



# South African Mega Endemic Birding Tour

7<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2007



Drakensberg Rockjumper on Sani Pass by Thomas Schall

**Trip report compiled by Erik Forsyth**

**Tour Leader:** Erik Forsyth

## **Tour summary**

We drove out of a bustling Johannesburg and headed south-east to Kimberley, (situated in the Northern Cape Province) the start of an epic twenty-two day endemic birding tour. Our hotel grounds in Johannesburg had provided a nice introduction to South African birding with the likes of Karoo Thrush, Cape White-eye, Cape Sparrow and Cape Robin-chat.

Our first full day was mainly a travel day but comfort stops along the route produced several new birds such as Black-throated Canary, African Pied Starling and Red Bishop. A stop along a gravel farm road produced our target birds of the day, the near endemic Orange River Francolin and Northern Black Korhaan. We arrived at our lodge in Kimberley in the late afternoon walked around the grounds adding the gaudy Crimson-breasted Shrike, and Black-cheeked and Violet-eared Waxbills. A night-drive here produced many species of mammals the best being: three Porcupine and an African Wild Cat. Our next stop was the arid and hot Brandvlei area host to several endemic larks, chats and coursers. Unusually cool weather here helped us cope during the day and our main targets were found after some careful scanning of water-troughs scattered along farm roads. We enjoyed good looks at Sclater's, Red and Stark's larks as well as the large Kori Bustard and a Martial Eagle was watched eating a rabbit on a telegraph pole. A night drive produced a pair of Polecat and a confiding Spotted Eagle-Owl perched close to the road. Moving on to the Atlantic coastal town of Port Nolloth (near the Namibian border) we added all three pelagic cormorants, Cape, Bank and the scarce Crowned. This area is known for two endemic larks restricted to the coastal scrub and both targets were located by mid morning when they were found displaying. The Goegap Reserve outside Springbok was a sea of flowers and greenery after plentiful winter rains. All our target birds fell quickly and we particularly enjoyed close confiding views of Cinnamon-breasted Warbler that ran across and sat on a boulder in front of us. A family group of Karoo Eremomela, Damara Canary and several Ludwig's Bustard were also admired as well as the stunning Gemsbok (Oryx) being followed by two Black-backed Jackals.

Heading to Cape Town we stopped at a small kloof (gorge) which produced the highly sought after and elusive Protea Canary. Our next stop was the West Coast National Park, an area protecting coastal grassland and scrub as well as lagoons and tidal marshes. We had an excellent morning here seeing several endemics including Gray-winged Francolin, Southern Black Korhaan and the unbeatable Black Harrier. Our stay on the Cape Peninsula was very enjoyable with excellent accommodation and restaurants too choose from. Here we had several targets to chase and after some careful planning we scored well with excellent looks at Cape Rockjumper, Victorin's Warbler, Cape Sugarbird, Orange-breasted Sunbird, Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk and even the ultra-skulking Knysna Warbler made a brief appearance! A pelagic trip off Simons Town visiting several fishing trawlers produced good numbers of albatrosses, petrels and shearwaters and the prize of the day was a Wandering Albatross which allowed close approach. A stay in the De Hoop area produced the endemic Knysna Woodpecker as well as Stanley Bustard, Cape Vulture and the elegant Blue Crane (South Africa's national bird).

We then made our way to the coastal city of Durban for our eastern leg of the tour. Arriving midday in Durban (KwaZulu/Natal Province) we drove straight to our hotel in Hilton unpacked and then headed to Midmar Game Reserve for a night drive. Two new mammal ticks were noted during the remaining daylight hours, the scarce but elegant Black Wildebeest was seen running in herds across the plains and the tiny grassland specialist, the Oribi was eventually sighted. After dark we watched two Marsh Owl hunting and a Barn Owl was seen perched on a fence. Our visit to the Karkloof, a range of forested hills produced several key birds including the rare and endemic Cape Parrot at a nest hole, Scaly-throated Honeyguide, Lemon Dove, Mountain Wagtail, Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler and confiding looks at the attractive Orange Ground Thrush. A day visit up the Sani Pass into Lesotho was a highlight and included the striking Drakensberg Rockjumper, Southern Bald Ibis and great looks at several different Lammergeier attending a carcass with Cape Vultures. Moving on to Eshowe we spent an enjoyable couple of hours at the canopy tower at

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Dhlinza Forest seeing such gems as the rare Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon, Purple-crested Turaco, raucous Crowned and Trumpeter Hornbills. A mid morning visit to the remote Ngoye Forest gave us excellent looks at the range restricted Green (Woodward's) Barbet as well as a chance find of the rare Southern Ground Hornbill. A short drive from here and we were watching another range restricted species, the Palmnut Vulture. This strikingly plumaged black and white bird was seen perched on its favourite feeding tree, the Raphia Palm. Our days at Mkuze were bird-filled and the highlights were many and included delightfully marked Pink-throated Twin-spot, Four-coloured Bushshrike, the scarce Neergaard's Sunbird and the huge Lappet-faced Vulture at a nest. We then drove up to the high altitude grasslands around Wakkerstroom well-known for its many rare and range restricted species. Walking the grasslands and driving the roads we eventually found most of the specials. These included several sightings of the smart Blue Bustard, Barrow's (White-bellied) Korhaan, the rare and endangered Rudd's Lark and the equally rare Yellow-breasted Pipit. Unusually an African Rail was seen running in the open at a wetland near town.

The last few days of our tour were based at Polokwane in Northern Province. En Route to Polokwane we had our lunch stop at the nest site for the rarest breeding bird in South Africa- the Taita Falcon. Here we enjoyed excellent scope looks at this small falcon and even saw the pair attacking a White-naped Raven as it was getting close to the nest site! Polokwane Reserve produced the goods and the highlights included Coqui, Crested, Shelley's and Natal Francolin, Great Sparrow and the smart White-throated Robin. While birding around the forested slopes of Magoebaskloof we found the stunning Narina Trogon watched in the scope, a trio of Wood Owl playing hide and seek and enjoyed lunch while watching a pair of the highly elusive Bat Hawk at their nest site. This ended a highly successful and enjoyable endemic tour which covered 8000km and recorded just under 500 species, what a trip!

### **BIRD SPECIES LIST**

E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic, BE = Breeding-endemic

#### **Ostrich *Struthionidae***

##### **Ostrich**

*Struthio camelus*

First recorded at Kimberley where we recorded a high of fifty at Benfontein Game Sanctuary with further sightings in the Western Cape and at Polokwane Game Reserve.

*NOTE: some authorities regard the subspecies S. c. molybdophanes of dry East Africa as a distinct species: Somali Ostrich. The form we observed would remain with the nominate Common Ostrich S. camelus. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*

#### **Penguins *Spheniscidae***

##### **Jackass (African) Penguin (NE)**

*Spheniscus demersus*

About eighty birds were seen huddled together on rocks at Simons Town on our Pelagic trip out of Cape Town. Fifty plus were encountered nearby the Boulders colony on the Cape Peninsula. This is one of only two mainland colonies of this species and a highlight for Sara!

#### **Grebes *Podicipedidae***

##### **Little Grebe (Dabchick)**

*Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Our first sighting was of a single bird at Goegap Nature Reserve. We had further sightings with smaller numbers of this rather common bird at several other wetlands on tour.

##### **Great Crested Grebe**

*Podiceps cristatus*

We had good looks at two birds Betty's Bay and eight at Strandfontein.

##### **Eared (Black-necked) Grebe**

*Podiceps nigricollis*

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Eleven birds were seen between Port Nolloth and Springbok, Wakkerstroom and a further one hundred were seen at Strandfontein.

### Albatrosses Diomedidae

#### **Wandering Albatross**

*Diomedea exulans*

One bird was located on our pelagic trip. A rare bird!

#### **Black-browed Albatross**

*Thalassarche melanophris*

Commonly seen on the pelagic trip off Cape Town.

#### **Shy Albatross**

*Thalassarche cauta*

Up to seventy were seen on the pelagic. We enjoyed stunning views of birds flying right past the boat.

*NOTE: Some authorities split the Shy Albatross Thalassarche cauta, the one we observed, into two further species, Salvin's Albatross T c salvini and Chatham Island Albatross T c erimita. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*

#### **[Atlantic] Yellow-nosed Albatross**

*Thalassarche chlororhynchos*

We had views of three birds on the pelagic.

*NOTE: Some authorities split the Yellow-nosed Albatross into the Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross T. chlororhynchos, the nominate form, and the Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross T. carteri. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*

#### **[Indian] Yellow-nosed Albatross**

*Thalassarche carteri*

Three birds were seen on our pelagic trip.

### Shearwaters and Petrels Procellariidae

#### **Antarctic (Southern) Giant Petrel**

*Macronectes giganteus*

Ten seen on our pelagic trip.

#### **Hall's (Northern) Giant Petrel**

*Macronectes halli*

Up to eight seen on our pelagic trip.

#### **Cape (Pintado) Petrel**

*Daption capense*

Commonly seen on our pelagic trip.

#### **White-chinned Petrel**

*Procellaria aequinoctialis*

Two were seen of Port Nolloth. Usually very common, we had an estimated one hundred birds on the Pelagic trip.

*NOTE: The circumpolar White-chinned Petrel (P.a.aequinoctialis) is regarded by many authorities as a separate species from the endangered Spectacled Petrel (P.a.conspicillata), which breeds only on the Inaccessible Islands. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.*

#### **Greater (Great) Shearwater**

*Puffinus gravis*

We encountered three on the pelagic.

#### **Sooty Shearwater**

*Puffinus griseus*

Numerous with hundreds recorded during the pelagic, where their distinctive silvery underwings were particularly noticeable.

### Storm-Petrels Hydrobatidae

#### **Wilson's Storm-Petrel**

*Oceanites oceanicus*

Thirty birds were seen on the pelagic off Cape Town.

### Pelicans Pelecanidae

#### **Great White Pelican**

*Pelecanus onocrotalus*

We encountered five at the WCNP, twelve birds at Strandfontein and a single bird at St Lucia.

#### **Pink-backed Pelican**

*Pelecanus rufescens*

Six birds were seen at Muzi Pan.

### Boobies and Gannets Sulidae

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### **Cape Gannet (BE)**

*Morus capensis*

Thirty birds were seen on our pelagic trip off Cape Town.

## **Cormorants & Shags *Phalacrocoracidae***

### **Great (White-breasted) Cormorant**

*Phalacrocorax carbo*

This common species was seen at most wetland sites on tour, both at the coast and inland.

*NOTE: The white-breasted African subspecies of the widely distributed Great Cormorant P. carbo is sometimes considered a different species: P. lucidus, the one we observed. This split is not yet accepted by Clements.*

### **Cape Cormorant (BE)**

*Phalacrocorax capensis*

This is the common saltwater cormorant around the Cape and we saw up to a thousand birds roosting on rocks along the coast during the pelagic trip.

### **Bank Cormorant (E)**

*Phalacrocorax neglectus*

One hundred were seen on a large granite boulder during the pelagic trip.

### **Long-tailed (Reed) Cormorant**

*Phalacrocorax africanus*

Recorded on several days at almost all wetlands sites in eastern South Africa.

### **Crowned Cormorant (NE)**

*Phalacrocorax coronatus*

Our first sighting was of four birds at Port Nolloth with a further sighting of a single bird near Simonstown.

## **Anhinga & Darter *Anhingidae***

### **(African) Darter**

*Anhinga melanogaster*

We first encountered this species at the Orange River at Keimoes, a further two at Strandfontein and saw five other birds in the Kwazulu Natal Midlands.

*NOTE: The resident African form A. rufa is sometimes lumped with the Asian A. melanogaster and the enlarged species called Darter. Clements uses the latter treatment of lumping these forms.*

## **Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns *Ardeidae***

### **Gray Heron**

*Ardea cinerea*

Seen at wetland habitats throughout the tour.

### **Black-headed Heron**

*Ardea melanocephala*

This is typically a grassland species where grasshoppers, one of its favourite foods, can be found. Commonly recorded throughout South Africa.

### **Goliath Heron**

*Ardea goliath*

Single birds were seen at Midmar Game Reserve and Muzi Pan.

### **Purple Heron**

*Ardea purpurea*

Two birds near Rooi Els, one at Richards Bay with a final sighting at Wakkerstroom.

*NOTE: The Cape Verde Islands A. p. bournei is sometimes split off as Cape Verde Purple Heron or Bourne's Heron.*

### **Great (White) Egret**

*Ardea alba*

Single birds were seen at scattered localities throughout the tour.

*NOTE: The nominate Old World Great Egret may be split from the New World A. a. egretta which would become American Egret. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.*

### **Black Heron**

*Egretta ardesiaca*

Four birds were seen at Muzi Pan.

### **Intermediate (Yellow-billed) Egret**

*Egretta intermedia*

Single birds recorded at Underberg, Richards Bay and Wakkerstroom.

*NOTE: This group may be split into 3 species, the Africa Yellow-billed Egret (E. brachyrhyncha) (the form we recorded), Plumed Egret (E. plumifera) and the nominate Intermediate Egret. This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.*

### **Little Egret**

*Egretta garzetta*

Recorded at wetlands scattered throughout the tour.

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NOTE: Clements lumps Little, Western Reef (*E. gularis*) and Madagascar's Dimorphic (*E. dimorpha*) Egret into a single species. This treatment is not widely accepted.

**Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides*

Five at Richards Bay and a single bird at Muzi Pan.

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*

Commonly recorded throughout South Africa.

NOTE: This group may be split into 2 species, the nominate Common Cattle Egret and the Asian/Australasian Eastern Cattle Egret (*E. coromanda*). This split is as yet not recognised by Clements.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*

First recorded at Strandfontein with a further sighting at Wakkerstroom.

### **Hamerkop Scopidae**

**Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta*

This unusual bird, placed in its own family, was first seen in the Underberg area where we recorded two birds with a further sighting at Wakkerstroom.

### **Storks Ciconiidae**

**Yellow-billed Stork** *Mycteria ibis*

We recorded thirty birds at Muzi Pan.

**Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra*

Single birds were seen at De Hoop and at Wakkerstroom.

**Woolly-necked Stork** *Ciconia episcopus*

Several sightings of this species in the Richards Bay/St Lucia area.

**Marabou Stork** *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

We recorded this rather vulgar looking species in small numbers in Pongola GR and near Hoedspruit.

### **Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae**

**Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Commonly recorded at wetlands throughout South Africa with our first sightings at our hotel in Johannesburg.

NOTE: The Malagasy *T. e. bernieri* and Aldabran *T. e. abbotti* are sometimes split off as Madagascar White Ibis (*T. bernieri*)

**(Southern) Bald Ibis (E)** *Geronticus calvus*

We had excellent looks at this bizarre looking endemic. First recorded in the Karkloof with further sightings at Wakkerstroom and in Lesotho.

**Hadada Ibis (Hadeda)** *Bostrychia hagedash*

This noisy bird was recorded nearly daily at all locations throughout eastern South Africa.

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

We recorded the bird sporadically at a few wetlands throughout the tour with a highest count of sixty on our first day en route to Dullstroom.

**African Spoonbill** *Platalea alba*

Recorded at several wetlands throughout South Africa with our first sighting of eight on our first day en route to Dullstroom.

### **Flamingos Phoenicopteridae**

**Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopus roseus*

Eight birds near Langebaan, four hundred+ at the West Coast NP and a high count of one thousand birds at Strandfontein.

NOTE: The Greater Flamingo (*P. roseus*) and the Caribbean Flamingo (*P. ruber*) are now considered monotypic species according to Clements.

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### **Lesser Flamingo**

*Phoenicopterus minor*

Several thousand birds were seen together at Kamfers Dam near Kimberley.

## **Swans, Geese & Ducks *Anatidae***

### **White-faced Whistling-Duck**

*Dendrocygna viduata*

Seen at both Muzi Pan and Pongola GR.

### **White-backed Duck**

*Thalassornis leuconotus*

Twenty birds were seen in the Karkloof. A scarce species in SA.

### **Egyptian Goose**

*Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Commonly recorded at wetlands throughout South Africa.

### **South African Shelduck (E)**

*Tadorna cana*

This attractive species was recorded at several sites in the Cape Province including a pair with five chicks at Port Nolloth.

### **Spur-winged Goose**

*Plectropterus gambensis*

Commonly recorded at wetlands throughout South Africa, with a peak of one hundred and twenty birds en route from Calvinia to Langebaan.

### **Comb (Knob-billed) Duck**

*Sarkidiornis melanotos*

A single bird was seen at Muzi Pan.

### **African Pygmy-goose**

*Nettapus auritus*

Eighteen of these attractive birds were seen well at Richards Bay.

### **African Black Duck**

*Anas sparsa*

A pair of these shy ducks was seen at Wakkerstroom.

### **Cape Teal**

*Anas capensis*

Our first sighting was of four birds near Keimoes with further sightings at Langebaan and Strandfontein.

### **Yellow-billed Duck**

*Anas undulata*

Commonly recorded at wetlands throughout South Africa, with highest numbers of twenty-seven recorded near Underberg.

### **Red-billed Duck (Teal)**

*Anas erythrorhyncha*

Recorded at several wetlands with the above species and our highest number was of twenty-five at Muzi Pan.

### **Hottentot Teal**

*Anas hottentota*

Four were seen at Stanger wetland and a further six at Muzi Pan.

### **Cape Shoveler (NE)**

*Anas smithii*

This near endemic was encountered at several wetlands in the Cape and Mpumalanga a high count of fourteen at Wakkerstroom.

### **Southern Pochard**

*Netta erythrophthalma*

Eight were seen near Langebaan, twenty at Strandfontein and two near De Hoop.

### **Maccoa Duck**

*Oxyura maccoa*

Eight of these “stiff tails” were seen at Strandfontein.

## **Hawks, Eagles & Kites *Accipitridae***

### **Bat Hawk**

*Macheiramphus alcinus*

We enjoyed excellent scope views of a pair at their nest, near Magoebaskloof.

### **Black-shouldered (-winged) Kite**

*Elanus caeruleus*

Recorded on many days of the tour. Our first birds were recorded on the drive from Johannesburg to Kimberley.

*NOTE: Clements has split the two species Black-shouldered Kite (Elanus caeruleus) of the Old World and White-tailed Kite (Elanus leucurus) of the New World. This split is not universally accepted.*

### **Black (Yellow-billed) Kite**

*Milvus migrans*

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Recorded on most days at most sites throughout the tour. We saw particularly good numbers in Zululand often in excess of ten birds daily.

NOTE: This locally breeding form of the Black Kite *M. migrans* is considered by most authorities as a distinct species, *M. parasitus*, the ones we observed.

### **African Fish-Eagle**

*Haliaeetus vocifer*

The call of this familiar species is the signature sound of the African wild. Our first sighting was of a bird at De Hoop Nature Reserve.

### **Palmnut Vulture**

*Gypohierax angolensis*

One of these stunning birds was found in the Ralphia Palm Reserve at Mtunzini.

### **Lammergeier (Bearded Vulture)**

*Gypaetus barbatus*

We were fortunate to see at least five different individuals of these world-class raptors at Sani Pass.

### **(African) White-backed Vulture**

*Gyps africanus*

Three birds were seen sitting on pylons en route to Kimberley and six were recorded at Polokwane GR.

### **Cape Griffon (Vulture) (BE)**

*Gyps coprotheres*

We had several sightings in the Drakensberg Mountain range. Our most memorable was seventy birds at a carcass in the Sani Pass area.

### **Lappet-faced Vulture**

*Torgos tracheliotus*

A bird was seen at a nest in Mkuze Game Reserve.

### **Brown Snake-Eagle**

*Circaetus cinereus*

One was seen in Kruger NP, one in Pongola and two at Mkuze.

### **Fasciated (Southern Banded) Snake-Eagle**

*Circaetus fasciolatus*

Two of these scarce raptors were heard calling and then seen in flight along the Mkuze River.

### **Bateleur**

*Terathopius ecaudatus*

Four birds were seen well in the Hoedspruit area. One of the world's most beautiful raptors!

### **African Marsh-Harrier**

*Circus ranivorus*

Our first sighting was at a small marsh in the West Coast NP with further sightings at De Hoop, Underberg and Muzi Pan.

### **Black Harrier (E)**

*Circus maurus*

This spectacular raptor was first recorded at Goegap NR with further sightings at the West Coast NP and at De Hoop.

### **African Harrier-Hawk**

*Polyboroides typus*

Our first sighting was of a pair at Niewoudtville Waterfall with further sightings at De Hoop, Dhlinda Forest and Mkuze Game Reserve.

### **Lizard Buzzard**

*Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

We enjoyed a sighting of this handsome raptor at Mkuze Game Reserve and another in the Hoedspruit area.

### **(Southern) Pale Chanting-Goshawk**

*Melierax canorus*

We had several sightings throughout the dry Western areas of South Africa.

### **African Goshawk**

*Accipiter tachiro*

A single and rather vocal bird was seen in the Constantia "Green Belt" area of Cape Town and another was heard and then seen at Dhlinda Forest.

NOTE: The West African forms are sometimes separated as Red-chested Goshawk (*A. tousseneli*).

### **Little Sparrowhawk**

*Accipiter minullus*

One was seen in the Karkloof and another at Xumeni forest. Both sightings were of brief flying birds.

### **Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk**

*Accipiter rufiventris*

This is a rather uncommon raptor in South Africa and we were lucky to get brief views of a flying bird at Betty's Bay in the Western Cape.

### **Black Goshawk**

*Accipiter melanoleucus*

This very powerful forest dwelling *Accipiter* was observed at Dhlinda Forest.

### **Mountain [Forest] Buzzard**

*Buteo oreophilus*

We had a surprise sighting of one en route to De Hoop NR.

NOTE: Forest Buzzard, *B. trizonatus* is sometimes split off from Mountain Buzzard, *B. oreophilus*. Clements does not accept this split.

### **Jackal Buzzard (NE)**

*Buteo rufofuscus*

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First recorded en route to Brandvlei, this endemic was encountered regularly thereafter.

**Wahlberg's Eagle** *Aquila wahlbergi*

We found several birds including two sitting on nests at Mkuze Game Reserve.

**Verreaux's Eagle** *Aquila verreauxii*

We enjoyed good looks at this fine raptor near Springbok with a further sighting en route from Karooport to De Hoop.

**African Hawk-Eagle** *Aquila spilogaster*

We had good views of singles near Hoedspruit and at Polokwane Game Reserve.

**Booted Eagle** *Aquila pennatus*

Four birds were seen in the Northern Cape around Springbok.

**Martial Eagle** *Polemaetus bellicosus*

Three birds were seen near Brandvlei.

**Long-crested Eagle** *Lophaetus occipitalis*

We enjoyed many sightings of this regal bird with the bulk of the sightings coming from the Kwazulu-Natal Midlands.

### **Secretarybird *Sagittariidae***

**Secretary-bird** *Sagittarius serpentarius*

We were ecstatic to have two sightings in grassland at De Hoop with a further sighting of a pair at Polokwane Game Reserve. This amazing bird is by no means a guaranteed sighting on any trip in Southern Africa and always a lucky find.

### **Falcons & Caracaras *Falconidae***

**Pygmy Falcon** *Polihierax semitorquatus*

We had good sightings of three.

**Eurasian (Rock/Common) Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Frequently recorded throughout the tour with our first sightings around Brandvlei.

*NOTE: Clements has not split the distinctive Rock Kestrel *F.t.rupicolus* we observed, which he lumps as a subspecies of the Eurasian Kestrel. Many authorities accept this split.*

**Greater Kestrel** *Falco rupicoloides*

First seen on our drive to Kimberley and regularly seen around Brandvlei, Springbok and Calvinia.

**Lanner Falcon** *Falco biarmicus*

We enjoyed our first sighting of this powerful *Falco* en route from Brandvlei to Port Nolloth with further sightings at Sir Lowry's Pass and Sani Pass.

**Taita Falcon** *Falco fasciinucha*

We enjoyed excellent scope views of this rare raptor as well as flight views of a pair mobbing a White-necked Raven.

### **Pheasants & Partridges *Phasianidae***

**Coqui Francolin** *Francolinus coqui*

We enjoyed stunning views of a male at Polokwane Game Reserve.

**Crested Francolin** *Francolinus sephaena*

Although more often heard than seen we enjoyed some great sightings in open woodland in Kruger NP and Zululand.

*NOTE: The subspecies *F.s.rovuma* of Coastal SE Africa is sometimes considered by authorities to be a separate species, Kirk's Francolin. This split is not currently accepted by Clements.*

**Red-winged Francolin (E)** *Francolinus levaillantii*

Two of these delicately patterned gamebirds were seen below Sani Pass with a further sighting of three at Wakkerstroom.

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### **Gray-winged Francolin**

*Francolinus africanus*

Two were seen in West Coast NP, nine at Sani Pass and a further two at Wakkerstroom.

### **Shelley's Francolin**

*Francolinus shelleyi*

We had close views of a responsive bird that was seen running past our vehicle.

### **Orange River Francolin(NE)**

*Francolinus levaillantoides*

Six birds were seen en route to Kimberley.

### **Cape Francolin (E)**

*Francolinus capensis*

We had several sightings in the Western Cape.

### **Natal Francolin (NE)**

*Francolinus natalensis*

Several birds were seen daily in the Kruger NP.

### **Swainson's Francolin (Spurfowl) (NE)**

*Francolinus swainsonii*

Four birds were seen on our first day en route to Dullstroom, two in the Kruger and one en route to Mkuze.

### **Common Quail**

*Coturnix coturnix*

Seen at Goegap Reserve in Springbok with further sightings at Midmar.

## **Guineafowl *Numididae***

### **Helmeted Guineafowl**

*Numida meleagris*

Recorded on most days of the tour being especially common in Eastern South Africa.

*NOTE: The nominate N. m. meleagris Helmeted Guineafowl, is sometimes regarded as distinct from the western (N. m. galeata) West African Guineafowl and the southern, which we recorded, (N. m. mitrata) Tufted Guineafowl. Clements does not as yet recognise these splits.*

### **Crested Guineafowl**

*Guttera pucherani*

Our first sighting of this beautiful bird was at Cape Vidal with further sightings at Mkuze.

*NOTE: The West African form is sometimes split off as Western Crested Guineafowl (G. edouardi).*

## **Cranes *Gruidae***

### **(Southern) Gray Crowned-Crane**

*Balearica regulorum*

This exceptionally beautiful crane is also the regions' most frequently encountered. We had small flocks in the Natal Midlands and Drakensberg areas.

*NOTE: This southern form is sometimes lumped with Black Crowned Crane B. pavonina of West Africa.*

### **Blue Crane (E)**

*Anthropoides paradiseus*

We saw good numbers of this wonderfully elegant bird. Our first sighting was of a pair at Benfontein Game Farm. We enjoyed further sightings in the Western Cape, Wakkerstroom and the Karkloof grasslands.

## **Rails, Gallinules & Coots *Rallidae***

### **Red-chested Flufftail**

*Sarothrura rufa*

A bird more often heard than seen. One was heard calling at a Stanger marsh.

### **African (~Water/Cape) Rail**

*Rallus caerulescens*

First heard calling at two sites in the Western Cape, then singles seen at the Stanger wetland and excellent views obtained at Wakkerstroom.

### **Black Crane**

*Amaurornis flavirostra*

This very striking rail is refreshingly common and easy to see. We enjoyed our first sighting at the West Coast NP with a further ten seen at Richards Bay and two at Muzi Pan.

### **Purple Swamphen**

*Porphyrio porphyrio*

Four were seen at both Stanger and Muzi Pan with a final sighting of eight at Wakkerstroom.

*NOTE: This cosmopolitan species is currently in taxonomic review and several forms are expected to be recognised as distinct species. The form we recorded would then become African Swamphen (P. madagascariensis.) Other forms to be recognised may include Indian Swamphen (P. poliocephalus,) Philippine Swamphen (P. pulverulentus) and Eastern Swamphen (P. melanotus).*

### **Common Moorhen**

*Gallinula chloropus*

A common bird, encountered at several wetland sites throughout the tour.

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### **Red-knobbed Coot**

*Fulica cristata*

As with the above species, good numbers were seen throughout the tour.

## **Bustards *Otididae***

### **Kori Bustard**

*Ardeotis kori*

We had good views of a single bird en route from Kimberley to Brandvlei with further sightings around Brandvlei and Port Nolloth.

### **Ludwig's Bustard**

*Neotis ludwigii*

We had numerous excellent sightings, first recorded near Springbok where we saw four, in a field full of orange and pink flowers.

### **Stanley (Denham's) Bustard**

*Neotis denhami*

Four of these wonderful birds were seen in the De Hoop area and a further two near Swartberg.

### **White-bellied Bustard (Barrow's Korhaan) (E)**

*Eupodotis senegalensis*

Five birds were seen well in the Wakkerstroom area.

*NOTE: This species is sometimes split into the Northern White-bellied Bustard, E.senegalensis and the southern Barrow's Bustard, E.barrowii, the ones we observed. Clements does not yet accept this split.*

### **Blue Bustard (E)**

*Eupodotis caerulescens*

We saw nine of these smart birds during our morning walk in search of endemic larks at Wakkerstroom.

### **Karoo Bustard (NE)**

*Eupodotis vigorsii*

Pleasantly common around the Brandvlei area.

### **Red-crested Bustard**

*Eupodotis ruficrista*

Our only bird was found near the Swaziland border in the Pongola NR.

### **Black Bustard (Southern Black Korhaan) (E)**

*Eupodotis afra*

A single seen briefly at Langebaan and we had great views of six birds in the West Coast NP. Certainly one of the world's most striking bustards.

*NOTE: Although formally lumped, Clements has now split the two forms; the localized Black Bustard of the SW Cape and the more widespread White-quilled Bustard E.afraoides.*

### **White-quilled Bustard**

*Eupodotis afraoides*

We enjoyed regular sightings of this species in display flights around the Kimberley and Brandvlei areas.

*NOTE: see above species.*

### **Black-bellied Bustard (Korhaan)**

*Lissotis melanogaster*

Two birds were found in the Lower Mkuze area.

## **Jacanas *Jacanidae***

### **African Jacana**

*Actophilornis africanus*

Commonly encountered gracing wetlands in the east. We had our highest number of thirty at Muzi Pan.

## **Oystercatchers *Haematopodidae***

### **African (Black) Oystercatcher (E)**

*Haematopus moquini*

With a population of only 4800 it is fortunate that this species is commonly seen in most of the Western Cape. We encountered small numbers at a variety of coastal sites on the Cape Peninsula.

## **Stilts & Avocets *Recurvirostridae***

### **Black-winged Stilt**

*Himantopus himantopus*

Small numbers were encountered fairly regularly on wetlands in both the east and west with our highest number of twelve at St Lucia.

### **Pied Avocet**

*Recurvirostra avosetta*

Flocks were seen at several sights in the east and a flock of thirty at Strandfontein in the western Cape.

**Thick-knees *Burhinidae***

**Water Thick-knee (Dikkop)**

*Burhinus vermiculatus*

Our only sighting was of a pair at the De Hoop NR.

**Spotted Thick-knee (Dikkop)**

*Burhinus capensis*

Single birds were seen at Brandvlei, De Hoop and Port Nolloth, two at the West Coast NP and finally three at Wakkerstroom.

**Courasers & Pratincoles *Glareolidae***

**Double-banded Courser**

*Smutsornis africanus*

Four were seen at Benfontein Game Reserve and two near Pofadder.

**Collared (Red-winged) Pratincole**

*Glareola pratincola*

We saw four of these sleek shorebirds in flight near Richards Bay, twenty plus at Cape Vidal and smaller numbers at Muzi Pan.

**Plovers & Lapwings *Charadriidae***

**Blacksmith Plover (Lapwing)**

*Vanellus armatus*

Recorded almost daily at nearly all wetlands throughout South Africa.

**Senegal Lapwing**

*Vanellus lugubris*

A pair of these nomadic birds was found on the Mkuze airstrip.

**Black-winged Lapwing**

*Vanellus melanopterus*

A flock of fifty birds were found at Midmar Game Reserve.

**Crowned Lapwing (Plover)**

*Vanellus coronatus*

Recorded at scattered sites throughout the tour.

**(African) Wattled Lapwing (Plover)**

*Vanellus senegallus*

We encountered single birds at Midmar Game Reserve, Dirkiesdorp and Wakkerstroom.

**Black-bellied (Gray) Plover**

*Pluvialis squatarola*

Thirty birds were seen at the West Coast NP.

**Kittlitz's Plover**

*Charadrius pecuarius*

Seen at several sites on the tour with small numbers at Langebaan, De Hoop, Muzi Pan and Pongola Reserve.

**Three-banded Plover**

*Charadrius tricollaris*

A widespread and fairly common species. We enjoyed sightings of single birds at water bodies in Stanger, Richards Bay and Muzi Pan.

**White-fronted Plover**

*Charadrius marginatus*

A coastal species seen in Port Nolloth, Cape Town and St Lucia.

**Sandpipers & Allies *Scolopacidae***

**African (Ethiopian) Snipe**

*Gallinago nigripennis*

We had good views of ten at the Wakkerstroom wetland.

**Bar-tailed Godwit**

*Limosa lapponica*

Singles seen at Port Nolloth and the West Coast NP.

**(Common) Whimbrel**

*Numenius phaeopus*

We had ten plus on the mudflats at Langebaan Lagoon in the West Coast NP.

**Eurasian Curlew**

*Numenius arquata*

A single bird was heard calling and then seen at St Lucia.

**Common Sandpiper**

*Actitis hypoleucos*

Two were found at the St Lucia River Mouth.

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<b>Common Greenshank</b>	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Small numbers were seen at scattered sites.	
<b>Marsh Sandpiper</b>	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
Three were seen at Muzi Pan and two at Wakkerstroom.	
<b>Wood Sandpiper</b>	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
We observed small numbers at most wetland localities in Eastern SA.	
<b>Ruddy Turnstone</b>	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Twenty-six recorded at Port Nolloth was our only record.	
<b>Red Knot</b>	<i>Calidris canutus</i>
A single bird was seen at the West Coast NP.	
<b>Sanderling</b>	<i>Calidris alba</i>
Fifty plus were seen at Port Nolloth and fifteen at St Lucia.	
<b>Little Stint</b>	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Four were seen en route to Kimberley and six at Muzi Pan.	
<b>Curlew Sandpiper</b>	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Recorded at both Port Nolloth and Muzi Pan.	
<b>Ruff</b>	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>
Sixty were seen at the Stanger wetland and fifty at Muzi Pan.	

### **Gulls *Laridae***

<b>Kelp (Cape) Gull (NE)</b>	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>
Commonly recorded along the southern and western Coast of South Africa. We estimated conservative counts in the lower hundreds along the Cape Town coast.	
<i>NOTE: Recent work suggests that the Kelp Gull complex <i>L. dominicanus</i> may be split into as many as four species, the form we saw would become Cape Gull <i>L. vetula</i> which breeds in South Africa.</i>	
<b>Gray-headed Gull</b>	<i>Larus cirrocephalus</i>
Eighty around Johannesburg en route to Kimberley and five at the St Lucia estuary.	
<b>Hartlaub's Gull (E)</b>	<i>Larus hartlaubii</i>
Good numbers were seen daily around the Cape Peninsula.	

### **Terns *Sternidae***

<b>Caspian Tern</b>	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Up to forty were seen at the West Coast NP.	
<b>Whiskered Tern</b>	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
Fifteen seen at Richards Bay.	
<b>Common Tern</b>	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Four seen during our pelagic.	
<b>Greater Crested (Swift) Tern</b>	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>
Recorded around the Cape Peninsula and during our pelagic boat trip.	

### **Jaegers and Skuas *Stercorariidae***

<b>Brown (Subantarctic) Skua</b>	<i>Stercorarius antarcticus</i>
Good views of ten birds were obtained on the pelagic boat trip off Cape Town.	

### **Sandgrouse *Pteroclididae***

<b>Namaqua Sandgrouse</b>	<i>Pterocles namaqua</i>
Twenty were seen around Kimberley and many seen around Brandvlei.	

**Pigeons & Doves Columbidae**

- Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)** *Columba livia*  
Common in urban centres throughout.
- Speckled (Rock) Pigeon** *Columba guinea*  
Commonly recorded in urban centres in the Cape and Highveld.
- Rameron (African Olive) Pigeon** *Columba arquatrix*  
Our first sighting was of scope views in the Karkloof Forest. We had additional sightings at Dhlinda and Magoebaskloof.
- Delegorgue's (Eastern Bronze-naped) Pigeon** *Columba delegorguei*  
Three of these seldom-encountered birds were scoped from the canopy of Dhlinda Forest, Eshowe. A scarce species and a very good find!
- Lemon Dove** *Columba larvata*  
We saw two in the Karkloof. This shy bird is seldom seen well and we were lucky to get satisfying views.
- Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata*  
Widespread and common in South Africa, our first birds were seen on the Cape Peninsular.
- Ring-necked Dove (Cape Turtle-Dove)** *Streptopelia capicola*  
Widespread and common throughout Southern Africa, found in more open and drier country than the previous species.
- Laughing (Palm) Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis*  
Commonly encountered at most urban locations on tour.
- Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove** *Turtur chalcospilos*  
Recorded at Mkuze.
- Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistria*  
Four birds were seen very well at the Kumasinga hide in Mkuze GR.
- Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*  
Small numbers recorded daily in more open and drier country in Western SA.
- African Green-Pigeon** *Treron calvus*  
We enjoyed good looks at several birds in Mkuze GR.

**Parrots & Allies Psittacidae**

- Brown-necked (Cape) Parrot (E)** *Poicephalus robustus*  
One of these rare birds was scoped near its nest in the Karkloof.  
*NOTE: This nominate brown-necked Podocarpus forest form of the Cape Parrot has been split off from the more widespread gray-headed savannah form (P. suahelicus), and is now considered to be one of the most endangered birds in Africa with a declining population of less than 600 individuals.*

**Turacos Musophagidae**

- Livingstone's Turaco** *Tauraco livingstonii*  
We had great views of this lovely species in the dune forest at St Lucia.
- Knysna Turaco (E)** *Tauraco corythaix*  
Three were seen at Oripi Gorge and two at Magoebaskloof.  
*Note: This species used to be lumped under the Green Turaco (T. persa), now split into four full species the others being Knysna Turaco T. corythaix, Livingstone's Turaco (T. livingstonii) and Schalow's Turaco (T. schalowi).*
- Purple-crested Turaco** *Tauraco porphyreolophus*  
This attractive species was first seen at Dhlinda with further sightings at Mkuze.
- Gray Go-away-bird** *Corythaixoides concolor*  
This species was first seen near Hoedspruit with further sightings at Polokwane Game Reserve.

**Cuckoos Cuculidae**

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### **Klaas' Cuckoo**

*Chrysococcyx klaas*

One was seen in Cape Town and another in Mkuze GR.

### **African Emerald Cuckoo**

*Chrysococcyx cupreus*

Two stunning males were seen at St Lucia.

### **Yellowbill (Green Malkoha)**

*Ceuthmochares aereus*

An unbelievably close encounter with this species brightened up our morning in St Lucia with a further sighting at the Mkuze River.

### **White-browed (Burchell's) Coucal**

*Centropus superciliosus*

We encountered this species at Richards Bay and Muzi Pan.

*NOTE: Clements does not recognise the widely accepted split of the southern dark-browed Burchell's Coucal C. burchelli from the northerly White-browed Coucal C. superciliosus.*

## **Old World Owls *Tytonidae***

### **Barn Owl**

*Tyto alba*

A single bird was seen at Kimberley and another at Midmar Game Reserve.

## **Typical Owls *Strigidae***

### **Africa Scops-Owl**

*Otus senegalensis*

Several heard calling at Mkuze.

### **Spotted Eagle-Owl**

*Bubo africanus*

An excellent view was had on our night drive at Brandvlei.

*NOTE: Clements splits the northern, dark-eyed form Grayish Eagle-Owl (B.cinerascens) from the more southerly yellow-eyed Spotted Eagle-Owl B. africanus. This split is not widely accepted.*

### **African Wood-Owl**

*Strix woodfordii*

A single bird was seen and two heard at Magoebaskloof.

### **Pearl-spotted Owlet**

*Glaucidium perlatum*

We had excellent views of single birds at Mkuze and Polokwane.

### **African Barred Owlet**

*Glaucidium capense*

Heard calling at Mkuze.

### **Marsh Owl**

*Asio capensis*

Two birds were seen at dusk in Midmar Game Reserve.

## **Nightjars & Allies *Caprimulgidae***

### **Fiery-necked Nightjar**

*Caprimulgus pectoralis*

Two birds were seen at dusk in Mkuze GR.

## **Swifts *Apodidae***

### **African Palm-Swift**

*Cypsiurus parvus*

Recorded at widely scattered sites throughout the tour.

### **Alpine Swift**

*Tachymarptis melba*

First recorded at Kimberley with further sightings near Calvinia and De Hoop.

### **African (Black) Swift**

*Apus barbatus*

Recorded at scattered sites throughout the tour.

*NOTE: The Fernando Po Swift (A.sladeniae) is often separated by authorities as a distinctive species from the much more widespread Black Swift (Apus barbatus) which we observed several times during our tour. Clements does not currently recognize this split.*

### **Bradfield's Swift (NE)**

*Apus bradfieldi*

Up to thirty birds were seen in the late afternoon near Port Nolloth.

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**Little Swift** *Apus affinis*

Recorded at widely scattered sites throughout the tour.

**Horus Swift** *Apus horus*

Six were seen at De Hoop with a further sighting at Wakkerstroom.

**White-rumped Swift** *Apus caffer*

This summer breeding visitor was seen at scattered sites.

### **Mousebirds *Coliidae***

**Speckled Mousebird** *Colius striatus*

A single bird was seen flying across the road in Johannesburg and recorded almost daily on the eastern leg of the tour.

**White-backed Mousebird (NE)** *Colius colius*

First recorded at the Orange River at Keimoes, Springbok area with further sightings in the West Coast NP.

**Red-faced Mousebird** *Urocolius indicus*

We had good sightings of this classic bushveld species in Brandvlei, West Coast NP and Mkuze GR.

### **Trogons *Trogonidae***

**Narina Trogon** *Apaloderma narina*

Several birds heard at Dhlinda and a single seen at Magoebaskloof.

### **Kingfishers *Alcedinidae***

**Malachite Kingfisher** *Alcedo cristata*

We encountered this candescent little gem at Richards Bay.

**Brown-hooded Kingfisher** *Halcyon albiventris*

A regular resident of peri urban and wooded habitats in the east. One was seen at Richards Bay, ten on our trip to Cape Vidal and one at Mkuze.

**Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti*

Similar in appearance to the above species, we found four birds at Mkuze.

**Giant Kingfisher** *Megaceryle maximus*

Singles were seen at Oribi Gorge and St. Lucia.

**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*

This, the world's most widespread kingfisher, is common throughout South Africa. First seen in the Orange River at Keimoes.

### **Bee-eaters *Meropidae***

**Swallow-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops hirundineus*

Two birds were seen at the Orange River at Keimoes.

**European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*

Three birds were seen en route from Kimberley to Brandvlei and two between Brandvlei and Keimoes.

### **Rollers *Coraciidae***

**Lilac-breasted Roller** *Coracias caudatus*

This absolutely beautiful bird was encountered in Mkuze.

*NOTE: The Ethiopian C. c. lorti might be split as Blue-breasted Roller.*

**Rufous-crowned Roller** *Coracias noevius*

This is another beautiful roller with lovely deep blue wings. We found one bird between Polokwane and Johannesburg.

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### **Broad-billed Roller**

*Eurystomus glaucurus*

This recently arrived inter-African migrant was seen at St Lucia.

## **Hoopoes *Upupidae***

### **Eurasian (African) Hoopoe**

*Upupa epops*

This stunning bird was recorded at scattered sites throughout the tour.

*NOTE: The Hoopoe complex has had a confusing taxonomic history, with one to four species being recognised by various authorities. Clements splits the group into two forms, Madagascar (*U. marginalis*) and Eurasian *U. epops*. The white-winged African form is often split by other authorities as West African Hoopoe (*U. senegalensis*) with the fourth species, the one we observed, being African Hoopoe (*U. africana*). However, the most generally accepted treatment is that of three species, Madagascar, Eurasian and African.*

## **Woodhoopoes *Phoeniculidae***

### **Green (Red-billed) Woodhoopoe**

*Phoeniculus purpureus*

Flocks of these cackling beauties were seen in Mkuze and Polokwane GR's.

### **Common (Greater) Scimitar-bill**

*Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*

Seen at Kimberley and Mkuze GR.

## **Hornbills *Bucerotidae***

### **Red-billed Hornbill**

*Tockus erythrorhynchus*

Two were seen at Pongola and two near Hoedspruit.

*NOTE: Red-billed Hornbill has recently been split into two species the nominate *T. erythrorhynchus* which occurs through most of Southern Africa and Damara Hornbill (*T. damarensis*) which occurs in far Western Namibia.*

### **Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill (NE)**

*Tockus leucomelas*

Recorded at Mkuze, Pongola and Polokwane GR's.

### **Crowned Hornbill**

*Tockus alboterminatus*

We encountered this bird in Oribi Gorge, Dhlizha and St Lucia.

### **African Gray Hornbill**

*Tockus nasutus*

Somewhat drabber than its congeners, we found two birds in Mkuze GR.

### **Trumpeter Hornbill**

*Ceratogymna bucinator*

This odd sounding Hornbill, resembling something of a wailing baby, was seen at Oribi Gorge, Dhlizha and St Lucia.

### **Southern Ground-Hornbill**

*Bucorvus leadbeateri*

We were fortunate to see three birds in grassland near Ngoye Forest. This uncommon species is seldom found outside protected areas.

## **Barbets *Capitonidae***

### **Crested Barbet**

*Trachyphonus vaillantii*

A very brightly patterned and rather handsome Barbet, we saw it at Mkuze, Pongola and Polokwane.

### **White-eared Barbet**

*Stactolaema leucotis*

Several were seen at Dhlizha, St Lucia, and Mkuze.

### **Green (Woodward's) Barbet**

*Stactolaema olivacea*

We enjoyed excellent views of a pair in Ngoye Forest. A very localised species in South Africa.

### **Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird**

*Pogoniulus bilineatus*

Several were seen in Dhlizha, St Lucia, and Mkuze.

### **Red-fronted Tinkerbird**

*Pogoniulus pusillus*

A very vocal bird of the eastern region, we saw a single bird at St Lucia and heard many others.

### **(Acacia) Pied Barbet (NE)**

*Tricholaema leucomelas*

Recorded at Kimberley, Brandvlei and Polokwane.

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**Black-collared Barbet** *Lybius torquatus*

Two were seen at Richards Bay and a further two at Wakkerstroom.

### **Honeyguides Indicatoridae**

**Wahlberg's Honeyguide** *Prodotiscus regulus*

A single bird was heard and then seen at a park on the Cape Peninsula. A scarce species in this area.

**Lesser Honeyguide** *Indicator minor*

Singles were seen at Mkuze and Polokwane.

*NOTE: The Thick-billed Honeyguide (I. conirostris) of West and Central Africa forms a superspecies with the more widespread Lesser Honeyguide (I. minor), which we observed during our tour. This taxonomic split is recognized by Clements.*

**Scaly-throated Honeyguide** *Indicator variegatus*

We had excellent scope views of one in the Karkloof.

**Greater Honeyguide** *Indicator indicator*

We had fantastic views of a single bird in Mkuze. This is the only honey guide that actually guides interested parties to honey.

### **Woodpeckers & Allies Picidae**

**Rufous-necked (Red-throated) Wryneck** *Jynx ruficollis*

We enjoyed good views of two birds at Sani Pass.

**Golden-tailed Woodpecker** *Campethera abingoni*

Three birds were seen at Mkuze GR.

**Knysna Woodpecker (E)** *Campethera notata*

Two birds were seen at De Hoop Reserve in the Cape.

**Ground Woodpecker (E)** *Geocolaptes olivaceus*

Excellent views were had of this stunning endemic at De Hoop, Sani Pass and Wakkerstroom.

**Cardinal Woodpecker** *Dendropicos fuscescens*

Seen at scattered sites throughout the tour.

**Olive Woodpecker** *Dendropicos griseocephalus*

We had good views of four birds at Dhlinda Forest.

### **Larks Alaudidae**

**Latakoo (Melodious) Lark** *Mirafra cheniana*

A single bird was seen in display flight and a further two were heard calling near Colenso.

**Rufous-naped Lark** *Mirafra africana*

We found a single bird at Midmar and heard a further one at Mkuze.

*NOTE: The Rufous-naped Lark is divided by Clements into twenty-three subspecies throughout most of Africa. We observed M.a.africana in S. Natal.*

**Eastern Clapper Lark** *Mirafra fasciolata*

We enjoyed excellent looks at Benfontein Game Reserve in Kimberley.

*NOTE: This species has been split into Eastern Clapper Lark, M.fasciolata the one we observed and Cape Clapper Lark, M.apiata.*

**Rudd's Lark (E)** *Heteromirafra ruddi*

We had great luck with this exceptionally localised endemic. We found two birds during our morning search in Wakkerstroom.

**Sabota Lark (NE)** *Calendulauda sabota*

Four birds were seen in the Brandvlei area and two at Mkuze.

*NOTE: Some authorities consider the thickbilled form, Bradfield's Lark M. bradfieldi of Western Southern Africa a separate species. This is not widely accepted.*

**Fawn-colored Lark** *Calendulauda africanoides*

Four birds were seen on our drive to Kimberley.

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- Ferruginous (Red) Lark** *Calendulauda burra*  
Two of these scarce birds were found at Brandvlei.
- Karoo Lark** *Calendulauda albescens*  
Single birds were seen at Brandvlei, Kenhardt and Port Nolloth.
- Barlow's Lark(NE)** *Calendulauda barlowi*  
We enjoyed good scope views of a single bird at Port Nolloth.
- Spike-heeled Lark (NE)** *Chersomanes albofasciata*  
First seen around the Kimberley area with further sightings around Brandvlei.  
*NOTE: The Tanzanian isolate C. a. beesleyi is considered a separate species by some authorities, Beesley's Lark*
- Cape Long-billed Lark** *Certhilauda curvirostris*  
Two were found at Port Nolloth.
- Agulhas Long-billed Lark (E)** *Certhilauda brevirostris*  
Eight birds were seen in the De Hoop area.
- Eastern Long-billed Lark (E)** *Certhilauda semitorquata*  
We were lucky to find a single bird on a hill in Wakkerstroom.
- Karoo Long-billed Lark** *Certhilauda subcoronata*  
Five were seen in the Brandvlei area.
- Short-clawed Lark** *Certhilauda chuana*  
We had good looks at this scarce species at Polokwane Reserve.
- Black-eared Sparrow-Lark** *Eremopterix australis*  
We enjoyed good looks at small flocks in the Brandvlei area.
- Gray-backed Sparrow-Lark** *Eremopterix verticalis*  
Recorded in the Kimberley and Brandvlei areas.
- Red-capped Lark** *Calandrella cinerea*  
The most commonly recorded lark on the tour, first recorded near Kimberley.  
*NOTE: The African Red-capped Lark complex (C. cinerea) was lumped within the Greater Short-toed Lark complex (C. brachydactyla) but is now considered distinct by most authorities. Several distinctive groupings have now been split off from Red-capped Lark, including Blanford's Lark of Ethiopia (C. blanfordi).*
- Stark's Lark** *Spizocorys starki*  
Small flocks were seen at Brandvlei and near Calvinia.
- Pink-billed Lark** *Spizocorys conirostris*  
We had good sightings of four birds near Wakkerstroom.
- Sclater's Lark** *Spizocorys scalteri*  
Ten birds were seen at Brandvlei.
- Large-billed (Southern Thick-billed) Lark (E)** *Galerida magnirostris*  
Small numbers recorded in the Cape where it was first recorded at Benfontein Game Reserve with a further record of several birds heard calling on our day up Sani Pass.

### Swallows *Hirundinidae*

- Black Sawwing (Swallow)** *Psalidoprocne pristoptera*  
We enjoyed sightings at Karkloof, Sani, St Lucia and Muzi Pan.  
*NOTE: The sawwing complex, which occurs throughout Africa, has recently been lumped into a single species by Clements. The exception is the Fanti Sawwing (P. obscura), which occurs from Senegambia to E Nigeria and SW Cameroon.*
- Plain (Brown-throated) Martin** *Riparia paludicola*  
We encountered small numbers throughout the tour.
- Banded Martin** *Riparia cincta*  
A single bird was seen at Wakkerstroom.
- White-throated Swallow** *Hirundo albigularis*  
A very smart looking swallow indeed, recorded at scattered sites throughout. First seen at Benfontein Reserve.
- Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii*  
Another very handsome bird, we had some wonderful sightings at Richards Bay.

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*NOTE: This species complex is likely to be split based on the African nominate form that would become African Wire-tailed Swallow and the Asian Wire-tailed Swallow that would be *H. filifera*. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*

**Pearl-breasted Swallow** *Hirundo dimidiata*

We had excellent looks at several birds in the De Hoop area.

**Rock Martin** *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

The bulk of our sightings came from the Cape where small numbers were observed in rocky habitats. Our first encounter was on our way up Sani Pass.

*NOTE: This confusing polytypic complex is being reviewed for multi-species splitting. Within the African populations, three potential species exist. The southern African nominate form *H. f. fuligula* would remain as Rock Martin and the more northern populations would become Red-throated Rock Martin (*H. pusilla*). Palearctic birds would become Pale Crag Martin (*H. obsolete*). Clements does not as yet recognise any of these splits.*

**Greater Striped-Swallow (BE)** *Cecropis cucullata*

An intra-African migrant, seen at most high altitude grassland sites in the east and at lower altitudes in the Western Cape was first recorded near Johannesburg on the first day of the tour.

**Lesser Striped-Swallow** *Cecropis abyssinica*

Recorded daily at all lower elevation locations visited in eastern South Africa, with highest numbers around one hundred birds seen in both the St Lucia and Mkuze areas.

**Rufous-chested (Red-breasted) Swallow** *Cecropis semirufa*

We had great sightings of this massive swallow in the Mkuze and Polokwane areas.

**South African (Cliff) Swallow (BE)** *Petrochelidon spilodera*

First seen en route to Kimberley and several seen around Benfontein Reserve with a further sighting at Wakkerstroom.

### **Wagtails & Pipits *Motacillidae***

**African (Grassveld) Pipit** *Anthus cinnamomeus*

Regularly recorded at most grassland locations throughout Southern Africa.

*NOTE: African pipit taxonomy is in disarray and much further research is required in the phylogeny of this grouping. Several forms which are considered subspecies are likely to become full species in their own right and several new forms are surely still to be described. The identification of two new species of pipits from an urban hockey field in Kimberley, South Africa, provides an excellent illustration regarding how little is known about African pipits and how little attention has been paid to them.*

**Long-billed Pipit** *Anthus similis*

First recorded in the Brandvlei area in a rocky outcrop. Further sightings were at Springbok and Calvinia.

**Kimberley Pipit (E)** *Anthus pseudosimilis*

Seven birds were seen well in the Kimberley area.

**Plain-backed Pipit** *Anthus leucophrys*

Two birds seen each at Ngoye Forest and Wakkerstroom.

**Buffy Pipit** *Anthus vaalensis*

Two of these restricted mountain dwellers were seen on the plateau at Wakkerstroom.

**Yellow-breasted Pipit (E)** *Hemimacronyx chloris*

Excellent scope looks were had of this rare grassland endemic at Wakkerstroom.

**Orange-throated (Cape) Longclaw (E)** *Macronyx capensis*

In the east recorded at several higher altitude grassland sites with two en route to Dullstroom and several seen in Wakkerstroom.

**Yellow-throated Longclaw** *Macronyx croceus*

Recorded at lower elevation grassland locations, our first sightings were at Cape Vidal with several other birds seen at Muzi Pan and Mkuze.

**African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp*

Sightings were had in the Kruger, Mkuze and St Lucia.

**Cape Wagtail** *Motacilla capensis*

Regularly recorded at most wetland locations throughout South Africa.

**Mountain Wagtail** *Motacilla clara*

We were lucky to find a single bird at a river crossing at Oribi Gorge.

Cuckoo-shrikes *Campephagidae*

**Black Cuckoo-shrike** *Campephaga flava*  
We saw this species in Mkuze and Pongola GR's.

Bulbuls *Pycnonotidae*

**Common (Dark-capped, Black-eyed) Bulbul** *Pycnonotus barbatus*  
Recorded daily at virtually all locations visited in eastern Southern Africa with daily tallies occasionally in excess of twenty birds.

*NOTE: Another very confusing polytypic species complex. Several Asian and African forms have already been recognised as distinct species within the super-species Common Bulbul P. barbatus. The form that we saw in South Africa has been split as Dark-capped Bulbul by some authorities. Clements does not recognize this split.*

**Black-fronted (Red-eyed) Bulbul** *Pycnonotus nigricans*  
First seen at Kimberley with further sightings at Brandvlei and Springbok.

**Cape Bulbul (E)** *Pycnonotus capensis*  
We saw this bird daily in the Western Cape.

**Sombre Greenbul (Bulbul)** *Andropadus importunus*  
A bird that is far more often heard than seen but encountered over much of the country. Our first birds were seen at Harold Porter Botanical Gardens.

**Yellow-bellied Greenbul (Bulbul)** *Chlorocichla flaviventris*  
Singletons in St Lucia and Mkuze and several other birds heard.

**Terrestrial Brownbul (Bulbul)** *Phyllastrephus terrestris*  
Singletons recorded in the Karkloof and at Oribi Gorge.

**Yellow-streaked Bulbul** *Phyllastrephus flavostriatus*  
Two birds were seen well as they fed on fruits at Magoebaskloof.

Thrushes & Allies *Turdidae*

**Cape Rock-Thrush (E)** *Monticola rupestris*  
We found two birds at Rooi Els and a further two at Wakkerstroom.

**Sentinel Rock-Thrush (E)** *Monticola explorator*  
Fourteen birds recorded on our day up Sani Pass.

**Orange Ground-Thrush** *Zoothera gurneyi*  
A single of these elusive and rather handsome birds was seen in Karkloof Forest.

**Groundscraper Thrush** *Psophocichla litsipsirupa*  
One bird was found on our day in the Karkloof.

**(Southern) Olive Thrush** *Turdus olivaceus*  
Our first encounter was in the south-western Cape with several other sightings in the KwaZulu Natal Midlands.

*NOTE: This polytypic species complex may be split into many as ten different species, and several are already generally accepted eg Taita Thrush (T. helleri). The main north/south split is likely to be in Tanzania with the northern birds becoming Northern Olive Thrush (T. abyssinicus) and the nominate form being called Southern Olive Thrush. Karoo Thrush (T. smithi) occurring in Western South Africa has recently been split from the nominate group. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*

**[Karoo Thrush]** *Turdus smithi*  
A single bird was seen in Johannesburg with several other sightings at Brandvlei, Calvinia and Polokwane.

**Kurrichane Thrush** *Turdus libonyanus*  
We saw this bird in Mkuze and Polokwane Game Reserves.

Cisticolas & Allies *Cisticolidae*

**Red-faced Cisticola** *Cisticola erythrops*  
Recorded at St Lucia and Muzi pan.

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NOTE: *Lepe Cisticola (C.e.lepe)* found in Angola is often regarded as a separate species from Red-faced *Cisticola*. This split is not accepted by Clements.

**Rattling Cisticola** *Cisticola chiniana*

First recorded at St Lucia with further sightings at Mkuze.

**Red-headed (Gray-backed) Cisticola (NE)** *Cisticola subruficapilla*

The common cisticola in the Western Cape, we had our highest day count of fifteen birds on our day on the peninsula.

**Gray (Tinkling) Cisticola** *Cisticola rufilatus*

A singleton was seen well at Polokwane Game Reserve.

**Wailing Cisticola** *Cisticola lais*

A denizen of rocky hillsides, we saw a singleton on our day up Sani Pass.

NOTE: This species is often split from Lynes *Cisticola C. l. distincta*, which occurs in East Africa.

**Winding Cisticola** *Cisticola galactotes*

Two birds were recorded daily at the St Lucia estuary.

NOTE: This species complex may be split into several species, we recorded Rufous-winged *Cisticola*, *C.galactotes* in South Africa.

**Tinkling (Levaillant's) Cisticola** *Cisticola tinniens*

A common cisticola recorded at a few wetland locations throughout South Africa. We had good views at Langebaan, the West Coast NP and around Pietermaritzburg.

**Croaking Cisticola** *Cisticola natalensis*

Two birds were heard and then seen in display flight at Cape Vidal.

**Piping Cisticola (Neddicky)** *Cisticola fulvicapilla*

First recorded at Kimberley with further sightings at Rooi Els and Sani Pass.

**Desert Cisticola** *Cisticola aridulus*

A single bird was seen displaying at Polokwane.

**Cloud Cisticola** *Cisticola textrix*

First recorded at Darling Flower Reserve with a further sighting at De Hoop.

**Wing-snapping (Ayres') Cisticola** *Cisticola ayresii*

A singleton was seen in the Wakkerstroom area.

**Tawny-flanked Prinia** *Prinia subflava*

This feisty little warbler was recorded at St Lucia.

**Black-chested Prinia** *Prinia flavicans*

First recorded at Kimberley with a further sighting at Polokwane.

**Karoo Prinia (E)** *Prinia maculosa*

This replaces the above species in the Western Cape and small numbers were noted on all but one day in that region.

NOTE: This species used to be lumped with Drakensberg *Prinia (P hypoxantha)* as Spotted *Prinia* but is now considered a separate species by most authorities including Clements.

**Drakensberg Prinia (E)** *Prinia hypoxantha*

First encountered at Midmar Game Reserve and again at Wakkerstroom.

NOTE: Refer above Karoo *Prinia*.

**Namaqua Prinia (Warbler) (E)** *Prinia substriata*

Good views of one bird were had at the Karooport picnic site.

**Rufous-eared Warbler (E)** *Malcorus pectoralis*

We had excellent looks at several of these beautiful birds. First recorded was a pair at Kimberley.

**Bar-throated Apalis** *Apalis thoracica*

We enjoyed sightings at Paleisheuwel and at De Hoop Nature Reserve with further records of birds heard at Oribi Gorge and Dhlinda.

NOTE: Forms of Bar-throated *Apalis* are split by some African authorities as Namuli *Apalis (A. lynesii)*, which is endemic to Mt. Namuli in N. Mozambique, Taita *Apalis (A. fuscigularis)* found only in the Taita Hills of SE Kenya, and Yellow-throated *Apalis (A. flavigularis)*, which is endemic to S. Malawi. There is likely to be further splitting of this group.

**Yellow-breasted Apalis** *Apalis flavida*

We enjoyed several sightings around St Lucia and Mkuze.

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*NOTE: This widespread polytypic African species is likely to be split into three or more species. Clements does not as yet recognise any split. The form we recorded would remain in the nominate grouping.*

**Rudd's Apalis (E)** *Apalis ruddi*

This range-restricted endemic is fairly common in Maputaland. We had great views on three of our days in this region.

**Green-backed Camaroptera (Bleating Warbler)** *Camaroptera brachyura*

A dweller of thick undergrowth, we had several sightings in Zululand.

*NOTE: Most authorities now recognise the nominate green-backed forms of this widespread African warbler as distinct from the gray-backed forms C. brevicaudata. We encountered the green-backed form in South Africa. Clements still lumps these two groups.*

**Kopje (Cinnamon-breasted) Warbler** *Eurypytila subcinnamomea*

We had excellent close looks at this often unobtrusive endemic near Springbok.

### **Old World Warblers *Sylviidae***

**African Bush-Warbler** *Bradypterus baboecala*

This is a skulking tenant of reedbeds that seldom shows itself well. We had sightings of birds at Paleisheuvel and Strandfontein.

**Knysna Scrub-Warbler** *Bradypterus sylvaticus*

Brief looks were had of this mega-skulker near Kirstenbosch.

**Victorin's Scrub-Warbler** *Bradypterus victorini*

We all had close looks at this attractive endemic near Betty's Bay.

**Cape Grassbird (E)** *Sphenoeacus afer*

Small numbers of these lovely warblers were seen on the Cape Peninsula with other birds heard at Sani Pass and Wakkerstroom.

**African Reed-Warbler** *Acrocephalus baeticatus*

A singleton was seen at the Stanger wetlands.

*NOTE: Clements currently recognizes six subspecies of A.baeticatus. The confusing taxonomy of this species is still under debate, particularly in regards to A.b.cinnamomeus (Cinnamon Reed Warbler) and A.b.avicenniae (Mangrove Reed Warbler).*

**Lesser Swamp (Cape Reed) Warbler** *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*

Recorded at the West Coast NP and at Richards Bay.

**African (Dark-capped) Yellow Warbler** *Chloropeta natalensis*

We had two birds on our visit to the grasslands in the Karkloof area and also heard it at Sani Pass.

**Yellow-rumped (Karoo) Eremomela** *Eremomela gregalis*

A family of six birds were seen at Springbok.

**Burnt-neck Eremomela** *Eremomela usticollis*

Six were seen at Mkuze and several at Polokwane Reserve.

**Cape (Long-billed) Crombec** *Sylvietta rufescens*

Two each at Springbok and Loeriesfontein with further sightings at St Lucia and Mkuze.

**Yellow-throated Wood-Warbler** *Phylloscopus ruficapilla*

Undoubtedly one of the most striking birds in its genus, we saw two in the Karkloof.

**Layard's Warbler (Tit-babbler) (E)** *Parisoma layardi*

Six birds were seen at Goegap Nature Reserve.

**Rufous-vented Warbler (Tit-babbler) (NE)** *Parisoma subcaeruleum*

First recorded in Kimberley with a further sighting at the West Coast NP.

### **Old World Flycatchers *Muscicapidae***

**Pale (Mouse-coloured) Flycatcher** *Bradornis pallidus*

Several birds were seen in Mkuze.

**Chat Flycatcher** *Bradornis infuscatus*

An arid country bird recorded around Kimberley, Brandvlei and Port Nolloth.

**Mariqua Flycatcher** *Bradornis mariquensis*

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Fifteen birds were seen at Polokwane Reserve.

**Southern Black-Flycatcher** *Melaenornis pammelaina*

Recorded at St Lucia, Cape Vidal and Mkuze

**Fiscal Flycatcher** *Sigelus silens*

First seen around Kimberley with further sightings around Springbok and De Hoop.

**African Dusky Flycatcher** *Muscicapa adusta*

A flycatcher of forest and woodland, we found single birds at Betty's Bay and De Hoop.

**Ashy (Blue-gray) Flycatcher** *Muscicapa caerulescens*

Good views at St Lucia and Mkuze.

**Gray Tit-Flycatcher (Fan-tailed/Lead-coloured)** *Myioparus plumbeus*

We found several in Mkuze. This rather endearing species is often observed actively fanning its tail.

**Fairy Flycatcher (E)** *Stenostira scita*

Three of these delightful birds were seen very well at Loeriesfontein Waterfall with an additional three seen in Sani Pass.

**Cape Robin-Chat** *Cossypha caffra*

A fairly common garden species; we had sightings in Kimberly, Western Cape and the KZN Midlands.

**White-throated Robin-Chat (E)** *Cossypha humeralis*

This is a very good-looking robin indeed; we had a pair in Polokwane Reserve.

**White-browed (Heuglin's) Robin-Chat** *Cossypha heuglini*

Two birds were seen on the Mkuze River.

**Red-capped (Natal) Robin Chat** *Cossypha natalensis*

Several of these stunning birds were seen at St Lucia and Mkuze.

**Chorister Robin-Chat (E)** *Cossypha dichroa*

We enjoyed excellent views of two in the Karkloof.

**(Eastern) Bearded Scrub-Robin** *Cercotrichas quadrivirgata*

We had cracking views of two very responsive birds each day in Mkuze.

**Brown Scrub-Robin** *Cercotrichas signata*

A pair was heard in song and then seen well at St Lucia.

**Red-backed (White-browed) Scrub-Robin** *Cercotrichas leucophrys*

Two sightings at Mkuze.

*NOTE: This widespread African complex is being reviewed for a 3-way split, the Southern African C. l. leucophrys group would remain as White-browed Scrub-Robin, the Central African (C. l. zambesiana) would become Red-backed Scrub-Robin and the Northern African (C. l. leucoptera) would become White-winged Scrub-Robin. Clements does not as yet recognise these splits.*

**Kalahari Scrub-Robin** *Cercotrichas paena*

A singleton was seen en route to Kimberley with further sightings at Polokwane.

**Karoo Scrub-Robin (E)** *Cercotrichas coryphaeus*

Seen throughout the Cape Province.

**African Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus*

Two birds were seen en route to Kimberley with further sightings in the Northern Cape, the Midlands and Wakkerstroom.

*NOTE: Clements recognises the split of African (S. torquata) and Common (S. rubicola) Stonechats (the latter a Palearctic species), which is not followed by all authorities. Further splitting may occur in both groups including the highland Ethiopian form (S. t. albofasciata) that may become Ethiopian Stonechat.*

**Buff-streaked Bushchat (Wheatear) (E)** *Saxicola bifasciatus*

This stunning endemic was seen at Sani Pass and Wakkerstroom.

**Mountain Wheatear (Chat) (NE)** *Oenanthe monticola*

Another attractive species commonly seen around rocky areas in the Northern Cape.

**Capped Wheatear** *Oenanthe pileata*

Commonly recorded around Springbok, Calvinia and the wheatlands of Langebaan.

**Sicklewing Chat (E)** *Cercomela sinuata*

First seen around Calvinia with further sightings at Sani Pass.

**Karoo Chat (E)** *Cercomela schlegelii*

We enjoyed good views around the Brandvlei area.

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### **Tractrac Chat (E)**

*Cercomela tractrac*

Recorded in both the Brandvlei and Port Nolloth areas.

### **Familiar Chat**

*Cercomela familiaris*

A widespread species recorded at Brandvlei, Port Nolloth, the Cape Peninsular, De Hoop and Sani Pass.

### **Southern Anteater-Chat (E)**

*Myrmecocichla formicivora*

An attractive species with prominent white wings and a dark body was commonly seen in the Cape Province.

### **Mocking Cliff-Chat**

*Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*

A pair was found at the Taita Falcon nest site.

## **Wattle-eyes and Batises *Platysteiridae***

### **Cape Batis (E)**

*Batis capensis*

Small numbers of this endearing little bird were noted in most forested habitats. We enjoyed sightings at Betty's Bay, De Hoop, the Karkloof and Magoebaskloof.

*NOTE: Cape Batis is divided by Clements into seven subspecies, two of which are regarded by African authorities as separate species, Malawi Batis *B.dimorpha* and Reichenow's Batis *B.reichenowi*.*

### **Woodward's Batis**

*Batis fratrum*

This scarce batis was found calling at St Lucia and we enjoyed excellent close looks at one.

### **Chinspot Batis**

*Batis molitor*

Seen in Mkuze and Polokwane GR's.

### **Pirit Batis (NE)**

*Batis pririt*

This dry country batis was seen well at our lodge in Kimberley.

## **Monarch Flycatchers *Monarchidae***

### **African (Blue-mantled) Crested-Flycatcher**

*Trochocercus cyanomelas*

This very restless species was observed at St Lucia.

### **African Paradise-Flycatcher**

*Terpsiphone viridis*

Our first bird was seen at De Hoop with further sightings at Dhlinda and Mkuze.

*NOTE: The northern races of this widespread African species which includes the nominate form are likely to be separated from the southern races which would become Gray-headed Paradise-Flycatcher (*T. plumbeiceps*). Beside plumage and distributional differences, only the northern forms display polymorphism in males. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*

## **Babblers *Timaliidae***

### **Rufous (Cape) Rockjumper (E)**

*Chaetops frenatus*

We enjoyed excellent looks as this attractive endemic bounced around on boulders near the small town of Rooi Els.

### **Orange-breasted Rock-jumper (E)**

*Chaetops aurantius*

Easier to see than its congener, this is a remarkably attractive bird! We found two birds on that wonderful day up Sani Pass.

### **Arrow-marked Babbler**

*Turdoides jardineii*

We saw this bird daily at Polokwane Reserve.

## **Tits *Paridae***

### **Southern Black-Tit (NE)**

*Melaniparus niger*

A singleton was seen at Sani Pass with further sightings at St Lucia and Mkuze.

### **Gray Tit (E)**

*Melaniparus afer*

We were fortunate to find a single bird at Springbok.

Penduline Tits *Remizidae*

**African (Gray) Penduline-Tit**

*Anthoscopus caroli*

One of the smallest birds on the continent, we found a bird at a nest in Mkuze with several other birds at Magoebaskloof.

**Southern (Cape) Penduline-Tit**

*Anthoscopus minutus*

A pair was watched at close quarters building a nest in the West Coast NP with further sightings at Polokwane Reserve.

Sunbirds & Spiderhunters *Nectariniidae*

**Collared Sunbird**

*Hedydipna collaris*

A singleton was seen at Oribi Gorge.

**Orange-breasted Sunbird (E)**

*Anthobaphes violacea*

This attractive species was commonly recorded on the Cape Peninsula.

**Eastern Olive-Sunbird**

*Cyanomitra olivacea*

We had good views of this species in Dhlinda and St Lucia.

*NOTE: The Olive Sunbird species complex has been split into two full species by Clements and some other authorities, namely the nominate Eastern Olive-Sunbird *C. olivacea* and the form in East and West Africa, Western Olive Sunbird (*C. obscura*). There has been a review of this split and several authorities are in doubt of the validity, which is based upon the presence, or lack thereof, of pectoral tufts in the females of the various subspecies within the complex.*

**Mouse-colored (Gray) Sunbird**

*Cyanomitra veroxii*

This coastal forest species was seen at Oribi Gorge, St Lucia and Mkuze.

**Amethyst (African Black) Sunbird**

*Chalcomitra amethystina*

This stunning sunbird was first seen in Hilton with further sightings in Eshowe and St Lucia.

**Scarlet-chested Sunbird**

*Chalcomitra senegalensis*

We had great sightings of this breathtaking beauty in Mkuze GR.

**Malachite Sunbird**

*Nectarinia famosa*

This stunning species was seen in the Cape Province as well as the KwaZulu/Natal Midlands and Sani Pass and lastly near Magoebaskloof.

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

*Cinnyris chalybeus*

First recorded at Port Nolloth with further sightings throughout the Cape Peninsula.

**Neergaard's Sunbird (E)**

*Cinnyris neergaardi*

We got very lucky with this species managing to find two birds feeding on flowers at close range in Mkuze; a wonderful sighting.

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

*Cinnyris afer*

A few birds were seen in the Karkloof and Underberg areas.

*NOTE: Disjunct populations of Ludwig's Double-collared Sunbird (*C. ludovicensis*) occurring in Malawi and Angola and Rwenzori Double-collared Sunbird (*C. stuhlmanni*) of the Albertine Rift are sometimes lumped with Greater Double-collared Sunbird (*C. afer*). A further unnamed form from NE Zambia still requires allocation. Clements currently recognizes this species (*C. afer*) as separate and distinct, found only in the Cape Province east to the great Fish River.*

**Mariqua Sunbird**

*Cinnyris mariquensis*

Recorded at Mkuze and Polokwane Reserves.

*NOTE: Some authorities split this complex into 2 full species. The *C. m. suahelicus* which occurs in East Africa would become Swahili Sunbird as opposed to the nominate form which would remain as Mariqua Sunbird. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*

**Purple-banded Sunbird**

*Cinnyris bifasciatus*

We had two birds in St Lucia and Mkuze.

*NOTE: The form *N. e. tsavoensis* of Kenya is sometimes split off as Tsavo Purple-banded Sunbird. Clements accepts this split.*

**White-breasted (White-bellied) Sunbird**

*Cinnyris talatala*

Recorded at Kimberley, the Orange River and Mkuze.

**Dusky Sunbird**

*Cinnyris fuscus*

This dry country species was recorded at Port Nolloth and Springbok.

**White-eyes *Zosteropidae***

**Cape (Pale) White-eye (E)** *Zosterops pallidus*

We had many encounters in the east and in the Western Cape. First recorded at our hotel in Johannesburg.

*NOTE: This species has recently been split into a further species, Orange River White-eye *Z. capensis*, which occurs in Western Southern Africa, and further splitting may still occur. Clements does not as yet accept these splits.*

**Orange River White-eye (E)** *Zosterops capensis*

Two birds were seen at Port Nolloth.

*NOTE: see above.*

**Sugarbirds *Promeropidae***

**Gurney's Sugarbird (E)** *Promerops gurneyi*

We enjoyed stunning close views of several of these magnificent and unique nectivores on *Proteas* at Sani Pass.

**Cape Sugarbird (E)** *Promerops cafer*

First record was a single bird seen on a *Protea* covered mountain-slope between Calvinia and Langebaan with further sightings on the Cape Peninsula.

**Old World Orioles *Oriolidae***

**African (Eastern) Black-headed Oriole** *Oriolus larvatus*

We had sightings in the Karkloof, Oribi Gorge, Dhlinda and Mkuze.

**Shrikes *Laniidae***

**Common Fiscal (Shrike)** *Lanius collaris*

This is a common bird throughout South Africa and was seen on almost every day of the tour.

*NOTE: The form *L. marwitzi* is sometimes split off as Uhehe Fiscal occurring in East Africa.*

**Magpie (Long-tailed) Shrike** *Corvinella melanoleuca*

This wonderfully clad bird sports an elegant tail and is refreshingly vocal and common in Pongola and Polokwane Reserves.

**Bushshrikes & Allies *Malaconotidae***

**Brubru** *Nilaus afer*

We had two birds in Kimberley and at Polokwane. This is a signature bushveld species that often associates with flocks.

*NOTE: This previously monotypic genus might be split 4 ways: Northern Brubru *N. afer*, Black-browed Brubru (*N. nigritemporalis*), Angola Brubru (*N. affinis*) and Southern Brubru (*N. brubru*). Only the Southern Brubru occurs in South Africa. Clements does not as yet recognise these splits.*

**Black-backed Puffback** *Dryoscopus cubla*

This is a fairly common shrike and we had several sightings in wooded habitat throughout the east.

**Black-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra senegalus*

A single bird was seen at Mkuze.

*NOTE: Moroccan Tchagra *T. s. cucullata* of northwest Africa may be split from the nominate form which we recorded in South Africa. Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*

**Brown-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra australis*

Heard only at Mkuze.

**Southern Tchagra** *Tchagra tchagra*

Up to ten birds were watched displaying at De Hoop Reserve.

**Southern Boubou (E)** *Laniarius ferrugineus*

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This very conspicuous songster is often heard and was first seen at De Hoop reserve with further sightings in the Natal Midlands.

### **Crimson-breasted Gonolek**

*Laniarius atrococcineus*

We were captivated by two of these strikingly plumaged birds at our lodge in Kimberley with further sightings at Polokwane Reserve.

### **Bokmakierie (NE)**

*Telophorus zeylonus*

This very beautiful Bush Shrike was first seen in Kimberley with further sightings at Port Nolloth, Springbok and lastly Sani Pass.

### **Sulphur-breasted (Orange-breasted) Bushshrike** *Telophorus sulfureopectus*

This critter is a regular inhabitant of the bushveld biome. We had two sightings in Mkuze GR.

### **Olive Bushshrike (E)**

*Telophorus olivaceus*

Two birds were seen in Dhlinza forest with a further excellent sighting at Magoebaskloof where several birds were heard calling.

### **Four-colored (Gorgeous) Bushshrike**

*Telophorus viridis*

This candescent gem is incredibly difficult to see well but we eventually had good looks at a pair in Mkuze. Far more often heard than seen.

*NOTE: This species is currently lumped by Clements with Perrin's Bush-Shrike (T.q.viridis) of N Angola to S Congo and NW Zambia. Most authorities regard these birds as a separate species.*

### **Black-fronted Bushshrike**

*Telophorus nigrifrons*

Heard only at Magoebaskloof.

### **Gray-headed Bushshrike**

*Malaconotus blanchoti*

This lovely Bush Shrike was seen in Mkuze and at Polokwane.

## **Drongos *Dicruridae***

### **Square-tailed Drongo**

*Dicrurus ludwigii*

A drongo of forested areas. We saw our only birds at Dhlinza and Magoebaskloof.

### **Fork-tailed Drongo**

*Dicrurus adsimilis*

Our first sighting was at De Hoop Reserve and recorded almost daily at most sites visited in eastern South Africa.

*NOTE: Older versions of Clements lump the forest dwelling Velvet-mantled Drongo (D. modestus) of East and West Africa within Fork-tailed Drongo D. adsimilis but the split has been recognized in recent Clements updates as well as by most other authorities.*

## **Crows, Jays & Magpies *Corvidae***

### **House Crow**

*Corvus splendens*

Several of these introduced birds were seen in Cape Town and Durban International Airports.

### **Cape (Black) Crow**

*Corvus capensis*

First recorded near Brandvlei and seen almost daily thereafter.

### **Pied Crow**

*Corvus albus*

Seen at most sites throughout the tour, our first birds were seen en route to Kimberley.

### **White-necked Raven**

*Corvus albicollis*

This Corvid that inhabits mountainous areas was first recorded at Calvinia. Our highest totals were of twenty birds daily around Sani Pass.

## **Starlings *Sturnidae***

### **Common (Indian) Myna**

*Acridotheres tristis*

Commonly seen in urban centres in the east. Introduced to Durban in 1900.

### **European (Common) Starling**

*Sturnus vulgaris*

Another attractive but none the less unwanted alien. Our first birds were seen in the Northern Cape where it is very common. It was introduced in the late 1800s.

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### **Wattled Starling**

*Creatophora cinerea*

First seen on our first day en route to Kimberley with further sightings around Springbok, Calvinia and Pongola.

### **Cape (Red-shouldered) Glossy-Starling (NE)**

*Lamprotornis nitens*

One of the more widespread species, first recorded at Kimberley.

### **Burchell's Glossy-Starling (NE)**

*Lamprotornis australis*

This large starling was only recorded at Pongola.

### **Black-bellied Glossy-Starling**

*Lamprotornis corruscus*

This species seldom strays far inland; we had occasional sightings at Dhlinda, St Lucia and Mkuze.

### **African Pied Starling (E)**

*Spreo bicolor*

Good numbers of this common endemic were seen throughout the tour. Our first sighting was on our first day near Johannesburg.

### **Red-winged Starling**

*Onychognathus morio*

Recorded at most sites throughout South Africa, often in association with man. Our first birds were seen at Calvinia with further sightings in the Natal Midlands and Wakkerstroom.

### **Pale-winged Starling**

*Onychognathus naboroupp*

A bird of mountainous areas we recorded our first birds at a rocky outcrop near Keimoes with further sightings around Springbok.

### **Red-billed Oxpecker**

*Buphagus erythrorhynchus*

A species that can be found feeding on ticks and other parasites associated with mammals. We recorded three daily at Mkuze and another three at Polokwane.

## **Old World Sparrows *Passeridae***

### **House Sparrow**

*Passer domesticus*

Widespread and common in urban areas throughout South Africa.

### **Great Rufous Sparrow**

*Passer motitensis*

Excellent looks were had at Polokwane Reserve.

### **Cape Sparrow (NE)**

*Passer melanurus*

Certainly our smartest sparrow, first recorded at our hotel in Johannesburg and commonly recorded throughout the Cape and at Sani Pass.

### **Southern Gray-headed Sparrow (NE)**

*Passer diffusus*

First recorded at the West Coast NP with further sightings at Sani Pass and Mkuze.

*NOTE: The Gray-headed Sparrow complex P. griseus has been split into five full species with the South African form being given the name P. diffusus.*

### **Yellow-throated Petronia (Sparrow)**

*Petronia superciliaris*

Recorded at Hilton and Pongola.

## **Weavers & Allies *Ploceidae***

### **Scaly (-feathered) Weaver**

*Sporopipes squamifrons*

First recorded around Brandvlei with further sightings around Polokwane.

### **White-browed Sparrow-Weaver**

*Plocepasser mahali*

Recorded at Kimberley and Polokwane. Their scruffy nests are easily noticeable.

### **Sociable Weaver**

*Philetairus socius*

One cannot help notice the large colonial nests often attached to telephone lines in the most arid of areas. We first recorded this species en route to Brandvlei from Kimberley with further sightings en route from Brandvlei to Kenhardt.

### **Spectacled Weaver**

*Ploceus ocularis*

A singleton in the Karkloof with further sightings of two birds each at Dhlinda and Magoebaskloof.

### **Cape Weaver (E)**

*Ploceus capensis*

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This fairly common endemic was first recorded at Springbok with further sightings throughout the Cape Province, Sani Pass and Wakkerstroom.

**African Golden (Yellow) Weaver** *Ploceus subaureus*

Twenty each at wetlands at Stanger and Richards Bay.

**Southern Brown-throated Weaver** *Ploceus xanthopterus*

Whilst scanning the hordes of Yellow Weaver at Richards Bay we were very lucky to come across two of these scarce birds.

**Lesser Masked-Weaver** *Ploceus intermedius*

A singleton was recorded at Mkuze.

**Southern Masked-Weaver** *Ploceus velatus*

A commonly recorded species throughout the tour.

*NOTE: African Masked Weaver P. velatus is sometimes split into the nominate Southern Masked Weaver which we recorded and the more northerly occurring Vitelline Masked-Weaver P. vitellinus.*

**Village (Spotted-backed) Weaver** *Ploceus cucullatus*

First recorded in Underberg. This species is fairly common in Maputuland where we saw many.

**Forest (Dark-backed) Weaver** *Ploceus bicolor*

We had our first sighting at Dhlizha Forest with further sightings at St Lucia and Mkuze.

**Red-billed Quelea** *Quelea quelea*

Singleton's were recorded at Mkuze and then many flocks seen in grasslands en route from Piet Retief to Wakkerstroom.

**(Southern) Red Bishop** *Euplectes orix*

Recorded at several sites throughout the tour unfortunately all in non-breeding plumage at this time of year.

**Yellow Bishop (Yellow-rumped Widow)** *Euplectes capensis*

This species, humorously resembling a large bumblebee, was first seen in the Springbok area, with further sightings in the Western Cape, Midmar and Sani Pass.

**White-winged Widowbird** *Euplectes albonotatus*

This delightful widow was observed in partial breeding plumage at Mkuze and near Pongola.

**Red-collared Widowbird** *Euplectes ardens*

A single bird was seen at a wetland near Stanger.

**Fan-tailed (Red-shouldered) Widowbird** *Euplectes axillaris*

This *Euplectes* is regularly encountered in the grasslands of the east. Our first birds were at Sani Pass with further sightings at Richards Bay and Wakkerstroom.

**Long-tailed Widowbird** *Euplectes progne*

First recorded on our drive to Kimberley with further sightings at Midmar, the Karkloof, Sani Pass and Wakkerstroom.

**Grosbeak (Thick-billed) Weaver** *Amblyospiza albifrons*

This species was observed at Eshowe and St Lucia.

### **Waxbills & Allies *Estrildidae***

**Swee Waxbill (E)** *Coccyzygia melanotis*

These are absolutely gorgeous little waxbills and we were lucky to see a single in the Karkloof.

*NOTE: Yellow-bellied Waxbill (East African Swee) Estrilda quartinia is sometimes lumped with the South African Swee Waxbill C. melanotis.*

**Green-backed Twinspot** *Mandingoa nitidula*

Heard only at Mkuze.

**Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild*

A waxbill often associated with wetlands. We had our first small flock at Springbok.

**Black-cheeked Waxbill** *Estrilda erythronotos*

Eight birds were seen at our lodge in Kimberley.

**Blue-breasted Cordonbleu (Blue Waxbill)** *Uraeginthus angolensis*

Small flocks were seen in Mkuze.

**Violet-eared Waxbill** *Granatina granatina*

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Two each of these stunning seed-eaters were seen at Kimberley and Polokwane.

### **Pink-throated Twinspot (E)**

*Hypargos margaritatus*

We enjoyed these fantastically patterned birds in Mkuze GR. We left the park with a total of six birds 'in the bag'. This species is very localised being entirely restricted to sand forest in north-eastern South Africa and adjacent Mozambique.

### **Green-winged Pytilia**

*Pytilia melba*

We marveled at four of these brightly coloured critters in Mkuze.

### **Red-billed Firefinch**

*Lagonostica senegala*

Two birds were found at Mkuze.

### **African (Blue-billed) Firefinch**

*Lagonostica rubricata*

Two birds were seen at a wetland near Stanger and a further two were seen at Magoebaskloof.

### **Red-headed Finch**

*Amadina erythrocephala*

Recorded at our hotel in Johannesburg on the day before the tour.

### **African Quailfinch**

*Ortygospiza fuscocrissa*

Four of these attractive birds were seen at Wakkerstroom.

*NOTE: This species complex might be split into two, the South African form would remain African Quailfinch and the highland Ethiopian isolate would become Ethiopian Quailfinch (O. fuscocrissa.)*

### **Bronze Mannikin (Munia)**

*Spermestes cucullatus*

First seen in Hilton with further sightings at Dhlinda and St Lucia.

### **Black-and-white (Red-backed) Mannikin**

*Spermestes bicolor*

Ten birds flew past us at the canopy tower in Dhlinda Forest.

*NOTE: This species is sometimes split into the southern Red-backed Mannikin, S.nigriceps, the ones we observed. Clements does not accept this split.*

## **Indigobirds Viduidae**

### **Pin-tailed Whydah**

*Vidua macroura*

Small numbers of this aggressive little brood parasite were encountered in partial breeding regalia at some sites in the east.

### **Shaft-tailed Whydah**

*Vidua regia*

We were lucky to find a male in partial breeding plumage at Polokwane.

## **Siskins, Crossbills & Allies Fringillidae**

### **Cape (Yellow-crowned) Canary (NE)**

*Serinus canicollis*

Typically encountered at higher elevation sites in the east, we had small flocks in the south-western Cape and Natal Midlands.

*NOTE: This species complex might be split into two, the nominate southern group would remain as Cape Canary and the form which occurs in East Africa would become Yellow-crowned Canary (S. flavivertex.) Clements does not as yet recognise this split.*

### **Forest Canary (E)**

*Serinus scotops*

This uncommon endemic was seen in Karkloof where we had four birds.

### **Black-throated Canary**

*Serinus atrogularis*

Eleven birds were seen en route to Kimberley with a further sighting of a single bird at Polokwane.

### **Yellow-fronted (Yellow-eyed) Canary**

*Serinus mozambicus*

This is a common bird at lower elevations in both urban and wild areas in the east.

### **Yellow Canary (NE)**

*Serinus flaviventris*

Recorded widely throughout the Cape Province.

### **Brimstone Canary**

*Serinus sulphuratus*

Four birds were recorded at De Hoop.

### **White-throated Canary (NE)**

*Serinus albogularis*

Recorded around Brandvlei, Calvinia and Langebaan.

### **Protea Canary**

*Serinus leucopterus*

Three of these scarce and elusive seedeaters were found at a gorge near Clanwilliam.

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### **Streaky-headed Seedeater (NE)**

*Serinus gularis*

Singleton's at Calvinia and Polokwane.

### **Black-headed Canary**

*Alario alario*

We had good views of a single bird at Springbok with another four near Calvinia.

### **Damara Canary**

*Alario leucolaemus*

Seen daily at Goegap Reserve Springbok.

### **Cape Siskin (E)**

*Pseudochloroptila totta*

A single bird was seen at Sir Lowry's Pass.

### **Drakensberg Siskin (E)**

*Pseudochloroptila symonsi*

We had at least ten birds on our explorations at the top of Sani Pass in the mountain Kingdom of Lesotho.

## **Buntings *Emberizidae***

### **Lark-like Bunting**

*Emberiza impetuani*

Recorded in the arid western areas of South Africa where our first birds were seen near Brandvlei.

### **Cinnamon-breasted (Rock) Bunting**

*Emberiza tahapisi*

Singleton's at Sani Pass and at the Taita Falcon site.

### **Cape Bunting**

*Emberiza capensis*

A fairly common species recorded throughout the tour in rocky habitats. First recorded en route from Kimberley to Brandvlei.

*NOTE: Clements has recently elevated the former Cape Bunting subspecies E.c.vincenti of central Malawi to E Zambia to full species status, Vincent's Bunting (E.vincenti).*

### **Golden-breasted Bunting**

*Emberiza flaviventris*

Small numbers of this brilliantly plumaged bird were seen in acacia bushveld at Mkuze and Polokwane.

## **MAMMAL SPECIES LIST**

*Note: Names and taxonomical order of the land mammals follow that of 'The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals'; additional names are given in parenthesis and are likely to appear other popular field guides.*

## **Cheek-Pouch Monkeys *Cercopithecidae***

### **Chacma Baboon**

*Papio ursinus*

This species is fairly common in wilder parts of Southern Africa, occasionally encountered close to human habitation. We saw our first group at Goegap in Springbok.

### **Vervet Monkey**

*Cercopithecus aethiops*

Common and seen at most localities in eastern South Africa with good numbers in all game reserves.

### **Samango (Blue) Monkey**

*Cercopithecus mitis*

This scarce forest primate was seen at Dweza Forest, Cape Vidal and at Magoebaskloof.

## **Hares & Rabbits *Leporidae***

### **Scrub Hare**

*Lepus saxatilis*

We had good views of several on the trip including ten on our night drive at Kimberley.

## **Squirrels *Sciuridae***

### **Red Forest Squirrel**

*Paraxerus palliatus*

A singleton seen at Dhlinda.

## **Porcupines *Hystricidae***

### **Porcupine**

*Hystrix africaeauralis*

Three of these nocturnal creatures were seen on our nightdrive at Kimberley.

### Groove-Toothed Rats *Otomyinae*

**Striped Mouse**

*Rhabdomys pumilio*

A single beast was seen at Springbok.

**Grooved Toothed Rat (Sloggett's/ Ice Rat)**

*Otomys sloggetti*

We had at least two of these engaging rodents around Sani Top Hotel and on the barren plains in Lesotho.

### Dogs & Allies *Canidae*

**Black-backed Jackal**

*Canis mesomelas*

A single animal was seen on our nightdrive at Kimberley and a further two were seen between Springbok and Calvinia.

**Bat-eared Fox**

*Otocyon megalotis*

Five of these cuddly critters were seen in the Kimberley/Brandvlei areas.

### Mongoosees *Herpestidae*

**Slender Mongoose**

*Galerella sanguinea*

Two en route from Johannesburg to Kimberley and a single animal at Polokwane.

**Small Gray Mongoose**

*Herpestes pulverulenta*

We had one confiding individual at the West Coast NP.

**Large Gray Mongoose**

*Herpestes ichneumon*

We saw a single animal in grassland near Underberg.

**Banded Mongoose**

*Mungos mungo*

We were awarded a sighting of thirty of these comical little St Lucia.

**Yellow Mongoose**

*Cynictis penicillata*

We enjoyed several sightings at Kimberley, Springbok and Wakkerstroom.

**Suricate (Meerkat)**

*Suricata suricatta*

Eight of these delightful creatures were seen at Kimberley and a further twelve at Wakkerstroom.

### Hyaenas *Hyaenidae*

**Spotted Hyaena**

*Crocuta crocuta*

Heard only at Mkuze.

### Genets & Civets *Viverridae*

**Small-spotted Genet**

*Genetta genetta*

A singleton was seen on our nightdrive at Kimberley.

### Cats *Felidae*

**African Wild Cat**

*Felis slyvestris*

A single animal was seen on our nightdrive at Kimberley.

### Hyraxes *Procavidae*

**Rock Hyrax (Dassie)**

*Procavia capensis*

An animal of rocky terrain our first sighting was at Brandvlei with further sightings at Rooi Els, Sir Lowry's Pass, Sani Pass and Wakkerstroom.

**Zebras *Equidae***

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

The unmistakable striped horse of the African savannah, we enjoyed sightings at Kimberley and Mkuze.

**Rhinoceroses *Rhinocerotidae***

**Square-lipped (White) Rhinoceros** *Ceratotherium simum*

We had excellent sightings at Cape Vidal and Mkuze.

**Hippopotamuses *Hippopotamidae***

**Hippopotamus** *Hippopotamus amphibius*

Recorded at St Lucia and Muzi Pan.

**Pigs *Suidae***

**Common Warthog** *Phacochoerus africanus*

We enjoyed sightings of these in Cape Vidal and Mkuze.

**Giraffes *Giraffidae***

**Giraffe** *Giraffa camelopardalis*

Good close looks at fifteen at Mkuze.

**Bovids & Horned Ungulates *Bovidae***

**Greater Kudu** *Tragelaphus strepsiceros*

These magnificent antelope were seen at Kimberley, Cape Vidal and Mkuze.

**Nyala** *Tragelaphus angasii*

This striking antelope is endemic to this part of KwaZulu Natal and Southern Mozambique. We had plentiful sightings in all the game reserves in Zululand.

**Bushbuck** *Tragelaphus scriptus*

We had good views of several in St Lucia and Mkuze.

**Gemsbok (Oryx)** *Oryx gazelle*

Three of these stunning antelope were seen at Goegap Reserve in Springbok.

**Waterbuck** *Kobus ellipsiprymnus*

This large and oddly marked antelope was seen at Kimberley and at Cape Vidal.

**Southern (Common) Reedbuck** *Redunca arundinum*

Recorded at Midmar, Sani Pass and Cape Vidal.

**Gray Rhebok** *Pelea capreolus*

We had good looks at these slender antelope in the grasslands around De Hoop.

**Black Wildebeest** *Connochaetes gnou*

We had a herd of at least thirty+ in the grasslands at both Kimberley and Midmar.

**Brindled Gnu (Blue Wildebeest)** *Connochaetes taurinus*

This mammal was frequently encountered at Mkuze.

**Red Hartebeest** *Alcelaphus buselaphus*

Recorded at Kimberley, West Coast NP and Midmar.

**Blesbok** *Damaliscus dorcas phillipsi*

We saw a fifty plus in the grasslands around Kimberley with further sightings at Midmar GR.

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### **Bontebok**

Eighty+ were seen in the De Hoop area.

*Damaliscus dorcas pygargus*

### **Impala**

First seen in the Kimberley area with further sightings at Mkuze.

*Aepyceros melampus melampus*

### **Springbok**

This attractive gazelle was seen frequently in grassland habitats in the Cape Province.

*Antidorcas marsupialis*

### **Steinbuck (Steenbok)**

These dainty antelope, famed for their habit of burying their dung, were observed at Kimberley, Brandvlei, Calvinia and Wakkerstroom.

*Raphicerus campestris*

### **Oribi**

Three of these scarce grassland antelope were seen at Midmar GR.

*Ourebia ourebia*

### **Blue Duiker**

We were fortunate to find one at the Dhlinda Forest.

*Cephalophus monticola*

### **Natal (Red) Duiker**

This stunning dwarf antelope, a rich chestnut in colour, was enjoyed at Mkuze.

*Cephalophus natalensis*

### **Bush (Common/Gray) Duiker**

This, the commonest duiker in South Africa, was seen at Kimberley, West Coast NP, Midmar and at Mkuze.

*Sylvicapra grimmia*

## **Fur Seals *Otariidae***

### **Cape Fur Seal**

This cold-water dweller was seen in the icy waters of the Cape.

*Arctocephalus pusillus*

## **Whales *Balaenidae***

### **Hump-backed Whale**

We enjoyed brief views of two on our pelagic trip off Cape Town.

*Balaena glacialis*

### **Southern Right Whale**

Two seen off the West Coast NP and four around the Cape Peninsula.

*Eubalaena australis*

## **REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS**

### **Angulate Tortoise**

At least four in West Coast NP

*Chersina angulata*

### **Drakensberg Crag Lizard**

Six at Sani Pass.

*Pseudocordylus melanotus*

### **Common Flat Lizard**

Two were seen near Brandvlei.

*Platysuarus intermedius*

### **Karoo Girdled Lizard**

Two were seen near Brandvlei

*Cordylus polyzonus*

### **Cape Girdled Lizard**

Two were seen at Sir Lowry's Pass.

*Cordylus polyzonus*

### **Cape Rock Agama**

Seen in the De Hoop area.

*Agama atricollis*

### **Moreau's Tropical House Gecko**

In the camp at Mkuze.

*Hemidactylus mabouia*

## **AMPHIBIAN SPECIES LIST**

### **Cape River Frog**

Heard at Sani Pass.

*Rana angolensis*

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