

TROPICAL BIRDING

SOUTH AFRICA

Fairest Cape to Kruger 2nd -16th September, 2022
Drakensberg extension 16th – 24th September 2022
Tour leader & Report - Charley Hesse



This trip surpassed all expectations and was one of our most successful tours to date. Although you miss many of the common summer migrants at this time of year, this tour is timed to maximize chances of seeing endemic birds as it coincides with the start of the breeding season for many of them. So although you might not get the huge lists like later in the year, 467 species ain't half bad, and more importantly, we almost cleaned up on available endemics, many of which are rarely seen. Our mammal sightings match this and we had a whopping 65+ species. The sheer range of habitats and landscapes was absolutely staggering and barely a day went by that we couldn't describe as amazing. A few of the countless highlights included the wild, windswept coastlines surrounding Cape Town with avian treats such as Cape Rockjumper and African Penguin; the expansive, rolling landscape of the Overberg with its dancing Blue Cranes, endless white sand dunes and whale-filled turquoise waters; the lush Afro-montane forests of the garden route with Knysna Turaco and Narina Trogon; The stark, semi-desert Karoo with its long list of endemics; Kruger National Park, teeming with life including spectacular predators; the rare endemics around Wakkerstroom and sheer spectacle of the breath-taking Sani Pass with its crown jewel, the **Drakensberg Rockjumper**. This 3 week tour felt like an eternity in the very best way as we savored every minute.

3rd August – Cape Town area



With the Cape Town pelagic cancelled this weekend, I decided to shuffle round the days a little. High winds were forecast tomorrow and I didn't fancy getting blown off Cape Point, so I thought we would do the Cape Town area today. We started at the world-famous Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. It was overcast and drizzly but easily birdable weather. You wouldn't have guessed that we were at the base of Table Mountain as it was almost completely obscured. When we entered the gardens, we were greeted with an overwhelming onslaught of birds, most of which were used to people and made great photographic subjects. Some of the highlights being the colorful **Southern Double-collared Sunbird**, **Forest Buzzard**, **African Goshawk**, **Spotted Eagle-Owl** in its favorite tree and the long-tailed endemic **Cape Sugarbird**. It was a wonderful introduction to South African birding, followed by a wonderful introduction to South African shopping in the amazing gift shop, and the first of (hopefully) many red cappuccinos of the trip. We were keen to maximize birding for the day and we got a quick 'take-away' lunch from the upmarket Woolworths Food, for those that are used to the finer things in life. We swung by Boulder's Beach for our first **African Penguins** before continuing on to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. We soon picked up the beautiful **Orange-breasted** and **Malachite Sunbirds** plus **Eland** and **Bontebok**, a couple of cool mammals. At Cape Point we climbed and funicularized up to the lighthouse and saw some pretty amazing scenery and **Cape Cormorants** nesting on the cliffs. We drove down to the Cape of Good Hope and had some great sea-watching with distant albatrosses, petrels, shearwaters and **Cape Gannets** plunging into the water. Our final site of the day was the idyllic seaside town of Kommetjie where we got all our target cormorants including **Bank Cormorant**, and a slew of terns including the rare Antarctic Tern. A great day of birding was topped off by some great Italian food which we got as a take-away and ate at the lodge.

4th August – West Coast National Park



Apparently the weather was going from bad to worse today, and we were mentally prepared for high winds and rain. After an early breakfast, we skirted around the rush hour traffic and soon found ourselves heading due north through the open, windswept landscape. We shot straight up to the West Coast National Park gate before doing any birding at all. We entered the park and had a few stops but any bird with sense was hunkered down. We still managed to pick up a few endemics like **Karoo Scrub-Robin**, **White-backed & Red-faced Mousebirds**, **Pearl-breasted Swallow** and **Yellow Canary**. We went first to Abramskraal where there is a small lake that often holds some interesting species. We were blown along the boardwalk to a blind and poking our heads inside, we saw a pair of beautiful **White-throated Swallows** perched inside trying to keep out of the wind. It was a little quiet, but we picked up our target **African Rail** and a distant **Black Harrier** before setting off for the Geelbek Hides hoping for lots of shorebirds on the edge of the Langebaan Lagoon. Unfortunately, it was high tide and no mud exposed although we did see both **Greater** and **Lesser Flamingos** which were a highlight for one particular member of the group. We continued north towards the town of Langebaan and saw **African Marsh Harrier** and **Orange-throated Longclaw** before turning off to a viewpoint which had some of the strongest winds many of us could remember. Next on to a bird hide that had a variety of terns and shorebirds. We stopped at a service station in Langebaan for a quick lunch but the strong wind blew one of our doors into another car so we had to drop in at the police station to get an incident report for the other guys insurance claim. Driving north, the rain came down, but luckily eased off on the Paternoster road long enough for us to have a good look for Cape Lark. Despite our efforts, we couldn't find it but did get **Red-capped** and **Large-billed Larks** plus a nice **Capped Wheatear**. A nearby pond also produced a few nice things like **Yellow-billed Duck**, **Long-tailed Cormorant** and **Spotted Thick-knee**. The last port of call was the town of Veldruff where we searched for the rare Chestnut-banded Plover, but had to be happy with a few other shorebirds like **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Little Stint** and **Pied Avocet**. This brought an end to a relatively successful, if somewhat windswept day of birding.

5th August – Strandfontein, Rooi Els & Betty's Bay



Our day started at the Strandfontein Water Treatment Plant, AKA sewage works. We had hoped for a break in the weather, but it was again blustery and unpleasant. We had seen many of the water birds already and were just searching for a few remaining species. On the way in, a powerful **Black Goshawk** glided by and landed in a tree. The first lake was unusually quiet but the reedbeds produced **Little Rush** and **Lesser Swamp Warblers**. Strandfontein looks like pie cut into 6 slices. We drove to the center and then chose which piece to drive around first. We worked methodically through the birds, enjoying the numerous **Greater Flamingoes** in flight. As usual there were plenty of ducks and we added **Red-billed Duck**, **Southern Pochard** and finally the rare **Maccoa Duck**. Next, we found a shining purple **African Swamphen**, some huge **Great White Pelicans**, **Glossy Ibis**, **Black-headed Heron**, a beautiful **Orange-throated Longclaw**. It was time to hit the road, but on the way out we had many swifts, including **African**, **Little** and our first **White-rumped Swift**. We now had a drive east, stopping on the way to drop our luggage at the hotel. We drove on a beautiful coast road around False Bay, admiring the sweeping cliffs, rugged coastline and turquoise ocean. Cape Town is certainly one of the most scenically located cities in the world. We arrived at the sleepy, little town of Rooi Els where we parked the vehicle and started walking along a gravel road. Our target here was the striking endemic **Cape Rockjumper**, which spurred us on walking through the cold, bracing wind. As we dropped down, it became more sheltered and bearable. No sign of the rockjumpers for a while, but we did pick up **Cape Bunting**, **Orange-breasted Sunbird**, **Red-headed & Piping Cisticolas** and **Familiar Chat**. Bob finally shouted out that he had the **Cape Rockjumper** and there were a few tense moments before everybody had good views. In the end they gave a great performance, hopping around on the rocks at close range. The wind was making things interesting out at sea, and we picked up **Sooty Shearwater** and **Yellow-nosed Albatross**. Our last site for the day was the Stoney Point Penguin Colony which didn't disappoint. Together with the charming and comical **African Penguins**, we had a full range of cormorants, **African Oystercatcher** and a **Brown Skua**. Another wonderful day.



African Penguin at the Stoney Point colony

6th September – De Hoop Nature Reserve



Today we started with an impromptu stop for around 50 **Blue Cranes** in a field of sheep by the side of the highway and they gave us quite a show. We drove to a place called the Sandberg Fynbos Reserve. I had been here a few days ago and got my lifer **Fynbos Buttonquail**; one of the toughest birds to see in South Africa. I took the clients to the exact same spot and we flushed it up within 5 minutes. Pretty good considering it had taken me 13 years to find my first one. We got back on the road and started driving towards De Hoop Nature reserve about an hour away. We had a few brief stops, picking up **African Spoonbill**, **Denham's Bustard**, **Giant Kingfisher**, **Wattled & African Pied Starling** and **Nicholson's Pipit**. We were trying to get there for lunch but it was tough with so many things to see along the way including some **Grey Rhebok** and **Common Eland**. We put in our lunch order at the restaurant before doing a spot of birding nearby. Down on the vlei below, we saw our first **Great Crested Grebes**, and in the trees around the buildings saw **African Hoopoe**, **Pied Barbet**, **Klaas's Cuckoo** and **Sombre Greenbul**. After a wonderful lunch, we drove over to the campground that was surrounded by a woodland of Milkwood trees. Here we were searching for Southern Tchagra but had to make do with **Bar-throated Apalis**, **Streaky-headed Seedeater** and **White-throated Canary**. Next, we drove down to the Koppie Eileen section of the park on the coast. We had some displaying **Cape Clapper Larks** on the way and a very tame **Southern Boubou** and **Cape Bunting** in the parking lot. The view from the top of the white sand dunes here was breathtaking as we looked along gorgeous beaches that stretched as far as the eye could see. We looked out over the turquoise Indian Ocean with distant **Cape Gannets** and at least 2 dozen **Southern Right Whales** basking just offshore. We had to drag ourselves away from there and headed for the Potsberg section of the park. On the way, we found **Agulhas Lark**, an endemic restricted to the Agulhas Plain. Potsberg is one of the few remaining colonies of **Cape Griffon** and getting close we scanned the mountain and found a couple of birds in the distance. Bob made one of the spots of the day with a group of 3 **Karoo Bustards** on the way back. One last stop at a bridge we saw our first **Brimstone Canary**. We arrived at our grand Dutch farmhouse in time for dinner.

7th September – Bontebok to Wilderness



We started the day at Bontebok NP. The landscape was cloaked in a cold mist we were sure would burn off once the sun was higher in the sky, but it was certainly taking its time. One of our big targets was the endemic **Gray-winged Francolin** and we found a small covey almost immediately. The loop road passed along the river and we got out at a couple of spots to bird. On a distant sandbar we scoped **Water Thick-knee** and **Three-banded Plover** while an **African Fish-Eagle** soared by. In the trees we saw several **Cape Batises**, our first **Greater Double-collared Sunbird**, **Olive Woodpecker** and the MEGA **Knysna Woodpecker**, one of the toughest endemics. We continued the loop and picked up some nice mammals, including **Red Hartebeest**, **Grey Rhebok** and **Cape Mountain Zebra**. Our main target now was the Black Bustard and we looked hard for it. In scanning for it we picked up over a dozen **Denham's Bustards**, 3 **Karoo Bustards** and a **Secretarybird**, but no sign of our target. By now, the mist had cleared and it was a glorious sunny day, perfect for the display and calls of the Black Bustard, but it may have been that they had finished their display already. We had plenty of other good stuff, including **Hamerkop**, displaying **Cape Clapper Lark**, our first **Alpine Swifts**, and plenty of **Black Harriers**. Not a bad haul by any means. It was time to hit the road and after a hearty pie in the Ou Meul bakery we continued on to Wilderness. We had limited time and decided to go birding before check in. We hit the Malachite Hide where we saw our first **African Reed-Warbler**, several **Great-crested Grebes** and our target **White-backed Ducks** which I had seen here last month. We went to the bridge by the Ebb and Flow campsite and here we had several **Black Sawwings**, a **Lanner Falcon** soaring above, **Brimstone & Forest Canaries** and great views of **Knysna Turacos** which were coming into feed on a fruiting Yellowwood tree. It was a great way to end the day before retiring to our accommodation which were luxurious cabins set on a hillside, overlooking the sea.

8th September – Wilderness NP



We started birding just outside the lodge and picked up 2 big targets straightaway, **Olive Bushshrike** and **Knysna Warbler**. Both accomplished skulkers. The sites we were visiting today required a permit which we could pick up at the park office at the Ebb-and-flow campsite, plus we could bird there a bit before breakfast. It was very productive and we saw and photographed some good birds, including **Knysna Turaco**, **Alpine & White-rumped Swifts**, **Black Goshawk**, **African Black-headed Oriole**, **Knysna Warbler**, **Amethyst & Greater Double-collared Sunbirds** and **Forest Canary**. The breakfast room at our lodge was closed so they had organized for us to take breakfast at a nice restaurant in town and right outside we picked up a nice **Brown-hooded Kingfisher**. The main birding site for the morning was the Woodville Big Tree. A large forest reserve 15 minutes drive. We had a very productive walk through the forest and added a lot of new birds, like **Narina Trogon**, **Green Woodhoopoe**, **Gray Cuckooshrike**, **Black-backed Puffback**, **African Crested-Flycatcher**, **Yellow-throated Woodland-Warbler**, **Black-bellied Starling**, **Chorister Robin-Chat**, and **Collared & Mouse-colored Sunbirds**. The conditions were beautiful and it was a lovely walk. After lunch back in town, we took a walk along the Half-collared Kingfisher trail. It was pretty quiet, but we did pick up a couple of species that had evaded us in the morning, namely **Lemon Dove** and **Terrestrial Brownbul**. To finish off the day, we drove to the Rondevlei bird hide, picking up our target **Red-necked Francolin** along the way. At the hide we enjoyed some relaxed birding with **Eared Grebe**, **African Swamphen**, some rather sneaky **Black Crakes** and **African Marsh-Harrier**, to finish out a pleasant day's birding.

9th September – Wilderness to Karoo NP



Today we were leaving the lush forests of the garden route and heading over a high pass into the semi-desert of the Karoo. A bird I had missed on my last tour to the Karoo was the **Karoo Lark**, so I decided to check out a spot early this morning to pick up this endemic. It was only a short distance out of our way, and we found the bird almost immediately. We continued on to the bottom of the Swartberg Pass where we spent some time searching the proteas for the rare endemic **Protea Canary** which we found after some effort. We also searched for the skulking endemic **Victorin's Warbler** which we only found after trying several further sites on the way up. So far so good. The weather was beautiful and scenery spectacular, only marred slightly by the dirt bike race that was going on today. This area was our last chance for the endemic **Cape Siskin**, but the area was vast, the bird tiny and it was like searching for a needle in a haystack. We went up and over the top and on the other side bumped into a pair of **Sentinel Rock-thrushes** and finally a very lucky **Cape Siskin** by the roadside. The geological features on the other side were spectacular as we went down further and further through a steep canyon and out into the dry acacia scattered plains below. Almost everything was new on this side, and a brief birding stop added **Pirit Batis**, **Fairy Flycatcher** and **Chestnut-vented Warbler**. We had lunch in the town of Prince Albert before continuing on our way. We had a lot of stops and saw plenty of good birds, including a small flock of **Spike-healed Larks**, **Double-banded Courser**, the endemic **Rufous-eared Warbler**, **Karoo Bustard**, **South African Shellducks**, **Sabota Lark**, **Namaqua Warbler** and **Pale Chanting Goshawk**. We finally made it to Karoo NP, and once inside, added **Pale-winged Starling**, **Mountain Wheatear**, **Short-toed Rock-Thrush** and **Steenbok**. We checked in and went to our rooms which had some **Cape Mountain Zebras** just on the other side of the fence. We had an early dinner before our night drive, and wrapped up nice and warm on the back of the open vehicle. We saw plenty of diurnal wildlife, like **Kudus**, **Red Hartebeest**, **Cape Mountain Zebras** and **Ostriches** but also our first nocturnal animals, with **Cape & Scrub Hares**, **Black-backed Jackals**, **Aardwolf** and a wonderful **Cape Porcupine**.

10th September – Karoo NP



This morning we were planning a long drive around the long loop which was over 45km. It doesn't sound like a lot, but when you are stopping every 50 yards to look at a bird, you can imagine how long it might take. We started at a small waterhole at the base of the road that went up to Klipspringer Pass. It was quiet to begin with, but a pair of beautiful **South African Shelducks** soon flew in and gradually more and more birds started coming down to drink, with **Black-throated, White-throated & Black-headed Canaries, Red-headed Finch** and **Namaqua Dove**. We drove up the steep road and got out at the Rooivalle viewpoint where Diana spotted us a beautiful adult **Verreaux's Eagle** sat on the cliff opposite, then taking off, giving us great flight shots. We also had our first **Layard's Warbler** here and tons of rather nervous looking **Cape Rock Hyraxes**. We continued the loop picking up new birds at a steady rate, with **Karoo Long-billed Lark, Nicholson's Pipit, Sickle-winged & Southern Anteater Chats**. We stopped at another viewpoint with absolutely stunning scenery before dropping down towards the plains below. Here, the habitat changed and we started seeing different birds, like **Karoo Chat, Black-eared** and **Gray-backed Sparrowlarks**, plus some new mammals like **Gemsbok** and **Springbok**. A park ranger in the camp told us where some **Lions** were and we drove past camp and out on the entrance road. There were a couple of cars there, but they said they were unable to find the **Lions**. With a little of further scanning, I spotted them laying down in the dry riverbed, and we got a couple of shots before heading back for lunch. In the afternoon, we drove along the road south of Beaufort West looking for bustards. Luckily one participant, Bob, excelled at spotting them and we had a group of 3 rare **Ludwig's Bustard**, a **Kori Bustard** and a **Karoo Bustard** calling by the side of the road. We also had more views of **Black-eared Sparrowlark, Lark-like Buntings** and a new **Desert Cisticola** which appeared to be right on the edge of its range. Another great day in the Karoo.

11th September – Tanqua Karoo to Johannesburg



Today was mainly a travel day. We left the park after a quick breakfast spotting a few old friends on the way out, like **Pale Chanting Goshawk**, **Common Ostrich**, **Namaqua Dove** and a **Lion**. We had a very long drive back to Cape Town and an early evening flight from there to Joburg, so decided to use the 3 or so hours we had to pay a brief visit to the Tanqua Karoo. The habitat there was superficially similar to Karoo NP with some subtle differences. It was about 3 hours driving before we turned off the N1 highway along the road towards Ceres which was dotted with many **Rock Kestrels** on posts. We turned again towards the Tanqua and stopped at a picnic site littered with broken glass but surrounded by big rocks. This was a site for the rare endemic **Cinnamon-breasted Warbler**. It was unresponsive to tape, but we nevertheless caught a glimpse of this tricky bird hopping between the rocks. We continued along the road looking for another tricky endemic, the **Karoo Eremomela**. I knew its subtle habitat preference well and we soon called in a pair for close looks, along with an attendant endemic **Rufous-eared Warbler**. Further along the road was a rocky hill top called Eierkop where we tried and succeeded for the endemic **Gray Tit** which again, dutifully hopped out. We were on a roll. Time was a ticking and we decided to turn around and try for a couple of birds on the way back. No more luck with the Cinnamon-breasted Warbler, we headed back to the main road and stopped at a couple of likely stops for the endemic **Black Bustard**. I was about to give up at one stop when I heard a distant bird, then another much closer. We spent a while trying for it, but the problem was that the vegetation was higher than the birds themselves. In the end, some of us had a couple of birds hop up and down in a very short flight display and we had to be content with that. It was another 2 hours drive back to Cape Town airport and we boarded our flights back to Joburg where we spent a rather short night's sleep in an airport hotel.

12th September – Johannesburg to Kruger NP



We left on the 5am shuttle for our 7am flight to Kruger. We checked in, grabbed some brekkie and boarded our flight to Nelspruit Airport without stress and were soon in our rental vehicle on our way to the world-famous Kruger National Park. Having done so well in the Cape, new birds had pretty much dried out, but in the east, it was a different matter; and we picked up countless new species on the way, including **Cape Starling**, **Lilac-breasted Roller** and **Black-collared Barbet**. After entering the park, we stopped in at Crocodile Bridge Rest camp where we saw tons of birds, including **White-browed Robin-chat** in full song, plus 4 species of sunbirds. We set off for Lower Sabie and on the way we saw lots of great birds, with our first **Bateleurs**, **Southern Yellow-billed** and **Red-billed Hornbills**, and the beautiful **Burchell's Starlings**. The highlight of the drive though were the cats and we had 8 **Lions**, a **Leopard** in a tree and 3 amazing **Cheetahs** at close range even before we had our first **Elephants**. We had a birding lunch at Lower Sabie, overlooking the river which added **African Openbills**, **Collared Pratincole**, **Red-faced Cisticola** and **Hippos** with attendant **Red-billed Oxpeckers**. Beautiful **Blue-eared Glossy Starlings** stole chips from the tables and we even had a **Lesser Honeyguide** coming in to a bird bath. We checked in to our rooms and had a short rest before heading out on an afternoon drive. We started at Sunset Dam which had **Yellow-billed Storks**, **Three-banded Plover** & **African Openbill** plus lots of **Hippos**. We crossed the bridge over the Lower Sabie bridge with close **White-headed Lapwings**, **Knob-billed Duck** and **Black Crakes**. We drove north with numerous **Giraffes** including 2 males fighting, plus lots of good birds, including **Wahlberg's** & **Tawny Eagles**, and **Chestnut-backed Sparrowlarks**. We went to the Mlondozi Picnic Site where we quickly picked up our target **Mocking Cliff-Chat** plus **Giant Kingfisher** and a bunch of birds that came into the **Pearl-spotted Owlet** call, like **White Helmetshrike**, **Brubru**, **Southern Black Tit**, **Jameson's Firefinch** and **Yellow-throated Bush-Sparrow**. We made it back to the rest camp with plenty of time, after an absolutely monumental day.

13th September – Kruger NP



We started the day with a pleasant pre-breakfast bird walk around Lower Sabie which produced **Kurrichane Thrush**, the uncommon **Bearded Scrub-Robin** and a nice **Common Scimitarbill**. We had breakfast on the deck overlooking the river and saw many of the same birds but picked up our first **Red-billed Firefinch** and **White-fronted Bee-eater**. It was quite a long drive to Satara so we set off straight after breakfast, stopping straight away at Sunset Dam where we had nice close views of **White-headed Lapwing** and our first **Marabou Stork**. It was overcast and drizzling but we still had plenty of interesting sightings, adding **African Green Pigeon**, **Rufous-crowned Roller**, **Brown-headed Parrot**, a beautiful **Bateleur** perched, **White-backed & Hooded Vultures**, a **Male Lion** and **Water Thick-knees**. The highlight of the morning though was a huge **Verreaux's Eagle-Owl** on a day roost right next to the road. We had lunch at Satara rest camp after which we came across our first **Purple-crested Turaco** and **Ashy Flycatchers** on the way to the rooms. It had been an early start, so we rewarded ourselves with a short rest after lunch before heading out on the afternoon drive. We went first to the Lake Panic bird hide where we saw **Pied Kingfisher**, **Black Crake** and a very active **Village Weaver** colony. The parking lot outside also had a few birds like **Golden-tailed Woodpecker** and **White Helmetshrike**. Next, we went to the Skukuza nursery which was closed, but from the parking lot we spotted a huge **Trumpeter Hornbill**, sounding very like a cat, and our first **Red-capped Robinchat**. Driving back, we also saw our first **Senegal Lapwings** and **Spotted Hyaena**, which were real crowd-pleasers. We drove to an **African Wild Dog** den we had heard about. After about 15 minutes, 2 wild dogs came haring along the road, followed by another 2. It was unclear whether they were hunting or chasing off **Spotted Hyaenas** from their den. What a sighting! On our drive back to camp, we also picked up our first **Goliath Heron**. After dinner, we went on a 2-hour night drive organized by the park. It was pretty quiet though, only producing **Cape Buffalos** and **Elephants**, a few Lesser **Galagos**, **Spotted Hyaena**, a pair of **Nyalas** and some **Scrub Hares**. Driving back to the rooms though, we got great views of a **Rusty-spotted Genet**, which finished off a productive day.



African Wild Dog

14th September – Kruger NP



We started the day with another pre-breakfast bird walk around the rest camp which produced **African Green Pigeon**, **Bearded Scrub-Robin**, **Kurrichane Thrush**, **Yellow-bellied Greenbul**, and an impressive perched **African Goshawk** which we enjoyed scope views of. After breakfast we set off for the day; our big target being a BIG animal; the **White Rhino**. Rhinos have suffered terribly to poaching and are now fairly restricted in Kruger. Of course, we never stopped birding and along the way picked up **Crested Francolin**, **Wattled Lapwing**, **Wooly-necked Stork**, **African Harrier-Hawk**, **Gabar Goshawk**, **Green Woodhoopoe** coming in and out of a nest hole, **Black-crowned Tchagra** and **Yellow-billed Oxpeckers**. We finally had several great **White Rhino** sightings before driving on to Ber-en Dal rest camp for lunch. Berg-en-Dal has excellent birding and we spent some time exploring the grounds seeing several great birds, several which were new, including **African Gray & Trumpeter Hornbills**, **White-throated Robin-Chat**, **Gray-headed Bushshrike**, **Retz's Helmetshrike**, **Little Sparrowhawk** and **Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver**. The highlight of our drive back was the **Red-crested Bustard** which we had great views of and was our 6th bustard species of the trip. We also had several nice mammal sightings, including male **Kudus** posing for photos and 2 huge bull **Elephants** fighting by the roadside. After dinner at Skukuza, we took a short night walk. We didn't find any night birds, but did come across a very cute and fluffy **Greater Galago** to finish out the day.



Bateleur

15th September – Kruger NP to Johannesburg



Again we had a short pre-breakfast bird walk around Skukuza rest camp which turned up **African Green Pigeon**, a male **Black-backed Puffback** with its back puffed out, **Yellow-breasted Apalis**, **Sombre Greenbul**, **Cape White-eye** and our first **Bronze Mannikins** of the trip. I decided to drive out of the park via Pretoriuskop rest camp which held a few new and interesting birds. The road there climbed up over grassy hilltops which produced some nice birds, including **Coqui Francolin**, **White-headed Vulture**, **Yellow-bellied Eremomela**, **Piping Cisticola** and **African Firefinch**. We had a nice walk around the Pretoriuskop rest camp and managed to add a few new birds for the trip list, like **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird**, **Red-headed Weaver** and **Pearl-spotted Owlet**. The latter which came into our calls and was subsequently mobbed by a whole bunch of other birds. We also improved on our photos of **Purple-crested Turaco** and **Golden-tailed Woodpecker**. After our last lunch in the park, we set off for the nearby Numbi gate and drove out into the human-inhabited sprawl outside. I put Nelspruit Airport into the gps, but instead of the Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport, Google took us to the tiny Nelspruit airfield. Luckily, we had plenty of extra time to enjoy our cappuccinos in the airport before our short flight back to Johannesburg, where we spent the night.

16th September – Johannesburg to Wakkerstroom



We decided to dispense with a sit-down breakfast and pick up some muffins at a gas station so we had more birding time. That's the way this group rolls. We kicked off just outside Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve trying to keep our dream of a bustard clean sweep alive, and sure enough, I found a **White-quilled Bustard** calling on a distant hillside. Seven down, 3 to go. We also saw a flock of **South African Swallows**, lots of **Long-billed Widowbirds**, some of which were already in full breeding plumage, a **Marsh Owl** popped out and flew around a bit posing for photos, which was a wonderful surprise, and we even heard some **Orange River Francolins** calling on a distant hillside. Next stop was the Marievale Bird Reserve, where we added a number of species straight away, including **Blue-billed Teal**, **Ruff**, **Little Stint**, **Wood Sandpiper**, **Three-banded Plover** and **Pied Avocet**, a soaring **African Harrier-Hawk** and our first **Black-chested Prinia**. We drove on to the Hadada Hide which was pretty dry but did have a pair of **Spotted Thick-knees** under a tree just outside. We hit another few hides and had some good birding, with **African Swamphen**, **Black Crake**, **African Rail**, **Fan-tailed Widowbird** and **Goliath Heron**. We drove on to the Devon grasslands looking for Blue Bustard, but despite our efforts, we couldn't find them anywhere. After a quick lunch in Standerton, we drove on to Wakkerstroom and on the way found **Southern Bald Ibis** which was another big target. We dropped our bags at the hotel and went straight out birding. We stopped at my stake out for **Rufous-necked Wryneck** which came up trumps again, then up the valley to the quarry and road towards Paulpietersberg, where we had nesting **African Pied Starlings**, 2 **Blue Cranes** flying by and landing on a distant hilltop where we were able to scope them, **Eastern Long-billed Lark** and **Nicholson's Pipit**. We stopped on the way back down and I pulled out some very attractive **Buff-streaked Chats**, and the not quite so attractive **Drakensberg Prinia**. To finish off the day, we drove down to the vlei where we saw **Purple Heron** and heard **Red-chested Flufftail** before calling it a day.

17th September – Wakkerstroom



Wakkerstroom has several localized species and we chose to use the services of a knowledgeable local guide called David. He came to meet us outside our hotel nice and early and we got on the road, heading south towards the hamlet of Groenvlei. Our first birds of the day were a pair of **Gray Crowned Cranes** in a stubble field and a **Secretarybird** up in a tree, very close to the road. Turning off the road up to a hilltop, David spotted a pair of **White-bellied Bustards** on a distant ridgetop bringing our tally to 8 bustards. We spent a long time looking for our targets and ended up finding the rare and localized **Yellow-breasted Pipit** and **Rudd's Lark**, plus bonus **Wing-snapping Cisticola** and **African Marsh Harrier**. On the drive back towards Wakkerstroom we also picked up a pair of **Blue Cranes**. We drove by the Zaaihoek Dam and found **Sentinal Rock-Thrush** and **African Yellow Warbler** plus a **Southern Bald Ibis** nesting on the dam wall. There were no **African Black Ducks** by the bridge so we turned down a side road where we found a pair which quickly flushed giving us good flight views. We swung by town picking up some food for lunch at the bakery, before heading north along the Amersfoort road. David made another great spot, with a distant pair of **Blue Bustards**; our 9th member of the family. Just 1 more for the complete set. We drove to the small town of Daggaskraal, home of the **Botha's Lark**. This is an incredibly rare bird which hadn't been seen recently, but David pulled one out within 10 minutes. It was very confiding and posed nicely for photos. On the drive back we found an additional 3 **Blue Bustards** very close to the road. Our next target was the rare **Pink-billed Lark**, and yet again, we found them easily along with a flock of **Yellow-crowned Bishops**, 3 **Quailfinch** and a flushed **Common Quail**. The drive back produced a pair of **Black-winged Lapwings**. We stopped in at the wetland reserve where we found **African Snipe** and **Squacco Heron** and driving through town we saw a **Lanner Falcon** hunting a baby chicken. Finally, we drove back to Zaaihoek Dam, picking up another pair of **African Black Ducks**, plus **Pied Kingfisher**, **African Spoonbill** and **Hamerkop** on the way. We stopped again at the bridge, this time picking up our target **Half-collared Kingfisher**, plus a pair of **Horus Swifts**, **Rock-loving Cisticola** and a beautiful **Malachite Sunbird**. What an amazing day and an amazing local guide.

18th September – Wakkerstroom to Mkuze Game Reserve



We have seen a LOT of birds on this trip, but one rather embarrassing miss was **Malachite Kingfisher**. To remedy this situation, we swung by the wetland reserve and with a sigh of relief, found a nice pair by the bridge. We started driving east and stopped by a small patch of woodland where we saw **Wahlberg's Honeyguide**, **Greater Double-collared Sunbird**, **Bar-throated Apalis**, **Drakensberg Prinia** and **Olive Bushshrike**. After eating some of our breakfast and giving the rest to a local family, we drove further on, turning onto a side road near the town of Dirkiesdorp. Here I was looking for our last bustard, **Black-bellied Bustard**. GPS points are wonderful things, and we found a beautiful male in the same spot I had seen it years previously. As a bonus, we also flushed 3 **White-bellied Bustards** which we got some photos of, plus a **Rufous-naped Lark** singing from on top of a distant termite mound. We arrived at Mkuze Game Reserve earlier than planned and drove to Mantuma Camp spotting **Purple-banded Sunbird** on the way. We checked in to the rooms and put the supplies in the fridge before heading out for some birding, We drove to Kumasinga Hide spotting a flock of **White Helmetshrikes** and our first **Little Bee-eaters** on the way. The hide was very active, with lots of **Baboons**, **Nyala** and **Giraffes** coming to drink. We also saw lots of **Emerald-spotted Doves**, **Yellow-throated Bush-Sparrow**, plus **Red-billed & Jameson's Firefinches**. We birded the small, fenced area where we added our first **Rudd's Apalis**, **Pink-throated Twinspot** and a fly over **Crowned Hornbill**. We were back in camp early to prepare an early dinner ahead of our 3-hour night drive at 6pm. Compared to our drives at Karoo and Kruger, it was a lot more successful. For birds, we had **Fiery-necked Nightjar**, **Barn Owl**, we heard an **African Scops Owl** and had great views of a **Southern White-faced Owl**. We also saw many **Spotted Thick-knees** and a pair of sleeping **Gabar Goshawks**. We had good mammals too with an awesome **Leopard**, a couple of **White-tailed Mongooses**, **Genet**, lots of **Scrub Hares** (including one that ran ahead of the car for about a kilometer), **Common Duiker** and the tiny **Suni**. What a great day!



Southern White-faced Owl on a night drive from Mkuze Game Reserve.

19th September – Mkuze Game Reserve



We started our full day of birding in Mkuze with a birding breakfast, joined by confiding **Crested Guineafowl**. Afterwards, we took a walk around Mantuma Camp which was very productive and we saw **Red-fronted Tinkerbird**, **Golden-tailed Woodpecker**, **Black Cuckooshrike**, **Common Squire-tailed Drongo**, **Southern Black-Tit**, **Collared Sunbird** and **Forest Weaver**. We started the big loop drive and had a few interesting sightings along the way, with a flock of **Black-bellied Starlings** at a Weeping Boerbean tree, lots of **White-backed Vultures** soaring and a **Grosbeak Weaver**. There were several places at Ensumo Pan, a couple of bird hides and a picnic site. The water level was very high, but we saw a few nice things, including **African Darter**, **African Jacana**, **African Spoonbills**, a pair of **White-eared Barbets** and glimpsed a **Four-colored Bushshrike**, which was super skulky. Afterward we took a drive through savanna and picked up a few nice birds, like **Bennett's Woodpecker**, **Striped Kingfisher**, **Burnt-neck Eremomela**, **Sabota Lark** and **Yellow-throated Longclaw**. We had lunch back at the camp and then a rest. One participant got locked out of her place and one the way back to office had our first **Pale Flycatcher**. In the afternoon, we went back to Kumasinga Hide and had great views of **Purple-banded & Neergard's Sunbird**. We also got much better views of **Pink-throated Twinspot** after following them around the sandy trails for a bit. We drove to other hides but didn't pick up much other than a **Purple-crested Turaco**. We made our own dinner as the little restaurant isn't open at night and we heard a **Senegal Lapwing** flying over as we ate and some **Fiery-necked Nightjars** calling nearby.

20th September – Mkuze to St Lucia & Eshowe



It was the game ranger's day off yesterday, so the only option was to leave the guided walk in the Fig Forest for this morning. We agreed to meet him at the start of the trail and we drove in our own vehicle so we could get straight off afterwards. It was going to be a busy day as we had a lot to fit in. We had a few birds on the drive there, including **White-browed Coucal**, **African Hoopoe** and **Klaas's Cuckoo**. After the rendezvous with our armed ranger, Patrick, we followed him along the trail, over a couple of bridges and into the tall fig forest. It was very beautiful and unlike any habitat we had seen up until this point. We saw a number of interesting species, like **Trumpeter Hornbill**, **White-eared Barbet**, **Green Malkoha**, **Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird**, **Golden-tailed Woodpecker**, plus **Olive** and **Mouse-colored Sunbirds**. When we got back to the vehicle, we thanked Patrick and set off for the town of St Lucia. On the way out we stopped at a large lake, called Muzi Pan and picked up yet more birds, with **White-faced Whistling-Duck**, **Knob-billed Duck**, **Yellow-billed Stork** and **Pink-backed Pelican**. We made it to St Lucia and had a quick stop at the bridge where we picked up **African Golden & Southern Brown-throated Weavers**. After a nice healthy lunch, we drove up into the Eastern Shores section of the isiMangaliso wetland reserve. We had just enough time to visit the Mission Rocks area where I tracked down some tricky coastal forest specials, including **Livingstone's Turaco**, **Brown Scrub-Robin** and **Woodward's Batis**. On the way out of the reserve we also got a few nice grassland birds like **Croaking Cisticola**, **Rufous-chested Swallow**, **Striped Kingfisher** and a lucky **Fasciated Snake-Eagle** in flight. We had another 2-hour drive to the town of Eshowe, and we arrived at our lodge just in time for dinner and yet another scheduled power outage.

21st September – Ongoye Forest & Umlalazi Reserve



The weather wasn't too good today. Gray clouds and a bit drizzly. After breakfast we set off for Ongoye Forest about a 40-minute drive away. The part we visit is along a ridge and a bit exposed and sure enough, things were a bit quiet to begin with. We finally found a bit of flocking activity with **Common Square-tailed Drongo**, **Forest Weaver** and our target **Yellow-streaked Greenbul** which was new for the trip. We had a few other common forest species like **Olive Sunbird**, **Olive Woodpecker**, and **Purple-crested Turaco**, but only heard our main target, the **Green Barbet**. In the whole of Southern Africa, it is only found in this one forest. I left the clients to scan over the forest while I went to bring the car over, and while I was away, they saw both **Green Barbet** and **Long-crested Eagle**. We also added a couple of new mammals, with a race of **Red Bush Squirrel** endemic to this forest and several **Samango Monkeys**. We flushed a pair of **Plain-backed Pipits** which were also new for the trip before we decided to head down to the lovely town of Mtunzini for lunch. The last few days have been plagued by powercuts and the power was off again. The café we were in made us what they could before we set off down into the Umlalazi reserve. The beach was deserted of both people and birds, but we finally caught up with a few things on the other side of the lagoon. We finally got eyes on our previous target **Rufous-winged Cisticola**, plus **Wooly-necked Stork**, **Giant Kingfisher**, **Goliath Heron**, and a pair of **African Black Ducks** flying by. Our big target though was **Mangrove Kingfisher** which we had failed to see along the mangrove boardwalk but managed to pick up at another stakeout I knew about. We thought we might get some more birding around Eshowe but we were held up by a jack-knifed truck. We called it a day but after dinner called in a beautiful **African Wood-Owl**.

22nd September – Dlinza Forest & Karkloof to Underberg



Our last birding in this area was at the Dlinza Forest Aerial Boardwalk just a few minutes from our B&B. It opened at 6am so we decided to go before breakfast. The forest interior was still a bit dark so we started our birding up on the very sturdy canopy platform. Our main target here was the rare **Delegorgue's Pigeon**. The bad weather had passed, it was a beautiful sunny day and the birds were very active. We saw many nice species, including **Black Goshawk, White-eared Barbet, Gray Cuckooshrike, Olive Sunbird** and **Rameron Pigeon** before we finally got a nice flyby of our target. We went down inside the forest and walked very slowly and quietly, watching and listening for our other big target, the endangered endemic **Spotted Ground-Thrush**. We looked and looked but couldn't find it. We turned around and started walking towards the exit when one finally flew in. It was incredible how it melted into the forest, and one could only see it when it was moving. It was pretty confident and even hopped across the trail in front of us. Our 2 main targets in the bag, we were just about to head back for breakfast when the receptionist recommended that we go and check out the bird hide. We went along there and as soon as we sat down, all the birds took off and vanished. We waited about 5 minutes for them though and they started coming back in. First the **Bronze**, then the **Red-backed Mannikins**, and finally half a dozen very pretty **Lemon Doves**. After a nice breakfast, we set off toward our final site of the tour. It was about 2 and a half hours to our lunch spot where we bought supplies at our favorite supermarket. Back on the road we drove up to the Karkloof area looking for **Wattled Cranes** but only succeeded in finding a pair of **Gray Crowned Cranes** and a rather splendid **Long-crested Eagle**. We hit the road, stopping at a small lake where we had a bit of *de ja vu* with another pair of **Gray Crowned Cranes** and a **Long-crested Eagle**. We checked in and had an early night ahead of tomorrow.

23rd September – Sani Pass



Today was our last full day's birding of the tour and it was going to be a special one, a trip up the Sani Pass and into the mountain kingdom of Lesotho. Our local guide, Stewart, came to pick us up nice and early and we got straight off birding. I had furnished him with a list of targets, and we got stuck straight into them. We soon spotted a large bird in a field that turned out to be the huge **Denham's Bustard**, plus a pair of **Gray Crowned Cranes** and a **Long-crested Eagle** nearby. Next, he showed us **Red-winged Francolin** which we had missed earlier in the trip. We checked out another site at the base of the Sani Pass road where we saw **Black Sawwing**, **Cape Rock Thrush** and several **Olive Thrushes**. We got out at a few spots to scan and picked up **Malachite Sunbird**, **Rufous-necked Wryneck** and best of all, great flight views of a **Bearded Vulture**. One of the participants was especially keen to photograph new bird families and one of her biggest targets was **Gurney's Sugarbird**. It seemed that few Proteas were in flower which made it difficult, but I finally spotted one and we got great views. After picking up some **Swee Waxbills** at the South African border post, and stamping out, we started up the 8km of pretty bad dirt road up to the Lesotho border post. In this no-mans-land we added more great birds, with **Greater Honeyguide**, **Drakensberg Rockjumper**, **Cape Griffon**, and finally at the very top, **Drakensberg Siskin**. We stamped into the Kingdom of Lesotho, looked at a few **Sloggett's Ice Rats**, used the bathrooms at the highest pub in Africa, then continued on to lunch. On the way, Stewart spotted a distant **African Wild Cat** which we were rather impressed with. Over a nice picnic lunch, we also enjoyed watching our first **Ground Woodpeckers** of the trip. On the way down, we added the endemic **Gray Tit**, **Sentinel Rock Thrush** and **Southern Bald Ibis**. Stewart drove amazingly and got us down the rather hair-raising road. With some extra time on our hands, we went in search of **Wattled Crane**, which we were soon looking at through a scope. What an incredible day it had been.

24th September – Marutswa Forest to Durban

It was our last day of the trip and we had time for just a little more birding. Our last chance for some new birds in this area was in the forest and we went to the Marutswa Forest Reserve. We had tried hard for the **Bush Blackcap** along the bottom of the Sani Pass road yesterday with no success. After we arrived at the edge of the forest, I started trying again for it. Hope springs eternal and sure enough a bird started replying nearby. It flew overhead a couple of times but refused to land in sight, but finally we got a view of this tricky bird. We moved into the forest and soon had another target singing, the **White-starred Robin**. This also put up a struggle, but played ball in the end and perched briefly. There were a few other nice birds including **Knysna Turaco**, but we didn't have a peep from our main target, the **Orange Ground-Thrush**. I left the clients watching the robins and I walked quickly along the trail, giving the birds one last look. It worked and I found a thrush right next to the trail. Once I had gathered the group, I took them all to the spot and I was very relieved to find the bird just where I had left it 10 minutes before. Cape Parrot was nowhere to be seen, but we were delighted with our 3 other tricky targets, and we called it a day. It was another 3 hours back to Durban, and after a nice lunch in umHlanga, we drove to King Shaka International Airport where we finished a monumental tour. Several thousand kilometers, several dozen red cappuccinos, 467 bird species and over 65 mammals made a very enjoyable and successful tour.

BIRD OF THE TRIP

- 1 - BOTHA'S LARK
- 2 - NEERGARD'S SUNBIRD
- 3 - DRAKENSBERG ROCKJUMPER
- 4 - SECRETARYBIRD
- 5 - BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS

MAMMAL OF THE TRIP

- 1 - CHEETAH
- 2 - LEOPARD
- 3 - WHITE RHINO

BIRD LIST

View the [eBird trip report here, with photos & locations:](https://ebird.org/tripreport/73877)

<https://ebird.org/tripreport/73877>

Ostriches (Struthionidae)

Common Ostrich *Struthio camelus*

Ducks, Geese and Waterfowl (Anatidae)

White-faced Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>	
White-backed Duck	<i>Thalassornis leuconotus</i>	
Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	
South African Shelduck	<i>Tadorna cana</i>	Endemic
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>	
Blue-billed Teal	<i>Spatula hottentota</i>	
Cape Shoveler	<i>Spatula smithii</i>	Near endemic
African Black Duck	<i>Anas sparsa</i>	
Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>	
Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>	
Red-billed Duck	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>	
Southern Pochard	<i>Netta erythrophthalma</i>	
Maccoa Duck	<i>Oxyura maccoa</i>	Vulnerable

Guineafowl (Numididae)

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*
 Crested Guneafowl *Guttera pucherani*

Pheasants, Grouse and Allies (Phasianidae)

Crested Francolin	<i>Ortygornis sephaena</i>	
Coqui Francolin	<i>Campocolinus coqui</i>	
Red-winged Francolin	<i>Scleroptila levaillantii</i>	
Gray-winged Francolin	<i>Scleroptila afra</i>	Endemic
Orange River Francolin	<i>Scleroptila gutturalis</i>	
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	
Cape Francolin	<i>Pternistis capensis</i>	Endemic
Natal Francolin	<i>Pternistis natalensis</i>	Near endemic
Swainson's Francolin	<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>	
Red-necked Francolin	<i>Pternistis afer</i>	

Flamingos (Phoenicopteridae)

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopus roseus*
 Lesser Flamingo *Phoenicopus minor* **Near-threatened**

Grebes (Podicipedidae)

Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Eared Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>

Pigeons and Doves (Columbidae)

Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Introduced
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	
Rameron Pigeon	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>	
Delegorgue's Pigeon	<i>Columba delegorguei</i>	
Lemon Dove	<i>Columba larvata</i>	
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	
Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	
Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	
Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>	
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>	
African Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>	

Bustards (Otididae)

Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>	Near-threatened
Ludwig's Bustard	<i>Neotis ludwigii</i>	Near endemic Endangered
Denham's Bustard	<i>Neotis denhami</i>	Endemic if split. Near-threatened
White-bellied (Barrow's) Bustard	<i>Eupodotis senegalensis</i> (barrowii)	Endemic if split
Blue Bustard	<i>Eupodotis caerulescens</i>	Endemic Near-threatened
Karoo Bustard	<i>Eupodotis vigorsii</i>	Endemic
Red-crested Bustard	<i>Eupodotis ruficrista</i>	Near endemic
Black Bustard	<i>Eupodotis afra</i>	Endemic Vulnerable
White-quilled Bustard	<i>Eupodotis afroaoides</i>	Endemic
Black-bellied Bustard	<i>Lissotis melanogaster</i>	

Turacos (Musophagidae)

Livingstone's Turaco	<i>Tauraco livingstonii</i>	
Knysna Turaco	<i>Tauraco corythaix</i>	Endemic
Purple-crested Turaco	<i>Tauraco porphyreolophus</i>	
Gray Go-away-bird	<i>Corythaixoides concolor</i>	

Cuckoos (Cuculidae)

White-browed (Burchell's) Coucal	<i>Centropus superciliosus burchelli</i>	Endemic if split
Green Malkoha	<i>Ceuthmochares australis</i>	
Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>	
African Emerald Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx cupreus</i>	

Nightjars and Allies (Caprimulgidae)

Fiery-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus pectoralis</i>
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Square-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus fossii* Heard only

Swifts (Apodidae)

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*
 African Swift *Apus barbatus*
 Little Swift *Apus affinis*
 Horus Swift *Apus horus*
 White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer*
 African Palm-Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*

Flufftails (Sarothruridae)

Red-chested Flufftail *Sarothrura rufa* Heard only

Rails, Gallinules and Coots (Rallidae)

African Rail *Rallus caerulescens*
 Eurasian Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
 Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata*
 African Swamphen *Porphyrio madagascariensis*
 Black Crane *Zapornia flavirostra*

Cranes (Gruidae)

Gray Crowned-Crane *Balearica regulorum* **Endangered**
 Blue Crane *Anthropoides paradiseus* **Endemic Vulnerable**
 Wattled Crane *Bugeranus carunculatus* **Vulnerable**

Thick-knees (Burhinidae)

Water Thick-knee *Burhinus vermiculatus*
 Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis*

Stilts and Avocets (Recurvirostridae)

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
 Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Oystercatchers (Haematopodidae)

African Oystercatcher *Haematopus moquini* **Near endemic Near-threatened**

Plovers and Lapwings (Charadriidae)

Blacksmith Lapwing *Vanellus armatus*
 White-headed) Lapwing *Vanellus albiceps*
 Senegal Lapwing *Vanellus lugubris*
 Black-winged Lapwing *Vanellus melanopterus*
 Crowned Lapwing *Vanellus coronatus*
 Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus*

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius*
 Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*
 Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris*
 White-fronted Plover *Charadrius marginatus*

Jacanas (Jacanidae)

African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus*

**Sandpipers and Allies
(Scolopacidae)**

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*
 Ruff *Calidris pugnax*
 Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* **Near-threatened**
 Little Stint *Calidris minuta*
 African Snipe *Gallinago nigripennis*
 Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
 Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
 Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*
 Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Buttonquail (Turnicidae)

Fynbos Buttonquail *Turnix hottentottus* **Endemic Endangered**

Practincoles and Coursers (Glareolidae)

Double-banded Courser *Smutsornis africanus*
 Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*

Skuas and Jaegers (Stercorariidae)

Brown Skua *Stercorarius antarcticus*

Gulls, Terns and Skimmers (Laridae)

Gray-hooded Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*
 Hartlaub's Gull *Chroicocephalus hartlaubii* **Endemic**
 Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*
 Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*
 Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*
 Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*
 Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*
 Antarctic Tern *Sterna vittata*
 Great Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*
 Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

Penguins (Spheniscidae)

African Penguin *Spheniscus demersus* **Endemic Endangered**

Albatrosses (Diomedidae)

Yellow-nosed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche chlororhynchos</i>	Endangered
White-capped Albatross	<i>Thalassarche cauta</i>	Near-threatened
Black-browed Albatross	<i>Thalassarche melanophris</i>	

Shearwaters and Petrels (Procellariidae)

Giant-Petrel sp	<i>Macronectes sp</i>	
Great-winged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma macroptera</i>	Seen by 1 participant
Soft-plumaged Petrel	<i>Pterodroma mollis</i>	Seen by 1 participant
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	Vulnerable
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>	Near-threatened

Storks (Ciconiidae)

African Openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>	
Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	Near-threatened
Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>	
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>	

Boobies and Gannets (Sulidae)

Cape Gannet	<i>Morus capensis</i>	Breeding endemic Endangered
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Aningas (Anhingidae)

African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>	
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Cormorants and Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)

Long-tailed Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>	
Crowned Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax coronatus</i>	Endemic Near-threatened
Bank Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax neglectus</i>	Endemic Endangered
Cape Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>	Near endemic Endangered
Great (White-breasted) Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo (lucidus)</i>	

Pelicans (Pelecanidae)

Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	
Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>	

Hamerkop (Scopidae)

Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	
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Hérons, Egrets and Bitterns (Ardeidae)

Gray Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>	
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>	
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	
Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>	

Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>

Ibises and Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)

Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	
Southern Bald Ibis	<i>Geronticus calvus</i>	Endemic Vulnerable
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>	

Secretarybird (Sagittariidae)

Secretarybird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>	Endangered
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Osprey (Pandionidae)

Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	
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Hawks, Eagles and Kites (Accipitridae)

Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>	
Bearded Vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>	Near-threatened
White-headed Vulture	<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>	Critically endangered
Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>	Critically endangered
White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>	Critically endangered
Cape Griffon	<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>	Endemic Endangered
Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>	Endangered
Brown Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>	
Fasciated Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus fasciolatus</i>	Near-threatened
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>	
Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraetus wahlbergi</i>	
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>	
Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>	Vulnerable
Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>	
Pale Chanting-Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>	Near endemic
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>	
African Marsh-Harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>	
Black Harrier	<i>Circus maurus</i>	Endemic Endangered
African Goshawk	<i>Accipiter tachiro</i>	
Little Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter minullus</i>	
Black Goshawk	<i>Accipiter melanoleucus</i>	
Black (Yellow-billed) Kite	<i>Milvus migrans (parasitus)</i>	
African Fish-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>	
Forest Buzzard	<i>Buteo trizonatus</i>	Endemic Near-threatened
Jackal Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>	Endemic

Barn-Owls (Tytonidae)

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Owls (Strigidae)

African Scops-Owl *Otus senegalensis* Heard only
 Southern White-faced Owl *Ptilopsis granti*
 Spotted Eagle-Owl *Bubo africanus*
 Verreaux's Eagle-Owl *Bubo lacteus*
 Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum*
 African Wood-Owl *Strix woodfordii*
 Marsh Owl *Asio capensis*

Mousebirds (Coliidae)

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus*
 White-backed Mousebird *Colius colius* **Endemic**
 Red-faced Mousebird *Urocolius indicus*

Trogons (Trogonidae)

Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina*

Hoopoes (Upupidae)

Eurasian (African) Hoopoe *Upupa epops (africana)*

Woodhoopoes and Scimitarbills (Phoeniculidae)

Green Woodhoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus*
 Common Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*

Hornbills (Bucerotidae)

Crowned Hornbill *Lophoceros alboterminatus*
 African Gray Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus*
 Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill *Tockus leucomelas* **Near endemic**
 Southern Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus rufirostris*
 Trumpeter Hornbill *Bycanistes bucinator*

Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)

Half-collared Kingfisher *Alcedo semitorquata*
 Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus*
 Mangrove Kingfisher *Halcyon senegaloides*
 Brown-hooded Kingfisher *Halcyon albiventris*
 Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti*
 Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima*
 Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

Bee-eaters (Meropidae)

White-fronted Bee-eater *Merops bullockoides*

Little Bee-eater

Merops pusillus

Rollers (Coraciidae)

Lilac-breasted Roller

Coracias caudatus

Rufous-crowned Roller

Coracias naevius

African Barbets (Lybiidae)

Crested Barbet

Trachyphonus vaillantii

White-eared Barbet

Stactolaema leucotis

Green Barbet

Stactolaema olivacea

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus bilineatus

Red-fronted Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus pusillus

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus chrysoconus

Pied Barbet

Tricholaema leucomelas

Near endemic

Black-collared Barbet

Lybius torquatus

Honeyguides (Indicatoridae)

Wahlberg's Honeyguide

Prodotiscus regulus

Lesser Honeyguide

Indicator minor

Scaly-throated Honeyguide

Indicator variegatus

Greater Honeyguide

Indicator indicator

Woodpeckers (Picidae)

Rufous-necked Wryneck

Jynx ruficollis

Cardinal Woodpecker

Chloropicus fuscescens

Olive Woodpecker

Chloropicus griseocephalus

Ground Woodpecker

Geocolaptes olivaceus

Endemic Near-threatened

Bennett's Woodpecker

Campethera bennettii

Knysna Woodpecker

Campethera notata

Endemic Near-threatened

Golden-tailed Woodpecker

Campethera abingoni

Falcons (Falconidae)

Rock Kestrel

Falco rupicolus

Greater Kestrel

Falco rupicoloides

Lanner Falcon

Falco biarmicus

African Parrots (Psittacidae)

Brown-headed Parrot

Poicephalus cryptoxanthus

Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae)

Gray Cuckooshrike

Coracina caesia

Black Cuckooshrike

Campephaga flava

Old World Orioles (Oriolidae)

African Black-headed Oriole

Oriolus larvatus

Wattle-eyes and Batises (Platysteiridae)

Cape Batis	<i>Batis capensis</i>	Endemic
Woodward's Batis	<i>Batis fratrum</i>	
Chinspot Batis	<i>Batis molitor</i>	
Pirit Batis	<i>Batis pririt</i>	Near endemic

Vangas, Helmetshrikes and Allies (Vangidae)

White Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>	
Retz's Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops retzii</i>	

Bushshrikes and Allies (Malaconotidae)

Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>	
Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>	
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>	
Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>	
Southern Boubou	<i>Laniarius ferrugineus</i>	Endemic
Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>	Endemic
Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike	<i>Telophorus sulfureopectus</i>	
Olive Bushshrike	<i>Telophorus olivaceus</i>	Near endemic
Four-colored Bushshrike	<i>Telophorus viridis</i>	
Gray-headed Bushshrike	<i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i>	

Drongos (Dicuridae)

Common Square-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus ludwigii</i>	
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	

Monarch Flycatchers (Monarchidae)

African Crested-Flycatcher	<i>Trochocercus cyanomelas</i>	
African Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>	

Shrikes (Laniidae)

Magpie Shrike	<i>Lanius melanoleucus</i>	
Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>	
White-crowned Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus anguitimens</i>	Near endemic

Crows, Jays and Magpies (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>	Endemic Near-threatened
Drakensberg Rockjumper	<i>Chaetops aurantius</i>	Endemic Near-threatened

Fairy Flycatchers (Stenostiridae)

Fairy Flycatcher *Stenostira scita* **Endemic**

Tits, Chickadees and Titmice (Paridae)

Southern Black-Tit *Melaniparus niger*
 Gray Tit *Melaniparus afer* **Endemic**

Penduline-Tits (Remizidae)

Southern Penduline-Tit *Anthoscopus minutus* **Near endemic Seen by 1 participant**

Larks (Alaudidae)

Spike-heeled Lark *Chersomanes albofasciata* **Near endemic**
 Karoo Long-billed Lark *Certhilauda subcoronata* **Endemic**
 Eastern Long-billed Lark *Certhilauda semitorquata* **Endemic**
 Agulhas Lark *Certhilauda brevirostris* **Endemic**
 Black-eared Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix australis* **Endemic**
 Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix leucotis*
 Gray-backed Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix verticalis* **Near endemic**
 Sabota Lark *Calendulauda sabota* **Near endemic**
 Karoo Lark *Calendulauda albescens* **Endemic**
 Rudd's Lark *Heteromiraфра ruddi* **Endemic Endangered**
 Cape Clapper Lark *Miraфра apiata* **Endemic**
 Rufous-naped Lark *Miraфра africana*
 Red-capped Lark *Calandrella cinerea*
 Pink-billed Lark *Spizocorys conirostris* **Near endemic**
 Botha's Lark *Spizocorys fringillaris* **Endemic Endangered**
 Large-billed Lark *Galerida magnirostris* **Endemic**

African Warblers (Macrosphenidae)

Cape Crombec *Sylvietta rufescens*
 Cape Grassbird *Sphenoeacus afer* **Endemic**
 Victorin's Warbler *Cryptillas victorini* **Endemic**

Cisticolas and Allies (Cisticolidae)

Yellow-bellied Eremomela *Eremomela icteropygialis*
 Yellow-rumped Eremomela *Eremomela gregalis* **Endemic**
 Burnt-neck Eremomela *Eremomela usticollis*
 Namaqua Warbler *Prinia substriata* **Endemic**
 Green-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brachyura*
 Bar-throated Apalis *Apalis thoracica*
 Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida*
 Rudd's Apalis *Apalis ruddi* **Near endemic**
 Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*
 Black-chested Prinia *Prinia flavicans*

Karoo Prinia	<i>Prinia maculosa</i>	Endemic
Drakensberg Prinia	<i>Prinia hypoxantha</i>	Endemic
Kopje Warbler	<i>Euryptila subcinnamomea</i>	Endemic
Rufous-eared Warbler	<i>Malcorus pectoralis</i>	Endemic
Red-faced Cisticola	<i>Cisticola erythrops</i>	
Rock-loving Cisticola	<i>Cisticola abberans</i>	
Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>	
Red-headed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola subruficapilla</i>	Near endemic
Wailing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola lais</i>	
Rufous-winged Cisticola	<i>Cisticola galactotes</i>	Near endemic
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>	
Desert Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aridulus</i>	
Cloud Cisticola	<i>Cisticola textrix</i>	Near endemic
Wing-snapping Cisticola	<i>Cisticola ayresii</i>	

Reed Warblers and Allies (Acrocephalidae)

African Yellow-Warbler	<i>Iduna natalensis</i>	
African Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>	
Lesser Swamp-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>	

Grassbirds and Allies (Locustellidae)

Knysna Warbler	<i>Bradypterus sylvaticus</i>	Endemic Vulnerable
Barratt's Warbler	<i>Bradypterus barratti</i>	Endemic
Little Rush-Warbler	<i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>	

Swallows (Hirundinidae)

Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	
Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>	
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	
White-throated Swallow	<i>Hirundo albigularis</i>	
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	
Pearl-breasted Swallow	<i>Hirundo dimidiata</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>	Breeding endemic
Black Sawwing	<i>Psalidoprocne pristoptera</i>	

Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)

Sombre Greenbul	<i>Andropadus importunus</i>	
Yellow-bellied Greenbul	<i>Chlorocichla flaviventris</i>	
Terrestrial Brownbul	<i>Phyllastrephus terrestris</i>	

Yellow-streaked Greenbul	<i>Phyllastrephus flavostriatus</i>	
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	
Black-fronted Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>	Near endemic
Cape Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus capensis</i>	Endemic
Leaf Warblers (Phylloscopidae)		
Yellow-throated Wood-Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus ruficapilla</i>	
Sylviid Warblers and Allies (Sylviidae)		
Bush Blackcap	<i>Sylvia nigricapillus</i>	Endemic Vulnerable
Layard's Warbler	<i>Curruca layardi</i>	Endemic
Chestnut-vented Warbler	<i>Curruca subcaerulea</i>	Near endemic
White-eyes and Allies (Zosteropidae)		
Cape White-eye	<i>Zosterops virens</i>	Endemic
Laughingthrushes and Allies (Leiothrichidae)		
Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>	
Oxpeckers (Buphagidae)		
Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>	
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>	
Starlings (Sturnidae)		
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Introduced
Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>	
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Introduced
Pale-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus naboroupp</i>	Near endemic
Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>	
Black-bellied Starling	<i>Notopholia corusca</i>	
Burchell's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis australis</i>	Near endemic
African Pied Starling	<i>Lamprotornis bicolor</i>	Endemic
Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>	
Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>	
Thrushes and Allies (Turdidae)		
Spotted Ground-Thrush	<i>Geokichla guttata</i>	Endemic Endangered
Orange Ground-Thrush	<i>Geokichla gurneyi</i>	
Kurrichane Thrush	<i>Turdus libonyana</i>	
Olive Thrush	<i>Turdus olivaceus</i>	
Karoo Thrush	<i>Turdus smithi</i>	Endemic
Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)		

African Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>	
Pale Flycatcher	<i>Agricola pallidus</i>	
Chat Flycatcher	<i>Agricola infuscatus</i>	Near endemic
Gray Tit-Flycatcher	<i>Fraseria plumbea</i>	
Ashy Flycatcher	<i>Fraseria caerulescens</i>	
Fiscal Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis silens</i>	Endemic
Southern Black-Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pammelaina</i>	
Karoo Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas coryphaeus</i>	Endemic
Brown Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas signata</i>	Endemic
Bearded Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas quadrivirgata</i>	
Red-backed Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>	
Cape Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha caffra</i>	
White-throated Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha humeralis</i>	Endemic
White-browed Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha heuglini</i>	
Red-capped Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha natalensis</i>	
Chorister Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha dichroa</i>	Endemic
White-starred Robin	<i>Pogonocichla stellata</i>	
Short-toed Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola brevipes</i>	Near endemic
Sentinel Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola explorator</i>	Endemic Near-threatened
Cape Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola rupestris</i>	Endemic
African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	
Buff-streaked Chat	<i>Campicoloides bifasciatus</i>	Endemic
Sicklewing Chat	<i>Emarginata sinuata</i>	Endemic
Karoo Chat	<i>Emarginata schlegelii</i>	Near endemic
Mocking Cliff-Chat	<i>Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris</i>	
Southern Anteater-Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>	Endemic
Mountain Wheatear	<i>Myrmecocichla monticola</i>	Near endemic
Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>	
Familiar Chat	<i>Cercomela familiaris</i>	
Sugarbirds (Promeropidae)		
Gurney's Sugarbird	<i>Promerops gurneyi</i>	Endemic Near-threatened
Cape Sugarbird	<i>Promerops cafer</i>	Endemic
Sunbirds and Spiderhunters (Nectariniidae)		
Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>	
Orange-breasted Sunbird	<i>Anthobaphes violacea</i>	Endemic
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>	Endemic
Neergaard's Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris neergaardi</i>	Near endemic Near-threatened
Greater Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris afer</i>	Endemic

Mariqua Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>	
Purple-banded Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris bifasciatus</i>	
White-breasted Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris talatala</i>	
Dusky Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris fuscus</i>	Near endemic

Weavers and Allies (Ploceidae)

Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>	
Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>	
Spectacled Weaver	<i>Ploceus ocularis</i>	
Cape Weaver	<i>Ploceus capensis</i>	Endemic
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>	
Forest Weaver	<i>Ploceus bicolor</i>	
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>	
Southern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>	
Yellow-crowned Bishop	<i>Euplectes afer</i>	
Yellow Bishop	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>	
White-winged Widowbird	<i>Euplectes albonotatus</i>	
Fan-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes axillaris</i>	
Long-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes progne</i>	
Grosbeak Weaver	<i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>	

Waxbills and Allies (Estrildidae)

Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>	
Black-and-white Mannikin	<i>Spermestes bicolor</i>	
Swee Waxbill	<i>Coccygia melanotis</i>	Endemic
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>	
Quailfinch	<i>Ortygospiza atricollis</i>	
Red-headed Finch	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>	Near endemic
Southern Cordonbleu	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>	
Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>	
Pink-throated Twinspot	<i>Hypargos margaritatus</i>	Endemic
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>	
African Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rubricata</i>	
Jameson's Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rhodopareia</i>	

Indigobirds (Viduidae)

Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>	
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Old World Sparrows (Passeridae)

House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Introduced
Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>	Near endemic

Southern Gray-headed Sparrow
Yellow-throated Bush Sparrow

Passer diffuses
Gymnoris superciliaris

Wagtails and Pipits (Motacillidae)

Cape Wagtail
African Pied Wagtail
African Pipit
Nicholson's Pipit
Plain-backed Pipit
Yellow-tufted Pipit
Yellow-breasted Pipit
Orange-throated Longclaw
Yellow-throated Longclaw

Motacilla capensis
Motacilla aguimp
Anthus cinnamomeus
Anthus nicholsoni
Anthus leucophrys
Anthus crenatus
Hemimacronyx chloris
Macronyx capensis
Macronyx croceus

Endemic
Near endemic
Endemic Near-threatened Heard only
Endemic Vulnerable
Endemic

Finches and Allies (Fringillidae)

Yellow-fronted Canary
Forest Canary
Black-throated Canary
Brimstone Canary
Yellow Canary
White-throated Canary
Protea Canary
Streaky-headed Seedeater
Cape Siskin
Drakensberg Siskin
Cape Canary
Black-headed Canary

Crithagra mozambica
Crithagra scotops
Crithagra atrogularis
Crithagra sulphurata
Crithagra flaviventris
Crithagra albogularis
Crithagra leucoptera
Crithagra gularis
Crithagra totta
Crithagra symonsi
Serinus canicollis
Serinus alario

Endemic

Near endemic
Near endemic
Endemic Near-threatened

Endemic
Endemic
Endemic
Endemic

Old World Bunting (Emberizidae)

Golden-breasted Bunting
Cape Bunting
Lark-like Bunting

Emberiza flaviventris
Emberiza capensis
Emberiza impetuani

Near endemic
Near endemic

iNaturalist

Please check iNaturalist for photos & locations for the following species

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?d1=2022-09-03&d2=2022-09-24&place_id=any&subview=map&user_id=charleyhesse&verifiable=any

MAMMALS

Old World Monkeys (Cercopithecidae)

Southern Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus ursinus</i>	Near endemic
Vervet Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus aethiops</i>	
Blue (Samango) Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mitis (samango)</i>	

Galagos (Galagidae)

Southern Lesser Galago	<i>Galago moholi</i>	
Thick-tailed Greater Galago	<i>Otolemur crassicaudatus</i>	

Hares and Rabbits (Lagomorpha)

Cape Hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i>	
Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>	Endemic

Squirrels (Sciuridae)

Red Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus palliatus</i>	
Tree Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>	

Porcupines (Hystricidae)

Cape Porcupine	<i>Hystrix africaanaustralis</i>	
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Muridae: Rats & Mice

Four-Striped Grass Mouse	<i>Rhabdomys pumilio</i>	Endemic
Southern African Vlei Rat	<i>Otomys irroratus</i>	Endemic
Sloggett's Vlei Rat	<i>Otomys sloggetti</i>	Endemic
Rat sp		To be identified

Foxes, Jackals and Wild Dogs (Canidae)

Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>	
African Wild Dog	<i>Lycan pictus</i>	Endangered

Mongoose (Herpestidae)

Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>	
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Cape Grey Mongoose	<i>Galerella pulverulenta</i>	Endemic
Common Slender Mongoose	<i>Galerella sanguinea</i>	
White-tailed Mongoose	<i>Ichneumia albicauda</i>	
Common Dwarf Mongoose	<i>Helogale parvula</i>	
Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>	Endemic
Meerkat	<i>Suricata suricatta</i>	Endemic
Genets & Civets (Viverridae)		
Large-spotted Genet	<i>Genetta maculata</i>	
Cape Genet	<i>Genetta tigrine</i>	Endemic
Hyaenas (Hyaenidae)		
Spotted Hyena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>	
Aardwolf	<i>Proteles cristatus</i>	
Cats (Felidae)		
Southern African Wild Cat	<i>Felis lybica cafra</i>	
Cheetah	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>	Vulnerable
Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>	Vulnerable
Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	Vulnerable
Elephants (Elephantidae)		
African Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	Vulnerable
Hyraxes (Procaviidae)		
Rock Dassie	<i>Procavia capensis</i>	
Horses (Equidae)		
Cape Mountain Zebra	<i>Equus z. zebra</i>	Endemic
Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>	Near-threatened
Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae)		
Southern White Rhinoceros	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>	Near-threatened
Pigs and Hogs (Suidae)		
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus aethiopicus</i>	
Hippopotamuses (Hippopotamidae)		
Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	Vulnerable
Giraffes (Giraffidae)		
Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>	Vulnerable
Bovids (Bovidae)		
African Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>	Near-threatened

Common Eland	<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>	
Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>	
Nyala	<i>Tragelaphus angasii</i>	Near endemic
Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	
Gemsbok	<i>Oryx gazella</i>	Endemic
Common Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>	
Sable Antelope	<i>Hippotragus niger</i>	Near endemic
Common Reedbuck	<i>Redunca arundinum</i>	
Mountain Reedbuck	<i>Redunca fulvorufula</i>	Endangered
Grey Rhebok	<i>Pelea capreolus</i>	Endemic Near-threatened
Black Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes gnou</i>	Endemic
Blue Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>	
Red Haartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>	
Bontebok	<i>Damaliscus p. pygargus</i>	Endemic Vulnerable
Blesbok	<i>Damaliscus p. phillipsi</i>	Endemic
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>	
Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>	Endemic
Suni	<i>Neotragus moschatus</i>	Near endemic
Klipspringer	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>	
Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>	
Common Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>	
Natal Red Duiker	<i>Cephalophus natalensis</i>	
Sea Lions (Otariidae)		
Cape Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus p. pusillus</i>	Endemic
Right Whales (Balaenidae)		
Southern Right Whale	<i>Eubalaena australis</i>	
Whales (Balaenopteridae)		
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	
Delphinidae: Dolphins		
Indo-Pacific Bottlenosed Dolphin	<i>Tursiops aduncus</i>	

REPTILES

Crocodiles (Crocodylidae)

Nile Crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus*

Agamas (Agamidae)

Ground Agama *Agama aculeata* **Near endemic**

Southern Rock Agama *Agama atra* **Endemic**

Geckos (Geckonidae)

Bibron's Thick-toed Gecko *Pachydactylus bibronii* **Endemic**

Moreau's Tropical House Gecko *Hemidactylus mabouia*

Cape Dwarf Gecko *Lygodactylus capensis*

Girdled Lizards (Cordylidae)

Black Girdled Lizard *Cordylus niger* **Endemic**

Drakensberg Crag Lizard *Pseudocordylus subviridis* **Endemic**

Skinks (Scincidae)

Cape Skink *Mabuya capensis* **Endemic**

Red-sided Skink *Mabuya homalocephala* **Endemic**

Striped Skink *Mabuya striata*

Tortoises (Testudinidae)

Leopard Tortoise *Geochelone pardalis*

African Side-necked Turtles (Pelomedusidae)

Marsh Terrapin *Pelomedusa subrufa* **Endemic**