

South Africa

Mega Birding Tour I 6th to 30th January 2018 (25 days)

Trip Report



Aardvark by Mike Bacon

Trip report compiled by Tour Leader: Wayne Jones

Tour Summary

The beauty of South Africa lies in its richness of habitats, from the coastal forests in the east, through subalpine mountain ranges and the arid Karoo to fynbos in the south. We explored all of these and more during our 25-day adventure across the country. Highlights were many and included Orange River Francolin, thousands of Cape Gannets, multiple Secretarybirds, stunning Knysna Turaco, Ground Woodpecker, Botha's Lark, Bush Blackcap, Cape Parrot, Aardvark, Aardwolf, Caracal, Oribi and Giant Bullfrog, along with spectacular scenery, great food and excellent accommodation throughout.

Despite havoc-wreaking weather that delayed flights on the other side of the world, everyone managed to arrive (just!) in South Africa for the start of our keenly-awaited tour. We began our 25-day cross-country exploration with a drive along Zaagkuildrift Road. This unassuming stretch of dirt road is well-known in local birding circles and can offer up a wide range of species thanks to its variety of habitats - which include open grassland, acacia woodland, wetlands and a seasonal floodplain.

After locating a handsome male Northern Black Korhaan and African Wattled Lapwings, a



Northern Black Korhaan by Glen Valentine

sharp-eyed guest spotted four Temminck's Coursers in a previously burnt field. As we moved into the woodland, typical thornveld species started to make their appearances: Grey Go-away-bird, Lilacbreasted Roller (sadly in very poor light), Green Wood Hoopoe, Southern Red-billed, Southern Yellow-billed and African Grey Hornbills, Crested Barbet, a sub-adult Black-chested Snake Eagle, Red-backed Shrike, Red-breasted Swallow, Long-billed Crombec, Black-chested Prinia, Burnt-necked Eremomela, Magpie Shrike, Arrow-marked and Southern Pied Babblers, Chestnut-vented Warbler,



Marico Sunbird by Adam Riley

Red-billed Buffalo Weaver and Jameson's Firefinch. A female Bennett's Woodpecker – *one* of South Africa's more elusive woodpecker species – was a great find as well. The floodplain was dry, but the sections of permanent water along the route held White-faced Whistling Duck, Knob-billed Duck, Glossy Ibis, 11 Black Herons, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater and Yellowcrowned Bishop. Best of all was a cloud of 350+ Black-winged Pratincoles wheeling through the air and allowing us good looks at their diagnostic black underwing coverts.

After Zaagkuildrift, we made a quick toilet stop at nearby Pienaarsrivier (secretly actually another birding stop!) and added Groundscraper Thrush, Marico Sunbird and Black-throated Canary to our list, as well as providing entertainment for the local kids!

Then it was on to Polokwane, where we watched Black-collared Barbet and a male Black-backed Puffback – the latter "snowballing" – in the guesthouse car park before heading to Polokwane Game



Crimson-breasted Shrike by Wayne Jones

Reserve. Being the middle of summer, the temperatures were quite high, which took its toll on our birding that afternoon. However, we did find some good birds, including Natal Spurfowl, Crested Francolin, Swainson's Spurfowl, White-fronted Bee-eater, Brown-hooded Kingfisher, Brubru, Black-faced Waxbill, Shaft-tailed Whydah and THE major target of the area, Short-clawed Lark, of which we saw two birds.

Our repeat visit the following morning was more successful; we notched up Marabou and White Storks, Spotted Thick-knee, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Diederik and Black Cuckoos, a young Jacobin Cuckoo being fed by its much smaller Dark-

capped Bulbul foster parent, European Bee-eater, African Hoopoe, Common Scimitarbill, Acacia Pied Barbet, Golden-tailed and Bearded Woodpeckers, Brown-crowned and Black-crowned Tchagras in the same little tree, dazzling Crimson-breasted Shrike, African Paradise Flycatcher, Ashy Tit, Neddicky, Barred Wren-Warbler, White-browed Scrub Robin, Common Whitethroat, Marico Flycatcher, White-throated Robin-Chat, White-browed Sparrow-Weaver, Lesser Masked Weaver, White-winged Widowbird, stunning Green-winged Pytilia, Red-headed Finch, Blue Waxbill and another Short-clawed Lark.

As to be expected of a game reserve, we saw a variety of other wildlife at Polokwane, including Scrub Hare, Black-backed Jackal, Plains Zebra, Common Warthog, Impala, Hartebeest, Common Wildebeest, Topi, Sable Antelope, Waterbuck, Nyala, Common Eland and a Leopard... Tortoise!

In the afternoon, we moved on to Kurisa Moya Lodge in the nearby Magoebaskloof area. Unfortunately, the weather turned bad within minutes of our arrival. Our birding was severely impacted, although we did manage looks at a dozen Lemon Doves, very silhouetted Knysna Turaco, an immature Chorister Robin-Chat, Southern Double-collared Sunbird, African Firefinch, brief Green Twinspots and Redbacked Mannikin. We were up early the following morning to try and make up for our poor luck the day before (as well as trying to fit in the long drive and other birding stops!). A short stint at Woodbush Forest gave us African



Lemon Dove by Rich Lindie

Olive Pigeon, Olive and Black-fronted Bushshrikes and Yellow-streaked Greenbul doing its wing-flicking thing. En route to Tzaneen, we picked up White-browed Robin-Chat and Magpie Mannikin (alongside Bronze Mannikin, for convenient comparison). In and around Tzaneen itself, we located the town's famous Bat Hawk pair, as well as Broad-billed Roller, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Thick-billed and Holub's Golden Weavers and Kurrichane Thrush. Later on, while driving through the *lowveld*

parallel to Kruger National Park, we made a couple of impromptu roadside stops to admire European Roller, Red-headed Weaver and a feeding party of Dusky and Purple Indigobirds, and six Long-tailed Paradise Whydahs. The next planned stop was along the spectacular Abel Erasmus Pass, where

Michael, the local bird guide, managed to locate a pair of highly sought-after Taita Falcons for us. We climbed back up the escarpment but still had a long drive ahead of us, so stops were kept to a minimum. Nonetheless, we still saw scores of Abdim's Storks, a Southern Bald Ibis, Amur Falcons everywhere and male Long-tailed Widowbirds flapping in slow motion across the fields.

The following day, we met up with our local birding guru, Lucky, and set out to explore the pastoral surrounds of Wakkerstroom. The grassy *highveld* (highlands) of South Africa holds a number of endemic or near-endemic bird species and the tiny hamlet of Wakkerstroom is renowned as one of the best places to target them. Chief among these endemics are Botha's and Rudd's Larks, both of which we managed to find and see well – *thanks to Lucky's intimate local knowledge*. Other avian treats included Grey-winged Francolin, large numbers of Southern Bald Ibis, two separate Secretarybirds, beautiful Blue Korhaan, Grey Crowned and Blue Cranes, Spike-heeled, Eastern Long-billed and Red-capped Larks, White-backed Duck, Maccoa Duck, Black-winged Pratincole, Banded Martin, South African



Bat Falcon by Adam Riley

Cliff Swallow, Levaillant's, Pale-crowned and Wing-snapping Cisticolas, Pied Starling, Sentinel Rock Thrush, Buff-streaked and Ant-eating Chats, Mountain Wheatear, Cape and Southern Masked Weavers, Cape Crow (as well as a few of their nests constructed entirely from barbed wire!), Cape Longclaw, Cape Canary, Cape Bunting and excellent looks at Yellow-breasted and African Rock Pipits. At one point, we were watching a Lanner Falcon that was perched low off the ground when it suddenly swooped down on a Blacksmith Lapwing only a few metres from it. The Lanner was quickly joined by a second falcon which seemed to be distracting the remaining lapwings from mobbing the original aggressor. Apart from birds, we also enjoyed seeing Yellow Mongoose and, especially, a pair of too-cute Meerkats.



Black-winged Pratincole by Wayne Jones

We continued birding at around Wakkerstroom the next morning, this time at the extensive wetlands on the town's edge. The morning was still, light was sublime and the birds were out in their full glory: South African Shelduck, Hottentot Teal, Southern Pochard, Little Grebe, two Little Bitterns, Blackcrowned Night Heron, Purple Heron, African Rail, Malachite Kingfisher, Sand Martin and Lesser Swamp, African Reed, African Yellow and Little Rush Warblers, among others.

We returned to the lodge for The Best Breakfast in the World and also found Red-throated Wryneck, Bokmakierie and Amethyst Sunbird on the grounds. At Dirkiesdorp, we lapped up magnificent views of a pair of White-bellied Bustards with a chick, a red-faced African Harrier-Hawk and Cloud Cisticolas doing wildly acrobatic displays worthy of the Red Bull Air Race championship! We then left the highlands behind and descended to the warm and humid coastal plain. Our lunch-time stop at Ilala Weavers near Hluhluwe yielded African Green Pigeon, Purple-crested Turaco, Burchell's Coucal, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, Violet-backed Starling, Scarlet-chested Sunbird and Village Indigobird. After lunch, we took the "scenic" route (birding code



African Green Pigeon by Glen Valentine

for the long way round!) to our lodge along the border of False Bay Park. We inevitably got waylaid by various bird sightings that included a brief Green Malkoha, Red-chested Cuckoo, Crowned Hornbill, Cardinal Woodpecker, Southern Black Tit, Yellow-breasted and Rudd's Apalises, African Yellow White-eye and Grey Sunbird. We eventually arrived at our lodge and were soon sipping sundowners on the raised deck overlooking a spread of sand forest.

We had one of our earliest starts the next morning, to ensure we'd maximise our birding time in the cool hours at Mkuze Game Reserve.

Aside intimate vehicular relations with a tree at the start (bad CARma would be a running theme throughout the tour!), we had a marvellous morning. We started on the western side of the reserve, where the fenced campsite allowed us to bird on foot, resulting in Striped Kingfisher, Red-fronted Tinkerbird, Black-collared Barbet, Chinspot Batis, Orange-breasted Bushshrike, Black Cuckooshrike, Black-headed Oriole, Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Greenbul, Terrestrial Brownbul, Bearded Scrub Robin, Southern Black Flycatcher, White-browed Robin-Chat, a family of Mocking Cliff Chats, Purple-banded Sunbird, Spectacled and Dark-backed Weavers, lovely Pinkthroated Twinspot, Dusky Indigobird, Long-tailed Paradise Whydah and Golden-breasted Bunting! Elsewhere in the reserve, things were a bit quieter, although we did find Crested Guineafowl, Black-chested Snake Eagle, Bateleur, Wahlberg's Eagle, Little Bee-eater, White-crested Helmetshrike and a surprise Monotonous Lark. We almost drove over a crouching Common Buttonquail, which proceeded to do a halting chameleon-like walk across the hot tar of the road. The massive Ensumo Pan within the reserve had a good amount of water in it – and a good number of waterbird species for that reason,

including Yellow-billed, Woolly-necked and Saddle-billed Storks, African Openbill, Glossy Ibis, African Spoonbill, Squacco and Goliath Herons, Pink-backed Pelican and African Jacana. At Kumasinga Hide, we watched Grey, Common and Blue Waxbills coming to drink, along with on which Red-billed Nyala and Impala, The water held Oxpeckers were feeding. Helmeted Turtles and even in the hide itself, we found a Mauritian Tomb Bat, Spotted Bush Snake and Grey Foam-nest Frog. Hippopotamus, Giraffe, Common Wildebeest and Monkeys rounded out the rest of the wildlife sightings for the day.



Common Buttonquail by Wayne Jones

By the time we moved on to Mpempe Pan in the afternoon, the wind had picked up terribly. Despite this, we still managed some good birds, such as Red-billed Teal, a dark morph Booted Eagle, Blackwinged Lapwing, stunning Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters (everywhere!), a dozen Quailfinches, Western

Yellow Wagtail and our primary objective, the range-restricted Lemon-breasted Canary. We also paused to watch a small dung beetle rolling its dungball across the road, and quickly moved him out of the way when some traffic appeared.

After dinner – and despite our early morning start - we embarked on a short night drive. Well, "short" was the plan but, as is often the case, not the execution. We got off to a slow start, but found a small wetland that was teeming with frogs. As we got closer to the water, the air resonated with nothing but their trills and squeaks! We managed to locate two species - the Painted Reed and Tinker Reed Frogs. A different area some distance



Grey Waxbills by Wayne Jones

away proved more fruitful, with sightings of three Side-striped Jackals, a pair of Western Barn Owls, Common Duiker, Southern Reedbuck, Thick-tailed Greater Galago, Scrub Hare and a beautiful camocoloured Hawk Moth. Not bad!



Lizard Buzard by Rich Lindie

Before leaving our lodge at Hluhluwe, we made a quick visit to the nearby False Bay Park. The short drive bordering fallow pineapple fields and coastal bush along the way held Lizard Buzzard, Common Buttonquail, Burchell's Coucal, Brownhooded Kingfisher, Yellow-throated Longclaw and a stunning male Neergaard's Sunbird kindly pointed out by fellow Rockjumper guide, Heinz. Back at the lodge, our breakfast was interrupted by an only partially cooperative young Gorgeous Bushshrike, after which we set out due south. Since St Lucia, our overnight stop, was rather close, we took a diversionary route through Western Shores Game Reserve, part of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. The rolling grasslands held a few birds (it was very windy), such as a sub-adult African Cuckoo-Hawk, Collared Pratincole, Rufous-naped Lark, Red-breasted Swallow and Croaking Cisticola, but the real attraction was the large game. We found three White Rhinos (sadly dehorned, as a disincentive to poaching) at a small waterhole and Common Wildebeest, Waterbuck, Southern Reedbuck, African Buffalo, Giraffe and Greater Kudu scattered throughout the rest of the reserve.

At St Lucia, we checked out some of the coastal forest and bush that surrounds – and infiltrates – this great little town. Being the late afternoon, however, pickings were slim: Trumpeter and Crowned Hornbills, White-eared Barbet, Woodward's Batis, Square-tailed Drongo, Sombre Greenbul, Brown Scrub Robin, Red-capped Robin-Chat and Olive and Collared Sunbirds. At the estuary, we strolled along the boardwalk, past the sign warning of crocs, hippos and sharks and out on to the beach, where we viewed Fulvous Whistling Duck, Yellow-billed Stork, African Swamphen, Water Thick-knee, Grey, Common Ringed, Kittlitz's and White-fronted Plovers, Whimbrel, Ruff, Curlew Sandpiper, Little Stint, Grey-headed Gull, Caspian and Greater Crested Terns, Rufous-winged Cisticola, Eastern Golden Weaver, Hippo and Nile Crocodiles (but no sharks!). Probably the strangest record of the afternoon was a Livingstone's Turaco that remained fixed to the



Woodward's Batis by Dubi Shapiro

same branch, calling for over half an hour – not quite what we were expecting to find alongside the estuary. Not that we were complaining about saturation views of this stunner! That evening, upon returning to the guesthouse after dinner out, we learned that we had JUST missed a Hippo walking through the garden within metres of our rooms by only two minutes!! We had to settle for looking at photos of the beast on the other guest's cellphone.

Early the following morning, we had literally progressed five metres beyond the guesthouse gate when we stopped to admire a small flock of

Crested Guineafowl. Then a couple of Livingstone's Turacos flew into the tree above us, at about the same time that a Red Bush Squirrel scurried away from the same tree. We were getting ready to hop back in the vehicle when a guest asked what the bird with the red breast in the same tree was. We all trained in on the spot only to find a male Narina Trogon! Another twenty metres on, we paused again, this time to watch the antics of a troop of Banded Mongooses and, a little further on, some Vervet Monkeys with babies. We dilly-dallied still more, stopping alongside the main bridge into town to view Eastern Golden, Holub's Golden, Lesser Masked and Brown-throated Weavers, and a pod of Hippos at the edge of the river. Wow, not a bad start to the day!! That's why I love this little town.

We continued south and, after removing a large Leopard Tortoise from the freeway and a quick coffee stop, we reached Mtunzini and eventually found a total of three Palm-nut Vultures, Woollynecked Stork, Lesser Honeyguide and a Western Osprey. A bit of bushwhacking (with the emphasis on whacking) followed as we moved inland and up to Ongoye Forest. Aside from terrific looks at the very special and localised woodwardi subspecies of Green Barbet, we also surprised a Southern Ground Hornbill in the forest. From Ongoye, we travelled to Eshowe and lunched at the historical Fort Nongqayi, where the adjacent water settling ponds held Hottentot and Red-billed Teals, Yellow-billed Duck, Little



Narina Trogon by Wayne Jones

Grebe and Red-knobbed Coot. Later on, we walked through Dlinza Forest and up its boardwalk but the high temperatures and strong wind scuppered our hopes of seeing much more than Blue Duiker and a couple of Cape Dwarf Geckos. Ditto our attempt at owling that night. We fared slightly better the next morning, locating Trumpeter Hornbill, Terrestrial Brownbul and hearing Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon, but, unfortunately, we encountered no sign of Spotted Ground Thrush.

From Eshowe, continued our journey towards the foothills of the Drakensberg Mountains. A couple of stops along the way at Sappi Stanger and Roselands near Richmond yielded African Black Duck, Woolly-necked Stork, Goliath, Striated and Squacco Herons, African Fish Eagle, Three-banded Plover, Ruff, Rufous-winged Cisticola, Yellow Bishop and a female Oribi – *a really good mammal to see*.

The next day was one of the most anticipated of the whole tour: Sani Pass. It didn't disappoint, thanks in no small measure to the combined efforts of local experts, Stuart and Aldo, who drove us up the rugged pass in their 4x4s. The weather didn't seem promising, but the weather held and we had a fabulous time. The lower and middle stretches of the pass held Red-necked Spurfowl, Southern Bald Ibis, Hamerkop, African Marsh Harrier, Forest and Jackal Buzzards, Grey Crowned Crane, Horus and African Black Swifts, highly prized Half-collared Kingfisher, Red-throated Wryneck, Ground Woodpecker, Bokmakierie, White-necked Raven, a Willow Warbler in a willow tree, Barratt's Warbler, a wonderfully cooperative Fantailed Grassbird, Wailing and Levaillant's Cisticolas, Barthroated Apalis, three Bush Blackcaps (with excellent views of each), Cape Rock Thrush, Buff-streaked Chat, exquisite Malachite and Greater Double-collared Sunbirds, Drakensberg Siskin, Streaky-headed Seedeater, Cape Canary and Cape Bunting. We'd heard that Stuart had recorded Striped Flufftail recently, so we gave it a go. We heard two birds but, as is frustratingly typical of this species, we didn't get a single glimpse of either! The middle and upper stages of the pass held



Green Barbet by Clayton Burne

two new families for everyone, and a major reason for a birding visit to South Africa: multiple Gurney's Sugarbirds and Drakensberg Rockjumpers. Both of these extra-special endemics showed simply marvellously.



Drakensberg Rockjumper by Wayne Jones

Once at the top, we officially crossed over into Lesotho, where everyone was surprised by the unexpectedly sparse subalpine landscape dotted with sheep and blanket-clad herdboys. Birding at the top became about quality vs quantity, with species like an African Black Duck pair, Black Stork, an unseasonal Black Harrier, Fairy Flycatcher, Grey Tit, Sentinel Rock Thrush, Sickle-winged Chat and Mountain Pipit. The pikalike Sloggett's Vlei Rat won us over with their cuteness; while some very colourful Highveld Crag Lizards and a couple of Drakensberg River Frogs made for a well-rounded wildlife experience. Shortly after lunch, we spotted a Bearded Vulture and then a few Cape Vultures.

Pretty soon they were coming in to land on the hillside! There was evidently a dead animal there, which eventually attracted a dozen Cape Vultures and THREE Bearded Vultures. Unfortunately, just as they started to tuck in, a herdboy's dog chased them off and claimed the carcass for itself. Once back

down from the pass, we topped off this amazing day with a trio of Wattled Cranes (mom, pop and junior) in a field close to our accommodation.



Highveld Crag Lizard by Wayne Jones

A joint decision to leave 15 minutes earlier the following morning paid off handsomely. Within minutes of arriving at Marutswa Forest, three Cape Parrots flew over us, squawking away merrily. Despite hearing multiple parrots while in the forest later on, that was to be our only view of this endangered and localised bird. Whew! Other species seen inside and around the forest included African Olive Pigeon, Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler, Lazy Cisticola, Common Quail, Cape Grassbird, Drakensberg Prinia and Forest Canary. We opted to make another try for Blue Swallow, this time at Impendle Nature Reserve. On the way, we found another family threesome of Wattled Cranes, even closer than the previous day, and the reserve itself

yielded Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk, Long-tailed Widowbird, Cape Longclaw, Black Saw-wing and Barn, White-throated and Greater Striped Swallows – *but no Blue!*

A delicious lunch in Howick followed before we headed to Benvie Gardens in the Karkloof area. We searched and searched the beautiful private garden for Orange Ground Thrush but kept coming upon only Olive Thrushes. Finally, we located a calling individual and managed to watch it for 15 seconds or so before it dashed back into cover. Our efforts to locate Knysna Turaco were equally disappointing until, as we were driving out of the property, one flew across the road and landed – almost at eye-level

– in the tree right next to us! We quickly emerged from the vehicle and all ended up having sensational looks at this lovely bird. We tried one last birding stop – at Ferncliffe Nature Reserve – before retiring to our lodge for the night, but the warmth of the afternoon had killed bird activity there too.

Marking the halfway point of the tour, we drove down to the coast, to King Shaka International Airport, and caught our two-hour flight to Cape Town. After sorting out our rental vehicle, we once again hit the road, crossing over the Hottentot's Holland Mountains and winding our



Orange Ground Thrush by Adam Riley

way through the vast wheatlands of the Overberg and the Agulhas Plains. While passing through the fallow wheat fields, we spotted two Secretarybirds, a brief fly-by Denham's Bustard, many Blue Cranes – including some with chicks, Capped Wheatear, Cape Sparrow and Yellow Canary. We reached our tranquil lodge on the banks of the Bree River in the late afternoon, with just enough time to watch Cape Sugarbirds, Cape Bulbuls, Cape Weavers, a Streaky-headed Seedeater and Southern Double-collared Sunbirds visit the feeders in the front garden.

We left our stunning riverside guesthouse all too soon the next day, and made our first stop at a windy and drizzly Potberg, the eastern portion of De Hoop Nature Reserve. The weather really hampered most of our birding for the day, with Potberg only yielding Southern Tchagra, Fiscal Flycatcher and

Cape Robin-Chat. Moving on to De Hoop proper, we found Common Ostrich, Cape Spurfowl, Great-crested Grebe, Southern Boubou, Pearl-breasted Swallow, Red-winged Starlings hoping for some flushed insect prey by riding elands and White-throated Canary. At least the mammals weren't too concerned about the rain, and we enjoyed good looks at Common Eland, Chacma Baboon, (Cape) Mountain Zebra, Blesbok (the Bontebok subspecies) and Steenbok.

Back on the road outside the park, we encountered soaked Grey-winged Francolin, Lanner Falcon, Spotted Thick-knee, two more (possibly the same two?) Secretarybirds – one of which flew across



Blue Crane by Wayne Jones

the road, revealing that impressive wingspan and unmistakable flight silhouette, Agulhas Long-billed, Large-billed and Red-capped Larks and Pied Starling en route to Bredasdorp, our lunch stop. With no further targets likely, we made a detour just a little south to the southernmost tip of the African continent, Cape Agulhas, where the sparse birdlife consisted mainly of Hartlaub's and Kelp Gulls and Cape Cormorants. We then began the scenic drive west, back past the airport and on to the western side of the Cape Peninsula to Noordhoek, our home for the next three nights.

We'd already received word that our weekend pelagic boat trip had, sadly, been cancelled due to bad weather out at sea, which at least allowed us to plan the next two days accordingly. Thus, on the Saturday, our first stop was the look-out point above Gordon's Bay. The wind was roaring so, after taking in the magnificent view, we quickly moved on. Some fortuitous roadworks (is that an oxymoron?) on Clarence Drive allowed us to connect with another Rockjumper group, this one led by



Southern Tchagra by Wayne Jones

Gareth. The result was a cooperated attempt to find Victorin's Warbler further along this scenic drive. We tried playback, which had no effect, but just as we were heading back to our respective vans, we heard a response. Soon, with multiple eyes keeping watch at the roadside, we all managed to see two of these handsome fynbos skulkers. At Rooi Els, we collaborated again while looking for Cape Rockjumper (we saw a pair) and Orange-breasted Sunbird. It was a thankfully quick affair, as we were only too happy to climb back into the car and out of the wind! Next up was the penguin colony at Stony Point in Betty's Bay. We saw our first African Penguins waddling around before we even reached the reserve entrance! Dotted among the

boulders, we found Rock Hyrax while the rocky point at the end of the boardwalk held all four seagoing cormorants: Cape, Bank, Crowned and White-breasted. We had lunch at Harold Porter Botanical Gardens, also in Betty's Bay, where we found Cape Batis, a friendly Karoo Prinia, African Dusky

Flycatcher, Southern Double-collared Sunbird, dainty Swee Waxbill and Brimstone Canary. On our return to Noordhoek, we pulled into Strandfontein Sewage Works. The array of massive ponds provided substantial habitat for a wide spread of waterbirds: Spur-winged Goose, Cape, Hottentot and Red-billed Teals, Cape Shoveler, hundreds of Greater and Lesser Flamingoes, Glossy Ibis, Great White



African Penguin by Wayne Jones

Pelican, Reed Cormorant (our fifth cormorant species for the day!), Water Thick-knee, African Oystercatcher, Black-winged Stilt, Pied Avocet, Marsh Sandpiper and a dozen White-necked Ravens.

With the pelagic cancelled and the majority of our targets under the belt, the Sunday was devoted to a mix of easy-going birding and more conventional tourist activities. We started at the world-famous Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, whose beauty and majestic setting blew the socks off everyone. We strolled around the grounds, visiting the "Garden of Extinction", "Useful Plants", the "Boomslang Canopy Walkway" and Fynbos

displays, where we found Helmeted Guineafowl, Cape Spurfowl, Sombre Greenbul, Cape Sugarbird, Olive Thrush, Orange-breasted Sunbird and the introduced Common Chaffinch. A stranger, recognising that we were birders (I wonder what gave it away!), pointed out a roosting Spotted Eagle-Owl and sent us in the direction of a second individual. *Another win for friendly cooperation!* We had a quick squizz around the fantastic souvenir shop and then donned our tourist caps in earnest as we set forth for the Cape Town city centre. Our short driving tour took in some of the major sights – the Houses of Parliament at the end of Roeland Street, past the Planetarium and the centuries-old Company Gardens off Victoria Street, the New Orleans-esque party hub of Long Street and the quaint restaurant-lined Bree Street, all set against the mighty backdrop of Table Mountain. Round about this time, our birdwatching switched to car-watching as various Ferraris, Porsches, and Bentleys started popping up closer to the affluent suburbs. Next we took in the multicultural crowds enjoying the weather on Seapoint Promenade and rounded Lion's Head up to *Table Mountain Lite* – Signal Hill.

After soaking in the magnificent 360° view over the city, the waterfront and Robben Island down in Table Bay, we traversed the magnificent coastal Victoria Drive to lunch in Hout Bay. We then

continued to Cape Point via one of South Africa's most famous roads, the beautiful and, at times, hair-raising Chapman's Peak Drive. At Cape Point, we braved the crowds and climbed to the upper lighthouse, where Rockjumper guide, Heinz, was waiting to show us some Cape Siskins, our only remaining target in the area. We left just as the high-level sea mist started to close over the lighthouse (exactly the reason this is the *upper* lighthouse and why a *lower* one was eventually built!). We rounded out our total circumnavigation of the Cape Peninsula by returning home via Simon's Town. After a relatively quiet day's birding, it was only right



Orange-breasted Sunbird by Adam Riley

that a lovely African Wood Owl should put in an appearance in the guesthouse garden – *after* bedtime, of course!

We once again travelled the stunning Chapman's Peak Drive and made one last little tourist stop to view the colourful abodes in historic Bo-Kaap, before leaving lovely Cape Town. At Dolphin Beach Wetlands, we dodged the traffic to watch Yellow-billed Duck, Cape Shoveler, Black-crowned Night Heron, Purple Heron, African Swamphen and African Snipe, followed by a picnic breakfast at Bloubergstrand while looking across Table Bay at Table Mountain and its flanking peaks. Halfway to West Coast National Park, we turned off along the Darling



Cape Siskin by Adam Riley

Hills Road, where we found the striking Southern Black Korhaan and Lesser and Rock Kestrels. Also, despite numerous Blue Crane sightings by this stage, a pair dancing relatively close with grassy tufts in their bills proved totally enchanting.

On to the national park, where the dense, low *strandveld* yielded White-backed Mousebird, Karoo Scrub Robin, Yellow Canary, over 15 Angulate Tortoises that kept wandering into the road and a Mole Snake. We were thrilled to spot four Black Harriers, including one that cruised alongside the car for almost 600m! Once again, the weather was rather wet and windy, which made birding tricky, but with a severe drought in Cape Town we couldn't really begrudge it. Down on the huge lagoon, we found



Black Harrier by Wayne Jones

Greater and Lesser Flamingoes, Caspian, Greater Crested, Sandwich and Common Terns and a host shorebirds: 20 +African Oystercatchers, Crowned and Blacksmith Lapwings, Common Ringed, Kittlitz's, Three-banded, Whitefronted and Chestnut-banded Plovers, Bar-tailed Godwit, Marsh, Wood and Curlew Sandpipers, Common Greenshank, Sanderling, Little Stint and four elegant Eurasian Curlews (not a very common species in South Africa). That night in Langebaan, we did some naked-eye birding on our way to the dinner restaurant. when four Pearl-breasted Swallows appeared over the driveway with not a single pair of bins between us!

Continuing northward from Langebaan, we made two visits to the Paleisheuwel area in search of Protea Canary. We saw one perched atop a bush for just a few seconds and, unfortunately, never managed to relocate it, having to settle for a pair of Cardinal Woodpeckers, Fairy Flycatcher, Cape White-eye, Layard's Warbler, Familiar Chat, Long-billed Pipit and White-throated Canary instead. Due to the cancellation of the pelagic, we made a detour to Lambert's Bay. The Bird Island Nature Reserve did not disappoint! The thousands-strong cacophonous colony of Cape Gannets kept everyone entertained and provided superb photo ops for the photographers. Also present were Afro-Australian Fur Seals, Crowned, White-breasted and Cape Cormorants, Grey-headed, Hartlaub's and Kelp Gulls, as well as various terns. We sojourned in Clanwilliam for lunch (rooibos cheesecake is highly recommended!),

then resumed our journey to Calvinia. Just outside Van Rhynsdorp, we tried for Rufous-eared Warbler and soon had two of these terrific little birds coming in to investigate. Later, an incredibly fortuitous stop to look at Pied Starlings (of all things... they're not at all scarce!) led to an eagle-eyed guest spotting a Ludwig's Bustard right in front of us!



Cape Gannets by Wayne Jones

Using Calvinia as a base, we made the 1.5-hour drive to the desolate little village of Brandvlei, deep in the arid Karoo. The area's key claim to fame is the Red Lark, which we were lucky to see wonderfully at our roadside breakfast stop. We ended up seeing seven of these attractive larks throughout the day. Also around the breakfast stop, we found Cape Penduline Tit, Lark-like Bunting, Karoo Long-billed Lark, Karoo Chat and Chat Flycatcher. Our bodies refuelled, we continued to the Brandvlei area. The birding was tough but we managed to find Pale Chanting Goshawk, Karoo Double-banded Courser, Korhaan. Namaqua Sandgrouse, Acacia Pied Barbet, Spike-heeled and Large-billed Larks, a glimpsed Black-eared

Sparrow-Lark, African Reed and Namaqua Warblers and Yellow-bellied Eremomela. We explored the Calvinia area that afternoon, including Akkerendam Nature Reserve, but the only bird of note was Grey-backed Cisticola. A night drive at the same spots produced only Scrub Hare.

We made another swing by Akkerendam the following morning before dropping back down the plateau to rejoin the main highway north. We paused for a while in the barren landscape of the Knersvlakte to take time to admire the stone plants (*Lithops*) and other succulents native to the area (this part of the Karoo, called the Succulent Karoo, harbours one-third of the world's succulent species!). Pretty soon, we once again left the blacktop, opting for the scenic parallel dirt road along Studer's Pass. Not only

did we see Namaqua Dove, Rock Martin, two Cinnamon-breasted Warblers, Dusky Sunbird, Southern Red Bishop, Common Waxbill and the Damara form of Black-headed Canary, but we also saw large numbers of Chacma Baboons and a total of 8 Klipspringers! By the time we arrived at Springbok, the local nature reserve was just about to shut so we couldn't go in. Nevertheless, we tried for Karoo Eremomela at the entrance gate and three of these delightful little birds flitted in.

We made a day excursion to Alexander Bay and Port Nolloth, where CARma bestowed upon us another gift, this time a puncture. Once that was solved, we got down to the nitty-gritty of nailing



Karoo Korhaan by Wayne Jones

our targets. First up was Alexander Bay, where we found Orange River White-eye, Dusky Sunbird and, eventually, Barlow's Lark, which showed well and sang beautifully for us. We watched Gemsbok and Common Ostriches coming down to drink on the far side of the Orange River, which serves as the border between Namibia and South Africa. Close to the mouth of the river, we found South African

Shelduck, Cape Shoveler, Greater and Lesser Flamingoes, Great White Pelican, Bar-tailed Godwit, Grey Plover and 13 of the Near-Threatened Damara Tern. Multiple attempts for Cape Long-billed Lark all the way back to Port Nolloth resulted only in Karoo Lark and Brant's Whistling Rat, until finally we located one of these impressive larks shortly before town. Back at Springbok that afternoon, we made it into Goegap Nature Reserve on time and saw Pririt Batis, more Karoo Eremomelas, Pale-winged

Starling, the handsome pied morph of Mountain Wheatear, Malachite and Southern Double-collared Sunbirds, African Red-eyed Bulbul, (Hartmann's) Mountain Zebra, Springbok and Karoo Girdled Lizard. We were also fortunate to enjoy perchedon-a-pole views of two look-alike species — an adult Black-chested Snake Eagle and an adult Martial Eagle — albeit a few hundred kilometres and some hours apart. Our informal night drive produced Spotted Eagle-Owl, Scrub Hare and, much to everyone's delight, TWO Aardwolves.

Between Springbok and Augrabies Falls, we spotted Red Lark at Koa Dunes, Sociable Weaver and Ludwig's Bustard along the Namies Road and



Klipspringers by Wayne Jones

Pygmy Falcon, Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark, Sabota (Bradfield's) Lark and Lark-like Bunting near Pofadder. By the time we reached Augrabies Falls National Park, the temperatures hovered around the 40° C mark. Luckily, the waterfall, gorges and varied geology made up for the lack of bird life, plus the colourful and highly localised Augrabies Flat Lizards were showing nicely in the shade. Our usual accommodation in the park had been fully booked out by the BMW group who were warm-weather testing some of their models, which clad, to various degrees, in swirling camouflage decals. These included the fully wrapped upcoming BMW Z4 and Rolls-Royce SUV models! Anyway, our accommodation outside the park proved even better as, the next morning, we found a pair of roosting (and then mating) Spotted Eagle-Owls, Crested Barbet, Red-faced Mousebird, Karoo Thrush and Rosy-faced Lovebird. After this flurry of birding activity, we set out on the last leg of our trip, to Kimberley, with roadside birds including Kalahari Scrub Robin, Fawn-coloured Lark, Karoo Long-billed Lark, and Swallow-tailed Bee-eater.



Barlow's Lark by Wayne Jones

That night, we loaded on to the Marrick Safari vehicle for the most anticipated night outing of the tour. We must have infected them with our bad CARma, as we got stuck for over half an hour, but that was just a minor blip in an otherwise fantastic evening. We found Rufous-cheeked Nightjar, Spotted Thick-knee, Northern Black Korhaan and Double-banded Courser. However, it was the mammals we were really after here and our haul included Cape, Scrub and Red Rock Hares, the kangaroo-like Spring Hare, Black-backed Jackal, two family groups of Bat-eared Foxes and their tiny pups, Striped Polecat and two Giant Bullfrogs. The pièce de résistance was a tie between observing a tip-toeing Aardvark forage for about



Giant Bullfrog by Mike Bacon

two minutes and watching a Caracal leopard-crawling along the ground for 80m or so – the first sighting of this cat in the area for over two years!!

The drive to Mokala National Park the following day took us through some productive *thornveld* and grassland, which yielded Abdim's Stork, Gabar Goshawk, Desert Cisticola, Wattled Starling, Short-toed Rock Thrush, Scaly-feathered Weaver, Red-billed Quelea and Shaft-tailed Whydah. Within the park itself, we found Redcrested Korhaan, European Bee-eater, Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill, Common Scimitarbill, Pygmy Falcon, Lesser Kestrel, Lesser Grey Shrike, Chestnut-vented Warbler and African Spoonbill,

along with Yellow Mongoose, Meerkat, Plains Zebra, Common Warthog, Impala, Hartebeest, Gemsbok, Common and Black Wildebeest, Sable Antelope, Waterbuck, African Buffalo, Greater Kudu and Giraffe.

On our final morning, we made our third attempt at Bradfield's Swift at Kimberley's Big Hole, purportedly the largest hand-excavated feature in the world. We could scarcely believe our luck when, among the Apline, Little and Common Swifts, we finally spied some of the brown Bradfield's Swifts.

Not far out of Kimberley, we came upon a Whitebacked Vulture sitting on top of a utility pole. We took a series of back roads to search for Melodious Lark, but unfortunately came out empty-handed. We did enjoy good looks at Eastern Clapper and Rufous-naped Larks, though. Helping to mollify our lack of lark success were a splendid Secretarybird, vastly improved views of a pair of Blue Korhaans and two sightings of Orange River Francolin – the final trip lifer and a great way to round out our birding journey around South Africa. We continued Johannesburg, where those returning home headed to the airport while the rest of us stayed overnight, ready for our Kruger Extension the following day.



Gemsboks by Wayne Jones

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 (517 in total: 510 seen, 7 heard)

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Gill, F and D Donsker (Eds). 2017. IOC World Bird List (v 7.3). **Status codes:** $\mathbf{E} = \text{Endemic}$, $\mathbf{NE} = \text{Near-endemic}$, $\mathbf{I} = \text{Introduced}$

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

(10) Polokwane GR 7.1, Polokwane GR 8.1, De Hoop NR 19.1, Cape Point NP 21.1, Calvinia 24.1, Calvinia 25.1, Alexander Bay 26.1, Namies 27.1, Augrabies to Kimberley 28.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl Anatidae

White-faced Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna viduata

(6) Polokwane GR 7.1, Polokwane GR 8.1, Mkuze GR 12.1, iSimangaliso WP - Western Shores 13.1, Fort Nonquayi 14.1 and Stanger - Sappi 15.1.

Fulvous Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna bicolor

(1) St. Lucia Estuary 13.1.

White-backed Duck

Thalassornis leuconotus leuconotus

(1) Wakkerstroom 10.1.

Spur-winged Goose

Plectropterus gambensis niger

Observed 12 days in total.

Knob-billed Duck

Sarkidiornis melanotos

(1) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1.

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiaca

Observed 17 days in total.

South African Shelduck

Tadorna cana

(4) Wakkerstroom 11.1, Sani 16.1, Alexander Bay 26.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Cape Teal

Anas capensis

(2) Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.1 and Calvinia 24.1.

African Black Duck

Anas sparsa sparsa

(2) Stanger - Sappi 15.1 and Sani 16.1.

Yellow-billed Duck

Anas undulata undulata

Observed 13 days in total.

Cape Shoveler

Anas smithii

(5) Wakkerstroom 10.1, Wakkerstroom 11.1, Mpempe Pan 12.1, Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.1 and Dolphin Beach Wetland 22.1.

Red-billed Teal

Anas erythrorhyncha

(5) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Mpempe Pan 12.1, iSimangaliso WP - Western Shores 13.1, Fort Nonquayi 14.1 and Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.1.

Hottentot Teal

Anas hottentota

(5) Wakkerstroom 11.1, Mpempe Pan 12.1, Fort Nonquayi 14.1, Stanger - Sappi 15.1 and Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.1.

Southern Pochard

Netta erythrophthalma brunnea

(1) Wakkerstroom 11.1.

Maccoa Duck (NT)

Oxyura maccoa

(2) Wakkerstroom 10.1 and Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.1.

Guineafowl Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl

Numida meleagris

Observed 14 days in total.

Crested Guineafowl Guttera pucherani edouardi

(3) Mkuze GR 12.1, St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 13.1 and St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 14.1.

Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies Phasianidae

Grey-winged Francolin

Scleroptila afra

(2) Wakkerstroom 10.1 and Cape Agulhas 19.1.

Orange River Francolin

Scleroptila gutturalis levalliantoides

(1) Kimberley to Johannesburg 30.1.

Crested Francolin

Dendroperdix sephaena sephaena

(2) Polokwane GR 7.1 and Polokwane GR 8.1.

Cape Spurfowl

Pternistis capensis

(6) Mudlark 18.1, De Hoop NR 19.1, Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.1, Kirstenbosch Botanical

Garden 21.1, West Coast NP 22.1 and Langebaan 23.1.

Natal Spurfowl

Pternistis natalensis natalensis

(1) Polokwane GR 7.1.

Red-necked Spurfowl

Pternistis afer castaneiventer

(1) Sani Pass 16.1.

Swainson's Spurfowl

Pternistis swainsonii swainsonii

(2) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1 and Polokwane GR 8.1.

Common Quail

Coturnix coturnix africana

(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

Penguins Spheniscidae

African Penguin (EN)

Spheniscus demersus

(1) Stony Point 20.1.

Grebes Podicipedidae

Little Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis capensis

Observed 10 days in total.

Great Crested Grebe

Podiceps cristatus infuscatus

(1) De Hoop NR 19.1.

Black-necked Grebe

Podiceps nigricollis gurneyi

(1) Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.1.

Flamingos Phoenicopteridae

Greater Flamingo

Phoenicopterus roseus

(5) iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 13.1, Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.1, West Coast NP 22.1, Alexander Bay 26.1 and Kimberley 29.1.

Lesser Flamingo (NT)

Phoeniconaias minor

(4) Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.1, West Coast NP 22.1, Alexander Bay 26.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Storks Ciconiidae

Yellow-billed Stork

Mycteria ibis

(3) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Mkuze GR 12.1 and St. Lucia Estuary 13.1.

African Openbill

Anastomus lamelligerus lamelligerus

(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

Black Stork

Ciconia nigra

(2) Sani 16.1 and Agulhas Plains 18.1.

Abdim's Stork

Ciconia abdimii

(5) Pienaarsrivier 7.1, Tzaneen to Wakkerstroom 9.1, Wakkerstroom 10.1, Augrabies to Kimberley 28.1 and Marrick to Mokala 29.1.

Woolly-necked Stork (VU)

Ciconia episcopus microscelis

(3) Mkuze GR 12.1, Mtunzini 14.1 and Stanger - Sappi 15.1.

White Stork Ciconia ciconia ciconia

Observed 11 days in total.

Saddle-billed Stork Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis

(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

Marabou Stork Leptoptilos crumenifer

(1) Polokwane GR 8.1.

Ibises and Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

African Sacred IbisThreskiornis aethiopicus

Observed 16 days in total.

Hadada Ibis Bostrychia hagedash hagedash

Observed 3 days in total.

Glossy Ibis Plegadis falcinellus

(5) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Mkuze GR 12.1, Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.1, Dolphin Beach

Wetland 22.1 and Kimberley to Johannesburg 30.1.

African Spoonbill Platalea alba

(2) Mkuze GR 12.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns Ardeidae

Little Bittern Ixobrychus minutus payesii

(1) Wakkerstroom 11.1.

Black-crowned Night Heron Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax

(3) Wakkerstroom 11.1, St. Lucia 14.1 and Dolphin Beach Wetland 22.1.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata atricapilla*

(1) Stanger - Sappi 15.1.

Squacco Heron Ardeola ralloides

(5) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Polokwane GR 8.1, Wakkerstroom 11.1, Mkuze GR 12.1 and Stanger -

Sappi 15.1.

Western Cattle Egret Bubulcus ibis

Observed 9 days in total.

Grey Heron Ardea cinerea cinerea

Observed 8 days in total.

Black-headed Heron Ardea melanocephala

Observed 11 days in total.

Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath*

(4) Mkuze GR 12.1, St. Lucia Estuary 13.1, Stanger - Sappi 15.1 and Augrabies 27.1.

Purple Heron Ardea purpurea purpurea

(2) Wakkerstroom 11.1 and Dolphin Beach Wetland 22.1.

Great Egret *Ardea alba melanorhynchos*

(3) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Mkuze GR 12.1 and Himeville 16.1.

Intermediate Egret Ardea intermedia brachyrhyncha

(2) Wakkerstroom 10.1 and Mpempe Pan 12.1.

Black Heron Egretta ardesiaca

(1) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1.

Little Egret

Egretta garzetta garzetta

(5) Polokwane GR 7.1, Mkuze GR 12.1, St. Lucia Estuary 13.1, De Hoop NR 19.1 and Alexander Bay 26.1.

Hamerkop Scopidae

Hamerkop

Scopus umbretta umbretta

Observed 10 days in total.

Pelicans Pelecanidae

Great White Pelican

Pelecanus onocrotalus

(3) iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 11.1, Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.1 and Alexander Bay 26.1.

Pink-backed Pelican

Pelecanus rufescens

(2) Mkuze GR 12.1 and St. Lucia Estuary 13.1.

Boobies and Gannets Sulidae

Cape Gannet (VU)

Morus capensis

(1) Lambert's Bay 23.1.

Cormorants and Shags Phalacrocoracidae

Reed Cormorant

Microcarbo africanus africanus

(5) Tzaneen to Wakkerstroom 9.1, Wakkerstroom 11.1, Mkuze GR 12.1, Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.1 and Augrabies 28.1.

Crowned Cormorant (NT)

Microcarbo coronatus

(3) Stony Point 20.1, Lambert's Bay 23.1 and Alexander Bay 26.1.

Bank Cormorant (EN)

Phalacrocorax neglectus

(1) Stony Point 20.1.

White-breasted Cormorant

Phalacrocorax lucidus

Observed 10 days in total.

Cape Cormorant (NT)

Phalacrocorax capensis

(5) Mudlark 19.1, Stony Point 20.1, Cape Point NP 21.1, West Coast NP 22.1 and Lambert's Bay 23.1.

Anhingas Anhingidae

African Darter

Anhinga rufa rufa

(4) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Noordhoek 21.1, Augrabies 27.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Secretary-bird Sagittariidae

Secretarybird (VU)

Sagittarius serpentarius

(4) Wakkerstroom 10.1, Agulhas Plains 18.1, Agulhas Plains 19.1 and Kimberley to Johannesburg 30.1.

Osprey *Pandionidae*

Western Osprey

Pandion haliaetus haliaetus

(1) Mtunzini 14.1.

Hawks, Eagles, and Kites Accipitridae

Black-winged Kite

Elanus caeruleus caeruleus

(4) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Wakkerstroom 11.1, Agulhas Plains 19.1 and West Coast NP 22.1.

African Harrier-Hawk Polyboroides typus typus

(2) Dirkiesdorp 11.1 and Karkloof 17.1.

Palm-nut Vulture Gypohierax angolensis

(1) Mtunzini 14.1.

Bearded Vulture (NT)Gypaetus barbatus meridionalis

(1) Sani 16.1.

African Cuckoo-Hawk Aviceda cuculoides verreauxii

(1) iSimangaliso WP - Western Shores 13.1.

White-backed Vulture (NT) Gyps africanus

(2) Wakkerstroom to Hluhluwe 11.1 and Kimberley to Johannesburg 30.1. **Cape Vulture (VU)** *Gyps coprotheres*

(1) Sani 16.1.

Black-chested Snake Eagle Circaetus pectoralis

(3) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Mkuze GR 12.1 and Alexander Bay to Port Nolloth 26.1.

Bateleur (NT) *Terathopius ecaudatus*

(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

Bat Hawk Macheiramphus alcinus anderssoni

(1) Tzaneen 9.1.

Crowned Eagle (NT) Stephanoaetus coronatus

(1) Kurisa Moya 9.1.

Martial Eagle (NT)

Polemaetus bellicosus

(3) Agulhas Plains 18.1, Goegap NR 26.1 and Namies 27.1.

Long-crested Eagle Lophaetus occipitalis

(3) Tzaneen 9.1, Sani Pass 16.1 and Impendle NR 17.1.

Wahlberg's Eagle Hieraaetus wahlbergi

(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

Booted Eagle Hieraaetus pennatus

(3) Mpempe Pan 12.1, Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 21.1 and Studer's Pass 25.1.

Tawny EagleAquila rapax rapax
(3) Umkhumbi Lodge 11.1, Mkuze GR 12.1 and Umkhumbi Lodge 13.1. **Verreaux's Eagle**Aquila verreauxii

(1) Paleisheuwel 23.1.

Lizard Buzzard Kaupifalco monogrammicus meridionalis

(1) Umkhumbi to False Bay Park 13.1.

Gabar Goshawk Micronisus gabar gabar

(1) Mokala NP 29.1.

Pale Chanting Goshawk Melierax canorus

Observed 7 days in total.

African Goshawk Accipiter tachiro tachiro

(1) Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 21.1.

Rufous-breasted SparrowhawkAccipiter rufiventris rufiventris

(1) Impendle NR 17.1.

African Marsh Harrier Circus ranivorus

(1) Himeville 16.1.

Black Harrier (VU) Circus maurus

(2) Sani 16.1 and West Coast NP 22.1.

Yellow-billed Kite Milvus aegyptius parasitus

Observed 12 days in total.

African Fish Eagle

Haliaeetus vocifer

(5) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Mkuze GR 12.1, St. Lucia 14.1, Stanger - Sappi 15.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Common Buzzard

Buteo buteo vulpinus

Observed 18 days in total.

Forest Buzzard

Buteo trizonatus

(1) Sani Pass 16.1.

Jackal Buzzard

Buteo rufofuscus

Observed 11 days in total.

Bustards Otididae

Ludwig's Bustard (EN)

Neotis ludwigii

(2) near Niewoudtville 23.1 and Namies 27.1.

Denham's Bustard (NT)

Neotis denhami stanleyi

(1) Agulhas Plains 18.1.

White-bellied Bustard

Eupodotis senegalensis barrowii

(1) Dirkiesdorp 11.1.

Blue Korhaan (NT)

Eupodotis caerulescens

(2) Wakkerstroom 10.1 and Kimberley to Johannesburg 30.1.

Karoo Korhaan

Eupodotis vigorsii

(3) Brandvlei 24.1, Calvinia 25.1 and Alexander Bay 26.1.

Red-crested Korhaan

Lophotis ruficrista

(1) Mokala NP 29.1.

Southern Black Korhaan (VU)

Afrotis afra

(1) Darling Wildflower Route 22.1.

Northern Black Korhaan

Afrotis afraoides afraoides

(5) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Koa Dunes 27.1, Marrick GL 28.1, Mokala NP 29.1 and Kimberley to Johannesburg 30.1.

Flufftails Sarothruridae

Striped Flufftail

Sarothrura affinis affinis

(1) 1 heard Sani Pass 16.1.

Rails, Gallinules, and Coots Rallidae

African Rail

Rallus caerulescens

(1) Wakkerstroom 11.1.

Black Crake

Amaurornis flavirostra

(2) Dolphin Beach Wetland 22.1 and Augrabies 27.1.

African Swamphen

Porphyrio madagascariensis

(2) St. Lucia Estuary 13.1 and Dolphin Beach Wetland 22.1.

Common Moorhen

Gallinula chloropus meridionalis

Observed 8 days in total.

Red-knobbed Coot

Fulica cristata

Observed 8 days in total.

Cranes Gruidae

Grey Crowned Crane (VU)

Balearica regulorum regulorum

(2) Wakkerstroom 10.1 and Himeville 16.1.

Wattled Crane

Grus carunculata

(2) Himeville 16.1 and Impendle NR 17.1.

Blue Crane (VU)

Observed 8 days in total.

Grus paradisea

Buttonquails *Turnicidae*

Common Buttonquail

Turnix sylvaticus lepurana

(2) Mkuze GR 12.1 and Umkhumbi Lodge 13.1.

Thick-knees Burhinidae

Water Thick-knee

Burhinus vermiculatus vermiculatus

(3) Mkuze GR 12.1, St. Lucia Estuary 13.1 and Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.1.

Spotted Thick-knee

Burhinus capensis

(4) Polokwane GR 8.1, Wakkerstroom 10.1, Mudlark 19.1 and Marrick GL 28.1.

Oystercatchers Haematopodidae

African Oystercatcher (NT)

Haematopus moquini

(4) Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.1, Cape Point NP 21.1, West Coast NP 22.1 and Alexander Bay 26.1.

Stilts and Avocets Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt

Himantopus himantopus

(6) Mkuze GR 12.1, St. Lucia Estuary 13.1, Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.1, West Coast NP 22.1, Port Nolloth 26.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Pied Avocet

Recurvirostra avosetta

(4) St. Lucia Estuary 13.1, Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.1, West Coast NP 22.1 and Alexander Bay 26.1.

Plovers and Lapwings Charadriidae

Blacksmith Lapwing

Vanellus armatus

Observed 13 days in total.

Black-winged Lapwing

Vanellus melanopterus minor

(3) Wakkerstroom 10.1, Mpempe Pan 12.1 and Impendle NR 17.1. **Crowned Lapwing**

Vanellus coronatus

Observed 11 days in total.

African Wattled Lapwing

Vanellus senegallus lateralis

(1) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1.

Grev Plover

Pluvialis squatarola squatarola

(3) St. Lucia Estuary 13.1, West Coast NP 22.1 and Alexander Bay 26.1.

Common Ringed Plover

Charadrius hiaticula tundrae

(4) Mpempe Pan 12.1, St. Lucia Estuary 13.1, Stanger - Sappi 15.1 and West Coast NP 22.1.

Kittlitz's Plover

Charadrius pecuarius

(3) Mpempe Pan 12.1, St. Lucia Estuary 13.1 and West Coast NP 22.1.

Three-banded Plover

Charadrius tricollaris tricollaris

(7) Wakkerstroom 11.1, Mkuze GR 12.1, Stanger - Sappi 15.1, West Coast NP 22.1, Augrabies Falls NP 27.1. Marrick GL 28.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

White-fronted Plover

Charadrius marginatus

(4) St. Lucia Estuary 13.1, West Coast NP 22.1, Lambert's Bay 23.1 and Alexander Bay 26.1.

Chestnut-banded Plover (NT)

Charadrius pallidus pallidus

(1) West Coast NP 22.1.

Jacanas Jacanidae

African Jacana Actophilornis africanus

(3) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Mkuze GR 12.1 and Stanger - Sappi 15.1.

Sandpipers and Allies Scolopacidae

African Snipe Gallinago nigripennis nigripennis

(1) Dolphin Beach Wetland 22.1.

Bar-tailed Godwit Limosa lapponica lapponica

(2) West Coast NP 22.1 and Alexander Bay 26.1.

Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus phaeopus

(2) St. Lucia Estuary 13.1 and West Coast NP 22.1.

Eurasian Curlew (NT)

Numenius arquata

(1) West Coast NP 22.1.

Marsh Sandpiper Tringa stagnatilis

(2) Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.1 and West Coast NP 22.1.

Common Greenshank Tringa nebularia

(5) iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 13.1, Stanger - Sappi 15.1, Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.1,

West Coast NP 22.1 and Alexander Bay 26.1.

Wood Sandpiper Tringa glareola

Observed 8 days in total.

Common Sandpiper Actitis hypoleucos

(1) Mpempe Pan 12.1.

Ruff Calidris pugnax

(3) Mpempe Pan 12.1, St. Lucia Estuary 13.1 and Stanger - Sappi 15.1.

Curlew Sandpiper Calidris ferruginea (2) Mpempe Pan 13.1 and West Coast NP 22.1.

Sanderling Calidris alba alba

(1) West Coast NP 22.1.

Little Stint Calidris minuta

(5) Mpempe Pan 12.1, St. Lucia Estuary 13.1, Stanger - Sappi 15.1, West Coast NP 22.1 and

Alexander Bay 26.1.

Pratincoles and Coursers *Glareolidae*

Temminck's Courser Cursorius temminckii ruvanensis

(1) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1.

Double-banded CourserRhinoptilus africanus

(2) Brandvlei 24.1 and Marrick GL 28.1.

Collared Pratincole Glareola pratincola fuelleborni

(2) Mkuze GR 12.1 and iSimangaliso WP - Western Shores 13.1.

Black-winged Pratincole (NT)Glareola nordmanni

(2) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1 and Wakkerstroom 10.1.

Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers Laridae

Grey-headed Gull Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus poiocephalus

(3) St. Lucia Estuary 13.1, Lambert's Bay 23.1 and Alexander Bay 26.1.

Hartlaub's Gull Chroicocephalus hartlaubii

(5) Cape Agulhas 19.1, Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.1, West Coast NP 22.1, Lambert's Bay 23.1 and Alexander Bay 26.1.

Kelp Gull Larus dominicanus

Observed 7 days in total.

Caspian Tern Hydroprogne caspia

(4) iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 13.1, Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.1, West Coast NP 22.1 and Alexander Bay 26.1.

Greater Crested Tern Thalasseus bergii bergii

(5) St. Lucia Estuary 13.1, Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.1, Cape Point NP 21.1, West Coast NP 22.1 and Lambert's Bay 23.1.

Sandwich Tern Thalasseus sandvicensis

(4) Cape Point NP 21.1, West Coast NP 22.1, Lambert's Bay 23.1 and Alexander Bay 26.1.

Damara Tern (NT)Sternula balaenarum

(1) Alexander Bay 26.1.

Common Tern Sterna hirundo hirundo

(4) St. Lucia Estuary 13.1, West Coast NP 22.1, Lambert's Bay 23.1 and Alexander Bay 26.1.

Whiskered Tern Chlidonias hybrida

(5) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Tzaneen to Wakkerstroom 9.1, Wakkerstroom 10.1, Wakkerstroom 11.1 and Mkuze GR 12.1.

Sandgrouse Pteroclidae

Namaqua Sandgrouse

Pterocles namaqua

(4) Brandvlei 24.1, Studer's Pass 25.1, Goegap NR 26.1 and Koa Dunes 27.1.

Pigeons and Doves Columbidae

Rock Dove Columba livia var. domestica

Observed 8 days in total.

Speckled PigeonColumba guinea phaeonota

Observed 12 days in total.

African Olive Pigeon *Columba arquatrix*(3) Kurisa Moya 8.1, Woodbush Forest Reserve 9.1 and Marutswa NR 17.1.

Eastern Bronze-naped PigeonColumba delegorguei delegorguei

(1) 1 heard Dlinza Forest NR 15.1.

Lemon Dove Columba larvata larvata

(2) Kurisa Moya 8.1 and Kurisa Moya 9.1.

Red-eyed Dove Streptopelia semitorquata

(5) iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 11.1, Dlinza Forest NR 15.1, Karkloof 17.1, De Hoop NR 19.1 and Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 21.1.

Ring-necked Dove Streptopelia capicola

(4) Tzaneen to Wakkerstroom 9.1, West Coast NP 22.1, Augrabies 27.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Laughing Dove Spilopelia senegalensis senegalensis

Observed 17 days in total.

Emerald-spotted Wood DoveTurtur chalcospilos

(4) Polokwane GR 8.1, iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 11.1, Mkuze GR 12.1 and iSimangaliso WP

- False Bay Park 13.1.

Tambourine DoveTurtur tympanistria

(1) iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 13.1.

Namaqua Dove Oena capensis capensis

(2) Studer's Pass 25.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

African Green Pigeon

Treron calvus delalandii

(1) Hluhluwe Town 11.1.

Turacos Musophagidae

Livingstone's Turaco

Tauraco livingstonii reichenowi

(2) St. Lucia Estuary 13.1 and St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 14.1.

Knysna Turaco

Tauraco corythaix

(2) Kurisa Moya 8.1 and Benvie Farm, Karkloof 17.1.

Purple-crested Turaco

Tauraco porphyreolophus porphyreolophus

(2) Hluhluwe Town 11.1 and Dlinza Forest NR 14.1.

Grey Go-away-bird

Corythaixoides concolor

(2) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1 and Polokwane GR 8.1.

Cuckoos Cuculidae

Burchell's Coucal

Centropus burchellii burchellii

(2) Hluhluwe Town 11.1 and Umkhumbi to False Bay Park 13.1.

Green Malkoha

Ceuthmochares australis

(1) iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 11.1.

Levaillant's Cuckoo

Clamator levaillantii

(1) Polokwane GR 7.1.

Jacobin Cuckoo

Clamator jacobinus serratus

(2) Polokwane GR 8.1 and Woodbush Forest Reserve 9.1.

Diederik Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx caprius

(4) Polokwane GR 7.1, Polokwane GR 8.1, Hilton Bush Lodge 18.1 and Marrick GL 28.1.

African Emerald Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx cupreus

(2) 1 heard Mkuze GR 12.1 and 1 heard iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 13.1.

Black Cuckoo

Cuculus clamosus clamosus

(2) Polokwane GR 7.1 and Polokwane GR 8.1.

Red-chested Cuckoo

Cuculus solitarius

(2) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1 and iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 11.1.

Barn-Owls Tytonidae

Western Barn Owl

Tyto alba poensis

(1) near Umkhumbi Lodge 12.1.

Owls Strigidae

Spotted Eagle-Owl

Bubo africanus africanus

(3) Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 21.1, Springbok 26.1 and Augrabies 28.1.

African Wood Owl

Strix woodfordii woodfordii

(1) Noordhoek 21.1.

Pearl-spotted Owlet

Glaucidium perlatum licua

(1) Polokwane GR 8.1.

Nightjars and Allies Caprimulgidae

Rufous-cheeked Nightjar

Caprimulgus rufigena

(2) Polokwane GR 8.1 and Marrick GL 28.1.

Swifts Apodidae

African Palm Swift

Cypsiurus parvus

(4) Pienaarsrivier 7.1, Polokwane GR 8.1, Augrabies 28.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Alpine Swift

Tachymarptis melba

(3) Augrabies Falls NP 27.1, Kimberley 29.1 and Kimberley 30.1.

Common Swift

Apus apus

(5) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Wakkerstroom 10.1, Augrabies to Kimberley 28.1, Kimberley 29.1 and Kimberley 30.1.

African Black Swift

Apus barbatus barbatus

(2) Sani Pass 16.1 and Impendle NR 17.1.

Bradfield's Swift

Apus bradfieldi deserticola

(1) Kimberley 30.1.

Little Swift

Apus affinis

Observed 10 days in total.

Horus Swift

Apus horus horus

(1) Sani Pass 16.1.

White-rumped Swift

Apus caffer

(3) Wakkerstroom 11.1, Sani Pass 16.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Mousebirds Coliidae

Speckled Mousebird

Colius striatus

Observed 7 days in total.

White-backed Mousebird

Colius colius

(6) West Coast NP 22.1, Paleisheuwel 23.1, Brandvlei 24.1, Studer's Pass 25.1, Springbok 26.1 and Springbok 27.1.

Red-faced Mousebird

Urocolius indicus

(2) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1 and Augrabies 28.1.

Trogons *Trogonidae*

Narina Trogon

Apaloderma narina narina

(1) St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 14.1.

Rollers Coraciidae

Lilac-breasted Roller

Coracias caudatus caudatus

(1) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1.

European Roller (NT)

Coracias garrulus garrulus

(4) Tzaneen to Wakkerstroom 9.1, Hluhluwe Town 11.1, Mkuze GR 12.1 and Karkloof 17.1.

Broad-billed Roller

Eurystomus glaucurus suahelicus

(1) Tzaneen 9.1.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

Brown-hooded Kingfisher

Halcyon albiventris

(3) Polokwane GR 7.1, Polokwane GR 8.1 and iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 13.1.

Striped Kingfisher

Halcyon chelicuti chelicuti

(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

Woodland Kingfisher

Halcyon senegalensis cyanoleuca

(2) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1 and Mkuze GR 12.1.

Malachite Kingfisher

Corythornis cristatus cristatus

(1) Wakkerstroom 11.1.

Half-collared Kingfisher Alcedo semitorquata

(1) Himeville 16.1.

Giant Kingfisher Megaceryle maxima maxima

(1) Himeville 16.1.

Pied Kingfisher Ceryle rudis rudis

(3) Mkuze GR 12.1, Alexander Bay 26.1 and Augrabies to Kimberley 28.1.

Bee-eaters Meropidae

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

(1) Augrabies to Kimberley 28.1.

Little Bee-eater Merops pusillus

(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

White-fronted Bee-eater Merops bullockoides

(1) Polokwane GR 7.1.

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater Merops persicus persicus (3) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Mpempe Pan 12.1 and St. Lucia Estuary 13.1.

European Bee-eater Merops apiaster

(6) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Polokwane GR 8.1, Tzaneen to Wakkerstroom 9.1, iSimangaliso WP -

False Bay Park 11.1, Mkuze GR 12.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Hoopoes *Upupidae*

Upupa africana African Hoopoe

Observed 8 days in total.

Woodhoopoes and Scimitar-bills *Phoeniculidae*

Phoeniculus purpureus

Green Wood Hoopoe

(1) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1.

Common Scimitarbill Rhinopomastus cyanomelas

(4) Polokwane GR 8.1, Mkuze GR 12.1, Augrabies to Kimberley 28.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Ground Hornbills Bucorvidae

Southern Ground Hornbill (VU)

Bucorvus leadbeateri

(1) Ongoye FR 14.1.

Hornbills Bucerotidae

Southern Red-billed Hornbill Tockus rufirostris

(1) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1.

Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill Tockus leucomelas leucomelas

(2) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Crowned Hornbill Lophoceros alboterminatus

(2) iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 11.1 and St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 13.1.

African Grev Hornbill Lophoceros nasutus epirhinus

(1) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1.

Trumpeter Hornbill Bycanistes bucinator

(3) St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 13.1, Dlinza Forest NR 14.1 and Dlinza Forest NR 15.1.

African Barbets Lybiidae

White-eared Barbet

Stactolaema leucotis leucotis

(3) St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 13.1, Mtunzini 14.1 and Dlinza Forest NR 15.1.

Green Barbet

Stactolaema olivacea woodwardi

(1) Ongoye FR 14.1.

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus bilineatus bilineatus

(2) Hluhluwe Town 11.1 and St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 13.1.

Red-fronted Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus pusillus pusillus

(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus chrysoconus extoni

(1) Tzaneen 9.1.

Acacia Pied Barbet

Tricholaema leucomelas

(5) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Polokwane GR 8.1, Brandvlei 24.1, Goegap NR 26.1 and Augrabies 28.1.

Black-collared Barbet

Lybius torquatus torquatus

(3) Polokwane 7.1, Mkuze GR 12.1 and Dlinza Forest NR 15.1.

Crested Barbet

Trachyphonus vaillantii vaillantii

(4) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Wakkerstroom 11.1, Augrabies 27.1 and Augrabies 28.1.

Honeyguides Indicatoridae

Lesser Honeyguide

Indicator minor minor

(2) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1 and Mtunzini 14.1.

Woodpeckers Picidae

Red-throated Wryneck

Jynx ruficollis ruficollis

(2) Wakkerstroom 11.1 and Sani Pass 16.1.

Bennett's Woodpecker

Campethera bennettii bennettii

(1) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1.

Golden-tailed Woodpecker

Campethera abingoni

(2) Polokwane GR 8.1 and Polokwane GR 9.1.

Ground Woodpecker

Geocolaptes olivaceus

(1) Sani Pass 16.1. **Bearded Woodpecker**

Chloropicus namaguus

(1) Polokwane GR 8.1.

Cardinal Woodpecker

Dendropicos fuscescens

(3) iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 11.1, Paleisheuwel 23.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Olive Woodpecker

Dendropicos griseocephalus griseocephalus

(2) 1 heard Kurisa Moya 8.1 and 1 heard Woodbush Forest Reserve 9.1.

Falcons and Caracaras Falconidae

Pygmy Falcon

Polihierax semitorquatus semitorquatus

(3) Pofadder 27.1, Augrabies to Kimberley 28.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Lesser Kestrel

Falco naumanni

(3) Darling Wildflower Route 22.1, Mokala NP 29.1 and Kimberley to Johannesburg 30.1.

Rock Kestrel

Falco rupicolus

Observed 10 days in total.

Greater Kestrel

Falco rupicoloides rupicoloides

(2) Polokwane 8.1 and Augrabies to Kimberley 28.1.

Amur Falcon

Falco amurensis

(6) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Tzaneen to Wakkerstroom 9.1, Wakkerstroom 10.1, Wakkerstroom 11.1,

Impendle NR 17.1 and Kimberley to Johannesburg 30.1.

Lanner Falcon Falco biarmicus biarmicus

(3) Wakkerstroom 10.1, Agulhas Plains 19.1 and Mokala NP 29.1. **Peregrine Falcon**Falco peregrinus

(2) Marutswa NR 17.1 and Augrabies to Kimberley 28.1.

Taita Falcon (NT)Falco fasciinucha

(1) Abel Erasmus Pass 9.1.

African & New World Parrots Psittacidae

Cape Parrot Poicephalus robustus

(1) Marutswa NR 17.1.

Old World Parrots Psittaculidae

Rosy-faced LovebirdAgapornis roseicollis roseicollis

(1) Augrabies 28.1.

Wattle-eyes and Batises Platysteiridae

Cape Batis Batis capensis

(2) Harold Porter Botanical Garden 20.1 and Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 21.1.

Woodward's Batis Batis fratrum

(1) St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 13.1.

Chinspot BatisBatis molitor

(2) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1 and Mkuze GR 12.1.

Pririt Batis Batis pririt

(1) Goegap NR 26.1.

Helmetshrikes and Allies Prionopidae

White-crested Helmetshrike Prionops plumatus

(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

Bushshrikes and Allies Malaconotidae

Black-fronted Bushshrike Chlorophoneus nigrifrons sandgroundi

(1) Woodbush Forest Reserve 9.1.

Olive Bushshrike Chlorophoneus olivaceus

(1) Woodbush Forest Reserve 9.1.

Orange-breasted Bushshrike Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus similis

(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

Gorgeous Bushshrike Telophorus viridis quadricolor

(1) Umkhumbi Lodge 13.1.

Bokmakierie Telophorus zeylonus

(3) Wakkerstroom 11.1, Sani Pass 16.1 and Mudlark 19.1.

Brown-crowned Tchagra Tchagra australis

(2) Polokwane GR 8.1 and Mkuze GR 12.1.

Southern Tchagra Tchagra tchagra

(1) Potberg, De Hoop 19.1.

Black-crowned Tchagra Tchagra senegalus

(1) Polokwane GR 8.1.

Black-backed Puffback Dryoscopus cubla

(3) Polokwane 7.1, St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 13.1 and Fort Nonquayi 14.1.

Southern Boubou

Laniarius ferrugineus

(3) Polokwane GR 8.1, De Hoop NR 19.1 and Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 21.1.

Crimson-breasted Shrike

Laniarius atrococcineus

(2) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1 and Polokwane GR 8.1.

Brubru

Nilaus afer

(1) Polokwane GR 8.1.

Cuckoo-shrikes Campephagidae

Grey Cuckooshrike

Coracina caesia caesia

(1) 1 heard Dlinza Forest NR 15.1.

Black Cuckooshrike

Campephaga flava

(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

Shrikes Laniidae

Magpie Shrike

Urolestes melanoleucus

(2) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1 and Polokwane GR 8.1.

Red-backed Shrike

Lanius collurio

(4) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Polokwane GR 8.1, iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 11.1 and Mkuze GR 12.1.

Lesser Grey Shrike

Lanius minor

(3) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Polokwane GR 8.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Southern Fiscal

Lanius collaris

Observed 17 days in total.

Old World Orioles Oriolidae

Black-headed Oriole

Oriolus larvatus larvatus

(2) Wakkerstroom 11.1 and Mkuze GR 12.1.

<u>Drongos Dicruridae</u>

Square-tailed Drongo

Dicrurus ludwigii ludwigii

(5) Kurisa Moya 8.1, Woodbush Forest Reserve 9.1, iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 11.1,

iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 13.1 and St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 14.1.

Fork-tailed Drongo

Dicrurus adsimilis

Observed 10 days in total.

Monarch Flycatchers *Monarchidae*

Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher

Trochocercus cyanomelas

Corvus capensis capensis

(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

African Paradise Flycatcher

Terpsiphone viridis

(5) Polokwane GR 8.1, Tzaneen 9.1, Mkuze GR 12.1, Mtunzini 14.1 and Sani Pass 16.1.

Crows, Jays, and Magpies Corvidae

Cape Crow

Observed 12 days in total.

Corvus albus

Observed 16 days in total.

Pied Crow

White-necked Raven Corvus albicollis

(2) Sani Pass 16.1 and Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.1.

Rockjumpers Chaetopidae

Cape Rockjumper Chaetops frenatus

(1) Rooi-Els 20.1.

Drakensberg RockjumperChaetops aurantius

(1) Sani Pass 16.1.

Fairy Flycatchers Stenostiridae

Fairy Flycatcher Stenostira scita

(2) Sani 16.1 and Paleisheuwel 23.1.

Chickadees and Tits Paridae

Southern Black Tit *Melaniparus niger*

(3) iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 11.1, Mkuze GR 12.1 and iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park

13.1.

Ashy Tit Melaniparus cinerascens cinerascens

(1) Polokwane GR 8.1.

Grey Tit *Melaniparus afer*

(1) Sani 16.1.

Penduline-Tits Remizidae

Cape Penduline Tit

Anthoscopus minutus

(1) Brandvlei 24.1.

Nicators Nicatoridae

Eastern Nicator Nicator gularis

(1) Umkhumbi Lodge 11.1.

Larks Alaudidae

Spike-heeled Lark Chersomanes albofasciata

(6) Wakkerstroom 10.1, Dirkiesdorp 11.1, Calvinia 23.1, Brandvlei 24.1, Alexander Bay to Port

Nolloth 26.1 and Namies 27.1.

Short-clawed Lark Certhilauda chuana

(2) Polokwane GR 7.1 and Polokwane GR 8.1.

Karoo Long-billed LarkCerthilauda subcoronata

(2) Brandvlei 24.1 and Augrabies to Kimberley 28.1.

Eastern Long-billed Lark Certhilauda semitorquata

(1) Wakkerstroom 10.1.

Cape Long-billed Lark Certhilauda curvirostris

(1) Port Nolloth 26.1.

Agulhas Long-billed LarkCerthilauda brevirostris

(1) Cape Agulhas 19.1.

Black-eared Sparrow-Lark Eremopterix australis

(1) Brandvlei 24.1.

Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark Eremopterix verticalis

(2) Pofadder 27.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Sabota Lark Calendulauda sabota

(4) Polokwane GR 7.1, Namies 27.1, Augrabies to Kimberley 28.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Fawn-colored Lark Calendulauda africanoides

(1) Augrabies to Kimberley 28.1.

Karoo Lark Calendulauda albescens

(1) Alexander Bay 26.1.

Red Lark Calendulauda burra

(2) Brandvlei 24.1 and Koa Dunes 27.1.

Barlow's Lark Calendulauda barlowi

(1) Alexander Bay 26.1.

Rudd's Lark (VU)

Heteromirafra ruddi

(1) Wakkerstroom 10.1.

Eastern Clapper Lark Mirafra fasciolata fasciolata

(3) Augrabies to Kimberley 28.1, Mokala NP 29.1 and Kimberley to Johannesburg 30.1.

Rufous-naped Lark *Mirafra africana*

(3) Polokwane GR 8.1, iSimangaliso WP - Western Shores 13.1 and Kimberley to Johannesburg 30.1.

Monotonous Lark Mirafra passerina

(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

Botha's Lark (EN) Spizocorys fringillaris

(1) Wakkerstroom 10.1.

Large-billed Lark Galerida magnirostris

(3) Agulhas Plains 19.1, Brandvlei 24.1 and Studer's Pass 25.1.

Red-capped LarkCalandrella cinerea cinerea

(5) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Wakkerstroom 10.1, Sani 16.1, Agulhas Plains 19.1 and Studer's Pass 25.1.

Bulbuls Pycnonotidae

African Red-eyed Bulbul

Pycnonotus nigricans

(5) Observed Springbok 25-27.1, Augrabies 28.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Cape Bulbul

Pycnonotus capensis

(5) Mudlark 18.1, Mudlark 19.1, Harold Porter Botanical Garden 20.1, Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 21.1 and West Coast NP 22.1.

Dark-capped Bulbul

Pycnonotus tricolor layardi

Observed 12 days in total.

Sombre Greenbul

Andropadus importunus

(2) St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 13.1 and Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 21.1.

Yellow-bellied Greenbul

Chlorocichla flaviventris

(2) Mkuze GR 12.1 and iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 13.1.

Terrestrial Brownbul

Phyllastrephus terrestris

(2) iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 13.1 and Dlinza Forest NR 15.1.

Yellow-streaked Greenbul

Phyllastrephus flavostriatus flavostriatus

(1) Woodbush Forest Reserve 9.1.

Swallows *Hirundinidae*

Black Saw-wing

Psalidoprocne pristoptera holomelas

(5) Kurisa Moya 8.1, Woodbush Forest Reserve 9.1, Wakkerstroom 11.1, Marutswa NR 17.1 and De Hoop NR 19.1.

Brown-throated Martin

Riparia paludicola paludicola

(2) Sani Pass 16.1 and Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.1.

Sand Martin Riparia riparia riparia

(1) Wakkerstroom 11.1.

Banded Martin Riparia cincta cincta

(3) Wakkerstroom 10.1, Mpempe Pan 12.1 and Sani Pass 16.1.

Barn Swallow Hirundo rustica rustica

Observed 18 days in total.

White-throated Swallow Hirundo albigularis

Observed 7 days in total.

Pearl-breasted Swallow Hirundo dimidiata

(2) De Hoop NR 19.1 and Langebaan 22.1.

Rock Martin Ptyonoprogne fuligula

Observed 8 days in total.

Common House Martin Delichon urbicum

(1) Sani Pass 16.1.

Greater Striped Swallow Cecropis cucullata

Observed 7 days in total.

Lesser Striped Swallow Cecropis abyssinica unitatis

(2) Polokwane GR 8.1 and iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 11.1.

Red-breasted SwallowCecropis semirufa

(5) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Polokwane GR 8.1, iSimangaliso WP - Western Shores 13.1, Augrabies to Kimberley 28.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

South African Cliff Swallow Petrochelidon spilodera

(3) Wakkerstroom 10.1, Wakkerstroom 11.1 and Sani Pass 16.1.

Crombecs, African warblers Macrosphenidae

Cape Grassbird Sphenoeacus afer

(2) Sani Pass 16.1 and Marutswa NR 17.1.

Long-billed CrombecSylvietta rufescens

(5) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Hluhluwe Town 11.1, Mkuze GR 12.1, Gamoep 25.1 and Augrabies to Kimberley 28.1.

Victorin's Warbler Cryptillas victorini

(1) Clarence Drive 20.1.

Leaf-Warblers Phylloscopidae

Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler Phylloscopus ruficapilla

(1) Marutswa NR 17.1.

Willow Warbler Phylloscopus trochilus

(5) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Mkuze GR 12.1, iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 13.1, Himeville 16.1 and De Hoop NR 19.1.

Reed-Warblers and Allies *Acrocephalidae*

Lesser Swamp Warbler Acrocephalus gracilirostris

(1) Wakkerstroom 11.1.

African Reed Warbler Acrocephalus baeticatus

(2) Wakkerstroom 11.1 and Brandvlei 24.1.

African Yellow Warbler Iduna natalensis natalensis

(1) Wakkerstroom 11.1.

Grassbirds and Allies Locustellidae

Little Rush Warbler Bradypterus baboecala

(1) Wakkerstroom 11.1.

Barratt's Warbler Bradypterus barratti

(1) Sani Pass 16.1.

Fan-tailed Grassbird Schoenicola brevirostris brevirostris

(1) Sani Pass 16.1.

Cisticolas and Allies Cisticolidae

Lazy Cisticola Cisticola aberrans

(2) Marutswa NR 17.1 and Hilton Bush Lodge 18.1.

Rattling Cisticola Cisticola chiniana

(5) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Polokwane GR 8.1, Tzaneen to Wakkerstroom 9.1, Hluhluwe Town 11.1

and Mkuze GR 12.1.

Grey-backed Cisticola Cisticola subruficapilla

(3) Akkerendam NR 24.1, Akkerendam NR 25.1 and Alexander Bay 26.1.

Wailing Cisticola Cisticola lais

(1) Sani Pass 16.1.

Rufous-winged Cisticola Cisticola galactotes galactotes

(2) St. Lucia Estuary 13.1 and Stanger - Sappi 15.1.

Levaillant's CisticolaCisticola tinniens

(4) Wakkerstroom 10.1, Wakkerstroom 11.1, Sani Pass 16.1 and Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.1.

Croaking Cisticola Cisticola natalensis natalensis

(1) iSimangaliso WP - Western Shores 13.1.

Neddicky Cisticola fulvicapilla

(2) Polokwane GR 8.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Zitting Cisticola Cisticola juncidis terrestris

(1) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1.

Desert Cisticola Cisticola aridulus

(1) Marrick to Mokala NP 29.1.

Cloud Cisticola Cisticola textrix

(1) Dirkiesdorp 11.1.

Pale-crowned Cisticola Cisticola cinnamomeus egregius

(1) Wakkerstroom 10.1.

Wing-snapping Cisticola Cisticola ayresii ayresii

(1) Wakkerstroom 10.1.

Tawny-flanked Prinia Prinia subflava

(1) Polokwane GR 7.1.

Black-chested Prinia Prinia flavicans

(2) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1 and Augrabies 28.1.

Karoo Prinia Prinia maculosa

Observed 8 days in total.

Drakensberg PriniaPrinia hypoxantha

(2) Sani Pass 16.1 and Marutswa NR 17.1.

Namaqua Warbler Phragmacia substriata

(1) Brandvlei 24.1.

Bar-throated ApalisApalis thoracica

(2) Woodbush Forest Reserve 9.1 and Sani Pass 16.1.

Rudd's Apalis Apalis Apalis ruddi fumosa

(1) iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 11.1.

Yellow-breasted Apalis Apalis flavida

(3) iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 11.1, Mkuze GR 12.1 and iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park

13.1.

Rufous-eared Warbler *Malcorus pectoralis*

(2) Van Rhynsdorp 23.1 and Brandvlei 24.1.

Green-backed CamaropteraCamaroptera brachyura

(1) Polokwane GR 8.1.

Grey-backed Camaroptera Camaroptera brevicaudata

(1) 1 heard Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1.

Barred Wren-Warbler Calamonastes fasciolatus

(1) Polokwane GR 8.1.

Cinnamon-breasted Warbler Euryptila subcinnamomea

(1) Studer's Pass 25.1.

Yellow-bellied Eremomela Eremomela icteropygialis

(1) Brandvlei 24.1.

Karoo Eremomela Eremomela gregalis

(2) Goegap NR 25.1 and Goegap NR 26.1.

Burnt-necked EremomelaEremomela usticollis

(1) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1.

Laughingthrushes Leiothrichidae

Arrow-marked Babbler Turdoides jardineii jardineii

(2) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1 and Polokwane GR 8.1.

Southern Pied Babbler Turdoides bicolor

(1) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1.

Old World Warblers Sylviidae

Bush Blackcap (NT)Lioptilus nigricapillus

(1) Sani Pass 16.1.

Common Whitethroat Sylvia communis

(1) Polokwane GR 8.1.

Chestnut-vented Warbler Sylvia subcoerulea

(3) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Augrabies 28.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Layard's Warbler Sylvia layardi

(1) Paleisheuwel 23.1.

Yuhinas, White-eyes, and Allies Zosteropidae

Cape White-eye Zosterops virens

Observed 12 days in total.

Orange River White-eve Zosterops pallidus

(2) Alexander Bay 26.1 and Springbok 27.1.

African Yellow White-eyeZosterops senegalensis

(1) iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 11.1.

Sugarbirds *Promeropidae*

Cape Sugarbird Promerops cafer

(4) Mudlark 18.1, Mudlark 19.1, Harold Porter Botanical Garden 20.1 and Kirstenbosch Botanical

Garden 21.1.

Gurney's Sugarbird

Promerops gurneyi gurneyi

(1) Sani Pass 16.1.

Starlings Sturnidae

Common Myna

Acridotheres tristis tristis

Observed 1 day in total.

Common Starling

Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris

(4) Cape Agulhas 19.1, Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.1, Bloubergstrand 22.1 and Lambert's Bay

23.1.

Wattled Starling

Creatophora cinerea

(1) Mokala NP 29.1.

Black-bellied Starling

Notopholia corrusca corrusca

(3) St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 13.1, Mtunzini 14.1 and Dlinza Forest NR 15.1.

Cape Starling

Lamprotornis nitens

(4) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Polokwane GR 8.1, Augrabies 28.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Burchell's Starling

Lamprotornis australis

(1) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1.

Pied Starling

Lamprotornis bicolor

(5) Observed Wakkerstroom 9-11.1, Cape Agulhas 19.1 and Niewoudtville 23.1.

Violet-backed Starling

Cinnyricinclus leucogaster verreauxi

(2) Hluhluwe Town 11.1 and Mkuze GR 12.1.

Red-winged Starling

Onychognathus morio morio

Observed 8 days in total.

Pale-winged Starling

Onychognathus nabouroup

(3) Springbok 26.1, Augrabies Falls NP 27.1 and Augrabies 28.1.

Oxpeckers Buphagidae

Red-billed Oxpecker

Buphagus erythrorynchus

(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

Thrushes and Allies *Turdidae*

Orange Ground Thrush

Geokichla gurneyi

(1) Benvie Farm, Karkloof 17.1.

Groundscraper Thrush

Turdus litsitsirupa litsitsirupa

(2) Pienaarsrivier 7.1 and Polokwane GR 8.1.

Kurrichane Thrush

Turdus libonyana

(1) Tzaneen 9.1.

Olive Thrush

Turdus olivaceus

(5) Woodbush Forest Reserve 9.1, Sani Pass 16.1, Benvie Farm, Karkloof 17.1, Hilton Bush Lodge 18.1 and Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 21.1.

Karoo Thrush

Turdus smithi

(2) Johannesburg 6.1 and Augrabies 28.1.

Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

Karoo Scrub Robin

Cercotrichas coryphoeus

(4) West Coast NP 22.1, Brandvlei 24.1, Calvinia 25.1 and Alexander Bay 26.1.

Bearded Scrub Robin

Cercotrichas quadrivirgata quadrivirgata

(2) Mkuze GR 12.1 and iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 13.1.

Kalahari Scrub Robin

Cercotrichas paena

(2) Augrabies to Kimberley 28.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

White-browed Scrub Robin

Cercotrichas leucophrys leucophrys

(3) Polokwane GR 8.1, iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 11.1 and Mkuze GR 12.1.

Brown Scrub Robin

Cercotrichas signata

(2) Kurisa Moya 8.1 and St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 13.1.

Southern Black Flycatcher

Melaenornis pammelaina

(3) iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 11.1, Mkuze GR 12.1 and Dlinza Forest NR 15.1.

Chat Flycatcher

Melaenornis infuscatus

(2) Brandvlei 24.1 and Namies 27.1.

Marico Flycatcher

Melaenornis mariquensis

(2) Polokwane GR 7.1 and Polokwane GR 8.1.

Fiscal Flycatcher

Melaenornis silens

(3) Polokwane GR 7.1, Potberg, De Hoop 19.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Spotted Flycatcher

Muscicapa striata

(3) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Polokwane GR 8.1 and Mkuze GR 12.1.

Ashy Flycatcher

Muscicapa caerulescens

(1) 1 heard iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 13.1.

African Dusky Flycatcher

Muscicapa adusta

(3) Sani Pass 16.1, Harold Porter Botanical Garden 20.1 and Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 21.1.

Cape Robin-Chat

Cossypha caffra

Observed 11 days in total.

White-throated Robin-Chat

Cossypha humeralis

(1) Polokwane GR 8.1.

White-browed Robin-Chat

Cossypha heuglini

(2) Woodbush to Tzaneen 9.1 and Mkuze GR 12.1.

Red-capped Robin-Chat

Cossypha natalensis

(2) St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 13.1 and St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 14.1.

Chorister Robin-Chat

Cossypha dichroa

(3) Kurisa Moya 8.1, Kurisa Moya 9.1 and Marutswa NR 17.1.

White-starred Robin

Pogonocichla stellata

(1) iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 13.1.

Cape Rock Thrush

Monticola rupestris

(2) Sani Pass 16.1 and Van Rhyn's Pass 25.1.

Sentinel Rock Thrush

Monticola explorator

(2) Wakkerstroom 10.1 and Sani 16.1.

Short-toed Rock Thrush

Observed 9 days in total.

Monticola brevipes

(1) Mokala NP 29.1.

African Stonechat

Saxicola torquatus

Buff-streaked Chat

Campicoloides bifasciatus

(2) Wakkerstroom 10.1 and Sani Pass 16.1.

Sickle-winged Chat

Emarginata sinuata

(2) Sani 16.1 and Calvinia 25.1.

Karoo Chat

Emarginata schlegelii

(4) Brandvlei 24.1, Studer's Pass 25.1, Goegap NR 26.1 and Namies 27.1.

Tractrac Chat

Emarginata tractrac

(3) Brandvlei 24.1, Calvinia 25.1 and Alexander Bay 26.1.

Mocking Cliff Chat

Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris

(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

Ant-eating Chat

Myrmecocichla formicivora

(7) Wakkerstroom 10.1, Dirkiesdorp 11.1, Impendle NR 17.1, Studer's Pass 25.1, Koa Dunes 27.1, Marrick GL 28.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Mountain Wheatear

Myrmecocichla monticola monticola

(4) Wakkerstroom 10.1, Akkerendam NR 25.1, Goegap NR 26.1 and Augrabies Falls NP 27.1.

Capped Wheatear

Oenanthe pileata

(5) Agulhas Plains 18.1, Agulhas Plains 19.1, Calvinia 25.1, Goegap NR 26.1 and Marrick GL 28.1.

Familiar Chat

Oenanthe familiaris

Observed 7 days in total.

Sunbirds and Spiderhunters Nectariniidae

Collared Sunbird

Hedydipna collaris

(4) Woodbush Forest Reserve 9.1, iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 11.1, St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 13.1 and Dlinza Forest NR 14.1.

Orange-breasted Sunbird

Anthobaphes violacea

(2) Rooi-Els 20.1 and Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 21.1.

Olive Sunbird

Cyanomitra olivacea

(1) St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 13.1.

Grey Sunbird

Cyanomitra veroxii

(1) iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 11.1.

Amethyst Sunbird

Chalcomitra amethystina amethystina

(3) Wakkerstroom 11.1, Sani Pass 16.1 and Hilton Bush Lodge 18.1.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird

Chalcomitra senegalensis gutturalis

(1) Hluhluwe Town 11.1.

Malachite Sunbird

Nectarinia famosa famosa

(5) Sani Pass 16.1, Mudlark 18.1, De Hoop NR 19.1, West Coast NP 22.1 and Goegap NR 26.1.

Southern Double-collared Sunbird

Cinnyris chalybeus

Observed 8 days in total.

Neergaard's Sunbird

Cinnyris neergaardi

(1) iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 13.1.

Greater Double-collared Sunbird

Cinnyris afer

(2) Sani Pass 16.1 and Marutswa NR 17.1.

Marico Sunbird

Cinnyris mariquensis mariquensis

(2) Pienaarsrivier 7.1 and Polokwane GR 8.1.

Purple-banded Sunbird

Cinnyris bifasciatus microrhynchus

(3) iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 11.1, Mkuze GR 12.1 and Umkhumbi Lodge 13.1.

White-bellied Sunbird

Cinnyris talatala

(2) Pienaarsrivier 7.1 and Polokwane GR 8.1.

Dusky Sunbird

Cinnyris fuscus fuscus

(4) Studer's Pass 25.1, Alexander Bay 26.1, Springbok 27.1 and Augrabies 28.1.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver

Plocepasser mahali mahali

(2) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1 and Polokwane GR 8.1.

Sociable Weaver

Philetairus socius

(1) Namies 27.1.

House Sparrow Passer domesticus

Observed 10 days in total.

Cape Sparrow Passer melanurus

Observed 15 days in total.

Southern Grey-headed Sparrow Passer diffusus

(4) Polokwane GR 7.1, Polokwane GR 8.1, Wakkerstroom 11.1 and Mkuze GR 12.1.

Yellow-throated Petronia Gymnoris superciliaris

(1) iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 11.1.

Weavers and Allies Ploceidae

Red-billed Buffalo WeaverBubalornis niger niger

(1) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1.

Scaly-feathered Weaver Sporopipes squamifrons

(1) Marrick to Mokala NP 29.1.

Thick-billed Weaver Amblyospiza albifrons

(2) Tzaneen 9.1 and St. Lucia Estuary 13.1.

Spectacled Weaver Ploceus ocularis ocularis

(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

Cape Weaver Ploceus capensis

Observed 8 days in total.

Eastern Golden Weaver Ploceus subaureus

(2) St. Lucia Estuary 13.1 and St. Lucia 14.1.

Holub's Golden Weaver Ploceus xanthops

(2) Tzaneen 9.1 and St. Lucia 14.1.

Southern Brown-throated WeaverPloceus xanthopterus marleyi

(1) St. Lucia 14.1.

Lesser Masked Weaver Ploceus intermedius cabanisii (4) Polokwane GR 7.1, Polokwane GR 8.1, Hluhluwe Town 11.1 and St. Lucia 14.1.

Southern Masked Weaver Ploceus velatus

Observed 7 days in total.

Village Weaver Ploceus cucultatus

Observed 8 days in total.

Dark-backed Weaver *Ploceus bicolor*(2) Mkuze GR 12.1 and iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 13.1.

Red-headed WeaverAnaplectes rubriceps rubriceps

(1) Tzaneen to Wakkerstroom 9.1.

Red-billed Quelea Quelea quelea lathamii

(6) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Polokwane GR 8.1, Tzaneen to Wakkerstroom 9.1, iSimangaliso WP -

False Bay Park 11.1, Mkuze GR 12.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Yellow-crowned Bishop Euplectes afer taha

(2) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1 and Wakkerstroom 10.1.

Southern Red Bishop *Euplectes orix*

Observed 10 days in total.

Yellow Bishop Euplectes capensis

(2) Woodbush Forest Reserve 9.1 and Roselands 15.1.

Fan-tailed Widowbird *Euplectes axillaris axillaris*

(6) Wakkerstroom 10.1, Wakkerstroom 11.1, Umkhumbi Lodge 13.1, Fort Nonquayi 14.1, Stanger -

Sappi 15.1 and Impendle NR 17.1.

White-winged Widowbird

Euplectes albonotatus albonotatus

(4) Polokwane GR 7.1, Polokwane GR 8.1, Tzaneen to Wakkerstroom 9.1 and Mpempe Pan 12.1.

Red-collared Widowbird

Euplectes ardens ardens

(3) Stanger - Sappi 15.1, Karkloof 17.1 and Hilton Bush Lodge 18.1.

Long-tailed Widowbird

Euplectes progne progne

(6) Tzaneen to Wakkerstroom 9.1, Wakkerstroom 10.1, Wakkerstroom 11.1, Himeville 16.1, Impendle NR 17.1 and Kimberley to Johannesburg 30.1.

Waxbills and Allies Estrildidae

Green-winged Pytilia

Pytilia melba melba

(3) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Polokwane GR 8.1 and Mkuze GR 12.1.

Red-headed Finch

Amadina erythrocephala

 $(4)\ Johannesburg\ 6.1,\ Johannesburg\ 7.1,\ Polokwane\ GR\ 8.1\ and\ Johannesburg\ 30.1.$

Green Twinspot

Mandingoa nitidula nitidula

(1) Kurisa Moya 8.1.

Pink-throated Twinspot

Hypargos margaritatus

(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

Red-billed Firefinch

Lagonosticta senegala rendalli

(2) iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 11.1 and Umkhumbi Lodge 13.1.

African Firefinch

Lagonosticta rubricata rubricata

(3) Kurisa Moya 8.1, Kurisa Moya 9.1 and St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 14.1.

Jameson's Firefinch

Lagonosticta rhodopareia jamesoni

(1) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1.

Blue Waxbill

Uraeginthus angolensis

(5) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Polokwane GR 8.1, Polokwane GR 9.1, Hluhluwe Town 11.1 and Mkuze GR 12.1.

Violet-eared Waxbill

Uraeginthus granatinus

(1) Mokala NP 29.1.

Swee Waxbill

Coccopygia melanotis

(1) Harold Porter Botanical Garden 20.1.

Grey Waxbill

Estrilda perreini incana

(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

Common Waxbill

Estrilda astrild

(6) Woodbush Forest Reserve 9.1, Mkuze GR 12.1, Sani Pass 16.1, Impendle NR 17.1, Studer's Pass 25.1 and Alexander Bay 26.1.

Black-faced Waxbill

Estrilda erythronotos erythronotos

(2) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1 and Polokwane GR 8.1.

Ouailfinch

Ortygospiza atricollis digressa

(1) Mpempe Pan 12.1.

Bronze Mannikin

Lonchura cucullata scutata

(5) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Polokwane GR 8.1, Woodbush to Tzaneen 9.1, Wakkerstroom 11.1 and Dlinza Forest NR 15.1.

Red-backed Mannikin

Lonchura nigriceps

(1) Kurisa Moya 8.1.

Magpie Mannikin

Lonchura fringilloides

(1) Woodbush to Tzaneen 9.1.

<u>Indigobirds Viduidae</u>

Village Indigobird Vidua chalybeata amauropteryx

(1) Hluhluwe Town 11.1.

Purple Indigobird Vidua purpurascens

(1) Tzaneen to Wakkerstroom 9.1.

Dusky Indigobird Vidua funerea funerea

(2) Tzaneen to Wakkerstroom 9.1 and Mkuze GR 12.1.

Pin-tailed Whydah Vidua macroura

Observed 13 days in total.

Shaft-tailed Whydah Vidua regia

(2) Polokwane GR 7.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Long-tailed Paradise Whydah Vidua paradisaea

(2) Tzaneen to Wakkerstroom 9.1 and Mkuze GR 12.1.

Wagtails and Pipits Motacillidae

Western Yellow Wagtail Motacilla flava

(1) Mpempe Pan 12.1.

Cape Wagtail Motacilla capensis capensis

Observed 19 days in total.

African Pied Wagtail Motacilla aguimp

(1) Augrabies Falls NP 27.1.

Cape Longclaw Macronyx capensis

(4) Wakkerstroom 10.1, Impendle NR 17.1, Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.1 and Kimberley to

Johannesburg 30.1.

Yellow-throated Longclaw Macronyx croceus vulturnus

(2) iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 11.1 and Umkhumbi to False Bay Park 13.1.

African PipitAnthus cinnamomeus

Observed 8 days in total.

Mountain Pipit Anthus hoeschi

(1) Sani 16.1.

Long-billed PipitAnthus similis

(1) Paleisheuwel 23.1.

African Rock Pipit Anthus crenatus

(1) Wakkerstroom 10.1.

Yellow-breasted Pipit (VU)

Anthus chloris

(1) Wakkerstroom 10.1.

Finches, Euphonias Fringillidae

Common Chaffinch Fringilla coelebs

(1) Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 21.1.

Forest Canary Crithagra scotops

(2) Kurisa Moya 9.1 and Marutswa NR 17.1.

Black-throated CanaryCrithagra atrogularis

(4) Pienaarsrivier 7.1, Wakkerstroom 11.1, Augrabies 28.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Lemon-breasted Canary Crithagra citrinipectus

(1) Mpempe Pan 12.1.

Yellow-fronted Canary Crithagra mozambica

Observed 7 days in total.

Cape Siskin Crithagra totta

(1) Cape Point NP 21.1.

Drakensberg SiskinCrithagra symonsi

(1) Sani Pass 16.1.

Yellow Canary Crithagra flaviventris

(6) Cape Agulhas 19.1, West Coast NP 22.1, Studer's Pass 25.1, Goegap NR 26.1, Augrabies 28.1 and

Mokala NP 29.1.

Brimstone Canary *Crithagra sulphurata*

(1) Harold Porter Botanical Garden 20.1.

Streaky-headed Seedeater Crithagra gularis

(2) Sani Pass 16.1 and Mudlark 18.1.

White-throated Canary
(4) De Hoop NR 19.1, Paleisheuwel 23.1, Brandvlei 24.1 and Calvinia 25.1.

Protea Canary

Crithagra albogularis

Crithagra leucoptera

(1) Paleisheuwel 23.1.

Cape Canary Serinus canicollis

(2) Wakkerstroom 10.1 and Sani Pass 16.1.

Black-headed Canary Serinus alario

(1) Studer's Pass 25.1.

Buntings, Sparrows and Allies *Emberizidae*

Lark-like Bunting Emberiza impetuani

(2) Brandvlei 24.1 and Pofadder 27.1.

Cape Bunting *Emberiza capensis*

Observed 7 days in total.

Golden-breasted Bunting *Emberiza flaviventris*

(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

Mammals (59 in total: 58 seen, 1 heard)

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

Aardvarks Orycteropodidae

Aardvark Orycteropus afer

(1) Marrick GL 28.1.

Hyraxes *Procaviidae*

Rock Hyrax Procavia capensis

Observed 7 days in total.

Galagos Galagidae

Thick-tailed Greater Galago Otolemur crassicaudatus crassicaudatus

(2) Umkhumbi Lodge 11.1 and Umkhumbi Lodge 12.1.

Old World monkeys Cercopithecidae

Blue Monkey Cercopithecus mitis

(1) Kurisa Moya 8.1.

Vervet Chlorocebus pygerythrus

Observed 8 days in total.

Chacma Baboon Papio ursinus ursinus

Observed 8 days in total.

Rabbits, Hares Leporidae

Cape Hare Lepus capensis

(1) Marrick GL 28.1.

Scrub Hare Lepus saxatilis

Observed 10 days in total.

Smith's Red Rock Hare Pronolagus rupestris

(1) Marrick GL 28.1.

Springhares Pedetidae

Spring Hare Pedetes capensis

(1) Marrick GL 28.1.

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

Sloggett's Vlei Rat Otomys sloggetti

(1) Sani 16.1.

Brants's Whistling RatParotomys brantsii

(1) Alexander Bay 26.1.

Four-striped Grass MouseRhabdomys pumilio

(1) Augrabies 28.1.

Squirrels Sciuridae

Smith's Bush Squirrel Paraxerus cepapi

(1) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1.

Red Bush SquirrelParaxerus palliatus

(2) iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 11.1 and St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 14.1.

Eastern Gray Squirrel Sciurus carolinensis

(1) Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 21.1.

South African Ground Squirrel *Xerus inauris*

(3) Namies 27.1, Augrabies to Kimberley 28.1 and Kimberley to Johannesburg 30.1.

Cats Felidae

Caracal Caracal

(1) Marrick GL 28.1.

Mongooses Herpestidae

Yellow Mongoose Cynictis penicillata

Observed 4 days in total.

Cape Grey Mongoose Herpestes pulverulentus

(2) Agulhas Plains 18.1 and Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 21.1.

Slender Mongoose Herpestes sanguineus

(3) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Tzaneen to Wakkerstroom 9.1 and Mkuze GR 12.1.

Banded Mongoose

Mungos mungo

(2) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1 and St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 14.1.

Meerkat Suricata suricatta

(2) Wakkerstroom 10.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Hyaenas, Aardwolf Hyaenidae

Aardwolf

Proteles cristata

(1) Springbok 26.1.

Wolves, Coyote, Foxes, Jackals Canidae

Side-striped Jackal

Canis adustus

(1) near Umkhumbi Lodge 12.1.

Black-backed Jackal

Canis mesomelas

(2) Polokwane GR 8.1 and Marrick GL 28.1.

Bat-eared Fox

Otocyon megalotis megalotis

(1) Marrick GL 28.1.

Weasels, Skunks, Otters Mustelidae

Zorilla

Ictonyx striatus

(1) Marrick GL 28.1.

Sea Lions Otariidae

Afro-Australian Fur Seal

Arctocephalus pusillus

(2) Rooi-Els 20.1 and Lambert's Bay 23.1.

Zebras, Horse, Asses Equidae

Plains Zebra

Equus quagga

Observed 9 days in total.

Mountain Zebra

Equus zebra

(2) De Hoop NR 19.1 and Goegap NR 26.1.

Rhinoceroses Rhinocerotidae

White Rhinoceros

Ceratotherium simum simum

(1) iSimangaliso WP - Western Shores 13.1.

Pigs Suidae

Common Warthog

Phacochoerus africanus sundevallii

(4) Polokwane GR 7.1, iSimangaliso WP - Western Shores 13.1, Hilton Bush Lodge 17.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Hippopotami Hippopotamidae

Hippopotamus

Hippopotamus amphibius capensis

(3) Mkuze GR 12.1, St. Lucia Estuary 13.1 and St. Lucia 14.1.

Cattle, Antelopes, Sheep, Goats Bovidae

Impala

Aepyceros melampus melampus

(5) Polokwane GR 7.1, Polokwane GR 8.1, iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 11.1, Mkuze GR 12.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Hartebeest

Alcelaphus buselaphus

(3) Polokwane GR 8.1, Mokala NP 29.1 and Kimberley to Johannesburg 30.1.

Springbok

Antidorcas marsupialis

Observed 7 days in total.

Natal Red Duiker

Cephalophus natalensis

(2) Umkhumbi Lodge 11.1 and Umkhumbi Lodge 13.1.

Black Wildebeest

Connochaetes gnou

(2) Wakkerstroom 11.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Common Wildebeest

Connochaetes taurinus

(6) Polokwane GR 7.1, Polokwane GR 8.1, Mkuze GR 12.1, iSimangaliso WP - Western Shores 13.1, Marrick GL 28.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Topi

Damaliscus lunatus lunatus

(2) Polokwane GR 8.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Blesbok

Damaliscus pygargus

Observed 7 days in total.

Roan Antelope

Hippotragus equinus

(2) Augrabies to Kimberley 28.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Sable Antelope

Hippotragus niger

(3) Polokwane GR 7.1, Mokala NP 29.1 and Marrick GL 30.1.

Waterbuck

Kobus ellipsiprymnus ellipsiprymnus

(3) Polokwane GR 8.1, iSimangaliso WP - Western Shores 13.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Klipspringer

Oreotragus oreotragus

(2) Studer's Pass 25.1 and Augrabies Falls NP 27.1.

Gemsbok

Oryx gazella

(3) Alexander Bay 26.1, Koa Dunes 27.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Oribi

Ourebia ourebi

(1) Roselands 15.1.

Grey Rhebok

Pelea capreolus

(1) Sani Pass 16.1.

Blue Duiker

Philantomba monticola

(2) Dlinza Forest NR 14.1 and Dlinza Forest NR 15.1.

Steenbok

Raphicerus campestris campestris

Observed 7 days in total.

Southern Reedbuck

Redunca arundinum

(5) iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 11.1, near Umkhumbi Lodge 12.1, iSimangaliso WP – Western Shores 13.1, Sani Pass 16.1 and Impendle NR 17.1.

Common Duiker

Sylvicapra grimmia

(6) Woodbush Forest Reserve 9.1, near Umkhumbi Lodge 12.1, Himeville 16.1, Himeville 17.1, Agulhas Plains 18.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

African Buffalo

Syncerus caffer caffer

(2) iSimangaliso WP - Western Shores 13.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Nvala

Tragelaphus angasii

(4) Polokwane GR 8.1, Mkuze GR 12.1, iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 13.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Common Eland

Tragelaphus oryx

(4) Polokwane GR 7.1, De Hoop NR 19.1, Cape Point NP 21.1 and West Coast NP 22.1.

Bushbuck

Tragelaphus scriptus

(1) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1.

Greater Kudu

Tragelaphus strepsiceros

(2) iSimangaliso WP - Western Shores 13.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Sac-winged or Sheath-tailed Bats Emballonuridae

Mauritian Tomb Bat

Taphozous mauritianus

(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

Old World Fruit Bats Pteropodidae

Wahlberg's Epauletted Fruit Bat

Epomophorus wahlbergi

(1) 1 heard St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 13.1.

Reptiles (20 in total: 20 seen)

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Wild, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient

Tortoises Testudinidae

Angulated Tortoise

Chersina angulata

(2) West Coast NP 22.1 and Lambert's Bay 23.1.

Leopard Tortoise

Stigmochelys pardalis

(3) Polokwane GR 7.1, N2 alongside Enseleni Nature Reserve 14.1 and Kimberley to Johannesburg 30.1.

Afro-American Sideneck Turtles Pelomedusidae

Helmeted Turtle

Pelomedusa subrufa nigra

(2) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1 and Mkuze GR 12.1.

East African Serrated Mud Turtle

Pelusios sinuatus

(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

Agamas Agamidae

Southern Tree Agama

Acanthocercus atricollis atricollis

(2) Mkuze GR 12.1 and Ongoye FR 14.1.

Southern Rock Agama

Agama atra atra

(5) Marutswa NR 17.1, Cape Point NP 21.1, Studer's Pass 25.1, Goegap NR 26.1 and Augrabies Falls NP 27.1.

Common Spiny Agama

Agama hispida

(2) Calvinia 24.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Geckos Gekkonidae

House Gecko Hemidactylus mabouia

(3) Observed Umkhumbi Lodge 11-13.1.

Cape Dwarf Gecko Lygodactylus capensis

(1) Dlinza Forest NR 14.1.

Spinytail Lizards Cordylidae

Highveld Crag Lizard

Cordylus melanotus

(2) Wakkerstroom 10.1 and Sani 16.1.

Black Girdled Lizard Cordylus niger

(1) Cape Point NP 21.1.

Karoo Girdled Lizard *Cordylus polyzonus*

(2) Studer's Pass 25.1 and Goegap NR 26.1.

Augrabies Flat LizardPlatysaurus broadleyi

(1) Augrabies Falls NP 27.1.

Lacertidae

Spotted Sand Lizard Pedioplanis lineoocellata

(2) Augrabies to Kimberley 28.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Namaqua Sand Lizard Pedioplanis namaquensis

(1) Mokala NP 29.1.

Skinks Scincidae

African Five-lined Skink Trachylepis quinquetaeniata

(3) Polokwane GR 8.1, Tzaneen to Wakkerstroom 9.1 and Ongoye FR 14.1.

African Striped Skink Trachylepis striata striata

(5) Kurisa Moya 8.1, Tzaneen to Wakkerstroom 9.1, Mkuze GR 12.1, St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 13.1 and Marutswa NR 17.1.

Colubrid snakes Colubridae

Spotted Bush Snake

Philothamnus semivariegatus

(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

Lamprophiidae Lamprophiidae

Mole Snake Pseudaspis cana

(1) West Coast NP 22.1.

Crocodiles and relatives *Crocodylidae*

Nile Crocodile

Crocodylus niloticus cowiei

(1) St. Lucia Estuary 13.1.

Amphibians (8 in total: 7 seen, 1 heard)

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True toads Bufonidae

Raucous Toad Amietophrynus rangeri

(2) Polokwane GR 8.1 and Tzaneen 9.1.

Sedge frogs or bush frogs Hyperoliidae

Painted Reed Frog Hyperolius marmoratus

(1) near Umkhumbi Lodge 12.1.

Tinker Reed FrogHyperolius tuberilinguis

(1) near Umkhumbi Lodge 12.1.

Narrow-mouthed frogs *Microhylidae*

Plaintive Rain Frog

Breviceps verrucosus

(1) 1 heard Wakkerstroom 10.1.

True frogs Ranidae

Drakensberg River Frog

Amietia dracomontana

(1) Sani 16.1.

Cape River Frog

Amietia fuscigula

(1) Harold Porter Botanical Garden 20.1.

Giant Bull Frog

Pyxicephalus adspersus

(1) Marrick GL 28.1.

Moss frogs Rhacophoridae

Grey Foam-nest Treefrog

(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

Chiromantis xerampelina

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