



SOUTH AFRICA: NORTHERN AND WESTERN CAPE BIRDS AND MAMMALS

10-30 AUGUST 2022

By Chris Lotz and Dominic Rollinson



This Meerkat suddenly came out of its hole to photobomb this Crimson-breasted Shrike.

Overview

This was a private, custom trip focused on finding Tim some tough and/or localized birds and mammals in remote parts of South Africa. In addition to seeking these tricky species, we also headed into the Richtersveld National Park for spectacular scenery and plants. Since that brought us right to the border, we also decided to cross the Orange River into Namibia to see the Fish River Canyon. Here we were glad to see some of the avian targets we were after, including the sometimes elusive, unique **Cinnamon-breasted Warbler**.

This was an above average year for Namaqualand flowers, and we spent some time photographing the dazzling floral displays everywhere we went. The scenery and rare plants such as **Halfmens** (*Pachypodium namaquanum*) amid some of Africa's most spectacular (but off the beaten track) scenery was also a delight.

One of the many highlights of this tour was finding over 50 mammal species including **Aardvark**, **Aardwolf**, **Brown Hyena**, **African Wild Dog**, **African Wild Cat**, **Meerkat**, black-maned **Kalahari Lion**, **Sable Antelope**, **Roan Antelope**, desert **Black Rhino**, **White Rhino**, **Orca** and numerous others. Another highlight was seeing all three large bustards and all four small ones occurring in the Northern and Western Cape provinces, finding a plethora of localized larks such as **Red Lark**, **Barlow's Lark**, three of the **Long-billed Larks** and many others. We also found many other great birds.

Detailed Report

Day 1, 10th August 2022. Arrival in Kimberley – Aardvark and more!

Chris fetched Tim at Kimberley airport when his flight arrived just before 4 pm and we headed towards Marrick Game Farm for our first two nights. We stopped to look at a **Pale Chanting Goshawk** as we approached Marrick. After the raptor flew off, we were very glad to locate a loosely assembling flock of **Buffy Pipit** in a burnt field across the road. This was one of our target species.

As we tried pulling into the reception at Marrick to check in, we got distracted by a large number of birds everywhere. These included our first **Ashy Tit**, a couple of dazzlingly colorful **Crimson-breasted Shrike**, a couple of **African Hoopoe**, **Common Scimitarbill**, **Red-headed Finch**, **Cape Wagtail**, **Yellow Canary**, **African Red-eyed Bulbul**, **Rock Martin** flying around, a **Namaqua Dove** along with its ubiquitous cousins, **Laughing** and **Ring-necked** (Cape Turtle) **Doves**, **Speckled Pigeon**, our first of many **White-browed Sparrow-Weaver**, **Cape Sparrow** and **Southern Grey-headed Sparrow**. One of the highlights, **Swallow-tailed Bee-eater**, a small party of them, suddenly flew in and gave us close-up views – such gaudy birds. **Barbets** also provided a splash of color in the form of **Crested** and **Acacia Pied**. Very close up **Neddicky**, long-tailed **Black-chested Prinia**, striking **Kalahari Scrub Robin** and **Fiscal Flycatcher** also entertained us.

Meerkat and **South African Ground Squirrel** were also around the lodgings.

After a delicious dinner, we embarked on our first of two night drives here at Marrick. The main target was **AARDVARK**, and we found two of them! **Cape Springhare** were everywhere, and we also found a couple of **Scrub Hare** and nicely-marked **Smith's Red Rock Rabbit**. **Cape Porcupine** was, as usual, a highlight. Our first **Bat-eared Fox** and **Black-backed Jackal** also put in appearances. **Black Korhaan** and a couple of actual nocturnal birds, beautiful **Double-banded Courser** and **Western Barn Owl**, were also seen during this first night drive of the trip.

Day 2, 11th August 2022. The Big Hole and the night of the Aardwolves!

Today we started with an early morning walk around our lodgings, enjoying many of the beautiful birds we had seen yesterday, along with close-up views of **Golden-tailed Woodpecker**. We loved seeing close-up, dazzling **Crimson-breasted Shrike**, attractive **Brubru** with its telephone-like call, both **Kalahari** and **Karoo Scrub Robins**, our first **Fork-tailed Drongo** and a couple of **Familiar Chat** that were indeed being familiar.

We then did a morning drive around Marrick Guest Farm. A pair of **Secretarybird** gave us extremely close views as they proudly strode across the savannah. Our first of many **Southern Fiscal** were much in evidence, and a lot of **Desert Cisticola** showed really well and displayed nicely for us. Many **Ant-eating Chat** entertained us and there were a few **African Pipit** around for comparison with yesterday's **Buffy Pipit**. The wetland area allowed us to see large numbers of **Glossy Ibis**, **Black-winged Stilt**, **Spur-winged Goose**, **Egyptian Goose**, **South African Shelduck**, **Yellow-billed Duck**, **Red-billed Teal**, **Southern Pochard** and a few **White-faced Whistling Duck**.

We then made a highly educational visit to Kimberley's impressive "Big Hole" and toured the museum there. This is claimed to be the deepest hole excavated by hand, down to 790 feet (240 meters). This was all thanks to diamonds being discovered at the site in 1871, with an ensuing diamond rush. As we were guided around the excellent museum and Big Hole itself, we saw some good birds. These included a **Peregrine Falcon** hunting along the impressive walls of the Big Hole, along with **Alpine Swift**, **African Black Swift** and **African Rock Martin**. Also around were our first **Orange River White-eye** with its peachy flanks, **African Red-eyed Bulbul**, **White-backed Mousebird** and several other goodies.

Tonight's night drive was very different from yesterday's, as there were a good number of **Aardwolf** that showed really well, an animal that we would see in daylight at Tswalu as well, so this trip was certainly a very good one for this mammal. **Cape Porcupine** and some other species we'd already seen the night before, showed extremely well.



Aardwolf

Day 3, 12th August 2022. To Witsand Kalahari Reserve

Kimberley is where the Kalahari, Karoo and grassland meet, but today we drove away from two of these biomes and went deep into the Kalahari. Our destination was the fascinating little reserve of Witsand, where there are stunning white and red sand dunes including some that roar. Before embarking on the drive, we saw a beautiful male **White-bellied Sunbird** (these would be replaced by our first of many **Dusky Sunbird** within the reserve). It was a long but scenic drive to get to Witsand where we arrived a bit before dark and enjoyed a “braai” (traditional South African BBQ). En route and at the reserve during a late afternoon drive to the roaring sands viewpoint, we found some new trip birds such as our first of many **Fawn-colored Lark**, **Black-winged Kite** and the world’s heaviest flying bird, **Kori Bustard**. We also stopped to admire extremely impressive **Sociable Weaver** nests and a great many of their little inhabitants.

Mammal-wise, we added **Vervet** (Monkey) which actually stole some pears we were going to include in the next morning’s breakfast.

Day 4, 13th August 2022. Productive Witsand birding, then the drive to Tswalu Kalahari Reserve

We found a great many excellent birds as we drove to and walked around the various viewpoints of Witsand Nature Reserve. Tiny, cute, **Pearl-spotted Owlet** showed well, as did a plethora of other birds. These included our first **Short-toed Rock Thrush**, stunning **Fairy Flycatcher**, our

first of many **Dusky Sunbird**, lots of **Crimson-breasted Shrike** everywhere, **Green-winged Pytilia** (Melba Finch), **Brown-crowned Tchagra**, **Helmeted Guineafowl** and others.

The bird hide in the reserve was particularly amazing as it afforded us great and close-up views of species coming to drink literally right in front of us. These included **Red-faced Mousebird**, **Sociable Weaver**, **Red-billed Quelea**, **Black-faced Waxbill**, **Violet-eared Waxbill** and **Red-headed Finch** (so many of these birds are brightly-colored beauts).

A pair of **Ashy Tit** showed very well just as we checked out to embark on our drive to Tswalu Kalahari Reserve. During this drive, we found our first **White-backed Vulture**, **Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill**, **Common Ostrich** and **Pygmy Falcon**.

We also saw some **Greater Kudu** leaping over a high fence right in front of us, so impressive!

When we arrived at Tswalu, our check-in process was delayed only by a pair of **Long-billed Crombec**, almost tailless birds. We then went on a pre-dinner introductory sunset/night drive during which we saw **Chestnut-vented Warbler** (Tit-babbler), **Cape Starling**, **Double-banded Sandgrouse**, **Spotted Eagle Owl** and other great birds. We also heard the prehistoric-sounding call of **Common Ostrich**.

During the night drive, we also found good mammals such as the red-colored Kalahari form of **Slender Mongoose**, **Yellow Mongoose** with its pale-tipped tail, an **African Wild Cat** on a dune and **Cape Fox** which we were equally pleased with. **Southern Giraffe** made the impressive sunset even more atmospheric. Spectacular views of the southern stars, our galaxy (the milky way) and other galaxies (magellanic clouds) made us feel incredibly small.



Tswalu sunsets proved wonderful

Days 5-6, 14-15th August 2022. Two full days in Tswalu Kalahari Reserve

What a place the vast Tswalu private game reserve is! It's teeming with rare mammals such as **Roan Antelope**, **Sable Antelope**, **Black Rhinoceros**, **White Rhinoceros** and **African Wild Dog**, all of which we saw extremely well. We also loved seeing an **Aardwolf** during the day and we were lucky enough to see a **Brown Hyena** too! Black-maned Kalahari **Lion** at a kill were also an undeniable highlight. We also saw our first of some more common mammals such as **Chacma Baboon**, **Common (Blue) Wildebeest** and others. There were also a number of **South African Ground Squirrel** around, plus adorable **Meerkat**, along with further **Slender** and **Yellow Mongoose** (or Mongooses or Mongeese?). We also enjoyed seeing a **Round-eared Sengi** (Elephant Shrew) around the lodge the morning we left.

Bird-wise, our full days in Tswalu were also productive. We enjoyed a good number of **Burchell's Sandgrouse**, **Double-banded Sandgrouse**, **Red-crested Korhaan**, **Northern Black Korhaan** and **Kori Bustard**. All of these are star birds! We found our first **White-backed Mousebird**, **Cardinal Woodpecker**, **Bokmakierie**, **Groundscraper Thrush**, **Golden-breasted Bunting** and **Cape Bunting**.

This evening, we had a most amazing, very different (for a wildlife tour!) experience, enjoying a nine course dinner made by South Africa's first Michelin star chef, Jan Hendrik van der Westhuizen, at Klein Jan. The dinner was made from local Kalahari ingredients.



Cape Fox snoozing on a dune

Day 7, 16th August 2022. Augrabies Falls National Park

After a final delicious breakfast at Tswalu, we started the long drive to the Augrabies Falls National Park. Here, the Orange River plummets into a deep gorge, a truly spectacular site. The river also provides an oasis in an otherwise arid landscape. En route to the park we saw the wineries, raisin farms and citrus orchards of the islands and irrigated river bank areas of this fascinating part of the world called the “Green Kalahari”.

At the park, we saw **Alpine Swift**, **African Palm Swift** and many **Rock Martin** wheeling around in the gorge below the falls. We got good views of **Namaqua Warbler**, common here but generally a scarce and localized bird that can be a bit tricky to find. **Cape Robin-chat**, **Pale-winged Starling**, **Common Waxbill** and **African Pied Wagtail** were new trip birds here. **Pirit Batis** showed better here than at previous sites.

Large numbers of **Rock Hyrax**, many of them close-up, were much in evidence. Colorful **Broadley’s Flat Lizard** sunned themselves on the rocks below the viewing platforms at the falls.

Day 8, 17th August 2022. Pofadder – larks and more

We headed west to Pofadder, Here we found tens of **Namaqua Sandgrouse**, **Rock Kestrel**, **Greater Kestrel**, hundreds of **Lark-like Bunting**, the very localized **Red Lark**, **Stark’s Lark**, the large-billed western form (“Bradfield’s Lark) variant of **Sabota Lark**, **Spike-heeled Lark**,

many **Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark**, **Karoo Chat**, **Mountain Wheatear**, **Namaqua Dove**, etc. At the Koa Dunes we saw a **Jackal Buzzard** and a **Spotted Eagle Owl** sitting on the sand.

Day 9, 18th August 2022. Into Namibia – Fish River Canyon

After checking out of our hotel, we tried Sclater's Lark sites in the morning, but sadly could not find this nomadic bird. We then embarked on the spectacularly scenic drive to the Namibian border at Onseepkans where we hoped to find Rosy-faced Lovebird but sadly didn't. During the scenic drive, we saw spectacular floral displays following the good winter rainfall this area had received so far this season. **Karoo Long-billed Lark**, **Brown-throated Martin**, **White-throated Swallow** and others entertained us during this drive. **Lesser Honeyguide** was one of the last South African birds we saw before crossing the border.

We eventually crossed the Namibian border, over the Orange River, seeing three **Grey Heron** in the middle of the river (literally we didn't know whether to tick these on our South African or Namibian lists). A three-hour drive through southern Namibia found us at Hobas Lodge near the canyon. A spectacular **Lappet-faced Vulture** was our first Namibian bird.



Fish River Canyon, Namibia

Day 10, 19th August 2022. Full day at the Fish River Canyon in Namibia

What a superb day, with spectacular canyon scenery and some star birds and mammals! After breakfast, we found a **Three-banded Plover** at our lodge. We then embarked on a drive to several of the Fish River Canyon viewpoints, seeing a number of good birds during our sight-seeing. Species included tons of **Pale-winged Starling**, a good number of **White-throated Canary**, a few **Cape Bunting**, a couple of **Lark-like Bunting**, variable **Mountain Wheatear** (some of them really strikingly marked), etc. The best bird of the morning was an unbelievably confiding **Karoo Long-billed Lark** that came right up to us, giving its whistling song often, including once during its display flight in front of us. We were also very pleased to find a mixed flock of **Yellow-bellied Eremomela** and **Karoo Eremomela**.

After spending some hours enjoying viewpoints along the Fish River Canyon rim, we then drove to Canon Lodge for lunch. This is a great place for birds as it forms an oasis. We managed to find our main target in the form of five **Rosy-faced Lovebird**. There were also many other great birds around, such as **Mountain Wheatear**, **Namaqua Dove**, **Dusky Sunbird**, **Acacia Pied Barbet** and more.

We then went to the Canon Roadshow to fill up with fuel, and en route we found four **Hartmann's Mountain Zebra** as well as one of our main targets, **Cinnamon-breasted Warbler**, when we stopped to view a pair of beautiful **Verreaux's Eagle**.

In the late afternoon, we drove back to the Fish River Canyon viewpoints to enjoy the spectacular sunset. We added **Sabota Lark** to our Namibia/day lists.

Day 11, 20th August 2022. Drive to the Richtersveld back in South Africa

Today we embarked on the extremely scenic drive to the remarkable Richtersveld National Park. Here, we spent the next two nights at the pleasant Sendelingsdrift chalets on the South African side of the Orange River. Unfortunately, the Namibia border crossing at Sendelingsdrift was closed, so we had to drive the long way around, although through highly scenic landscapes!

En route, still within Namibia, we saw our first pair of **Karoo Korhaan**, obtaining great views. We also saw our first **Red-capped Lark**.

Mammal-wise during our journey today, we saw three more **Greater Kudu** leaping over a high fence, something we had already seen a couple of times on previous days.

On arrival at Sendelingsdrift along the banks of the Orange River, we added some new trip birds to our growing list. These included **African Darter**, **White-breasted Cormorant**, **Reed Cormorant**, **African Fish Eagle**, **Karoo Thrush**, **African Hoopoe** and **Brown-throated Martin**.

We did an early evening scenic drive into the spectacular Richtersveld National Park before enjoying a "braai".

We should also mention here the two species we realized we might see every day of the entire trip, **Laughing Dove** and **Rock Martin**. At the end of Day 11, we were still winning this game.

Day 12, 21st August 2022. Sightseeing and remarkable plants in the Richtersveld

We spent a truly fabulous day driving many of the 4x4 routes within this scenically wonderful park. One of our first stops (along the Swartpoort Pass) was to look at “Halfmens”, *Pachypodium namaquanum*, one of the area’s most iconic plants. We also saw many Aloe including tree aloe species, lots of spectacular flowers in bloom after the good recent rains, and so much more. We crossed some more fabulous mountain passes and beautiful sandy valleys, before reaching the de Hoop Campsite at white water rapids along the Orange River. From here, we followed the Orange River for a while before taking an adventurous (but spectacularly scenic) track through a canyon and westwards again to the equally adventurous but marvelously scenic Helskloof Pass.



Blue mountains in the Richtersveld

This was a day of spectacular scenery, bizarre, diverse plant-life, amazing stones, quartz veins, canyons, adventurous 4x4 mountain passes and Orange River frontage including some rapids.

We had a fabulous encounter with **Common Ostrich** displaying, our first **Common Waxbill** and various other birds.

We also added a new mammal today, **Dassie Rat**, at our lunch stop.



Pachypodium namaquanum (Halfmens) plants in the rugged Richtersveld mountains

Day 13, 22nd August 2022. Great birding between the Richtersveld and Springbok, via Port Nolloth

Today was yet another amazingly scenic day, and with some top birding targets seen. Driving southwest, we eventually reached the coast, and made stops between the Orange River Mouth area and Post Nolloth. We found our first bird target, **Barlow's Lark**, easily. We were able to compare it with the closely related **Karoo Lark**, which we also got great views of a couple of hours later. At almost every stop we made, we also heard **Cape Long-billed Lark**, usually only distantly, but eventually we did manage to get excellent views of one. We saw a **Grey Tit** but had to wait until Springbok to get semi-decent views of another one. One of the highlights of the day was a pair of beautiful **Rufous-eared Warbler**. A couple of **Tractrac Chat**, new for the trip, were around.

We enjoyed spending some time in the coastal town of Port Nolloth. Here we also added a number of new trip birds, such as **Cape Teal**, **Black-necked Grebe**, **Bank Cormorant**, **Crowned Cormorant**, **Cape Cormorant**, **African Sacred Ibis**, **African Oystercatcher** and **African Stonechat**.

We eventually arrived in Springbok where we were to spend two nights.

Day 14, 23rd August 2022. Springbok to Pofadder via a Red Lark site, the Koa Dunes

We opted to head eastwards again to try for nomadic species such as Sclater's Lark, Black-eared Sparrowlark, Black-headed Canary (including the Damara Canary subspecies) but had no success with these; they had likely moved to a different part of the vast Karoo. Nevertheless, it was still a highly rewarding day. Our first stop generated three **Ludwig's Bustard**, hundreds of **Grey-backed Sparrowlark** and various other birds. One of the main highlights was, however, good numbers of **Stark's Lark**. A magnificent **Martial Eagle**, Africa's largest eagle, was seen close-up.

We then spent some time at the picturesque Koa Dunes where the highly localized South African endemic, **Red Lark**, cooperated well – eventually. We also encountered a large number of **Red-billed Quelea** and **Lark-like Bunting** coming to drink here.

We returned to Pofadder for a bit, where we saw another **Karoo Korhaan** and many other birds.

Day 15, 24th August 2022. Goegap Nature Reserve and then the scenic drive to the Cederberg

We had one main avian target on Tim's wish-list today, **Layard's Warbler** (Tit-babbler) which we saw as soon as we stopped at the first site, along with a very short-tailed (almost tailless-looking!) **Long-billed Crombec**.

For most of the morning, we then focused on the truly spectacular floral displays in Goegap Nature Reserve near Springbok. We were so lucky as this proved one of the best years for Namaqualand flowers ever. The August timing always put us in a good position, being the best month for spectacular floral carpets, but the extent of the show depends on rainfall which is unpredictable in this arid part of the world. We concentrated on the 4x4 route within the reserve, as that is where most of the floral displays were located this year.

While looking at and photographing the flowers and **Quiver Trees** (tree aloes, also known as Kokerbooms), we encountered some star birds. The highlight among these was finding eight **Ludwig's Bustards**. We spotted these as we stopped to look at a remarkably large number of **White-necked Raven** mixing with an equally large number of the much more abundant **Pied Crow**. At one point, both these corvids were foraging among a troop of **Chacma Baboon**.

In the more rocky areas of the reserve, we got brief views of a single **Black-headed Canary**, a **Grey Tit**, close-up **Grey-backed Cisticola**, great views of a single **Karoo Eremomela**, and a couple of **Bokmakierie** (we heard pairs of these beautiful bush-shrikes duetting at almost every stop, but only laid eyes on a couple of them as they tend to be a bit secretive). **Cape Long-billed Lark**, **Large-billed Lark** and **Long-billed Pipit** also all showed very well, as did vocal **Karoo Prinia**.

We then embarked on the scenic drive southwards to the Cederberg Range, part of the Cape Fold Mountains. During this drive into less arid areas than we had spent most of our time in to date, we started encountering good numbers of new trip birds (a trend that would increase the next day). These included dazzlingly-colored **Southern Red Bishop**, **Cape Weaver** (including a massive nesting colony at our comfortable lodge in the Cederberg), **Olive Thrush** and a number of others.



Flowers at Goegap; photos don't do justice

Day 16, 25th August 2022. The West Coast from Lambert's Bay to Langebaan

Before heading to the coast, we stopped at our **Protea Canary** stakeout and found a good number of them close-up. As usual, there were lots of other birds at this site, such as **Little Rush Warbler** displaying like mad, **Fairy Flycatcher**, **Fiscal Flycatcher**, **Spotted Prinia**, our first **Cape Bulbul**, **Bar-throated Apalis**, **Yellow Bishop**.

During our drive southwards, we then encountered spectacular **Malachite Sunbird**, **Southern Double-collared Sunbird**, **Cape Canary**, **Brimstone Canary** and other new species for our trip.

At Lambert's Bay, we stopped at Bird Island. The reserve itself was closed, so we had to be satisfied with relatively distant scope views of hundreds of **Cape Gannet** rather than the usual close-up views. Here we also saw a couple of **African Penguin**, **Cape Gannet**, **Caspian Tern**, **Greater Crested** (Swift) **Tern** and a new trip mammal, **Cape Fur Seal**.

We finally reached the Berg River mouth area, where we saw **Greater** and **Lesser Flamingoes**, **White-fronted Plover**, **Pied Kingfisher** and a number of other estuary-associated species.

We made sure we reached the Columbine Peninsula in good time to try for our main target, **Sickle-winged Chat**, which took us longer than usual to locate but we eventually got close views of one. As we entered the peninsula, we got great views of **Southern Black Korhaan**. Also around here were a lot of **Jackal Buzzard** and **Black-winged Kite**, a couple of **Yellow-billed Kite**, **Pearl-**

breasted Swallow, Pied Starling, numerous Cape Spurfowl, our first of many Western Cattle Egret, Spotted Thick-knee and Kittlitz's Plover.

Day 17, 26th August 2022. West Coast National Park

After a comfortable evening at our B&B in Langebaan, we headed to the West Coast National Park. Here, we started the day with excellent views of **Southern Black Korhaan, Grey-winged Francolin, many Cape Spurfowl** and after some searching, three **Black Harrier**.

Large numbers of **Greater Flamingo** were in the beautiful Langebaan Lagoon below us. A pair of **Cape Shoveler** and a pair of **Steenbok** were at the southern end of the park. New mammals for the trip today were **Cape Grey Mongoose** and **Four-striped Grass Mouse** (Striped Field Mouse), **Bontebok** and **Cape Mountain Zebra**, these latter two beautiful animals grazing the spectacular flowery fields of the Postberg section of the national park. There were also several birds among the flowers, such as lots of **African Sacred Ibis**, many **Western Cattle Egret**, a **Common Ostrich** and a couple of **Black-headed Heron** (this heron prefers open fields and is not associated with water).

We then drove to Simon's Town where we were to spend the next two nights. En route, we enjoyed fabulous views of Table Mountain and the Cape Peninsula.

Day 17, 26th August 2022. Cape Peninsula birding and mammal-viewing

The early morning was spent on the Cape Peninsula looking for the elusive Caracal which unfortunately did not show for us. We then made our way back to Simon's Town for a late breakfast where we met up with Dom who would take over from Chris and guide the remaining four days in the southwestern Cape. Over breakfast we discussed the day's itinerary and which birds and mammals Tim was keen to target in the area.

After breakfast we hit the road and immediately made a diversion south as news had filtered through of Orca showing close to the coast just around the corner. We found a convenient pullover spot and after a few minutes of searching we spotted the **Orca** duo (named Port and Starboard) a few hundred meters offshore which showed briefly for us – always an impressive animal to find!

From here we headed north along the peninsula for some targeted birding and mammal-watching for the rest of the day. First up was **Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk** which showed right on cue and gave us amazing scope views of a very showy pair. Next, we continued down to the coast where we had excellent close-up views of a small wintering group of **Antarctic Terns**. The setting with the terns in the foreground, Table Mountain in the background and waves breaking over the rocks was truly memorable.

From here we headed further north to the Milnerton area where we had good looks at our next target, **White-backed Duck**, as well as **Cape Shoveler** and **Black-crowned Night Heron** in the same wetland. Nearby, was another mammal target and after a bit of searching we managed to find the Fynbos-endemic **Cape Grysbok** antelope which gave us nice scope views as it went about feeding. In the late afternoon, we again tried our luck at finding a Caracal but again could not locate this shy feline.



Antarctic Terns showed beautifully for us around Cape Town.

Day 18, 27th August 2022. Cape pelagic and transfer to Grootvadersbosch Forest

The good news was that the swell had subsided for us today and that our pelagic was to depart from Simon's Town at first light. We excitedly boarded our boat and were soon on our way out of False Bay and heading south of Cape Point to the productive fishing grounds. As we made our way through False Bay, we got good looks at our first **Cape Gannets** of the day which were soon followed by **White-chinned Petrels** and masses of **Sooty Shearwaters**. The unfortunate news was that there were no fishing vessels in the area which usually act as a bird magnet and the chaos behind these vessels is normally the highlight of any Cape pelagic. Nevertheless, we continued further south and soon got onto our first **Shy Albatross** which did a few loops around the vessel and provided incredible views. As we were steaming south, we also had brief views of an **Antarctic Prion** which did not hang around for us.

As there were no fishing vessels around, some fish oil and chum were thrown overboard around 25 miles (40 kilometers) south of Cape Point. Initially things were slow but then birds kept appearing out of nowhere and we steadily accumulated a good list of most of the regular pelagic species including **Shy**, **Black-browed** and **Indian Yellow-nosed Albatrosses**, **Northern** and **Southern Giant Petrels**, **White-chinned**, **Soft-plumaged** and **Pintado Petrels**, **Sooty Shearwater**, **Wilson's Storm Petrel** (of the distinctive Fuegian subspecies which may become a full species at some point!) and **Brown Skua**.

After a few hours out in the deep it was decided to head back to shore, however as we turned around, we had very brief views of a **Northern Royal Albatross** which zipped by at speed. En route back to Simon's Town, we stopped briefly at a **Bank Cormorant** colony which also contained **Crowned** and **Cape Cormorants** with good numbers of **Afro-Australian Fur Seals** around too. The pelagic also produced good cetacean sightings with two **Humpback Whales** showing incredibly well for us as well as a small school of **Long-beaked Common Dolphins**.



*We had multiple sightings of **Soft-plumaged Petrels** on our Cape pelagic trip.*

After our pelagic trip we still had a good drive ahead of us to Grootvadersbosch Forest which is around three hours east. We stopped off en route to find **Victorin's Warbler** which took some work but eventually showed well for us, before we arrived at our accommodation just as it was getting dark. It had been a long day but a thoroughly enjoyable one with some great birds along the way!

Day 19, 28th August 2022. Grootvadersbosch Forest birding and transfer to Agulhas Plains

We awoke to a beautiful morning and headed straight into the forest as we knew bad weather would be arriving soon. Our two targets for the area were Knysna Warbler and Forest Buzzard. It did not take long until we heard a **Knysna Warbler** but unfortunately it was in a difficult area to get a sighting and as soon as the rain started coming down the bird went dead quiet. Despite hanging around and trying for a while longer in the pouring rain, we eventually had to accept defeat and head back to our accommodation for breakfast.

After a lovely breakfast we headed back out again and managed brief but good views of a couple of flyover **Forest Buzzards** and then had another shot at the warbler which would not even make a peep for us this time around!

Unfortunately, the warbler was just not going to be seen on this trip and so we left the area and started making our way into the Agulhas Plains. Shortly after getting into the wheat field farming areas, we started to see good numbers of another target bird, **Blue Crane** which showed amazingly well for us and Tim managed some lovely photos. **Denham's Bustard** was our next target which again showed well for us and provided great photographic opportunities. As we made our way through the farmlands in the late afternoon, we had distant views of a **Cape Clapper Lark** and

eventually made it to our accommodation in the beautiful De Hoop Nature Reserve. That evening we enjoyed a delicious dinner and meticulously planned out the next day's busy agenda.



Denham's Bustard was seen well in the Agulhas Plains.

Day 20, 29th August 2022. Agulhas Plains and birding all the way back to Cape Town

With a lot to get through today before Tim's late-night flight out of Cape Town, we left camp before dawn and made our way to Koppie Alleen where we spotted several **Southern Right Whales** just beyond the breakers, and enjoyed scope views of them as the sun rose. On our way back to camp we stopped in some fields where we had excellent views of both **Agulhas Long-billed** and **Cape Clapper Larks**, although the singing **Cloud Cisticolas** would not show for us. A highlight of the morning was a fantastic **Black Harrier** which showed at close range for us. We enjoyed our packed breakfasts along the edge of the wetland where we had good numbers of hirundines flying by including **Barn, Lesser Striped, Greater Striped, White-throated** and **Pearl-breasted Swallows, Black Saw-wing** and **Rock** and **Brown-throated Martins** as well as some birds down in the wetland such as **Great Crested Grebe** and **African Darter**.

With our targets in the bag, we headed out of De Hoop Nature Reserve with our next stop being Cape Agulhas, the most southerly point of the African continent. This was a general interest stop, rather than a birding stop, and we enjoyed taking in the beauty and significance of the area, while also enjoying a few very showy **Yellow Canaries**.

After Cape Agulhas we kept heading west and had a couple of hours in Sandberg Fynbos Reserve to look for Hottentot Buttonquail. Unfortunately, by this time the wind was very strong which did not make things any easier and after a while we accepted defeat here and decided to rather go and look for Roseate Terns nearby. The wind did not seem to negatively affect the terns though and soon after arriving at a lookout point near Danger Point (with the terns' breeding island Dyer Island

visible in the distance) a beautiful breeding-plumaged **Roseate Tern** flew right by us showing its mostly white plumage and very long tail streamers.



*This breeding-plumaged **Roseate Tern** was a late trip highlight.*

After another good drive west, we stopped to search a hillslope for Cape Rockjumpers. It did not take long until a small group of **Cape Rockjumpers** appeared for us and gave us fantastic views with **Cape Siskin**, **Sentinel** and **Cape Rock Thrushes** and **Ground Woodpeckers** also seen on the boulders. The wind here was again incredibly strong however the rockjumpers did not seem to mind this and hung around for a while and gave us point-blank views of this important Cape endemic.

Despite the now gale-force winds buffeting the landscape we decided to have one last stop to try entice out a Striped Flufftail. The flufftails had more sense than us and did not respond or show for us and so we made the final drive back to Cape Town. En route to Cape Town we witnessed the impressive force of the wind as it blew vast plumes across False Bay and had even downed a large Eucalyptus tree which added some further excitement to the beautiful drive. This ended a highly successful and thoroughly enjoyable few days around the southwestern Cape on top of an equally successful tour of western South Africa.



Cape Rockjumpers put on a show for us – a great way to end the trip!



This female Cape Rockjumper also posed beautifully for us.

Bird List - Following IOC (11.2)

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>
White-backed Duck	<i>Thalassornis leuconotus</i>
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>
South African Shelduck	<i>Tadorna cana</i>
Cape Shoveler	<i>Spatula smithii</i>
Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</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>
Cape Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis capensis</i>
Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)	
Fiery-necked Nightjar	<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>
Bustards (Otididae)	
Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>
Ludwig's Bustard - EN	<i>Neotis ludwigii</i>
Denham's Bustard	<i>Neotis denhami</i>
Karoo Korhaan	<i>Eupodotis vigorsii</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Red-crested Korhaan	<i>Lophotis ruficrista</i>
Southern Black Korhaan - VU	<i>Afrotis afra</i>
Northern Black Korhaan	<i>Afrotis afraoides</i>
Sandgrouse (Pteroclididae)	
Namaqua Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles namaqua</i>
Double-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles bicinctus</i>
Burchell's Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles burchelli</i>
Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)	
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>
African Olive Pigeon	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>
Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</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>
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>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Plovers (Charadriidae)	
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>
Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>
Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>
Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>
White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>
Couriers, Pratincoles (Glareolidae)	
Double-banded Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus africanus</i>
Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)	
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>
Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>
Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>
Skuas (Stercorariidae)	
Brown Skua	<i>Stercorarius antarcticus</i>
Penguins (Spheniscidae)	
African Penguin - EN	<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>
Austral Storm Petrels (Oceanitidae)	
Wilson's Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>
Albatrosses (Diomedidae)	
Northern Royal Albatross - EN	<i>Diomedea sanfordi</i>
Black-browed Albatross - EN	<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>
Shy Albatross	<i>Thalassarche cauta</i>
Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross - EN	<i>Thalassarche carteri</i>
Petrels, Shearwaters, Diving Petrels (Procellariidae)	
Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>
Northern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>
Cape Petrel	<i>Daption capense</i>
Antarctic Prion	<i>Pachyptila desolata</i>
Soft-plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>
White-chinned Petrel - VU	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
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>
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>
Hérons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)	
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Secretarybird (Sagittariidae)	
Secretarybird - EN	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>
Kites, Hawks, Eagles (Accipitridae)	
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
White-backed Vulture - CR	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
Cape Vulture - EN	<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>
Lappet-faced Vulture - EN	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>
Martial Eagle - EN	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>
Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>
Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>
Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter rufiventris</i>
Black Harrier - EN	<i>Circus maurus</i>
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
Forest Buzzard	<i>Buteo trizonatus</i>
Jackal Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Barn Owls (Tytonidae)	
Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>
Owls (Strigidae)	
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>
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>
Hoopoes (Upupidae)	
African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>
Wood Hoopoes (Phoeniculidae)	
Common Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>
Hornbills (Bucerotidae)	
Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)	
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
Bee-eaters (Meropidae)	
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>
African Barbets (Lybiidae)	
Acacia Pied Barbet	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>
Crested Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>
Honeyguides (Indicatoridae)	
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>
Woodpeckers (Picidae)	
Ground Woodpecker	<i>Geocolaptes olivaceus</i>
Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>
Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)	
Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>
Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicolus</i>
Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</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	<i>Chlorophoneus olivaceus</i>
Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>
Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>
Crimson-breasted Shrike	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>
Shrikes (Laniidae)	
Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>
Drongos (Dicruridae)	
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
Monarchs (Monarchidae)	
Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher	<i>Trochocercus cyanomelas</i>
Crows, Jays (Corvidae)	
Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>
White-necked Raven	<i>Corvus albicollis</i>
Rockjumpers (Chaetopidae)	
Cape Rockjumper	<i>Chaetops frenatus</i>
Fairy Flycatchers (Stenostiridae)	
Fairy Flycatcher	<i>Stenostira scita</i>
Tits, Chickadees (Paridae)	
Ashy Tit	<i>Melaniparus cinerascens</i>
Grey Tit	<i>Melaniparus afer</i>
Larks (Alaudidae)	
Spike-heeled Lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>
Karoo Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda subcoronata</i>
Cape Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda curvirostris</i>
Agulhas Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda brevirostris</i>
Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix verticalis</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
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>
Barlow's Lark	<i>Calendulauda barlowi</i>
Cape Clapper Lark	<i>Miraфра apiata</i>
Stark's Lark	<i>Spizocorys starki</i>
Large-billed Lark	<i>Galerida magnirostris</i>
Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>
Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)	
Sombre Greenbul	<i>Andropadus importunus</i>
Terrestrial Brownbul	<i>Phyllastrephus terrestris</i>
African Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>
Cape Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus capensis</i>
Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)	
Black Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne pristoptera</i>
Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>
Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>
Pearl-breasted Swallow	<i>Hirundo dimidiata</i>
White-throated Swallow	<i>Hirundo albigularis</i>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>
Greater Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis cucullata</i>
Crombecs, African Warblers (Macrospenidae)	
Cape Grassbird	<i>Sphenoeacus afer</i>
Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>
Victorin's Warbler	<i>Cryptillas victorini</i>
Leaf Warblers & Allies (Phylloscopidae)	
Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus ruficapilla</i>
Grassbirds & Allies (Locustellidae)	
Knysna Warbler (H) – VU	<i>Bradypterus sylvaticus</i>
Little Rush Warbler	<i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>
Cisticolas & Allies (Cisticolidae)	
Grey-backed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola subruficapilla</i>
Neddicky	<i>Cisticola fulvicapilla</i>
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Desert Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aridulus</i>
Cloud Cisticola (H)	<i>Cisticola textrix</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
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>
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	<i>Promerops cafer</i>
Starlings, Rhabdornis (Sturnidae)	
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>
Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>
Pied Starling	<i>Lamprotornis bicolor</i>
Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>
Pale-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus nabouroup</i>
Thrushes (Turdidae)	
Groundscraper Thrush	<i>Turdus litsitsirupa</i>
Olive Thrush	<i>Turdus olivaceus</i>
Karoo Thrush	<i>Turdus smithi</i>
Chats, Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)	
Karoo Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas coryphoeus</i>
Kalahari Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas paena</i>
Chat Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis infuscatus</i>
Marico Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis mariquensis</i>
Fiscal Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis silens</i>
Cape Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha caffra</i>
Cape Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola rupestris</i>
Sentinel Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola explorator</i>
Short-toed Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola brevipes</i>
African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Sickle-winged Chat	<i>Emarginata sinuata</i>
Karoo Chat	<i>Emarginata schlegelii</i>
Tractrac Chat	<i>Emarginata tractrac</i>
Ant-eating Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>
Mountain Wheatear	<i>Myrmecocichla monticola</i>
Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>
Familiar Chat	<i>Oenanthe familiaris</i>
Sunbirds (Nectariniidae)	
Orange-breasted Sunbird	<i>Anthobaphes violacea</i>
Malachite Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia famosa</i>
Southern Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris chalybeus</i>
Greater Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris afer</i>
White-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris talatala</i>
Dusky Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris fuscus</i>
Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches (Passeridae)	
Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>
Great Sparrow	<i>Passer motitensis</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>
Cape Weaver	<i>Ploceus capensis</i>
Southern Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>
Southern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>
Yellow Bishop	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>
Waxbills, Munias & Allies (Estrildidae)	
Black-faced Waxbill	<i>Brunhilda erythronotos</i>
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
Red-headed Finch	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>
Violet-eared Waxbill	<i>Granatina granatina</i>
Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>
Indigobirds, Whydahs (Viduidae)	
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>
Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)	
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>
African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>
Nicholson's Pipit	<i>Anthus nicholsoni</i>
Buffy Pipit	<i>Anthus vaalensis</i>
Finches, Euphonias (Fringillidae)	
Black-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>
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>
Buntings (Emberizidae)	
Lark-like Bunting	<i>Emberiza impetuani</i>
Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>
Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>

Species Seen	261
Species heard only	2
Total species recorded	263

Mammal List

Common Name	Scientific Name
Dogs, Wolves, Foxes (Canidae)	
Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>
Bat-eared Fox	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>
Cape Fox	<i>Vulpes chama</i>
African Wild Dog	<i>Lycaon pictus</i>
Mongoose (Herpestidae)	
Cape Gray Mongoose	<i>Galerella pulverulenta</i>
Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>
Common Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>
Meerkat (Suricate)	<i>Suricata suricatta</i>
Cats (Felidae)	
Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>
African Wild Cat	<i>Felis lybica</i>
Hyaenas, Aardwolf (Hyaenidae)	
Brown Hyaena	<i>Parahyaena brunnea</i>
Aardwolf	<i>Proteles cristatus</i>
Bovids (Bovidae)	
Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>
Common Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>
Black Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes gnou</i>
(Red) Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus caama</i>
Mountain Reedbuck	<i>Redunca arundinum</i>
Blesbok/Bontebok	<i>Damaliscus pygargus</i>
Common Eland	<i>Tragelaphus oryx</i>
Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>
Roan Antelope	<i>Hippotragus equinus</i>
Sable Antelope	<i>Hippotragus niger</i>
Gemsbok	<i>Oryx gazella</i>
Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>
Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Grey Rhebok	<i>Pelea capreolus</i>
Cape Grysbok	<i>Raphicerus melanotis</i>
Common Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>
Giraffes, Okapis (Giraffidae)	
Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>
Hogs, Pigs (Suidae)	
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>
Hyraxes (Procaviidae)	
Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>
Rabbits, Hares (Leporidae)	
Smith's Red Rock Rabbit	<i>Pronolagus rupestris</i>
Cape Hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i>
Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>
Springhares (Pedetidae)	
Springhare	<i>Pedetes capensis</i>
Old World Porcupines (Hystricidae)	
Cape Porcupine	<i>Hystrix africaeaustralis</i>
Horses, Asses, Zebras (Equidae)	
Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>
(Cape and Hartmann's) Mountain Zebra	<i>Equus zebra</i>
Dassie Rats (Petromuridae)	
Dassie Rat	<i>Petromus typicus</i>
Rodents (Muridae)	
Black-tailed Tree Rat	<i>Thallomys nigricauda</i>
Four-striped Grass Mouse	<i>Rhabdomys pumilio</i>
Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae)	
White Rhinoceros	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Black Rhinoceros	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>
Old World Monkeys (Cercopithecidae)	
Vervet Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>
Aardvark (Orycteropodidae)	
Aardvark	<i>Orycteropus afer</i>
Squirrels, Chipmunks, Marmots, Prairie Dogs (Sciuridae)	
South African Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus inauris</i>
Eared Seals (Otariidae)	
Afro-Australian Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>
Baleen Whales (Balaenidae)	
Southern Right Whale	<i>Eubalaena australis</i>
Rorqual Whales (Balenopteridae)	
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera nocaeangliae</i>
Dolphins (Delphinidae)	
Orca	<i>Orcinus orca</i>
Long-beaked Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>
Total seen	53