



18-DAY SUBTROPICAL SOUTH AFRICA SET DEPARTURE TRIP REPORT

14 – 31 OCTOBER 2019

By Dominic Rollinson



Cape Eagle-Owl was an unexpected sighting in the Drakensberg Mountains.

Overview

This set-departure Subtropical South Africa tour is a comprehensive tour of eastern south Africa that visits a number of South Africa's major game reserves and includes a broad diversity of habitats. Due to the diversity of habitats visited it often results in an impressive bird and mammal list. The tour starts in the coastal city of Durban, then heads inland to the Drakensberg Mountains, down into the lowlands of Zululand, and then through the highveld areas to the Kruger National Park, finally ending in the drier woodlands north of Johannesburg.

During this 18-day tour we managed an impressive bird list of 463 species seen (plus 6 species heard only), including many South African endemics and near-endemics such as **Cape Gannet**, **Southern Bald Ibis**, **Jackal Buzzard**, **Grey-winged Francolin**, **Blue Crane**, **Blue Korhaan**, **Northern Black Korhaan**, **Rudd's**, **Botha's**, **Eastern Long-billed**, and **Large-billed Larks**, **Bush Blackcap**, **Cape Parrot**, **Cape and Sentinel Rock Thrushes**, **Buff-streaked**, **Sickle-winged**, and **Ant-eating Chats**, **Drakensberg Rockjumper**, **Ground Woodpecker**, **Cape Grassbird**, **Cloud Cisticola**, **Cape Penduline Tit**, **Karoo and Kalahari Scrub Robins**, **Chorister Robin-Chat**, **Fairy Flycatcher**, **African Rock**, **Yellow-breasted**, and **Mountain Pipits**, **Layard's and Barratt's Warblers**, **Grey Tit**, **Gurney's Sugarbird**, **Neergaard's**, **Greater Double-collared**, and **Southern Double-collared Sunbirds**, **Swee Waxbill**, **Forest Canary**, **Pink-throated Twinspot**, and **Drakensberg Siskin**.



*The loud and colorful **Purple-crested Turaco** showed well in Mkhuze Game Reserve.*

As always we paid special attention to the mammals on this tour, which resulted in a large selection of charismatic African wildlife and also a number of smaller and less-common-seen species. Some of the mammal highlights of this trip included **Lion**, **Leopard**, **Serval**, **Spotted Hyena**, **Side-striped Jackal**, **African Clawless Otter**, **African Elephant**, **White Rhinoceros**, **African**

Buffalo, Sable Antelope, Nyala, Blesbok, Mountain Reedbuck, Oribi, and Thick-tailed Greater Galago.

Detailed Report

Day 1, 14th October 2019. Arrival in Durban and Umhlanga birding

We arrived around mid-afternoon at our accommodation in the Umhlanga area, just north of Durban, and after quickly unpacking our bags we made our way to the nearby Umhlanga Nature Reserve for our first taste of Durban birding. This is a great little spot; some time spent in the wetland and coastal forest patches here can soon amount to an impressive bird list. Some of the highlights from this afternoon included **Little Bee-eater, Common Square-tailed Drongo, Rufous-winged Cisticola, Black-bellied Starling, Grey Sunbird, and Eastern (African) Golden Weaver**. There was a strong onshore wind blowing, which meant that a number of seabirds had moved close to the coast; a quick seawatch produced **Shy Albatross, White-chinned Petrel, Cape Gannet, Grey-headed Gull, and Sandwich Tern**. We enjoyed our first dinner of the trip overlooking a large wetland, listening to the cacophony of calling frogs.

Day 2, 15th October 2019. Umhlanga birding and transfer to the Drakensberg

As we were still after a number of specials in the area we decided to head back to Umhlanga Nature Reserve, which worked out well with good sightings of **Burchell's Coucal, Black-throated Wattle-eye, Cardinal and Golden-tailed Woodpeckers, Southern Boubou, African Paradise Flycatcher, Sombre Greenbul, Red-capped Robin-Chat, and Dark-capped Weaver**, with the highlight of the morning being a small group of **Red-headed Queleas** among **Southern Red Bishop** flocks. As we were loading the vehicle we had brief fly-over views of some of the feral population of **Rose-ringed Parakeets**.

After a quick breakfast at the guest house we hit the road and made our way inland toward the impressive Drakensberg, with a full day of birding en route. Our first stop was in the KwaZulu-Natal midlands for **Blue Swallow**. This Vulnerable (IUCN) swallow is restricted to montane grasslands, where it breeds in sink holes, and it is in trouble in South Africa due to habitat loss. Thankfully it played along today, and we had good but brief sightings of a single bird among the similar **Black Saw-wings** at our stakeout. We also found some other great birds in the general area, including **Crowned Eagle, Long-billed Pipit, Cape Crow, Wailing Cisticola, Drakensberg Prinia, Pied Starling, and Cape Longclaw**. After finding the Blue Swallow we headed through the Umkomaas valley, which offered more great birding with **Lesser Honeyguide, Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher, Olive Bushshrike, Southern Tchagra** (heard only), **Black-headed Oriole, African Firefinch, and Amethyst Sunbird** all seen on the drive.

Once we had left the valley we birded the Xumeni Forest for a couple of hours before making our way higher into the Drakensberg. The forest proved productive, and we had brief views of **Orange Ground Thrush, Narina Trogon, African Olive Pigeon, and White-starred Robin**. After a lot of work we eventually saw enough of the notoriously skulking **Barratt's Warbler**.

After a long productive day of birding we finally arrived at our accommodation for the evening, with a few good birds seen around Underberg en route, including **Grey Crowned Crane, African Black Duck, Long-crested Eagle, and Long-tailed Widowbird**.

Day 3, 16th October 2019. Sani Pass birding

Today proved to be one of the highlights of the trip as we made our way up the famous Sani Pass and into the kingdom of Lesotho with our knowledgeable local guides Stuart and Aldo. We left

our accommodation early and made our way toward the Sani Pass. Before even reaching the pass we had already encountered a number of our targets, including **Red-winged Francolin**, **Brown-backed Honeybird**, **Buff-streaked Chat**, **Bokmakierie**, **Red-throated Wryneck**, **Olive Woodpecker**, **African Yellow Warbler**, **Sweet Waxbill**, **Cape Weaver**, **Greater Double-collared Sunbird**, and **Wing-snapping Cisticola**. As we headed up the lower slopes of the pass we added new birds such as **Black Stork**, **Ground Woodpecker**, and **Cape Rock Thrush**. As we gained in altitude the species changed, and we had our first looks at **Drakensberg Rockjumper**, **Karoo Prinia**, **Fairy Flycatcher**, **Cape Vulture**, **Drakensberg Siskin**, **African Rock Pipit**, **Sentinel Rock Thrush**, and **Grey Tit**. Once we had crossed the border post into Lesotho we started birding the plateau, and new birds kept coming with **Large-billed Lark**, **Sickle-winged Chat**, **Mountain Pipit**, **Layard's Warbler**, and **Yellow Canary** all putting in an appearance. Farther into Lesotho we found **Karoo Scrub Robin** and a **Bearded Vulture** on the nest. After we had found all our targets on the Sani Pass we headed down a little earlier than anticipated, and Stuart and Aldo took us to a **Western Barn Owl** roost and a nearby **Spotted Eagle-Owl** roost. En route back to our accommodation we had great views of a pair of **Secretarybirds**, with the day being capped off perfectly with an obliging **Cape Eagle-Owl** showing beautifully in the late afternoon light (see image on the title page).



*This pair of **Secretarybirds** were seen in the grasslands below the Sani Pass.*

Day 4, 17th October 2019. Drakensberg to Eshowe

We had a lot to get through today and so decided to leave our accommodation early and head to a nearby wetland, where we hoped to get views of **Wattled Crane**. Unfortunately, the best we could do was to hear the calls of a bird in a nearby valley, but it would not show for us. In the general

area we did manage to find a large flock of **Quailfinch** as well as **South African Cliff Swallow** and a calling **Red-necked Spurfowl**.

Next we headed to the nearby Marutswa Forest, where we found our target species, **Cape Parrot**, as we arrived at the stakeout. We had breakfast here while enjoying views of **Orange Ground Thrush**, **Bush Blackcap**, **Knysna Turaco**, **Forest Canary**, **Cape Batis**, and **Olive Bushshrike**. From the foothills of the Drakensberg we still had a good drive ahead of us to the lowlands of Zululand, so we didn't spend too much time at Marutswa before moving on. As we made our way through the KwaZulu-Natal midlands we kept an eye out for Wattled Crane but could only come up with **Grey Crowned Crane**, **Secretarybird**, and **Jackal Buzzard** as well as smaller birds such as **African Yellow Warbler**, **Plain-backed Pipit**, and **Golden-breasted Bunting**. A brief stop closer to Eshowe produced a low flock of **African Black** and **Alpine Swifts**.

After arriving in Eshowe we quickly unpacked the vehicle before heading out to Dlinza Forest for the afternoon in the hope of finding Spotted Ground Thrush and other forest specials. We had no luck with the thrush; however, we did find **Lemon Dove**, **Chorister Robin-Chat**, **African Goshawk** (heard only), **Terrestrial Brownbul**, **White-eared Barbet**, and many noisy **Trumpeter Hornbills**. The bird of the afternoon was a pair of obliging **Green Twinspots**, which we watched as they came to feed.

Day 5, 18th October 2019. Eshowe birding

This morning we headed out to Dlinza Forest again in the hope of finding Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon and Spotted Ground Thrush. Unfortunately we had no luck with either, and the forest was remarkably quiet. We did, however, see **Crowned Hornbill**, **Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird**, **African Emerald Cuckoo**, **Olive Sunbird**, **Ashy Flycatcher**, and **Scaly-throated Honeyguide** and had much better views of **Narina Trogon**.



Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird posed nicely in Dlinza Forest.

We then headed to another nearby forest, Entumeni Forest, where our luck improved drastically. In the grasslands and scrub outside the forest we added **Fan-tailed Grassbird**, **Red-fronted Tinkerbird**, **Martial Eagle**, **Common House Martin**, **Lazy Cisticola**, **African Firefinch**, **Red-backed Mannikin**, and **Red-collared Widowbird**. In the forest itself the birding was great, and we managed to find many of our targets, including **Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon**, **Green Malkoha**, **Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler**, and **Grey Cuckooshrike**. We also managed good views of **Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher**, **Green Wood Hoopoe**, **Red-capped Robin-Chat**, and **Southern Double-collared Sunbird**. On our way back to Eshowe we had improved views of a pair of **Crowned Eagles**.

In the afternoon we headed to yet another forest, this time Ongoye Forest, which is the only forest in which the endemic *woodwardi* subspecies of Green Barbet occurs. This forest is nestled up in the hills above Eshowe, surrounded by beautiful, pristine grassland, and really is one of the more scenic forests in South Africa. It did not take long for us to find **Green Barbet** along with other forest specials such as **Yellow-streaked Greenbul** and **Brown Scrub Robin**. On the way back to the lodge we birded the grassland and bushveld valleys, which were incredibly productive and produced **Striped Pipit**, **Orange-breasted Bushshrike**, **Yellow-breasted Apalis**, **Little Bee-eater**, **Red-faced Mousebird**, **Black Sparrowhawk**, and **Diederik Cuckoo**.



Striped Pipit was seen in the grasslands around Ongoye Forest.

Day 6, 19th October 2019. Eshowe to St Lucia

Today we had our final shot at **Spotted Ground Thrush** in Dlinza Forest, and thankfully it did not take long until Rosie spotted movement in the shadows and we eventually all managed views of a single foraging bird.

Breakfast tasted that much better with the thrush in the bag, and soon afterwards we made our way to the coast and farther north into Zululand toward St Lucia. En route we stopped at a small farm dam, which produced **Collared Pratincole**, **White-backed Duck**, **African Pygmy Goose**, and

Rufous-winged Cisticola. We also stopped in Mtunzini to look for **Palm-nut Vulture**, which took longer than normal. However, we did eventually obtain good scope views and had a brief **African Cuckoo-Hawk** flyby while we were enjoying lunch.

Soon after arriving in St Lucia we headed to the estuary mouth to search for a few waders and other coastal species. The estuary mouth was a little quieter than expected, but it did hold a few **Chestnut-banded Plovers**, **Greater Sand Plover**, **African Oystercatcher**, **Sanderling**, and **Marsh Sandpiper** as well as a number of other common Palearctic waders. A relatively small tern roost contained **Caspian**, **Sandwich**, **Little**, and **Greater Crested Terns** as well as a few **Grey-headed Gulls**. Other waterbirds present here included **Goliath** and **Purple Herons** and **Yellow-billed Stork**. On our way back to our accommodation we had good views of the comical-looking **Crested Guineaowl**.



Crested Guineaowl was common and confiding in St Lucia.

Day 7, 20th October 2019. St Lucia birding

As usual we were up early and headed to the eastern shores section of iSimangaliso Wetland Park, where we spent most of the morning driving the area and stopping at a few viewing points and hides. Highlights of the morning included **Palm-nut Vulture**, **Livingstone's Turaco**, **Rudd's Apalis**, **Woodward's Batis**, **Eastern Nicator**, **Red-breasted Swallow**, **Croaking** and **Pale-crowned** (heard only) **Cisticolas**, **Greater Honeyguide**, and many **Black-bellied Starlings**. We also had some good mammal sightings in the park, such as **White Rhinoceros**, **African Buffalo**, **Side-striped Jackal**, **Banded Mongoose**, **Bushbuck**, **Natal Red Duiker**, **Greater Kudu**, and **Giraffe**. On our way back into town we had brief views of **Southern Brown-throated Weaver** among many **Eastern** (African) **Golden Weavers**.

Much of the afternoon was spent in the western shores section looking for Southern Banded Snake Eagle. However, we unfortunately didn't have any luck here, but we did find both **Brown** and **Black-chested Snake Eagles**.



Woodward's Batis was seen well in St Lucia.

Day 8, 21st October 2019. St Lucia to Mkhuze Game Reserve

The early morning before breakfast was spent birding a trail around town, which produced many of the birds seen yesterday as well as **African Green Pigeon** and **Grey Waxbill**. After breakfast we packed our bags and decided to give **Southern Banded Snake Eagle** another shot. Thankfully it did not take too long to find the bird, and we could then be on our way again, heading north toward Mkhuze Game Reserve.

We stopped for lunch just south of Hluhluwe and had some good birding here, including **Burnt-necked Eremomela**, **Long-billed Crombec**, and **African Hoopoe**. After lunch we continued north and birded the floodplain of Lake St Lucia, which didn't have too much of interest but did give us a few **African Wattled** and **Senegal Lapwings**.

Soon we entered Mkhuze Game Reserve, where we spent the rest of the afternoon settling into our accommodation and birding the general area. We added **White-crested Helmetshrike**, **Pale Flycatcher**, **Little Sparrowhawk**, **Chinspot Batis**, **White-browed Scrub Robin**, **Wahlberg's Eagle**, and **Grey Penduline Tit** and improving our views of **African Cuckoo-Hawk**. In the evening while we were enjoying our braai (barbeque) we were interrupted by a fly-by **Fiery-necked Nightjar** and a particularly bold **Greater Thick-tailed Galago**.

Day 9, 22nd October 2019. Mkhuze Game Reserve birding

We had the whole day to enjoy the birds and other wildlife in the reserve and started the day by heading into the sand forest to bird around Kumasinga Hide. Almost immediately we found our major target in the form of a male **Neergaard's Sunbird**, which was feeding in a flowering tree among many **Purple-banded Sunbirds**. Right after the sunbirds we found an obliging pair of **Pink-throated Twinspots**, which was another big target in the sand forest. In the area we also found **Crested Guineafowl**, **Crested Francolin**, **Stierling's Wren-Warbler**, **Bearded Scrub Robin**, **Emerald-spotted Wood Dove**, and **Grey-headed Bushshrike**.

Throughout the rest of the day we visited many of the park's impressive hides, waterholes, and pans and ended with an impressive day list which included **Pink-backed Pelican**, **Gorgeous Bushshrike**, **Brown-crowned Tchagra**, **Brubru**, **Black Cuckooshrike**, **Eastern Nicator**, **Rudd's Apalis**, **Red-billed Oxpecker**, **Green-winged Pytilia**, **Marico Sunbird**, **Acacia Pied Barbet**, and many others.

In the evening we did a night drive, where we added **Bronze-winged Courser** and **African Scops Owl** as well as a few more **Senegal Lapwings**.



Bronze-winged Courser was seen well on our night drive at Mkhuze Game Reserve.

Day 10, 23rd October 2019. Mkhuze Game Reserve to Wakkerstroom

We started the morning with an early drive around the reserve and were rewarded with an amazing sighting of an adult female **Leopard** and her two sub-adult offspring, which showed briefly before disappearing into the thick bush. We also found **Yellow-throated Bush Sparrow** (*Petronia*), **Grey Tit-Flycatcher**, **White-backed Vulture**, **Common Scimitarbill**, **Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill**, and **Cape Starling**.

With a lengthy drive ahead of us we left around mid-morning and made our way northwest to Wakkerstroom. Most people are unlikely to ever have heard of this small town in the Mpumalanga province of South Africa; however, it has an almost legendary status among South African birders, as it has some of the best highveld grassland birding in the country and harbors a number of rare endemics. Just before reaching Wakkerstroom we found **Southern Bald Ibis** and **Spike-heeled Lark**.

Once we had checked into our accommodation we headed to the wetland in town, which eventually produced glimpses of **Red-chested Flufftail** as well as **African Snipe**, **African Swamphen**, **Cape Weaver**, **African Reed Warbler**, calling **African Rail**, and **Cape Shoveler**. Back at our accommodation some of us managed views of **African Clawless Otter** and **Mountain Reedbuck**.

We ended the day with a brief owling mission, which produced the goods with fantastic views of **African Grass Owl**.

Day 11, 24th October 2019. Wakkerstroom birding

We had a full day of grassland birding ahead of us today. First we made our way to the Botha's Lark stakeout with our local guide Sufiso, who had up-to-date information on where to find most of the special birds in the area. En route to our first stop we found a large flock of **Blue Cranes** as well as **Swainson's Spurfowl**, **Long-tailed Widowbird**, and a **Secretarybird** on the nest. **Botha's Lark** took a while to show, but eventually we had excellent scope views. While we waited for the lark to show we added **Capped Wheatear**, **Sand Martin**, **Cape Longclaw**, **Lanner Falcon**, **Cape Crow**, and many **Red-capped Larks**.

Next on the agenda was Fickland Pan to target Rudd's Lark. En route we saw **Eastern Clapper Lark** and **Cloud Cisticola**. Once having arrived at Fickland Pan it did not take too long before **Rudd's Lark** showed well. We were all amazed at its ability to disappear into the grass and not show again. In the nearby area we found **South African Shelduck**, **Ant-eating Chat**, **Common Quail**, **Pied Starling**, **Banded Martin**, and **Pale-crowned Cisticola**.

We went back to our accommodation for lunch and then headed out for the afternoon's birding. It did not take long until we found **White-bellied Bustard**, which was another of our targets, and then we also came across yet another pair of **Secretarybirds**. With the light fading we decided to have another try for **Blue Korhaan**, which we had failed to find earlier. After much searching we eventually had good views of at least three birds in some nearby fields. A great way to end another successful day of birding!



White-bellied Bustard was seen in the drier grasslands near Wakkerstroom.

Day 12, 25th October 2019. Wakkerstroom to Kruger National Park

Today was mostly a travel day. However, as we had yet to search for **Yellow-breasted Pipit** around Wakkerstroom, we decided this would be our major target for the morning. It took a bit of work, but eventually we had really close views of a displaying bird and also found **Mountain Wheatear**, **Sentinel Rock Thrush**, **Buff-streaked Chat**, and **Eastern Long-billed Lark**. We stopped at the wetland in town on our way out and found **African Rail**, **Little Bittern**, **African Marsh Harrier**, and **Intermediate Egret**. The long drive to Kruger National Park did not produce much of interest besides **Karoo Thrush** at our lunch spot.

As we arrived at the entrance gate to Kruger National Park we saw a flurry of new birds, including **Red-headed Weaver**, **Brown-headed Parrot**, and **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird**.

Day 13, 26th October 2019. Kruger National Park birding

We spent the whole day on the back of an open-top safari vehicle all to ourselves, which made visibility and finding birds even easier. We were based at Pretoriuskop Rest Camp, which had recently seen much of the surrounding bush burned by a runaway fire. But we still managed to find some great birds and other wildlife. Highlights from our morning drive included **Flappet Lark**, **Bushveld Pipit**, **Yellow-bellied Eremomela**, **Magpie** and **Southern White-crowned Shrikes**, **Southern Red-billed** and **African Grey Hornbills**, **Greater Blue-eared** and **Burchell's Starlings**, **Cardinal Woodpecker**, **Natal Spurfowl**, **Hooded Vulture**, **Bateleur**, **Tawny Eagle**, and **Striped Kingfisher** as well as a huge male **Sable Antelope**. We also had views of a number of **African Elephants** which occur in large numbers in the park.

The afternoon drive was a not as productive; however, we still found **Spotted Eagle-Owl**, **Red-faced Cisticola**, **Grey Go-away-bird**, **Bushveld Pipit**, **Jameson's Firefinch**, **Little Bee-eater**, and **Mocking Cliff Chat** and had great views of a **Klipspringer** silhouetted against the dramatic sky.



Klipspringer was seen in the granite 'koppies' around Pretoriuskop Rest Camp.

Day 14, 27th October 2019. Kruger National Park birding

With the morning starting fairly cool with some decent cloud cover we made our way north through the park towards Satara Rest Camp, where we were staying for our final night in Kruger. Soon after leaving Pretoriuskop we had point-blank views of a **Red-crested Korhaan**, giving its high-pitched, deafening call, as well as of the slightly larger **Black-bellied Bustard**. We had breakfast at Skukuza Rest Camp, where we managed to find **White-browed** and **White-throated Robin-Chats**, **Saddle-billed Stork**, **Red-billed Buffalo Weaver**, **Golden-breasted Bunting**, and **African Firefinch**.

Soon after leaving Skukuza we were lucky enough to find a pair of roosting **Southern White-faced Owls** as well as a **Leopard** sleeping in a huge tree along the river. The afternoon drive to Satara did not add too much more of interest besides **Purple Roller**, **Arrow-marked Babbler**, **Namaqua Dove**, and **Groundscraper Thrush**.

With the really hot temperatures we decided to take it easy for a little while before heading out for our afternoon drive from Skukuza Rest Camp. With the temperatures having dropped (slightly) later there was a bit more activity on our drive, and we managed sightings of a pride of **Lions** as well as **White-headed Vulture**, **Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark**, **Pearl-spotted Owlet**, and **Lesser Spotted Eagle**. A couple of **Spotted Hyenas** were also seen on our afternoon drive.



White-headed Vulture, perhaps the most attractive of southern Africa's vultures

Day 15, 28th October 2019. Kruger National Park to Dullstroom

The day couldn't have started much better when as we left camp we were greeted by three huge male **Lions** making their way south. Really impressive to see up close! Not long after this we had good views of a lone **Leopard** before it hid in a culvert under the road. Next we concentrated on some of our bird targets and soon found **Common Ostrich**, **Southern Ground Hornbill**, **Kori Bustard**, **Desert Cisticola**, and **Kurrichane Thrush**.

It was another scorcher today, so we left camp early after enjoying a good breakfast and made our way out of the park. On our way we stopped at a waterhole which had a large herd of **African Buffalo** as well as a few **Yellow-billed Oxpeckers**. Careful scanning through the flocks of aerial feeders produced **Grey-rumped** and **Mosque Swallows** too.

Once out of the park we made our way south toward Dullstroom, where we were staying for the night. En route we stopped at the Blyde River Canyon to look for Taita Falcon; however, they were unfortunately not around.



*The group of three male **Lions** seen in Kruger National Park.*

We arrived in Dullstroom in the late afternoon and decided headed out to try to find a few more targets. It took some effort, but eventually we had good scope views of **Wattled Crane** alongside a dam and found **Red-winged Francolin**, **Cape Longclaw**, and **African Wattled Lapwing** in the surrounding grasslands as well.

In the evening before heading for dinner some of the group managed good views of **African Wood Owl**.

Day 16, 29th October 2019. Dullstroom to Zaagkuilsdrift

We birded for a few hours around Dullstroom this morning in the hope of finishing our remaining targets in the area. **Gurney's Sugarbirds** were most obliging as we arrived at the stakeout spot, and we managed a number of **Denham's Bustards** and **Blue Cranes** in the area too as well as a **Marsh Owl** hunting over a wetland in the early-morning light. Perhaps the highlight of the morning was watching a **Serval** hunting in the same wetland as it walked through the tall grass without paying much attention to us. Close to our accommodation we had good views of **Pale-crowned Cisticola**, **Yellow-breasted** and **Long-billed Pipit**, **African Olive Pigeon**, **Jackal Buzzard**, **Streaky-headed Seedeater**, and **Olive Thrush**.

After breakfast in Dullstroom we headed west towards Zaagkuilsdrift, where we would be doing some dry-country birding with a very different mix of species. En route we stopped for lunch in Mabusa Nature Reserve, which produced **Buffy Pipit**, **Shelley's Francolin**, **Red-headed Weaver**, and **Green-capped Eremomela**. Nearby we also had brief views of **Oribi**, a rare, grassland-restricted antelope.

After lunch we continued west to our accommodation in the Zaagkuilsdrift area, where we soon added new birds in the form of **White-browed Sparrow-Weaver**, **Chestnut-vented Warbler**, and **Northern Black Korhaan**.



*The stunning male **Red-headed Weaver** was seen at its nest in Mabusa Nature Reserve.*

Day 17, 30th October 2019. Zaagkuilsdrift birding

Today was our last full day of the tour, and with lots of birds to still find we headed out early before breakfast and birded the woodlands and Kgomo-Kgomo floodplain. Soon after we left our accommodation we came across a bird party, which included **Barred Wren-Warbler**, **Violet-eared Waxbill**, **Crimson-breasted Shrike**, **Cape Penduline Tit**, **Marico Flycatcher**, and **Southern Pied Babbler**. Around Kgomo-Kgomo we found more new birds in the form of **Great Spotted Cuckoo**, **Pearl-breasted Swallow**, **Red-headed Finch**, **Black-chested Prinia**, **Black-throated Canary**, **Kalahari Scrub Robin**, **Scaly-feathered Weaver**, and **Shaft-tailed Whydah**. Breakfast back at our accommodation was interrupted briefly by **Levaillant's Cuckoo** and **Karoo Thrush**.

The final afternoon was spent birding the general area, looking for anything we were still missing. We did find some more good birds, such as **Capped Wheatear**, **Marico Sunbird**, **Burnt-necked Eremomela**, **Wattled Starling**, and **Red-breasted Swallow**.

Day 18, 31st October 2019. Zaagkuilsdrift birding and departure

With flights in the early afternoon we had most of the morning to bird the area before heading south to Johannesburg. Despite this being the final morning we still managed to add a number of new birds. **Grey-backed Camaroptera** finally showed itself in the surrounding bushveld, and Kgomo-Kgomo floodplain gave us more birds new to the list, such as **Yellow-crowned Bishop**, **Cut-throat Finch**, and **Great Sparrow**.

We finally had to leave Zaagkuilsdrift and head to the airport, but our luck had not yet run out, as we managed to add **Black-faced Waxbill** and **Greater Kestrel** while we were driving out of the area. Thankfully the trip to the airport was uneventful, and it ended a great 18 days around South Africa with many highlights to remember fondly. Thanks to all tour participants for making this a fun and highly successful tour. Looking forward to the next one!



*This male **Red-crested Korhaan** showed really well in Kruger National Park.*

Bird List - Following IOC (9.2)

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
Ostriches (Struthionidae)	
Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>
Guineafowl (Numididae)	
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
Crested Guineafowl	<i>Guttera pucherani</i>
Pheasants & Allies (Phasianidae)	
Grey-winged Francolin	<i>Scleroptila afra</i>
Red-winged Francolin	<i>Scleroptila levaillantii</i>
Shelley's Francolin	<i>Scleroptila shelleyi</i>
Crested Francolin	<i>Dendroperdix sephaena</i>
Natal Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis natalensis</i>
Red-necked Spurfowl (H)	<i>Pternistis afer</i>
Swainson's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>
Ducks, Geese, Swans (Anatidae)	
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
White-backed Duck	<i>Thalassornis leuconotus</i>
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>
South African Shelduck	<i>Tadorna cana</i>
African Pygmy Goose	<i>Nettapus auritus</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>

Common name	Scientific name
Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)	
Fiery-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus pectoralis</i>
Square-tailed Nightjar (H)	<i>Caprimulgus fossii</i>
Swifts (Apodidae)	
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>
African Black Swift	<i>Apus barbatus</i>
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>
Turacos (Musophagidae)	
Livingstone's Turaco	<i>Tauraco livingstonii</i>
Knysna Turaco	<i>Tauraco corythaix</i>
Purple-crested Turaco	<i>Tauraco porphyreolophus</i>
Grey Go-away-bird	<i>Corythaixoides concolor</i>
Bustards (Otididae)	
Kori Bustard - NT	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>
Denham's Bustard - NT	<i>Neotis denhami</i>
White-bellied Bustard	<i>Eupodotis senegalensis</i>
Blue Korhaan - NT	<i>Eupodotis caerulea</i>
Red-crested Korhaan	<i>Lophotis ruficrista</i>
Northern Black Korhaan	<i>Afrotis afraoides</i>
Black-bellied Bustard	<i>Lissotis melanogaster</i>
Cuckoos (Cuculidae)	
Burchell's Coucal	<i>Centropus burchellii</i>
Green Malkoha	<i>Ceuthmochares australis</i>
Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>
Levaillant's Cuckoo	<i>Clamator levaillantii</i>
Diederik Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>
Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>
African Emerald Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx cupreus</i>
Black Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus clamosus</i>
Red-chested Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>
Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)	
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>
African Olive Pigeon	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>
Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon	<i>Columba delegorguei</i>
Lemon Dove	<i>Columba larvata</i>
Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>
Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>
Tambourine Dove	<i>Turtur tympanistria</i>
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>
African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>
Flufftails (Sarothruridae)	
Red-chested Flufftail	<i>Sarothrura rufa</i>
Rails, Crakes & Coots (Rallidae)	
African Rail	<i>Rallus caerulescens</i>
Black Crake	<i>Amaurornis flavirostra</i>
African Swampphen	<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>
Wattled Crane - VU	<i>Grus carunculata</i>
Blue Crane - VU	<i>Grus paradisea</i>
Grebes (Podicipedidae)	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Flamingos (Phoenicopteridae)	
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
Lesser Flamingo - NT	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>
Stone-curlews, Thick-knees (Burhinidae)	
Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>
Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Oystercatchers (Haematopodidae)	
African Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus moquini</i>
Stilts, Avocets (Recurvirostridae)	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
Plovers (Charadriidae)	
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>
Senegal Lapwing	<i>Vanellus lugubris</i>
Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>
African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>
Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricolor</i>
White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>
Chestnut-banded Plover - NT	<i>Charadrius pallidus</i>
Greater Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>
Jacanas (Jacanidae)	
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>
Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopacidae)	
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>
Curlew Sandpiper - NT	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</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>
Couriers, Pratincoles (Glareolidae)	
Bronze-winged Courier	<i>Rhinoptilus chalcopterus</i>
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)	
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
Albatrosses (Diomedidae)	
Shy Albatross	<i>Thalassarche cauta</i>
Petrels, Shearwaters, Diving Petrels (Procellariidae)	
White-chinned Petrel - VU	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>
Storks (Ciconiidae)	
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>
African Openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
Woolly-necked Stork - VU	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>
Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>
Gannets, Boobies (Sulidae)	
Cape Gannet - EN	<i>Morus capensis</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>
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>

Common name	Scientific name
Herons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)	
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron (H)	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Rufous-bellied Heron	<i>Ardeola rufiventris</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>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Hamerkop (Scopidae)	
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
Pelicans (Pelecanidae)	
Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>
Secretarybird (Sagittariidae)	
Secretarybird - VU	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>
Ospreys (Pandionidae)	
Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Kites, Hawks, 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>
African Cuckoo-Hawk	<i>Aviceda cuculoides</i>
Hooded Vulture - CE	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>
White-backed Vulture - CE	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
Cape Vulture - EN	<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>
White-headed Vulture - CE	<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>
Black-chested Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>
Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>

Common name	Scientific name
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>
Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>
Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus wahlbergi</i>
Tawny Eagle - VU	<i>Aquila rapax</i>
African Goshawk (H)	<i>Accipiter tachiro</i>
Little Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter minullus</i>
Black Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter melanoleucus</i>
African Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>
African Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
Jackal Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>
Barn Owls (Tytonidae)	
Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>
African Grass Owl	<i>Tyto capensis</i>
Owls (Strigidae)	
African Scops Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>
Southern White-faced Owl	<i>Ptilopsis granti</i>
Cape Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo capensis</i>
Spotted Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>
African Wood Owl	<i>Strix woodfordii</i>
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>
Marsh Owl	<i>Asio capensis</i>
Mousebirds (Coliidae)	
Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>
Red-faced Mousebird	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>
Trogon (Trogonidae)	
Narina Trogon	<i>Apaloderma narina</i>
Hoopoes (Upupidae)	
African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Wood Hoopoes (Phoeniculidae)	
Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>
Common Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>
Ground Hornbills (Bucorvidae)	
Southern Ground Hornbill - VU	<i>Bucorvus leadbeateri</i>
Hornbills (Bucerotidae)	
Southern Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus rufirostris</i>
Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>
Crowned Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros alboterminatus</i>
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>
Trumpeter Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes bucinator</i>
Rollers (Coraciidae)	
Purple Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>
Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>
Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)	
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>
Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</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>
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
African Barbets (Lybiidae)	
White-eared Barbet	<i>Stactolaema leucotis</i>
Green Barbet	<i>Stactolaema olivacea</i>
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus bilineatus</i>
Red-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus pusillus</i>
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>
Acacia Pied Barbet	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Black-collared Barbet	<i>Lybius torquatus</i>
Crested Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>
Honeyguides (Indicatoridae)	
Brown-backed Honeybird	<i>Prodotiscus regulus</i>
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>
Scaly-throated Honeyguide	<i>Indicator variegatus</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>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>
Olive Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos griseocephalus</i>
Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)	
Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicolus</i>
Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>
African & New World Parrots (Psittacidae)	
Cape Parrot - VU	<i>Poicephalus robustus</i>
Brown-headed Parrot	<i>Poicephalus cryptoxanthus</i>
Old World Parrots (Psittaculidae)	
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
Wattle-eyes, Batises (Platysteiridae)	
Cape Batis	<i>Batis capensis</i>
Woodward's Batis	<i>Batis fratrurn</i>
Chinspot Batis	<i>Batis molitor</i>
Black-throated Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira peltata</i>
Bushshrikes (Malaconotidae)	
Grey-headed Bushshrike	<i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i>
Olive Bushshrike	<i>Chlorophoneus olivaceus</i>
Orange-breasted Bushshrike	<i>Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus</i>
Gorgeous Bushshrike	<i>Telophorus viridis</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>
Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>
Southern Tchagra (H)	<i>Tchagra tchagra</i>
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>
Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>
Southern Boubou	<i>Laniarius ferrugineus</i>
Crimson-breasted Shrike	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>
Vangas & Allies (Vangidae)	
White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>
Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae)	
Grey Cuckooshrike	<i>Ceblepyris caesius</i>
Black Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga flava</i>
Shrikes (Laniidae)	
Magpie Shrike	<i>Urolestes melanoleucus</i>
Southern White-crowned Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus anguitimens</i>
Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>
Figbirds, Orioles, Turnagra (Oriolidae)	
Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>
Drongos (Dicruridae)	
Common 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>

Common name	Scientific name
Fairy Flycatchers (Stenostiridae)	
Fairy Flycatcher	<i>Stenostira scita</i>
Tits, Chickadees (Paridae)	
Southern Black Tit	<i>Melaniparus niger</i>
Grey Tit	<i>Melaniparus afer</i>
Penduline Tits (Remizidae)	
Grey Penduline Tit	<i>Anthoscopus caroli</i>
Cape Penduline Tit	<i>Anthoscopus minutus</i>
Nicators (Nicatoridae)	
Eastern Nicator	<i>Nicator gularis</i>
Larks (Alaudidae)	
Spike-heeled Lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>
Eastern Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda semitorquata</i>
Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix leucotis</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>
Botha's Lark - EN	<i>Spizocorys fringillaris</i>
Large-billed Lark	<i>Galerida magnirostris</i>
Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>
Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)	
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>
Yellow-streaked Greenbul	<i>Phyllastrephus flavostriatus</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>

Common name	Scientific name
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>
Blue Swallow - VU	<i>Hirundo atrocaerulea</i>
Pearl-breasted Swallow	<i>Hirundo dimidiata</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>
Mosque Swallow	<i>Cecropis senegalensis</i>
South African Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon spilodera</i>
Crombecs, African Warblers (Macrospenidae)	
Cape Grassbird	<i>Sphenoeacus afer</i>
Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>
Leaf Warblers & Allies (Phylloscopidae)	
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus ruficapilla</i>
Reed Warblers & Allies (Acrocephalidae)	
Lesser Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>
African Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>
African Yellow Warbler	<i>Iduna natalensis</i>
Grassbirds & Allies (Locustellidae)	
Fan-tailed Grassbird	<i>Catruscus brevirostris</i>
Barratt's Warbler	<i>Bradypterus barratti</i>
Little Rush Warbler (H)	<i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>
Cisticolas & Allies (Cisticolidae)	
Red-faced Cisticola	<i>Cisticola erythrops</i>
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>

Common name	Scientific name
Levaillant's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola tinniens</i>
Croaking Cisticola	<i>Cisticola natalensis</i>
Neddicky	<i>Cisticola fulvicapilla</i>
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Desert Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aridulus</i>
Cloud Cisticola	<i>Cisticola textrix</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>
Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>
Stierling's Wren-Warbler	<i>Calamonastes stierlingi</i>
Barred Wren-Warbler	<i>Calamonastes fasciolatus</i>
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>
Green-capped Eremomela	<i>Eremomela scotops</i>
Burnt-necked Eremomela	<i>Eremomela usticollis</i>
Laughingthrushes & Allies (Leiothrichidae)	
Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>
Southern Pied Babbler	<i>Turdoides bicolor</i>
Sylviid Babblers (Sylviidae)	
Bush Blackcap - VU	<i>Lioptilus nigricapillus</i>
Chestnut-vented Warbler	<i>Sylvia subcoerulea</i>
Layard's Warbler	<i>Sylvia layardi</i>
White-eyes (Zosteropidae)	
Cape White-eye	<i>Zosterops virens</i>
Sugarbirds (Promeropidae)	
Gurney's Sugarbird - NT	<i>Promerops gurneyi</i>
Starlings, Rhabdornis (Sturnidae)	

Common name	Scientific name
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>
Black-bellied Starling	<i>Notopholia corusca</i>
Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>
Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>
Burchell's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis australis</i>
Pied Starling	<i>Lamprotornis bicolor</i>
Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>
Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>
Oxpeckers (Buphagidae)	
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>
Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>
Thrushes (Turdidae)	
Orange Ground Thrush	<i>Geokichla gurneyi</i>
Spotted Ground Thrush - EN	<i>Geokichla guttata</i>
Groundscraper Thrush	<i>Turdus litsitsirupa</i>
Kurrichane Thrush	<i>Turdus libonyana</i>
Olive Thrush	<i>Turdus olivaceus</i>
Karoo Thrush	<i>Turdus smithi</i>
Chats, Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)	
Karoo Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas coryphoeus</i>
Bearded Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas quadrivirgata</i>
Kalahari Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas paena</i>
White-browed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>
Brown Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas signata</i>
Grey Tit-Flycatcher	<i>Myioparus plumbeus</i>
Southern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pammelaina</i>
Pale Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pallidus</i>
Marico Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis mariquensis</i>
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
Ashy Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa caerulescens</i>
African Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>
Cape Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha caffra</i>
White-throated Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha humeralis</i>
White-browed Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha heuglini</i>

Common name	Scientific name
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>
Mocking Cliff Chat	<i>Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris</i>
Ant-eating Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>
Mountain Wheatear	<i>Myrmecocichla monticola</i>
Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</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>
Southern Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris chalybeus</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>
Great Sparrow	<i>Passer motitensis</i>
Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>
Yellow-throated Bush Sparrow	<i>Gymnoris superciliaris</i>
Weavers, Widowbirds (Ploceidae)	
Red-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>
Scaly-feathered Weaver	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>

Common name	Scientific name
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-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>
Red-headed Quelea	<i>Quelea erythrops</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 & Allies (Estrildidae)	
Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>
Red-headed Finch	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>
Cut-throat Finch	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>
Green Twinspot	<i>Mandingoa nitidula</i>
Pink-throated Twinspot	<i>Hypargos margaritatus</i>
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>
African Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rubricata</i>
Jameson's Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rhodopareia</i>
Blue Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>
Violet-eared Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus granatinus</i>
Sweet Waxbill	<i>Coccygia melanotis</i>
Grey Waxbill	<i>Estrilda perreini</i>
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
Black-faced Waxbill	<i>Estrilda erythronotos</i>
Quailfinch	<i>Ortygospiza atricollis</i>
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Lonchura cucullata</i>
Red-backed Mannikin	<i>Lonchura nigriceps</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Indigobirds, Whydahs (Viduidae)	
Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>
Dusky Indigobird	<i>Vidua funerea</i>
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>
Shaft-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua regia</i>
Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)	
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>
Cape Longclaw	<i>Macronyx capensis</i>
Yellow-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx croceus</i>
Rosy-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx ameliae</i>
African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>
Mountain Pipit - NT	<i>Anthus hoeschi</i>
Long-billed Pipit	<i>Anthus similis</i>
Buffy Pipit	<i>Anthus vaalensis</i>
Plain-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>
Striped Pipit	<i>Anthus lineiventris</i>
African Rock Pipit - NT	<i>Anthus crenatus</i>
Bushveld Pipit	<i>Anthus caffer</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>
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)	
Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>
Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>

Total seen	463
Total heard only	6
Total recorded	469

Mammal List

Common name	Scientific name
Dogs, Wolves, Foxes (Canidae)	
Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>
Side-striped Jackal	<i>Canis adustus</i>
Mustelids (Mustelidae)	
African Clawless Otter	<i>Aonyx capensis</i>
Mongoose (Herpestidae)	
Common Dwarf Mongoose	<i>Helogale parvula</i>
Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>
Common Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>
Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>
Hyaenas, Aardwolf (Hyaenidae)	
Spotted Hyaena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>
Genets, Binturong, Civets (Viverridae)	
Cape Genet	<i>Genetta tigrina</i>
Cats (Felidae)	
Serval	<i>Felis serval</i>
Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>
Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>
Bovids (Bovidae)	
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>
Blue Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus taurinus</i>
Southern Reedbuck	<i>Redunca arundinum</i>
Mountain Reedbuck	<i>Redunca fulvorufula</i>
Blesbok	<i>Damaliscus pygargus phillipsi</i>
African Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>
Common Eland	<i>Tragelaphus oryx</i>
Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>
Sable Antelope	<i>Hippotragus niger</i>
Nyala	<i>Tragelaphus angasii</i>
Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>
Grey Rhebok	<i>Pelea capreolus</i>
Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>
Oribi	<i>Ourebia ourebi</i>
Klipspringer	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>
Natal Red Duiker	<i>Cephalophus natalensis</i>
Blue Duiker	<i>Philantomba monticola</i>
Common Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</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>
Elephants (Elephantidae)	
African Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</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>
Rabbits, Hares (Leporidae)	

Common name	Scientific name
Cape Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>
Squirrels, Chipmunks, Marmots, Prairie Dogs (Sciuridae)	
Smith's Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>
Red Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus palliatus</i>
Murids (Muridae)	
Four-striped Grass Mouse	<i>Rhabdomys pumilio</i>
Sloggett's Vlei Rat	<i>Otomys sloggetti</i>
Total seen	47

Reptile List

Common Name	Scientific Name
Land Tortoises (Testudinidae)	
Leopard Tortoise	<i>Geochelone pardalis</i>
Typical Snakes (Colubridae)	
Mole Snake	<i>Pseudaspis cana</i>
Skinks (Scincidae)	
African Five-lined Skink	<i>Trachylepis quinquetaeniata</i>
African Striped Mabuya	<i>Trachylepis striata</i>
Montane Speckled Skink	<i>Trachylepis punctatissima</i>
Variable Skink	<i>Trachylepis varia</i>
Wahlberg's Snake-eyed Skink	<i>Panaspis wahlbergii</i>
Girdled Lizards and Relatives (Cordylidae)	
Highveld Crag Lizard	<i>Pseudocordylus melanotus</i>
Agamas (Agamidae)	
Southern Rock Agama	<i>Agama atra</i>
Geckos (Gekkonidae)	
Common House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>

Crocodiles (Crocodylidae)	
Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>
Total seen	11

Frog List

Common Name	Scientific Name
Typical toads (Bufonidae)	
Raucous Toad (H)	<i>Amietophrynus rangeri</i>
African Common Toad (H)	<i>Amietophrynus gutturalis</i>
Eastern Olive Toad (H)	<i>Amietophrynus garmani</i>
Sedge frogs (Hyperolidae)	
Rattling Frog (H)	<i>Semnodactylus wealli</i>
Puddle Frogs (Phrynobatrachidae)	
Snoring Puddle Frog	<i>Phrynobatrachus natalensis</i>
African Common Frogs (Pyxicephalidae)	
Dark-throated River Frog (H)	<i>Amietia fuscigula</i>
Striped Stream Frog (H)	<i>Strongylopus fasciatus</i>
Total seen	1
Total heard	6
Total recorded	7