South Africa
Mega Birding Tour I
6th to 30th January 2018 (25 days)
Trip Report

Aardvark by Mike Bacon

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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 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, Lilac-breasted 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, 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 Yellow-crowned 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 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 Red-backed 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 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, Maccoca Duck, Black-winged Pratincole, Banded Martin, South African 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.

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, Black-crowned 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 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 Cuckoo-shrike, 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 Pink-throated 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 Nyala and Impala, on which Red-billed Oxpeckers were feeding. The water held 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 Vervet Monkeys rounded out the rest of the wildlife sightings for the day.
By the time we moved on to Mpmeppe 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, Black-winged 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 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 camo-coloured Hawk Moth. Not bad!

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, Brown-hooded 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 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, Woolly-necked 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 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 Wyneck, Ground Woodpecker, Bokmakierie, White-necked Raven, a Willow Warbler in a willow tree, Barratt’s Warbler, a wonderfully cooperative Fan-tailed Grassbird, Wailing and Levallant’s Cisticolas, Bar-throated 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 Seedeye, 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 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.

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 pika-like 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
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 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.

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.

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!

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.
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 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 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 sea-going 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 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 squiz 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

African Penguin by Wayne Jones

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 Swanphen 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 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 Greater and Lesser Flamingoes, Caspian, Greater Crested, Sandwich and Common Terns and a host of shorebirds: 20+ African Oystercatchers, Crowned and Blacksmith Lapwings, Grey, Common Ringed, Kittlitz’s, Three-banded, White-fronted 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!

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 Korhaan, Double-banded Courser, 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 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 Pirit 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 perched-on-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 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 40º 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 Thrush and Karoo Long-billed Lark, and Swallow-tailed Bee-eater.

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...
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 Red-crested Korhaan, European Bee-eater, Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill, Common Scimitarbill, Pygmy Falcon, Lesser Kestrel, Lesser Grey Shrike, Chestnut-vented Warbler and African Spoonbill, 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 White-backed 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 to Johannesburg, where those returning home headed to the airport while the rest of us stayed overnight, ready for our Kruger Extension the following day.

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

**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 Sanger - 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*

White-faced Whistling Duck  *Thalassornis leuconotus leuconotus*  
(1) St. Lucia Estuary 13.1.

Knob-billed Duck  *Sarkidiornis melanotos*  
(1) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1.

Egyptian Goose  *Alopochen aegyptiaca*  
Observed 17 days in total.

South African Shelduck  *Tadorna cana*  

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*  

Red-billed Teal  *Anas erythrorhyncha*  

Hottentot Teal  *Anas hottentota*  

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*


**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*


**Lesser Flamingo (NT)**  
*Phoeniconaias minor*


**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*

**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**
(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

**Marabou Stork**
*Leptoptilos crumenifer*
(1) Polokwane GR 8.1.

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### Ibises and Spoonbills *Threskiornithidae*

**African Sacred Ibis**
*Threskiornis 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.

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### 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**
(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*


Hamerkop  
*Scopidae*

Hamerkop  
*Scopus umbretta umbretta*

Observed 10 days in total.

Great White Pelican  
*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.

Cape Gannet (VU)  
*Morus capensis*

(1) Lambert's Bay 23.1.

Boobies and Gannets  
*Sulidae*

Cape Gannet  
*Morus capensis*

Reed Cormorant  
*Phalacrocoracidae*

Reed Cormorant  
*Microcarbo africanus africanus*


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*


African Darter  
*Anhinga rufa rufa*

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

Secretarybird  
*Sagittariidae*

Secretarybird  
*Sagittarius serpentarius*


Western Osprey  
*Pandion haliaetus haliaetus*

(1) Mtunzini 14.1.

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
(2) Dirkiesdorp 11.1 and Karkloof 17.1.

Palm-nut Vulture
(1) Mtunzini 14.1.

Bearded Vulture (NT)
(1) Sani 16.1.

African Cuckoo-Hawk
(1) iSimangaliso WP - Western Shores 13.1.

White-backed Vulture (NT)
(2) Wakkerstroom to Hluhluwe 11.1 and Kimberley to Johannesburg 30.1.

Cape Vulture (VU)
(1) Sani 16.1.

Black-chested Snake Eagle
(3) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Mkuze GR 12.1 and Alexander Bay to Port Nolloth 26.1.

Bateleur (NT)
(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

Bat Hawk
(1) Tzaneen 9.1.

Crowned Eagle (NT)
(1) Kurisa Moya 9.1.

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

Long-crested Eagle

Wahlberg's Eagle
(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

Booted Eagle

Tawny Eagle
(3) Umkhumbi Lodge 11.1, Mkuze GR 12.1 and Umkhumbi Lodge 13.1.

Verreaux's Eagle
(1) Paleisheuwel 23.1.

Lizard Buzzard
(1) Umkhumbi to False Bay Park 13.1.

Gabar Goshawk
(1) Mokala NP 29.1.

Pale Chanting Goshawk
Observed 7 days in total.

African Goshawk

Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk
(1) Impendle NR 17.1.

African Marsh Harrier
(1) Himeville 16.1.

Black Harrier (VU)
(2) Sani 16.1 and West Coast NP 22.1.

Yellow-billed Kite
Observed 12 days in total.
African Fish Eagle
(5) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Mkuze GR 12.1, St. Lucia 14.1, Stanger - Sappi 15.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

Common Buzzard
Observed 18 days in total.

Forest Buzzard
(1) Sani Pass 16.1.

Jackal Buzzard
Observed 11 days in total.

Bustards Otididae

Ludwig's Bustard (EN)
(2) near Niewoudtville 23.1 and Namies 27.1.

Denham's Bustard (NT)
(1) Agulhas Plains 18.1.

White-bellied Bustard
(1) Dirkiesdorp 11.1.

Blue Korhaan (NT)
(2) Wakkerstroom 10.1 and Kimberley to Johannesburg 30.1.

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

Red-crested Korhaan
(1) Mokala NP 29.1.

Southern Black Korhaan (VU)
(1) Darling Wildflower Route 22.1.

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

Flufftails Sarothuridae

Striped Flufftail
(1) 1 heard Sani Pass 16.1.

Rails, Gallinules, and Coots Rallidae

African Rail
(1) Wakkerstroom 11.1.

Black Crake
(2) Dolphin Beach Wetland 22.1 and Augrabies 27.1.

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

Common Moorhen
Observed 8 days in total.

Red-knobbed Coot
Observed 8 days in total.

Cranes Gruidae

Grey Crowned Crane (VU)
(2) Wakkerstroom 10.1 and Himeville 16.1.

Wattled Crane

View more tours to South Africa
(2) Himeville 16.1 and Impendle NR 17.1.

**Blue Crane (VU)** *Grus paradisea*

Observed 8 days in total.

**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*


**Oystercatchers Haematopodidae**

**African Oystercatcher (NT)** *Haematopus moquini*


**Stilts and Avocets Recurvirostridae**

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*


**Pied Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*


**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.

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola squatarola*


**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*


**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*

**Wood Sandpiper**
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*

**Pratincoles and Coursers Glareolidae**

**Temminck's Courser** *Cursorius temminckii ruvanensis*
(1) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1.

**Double-banded Courser** *Rhinoptilus 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*

**Kelp Gull**
*Larus dominicanus*
Observed 7 days in total.

**Caspian Tern**
*Hydroprogne caspia*

**Greater Crested Tern**
*Thalasseus bergii bergii*

**Sandwich Tern**
*Thalasseus sandvicensis*

**Damara Tern (NT)**
*Sternula balaenarum*

**Common Tern**
*Sterna hirundo hirundo*

**Whiskered Tern**
*Chlidonias hybrida*

**Namaqua Sandgrouse**
*Pterocles namaqua*

**Sandgrouse Pteroclidae**

**Namaqua Sandgrouse**
*Pterocles namaqua*

**Pigeons and Doves Columbidae**

**Rock Dove**
*Columba livia var. domestica*
Observed 8 days in total.

**Speckled Pigeon**
*Columba guinea phaeonota*
Observed 12 days in total.

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

**Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon**
*Columba 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*

**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 Dove**
*Turtur 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 Dove**
*Turtur tympanistria*
(1) iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 13.1.

**Namaqua Dove**
*Oena capensis capensis*
African Green Pigeon


Turacos Musophagidae

Livingstone's Turaco


Knyasa Turaco

1. Kurisa Moya 8.1 and Benvie Farm, Karkloof 17.1.

Purple-crested Turaco


Grey Go-away-bird

1. Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1 and Polokwane GR 8.1.


Burchell's Coucal


2. Polokwane GR 7.1.

Green Malkoha

1. iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 11.1.

Levaillant's Cuckoo

1. Polokwane GR 7.1.

Jacobin Cuckoo


African Emerald Cuckoo

1. Polokwane GR 12.1.

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

Black Cuckoo

1. Polokwane GR 7.1

Red-chested Cuckoo

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

Western Barn Owl

1. Near Umkhumbi Lodge 12.1.

Barn-Owls Tytonidae

Spotted Eagle-Owl


African Wood Owl


Pearl-spotted Owlet

1. Polokwane GR 8.1.

Owls Strigidae

Rufous-cheeked Nightjar

**Swifts Apodidae**

- **African Palm Swift**  
  *Cypsiurus parvus*  
  (4) Pienaarssrivier 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*  

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**Mousebirds Coliidae**

- **Speckled Mousebird**  
  *Colius striatus*  
  Observed 7 days in total.

- **White-backed Mousebird**  
  *Colius colius*  

- **Red-faced Mousebird**  
  *Urocolius indicus*  
  (2) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1 and Augrabies 28.1.

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**Trogons Trogonidae**

- **Narina Trogon**  
  *Apaloderma narina narina*  
  (1) St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 14.1.

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**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.

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**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*  
  (2) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1 and Mkuze GR 12.1.
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(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**

**Swallow-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops hirundineus hirundineus* (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, Mpmpe 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.

African Hoopoe

**Hoopoes Upupidae** *Upupa africana*

Observed 8 days in total.

Woodhoopoes and Scimitar-bills **Phoeniculidae**

**Green Wood Hoopoe** *Phoeniculus purpureus* (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 **Bucorvida**

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

Green Barbet  
(1) Ongoye FR 14.1.

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird  
(2) Hluhluwe Town 11.1 and St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 13.1.

Red-fronted Tinkerbird  
(1) Mkuzo GE 12.1.

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird  
(1) Tzaneen 9.1.

Acacia Pied Barbet  

Black-collared Barbet  
(3) Polokwane 7.1, Mkuzo GE 12.1 and Dlinza Forest NR 15.1.

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

Honeyguides Indicatoridae  
Indicator minor minor  
(2) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1 and Mtunzini 14.1.

Red-throated Wryneck  

Bennet's Woodpecker  
(1) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1.

Golden-tailed Woodpecker  
(2) Polokwane GR 8.1 and Polokwane GR 9.1.

Ground Woodpecker  
(1) Sani Pass 16.1.

Bearded Woodpecker  
(1) Polokwane GR 8.1.

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

Olive Woodpecker  
(2) I heard Kurisa Moya 8.1 and I heard Woodbush Forest Reserve 9.1.

Falcons and Caracaras Falconidae  
Polihierax semitorquatus semitorquatus  
(3) Pofadder 27.1, Augrabies to Kimberley 28.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

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

Rock Kestrel  
Observed 10 days in total.

Greater Kestrel  
(2) Polokwane 8.1 and Augrabies to Kimberley 28.1.

Amur Falcon  
(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
(3) Wakkerstroom 10.1, Agulhas Plains 19.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

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

Taita Falcon (NT)
(1) Abel Erasmus Pass 9.1.

African & New World Parrots Psittacidae

Cape Parrot
(1) Marutswa NR 17.1.

Old World Parrots Psittaculidae

Rosy-faced Lovebird
(1) Augrabies 28.1.

Wattle-eyes and Batises Platysteiridae

Cape Batis

Woodward's Batis
(1) St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 13.1.

Chinspot Batis
(2) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1 and Mkuze GR 12.1.

Pririt Batis
(1) Goegap NR 26.1.

Helmetshrikes and Allies Prionopidae

White-crested Helmetshrike
(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

Bushshrikes and Allies Malaconotidae

Black-fronted Bushshrike
(1) Woodbush Forest Reserve 9.1.

Olive Bushshrike
(1) Woodbush Forest Reserve 9.1.

Orange-breasted Bushshrike
(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

Gorgeous Bushshrike
(1) Umkhumbi Lodge 13.1.

Bokmakierie

Brown-crowned Tchagra
(2) Polokwane GR 8.1 and Mkuze GR 12.1.

Southern Tchagra
(1) Potberg, De Hoop 19.1.

Black-crowned Tchagra
(1) Polokwane GR 8.1.

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

**Southern Boubou** *Laniarius ferrugineus*

**Crimson-breasted Shrike** *Laniarius atrocoecineus*
(2) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1 and Polokwane GR 8.1.

**Brubru** *Nilaus afer*
(1) Polokwane GR 8.1.

**Cuckoo-shrikes** *Campephagidae*

**Grey Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina caesia caesia*
(1) I heard Dlinza Forest NR 15.1.

**Black Cuckoo-shrike** *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.

**Drongos** *Dicruridae*

**Square-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus ludwigii ludwigii*

**Fork-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus adsimilis*
Observed 10 days in total.

**Monarch Flycatchers** *Monarchidae*

**Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher** *Trochocercus cyanomelas*
(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

**African Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone viridis*

**Crows, Jays, and Magpies** *Corvidae*

**Cape Crow**
Observed 12 days in total.

**Pied Crow**
Observed 16 days in total.

**White-necked Raven**
*Corvus albicollis*

**Rockjumpers Chaetopidae**

**Cape Rockjumper**
(1) Rooi-Els 20.1.

**Drakensberg Rockjumper**
(1) Sani Pass 16.1.

**Fairy Flycatchers Stenostiridae**

**Fairy Flycatcher**
(2) Sani 16.1 and Paleisheuwel 23.1.

**Chickadees and Tits Paridae**

**Southern Black Tit**
(3) iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 11.1, Mkuze GR 12.1 and iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 13.1.

**Ashy Tit**
(1) Polokwane GR 8.1.

**Grey Tit**
(1) Sani 16.1.

**Cape Penduline Tit**
(1) Brandvlei 24.1.

**Penduline-Tits Remizidae**

**Eastern Nicator**
(1) Umkhumbi Lodge 11.1.

**Larks Alaudidae**

**Spike-heeled Lark**

**Short-clawed Lark**
(2) Polokwane GR 7.1 and Polokwane GR 8.1.

**Karoo Long-billed Lark**
(2) Brandvlei 24.1 and Augrabies to Kimberley 28.1.

**Eastern Long-billed Lark**
(1) Wakkerstroom 10.1.

**Cape Long-billed Lark**
(1) Port Nolloth 26.1.

**Agulhas Long-billed Lark**
(1) Cape Agulhas 19.1.

**Black-eared Sparrow-Lark**
(1) Brandvlei 24.1.

**Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark**
(2) Pofadder 27.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.

**Sabota Lark**
(1) Cape Agulhas 19.1.

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

**Fawn-colored Lark**
(1) Augrabies to Kimberley 28.1.

**Karoo Lark**

**Red Lark**
(2) Brandvlei 24.1 and Koa Dunes 27.1.

**Barlow's Lark**

**Rudd's Lark (VU)**
(1) Wakkerstroom 10.1.

**Eastern Clapper Lark**
(3) Augrabies to Kimberley 28.1, Mokala NP 29.1 and Kimberley to Johannesburg 30.1.

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

**Monotonous Lark**
(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

**Botha's Lark (EN)**
(1) Wakkerstroom 10.1.

**Large-billed Lark**

**Red-capped Lark**

**Bulbuls Pycnonotidae**

**African Red-eyed Bulbul**

**Cape Bulbul**

**Dark-capped Bulbul**
Observed 12 days in total.

**Sombre Greenbul**

**Yellow-bellied Greenbul**
(2) Mkuze GR 12.1 and iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 13.1.

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

**Yellow-streaked Greenbul**
(1) Woodbush Forest Reserve 9.1.

**Swallows Hirundinidae**

**Black Saw-wing**

**Brown-throated Martin**

**Sand Martin**

**Riparia paludicola paludicola**

**Riparia riparia riparia**

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

**Calendulauda africanoides**

**Calendulauda albescens**

**Calendulauda burra**

**Calendulauda barlowi**

**Heteromirafra ruddi**

**Mirafra fasciolata fasciolata**

**Mirafra africana**

**Mirafra passerina**

**Spizocorys fringillaris**

**Galerida magnirostris**

**Mirafra cinerea cinerea**

**Pycnonotus nigricans**

**Pycnonotus capensis**

**Andropadus importunus**

**Chlorocichla flaviventris**

**Phyllastrephus terrestris**

**Phyllastrephus flavostriatus flavostriatus**

**Psalidoprocne pristoptera holomelas**

**Riparia paludicola paludicola**

**Riparia riparia riparia**

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Rockjumper Birding Tours

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Banded Martin  
*Riparia cincta cincta*

Barn Swallow  
*Hirundo rustica rustica*

White-throated Swallow  
*Hirundo albigularis*

Pearl-breasted Swallow  
*Hirundo dimidiata*

Rock Martin  
*Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

Common House Martin  
*Delichon urbicum*

Greater Striped Swallow  
*Cecropis cucullata*

Lesser Striped Swallow  
*Cecropis abyssinica unitatis*

Red-breasted Swallow  
*Cecropis semirufa semirufa*

South African Cliff Swallow  
*Petrochelidon spilodera*

Crombecs, African warblers *Macrosphenidae*

Cape Grassbird  
*Sphenoeacus afer*

Long-billed Crombec  
*Sylvietta rufescens*

Victorin's Warbler  
*Cryptillas victorini*

Leaf-Warblers *Phylloscopidae*

Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler  
*Phylloscopus ruficapilla*

Willow Warbler  
*Phylloscopus trochilus*

Reed-Warblers and Allies *Acrocephalidae*

Lesser Swamp Warbler  
*Acrocephalus gracilirostris*

African Reed Warbler  
*Acrocephalus baeticatus*

African Yellow Warbler  
*Iduna natalensis natalensis*

Grassbirds and Allies *Locustellidae*
Little Rush Warbler  
(1) Wakkerstroom 11.1.  
Bradypterus baboecala

Barratt's Warbler  
(1) Sani Pass 16.1.  
Bradypterus barratti

Fan-tailed Grassbird  
(1) Sani Pass 16.1.  
Schoenicola brevirostris brevirostris

Cisticolas and Allies Cisticolidae

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

Rattling Cisticola  
(5) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1, Polokwane GR 8.1, Tzaneen to Wakkerstroom 9.1, Hluhluwe Town 11.1 and Mkuze GR 12.1.  
Cisticola chiniana

Grey-backed Cisticola  
Cisticola subrucicapilla

Wailing Cisticola  
(1) Sani Pass 16.1.  
Cisticola lais

Rufous-winged Cisticola  
(2) St. Lucia Estuary 13.1 and Stanger - Sappi 15.1.  
Cisticola galactotes galactotes

Levaillant's Cisticola  
Cisticola tinniens

Croaking Cisticola  
(1) iSimangaliso WP - Western Shores 13.1.  
Cisticola natalensis natalensis

Neddicky  
(2) Polokwane GR 8.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.  
Cisticola fulvicapilla

Zitting Cisticola  
(1) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1.  
Cisticola juncidis terrestris

Desert Cisticola  
(1) Marrick to Mokala NP 29.1.  
Cisticola aridulus

Cloud Cisticola  
(1) Dirkiesdorp 11.1.  
Cisticola textrix

Pale-crowned Cisticola  
(1) Wakkerstroom 10.1.  
Cisticola cinnamomeus egregius

Wing-snapping Cisticola  
(1) Wakkerstroom 10.1.  
Cisticola ayresii ayresii

Tawny-flanked Prinia  
(1) Polokwane GR 7.1.  
Prinia subflava

Black-chested Prinia  
(2) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1 and Augrabies 28.1.  
Prinia flavicans

Karoo Prinia  
Observed 8 days in total.  
Prinia maculosa

Drakensberg Prinia  
(2) Sani Pass 16.1 and Marutswa NR 17.1.  
Prinia hypoxantha

Namaqua Warbler  
(1) Brandvlei 24.1.  
Phragmacia substriata

Bar-throated Apalis  
Apalis thoracica

Rudd's 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 Camaroptera** *Camaroptera 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 Eremomela** *Eremomela usticollis usticollis*

(1) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1.

**Laughingthrushes** *Leiothrichidae*

**Arrow-marked Babbler** *Turdoides jardineii jardineii*

(1) 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-eye** *Zosterops pallidus*

(2) Alexander Bay 26.1 and Springbok 27.1.

**African Yellow White-eye** *Zosterops senegalensis*

(1) iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 11.1.

**Sugarbirds** *Promeropidae*

**Cape Sugarbird** *Promerops cafer*

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**  
*Notophlia corrusca corrusca*

(3) St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 13.1, Mtnunzi 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*


**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) Pienaarstrivier 7.1 and Polokwane GR 8.1.

**Kurrichane Thrush**  
*Turdus libonyana*

(1) Tzaneen 9.1.

**Olive Thrush**  
*Turdus olivaceus*


**Karoo Thrush**  
*Turdus smithi*

(2) Johannesburg 6.1 and Augrabies 28.1.

**Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae**

**Karoo Scrub Robin**  
*Cercotrichas coryphoeus*


**Bearded Scrub Robin**  
*Cercotrichas quadrivirgata quadrivirgata*

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Rockjumper Birding Tours

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(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*

**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*

**Sentinel Rock Thrush** *Monticola explorator*
(2) Wakkerstroom 10.1 and Sani 16.1.

**Short-toed Rock Thrush** *Monticola brevipes*
(1) Mokala NP 29.1.

**African Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus*
Observed 9 days in total.

**Buff-streaked Chat** *Campicoloides bifasciatus*

**Sickle-winged Chat** *Emarginata sinuata*
(2) Sani 16.1 and Calvinia 25.1.

**Karoo Chat** *Emarginata schlegelii*

**Tractrac Chat** *Emarginata tractrac*
(3) Brandvlei 24.1, Calvinia 25.1 and Alexander Bay 26.1.

**Mocking Cliff Chat**
(1) Mkuzo GR 12.1.

**Ant-eating Chat**

**Mountain Wheatear**

**Capped Wheatear**

**Familiar Chat**
Observed 7 days in total.

---

**Sunbirds and Spiderhunters Nectariniidae**

**Collared Sunbird**

**Orange-breasted Sunbird**

**Olive Sunbird**
(1) St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 13.1.

**Grey Sunbird**
(1) iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 11.1.

**Amethyst Sunbird**

**Scarlet-chested Sunbird**
(1) Hluhluwe Town 11.1.

**Malachite Sunbird**

**Southern Double-collared Sunbird**
Observed 8 days in total.

**Neergaard's Sunbird**
(1) iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 13.1.

**Greater Double-collared Sunbird**
(2) Sani Pass 16.1 and Marutswa NR 17.1.

**Marico Sunbird**
(2) Pienaarsrivier 7.1 and Polokwane GR 8.1.

**Purple-banded Sunbird**
(3) iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 11.1, Mkuzo GR 12.1 and Umkhumbi Lodge 13.1.

**White-bellied Sunbird**
(2) Pienaarsrivier 7.1 and Polokwane GR 8.1.

**Dusky Sunbird**

---

**Old World Sparrows Passeridae**

**White-browed Sparrow-Weaver**
(2) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1 and Polokwane GR 8.1.

**Sociable Weaver**

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House Sparrow
Observed 10 days in total.

Cape Sparrow
Observed 15 days in total.

Southern Grey-headed Sparrow
(4) Polokwane GR 7.1, Polokwane GR 8.1, Wakkerstroom 11.1 and Mkuze GR 12.1.

Yellow-throated Petronia
(1) iSimangaliso WP - False Bay Park 11.1.

Weavers and Allies *Ploceidae*

Red-billed Buffalo Weaver
(1) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1.

Scaly-feathered Weaver
(1) Marrick to Mokala NP 29.1.

Thick-billed Weaver
(2) Tzaneen 9.1 and St. Lucia Estuary 13.1.

Spectacled Weaver
(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

Cape Weaver
Observed 8 days in total.

Eastern Golden Weaver
(2) St. Lucia Estuary 13.1 and St. Lucia 14.1.

Holub's Golden Weaver
(2) Tzaneen 9.1 and St. Lucia 14.1.

Southern Brown-throated Weaver
(1) St. Lucia 14.1.

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

Southern Masked Weaver
Observed 7 days in total.

Village Weaver
Observed 8 days in total.

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

Red-headed Weaver
(1) Tzaneen to Wakkerstroom 9.1.

Red-billed Quelea
(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
(2) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1 and Wakkerstroom 10.1.

Southern Red Bishop
Observed 10 days in total.

Yellow Bishop
(2) Woodbush Forest Reserve 9.1 and Roselands 15.1.

Fan-tailed Widowbird
(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 Mpmpe 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*  

---

**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*  

**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 rubicata rubicata*  
(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*  

**Grey Waxbill**  
*Estrilda perreini incana*  
(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

**Common Waxbill**  
*Estrilda astrild*  

**Black-faced Waxbill**  
*Estrilda erythronotos erythronotos*  
(2) Zaagkuildrift Road 7.1 and Polokwane GR 8.1.

**Quailfinch**  
*Ortygospiza atricollis digressa*  
(1) Mpmpe 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.
### Indigobirds *Viduidae*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Village Indigobird</td>
<td><em>Vidua chalybeata amauropteryx</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Indigobird</td>
<td><em>Vidua purpurascens</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dusky Indigobird</td>
<td><em>Vidua funerea funerea</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pin-tailed Whydah</td>
<td><em>Vidua macroura</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaft-tailed Whydah</td>
<td><em>Vidua regia</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-tailed Paradise Whydah</td>
<td><em>Vidua paradisaea</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Wagtails and Pipits *Motacillidae*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Western Yellow Wagtail</td>
<td><em>Motacilla flava</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Wagtail</td>
<td><em>Motacilla capensis capensis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Pied Wagtail</td>
<td><em>Motacilla aguimp</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Longclaw</td>
<td><em>Macronyx capensis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-throated Longclaw</td>
<td><em>Macronyx croceus vulturnus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Pipit</td>
<td><em>Anthus cinnamomeus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Pipit</td>
<td><em>Anthus hoeschi</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-billed Pipit</td>
<td><em>Anthus similis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Rock Pipit</td>
<td><em>Anthus crenatus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-breasted Pipit (VU)</td>
<td><em>Anthus chloris</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Finches, Euphonias *Fringillidae*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Common Chaffinch</td>
<td><em>Fringilla coelebs</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Canary</td>
<td><em>Crithagra scotops</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-throated Canary</td>
<td><em>Crithagra atrogularis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lemon-breasted Canary</td>
<td><em>Crithagra citrinipectus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-fronted Canary</td>
<td><em>Crithagra mozambica</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Rockjumper Birding Tours**

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Cape Siskin  
(1) Cape Point NP 21.1.
Drakensberg Siskin  
(1) Sani Pass 16.1.
Yellow Canary  
Brimstone Canary  
Streaky-headed Seed eater  
(2) Sani Pass 16.1 and Mudlark 18.1.
White-throated Canary  
Protea Canary  
(1) Paleisheuwel 23.1.
Cape Canary  
Black-headed Canary  
(1) Studer's Pass 25.1.

**Bunting, Sparrows and Allies Emberizidae**

Lark-like Bunting  
(2) Brandvlei 24.1 and Pofadder 27.1.
Cape Bunting  
Observed 7 days in total.
Golden-breasted Bunting  
(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

Aardvark  
(1) Marrick GL 28.1.

**Aardvarks Orycteropodidae**  
*Orycteropus afer*

Rock Hyrax  
Observed 7 days in total.

**Hyraxes Procaviidae**  
*Procavia capensis*

**Galagos Galagidae**  
Thick-tailed Greater Galago  
(2) Umkhumbi Lodge 11.1 and Umkhumbi Lodge 12.1.

**Old World monkeys Cercopithecidae**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blue Monkey</td>
<td>Cercopithecus mitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vervet</td>
<td>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chacma Baboon</td>
<td>Papio ursinus ursinus</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rabbits, Hares Leporidae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Hare</td>
<td>Lepus capensis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scrub Hare</td>
<td>Lepus saxatilis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smith's Red Rock Hare</td>
<td>Pronolagus rupestris</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Springhares Pedetidae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Hare</td>
<td>Pedetes capensis</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>True Mice and Rats, Gerbils, Spiny Mice, Crested Rat Muridae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sloggett's Vlei Rat</td>
<td>Otomys sloggetti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brants's Whistling Rat</td>
<td>Parotomys brantsii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four-striped Grass Mouse</td>
<td>Rhabdomys pumilio</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Squirrels Sciuridae</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smith's Bush Squirrel</td>
<td>Paraxerus cepapi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Bush Squirrel</td>
<td>Paraxerus palliatus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Gray Squirrel</td>
<td>Sciurus carolinensis</td>
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<tr>
<td>South African Ground Squirrel</td>
<td>Xerus inauris</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cats Felidae</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caracal</td>
<td>Caracal caracal</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mongooses Herpestidae</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yellow Mongoose</td>
<td>Cynictis penicillata</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cape Grey Mongoose</td>
<td>Herpestes pulverulentus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slender Mongoose</td>
<td>Herpestes sanguineus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Rockjumper Birding Tours

View more tours to South Africa
**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*  
*Proteles cristata*  
(1) Springbok 26.1.

**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*  
*Ictonyx striatus*  
(1) Marrick GL 28.1.

**Afro-Australian Fur Seal**  
*Arctocephalus pusillus*  
(2) Rooi-Els 20.1 and Lambert's Bay 23.1.

**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*  
*Ceratotherium simum simum*  
(1) iSimangaliso WP - Western Shores 13.1.

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

**Cattle, Antelopes, Sheep, Goats** *Bovidae*  
*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  
(3) Polokwane GR 8.1, Mokala NP 29.1 and Kimberley to Johannesburg 30.1.  

Springbok  
Antidorcas marsupialis  

Natal Red Duiker  
(2) Umkhumbi Lodge 11.1 and Umkhumbi Lodge 13.1.  

Black Wildebeest  
Connochaetes gnou  

Common Wildebeest  
Connochaetes taurinus  

Topi  
Damaliscus lunatus lunatus  

Blesbok  
Damaliscus pygargus  

Roan Antelope  
Hippotragus equinus  

Sable Antelope  
Hippotragus niger  

Waterbuck  
Kobus ellipsiprymnus ellipsiprymnus  

Klipspringer  
Oreotragus oreotragus  

Gemsbok  
Oryx gazella  

Oribi  
Ourebia ourebi  

Grey Rhebok  
Pelea capreolus  

Blue Duiker  
Philantomba monticola  

Steenbok  
Raphicerus campestris campestris  

Southern Reedbuck  
Redunca arundinum  

Common Duiker  
Sylvicapra grimmia  

African Buffalo  
Syncerus caffer caffer  

Nyala  
Tragelaphus angasii  

Common Eland  
Tragelaphus oryx  

Bushbuck  
Tragelaphus scriptus  

(3) Polokwane GR 8.1, Mokala NP 29.1 and Kimberley to Johannesburg 30.1.  
(2) Umkhumbi Lodge 11.1 and Umkhumbi Lodge 13.1.  
(2) Wakkerstroom 11.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.  
(2) Polokwane GR 8.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.  
(2) Polokwane GR 8.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.  
(2) 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.  
(2) Polokwane GR 8.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.  
(2) Augrabies to Kimberley 28.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.  
(3) Polokwane GR 7.1, Mokala NP 29.1 and Marrick GL 30.1.  
(3) Polokwane GR 7.1, Mokala NP 29.1 and Marrick GL 30.1.  
(2) Studer's Pass 25.1 and Augrabies Falls NP 27.1.  
(3) Alexander Bay 26.1, Koa Dunes 27.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.  
(2) iSimangaliso WP - Western Shores 13.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.  
(4) Polokwane GR 8.1, Mkuze GR 12.1, iSimangaliso WP - Western Shores 13.1 and Mokala NP 29.1.  
(4) Polokwane GR 7.1, De Hoop NR 19.1, Cape Point NP 21.1 and West Coast NP 22.1.  
(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)

Status codes:  
E = Endemic,  
NE = Near-endemic,  
I = Introduced  
IUCN codes:  
CR = Critically endangered,  
EN = Endangered,  
VU = Vulnerable,  
EW = Extinct in the Wild,  
NT = Near Threatened,  
DD = Data Deficient

Tortoises  
Testudinidae  
Angulated Tortoise  
Chersina angulata  
(2) West Coast NP 22.1 and Lambert's Bay 23.1.

Leopard Tortoise  
Stigmochelys pardalis  

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  

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  
(1) Dlinza Forest NR 14.1.
(2) Wakkerstroom 10.1 and Sani 16.1.

**Black Girdled Lizard**  
*Cordylus niger*

(1) Cape Point NP 21.1.

**Karoo Girdled Lizard**  
*Cordylus polyzonus*


**Augrabies Flat Lizard**  
*Platysaurus broadleyi*

(1) Augrabies Falls NP 27.1.

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**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.

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**Skinks Scincidae**

**African Five-lined Skink**  
*Trachylepis quinquetaeniata*


**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.

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**Colubrid snakes Colubridae**

**Spotted Bush Snake**  
*Philothamnus semivariegatus*

(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.

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**Lamprophiidae**

**Mole Snake**  
*Pseudaspis cana*

(1) West Coast NP 22.1.

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**Crocodiles and relatives Crocodylidae**

**Nile Crocodile**  
*Crocodylus niloticus cowiei*

(1) St. Lucia Estuary 13.1.

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**Amphibians (8 in total: 7 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

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**True toads Bufonidae**

**Raucous Toad**  
*Amietophrynus rangeri*

(2) Polokwane GR 8.1 and Tzaneen 9.1.

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**Sedge frogs or bush frogs Hyperoliidae**

**Painted Reed Frog**  
*Hyperolius marmoratus*

(1) near Umkhumbi Lodge 12.1.

**Tinker Reed Frog**  
*Hyperolius tuberilinguis*
(1) near Umkhumbi Lodge 12.1.

**Narrow-mouthed frogs** *Microhylidae*

**Plaintive Rain Frog**
(1) I heard Wakkerstroom 10.1.

**True frogs** *Ranidae*

**Drakensberg River Frog**
(1) Sani 16.1.

**Cape River Frog**

**Giant Bull Frog**
(1) Marrick GL 28.1.

**Moss frogs** *Rhacophoridae*

**Grey Foam-nest Treefrog**
(1) Mkuze GR 12.1.