



South Africa: Cape to Kruger

September 6 - 19

KwaZulu Natal + Drakensberg Extension

September 20 - 28



Summary

South Africa is one of the world's premier birding/ecotourism destinations, and this 23-day departure (14-day main tour + 9-day extension) offers a wonderful sample of what the country offers. From Cape Town's offshore currents to Kruger's savannas and the Drakensberg's peaks, we soaked in views of ostriches, penguins, albatrosses, bustards, shorebirds, kingfishers, hornbills, rollers, larks, turacos, bushshrikes, cisticolas, sunbirds, and others. And when we consider the mammals — elephants, giraffes, antelope, zebras, rhinos, buffaloes, lions, cheetahs, and leopards — the diversity is fantastic! The main tour tallied 361 species of birds, and the extension added another 97 for a grand total of 458; 40-some species of mammals were observed along that same arc, some at arm's length. With excellent lodging, good food, and developed infrastructure, South Africa should not be missed. A detailed account of the 2025 installment follows; the eBird trip report is [here](#). Also - check out owner/guide [Keith Barnes's new field guide to this region](#). Tropical Birding knows South Africa!

*****All photos taken on this departure by Guide Dorian Anderson**

Cape Rockjumper



Day 1 - Saturday, September 6 - Arrival in Cape Town

Early-arrived Sonia was roaring to go, so she and I (Dorian) headed to the Ronsvlei Nature Reserve for some morning birding. Utilizing a series of observation towers and bird blinds, we secured close

views of **Cape Shoveler**, **Southern Pochard**, and **Yellow-billed** and **Red-billed Ducks**.

Red-knobbed Coots and **Little Grebes** bobbed in the open water and **Levaillant's Cisticolas** and **Little Rush Warblers** sang from pond edges. It was non-stop action across two hours. Bird of the morning honors went to a soaring **Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk**, an unexpected addition on this outing (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S271713059>). A subsequent stop at nearby Zeekoevlei Nature Reserve yielded **Jackal Buzzard**, **Cape Canary**, and **Karoo Prinia** (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S271720993>).

We folded at 11:30, returned to the B&B, and ate lunch, after which Dorian headed to the airport to collect Dave and Mary. They were keen on birding, so we picked up Sonia and headed to Standfontein Wasterwater Treatment Plant. Beyond the species observed earlier, our loops of the impoundments and adjacent marshes netted us **Maccoa Duck**, **African Swamphen**, **Greater Flamingo**, **White-necked Raven**, **White-throated Swallow**, and **Yellow Bishop**. With 50 species tallied across 2.5 hours, it was a very successful introduction (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S271820156>)! Though **Zitting Cisticola** is widespread in the Old World, the species was a nice addition as we made our exit. Dinner at The Avenue around the corner from our digs was a great way to end a successful first day.

Cape Canary



Day 2 - Sunday, September 7 - Pelagic no-go

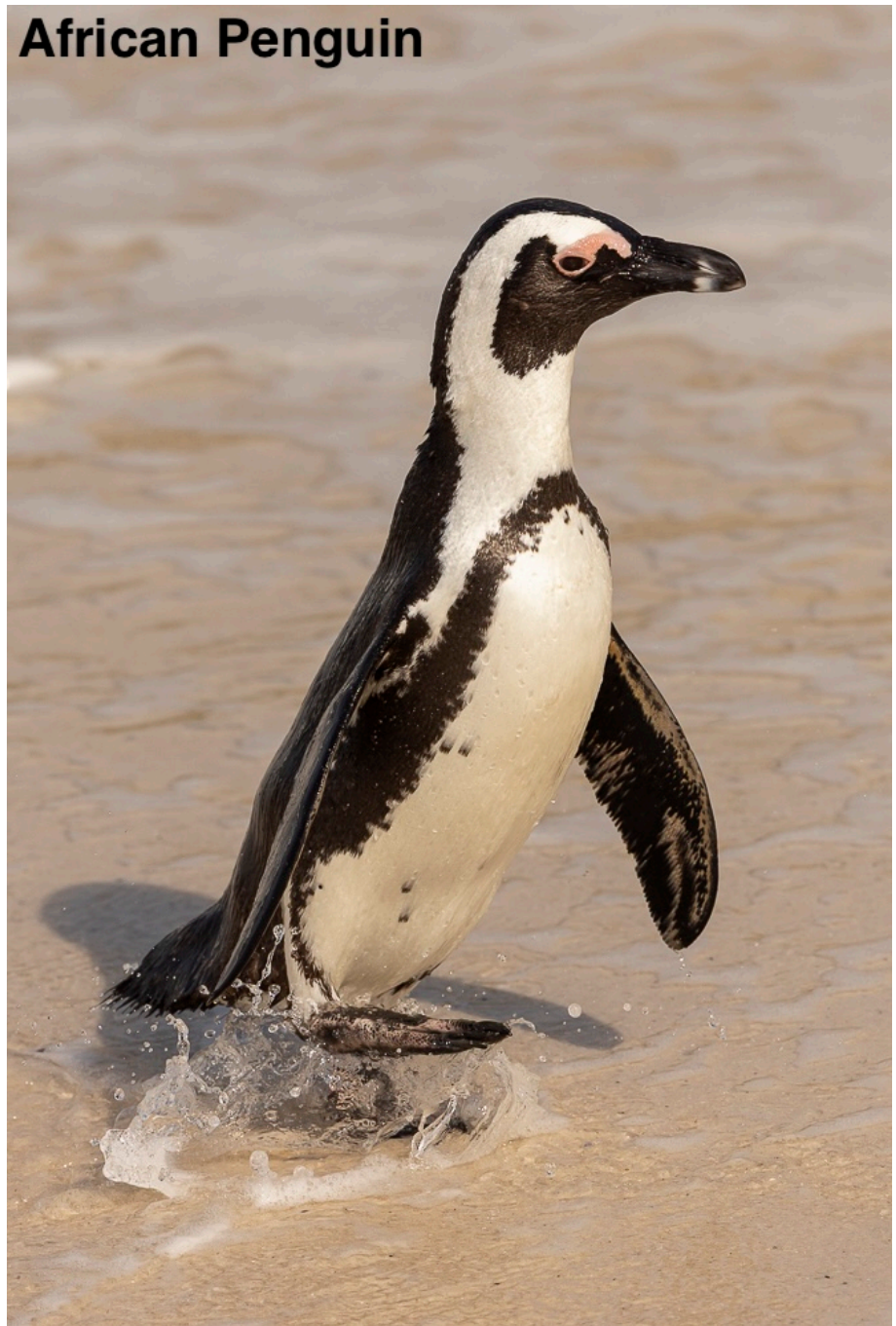
Correctly-forecasted gales forced the cancelation of our scheduled pelagic trip, so we retooled our plan to spend the morning at Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, where we figured the effects of the wind would be minimal. **African Harrier-Hawk** materialized as we walked through the entrance gates, and we secured views of **Cape Batis**, **Somber Greenbull**, **Olive Thrush**, and **Forest Canary** in the subsequent 20 minutes. But this action didn't stop there; **Cape White-eye**, **African Dusky Flycatcher**, **Bronze Mannikin**, and **Sweet Waxbill** also showed well. We ticked the resident pair of **Spotted Eagle-Owls** and added **Cape Spurfowl**, **Black Sawwing**, and **Amethyst** and **Malachite Sunbirds** to our growing haul. With the additions of **Rameron Pigeon**, **Booted Eagle**, and

Brimstone Canary, ours was a strong haul (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S272057027>). Wind be damned! It couldn't derail our birding train on this amazing morning.

Heading to the **African Penguin** colony at Boulder's Beach, we found a hundred-some examples loafing on the sand and bathing in the surf. It was awesome to watch the goofy birds waddle up and down the beach! Scanning beyond the colony, we noted **African Oystercatchers**, **Great Crested Terns**, and **Cape Cormorants** resting on nearby rocks (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S272000662>). And speaking of cormorants, we ticked the valuable **Bank** soon after bidding the penguins adieu (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S272052177>). Coupled with the **Great** and **Crowned** varieties which we intersected at Kommetjie shortly thereafter, we scored a cormorant grand-slam on this afternoon. Other trip-firsts from our very windy Kommetjie outing included **Pied Kingfisher**, **Cape Sparrow**, and **Southern Fiscal** (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S272051652>).

Day 3 - Monday, September 8 - West Coast NP and surrounding area

Today was a fantastic day of birding. We left our lodging at 6am and arrived at West Coast National Park at 7:25am, a half-hour after sunrise. We'd planned a first stop at the Abrahamskraal hide but found ourselves distracted short of that destination by a displaying **Black Bustard**, a pair of **Spotted Thick-Knees**, and a group of Eland. When we tried to resume our course, a cooperative pair of **Gray-winged Francolins** delayed us further. Once at the hide, we scored **Crowned Lapwing**, **Pearl-breasted Swallow**, and **Common Reed Warbler**. A **Black Harrier** floated by on raised wings; **Bokmakierie** and **Gray-backed Cisticola** sang from low sticks. And all of this is on top of **Common Ostrich**. Ours was a strong start (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S272243909>)!



Cape Robin-Chat



Cape Spurfowl



Cape Sugarbird



Swee Waxbill



Nice views of **Cape Grassbird** were enjoyed as we approached the Geelbek Hide. We took to the marsh boardwalk and immediately connected with **South African Shelduck**, **Common Ringed Plover**, **Kittlitz's Plover**, and **Little Stint**, all trip firsts. When we continued to the hide at lagoon's edge, we discovered that an extremely low tide (presumably caused by the full moon) had exposed an unusually-wide swath of mudflats. Those hosted many early-arrived migrant shorebirds, and we grew our list with **White-fronted Plover**, **Black-bellied Plover**, **Whimbrel**, **Bar-tailed Godwit**, **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Little Egret**, and **Caspian Tern**. Departing the boardwalk and exploring the gardens around the buildings, we found **Southern Crag Martin**, **Fork-tailed Drongo**, and **Wattled Starling** (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S272244008>).

We made our third and final stop at the Seeberg hide at the park's north end. Welcomed by a field of blooming flowers — orange, purple, white, and yellow — we'd barely disembarked the vehicle when **Karoo Scrub-Robin**, **Bar-throated Apalis**, **Cape Weaver**, and **Yellow Canary** materialized from the surrounding fynbos. As we descended towards the hide, we soaked-in comparison views of **Little**, **African**, and **Alpine Swifts**. The low tide had dispersed the waterbirds, but diligent scanning revealed **Lesser Flamingo** and **Common** and **Sandwich Terns**. A final pass through the scrubby habitat failed to produce Gray Tit but did reveal **Southern Penduline-Tit**! It was great that the small birds came so close (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S272289105>).

Yellow Canary



We lunched at Huskie's in Langebann Beach and continued towards Paternoster to look for larks, **Blue Crane** added en route. **Red-capped Lark** and **Capped Wheatear** showed without much effort, but **Large-billed Lark** and **Cape Long-billed Lark** required more effort. The former wouldn't

sit still long enough for Dorian to scope the birds; the later sat still but too far away to see any field marks, the birds ID'd by their mating display and songs. It took 30 minutes, but we eventually managed great views of both targets. As we departed, we ticked **African Pied Starling** and **Southern Red Bishop** to round out the checklist (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S272243595>).

Our final stop was to be at the Kliphoek Saltworks, but we were denied that destination by a locked gate. Dorian had never run into that obstacle before, but it ultimately denied us Chestnut-banded Plover, the species motivating our visit. Birding an adjacent dirt road, we scored **Klaas's Cuckoo** as consolation. The day coming to a close, we started the ninety-minute drive back to Cape Town. Temps were mild and skies were clear throughout, so it was an amazing day!

Day 4 - Tuesday, September 9 - Pelagic

We found out yesterday afternoon that the boat folks had green-lighted our long-delayed pelagic trip on account of an improved forecast (i.e. less wind than originally predicted). Happy to get out on the ocean, we reached the dock and boarded the boat at 7am. The skipper informed us it would take ~two hours to cover the 40 miles to the continental shelf, where fishing trawlers generally operate and pelagic birds congregate. Minus some light fog, that outgoing leg was uneventful. **White-chinned Petrels** arched high above our craft, and we picked up **Cape Gannet**, **Sooty Shearwater**, **White-capped (Shy) Albatross**, **Black-browed Albatross**, and **Brown (Antarctic) Skua** as we reached deeper water. And the best was yet to come as our skipper had located a trawler dragging its nets. Trailing that vessel closely for the next hour, we added **Great Shearwater**, **Pintado Petrel**, **Southern Royal Albatross**, and **Atlantic** and **Indian Yellow-nosed Albatrosses**. When the

Large-billed Lark



boat finally pulled its nets, there were hundreds of birds swirling in every direction. It was amazing. Except for the light; it was awful. Between the dark conditions and pitching boat, proper photography was virtually impossible. Hence the lack of photos of other species!

Unfortunately, the forecast had severely underestimated the wind; what was forecasted at 10-15 MPH quickly grew to 20-25 MPH. With the growing swell bouncing us to and fro, the skipper wisely decided to cut the trip about 90 minutes short. Clients were generally fairing okay, but Dorian (ironically a seasoned pelagic birder) was terribly seasick by this point. The return ride into the still-gathering NW breezes was bouncier and longer than anyone expect, so we were all relieved to reach the harbor's sheltered confines. Our safety was never in danger, but it was a much wilder ride than anyone expected. At least we saw some good birds (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S272473532>).

White-capped (Shy) Albatross



We regrouped, battled through Cape Town, and headed to Rooi Els on the east side of False Bay. The **Orange-breasted Sunbird** that greeted us in the parking area was a good omen, and the positive vibes grew with the inclusion of **Cape Rock-Thrush** shortly after we took to the walking track. Wait - look! It's **Cape Rockjumper**, right in the middle of the path! None of us could believe our luck as we spent the following 30 minutes watching three examples hopping around the hillside boulders. And if that wasn't enough, **Cape Siskin** and **Sentinel Rock-Thrush** offered close views in that same interval! Given what we suffered on the boat, it was a great ending to a wild and exhausting day (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S272614361>). We raced the setting sun to our lodging and enjoyed a fancy dinner at Henri's Restaurant before calling it a night.

Blue Cranes



Day 5 - Wednesday, September 10 - De Hoop Nature Reserve and Agulhas Plains

In no rush on this morning, we enjoyed a leisurely breakfast at Boutique Villa Guesthouse ahead of our departure. We closed the distance to Bredasdorp and turned onto R319. Slowing to bird on that quieter thoroughfare, we added **African Pipit** and **Cape Crow** among previously recorded birds (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S272617504>). Though we failed to connect with any bustards on that transit, our fortunes changed when a group of six **Denham's** offered amazing views along the entrance road to De Hoop. Our luck continued inside the reserve, where a pre-lunch walking loop of the gardens and campground yielded **White-throated Swift**, **White-throated Canary**, **Pin-tailed Whydah**, and **Southern Tchagra**, and **Eurasian Hoopoe**. Bird of the morning honors went to the **Knysna Woodpecker** that appeared as we doubled back to the restaurant. It's a tricky species that had eluded Dorian on his previous visits to the country! After lunch, we took a short drive to the beach overlook, where we found **Long-billed Combic** and **Southern Boubou**. Those, however, were overshadowed by the two Southern Right Whales which Mary spotted loafing in the surf. We didn't see any marine mammals on our pelagic yesterday, so the pair was a welcome find (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S272626471>).

We used the remainder of the afternoon (3 - 6pm) to drive several loops through the agricultural swaths outside the reserve. We didn't manage to find Karoo Bustard or Orange-throated Longclaw — forgivable as we'd have additional opportunities at both later in the tour — but enjoyed **Gray-winged Francolin**, **Common Quail** (heard-only), **Greater Striped Swallow**, and **Cape Long-billed (Agulhas)**, **Large-billed**, and **Red-capped Larks** in their absence. It wasn't until our last pass of the area, just before sunset, that we connected with two massive **Cape Griffons**; the first was perched atop a telephone pole while the second rested on the ground nearby! They permitted an excellent study before winging away and hunkering in the back of a field. The day coming to an end, we pulled up stakes and headed to the night's lodging (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S272626471>).

Pin-tailed Whydah



Cape Griffon



Day 6 - Thursday, September 11 - Bontebok National Park and Wilderness

Light rain didn't deter us on this morning, a post-breakfast **Spotted Eagle-Owl** setting a strong tone. Precipitation abated as we rolled into Bontebok National Park, and we took to the trails amidst a burst of birdsong. **Cape Grassbird** serenaded us from a low perch while **Fiscal Flycatcher** twittered from a shrub-top; though generally silent, **Speckled Mousebirds** were everywhere. Culling through those and other familiar birds, we observed **Piping Cisticola** (Neddicky), **Streaky-headed Seedeater**, and **African Paradise-Flycatcher**, all new for the trip. Afterwards, we took to the loop drive and added displaying **Cape Clapper Lark** and **Cloud Cisticola** in quick succession. We figured we'd had the best of the Bontebok at that point, but a gorgeous **Secretarybird** in perfect light proved us wrong (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S272700032>)!

We departed Bontebok, lunched in Mossel Bay, and reached Wilderness at 3pm, whereupon we headed to the Malachite Hide. **African Spoonbill** was the only notable bird there, but the entrance road held **Collared** and **Greater Double-Collared Sunbirds** (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S272769501>). We scored **Red-necked Spurfowl** and **Black-backed Puffback** as we steered towards the Rondevlei Hide (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S272769832>). Opening the door to that wooden structure, we were greeted by a **Malachite Kingfisher**, the tiny gem trapped inside the hide! He buzzed out when we opened the viewing slots, and we ticked **White-backed Duck** in his absence (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S272770032>).



We closed out the day on a dead-end dirt road on which Dorian and last year's tour had great success. We failed to find Knysna Turaco but we did have a solid encounter with **Knysna Warbler**. The species is incredibly skulky, but most managed decent views of the brown bird as it navigated the seemingly-impenetrable roadside tangle. It was great to deal with that challenging specialty on this first opportunity (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S272770162>). Dinner at Ilali was on point.

Day 7 - Friday, September 12 - Garden Route NP and Wilderness

One might think we were due for a let-down given the amazing run of birding we'd experienced to this point, but we extended (and maybe even grew?) our hot hand at the Woodville Big Tree this morning. As if bagging Forest Buzzard on the entrance road wasn't enough, we'd hardly ventured onto the trail by the time we encountered **Yellow-throated Woodland-Warbler**, **Mouse-colored Sunbird**, **Black-bellied Starling**, **Chorister Robin-Chat**, **White-starred Robin**, **African Black-headed Oriole**, **Terrestrial Brownbul**, and **Black-bellied Starling**. That was more than half of our target birds in the first twenty minutes! And what about that quartet of **Knysna Turacos**? Amazing!

Venturing deeper in the habitat/reserve, we enjoyed a quiet, calming stretch of walking before we experienced a second bout of activity. What started as a single **Green Woodhoopoe** quickly became a group of four. Then came **Olive Woodpecker** and **Gray Cuckooshrike**. Great as those were, two **African Crested Flycatchers** were the highlight of the avian outburst. It took some time (and a bit of bushwhacking) to get eyes on the pair, but the male and female yielded close looks as they orbited us for five minutes. Wow - what an outing (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S272872192>)! And with what time remained before lunch, we made a quick swing through the Brown Hooded Kingfisher trail, where we added **Olive Bushshrike**, **Burchell's Coucal**, and **Peregrine Falcon** (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S272872399>).

We ate at Pomodoro's, rested, and returned to the field at 3:30. Activity was depressed compared to the morning, but we hardly minded as we'd secured virtually everything we'd imagined. We did enjoy masses of sunbirds at a beautiful, orange-flowered tree, so we hung our hat on that on this slow afternoon. When we tried for bonus views of Knysna Warbler, the shy-but-vocal subject couldn't be coaxed into view as yesterday. We knew that we were due for slow session, so we all agreed this was as good a time as any to experience it. I didn't run an eBird checklist for this leg.

Day 8 - Saturday, September 13 - Swartberg Pass and Karoo National Park

Forecasted morning rain didn't materialize, and we approached Swartberg pass under high cloud. Our goal on this morning was simple: find Victorin's Warbler, another understory skulker. Our first stop didn't yield anything beyond common birds (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S273055643>), but we connected with a vocal Victorin's at our second. Sadly, the bird had no interest in us, it staying high on the hillside and far out of sight. Moving a short distance uphill, we bumped into **Protea Canary**, another tough-to-find endemic, before hearing another **Victorin's Warbler**. This example was much closer to the road, and bit of coaxing brought the morning's second endemic into clear view. It was an exciting two-fer (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S273055744>)!

Those successes powered us to the top of the pass at ~5,200'. The views from that point were fantastic! The descent featured more scenery/geology than birds, and we rolled into lunch at the Lazy Lizard in Prince Albert at around 12:30. Continuing after that meal, we opted to take a slightly longer route to Karoo NP, one that utilized a dirt road for the first ~40km. We didn't encounter Karoo or Ludwig's Bustards as hoped, but we did tally **Karoo Lark** (the day's third endemic), **Karoo Chat**, **Pale-chanting Goshawk**, and **Southern Anteater-Chat** (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S273149847>).

Ninety minutes later, we were inside Karoo NP. We checked-in and headed for the Lammertjies Loop at the park's lower/front reaches. We scored **Chestnut-vented**, **Layard's** and **Rufous-eared Warblers** within minutes, and the parade of new birds rolled on with **Karoo Long-billed Lark**, **Pale-winged Starling**, **Pirit Batis**, **Fairy Flycatcher**, **Sickle-winged Chat**, and **Double-banded Courser**. And a **Short-toed Rock-Thrush** on our return wasn't bad either! Dinner took forever, but we didn't have much to complain about after another great day (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S273149456>).

Protea Canary (very distant!)



Day 9 - Sunday, September 14 - Karoo National Park

Given last night's drawn-out dinner fiasco, we opted to do a bit of pre-breakfast, in-camp birding at 6:30 and then eat at 7am, right when the restaurant opened, our hope to order before everyone else showed up. That strategy worked well, and we were back in the field, again in-camp, from 7:45 - 9. That split bout of birding produced many of the same birds we saw yesterday afternoon plus **White-backed Mousebird**, **Pied Barbet**, **Karoo Thrush**, **Dusky Sunbird**, **Black-fronted Bulbul**, and **Black-throated Canary** (quick glimpses) (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S273287330>)

We took to the park roads and climbed up Klipspringer Pass. **Nicholson's Pipit** showed nicely on our ascent (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S273287542>), and we notched **Verreaux's Eagle**, **Mountain Chat**, **Namaqua Dove**, **Scaly Weaver**, and **Black-headed Canary** through the first half of the 45km Potlekkerjtjie Loop. Save for good views of Oryx and Mountain Zebra, the back/second half of that loop was painfully slow; all clients were snoozing for a good part of it (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S273294666>).

The park wasn't serving lunch, so we zipped into town and enjoyed a nice meal at Four Sheep. We rested in-camp, regathered at 3:30, and headed for the park exit, our plan to bird a local road on which Dorian found a number of nice birds last year, **Karoo Bustard** included. We didn't,

however, need to wait long to find that much desired bird as we spied three of them during our park exit! That bird in-pocket, we continued to the aforementioned road, where we found **Lark-like Bunting**. Pushing farther, we added **Greater Kestrel** and a surprise **Kori Bustard**! It was huge! And the bustard action kept rolling with 2 more Kori and 6 more Karoo through the next half hour. But we weren't done. Just after turning around to head back to town, a **Ludwig's Bustard** flew across the road, albeit at some distance. Regardless, it was a much celebrated bustard hat trick! We dined at Joe's Dinner and returned to camp around 8pm. Note - I made individual/incidental lists for the bustard sightings. I am not going to link them all here, but here is a representative example: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S273401338>. All checklists are linked from the electronic eBird trip report.

Common Ostrich



Day 10 - Monday, September 15 - Western Cape Wrap-up and flight to Johannesburg

This day is mostly travel; it's a five-hour drive from Karoo NP to CPT airport and a two-hour flight to Johannesburg. That said, we did make an important detour to pursue a few final possibilities. The first of these was **Namaqua Warbler**, another virtually-endemic that (barely) spills into Namibia and Botswana. Working a dry wash, we secured nice views of the target as it bounced about a stand of

dry phragmites (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S273552331>). That task didn't consume much time, so we decided to detour a bit further north to look for **Cinnamon-breasted Warbler**, one of the country's most coveted and hard-to-find endemics. Dorian had unsuccessfully tried for the species on several previous occasions, but luck was on our side on this day; the bird appeared at the first stop we made for it (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S273522154>). Our scope views were brief but identifiable, and we savored the victory as we completed the commute to Cape Town and flew to Jo-Burg, the Kruger leg of the tour to begin the following morning.

Mountain Zebra



Orxy/ Gemsbok - the best antelope!



Day 11 - Tuesday, September 16 - Travel to and half-day in Kruger National Park

Our flight from Jo-Burg to Skukuza (inside Kruger NP) didn't leave until 10am, so we enjoyed a leisurely turn through the massive breakfast buffet before departing the hotel at 8:15. The flight departed as scheduled, and we touched down in the park just after 11am. After a quick lunch at Skukuza Camp, we flipped into birding mode. Lodging availability (or lack there of) meant this year's Kruger leg would unfold differently than previous years; rather than staying in Satara for one night and Skukuza for two, we'd be in Letaba for the first and Pretoriuskop for the remaining. Those circumstances dictated more driving, but that proved to be a disguised blessing on this day.

The birdlife in Kruger is completely different than in Western Cape, so the trip list swelled as we added **Saddle-billed Stork, Green Woodhoopoe, Lilac-breasted and Purple Rollers, Burchell's Starling, and Red- and Yellow-billed Oxpeckers**. Hornbills were well represented with **African Gray, Southern Yellow-billed, and Southern Red-billed**. But it was the massive **Southern Ground-Hornbill** that stole the show. It was five feet from our car! Amazing! We encountered nice numbers of raptors including **Bateleur, Brown Snake-Eagle, Tawny Eagle, African Hawk-Eagle, and White-backed, Lappet-faced, and White-headed Vultures**.

We did particularly well on ground birds between Satara and Letaba, likely because that stretch of road is much less trafficked than areas south of Satara. **Crested Francolin** was a nice start but was ultimately outdone by a run of **Swainson's Spurfowl, Double-banded Sandgrouse** and a run of **bustards: Kori, Black-bellied, and Red-crested**. And the best part? All of those birds were within 30 feet of the car! So yeah, the additional miles we drove were well worth it, especially when we included elephants, giraffes, zebras, wildebeest, and antelope. Note - I was lazy and ran one massive, incidental checklist (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S273769153>) for the 160km drive from Skukuza to Letaba. I entered the data for the Mpumalanga state rather than pinning it to a specific location. An after-dinner stroll offered views of **African Scops-Owl** and **African Barred Owlet** (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S273766715>)

Lilac-breasted Roller



Impala w/ Red-billed Oxpeckers



Red-crested Bustard



Day 12 - Wednesday, September 17 - Kruger full-day #1

As yesterday's dinner took a long time at the crowded camp, we decided we'd be first to be seated when the restaurant opened at 7am. Our plan was to bird from 5:45 until then, eat, and then resume birding until activity slowed or 10am arrived. And man was that a good strategy. We got in and out of the restaurant quickly and saw a ton of cool birds in the surrounding bouts of birding. New birds (among many others) on this morning included **Mourning Collared-Dove**, **African Jacana**, **Yellow-billed Stork**, **Hooded Vulture**, **African Fish-Eagle**, **Brown-hooded Kingfisher**, **Brown-headed Parrot**, **White-crested** and **Retz's Helmetshrike**, **Yellow-breasted Apalis**, **Kurrichane Thrush**, **Red-capped Robin-Chat**, and **Red-headed** and **Spectacled Weavers**. It was non-stop action (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S273829017>)!

We pulled up stakes at the appointed hour, our plan to lunch at Satara as we closed the distance to Skukuza and (then) Pretoriusskop. Birding along the Olifants River as we returned south, we enjoyed **Goliath Heron**, **Yellow-billed Egret**, **Marabou Stork**, **White-crowned Lapwing**, **African Pied Wagtail**, and **White-fronted Bee-eater** (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S273839526>, <https://ebird.org/checklist/S273838539>, . A soaring **Osprey** was a surprising find! Later, and among several hundred **Red-billed Queleas**, we spied a single **Shaft-tailed Whydah**, another unusual bird in the area (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S273838085>). We also had decent views of two lions as the massive cats lounged in the shadow of a particularly leafy bush.

Secretarybird



Admittedly pressed for time given the distance between our lodgings, we scraped what we could from the roadside bushes as we progressed: **Red-faced Mousebird**, **Common Scimitarbill**, **Souther Black-Tit**, **Sabota Lark**, **Black-crowned Tchagra**, **Chinspot Batis**, **Green-winged Pytilia**, and **Golden-breasted Bunting**. **Eastern Nicator** was a brilliant find by Sonia (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S273883618>). And kudos to Mary for getting Dorian onto the bird so it could be ID'd. A massive male elephant feeding in to road cost us 30 minutes as we closed the distance to Pretoriuskop. With cars backed up in both directions while the beast stood its ground, we used the pause to add **Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove**, **Square-tailed Drongo**, **Southern Black-Flycatcher**, and **Southern Cordonbleu** from the stopped vehicle (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S273883911>).

When the elephant finally moved and we resumed our course, mild speeding kept us on pace to arrive ahead of the 6pm gate closing. Rushed as we were, we made quick stops at several Spotted Hyena dens before encountering a pack of Wild Dogs in the road! They have experienced massive declines in recent decades, so the encounter was reason to celebrate. And if that wasn't enough, we found a beautiful leopard strolling along the roadside 15 minutes later. We were the only car in sight and had the creature all to ourselves as it ambled across the road and disappeared into the brush. More mild speeding (cough cough), dinner, owling (unsuccessful), bed. What a day!

Southern Red-billed Hornbill



Day 13 - Thursday, September 18 - Kruger full-day #2

On this morning, we employed the same bird-eat-bird strategy as we did at Letaba yesterday, again with great success. Pretoriuskop was alive with birds as soon as we stepped out the door. **Yellow-fronted Canary**, **African Green-Pigeon**, and **Gray Tit-Flycatcher** showed in the first few minutes, and we soaked in excellent views of **Purple-crested Turaco**, **White-throated Robin-Chat**, and

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Retz's Helmetshrike



Spotted Hyena



Black-collared Barbet shortly thereafter. Importantly, we redeemed yesterday's misses on **Scarlet-chested, White-bellied**, and **Marico Sunbirds**. It was great to have them all in view at the same time! And speaking of views, our eye-level looks at **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird** were fantastic. Great as that encounter was, bird of the morning honors went to **Green-capped Eremomela**, a lifer for everyone, Dorian included (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S274031770>)!

We left camp at 10am and headed for Skukuza, our plan to do a bit of bonus birding at that camp before breaking for lunch. En route, we enjoyed a group of drinking elephants at Shitlhave Dam and a **Dark-chanting Goshawk** along the roadside (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S273998830>, <https://ebird.org/checklist/S273998915>, <https://ebird.org/checklist/S273998856>). Upon Skukuza arrival, we enjoyed **Bearded Scrub-Robin**, **Yellow-bellied Greenbul**, and **Red-capped Robin-Chat** before breaking for lunch (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S274031697>).

The return ride to Pretoriuskop was expectedly slow given the hour and the heat. After a restroom break at camp, we took to the Fayi loop without finding much, bird or mammal (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S274075625>). When a return visit to Shitlhave Dam didn't turn up anything interesting, we returned to camp and used the final hour of daylight to roam the same areas as we did in the morning. We didn't find anything beyond birds already mentioned, but it was a relaxing way to end the day (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S274075298>).

Bearded Scrub-Robin



Day 14 - Friday, September 19 - Kruger full-day #3

Since we birded Pretoriuskop yesterday, we decided to head Berg-en-Dal on this final morning. Dorian always enjoys birding that camp, and being in the southwest corner of the park would make it

easy to make our 5pm flight from Kruger-Mpumalanga to Johannesburg. We left Pretoriuskop when the gates opened at 6am and joined a well-maintained dirt track for ~30km. Birds were in short supply on the cloudy morning, but the cool conditions were perfect for rhinos. And can you believe we spotted eight of them before 7am?!?! Now that's the way to start the day!

Bennett's Woodpecker



We reached Berg-en-Dal at 7:30 and immediately got down to business. Little birdsong rang out, the camp rather quiet at that early hour, but our fortunes changed when we encountered **Greater Honeyguide** and a pair of **Sulphur-breasted Bushshrikes**. Next up? **White-browed Robin-Chat**, our fifth and final robin-chat. Then what? A cooperative pair of **Bennett's Woodpeckers**, the two birds feeding just a few feet off the ground! At that point, the action was red hot, **Brown-crowned Tchagra**, **Trumpeter Hornbill**, **Lesser Honeyguide**, **Wattled Lapwing** and **Jameson's Firefinch** joining the trip list across the ensuing two hours. And we finally got our first looks at Pearl-spotted Owlet, a bird we'd heard on a number of occasions (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S274174974>).

When the action slowed down at 11:30, we ducked into the restaurant for an early lunch. Sated, we departed camp and took to the part roads for our final 2.5 Kruger hours. We didn't find much in the bird department during that midday lull, but it was nice to spend additional time with elephants, giraffes, zebras, and impala ahead of our 3pm exit. We departed via the Malelane Gate at that appointed hour but made a stop on the bridge, where we added a continuing and locally-rare pair of **African Skimmers**! It was the perfect

capper to our Kruger time (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S274279586>). Our return flight to Johannesburg went off without a hitch, and we reached the Southern Sun Hotel without incident. This would normally be when we'd say goodbye to those clients not continuing on the extension; with everyone 'in' for the additional nine days, we didn't need to do that on this occasion!

African Elephants



Greater Blue-eared Starling



Day 15 (Extension Day 1) - Saturday, September 20 - Jo-Burg to Wakkerstroom

The hotel breakfast opened at 6am, so we descended on it at that hour. Afterwards, we piled into the car and drove out of Jo-burg. We reached Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve just before 8am and began birding the entrance road. **Long-tailed Widowbirds** dragged their massive tails through the gusting wind while a daintier **Black-chested Prinia** held tight to a wire fence. A pair of **White-faced Whistling-Ducks** gave great views as they winged overhead, but were we unable to pull a vocal **White-quilled Bustard** from the long grass, the species joining the trip list as 'heard-only'. Once we overcame the long Saturday cue and entered the reserve, we extended our fortunes with **Rufous-naped Lark**, **White-browed Sparrow Weaver**, and fleeting (but identifiable!) views of **Rufous-throated Wryneck**. A bit later, we celebrated a striking **Orange-throated Longclaw** (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S274381547>).

We moved to Marievale Bird Sanctuary and explored the dikes which separate the marshy impoundments. Comparison views of **Ruff**, **Marsh Sandpiper**, and other shorebirds offered teachable moments; **Gray-hooded Gull** - the only gull one can expect in the region - was a more straightforward ID. **Fan-tailed Widowbird** was yet another trip bird (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S274382476>). So was **South African Swallow** when we found a colony along our appointed route (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S274394299>).

We lunched in Nigel and continued 2.5 hours to Wakkerstroom. Positioned at 5,800' of elevation, the municipality would be base of operations as we explored the plateau grasslands. As that task would consume all of tomorrow, we used this arrival afternoon to explore the wetlands that abut the tiny town. We assumed a vantage on an elevated causeway and enjoyed a ninety-minute bout of general (i.e. non-targeted) birding. Most of the species we found were familiar, but **Blue-billed Teal** and **Squacco Heron** were new for the trip. So were **African Rail** and **Red-chested Flufftail**. Sadly, those furtive species were, like the morning's White-quilled Bustard, 'heard-only'. Ugh. But better than a total whiff, right? List: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S274483712>. Dinner at the Red Rooster was great.

Day 16 (Extension Day 2) - Sunday, September 21 - Wakkerstroom

With a number of high-value targets in/around Wakkerstroom, today would be a serious bout of targeted birding. It's here worth mentioning that we didn't try for Botha's Lark and Rudd's Lark because access to the areas which support those endangered species is currently restricted. No matter - there were more than enough awesome birds to keep us busy/engaged on this day! It all started before breakfast, when we revisited the local marsh in hope of laying eyes on African Rail. We heard several but were unable to entice any from the marsh's protective clutches.

We met Norman, our local guide, at 6:30 and headed into the agricultural swath outside of town. Rain threatened to derail our search for **Blue Bustard**, but we fought off that challenge and spied a distant example on a grassy knoll. Conditions improved through the next hour, and we stayed hot with **Southern Bald Ibis**, **White-bellied Bustard**, and **Black-winged Lapwing** (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S274616270>). Returning to town and taking to another set of hills, again on a bumpy dirt road, we found **Eastern Long-Billed Lark** before savoring a displaying **Yellow-breasted Pipit**, one of Wakkerstroom's most desired birds. We also added **Wing-Snapping Cisticola**, but the distant views of the displaying birds left something to be desired (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S274616411>). Continuing along the same winding track, we found **Wailing Cisticola**, **Buff-streaked Chat**, and **Drakensberg Prinia** (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S274616623>). That run of triumphs left just Gray Crowned-Crane unaccounted. And is often the case, we'd need to invest a disproportionate amount of time and effort to get that last target.

White-bellied Bustard

Southern Bald Ibis



Black-winged Lapwing

Ninety minutes into that search we hadn't had a whiff of the bird. It was then that Dorian spotted a **Lanner Falcon** on a post. As we gazed upon it, it flew into another tree to join two hitherto unnoticed Lanners! When we binoc'd up on the trio, we noticed three **Gray Crowned-Cranes** a hundred yards behind them! It was a rather roundabout find, but we weren't complaining, that addition wrapping an amazing morning (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S274616855>).

We ate lunch in town and outlined two goals for the afternoon: better the morning's marginal views of **Blue Bustard** and find **Red-collared Widowbird** since we missed it at Suikerbosrand yesterday. The first task was accomplished when we found two beautiful examples in a roadside field, fortunately with very short grass! The second aim was fulfilled when Norman led us down another bumpy dirt road, where we connected with a ~dozen example, mostly in intermediate molt (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S274664160>). We parted ways with Norman at that point and returned to town to rest for a bit. As sunset approached, we revisited the local marsh but failed to see African Rail despite hearing several (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S274719391>). I guess we know what our nemesis bird is! No bother, we found absolutely everything else we wanted!

Day 17 (Exension Day 3) - Monday, September 22 - Wakkerstroom to Mkuze

Nothing in Wakkerstroom opens before 8am, so we decided to do two hours of general birding before getting breakfast. Though we struck out on African Rail (heard-only for the third straight day), we did connect with another pair of **Blue Bustards**, these even closer than the pair we saw yesterday afternoon.

We ate and bounced outta of town. We made good progress for the first two hours but surrendered 40 minutes between two construction delays. We bought groceries for dinner and breakfast because there isn't a proper restaurant in Mzuze, where we would be spending the night, and continued towards that reserve after pausing for a super lunch at the Ghost Mountain Inn. By the time we accounted for the 8am departure, the construction delays, food shopping, and lunch, we didn't reach Mkuze until after 3pm (ugh). Without much daylight left, we checked in, dropped our bags, and headed out for a bout of afternoon birding. Between a quick lap of the park roads and a stop at the Kumisinga hide, we found a handful of new birds: **Southern Crested Guineafowl**, **Mocking Cliff-Chat**, and **Village** and **Lesser Masked Weavers** (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S275006065>). But the best thing we saw? A pride of seven lions! The sated group was lounging at the waterhole after making a kill the night before! It was an amazing sight!

We returned to camp, grabbed our snacks, and joined the park's standard night drive. This event was much-anticipated given what we saw last year— Southern White-faced Owl, Leopard,

loads of nightjars — but huge winds suggested this year's installment wouldn't be as productive. And it wasn't. We didn't see much of anything. Were it not for very close (like five-foot) looks at **Fiery-necked Nightjar**, it would have been a total zero (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S275019555>). Coupled with the time it took to get to Mkuze, we were left wanting a bit more from this day. Oh well. Can't win 'em all.

Lions



Black-bellied Bustard



Day 18 (Extension Day 4) - Tuesday, September 23 - Mkuze to St. Lucia

Since limited time meant we didn't do as well at Mkuze yesterday as we'd hoped, we figured we'd go extra hard on this morning. And boy did we make up the lost ground; starting in camp at 5:45, we tallied 67 species across the next 2.5 hours! Notable among those, in roughly temporal order, were **Purple-banded Sunbird**, **Rudd's Apalis**, **Southern Red-fronted Tinkerbird**, **Black Cuckooshrike**, **Striped Kingfisher**, **African Penduline-Tit**, **Brubru**, **Grosbeak Weaver**, and **Black-tailed Waxbill**. A **Brown-backed Honeybird** remained leader-only when Dorian was unable to get clients onto it

before it fled. Regardless it was an action packed start to the day (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S275005946>)!

We departed camp and headed to the Kumasinga Hide (again), where we found **African Woolly-necked Stork**. Cool as that was, it was overshadowed by zebras, wildebeest, nyala, and giraffes, the last drinking just fifty feet from us (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S275019688>). We spent our remaining Mkuze time cruising the park roads. We bettered what were to this point only quick glimpses of **Little Bee-eater** when we found a cooperative pair at eye level, and we soaked in a juvenile **Martial Eagle** before and after it departed its favored snag (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S275022950>). The morning's best find, however, was the African Rock Python we found sunning itself on the tarmac! It was massive! It was at least 15 feet long and probably closer to 20! It was the biggest snake any of had ever seen, Dorian included!

We returned to camp, enjoyed a very basic lunch at the Rhino-Dine-O, and exited the park at 1:30. Rolling into St Lucia at 3:30, we paused on the town bridge to add **African Golden** and **Southern Brown-throated Weavers** before continuing to lodge (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S275105462>). Though the comfy digs tempted us, we dropped our stuff and immediately returned to the field at the

nearby iGwalagwala forest/trail. The light was dropping quickly on account of heavy cloud, but we managed to pull **White-eared Barbet**, **Dark-backed Weaver**, and **Livingstone's Turaco** from the surrounding walls of foliage. And our last new bird of the day? **African Wood-Owl**, a pair showing just as darkness descended on the reserve (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S275105541>). We made our exit before any hippos showed up (there are lots around town) and headed to Barraca for dinner - yum!

Southern Red-fronted Tinkerbird





Southern Giraffe + Blue Wildebeest



Golden-breasted Bunting

Day 19 (Extension Day 5) - Wednesday, September 24 - St Lucia

Yesterday's outing offered an exciting introduction to St Lucia's avifauna, so we couldn't wait to return to the field on this morning. Though we planned to return to the same patch we explored yesterday, there was so much activity in front out of lodge that we ended up wandering the adjacent neighborhood instead. A vocal **Woodward's Batis** was our first victory; an adorable **Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird** was our second. We also had point-blank views of **Olive Sunbird**, those bettering the quick glimpses we had in poor light yesterday. It was also a nice to secure **Crowned Hornbill**, our fifth and final member of that family. Otherwise, **Mouse-colored Sunbird**, **Purple-crested Turaco**, and **Klaas's Cuckoo** rounded out a fantastic outing (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S275196552>).

We returned to the lodge and enjoyed a massive buffet breakfast before heading to the Eastern Shores unit of iSimangaliso Wetland Park (5 mins up the road from our digs). Alighting from the vehicle at the Amazibu Hide, we intersected **Rufous-winged** and **Croaking Cisticolas** as they patrolled the marshy grasslands. **African Pygmy-Goose** checked-in once we reached the hide, and a local birder subsequently offered up his scope so that we could enjoy a surprise **Rufous-bellied Heron**. No one had that bird on their bingo card; it was a South Africa bird for Dorian!

We moved north to Mission Rocks, where we enjoyed a beautiful view of the reserve from an elevated overlook. Returning downslope, we finally connected with **Brown Scrub-Robin**, a bird for which we'd been looking yesterday and today. Our prolonged views of the confiding singer were well worth the wait! More frustrating was a stereotypically-shy

Four-colored Bushshrike. The vocal bird stayed out of sight despite being less very nearby. As such, the species joined the trip list as 'heard-only' (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S275196459>).

With a bit of time to kill before lunch, we returned to the iGwalagwala trail in town. That proved a wise stroke ahead of the approaching storm as we connected with four **Green-backed Twinspots** (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S275196392>)! The skies opened up right after that score, so we headed for the shelter of Barraca to ride out the weather. Unfortunately, we soon discovered that heavy rain and forceful wind would plague St Lucia and Eshowe until evening, a circumstance that

Southern Brown-throated Weaver



Livingstone's Turaco



Southern Crested Guineafowl



rendered the afternoon a total washout. We ate lunch, stuffed our faces at Ella's Ice Cream shop, and drove the two hours to Birds of Paradise in Eshowe. It was still pouring at our arrival, so we hunkered down to relax during the forced pause. Fortunately, the lodging served dinner, so we didn't need to brave the rain but for ten steps to the eating area!

Brown Scrub-Robin



Day 20 (Extension Day 6) - Dlinza Forest and surrounding area

Lingering wind and rain through the night suggested a leisurely morning, the birds unlikely to be active at the crack of dawn. We enjoyed a 7am breakfast at Birds of Paradise and arrived at Dlinza an hour later. It was very quiet, as expected, but we took to the trails with a limited number of target birds to find. The first of these was **Spotted Ground-Thrush**, a rapidly-declining bird with a very fragmented and low density range. Dlinza is about the best place the connect with this prize, so everyone was stoked when we found an example just 20 minutes into our walk. A male **Narina Trogon** appeared shortly thereafter, and activity increased with the liked of **Cape Batis**, and **Gray** and **Black Cuckooshrikes** across the next hour. Relaxing on the observation tower at the conclusion of our walking loop, we scored a pair or soaring **Black Goshawks**. Later, on our second loop through the reserve, we lengthened our raptor tally with a soaring **Crowned Eagle**. With high cloud, minimal wind, and mild temps, it was an idyllic morning. Before we knew it, it was noon and time for lunch (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S275354598>)

We ventured to Ngoye Forest reserve after that meal. The place is a bit odd — it's little more than a public road through an extant patch of subtropical forest — but it is the most (only?) reliable place to find the Woodward's race of Green Barbet, a bird that is otherwise restricted to isolated pockets in East Africa. Dorian's previous experience at the site suggested the birding would be slow, and that was the case on this afternoon. In an hour of birding, we tallied just five species. The good news? **Green Barbet** was among those. The bad news? It was heard-only; the bird wouldn't budge from the perch it occupied, apparently some distance from the road. Our group wasn't hellbent on the bird, so we packed it in and returned

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to Birds of Paradise for a bit of pre-dinner relaxation. And how about the cheesecake when we did eat? Wow!

Day 21 (Extension Day 7) - Round 2 at Dlinza and drive to Underberg

Though we saw a bunch of cool birds at Dlinza yesterday, we completely struck out on pigeons and doves. That was a sad circumstance because Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon and Lemon and Tambourine Doves are key attractions at the site. Hoping to redeem those misses, we returned to the forest under much improved conditions, a cloudless sky and mild temperatures welcoming us to the reserve on this windless morning. When the bird hide held nothing beyond a **Chorister Robin-Chat** at our 6am arrival, we took to the aerial boardwalk and climbed to the observation platform. From there, we spied **Rameron Pigeon, African Green-Pigeon, Trumpeter Hornbill,** and a flyover **African Goshawk**, that last bird new for the trip list. It was tough to pull ourselves away from the tower, but that ultimately netted us point-blank views of **Red-eyed, Lemon,** and **Tambourine Doves** back at the hide. Despite our hot dove/pigeon hand, we didn't connect with Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon on our second turn of the boardwalk and tower. A **Greater Double-collared Sunbird** in the parking lot was the morning's final addition. Even without the pigeon, it was a very successful Dlinza re-do.

The four-and-a-half-hour drive to Underberg consumed most of the remaining day; lunch at Stonewood in Howick was excellent - highly recommended! We reached our lodging at 3:30, dropped the bags, and immediately headed to the lowest reaches of Sani Pass, our hope to whittle down tomorrow's target list before that important day arrived. Birding along the road at around 5,200 feet of elevation, we pulled a single **African Yellow-Warbler** from hordes of **Cape Robin-Chats**. Only as daylight dwindled were we able to find **Bush Blackcap**, the sneaky endemic perching in full view just 20 feet from us! We forgot about the long drive at that moment. It was epic!



Lemon Dove



Tambourine Dove



Day 22 (Extension Day 8) - Sani Pass

This is the most important day of the entire tour for hard-to-find birds, so we'd employ a very targeted approach to stay focused. Clear skies and still air prevailed overnight, so hopes were high as we set off with our local guide at 6am. Gaining elevation through rolling hills, we made a stop for **Rufous-throated Wryneck** which netted us that funky bird plus **Long-crested Eagle** and **Drakensberg Prinia**. A few minutes later, and while enjoying our packed breakfast at a roadside picnic table, we spied a beautiful **Gurney's Sugarbird** as it perched atop a protea. Other notable birds from that stretch included **Streaky-headed Seedeater**, **Wailing Cisticola**, and **Cape Rock-Thrush** (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S275775742>).

We reached the South Africa border post around 8am and started up Sani Pass. A sneaky **Barratt's Warbler** showed in some bushes, and we had wonderful views of a group of **Ground Woodpeckers** on a low shrub shortly thereafter. While **Mountain Chat** and **Sentinal Rock-Thrush** were appreciated by all, **Drakensberg Siskin** and **Drakensberg Rockjumper** engendered more excitement, ten of the former and three of the latter visible in a single binocular sweep. And the kicker was a surprise **Black Stork** that overflowed us just as we crested the pass. Could it get any better? We were about to find out (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S275775311>)!

Drakensberg Rockjumper



Atop the mountains and across the Lesotho border, we cruised west. **Cape Griffon** soared overhead, and we had identifiable views of an adult **Bearded Vulture** as it circled a distant peak. It was fun to re-familiarize ourselves with some of the Karoo birds we's encountered in the Western Cape region of South Africa: **Large-billed Lark**, **Layard's Warbler**, and **Sickle-winged Chat**, for example. We also managed to redeem our earlier/Karoo miss on **Gray Tit**. It took a bit of time, but we also secured sweet scope views of **Yellow-tufted** (African Rock) **Pipit** as it belted out song from a boulder. And speaking of pipits, we also teased **Mountain Pipit** from a field of short grass on our return! Throw in better views of Bearded Vulture and Lesotho kept giving (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S275774600>).

We eventually needed to bid Lesotho goodbye make our way down the pass and back into South Africa. Though beautiful, the return ride didn't net us any birds we hadn't found on the ascent. We did, however, have a heard-only encounter with **Red-winged Francolin** when we reach the grass hillside towards the bottom (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S275773890>). Since we found all our targets with time to spare, we explored Pevensey Road, where we found **Blue** and **Wattled Cranes**! We completed the day (and the crane hat-trick) with views of **Gray Crowned-Cranes** as we returned to our B&B (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S275772571>).

Ground Woodpecker



Day 23 (Extension Day 9) - Mop-up and conclusion

We kicked so much ass yesterday that there wasn't much to accomplish around Underberg/ Drakensberg today. With that in mind — and playing with what we felt was 'house money' — we decided to get greedy! Armed with snacks and water, we made a 5am start from Cedar Garden so

as to arrive at Marutswa Forest at sunrise. Our quarry was Cape Parrot, one of South Africa's rarest and coolest endemics. Rain along our route suggested our pre-dawn undertaking was too ambitious, but it cleared shortly after we arrived. We posted-up in the clearing and waited, **Cape White-eye**, **Olive Woodpecker**, and **Knysna Turaco** keeping us company as we extended our vigil. After 45 minutes, Dorian heard the signal, a high pitched cackle cascading across the hillside. Two **Cape Parrots** zoomed overhead in the next instant, and we bettered our views across the next half hour as least a dozen birds overflowed us. A curious individual eventually landed in a snag and gave us awesome scope views. Mission accomplished! And if that wasn't enough, we scored **Orange Ground-Thrush** when we ventured into the adjacent woodland! Both target birds secured by 8am - boom (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S275940182>)!

As we'd allocated an additional 3 hours to look for the ground-thrush at another location, we had a sudden glut of time on our hands. We decided to cash some of it on a fancy brunch at The Treatery in Howick (lotta good food in that city). Continuing towards Durban after eating, we paused at Springside Nature Reserve for what we thought would be a bit of afternoon 'filler'. The birding, however, was surprisingly good. Most of the 44 species we amassed were familiar — **Purple-crested Turaco**, **Brown-hooded Kingfisher**, **Spectacled Weaver** — but we were hella stoked to add three trips birds in **Black-and-white Mannikin**, **Rock-loving Cisticola** (formerly 'Lazy'), and **African Firefinch**. Plus, quick views of **African Emerald Cuckoo** redeemed what was to this point 'heard-only' frustration. So yeah, a fantastic stop in the middle of the day (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S275977037>).

We continued into Durban, enjoyed some celebratory ice cream and checked into the hotel. We tried to bird the nearby Umhlanga Nature Reserve, but heavy rain and approaching darkness forced us to fold those plans shortly after we arrived. We hardly cared; it was been an incredible day and tour! Woo hoo! Dinner was great. And that was all she wrote!



458 species recorded (complete list below)

453 species were seen by guide and at least one client

5 species were 'heard-only' (Red-winged Francolin, White-quilled Bustard, African Rail, Red-chested Flufftail, Green Barbet)

454 species were observed in South Africa; Bearded Vulture, Gray Tit, Yellow-tufted Pipit, and Mountain Pipit were observed only in Lesotho.

This is a link to the 21st-century and infinitely-more useful eBird trip report. Please note that it indicates only 457 species, not the above-claimed 458. That's because we didn't eBird an in-transit and incidental Yellow-throated Longclaw which only Sonia saw.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Common Ostrich	Struthio camelus
White-faced Whistling-Duck	Dendrocygna viduata
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	Dendrocygna bicolor
White-backed Duck	Thalassornis leuconotus
Egyptian Goose	Alopochen aegyptiaca
South African Shelduck	Tadorna cana
Spur-winged Goose	Plectropterus gambensis
African Pygmy-Goose	Nettapus auritus
Blue-billed Teal	Spatula hottentota
Cape Shoveler	Spatula smithii
Yellow-billed Duck	Anas undulata
Cape Teal	Anas capensis
Red-billed Duck	Anas erythrorhyncha
Southern Pochard	Netta erythrophthalma
Maccoa Duck	Oxyura maccoa
Helmeted Guineafowl	Numida meleagris
Southern Crested Guineafowl	Guttera edouardi
Crested Francolin	Ortygornis sephaena
Red-winged Francolin	Scleroptila levaillantii
Gray-winged Francolin	Scleroptila afra
Common Quail	Coturnix coturnix
Cape Spurfowl	Pternistis capensis

Natal Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis natalensis</i>
Swainson's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>
Red-necked Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis afer</i>
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>
Rameron Pigeon	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>
Lemon Dove	<i>Aplopelia larvata</i>
Mourning Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>
Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>
Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>
Tambourine Dove	<i>Turtur tympanistria</i>
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>
African Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>
Double-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles bicinctus</i>
Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>
Ludwig's Bustard	<i>Neotis ludwigii</i>
Denham's Bustard	<i>Neotis denhami</i>
White-bellied Bustard	<i>Eupodotis senegalensis</i>
Blue Bustard	<i>Eupodotis caerulescens</i>
Karoo Bustard	<i>Heterotetrax vigorsii</i>
Red-crested Bustard	<i>Lophotis ruficrista</i>
Black Bustard	<i>Afrotis afra</i>
White-quilled Bustard	<i>Afrotis afraoides</i>
Black-bellied Bustard	<i>Lissotis melanogaster</i>
Gray Go-away-bird	<i>Crinifer concolor</i>
Purple-crested Turaco	<i>Gallirex porphyreolophus</i>
Livingstone's Turaco	<i>Tauraco livingstonii</i>
Knysna Turaco	<i>Tauraco corythaix</i>
Burchell's Coucal	<i>Centropus burchellii</i>
Green Malkoha	<i>Ceuthmochares australis</i>
Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>

African Emerald Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx cupreus</i>
Fiery-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus pectoralis</i>
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>
African Swift	<i>Apus barbatus</i>
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>
Red-chested Flufftail	<i>Sarothrura rufa</i>
African Rail	<i>Rallus caerulescens</i>
Eurasian Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>
African Swamphe	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>
Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>
Gray Crowned-Crane	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>
Blue Crane	<i>Anthropoides paradiseus</i>
Wattled Crane	<i>Bucconas carunculatus</i>
Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>
Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
African Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus moquini</i>
Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Three-banded Plover	<i>Thinornis tricoloris</i>
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>
White-crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus albiceps</i>
Black-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus melanopterus</i>
Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>
Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>
Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Anarhynchus pecuarius</i>
White-fronted Plover	<i>Anarhynchus marginatus</i>
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>

Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
African Snipe	<i>Gallinago nigripennis</i>
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Double-banded Courser	<i>Smutsornis africanus</i>
Brown Skua	<i>Stercorarius antarcticus</i>
Gray-hooded Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>
Hartlaub's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus hartlaubii</i>
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>
African Skimmer	<i>Rynchops flavirostris</i>
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>
Great Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Eared Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
African Penguin	<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>
Southern Royal Albatross	<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>
Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche chlororhynchos</i>
Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche carteri</i>
White-capped Albatross	<i>Thalassarche cauta</i>
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>
Pintado Petrel	<i>Daption capense</i>
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>
Great Shearwater	<i>Ardenna gravis</i>

Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardena grisea</i>
African Openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
African Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia microscelis</i>
Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>
Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>
Cape Gannet	<i>Morus capensis</i>
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>
Crowned Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo coronatus</i>
Bank Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax neglectus</i>
Cape Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>
Southern Bald Ibis	<i>Geronticus calvus</i>
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Rufous-bellied Heron	<i>Ardeola rufiventris</i>
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Western Cattle-Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Yellow-billed Egret	<i>Ardea brachyrhyncha</i>
Gray Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>
Secretarybird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>

African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>
White-headed Vulture	<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>
Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>
Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>
White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
Cape Griffon	<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>
Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier)	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>
Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>
Brown Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>
Crowned Eagle	<i>Stephanoaetus coronatus</i>
Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>
Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus wahlbergi</i>
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>
Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>
African Hawk-Eagle	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>
Dark Chanting-Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>
Pale Chanting-Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>
African Goshawk	<i>Aerospiza tachiro</i>
Little Sparrowhawk	<i>Tachyspiza minulla</i>
Shikra	<i>Tachyspiza badia</i>
Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter rufiventris</i>
Black Goshawk	<i>Astur melanoleucus</i>
African Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>
Black Harrier	<i>Circus maurus</i>
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
African Fish-Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga vocifer</i>
Jackal Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
Forest Buzzard	<i>Buteo trizonatus</i>
African Scops-Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>
Spotted Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>

Pearl-spotted Owlet	Glaucidium perlatum
African Barred Owlet	Glaucidium capense
African Wood-Owl	Strix woodfordii
Speckled Mousebird	Colius striatus
White-backed Mousebird	Colius colius
Red-faced Mousebird	Urocolius indicus
Narina Trogon	Apaloderma narina
Eurasian Hoopoe	Upupa epops
Green Woodhoopoe	Phoeniculus purpureus
Common Scimitarbill	Rhinopomastus cyanomelas
Southern Ground-Hornbill	Bucorvus leadbeateri
Crowned Hornbill	Lophoceros alboterminatus
African Gray Hornbill	Lophoceros nasutus
Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	Tockus leucomelas
Southern Red-billed Hornbill	Tockus rufirostris
Trumpeter Hornbill	Bycanistes bucinator
White-fronted Bee-eater	Merops bullockoides
Little Bee-eater	Merops pusillus
European Bee-eater	Merops apiaster
Malachite Kingfisher	Corythornis cristatus
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	Halcyon albiventris
Striped Kingfisher	Halcyon chelicuti
Giant Kingfisher	Megaceryle maxima
Pied Kingfisher	Ceryle rudis
Lilac-breasted Roller	Coracias caudatus
Purple Roller	Coracias naevius
Crested Barbet	Trachyphonus vaillantii
Green Barbet	Cryptolybia olivacea
White-eared Barbet	Stactolaema leucotis
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird	Pogoniulus bilineatus
Southern Red-fronted Tinkerbird	Pogoniulus pusillus
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	Pogoniulus chrysoconus
Pied Barbet	Tricholaema leucomelas

Black-collared Barbet	Lybius torquatus
Brown-backed Honeybird	Prodotiscus regulus
Lesser Honeyguide	Indicator minor
Greater Honeyguide	Indicator indicator
Red-throated Wryneck	Jynx ruficollis
Bearded Woodpecker	Chloropicus namaquus
Cardinal Woodpecker	Dendropicos fuscescens
Olive Woodpecker	Dendropicos griseocephalus
Ground Woodpecker	Geocolaptes olivaceus
Bennett's Woodpecker	Campethera bennettii
Knysna Woodpecker	Campethera notata
Golden-tailed Woodpecker	Campethera abingoni
Rock Kestrel	Falco rupicolus
Greater Kestrel	Falco rupicoloides
Lanner Falcon	Falco biarmicus
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus
Cape Parrot	Poicephalus robustus
Brown-headed Parrot	Poicephalus cryptoxanthus
Gray Cuckooshrike	Ceblepyris caesius
Black Cuckooshrike	Campephaga flava
African Black-headed Oriole	Oriolus larvatus
Cape Batis	Batis capensis
Woodwards' Batis	Batis fratrum
Chinspot Batis	Batis molitor
Pirit Batis	Batis pririt
White-crested Helmetshrike	Prionops plumatus
Retz's Helmetshrike	Prionops retzii
Brubru	Nilaus afer
Black-backed Puffback	Dryoscopus cubla
Black-crowned Tchagra	Tchagra senegalus
Brown-crowned Tchagra	Tchagra australis
Southern Tchagra	Tchagra tchagra
Southern Boubou	Laniarius ferrugineus

Bokmakierie	Telophorus zeylonus
Four-colored Bushshrike	Telophorus viridis
Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike	Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus
Olive Bushshrike	Chlorophoneus olivaceus
Gray-headed Bushshrike	Malaconotus blanchoti
Square-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus ludwigii
Fork-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus adsimilis
African Crested Flycatcher	Trochocercus cyanomelas
African Paradise-Flycatcher	Terpsiphone viridis
Magpie Shrike	Urolestes melanoleucus
Southern Fiscal	Lanius collaris
Cape Crow	Corvus capensis
Pied Crow	Corvus albus
White-necked Raven	Corvus albicollis
Cape Rockjumper	Chaetops frenatus
Drakensberg Rockjumper	Chaetops aurantius
Fairy Flycatcher	Stenostira scita
Southern Black-Tit	Melaniparus niger
African Penduline-Tit	Anthoscopus caroli
Southern Penduline-Tit	Anthoscopus minutus
Spike-heeled Lark	Chersomanes albofasciata
Karoo Long-billed Lark	Certhilauda subcoronata
Eastern Long-billed Lark	Certhilauda semitorquata
Cape Long-billed Lark	Certhilauda curvirostris
Sabota Lark	Calendulauda sabota
Karoo Lark	Calendulauda albescens
Cape Clapper Lark	Corypha apiata
Rufous-naped Lark	Corypha africana
Large-billed Lark	Galerida magnirostris
Red-capped Lark	Calandrella cinerea
Eastern Nicator	Nicator gularis
Long-billed Crombec	Sylvietta rufescens
Cape Grassbird	Sphenoeacus afer

Victorin's Warbler	<i>Cryptillas victorini</i>
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>
Green-capped Eremomela	<i>Eremomela scotops</i>
Namaqua Warbler	<i>Phragmacia substriata</i>
Green-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>
Bar-throated Apalis	<i>Apalis thoracica</i>
Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flava</i>
Rudd's Apalis	<i>Apalis ruddi</i>
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>
Black-chested Prinia	<i>Prinia flavicans</i>
Karoo Prinia	<i>Prinia maculosa</i>
Drakensberg Prinia	<i>Prinia hypoxantha</i>
Cinnamon-breasted Warbler	<i>Euryptila subcinnamomea</i>
Rufous-eared Warbler	<i>Malcorus pectoralis</i>
Rock-loving Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aberrans</i>
Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>
Gray-backed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola subruficapilla</i>
Wailing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola lais</i>
Rufous-winged Cisticola	<i>Cisticola galactotes</i>
Levaillant's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola tinniens</i>
Croaking Cisticola	<i>Cisticola natalensis</i>
Piping Cisticola	<i>Cisticola fulvicapilla</i>
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Cloud Cisticola	<i>Cisticola textrix</i>
Wing-snapping Cisticola	<i>Cisticola ayresii</i>
African Yellow-Warbler	<i>Iduna natalensis</i>
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
Lesser Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>
Knysna Warbler	<i>Bradypterus sylvaticus</i>
Barratt's Warbler	<i>Bradypterus barratti</i>
Little Rush Warbler	<i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>
Black Sawwing	<i>Psalidoprocne pristoptera</i>
Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>

Southern Crag-Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>
Pearl-breasted Swallow	<i>Hirundo dimidiata</i>
White-throated Swallow	<i>Hirundo albigularis</i>
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
Greater Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis cucullata</i>
Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>
Rufous-chested Swallow	<i>Cecropis semirufa</i>
South African Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon spilodera</i>
Sombre Greenbul	<i>Andropadus importunus</i>
Yellow-bellied Greenbul	<i>Chlorocichla flaviventris</i>
Terrestrial Brownbul	<i>Phyllastrephus terrestris</i>
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>
Black-fronted Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>
Cape Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus capensis</i>
Yellow-throated Woodland-Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus ruficapilla</i>
Bush Blackcap	<i>Sylvia nigricapillus</i>
Layard's Warbler	<i>Curruca layardi</i>
Chestnut-vented Warbler	<i>Curruca subcoerulea</i>
Cape White-eye	<i>Zosterops virens</i>
Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>
Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythroryncha</i>
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
Pale-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus nabouroup</i>
Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>
Black-bellied Starling	<i>Notopholia corusca</i>
Burchell's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis australis</i>
African Pied Starling	<i>Lamprotornis bicolor</i>
Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>
Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>
Spotted Ground-Thrush	<i>Geokichla guttata</i>

Orange Ground-Thrush	<i>Geokichla gurneyi</i>
Kurrichane Thrush	<i>Turdus libonyana</i>
Karoo Thrush	<i>Turdus smithi</i>
Olive Thrush	<i>Turdus olivaceus</i>
African Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>
Gray Tit-Flycatcher	<i>Fraseria plumbea</i>
Ashy Flycatcher	<i>Fraseria caerulescens</i>
Fiscal Flycatcher	<i>Sigelus silens</i>
Southern Black-Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pammelaina</i>
Karoo Scrub-Robin	<i>Tychaemon coryphoeus</i>
Brown Scrub-Robin	<i>Tychaemon signata</i>
Bearded Scrub-Robin	<i>Tychaemon quadrivirgata</i>
White-browed Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>
Cape Robin-Chat	<i>Dessonornis caffer</i>
White-throated Robin-Chat	<i>Dessonornis humeralis</i>
White-browed Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha heuglini</i>
Red-capped Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha natalensis</i>
Chorister Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha dichroa</i>
White-starred Robin	<i>Pogonocichla stellata</i>
Short-toed Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola brevipes</i>
Sentinel Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola explorator</i>
Cape Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola rupestris</i>
African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>
Buff-streaked Chat	<i>Campicoloides bifasciatus</i>
Sickle-winged Chat	<i>Emarginata sinuata</i>
Karoo Chat	<i>Emarginata schlegelii</i>
Mocking Cliff-Chat	<i>Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris</i>
Southern Anteater-Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>
Mountain Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla monticola</i>
Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>
Familiar Chat	<i>Oenanthe familiaris</i>
Gurney's Sugarbird	<i>Promerops gurneyi</i>
Cape Sugarbird	<i>Promerops cafer</i>

Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>
Orange-breasted Sunbird	<i>Anthobaphes violacea</i>
Olive Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra olivacea</i>
Mouse-colored Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra veroxii</i>
Amethyst Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra amethystina</i>
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>
Malachite Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia famosa</i>
Southern Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris chalybeus</i>
Greater Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris afer</i>
Marico Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>
Purple-banded Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris bifasciatus</i>
White-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris talatala</i>
Dusky Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris fuscus</i>
Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>
Scaly Weaver	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>
Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>
Spectacled Weaver	<i>Ploceus ocularis</i>
Cape Weaver	<i>Ploceus capensis</i>
African Golden-Weaver	<i>Ploceus subaureus</i>
Southern Brown-throated Weaver	<i>Ploceus xanthopterus</i>
Lesser Masked-Weaver	<i>Ploceus intermedius</i>
Southern Masked-Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>
Dark-backed Weaver	<i>Ploceus bicolor</i>
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>
Southern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>
Yellow Bishop	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>
Red-collared Widowbird	<i>Euplectes ardens</i>
Fan-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes axillaris</i>
Long-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes progne</i>
Grosbeak Weaver	<i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>

Black-and-white Mannikin	<i>Spermestes bicolor</i>
Swee Waxbill	<i>Coccothraupis melanotis</i>
Green-backed Twinspot	<i>Mandingoa nitidula</i>
Black-tailed Waxbill	<i>Glaucostrelda perreini</i>
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
Southern Cordonbleu	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>
Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>
African Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rubricata</i>
Jameson's Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rhodopareia</i>
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>
Shaft-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua regia</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>
Southern Gray-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>
Yellow-throated Bush Sparrow	<i>Gymnoris supercilialis</i>
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>
Mountain Pipit	<i>Anthus hoeschi</i>
Nicholson's Pipit	<i>Anthus nicholsoni</i>
Yellow-tufted Pipit	<i>Anthus crenatus</i>
Yellow-breasted Pipit	<i>Hemimacronyx chloris</i>
Orange-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx capensis</i>
Yellow-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx croceus</i>
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>
Forest Canary	<i>Crithagra scotops</i>
Black-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>
Brimstone Canary	<i>Crithagra sulphurata</i>
Yellow Canary	<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>
White-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra albogularis</i>
Protea Canary	<i>Crithagra leucoptera</i>
Streaky-headed Seedeater	<i>Crithagra gularis</i>
Cape Siskin	<i>Crithagra totta</i>

Drakensberg Siskin	Crithagra symonsi
Cape Canary	Serinus canicollis
Black-headed Canary	Serinus alario
Golden-breasted Bunting	Emberiza flaviventris
Cape Bunting	Emberiza capensis
Lark-like Bunting	Emberiza impetuanii

Mammals (to the best of my memory)

Southern Chacma Baboon
 Vervet Monkey
 Scrub Hare
 Tree Squirrel
 Four-striped Grass Mouse
 Sloggett's Ice Rat (Hampster)
 Black-backed Jackal
 African Wild Dog
 Otter (was either African Clawless or Spotted-necked)
 Cape Gray Mongoose
 Slender Mongoose
 Dwarf Mongoose
 Yellow Mongoose
 Meerkat
 Spotted Hyena
 African Elephant
 Rock Hyrax (Dassie)
 Mountain Zebra
 Plains Zebra
 Southern White Rhinoceros
 Common Warthog
 Hippopotamus
 Southern Giraffe
 Cape Buffalo
 Eland
 Greater Kudu
 Nyala
 Bushbuck
 Oryx (Gemsbok)
 Common Waterbuck
 Common/Southern Reedbuck
 Mountain Reedbuck
 Grey Reebok
 Blue Wildebeest
 Red Hartebeest
 Bontebok
 Impala

Springbok
Klipspringer
Cape Gysbok
Common Duiker
Blue Duiker
Southern Right Whale

Notable Reptiles/Amphibians

Nile Crocodile
Drakensberg Crag Lizard
Maluti River Frog
Eastern Natal Green Snake
African Rock Python
Leopard Tortoise