



WESTERN SOUTH AFRICA PRIVATE BIRDING TOUR: CAPE ENDEMICS, NAMAQUALAND AND THE OVERBERG - TOUR REPORT

12 - 27 OCTOBER 2025

By Lance Robinson



*The endemic **Cape Rockjumper** is synonymous with Cape Town birding – and we had splendid views of this bird. (Photo Robert Petterson – tour participant).*

Overview

This private South African birding tour was designed specifically for a group of world birders: Giles, Nina, Robert, and Paula. The journey began in Cape Town, a well-known starting point for birding in South Africa. From there, the group followed a classic birding route through the western part of the country. The initial phase involved traveling up the west coast to explore the diverse habitats and birdlife found in this area. Afterward, the group ventured into the Namaqualand and Bushmanland regions of the Northern Cape, renowned for their unique avifauna and endemic species. Following the northern explorations, the tour continued southward into the Overberg and De Hoop regions. After exploring these varied landscapes, the group concluded their journey by returning to Cape Town, some 16 days later, showcasing some of the exceptional bird diversity of South Africa.

Fortunately, we encountered minimal interruptions from weather or logistical issues. The only significant challenge arose from high winds, which affected several days, most noticeably in the Namaqualand area. Despite these occasional gusty conditions, birding activities largely continued as planned. A dedicated effort was made to photograph all birds observed during the tour, in line with the specific request of the group. This focus allowed for an appreciation of not only the rarer and more sought-after species, but also more common and widespread birds encountered along the way.



*The tough (and near-endemic) **Sclater's Lark** is one of South Africa's most sought-after dry country species. We had excellent views on the tour after a bit of effort!*

(Photo Giles Daubeney – tour participant).

Over the course of this tour, we enjoyed some great Northern Cape endemic birding, with us finding almost all of the difficult (and some nomadic) specialty larks – **Slater's** and **Red Larks**, and **Black-eared Sparrow-Lark**. We were fortunate to have a chance encounter with a rare **Black Tern** and celebrated when we put concerted effort into the sought after **Cinnamon-breasted Warbler**, and later, **Knysna Woodpecker**. We encountered 15 species of larks, 6 species of sunbird, and our woodpecker bird totals were very impressive. In all, we encountered 269 species of birds. Any visit to the region will be filled with countless non-bird highlights. And we had many, including **Namaqua Dwarf Chamaeleon**, **Noki** (Dassie Rat), a variety of antelope species, and a sighting of **Southern Right Whale**.

A detailed daily record is provided below, and species lists are included at the conclusion of the report.

Detailed Report

Day 1, 12th October 2025. Arrival in Cape Town

Following Robert and Paula's prior arrival in Cape Town, and before collecting Giles and Nina at the Cape Town International Airport in the late afternoon, we transferred to our comfortable guesthouse before we set off for Rondebosch Common and later, Cecilia Forest. We spent our time acquainting ourselves with some of the birds that would feature regularly over the coming days, including the near endemic **Jackal Buzzard**, **Yellow-billed Kite**, **Levaillant's Cisticola**, and **Karoo Prinia** at Rondebosch Common, before connecting with **Black Sparrowhawk**, **Bronze Mannikin**, **Swet Waxbill**, and the delightful endemic **Cape Siskin** at Cecilia Forest.



*A fine male **Cape Siskin** forages nearly at our feet. (Photo Robert Petterson – tour participant).*

Day 2, 13th October 2025. Birding Rooi Els, Betty's Bay and surrounds

A pre-dawn start saw us heading out of the Mother City to spend time birding in the Hottentots Holland Mountains and accompanying seaside locations. Despite having no luck trying for one of the enigmatic flufftail species, we were delighted to encounter the endemic **Cape Sugarbird**, stunning **Yellow Bishop**, and an obliging **Little Rush Warbler** before enjoying a cup of coffee.

Thereafter, we proceeded to Rooi Els where we spent time slowly walking along the gravel road scanning the dramatic mountain slopes and listening out carefully for the very desirable **Cape Rockjumper**. With views across a spectacular coastline, we had protracted views of birds named after the region: **Cape Grassbird**, **Cape Bunting**, **Cape Bulbul**, **Cape Rock Thrush**, and **Cape Siskin**. Though we were unfortunate in not encountering our quarry this time, we left undeterred, with a vow to return.



African Penguin is sadly rapidly declining – we paid a visit to one of the few mainland colonies.

Our next port of call was to the Stony Point Nature Reserve situated in Betty's Bay and well known as one of only a few mainland **African Penguin** colonies. We were enthralled with close-up views of these critically endangered penguins that nest alongside **Bank**, **Crowned**, **Cape** and **White-breasted Cormorants**, that were similarly all seen well.

An afternoon at Harold Porter Botanical Garden yielded amongst others, **African Dusky Flycatcher**, **Black Saw-wing**, a spectacular if somewhat furtive male **African Paradise Flycatcher**, numerous **Southern Double-collared Sunbird**, **Orange-breasted Sunbird**, **Brimstone Canary**, and an overhead **Peregrine Falcon**.

Day 3, 14th October 2025. Birding Kirstenbosch Gardens and transfer to Langebaan

The world renowned Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden was our first birding destination after an enjoyable breakfast at the lodge. The well-maintained gardens and adjacent fynbos and pockets of indigenous forest support an attractive diversity of bird species, and the photographers were delighted with opportunities to capture images of **Spotted Eagle Owls**, **Sombre Greenbul**, **Lemon Dove**, **Cape Sugarbird**, **Forest Canary**, and showy **Malachite Sunbirds**, among many others.

While somewhat difficult to leave this haven of avian tranquility, we checked out of our comfortable lodge and found ourselves heading to Strandfontein Sewage Works with its vast network of ponds and settling dams. On entering we were made aware of a rare **Black Tern** that had been spotted and, in no time, managed to connect with this vagrant. Delighted, we slowly worked our way through the various ponds and vast flocks of ducks. The bulk of the ducks seen comprised **Cape Shoveler** and **Cape Teal**, though with smaller numbers of **Yellow-billed Ducks**, **Red-billed Teal**, and **Southern Pochards** also present. We enjoyed both **Greater** and **Lesser Flamingos** at the ponds, along with a wide range of other waterbirds, including various herons, **Pied Avocets**, and a few shorebirds including **Bar-tailed Godwit**.



*South Africa's national bird is the magnificent **Blue Crane**. We were fortunate to have quite a few sightings of these birds on the tour. (Photo Robert Petterson – tour participant).*

Thereafter, we made our way up the west coast, stopping along the Mamre Road for our first of a stunning pair of **Blue Crane** and a breeding pair of **Pearl-breasted Swallow**. We then checked into our lovely guesthouse in Langebaan, before having supper.

Day 4, 15th October 2025. Birding the West Coast National Park and surrounds

We explored an area just on the outskirts of town which yielded a trio of **Grey Tits**, along with **Acacia Pied Barbet**, **Yellow** and **Black-headed Canaries**, and a confiding pair of **Karoo Scrub Robin**, before we were enchanted with a flyby of a striking **Black Harrier**. We then proceeded to the West Coast National Park.

We headed to the Geelbek Bird Hide and noted a number of shorebirds, but the tide was not favorable. We noted **Caspian** and **Sandwich Terns** and a distant **Osprey**. The Abrahamskraal Hide had a confiding pair of **White-throated Swallow** breeding inside the hide, and a pair of **African Marsh Harrier** was seen well.

We proceeded towards Kraalbaai in the direction of Postberg flower reserve and on route, we saw **Common Ostrich** with many youngsters and another stunning **Black Harrier**. Kraalbaai proved more protected from the wind, and we had excellent views of a number of shorebirds including **Common Ringed Plover**, **Sanderling**, **Eurasian Whimbrel**, and **Grey Plover** and vast numbers of **Common Terns**. The tide had improved and we opted to revisit the Geelbek viewpoint where we added many more shorebirds including **Ruddy Turnstone**, multiple **Curlew Sandpiper**, and **Little Stint**.

Thereafter, we headed to Seeberg and enjoyed protracted views of **Southern Black Korhaan** and **Grey-winged Francolin** on route. Although it was very windy at Seeberg, we were still able to spot a **Eurasian Curlew**. On our way back to Langebaan, we had a surprising flyby of a **Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk** that, unfortunately, did not hang around for better views. We enjoyed a great dinner and met up with local South African birding legend Faansie Peacock.



*Grey Tit is one of the sought-after species occurring in the coastal vegetation up the west coast.
(Photo Giles Daubeney – tour participant).*

Day 5, 16th October 2025. Birding Langebaan and transfer to Springbok

We had a long few travel days in store over the next little while – today transiting from the West Coast to Springbok. Our early morning stint of birding in Langebaan saw us heading to a local spot for displaying **Karoo Lark**. Thereafter, we were soon at the village of Jacobs Bay and were delighted to connect well with **Antarctic Tern** in amongst the various tern species.

We left for the wonderful salt pans around Velddrif. Here our main target, **Chestnut-banded Plover**, is common and showed really well, and both **Lesser** and **Greater Flamingo** were seen. We were also able to include the long-continuing vagrant pair of **Red-necked Phalarope** (one in breeding plumage) on our growing list. Content with our viewings, we carried on, and headed to Lambert's Bay to visit Bird Island, one of only six sites worldwide where **Cape Gannets** breed. We were treated to the spectacle of thousands of gannets from the bird hide, where we watched the birds nesting, feeding, and socialising. On route towards Springbok, we noted endemic **Pied Starling**, **Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark**, and our first sightings of the globally endangered **Ludwig's Bustard**.



*Watching the huge **Cape Gannet** colony at Lambert's Bay is always a wonderful experience.*

Day 6, 17th October 2025. Namaqualand birding – Springbok to Port Nolloth and surrounds

We had a long morning drive to get to the coastal Port Nolloth region, where we would spend the morning. On route we encountered **Bradfield's Swift**, numerous **Greater Kestrels**, and **Lanner Falcon** seen along the way. North of the town, while searching for the local race of Dune Lark (which was formerly its own species, Barlow's Lark), we only encountered an individual with intermediate plumage between Karoo and Dune lark, likely indicative of hybridisation.

Although this seemingly barren coastal vegetation seems lifeless, there are always birds about, and we added the likes of **Cape Long-billed Lark**, **Red-capped Lark**, and a nest with nestlings of **Pale Chanting Goshawk** with an adult in attendance.

We returned to Springbok, where we headed to the Goegap Reserve only to find it had closed. Unperturbed, we birded the surrounds, and enjoyed excellent views of **Rufous-eared Warbler**, **Karoo Eremomela**, a delightful group of **Spike-heeled Lark**, and **Ground Woodpecker**.



Karoo Eremomela is one of several prized birds occurring in Namaqualand.
(Photo Robert Petterson – tour participant).

Day 7, 18th October. Birding Springbok and transfer to Pofadder

We only a short distance to go to get to Pofadder, our next destination, so had the morning available to spend birding around Springbok and we proceeded back to the Goegap Nature Reserve. Here we focused initially on the acacia around the offices, and found new birds like **White-throated Canary**, **Pririt Batis**, **Long-billed Crombec**, **Bokmakierie**, **Layard's Warbler** (Tit-babbler), **Fairy Flycatcher** and **Dusky Sunbird**. Thereafter, we concentrated on birding the rocky hills, looking for the difficult Cinnamon-breasted Warbler, but had no luck

After settling into our accommodation in Pofadder, we proceeded to go birding in the surrounding area. Despite windy conditions, we connected with a displaying **Northern Black Korhaan**, many **Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark** and countless **Lark-like Buntings**! We tried for Cape Eagle Owl but had no luck. On route back we had our first sighting of the iconic **Verreaux's Eagle** as it drifted over the ridge, as the sun was setting.

Day 8, 19th October. Birding Pofadder, and transfer to Augrabies.

We began our day in the Koa Dunes near Aggeneys. Not long after we got into the dunes we found our first **Red Lark** (which this area is especially known for), along with a few **Fawn-colored Larks**. A **Ludwig's Bustard** came cruising past in flight, while groups of **Namaqua Sandgrouse** began their morning drinking flights. At one of the well-known drinking troughs, the comings and goings of birds yielded an array of species that included **Red-headed Finch** and **Sociable Weaver**. Flocks of **Namaqua Sandgrouse** noisily flew about, while constant groupings of **Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark** and **Lark-like Bunting** were always about. Birding back to the town, we came across a pair of **South African Shelduck**, **Karoo Long-billed Lark** and **Chat Flycatcher**. The likes of **Red-faced Mousebird**, **Black-chested Prinia**, **Spike-heeled Lark**, and **Ant-eating Chat** all showed well too.

After settling into our Augrabies Falls accommodation, we took some time to rest before heading out for a walk towards the falls. The gardens were alive with birds that included **African Red-eyed Bulbul**, **Orange River White-eye**, **White-backed Mousebird**, and **Black-chested Prinia**. At the falls view site, with its spectacular views of the thundering Orange River cascading into a gorge, there were numerous **Alpine** and **African Palm Swifts** feeding on the blackflies – as were the abundant **Augrabies Flat Lizards**.



Day 9, 20th October. Full day exploring Augrabies Falls National Park

At first light we set off to explore the park, encountering **Southern Giraffe** for the first time. Our mission was undoubtedly to locate the elusive **Cinnamon-breasted Warbler** which was at first keeping up to its secretive nature. We were elated to finally connect with one before it disappeared from view and then reappeared many meters away! Safe in the bag, the relief was palpable and our

return for breakfast was more leisurely, stopping regularly for the local race of **Sabota Lark**, **Karoo Long-billed Lark**, **Pale-winged Starling**, and **Swallow-tailed Bee-eater**.



The ultra-secrective Cinnamon-breasted Warbler gave us the run-around – we got it in the end.



Namaqua Warbler, another sought-after bird, proved a little easier.
(Photo Giles Daubeney – tour participant).

Our birding resumed with a walk around the campgrounds where we were able to add **Malachite Kingfisher**, **Brubru**, **Crested Barbet**, **Cardinal Woodpecker**, **Common Reed Warbler**, **Southern Red Bishop**, and a very obliging **Namaqua Warbler** to the ongoing list.

Day 10, 21st October. Transfer to Upington

We set off at first light again to visit more of the lookout points along the Orange River. We added **Burchell's Coucal**, and more typical birds of the region such as **Mountain Chat**, **Karoo Scrub Robin**, and **Karoo Long-billed Sabota**, and **Fawn-coloured Larks**.

After breakfast we drove via Keimoes and were invited onto a property along the Orange River, where we had protracted views of **Rosy-faced Lovebird** and **Golden-tailed Woodpecker**. On the bridge over the Orange River, we added more **Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters**, and **Common Scimitarbill**.

It was a short drive to Upington, our destination and, after checking in, we opted to head out for more birding. To the north of the town, we located the impressive **Kori Bustard**, large nesting colonies of **Sociable Weaver**, and had distant views of **White-backed Vultures**.



A fine Rosy-faced Lovebird perched up. (Photo Robert Petterson – tour participant).

Day 11, 22nd October. Birding to Calvinia, via Brandvlei

The lodge grounds proved an excellent start to our birding, with the river host to numerous species including a pair of **African Fish Eagle**, **African Black Duck**, **African Pied Wagtail**, and **White-fronted Bee-eater**, among many others. Regular flocks of **Wattled Starling** flew overhead, and a small group of **African Hoopoe** was found on the lawns.

With a long day ahead, we made our way down to Calvinia via Brandvlei. On route we encountered a pair of **Secretarybirds** in flight, and a **Black-chested Snake Eagle** came in for closer inspection. There were numerous **Grey-backed Sparrow-Larks** and finally, in-between, the occasional **Black-eared Sparrow-Lark** was seen on a roadside stop. We then found ourselves at our appointed water point on private land, hoping for the **Sclater's Lark**. The first trough had many birds coming down to drink, mostly **Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark** and **Lark-like Bunting**. Our main target was **Sclater's Lark**, and it took a little more effort and required moving on to more water points where, on route to the third, we found a small group, landing just in front of us, and had good views!

Day 12, 23rd October. Long drive to Swellendam

We set out early for another long traveling day, taking a packed lunch along. A stop on route was primarily for **Protea Canary** and, after some anxious moments, an individual was located.

Our route took us through agricultural areas, and we once again happily saw **Blue Crane** among a number of other species more commonly associated with farmland.



Protea Canary is one of South Africa's trickiest endemics. We had some great looks after some effort. (Photo Robert Petterson – tour participant).

Day 13, 24th November 2024. Birding Grootvadersbosch, and transfer to Infanta

An early walk through Swellendam produced **Black Saw-wing**, **Olive Thrush**, **Greater Double-collared** and **Amethyst Sunbird**. The cuckoos were very vocal, particularly **Red-chested** and **Diederik Cuckoo**. Before breakfast, the antics of a male **Pin-tailed Whydah** delighted us as he

displayed for a female. Our next stop was the Grootvadersbosch Reserve and on route saw our first **Denham's Bustards** and a **Common Buzzard**. Possibly due to relatively dry conditions, birding was not as productive at the reserve as anticipated. However, we added a number of new species including **Olive Woodpecker**, **Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher**, **Terrestrial Brownbul**, and **Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler**. Both **Narina Trogon** and **Olive Bushshrike** were heard but did not make their appearance.

Thereafter, we made our way through agricultural areas and connected with **Red-capped** and **Agulhas Long-billed Larks** and watched enthusiastically as a flock of **Blue Cranes** danced and gave their bugling calls alongside.

After crossing the Breede River by ferry on the historic Malgas Pontoon Ferry near Infanta, we headed to our accommodation to settle in.



*Although widespread, this displaying male **Pin-tailed Whydah** kept us enthralled for a while.
(Photo Robert Petterson – tour participant).*

Day 14, 25th October. Agulhas Plains birding

Heading to De Hoop Nature Reserve, we stopped regularly for the abundant seedeaters, including masses of **Southern Red Bishops**. Inside the reserve, we met with a confiding covey of **Grey-winged Francolins** and had views of **Mountain Zebra**. The river walk produced both **Great Crested** and **Black-necked Grebe**, and a large flotilla of **Red-knobbed Coots**. Normally shy and retiring, a **Southern Tchagra** posed for photographs as did a showy **Knysna Woodpecker**!

We continued to the Koppie Alleen area for lunch, where we had views of a **Southern Right Whale**.

We then proceeded to Cape Agulhas, the southern tip of Africa, encountering **Great White Pelican** on route. A slow drive back to the accommodation had us stopping regularly for more commonly encountered roadside and farmland birds.



Knysna Woodpecker gave us excellent views in De Hoop. This is another scarce endemic we had great looks at on the tour. (Photo Robert Petterson – tour participant).

Day 15, 26th October. Birding to Cape Town

The last full day of the tour was upon us, and we were resolute in our desire to try again for the **Cape Rockjumper**. Not before the resident **Knysna Woodpecker** of the lodge garden first made an appearance! We made our way back to the Betty's Bay area to try for the **Cape Rockjumper** and succeeded in observing a small group, however, they were all far up on a boulder-strewn slope and we unanimously agreed to head back to Rooi Els for another try there, despite the late time of day.

Needless to say, we were absolutely elated to stumble upon a remarkably confiding pair of **Cape Rockjumpers**. They lingered, hopping boldly across the rugged terrain front-row seat to one of South Africa's most charismatic mountain specialists. It was a fitting moment to have come full circle and end on a birding high.

Day 16, 27th October. Departure from Cape Town

The tour ended in the morning with a departure from Cape Town.

I would like to thank Giles, Nina, Robert, and Paula for many memorable moments on this tour. The photographers are also gratefully thanked for sharing their photographs, with each image serving as a vivid extension of the narrative.

Bird List - Following IOC 15.1

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

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

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>
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>
South African Shelduck	<i>Tadorna cana</i>
Cape Shoveler	<i>Spatula smithii</i>
African Black Duck	<i>Anas sparsa</i>
Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>
Mallard (Introduced)	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>
Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>
Southern Pochard	<i>Netta erythrophthalma</i>
Guineafowl (Numididae)	
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
Pheasants & Allies (Phasianidae)	
Grey-winged Francolin	<i>Scleroptila afra</i>
Common Quail (H)	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>
Cape Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis capensis</i>
Swifts (Apodidae)	
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>
African Black Swift	<i>Apus barbatus</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Bradfield's Swift	<i>Apus bradfieldi</i>
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>
Bustards (Otididae)	
Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>
Ludwig's Bustard - EN	<i>Neotis ludwigii</i>
Denham's Bustard	<i>Neotis denhami</i>
Southern Black Korhaan - VU	<i>Afrotis afra</i>
Northern Black Korhaan	<i>Afrotis afraoides</i>
Cuckoos (Cuculidae)	
Burchell's Coucal	<i>Centropus burchellii</i>
Diederik Cuckoo (H)	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>
Klaas's Cuckoo (H)	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>
Black Cuckoo (H)	<i>Cuculus clamosus</i>
Red-chested Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>
Sandgrouse (Pteroclidae)	
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>
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>
Rails, Crakes & Coots (Rallidae)	
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</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)	
Spotted Thick-knee	<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)	
Grey Plover -VU	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
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>
Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopacidae)	
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Curlew Sandpiper – VU	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)	
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</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>
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>
Hartlaub's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus hartlaubii</i>
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>
Penguins (Spheniscidae)	
African Penguin – CR	<i>Spheniscus demersus</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 (Great) Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>
Ibises, Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)	
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>
Herons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Striated (Little) Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>
Hamerkop (Scopidae)	
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
Pelicans (Pelecanidae)	
Great White Pelican - VU	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>
Secretarybird (Sagittariidae)	
Secretarybird – EN	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>
Ospreys (Pandionidae)	
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Kites, Hawks, Eagles (Accipitridae)	
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>
White-backed Vulture - CR	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
Black-chested Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>
Verreaux's Eagle - VU	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>
Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>
Black Sparrowhawk	<i>Astur melanoleucus</i>
Black Harrier – EN	<i>Circus maurus</i>
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>
African Fish Eagle	<i>Icthyophaga vocifer</i>
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
Jackal Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>
Owls (Strigidae)	
Spotted Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>
Mousebirds (Coliidae)	
Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>
White-backed Mousebird	<i>Colius colius</i>
Red-faced Mousebird	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Trogons (Trogonidae)	
Narina Trogon (H)	<i>Apaloderma narina</i>
Hoopoes (Upupidae)	
African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>
Wood Hoopoes (Phoeniculidae)	
Common Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)	
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
Bee-eaters (Meropidae)	
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>
White-fronted Bee-eater	<i>Merops bullockoides</i>
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
African Barbets (Lybiidae)	
Crested Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>
Acacia Pied Barbet	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>
Honeyguides (Indicatoridae)	
Lesser Honeyguide (H)	<i>Indicator minor</i>
Woodpeckers (Picidae)	
Ground Woodpecker	<i>Geocolaptes olivaceus</i>
Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campetherabingoni</i>
Knysna Woodpecker - Endemic	<i>Campetheranotata</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>
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Old World Parrots (Psittaculidae)	
Rosy-faced Lovebird	<i>Agapornis roseicollis</i>
Wattle-eyes, Batises (Platysteiridae)	
Cape Batis	<i>Batis capensis</i>
Pririt Batis	<i>Batis pririt</i>
Bushshrikes (Malaconotidae)	
Olive Bushshrike (H)	<i>Chlorophoneus olivaceus</i>
Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>
Southern Tchagra	<i>Tchagra tchagra</i>
Southern Boubou	<i>Laniarius ferrugineus</i>
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>
Drongos (Dicruridae)	
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
Monarchs (Monarchidae)	
Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher	<i>Trochocercus cyanomelas</i>
African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>
Shrikes (Laniidae)	
Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</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 - Endemic	<i>Chaetops frenatus</i>
Fairy Flycatchers (Stenostiridae)	
Fairy Flycatcher	<i>Stenostira scita</i>
Tits, Chickadees (Paridae)	
Grey Tit	<i>Melaniparus afer</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Larks (Alaudidae)	
Spike-heeled Lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>
Karoo Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda subcoronata</i>
Agulhas Long-billed Lark (Endemic)	<i>Certhilauda brevirostris</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-coloured Lark	<i>Calendulauda africanoides</i>
Karoo Lark	<i>Calendulauda albescens</i>
Red Lark – (Endemic) VU	<i>Calendulauda burra</i>
Eastern Clapper Lark	<i>Corypha fasciolata</i>
Sclater's Lark	<i>Spizocorys sclateri</i>
Large-billed Lark	<i>Galerida magnirostris</i>
Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>
Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)	
Sombre Greenbul	<i>Andropadus importunus</i>
African Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>
Dark-capped Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus tricolor</i>
Cape Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus capensis</i>
Terrestrial Brownbul	<i>Phyllastrephus terrestris</i>
Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)	
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>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
White-throated Swallow	<i>Hirundo albicularis</i>
Greater Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis cucullata</i>
South African Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon spilodera</i>
Crombecs, African Warblers (Macrosphenidae)	
Cape Grassbird	<i>Sphenoeacus afer</i>
Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>
Leaf Warblers (Phylloscopidae)	

Common name	Scientific name
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)	
Grey-backed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola subruficapilla</i>
Levaillant's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola tinniens</i>
Neddicky	<i>Cisticola fulvicapilla</i>
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</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>
Karoo Eremomela	<i>Eremomela gregalis</i>
Sylviid Babblers (Sylviidae)	
Layard's Warbler	<i>Curruca layardi</i>
Chestnut-vented Warbler	<i>Curruca subcoerulea</i>
White-eyes (Zosteropidae)	
Orange River White-eye	<i>Zosterops pallidus</i>
Cape White-eye	<i>Zosterops virens</i>
Sugarbirds (Promeropidae)	
Cape Sugarbird (Endemic)	<i>Promerops cafer</i>
Starlings, Rhabdornises (Sturnidae)	
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>
Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>
Pied Starling	<i>Lamprotornis bicolor</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>
Pale-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus nabouroup</i>
Thrushes (Turdidae)	
Olive Thrush	<i>Turdus olivaceus</i>
Karoo Thrush	<i>Turdus smithi</i>
Chats, Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)	
Karoo Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas coryphoeus</i>
Kalahari Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas paena</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>
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>
Sunbirds (Nectariniidae)	
Orange-breasted Sunbird (Endemic)	<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>
Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches (Passeridae)	
Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Weavers, Widowbirds (Ploceidae)	
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>
Sociable Weaver	<i>Philetairus socius</i>
Scaly-feathered Weaver	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>

Common name	Scientific name
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>
Waxbills, Munias & Allies (Estrildidae)	
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>
Swee Waxbill	<i>Coccycigia melanotis</i>
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
Red-headed Finch	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>
Indigobirds, Whydahs (Viduidae)	
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>
Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)	
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>
Cape Longclaw	<i>Macronyx capensis</i>
African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>
Finches, Euphonias (Fringillidae)	
Forest Canary	<i>Crithagra scotops</i>
Cape Siskin (Endemic)	<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 (Endemic)	<i>Crithagra leucoptera</i>
Cape Canary	<i>Serinus canicollis</i>
Black-headed Canary	<i>Serinus alario</i>
Buntings (Emberizidae)	
Lark-like Bunting	<i>Emberiza impetuani</i>
Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>

Species seen:	262
Species heard:	7
Total species recorded:	269

Mammal List – Following Mammalwatching.com (Jan. 2024)

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>
Old World Monkeys (Cercopithecidae)	
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>
Dassie Rats (Petromuridae)	
Noki	<i>Petromus typicus</i>
Squirrels (Sciuridae)	
Eastern Gray Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>
South African Ground Squirrel	<i>Geosciurus inauris</i>
Old World Mice and Rats (Muridae)	
Xeric Four-striped Grass Rat	<i>Rhabdomys pumilio</i>
Eared Seals (Otariidae)	
Afro-Australian Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>
Canids (Canidae)	
Black-backed Jackal	<i>Lupulella mesomelas</i>
Mongooses (Herpestidae)	
Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>
Egyptian Mongoose	<i>Herpestes ichneumon</i>
Cape Gray Mongoose	<i>Herpestes pulverulentus</i>
Equines (Equidae)	
Mountain Zebra - VU	<i>Equus zebra</i>
Bowhead and Right Whales (Balaenidae)	
Southern Right Whale	<i>Eubalaena australis</i>
Bovids (Bovidae)	

Common name	Scientific name
Bontebok	<i>Damaliscus pygargus</i>
Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>
Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>
Klipspringer	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>
Common Eland	<i>Tragelaphus oryx</i>

Species seen:	18
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Reptile List

Common name	Scientific name
Dragons (Agamidae)	
Southern Rock Agama	<i>Agama atra</i>
Ground Agama	<i>Agama aculeata</i>
Chameleons (Chamaeleonidae)	
Namaqua Dwarf Chameleon	<i>Bradypodion occidentale</i>
Girdle-tail Lizards (Cordylidae)	
Augrabies Flat Lizard	<i>Platysaurus broadleyi</i>
Typical Geckos (Gekkonidae)	
Common Barking Gecko	<i>Ptenopus garrulus</i>

Species seen:	5
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