



**TRIP REPORT SOUTH AFRICA: SUIKERBOSRAND NATURE RESERVE AND  
MARIEVALE BIRD SANCTUARY CUSTOM TOUR**

**4 SEPTEMBER 2016**

**By Wian van Zyl**



©Wian v. Zyl/Birding Ecotours

Lesser Flamingo – *Phoeniconaias minor*

## Overview

It was a day well spent in the well-known Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve, and, known among birders, Marievale Bird Sanctuary. The fact that we did the tour in two separate vehicles made the birding challenging at times, but nonetheless we managed to record a total of 107 species for the day, finding a good amount of specials for the area. We also managed to find seven mammal species, which all resulted in a good, successful day out birding in the Johannesburg area.

## One-day tour 4 September 2016:

### Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve

Starting the day at 5:00 a.m., we left Sunrock Guesthouse for the first leg of our tour, Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve. We arrived about an hour before the gate opened, so we birded the Nooitgedacht gravel road before we entered the reserve. We managed to record **Long-tailed Widowbird, Crowned Lapwing, Capped Wheatear, Orange River Francolin, Cape Longclaw, Black-winged Kite, and Red-eyed Dove.** We also had a good view of a steenbok at the side of the road. Leaving the steenbok, we managed to locate **Northern Black Korhaan, Orange-breasted Waxbill, Quailfinch, Blacksmith Lapwing, Spike-heeled Lark, Ring-necked Dove, Southern Masked Weaver, Common Waxbill, South African Cliff Swallow, and African Pipit.** We decided to get out of the vehicles and walk into the field in an attempt to flush out **Marsh Owl.** We were more than successful, and after flushing a pair, a whole parliament of about 20 took flight in front of us and perched on posts and in the grass and circled the marshy patch a few times, allowing us to get some great photos before they disappeared again into the grass.



Cape Bunting – *Emberiza capensis*

We continued to the reserve entrance and recorded **Red-throated Wryneck, White-backed Duck, Cape Weaver, South African Shelduck, Spur-winged Goose, Ant-eating Chat, Mountain Wheatear, and Speckled Pigeon**. We stopped at the first picnic site for a walk and managed to find **White-bellied Sunbird, Cape Robin-Chat, Fairy Flycatcher, Black-chested Prinia, Yellow Canary, Black-throated Canary, Cape Sparrow, Long-billed Crombec, Acacia Pied Barbet, Crested Barbet, Cape Bunting, Fiscal Flycatcher, Grey Go-away-bird**, and Justin managed to see a **Malachite Sunbird**. The drive to the Holhoek picnic site proved to be fairly fruitless, as the wind picked up as we gained altitude. We did manage to record **Rufous-naped Lark, Wailing Cisticola, Three-banded Plover, White-browed Sparrow-Weaver, and Cape Starling** en route. The drive to the picnic spot offered some mammal sightings as well, red hartebeest, blesbok, springbok, black wildebeest, common eland, plains zebra, and chacma baboon.

Once we reached the Holhoek picnic site we had a walk before we had lunch. We managed to locate species such as **Mocking Cliff Chat, Neddicky, Chestnut-vented Warbler, Cape White-eye, Karoo Thrush, Bar-throated Apalis, Southern Grey-headed Sparrow, Streaky-headed Seedeater, and Laughing Dove**. Before exiting the reserve we recorded **Rattling Cisticola, Southern Fiscal, Little Swift, Speckled Mousebird, Familiar Chat, African Stonechat, Desert Cisticola, and Red-billed Quelea**.

### Marievale Bird Sanctuary

Once we entered the Sanctuary we recorded **Southern Red Bishop, Swainson's Spurfowl, Greater Flamingo, African Rail, Squacco Heron, Red-knobbed Coot, Common Moorhen, and Yellow-billed Duck**. We continued to one of the hides, where we saw **Reed Cormorant, Red-billed Teal, Hottentot Teal, Egyptian Goose, White-throated Swallow, and Little Grebe**. Then we decided to walk outside the hide along the gravel road with wetland on either side, where we managed to find **African Spoonbill, Grey-headed Gull, Cape Shoveler, Black Crake, African Sacred Ibis, Glossy Ibis, Brown-throated Martin, Black-headed Heron, African Swamphen, and Ruff**. As we continued in the vehicles we saw **Lesser Swamp Warbler, Pied Avocet, Black-winged Stilt, White-faced Whistling Duck, Lesser Flamingo, White-breasted Cormorant, African Palm Swift, and Pied Kingfisher**. There were most of the same species at the next hide, but we managed to add **Little Rush Warbler and Cape Wagtail**. At the northern side of the reserve we went in search of **African Rail** for the second vehicle, which had not seen this species earlier. En route we found **African Snipe, Goliath Heron, Great Crested Grebe, Levillant's Cisticola, Grey Heron, and Helmeted Guineafowl**. We also had a good sighting of a Cape clawless otter being mobbed by **Grey-headed Gulls** next to the road in the water.

In conclusion, it ended up being a very successful day. The day stayed warm and clear, and the birding was very good. The clients managed to tick quite a few boxes on their wish lists and seemed very pleased with the result of the day.



Pied Avocet – *Recurvirostra avosetta*

SUIKERBOSRAND NATURE RESERVE AND MARIEVALE BIRD SANCTUARY BIRD LIST 4 September 2016		
Common Name (IOC 6.3)	Scientific Name (IOC 6.3)	Trip
	<b>ANSERIFORMES</b>	
<b><u>Ducks, Geese and Swans</u></b>	<b><u>Anatidae</u></b>	-
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	1
South African Shelduck	<i>Tadorna cana</i>	1
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>	1
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	1
White-backed Duck	<i>Thalassornis leuconotus</i>	1
Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>	1
Cape Shoveler	<i>Anas smithii</i>	1
Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>	1
Hottentot Teal	<i>Anas hottentota</i>	1
	<b>GALLIFORMES</b>	
<b><u>Guineafowl</u></b>	<b><u>Numididae</u></b>	-
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	1
<b><u>Pheasants and allies</u></b>	<b><u>Phasianidae</u></b>	-
Orange River Francolin	<i>Scleroptila gutturalis</i>	1
Swainson's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>	1

	<b>PODICIPEDIFORMES</b>	
<b><u>Grebes</u></b>	<b><u>Podicipedidae</u></b>	-
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	1
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	1
	<b>PHOENICOPTERIFORMES</b>	
<b><u>Flamingos</u></b>	<b><u>Phoenicopteridae</u></b>	-
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	1
Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>	1
	<b>PELECANIFORMES</b>	
<b><u>Ibises, Spoonbills</u></b>	<b><u>Threskiornithidae</u></b>	-
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	1
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	1
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	1
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>	1
<b><u>Hérons, Bitterns</u></b>	<b><u>Ardeidae</u></b>	-
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	1
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	1
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>	1
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>	1
	<b>SULIFORMES</b>	
<b><u>Cormorants, Shags</u></b>	<b><u>Phalacrocoracidae</u></b>	-
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>	1
White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>	1
	<b>ACCIPITRIFORMES</b>	
<b><u>Kites, Hawks and Eagles</u></b>	<b><u>Accipitridae</u></b>	-
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	1
	<b>OTIDIFORMES</b>	
<b><u>Bustards</u></b>	<b><u>Otididae</u></b>	-
Northern Black Korhaan	<i>Afrotis afraoides</i>	1
	<b>GRUIFORMES</b>	
<b><u>Rails, Crakes and Coots</u></b>	<b><u>Rallidae</u></b>	-
African Rail	<i>Rallus caerulescens</i>	1
Black Crake	<i>Amaurornis flavirostra</i>	1
African Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>	1
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	1
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>	1
	<b>CHARADRIIFORMES</b>	
<b><u>Stilts, Avocets</u></b>	<b><u>Recurvirostridae</u></b>	-
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	1
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	1
<b><u>Plovers</u></b>	<b><u>Charadriidae</u></b>	-
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>	1

Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>	1
African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>	1
Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>	1
<b><u>Sandpipers, Snipes</u></b>	<b><u>Scolopacidae</u></b>	-
African Snipe	<i>Gallinago nigripennis</i>	1
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	1
<b><u>Gulls, Terns and Skimmers</u></b>	<b><u>Laridae</u></b>	-
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>	1
	<b>COLUMBIFORMES</b>	
<b><u>Pigeons, Doves</u></b>	<b><u>Columbidae</u></b>	-
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	1
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	1
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	1
Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	1
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	1
	<b>MUSOPHAGIFORMES</b>	
<b><u>Turacos</u></b>	<b><u>Musophagidae</u></b>	
Grey Go-away-bird	<i>Corythaixoides concolor</i>	1
	<b>STRIGIFORMES</b>	
<b><u>Owls</u></b>	<b><u>Strigidae</u></b>	-
Marsh Owl	<i>Asio capensis</i>	1
	<b>APODIFORMES</b>	
<b><u>Swifts</u></b>	<b><u>Apodidae</u></b>	-
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	1
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	1
	<b>COLIIFORMES</b>	
<b><u>Mousebirds</u></b>	<b><u>Coliidae</u></b>	-
Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>	1
	<b>CORACIIFORMES</b>	
<b><u>Kingfishers</u></b>	<b><u>Alcedinidae</u></b>	-
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	1
	<b>BUCEROTIFORMES</b>	
<b><u>Hoopoes</u></b>	<b><u>Upupidae</u></b>	-
African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>	1
	<b>PICIFORMES</b>	
<b><u>African Barbets</u></b>	<b><u>Lybiidae</u></b>	-
Acacia Pied Barbet	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>	1
Black-collared Barbet	<i>Lybius torquatus</i>	1
Crested Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>	1
<b><u>Woodpeckers</u></b>	<b><u>Picidae</u></b>	-
Red-throated Wryneck	<i>Jynx ruficollis</i>	1
	<b>PASSERIFORMES</b>	

<b><u>Shrikes</u></b>	<b><u>Laniidae</u></b>	-
Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>	1
<b><u>Crows, Jays</u></b>	<b><u>Corvidae</u></b>	-
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	1
<b><u>Fairy Flycatchers</u></b>	<b><u>Stenostiridae</u></b>	
Fairy Flycatcher	<i>Stenostira scita</i>	1
<b><u>Larks</u></b>	<b><u>Alaudidae</u></b>	-
Rufous-naped Lark	<i>Mirafra africana</i>	1
Spike-heeled Lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>	1
<b><u>Bulbuls</u></b>	<b><u>Pycnonotidae</u></b>	-
African Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>	1
<b><u>Swallows, Martins</u></b>	<b><u>Hirundinidae</u></b>	-
Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	1
White-throated Swallow	<i>Hirundo albigularis</i>	1
South African Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon spilodera</i>	1
<b><u>Crombecs, African Warblers</u></b>	<b><u>Macrosphenidae</u></b>	-
Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>	1
<b><u>Reed Warblers and allies</u></b>	<b><u>Acrocephalidae</u></b>	-
Lesser Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>	1
<b><u>Grassbirds and allies</u></b>	<b><u>Locustellidae</u></b>	-
Little Rush Warbler	<i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>	1
<b><u>Cisticolas and allies</u></b>	<b><u>Cisticolidae</u></b>	
Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>	1
Wailing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola lais</i>	1
Levaillant's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola tinniens</i>	1
Desert Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aridulus</i>	1
Neddicky	<i>Cisticola fulvicapilla</i>	1
Cloud Cisticola	<i>Cisticola textrix</i>	1
Black-chested Prinia	<i>Prinia flavicans</i>	1
Bar-throated Apalis	<i>Apalis thoracica</i>	1
<b><u>Sylviid Babblers</u></b>	<b><u>Sylviidae</u></b>	
Chestnut-vented Warbler	<i>Sylvia subcaerulea</i>	1
<b><u>White-eyes</u></b>	<b><u>Zosteropidae</u></b>	-
Cape White-eye	<i>Zosterops virens</i>	1
<b><u>Starlings, Rhabdornis</u></b>	<b><u>Sturnidae</u></b>	-
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	1
Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>	1
<b><u>Thrushes</u></b>	<b><u>Turdidae</u></b>	-
Karoo Thrush	<i>Turdus smithii</i>	1
<b><u>Chats, Old World Flycatchers</u></b>	<b><u>Muscicapidae</u></b>	-
Cape Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha caffra</i>	1
African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	1

Mocking Cliff Chat	<i>Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris</i>	1
Mountain Wheatear	<i>Myrmecocichla monticola</i>	1
Ant-eating Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>	1
Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>	1
Familiar Chat	<i>Oenanthe familiaris</i>	1
Fiscal Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis silens</i>	1
<b><u>Sunbirds</u></b>	<b><u>Nectariniidae</u></b>	-
Malachite Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia famosa</i>	1
White-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris talatala</i>	1
<b><u>Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches</u></b>	<b><u>Passeridae</u></b>	-
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>	1
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	1
Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>	1
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>	1
<b><u>Weavers, Widowbirds</u></b>	<b><u>Ploceidae</u></b>	-
Cape Weaver	<i>Ploceus capensis</i>	1
Southern Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>	1
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>	1
Long-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes progne</i>	1
Southern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>	
<b><u>Waxbills, Munias and allies</u></b>	<b><u>Estrildidae</u></b>	-
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>	1
Quailfinch	<i>Ortygospiza atricollis</i>	1
Orange-breasted Waxbill	<i>Amandava subflava</i>	1
<b><u>Wagtails, Pipits</u></b>	<b><u>Motacillidae</u></b>	-
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>	1
Cape Longclaw	<i>Macronyx capensis</i>	1
African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>	1
<b><u>Finches</u></b>	<b><u>Fringillidae</u></b>	-
Black-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>	1
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>	1
Yellow Canary	<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>	1
Streaky-headed Seed eater	<i>Crithagra gularis</i>	1
<b><u>Buntings, New World Sparrows</u></b>	<b><u>Emberizidae</u></b>	
Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>107</b>