog	Lycaon pictus
Lion	Panthera leo
Leopard	Panthera pardus
Spotted Hyena	Crocuta crocuta
Black-backed Jackal	Canis mesomelas
Side-striped Jackal	Canus adustus
Common Dwarf Mongoose	Helogale parvula
Yellow Mongoose	Cynictis penicillata
Banded Mongoose	Mungos mungo
Common Slender Mongoose	Herpestes sanguineus
Elephants	
African Elephant	Loxodonta africana



Common Name	Scientific Name
Ungulates	
Plains Zebra	Equus quagga
White Rhinoceros	Ceratotherium simum
Common Warthog	Phacochoerus africanus
Cape Buffalo	Syncerus caffer
Bushbuck	Tragelaphus scriptus
Impala	Aepyceros melampus
Hippopotamus	Hippopotamus amphibius
Giraffe	Giraffa camelopardalis
Black Wildebeest	Connochaetes gnou
Blue Wildebeest	Connochaetes taurinus taurinus
Springbok	Antidorcas marsupialis
Bontebok	Damaliscus pygargus pygargus
Blesbok	Damaliscus pygargus phillipsi
Common Duiker	Sylvicapra grimmia
Klipspringer	Oreotragus oreotragus
Common Eland	Tragelaphus oryx
Greater Kudu	Tragelaphus strepsiceros
Nyala	Tragelaphus angasii
Waterbuck	Kobus ellipsiprymnus
Seals	
Cape Fur Seal	Arctocephalus pusillus pusillus
Southern Elephant Seal	Mirounga leonina
Whales	
Whales	
Southern Right Whale (probably)	Eubalaena australis
Total	42

