



Birding Ecotours

EASTERN SOUTH AFRICA CUSTOM TRIP REPORT

03-18 FEBRUARY 2023

By Dominic Rollinson



The rare Sooty Falcon showed incredibly well in Pongola Nature Reserve.

Overview

This private South African birding tour was designed for Steve and Anne to target as many of the specials found in the eastern half of the country, with enough time at each destination to enjoy some relaxation time too. We went from the Afromontane forests of Magoebaskloof, south to the highveld grasslands of Wakkerstroom, through the Zululand coastal plain, and finished in the high altitude of the imposing Drakensberg Mountains. Due to the large diversity of habitats visited, we built an impressive species list with many of the country's endemics and specials seen. We were a little unlucky with weather on this trip as the eastern half of South Africa received huge amounts of rainfall throughout the duration of this trip. Nevertheless, we did not let this hold us back and, despite the weather, did not lose out on much birding time and managed to find most of our targets.



Purple-crested Turacos were widespread in Zululand.

Some of the trip's many highlights included **Swamp Nightjar**, **Blue Korhaan**, **Eastern Bronzetailed Pigeon**, views of both **Red-chested** and **Buff-spotted Flufftails**, **Grey Crowned**, **Wattled** and **Blue Cranes**, **Bearded Vulture**, **Southern Banded Snake Eagle**, **African Grass** and **Marsh Owls**, **Southern Ground Hornbill**, **Sooty Falcon**, **Cape Parrot**, **Woodward's Batis**, **White-breasted Cuckooshrike**, **Drakensberg Rockjumper**, **Short-clawed**, **Rudd's**, **Pink-billed**, **Eastern Long-billed** and **Eastern Clapper Larks**, **Spotted** and **Orange Ground Thrushes**, **Black-fronted Bushshrike** and many other South African endemics and specials. We also had some unusual mammal sightings on this trip including **Serval**, **Side-striped Jackal**, **Spotted-necked Otter**, **Suni** and **Oribi**.

Detailed Report

Day 1, 3rd February 2023. Pretoria to Magoebaskloof, birding en route

I fetched Steve and Anne from their accommodation in northern Pretoria (ticking **Karoo Thrush** on the lodge lawns) and we were soon on our way northeastwards to bird some highveld grasslands which held a few of our targets. A quick stop produced a pair of **Pearl-breasted Swallows** and our first **Black-winged Kite** of the trip. The roadside birding was excellent and we soon added the likes of **African Hawk-Eagle**, **Black-chested Snake Eagle**, **African Harrier-Hawk**, **Greater Kestrel**, **Cape Longclaw**, **Ant-eating Chat**, **Red-collared**, **White-winged** and **Long-tailed Widowbirds**, **Rufous-naped Lark** and an assortment of cisticolas including **Desert**, **Zitting**, **Cloud**, **Wing-snapping** and **Levaillant's**. With the low clouds it meant many aerial feeders were feeding low and we managed to pick out **Little**, **White-rumped** and **Alpine Swifts**, **Barn**, **Greater Striped**, **Red-breasted** and **South African Cliff Swallows** and **Banded Martin**. Our rarest find of the afternoon was brief views of the enigmatic **Short-tailed Pipit** which, of course, was only seen as it flushed from our feet. Despite our best efforts, we only heard a distant **Melodious Lark** and could not see any of these range-restricted larks.



Cape Longclaws were numerous in grasslands on this tour.

As we neared Magoebaskloof we saw a small group of **Abdim's Storks** feeding in a field, had brief views of **Burchell's Coucal** and saw our first **Pale Chanting Goshawks**. After a busy day, we made it to Magoebaskloof in the late afternoon and enjoyed Friday night curries, as we discussed the exciting trip ahead.

Day 2, 4th February 2023. Birding lowveld woodlands and the Tzaneen area

We were lucky enough to spend the next two full days with local birding legend David Letsoalo, and his intimate knowledge of the area and its birds helped us find many of our targets. We were up well before sunrise this morning and decided to head east into some lowveld woodlands instead of birding at the higher elevations of Magoebaskloof where the weather was miserable. The decision proved a good one as we had a fantastic morning's birding and managed many new species such as **Crested Francolin**, **Jacobin** and **African Cuckoos**, **Marabou Stork**, **Hooded and White-backed Vultures**, **Martial Eagle**, **Southern Red-billed Hornbill**, **Woodland Kingfisher**, **Bennett's Woodpecker**, **Grey-headed Bushshrike**, **Retz's** and **White-crested Helmetshrikes**, **Red-headed Weaver** and **Arnot's Chat**. Just before we were about to leave the woodlands, we found a mixed flock of **Yellow-bellied Eremomela**, **Icterine Warbler** and **Grey Penduline Tits** before Steve spotted a male **White-breasted Cuckooshrike** which eventually showed well for us all. There were many seedeaters seen throughout the woodlands, such as **Village** and **Purple Indigobirds**, **Long-tailed Paradise Whydah**, **Cut-throat Finch** and **Yellow-throated Bush Sparrow**.

We then headed back west towards Tzaneen, where we enjoyed our lunch, while getting distracted by **Cardinal Woodpecker**, **Black Cuckoo**, **Holub's Golden Weaver**, **Yellow Bishop** and **Purple-crested Turaco**. After lunch we headed to the nearby **Bat Hawk** roost site where David did well to spot a well-hidden adult which we then enjoyed for the next while.

Our last stop of the day was a pecan nut farm where **Cape Parrots** regularly feed and, upon our arrival, we heard a bird calling. It took some work to spot but eventually gave us relatively close and prolonged views of this endemic parrot. A lovely way to end an incredibly productive day of birding!



Cape Parrots were seen in pecan orchards.

Day 3, 5th February 2023. Magoebaskloof and Polokwane birding

We were out at around sunrise this morning and with the weather having cleared nicely we decided to bird Woodbush Forest to try and see some of the many forest bird specials in the area. Right after we left our accommodation, the first excitement of the day was a single **Side-striped Jackal** which hung around for some nice views and was not perturbed by our presence. As we made our way towards the forest we passed through some grasslands and scrub which yielded **African Yellow Warbler**, **Natal Spurfowl** and **Drakensberg Prinia**, while the forest edge had **Sweet Waxbill**, **Green Twinspot**, **Forest Canary** and a couple of flyover **Cape Parrots**.

The birding in the forest was incredibly productive and we spent most of the morning birding the trails, with David's impressive knowledge of the forest and its birds helping us find most of our targets. Some of the many highlights included **Olive Woodpecker**, **Grey Cuckooshrike**, **Orange Ground Thrush**, **Yellow-streaked Greenbul**, **Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher**, **Common Square-tailed Drongo**, **Cape Batis**, **Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler**, **Scaly-throated Honeyguide** and the spectacular **Knysna Turaco**. We were starting to get worried about finding **Black-fronted Bushshrike**, when we heard its calling coming from within a feeding flock and, after a few minutes of searching, found a single bird which provided us with great views. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts the many calling **Barratt's Warblers** would remain unseen for now.



*Noisy Yellow-streaked Greenbuls led us to our main target, **Black-fronted Bushshrike**.*

We then left the shade of the forest and headed west of Magoebaskloof where we birded open grasslands and woodlands for some more of our targets. **Short-clawed** and **Pink-billed Larks** proved straightforward at David's stakeout. Afterwards, we birded some short woodlands with the hope of finding Bushveld Pipit, however, despite a couple of hours of searching, we drew a blank

on this tricky pipit. There were, however, many other species to keep us entertained, including the likes of **Cape Penduline** and **Ashy Tits**, **Long-billed Crombec**, **Barred Wren-Warbler**, **Black-chested Prinia**, **Acacia Pied** and **Crested Barbets**, **Scaly-feathered Weaver**, **Kalahari Scrub Robin** and **Lanner Falcon**. Many of these species are found here at their eastern limit and so it was great to catch up with them today, as we headed east the following day. After a long but thoroughly enjoyable day, we arrived back at our accommodation, said goodbye to David, and enjoyed another tasty dinner to finish off our final full day in Magoebaskloof.



The tiny Cape Penduline Tit.

Day 4, 6th February 2023. Magoebaskloof to Wakkerstroom

Magpie Mannikin was our primary target this morning and so we left our accommodation early and headed to a stakeout just outside of Tzaneen. It took a while, with **African Paradise Flycatcher**, **Tawny-flanked Prinia**, and **Common Scimitarbill** as distractions, but eventually a single **Magpie Mannikin** showed up and gave us good views of it. After a successful early morning out, we headed back for an enjoyable breakfast but still could not quite get views of **Barratt's Warbler**, which was calling from thick bush near the restaurant.

Today was primarily a travel day and so after breakfast we hit the road and made our way south to the grassland birding hotspot of Wakkerstroom. After a long day in the car, we arrived at our lovely accommodation, right on the edge of the wetland, and were greeted by our lovely hosts as well as a very lost juvenile **Grey-headed Kingfisher**.

Before dinner, we quickly stopped at the wetland where we enjoyed a beautiful sunset with **Grey Crowned Crane**, **Red-billed** and **Blue-billed Teals**, **Cape Shoveler** and **Southern Pochard** all showing for us. A lovely way to finish a long day of travel.



The vagrant juvenile Grey-headed Kingfisher in Wakkerstroom.

Day 5, 7th February 2023. Wakkerstroom birding

The excitement of a full day's birding around the grasslands of Wakkerstroom got us up early and we soon met our guide David Nkosi, one of the area's finest birders, who would be showing us around for the day. The day started with a bang when, within very little time at all, we had ticked off **Jackal Buzzard**, **Pale-crowned Cisticola**, **Buff-streaked Chat**, **Cape Weaver**, **Eastern Long-billed** and **Spike-heeled Larks**, **Yellow-breasted Pipit**, **Sentinel Rock Thrush**, **Red-winged Francolin**, **Cape Bunting**, **Cuckoo-finch** and **Denham's Bustard**. We then made our way to the **Rudd's Lark** site and a singing male soon obliged for us as well as many **Southern Bald Ibis**.

We then headed back to our accommodation for an enjoyable sit-down breakfast (with **Horus Swift** and **Wailing Cisticola** seen en route) and then quickly made our way back out again to hit the grasslands. First stop was a field where **Marsh Owl** had been showing recently and it did not take long until we saw a single bird which gave us fantastic views, with **Blue Cranes** feeding in a distant field. We thought we were done here but then on our way back to the car, we flushed a **Corn Crane** – a very difficult bird to see here on its African wintering grounds.

With our targets obliging, we kept heading west and David soon spotted a nearby pair of **Blue Korhaan**, another of the day's many highlights. Next stop was a large dam where we quickly found **Great Crested** and **Black-necked Grebes**, **Maccoa** and **White-backed Ducks**, **Whiskered Tern** and flushed a couple of **Common Quails**. On our way back to Wakkerstroom, we kept trying for Grey-winged Francolin, which unfortunately would not show for us, but we did get lovely views of some drinking **Quail-finches**. On our way back to the village, we stopped in a field where David had seen **Eastern Clapper Larks** and within a few minutes, we had great views of our target.

To finish off the day's birding we headed back out to our **African Rock Pipit** site and after climbing up a rocky slope, eventually had distant views of a couple of birds. David tried his best to force them closer to us but they were determined to keep their distance today. As we left the hillside, three **Lanner Falcons** flew overhead, likely a mother with two juveniles.



Marsh Owl was one of our many highlights around Wakkerstroom.

After a busy day out, we said goodbye to David and then went out for an enjoyable meal that evening. We decided to do a quick night drive after dinner, which proved incredibly successful as we had amazing views of a **Serval** and then immediately after that we heard and then saw an **African Grass Owl** - the day could not have ended any better!

Day 6, 8th February 2023. Wakkerstroom to Mkhuzu area

Another early start saw us heading out to look for Grey-winged Francolin, which still eluded us, nevertheless we picked up **Little Bittern** and closer **Blue Cranes** in the general area. We then made our way to the edge of the wetland where we were hoping to see some elusive rallids. We spent an incredible 40 minutes here where we saw **Red-chested Flufftail** (twice), **African Rail** and had brief views of **Baillon's Crake** with an **African Crake** calling in an adjacent field. While working on the rallids, we also had lovely looks at a **Little Rush Warbler**. What a way to start the day!

After another delicious breakfast, we said our goodbyes and hit the bumpy road south to Mkhuzu area. We decided to stop at Pongola Nature Reserve en route where we saw **Burnt-necked Eremomela**, **Magpie Shrike**, **Red-billed Buffalo Weaver**, **Swainson's Spurfowl**, **Pearl-spotted**

Owlet, Black-bellied Bustard, Arrow-marked Babbler, Bateleur and a calling **Olive-tree Warbler**. First prize however went to a beautiful adult **Sooty Falcon** – a rare bird in the area!

We then did the final stretch to the Mkhuze area, adding **Southern Crested Guinea fowl, European Roller, Crowned Hornbill, Green-winged Pytilia** and **Namaqua Dove** en route, before settling into our accommodation and enjoying a traditional South African dinner.

Day 7, 9th February 2023. Mkhuze Game Reserve birding

Today we spent most of the day in the incredibly birdy Mkhuze Game Reserve and had a thoroughly enjoyable day. The day started well when we passed by Muzi Pan and saw three adult **Allen's Gallinules** with some tiny chicks in tow. We then birded a nearby riverine forest in the hopes of finding Pel's Fishing Owl. Unfortunately, the heavy rain on the previous days meant the area was mostly under water, and it continued to rain as we birded the area, so we decided to cut our fishing owl hunt short. **Gorgeous Bushshrike, Rudd's Apalis** and **Marsh Warbler** all eventually showed themselves and were a small consolation prize.



Rudd's Apalis, another east coast special.

We then made it into Mkhuze Game Reserve and spent most of the morning driving around the reserve and visiting some of the park's impressive hides. Highlights of our time in the park included **Crested Francolin, Southern Crested Guinea fowl, Purple-crested Turaco, Bearded Scrub Robin, Yellow-bellied Greenbul, Senegal Lapwing, Trumpeter Hornbill, White-throated Robin-Chat, Broad-billed Roller, Striped and Woodland Kingfishers, Southern Boubou, Brubru, Pale and Ashy Flycatchers** and **Lesser Masked Weaver**. We were quite surprised to find another **Grey-headed Kingfisher** at Kumasinga Hide, a tricky bird in the

province of KwaZulu-Natal. A good selection of raptors was seen throughout our time in Mkhuze and included **Tawny, Wahlberg's, Martial and Crowned Eagles, Bateleur and White-backed Vulture**.

We made a brief stop at Muzi Pan on our way back to our lodge, and here we found **Great, Intermediate and Little Egrets, Black Heron, Pink-backed Pelican and Black Crake** with a single **Grey-rumped Swallow** seen further down the road. Another lovely day's birding in Zululand!

Day 8, 10th February 2023. Mkhuze to St Lucia, birding en route

We awoke to some overcast weather and rain today, but we had birds to see and so were soon out of the door and made our way to a small patch of sand forest nearby. As we got out of the car, Steve spotted a large raptor, which turned out to be a **Verreaux's Eagle-Owl** and was a great way to start the day. Our first target, **African Broadbill**, proved easy and we enjoyed prolonged views as it went about doing its unusual display flight and puffing out its back feathers. **Pink-throated Twinspot** was also seen well as it fed on the ground with a few **Blue Waxbills**. The birding in the sand forest was very productive and we soon had **Tambourine Dove, Red-fronted Tinkerbird, Rudd's Apalis** and **White-throated Robin-Chat**. Neergaard's Sunbird however did not call at all during our time here and despite a couple of other tries later in the day, we could not find this sand forest special.



The gorgeous White-throated Robin-Chat was seen well in Mkhuze Game Reserve.

After breakfast we packed up and hit the road to Mpempe Pan, where the grasslands were mostly flooded, but we still managed to find **Senegal, Crowned and Black-winged Lapwings, Ruff,**

Wood and **Curlew Sandpipers** and **Western Yellow Wagtail**. After some searching, we eventually had good looks at a single **Lesser Jacana**. With the rain continuing to fall, we decided to head back south to St Lucia where we were based for the next three nights. En route we had great views of a small flock of **Lemon-breasted Canaries** and then took it easy for the remainder of the afternoon.

Day 9, 11th February 2023. Isimangaliso Wetland Park birding

With the predicted heavy rain having arrived, we decided to head into the Isimangaliso Wetland Park's Eastern Shores section and essentially limited ourselves to birding from the car for the day. The early morning's birding was mostly quiet, however we did find our main target species, **Southern Banded Snake Eagle**, which showed wonderfully well for us.



This soaked Southern Banded Snake Eagle was seen in Isimangaliso Wetland Park.

After a scrumptious sit-down breakfast, we headed back out into Eastern Shores and briefly managed to bird on foot in a small forest patch which yielded **Red-capped Robin-Chat**, **Dark-backed Weaver** and the tricky **Woodward's Batis**. Soon after, the heavens opened again and we were again limited to birding from the car. We saw another of the day's big targets, **African Cuckoo-Hawk**, as it hunted from its perch. The remainder of the day's birding was very enjoyable, despite the weather, and we added **Crowned Eagle**, **Secretarybird**, **Black-bellied Bustard** and another more obliging **African Cuckoo-Hawk**. We decided that it was quality rather than quantity today, eventually accepting defeat and heading back to our guest house in the pouring rain.

Day 10, 12th February 2023. St Lucia birding

Thankfully, when we awoke this morning the weather had cleared and the birds were out and were singing in full voice. We headed to some nearby coastal forest and immediately set about trying to find **Buff-spotted Flufftail**, however, after around 30 minutes with just the bird heard calling, we gave up here. Other good birds in the area included **Livingstone's Turaco**, **Black-throated Wattle-eye**, **White-eared Barbet** and **Terrestrial Brownbul**.

We then tried another section of the trail, and within seconds of playing its call, out popped an inquisitive male **Buff-spotted Flufftail**, which gave us incredible prolonged views. A magical start to the day! Other good birds along the trail included **Common Square-tailed Drongo**, **Black-bellied Starling** and a pair of **Grey Waxbills**, which were busy constructing a nest!



*We could not have asked for better views of this male **Buff-spotted Flufftail**.*

After another tasty breakfast, we headed back out and stopped on the bridge where **Eastern Golden**, **Lesser Masked**, **Thick-billed** and **Southern Brown-throated Weavers** were all breeding and showing well for us. We then popped to a small patch of forest where **Eastern Nicator** gave us good views, along with **Black-and-white Mannikin** and **Dark-backed Weaver**.

We then took some time off during the heat of the early afternoon and met in the late afternoon for a walk down to the St Lucia estuary mouth. There was an impressive tern roost at the mouth today, which was fun to work through and pick out different species. Most of the bulk of the terns included **Common** and **Little Terns** however with some patience we managed to pick out **Sandwich**, **Greater Crested** and **Lesser Crested Terns** with a good number of **Caspian Terns** around too. We enjoyed seeing two vagrant **African Skimmers** here, which had been at this site for the prior few weeks. There were a few waders around too, such as **Eurasian Whimbrel**, **Grey** and **White-fronted Plovers**, **Sanderling**, **Little Stint** and a small group of **African Oystercatchers**. After

yet another enjoyable day, we headed back for dinner and enjoyed a good night's sleep, with flufftail-filled dreams!

Day 11, 13th February 2023. St Lucia to Eshowe, birding en route

We had one final walk along the same forest track this morning in search of **Green Malkoha** and other missing forest species. The walk proved productive and Steve did well to spot a **Green Malkoha** creeping around high up in the canopy. A **Golden-tailed Woodpecker** played hide-and-seek with us and, despite a couple of flight views, we could not find the bird. An eclipse-plumaged male **Purple-banded Sunbird** showed well for us too. We then enjoyed our final St Lucia breakfast, before packing up and hitting the road south to Eshowe, where we were based for the next two nights.

En route to Eshowe, we stopped at some coastal grasslands and immediately found **Black Coucal** and also had good looks at a very confiding **Pale-crowned Cisticola** – a difficult bird on the coastal plain. **Rufous-winged Cisticola** took longer than usual but we eventually enjoyed prolonged views of a calling bird. A quick stop at a nearby dam produced a pair of attractive **African Pygmy Geese**, along with many **Eastern Golden Weavers**.



Eastern Golden Weavers were widespread in Zululand.

We tried birding at Ongoye Forest en route to Eshowe but soon gave up as it started pouring and we decided to head back here the following day instead. After arriving in Eshowe, we did have time for a quick visit to Dlinza Forest, where in the deep forest gloom we managed to find a very secretive **Spotted Ground Thrush** while the small hide had a pair of **Green Twinspots** and

Lemon Doves. Calling **African Wood Owls** at our accommodation were a nice way to end the day.

Day 12, 14th February 2023. Birding the forest around Eshowe

We had the full day to bird the forests and grasslands around Eshowe today and so set off early for Entumeni Forest where, after some patient searching, we had fantastic views of a male **Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon** (well spotted Steve!) and, while enjoying the pigeon, out popped a couple of **Lazy Cisticolas**. After this, our luck seemed to run out and, despite hearing **Chorister Robin-Chat** and **Olive Bushshrike** in the forest, the birds would not show themselves, and the **African Firefinches** played hard-to-get too. A distant **Southern Tchagra** was heard giving its alarm call, but this too would not show itself. We eventually decided it was time for breakfast and headed back to our accommodation.



Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon did not prove too tricky at Entumeni Forest.

Later in the morning after our breakfast, we made our way to the picturesque Ongoye Forest which, with its rolling grasslands on the edge of the forest, must be one of the prettiest areas in Zululand. The birds were again equally difficult to find, nevertheless we persevered and, after some work, found **Green Barbet**, **Brown Scrub Robin**, and a family group of **Southern Ground Hornbills** as they walked through the grasslands. Despite much effort we could not get views of the singing **Chorister Robin-Chat**.

Later that afternoon, we paid a quick visit to Dlinza Forest to try our luck with **Chorister Robin-Chat**, but we ran out of time just as we homed in on a calling bird. After dinner that evening, we headed to a nearby **Swamp Nightjar** stakeout, where the bird showed immediately upon our

arrival. We were very relieved and felt like we deserved an easy bird after all the hard work we had put in today.

Day 13, 15th February 2023. Eshowe to Drakensberg

We had another early start at Entumeni Forest this morning and thankfully the birds played along. Within a couple of hours we had found **Southern Tchagra**, **Sweet Waxbill**, **African Firefinch** and a displaying trio of **Brown-backed Honeybirds**, which is an unusual bird for the area. We then nipped back to Dlinza Forest and relocated the calling **Chorister Robin-Chat** from yesterday afternoon and after much stalking and patience, managed good looks of this forest songster.

We had a long day's drive ahead of us today as we made our way to the Drakensberg Mountains in the interior of KwaZulu-Natal and so immediately jumped in the vehicle and hit the road after our breakfast. Today was not simply a transfer day, however, and we had several birding stops planned en route. First up was a colony of **Red-headed Queleas** which obliged and gave us excellent looks alongside **Thick-billed** and **Eastern Golden Weavers** and **Southern Red Bishops**.



*We had great views of **Red-headed Quelea**.*

We then headed inland and made a stop at Roselands, where a beautiful male **Blue Swallow** soon showed up and gave us fine views, as did a very vocal **Cape Grassbird**. After enjoying our time at Roselands we drove through the impressive Umkomaas Valley which, aside from the incredible views, also had a showy pair of **Red-necked Spurfowl** and a **Golden-tailed Woodpecker** (at last)! After a long but productive day on the road, we arrived at our beautiful accommodation in

the Drakensberg and were welcomed by an attractive **Half-collared Kingfisher**, after which we had a lovely home-cooked chicken curry for dinner.

Day 14, 16th February 2023. Sani Pass birding

We were lucky enough to have local birding expert Stuart McLean guide and drive us up Sani Pass today and, after a quick breakfast and inspection of the target bird list, started making our way up this famous birding destination. The birds came thick and fast and before we knew it, we had added **Greater Double-collared Sunbird, Red-throated Wryneck, African Black and Horus Swifts, Cape Rock Thrush, Bush Blackcap** and a displaying **Fan-tailed Grassbird**. We had superb views of **Gurney's Sugarbird** as it posed on top of a protea flower for us.

As we climbed in elevation, we started encountering more new birds, such as **Barratt's Warbler** and **Ground Woodpecker**. Unfortunately, as we gained in elevation the weather deteriorated and our visibility went down to almost zero. We persevered however, and as we made it into the highlands of the Kingdom of Lesotho, the weather improved and we were able to find more of our targets. We concentrated on finding the high-altitude specials and within very little time we had found **Drakensberg Siskin, Drakensberg Rockjumper** and **Mountain Pipit**.

At our lunch stop we added **Karoo Scrub Robin** and an obliging **Black-headed Canary**, both here at their very eastern limit of their range, and had **Bearded** and **Cape Vultures** soaring overhead. As we started making our way back to Sani Pass, we added the likes of **Sickle-winged Chat, Fairy Flycatcher, Sentinel Rock Thrush, Grey Tit, Karoo Prinia, Yellow Canary, Layard's Warbler** and **White-necked Raven**. Unfortunately, the calling **Grey-winged Francolins** would not show themselves for us. Despite a wet, cold and misty day up Sani Pass, we managed to see just about all of our targets and had a thoroughly enjoyable day out.



Karoo Prinia eventually showed well for us.

Day 15, 17th February 2023. Birding the Drakensberg foothills

Today was our final full day of the tour and with just about all of our targets already found, we decided we would look for the remaining few and then have some downtime later in the day. Our pre-breakfast birding finally landed us a **Nicholson's Pipit**, which we had missed yesterday despite searching extensively. We also enjoyed some time pulling wattle saplings – an invasive alien plant species – so we felt we were doing our bit for the ecology of Sani Pass.

We enjoyed a sit-down breakfast with lovely views out over the lake, and then made our way through Underberg in search of **Wattled Crane**. En route to the crane stakeout we came across a massive flock of around 2,000 **Amur Falcons**, which was a spectacle to observe. Steve and Anne did well to pick out a single **Red-footed Falcon**, a tough bird in the area. Around the corner, a pair of **Wattled Cranes** showed with a single near-adult chick, and we enjoyed scope views. We also had fun watching a pair of **Grey Crowned Cranes** as they displayed to each other. We had a last drive around the area and managed good looks at many **Red-billed Quelea** and brief views of **African Rail** before we took the rest of the afternoon off and enjoyed a tasty South African braai (barbeque) to finish the trip.



This 'dancing' Grey Crowned Crane was good fun to watch.

Day 16, 18th February 2023. Drakensberg to Durban and tour conclusion

We had a later start this morning and appreciated another lovely sit-down breakfast before packing up and leaving the Sani Pass area. We had planned to stop off around Pietermaritzburg for some last-minute birding, however the weather had different plans for us and, after trying in vain to eke out some missing species, we accepted defeat and headed to the airport a bit earlier. We had our final meal of the trip and then said our goodbyes after what had been a thoroughly enjoyable time in eastern South Africa.

Bird List - Following IOC (13.1)

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. South African endemics are bolded.

Common Name	Scientific Name
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>
Blue-billed Teal	<i>Spatula hottentota</i>
Cape Shoveler	<i>Spatula smithii</i>
Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>
Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>
Southern Pochard	<i>Netta erythrophthalma</i>
Maccoa Duck - VU	<i>Oxyura maccoa</i>
Guineafowl (Numididae)	
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
Southern Crested Guineafowl	<i>Guttera edouardi</i>
Pheasants & Allies (Phasianidae)	
Crested Francolin	<i>Ortygornis sephaena</i>
Red-winged Francolin	<i>Scleroptila levaillantii</i>
Grey-winged Francolin (H)	<i>Scleroptila afra</i>
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>
Natal Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis natalensis</i>
Swainson's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>
Red-necked Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis afer</i>
Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)	
Swamp Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus natalensis</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>
Horus Swift	<i>Apus horus</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>
Turacos (Musophagidae)	
Grey Go-away-bird	<i>Crinifer concolor</i>
Purple-crested Turaco	<i>Gallirex porphyreolophus</i>
Livingstone's Turaco	<i>Tauraco livingstonii</i>
Knysna Turaco	<i>Tauraco corythaix</i>
Bustards (Otididae)	
Denham's Bustard	<i>Neotis denhami</i>
White-bellied Bustard (H)	<i>Eupodotis senegalensis</i>
Blue Korhaan	<i>Eupodotis caerulescens</i>
Black-bellied Bustard	<i>Lissotis melanogaster</i>
Cuckoos (Cuculidae)	
Burchell's Coucal	<i>Centropus burchellii</i>
Black Coucal	<i>Centropus grillii</i>
Green Malkoha	<i>Ceuthmochares australis</i>
Jacobin Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>
Diederik Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>
Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>
African Emerald Cuckoo (H)	<i>Chrysococcyx cupreus</i>
Black Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus clamosus</i>
Red-chested Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>
African Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus gularis</i>
Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)	
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
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>
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>
Blue-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur afer</i>
Tambourine Dove	<i>Turtur tympanistria</i>
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>
African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>
Flufftails (Sarothruridae)	
Buff-spotted Flufftail	<i>Sarothrura elegans</i>
Red-chested Flufftail	<i>Sarothrura rufa</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Rails, Crakes & Coots (Rallidae)	
African Rail	<i>Rallus caerulescens</i>
African Crake (H)	<i>Crecoptis egregia</i>
Corn Crake	<i>Crex crex</i>
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>
Allen's Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio alleni</i>
Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>
Baillon's Crake (H)	<i>Zapornia pusilla</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>
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
Stone-curlews, Thick-knees (Burhinidae)	
Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>
Oystercatchers (Haematopodidae)	
African Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus moquini</i>
Plovers (Charadriidae)	
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>
Senegal Lapwing	<i>Vanellus lugubris</i>
Black-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus melanopterus</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 tricollaris</i>
White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>
Jacanas (Jacanidae)	
Lesser Jacana	<i>Microparra capensis</i>
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopacidae)	
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)	
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>
Hartlaub's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus hartlaubii</i>
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>
Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bengalensis</i>
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
African Skimmer	<i>Rynchops flavirostris</i>
Storks (Ciconiidae)	
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>
Abdim's Stork	<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>
Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>
Anhingas, Darters (Anhingidae)	
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>
Cormorants, Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)	
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>
White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</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>
Hérons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)	
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</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 - EN	<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>
Bearded Vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>
African Cuckoo-Hawk	<i>Aviceda cuculoides</i>
Hooded Vulture - CR	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>
White-backed Vulture - CR	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
Cape Vulture - EN	<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>
Black-chested Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>
Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>
Southern Banded Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus fasciolatus</i>
Bateleur - EN	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>
Bat Hawk	<i>Macheiramphus alcinus</i>
Crowned Eagle	<i>Stephanoaetus coronatus</i>
Martial Eagle - EN	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>
Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus wahlbergi</i>
Tawny Eagle - VU	<i>Aquila rapax</i>
African Hawk-Eagle	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>
Lizard Buzzard (H)	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</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)	
African Grass Owl	<i>Tyto capensis</i>
Owls (Strigidae)	
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>
Marsh Owl	<i>Asio capensis</i>
African Wood Owl (H)	<i>Strix woodfordii</i>
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>
Spotted Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>
Mousebirds (Coliidae)	
Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>
Red-faced Mousebird	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>
Hoopoes (Upupidae)	
African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>
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>
Trumpeter Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes bucinator</i>
Rollers (Coraciidae)	
Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>
Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)	
Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>
Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>
Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>
Half-collared Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo semitorquata</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>
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</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>
Black-collared Barbet	<i>Lybius torquatus</i>
Crested Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>
Honeyguides (Indicatoridae)	
Brown-backed Honeybird	<i>Prodotiscus regulus</i>
Scaly-throated Honeyguide	<i>Indicator variegatus</i>
Greater Honeyguide (H)	<i>Indicator indicator</i>
Woodpeckers (Picidae)	
Red-throated Wryneck	<i>Jynx ruficollis</i>
Ground Woodpecker	<i>Geocolaptes olivaceus</i>
Bennett's Woodpecker	<i>Campethera bennettii</i>
Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>
Olive Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos griseocephalus</i>
Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)	
Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>
Amur Falcon	<i>Falco amurensis</i>
Sooty Falcon - VU	<i>Falco concolor</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>
African & New World Parrots (Psittacidae)	
Cape Parrot - VU	<i>Poicephalus robustus</i>
African & Green Broadbills (Calyptomenidae)	
African Broadbill	<i>Smithornis capensis</i>
Wattle-eyes, Batises (Platysteiridae)	
Cape Batis	<i>Batis capensis</i>
Woodward's Batis	<i>Batis fratrum</i>
Chinspot Batis (H)	<i>Batis molitor</i>
Black-throated Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira peltata</i>
Bushshrikes (Malaconotidae)	
Grey-headed Bushshrike	<i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i>
Black-fronted Bushshrike	<i>Chlorophoneus nigrifrons</i>
Olive Bushshrike (H)	<i>Chlorophoneus olivaceus</i>
Gorgeous Bushshrike	<i>Telophorus viridis</i>
Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>
Southern Tchagra	<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 (H)	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>
Vangas & Allies (Vangidae)	
White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>
Retz's Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops retzii</i>
Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae)	
White-breasted Cuckooshrike	<i>Ceblepyris pectoralis</i>
Grey Cuckooshrike	<i>Ceblepyris caesius</i>
Shrikes (Laniidae)	
Magpie Shrike	<i>Urolestes melanoleucus</i>
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>
Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>
Figbirds, Orioles, Turnagra (Oriolidae)	
Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Drongos (Dicruridae)	
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
Common Square-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus ludwigii</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	<i>Chaetops aurantius</i>
Fairy Flycatchers (Stenostiridae)	
Fairy Flycatcher	<i>Stenostira scita</i>
Tits, Chickadees (Paridae)	
Southern Black Tit	<i>Melaniparus niger</i>
Ashy Tit	<i>Melaniparus cinerascens</i>
Grey Tit	<i>Melaniparus afer</i>
Penduline Tits (Remizidae)	
Grey Penduline Tit	<i>Anthoscopus caroli</i>
Cape Penduline Tit	<i>Anthoscopus minutus</i>
Nicator (Nicatoridae)	
Eastern Nicator	<i>Nicator gularis</i>
Larks (Alaudidae)	
Spike-heeled Lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>
Short-clawed Lark	<i>Certhilauda chuana</i>
Eastern Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda semitorquata</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>
Melodious Lark (H)	<i>Miraфра cheniana</i>
Pink-billed Lark	<i>Spizocorys conirostris</i>
Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)	
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>
Dark-capped Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus tricolor</i>
Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)	
Black Saw-wing	<i>Psolidoprocne pristoptera</i>
Banded Martin	<i>Neophedina cincta</i>
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>
Grey-rumped Swallow	<i>Pseudhirundo griseopyga</i>
Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>
Blue Swallow - VU	<i>Hirundo atrocaerulea</i>
Pearl-breasted Swallow	<i>Hirundo dimidiata</i>
White-throated Swallow	<i>Hirundo albigularis</i>
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
Red-breasted Swallow	<i>Cecropis semirufa</i>
Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>
Greater Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis cucullata</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)	
African Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>
Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>
African Yellow Warbler	<i>Iduna natalensis</i>
Olive-tree Warbler (H)	<i>Hippolais olivetorum</i>
Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>
Grassbirds & Allies (Locustellidae)	
Fan-tailed Grassbird	<i>Catriscus brevirostris</i>
Barratt's Warbler	<i>Bradypterus barratti</i>
Little Rush Warbler	<i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
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>
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>
Stierling's Wren-Warbler	<i>Calamonastes stierlingi</i>
Barred Wren-Warbler	<i>Calamonastes fasciolatus</i>
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>
Burnt-necked Eremomela	<i>Eremomela usticollis</i>
Sylviid Babblers (Sylviidae)	
Bush Blackcap - VU	<i>Sylvia nigricapillus</i>
Layard's Warbler	<i>Curruca layardi</i>
Chestnut-vented Warbler	<i>Curruca subcoerulea</i>
White-eyes (Zosteropidae)	
Cape White-eye	<i>Zosterops virens</i>
Southern Yellow White-eye	<i>Zosterops anderssoni</i>
Laughingthrushes & Allies (Leiothrichidae)	
Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>
Sugarbirds (Promeropidae)	
Gurney's Sugarbird	<i>Promerops gurneyi</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Starlings, Rhabdornis (Sturnidae)	
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Black-bellied Starling	<i>Notopholia corusca</i>
Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>
Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>
Pied Starling	<i>Lamprotornis bicolor</i>
Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>
Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>
Oxpeckers (Buphagidae)	
Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorynchus</i>
Thrushes (Turdidae)	
Spotted Ground Thrush - EN	<i>Geokichla guttata</i>
Orange Ground Thrush	<i>Geokichla gurneyi</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 (H)	<i>Myioparus plumbeus</i>
Southern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pammelaina</i>
Pale Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pallidus</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>
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	<i>Monticola explorator</i>
African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>
Buff-streaked Chat	<i>Campicoloides bifasciatus</i>
Ant-eating Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>
Mountain Wheatear	<i>Myrmecocichla monticola</i>
Arnot's Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla arnotti</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
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>
Greater Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris afer</i>
Purple-banded Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris bifasciatus</i>
White-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris talatala</i>
Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches (Passeridae)	
Yellow-throated Bush Sparrow	<i>Gymnoris superciliaris</i>
Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</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>
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>
Holub's Golden Weaver	<i>Ploceus xanthops</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>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Waxbills, Munias & Allies (Estrildidae)	
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>
Magpie Mannikin	<i>Spermestes fringilloides</i>
Black-and-white Mannikin	<i>Spermestes nigriceps</i>
Sweet Waxbill	<i>Coccyzygia melanotis</i>
Green Twinspot	<i>Mandingoa nitidula</i>
Grey Waxbill	<i>Glaucostrepera perreini</i>
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
Quailfinch	<i>Ortygospiza atricollis</i>
Cut-throat Finch	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>
Violet-eared Waxbill	<i>Granatina granatina</i>
Blue Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>
Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>
Pink-throated Twinspot	<i>Hypargos margaritatus</i>
African Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rubricata</i>
Indigobirds, Whydahs (Viduidae)	
Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>
Purple Indigobird	<i>Vidua purpurascens</i>
Dusky Indigobird	<i>Vidua funerea</i>
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>
Shaft-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua regia</i>
Long-tailed Paradise Whydah	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>
Cuckoo-finch	<i>Anomalospiza imberbis</i>
Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)	
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
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>
African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>
Mountain Pipit	<i>Anthus hoeschi</i>
Nicholson's Pipit	<i>Anthus nicholsoni</i>
Plain-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>
African Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus crenatus</i>
Short-tailed Pipit	<i>Anthus brachyurus</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>
Lemon-breasted Canary	<i>Crithagra citrinipectus</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
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>
Black-headed Canary	<i>Serinus alario</i>
Buntings (Emberizidae)	
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>
Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>
Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>
Total seen	438
Total heard only	14
Total recorded	452

Mammal List

Common Name	Scientific Name
Hyraxes (Procaviidae)	
Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>
Elephants (Elephantidae)	
African Elephant - VU	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>
Squirrels and Relatives (Sciuridae)	
Red Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus palliatus</i>
Old World Mice, Rats and Gerbils (Muridae)	
Sloggett's Vlei Rat	<i>Otomys sloggetti</i>
Old World Monkeys (Cercopithecidae)	
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>
Vervet	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>
Blue Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mitis</i>
Cats (Felidae)	
Serval	<i>Felis serval</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Mongoose and Fossa (Herpestidae)	
Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>
Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>
Meerkat	<i>Suricata suricatta</i>
Canids (Canidae)	
Side-striped Jackal	<i>Canis adustus</i>
Mustelids (Mustelidae)	
Spotted-necked Otter	<i>Lutra maculicolis</i>
Horses, Asses and Zebras (Equidae)	
Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>
Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae)	
White Rhinoceros	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>
Hogs and Pigs (Suidae)	
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>
Hippopotamuses (Hippopotamidae)	
Hippopotamus - VU	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>
Bovids (Bovidae)	
African Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>
Common Eland	<i>Tragelaphus oryx</i>
Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>
Nyala	<i>Tragelaphus angasii</i>
Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>
Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>
Mountain Reedbuck	<i>Redunca fulvorufula</i>
Southern Reedbuck	<i>Redunca arundinum</i>
Grey Rhebok	<i>Pelea capreolus</i>
Black Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes gnou</i>
Common (Blue) Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>
(Red) Haartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>
Blesbok	<i>Damaliscus pygargus</i>
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>
Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Suni	<i>Neotragus moschatus</i>
Oribi	<i>Ourebia ourebi</i>
Natal Red Duiker	<i>Cephalophus natalensis</i>
Blue Duiker	<i>Philantomba monticola</i>
Common Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>
Giraffes and Okapis (Giraffidae)	
Southern Giraffe	<i>Giraffa giraffa</i>
Total seen	48

Reptile List

Common Name	Scientific Name
Land Tortoises (Testudinidae)	
Leopard Tortoise	<i>Geochelone pardalis</i>
Marsh Terrapin (Pelomedusidae)	
Marsh Terrapin	<i>Pelomedusa subrufa</i>
Monitors (Varanidae)	
Nile Monitor	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>
Geckos (Gekkonidae)	
Moreau's Tropical House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus maboui</i>
Crocodiles (Crocodylidae)	
Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>
Total seen	5