



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

South Africa **Budget Western I** *11th to 22nd May 2018 (12 days)* **Trip Report**



Cape Sugarbird by Jan Pienaar

Trip report compiled by Tour Leader: Jan Pienaar

Tour Summary

South Africa is a wonderfully diverse country; and on our exploration of the western part of the country, we certainly came to experience that. The fynbos-clad mountains in the south, the arid Karoo in the interior and the Atlantic coast all formed part of this tour. Although we were plagued at times by some bad weather, including really strong winds, we nevertheless came away with a great selection of birds – as well as some good mammals.



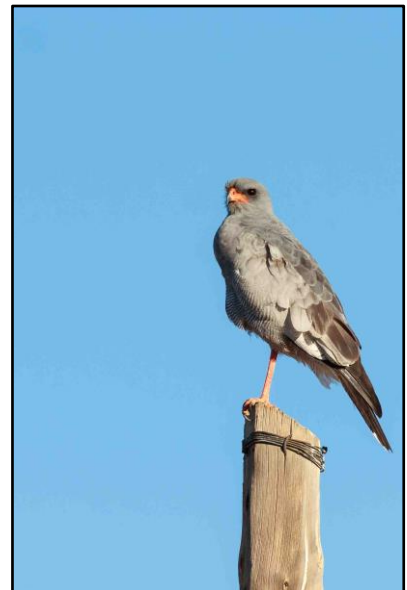
Orange-breasted Sunbird by Jan Pienaar

We started our tour by all meeting at our accommodations south of Cape Town and then striking out to the magnificent Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. Here, our search through the well-manicured gardens and natural forest patches conjured up sightings of Cape Spurfowl, African Goshawk, Forest Buzzard, roosting Spotted Eagle-Owl, Cape Batis, Sombre Greenbul, Cape Sugarbird, Olive Thrush, African Dusky Flycatcher, Sweet Waxbill, Forest Canary, and Orange-breasted, Malachite and Southern Double-collared Sunbirds.

Up early the next morning, three of our four guests headed to the harbour in Simon's Town to board the boat that would take them out to sea for a pelagic birding trip. On the trip, they managed sightings of Black-browed, Shy and Indian Yellow-nosed Albatrosses, Cape and White-chinned Petrels, Sooty, Great and Cory's Shearwaters, Arctic Tern, Cape Gannet and Brown Skua. Mammal highlights included a pod of Short-beaked Common Dolphin and Bryde's and Humpback Whales.

I spent the morning with the remaining guest at the productive Strandfontein Water Treatment Plant. The settling ponds here attract a vast array of fresh-water fowl, and a good selection of seabirds coming in to roost as well. Highlights here included South African Shelduck, Hottentot Teal, Maccoa Duck, Black-necked Grebe, large numbers of very colourful Greater Flamingo, Glossy Ibis, Grey, Black-headed and Purple Herons, Intermediate and Little Egrets, Great White Pelican, African Marsh Harrier, African Swamphen, Pied Avocet, Alpine, African Black and Little Swifts (all in one flock!), Brown-throated Martin, Little Rush Warbler and a surprise Franklin's Gull in full breeding plumage – *still very much a rarity in South Africa.*

After meeting the boat in Simon's Town again, the now reunited group headed to the nearby Boulders Beach, home to one of only a few mainland colonies of the endangered African Penguin. Southern Boubou, Cape Bulbul, Karoo Prinia, Cape Wagtail and Rock Hyrax added the supporting cast here.



Pale Chanting Goshawk by Jan Pienaar

Another early start the next morning saw us heading east, to the other side of False Bay, and the towns of Rooi Els and Betty's Bay. Our main target at Rooi Els was the often-tricky Cape Rockjumper; and

we were rewarded with prolonged, albeit distant, views of a family group on the rocky slope above us. Other smart birds here included Cape and Sentinel Rock Thrushes, Neddicky and Familiar Chat. The Harold Porter Botanical Gardens was next on the itinerary, which produced additional sightings of Cape Sugarbird and Orange-breasted and Southern Double-collared Sunbirds, as well as the only sighting of Fork-tailed Drongo for the trip.



Karoo Korhaan by Jan Pienaar

Karoo as the sun was rising. The crisp morning air meant that quite a few birds were sitting up enjoying the early morning sun and we soon had sightings of Mountain Wheatear, Layard's Warbler and Fairy Flycatcher. Further north, as we entered the flatter part of the drive, we had Karoo and Tractrac Chats, Karoo Eremomela, Pale Chanting Goshawk, Spike-heeled Lark, Karoo Scrub Robin and Yellow and White-throated Canaries. Taller vegetation nearer Calvinia yielded Lesser Honeyguide, Pirit Batis and Long-billed Crombec; whilst in the adjacent farmlands, we were fortunate to locate a pair of Ludwig's Bustard. After a long, dusty day, we arrived in the town of Calvinia, where we spent the next two nights.

An early start the next day saw us heading north to the town of Brandvlei, 'Lark Capital' of South Africa. During our full day exploring the surrounds of the town, we managed sightings of Karoo Long-billed, Sabota, Red and Large-billed Larks, as well as Black-eared and Grey-backed Sparrow-Larks. The supporting cast included South African Shelduck, Booted Eagle, Blue Crane, good numbers of Namaqua Sandgrouse, White-backed Mousebird, Namaqua and Rufous-eared Warblers, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Chat Flycatcher, Dusky Sunbird, White-browed Sparrow-Weaver, Red-headed Finch, Black-headed Canary and large numbers of Lark-like Bunting. We then headed back to Calvinia for a well-deserved rest after a long but eventful day.

Further north, not too far from the Namibian border, lies the picturesque town of Springbok, which was our base for the next two nights.

From here we struck out for the coastal town of Port Nolloth, where our main target was the very localised Barlow's Lark. After a bit of searching, we did manage to locate a pair feeding on the sand

Our final day near Cape Town started with a visit to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve where, in addition to some stunning scenery, we had good sightings of Common Ostrich, White-breasted and Cape Cormorants, Black-winged Kite, Jackal Buzzard, Red-winged Starling, Malachite Sunbird, Cape Siskin and Cape Bunting. Mammals were a bit scarce, but we still managed to see Chacma Baboon and Common Eland. We then headed north through Cape Town and on to Ceres, our base for the night.

A pre-dawn departure saw us in the Tankwa



Cape Gannet by Jan Pienaar

dunes near town. Interestingly, we had a mixed pair of Barlow's Lark, where one was a 'pure' bird and the other was a hybrid with Karoo Lark. Pure Barlow's Larks have unstreaked flanks, whereas the hybrid birds have lightly streaked flanks – this is due to the heavily streaked flanks of the Karoo Lark. Greater Kestrel, Grey Tit, Cape Long-billed Lark, African Stonechat and White-throated Canary were other birds we found near Port Nolloth.

In and around Springbok, including in the nearby Goegap Nature Reserve, we had Verreaux's Eagle, Karoo Korhaan, Lanner Falcon, Acacia Pied Barbet, Red-capped and Stark's Larks, African Red-eyed Bulbul, Orange River White-eye, Capped Wheatear and Cape Starling; whilst mammals included Springbok and Gemsbok. Inland, near the town of Pofadder, we visited a few colonies of Sociable Weaver, and had a pair of Pale-winged Starling.

From Springbok we headed back south, along the Atlantic Coast, to Lambert's Bay. On the edge of town here is Bird Island, a well-known site for a breeding colony of Cape Gannet. Most youngsters had fledged by the time we visited, but we still had reasonable numbers of both immatures and adults. Crowned, Cape, White-breasted and Bank Cormorants, White-fronted Plover and Common Tern were the notable species we had here.



Quiver Tree by Jan Pienaar

Leaving Lambert's Bay, we continued heading south and stopped on the Paleisheuvel Road, where Lesser Honeyguide, Fairy Flycatcher, Cape Grassbird, Bar-throated Apalis, Layard's Warbler, Karoo Thrush and Cape Robin-Chat entertained us. After enjoying the birding here, we headed to Langebaan for the night and added Southern Black Korhaan along the way.

On our last full day, we headed south from Langebaan into the West Coast National Park where, despite strong winds and spells of driving rain, we managed to locate Common Ostrich, Greater Flamingo, African Spoonbill, African Oystercatcher, Kittlitz's Plover, Common Greenshank, Curlew Sandpiper, Grey Plover, Caspian Tern, Karoo Scrub Robin, African Pipit and good numbers of Yellow Canary. Steenbok, Common Duiker and Common Eland were mammals we saw in the park.

We then headed back to Cape Town for the night and departed very early the next morning to board our flight up to Johannesburg to start our Eastern South Africa tour.

Annotated List of species recorded

Note: Number in brackets () indicate number of days on the tour the species was recorded.

List powered through the report generator of our partner iGoTerra.

Birds (188 in total: 187 seen, 1 heard)

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Gill, F and D Donsker (Eds). 2018. IOC World Bird List (v 8.1).

Status codes: **E** = Endemic, **NE** = Near-endemic, **I** = Introduced

IUCN codes: **CR** = Critically endangered, **EN** = Endangered, **VU** = Vulnerable, **EW** = Extinct in the Wild, **NT** = Near Threatened, **DD** = Data Deficient

Ostrich *Struthionidae*

Common Ostrich

Struthio camelus australis

(3) 6 Cape of Good Hope NR 14.5, 5 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5 and 10 West Coast NP 21.5.

Seeing them on the beach in the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve was certainly memorable!

Ducks, Geese & Swans *Anatidae*

Spur-winged Goose

Plectropterus gambensis niger

(3) 12 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5, 20 Ceres 15.5 and 1 Calvinia 17.5.

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiaca

(9) 4 Ceres 15.5, 4 Brandvlei 16.5, 2 Lambert's Bay 20.5 and 4 Langebaan 21.5.

South African Shelduck

Tadorna cana

(2) 3 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5 and 2 Brandvlei 16.5.

Hottentot Teal

Spatula hottentota

(1) 1 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5.

Cape Shoveler

Spatula smithii

Observed 1 day(s) in total.

Yellow-billed Duck

Anas undulata undulata

(2) 12 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5 and 5 West Coast NP 21.5.

Cape Teal

Anas capensis

(2) 2 West Coast NP 21.5.

Red-billed Teal

Anas erythrorhyncha

(1) 4 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5.

Maccoa Duck (NT)

Oxyura maccoa

(1) 7 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5.

Guineafowl *Numididae*

Helmeted Guineafowl

Numida meleagris

(6) 15 Cape Town - Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 11.5.

Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies *Phasianidae*

Cape Spurfowl

Pternistis capensis

(5) 3 Cape Town - Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 11.5, 3 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5, 5 Harold Porter Botanical Garden 13.5 and 8 Ceres 15.5.

Penguins *Spheniscidae*

African Penguin (EN)

Spheniscus demersus

(1) 150 Boulder's Beach 12.5.

Always great to visit the breeding colony at Boulders Beach.

Albatrosses *Diomedidae*

- Black-browed Albatross (NT)** *Thalassarche melanophris*
 (1) 6 Cape Town - Pelagic 12.5.
- Shy Albatross (NT)** *Thalassarche cauta*
 (1) 3 Cape Town - Pelagic 12.5.
- Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross (EN)** *Thalassarche carteri*
 (1) 3 Cape Town - Pelagic 12.5.

Petrels, Shearwaters & Diving Petrels *Procellariidae*

- Cape Petrel** *Daption capense capense*
 (1) 30 Cape Town - Pelagic 12.5.
- White-chinned Petrel (VU)** *Procellaria aequinoctialis*
 (2) 50 Cape Town - Pelagic 12.5 and 5 Cape of Good Hope NR 14.5.
- Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris borealis*
 (1) 2 Cape Town - Pelagic 12.5.
- Sooty Shearwater (NT)** *Ardenna grisea*
 (2) 80 Cape Town - Pelagic 12.5 and 20 Cape of Good Hope NR 14.5.
- Great Shearwater** *Ardenna gravis*
 (1) 3 Cape Town - Pelagic 12.5.

Grebes *Podicipedidae*

- Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis capensis*
 Observed 1 day(s) in total.
- Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis gurneyi*
 (1) 30 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5.

Flamingos *Phoenicopteridae*

- Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus roseus*
 (3) 100 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5, 7 Cape Town 14.5 and 60 West Coast NP 21.5.
 Good numbers, showing very well, at Strandfontein.

Storks *Ciconiidae*

- White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia ciconia*
 (1) 4 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5.

Ibises, Spoonbills *Threskiornithidae*

- African Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus*
 (8) 20 Port Nolloth 18.5, 20 Lambert's Bay 20.5 and 30 West Coast NP 21.5.
- Hadada Ibis** *Bostrychia hagedash hagedash*
 (7) 20 Cape Town - Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 11.5, 2 Calvinia 16.5 and 1 Langebaan 21.5.
- Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*
 (1) 8 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5.

African Spoonbill*Platalea alba*

(1) 6 West Coast NP 21.5.

Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns *Ardeidae***Western Cattle Egret***Bubulcus ibis*

Observed 2 day(s) in total.

Grey Heron*Ardea cinerea cinerea*

(3) 1 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5, 1 Harold Porter Botanical Garden 13.5 and 6 West Coast NP 21.5.

Black-headed Heron*Ardea melanocephala*

(3) 1 Ceres 14.5 and 1 Langebaan 20.5.

Purple Heron*Ardea purpurea purpurea*

(1) 1 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5.

Intermediate Egret*Ardea intermedia brachyrhyncha*

(1) 4 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5.

Little Egret*Egretta garzetta garzetta*

(3) 2 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5, 1 Rooi-Els 13.5 and 4 West Coast NP 21.5.

Pelicans *Pelecanidae***Great White Pelican***Pelecanus onocrotalus*

(1) 20 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5.

Gannets, Boobies *Sulidae***Cape Gannet (VU)***Morus capensis*

(3) 10 Cape of Good Hope NR 14.5 and 150 Lambert's Bay - Bird Island Nature Reserve 19.5.

Cormorants and Shags *Phalacrocoracidae***Reed Cormorant***Microcarbo africanus africanus*

(2) 2 Cape Town - Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 11.5.

Crowned Cormorant (NT)*Microcarbo coronatus*

(4) 2 Boulder's Beach 12.5, 40 Lambert's Bay 19.5, 4 Lambert's Bay 20.5 and 4 West Coast NP 21.5.

Bank Cormorant (EN)*Phalacrocorax neglectus*

(1) 2 Lambert's Bay - Bird Island Nature Reserve 19.5.

We had to sift through vast numbers of cormorants to finally get a view of these!

White-breasted Cormorant*Phalacrocorax lucidus*

(4) 4 Cape of Good Hope NR 14.5 and 5 Lambert's Bay - Bird Island Nature Reserve 19.5.

Cape Cormorant (NT)*Phalacrocorax capensis*

Observed 3 day(s) in total.

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

(3) 1 Ceres 14.5, 1 Goegap NR 19.5 and 2 West Coast NP 21.5.

Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
(1) 1 Brandvlei 16.5.	
Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>
(1) 1 Goegap NR 19.5.	
Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>
(2) 5 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5 and 1 Brandvlei 16.5.	
African Goshawk	<i>Accipiter tachiro tachiro</i>
(1) 1 Cape Town - Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 11.5.	
African Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>
(1) 1 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5.	
Forest Buzzard	<i>Buteo trizonatus</i>
(1) 1 Cape Town - Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 11.5.	
Jackal Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>
(5) 1 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5, 2 Cape of Good Hope NR 14.5, 2 Brandvlei 16.5, 2 Goegap NR 19.5 and 1 Langebaan 20.5.	

Bustards *Otididae*

Ludwig's Bustard (EN)	<i>Neotis ludwigii</i>
(1) 2 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5.	
Karoo Korhaan	<i>Eupodotis vigorsii</i>
(2) 6 heard Brandvlei 16.5 and 1 Calvinia 17.5.	
Southern Black Korhaan (VU)	<i>Afrotis afra</i>
(2) 3 Langebaan 20.5 and 3 West Coast NP 21.5.	

Rails, Crakes & Coots *Rallidae*

African Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>
(1) 1 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5.	
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus meridionalis</i>
(1) 12 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5.	
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>
Observed 2 day(s) in total.	

Cranes *Gruidae*

Blue Crane (VU)	<i>Grus paradisea</i>
(3) 2 Ceres 15.5, 2 Brandvlei 16.5 and 4 Langebaan 20.5.	
Good sightings of South Africa's National Bird.	

Oystercatchers *Haematopodidae*

African Oystercatcher (NT)	<i>Haematopus moquini</i>
(2) 10 West Coast NP 21.5.	

Stilts and Avocets *Recurvirostridae*

- Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*
 (3) 2 Brandvlei 16.5 and 15 West Coast NP 21.5.
- Pied Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*
 (2) 9 Cape of Good Hope NR 14.5.

Plovers and Lapwings *Charadriidae*

- Blacksmith Lapwing** *Vanellus armatus*
 (4) 1 Brandvlei 16.5 and 6 West Coast NP 21.5.
- Crowned Lapwing** *Vanellus coronatus*
 (2) 10 Springbok 17.5 and 5 Langebaan 20.5.
- Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola squatarola*
 (1) 8 West Coast NP 21.5.
- Kittlitz's Plover** *Charadrius pecuarius*
 (1) 2 West Coast NP 21.5.
- Three-banded Plover** *Charadrius tricollaris tricollaris*
 (2) 2 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5 and 1 West Coast NP 21.5.
- White-fronted Plover** *Charadrius marginatus*
 (2) 2 Lambert's Bay - Bird Island Nature Reserve 19.5 and 5 West Coast NP 21.5.

Sandpipers and Allies *Scolopacidae*

- Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*
 (1) 1 West Coast NP 21.5.
- Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*
 (1) 8 West Coast NP 21.5.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers *Laridae*

- Grey-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus poiocephalus*
 (2) 3 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5 and 1 Lambert's Bay 19.5.
- Hartlaub's Gull** *Chroicocephalus hartlaubii*
 Observed 6 day(s) in total.
- Franklin's Gull** *Leucophaeus pipixcan*
 (1) 1 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5.
- Kelp Gull** *Larus dominicanus*
 (7) 1 Ceres 15.5.
- Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*
 (2) 5 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5 and 1 West Coast NP 21.5.
- Greater Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bergii bergii*
 (3) 20 West Coast NP 21.5.
- Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*
 (1) 1 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5.
- Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo hirundo*

(1) 1 Lambert's Bay 19.5.

Arctic Tern

Sterna paradisaea

(1) 5 Cape Town - Pelagic 12.5.

Skuas and Jaegers *Stercorariidae*

Brown Skua

Stercorarius antarcticus

(1) 4 Cape Town - Pelagic 12.5.

Sandgrouse *Pteroclididae*

Namaqua Sandgrouse

Pterocles namaqua

(1) 60 Brandvlei 16.5.

Pigeons and Doves *Columbidae*

Rock Dove

Columba livia

Observed 6 day(s) in total.

Speckled Pigeon

Columba guinea phaeonota

(3) 2 Cape Town - Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 12.5 and 2 Goegap NR 19.5.

Red-eyed Dove

Streptopelia semitorquata

(5) 30 Cape Town - Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 11.5 and 10 Boulder's Beach 12.5.

Ring-necked Dove

Streptopelia capicola

(3) 1 Brandvlei 16.5 and 1 West Coast NP 21.5.

Laughing Dove

Spilopelia senegalensis senegalensis

(4) 2 Brandvlei 16.5.

Namaqua Dove

Oena capensis capensis

(2) 5 Brandvlei 16.5 and 6 Pofadder 18.5.

Owls *Strigidae*

Spotted Eagle-Owl

Bubo africanus africanus

(1) 1 Cape Town - Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 11.5.

Great sighting of a roosting bird from the u0027Boomslangu0027 aerial walkway in Kirstenbosch

Swifts *Apodidae*

Alpine Swift

Tachymarptis melba

(1) 2 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5.

African Black Swift

Apus barbatus barbatus

Observed 3 day(s) in total.

Little Swift

Apus affinis

Observed 1 day(s) in total.

Mousebirds *Coliidae*

Speckled Mousebird

Colius striatus

(3) 3 Cape Town - Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 11.5, 2 Harold Porter Botanical Garden 13.5 and 3

Paleisheuvel 20.5.

White-backed Mousebird *Colius colius*

(4) 10 Brandvlei 16.5 and 6 Springbok 17.5.

Red-faced Mousebird *Urocolius indicus*

(1) 4 Cape Town 14.5.

African Barbets *Lybiidae*

Acacia Pied Barbet *Tricholaema leucomelas*

(3) 1 heard Brandvlei 16.5, 2 Goegap NR 19.5 and 2 Paleisheuvel 20.5.

Honeyguides *Indicatoridae*

Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor minor*

(2) 1 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5 and 1 Paleisheuvel 20.5.

Falcons and Caracaras *Falconidae*

Rock Kestrel *Falco rupicolus*

(4) 2 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5, 1 Rooi-Els 13.5, 1 Goegap NR 19.5 and 3 West Coast NP 21.5.

Greater Kestrel *Falco rupicoloides rupicoloides*

(1) 2+4 heard Port Nolloth 18.5.

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus biarmicus*

(1) 2 Goegap NR 19.5.

Two birds were hunting over the open plains of the Goegap Nature Reserve

Wattle-eyes, Batises *Platysteiridae*

Cape Batis *Batis capensis*

(1) 4 Cape Town - Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 11.5.

Pirit Batis *Batis pririt*

(1) 2 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5.

Bushshrikes and Allies *Malaconotidae*

Bokmakierie *Telophorus zeylonus*

(5) 2 Cape Town 12.5, 1 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5, 1 Goegap NR 19.5, 2 Paleisheuvel 20.5 and 2 West Coast NP 21.5.

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus*

(2) 2 heard Cape Town - Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 11.5 and 2 Boulder's Beach 12.5.

Shrikes *Laniidae*

Southern Fiscal *Lanius collaris*

(8) 2 Ceres 15.5, 2 Springbok 17.5 and 1 Port Nolloth 18.5.

Drongos *Dicruridae***Fork-tailed Drongo***Dicrurus adsimilis*

(1) 1 Harold Porter Botanical Garden 13.5.

Crows, Jays, and Magpies *Corvidae***Cape Crow***Corvus capensis capensis*

(3) 1 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5.

Pied Crow*Corvus albus*

(11) 6 Cape Town - Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 11.5.

White-necked Raven*Corvus albicollis*

(8) 2 Cape Town - Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 11.5, 15 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5, 2 Rooi-Els 13.5, 4 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5, 4 Goegap NR 17.5 and 2 Paleisheuvel 20.5.

Rockjumpers *Chaetopidae***Cape Rockjumper***Chaetops frenatus*

(1) 4 Rooi-Els 13.5.

After searching the rocky scree near Rooi Els, we were awarded with prolonged views of a family group

Fairy Flycatchers *Stenostiridae***Fairy Flycatcher***Stenostira scita*

(2) 3 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5 and 1 Paleisheuvel 20.5.

Tits, Chickadees *Paridae***Grey Tit***Melaniparus afer*

(1) 2 Port Nolloth 18.5.

Larks *Alaudidae***Spike-heeled Lark***Chersomanes albofasciata*

(1) 3 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5.

Karoo Long-billed Lark*Certhilauda subcoronata*

(1) 5 Brandvlei 16.5.

Cape Long-billed Lark*Certhilauda curvirostris*

(1) 1 Port Nolloth 18.5.

Black-eared Sparrow-Lark*Eremopterix australis*

(1) 3 Brandvlei 16.5.

A difficult species to connect with, we were fortunate to get great views of a male and two females

Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark*Eremopterix verticalis*

Observed 1 day(s) in total.

Sabota Lark*Calendulauda sabota*

(1) 2 Brandvlei 16.5.

Red Lark*Calendulauda burra*

(1) 3 Brandvlei 16.5.

Barlow's Lark

Calendulauda barlowi

(1) 2 Port Nolloth 18.5.

We had a pair near Port Nolloth, including a 'pure' bird and a hybrid bird. Barlow's Lark hybridises with Karoo Lark in this area

Stark's Lark

Spizocorys starki

(1) 1 Goegap NR 17.5.

Large-billed Lark

Galerida magnirostris

(1) 2 Brandvlei 16.5.

Red-capped Lark

Calandrella cinerea cinerea

(2) 3 Goegap NR 17.5 and 6 Goegap NR 19.5.

Bulbuls Pycnonotidae

African Red-eyed Bulbul

Pycnonotus nigricans

(3) 6 Springbok 17.5.

Cape Bulbul

Pycnonotus capensis

(6) 8 Cape Town - Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 11.5, 4 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5 and 10 Paleisheuwel 20.5.

Sombre Greenbul

Andropadus importunus

(2) 1 Cape Town - Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 11.5 and 1 Harold Porter Botanical Garden 13.5.

Swallows Hirundinidae

Brown-throated Martin

Riparia paludicola paludicola

Observed 1 day(s) in total.

Rock Martin

Ptyonoprogne fuligula

(6) 2 Rooi-Els 13.5, 10 Brandvlei 16.5, 7 Paleisheuwel 20.5 and 10 West Coast NP 21.5.

Crombees, African warblers Macrosphenidae

Cape Grassbird

Sphenoeacus afer

(2) 1 heard Cape of Good Hope NR 14.5 and 1 Paleisheuwel 20.5.

Long-billed Crombec

Sylvietta rufescens

(1) 2 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5.

Reed warblers and allies Acrocephalidae

Lesser Swamp Warbler

Acrocephalus gracilirostris

(1) 3 heard Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5.

Grassbirds and allies Locustellidae

Little Rush Warbler

Bradypterus baboecala

(1) 2 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5.

Cisticolas and allies Cisticolidae

- Levaillant's Cisticola** *Cisticola tinniens*
 (2) 6 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5 and 2 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5.
- Neddicky** *Cisticola fulvicapilla*
 (1) 2+2 heard Rooi-Els 13.5.
- Karoo Prinia** *Prinia maculosa*
 (7) 4 Cape Town - Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 11.5, 2 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5, 4 Brandvlei 16.5 and 6 Paleisheuvel 20.5.
- Namaqua Warbler** *Phragmacia substriata*
 (1) 1 Brandvlei 16.5.
- Bar-throated Apalis** *Apalis thoracica*
 (2) 2 Paleisheuvel 20.5 and 1 West Coast NP 21.5.
- Rufous-eared Warbler** *Malcorus pectoralis*
 (2) 4 Brandvlei 16.5 and 4 Port Nolloth 18.5.
- Yellow-bellied Eremomela** *Eremomela icteropygialis*
 (1) 2 Brandvlei 16.5.
- Karoo Eremomela** *Eremomela gregalis*
 (1) 5 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5.

Sylviid Babblers Sylviidae

- Chestnut-vented Warbler** *Sylvia subcoerulea*
 (1) 1 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5.
- Layard's Warbler** *Sylvia layardi*
 (2) 2 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5 and 1 Paleisheuvel 20.5.

White-eyes Zosteropidae

- Cape White-eye** *Zosterops virens*
 (6) 6 Paleisheuvel 20.5.
- Orange River White-eye** *Zosterops pallidus*
 (1) 3 Springbok 18.5.

Sugarbirds Promeropidae

- Cape Sugarbird** *Promerops cafer*
 (3) 1 Cape Town - Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 11.5, 5 Harold Porter Botanical Garden 13.5 and 8 Cape of Good Hope NR 14.5.

Starlings Sturnidae

- Common Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*
 Observed 6 day(s) in total.
- Cape Starling** *Lamprotornis nitens*
 (1) 2 Springbok 17.5.
- Pied Starling** *Lamprotornis bicolor*

(5) 3 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5, 5 Brandvlei 16.5 and 10 Springbok 17.5.

Red-winged Starling *Onychognathus morio morio*

(5) 10 Cape Town - Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 11.5, 6 Boulder's Beach 12.5, 2 Rooi-Els 13.5, 10 Cape of Good Hope NR 14.5 and 2 Langebaan 20.5.

Pale-winged Starling *Onychognathus nabouroup*

(2) 2 Pofadder 18.5 and 2 Goegap NR 19.5.

Thrushes and Allies *Turdidae*

Olive Thrush *Turdus olivaceus*

(1) 2 Cape Town - Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 11.5.

Karoo Thrush *Turdus smithi*

(1) 4 Paleisheuvel 20.5.

Chats, Old World Flycatchers *Muscicapidae*

Karoo Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas coryphoeus*

(3) 4 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5, 1 Goegap NR 19.5 and 3 West Coast NP 21.5.

Chat Flycatcher *Melaenornis infuscatus*

(1) 2 Brandvlei 16.5.

Fiscal Flycatcher *Melaenornis silens*

(3) 1 Harold Porter Botanical Garden 13.5, 2 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5 and 1 Paleisheuvel 20.5.

African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta*

(1) 1 Cape Town - Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 11.5.

Cape Robin-Chat *Cossypha caffra*

(6) 2 Cape Town - Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 11.5, 1 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5, 3 Harold Porter Botanical Garden 13.5, 1 Ceres 15.5, 1 Springbok 17.5 and 6 Paleisheuvel 20.5.

Cape Rock Thrush *Monticola rupestris*

(2) 1 Rooi-Els 13.5 and 1 Goegap NR 17.5.

Sentinel Rock Thrush *Monticola explorator*

(1) 3 Rooi-Els 13.5.

African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*

(2) 2 Springbok 17.5 and 2 Port Nolloth 18.5.

Karoo Chat *Emarginata schlegelii*

(4) 7 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5, 3 Brandvlei 16.5, 5 Springbok 17.5 and 1 Goegap NR 19.5.

Tractrac Chat *Emarginata tractrac*

(3) 2 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5, 1 Brandvlei 16.5 and 2 Port Nolloth 18.5.

Ant-eating Chat *Myrmecocichla formicivora*

(2) 3 Goegap NR 17.5 and 4 Goegap NR 19.5.

Mountain Wheatear *Myrmecocichla monticola monticola*

(2) 3 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5 and 4 Goegap NR 17.5.

Capped Wheatear *Oenanthe pileata*

(3) 3 Goegap NR 17.5, 2 Port Nolloth 18.5 and 4 Goegap NR 19.5.

Familiar Chat *Oenanthe familiaris*

(5) 4 Rooi-Els 13.5, 2 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5, 1 Goegap NR 17.5, 1 Port Nolloth 18.5 and 2 Paleisheuwel 20.5.

Sunbirds and Spiderhunters *Nectariniidae*

- Orange-breasted Sunbird** *Anthobaphes violacea*
 (3) 1 Cape Town - Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 11.5, 7 Rooi-Els 13.5 and 12 Cape of Good Hope NR 14.5.
- Amethyst Sunbird** *Chalcomitra amethystina*
 (1) 1 Harold Porter Botanical Garden 13.5.
- Malachite Sunbird** *Nectarinia famosa famosa*
 (5) 1 Cape Town - Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 11.5, 1 Boulder's Beach 12.5, 6 Cape of Good Hope NR 14.5, 1 Goegap NR 19.5 and 5 West Coast NP 21.5.
- Southern Double-collared Sunbird** *Cinnyris chalybeus*
 (6) 3 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5.
- Dusky Sunbird** *Cinnyris fuscus fuscus*
 (2) 3 Brandvlei 16.5 and 1 Goegap NR 19.5.

Old World Sparrows *Passeridae*

- House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*
 (9) 2 Boulder's Beach 12.5.
- Cape Sparrow** *Passer melanurus*
 (8) 6 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5 and 2 Cape of Good Hope NR 14.5.

Weavers, Widowbirds *Ploceidae*

- White-browed Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser mahali mahali*
 (1) 1 Brandvlei 16.5.
- Sociable Weaver** *Philetairus socius*
 (1) 60 Pofadder 18.5.
- Cape Weaver** *Ploceus capensis*
 (5) 6 Cape Town 12.5, 2 Springbok 17.5, 10 Lambert's Bay 19.5 and 5 Lambert's Bay 20.5.
- Southern Masked Weaver** *Ploceus velatus*
 (4) 2 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5, 8 Brandvlei 16.5 and 4 Calvinia 17.5.
- Red-billed Quelea** *Quelea quelea lathamii*
 (1) 3 Brandvlei 16.5.

Waxbills, Munias and allies *Estrildidae*

- Red-headed Finch** *Amadina erythrocephala*
 (1) 2 Brandvlei 16.5.
- Swee Waxbill** *Coccygia melanotis*
 (1) 6 Cape Town - Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 11.5.
- Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild*
 (1) 15 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5.

Wagtails, Pipits *Motacillidae***Cape Wagtail***Motacilla capensis capensis*

(6) 3 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5, 1 Harold Porter Botanical Garden 13.5, 1 Cape of Good Hope NR 14.5, 1 Port Nolloth 18.5, 8 Lambert's Bay 19.5 and 4 Paleisheuvel 20.5.

African Pipit*Anthus cinnamomeus*

(1) 1 West Coast NP 21.5.

Finches *Fringillidae***Forest Canary***Crithagra scotops*

(1) 10 Cape Town - Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 11.5.

Cape Siskin*Crithagra totta*

(1) 8 Cape of Good Hope NR 14.5.

Yellow Canary*Crithagra flaviventris*

(4) 10 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5, 5 Brandvlei 16.5 and 4 Goegap NR 17.5.

White-throated Canary*Crithagra albogularis*

(4) 2 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5, 6 Brandvlei 16.5 and 2 Port Nolloth 18.5.

Cape Canary*Serinus canicollis*

(1) 10 Cape Town 12.5.

Black-headed Canary*Serinus alario*

(2) 1 Brandvlei 16.5 and 1 Pofadder 18.5.

Buntings, New World Sparrows and allies *Emberizidae***Lark-like Bunting***Emberiza impetuani*

Observed 2 day(s) in total.

Cape Bunting*Emberiza capensis*

(6) 1 Rooi-Els 13.5, 3 Cape of Good Hope NR 14.5, 5 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5, 2 Goegap NR 17.5 and 4 Paleisheuvel 20.5.

Mammals (16 in total: 16 seen)

Status codes: E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic, I = Introduced

IUCN codes: CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EW = Extinct in the Wild, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient

Hyraxes *Procaviidae***Rock Hyrax***Procavia capensis*

(2) 1 Boulder's Beach 12.5 and 1 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5.

Old World monkeys *Cercopithecidae***Chacma Baboon***Papio ursinus ursinus*

(2) 20 Cape of Good Hope NR 14.5 and 10 Springbok 19.5.

Squirrels *Sciuridae***Eastern Gray Squirrel***Sciurus carolinensis*

(2) 1 Cape Town - Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 11.5 and 1 Cape Town 12.5.

Mongoose *Herpestidae***Cape Grey Mongoose***Herpestes pulverulentus*

(1) 1 Strandfontein Sewage Works 12.5.

Sea Lions *Otariidae***Afro-Australian Fur Seal***Arctocephalus pusillus*

Observed 2 day(s) in total.

Zebras, Horse, Asses *Equidae***Mountain Zebra***Equus zebra*

(1) 6 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5.

Oceanic Dolphins *Delphinidae***Short-beaked Common Dolphin***Delphinus delphis delphis*

Observed 1 day(s) in total.

Rorquals *Balaenopteridae***Bryde's Whale***Balaenoptera edeni*

(1) 1 Cape Town - Pelagic 12.5.

Humpback Whale*Megaptera novaeangliae*

(1) 1 Cape Town - Pelagic 12.5.

Cattle, Antelopes, Sheep, Goats *Bovidae***Hartebeest***Alcelaphus buselaphus*

(1) 4 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5.

Springbok*Antidorcas marsupialis*

(5) 7 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5, 20 Brandvlei 16.5, 15 Goegap NR 17.5, 15 Goegap NR 19.5 and 20 Langebaan 20.5.

Klipspringer*Oreotragus oreotragus*

(1) 1 Goegap NR 17.5.

Gemsbok*Oryx gazella*

(3) 3 Tanqua Karoo NP 15.5, 1 Goegap NR 17.5 and 5 Goegap NR 19.5.

Steenbok*Raphicerus campestris campestris*

(2) 2 Springbok 17.5 and 1 West Coast NP 21.5.

Common Duiker*Sylvicapra grimmia*

(1) 1 West Coast NP 21.5.

Common Eland*Tragelaphus oryx*

(2) 4 Cape of Good Hope NR 14.5 and 3 West Coast NP 21.5.

Reptiles (3 in total: 3 seen)**Status codes:** E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic, I = Introduced**IUCN codes:** CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EW = Extinct in the

Wild, **NT** = Near Threatened, **DD** = Data Deficient

Tortoises Testudinidae

Angulated Tortoise

Chersina angulata

(2) 1 Brandvlei 16.5 and 1 West Coast NP 21.5.

Agamas Agamidae

Southern Rock Agama

Agama atra atra

(1) 2 Goegap NR 17.5.

Spinytail Lizards Cordylidae

Black Girdled Lizard

Cordylus niger

(1) 1 Cape of Good Hope NR 14.5.

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