



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Eastern South Africa IX

28th November to 11th December 2015 (14 days)

& Cape Extension IX

11th to 16th December 2015 (6 days)



African Broadbill by Gareth Robbins

Trip report by tour leader: Gareth Robbins

Photo Credits: Gareth Robbins and Sami Zeitouni

Saturday was the official start of the tour and everybody was very excited to head out for the first day's birding. Before light we were already on our way and, just after Pretoria, we stopped at a fuel station for those needing their caffeine fix for the morning. Fortunately there was a small dam at the fuel station where we managed to see Palm Swifts, Southern Masked Weavers, House Sparrows and Southern Red Bishops. We then continued towards Zaagkuilsdrift Road. Once arriving at the start of the road we were immediately welcomed by many birds in the fields such as White Storks, Common Buzzards, Amur Falcons, Lesser Kestrels, Abdim's Stork and a Rock Kestrel. We then continued further down the road where we managed to find the Northern Black Korhaan as well as Black-chested Prinias and Desert Cisticola. We deviated a little bit further down the road where we found our first bird party of the tour where we managed to see Diederik Cuckoo, African



Crimson-breasted Shrike by Sami

Paradise Flycatcher, Black-backed Puffback, Brown-crowned Tchagra, Magpie Shrike, Red-backed Shrike, Grey Go-away-bird, Speckled and Red-faced Mousebirds, European Bee-eaters, Red-breasted Swallows, Greater Striped and Lesser Striped Swallows, Tawny-flanked Prinia and a Willow Warbler. We then continued passed the grassy fields that were recently flattened by a huge hail storm which made it easy for us to see the Northern Black Korhaan again. Our next stop was opposite a large dam where we saw a large diversity of water birds such as White-faced Whistling Duck, Spur-winged Goose, Knob-billed Duck, Egyptian Goose, Yellow-billed Duck and Red-billed Teal. We also saw Yellow-billed Stork, African Jacana, White-winged and Whiskered Terns, Western Cattle Egrets, Squacco Heron, Great Egret, Hamerkop, Reed Cormorant, African Fish Eagle and the beautiful Blue-cheeked Bee-eater.

Further down the road offered us some different birding where the vegetation had turned into a dry acacia woodland habitat where we had some great views of the



Amur Falcon by Gareth Robbins

ever popular Crimson-breasted Shrike as well as Marico Flycatcher, Long-billed Crombec, Arrow-marked Babbler, Blue Waxbills and Southern Pied Babbler. One of the best sightings of the day was of an African Pygmy Kingfisher sitting in a small tree and it did not take too much notice of us and we watched the bird for at least ten minutes. We eventually made it out to the village of Kgomo-Kgomo where we found Black-throated Canary and Scaly-feathered Weavers close to the road. We then drove up to the bridge and after the recent rain we were in luck as there was far more water than a month ago, which attracted many shorebirds, such as Black-winged Stilt, Ruff and Wood Sandpiper. We also had a few flybys of White-throated Swallows, Brown-throated Martins and a Sand Martin. One of the guests also managed to spot a few Quailfinches. After lunch we turned around and headed along another dirt road for a couple of Kilometres where we were very lucky in finding Violet-eared Waxbills and a Kalahari Scrub-Robin. We then took a relaxing





European Roller by Gareth Robbins

drive back along the Zaagkuilsdrift Road and we also managed to see Red-billed Firefinches, Green-winged Pytilias and a Pearl-spotted Owlet. We managed to see well over 100 species of birds which was a great start to the tour. Thankfully the weather was on our side and it was much cooler than usual which helped with some very good birding throughout the day.

The following day we decided to enjoy the cooked breakfasts that our guest house had to offer and a few of us did some birding around the garden, specifically focusing on looking for the Red-headed Finches and the Karoo Thrushes. Thankfully we got to see them before breakfast. We then made our way towards Kruger National Park, making a few stops along the way. One of our stops was to view some African Cliff Swallows which were displaying well for us. We went through the town of Nelspruit and had some lunch at a small park in White River where we also could do

some birding. We saw Southern Black Flycatcher and a Brown-hooded Kingfisher and could hear the Purple-crested Turaco calling, but we did not have much luck in finding the bird. As we crossed the bridge after White River we had an amazing view of an African Harrier-Hawk fly right towards the vehicle which turned up and we all managed to see the bird really well. Around 3:30pm we arrived at Open Gate of Kruger National Park and once through, we were welcomed by a large herd of African Buffalo, Giraffe, Blue Wildebeest and Impalas. On the bird side Lilac-breasted Rollers and European Rollers were some of the first Birds we saw. Once we passed through Orpen Camp we saw a good number of Elephant as well as a Black-bellied Bustard. We also managed to see a White Rhinoceros walking along the dry Timbavati River Bed. Once we arrived we met Dirk, our Kruger Guide for the next couple of days, not only this, but we were also greeted by the call of the African Scops Owl. After a bit of searching we managed to see this lovely little owl.

Our first morning was an early morning as high temperatures were expected. We left Satara Rest Camp at precisely 4:30am. Our main target focus was looking for nocturnal animals and some of the more shy animals. One of our first sightings and probably one of the most memorable ones was of a male white rhino trying to mate with a female white rhino. She also had a calf present which can be very dangerous for the calf. The next moment the male rhino charged and pushed the female with his horn and then proceeded to charge towards the young rhino calf. For a large animal they make very strange noises which sounds like a pig squealing.



African Scops Owl by Gareth Robbins





Honey Badger by Sami Zeitouni

We also had some lovely views of Honey Badger too. On the bird side we enjoyed regular views of Lesser Grey-backed and Red-backed Shrike as well as Purple Roller, Burchell's Coucal, White-backed Vultures, Common Ostrich, Lappet-faced Vulture, and Brown Snake Eagle, Lilac-breasted, Purple and European Rollers, Southern Black Tit, Chestnut-backed Sparrowlarks and a Diederik Cuckoo. As we neared Olifants, we stopped on the bridge crossing the Olifants River where we were able to get out and stretch our legs. From the bridge we saw Striated Heron, Woolly-necked Stork, Yellow-billed Kite, Yellow-billed Stork, Wood Sandpiper,

Common Greenshank, a pair of Woodland Kingfishers, Pied Kingfisher, African Fish Eagle and Three-banded Plover. We then stopped at another lookout where we got to see African Openbill, White-crowned Lapwing, African Spoonbill African Jacana and a Collared Pratincole. At Olifants Camp, we stopped for breakfast with a fantastic view overlooking the magnificent and full Olifants River. We were visited by plenty of Red-winged Starlings and the occasional Violet-backed Starling. We also managed to get yet another long distance view of a Collared Pratincole. After breakfast we walked around the camp where we managed to see White-throated Robin-Chat and managed to witness a small bird party which included Chinspot Batis, Common Scimitarbill, Crested Barbet, Black-backed Puffback and a Willow Warbler.

On our way back from Olifants Rest Camp we started to see some more birds of prey such as Tawny Eagle, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Wahlberg's Eagle, Bateleur, African Fish Eagle Little, White-fronted and European Bee-eaters. Overall it was a pretty good day for dove species too as we saw African Mourning Dove, Ring-necked Dove, Emerald-spotted Wood Dove and Namaqua Dove. We also saw four hornbill species: Southern Yellow-billed, African Grey, Southern Red-billed and Ground Hornbills. Once we got back to Satara Camp, we also managed better looks at the African Scops Owl, as well as Green Woodhoope and Greater Blue-eared Starlings. On our afternoon drive we managed to see a Grey-headed Bushshrike, Pearl-spotted Owlet and after a bit of hard work we also saw a Mocking Cliff Chat. We also had a brief look at a female Lion chewing on a Leopard Tortoise as we made our way back to camp. On our night drive we managed to see Fiery-necked Nightjar and a lovely pride of Lions with cubs lying in the road.

Today we left Satara Rest Camp fairly early and made our way in the direction of Skukuza Rest Camp. On our way we saw Red-crested Korhaan, Knob-billed Ducks, Red-necked Spurfowl, Crested



Grey-headed Bushshrike by Gareth Robbins



Francolin, Water Thick-knee, Marabou and Saddle-billed Storks, Jacobin Cuckoo, Red-billed Buffalo Weavers, African Pied Wagtails, Golden-breasted Bunting and Yellow-fronted Canary. Once we arrived at Skukuza Rest Camp we went for a delicious buffet breakfast, and directly after breakfast we were greeted by a lovely close view of a Purple-crested Turaco. We then made our way to the nursery where we saw Collared Sunbirds, a beautiful pair of Broadbill Rollers and a Black Crake. We then headed towards Paul Kruger Gate where we managed to get a long distance view of Leopard in a tree. We then made our way back to Skukuza camp to check in. In the late afternoon we went out for a drive and one of the main highlights was spotting a small pack of Wild Dogs very close to the road.



Grey-winged Francolin by Sami Zeitouni

After three nights and two full days in lovely Kruger National Park, we still had one very important area to cover and that was to do some birding around the Skukuza Camp's grounds. We met at 5am and walked around the camp in a clockwise direction. This walk proved to be very productive having seen Purple-crested Turaco, White-browed Robin-Chat, Bearded Scrub-Robin, African Green Pigeons, Green-backed Camaroptera, Red-chested Cuckoo, Orange-breasted Bushshrike, Cape Robin-Chat, Scarlet-chested Sunbird. We then said good bye to Skukuza and headed towards Malelane Gate. On our way out we had a long distance view of few lions resting in the shade, under a large tree. Once we had exited the magical Kruger National Park, we were in for quite a surprise. As we crossed the bridge just outside the park, we stopped to get out and have a look at some Nile Crocodiles feeding on a dead Hippopotamus in the large river below. In all my time viewing crocodiles I had never seen them as active as this. At the same time we had some good looks at Little Egret, Goliath Heron and a Giant Kingfisher. We then made our way back towards Nelspruit and, as we reached the town, it was 43 degrees centigrade. We left the Lowveld



African Wild Dogs by Gareth Robbins

and headed up towards the Highveld once again and slowly the vegetation began to change. We started to see African Stonechats, Ant-eating Chats, Pied Starlings and many Southern Red Bishops and Long-tailed Widowbirds. We stopped outside Ermelo at a wetland that was very dry but still had good numbers of water birds such as Greater Flamingos, Hottentots, Cape and Red-billed Teals, Yellow-billed Ducks, Cape Shovellers, African Swamphen, Red-knobbed Coot, African Snipe, Marsh Sandpiper,



Common Greenshank, Wood Sandpiper, Common Sandpiper, Little Stints and a Levallant's Cisticola which also grabbed our attention as it called and landed near the group. We then continued our drive to the delightful little town of Wakkerstroom.



Spike-heeled Lark by Gareth Robbins

The next day started a little bit slower than the others due to the large amount of rain we experienced overnight and it was raining when we were meant to leave. I phoned Lucky, our local guide for the day, and we agreed to start a little bit later. However, it still rained and after breakfast we decided to push forward anyway. Our first target was the White-bellied Bustard and, as we approached the designated area, the road conditions worsened as it was very dark red clay. We did try our luck once and decided to turn around after almost getting stuck. So with a bit of speed we raced back along the red clay road trying to keep the tour vehicle in the centre of the road, we finally reached tar. Unfortunately we had no chance of seeing the bustard here. We took a slower drive back managing to see Denham's Bustard and then we headed up another dirt road. Thankfully it was a well-drained road and we managed to get to our next desired destination. After a bit of searching Lucky heard the Yellow-breasted Pipit call and we all immediately managed to see the bird as it was flying in front of us. We were also very lucky to see Eastern Long-billed Lark, Sentinel Rock Thrush and luckily also spotted a White-bellied Bustard not too far off the road. We all managed to get some lovely views of the bird through the spotting scope. We then visited the hotel in the Wakkerstroom to have some coffee and hot chocolate while some people went shopping for curios. Our next plan was to go and look for the Botha's Lark. En route we saw Spike-heeled Larks, Long-tailed Widowbirds, Pallid Harrier, Spotted Thick-knee, Black Harrier and Grey-winged Francolins. It took about forty five minutes to reach the spot and we decided to take a different route as it was still very wet and getting stuck was not an option. We opted to head down a small twin track and reached our desired location. Fortunately luck was on our side and we managed to see the Botha's Larks fairly easily. Our next challenge was to get out, so with some skilled driving the tour vehicle glided gracefully through the slippery twin track onto dry road. Our next target was the Rudd's Lark and we moved fairly quickly to get there as it looked like more rain was coming in. We managed to see Blue Korhaan and Secretarybird along the way which was really great to see. Eventually we arrived at Fickland Pan and once again luck was on our side and we managed some really great views of the Rudd's Lark, as well as Pale-crowned Cisticola and a view of Maccoa Duck in the Pan surrounded by hundreds of



Red-chested Cuckoo by Gareth Robbins



Red-knobbed Coots. Immediately after leaving Fickland Pan we saw a family of Meerkats which everybody enjoyed watching. We then dropped off Lucky and did some birding at the wetlands where we saw African Rail and could hear a Red-chested Flufftail calling in the distance. We then had dinner at a lovely small restaurant where the owners showed us their resident Spotted Eagle Owl chicks.



African Rail by Sami Zeitouni

The weather had improved quite a bit and after the well-deserved rain, Wakkerstroom looked fresh and green. We headed down to the wetlands and we had some good views of Black-crowned Night Heron, Great Egret and a quick look at a Little Bittern that took off, out of the reeds, as we arrived. We then focused on our primary bird and after hearing the call, we all waited patiently and eventually managed to enjoy some great looks at a Red-chested Flufftail. We then re-found the African Rail and we also managed to view African Yellow Warbler. We then drove back to our guest house and had a

delicious breakfast before making our way towards Hluhluwe. Not too far from Wakkerstroom we managed to find Bush-blackcap, Bar-throated Apalis and Drakensberg Prinia and two bald Ibises.

Upon arrival in Hluhluwe we headed straight to False Bay Park where we had further good fortune and enjoyed seeing Neergaard's Sunbird, Purple-banded Sunbird and a Lizard Buzzard. We then went to our next lodge where we would be staying for the next two nights. After the temperature had cooled down, a few of us took a short drive on the property to do our first bit of forest birding for the tour. We were very lucky as we managed to see Four-coloured Bushshrike, Rudd's Apalis, Red-fronted Tinkerbird, Dark-backed Weaver, Sombre and Yellow-bellied Greenbul as well as a Square-tailed Drongo.

With a hot day expected we aimed to leave very early in the morning as we had quite a bit of a drive to get to Mkhuze. Before we left the lodge, we had great views of an Eastern Nicator sitting and calling from a tree above my room. Further along we had some great sightings of Crested Guineafowl, Grey Waxbill, Bronze and Red-backed Manikins. Once we arrived, we had seen the full effects of the drought as there was no ground cover at all. We headed straight for Kumasinga Hide where we had some great viewing of White Rhinos wallowing in the mud, covered in Red-billed Oxpeckers. There was also one Warthog that was completely covered in Red-billed Oxpeckers too. One of the main reasons to visit this hide was to look for the Pink-throated Twinspot. After several failed attempts we decided to have some breakfast. Just before we sat down for breakfast a Golden-tailed Woodpecker called and after a bit of searching everyone managed to enjoy a good sighting of the bird and, at the same time, we



Eastern Nicator by Gareth Robbins

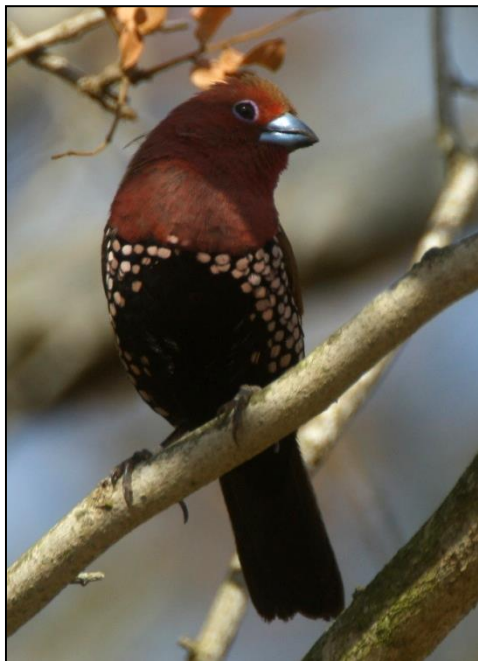


managed to get some good looks at a Yellow-throated Petronia. After breakfast we continued our search for the Twinspots and luckily enough they were making their way towards us. We watched the birds for a while until they moved off into an area we could not access. After all the excitement we took a drive down to Nsumo Pan. Here, we could also see the extent of the drought as we watched a large Elephant Bull make its way along a very long muddy dam until it finally reached some drinkable water. There were also a few Buffalo and Wildebeest carcasses present and apart from the White-backed Vultures we managed to get a great look at a Lappet-faced Vulture through the spotting scope. Other birds in the area included African Openbill, Pied Avocet, Pink-backed and Great White Pelicans, Spur-winged Goose, Little Stint and Curlew Sandpipers. Our next stop was the Kumahlahla Hide, where we had some fantastic views of an African Pygmy Kingfisher which posed beautifully for us all. We also had one brief sightings of a Lesser Masked Weaver. We then had some lunch at the Mantuma Rest Camp and had some lovely sightings of Trumpeter Hornbills and two Broad-billed Rollers. After a successful day we drove back to our lodge and after a short break we went out birding again and whilst enjoying birds that we had already seen before.



African Pygmy Kingfisher by Gareth Robbins

With another exciting day waiting for us, we woke up early and walked around the grounds, where we managed to have a brief look at a Tambourine Dove. We then left our lodge and headed to False Bay Park. Our target bird for the morning was an African Broadbill and after a bit of searching we managed a lovely look at the bird sitting in the fork of a tree. We all watched in amazement as the bird then flew and made its mechanical noise as it displayed for all of us. We also had a brief look at an unoccupied African Paradise Flycatcher nest. We continued along the road and immediately had



Pink-throated Twinspot by Gareth

the next target bird calling, it was a Green Malkoha which we all managed to have some great looks at. We continued to drive around the park enjoying some lovely views of Saddle-billed Stork, Purple-crested Turaco and a Rufous-winged Cisticola. We then left False Bay Park and headed towards St Lucia stopping along the roadside to buy some curios.

When we arrived at St Lucia we stopped at the bridge that crossed the estuary and managed some great views of Southern Brown-throated Weavers. There were also loads of waders such as Curlew Sandpipers, Ruffs and Little Stints all spread over the muddy flats. We then drove to the Angling Club and had a lovely lunch while watching White-fronted Plovers, Caspian Terns and Lesser Masked Weavers. We then checked in at our lovely lodge and everyone managed to have a bit of time to relax and enjoy the lodge. We then headed back along the Igwala-gwala



trail meaning “Purple Crested Turaco” and once again noticed the impact of the drought with the majority of the trees being wilted with very limited birdlife. We eventually found a Fig Tree which was supporting a good diversity of bird life such as Black-bellied Starlings, White-eared Barbets, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbirds and Yellow-bellied Greenbuls. We could also hear Livingstone’s Turacos calling around the forest but we needed to continue walking to get closer to them. We eventually managed to have a good view of one at a small campsite and, at the same time, we managed to see a Brown-scrub Robin and a Red-capped Robin-Chat. After a well-deserved day of excellent birding we had a wonderful dinner at one of the local seafood restaurants. After dinner we took a drive around the town, successfully managing to locate two Thick-tailed Greater Galagos, a few hippos and a beautiful African Wood Owl.



Narina Trogon by Gareth Robbins

and we managed to park the car in time to see the bird perched on top of a Raffia Palm in the distance. We managed to see another Palm-nut Vulture fly past the one we were looking at first. We then drove to Eshowe and visited the Dlinza Forest. Here we managed to see Crowned Eagle, Chorister Robin-Chat, Narina Trogon, Greater Double Collared Sunbird, Grey Cuckooshrike, an Immature Spotted Eagle Owl, Scaly-throated Honeyguide, Cape Batis, Olive Thrush and some amazing views of a Spotted Ground Thrush calling alongside the boardwalk. We also managed to hear the Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeons but were unable to successfully find them. After a successful day in the forest thus far, we made our way back to Mtunzini where we had lunch and managed to find a lovely pair of Black-throated Wattle-eyes. We then drove to Hilton through torrential rainfall and traffic jams but

We started off the day driving down towards the estuary and luckily enough we heard a Woodward’s Batis call on our left. We parked the tour vehicle and managed to enjoy some lovely views of a pair of Woodward’s Batises. We then went back up to the forest where we joined another group walking around the forest, where we all managed to see a lovely male Narina Trogon. We then had a lovely German-style breakfast before heading out to Cape Vidal with our packed lunches. We had a great day managing to successfully locate a Southern Banded Snake Eagle, Green Twinspot and a couple of White Rhinos. That evening we spent some time looking for Swamp Nightjars and we managed to get a single sighting of a nightjar flying over the marshland.

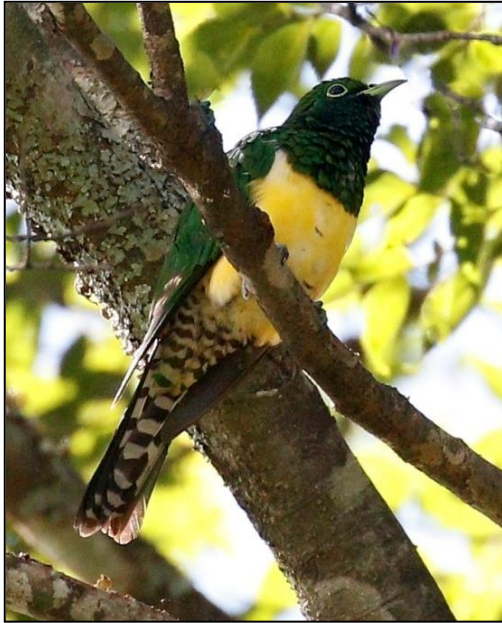
With a very busy schedule awaiting us for the day we left St Lucia before sunrise. Our first main target was the Palm-nut Vulture in Mtunzini. When we arrived we immediately saw one flying to our right



Crowned Eagle by Sami Zeitouni



eventually we made it and had a scrumptious pub dinner in Hilton.



**African Emerald Cuckoo by Sami
Zeitouni**

We had an exciting and busy day again ahead of us so we had another early start. Our first stop was at Howick Falls where we had a beautiful view of a Peregrine Falcon perched along the rock near the waterfall. We then travelled in to the Karkloof area we drove alongside some farms in search of cranes. We managed to see many Grey-crowned Cranes and in the distance we managed to see a pair of Wattled Cranes with their youngster. We then drove towards Benvie Gardens seeing many Southern Red Bishops and Red-collared Widowbirds along the road side. When we arrived, we saw one Orange-ground Thrush and thankfully everyone got onto the bird very quickly as this was the only sighting we had for the rest of the day. We then travelled back into the forest section before the farm where we spent a bit of time looking at African Olive Pigeons, Forest Canaries, Olive Woodpeckers and had a cracking view of a male African Emerald Cuckoo. We then went back into Benvie Gardens where we saw an Amethyst and Greater

Double-collared Sunbird and then proceeded to walk around the property. We managed to see a couple of Olive Thrushes, Dark-backed Weavers, Black-headed Orioles and Village Weavers on our walk through the garden. We then left the Karkloof area seeing a lovely Long-crested Eagle on the telephone pole and headed towards Howick where we picked up some lunch. We then deviated a little bit as we were heading towards Underberg and visited Impendle Nature Reserve where we managed to see Wailing Cisticola and Yellow Bishop en route. When we reached Impendle Nature Reserve we met up with a local guide and he took us to see a few Blue Swallows. We managed to have some lovely views of these vulnerable birds. After this success we drove towards Marutswa Forest where we were fortunate enough to see Forest Canary, Southern Double-collared Sunbirds and had two Cape Parrots fly over us. After yet another successful day we checked into our lovely accommodation for the next two days.

We met our guides, Stuart and Aldo at our accommodation and we left in two 4x4 vehicle which are a necessity in ascending Sani Pass. We stopped at a small wetland where we had some good looks at African Yellow Warbler and African Reed Warbler. We then visited a large dam where we saw White-backed Ducks and a Baillon's Crake which was a real highlight for most of us. We then continued along the road where we saw a female Cape Rock Thrush and a Brown-backed Honeyguide. We then enjoyed some breakfast and had some views of Gurney's Sugarbird, Malachite Sunbird



**Drakensberg Rockjumper by Sami
Zeitouni**





Knysna Turaco by Gareth Robbins

around 3000m we stopped to look for some Bearded Vultures. We managed a view of two Bearded Vultures as they flew over us and disappeared behind the mountain. We then stopped for lunch where we saw a couple of Cape Vultures and a Grey Tit. On our way back we managed to view an African Rock Pipit and at the same time we had a look two Bearded Vultures perched along the rocky edge of a mountain. Our successful day was celebrated at the world's highest pub. On our way down we also had a good look at some African Firefinches.

We had a long day ahead of us and we need to still look for one or two more birds before reaching the airport. At around 6am we arrived at Marutswa Forest and made our way along the forest trail. It did not take us long to find the Knysna Turaco that was probably watching us the whole time but nonetheless we saw the bird and walked back to the tour vehicle. As we left the forest we had a relatively poor sighting of a pair of Southern Double-collared Sunbirds and, as we reached the car, another two Cape Parrots flew overhead. Some people managed to have better views than the previous sighting. We eventually arrived at King Shaka Airport and said goodbye to Anne and Eric as they were not joining us in Cape Town. We were going to miss their great company and awesome spotting skills.

We arrived to a fairly windless day in Cape Town and we drove straight to our accommodation where we would be staying for the next three nights. We were informed earlier on in the day that the pelagic was going to go out on Saturday. We drove to Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve where we managed to have some lovely views of a superb example of a Cape Sugarbird with its long tail sitting on a pincushion. We then headed towards the popular South Western Tip (otherwise known as the Cape of Good Hope) where we saw Cape and White-breasted Cormorants, Greater Crested Terns, Cape Gannets and African Black

and a Long-billed Pipit. We drove on up to the South African Border Post where we saw Ground Woodpecker, African Firefinch, Fan-tailed Grassbird and Cape Grassbird on the way. At the border post we had one good look at a Greater Double-collared Sunbird sitting high up in a tree. We then started to make our way up the pass where we enjoyed some excellent views of Drakensberg Rockjumper, Karoo Prinias Barrat's Warbler and Drakensberg Siskins. Once we entered the Lesotho we were on the search for a few different birds and managed to see Sickle-winged Chat, Fairy Flycatcher, Yellow Canary and the Mountain Pipit. As we made our way to



Cape Sugarbird by Gareth Robbins



Oystercatchers. From here we drove around to another beach where we had some good looks at some more African Black Oystercatchers, Kelp and Hartlaub's Gulls. We then tried our luck to look for some mammals and, as we were leaving the reserve, we spotted a lovely Orange-breasted Sunbird sitting in some Fynbos in the middle of the roundabout.

The following day was the day for the pelagic and we were expecting some rough seas on the trip. While we were waiting for the boat to arrive we had a lovely look at a Crowned Cormorant. Our guide for the pelagic, Alvin, gave us the safety briefing and warned us that it was going to be a very bumpy ride. As we left Simon's Town everybody had high hopes as we saw a couple of Bank Cormorants, Kelp Gulls and Greater Crested Terns. We then passed the area known as the washing machine and we really experienced how rough the ocean can be. We slowly started to see a few different birds such as Sooty Shearwaters, Arctic Terns, Cory's Shearwaters, White-chinned Petrels and eventually we saw our first Shy Albatross. We never managed to find a trawler but we did manage to find a long-liner which attracted a few birds such as Long-tailed Jaeger, Wilson's and European Storm Petrels, Northern and Southern Giant Petrels, Brown Skua, Black-browed and Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatrosses, Great-winged Petrel and a Great Shearwater. After a successful day we headed back to Simon's Town and we walked around Boulders Beach where we managed to enjoy some lovely views of African Penguins.



Shy Albatross by Gareth Robbins

After surviving the pelagic we were up and ready for big day ahead. Our first target bird was the Cape Rockjumper which was about a ninety minute drive from Simon's Town so we took a drive around False Bay to Rooi Els where we were going to look for the Rockjumper. Once we arrived we were greeted by Cape Siskins, Orange-breasted Sunbird, Cape Bulbul, Yellow Bishop, Cape Grassbird,



Black-winged Kite by Gareth Robbins

Cape Bunting and Grey-backed Cisticola. I then heard the Rockjumpers calling and after a few frustrating minutes we all managed to enjoy decent looks at the bird. With time on our side we then drove towards Betty's Bay. We briefly stopped at a place at which I have seen Victorin's Warbler before. Once we left the car we could hear one calling and we proceeded to follow it. It took over half an hour for all of us to see the birds but most managed to see the bird very well. We then drove to Stony Point Penguin Colony and had some wonderful views of African Penguins as well as Cape, White-breasted and Bank Cormorants. From here we proceeded to visit the Harold Porter Botanical Gardens where we searched to the area high and low for birds, some managed to see a Brimstone Canary as well as Orange-breasted Sunbird, Southern Double-collared Sunbird and an African Dusky



Flycatcher. We then decided to visit the Strandfontein Sewage Works where we saw Black-necked Grebe, Cape Shovellers, Southern Pochards, Sandwich Terns and hundreds of Greater Flamingos. We took a shot drive around a few pans and we managed to see some Kittlitz's Plovers which were new for the trip. We then took a scenic drive through the Cape Flats to Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. We walked around the gardens enjoying better views of Southern Double-collared Sunbirds and managing to find a Common Chaffinch whilst listening to Mango Groove doing their sound check for the concert that evening. We decided to leave and we visited a greenbelt close by where we managed to find Sweet and Common Waxbills. We finally decided that it was time to leave and we made our way through Constantia, Tokai and over Ou Kaapse Weg towards Simon's Town.

We stopped to enjoy the breath-taking views that our guesthouse had on offer and had a lovely cooked breakfast before we departed for Ceres. We took a scenic drive past Cape Town and stopped in Table View for some panoramic photos to be taken of Table Mountain and Table Bay. We then pushed onto West Coast National Park seeing many Black-winged Kites, Common Buzzards and Yellow-billed Kites along the way. After entering the park we managed to see White-backed Mousebirds, Karoo Scrub Robins and a Bokmakieirie fly past the tour vehicle but disappeared in the scrub. We then drove to the Geelbek Restaurant where we walked around and then visited the Geelbek hide and saw numerous waders, but unfortunately no new ones. We did manage to see a Pearl-breasted Swallow once, leaving the hide. From here we took a drive up to Seeberg where we were fortunate enough to have a good look at a male Southern Black Korhaan. We decided that Lesser Flamingos would be great to see so we left the West Coast National Park and headed for Veldrif which was another half an hour drive along the R27. Once we arrived we were greeted by large numbers of Flamingos and after a bit of searching we



Protea Canary by Gareth Robbins



Greater Kestrel by Gareth Robbins

managed to get a few good looks at a few Lesser Flamingos. We took a bit of a drive and we managed to have a decent look at a female Dusky Sunbird which completed the list of Sunbirds to see on the tour. We then left Veldrif and headed to Ceres.

Today was a special day, not only for birding as it was also Howard's Birthday. We left the lodge at first light and headed in the direction of Karooport. One of the first birds we managed to track down was the Bokmakieirie which sang from a hidden vantage point of a large tree. After a bit of scanning we managed to eventually see this stunning bird. We then sought out our first main target, the Namaqua Warbler and we managed some great close views of this pretty bird in a tall rank of Phragmites. We pushed on and managed to locate Karoo Chat, Rufous-eared Warbler, White-



throated Canaries, Booted Eagle and Karoo Lark with very little effort. Our next stop led us to a small hillock where we had breakfast with a great view across the Karoo. Immediately after we left our breakfast spot we came across a small family of Karoo Eremomelas and we watched them scuttle about between the small bushes. We then headed in the direction of Skitterykloof where we saw a Pale Chanting Goshawk being harassed by a few Pied Crows and once we arrived at Skitterykloof we went in search of the Cinnamon-breasted Warbler. After a bit of searching we could hear the warbler calling down in the small gorge and after a brief stint of mountain climbing we managed to enjoy some cracking views of two birds. We then left Skitterykloof and spent the rest of the morning looking for more Karoo specials such as a pair of Pririt Batises a Tractrac Chat, a few Lark-like Buntings and a Greater Kestrel. We then left the Tankwa Karoo and found a skulking Cape Clapper Lark and at our final bird of the tour we managed to find a good but quick view of the endemic Protea Canary. We celebrated the evening with our success and had a great dinner with a delicious cake prepared for Howard.

We woke up a little later than usual and went out for a relaxed few hours of birding just outside of the town of Ceres. We managed to obtain far better looks at the Bookmaker which in the past had been very evasive. We also had some decent views of Karoo Scrub Robin, Glossy Ibis, African Spoonbill and a few of the regular duck species. We then returned to the hotel and had a lovely cooked breakfast before leaving for Cape Town International.

Annotated Checklist of Birds Recorded

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows the IOC 5.2 List of: Gill, F. and Donsker, D (Eds). 2015.

Total species recorded: 481 (479 seen and 2 heard only)

E = South African Endemic, **RE** = Regional Endemic to Southern Africa, **RNE** = Regional Near- Endemic, **BE** = Breeding Endemic

NP = National Park, GR = Game Reserve, BG = Botanical Garden, SW = Sewage Works, NR = Nature Reserve

Common Ostrich Struthionidae

Common Ostrich

Struthio camelus

These huge birds were seen well in Kruger NP, Cape Point and the West Coast NP.

Swans, Geese & Ducks Anatidae

White-faced Whistling-Duck

Dendrocygna viduata

We managed to see these pretty ducks along the Zaagkuil drift road and in the Hluhluwe/St Lucia areas.

White-backed Ducks

Thalassornis leuconotus

We managed to get some good scoping views at a dam on the Sani Pass road.

Spur-winged Goose

Plectropterus gambensis

This large bird was seen on most days of the tour, especially around farmlands and dams.

Knob-billed Duck

Sarkidiornis melanotos



We had some good sightings of the large ducks along the Zaagkuil drift road and in the Kruger NP.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

These common birds were seen on most days of the tour.

South African Shelduck (RE) *Tadorna cana*

We had some great sightings in Wakkerstroom.

Cape Teal *Anas capensis*

We saw many these birds at Strandfontein Sewage Works.

Yellow-billed Duck *Anas undulata*

This duck was commonly recorded at various wetlands during the tour.

Cape Shoveler (RE) *Anas smithii*

We had good sightings at a Wakkerstroom, Underberg and various water bodies in the Western Cape.

Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhyncha*

We had good sightings along the Zaagkuil drift road, Wakkerstroom and Hluhluwe/St Lucia areas.

Hottentot Teal *Anas hottentota*

We managed to get some good sightings at a large wetland near Ermelo.

Southern Pochard *Netta erythrophthalma*

Good sightings at near Ermelo, Wakkerstroom and Strandfontein Sewage Works.

Maccoa Duck *Oxyura maccoa*

We were able to see this duck at Fickland Pan and the Strandfontein Sewage Works.

Guineafowl Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*

This pretty but common bird was seen on many occasions during the tour.

Crested Guineafowl *Guttera pucherani*

Small numbers were seen well in the Hluhluwe area.

Pheasants & Partridges Phasianidae

Grey-winged Francolin *Francolinus africanus*

We had a great close view on a dirt road just near Wakkerstroom.

Crested Francolin *Dendroperdix sephaena*

We saw this lovely little francolin in the Kruger NP and Mkhuze GR.

Cape Spurfowl (RE) *Pternistis capensis*

We had regular sightings in the Western Cape.

Natal Spurfowl (RNE) *Pternistis natalensis*

These birds were seen well along the Zaagkuil drift Road and daily in the Kruger NP.

Red-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis afer*

We had a lovely sighting on our day in the Karkloof.

Swainson's Spurfowl (RNE) *Pternistis swainsonii*

We also saw these birds on a few occasions along the Zaagkuil drift Road and in the Kruger NP.



Common Quail*Coturnix coturnix*

We heard this bird calling from our breakfast stop on the Sani Pass.

Penguins Spheniscidae**African Penguin (RE)***Spheniscus demersus*

These popular birds were seen well at Stony Point and at Boulders Beach in Simon's Town.

Austral Storm Petrels Hydrobatidae**Wilson's Storm Petrel***Oceanites oceanicus*

We had some good looks at this small bird on the pelagic.

Albatrosses Diomedidae**Black-browed Albatross***Thalassarche melanophris*

We saw a few of these individuals during the pelagic.

Shy Albatross*Thalassarche cauta*

These large magnificent birds were seen on many occasions during our pelagic.

Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross*Thalassarche chlororhynchos*

We managed to get some lovely looks at these beautiful albatrosses on the pelagic.

Northern Storm Petrels Hydrobatidae**European Storm Petrel***Hydrobates pelagicus*

We had some excellent views of these small birds flying next to the boat on the pelagic trip.

Petrels & Shearwaters Procellariidae**Southern Giant Petrel***Macronectes giganteus*

We had a few sightings of this large petrel on the pelagic.

Northern Giant Petrel*Macronectes halli*

We had a few good sightings of this bird on the pelagic.

White-chinned Petrel*Procellaria aequinoctialis*

We had many sightings of this bird throughout the pelagic.

Cory's Shearwater*Calonectris borealis*

We managed to get some good looks at this bird during the pelagic.

Sooty Shearwater*Puffinus griseus*

We had a couple of sighting of these birds during the latter part of the Pelagic.

Great Shearwater*Puffinus gravis*

We had some good views of this bird during the pelagic.

Grebes Podicipedidae**Little Grebe***Tachybaptus ruficollis*

We had several sightings at water bodies throughout the tour.

Great Crested Grebe*Podiceps cristatus*

We managed to get some good sightings in Fickland Pan and on a small wetland area in Table View.

Black-necked Grebe

Podiceps nigricollis

We had some great views of these small grebes at Strandfontein Sewage Works.

Flamingos Phoenicopteridae

Greater Flamingo

Phoenicopus roseus

We saw these graceful birds at a small pan outside Carolina, Hluhluwe/St Lucia areas and at the Strandfontein Sewage Works.

Lesser Flamingo

Phoeniconaias minor

We managed to get a look at these birds at Velddrif.

Storks Ciconidae

Yellow-billed Stork

Mycteria ibis

We had a couple of good sightings throughout the tour especially along the Zaagkuil drift Road, Kruger National Park and in St Lucia.

African Openbill

Anastomus lamelligerus

We saw a few in the Kruger National Park and Mkhuzi GR.

Abdim's Stork

Ciconia abdimii

We were lucky to see 2 individuals fly into the fields where watching Amur Falcons.

Woolly-necked Stork

Ciconia episcopus

We saw this bird well in the Kruger NP and in the Mkhuzi GR.

White Stork

Ciconia ciconia

We saw a few around the Zaagkuil drift road as well as the Karkloof and the Sani Pass.

Saddle-billed Stork

Epiphiornhynchus senegalensis

We had great looks at this colorful stork in Kruger NP and at False Bay Park.

Marabou Stork

Leptoptilos crumenifer

We had good looks at these storks in the Kruger NP.

Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

Sacred Ibis

Threskiornis aethiopicus

This ibis was commonly encountered at wetlands bird during the tour.

Southern Bald Ibis (E)

Geronticus calvus

We were very lucky to spot two individuals on a small dam wall just outside Wakkerstroom.

Hadada Ibis

Bostrychia hagedash

We recorded this popular and noisy bird on every day of the tour.

Glossy Ibis

Plegadis falcinellus

We had regular sightings of this ibis during the first week of the tour.

African Spoonbill

Platalea alba

We had some good sightings in the Kruger NP, Wakkerstroom and along the Sani Pass road.

Bitterns & Herons Ardeidae



Little Bittern*Ixobrychus minutes*

We had a quick sighting of one individual that flushed in Wakkerstroom.

Black-crowned Night Heron*Nyctcorax nyctcorax*

We saw this heron in Wakkerstroom and at a wetland on the Sani Pass road.

Striated Heron*Butorides striata*

We had a couple of great sightings in the Kruger NP.

Squacco Heron*Ardeola ralloides*

We saw this heron in the Kruger NP, Wakkerstroom and in Mkhuzi GR.

Western Cattle Egret*Bubulcus ibis*

We had regular sightings of these gregarious birds throughout the tour.

Grey Heron*Ardea cinerea*

They were recorded at wetlands on almost every day of tour.

Black-headed Heron*Ardea melanocephala*

We had regular sightings of these birds on various farmlands during the tour.

Goliath Heron*Ardea goliath*

We saw this large heron in Kruger National Park and Mkhuzi GR.

Great Egret*Ardea alba*

These large egrets were seen well throughout the Eastern SA part of the tour.

Little Egret*Egretta garzetta*

We had regular sightings throughout the trip.

Hamerkop Scopidae

Hamerkop*Scopus umbretta*

This distinctive species was regularly seen during the first couple of days of the tour.

Pelicans Pelecanidae

Great White Pelican*Pelecanus onocrotalus*

This huge bird was seen well in the Mkhuzi GR, St Lucia and in the Cape Peninsula.

Pink-backed Pelican*Pelecanus rufescens*

These different looking pelicans were seen well at Mkhuzi GR, with better views at St Lucia Estuary.

Gannets Sulidae

Cape Gannet (BE)*Morus capensis*

We saw many birds off Cape Point and on the Pelagic.

Cormorants & Shags Phalacrocoracidae

Reed Cormorant*Phalacrocorax africanus*

This common wetland bird was seen on most days of the tour.

Crowned Cormorant (RE)*Phalacrocorax coronatus*

We had a great sighting of an individual in Simon's Town harbor.

Bank Cormorant (RE)*Phalacrocorax neglectus*

We had great sightings at Stony Point and a couple were seen briefly on the pelagic.



White-breasted Cormorant*Phalacrocorax lucidus*

This large cormorant was seen well in both freshwater and marine habitats.

Cape Cormorant (BE)*Leucocarbo capensis*

This marine species were abundant off the Western Cape coastline.

Anhingas & Darters Anhingidae**African Darter***Anhinga rufa*

This snake like bird was seen well on our way to the Kruger NP and at a large wetland on the day we went up the Sani Pass.

Secretarybird Sagittariidae**Secretarybird***Sagittarius serpentarius*

We managed to see this elegant bird on our day birding in and around Wakkerstroom with Lucky.

Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae**Black-winged Kite***Elanus caeruleus*

This striking raptor was seen on many occasions from the roadside.

African Harrier-Hawk*Polyboroides typus*

We had a lovely look at this bird as we made our way up to the Kruger NP as well as near Wakkerstroom and the Karkloof area.

Palm-nut Vulture*Gypohierax angolensis*

We were very lucky to see an individual flying and landing in the Raffia Palms at Mtunzini.

Bearded Vulture*Gypaetus barbatus*

We saw a few individuals fly over us in the Sani Pass as well as getting a good look at two individuals perching on a cliff face.

White-backed Vulture*Gyps africanus*

This species was common in Kruger NP and also seen in Mkhuzi GR.

Cape Vulture (E)*Gyps coprotheres*

We saw these birds well in Lesotho.

Lappet-faced Vulture*Torgos tracheliotos*

We were lucky to see these large vultures in the Kruger NP and Mkhuzi GR.

Brown Snake Eagle*Circaetus cinereus*

We managed to get a good look at this unique bird of prey in the Kruger NP.

Southern Banded Snake Eagle*Circaetus fasciolatus*

We had a great view of one perched on a tree in Cape Vidal.

Bateleur*Terathopius ecaudatus*

This beautiful bird of prey was seen often in Kruger NP and in Mkhuzi GR.

Long-crested Eagle*Lophaetus occipitalis*

We managed to see this unique bird of prey en route to the Kruger NP and in the Karkloof area.

Lesser Spotted Eagle*Clanga pomarina*

We got to see an individual flying overhead near Olifants Rest Camp.

Wahlberg's Eagle*Hieraaetus wahlbergi*

We had regular sightings of this eagle along Zaagkuil drift Road and the Kruger NP.

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus wahlbergi*

We had a lovely sighting in the Tankwa Karoo.

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax*

This bird of prey was commonly seen in the species in Kruger NP.

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

We had a great view of one bird sitting in the road near False Bay Park in the Hluhluwe area.

Pale Chanting Goshawk *Melierax canorus*

We had some good views of this elegant bird in the Tankwa Karoo.

African Goshawk *Accipiter tachiro*

We saw this bird on two occasions in the Hluhluwe/St Lucia areas.

African Marsh Harrier *Circus ranivorus*

We had a couple of good sightings at Wakkerstroom and around the Karkloof area as well as in the Western Cape.

Black Harrier *Circus maurus*

We had a great sighting in Wakkerstroom area.

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*

We managed to see one individual in flight just outside Wakkerstroom.

Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius*

This was the most common bird of prey on the tour.

African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer*

This handsome eagle was seen well along the Zaagkuil drift Road, Kruger NP and St Lucia.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

This was another bird of prey that was seen regularly throughout the tour.

Jackal Buzzard (RE) *Buteo rufofuscus*

We found this great endemic en route to the Kruger NP, Wakkerstroom, the Karkloof, Sani Pass and in the Western Cape.

Bustards Otididae

Kori Bustard *Ardeotis kori*

We had very good sightings in the Kruger National Park.

Denham's Bustard *Neotis denhami*

We had a long distance sighting of one in Dirkiesdorp near Wakkerstroom.

White-bellied Bustard *Eupodotis barrowii*

We had a good view through the spotting scope of one wet individual outside Wakkerstroom.

Blue Korhaan (E) *Eupodotis caerulescens*

We had a great sighting near Wakkerstroom.

Red-crested Korhaan *Lophotis ruficrista*

We saw a couple of these birds in the Kruger National Park.

Southern Black Korhaan (E) *Afrotis afra*

We were lucky to see one near the road at Seeberg lookout in the West Coast NP.

Northern Black Korhaan (NE) *Afrotis afraoides*

We had some good sightings at Zaagkuil drift Rd.



Black-bellied Bustard*Lissotis melanogaster*

We managed to get a great view of one shortly after entering the Kruger NP.

Flufftails Sarothruridae**Red-chested Flufftail***Sarothruridae rufa*

Everybody managed to get a couple of decent views of this shy bird in Wakkerstroom.

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae**African Rail***Rallus caerulescens*

We had some great views in Wakkerstroom.

Black Crake*Amaurornis flavirostra*

We saw these pretty birds at scattered wetlands throughout the tour.

Baillon's Crake*Porzana pusilla*

We were very lucky to get a sighting of this uncommon bird at a wetland on our way towards the Sani Pass.

African Purple Swamphen*Porphyrio madagascariensis*

This colourful bird was seen well in Wakkerstroom.

Common Moorhen*Gallinula chloropus*

These birds were seen at most water bodies during the tour.

Red-knobbed Coot*Fulica cristata*

This bird was common at many dams in during the tour.

Cranes Gruidae**Grey Crowned Crane***Balearica regulorum*

We had lovely views in Wakkerstroom and in the Karkloof.

Blue Crane (RE)*Grus paradisea*

We had good sightings of South Africa's national bird in Wakkerstroom and in the farmlands on our way to Ceres.

Wattled Crane*Grus carunculata*

We were very fortunate to see a pair with its chick in the Karkloof area.

Thick-knees Burhinidae**Water Thick-knee***Burhinus vermiculatus*

We saw few of these birds in the Kruger National Park and in St Lucia.

Spotted Thick-knee*Burhinus capensis*

We managed to see a pair in an open plot in Betty's Bay.

Oystercatchers Haematopidae**African Oystercatcher (E)***Haematopus moquini*

We saw this bird very along most shorelines in Cape Town.

Stilts & Avocets Recurvirostridae**Black-winged Stilt***Himantopus himantopus*

This tall wader was frequently seen at various water bodies during the tour.

Pied Avocet*Recurvirostra avosetta*

This elegant wader showed well at the large wetland outside Ermelo and the West Coast NP.

Plovers & Lapwings Charadriidae

Blacksmith Lapwing*Vanellus armatus*

We had regular sightings of this lapwing throughout the tour.

White-crowned Lapwing*Vanellus albiceps*

We had a good sighting in the Kruger National Park.

Crowned Lapwing*Vanellus coronatus*

We had a couple of sightings on the first few days of the tour.

African Wattled Lapwing*Vanellus senegallus*

We had regular sightings at Zaagkuilsdrift and Wakkerstroom.

Grey Plover*Pluvialis squatarola*

We saw a few individuals in the West Coast National Park.

Common Ringed Plover*Charadrius hiaticula*

We saw a few birds in St Lucia as well as in the Western Cape.

Kittlitz's Plover*Charadrius pecuarius*

This plover was seen well at Strandfontein Sewage Works.

Three-banded Plover*Charadrius tricollaris*

This pretty plover was seen well in the Kruger National Park and Mkuze GR.

White-fronted Plover*Charadrius marginatus*

We had a couple of lovely sighting in the St Lucia and in the Western Cape.

Jacanas Jacanidae

African Jacana*Actophilornis africanus*

This popular bird was seen well at Zaagkuilsdrift Road, Kruger NP, Mkuze GR and at Strandfontein SW.

Sandpipers & Allies Scolopacidae

African Snipe*Gallinago nigripennis*

Birds were seen well at a large wetland outside Ermelo and in Wakkerstroom.

Whimbrel*Numenius phaeopus*

We managed to see this bird really well in St Lucia and the West Coast NP.

Marsh Sandpiper*Tringa stagnatilis*

We got to see this shorebird at a large wetland near Ermelo, Strandfontein SW and the West Coast NP.

Common Greenshank*Tringa nebularia*

We had a couple of sightings in the Kruger NP, St Lucia and in the West Coast NP.

Wood Sandpiper*Tringa glareola*

We had many sightings of this wader in the Kruger NP including a large dam along the Zaagkuilsdrift road, Mkuze GR and St Lucia.



Common Sandpiper*Actitis hypoleucos*

We saw a couple in the Kruger NP and in St Lucia.

Sanderling*Calidris alba*

We had some good looks in the West Coast NP.

Little Stint*Calidris minuta*

We saw a few birds at the wetland near Ermelo, St Lucia and in the West Coast NP.

Curlew Sandpiper*Calidris ferruginea*

We saw a few birds in the Hluhluwe/St Lucia areas as well as in the West Coast NP.

Ruff*Philomachus pugnax*

We saw a few birds at the wetlands near Ermelo as well as in the Hluhluwe and St Lucia areas.

Couriers & Pratincoles Glareolidae**Collared Pratincole***Glareola pratincola*

We had some long distant views of this bird in the Kruger NP and in Cape Vidal.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae**Grey-headed Gull***Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*

We had regular sightings in Kempton Park, en route to Kruger NP, Mkuze and St Lucia.

Hartlaub's Gull (RE)*Chroicocephalus hartlaubii*

These gulls were plentiful along the Western Cape coastline.

Kelp Gull (NE)*Larus dominicanus*

Large numbers were seen around the Cape Peninsula.

Caspian Tern*Sterna caspia*

We had fantastic views of this tern from the Ski Boat Club in St Lucia as well as in the Cape Peninsula.

Greater Crested Tern*Thalasseus bergii*

We saw a few of these terns at St Lucia Estuary and in the Cape Peninsula.

Sandwich Tern*Thalasseus sandvicensis*

We saw a few individuals at the Strandfontein SW and en route to the West Coast NP.

Common Tern*Sterna hirundo*

We managed to see a couple of these terns at St Lucia.

Arctic Tern*Sterna paradise*

We had some good views on the pelagic.

Whiskered Tern*Chlidonias hybrida*

We saw this tern at a couple of inland dams throughout the tour.

White-winged Tern*Chlidonias leucopterus*

We managed to see a couple of birds flying over the dam at alongside the Zaagkuil drift road.

Skuas Stercorariidae**Brown Skua***Stercorarius antarcticus*

We had some great close views on the Pelagic.

Long-tailed Jaeger*Stercorarius longicaudus*

We had some excellent close views of this bird on the pelagic.

Pigeons & Doves Columbidae

Rock Dove

Columba livia

This bird was commonly seen throughout human settlements during the tour in South Africa.

Speckled Pigeon

Columba guinea

This handsome pigeon was seen on a number of occasions throughout the tour.

African Olive Pigeon

Columba arquatrix

We saw these lovely pigeons in the Karkloof.

Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon

Columba delegorguei

We only managed to hear these sought after pigeons in Dlinza Forest.

Mourning Collared Dove

Streptopelia decipiens

This dove was heard calling and then we eventually found it in Satara Camp.

Red-eyed Dove

Streptopelia semitorquata

This large dove was commonly recorded in tall woodland and forest during the tour.

Ring-necked Dove

Streptopelia capicola

These vocal doves were seen on most days during the first half of the tour and around Cape Town.

Laughing Dove

Streptopelia senegalensis

This smaller dove was encountered on numerous days of tour across the country.

Emerald-spotted Wood Dove

Turtur chalcospilos

This pretty dove showed well in Kruger NP and Mkuze GR.

Tambourine Dove

Turtur tympanistria

We had a couple of quick sighting of this shy dove in the Hluhluwe/St Lucia areas.

Namaqua Dove

Oena capensis

This small dove was seen in the Kruger NP.

African Green Pigeon

Treron calvus

We saw this species very well in the Kruger NP, especially in Skukuza

Turacos Musophagidae

Livingstone's Turaco

Tauraco livingstonii

We had finally had a sighting of one bird at Eden Park campsite in St Lucia.

Knysna Turaco (E)

Tauraco corythaix

On our morning before flying to Cape Town, we were lucky enough to see one Turaco sitting up in the canopy of Marutswa Forest.

Purple-crested Turaco

Tauraco porphyreolophus

This colorful species showed extremely well in Skukuza and Dlinza Forest in Eshowe.

Grey Go-away-bird

Corythaixoides concolor

This very common bird was seen along the Zaagkuilsdrift Road and in the Kruger NP.

Cuckoos Cuculidae

Burchell's Coucal

Centropus superciliosus

We had a couple of sightings in the Kruger NP.



Green Malkoha*Ceuthmochares australis*

We had a wonderful sighting of this bird in the False Bay Park.

Jacobin Cuckoo*Clamator jacobinus*

We had good sightings of this cuckoo in the Kruger NP and on the Sani Pass.

Diederik Cuckoo*Chrysococcyx caprius*

We had regular sightings of this very vocal cuckoo throughout the first week of the tour.

Klaas's Cuckoo*Chrysococcyx klaas*

This pretty bird showed well in the Kruger NP.

African Emerald Cuckoo*Chrysococcyx cupreus*

After many days of hearing this cuckoo we eventually had a wonderful sighting of this stunning bird.

Black Cuckoo*Cuculus clamosus*

We managed to get a great look in the Kruger NP.

Red-chested Cuckoo*Cuculus solitaries*

We had some fantastic views of this bird in Skukuza Rest Camp in the Kruger NP as well as our day travel day to St Lucia.

Typical Owls Strigidae

African Scops Owl*Otus senegalensis*

We had a great view of one in Satara, Kruger National Park.

Spotted Eagle-Owl*Bubo africanus*

We managed to see two fledglings at Grasslands B&B, as well as another immature bird in Dlinza Forest.

Verreaux's Eagle-Owl*Bubo lacteus*

We had a good view of one bird in a nest in the Kruger NP.

African Wood Owl*Strix woodfordii*

We had a lovely sighting of one bird near the Igwala-gwala trail after dinner in St Lucia.

Pearl-spotted Owlet*Glaucidium perlatum*

We managed to see one this bird along the Zaagkuilsdrift road and in the Kruger NP.

Nightjars Caprimulgidae

Fiery-necked Nightjar*Caprimulgus pectoralis*

We managed to see one individual on our night drive.

Swamp Nightjar*Caprimulgus natalensis*

We had one poor visual of a nightjar just outside the town of St Lucia.

Swifts Apodidae

African Palm Swift*Cypsiurus parvus*

We saw this bird on the first couple of days of the tour.

Alpine Swift*Tachymarptis melba*

We saw this large swift well on our way to the Kruger NP as well as in the Karkloof and while driving up to the Sani Pass.

African Black Swift*Apus barbatus*

We had some good views of this swift on the Sani Pass.

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

We had regular sightings of these small swifts on many days of the tour.

Horus Swift *Apus horus*

We had a lovely sighting of a few of these swifts on the Sani Pass.

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer*

This bird was seen regularly throughout the tour.

Mousebirds Coliidae

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus*

This mouse like bird was commonly seen throughout the tour.

White-backed Mousebird (RNE) *Colius colius*

We had some great sightings in the Tankwa Karoo and West Coast NP.

Red-faced Mousebird *Urocolius indicus*

We also had a few good sightings of this bird during the tour.

Trogons Trogonidae

Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina*

We had a lovely sighting of a male bird in St Lucia and a couple more males in Dlinza forest.

Rollers Coraciidae

Purple Roller *Coracias naevius*

We had plenty of great sightings of this bird in the Kruger NP.

Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus*

This colourful species was seen well in the Kruger NP.

European Roller *Coracias garrulous*

We had a good couple of sightings of this pretty bird in the Kruger NP.

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus*

We had a fantastic sighting near Skukuza in the Kruger NP and another in Mkuze GR.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

Brown-hooded Kingfisher *Halcyon albiventris*

We saw this kingfisher on the first day we entered the Kruger NP.

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis*

We saw and hear this beautiful kingfisher on numerous occasions in the Kruger NP.

African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta*

We were very fortunate to see this lovely little kingfisher on the Zaagkuilsdrift road and in Mkuze GR.

Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus*

This striking kingfisher was seen in briefly in Umlalazi NR, Mtunzini.

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima*

We saw this kingfisher in the Kruger NP, Umlalazi NR, and on the day we headed up to Underberg.



Pied Kingfisher*Ceryle rudis*

We had regular sightings of this kingfisher during the tour.

Bee-eaters Meropidae**Little Bee-eater***Merops pusillus*

This little beauty was seen well at the Balule Bridge in the Kruger NP.

White-fronted Bee-eater*Merops bullockoides*

We had several sightings in the Kruger NP.

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater*Merops persicus*

We had great views of this bee-eater at a dam next to the Zaagkuil drift road and we had a couple more sightings in the St Lucia area.

European Bee-eater*Merops apiaster*

We managed to see this bird a couple of times in the Kruger NP, West Coast NP and the Tankwa Karoo.

Hoopoes Upupidae**African Hoopoe***Upupa africana*

We saw this bird well in the Kruger NP.

Wood Hoopoes Phoeniculidae**Green Wood Hoopoe***Phoeniculus purpureus*

We had lovely views of these noisy birds in the Kruger NP and Mkuze GR.

Common Scimitarbill*Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*

We managed to get a couple of sightings in the Kruger NP and Mkuze GR.

Ground Hornbills Bucorvidae**Southern Ground Hornbill***Bucorvis leadbeateri*

We had an excellent view of a small group in the Kruger NP.

Hornbills Bucerotidae**Southern Red-billed Hornbill***Tockus rufirostris*

We had regular views of these hornbills along the Zaagkuil drift road and saw plenty in the Kruger NP.

Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill (RNE)*Tockus leucomelas*

These hornbills were seen along the Zaagkuil drift road and in the Kruger NP.

Crowned Hornbill*Tockus alboterminatus*

We had some good sightings in the Mkuze GR and in the St Lucia area.

African Grey Hornbill*Tockus nasutus*

These hornbills were seen along the Zaagkuil drift Road and in the Kruger NP.

Trumpeter Hornbill*Bycanistes bucinator*

We had great views of this noisy large hornbill in the Kruger NP the Hluhluwe/ Lucia area.

Barbets Ramphastidae

White-eared Barbet*Stactolaema leucotis*

We had come across this barbet a couple of times in the St Lucia area in Dlinza Forest.

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus bilineatus*

We saw this lovely bird in Skukuza Rest Camp and in the False Bay Park.

Red-fronted Tinkerbird*Pogoniulus pusillus*

We saw had a lovely sighting of one bird calling from a large tree on the Umkhumbi Lodge grounds.

Black-collared Barbet*Lybius torquatus*

We saw a couple of these birds in the Kruger NP, Mkuze GR and on our travel day to Hilton.

Crested Barbet*Trachyphonus vaillantii*

We had many good sightings on the first week of the tour.

Honeyguides Indicatoridae

Brown-backed Honeybird*Prodotiscus regulus*

We managed to see one individual fly right over us as we made our way along the Sani Pass road.

Lesser Honeyguide*Indicator minor*

We had a brief look at this bird along the Zaagkuilsdrift road.

Scaly-throated Honeyguide*Indicator variegates*

We managed to see two birds in the Dlinza Forest.

Woodpeckers & Allies Picidae

Red-throated Wryneck*Jynx ruficollis*

We had good sightings of birds in Wakkerstroom and along the Sani Pass.

Golden-tailed Woodpecker*Campethera abingoni*

Good views were had in the Mkhuze GR.

Ground Woodpecker (E)*Geocolaptes olivaceus*

We have had some great sightings on the Sani Pass.

Cardinal Woodpecker*Dendropicos fuscescens*

This small woodpecker was seen along the Zaagkuilsdrift Road, Kruger NP and Mkhuze GR.

Olive Woodpecker*Dendropicos griseocephalus*

We had a good sighting in a forest patch near Benjie Gardens.

Falcons & Caracaras Falconidae

Lesser Kestrel*Falco naumanni*

We saw a couple of these birds flying alongside the Amur Falcons at the beginning of the Zaagkuilsdrift road.

Rock Kestrel*Falco rupicolus*

We saw this small bird of prey along the Zaagkuil drift Road, Cape Peninsula, West Coast NP and the Tankwa Karoo.

Greater Kestrel *Falco rupicoloides*

We had a fantastic view of one bird in the Tankwa Karoo.

Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis*

We saw these lovely birds of prey along the Zaagkuil drift road, Wakkerstroom and along the Sani Pass road.

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*

We managed to see one individual on our travel day to Wakkerstroom.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

We got some great views of one bird perched on the cliff face at Howick Falls.

Parrots Psittacidae

Cape Parrot *Poicephalus robustus*

We managed to see two parrots fly over us in Marutswa Forest on the afternoon we made our way to Himeville and another two more in the morning before we headed to the airport.

Brown-headed Parrot *Poicephalus cryptoxanthus*

We had a few sightings in the Kruger NP.

Broadbills Eurylaimidae

African Broadbill *Smithornis capensis*

We all had a fantastic view of this bird displaying in the False Bay Park.

Wattle-eyes and Batises Platysteiridae

Cape Batis (RE) *Batis capensis*

We had great views outside Wakkerstroom and in Dlinza Forest.

Woodward's Batis (RNE) *Batis fratum*

We managed to see one near the parking lot near St Lucia Estuary.

Chinspot Batis *Batis molitor*

This bushveld inhabitant was seen well in the Kruger National Park.

Pririt Batis *Batis Pririt*

After a lot of searching we eventually managed to see this pretty Karoo bird in some Sweet Thorns.

Black-throated Wattle-eye *Platysteira peltata*

We were very fortunate to find a pair in Mtunzini.

Helmetsrikes and Allies

White-crested Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus*

We eventually located a few individuals in Mkhuze GR.

Bushshrikes & Allies Malaconotidae

Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti*



We managed to see these birds in a couple of bird parties in the Kruger NP.

Orange-breasted Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*

This vocal bird was seen well in the Kruger NP and False Bay Park.

Four-colored Bushshrike *Telephorus quadricolor*

We managed to get some great looks at a bird sitting and calling from a tree on the Umkhumbi Lodge property.

Bokmakierie (RNE) *Telephorus zeylonus*

This pretty species was seen tucked away in the top of the tree in Karoopoort.

Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis*

We found this species near the Zaagkuil drift road and in the Kruger NP.

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus*

We had a great sighting in the Kruger NP

Black-backed Puffback *Dryoscopus cubla*

We had regular sightings of this inquisitive bird on tour.

Southern Boubou (RE) *Laniarius ferrugineus*

We saw this bird in the Kruger NP and in St Lucia.

Crimson-breasted Shrike (RNE) *Laniarius atrococcineus*

This incredible bird was seen along Zaagkuil drift Rd.

Brubru *Nilaus afer*

We had a great view in the Kruger NP and Mkuze GR.

Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae

Grey Cuckooshrike *Coracina caesia*

We had good views in Dlinza Forest and in the Karkloof.

Black Cuckooshrike *Campephaga flava*

We had a good look at one individual near Skukuza in the Kruger NP.

Shrikes Laniidae

Magpie Shrike *Urolestes melanoleucus*

This large shrike was seen frequently during the first few days of tour.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius colluria*

We managed to see this pretty shrike on many occasions during the first week of the tour.

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*

We saw a couple of these birds when travelling up to Olifants Rest Camp in the Kruger NP.

Southern Fiscal *Lanius collaris*

This common bird was recorded on most days of the tour.

Figbirds, Orioles Oriolidae

Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

We had one brief sighting in Dlinza Forest.

Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus larvatus*

We managed to see this bird in the Kruger NP and Karkloof.



Drongos Dicruridae

Square-tailed Drongo*Dicrurus ludwigii*

This forest species was seen well in the forests of the Hluhluwe and St Lucia areas.

Fork-tailed Drongo*Dicrurus adsimilis*

We saw this bird on most days of the eastern part of the tour.

Monarch Flycatchers Monarchidae

Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher*Trochocercus cyanomelas*

We managed to get a good sighting on the Umkhumbi Lodge property.

African Paradise Flycatcher*Terpsiphone viridis*

We saw this spectacular bird on a couple of occasions during the eastern part of the tour.

Crows & Jays Corvidae

Cape Crow*Corvus capensis*

We saw this crow at higher elevation grassland sites such as Wakkerstroom.

Pied Crow*Corvus albus*

This crow was common and frequently encountered species during the tour.

White-necked Raven*Corvus albicollis*

This large bird was seen well along the Sani Pass and as we were making our way towards Ceres.

Rockjumpers Chaetopidae

Cape Rockjumper (E)*Chaetops frenatus*

We had good views of a few individuals at Rooi Els.

Drakensberg Rockjumper (E)*Chaetops aurantius*

We had wonderful views on Sani Pass.

Fairy Flycatchers Stenostiridae

Fairy Flycatcher (RE)*Stenostira scita*

We had great sightings in Lesotho and in the Tankwa Karoo.

Tits Paridae

Southern Black Tit*Melani parus niger*

This bird was seen well in the Kruger NP.

Grey Tit*Melaniparus afer*

We had a good sighting in Lesotho.

Penduline Tits Remizidae

Cape Penduline Tit*Anthoscopus minutus*

We eventually managed to see this tiny bird on our Theronberg Pass on our way to the Tankwa Karoo.



Nicators Nicatoridae

Eastern Nicator

Nicator gularis

We eventually got to see this bird in Mkuze GR near the Kumasinga hide.

Larks Alaudidae

Spike-heeled Lark (RNE)

Chersomanes albofasciata

We had good views of these social larks near Wakkerstroom.

Eastern Long-billed Lark (E)

Certhilauda semitorquata

We had lengthy looks at this species near Wakkerstroom.

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark

Eremopterix leucotis

We had some good views in the Kruger National Park.

Sabota Lark (RNE)

Mirafra sabota

This lark was commonly seen at the Zaagkuil drift road, Kruger NP and Mkuze GR.

Karoo Lark (E)

Certhilauda albescens

We got a few good views in the West Coast National Park.

Rudd's Lark (E)

Heteromirafra ruddi

We had excellent views of this critically endangered lark at Fickland Pan near Wakkerstroom.

Cape Clapper Lark

Mirafra apiata

We all managed to get a quick glimpse of this bird as we flushed it some thick grass near the Katbakkies Pass.

Rufous-naped Lark

Mirafra africana

This vocal lark was seen at the beginning of Zaagkuil drift road and in the Kruger NP.

Botha's Lark (E)

Spizocorys fringillaris

We managed to get fantastic views of this small lark near Wakkerstroom.

Pink-billed Lark

Spizocorys conirostris

We saw a couple of these birds in the road not too long after seeing the Rudd's Lark at Fickland Pan.

Large-billed Lark (E)

Galerida magnirostris

We had good views of this lark in Lesotho.

Red-capped Lark

Calandrella cinerea

This pretty lark was common around Wakkerstroom and also seen in the Tankwa Karoo.

Bulbuls Pycnonotidae

Cape Bulbul (E)

Pycnonotus capensis

This bulbul was seen on most days in the Western Cape.

Dark-capped Bulbul

Pycnonotus tricolor

This bulbul was seen almost every day during the eastern portion of the tour.

Sombre Greenbul

Andropadus importunus

We had great views once we were in the forested areas of Hluhluwe, St Lucia and the Karkloof.

Yellow-bellied Greenbul

Chlorocichla flaviventris



This species gave us some great views in Mkuze GR and St Lucia.

Terrestrial Brownbul

Phyllastrephus terrestris

We had a few sightings in the Hluhluwe and St Lucia areas.

Swallows & Martins Hirundinidae

Black Saw-wing

Psaldiprocne pristoptera

These swallows were seen well in the Hluhluwe/St Lucia areas, Karkloof and Sani Pass.

Brown-throated Martin

Riparia paludicola

These small martins were seen well near small dams during the tour.

Sand Martin

Riparia riparia

Some of the guests managed to see one bird flying near the bridge outside the village of Kgomo-Kgomo.

Banded Martin

Riparia cincta

These martins were seen well in Wakkerstroom and the Karkloof

Barn Swallow

Hirundo rustica

This Swallow was seen on many occasions throughout the tour.

White-throated Swallow

Hirundo albigularis

This Swallow was seen well throughout the tour, especially near wetlands and rivers.

Blue Swallow

Hirundo atrocaerulea

We were very fortunate to locate these very rare and endangered birds at Impendle NR.

Pearl-breasted Swallow

Hirundo dimidiata

A few were seen in the West Coast NP.

Rock Martin

Ptyonoprogne fuligula

This brown martin was seen well in the Sani Pass and often in the Western Cape.

Greater Striped Swallow

Cecropis cucullata

We saw this lovely swallow in near the Zaagkuil drift road, Karkloof and along the Sani Pass.

Lesser Striped Swallow

Cecropis abyssinica

We had regular sightings of this swallow during the eastern section of the tour.

Red-breasted Swallow

Cecropis semirufa

This swallow was seen well along the Zaagkuil drift Road and in the Kruger NP.

Mosque Swallow

Cecropis senegalensis

We had a brief sighting in the Kruger NP.

South African Cliff Swallow

Petrochelidon spilodera

These lovely swallows were seen well along bridges en route to the Kruger NP and in Dirkiesdorp near Wakkerstroom.

Crombecs & African Warblers Macrosphenidae

Cape Grassbird (RE)

Sphenoeacus afer

This vocal bird was seen well in the Karkloof and on the Sani Pass.

Long-billed Crombec

Sylvietta rufescens

This short tailed bird was seen well on the first week of the tour.

Victorin's Warbler (E)

Cryptillas victorini

We only managed to get great views of this skulking bird near Betty's Bay.



Leaf Warblers & Allies Phylloscopidae**Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler***Phylloscopus ruficapilla*

This pretty little forest warbler was seen very well in the forest patch near Benvie Gardens.

Willow Warbler*Phylloscopus trochilus*

We saw this bird well along the Zaagkuil drift road.

Reed Warblers & Allies Acrocephalidae**Lesser Swamp Warbler***Acrocephalus gracilirostris*

We had good sightings in Wakkerstroom.

African Reed Warbler*Acrocephalus baeticatus*

This warbler showed well in Himeville and near Karooport.

African Yellow Warbler*Iduna natalensis*

We had some good sightings in Wakkerstroom and Himeville.

Grassbirds and Allies Locustellidae**Little Rush Warbler***Bradypterus baboecala*

We had some good sightings in Wakkerstroom.

Barrat's Warbler*Bradypterus barratti*

With some hard work and determination we all eventually managed to see this shy bird.

Fan-tailed Grassbird*Schoenicola brevirostris*

After a bit of serious searching we eventually managed to see one flying up out of the tall grass.

Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae**Rattling Cisticola***Cisticola chiniana*

This common Cisticola was seen in bushveld and scrubby vegetation in Kruger NP, Mkhuzi GR and along Zaagkuil drift road.

Grey-backed Cisticola (RNE)*Cisticola subruficapilla*

This cisticola was seen well in Rooi Els and en route to Ceres.

Wailing Cisticola*Cisticola lais*

We found this bird along the Sani Pass.

Rufous-winged Cisticola*Cisticola galactotes*

We had a great sighting in False Bay Park.

Levaillant's Cisticola*Cisticola tinniens*

We had a couple of good sightings of this vocal cisticola during the tour.

Croaking Cisticola*Cisticola natalensis*

We had one brief sighting in Cape Vidal.

Neddicky*Cisticola fulvicapilla*

This bird was seen well on our travel day to Ceres.

Zitting Cisticola*Cisticola juncidis*

This tiny cisticola was seen well in the Karkloof and on the Sani Pass.

Desert Cisticola*Cisticola aridulus*

One individual was seen well at Zaagkuildrift Road.

Cloud Cisticola *Cisticola textrix*

We had a good sighting near Wakkerstroom.

Pale-crowned Cisticola *Cisticola cinnamomeus*

We got some good looks at these small birds at Fickland Pan near Wakkerstroom.

Wing-snapping Cisticola (RE) *Cisticola ayresii*

This bird was seen near Wakkerstroom.

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*

This prinia was seen well along Zaagkuildrift Road, Kruger NP and St Lucia.

Black-chested Prinia *Prinia flavicans*

Some good sightings were had along the Zaagkuildrift Road.

Karoo Prinia (RE) *Prinia maculosa*

These lovely little birds were abundant in the Western Cape.

Drakensberg Prinia (E) *Prinia hypoxantha*

We had great sightings along the Sani Pass and near Wakkerstroom.

Namaqua Warbler *Phragmacia substriata*

We had some great sighting at Karoopoort, Tankwa Karoo.

Bar-throated Apalis *Apalis thoracica*

This pretty bird was seen well just near Wakkerstroom and in the Karkloof.

Rudd's Apalis (RE) *Apalis ruddi*

We found this subtropical endemic at our lodge near Hluhluwe and at St Lucia.

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida*

We had great sightings in the Kruger NP and the Hluhluwe/St Lucia areas.

Rufous-eared Warbler *Malcorus pectoralis*

We had many great views of this neat little bird in the Tankwa Karoo.

Green-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brachyura*

Commonly seen and heard in Kruger NP, Mkhuze Game Reserve and St Lucia.

Cinnamon-breasted Warbler *Euryptila subcinnamomea*

After a bit of rock climbing we managed to get excellent views along Skitterykloof in the Tankwa Karoo.

Karoo Eremomela (RE) *Eremomela gregalis*

We managed to see a nice family group in the Tankwa Karoo.

Babblers & Parrotbills Timaliidae

Arrow-marked Babbler *Turdoides jardineii*

These noisy birds were commonly seen in the Kruger NP.

Southern Pied Babbler *Turdoides bicolor*

We were lucky to find some of these handsome birds along Zaagkuildrift Road.

Sylviid Babblers Sylviidae

Bush Blackcap *Lioptilus nigricapillus*

We had great sighting of one bird just beyond Wakkerstroom.

Chestnut-vented Warbler (RNE) *Sylvia subcaerulea*



We had some good views of this vocal bird along the Zaagkuilsdrift Road.

Layard's Warbler] (RE)

Sylvia layardi

This warbler never showed itself very well in both Lesotho and the Tankwa Karoo.

White-eyes Zosteropidae

Cape White-eye (RE)

Zosterops capensis

These little birds were recorded at scattered locations throughout the tour.

African Yellow White-eye

Zosterops senegalensis

We saw this species in the Hluhluwe/St Lucia area.

Sugarbirds & Allies Promeropidae

Cape Sugarbird (E)

Promerops cafer

This great Fynbos endemic was seen well in the Cape of Good Hope and in Rooi Els.

Gurney's Sugarbird (RE)

Promerops gurneyi

We had some great sightings on the Sani Pass.

Starlings Sturnidae

Common Myna

Acridotheres tristis

This invasive exotic was unfortunately seen on a number of occasions in urban and semi-urban settings during the tour.

Common Starling

Sturnus vulgaris

This, also an alien, was seen in the Western Cape.

Wattled Starling

Creatophora cinerea

We had many sightings in the Kruger NP and along the Zaagkuilsdrift Road.

Black-bellied Starling

Lamprotornis corruscus

Found in the forests around the Hluhluwe and St Lucia areas.

Cape Starling (RNE)

Lamprotornis nitens

This colourful bird was seen daily during the first week of the tour.

Greater Blue-eared Starling

Lamprotornis chalybaeus

We had good views of this spectacular species in Kruger NP.

Burchell's Starling

Lamprotornis australis

This large starling was seen well along the Zaagkuilsdrift Road and Kruger NP.

Pied Starling (E)

lamprotornis bicolor

We had sightings of this endemic around Ermelo, Wakkerstroom, Sani Pass and the Western Cape.

Violet-backed Starling

Cinnyricinclus leucogaster

We had some lovely views of this impressive starling in the Kruger NP.

Red-winged Starling

Onychognathus morio

This starling was frequently encountered in Kruger NP, KZN Midlands and in the Western Cape.

Oxpeckers Buphagidae

Yellow-billed Oxpecker

Buphagus africanus



We were very lucky to see this uncommon oxpecker on our first day in the Kruger NP.

Red-billed Oxpecker

Buphagus erythrorhynchus

This oxpecker was seen in association with large game in Kruger NP and Mkhuze Game Reserve.

Thrushes Turdidae

Orange Ground Thrush

Geokichla gurneyi

This pretty thrush was seen briefly at Benvie Gardens.

Spotted Ground Thrush

Geokichla guttata

After a lengthy search we finally managed to get wonderful views of this bird which was calling from a perched position in line with the aerial boardwalk.

Kurrichane Thrush

Turdus libonyanus

We saw this thrush in the Kruger NP and Mkhuze GR.

Olive Thrush (RE)

Turdus olivaceus

This thrush was seen well in the Karkloof and in the Western Cape.

Karoo Thrush (RE)

Turdus smithii

Our guest house in Johannesburg provided good sightings of this endemic.

Chats & Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

Karoo Scrub Robin (E)

Cercotrichas coryphaeus

We had good sightings in the West Coast NP and Tankwa Karoo.

Bearded Scrub Robin

Cercotrichas quadrivirgata

This pretty scrub robin showed well in the Kruger NP and Hluhluwe area.

Kalahari Scrub Robin

Cercotrichas paeon

This lovely bird was seen well along the Zaagkuil drift road.

White-browed Scrub Robin

Cercotrichas leucophrys

We had many good sightings along the Zaagkuil drift road and in Mkuze GR.

Brown Scrub Robin

Cercotrichas signata

We found this bird near the Igwala-gwala trail in St Lucia.

Southern Black Flycatcher

Melaenornis pammelania

We managed to find this bird in White River and in the Kruger NP.

Marico Flycatcher (RNE)

Bradornis mariquensis

This Flycatcher was commonly seen along the Zaagkuil drift road.

Fiscal Flycatcher (RE)

Sigelus silens

We managed to see this flycatcher a couple of times in the Western Cape.

Spotted Flycatcher

Muscicapa striata

We had a couple of sightings in our first week of the tour.

Ashy Flycatcher

Muscicapa caerulescens

We saw this bird at Umkhumbi Lodge.

African Dusky Flycatcher

Muscicapa adusta

This sweet flycatcher was seen at Benvie Gardens and in Harold Porter Botanical Gardens

Cape Robin-Chat

Cossypha caffra

We had regular sightings of this bird especially in the Western Cape.



White-throated Robin-Chat (RE)*Cossypha humularis*

This endemic was seen well in the Kruger NP.

White-browed Robin-Chat*Cossypha heuglini*

We eventually managed to see this bird in Skukuza Rest Camp in the Kruger NP.

Red-capped Robin-Chat*Cossypha natalensis*

This stunner was seen well in Hluhluwe and St Lucia areas.

Chorister Robin Chat*Cossypha dichroa*

This vocal bird was seen well in Dlinza Forest and Benvie Gardens.

Cape Rock Thrush (E)*Monticola rupestris*

This pretty thrush was seen on the Sani Pass.

Sentinel Rock Thrush (E)*Monticola explorator*

This lovely endemic was seen at Wakkerstroom and in Lesotho.

African Stonechat*Saxicola torquatus*

We saw this bird in open country around Wakkerstroom, Sani Pass and just outside Cape Town.

Buff-streaked Chat (E)*Saxicola bifasciata*

This bird was seen at well in Wakkerstroom and the Sani Pass.

Sickle-winged Chat (RE)*Cercomela sinuata*

This chat was seen in Lesotho.

Karoo Chat (RNE)*Cercomela schlegelii*

A few individuals were seen in the Tankwa Karoo.

Tractrac Chat (RNE)*Cercomela tractrac*

We had a few sightings in the Tankwa Karoo.

Mocking Cliff Chat*Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*

This pretty bird was seen well in and amongst the game viewer vehicles at Olifants Rest camp in the Kruger NP.

Ant-eating Chat (RNE)*Myrmecocichla formicivora*

This chat was recorded around Ermelo and Wakkerstroom.

Mountain Wheatear (RNE)*Oenanthe monticola*

This bird was seen in Wakkerstroom, Sani Pass and in the Tankwa Karoo.

Capped Wheatear*Oenanthe pileata*

We saw an immature bird in Wakkerstroom and in the Western Cape.

Familiar Chat*Cercomela familiaris*

This chat was seen well on the Sani Pass and various rocky areas in the Western Cape.

Sunbirds & Spiderhunters Nectariniidae**Collared Sunbird***Hedydipna collaris*

This tiny sunbird was seen well in the Kruger NP and Zululand.

Orange-breasted Sunbird (E)*Anthobaphes violacea*

We had great views in the Western Cape.

Olive Sunbird*Cyanomitra olivacea*

This vocal sunbird was seen very well at St Lucia.

Grey Sunbird*Cyanomitra veroxii*

This sunbird was seen well in Hluhluwe and St Lucia area.

Amethyst Sunbird *Chalcomitra amethystina*

We had great looks at this pretty bird at Benvie Gardens.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis*

This spectacular sunbird was seen well in the Kruger NP and Mkuze GR.

Malachite Sunbird *Nectarinia famosa*

We saw this stunning bird in Wakkerstroom, Sani Pass and in the Western Cape.

Southern Double-collared Sunbird (E) *Cinnyris chalybeus*

We saw this vocal sunbird on most days in the Western Cape.

Neerguard's Sunbird *Cinnyris neergaardi*

We were very fortunate to see this very scarce sunbird near the False Bay Park in the Hluhluwe area.

Greater Double-collared Sunbird (E) *Cinnyris afer*

We saw this bird in Benvie Gardens and the Sani Pass.

Marico Sunbird *Cinnyris mariquensis*

We had great sightings in the Kruger NP and along the Zaagkuil drift road.

Purple-banded Sunbird *Cinnyris bifasciatus*

This striking sunbird was abundant in the Hluhluwe/St Lucia areas.

White-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris talatala*

This busy sunbird was seen well along the Zaagkuil drift road and in the Kruger NP.

Dusky Sunbird *Cinnyris fuscus*

We had good sightings of this easily overlooked sunbird in Veldrif and the Tankwa Karoo.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser mahali*

This species was seen along the Zaagkuil drift Rd, near its eastern distribution limit.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

This species was seen in association with human habitation, across the country.

Great Sparrow *Passer motitensis*

We got some lovely views of this sparrow when we were birding along the Zaagkuil drift road.

Cape Sparrow (RNE) *Passer melanurus*

This sparrow was seen regularly throughout the tour

Southern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer diffusus*

This species was seen regularly during the tour.

Yellow-throated [Petronia] (Sparrow) *Gymnoris supercilialis*

We saw this bird well at Mkuze GR.

Weavers & Allies Ploceidae

Red-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis niger*

We saw this weaver along the Zaagkuil drift Road and in the Kruger NP.

Scaly-feathered Weaver (RNE) *Sporopipes squamifrons*



This lovely little bird was seen right at the eastern edge of their range along the Zaagkuilsdrift road.

Thick-billed Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons*

This Weaver was seen well in the Kruger NP and in Zululand.

Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis*

This weaver was seen in Kruger National NP and in Hluhluwe/St Lucia areas.

Cape Weaver (E) *Ploceus capensis*

We found this endemic around Wakkerstroom and in the Western Cape.

Eastern Golden Weaver *Ploceus subaureus*

These bright yellow birds were common in the Hluhluwe and St Lucia areas.

Southern Brown-throated Weaver *Ploceus xanthopterus*

We had great sightings in St Lucia.

Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus intermedius*

We had a good view of a couple of individuals in St Lucia.

Southern Masked Weaver *Ploceus velatus*

This weaver was common seen on the eastern part of the tour.

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*

We had a great view of one colony in Benjie Gardens.

Dark-backed Weaver *Ploceus bicolor*

This forest-dwelling weaver was seen well in Hluhluwe and St Lucia.

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea Quelea*

We had regular sightings in the Kruger NP, Wakkerstroom and Mkuze GR and in the Karkloof.

Yellow-crowned Bishop *Euplectes afer*

We saw this beautiful bird near Wakkerstroom.

Southern Red Bishop *Euplectes orix*

We had many sightings of this beautiful bird during the tour.

Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis*

This pretty bird was seen en route to the Kruger NP, Karkloof, Sani Pass and in the Western Cape.

Fan-tailed Widowbird *Euplectes ardens*

We saw these birds in Wakkerstroom, Hluhluwe and the Karkloof.

Red-collared Widowbird *Euplectes ardens*

We had great views of this bird in the Karkloof and Sani Pass.

Long-tailed Widowbird *Euplectes progne*

We had many sightings en route to the Kruger NP and in and around Wakkerstroom.

Waxbills & Allies Estrildidae

Green-winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba*

This bird was seen not too long after entering the Kruger NP.

Red-headed Finch (RNE) *Amadina erythrocephala*

These birds were seen at the feeders at our guest house in Kempton Park.

Green Twinspot *Mandingoa nitidula*



We had very poor views of these birds in Cape Vidal.

Pink-throated Twinspot (RE) *Hypargos margaritatus*

We had great views of this bird in Mkuze GR.

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*

We found this bird along the Zaagkuilsdrift Road.

African Firefinch *Lagonosticta rubricata*

We had one brief sighting of this bird on the Sani Pass.

Blue Waxbill *Uraeginthus angolensis*

This neat species was common along the Zaagkuilsdrift road, Kruger NP and Mkuze GR.

Violet-eared Waxbill *Uraeginthus granatinus*

We were fortunate to see this beautiful bird on a dirt road near Kgomo-Kgomo village.

Swee Waxbill (E) *Estrilda melanotis*

After having no luck locating this bird we eventually found a few in a greenbelt near Kirstenbosh BG.

Grey Waxbill *Estrilda perreini*

We had great a sighting near Umkhumbi Lodge.

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*

We had scattered sightings across the country.

Quailfinch *Ortygospiza atricollis*

One member of the group managed to see a few off the bridge near the village of Kgomo-Kgomo.

Bronze Mannikin *Lonchura cucullata*

We had many great sightings in Zululand.

Red-backed Mannikin *Lonchura nigriceps*

We were fortunate to see these birds in mixed flocks with other seedeaters in tall grassy habitats.

Indigobirds Viduidae

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*

We had many sightings of this bossy bird throughout the trip.

Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae

Cape Wagtail *Motacilla capensis*

This bird was seen regularly at scattered localities throughout the country..

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp*

We had many sightings of this bird during the first week of the tour.

Cape Longclaw (RE) *Macronyx capensis*

We had good sightings near Ermelo, Wakkerstroom and in the Cape Peninsula.

Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus*

This stunner was seen well in the False Bay Park.

African Pipit *Anthus cinnamomeus*



We had regular sightings of this bird during the tour.

Mountain Pipit *Anthus hoeschi*

We had lovely views in Lesotho.

Long-billed Pipit *Anthus hoeschi*

This bird was seen very well along the Sani Pass.

African Rock Pipit *Anthus crenatus*

We managed to get a great look at this bird in Lesotho.

Yellow-breasted Pipit (E) *Anthus chloris*

We managed to view this bird in flight on the hillsides near Wakkerstroom.

Finches & Allies Fringillidae

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

We had a good sighting in Newlands, Cape Town.

Forest Canary (E) *Crithagra scotops*

We only managed to get semi decent views of this canary in a forest patch near Benvie Gardens.

Black-throated Canary *Crithagra atrogularis*

We saw these canaries in a vacant garden plot at Kgomo-Kgomo Village on the Zaagkuil drift road.

Lemon-breasted Canary *Crithagra citrinipectus*

We managed to get some good views through the spotting scope of a few birds new False Bay Park.

Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica*

We had regular sightings of these canaries during the tour.

Cape Siskin (E) *Crithagra totta*

We had great sightings of many individuals in Rooi Els.

Drakensberg Siskin (E) *Crithagra symonsi*

These birds were seen in large numbers on the Sani Pass.

Yellow Canary (RNE) *Crithagra flaviventris*

Seen in Lesotho and then in West Coast NP and the Tankwa Karoo.

Brimstone Canary *Crithagra sulphurata*

We managed to see this large canary in Harold Porter Botanical Gardens.

Streaky-headed Seedeater (RNE) *Crithagra gularis*

We had good sightings on the Sani Pass.

White-throated Canary (RNE) *Crithagra albogularis*

We found this near-endemic in the Tankwa Karoo.

Protea Canary (E) *Crithagra leucoptera*

We had excellent views of this endemic along the Gydo Pass near Ceres.

Cape Canary *Serinus canicollis*

This canary was seen well at Wakkerstroom, Sani Pass, Cape Peninsula and West Coast NP.

Black-headed Canary *Serinus alario*

We had brief sightings in the Skitterykloof, Tankwa Karoo.



Buntings Emberizidae

Lark-like Bunting*Emberzia impetuani*

This small gregarious bird was seen well in the Tankwa Karoo.

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting*Emberiza tahapisi*

We saw this lovely bunting near the Zaagkuil drift road and on the Sani Pass.

Cape Bunting (RNE)*Emberiza capensis*

Seen along Sani Pass and then almost daily in the Western Cape.

Golden-breasted Bunting*Emberiza flaviventris*

This pretty bunting was seen well in the Kruger NP and Mkuze GR.

Annotated List of Mammal Species recorded

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows The Field Guide to the Mammals of Southern Africa by Chris & Tilde Stuart (2007).

Total species recorded: 53

Jackals Canidae

Black-backed Jackal*Canis mesomelas*

We saw a few in the Kruger National Park.

African Wild Dog*Lycaon pictus*

We had fantastic views of these rare animals near Skukuza Rest Camp, Kruger NP.

Cats Felidae

Lion*Panthera leo*

We had a couple of good views in the Kruger NP.

Leopard*Panthera pardus*

We only managed to get one long distance sighting of one animal.

Mongoose Herpestriidae

Common Dwarf Mongoose*Helogale parvula*

We managed to get some good looks at this social mongoose in the Kruger NP.

Cape Grey Mongoose (RE)*Galerella pulverulenta*

We had brief sighting of this shy mongoose running across the road in the Cape Peninsula.

Slender Mongoose*Galerella sanguinea*

We saw this elegant mongoose in Mkhuzi GR.

Banded Mongoose*Mungos mungo*

We had some great views in St Lucia, as these animals were scavenging in the bins in the parking lot near the estuary.

Meerkat*Suricata suricatta*

We had a great sighting in Wakkerstroom.



Hyaenas Hyaenidae

Spotted Hyena

Crocuta crocuta

We had great sightings of this scavenger in the Kruger NP.

Weasels, Skunks, Otters Mustelidae

Spotted-necked Otter

Lutra maculicollis

We had one brief sighting in Wakkerstroom.

Honey Badger

Mellivora capensis

We managed to see this infamous animal in the Kruger NP.

Fur Seals Otariidae

Afro-Australian Fur Seal

Arctocephalus pusillus

We saw these animals in good numbers along the Western Cape coastline.

Vivets, Genets – Viverridae

South African Large-spotted Genet

Genetta tigrina

We saw this nocturnal animal on our night drive in the Kruger NP.

Cattle, Antelopes, Sheep, Goats Bovidae

Impala

Aepyceros melampus

This was a common antelope in Kruger NP and Mkhuze GR.

Hartebeest

Alcelaphus buselaphus

We saw this antelope in the Cape of Good Hope.

Natal Red Duiker

Cephalophus natalensis

This richly-coloured mammal was seen well in Hluhluwe and St Lucia.

Black Wildebeest

Connochaetes gnou

We saw these interesting looking animals on a private game reserve just outside Wakkerstroom.

Common Wildebeest

Connochaetes taurinus

We encountered this odd animal regularly in Kruger NP and the Zululand reserves.

Blesbok (E)

Damaliscus pygargus

We saw a few on a couple of private Game Reserves during the tour.

Common Waterbuck

Kobus ellipsiprymnus

We had some lovely sightings of these beautiful animals in the Kruger NP.

Klipspringer

Oreotragus oreotragus

These Klipspringers (English meaning rock jumpers) were seen at the Cape Rockjumper site in Rooi Els

Grey Rhebok (E)

Pelea capreolus

We saw a few of these antelopes near Ceres.

Blue Duiker

Philantomba monticola

We had exceptional close views of these tiny animals in the Dlinza Forest.

Steenbok

Raphicerus campestris

We saw these small antelope daily in Kruger National Park.



Southern Reedbuck*Redunca arundinum*

We saw a few of these shy animals in the Karkloof area.

Sharpe's Grysbok*Raphicerus Sharpei*

We had an unexpected sighting from Sweni Hide in the Kruger NP.

Common Duiker*Sylvicapra grimmia*

We had a few sightings in the Kruger NP.

African Buffalo*Syncerus caffer*

We managed to see some large numbers in the Kruger NP and a couple in the Mkuze GR.

Nyala*Tragelaphus angasii*

This beautiful antelope was seen in the Mkuze GR.

Common Eland*Tragelaphus oryx*

We saw good numbers in the West Coast NP.

Bushbuck*Tragelaphus scriptus*

We had a couple of sightings of these confiding individuals during the eastern section of the tour.

Greater Kudu*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*

This regal antelope was seen very well in the Kruger NP.

Springbok*Antidorcas marsupialis*

A few were seen outside Wakkerstroom.

Cape Grysbok*Raphicerus melanotis*

We were very fortunate to see this uncommonly seen antelope in the West Coast NP.

Giraffes Giraffidae

Giraffe*Giraffa camelopardalis*

We enjoyed multiple sightings of this unique creature in Kruger NP and Mkuze GR.

Hippopotami Hippopotamidae

Hippopotamus*Hippopotamus amphibius*

We had many sightings in the Kruger NP, Mkuze GR and the St Lucia Estuary.

Pigs Suidae

Common Warthog*Phacochoerus africanus*

We had great sightings in the Kruger NP and one that was completely covered in Red-billed Oxpeckers

Old World Fruit Bats Pteropodidae

Peter's Epauletted Fruit Bat*Phacochoerus africanus*

We managed to get lovely close views of these bats in Skukuza Rest Camp, Kruger NP.

Hyraxes Procaviidae

Rock Hyrax (Dassie)*Procavia capensis*

These animals were seen on a couple of occasions in the Western Cape.



Hares & Rabbits Leporidae

Scrub Hare*Lepus saxatilis*

We had a few sightings on our night drive in the Kruger NP.

Zebras Equidae

Common (Burchell's/Plains) Zebra*Equus quagga burchelli*

We had great sightings in the Kruger NP and Mkuze GR.

Rhinoceroses Rhinocerotidae

White Rhinoceros*Ceratotherium simum*

These prehistoric animals were seen well in the Kruger NP and Mkhuze GR.

Baboons & Monkeys Cercopithecidae

Blue Monkey*Cercopithecus mitis*

We had a good look at these monkeys in Cape Vidal Resort.

Vervet Monkey*Cercopithecus aethiops*

This was a commonly encountered primate throughout the east of the country.

Chacma Baboon*Papio ursinus*

We saw baboons on numerous occasions in Kruger NP and in the Western Cape.

Elephants Elephantidae

African Elephant*Loxodonta africana*

We had some lovely good views in the Kruger NP.

Rats & Mice Cricetidae & Muridae

Sloggett's Vlei Rat*Otomys sloggetti*

This rodent was seen at the top of Sani Pass and in Lesotho.

Four-striped Grass Mouse*Rhabdomys pumilio*

We saw this rodent in the Western Cape.

Greater Cane Rat*Thryonomys swinderianus*

We saw a couple of these rodents running across the road in the False Bay Park.

Squirrels Sciuridae

Smith's Bush Squirrel*Paraxerus cepapi*

This little squirrel was fairly common in Kruger NP.

Red Bush Squirrel*Paraxerus palliatus*

We saw these squirrels in the forests in St Lucia.

Annotated List of Reptiles

Total species recorded: 10

Crocodiles and Relatives Crocodylidae



Nile Crocodile*Crocodylus niloticus*

Some massive crocodiles were seen feeding on a dead hippopotamus in the Crocodile River. We also saw a few crocs in St Lucia too.

Agamas Agamidae**Southern Tree Agama***Acanthocercus atricollis*

We had good views of the colourful and large lizards in the Kruger NP.

Southern Rock Agama*Agama atra*

We saw these lizards along the Sani Pass and Tankwa Karoo.

Spinytail Lizards Cordylidae**Giant Girdled Lizard***Cordylus giganteus*

We saw this huge lizard at Olifants Rest Camp, Kruger NP.

Highveld Crag Lizard*Cordylus melanotus*

We had great looks at a few individuals in Lesotho.

Skinks Scincidae**African Striped Skink***Trachylepis striata*

We had a nice close view of a few in the Kruger NP.

Monitor Lizards Varanidae**Savanna Monitor***Varanus exanthematicus*

We had good views of this large reptile in the Kruger NP.

Nile Monitor*Varanus niloticus*

We managed to get a great look at this water loving reptile in the Kruger NP.

Afro-American Sideneck Turtles Pelomedusidae**Helmeted Turtle***Pelomedusa subrufa*

We had numerous sightings of these turtles in small dams and rivers in the Kruger NP.

Tortoises Testudinidae**Leopard Tortoise***Stigmochelys pardalis*

We had some good views of these tortoises in the Kruger NP.



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