



## PRIVATE WESTERN SOUTH AFRICA BIRDING TOUR REPORT

03-13 SEPTEMBER 2025

By Dominic Rollinson



*Burchell's Coursers* were seen near Pofadder, perhaps the trickiest of the Northern Cape's specials.

### Overview

The semi-deserts of western South Africa are well known as a bird endemism hotspot with several South African endemics and near-endemics possible along this birding route. Southern Africa is particularly well known for its diversity of larks, with many highly localized and nomadic species on offer here. Spring is the best time of the year to target many of these dry country specials, as this is when many species start displaying, making them easier to track down. Spring is also *the* time to enjoy the fantastic floral displays in the Namaqualand and further south along the west coast.

This private western South Africa birding tour was put together for Steve and Anne to try ‘clean up’ on a few dry country and Cape specials which we were not in range for on our previous eastern South Africa birding tour in 2023. As such, most of our birding time was spent searching for our targets, some of which can take some finding, due to their nomadic nature within the semi-deserts of the Northern Cape. Over the course of 11 days we went from Upington, on the edge of the Kalahari Desert, all the way south to the Overberg region of the Western Cape.

All in all, we managed to track down 30 of the 32 target species, unfortunately missing out on Fynbos Buttonquail and Striped Flufftail (just a couple weeks beyond the flufftail’s window period). The birding highlights were many, with some of the standout species including **Ludwig’s** and **Denham’s Bustards**, **Karoo**, **Southern Black** and **Northern Black Korhaans**, **Blue Crane**, **Burchell’s Courser**, **Cape Vulture**, **Verreaux’s Eagle**, **Black Harrier**, **Forest Buzzard**, **Knysna Woodpecker**, **Pygmy Falcon**, **Olive Bushshrike**, **Cape Rockjumper**, 14 species of larks (the best being **Black-eared Sparrow-Lark**, **Karoo**, **Red**, **Sclater’s** and **Stark’s Larks**), **Victorin’s**, **Knysna**, **Namaqua** and **Cinnamon-breasted Warblers**, **Karoo Eremomela**, **Cape Sugarbird**, **Orange-breasted Sunbird**, **Black-headed** and **Protea Canaries** and **Cape Siskin**.



*This **Protea Canary** eventually showed well for us at Kransvlei Poort.*

### Detailed Report

#### **Day 1, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025. Arrival in Upington, Augrabies Falls birding and transfer to Pofadder**

I collected Steve and Anne, fresh from seeing Pel's Fishing Owl in the Okavango Panhandle, from Upington Airport around midday and we immediately made our west towards Augrabies Falls. We arrived at the national park in the heat of the early afternoon but quickly found **Orange River White-eye**, the first target bird of the trip, and also enjoyed the impressive Augrabies Falls, despite the relatively low water levels at this time of the year. A pair of **Peregrine Falcons** were seen roosting on the cliffs here too. A good chunk of time was spent birding the campsite where we found **African Red-eyed Bulbul**, **Crested Barbet**, **Fiscal Flycatcher**, **Black-chested Prinia**, **Chestnut-vented Warbler**, **Pale-winged Starling**, **Cape Robin-Chat**, **White-throated Canary** and **Lark-like Bunting**. Our other big target here was **Namaqua Warbler** which surprisingly took some time to track down but we eventually had great looks at a calling bird. Overhead we watched a pair of **Black Storks**.



*Orange River White-eyes were extremely abundant at Augrabies Falls.*

We then completed the drive further westwards as we arrived in the tiny town of Pofadder, where we were based for the next three nights. As we were finishing unpacking the vehicle, we noticed a small flock of swifts overhead which included **Little**, **African Palm** and **Bradfield's Swifts**, the latter being one of our trip targets.



**Day 2, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Koa Dunes and Pofadder birding**

We left just before sunrise this morning and made our way west of town to the Koa Dunes, a highly reliable site for the incredibly range restricted South African endemic, Red Lark. En route, once we had left the highway, we found the likes of **Karoo Long-billed Lark**, **Karoo Chat**, **Chat Flycatcher**, **Ant-eating Chat**, **Mountain** and **Ant-eating Chats** and good numbers of feeding **Sociable Weavers**.

We arrived at Koa Dunes in the early morning light and it did not take long to find our quarry, with a few singing **Red Larks** seen. As is often the case at this site, the larks were a little distant and it took a while before we found a few closer birds which we enjoyed prolonged scope views of. While eating our packed breakfast here, we also found **Northern Black Korhaan**, **Spike-heeled** and **Fawn-coloured Larks**, along with large numbers of **Grey-backed Sparrow-Larks**, **Namaqua Dove**, **Scaly-feathered Weaver**, **Red-headed Finch** and masses of **Lark-like Buntings**. Before leaving the area, we enjoyed watching a large group of **Namaqua Sandgrouse** coming in to drink at a water trough.

We then made our way back through Pofadder (adding **Martial Eagle** en route; well spotted Anne) and birded a road south of town where it did not take long to find further targets such as **Rufous-eared Warbler**, **Karoo Chat** and the nomadic **Stark's Lark**. We continued along this road and were delighted to find at least two feeding **Sclater's Larks**, one of the toughest targets of the Bushmanland area. On closer inspection of our photos it was revealed that one of the birds was a juvenile, showing paler tipped covert feathers. Other birds seen along this drive included **South African Shelduck**, **Greater Kestrel**, **Yellow-bellied Eremomela**, **Tractrac Chat**, **Dusky Sunbird**, and a single **Pygmy Falcon**, alongside a **Sociable Weaver** nest.



*Sclater's Larks is yet another tough nomadic desert special that we found on this trip.*

We then picked up some lunch in town and decided to take it easy for a while during the heat of the day and headed out again in the late afternoon. We headed southwest of Pofadder and, despite checking many hundreds of **Grey-backed Sparrow-Larks**, we could not find any of their rare black-eared cousins. Despite not finding any Black-eared Sparrow-Larks, the afternoon drive was highly productive, with the standout species being a pair of **Burchell's Coursers**, which were well spotted by Steve. These coursers are probably the toughest of the Bushmanland specials, due to their highly nomadic and unreliable nature. Other special birds found this afternoon included **Ludwig's Bustard**, **Verreaux's Eagle**, **Greater Kestrel** and **Karoo Long-billed Lark**.

We ended the day with an enjoyable meal at our hotel and planned out the following day's agenda with now just Black-eared Sparrow-Lark missing from the area's targets.

### Day 3, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Second day of Pofadder birding

We'd heard of some recent reports of Black-eared Sparrow-Lark southwest of Pofadder and so we started the day driving this same road as yesterday afternoon in the hopes of finding the sparrow-lark. The birding was yet again very good along this road but we didn't sniff a Black-eared Sparrow-Lark. Highlights from the drive included **Namaqua Dove**, **Martial Eagle**, **Acacia Pied Barbet**, **Yellow-bellied Eremomela**, **Rufous-eared Warbler**, **Dusky Sunbird**, **Cape Bunting** and a large flock of drinking **Namaqua Sandgrouse** that kept us entertained for a good while.



*Namaqua Sandgrouse were commonly encountered on the drier sections of this trip.*

For the afternoon's birding we headed about 60 miles (100 kilometers) southeast of Pofadder, this was a long drive but it proved worthwhile when we eventually found a pair of showy **Black-eared Sparrow-Larks**, at long last. This afternoon we also added other special birds such as **Black Harrier**, **Sabota Lark** and many **Ludwig's Bustards**.

That evening we did a short night drive which yielded absolutely nothing except a green bottle which got us excited for a little while – night drives are always very hit-or-miss!

#### Day 4, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Transfer to Springbok and birding the surrounds

We had an enjoyable sit-down breakfast this morning and then packed the vehicle and made the fairly short transfer west to Springbok. We then immediately made our way to the small Goegap Nature Reserve, just outside of Springbok town, where we spent the remainder of the morning. Unfortunately the floral displays here were a little past it now, nevertheless, exploring the reserve's botanical wonders was still lots of fun and the birding was great too. In Goegap we found our primary target, **Cinnamon-breasted Warbler**, as well as **Pririt Batis**, **Bokmakierie**, **Karoo Lark**, **Layard's Warbler**, **Dusky Sunbird** and **Black-headed Canary**. We then enjoyed a nice sit-down lunch and checked into our lovely accommodation where we took it easy for the heat of the day.



*The pied-headed form of **Black-headed Canary** was seen in Goegap Nature Reserve.*

In the late afternoon we jumped back into the vehicle and made our way north of Springbok where we enjoyed some impressive flower displays (although these were also past their best) and also took in the scenic beauty of the drive as we made our way through the mountains. Some of the more interesting birds that we found this afternoon included **Ground Woodpecker**, **Cape Bulbul**, **Layard's Warbler**, **Mountain Chat** and **Southern Double-collared Sunbird**.



**Day 5, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Springbok birding and transfer to Langebaan**

We still had a couple targets to find around Springbok this morning before we made our way south to Langebaan and so birded the area outside of Goegap Nature Reserve. We easily found a pair of obliging **Karoo Eremomelas** and also added great looks at **Grey Tit** and **Large-billed Lark**.



*Karoo Eremomelas were found easily near Springbok.*

With the eremomelas in the bag, we started making our way south and stopped for our picnic lunch at Kransvlei Poort outside of Clanwilliam. Here, **Protea Canary** was our main target and eventually, after a long search, we had outstanding looks at a singing bird, with **Verreaux's Eagle**, **Southern Boubou**, **Fairy Flycatcher**, **Olive Thrush**, **Cape Rock Thrush** and **Streaky-headed Seedeater** all seen in the area too.

Next, we headed to the salt works at Velddrif where it did not take long to find **Red-necked Phalarope** and **Chestnut-banded Plover**, both species being very reliable here. After a long day on the road, we arrived in Langebaan in the late afternoon and enjoyed a large (very large for Steve) seafood dinner.

**Day 6, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025. West Coast National Park flowers and birding**

We spent the morning birding West Coast National Park which is well known for its impressive spring flower displays and for its large congregations of waders (shorebirds). Soon after entering the park we birded at Seeberg Hide where there was a smattering of nearby waders to work through including **Black-winged Stilt**, **African Oystercatcher**, **Grey** and **White-fronted Plovers**, **Eurasian Whimbrel** and **Common Greenshank**. In the surrounding strandveld vegetation we

had great looks at **Grey-winged Francolins**, but unfortunately the **Southern Black Korhaans** were a little distant.



*Grey-winged Francolins are usually quite conspicuous in West Coast National Park.*

We then made our way through the park to the Postberg section of the reserve which is where the spectacular flower displays can usually be seen. Today did not disappoint, with one of the best flower displays I personally have witnessed. We spent most of the late morning enjoying carpets of yellow, orange, pink, red and purple and felt like we had definitely got the full flower experience now. While traversing the park we had excellent sightings of the striking **Black Harrier**.

Later that afternoon, after some relaxation time at the accommodation, we headed north of Langebaan to Jacob's Bay. Here, we spent some time photographing the large **Antarctic Tern** roost and also birded the nearby strandveld. In the strandveld we found **Karoo** and **Large-billed Larks**, **Bar-throated Apalis**, **Capped Wheatear** and **Yellow Canary**. This ended another highly enjoyable day up the South African west coast.

### Day 7, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Transfer to Grootvadersbosch Forest

This morning we woke up to gloomy skies as the coastal mist had moved in, however, we headed to some nearby strandveld to look for our next two lark targets: **Cape Clapper** and **Cape Long-billed Larks**. The area was very quiet to begin with but things soon picked up and we found a very obliging **Cape Clapper Lark**, followed soon thereafter by a displaying **Cape Long-billed Lark**.

With all our targets found now, we had a lovely sit-down fry-up breakfast and then packed the vehicle for a longish transfer to Grootvadersbosch Forest, close to Swellendam. The drive was



mostly uneventful, adding **Zitting Cisticola**, and we made it into our lovely accommodation in the mid-afternoon.

After unpacking and settling into our accommodation, we headed out for a couple hours of birding on the edge of the forest. **Knysna Woodpecker** was heard calling, however, we could not lay eyes on this tricky South African endemic (for now). The highlight of the afternoon was good views of **Knysna Warbler**, a serious skulker of the forest undergrowth. Other forest species seen nearby to the warbler included **African Olive Pigeon**, **Black Cuckooshrike**, **Cape Batis**, **Black Saw-wing**, **Greater Double-collared Sunbird**, **Forest Canary** and **Swee Waxbill**.

### Day 8, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Grootvadersbosch Forest birding

We had the whole day in the area to hopefully track down the last few remaining forest targets and so we set out early into the forest. We drove the road that winds through the forest and thankfully it didn't take too long to get decent views of **Knysna Woodpecker**. The forest was alive with bird calls and, after much patience, we managed to further eke out views of **Grey Cuckooshrike**, **Cape Batis**, **Terrestrial Brownbul** and **African Dusky Flycatcher**. Above the forest, in the mountain fynbos, we found **Cape Siskin** and **Victorin's Warbler**, two range-restricted fynbos specials that can often take some work to find.

We then headed back to our accommodation for a scrumptious breakfast and then went for another quick drive around the farm and edge of the farm, which yielded another two big targets: **Forest Buzzard** and **Olive Bushshrike**. It was a particular relief to find the buzzard, as it occurs in low densities and is never easy to find!



*Forest Buzzard was one of our major targets at Grootvadersbosch Forest.*

With all the area's targets now found, we decided to take most of the afternoon off and then headed out again in the late afternoon. We did not add anything new this afternoon, however, we did improve our views of **Forest Buzzard** (see photo on the above page).

### Day 9, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Grootvadersbosch Forest birding and transfer to Agulhas Plains

This morning we decided to bird a nearby farm on the off chance that we might flush a Fynbos Buttonquail. The buttonquails have been recorded from this farm previously, however, the fynbos appeared too mature and tall and it seemed unlikely that many buttonquails would presently inhabit the farm. The thick mist did not help our chances either, but we did still manage to find **African Marsh Harrier**, **Black Cuckooshrike** and **Amethyst Sunbird** during our time on the farm.

After our breakfast (top notch again), we made our way south towards the Agulhas Plains and decided to bird Bontebok National Park en route. At this time of the year this park is an excellent place to watch displaying **Denham's Bustards** and today was no different, with at least five bustards seen, the males looking quite comical with their necks puffed out. We spent a couple of hours in the park and also managed to find **Black-winged Kite**, **Black Harrier** (the park supports a few nesting pairs of this rare raptor), **Cape Grassbird**, **Cloud Cisticola**, **Pearl-breasted Swallow** and **Cape Longclaw**.



*The colorful **Cape Longclaw** posed nicely for us in Bontebok National Park.*

The rest of the afternoon was spent slowly making our way south to our accommodation on the Breede River near Infanta, adding a lone **Secretarybird** en route. Once at our accommodation, we enjoyed some down time and did our evening checklist session enjoying a lovely sunset (and many

birds on the feeders). Steve and Anne were surprised and delighted to be served perfectly done Yorkshire Pudding this evening!

### Day 10, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Agulhas Plains birding

With Fynbos Buttonquail being our only realistic target today we made our way, after breakfast, to Sandberg Fynbos Reserve, near Elim, to look for this rare fynbos special. En route to the reserve, we had great look at the Agulhas subspecies of **Cape Long-billed Lark** (which has recently been lumped). We then spent about an hour tromping through suitable-height fynbos habitat, but unfortunately we could not find any buttonquails. The Agulhas subspecies of **Cape Clapper Lark** was a nice consolation prize though. Many **Blue Cranes** were seen as we made our way back to our accommodation.

We then spent the remainder of the afternoon relaxing at our accommodation and enjoyed another superb dinner this evening.



*The Agulhas subspecies of **Cape Long-billed Lark** was seen in the Agulhas Plains.*

### Day 11, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Mountain fynbos birding and trip conclusion

For our final morning of the tour, we left our accommodation early and made our way east to the Betty's Bay area, where we tried for Striped Flufftail which unfortunately would not show for us. This site has proved very reliable for seeing Striped Flufftail over the last two years, however, it was too late in the season now and the birds were not even calling.



Our final bit of birding was another site near Betty's Bay where we found **Cape Rockjumper**, not a bad bird to finish the trip with. We then headed around the corner to Hermanus where Steve and Anne were based for a couple nights before their flights home.

Thanks to Steve and Anne for another thoroughly enjoyable and successful birding trip, I hope we can travel together again soon!



*Another special lark, this one being a **Red Lark**, in its red dune habitat in the Northern Cape.*

**Bird List - Following IOC Version 15.1 (February 2025)**

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 the IUCN Red List: EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable.

Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Ostriches (Struthionidae)</b>	
Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>
<b>Ducks, Geese, Swans (Anatidae)</b>	
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>
South African Shelduck	<i>Tadorna cana</i>
Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>
<b>Guineafowl (Numididae)</b>	
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
<b>Pheasants &amp; Allies (Phasianidae)</b>	
Grey-winged Francolin	<i>Scleroptila afra</i>
Common Quail (H)	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>
Cape Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis capensis</i>
Red-necked Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis afer</i>
<b>Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)</b>	
Fiery-necked Nightjar (H)	<i>Caprimulgus pectoralis</i>
<b>Swifts (Apodidae)</b>	
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>
Bradfield's Swift	<i>Apus bradfieldi</i>
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>
<b>Bustards (Otididae)</b>	
Ludwig's Bustard - EN	<i>Neotis ludwigii</i>
Denham's Bustard	<i>Neotis denhami</i>
Karoo Korhaan	<i>Heterotetrax vigorsii</i>
Southern Black Korhaan - VU	<i>Afrotis afra</i>
Northern Black Korhaan	<i>Afrotis afraoides</i>
<b>Cuckoos (Cuculidae)</b>	
Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Sandgrouse (Pteroclididae)</b>	
Namaqua Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles namaqua</i>
<b>Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)</b>	
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>
African Olive Pigeon	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>
Lemon Dove (H)	<i>Columba larvata</i>
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>
Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>
Tambourine Dove (H)	<i>Turtur tympanistria</i>
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>
<b>Rails, Crakes &amp; Coots (Rallidae)</b>	
Common Moorhen (H)	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>
<b>Cranes (Gruidae)</b>	
Blue Crane - VU	<i>Grus paradisea</i>
<b>Grebes (Podicipedidae)</b>	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
<b>Flamingos (Phoenicopteridae)</b>	
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>
<b>Stone-curlews, Thick-knees (Burhinidae)</b>	
Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>
<b>Oystercatchers (Haematopodidae)</b>	
African Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus moquini</i>
<b>Stilts, Avocets (Recurvirostridae)</b>	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
<b>Plovers (Charadriidae)</b>	
Grey Plover - VU	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>



Common Name	Scientific Name
Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>
Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>
Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Anarhynchus pecuarius</i>
Chestnut-banded Plover	<i>Anarhynchus pallidus</i>
White-fronted Plover	<i>Anarhynchus marginatus</i>
<b>Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopacidae)</b>	
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Curlew Sandpiper - VU	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
<b>Courasers, Pratincoles (Glareolidae)</b>	
Burchell's Courser	<i>Cursorius rufus</i>
<b>Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)</b>	
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>
Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>
Hartlaub's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus hartlaubii</i>
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>
<b>Storks (Ciconiidae)</b>	
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
<b>Anhingas, Darters (Anhingidae)</b>	
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>
<b>Cormorants, Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)</b>	
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>
Crowned Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo coronatus</i>
Cape Cormorant - EN	<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
<b>Ibises, Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)</b>	
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Hérons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)</b>	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>
<b>Hamerkop (Scopidae)</b>	
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
<b>Secretarybird (Sagittariidae)</b>	
Secretarybird - EN	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>
<b>Kites, Hawks, Eagles (Accipitridae)</b>	
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
Cape Vulture - VU	<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>
Martial Eagle - EN	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>
Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>
Black Sparrowhawk (H)	<i>Astur melanoleucus</i>
Black Harrier - EN	<i>Circus maurus</i>
African Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
African Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga vocifer</i>
Jackal Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>
Forest Buzzard	<i>Buteo trizonatus</i>
<b>Mousebirds (Coliidae)</b>	
Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>
White-backed Mousebird	<i>Colius colius</i>
Red-faced Mousebird	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>
<b>Hoopoes (Upupidae)</b>	
Eurasian Hoopoe (H)	<i>Upupa epops</i>
<b>Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)</b>	
Brown-hooded Kingfisher (H)	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>
<b>African Barbets (Lybiidae)</b>	
Crested Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>
Acacia Pied Barbet	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>
<b>Honeyguides (Indicatoridae)</b>	
Greater Honeyguide (H)	<i>Indicator indicator</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Woodpeckers (Picidae)</b>	
Ground Woodpecker	<i>Geocolaptes olivaceus</i>
Knysna Woodpecker	<i>Campethera notata</i>
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>
<b>Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)</b>	
Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>
Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicolus</i>
Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
<b>Wattle-eyes, Batises (Platysteiridae)</b>	
Cape Batis	<i>Batis capensis</i>
Pirit Batis	<i>Batis pririt</i>
<b>Bushshrikes (Malaconotidae)</b>	
Olive Bushshrike	<i>Chlorophoneus olivaceus</i>
Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>
Southern Boubou	<i>Laniarius ferrugineus</i>
<b>Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae)</b>	
Grey Cuckooshrike	<i>Cebilepyris caesius</i>
Black Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga flava</i>
<b>Drongos (Dicruridae)</b>	
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
<b>Shrikes (Laniidae)</b>	
Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>
<b>Crows, Jays (Corvidae)</b>	
Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>
White-necked Raven	<i>Corvus albicollis</i>
<b>Rockjumpers (Chaetopidae)</b>	
Cape Rockjumper	<i>Chaetops frenatus</i>
<b>Fairy Flycatchers (Stenostiridae)</b>	
Fairy Flycatcher	<i>Stenostira scita</i>



Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Tits, Chickadees (Paridae)</b>	
Grey Tit	<i>Melaniparus afer</i>
<b>Larks (Alaudidae)</b>	
Spike-heeled Lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>
Karoo Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda subcoronata</i>
Cape Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda curvirostris</i>
Black-eared Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix australis</i>
Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix verticalis</i>
Sabota Lark	<i>Calendulauda sabota</i>
Fawn-colored Lark	<i>Calendulauda africanoides</i>
Karoo Lark	<i>Calendulauda albescens</i>
Red Lark - VU	<i>Calendulauda burra</i>
Cape Clapper Lark	<i>Corypha apiata</i>
Sclater's Lark	<i>Spizocorys sclateri</i>
Stark's Lark	<i>Spizocorys starki</i>
Large-billed Lark	<i>Galerida magnirostris</i>
Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>
<b>Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)</b>	
Sombre Greenbul	<i>Andropadus importunus</i>
African Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>
Cape Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus capensis</i>
<b>Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)</b>	
Black Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne pristoptera</i>
Banded Martin	<i>Neophedina cincta</i>
Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>
Large Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>
Pearl-breasted Swallow	<i>Hirundo dimidiata</i>
White-throated Swallow	<i>Hirundo albigularis</i>
Greater Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis cucullata</i>
<b>Crombecs, African Warblers (Macrospenidae)</b>	
Cape Grassbird	<i>Sphenoeacus afer</i>
Victorin's Warbler	<i>Cryptillas victorini</i>
Knysna Warbler	<i>Bradypterus sylvaticus</i>
<b>Reed Warblers &amp; Allies (Acrocephalidae)</b>	
Lesser Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
<b>Cisticolas &amp; Allies (Cisticolidae)</b>	
Grey-backed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola subruficapilla</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Levaillant's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola tinniens</i>
Neddicky	<i>Cisticola fulvicapilla</i>
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Desert Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aridulus</i>
Cloud Cisticola	<i>Cisticola textrix</i>
Black-chested Prinia	<i>Prinia flavicans</i>
Karoo Prinia	<i>Prinia maculosa</i>
Namaqua Warbler	<i>Phragmacia substriata</i>
Bar-throated Apalis	<i>Apalis thoracica</i>
Rufous-eared Warbler	<i>Malcorus pectoralis</i>
Cinnamon-breasted Warbler	<i>Euryptila subcinnamomea</i>
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>
Karoo Eremomela	<i>Eremomela gregalis</i>
<b>Sylviid Babblers (Sylviidae)</b>	
Layard's Warbler	<i>Curruca layardi</i>
Chestnut-vented Warbler	<i>Curruca subcoerulea</i>
<b>White-eyes (Zosteropidae)</b>	
Orange River White-eye	<i>Zosterops pallidus</i>
Cape White-eye	<i>Zosterops virens</i>
<b>Sugarbirds (Promeropidae)</b>	
Cape Sugarbird	<i>Promerops cafer</i>
<b>Starlings, Rhabdornises (Sturnidae)</b>	
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>
Pied Starling	<i>Lamprotornis bicolor</i>
Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>
Pale-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus nabouroup</i>
<b>Thrushes (Turdidae)</b>	
Olive Thrush	<i>Turdus olivaceus</i>
<b>Chats, Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)</b>	
Karoo Scrub Robin	<i>Tychaemon coryphoeus</i>
Chat Flycatcher	<i>Agricola infuscatus</i>
Fiscal Flycatcher	<i>Sigelus silens</i>
African Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>
Cape Robin-Chat	<i>Dessonornis caffer</i>
Cape Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola rupestris</i>
African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>
Karoo Chat	<i>Emarginata schlegelii</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Tractrac Chat	<i>Emarginata tractrac</i>
Ant-eating Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>
Mountain Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla monticola</i>
Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>
Familiar Chat	<i>Oenanthe familiaris</i>
<b>Sunbirds (Nectariniidae)</b>	
Orange-breasted Sunbird	<i>Anthobaphes violacea</i>
Amethyst Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra amethystina</i>
Malachite Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia famosa</i>
Southern Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris chalybeus</i>
Greater Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris afer</i>
Dusky Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris fuscus</i>
<b>Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches (Passeridae)</b>	
Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
<b>Weavers, Widowbirds (Ploceidae)</b>	
Sociable Weaver	<i>Philetairus socius</i>
Scaly-feathered Weaver	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>
Cape Weaver	<i>Ploceus capensis</i>
Southern Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>
Southern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>
Yellow Bishop	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>
<b>Waxbills, Munias &amp; Allies (Estrildidae)</b>	
Swee Waxbill	<i>Coccyzygia melanotis</i>
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
Red-headed Finch	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>
<b>Indigobirds, Whydahs (Viduidae)</b>	
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>
<b>Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)</b>	
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>
Cape Longclaw	<i>Macronyx capensis</i>
African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>
Nicholson's Pipit	<i>Anthus nicholsoni</i>
Plain-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>
<b>Finches, Euphonias (Fringillidae)</b>	
Forest Canary	<i>Crithagra scotops</i>



Common Name	Scientific Name
Cape Siskin	<i>Crithagra totta</i>
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>
Protea Canary	<i>Crithagra leucoptera</i>
Cape Canary	<i>Serinus canicollis</i>
Black-headed Canary	<i>Serinus alario</i>
<b>Buntings (Emberizidae)</b>	
Lark-like Bunting	<i>Emberiza impetuari</i>
Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>

<b>Species Seen</b>	<b>217</b>
Species heard only	9
Total species recorded	226

### Mammal List – Following Mammalwatching.com (November 2024)

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

Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Hyraxes (Procaviidae)</b>	
Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>
<b>Old World Monkeys (Cercopithecidae)</b>	
Vervet Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>
<b>Hares and Rabbits (Leporidae)</b>	
Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>
<b>Squirrels (Sciuridae)</b>	
South African Ground Squirrel	<i>Geosciurus inauris</i>
<b>Old World Mice and Rats (Muridae)</b>	
Four-striped Grass Rat	<i>Rhabdomys pumilio</i>
Brants's Whistling Rat	<i>Parotomys brantsii</i>
<b>Mongoose (Herpestidae)</b>	
Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Cape Grey Mongoose	<i>Herpestes pulverulentus</i>
<b>Equines (Equidae)</b>	
Mountain Zebra - VU	<i>Equus zebra</i>
<b>Bovids (Bovidae)</b>	
Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>
Bontebok	<i>Damaliscus pygargus</i>
Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>
Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>
Cape Grysbok	<i>Raphicerus melanotis</i>
Bush Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>
Rhebok	<i>Pelea capreolus</i>
Common Eland	<i>Tragelaphus oryx</i>
Southern Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus sylvaticus</i>
<b>Species seen:</b>	<b>19</b>

### Reptile List – Following Reptiles of the World (October 2023)

Common Name	Scientific Name
<b>Vipers (Viperidae)</b>	
Puff Adder	<i>Bitis arietans</i>
<b>Dragons (Agamidae)</b>	
Southern Rock Agama	<i>Agama atra</i>
<b>Girdle-tail Lizards (Cordylidae)</b>	
Augrabies Flat Lizard	<i>Platysaurus broadleyi</i>
<b>Mole and Western Keeled Snakes (Pseudaspidae)</b>	
Mole Snake	<i>Pseudaspis cana</i>
<b>Tortoises (Testudinidae)</b>	
Angulate Tortoise	<i>Chersina angulata</i>
Leopard Tortoise	<i>Stigmochelys pardalis</i>
<b>African Mud Turtles (Pelomedusidae)</b>	
Cape Terrapin	<i>Pelomedusa galeata</i>
<b>Species seen:</b>	<b>7</b>