



**Rooiels, Harold Porter National Botanical Gardens, and Stony Point
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African Oystercatcher – adult and juvenile

Birding in South Africa's Cape Peninsula can sometimes be challenging and a bit windy, but with some patience and persistence it rewards with some magnificent sightings, great photographic opportunities, and an unforgettable day of birding. With a mix of mountains, fynbos, coastal rocks, and beaches and lagoons spread out over the whole Peninsula, a day out is definitely an exciting and worthwhile way to spend any extra time in the Cape Town area

Leaving the Protea Breakwater Hotel near the V&A Waterfront at 6:30, we made our way straight to the little coastal village of Rooiels. This is the most popular site in the Peninsula to look for the Near-threatened (IUCN) Cape Rockjumper. The "Whale Coastal Route" that meanders around the side of Hottentots-Holland and Kogelberg Nature Reserves is one of the most scenic drives in South Africa and offers great oceanic views!

With perfect, windless weather we set out on the dirt track in our great quest for the rockjumper. We spent about two hours scanning the mountainside strewn with boulders, but to no avail. While searching for the rockjumper we managed to get great up-close-and-personal views of **Karoo Prinia**, **Orange-breasted Sunbird**, **Southern Double-collared Sunbird**, **Cape Sugarbird**, and **Familiar Chat**. We eventually decided to turn around and head back to the car to head for the next birding stop, with the idea of coming back here a little later to try for the rockjumper again. On our way out we managed to see **Cape Rock Thrush**, **Red-winged Starling**, **Rock Kestrel**, **Rock Martin**, and a pair of **Verreaux's Eagles** soaring overhead.



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Orange-breasted Sunbird

We drove for about 15 minutes before reaching Harold Porter National Botanical Gardens. We set out walking around the indigenous flora heaven and connected with **Cape White-eye**, **African Dusky Flycatcher**, **Cape Wagtail**, and **Sombre Greenbul** very quickly. As we walked along the marshy area leading up to the Disa Kloof Trail we had great views of **Speckled Mousebird**, **Brimstone** and **Cape Canaries**, **Sweet Waxbill**, and **Cape Robin-**

Chat. We walked into the first forest section, heading toward the waterfall, where we had further views of sunbirds, flycatchers, and white-eyes. We continuously kept our eyes peeled toward the canopy, looking for Olive Woodpecker, which we unfortunately never got to see. As we continued into the forest section we managed to get a glimpse of a **Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher**, **Olive Thrush**, and **African Olive Pigeon**. From the bridge on the dam wall we scanned for **African Black Duck**, not taking too long to find them floating around under some overhanging vegetation on the rim of the dam.

As we continued to the waterfall we managed to get great views of **Cape Batis**. We had a quick moment taking in the view at the waterfall and then headed back over the dam wall bridge to cross into the mountain fynbos slopes. Here we managed to get close to **Victorin's Warbler** (unfortunately not getting our binoculars locked onto it), **Orang-breasted Sunbird**, **Cape Sugarbird**, **White-necked Raven**, and more.

After a light lunch (having a **Hadada Ibis** serenading us) we left the botanical gardens, with Stony Point our next target spot. As soon as we arrived we managed to get close views of **Kelp Gull**, **Hartlaub's Gull**, **African Oystercatcher**, **Common Starling**, and, most important of all, **African Penguin**. As we walked along the boardwalk in the small protected colony we also had views of **Egyptian Goose**, **Little Egret**, and more close-up views of penguins, while a plethora of rock hyraxes (dassies) ran around, offering some mammalian entertainment.



Cape Cormorant

At the edge of the boardwalk we scanned through the cormorant colony for **Cape**, **Bank**, **Crowned**, and the largest of all, **White-breasted Cormorants**. After getting some good photos and taking in the full smell of these two bird families' colonies together, we decided to head back to Rooiels for a quick last try for the Cape Rockjumper.

With not too much time to try and find this bird we set out to look for these “rock-jumping” birds. We met another couple of birders there, and, after about a half hour's search, a distant

whistle attracted our attention as it announced the **Cape Rockjumper**. We managed to get a few good, long glimpses every couple of minutes as both the male and the female navigated the boulders from one side to the other. A good way to finish off the day's birding!

While driving back we managed to get views of **Common Starling**, **African Sacred Ibis**, **Pied Crow**, **House Sparrow**, and **Cape Sparrow**.

The day turned out to be very productive and exciting, and we ended up getting 82 species, of which four were only heard. The weather played along beautifully, with the wind only reaching gale force by the time we started heading back for the hotel. It was a day well spent with great birds, great company, and some great new memories.

1-day Cape Peninsula Bird List March 2017		
Bold = endemic		
Status: NT = Near-threatened, E = Endangered		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Trip
-	ANSERIFORMES	-
<u>Ducks, Geese and Swans</u>	<u>Anatidae</u>	
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	1
African Black Duck	<i>Anas sparsa</i>	1
	GALLIFORMES	
<u>Pheasants and allies</u>	<u>Phasianidae</u>	
Cape Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis capensis</i>	1
	SPHENISCIFORMES	
<u>Penguins</u>	<u>Spheniscidae</u>	
African Penguin (E)	<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>	1
	PELECANIFORMES	
<u>Ibises, Spoonbills</u>	<u>Threskiornithidae</u>	
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	1
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	1
<u>Hérons, Bitterns</u>	<u>Ardeidae</u>	
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	1
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>	1
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	1
	SULIFORMES	
<u>Cormorants, Shags</u>	<u>Phalacrocoracidae</u>	
Crowned Cormorant (NT)	<i>Microcarbo coronatus</i>	1
Bank Cormorant (E)	<i>Phalacrocorax neglectus</i>	1
White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>	1
Cape Cormorant (E)	<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>	1
	ACCIPITRIFORMES	
<u>Kites, Hawks and Eagles</u>	<u>Accipitridae</u>	
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	1

Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>	1
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>	1
	CHARADRIIFORMES	
<u>Oystercatchers</u>	<u>Haematopodidae</u>	
African Oystercatcher (NT)	<i>Haematopus moquini</i>	1
Charadriidae		
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>	1
<u>Gulls, Terns and Skimmers</u>	<u>Laridae</u>	
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>	1
Hartlaub's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus hartlaubii</i>	1
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	1
	COLUMBIFORMES	
<u>Pigeons, Doves</u>	<u>Columbidae</u>	
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	1
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	1
African Olive Pigeon	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>	1
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	1
Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	1
	APODIFORMES	
<u>Swifts</u>	<u>Apodidae</u>	
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	1
African Black Swift	<i>Apus barbatus</i>	1
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	1
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>	1
	COLIIFORMES	
<u>Mousebirds</u>	<u>Coliidae</u>	
Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>	1
	PICIFORMES	
<u>Woodpeckers</u>	<u>Picidae</u>	
Ground Woodpecker	<i>Geocolaptes olivaceus</i>	1
	FALCONIFORMES	
<u>Caracaras, Falcons</u>	<u>Falconidae</u>	
Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicolus</i>	1
	PASSERIFORMES	
<u>Wattle-eyes, Batises</u>	<u>Platysteiridae</u>	
Cape Batis	<i>Batis capensis</i>	1
<u>Bushshrikes</u>	<u>Malaconotidae</u>	
Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>	1
Southern Boubou	<i>Laniarius ferrugineus</i>	1
<u>Shrikes</u>	<u>Laniidae</u>	
Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>	1
<u>Drongos</u>	<u>Dicruridae</u>	

Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	1
<u>Monarchs</u>	<u>Monarchidae</u>	
Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher	<i>Trochocercus cyanomelas</i>	1
<u>Crows, Jays</u>	<u>Corvidae</u>	
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	1
White-necked Raven	<i>Corvus albicollis</i>	1
<u>Rockjumpers</u>	<u>Chaetopidae</u>	
Cape Rockjumper	<i>Chaetops frenatus</i>	1
<u>Bulbuls</u>	<u>Pycnonotidae</u>	
Cape Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus capensis</i>	1
Sombre Greenbul	<i>Andropadus importunus</i>	1
Terrestrial Brownbul	<i>Phyllastrephus terrestris</i>	H
<u>Swallows, Martins</u>	<u>Hirundinidae</u>	
Black Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne pristoptera</i>	1
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	1
White-throated Swallow	<i>Hirundo albigularis</i>	1
Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>	1
<u>Crombecs, African Warblers</u>	<u>Macrosphenidae</u>	
Cape Grassbird	<i>Sphenoeacus afer</i>	1
Victorin's Warbler	<i>Cryptillas victorini</i>	H
<u>Reed Warblers and allies</u>	<u>Acrocephalidae</u>	
Lesser Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>	H
<u>Grassbirds and allies</u>	<u>Locustellidae</u>	
Little Rush Warbler	<i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>	H
<u>Cisticolas and allies</u>	<u>Cisticolidae</u>	
Grey-backed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola subruficapilla</i>	1
Levaillant's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola tinniens</i>	1
Karoo Prinia	<i>Prinia maculosa</i>	1
<u>Sylviid Babblers</u>	<u>Sylviidae</u>	
Chestnut-vented Warbler	<i>Sylvia subcoerulea</i>	1
<u>White-eyes</u>	<u>Zosteropidae</u>	
Cape White-eye	<i>Zosterops virens</i>	1
<u>Sugarbirds</u>	<u>Promeropidae</u>	
Cape Sugarbird	<i>Promerops cafer</i>	1
<u>Starlings, Rhabdornis</u>	<u>Sturnidae</u>	
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	1
Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>	1
<u>Thrushes</u>	<u>Turdidae</u>	
Olive Thrush	<i>Turdus olivaceus</i>	1
<u>Chats, Old World Flycatchers</u>	<u>Muscicapidae</u>	
Fiscal Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis silens</i>	1
African Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>	1

Cape Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha caffra</i>	1
Cape Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola rupestris</i>	1
Familiar Chat	<i>Oenanthe familiaris</i>	1
<u>Sunbirds</u>	<u>Nectariniidae</u>	
Orange-breasted Sunbird	<i>Anthobaphes violacea</i>	1
Malachite Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia famosa</i>	1
Southern Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris chalybeus</i>	1
<u>Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches</u>	<u>Passeridae</u>	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	1
Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>	1
<u>Weavers, Widowbirds</u>	<u>Ploceidae</u>	
Cape Weaver	<i>Ploceus capensis</i>	1
Southern Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>	1
Yellow Bishop	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>	1
<u>Waxbills, Munias and allies</u>	<u>Estrildidae</u>	
Sweet Waxbill	<i>Coccygia melanotis</i>	1
<u>Indigobirds, Whydahs</u>	<u>Viduidae</u>	
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>	1
<u>Wagtails, Pipits</u>	<u>Motacillidae</u>	
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>	1
<u>Finches</u>	<u>Fringillidae</u>	
Yellow Canary	<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>	1
Brimstone Canary	<i>Crithagra sulphurata</i>	1
Cape Canary	<i>Serinus canicollis</i>	1
<u>Buntings, New World Sparrows</u>	<u>Emberizidae</u>	
Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>	1
TOTAL		78