



In conjunction with



SOUTH AFRICA CAPE AND KRUGER: BIRDING AND WILDLIFE TRIP REPORT

24 SEPTEMBER – 10 OCTOBER 2022



The massive Southern Ground Hornbill was a major highlight on the Kruger leg of the tour.

Overview

This private tour was run for the Tucson Audubon Society and was divided into two portions. An eight-day leg in and around Cape Town and the Western Province, followed by a ten-day Kruger and highveld leg. Most clients joined for both the Cape and Kruger legs, but there were a small number of clients who joined only the Cape leg and only the Kruger leg respectively. Run during the spring period in South Africa, this tour was timed to maximize the birding potential, due to the onset of the breeding season in South Africa. Adverse weather did not play a role in this tour, and largely good weather (though cold on a few days around the Cape) was had throughout the tour.

The Cape leg started in Cape Town, the mother city of South Africa. Here several days were spent exploring the wonders of the Cape Peninsula, taking a pelagic boat trip in search of various seabirds, and a visit to some of the False Bay birding sites, such as Rooiels, to look for a number of endemic birds like **Cape Rockjumper**. We then transited up the west coast to the charming hamlet of Langebaan, scenically set on the Langebaan Lagoon, before heading inland to the rain-shadow side of the Cederberg Mountains and the desolate plains of the Tankwa Karoo (and all its many endemic birds). The trip then ended back in Cape Town, before moving onwards to the bustling metropolis of Johannesburg in central South Africa for the Kruger leg of the tour. From Johannesburg, the tour headed eastwards towards the world-famous Kruger National Park, with stops along the way in the rolling grasslands of Dullstroom, set in the high altitude hills of the Drakensberg Mountains, along with the montane forests of Mount Sheba, on the edge of the escarpment. Five days in the wonderful Kruger National Park followed, before rounding off the trip in style in the diverse acacia thornveld of the Rust de Winter region, just outside of Johannesburg.



A Lion watched us curiously in the Kruger National Park.

Combining both legs the tour totaled 17-days, and covered a wide range of habitats. The endemic-rich Western Cape province produced some of South Africa's most wanted specials, such as **Cape Rockjumper**, **Black Harrier**, **Cinnamon-breasted Warbler** and **Karoo Eremomela**, while the pelagic trip off Cape Town yielded numbers of albatrosses and petrels in an incredible spectacle of birds. The Kruger leg produced some fine regional specialties as well, such as **Gurney's Sugarbird**, **Cape Eagle Owl**, **Orange Ground Thrush** and **Knysna Turaco**, along with some of Kruger's iconic species such as **Southern Ground Hornbill**, **Kori Bustard** and **Saddle-billed Stork**. Mammals also featured heavily on the tour, and on top of finding and enjoying 'The Big 5' (which are **African Elephant**, **African Buffalo**, **White Rhino**, **Lion** and **Leopard**), we were treated to special sightings of other scarce mammals such as **African Wild Dog** and **Honey Badger**. The total bird list exceeded 400 species, and the mammal list well over 50 species. The full lists can be found at the end of this tour report.

Detailed Report

Day 1, 24th September 2022. Birding the Cape Peninsula

The whole group had arrived a few days prior to the official beginning of the tour, so we had a full day at our disposal to get familiar with some of the local species, in some of the most majestic settings on the Cape Peninsula. Our morning began at the famous Boulder's Beach – home to a large African Penguin colony. Here the **African Penguins** were the main highlight, and put on a good show for us. We also managed to acquaint ourselves with the likes of more widespread species such as **Southern Boubou**, **Cape Robin-Chat**, **Karoo Prinia**, **Southern Double-collared Sunbird** and **Red-winged Starling**, amongst others. The rocky shoreline also provided us with **African Oystercatchers**, along with several marine cormorants including the scarce **Crowned Cormorant**, a variety of gulls and terns, including **Hartlaub's** and **Grey-headed Gulls**, and several **Eurasian Whimbrels**. Numbers of **Rock Hyrax** were also present.

The Cape Point section of the scenic Table Mountain National Park followed, and we spent our time exploring the Cape Point and Cape of Good Hope environs, along with a few areas throughout the park. We added some good birds to our trip list with the likes of **Common Ostrich**, **Southern Boubou**, **Cape Grassbird**, **Cape Bunting** and **Rock Kestrel** putting in appearances, while some exploring of the flowering proteas gave up the incredible **Cape Sugarbird** along with bright **Orange-breasted** and **Malachite Sunbirds**. **Yellow Bishops** were also present in the fynbos. The park also gave our mammal list a bit of a boost, with a few of the large **Common Eland** visible, along with the ever-present **Chacma Baboons** and numbers of **Afro-Australian Fur Seals** off the coast.

Eventually, we had to tear ourselves away, and we enjoyed the scenic coastal ride as we made our way to the impressive Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens. These famous gardens need no introduction, and our afternoon walk through showed us exactly why. Scenery aside, the birding was excellent, and we made slow progress. Nesting **Spotted Eagle-Owls** halted us at the gate, before masses of activity in a flowering section delivered the likes of **Bronze Mannikin**, **Common Waxbill**, **Pin-tailed Whydah**, **Cape Canary** and several bright sunbirds we had become acquainted with earlier in the day. Moving through the gardens we added the likes of **Speckled Mousebird**, **Cape Spurfowl**, **Helmeted Guineafowl** and the scarce **Forest Canary**. We also

enjoyed some good raptor watching, with great looks at **Forest Buzzard**, along with a young **Black Sparrowhawk**. Following a magical first day exploring the Cape Peninsula, we settled in for the evening.



Visiting the African Penguin colony at Boulder's Beach produced fine views of them.

Day 2, 25th September 2022. Pelagic off the Cape Peninsula

The sea conditions and weather had aligned for today, and meant we were able to depart on our scheduled pelagic birding trip, out of Hout Bay. After getting on board our boat, we paused for the likes of **Crowned Cormorant** and **Grey Heron** in the harbor, before we found ourselves heading out to the deep. A **Southern Right Whale** brought us to a stop soon after, where we enjoyed great looks as it loafed around the surface and breached several times. We picked up on a distant trawler, and made our way towards her, with the birds picking up as we pulled into her wake. **Shy** and **Black-browed Albatrosses** dominated the proceedings, along with **White-chinned Petrel**, while smaller numbers of **Sooty Shearwater** and **Cape Gannet** were also present. As we began sifting through the vast numbers of birds we added a few others like **Northern Giant Petrel**, **Brown** (Sub-antarctic) **Skua** and **Common Tern**. We also eventually picked out a **Cape** (Pintado) **Petrel**, but try as we might, we couldn't turn up any other pelagic birds. We visited another trawler on our way back in, but very few birds were present behind this boat. A stop off at Seal Island, just outside Hout Bay, finally delivered us our last marine cormorant – **Bank Cormorant**, amongst the hordes of **Afro-Australian Fur Seals**. We had the afternoon at leisure, as we recouped from a good, but tiring day out at sea.



A pelagic outing off Cape Town produced a number of different pelagic birds – various albatrosses, petrels and shearwaters can be seen in this photo.

Day 3, 26th September 2022. Birding False Bay and beyond

An always exciting day, as we made our way through Cape Town, and out to the other side of False Bay – bound for the Hottentot Hollands range, where we would focus our efforts on finding the specials of Rooiels and Betty’s Bay. A cool, drizzly and breezy morning greeted us as we stepped out of the car at Rooiels. It was a pretty quiet morning with little in the way of bird activity, but our patience was rewarded with good and extended views of the highly prized **Cape Rockjumper**, including a seemingly fledged chick being fed by the parents. **Ground Woodpecker** frustrated us by calling out of sight, and we also notched up the likes of **Peregrine Falcon** and **Booted Eagle**, along with **Cape Rock Thrush**. We also enjoyed repeat views of the likes of **Cape Sugarbird**, **Orange-breasted Sunbird**, **Grey-backed Cisticola** and **Yellow Bishop**.

After a coffee to warm up, we headed out to Harold Porter Botanical Gardens, where we spent a few hours exploring. The sun had just come out now, and the activity level increased dramatically. We quickly added a few new species with **Streaky-headed Seedeater** and **Bar-throated Apalis**, along with enjoying good views of other special birds like **Swee Waxbill**, before a **Brimstone Canary** stole the show for a bit. We enjoyed our first views of **Cape Weaver**, along with several hirundines such as **Black Saw-wing** and **White-throated Swallow**. Exploring some of the mountain fynbos finally gave some good views of **Cape Siskin**, with several fleeting views earlier in the day, along with **Neddicky** and another **Cape Rock Thrush**. Here we also finally heard **Victorin’s Warbler**, and spent a while working the bird, with only me getting brief views of this shy species. We eventually left the bird in peace, without views, finding a party of **Cape Batis** and **Amethyst Sunbird**, before calling it time on our botanical garden visit. A brief **Verreaux’s Eagle** was seen by some, flying overhead. We transited back to Cape Town, pausing for a pair of **Blue**

Cranes – South Africa’s national bird, near Grabouw, before a final stop at Sir Lowry’s Pass produced a showy **Victorin’s Warbler** that we all managed to get onto in record time. We settled in for the evening following another good day in the field!



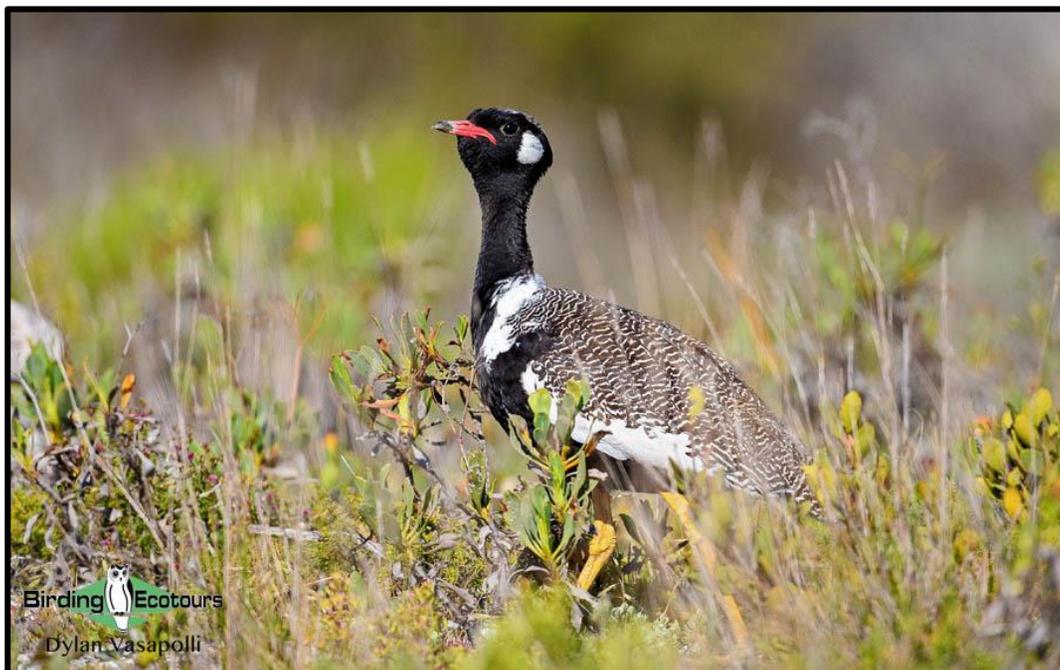
Cape Sugarbird was one of many nectar-feeding birds possible in South Africa.

Day 4, 27th September 2022. Birding up the West Coast

After a hearty breakfast, we gathered all our things, and set off for the west coast north of Cape Town – bound for our eventual end destination at Langebaan. We started off our morning in the Darling Hills area, where we unsuccessfully hunted for Cape Clapper Lark, but did manage several views of the prized **Southern Black Korhaan**. The mix of agricultural lands and natural renosterveld was extremely birdy, and we added a number of species as we went along. The delightful **Bokmakierie** was thoroughly enjoyed, as were the likes of **African Hoopoe**, **Cardinal Woodpecker** and **European Bee-eater**. Several raptors were seen including **Jackal Buzzard**, **Yellow-billed Kite** and **African Marsh Harrier**, amongst others. We also enjoyed our first looks at **Pied Starling** and **Southern Red Bishop**, and managed to eke out the likes of **Long-billed Crombec** and both **African Reed** and **Little Rush Warbler**, from their thickets. Numbers of **Pearl-breasted Swallows** were busy over the area. Following our lunch break in Darling – a town that invokes its name – we journeyed towards the West Coast National Park, pausing at the Tinie Versveld Nature Reserve for a few grassland species. Here it took us a long while to track down the persistently calling **Cloud Cisticola**, but our patience and perseverance were rewarded with good views in the end. We also enjoyed **Capped Wheatears**, **Large-billed Larks**, **Cape Longclaws** and **Yellow Canaries** while we searched.

We eventually made it to the West Coast National Park, and immediately headed off for the Geelbek hides, where to our dismay found the tide already in. Nonetheless, we still checked it out,

and enjoyed both **Greater** and **Lesser Flamingo** side by side, along with bits and pieces of several shorebirds – everything from **Common Ringed** and **Kittlitz’s Plovers**, to **Pied Avocet**, **Common Greenshank**, **Little Stint** and **Marsh Sandpipers**. A quick visit to the nearby Abrahmaskraal Waterhole produced a fine array of birds, and we found it hard to leave the place when the time came. Fine male **Southern Black Korhaans** showed well on the plains outside the hide, while an even better **Black Harrier** came swooping around giving all excellent views! Dainty **Black Crakes** and shy **African Rails** both showed, with the **African Rails** in particular coming extremely close. We also added several common waterbirds, along with Cape Shoveler and a group of **African Spoonbills**. Pressing onwards to Seeberg hide in the north, we finally found **Grey-winged Francolin**, and the walkway down to the hide gave up **Cape Penduline Tit**, **Chestnut-vented Warbler** and **Karoo Scrub Robin**. The tide was still in, which was beneficial because the different nature of the sandbars meant that more shorebirds congregate here at high tide. Numbers of **African Oystercatchers** and **Common Whimbrels** were present, as were **Common Greenshank** and **White-fronted Plover**. Some careful scanning revealed a **Curlew Sandpiper** amongst them all. We also got more looks at both **Greater** and **Lesser Flamingo**, and added a few **Terns** to the list with **Sandwich** and **Caspian** showing. Following a long, but excellent, day which yielded more than 100 species, we settled in for the evening.



Southern Black Korhaan is a shy denizen of the coastal fynbos on the west coast.

Day 5, 28th September 2022. Birding from Langebaan to the Tankwa Karoo

Our morning kicked off at the nearby Langebaan Quarry, where a pair of **Verreaux’s Eagles** have bred for some time. While the adults were missing in action, we did see the large fledged chick on the nest, and spent some time watching the bird, along with the antics of the many nearby **Rock Kestrels** – some of which were even landing on the eagle nest as well. Numbers of **African Black**

Swifts were also present in the area. Some of the coastal vegetation nearby gave up a fine **Cape Penduline Tit**, along with **Red-faced Mousebird** and our first views of **White-throated Canary**. Soon we found ourselves bound for the Vredenberg farmlands, where Cape Long-billed Lark would be our main target. Our main access point was closed due to roadworks, and we opted to explore another quiet backroad. It took a few goes, but persistence and a lot of careful scanning eventually gave us an excellent **Cape Long-billed Lark**. Also present here were close **Blue Crane**, numbers of **Large-billed** and **Red-capped Larks**, and masses of **Capped Wheatears**, amongst other more widespread species.

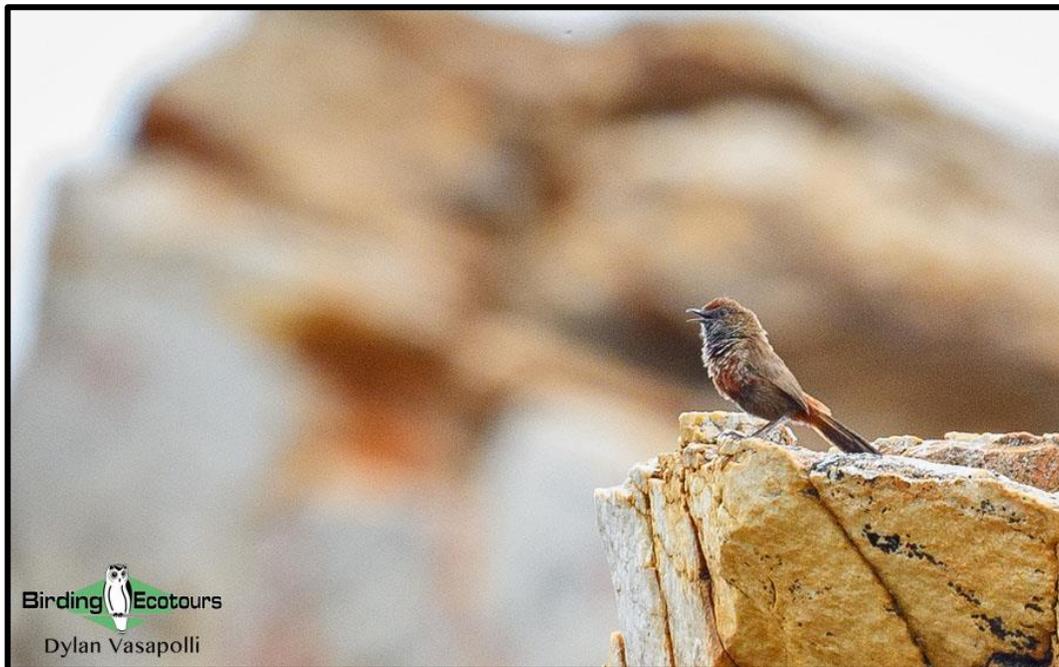
A detour back to Langebaan followed, before we got going once more – pausing at the Kliphoek Salt Pans for some brief post-lunch birding. Things started off with a bang as we found a **Chestnut-banded Plover**, our main target at the first time of asking, and at the same spot, a lovely **Secretarybird** walking in the surrounding fields. It took a while before we all had good looks at the **Secretarybird**, while we found many more **Chestnut-banded Plovers** as we went along. Masses of both **Greater** and **Lesser Flamingos** were present on the pans, while a stately **African Swamphen** walked the edges of some reeds and **African Spoonbill** probed around the shallower reaches. Nearby, a tern roost held several species from **Caspian** and **Greater Crested Terns** to **Whiskered** and **Sandwich Terns**. Several other shorebird species we had seen yesterday were also seen, as was a large grouping of **Black-necked Grebes** in a variety of plumage states. Bright **European Bee-eaters** were also enjoyed. Before long, we had to pull ourselves away, and continue our journey to the Tankwa Karoo, where we would spend the next two nights. This was a spectacular drive passing through the Cederberg Mountains, and our final stop of the day gave us the hoped-for **Cape Clapper Lark**, right on cue. We settled in for the evening following another long, but great, day!



*High populations of the gorgeous **Chestnut-banded Plover** were found on the west coast.*

Day 6, 29th September 2022. Birding the Tankwa Karoo

A beautiful day dawned over the Tankwa Karoo, and following a hearty breakfast, saw us heading out into the plains in search of the many endemics that call this home. We got off to a good start enjoying **Layard's Warbler** and **Grey Tit** around the lodge, before finding the first of many **Karoo Chats** for the day. Excellent views of **Large-billed Lark** were enjoyed, before we picked out our first **Karoo Lark**. While enjoying great views of the latter, the subtly beautiful **Rufous-eared Warbler** piped up and showed nicely for all. A lively group of **Karoo Eremomelas** didn't put up too much of a fight – this area surely being one of the best areas in the country to connect with this otherwise decidedly tricky bird. Stops here and there gave up further species such as **Tractrac** and **Sickle-winged Chats**, **Spike-heeled Larks**, while **Karoo Korhaans** were heard a few times, and rather unfortunately seen only by Luke and I, despite a huge amount of effort. Denser karoooid vegetation finally gave up **Yellow-bellied Eremomela**, before we started working a small riverine area. The bird life here was truly prolific, and we quickly notched up the hoped for **Namaqua Warbler**, along with the lively **Fairy Flycatcher**. Several **Acacia Pied Barbets** along with **White-throated Canary**, **Red-faced Mousebird**, **Layard's Warbler**, **Long-billed Crombec**, **Karoo Scrub Robin**, and **Fiscal Flycatcher**, amongst others, were all enjoyed. Our excitement wasn't over yet, when we picked up a **Black-headed Canary** moving overhead – and followed it into the distance. We moved on up to the area where it had seemingly landed and enjoyed much better looks, albeit briefly, before it disappeared just as quickly as it had appeared.



Cinnamon-breasted Warbler, a highly sought-after special, was seen in the Karoo mountains.

We eventually had to tear ourselves away and break for lunch, and we settled into a lovely rocky area. Almost as soon as we stepped out of the car, we picked up the hugely prized **Cinnamon-breasted Warbler**, and spent a short while enjoying the bird as it snuck around the rocky cervices

it frequents, and calling atop bushes. Following our lunch, a short spell of birding produced yet more birds with a pair of **Pale-winged Starlings** and **Mountain Wheatear** being found, while both **Booted Eagle** and **African Harrier Hawk** were seen overhead. We made our way back to the lodge, with a surprise group of **Namaqua Sandgrouse**, here at the very southern edge of their range, and a **Pale Chanting Goshawk** stopping us. Following a truly excellent day out, we had the afternoon at leisure. A night drive post-dinner was rather on the quiet side, except for a wonderful **Spotted Eagle-Owl** sighting.

Day 7, 30th September 2022. Birding from the Tankwa Karoo to Cape Town

Our last full day of the Cape section of the tour had arrived, and our morning saw us visiting a nearby wetland, where we unsuccessfully tried for views of a vocal **Red-chested Flufftail**. Many other species were around and kept us busy in the interim, with the likes of **White-backed Mousebird**, **Bokmakierie**, **Karoo Thrush**, **Karoo Chat**, **Mountain Wheatear**, **Malachite Sunbird** and **Nicholson's Pipit**, amongst others. We also enjoyed views of **African Reed Warbler**, while a calling **Little Bittern** remained out of sight. Following another good breakfast, we gathered our things, and started the drive back to Cape Town. A parting gift for us was another group of the scarce **Namaqua Sandgrouse** flying by.



Delightful Southern Double-collared Sunbirds were common on the Cape leg of the tour.

Protea Canary was the next target on our radar, and our first stop near Ceres had us nearly get blown off the hills by an immensely strong wind. We sought shelter lower down the slopes, and had to make do with the likes of **Bar-throated Apalis**, **Malachite Sunbird** and several of the similar **Streaky-headed Seedeaters** – but no Protea Canary. We headed to another site en-route, and found the wind to have totally died down here, but the Protea Canaries were notable only by

their absence. We spent a while working this site, and enjoyed other species such as **Verreaux's Eagle** flying overhead, while a pair of bright **Cape Rock Thrushes** sat atop some proteas, and a **Victorin's Warbler** called from some of the denser stands of thickets. We eventually had to call it, and made our way onwards to the Strandfontein Nature Reserve, which incorporates a fantastic sewage treatment plant that houses many waterbirds. This would be our final stop of the day, and we spent a few hours working the network of pans and waterbodies. As usual, vast numbers of birds were present, and amongst the hordes of **Cape Teals**, **Cape Shovelers** and **Greater Flamingos**, we enjoyed scarcer species such as **Fulvous Whistling Duck**, **Southern Pochard**, **Maccoa Duck**, **Glossy Ibis**, **Lesser Flamingo** and **Great White Pelican**. The reedy verges held onto **African Swamphens**, and a bright **Malachite Kingfisher**, while the muddy verges supported a few shorebirds, notably **Black-winged Stilt** and **Pied Avocet**. The surrounding areas gave us further species including **Zitting Cisticola**, **Yellow Bishop** and **Pin-tailed Whydah**. We wrapped up our time in and around the Cape with a good meal, before settling in for the evening.

Day 8, 01st October 2022. Flight to Johannesburg, and start of Kruger leg

The day was set aside as a travel day, with most of the group making their way up to Johannesburg to continue with the Kruger leg of this tour. We had an easy morning before saying farewell to Bill, who would be leaving the group and not joining the Kruger leg, and making our way to the airport.

We had a smooth trip, checking in to our well-appointed lodge in Johannesburg in the mid-afternoon. Here we met with the new participants joining only this leg of the tour, and enjoyed some garden birding around the lodge grounds before settling in for the evening. We were able to acquaint ourselves with several common garden birds such as **Crested Barbet**, **Dark-capped Bulbul**, **Karoo Thrush**, **Red-headed Finch** and **Streaky-headed Seedeater**, amongst others. A surprise **Red-throated Wryneck** was a welcome sighting.

Day 9, 02nd October 2022. Birding Johannesburg, and transfer to Dullstroom

Our morning started off at the nearby Bullfrog Pan, where we enjoyed a productive session of waterbirding. The birds rolled in thick and fast, and some early highlights went to the likes of **Fulvous Whistling Duck**, **Blue-billed Teal**, **Southern Pochard** and **Maccoa Duck**. Numbers of **African Spoonbill** were present, and we did well to notch up the mighty **Goliath Heron** as well. A big heronry was present here, and a wide variety of egrets, herons and ibises were constantly moving about. The reedbeds held various warblers, with only **Lesser Swamp Warbler** showing for us, whilst ubiquitous species such as **Southern Red Bishop**, **Southern Masked Weaver** and **African Stonechat** all entertained. The surrounding suburbia added various other species such as **Green Wood Hoopoe**, **Black-collared Barbet**, **Red-throated Wryneck**, **African Olive Pigeon**, **Red-headed Finch** and the introduced **Rose-ringed Parakeet**. Back at our lodge, we gathered our belongings and set off, bound for the quaint holiday town of Dullstroom, set in the high Drakensberg mountains. We arrived in good time and, following a short break at our wonderful guesthouse, we set out for the afternoon. Some birding in the area got us excellent views of a pair of **Blue Cranes**, and some very distant views of the prized **Gurney's Sugarbird** for some (though we vowed to try again for the sugarbird). Bright **Cape Longclaws** were also enjoyed, as were the delightfully common **Long-tailed Widowbirds**. We settled in for a vigil in the area, hoping for

the scarce **Cape Eagle-Owl** to show, and we were in for a treat. Shortly after settling in, Luke expertly spotted the bird up on a distant slope, and we spent the next hour or so enjoying the most incredible sighting, as the bird called continuously. We did not approach the bird at all, and enjoyed our distant views through the scope. We were also treated to a second individual popping up and joining in on the show. Of course, a wide range of other species were also seen whilst we were enjoying the owls, with special mention going to **Purple Heron**, **Long-crested Eagle**, **Malachite** and **Pied Kingfishers** and **Pied Starling**, amongst others. A **Spotted-necked Otter** was also seen frolicking about nearby. Eventually though, with the sun setting, we called it a day and retired for dinner. Post-dinner, we opted for a short night drive into the surrounds, where our main target, **African Grass Owl**, showed wonderfully, right on cue. Just like on our previous tour through the area, we reveled in the experience of having multiple **Striped Flufftails** hooting around us in the dark of night. Whilst they remained unseen, it was a truly wonderful experience. Various animals were also seen, including the scarce **African Wild Cat**, along with **Hewitt's Red Rock Hare**, whilst also getting various antelope such as **Common Duiker** and **Grey Rhebok**. And so wrapped up a wonderful day to start the Kruger leg of this tour, complete with a number of the country's most difficult to find species!



*A distant **Cape Eagle-Owl** called out over the valley – an incredible experience for us to witness!*

Day 10, 03rd October 2022. Birding Dullstroom, and transfer to Mount Sheba

We started the day off early, as we set about birding the scenic De Berg Road that runs through Verlore Valei Nature Reserve. We had a very birdy morning as a result of high bird activity because the birds were starting their breeding season. Stately **Buff-streaked Chats** sat atop rocky outcrops, while **Drakensberg Prinias** kept to the more wooded valleys. The piercing calls of **Eastern Long-billed Larks** were never far away and, before long, we were enjoying our first of

many views of this species. A coffee break couldn't even halt the birding, as we were regularly interrupted with the likes of **Red-winged Francolin**, **African Snipe**, **Wing-snapping Cisticola**, **Sentinel Rock Thrush**, **Mountain Wheatear** and best of all, the highly sought-after **Yellow-breasted Pipit**. We continued our way up to a protea stand, where we enjoyed excellent views of **Gurney's Sugarbird** – after our poor views the previous day. A **Southern Bald Ibis** flyby, along with the likes of **Blue Crane**, **Jackal Buzzard**, **Bokmakierie**, **Cape Grassbird**, **Wailing Cisticola**, **Malachite Sunbird** and **Nicholson's Pipit** were also enjoyed throughout the morning. As always, various mammals were seen, and included **Blesbok** and **Mountain Reedbuck**. We eventually had to tear ourselves away from the excellent birding in the area, as we settled in for a late brunch. We had an extremely short distance to go, making our way to **Mount Sheba**, where we arrived in the early afternoon, after pausing for a large flock of **Black-winged Lapwings** along the way. This lovely lodge is set in a tract of montane forest, and thus supports a totally different suite of species from those we had encountered previously on the tour. Following a short rest, we reconvened in the afternoon for a walk around the expansive grounds. We had another excellent spell of birding, notching up many of the main forest species. The edges gave us more widespread species such as **Cape Batis**, **Olive Bushshrike**, **Yellow-streaked Greenbul**, **Bar-throated Apalis**, **Greater Double-collared Sunbird** and **Sweet Waxbill**, amongst others. As we ventured deeper into the more forested areas, we quickly notched up the highly sought-after **Narina Trogon**, which showed spectacularly well, perching motionless above us for a long while. Once we had had our fill, the difficult **Orange Ground Thrush** followed, again giving us excellent views! We weren't done yet though, as the bright **White-starred Robin** and the lively **Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler** also put in appearances, before we called it a day. Following dinner, a quick jaunt around the grounds gave us a delightful pair of **African Wood Owls**, rounding off another truly excellent day!



A Red-winged Francolin perched next to the road in the Dullstroom grasslands.

Day 11, 04th October 2022. Birding Mount Sheba, and transfer to the Kruger National Park

Our morning started off with a walk around the forests of Mount Sheba. We had done very well connecting with many of the area's specials yesterday already, and set out to try and get the few remaining birds. Top of the list was **Knysna Turaco**, and while we heard various birds regularly throughout the morning, a lack of fruiting trees made actually seeing these shy birds quite difficult. Some brief views, to get the monkey off our back, were followed by much better, and prolonged, views of this stunning bird. **Chorister Robin-Chat** played hide and seek with us, but eventually showed, as did an **Olive Woodpecker** and a **Grey Cuckooshrike**. **Lemon Doves** zipped off the pathways, while **Narina Trogons** were out in force, with several sightings as we went along. We again enjoyed several species we had seen yesterday, such as **Cape Batis**, **Olive Bushshrike**, **Yellow-streaked Greenbul**, **Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler**, **Drakensberg Prinia**, **Orange Ground Thrush**, **White-starred Robin** and **Swee Waxbill**. Several species, like **African Emerald Cuckoo**, **Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher** and **Green Twinspot**, were heard throughout the morning and, sadly, remained as heard only, despite our best efforts. We also spent a while watching numbers of **Little**, **White-rumped** and **African Black Swifts** and **Common House Martins** coming in to drink from a small pond – right in front of us – a thrilling experience.



White-starred Robins showed wonderfully for us at Mount Sheba.

After gathering our things, we checked out, and made our way over to the nearby Kruger National Park, with a few stops along the way for birds like **Black-winged Lapwing** and **Cape Vulture**, and lunch. We entered the Kruger at the Phabeni Gate, and slowly made our way to Skukuza Camp, our base for the next three nights. Progress was slow, thanks to all the new birds and mammals which came flooding by – moving into a totally new habitat type, and especially one as diverse as the bushveld, resulted in a totally new suite of species. We encountered common species like **Natal**

Spurfowl, Emerald-spotted Wood Dove, Water Thick-knee, Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill, Lilac-breasted Roller, Brown-hooded Kingfisher, Fork-tailed Drongo, Rattling Cisticola, Cape Starling, White-bellied Sunbird and Yellow-fronted Canary. While also finding the first of our true bushveld species such as **White-backed Vulture, Bateleur, Purple Roller, Striped Kingfisher, Little Bee-eater, Bearded Woodpecker, Magpie Shrike, Burchell's Starling, Red-billed Oxpecker, Scarlet-chested Sunbird and Golden-breasted Bunting.** The scarce **Dark Chanting Goshawk** was a notable find. A number of mammals were seen along the way, and included both common species like **Impala, Common Wildebeest, Plains Zebra and Steenbok** and some of the iconic African mammals like **Common Warthog, African Buffalo, Hippopotamus, Southern Giraffe** and our first **African Elephants.** We arrived into Skukuza in the late afternoon, and settled in for the evening, brimming with excitement for the days to come!

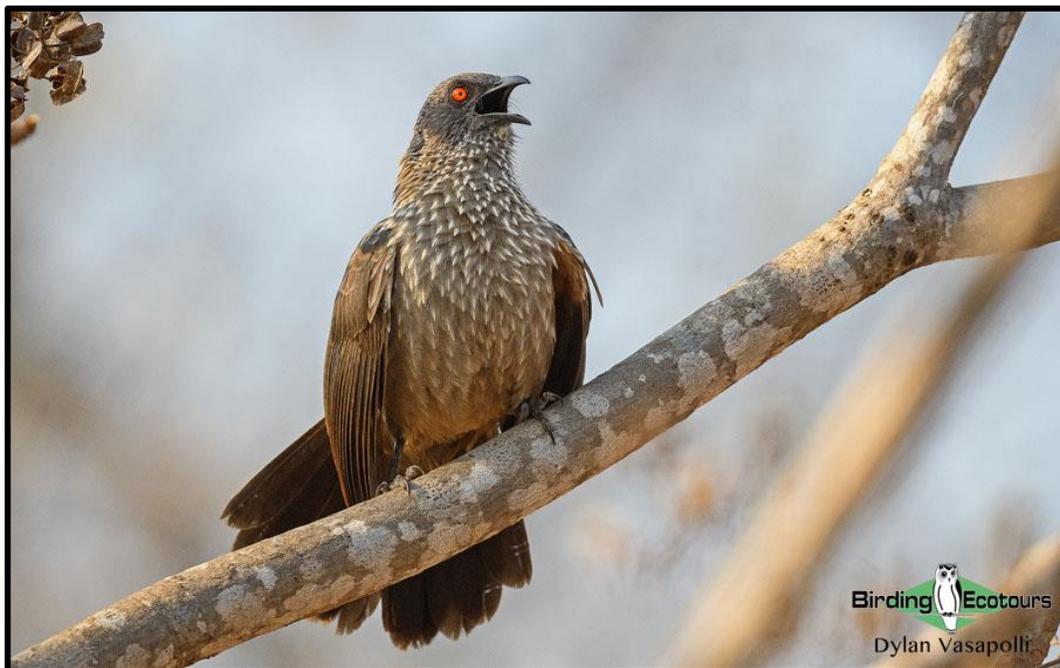
Days 12-15, 05th-08th October 2022. Birds and mammals in the Kruger National Park

We had four full days within the Kruger, as we attempted to find as many birds and mammals as we could, moving between the camps of Skukuza (three nights) and Satara (two nights). We also had the use of an open safari vehicle for the duration of our full days within the park. All our time in Kruger is discussed below under a single entry, as the days merged together with a similar suite of species seen daily.

Our time in the park could not have gotten off to a better start, when right out of camp, on our first morning, we ran into a pack of **African Wild Dogs** on the move. We spent some time following the dogs, before eventually letting them be. These rare animals were once on the verge of extinction, and while their distribution and numbers are still only a shadow of what they once were, the dogs have rebounded remarkably well in the Kruger – with many packs now spread throughout the park.

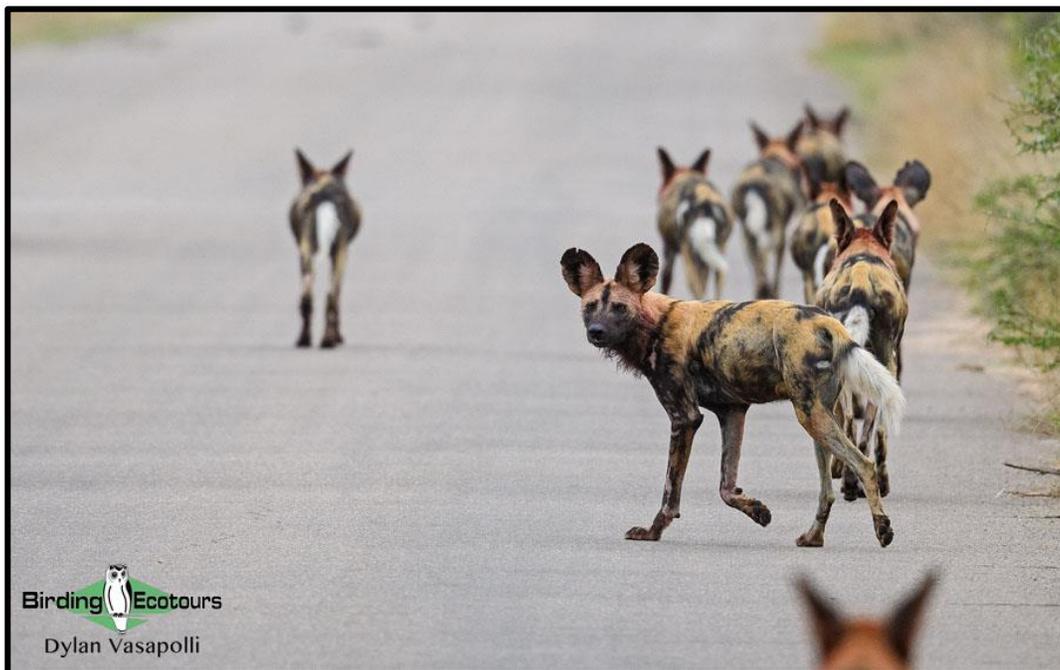
As we went along, we made sure to spend time exploring the various habitats, along with taking some walks around the various camps. The camps, especially, are excellent for birding, and with the added bonus of being able to walk freely around the camps (not outside, naturally), it makes the birding far easier, not being confined to a vehicle. We would go on to find nearly 200 species of birds within the Kruger alone, including some of the iconic birds of the park, such as **Kori Bustard, Saddle-billed Stork, Secretarybird, Brown Snake Eagle, African Scops Owl and Southern Ground Hornbill.** The camp walks offered, as always, the best birding within the park, with its mix of natural bush, watered lawns and fruiting trees. Special birds seen in the camps included the stunning **Purple-crested Turaco, Klaas's Cuckoo, Mourning Collared Dove, African Green Pigeon, African Goshawk, Little Sparrowhawk, Pearl-spotted Owlet, African Hoopoe, Common Scimitarbill, Crowned Hornbill, Crested, Black-collared and Acacia Pied Barbets, Golden-tailed Woodpecker, Brown-headed Parrot, Gorgeous Bushshrike, Brubru, Terrestrial Brownbul, Yellow-breasted Apalis, Wattled and Violet-backed Starlings,** the dainty **Bearded Scrub Robin, Grey Tit-Flycatcher, White-browed Robin Chat, Collared, Marico and Purple-banded Sunbirds, Red-billed Firefinch and Golden-breasted Bunting,** amongst so many more.

More open areas of the park held species such as **Common Ostrich**, **Red-crested Korhaan**, **Burchell's Coucal** and vast numbers of **Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Larks** amongst others. More wooded areas supported a wide mix of birds from **Green Wood Hoopoe**, **White-fronted Bee-eater** and **Grey-headed Bushshrike** to **White-crested Helmetshrike**, **Black-headed Oriole** and **Southern Black Tit**. Closer to the rivers, the thicker vegetation added the likes of **Trumpeter Hornbill**, **White-throated Robin-Chat** and **Ashy Flycatcher**, while slightly rockier iterations of it added further species such as **Black-crowned Tchagra**, **Mocking Cliff Chat**, **Southern Black Flycatcher**, **Yellow-throated Bush Sparrow**, **Violet-eared Waxbill** and **Long-tailed Paradise Whydah**. The numerous rivers, dams and general waterbodies were usually well attended to, and amongst the more common species, we notched up **African Black Duck**, **Black Crake**, **Black-winged Stilt**, **White-crowned Lapwing**, **Ruff** and **Wood Sandpipers** and best of all, a pair of the scarce **Greater Painted-snipes**. Larger waterbirds also featured heavily, and we enjoyed the likes of **Yellow-billed**, **Woolly-necked** and **Saddle-billed Storks**, **African Openbill**, **African Spoonbill**, **Goliath Heron**, **Great** and **Intermediate Egrets** and **Striated Heron**, with the ubiquitous **Hamerkop** being a group highlight. Of course, **African Fish Eagles** were never far away, and we also notched up **Giant Kingfisher**, while surrounding reedbeds held busy colonies of **Village** and **Lesser Masked Weavers**, along with vocal **Red-faced Cisticolas**. Kruger is also an excellent place to get to grips with raptors in southern Africa, and this trip was no exception, yielding many species. **African Harrier Hawk**, **Hooded** and **White-headed Vultures**, **Martial**, **Tawny** and **Wahlberg's Eagles**, **African Hawk Eagle** and **Gabar Goshawk** were all notable additions.



*Although a common bushveld species, noisy parties of **Arrow-marked Babblers** always added to the show.*

Mammals were also a high priority for the group, and we made sure to keep a beady eye open for some of the special mammals. **African Elephant** was very common within the park, and we had our fair share of herds daily. **White Rhino** have suffered at the hands of poachers pretty heavily in recent years, so much so that they're not a regular occurrence anymore, and require a dedicated effort. We did manage to find several of these gentle giants, and enjoyed an incredible sighting of several **White Rhinos** bathing in a waterhole, while a herd of **African Elephants** splashed around at the other end. Curious **Smith's Bush Squirrels** and troops of **Vervet Monkeys** and **Chacma Baboons** were also daily sightings. It took us a few days to get good looks at **Lions**, but after several sightings of mostly hidden cats, we enjoyed a few totally unimpaired sightings of these beasts. Only a single **Leopard** was seen, which goes to show the difficult nature of finding these shy cats, while **Spotted Hyaenas** were also seen daily. Families of **Banded Mongoose** roamed around the camps, while families of the cute **Common Dwarf Mongoose** frequented the more open areas away from the camps. Iconic species like **Southern Giraffe**, **Hippopotamus**, **Common Warthog** and **Plains Zebra** were all regularly seen, while bovids were well represented with the likes of **African Buffalo**, **Greater Kudu**, **Nyala**, **Bushbuck**, **Waterbuck**, and **Common Duiker**, together with the numerous **Impala**, **Common Wildebeest** and **Steenbok** all regularly seen. A night drive added nocturnal species such as **Black-backed Jackal**, **Common Genet**, **African Civet** and **Scrub Hare**, while camps gave us boisterous **Honey Badgers** (for some) and silent **African Wild Cats**. We also found quite a few reptiles during our stay, including several snakes. No less than two massive **South African Rock Pythons** were seen, along with **Boomslang** and a **Mozambique Spitting Cobra**, along with **Rock** and **Nile Monitors**, **Southern Tree Agama** and the impressive **Giant Plated Lizard**.



Watching African Wild Dogs on the move was a thrilling experience.

The ultimate highlight however, would probably go to our final evening in the Kruger, and spending it watching a large herd of **African Elephants** drinking around numerous **Hippopotamus**, with the sun setting over the dam.

Day 16, 09th October 2022. Transfer to Rust de Winter

Our time in Kruger had come to an end all too quickly, and we ended it with a birdy walk around the Satara Camp where we were staying. Many fruiting and flowering trees meant the camp was absolutely heaving with birds. Masses of go-away-birds, hornbills, barbets, bulbul, starlings and weavers were all moving about in a cacophony of noise, while some careful searching gave up **Pearl-spotted Owlet**, **African Scops Owl**, **Red-faced Mousebird**, **Bearded Woodpecker**, **Brown-headed Parrot**, **Orange-breasted Bushshrike**, **Black-backed Puffback**, **Red-billed Buffalo Weaver**, **Green-winged Pytilia** and **Village Indigobird**. We had a long drive ahead of us to transit to Rust de Winter, so eventually bid our farewell to the park, and settled in for the drive. We made a few stops along the way for species such as **Greater Kestrel** and **Scaly-feathered Weaver**, and eventually made it to our comfortable and well-appointed lodge in the late afternoon, where we settled in for our final evening of the tour.

Day 17, 10th October 2022. Birding Rust de Winter, and departure

This was the final day of the tour, and the group was keen to make the most of the morning, with flights only later in the afternoon and evening. An early start saw us heading out to some nearby roadside routes, where we would focus on the excellent acacia thornveld birding possible in the area. Things started off quickly, picking up almost all of the main specials such as **Crimson-breasted Shrike**, **Black-chested Prinia**, **Burnt-necked Eremomela**, **Southern Pied Babbler**, **Kalahari Scrub Robin**, **Marico Flycatcher** and **African Firefinch**, without much difficulty. This diverse area also yielded birds like **Magpie Shrike**, **Long-billed Crombec**, **Grey-backed Camaroptera**, **Chestnut-vented Warbler**, **White-throated Robin-Chat**, **Marico Sunbird**, **Violet-eared Waxbill** and **Green-winged Pytilia**. Venturing slightly further out, we picked up the sought-after (and diminutive) **Cape Penduline Tit** along with others such as **Lesser Honeyguides**, **Pearl-breasted Swallow**, **White-browed Sparrow-Weaver** and **Black-throated Canary**. We eventually returned for a late breakfast, following which we had some time to collate our belongings and prepare for the flights to come. A walk around the lodge grounds was productive, even though this was in the heat of the day, and we enjoyed numerous birds from the vocal **Red-chested Cuckoos**, to the tiny **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird** and many others like **Black Cuckooshrike**, **Groundscraper Thrush** and the bright **Red-headed Weaver**.

Following an exciting two and a half weeks of travelling around South Africa, and seeking out its many birds, mammals and general diversity, the tour came to an end at the Johannesburg Airport, later in the day.



A glorious sunset rounding off our Kruger days was one of the standout group highlights – complete with **African Elephants** drinking, and **Hippos** frolicking in the shallows!

Bird List - Following IOC (12.2)

Birds ‘heard only’ are marked with (H) after the common name, all other species were seen.

The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following BirdLife International. CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable

Common name	Scientific name
Ostriches (Struthionidae)	
Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>
Ducks, Geese, Swans (Anatidae)	
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
Fulvous Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>
Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>
South African Shelduck (H)	<i>Tadorna cana</i>
Blue-billed Teal	<i>Spatula hottentota</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Cape Shoveler	<i>Spatula smithii</i>
African Black Duck	<i>Anas sparsa</i>
Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>
Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>
Southern Pochard	<i>Netta erythrophthalma</i>
Maccoa Duck - EN	<i>Oxyura maccoa</i>
Guineafowl (Numididae)	
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
Pheasants & Allies (Phasianidae)	
Crested Francolin	<i>Ortygornis sephaena</i>
Red-winged Francolin	<i>Scleroptila levaillantii</i>
Grey-winged Francolin	<i>Scleroptila afra</i>
Common Quail (H)	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>
Cape Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis capensis</i>
Natal Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis natalensis</i>
Swainson's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>
Red-necked Spurfowl (H)	<i>Pternistis afer</i>
Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)	
Fiery-necked Nightjar (H)	<i>Caprimulgus pectoralis</i>
Swifts (Apodidae)	
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>
African Black Swift	<i>Apus barbatus</i>
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>
Turacos (Musophagidae)	
Grey Go-away-bird	<i>Crinifer concolor</i>
Purple-crested Turaco	<i>Gallirex porphyreolophus</i>
Knysna Turaco	<i>Tauraco corythaix</i>
Bustards (Otididae)	
Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Karoo Korhaan	<i>Eupodotis vigorsii</i>
Red-crested Korhaan	<i>Lophotis ruficrista</i>
Southern Black Korhaan - VU	<i>Afrotis afra</i>
Cuckoos (Cuculidae)	
Burchell's Coucal	<i>Centropus burchellii</i>
Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>
African Emerald Cuckoo (H)	<i>Chrysococcyx cupreus</i>
Red-chested Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>
Sandgrouse (Pteroclididae)	
Namaqua Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles namaqua</i>
Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)	
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>
African Olive Pigeon	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>
Lemon Dove	<i>Columba larvata</i>
Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>
Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>
African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>
Flufftails (Sarothruridae)	
Red-chested Flufftail (H)	<i>Sarothrura rufa</i>
Striped Flufftail (H)	<i>Sarothrura affinis</i>
Rails, Crakes & Coots (Rallidae)	
African Rail	<i>Rallus caerulescens</i>
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>
African Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>
Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>
Cranes (Gruidae)	
Blue Crane - VU	<i>Grus paradisea</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Grebes (Podicipedidae)	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
Flamingos (Phoenicopteridae)	
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>
Stone-curlews, Thick-knees (Burhinidae)	
Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>
Spotted Thick-knee (H)	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>
Oystercatchers (Haematopodidae)	
African Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus moquini</i>
Stilts, Avocets (Recurvirostridae)	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
Plovers (Charadriidae)	
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>
White-crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus albiceps</i>
Black-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus melanopterus</i>
Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>
African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</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>
Chestnut-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius pallidus</i>
Painted-snipes (Rostratulidae)	
Greater Painted-snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>
Jacanas (Jacanidae)	
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>
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
African Snipe	<i>Gallinago nigripennis</i>
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
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>
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
Skuas (Stercorariidae)	
Brown Skua	<i>Stercorarius antarcticus</i>
Parasitic Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>
Penguins (Spheniscidae)	
African Penguin - EN	<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>
Albatrosses (Diomedidae)	
Black-browed Albatross - EN	<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>
Shy Albatross	<i>Thalassarche cauta</i>
Petrels, Shearwaters, Diving Petrels (Procellariidae)	
Northern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>
Cape Petrel	<i>Daption capense</i>
White-chinned Petrel - VU	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>
Storks (Ciconiidae)	

Common name	Scientific name
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>
African Openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>
Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>
Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>
Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>
Gannets, Boobies (Sulidae)	
Cape Gannet - EN	<i>Morus capensis</i>
Anhingas, Darters (Anhingidae)	
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>
Cormorants, Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)	
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>
Crowned Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo coronatus</i>
Bank Cormorant - EN	<i>Phalacrocorax neglectus</i>
Cape Cormorant - EN	<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</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 (H)	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
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>
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Hamerkop (Scopidae)	
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
Pelicans (Pelecanidae)	
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>
Secretarybird (Sagittariidae)	
Secretarybird - EN	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>
Kites, Hawks, Eagles (Accipitridae)	
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>
Hooded Vulture - CR	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>
White-backed Vulture - CR	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
Cape Vulture - VU	<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>
White-headed Vulture - CR	<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>
Lappet-faced Vulture - EN	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>
Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>
Bateleur - EN	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>
Martial Eagle - EN	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>
Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus wahlbergi</i>
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
Tawny Eagle - VU	<i>Aquila rapax</i>
Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>
African Hawk-Eagle	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>
Dark Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>
Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>
African Goshawk	<i>Accipiter tachiro</i>
Little Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter minullus</i>
Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter rufiventris</i>
Black Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter melanoleucus</i>
African Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>
Black Harrier - EN	<i>Circus maurus</i>
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>
African Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>
Forest Buzzard	<i>Buteo trizonatus</i>

Common name	Scientific name
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>
African Scops Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>
Cape Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo capensis</i>
Spotted Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl (H)	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>
African Wood Owl	<i>Strix woodfordii</i>
Mousebirds (Coliidae)	
Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>
White-backed Mousebird	<i>Colius colius</i>
Red-faced Mousebird	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>
Trogon (Trogonidae)	
Narina Trogon	<i>Apaloderma narina</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>
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>
Trumpeter Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes bucinator</i>
Rollers (Coraciidae)	

Common name	Scientific name
Purple Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>
Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)	
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>
Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>
Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
Bee-eaters (Meropidae)	
Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>
White-fronted Bee-eater	<i>Merops bullockoides</i>
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
African Barbets (Lybiidae)	
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 (H)	<i>Prodotiscus regulus</i>
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>
Woodpeckers (Picidae)	
Red-throated Wryneck	<i>Jynx ruficollis</i>
Ground Woodpecker (H)	<i>Geocolaptes olivaceus</i>
Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>
Bearded Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus namaquus</i>
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>
Olive Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos griseocephalus</i>
Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)	
Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicolus</i>
Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
African & New World Parrots (Psittacidae)	

Common name	Scientific name
Brown-headed Parrot	<i>Poicephalus cryptoxanthus</i>
Old World Parrots (Psittaculidae)	
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
Wattle-eyes, Batises (Platysteiridae)	
Cape Batis	<i>Batis capensis</i>
Chinspot Batis	<i>Batis molitor</i>
Bushshrikes (Malaconotidae)	
Grey-headed Bushshrike	<i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i>
Olive Bushshrike	<i>Chlorophoneus olivaceus</i>
Orange-breasted Bushshrike	<i>Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus</i>
Gorgeous Bushshrike	<i>Telophorus viridis</i>
Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>
Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>
Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>
Southern Boubou	<i>Laniarius ferrugineus</i>
Crimson-breasted Shrike	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>
Vangas & Allies (Vangidae)	
White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>
Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae)	
Grey Cuckooshrike	<i>Ceblepyris caesius</i>
Black Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga flava</i>
Shrikes (Laniidae)	
Magpie Shrike	<i>Urolestes melanoleucus</i>
Southern White-crowned Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus anguitimens</i>
Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>
Figbirds, Old World Orioles, Piopios (Oriolidae)	
Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>
Drongos (Dicuridae)	
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Monarchs (Monarchidae)	
Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher (H)	<i>Trochocercus cyanomelas</i>
African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>
Crows, Jays (Corvidae)	
House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>
White-necked Raven	<i>Corvus albicollis</i>
Rockjumpers (Chaetopidae)	
Cape Rockjumper	<i>Chaetops frenatus</i>
Fairy Flycatchers (Stenostiridae)	
Fairy Flycatcher	<i>Stenostira scita</i>
Tits, Chickadees (Paridae)	
Southern Black Tit	<i>Melaniparus niger</i>
Grey Tit	<i>Melaniparus afer</i>
Penduline Tits (Remizidae)	
Cape Penduline Tit	<i>Anthoscopus minutus</i>
Larks (Alaudidae)	
Spike-heeled Lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>
Eastern Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda semitorquata</i>
Cape Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda curvirostris</i>
Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix leucotis</i>
Sabota Lark	<i>Calendulauda sabota</i>
Karoo Lark	<i>Calendulauda albescens</i>
Cape Clapper Lark	<i>Mirafrapa apiata</i>
Large-billed Lark	<i>Galerida magnirostris</i>
Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>
Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)	
Sombre Greenbul	<i>Andropadus importunus</i>
Yellow-bellied Greenbul	<i>Chlorocichla flaviventris</i>
Terrestrial Brownbul	<i>Phyllastrephus terrestris</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Yellow-streaked Greenbul	<i>Phyllastrephus flavostriatus</i>
Dark-capped Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus tricolor</i>
Cape Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus capensis</i>
Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)	
Black Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne pristoptera</i>
Banded Martin	<i>Neophedina cincta</i>
Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>
Grey-rumped Swallow	<i>Pseudhirundo griseopyga</i>
Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</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>
Mosque Swallow	<i>Cecropis senegalensis</i>
Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>
Greater Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis cucullata</i>
Crombecs, African Warblers (Macrosphenidae)	
Cape Grassbird	<i>Sphenoeacus afer</i>
Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>
Victorin's Warbler	<i>Cryptillas victorini</i>
Leaf Warblers (Phylloscopidae)	
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus ruficapilla</i>
Reed Warblers & Allies (Acrocephalidae)	
Lesser Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
Grassbirds & Allies (Locustellidae)	
Little Rush Warbler	<i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>
Cisticolas & Allies (Cisticolidae)	
Red-faced Cisticola	<i>Cisticola erythrops</i>
Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Grey-backed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola subruficapilla</i>
Wailing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola lais</i>
Levaillant's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola tinniens</i>
Croaking Cisticola (H)	<i>Cisticola natalensis</i>
Neddicky	<i>Cisticola fulvicapilla</i>
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Cloud Cisticola	<i>Cisticola textrix</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>
Namaqua Warbler	<i>Phragmacia substriata</i>
Bar-throated Apalis	<i>Apalis thoracica</i>
Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>
Rufous-eared Warbler	<i>Malcorus pectoralis</i>
Green-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>
Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>
Cinnamon-breasted Warbler	<i>Euryptila subcinnamomea</i>
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>
Karoo Eremomela	<i>Eremomela gregalis</i>
Burnt-necked Eremomela	<i>Eremomela usticollis</i>
Sylviid Babblers (Sylviidae)	
Layard's Warbler	<i>Curruca layardi</i>
Chestnut-vented Warbler	<i>Curruca subcoerulea</i>
White-eyes (Zosteropidae)	
Cape White-eye	<i>Zosterops virens</i>
Laughingthrushes & Allies (Leiothrichidae)	
Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>
Southern Pied Babbler	<i>Turdoides bicolor</i>
Sugarbirds (Promeropidae)	
Cape Sugarbird	<i>Promerops cafer</i>
Gurney's Sugarbird	<i>Promerops gurneyi</i>
Starlings, Rhabdornises (Sturnidae)	

Common name	Scientific name
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>
Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>
Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>
Burchell's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis australis</i>
Pied Starling	<i>Lamprotornis bicolor</i>
Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>
Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>
Pale-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus nabouroup</i>
Oxpeckers (Buphagidae)	
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>
Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorynchus</i>
Thrushes (Turdidae)	
Orange Ground Thrush	<i>Geokichla gurneyi</i>
Groundscraper Thrush	<i>Turdus litsitsirupa</i>
Olive Thrush	<i>Turdus olivaceus</i>
Kurriichane Thrush	<i>Turdus libonyana</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>
Grey Tit-Flycatcher	<i>Myioparus plumbeus</i>
Southern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pammelaina</i>
Marico Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis mariquensis</i>
Fiscal Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis silens</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>
Chorister Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha dichroa</i>
White-starred Robin	<i>Pogonocichla stellata</i>
Cape Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola rupestris</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Sentinel Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola explorator</i>
African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>
Buff-streaked Chat	<i>Campicoloides bifasciatus</i>
Sickle-winged Chat	<i>Emarginata sinuata</i>
Karoo Chat	<i>Emarginata schlegelii</i>
Tractrac Chat	<i>Emarginata tractrac</i>
Mocking Cliff Chat	<i>Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris</i>
Mountain Wheatear	<i>Myrmecocichla monticola</i>
Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>
Familiar Chat	<i>Oenanthe familiaris</i>
Sunbirds (Nectariniidae)	
Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>
Orange-breasted Sunbird	<i>Anthobaphes violacea</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>
Marico Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>
Purple-banded Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris bifasciatus</i>
White-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris talatala</i>
Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches (Passeridae)	
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>
Lesser Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus intermedius</i>
Southern Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>
Southern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>
Yellow Bishop	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>
White-winged Widowbird	<i>Euplectes albonotatus</i>
Long-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes progne</i>
Waxbills, Munias & Allies (Estrildidae)	
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>
Sweet Waxbill	<i>Coccygia melanotis</i>
Green Twinspot (H)	<i>Mandingoa nitidula</i>
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
Red-headed Finch	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>
Violet-eared Waxbill	<i>Granatina granatina</i>
Blue Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>
Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>
African Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rubricata</i>
Jameson's Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rhodopareia</i>
Indigobirds, Whydahs (Viduidae)	
Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>
Long-tailed Paradise Whydah	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>
Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)	
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>
Cape Longclaw	<i>Macronyx capensis</i>
Yellow-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx croceus</i>
African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>
Nicholson's Pipit	<i>Anthus nicholsoni</i>
Yellow-breasted Pipit - VU	<i>Anthus chloris</i>
Finches, Euphonias (Fringillidae)	
Forest Canary	<i>Crithagra scotops</i>
Black-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>
Cape Siskin	<i>Crithagra totta</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Yellow Canary	<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>
Brimstone Canary	<i>Crithagra sulphurata</i>
Streaky-headed Seedeater	<i>Crithagra gularis</i>
White-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra albogularis</i>
Cape Canary	<i>Serinus canicollis</i>
Black-headed Canary	<i>Serinus alario</i>
Buntings (Emberizidae)	
Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>
Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>

Species seen:	408
Species heard:	15
Total species:	423

Mammal List

The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following the IUCN Red List: EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable.

Common name	Scientific name
Hyraxes (Procaviidae)	
Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>
Elephants (Elephantidae)	
African Elephant - EN	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>
Rabbits and Hares (Leporidae)	
Hewitt's Red Rock Hare	<i>Pronolagus saundersiae</i>
Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>
Squirrels and Relatives (Sciuridae)	
Smith's Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>
Old World Mice, Rats and Gerbils (Muridae)	
Southern African Vlei Rat	<i>Otomys irroratus</i>
Four-striped Grass Mouse	<i>Rhabdomys pumilio</i>
Old World Monkeys (Cercopithecidae)	

Common name	Scientific name
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>
Vervet	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>
Blue Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mitis</i>
Bats (Chiroptera)	
Wahlberg's Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Epomophorus wahlbergi</i>
Cats (Felidae)	
Lion - VU	<i>Panthera leo</i>
Leopard - VU	<i>Panthera pardus</i>
African Wild Cat	<i>Felis lybica</i>
Civets, Genets, Linsangs and allies (Viverridae)	
African Civet	<i>Civettictis civetta</i>
Common Genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>
Hyaenas and Aardwolf (Hyaenidae)	
Spotted Hyaena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>
Mongoose and Fossa (Herpestidae)	
Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>
Egyptian Mongoose	<i>Herpestes ichneumon</i>
Cape Grey Mongoose	<i>Herpestes pulverulentus</i>
Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>
Common Dwarf Mongoose	<i>Helogale parvula</i>
Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>
Canids (Canidae)	
Black-backed Jackal	<i>Lupulella mesomelas</i>
African Wild Dog - EN	<i>Lycaon pictus</i>
Eared Seals (Otariidae)	
Brown Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>
Mustelids (Mustelidae)	
Honey Badger	<i>Mellivora capensis</i>
Spotted-necked Otter	<i>Hydrictis maculicollis</i>
Horses, Asses and Zebras (Equidae)	

Common name	Scientific name
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>
Nyala	<i>Tragelaphus angasii</i>
Cape Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus sylvaticus</i>
Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>
Common Eland	<i>Tragelaphus oryx</i>
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>
Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>
Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>
Mountain Reedbuck - EN	<i>Redunca fulvorufula</i>
Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>
Grey Rhebok	<i>Pelea capreolus</i>
Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>
Blesbok	<i>Damaliscus pygargus</i>
Common Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>
Common Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>
Klipspringer	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>
Giraffes and Okapis (Giraffidae)	
Southern Giraffe	<i>Giraffa giraffa</i>
Bowhead Whales and Right Whales (Balaenidae)	
Southern Right Whale	<i>Eubalaena australis</i>
Species seen:	50
Total species:	50