



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

**12 SEPTEMBER 2016**

**By Wian van Zyl**



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Marsh Owl (*Asio capensis*)

## Overview

We had a nice leisurely start to the day, only leaving Outlook Lodge at 7:30. The wind picked up quite seriously and caused some doubts about the unknown for the day's birding; only time would tell what would be in store for us. Planning to visit two well-known local birding spots, Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve and Marievale Bird Sanctuary, we started in a positive mood.

## One-day tour 12 September 2016:

### Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve

Even though we had a slightly later start than usual I decided to take a moment to go down the Eendracht road before entering the reserve. The wind made birding rather challenging, but we managed to locate **Capped Wheatear**, **African Stonechat**, **Black-winged Kite**, **Crowned Lapwing**, and small flocks of **Long-tailed Widowbirds** as we continued along the road. We eventually braved the wind and got out of the comfort of the vehicle in an attempt to flush some Marsh Owls. Before we got to flush the owls we had great views of **Orange-breasted Waxbill**, **African Pipit**, **Lesser Striped Swallow**, **South African Cliff Swallow**, and a few pairs of **Quailfinch** flying overhead every so often. After we had some spectacular views of about six **Marsh Owls** we decided to head back to the vehicle and continue on to Suikerbosrand. Other highlights en route included **Cape Longclaw**, **Common Waxbill**, **Red-eyed Dove**, **Laughing Dove**, **Levaillant's Cisticola**, **Red-billed Quelea**, and **Helmeted Guineafowl**. As we entered the reserve we heard **Red-throated Wryneck** calling and saw our first **Mountain Wheatear**. Other species around the gate included **Common Myna**, **Speckled Pigeon**, **Ant-eating Chat**, and several **Spur-winged Geese** at the nearby dam.

At the first picnic spot we recorded **Southern Masked** and **Cape Weavers**, **Fiscal Flycatcher**, **White-bellied Sunbird**, **Cape Robin-Chat**, **Karoo Thrush**, **Black-chested Prinia**, **Yellow- and Black-throated Canaries**, and **Crested** and **Black-collard Barbets**.



Bar-throated Apalis – *Apalis*

The wind again hindered birding en route to the second picnic site within the reserve. But we did manage to record **Speckled Mousebird**, **Chinspot Batis**, and **White-browed Sparrow-Weaver** before we reached the picnic site. Prior to settling down for lunch we had a walk around the picnic site. Being the only people within the site, we enjoyed a relaxed walk, recording specials such as **Fairy Flycatcher**, **Cape Rock Thrush**, **Mocking Cliff Chat**, **Neddicky**, **Bar-throated Apalis**, **Cape Starling**, **Chestnut-vented Warbler**, **Red-faced Mousebird**, **Ring-necked Dove**, **Acacia Pied Barbet**, **Cape White-eye**, and **Streaky-headed Seedeater**. Before exiting the reserve we locked our optics on **Common Scimitarbill**, **Rufous-naped Lark**, **Wailing Cisticola**, **Malachite Sunbird**, **African Hoopoe**, **African Palm Swift**, **Southern Fiscal**, and **African Red-eyed Bulbul**.

Mammal species here included springbok, common eland, plains zebra, black wildebeest, steenbok, red hartebeest, yellow mongoose, and long-tailed field mouse.



Springbok – *Antidorcas marsupialis*

### Marievale Bird Sanctuary

After a very windy Suikerbosrand we were hoping that Marievale would prove less windy and thus more productive. The wind had no intention of quieting down, though, but this didn't stop us from recording some really good specials such as **African Marsh Harrier**, **Common Sandpiper**, **Little Stint**, **Ruff**, **Pied Avocet**, **Black-winged Stilt**, and **Common Moorhen**. En route to the first hide we saw both **Greater** and **Lesser Flamingos**, **Grey-headed Gull**, **Grey Heron**, **Squacco Heron**, **Hottentot** and **Red-billed Teals**, and a number of **Yellow-billed Ducks**.



Little Stint – *Calidris minuta*

As we continued walking along the road outside the hide with water on either side of us we managed **Cape Shoveler**, a skulking **Little Rush Warbler**, **Reed Cormorant**, **Three-banded Plover**, **African Snipe**, **Pied Kingfisher**, and **Brown-throated Martin**. At a second hide we were thrilled with some great views of **Lesser Swamp Warbler**, **Cape Wagtail**, **Red-knobbed Coot**, **African Swamphen**, **Little and Great Crested Grebes**, **White-throated Swallow**, and **Egyptian Goose**. Other specials for the day included **African Sacred, Hadada, and Glossy Ibises**, **Black-headed Heron**, **African Spoonbill**, **Swainson's Spurfowl**, and **Black Crake**.



Black Crake – *Amaurornis flavirostra*

In conclusion, the day proved to be a lot more productive than we initially thought it would be. We just managed to break the 100 mark by recording 104 species. It was a windy, challenging, yet very rewarding day out in the Johannesburg surrounds.

<b>SUIKERBOSRAND NATURE RESERVE AND MARIEVALE BIRD SANCTUARY BIRD LIST 12 SEPTEMBER 2016</b>		
<b>Common Name (IOC 6.3)</b>	<b>Scientific Name (IOC 6.3)</b>	<b>Trip</b>
	<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
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	1
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>	1
Cape Shoveler	<i>Anas smithii</i>	1
Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</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>	-
Swainson's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>	1
	<b>PODICIPEDIFORMES</b>	
<b><u>Grebes</u></b>	<b><u>Podicipedidae</u></b>	-
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	1
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</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>Herons, 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
	<b>SULIFORMES</b>	
<b><u>Cormorants, Shags</u></b>	<b><u>Phalacrocoracidae</u></b>	-

Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</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
African Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>	1
	<b>OTIDIFORMES</b>	
<b><u>Bustards</u></b>	<b><u>Otididae</u></b>	-
Northern Black Korhaan	<i>Afrotis afraoides</i>	1
<b><u>Rails, Crakes and Coots</u></b>	<b><u>Rallidae</u></b>	-
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
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
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	1
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</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><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>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
Red-faced Mousebird	<i>Urocolius indicus</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><u>Wood Hoopoes</u></b>	<b><u>Phoeniculidae</u></b>	-
Common Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</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>Wattle-eyes, Batises</u></b>	<b><u>Platysteiridae</u></b>	-
Chinspot Batis	<i>Batis molitor</i>	1
<b><u>Shrikes</u></b>	<b><u>Laniidae</u></b>	-
Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</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>Mirafraga africana</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
Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</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>	
Wailing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola lais</i>	1

Levaillant's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola tinniens</i>	1
Neddicky	<i>Cisticola fulvicapilla</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
Pied Starling	<i>Lamprotornis bicolor</i>	1
<b><u>Thrushes</u></b>	<b><u>Turdidae</u></b>	-
Karoo Thrush	<i>Turdus smithi</i>	1
<b><u>Chats, Old World Flycatchers</u></b>	<b><u>Muscicapidae</u></b>	-
Kalahari Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas paena</i>	1
Cape Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha caffra</i>	1
Fiscal Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis silens</i>	1
Cape Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola rupestris</i>	1
African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	1
Mocking Cliff Chat	<i>Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris</i>	1
Ant-eating Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>	1
Mountain Wheatear	<i>Myrmecocichla monticola</i>	1
Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>	1
<b><u>Sunbirds</u></b>	<b><u>Nectariniidae</u></b>	-
White-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris talatala</i>	1
Malachite Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia famosa</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
<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
<b><u>Waxbills, Munias and allies</u></b>	<b><u>Estrildidae</u></b>	-
Orange-breasted Waxbill	<i>Amandava subflava</i>	1
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>	1
Quailfinch	<i>Ortygospiza atricollis</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 Canary	<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>	1
Streaky-headed Seedeater	<i>Crithagra gularis</i>	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>104</b>