



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

South Africa

Western Cape Extension VII

4th to 9th August 2017 (6 days)

Trip Report



Orange-breasted Sunbird by Adam Riley

Trip report compiled by Tour Leader, André Bernon



Tour Summary

The Cape region of South Africa is an area that should be visited by all nature enthusiasts. The Cape floristic region is part of the smallest plant kingdom in the world – the Cape Floral Kingdom. The fynbos habitat of the southern regions is comprised of many Proteaceae and Ericaceae families, which in turn, has given this area a lot of endemic bird species. The region around the beautiful city of Cape Town managed to show us endemics such as Cape Rockjumper and Cape Sugarbird, which are, in fact, species that are a part of the two endemic bird families of southern Africa. We also found Victorin's Warbler, Cape Siskin, Forest and Cape Canaries and the gorgeous Orange-breasted and Malachite Sunbirds. We also enjoyed a pelagic trip here, into the cold waters of the Atlantic. We unfortunately did not manage to find a fishing vessel, which in turn disappointed in terms of sheer numbers. This did not affect species seen, which included the rare Northern Royal Albatross, amongst many Shy, Black-browed and a single Indian Yellow-nosed. Cape Petrel was another highlight, amongst a few Manx Shearwaters, Antarctic Prion and both Southern and Northern Giant Petrels. We visited the west coast of the cape and found Cape Penduline Tit, Cape Clapper Lark and many Southern Black Korhaans. We left the scenic Langebaan Lagoon for the escarpment, where we explored the Tanqua Karoo. This semi-desert habitat receives little rainfall but attracts many people to find some Karoo specials available here, within reach of Cape Town. We did extremely well in finding all specials, such as the difficult Cinnamon-breasted and Rufous-eared Warblers, Fairy Flycatcher, Karoo Korhaan, Karoo Eremomela, Greater Kestrel, Pale Chanting Goshawk and both Karoo and Tractrac Chats. A fantastic tour of the region which always delivers, not only with birding, but gorgeous scenery, fantastic food and accommodation to boot.

This extension to the cape region of South Africa had finally arrived. We arrived in the "mother city" of Cape Town this afternoon, and made our way to the world-famous Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens. This location is a fantastic introduction to the birds and spectacular scenery of the Cape. This region holds a peculiar habitat known as fynbos, which is actually a centre of endemism and part of the smallest floristic kingdom in the world. We enjoyed many Southern Double-collared Sunbirds, Cape Spurfowl, Cape and Forest Canaries, Sweet Waxbill, Olive Thrush, White-necked Raven, Jackal Buzzard, African Dusky Flycatcher and two separate sightings of the majestic Spotted Eagle-Owl. We also spent some time watching the colourful Cape Robin-Chat, endemic Cape Siskin and Bar-throated Apalis. After acquiring sufficient exposure on our first afternoon, we made our way south, onto the peninsula to our accommodation in Simon's Town. A fantastic first dinner, with crashing waves below us, saw us reminiscing of the day's highlights and future plans.

We rose early to a most welcoming breakfast, watching the sun rays appear over False Bay. We watched Cape Cormorants flying low over the ocean out to their feeding grounds. We then made our way around False Bay and stopped at the eastern tip of the bay at an area known as Rooiels. Here, we enjoyed some exciting birds in this fynbos habitat. First



Swee Waxbills by Adam Riley



up was Cape Bunting, followed by the impressive Cape Sugarbird. We then found the colourful Orange-breasted Sunbird, Familiar Chat, Fiscal Flycatcher, Karoo Prinia, Cape Bulbul, Cape and Sentinel Rock Thrushes, Rock Martin and White-necked Raven. We also saw some Afro-Australian



African Penguins by Markus Lilje

Fur Seals soaking up the sun on an exposed rock on the shore. We searched intensively for our main target here, and our patience paid off as we found a pair of the sought-after and endemic Cape Rockjumper! We watched these great birds going about their business before heading on.

Next was Stony Point, the largest colony of African Penguins on the mainland. This colony is estimated at 9,000 individuals and it certainly impressed. We had close views of many as they went about their daily chores amongst many Rock Hyraxes. Hartlaub's and Kelp Gulls were present, as well as many marine cormorants. We managed to find four species, namely Crowned, Bank, White-breasted and Cape. Moving on to the little-visited Harold Porter Botanical Gardens, we enjoyed a quick lunch with the antics of some nearby Chacma Baboons, as well as many Sweet Waxbills and Familiar Chats. A short walk produced Cape Grassbird, Cape Spurfowl, Sombre Greenbul, Cape Sugarbird, Orange-breasted and Southern Double-collared Sunbirds, Black Saw-wing, White-necked Raven and a magnificent Verreaux's Eagle overhead! We pushed on and visited the busy Strandfontein Waste Water Treatment Works and found many Southern Pochard, Cape and Red-billed Teals, Yellow-billed Duck, Greater Crested Tern, Pied Avocet, Black-winged Stilt, and Grey-headed and Hartlaub's Gulls. A stop along suitable habitat gave us good looks at Little Rush and Lesser Swamp Warblers, as well as Levaillant's Cisticola. As we left, we found a quartering African Marsh Harrier and a flock of Yellow Bishops. We unfortunately had to leave as sunset approached – *a busy ending to a memorable day.*

We had the go ahead for our pelagic today, which was excellent news. The cold waters of the Cape, combined with the upwelling of nutrient-rich waters close to shore, make this a fantastic destination to explore the endless ocean with its fantastic seabird population. Excitement was high as we set sail out of Simon's Town. Rounding the scenic Cape Point, we hit waters with thousands of Sooty Shearwaters present. A couple of fast moving Manx Shearwaters were also briefly seen amongst them.

Further offshore, we found our first Shy Albatross, a single Antarctic Prion, as well as White-chinned Petrel – *the largest burrowing petrel in the world.* Cape Gannets and Cape Cormorants were also numerous. We reached the trawling grounds and found a vessel steaming at full speed towards the harbour. A fair amount of birds followed in its

well as many marine cormorants. We managed to find four species, namely Crowned, Bank, White-breasted and Cape. Moving on to the little-visited Harold Porter Botanical Gardens, we enjoyed a quick lunch with the antics of some nearby Chacma Baboons, as well as many Sweet Waxbills and Familiar Chats. A short walk produced Cape Grassbird, Cape Spurfowl, Sombre Greenbul, Cape Sugarbird, Orange-breasted and Southern Double-collared Sunbirds, Black Saw-wing, White-necked Raven and a magnificent Verreaux's Eagle overhead! We pushed on and visited the busy Strandfontein Waste Water Treatment Works and found many Southern Pochard, Cape and Red-billed Teals, Yellow-billed Duck, Greater Crested Tern, Pied Avocet, Black-winged Stilt, and Grey-headed and Hartlaub's Gulls. A stop along suitable habitat gave us good looks at Little Rush and Lesser Swamp Warblers, as well as Levaillant's Cisticola. As we left, we found a quartering African Marsh Harrier and a flock of Yellow Bishops. We unfortunately had to leave as sunset approached – *a busy ending to a memorable day.*

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Bank and Cape Cormorants by Hugh Chittenden



wake and we picked up the good looking Cape Petrel, Black-browed Albatross and Brown Skua. We also found both species of giant petrels: Southern and Northern. Arguably the best bird of the day went to a cracking adult Northern Royal Albatross! The number of birds was extremely low but regardless of this, we had a good amount of species under the belt. We made our way back, finding more Manx and Sooty Shearwaters, as well as a stunning young Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross. Into False Bay, we got



Southern Black Korhaan by Adam Riley

all four species of marine cormorant: Bank, Crowned, White-breasted and Cape. A much-welcomed surprise was two Humpback Whales! We ended the day with a leisurely walk south of Simon's Town, and were rewarded with roosting Spotted Thick-knees, gorgeous male Malachite Sunbird, Cape Canary, Cape Grassbird and African Oystercatcher.

The time had come to unfortunately leave the beautiful city of Cape Town. We headed west and found some entertainment as we left, with African Swamphen, Black-winged Kite and Cape Shoveler. We entered some pristine strandveld habitat and a strategic stop gave us some gorgeous Capped Wheatears, African Stonechat and even Karoo Scrub Robin. We listened out for the call of our target species here, and were lucky to find a displaying Cape Clapper Lark – *a difficult species to connect with*. Here, we also struck luck in finding a stunning Southern Black Korhaan in the vicinity of many White-backed Mousebirds and Bokmakieries.

We entered the famous West Coast National Park, situated on the Langebaan Lagoon. We immediately found some bright Yellow Canaries, Cape Bunting, Cape Bulbul and a noisy Grey-winged Francolin. A stunning Black Harrier made an appearance, too. We visited the Abrahaamskraal watering hole and had South African Shelduck, Little Grebe, Lesser Swamp Warbler, Karoo Scrub Robin and some bathing Cape Bunting. We moved on for lunch and were entertained by some gaudy Yellow Bishops, Cape Weaver, Southern Fiscal and Rock Kestrel. A venomous Boomslang was seen sunning itself in the winter sun too – *a rare sighting in winter!*



Cape Penduline Tit by Adam Riley

We had a great meal before moving on to the famous Geelbek hide. It was unfortunately spring tides, which caused exaggerated tidal moving due to a higher lunar pull. The tide moved in very quickly, but we still got good looks at Grey Plover, Common Greenshank, Whimbrel, Bar-tailed Godwit and even a pair of Red Knot! Both Greater and Lesser Flamingos were abundant and seen together for a nice



comparison. Some Great White Pelicans were seen in flight and leaving the hide, we found Kittlitz’s Plover and Wattled Starling. We left the park after finding more Cape Spurfowl, Southern Black Korhaan and Black Harrier. We had a strategic stop and found the petite Cape Penduline Tit. The scenic drive inland to Ceres gave us Blue Crane, Denham’s Bustard, a fantastic view of a perched Peregrine Falcon, Pied Starling and Verreaux’s Eagle!

We had an early start today as we made our way to the “gateway” to the Karoo. The Tanqua Karoo is the southernmost area where this special biome exists. We reached the “gateway” and enjoyed a massive breakfast, pre-dawn. A nice surprise was when a Spotted Eagle-Owl paid us a visit as we watched a great silhouette of this large species. A Karoo Chat visited the picnic spot for scraps, affording good looks. As light appeared over the horizon, we made our way further inland to explore this semi-desert habitat. We quickly found many Yellow Canaries and our first stop gave us the exquisite Rufous-eared Warbler! Many Karoo Prinias were present amongst some Grey-backed Cisticola.



Cinnamon-breasted Warbler by Clayton Burne

A small acacia-lined watercourse gave us the dainty Fairy Flycatcher and more Karoo Scrub Robin. Soon after, we found a major target here in the form of Karoo Eremomela! We neared a rocky area known as Skitterykloof, where we stopped to look for a special endemic. We spent some time and eventually found a pair as they called on a rocky ridge – *affording great scope views too*. Here, we also managed to see Mountain Wheatear, Fairy Flycatcher, White-throated Canary, Booted Eagle, Long-billed Crombec and Cape Bunting. We ventured further after a great home-made ginger beer and managed to find many Karoo Korhaans, Tracrac Chat, Greater Kestrel, Pale Chanting Goshawk and another Black Harrier. Another strategic stop gave us the difficult Namaqua Warbler, as well as a pair of Pririt Batis. A fantastic day’s birding with some mammals to boot: Gemsbok, Springbok and even the rare Cape Grysbok.



Victorin’s Warbler by Hugh Chittenden

Today was already the final day of the tour, as we had to make our way back to Cape Town for our onward journeys. A stop overlooking a river gave us a pair of African Black Duck, Brown-throated Martin and Lesser Swamp Warbler. We traversed the spectacular Du Toitskloof Pass to look for a couple more tough endemics and struck gold! We got many Cape Sugarbirds, and Neddicky and Malachite Sunbird. The star, however, was a confiding Victorin’s Warbler! This skulking species certainly never shows well, but we welcomed this visual – *out in the open and singing!* *A fantastic ending to a great extension!*



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 (162 in total: 161 seen, 1 heard)

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Gill, F and D Donsker (Eds). 2017. IOC World Bird List (v 7.1).

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

(1) 15 West Coast NP 7.8.

Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl *Anatidae*

Spur-winged Goose

Plectropterus gambensis niger

(1) 6 en route 7.8.

Seen en route between Langebaan and Ceres.

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiaca

Observed 5 days in total.

South African Shelduck

Tadorna cana

(2) 1 West Coast NP 7.8 and 30 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

Cape Teal

Anas capensis

(2) 30 Strandfontein Sewage Works 5.8 and 10 West Coast NP 7.8.

African Black Duck

Anas sparsa sparsa

(1) 2 Ceres 9.8.

Mallard

Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos

(1) 1 Cape Town 7.8.

Yellow-billed Duck

Anas undulata undulata

(2) 20 Strandfontein Sewage Works 5.8 and 15 Cape Town 7.8.

Cape Shoveler

Anas smithii

(2) 40 Strandfontein Sewage Works 5.8 and 20 Cape Town 7.8.

Red-billed Teal

Anas erythrorhyncha

(1) 12 Strandfontein Sewage Works 5.8.

Southern Pochard

Netta erythrophthalma brunnea

(1) 40 Strandfontein Sewage Works 5.8.

Guineafowl *Numididae*

Helmeted Guineafowl

Numida meleagris

Observed 5 days in total.

Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies *Phasianidae*



Grey-winged Francolin *Scleroptila afra*

(1) 1 West Coast NP 7.8.

A single bird was seen, calling next to the road.

Cape Spurfowl *Pternistis capensis*

Observed 2 days in total.

A beautiful and abundant endemic.

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

(2) 500 Stony Point 5.8 and 1 Cape Town pelagic 6.8.

We visited the largest breeding colony on the mainland.

Albatrosses Diomedidae**Northern Royal Albatross (EN)** *Diomedea sanfordi*

(1) 1 Cape Town pelagic 6.8.

Black-browed Albatross (NT) *Thalassarche melanophris*

(1) 2 Cape Town pelagic 6.8.

Shy Albatross (NT) *Thalassarche cauta*

(1) 40 Cape Town pelagic 6.8.

Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross (EN) *Thalassarche carteri*

(1) 1 Cape Town pelagic 6.8.

An immature was seen at close range on our way back.

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

(1) 4 Cape Town pelagic 6.8.

Northern Giant Petrel *Macronectes halli*

(1) 6 Cape Town pelagic 6.8.

Cape Petrel *Daption capense capense*

(1) 5 Cape Town pelagic 6.8.

Antarctic Prion *Pachyptila desolata*

(1) 1 Cape Town pelagic 6.8.

We were lucky to squeeze this last individual for the season.

White-chinned Petrel (VU) *Procellaria aequinoctialis*

(1) 200 Cape Town pelagic 6.8.

Sooty Shearwater (NT) *Ardenna grisea*

(1) 3000 Cape Town pelagic 6.8.

Abundant as we rounded Cape Point.

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

(2) 5 Strandfontein Sewage Works 5.8 and 1 West Coast NP 7.8.



Flamingos *Phoenicopteridae*

- Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus roseus*
 (2) 15 Cape Town 4.8 and 100 West Coast NP 7.8.
 A nice comparison when seen with Lesser.
- Lesser Flamingo (NT)** *Phoeniconaias minor*
 (1) 150 West Coast NP 7.8.
 A nice comparison when seen with Greater.

Ibises and Spoonbills *Threskiornithidae*

- African Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus*
 Observed 2 days in total.
- Hadada Ibis** *Bostrychia hagedash hagedash*
 Observed 2 days in total.
- Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*
 Observed 1 day in total.
- African Spoonbill** *Platalea alba*
 (1) 30 en route 7.8.

Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns *Ardeidae*

- Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*
 (1) 2 West Coast NP 7.8.
- Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*
 Observed 2 days in total.
- Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea cinerea*
 Observed 3 days in total.
- Black-headed Heron** *Ardea melanocephala*
 (2) 6 Cape Town 5.8 and 1 Cape Town 7.8.
- Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta garzetta*
 (2) 1 Stony Point 5.8 and 1 Cape Town 7.8.

Pelicans *Pelecanidae*

- Great White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus*
 (1) 30 West Coast NP 7.8.

Boobies and Gannets *Sulidae*

- Cape Gannet (VU)** *Morus capensis*
 (2) 100 Simon's Town 4.8 and 100 Cape Town pelagic 6.8.

Cormorants and Shags *Phalacrocoracidae*

- Reed Cormorant** *Microcarbo africanus africanus*
 (1) 1 Rooi-Els 5.8.
- Crowned Cormorant (NT)** *Microcarbo coronatus*



(2) 8 Stony Point 5.8 and 3 Cape Town pelagic 6.8.

Bank Cormorant (EN) *Phalacrocorax neglectus*

(2) 20 Stony Point 5.8 and 20 Cape Town pelagic 6.8.

White-breasted Cormorant *Phalacrocorax lucidus*

(3) 25 Stony Point 5.8, 100 Cape Town pelagic 6.8 and 50 Cape Town 7.8.

Cape Cormorant (NT) *Phalacrocorax capensis*

Observed 4 days in total.

Extremely common; seen in big rafts coming/going out to sea.

Hawks, Eagles, and Kites Accipitridae

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus caeruleus*

(2) 3 Cape Town 5.8 and 12 West Coast NP 7.8.

A recent split from Black-shouldered Kite.

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*

(1) 1 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

Verreaux's Eagle *Aquila verreauxii*

(2) 1 Harold Porter Botanical Garden 5.8 and 1 Ceres 7.8.

Pale Chanting Goshawk *Melierax canorus*

(1) 12 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

African Marsh Harrier *Circus ranivorus*

(2) 1 Strandfontein Sewage Works 5.8 and 1 West Coast NP 7.8.

Black Harrier (VU) *Circus maurus*

(2) 3 West Coast NP 7.8 and 1 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer*

(2) 1 heard Tanqua Karoo 8.8 and 1 Cape Town 9.8.

Jackal Buzzard *Buteo rufofuscus*

Observed 1 day in total.

Bustards Otididae

Denham's Bustard (NT) *Neotis denhami*

(1) 3 en route 7.8.

Karoo Korhaan *Eupodotis vigorsii*

(1) 9 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

Surprisingly common in the Karoo.

Southern Black Korhaan (VU) *Afrotis afra*

(1) 8 West Coast NP 7.8.

We did well to find many of these striking birds.

Rails, Gallinules, and Coots Rallidae

African Swamphen *Porphyrio madagascariensis*

(2) 1 Strandfontein Sewage Works 5.8 and 1 Cape Town 7.8.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus meridionalis*



(3) 12 Strandfontein Sewage Works 5.8, 1 Cape Town 7.8 and 1 heard Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

Red-knobbed Coot

Fulica cristata

Observed 1 day in total.

Cranes Gruidae

Blue Crane (VU)

Grus paradisea

(1) 12 en route 7.8.

We found a large wintering flock en route from Langebaan to Ceres.

Thick-knees Burhinidae

Spotted Thick-knee

Burhinus capensis

(1) 2 Simon's Town 6.8.

A roosting pair was found on our walk in Simon's Town.

Oystercatchers Haematopodidae

African Oystercatcher (NT)

Haematopus moquini

(2) 2 Cape Town 4.8, 2 Cape Town 5.8 and 3 Stony Point 5.8.

Stilts and Avocets Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt

Himantopus himantopus

Observed 1 day in total.

Pied Avocet

Recurvirostra avosetta

(2) 100 Strandfontein Sewage Works 5.8 and 40 West Coast NP 7.8.

Plovers and Lapwings Charadriidae

Blacksmith Lapwing

Vanellus armatus

Observed 2 days in total.

Grey Plover

Pluvialis squatarola squatarola

(1) 6 West Coast NP 7.8.

Kittlitz's Plover

Charadrius pecuarius

(1) 6 West Coast NP 7.8.

Sandpipers and Allies Scolopacidae

Bar-tailed Godwit

Limosa lapponica

(1) 30 West Coast NP 7.8.

Whimbrel

Numenius phaeopus

(1) 40 West Coast NP 7.8.

Common Greenshank

Tringa nebularia

(1) 2 West Coast NP 7.8.

Red Knot

Calidris canutus

(1) 2 West Coast NP 7.8.



Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers *Laridae*

Grey-headed Gull*Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus poiocephalus*

(1) 1 Strandfontein Sewage Works 5.8.

Hartlaub's Gull*Chroicocephalus hartlaubii*

Observed 4 days in total.

Very common.

Kelp Gull*Larus dominicanus*

Observed 4 days in total.

Very common.

Greater Crested Tern*Thalasseus bergii bergii*

Observed 3 days in total.

Skuas and Jaegers *Stercorariidae*

Brown Skua*Stercorarius antarcticus*

(1) 4 Cape Town pelagic 6.8.

Seen well, hovering above our heads.

Pigeons and Doves *Columbidae*

Rock Dove*Columba livia*

Observed 1 day in total.

Speckled Pigeon*Columba guinea phaeonota*

Observed 5 days in total.

Red-eyed Dove*Streptopelia semitorquata*

Observed 3 days in total.

Ring-necked Dove*Streptopelia capicola*

Observed 2 days in total.

Laughing Dove*Spilopelia senegalensis senegalensis*

(2) 1 Stony Point 5.8 and 1 Cape Town 7.8.

Owls *Strigidae*

Spotted Eagle-Owl*Bubo africanus africanus*

(2) 2 Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens 4.8 and 1 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

Two birds were seen extremely well on their roost in the gardens, whilst another was seen pre-dawn in the Karoo.

Mousebirds *Coliidae*

Speckled Mousebird*Colius striatus*

Observed 2 days in total.

White-backed Mousebird*Colius colius*

(2) 5 Grotto Bay 7.8, 5 West Coast NP 7.8 and 3 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

Red-faced Mousebird*Urocolius indicus*

(2) 15 West Coast NP 7.8 and 12 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.



Falcons and Caracaras *Falconidae*

Rock Kestrel

Falco rupicolus

(3) 1 Strandfontein Sewage Works 5.8, 4 West Coast NP 7.8 and 3 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

Greater Kestrel

Falco rupicoloides rupicoloides

(1) 1 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

Peregrine Falcon

Falco peregrinus

Observed 3 days in total.

Wattle-eyes and Batises *Platysteiridae*

Pirit Batis

Batis pirit

(1) 2 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

A pair was seen well in an acacia lined watercourse.

Bushshrikes and Allies *Malaconotidae*

Bokmakierie

Telophorus zeylonus

(2) 6 West Coast NP 7.8 and 2 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

Southern Boubou

Laniarius ferrugineus

(2) 2 Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens 4.8 and 1 Simon's Town 6.8.

Shrikes *Laniidae*

Southern Fiscal

Lanius collaris

Observed 3 days in total.

Recently split from Common Fiscal.

Drongos *Dicruridae*

Fork-tailed Drongo

Dicrurus adsimilis

(2) 2 Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens 4.8 and 1 Du Toitskloof Pass 9.8.

Crows, Jays, and Magpies *Corvidae*

Pied Crow

Corvus albus

Observed 2 days in total.

White-necked Raven

Corvus albicollis

Observed 2 days in total.

Rockjumpers *Chaetopidae*

Cape Rockjumper

Chaetops frenatus

(1) 2 Rooi-Els 5.8.

We had to work extremely hard for this tough endemic.

Fairy Flycatchers *Stenostiridae*

Fairy Flycatcher

Stenostira scita

(1) 5 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.



Excellent views were had.

Penduline-Tits *Remizidae*

Cape Penduline Tit

Anthoscopus minutus

(1) 2 West Coast NP 7.8.

We had exceptional views of this tiny species.

Larks *Alaudidae*

Karoo Lark

Calendulauda albescens

(1) 12 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

Cape Clapper Lark

Mirafrapa apiata

(1) 1 Grotto Bay 7.8.

We were lucky to find a distant displaying bird.

Large-billed Lark

Galerida magnirostris

(1) 6 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

Bulbuls *Pycnonotidae*

Cape Bulbul

Pycnonotus capensis

Observed 4 days in total.

Sombre Greenbul

Andropadus importunus

(2) 2 Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens 4.8 and 2 Harold Porter Botanical Garden 5.8.

Swallows *Hirundinidae*

Black Saw-wing

Psalidoprocne pristoptera

(1) 1 Harold Porter Botanical Garden 5.8.

Brown-throated Martin

Riparia paludicola paludicola

(2) 1 Strandfontein Sewage Works 5.8 and 2 Du Toitskloof Pass 9.8.

Rock Martin

Ptyonoprogne fuligula

Observed 2 days in total.

Crombecs, African warblers *Macrosphenidae*

Cape Grassbird

Sphenoeacus afer

(2) 1 Harold Porter Botanical Garden 5.8 and 1 Simon's Town 6.8.

Long-billed Crombec

Sylvietta rufescens

(1) 1 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

A confiding individual was seen in Skitterykloof.

Victorin's Warbler

Cryptillas victorini

(1) 1 Du Toitskloof Pass 9.8.

We managed views of a single bird as it atypically sat out in the open, singing away! A true skulking species which is normally tricky to glimpse.

Reed-Warblers and Allies *Acrocephalidae*



Lesser Swamp Warbler

Acrocephalus gracilirostris

(3) 4 Strandfontein Sewage Works 5.8, 2 West Coast NP 7.8 and 1 heard Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

Grassbirds and Allies Locustellidae

Little Rush Warbler

Bradypterus baboecala

(2) 1 West Coast NP 5.8 and 1 heard Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

Cisticolas and Allies Cisticolidae

Grey-backed Cisticola

Cisticola subruficapilla

(2) 6 West Coast NP 7.8 and 1 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

Levaillant's Cisticola

Cisticola tinniens

(2) 2 Strandfontein Sewage Works 5.8 and 3 West Coast NP 7.8.

Neddicky

Cisticola fulvicapilla

(1) 1 Du Toitskloof Pass 9.8.

Karoo Prinia

Prinia maculosa

Observed 2 days in total.

A common, yet stunning species. Seen well, within arm's length.

Namaqua Warbler

Phragmacia substriata

(1) 1 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

We had close-up views of this endemic species, recently put in its own genus.

Bar-throated Apalis

Apalis thoracica

(2) 1 Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens 4.8 and 2 West Coast NP 7.8.

Rufous-eared Warbler

Malcorus pectoralis

(1) 8 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

We targeted this bird and were rewarded with crippling close-up views.

Cinnamon-breasted Warbler

Eurypytila subcinnamomea

(1) 2 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

A notoriously difficult species that we found relatively easy - going into breeding season.

Karoo Eremomela

Eremomela gregalis

(1) 2 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

A Karoo special which we saw extremely well.

Old World Warblers Sylviidae

Chestnut-vented Warbler

Sylvia subcoerulea

(2) 1 West Coast NP 7.8 and 1 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

Yuhinas, White-eyes, and Allies Zosteropidae

Cape White-eye

Zosterops virens

Observed 1 day in total.

Common, but worth noting that it should be a future split (capensis sub-species).

Sugarbirds Promeropidae



Cape Sugarbird

Promerops cafer

(1) 10 Harold Porter Botanical Garden 5.8 and 5 Rooi-Els 5.8.

Starlings *Sturnidae*

Common Starling

Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris

Observed 4 days in total.

A successful introduced species.

Wattled Starling

Creatophora cinerea

(1) 2 West Coast NP 7.8.

Pied Starling

Lamprotornis bicolor

(2) 50 en route 7.8 and 15 Ceres 8.8.

Red-winged Starling

Onychognathus morio morio

Observed 3 days in total.

Thrushes and Allies *Turdidae*

Olive Thrush

Turdus olivaceus

Observed 3 days in total.

Old World Flycatchers *Muscicapidae*

Karoo Scrub Robin

Cercotrichas coryphoeus

(2) 1 Grotto Bay 7.8, 19 West Coast NP 7.8 and 12 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

Chat Flycatcher

Melaenornis infuscatus

(1) 7 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

Fiscal Flycatcher

Melaenornis silens

(1) 6 Rooi-Els 5.8.

African Dusky Flycatcher

Muscicapa adusta

(1) 6 Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens 4.8.

Cape Robin-Chat

Cossypha caffra

Observed 4 days in total.

Very common, refreshingly so.

Cape Rock Thrush

Monticola rupestris

(1) 4 Rooi-Els 5.8.

Sentinel Rock Thrush

Monticola explorator

(1) 6 Rooi-Els 5.8.

African Stonechat

Saxicola torquatus

(1) 1 Grotto Bay 7.8.

Karoo Chat

Emarginata schlegelii

(1) 25 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

Tractrac Chat

Emarginata tractrac

(1) 12 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

Mountain Wheatear

Myrmecocichla monticola monticola



(1) 2 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

Capped Wheatear

Oenanthe pileata

(1) 6 Grotto Bay 7.8.

Familiar Chat

Oenanthe familiaris

(1) 20 Rooi-Els 5.8.

Sunbirds and Spiderhunters Nectariniidae

Orange-breasted Sunbird

Anthobaphes violacea

(2) 5 Harold Porter Botanical Garden 5.8, 20 Rooi-Els 5.8 and 1 Simon's Town 6.8.

A highlight was seeing two males having a stand-off, showing off their colourful pectoral tufts.

Malachite Sunbird

Nectarinia famosa famosa

(4) 2 Simon's Town 6.8, 3 West Coast NP 7.8, 1 Tanqua Karoo 8.8 and 1 Du Toitskloof Pass 9.8.

A stunning bird that we saw well on many occasions.

Southern Double-collared Sunbird

Cinnyris chalybeus

Observed 6 days in total.

Refreshingly common!

Greater Double-collared Sunbird

Cinnyris afer

(1) 1 Simon's Town 6.8.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

Observed 3 days in total.

Cape Sparrow

Passer melanurus

(2) 60 West Coast NP 7.8 and 40 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

Southern Grey-headed Sparrow

Passer diffusus

(2) 1 Rooi-Els 5.8 and 1 Simon's Town 6.8.

Weavers and Allies Ploceidae

Cape Weaver

Ploceus capensis

Observed 2 days in total.

Yellow Bishop

Euplectes capensis

Observed 2 days in total.

We got really close to some eclipsed plumaged males.

Waxbills and Allies Estrildidae

Swee Waxbill

Coccygia melanotis

(2) 3 Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens 4.8 and 25 Harold Porter Botanical Garden 5.8.

Seen feeding on the lawns!

Common Waxbill

Estrilda astrild

(1) 2 Strandfontein Sewage Works 5.8.

Wagtails and Pipits Motacillidae



Cape Wagtail*Motacilla capensis capensis*

Observed 3 days in total.

Finches, Euphonias Fringillidae**Common Chaffinch***Fringilla coelebs*

(1) 1 Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens 4.8.

Forest Canary*Crithagra scotops*

(1) 2 Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens 4.8.

Cape Siskin*Crithagra totta*

(1) 1 Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens 4.8.

Yellow Canary*Crithagra flaviventris*

(2) 30 West Coast NP 7.8 and 100 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

Brimstone Canary*Crithagra sulphurata*

(2) 3 Stony Point 5.8 and 1 Simon's Town 6.8.

Streaky-headed Seedeater*Crithagra gularis*

(1) 2 Harold Porter Botanical Garden 5.8.

White-throated Canary*Crithagra albogularis*

(1) 20 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

Protea Canary*Crithagra leucoptera*

(1) 1 heard Du Toitskloof Pass 9.8.

Cape Canary*Serinus canicollis*

(2) 3 Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens 4.8 and 6 Simon's Town 6.8.

Buntings, Sparrows and Allies Emberizidae**Cape Bunting***Emberiza capensis*

Observed 2 days in total.

Mammals (10 in total: 10 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*

Observed 1 day in total.

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

(1) Harold Porter Botanical Garden 5.8.

True Mice and Rats, Gerbils, Spiny Mice, Crested Rat Muridae

Single-striped Grass Mouse

Lemniscomys rosalia

(2) 1 Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens 4.8 and 1 West Coast NP 7.8.

Mongoose Herpestidae

Cape Grey Mongoose

Herpestes pulverulentus

(1) 3 Strandfontein Sewage Works 5.8.

Sea Lions Otariidae

Afro-Australian Fur Seal

Arctocephalus pusillus

(2) 30 Rooi-Els 5.8 and 150 Cape Town pelagic 6.8.

Rorquals Balaenopteridae

Humpback Whale

Megaptera novaeangliae

(1) 2 Cape Town pelagic 6.8.

Cattle, Antelopes, Sheep, Goats Bovidae

Springbok

Antidorcas marsupialis

(1) 20 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

Gemsbok

Oryx gazella

(1) 4 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

Cape Grysbok

Raphicerus melanotis

(1) 1 Tanqua Karoo 8.8.

Common Eland

Tragelaphus oryx

(1) 5 West Coast NP 7.8.

Reptiles (4 in total: 4 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 Harold Porter Botanical Garden 5.8 and 5 West Coast NP 7.8.

Spinytail Lizards Cordylidae

Cape girdled lizard

Cordylus cordylus

(1) 3 Stony Point 5.8.

Skinks Scincidae

Variable Skink

Plestiodon multivirgatus epiplurotus

(1) 1 Stony Point 5.8.



Colubrid snakes *Colubridae*

Boomslang

Dispholidus typus

(1) 1 West Coast NP 7.8.

Amphibians (1 in total: 0 seen, 1 heard)

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

Narrow-mouthed frogs *Microhylidae*

Cape Rain Frog

Breviceps gibbosus

(1) 1 heard Harold Porter Botanical Garden 5.8.

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