South Africa Trip Report
Eastern South Africa VI
30th November to 13th December 2013 (14 days)
& Western Cape Extension VI
13th to 18th December (6 days)

Greater Flamingoes by Markus Lilje

Trip Report by Tour Leader: Wayne Jones
We kicked off our fantastic tour of South Africa after a leisurely sit-down breakfast – likely to be our last for a while! We left our Kempton Park guesthouse wrapped up in our “winter woollies” to guard against the cold and rain, only to shed them all as we arrived an hour later at a hot and humid Zaagkuildrift Road. The recent rain meant that the muddy road was a little nerve-wracking at times, but more importantly the bush was alive with birds!! The almost overwhelming array started with Northern Black Korhaan, Common Buttonquail, Rufous-naped Lark, European Roller, Desert Cisticola, Helmeted Guineafowl and African Wattled Lapwing in the grasslands, Diederik Cuckoo, Woodland Kingfisher, Orange-breasted Bushshrike, Lesser Grey, Red-backed and Magpie Shrikes, Laughing and Namaqua Doves, Red-breasted Swallow, Black-chested Prinia, Burchell's Starling, Marico Sunbird, White-browed Swallow-Weaver, Scaly-feathered Weaver, Violet-eared Waxbill and Black-throated Canary in the Acacia woodland, and White-faced Whistling Duck, Red-billed Teal, Yellow-billed and Abdim's Storks, Great Egret, Lesser Spotted and African Fish Eagles, Kittlitz's Plover and African Jacana over the very flooded floodplain... to name a few. Whew!

The phenomenal birding resulted in lunchtime being pushed further and further off, but we had enough snacks in the vehicle to keep us going until we reached our overnight lodge that afternoon. The lodge was set on a private nature reserve, so after lunch we birded a bit more, during which time we were circled by two Jacobin Cuckoos and we also enjoyed views of African Hoopoe, Long-billed Crombec, Burnt-necked Eremomela and the punk-rocking Crested Barbet.

The next day we were up earlier – the best time for birding, but also necessary to cover the large distance to Kruger National Park. We picked up our last two major targets for the area within 20 minutes of setting out – the linen-white Southern Pied Babbler and a super-saturated Crimson-breasted Shrike. A roadside stop to check out a quintet of White-fronted Bee-eaters also yielded a marvellous view of a button-cute Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird that had responded to playback. After a couple of other less-eventful breaks and a small field whose airspace was occupied by almost a hundred Whiskered Terns, we finally arrived at Kruger NP with everyone brimming with excitement.
If game reserves were high school students, Kruger would be the class over-achiever. Our three days there were simply dazzling in terms of the quality, variety and volume of birds, mammals and “herps” that we saw. Not long after entering the park we had our first mega-sighting – a group of nine African Wild Dogs resting up not 50m from the road. Other mammals and birds we saw as we rather hurriedly made our way to Satara Camp before the gates closed included Chacma Baboon, Tree Squirrel, African Elephant (lots!), White Rhinoceros, Giraffe, a massive 300-strong herd of African Buffalo, Red-billed Oxpecker, Arrow-marked Babbler, Lilac-breasted Roller, Natal and Swainson’s Spurfowls, Ring-necked Dove, Grey Go-away-bird, White-backed Vulture and Martial and Brown Snake Eagles. Just before checking in we found the resident pair of tiny African Scops Owls and a few Peter's Epauletted Fruit Bats near the reception area, a great way to cap the day... for most of us, at least... as a few guests opted to go on an extra night-drive, seeing, among other things, a Lion and an African Wild Cat!

The next morning while heading to N'wanetsi picnic site for a packed breakfast we found two magnificent Cheetah walking in the road. We managed to drive up fairly close to them and watched in awe as these supermodels of the cat world sauntered into the tall grass. Further down the road we were lucky to see a normally subterranean Schlegel's Blind Snake slithering along above ground. While trying to eat breakfast (very difficult when there's something to divert one's attention) we saw Mocking Cliff Chat, Malachite Kingfisher, Nile Crocodile and Giant Plated Lizard. We also scoped two very distant Southern Ground Hornbills only to find another pair right next to the road a little while later. Heading north to our beautiful lunch stop at Olifants Camp we picked up our first Common Ostrich, Knob-billed Duck at a small pond, White-headed and Lappet-faced Vultures, Secretarybird (almost missed were it not for a sharp-eyed guest!), Montagu's Harrier, Kori and Black-bellied Bustards, Three-banded Plover, Black Crake, Collared Pratincole, Burchell's Coucal, Chinspot Batis, Black-crowned Tchagra, Wattled Starling, Red-headed Weaver and Kurrichane Thrush in camp, White-browed Scrub Robin, Red-billed Buffalo Weaver and five Yellow-billed Oxpeckers.

We did particularly well with some families, seeing all three possible (and hyphenated!) buntings in one day – Cinnamon-breasted, Golden-breasted and Lark-like, the latter irruptive and quite scarce in Kruger. Then our return pass over the Olifants River en route back to Satara delivered a group of no less than EIGHT Black Storks all perched in the same tree – our fifth stork for the day, in addition to Yellow-billed, Saddle-billed, Marabou and African Openbill!

We witnessed our only “kill” shortly after departing Olifants Camp: we found a young female Boa constrictor with her mouth clinging to the belly of a Flap-necked Chameleon. We unfortunately
scared the snake off – hopefully only momentarily – and moved the mortally wounded lizard to the road verge so that the Boomslang would not be endangered by passing cars while ingesting its meal.

After a quick supper, all of us excitedly bundled on to the Parks Board's game-viewing truck for our night-drive, anticipation running high after hearing of the previous night's successes. I think I can safely say that all our expectations were absolutely transcended. We enjoyed superb views of Side-striped and Black-backed Jackals, Spotted Hyena, Steenbok, Common Duiker, White Rhino, African Wild Cat, Small-spotted Genet, the scarce African Civet, Scrub Hare, Porcupine and Western Barn Owl. The cherry on top of our tower of cherries that night was watching a female Leopard stalk an unnerved Impala right alongside our vehicle. We never saw the conclusion of this interaction since the two of them disappeared into the darkness, but it seemed like the antelope was in the clear.

Early the next morning, while packing for our departure from Satara, we noticed a Honey Badger (Ratel) loping from hut to hut in the camp. We quickly gathered around, keeping our distance at first, but moving closer (but not too close – these guys have a fierce reputation) when we realised it wasn't particularly shy. We followed the badger as it efficiently checked each hut's verandah for any morsels the occupants might have left lying around from the night before. What an exceptional way to start our day!

Wide awake now, we pointed the minibus in a southerly direction and made our way down to the Park's capital, Skukuza, stopping at an enormous Baobab tree and “Tshokwane” for breakfast. Birds seen included all five hornbills possible on this trip (Crowned, Southern Red-billed, Southern Yellow-billed, African Grey and Trumpeter) as well as another five Southern Ground Hornbill! Greater Blue-eared Starling, African Mourning Dove, White-crowned Lapwing, Brown-headed Parrot, African Green Pigeon, Purple-crested Turaco, Hamerkop, Lesser Honeyguide, Black-headed Oriole, Wire-tailed Swallow, White-throated Robin-chat, African Firefinch and Long-tailed Paradise Whydah were also added to our list along the way.

That afternoon we paid a visit to the bird hide at Lake Panic. The rain overnight and earlier in the day had caused a mass termite alate (“flying ant”) emergence. We encountered numerous little creatures in the road feeding on these flying morsels including a dozen cute Dwarf Mongooses,
Trip Report – RBT SA VI December 2013

Tropical Girdled Lizard and Cape Centipede-eater – another typically fossorial snake that we were lucky to see out in the open.

Animal life at the hide included Little Bittern, African Jacana, Goliath Heron, Nile Crocodile and Water Thick-knee. But it was a large female Boomslang working her way through one Lesser Masked Weaver nest to the next, hoovering up chicks and/or eggs, which really captivated us. The weavers were remarkably calm; there was little they could do and perhaps they'd already resigned themselves to the state of affairs.

Before setting out from Skukuza the following morning we birded around camp, obtaining views of White-browed Robin-Chat, Ashy Flycatcher, Garden Warbler, Green-backed Camaroptera and Sombre Greenbul. We headed out the park along the Sabie River and found Retz's Helmetshrike and Green Sandpiper (picked up by one of the guests). We caught wind of a Lion kill near the exit gate and, thanks to some excellent advice from fellow park users, we located the Common Zebra carcass in the middle of a side-road. Not long after, the lioness was found resting in deep cover some way off the road. Finally everybody had gotten to see the fifth member of the Big Five – at the eleventh hour!

We left the Lowveld behind, gaining in altitude as we made our way across the Highveld to Wakkerstroom. It was an idyllic day in Africa; the afternoon sun was breaking through the billowing blue-grey sky, bathing green hills and fertile fields in a golden glow. Newly replenished wetlands along the way held Greater Flamingo, African Spoonbill, White-backed Duck, Yellow-billed Duck, Red-knobbed Coot, Glossy Ibis, Little Egret, African Marsh Harrier and Common Moorhen. That night, despite the long drive, everybody quickly assembled to come and view a pair of Spotted Eagle-Owls that I'd discovered near my lodging after supper. When we relocated them there was a third individual, and they were all perched along a fence! We crept up pretty close and had just the most wonderful sighting before allowing them – and ourselves – some rest.

Our local guide met us at a respectable hour the next morning and accompanied us to all the best spots around town. The weather was not quite playing along, but in between patches of mist and rain we found Yellow-breasted and Long-billed Pipits, Cape Longclaw, Fan-tailed, Red-collared and Long-tailed Widowbirds, Yellow-crowned, Southern Red and Yellow Bishops, Sentinel Rock Thrush, Malachite Sunbird, Buff-streaked Chat, Wailing and Pale-crowned Cisticolas, Pied Starling, Pink-billed, Eastern Clapper, Botha's, Rudd's, Red-capped, Spike-heeled...
and Eastern Long-billed Larks, South African Cliff Swallow, Banded Martin, Cape Batis, Ground Woodpecker, a surprise Fiery-necked Nightjar, Spotted Thick-knee, Blue and Grey Crowned Cranes, African Snipe, Blue Korhaan, Lanner Falcon and a pair of exquisitely marked Red-winged Francolin. Our mammal list was bolstered by Common Reedbuck, Meerkat, Yellow Mongoose and a Cape Hare that was too quick for the Secretarybird which startled it!

After supper we did a little night drive around town, coming up empty-handed until the last stretch. We caught sight of something crossing the road up ahead and tried to approach as quickly, but carefully as possible. The creature had moved into long grass, but as it turned around to look at us we could see its large round ears, curious eyes and spotted face – it was a Serval! We watched this beauty, the epitome of feline elegance, for a few moments before it slunk off and out of sight. This was our fifth out of six possible cat species on this tour. Only Caracal remained (and continued to elude us for the rest of the tour).

On Day 7 we paid a pre-breakfast visit to the wetlands bordering town and were handsomely rewarded with African Rail, Purple Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, African Reed Warbler, Fulvous Whistling Duck, South African Shelduck, Maccoa Duck and THREE Little Bitterns, which all perched up in the open, a nice change for these usually skulking reedbed-dwellers. Later on, and with our tummies full, we were on the road again, heading south to Hluhluwe, where we'd spend the next two nights. Rain in the afternoon put paid to our visit to Muzi Pan so we birded the general area instead, finding Red-billed Quelea, Rudd's Apalis, Black-bellied and Violet-backed Starlings, and Yellow-fronted Canary.

We bundled into the vehicle early the next morning for the hour-long trip to Mkhuze Game Reserve. This reserve has a checklist second only to the much, much larger Kruger National Park and it's widely regarded as the best birding spot in South Africa.

We had sensational views of a pair of African Broadbill doing their noisy, circular hops right in front of us. A nearby Four-coloured Bushshrike was not quite so obliging, but it did give us partial views. Lemon-breasted Canary, Common Scimitarbill, Bearded Scrub Robin, Black Cuckoo-shrike, Red-fronted Tinkerbird, Grey Tit-Flycatcher, Scarlet-chested, Purple-banded and White-bellied Sunbirds, Yellow-throated Petronia, Eurasian Golden Oriole, Grey-headed Bushshrike, Brubru, Cardinal Woodpecker, Retz's Helmetshrike, Striped Kingfisher, African Hoopoe, African Cuckoo, Lesser Kestrel, Black-bellied Bustard, Lizard Buzzard, Green-winged
Pytilia, Western Osprey, Bateleur, African Openbill, Pink-backed Pelican and Crested Guineafowl all variously showed throughout the day. The mammalian highlight was a toss-up between the stunning, shaggy-haired Nyala and any of the FOURTEEN White Rhinos we encountered. Other big game included Greater Kudu, Giraffe, Common Waterbuck, Blue Wildebeest, Impala, Red Duiker, Common Warthog and plenty of Hippopotamus, the latter in Nsumo Pan.

On our way out of this jewel of a reserve, in the fading light, we stopped to examine a large raptor perched a little way off. It was a magnificent – and massive – Crowned Eagle, sitting facing towards us so we could see her thickly barred belly and huge claws.

Back at the lodge, those who could still keep their eyes open came on a night-drive in the surrounding farmland. On our way out a fellow guest summoned us to his chalet, in which an African Wood Owl had become trapped. That was definitely the most exciting part of the evening as our drive only turned up Spotted Eagle-Owl, Common Duiker and Greater Galago.

Heading to False Bay Park the next morning a pair of Temminck's Coursers across the road from our lodge was a very pleasant surprise – these delicate birds are not common in this part of the country. A quick stop at the park yielded Yellow White-eye, White-fronted Plover, Caspian Tern, Tambourine Dove and Grey-headed Gull.

After breakfast – and an amazing display of our lodge owner's snake-handling skills with Forest Cobra and a Puffadder – we popped in at Muzi Pan. The flooded wetland held a wide diversity of species including Knob-billed Duck, Spur-winged Goose, Southern Brown-throated Weaver, Greater Flamingo, Great White and Pink-backed Pelicans, African Fish Eagle, African Swamphen, a range of shorebirds and a cohort of herons: Squacco, Grey, Black-headed, Goliath, Purple and Black, which we witnessed doing its umbrella feeding display. On our way down to St Lucia we were successful in finding – at the very last minute – a lovely male Lemon-breasted Canary. Most of us had only brief views at Mkhuze, but this guy showed beautifully. More exquisite treats awaited us closer to St Lucia... a waterlily-covered pond held eight White-backed Ducks and nine gorgeous African Pygmy Geese. These are two of my favourite anatids and I was thrilled that we got such phenomenal
views of them. We also spied Black Crake, African Jacana and the scarce Lesser Jacana on the lily pads.

The next morning we followed a disappointingly quiet walk along the town’s forest trail with a visit to Cape Vidal Game Reserve. The reserve’s rolling grasslands, marshy areas and enormous vegetated dunes held Woolly-necked Stork, European Honey Buzzard, Black Sparrowhawk, Collared Pratincole, a pair of stunning Narina Trogons, Broad-billed Roller, Crowned Hornbill, Lesser Honeyguide and Rufous-winged Cisticola. The reserve has prolific game and we saw, among others, White Rhino, Common Reedbuck, Red Duiker, Samango Monkey, African Buffalo and Tsessebe. That night, despite our weariness, some of us embarked on a night drive through the town and surrounds. We were richly rewarded with African Wood Owl, a glimpse of a Blotched Genet, wonderful Greater Galago sightings (9 animals in total!), Wahlberg’s Epauletted Fruit Bat, and wet roads abounding with cute and colourful frogs.

We gave the iGwalagwala Forest Trail one more bash before departing St Lucia. Our luck had turned, with the stunning Livingstone’s Turaco, Brown Scrub Robin and a family of Narina Trogon the definite highlights. Rain put paid to productive birding further south at Dhlinza Forest, though we did see Red-backed Mannikin and Trumpeter Hornbill, and Palm-nut Vulture at Mtunzini. While driving through the rain we listened soberly to the live radio broadcast of Nelson Mandela’s memorial service which was taking place in a huge stadium in Johannesburg. We’d learned of this irreplaceable man’s passing a few days earlier, on the morning of our Mkhuze visit.

The following day began by visiting the Karkloof area. Our main target was Wattled Crane, of which we saw two at the furthest point of the drive. A stop-in at the immaculately maintained Benvie Gardens yielded Knysna Turaco and Scaly-throated Honeyguide, with Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler and African Olive Pigeon on the way in. Later in the day we made a special visit to the Nelson Mandela Capture Site, where the young fugitive was apprehended in 1962 before being imprisoned for 27 years. We paid our respects, along with many others, at the beautiful Mandela sculpture and continued on to Himeville. En route we had a curious experience with an exceptionally abiding Red-chested Cuckoo that sat out on a telephone wire and allowed us to approach within five metres on a number of occasions.
The penultimate day of our Eastern SA tour began with our local guides bundling us into their two 4x4s for the trip up Sani Pass. This famous pass connects South Africa to the mountain kingdom of Lesotho and can only be negotiated in a 4x4. Birds on the way up included Cape Rock Thrush, Ground Woodpecker, Cape Grassbird, Drakensberg Prinia, Greater Double-collared and Malachite Sunbirds, Red-throated Wryneck, Bush Blackcap, Southern Bald Ibis, Gurney’s Sugarbird, Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk and Barratt’s Warbler. The stark Lesotho landscape at the 2,876m asl summit contrasted sharply with the lush green countryside on the lower slopes. One of the first species we encountered at this higher elevation was the Drakensberg Rockjumper. With our company namesake and endemic family member safely in the bag we could focus on the rest of the wildlife, namely Drakensberg Siskin, Sickle-winged Chat, Drakensberg Crag Lizard, Sloggett’s Ice Rat, Cape and Bearded Vultures, Sentinel Rock Thrush and Mountain Pipit.

On our last morning in the east we made an early stop at Marutswa Forest on our way to Durban airport. We improved on our Knysna Turaco and Forest Canary sightings and glimpsed an Orange Ground Thrush, but the main focus here was the endangered Cape Parrot. We heard calls while inside the forest, but frustratingly could not see through the tree canopy. We had almost given up and were almost back at the vehicle when we heard the now-familiar shrieks. We located seven birds, five of which landed in a tree on the forest edge allowing us to scope them before rushing off to catch our flight.

We touched down in sunny Cape Town and headed to the world-famous Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens where, after a scrumptious lunch, we explored this lovely venue. Cape Spurfowl, Cape Batis, Sombre Greenbul, Spotted Eagle-Owl, Cape Sugarbird and Lemon Dove were among the birds seen. Thanks to the fine weather we were able to chug out on our pelagic the next day. As we motored out 32 kilometres from land we saw Cape Fur Seal, African Penguin, Black-browed, Shy and Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross, Northern Giant Petrel, 2 late Cape Petrels, Cory’s and Great Shearwaters, European Strom Petrel, Cape Gannet, Parasitic Jaeger and the lovely, boldly-marked Sabine’s Gull. We didn’t manage to find a trawler but a long-liner was certainly fair compensation, with a few thousand birds wheeling about its stern. Despite the long day at sea everyone opted for a visit to the nearby Cape Point Nature Reserve. With the wind gusting the birding was not very rewarding, but we did see Red Hartebeest, Bontebok and Chacma Baboon. We enjoyed splendid views after huffing and puffing to the top of Knysna Turaco and Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross.
the hill upon which the Old Lighthouse sits and even managed a stop at Africa’s south-westernmost point, the Cape of Good Hope.

Gordon’s Bay, on the far side of False Bay, was our first stop the next day – or it would have been if the road we were about to visit had not been closed for a film shoot! We had high hopes that the miserable weather which was threatening to unleash a downpour would deter the production company, but they stuck to their guns and we moved on. Rooi Els was next. Despite the rain we found Cape Siskin, a family of Verreaux’s Eagles and, thanks to some incredible spotting by a guest, Cape Rockjumper. The weather worsened as we approached Betty’s Bay, however the African Penguins at Stony Point penguin colony didn’t seem to mind the rain and a Small Grey Mongoose showed nicely. Much of Harold Porter Botanical Gardens had recently been washed away in a flood, but we did add Peregrine Falcon to our list while having lunch at the outdoor restaurant. With most of our targets achieved we had time to enter Strandfontein Sewage Works, a massive man-made wetland and bird paradise. Aside from Cape Teal and really close Maccoa Ducks, the highlight was a pink pageant put on by thousands of Greater Flamingos constantly fluttering from one pond to another. We estimated at least 3,000 birds in total!

The next day, on our way to West Coast National Park (WCNP), we engaged in some touristy activities… Cape Town is, after all, regarded as one of the most beautiful cities in the world. While taking in the splendour of Chapman’s Peak Drive we caught sight of 20 or more baleen whales, two of which were Humpbacked Whales while the rest were probably Bryde’s. Next we drove past Camp’s Bay’s multi-million dollar houses and then past Bo-Kaap’s multi-coloured historical houses. At Blaauwbergstrand we observed a pair of courting Great Crested Grebes before a quick stop for the quintessential photo of Table Mountain across the bay.

The mudflats at WCNP provided us with our first Lesser Flamingo and an array of shorebirds including Bar-tailed Godwit and African Oystercatcher. The short, clumpy vegetation covering the landscape around the lagoon is known as strandveld (“beach bush”) and it was here that we found Yellow Canary, Black Harrier, Southern Black Korhaan, Cape Penduline Tit, Bokmakierie and the ubiquitous Karoo Scrub Robin. Leaving the coast behind, we traversed a few more scenic mountain passes – and avoided squashing a rare Parrot-beaked Tortoise – before reaching Ceres, our final stay-over.
Ceres is situated conveniently close to the Tanqua Karoo, which is where we spent the second-last day of our South African adventure. The dry semi-desert terrain held a number of endemics or near-endemics – we saw 9 Pale Chanting Goshawk, White-backed Mousebird, Acacia Pied Barbet, a very dapper Pirit Batis, Karoo and Large-billed Larks, Fairy Flycatcher, Namaqua, Rufous-eared and difficult Cinnamon-breasted Warblers, Black-headed and White-throated Canaries, and a whole range of differently plumaged Dusky Sunbirds. At one point we had our binoculars in the right place at the just right time; a distant, fleeing Cape Grysbgok flushed a pair of Namaqua Sandgrouse that would have been impossible to spot with the naked eye. South Africa’s national animal, the Springbok, was also seen well in reasonable numbers. We took a few mountain passes back to Ceres – beautiful scenery is unavoidable in the Cape – pausing only to try and coax a very reluctant Victorin’s Warbler out of some impenetrable fynbos. We were frustratingly unsuccessful.

All too soon it was time for everybody to head home; but, before leaving African soil, we had to give that warbler another bash, along with another endemic, Protea Seedeater. We finally saw this colourful Victorin’s Warbler, but we only heard the seedeater – and saw Streaky-headed Seedeater – before having to call it a day and make our way to Cape Town International Airport. We said our goodbyes after a thrilling three weeks together, filled with so many marvellous creatures, animal interactions, scenery, humour, shopping, crafts – and koeksisters! Thank you everyone!!

**BIRD LIST (500 species, of which 5 were heard only)**

*Note: Names and taxonomical order of the bird species list follows that of IOC (International Ornithological congress), Gill, F. and M. Wright. 2013; Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press (version 3.5) with Clements names and taxonomy following version 6.8. Names in square brackets represent names given by IOC and omitted by Clements whereas names in round brackets represent names given by Clements and omitted by IOC. Names without square or round brackets represent the name given by both IOC and Clements. A notes section can be found where notably distinctive subspecies or races are concerned and where the taxonomy of a species differs between Clements and IOC.*

**KEY:** E = South African endemic; RE = regional endemic; RNE = regional near-endemic
NR = National Reserve; NP = National Park; BG = Botanical Gardens; GR = Game Reserve, SW = Sewage Works

**Ostriches Struthionidae**

*Struthio camelus*

This source of healthy, lean red meat was first seen in Kruger NP with more sightings in Cape Point NR and West Coast NP.

*Note: Clements lumps this species with Somali Ostrich S. molybdophanes as Ostrich S. camelus.*

**Guineafowl Numididae**

*Numida meleagris*

Another apparently popular source of meat – more so in the US than in South Africa, though – we saw wild birds almost every day of the tour.
Crested Guineafowl

Far more range-restricted than the previous species, this bird was nonetheless common in forest habitat around St Lucia, Hluhluwe and Mkhuze GR.

Pheasants, Fowl & Allies  Phasianidae

Note: Clements places all the below species in the Francolinus genus

Grey-winged Francolin (E)  Scleroptila afra
We had two fortuitous sightings of groups of birds along the roadside near Carolina and Ceres.

Red-winged Francolin  Scleroptila levailantii
We saw two of these exquisitely marked francolins close to a road near Wakkerstroom.

Crested Francolin  Dendroperdix sephaena
This small gamebird was common in Kruger NP.

Cape Spurfowl (Francolin) (RE)  Pternistis capensis
We had multiple sightings of birds across the Western Cape.

Natal Spurfowl (Francolin) (NE)  Pternistis natalensis
This large spurfowl was seen often in Kruger NP.

Swainson’s Spurfowl (Francolin) (NE)  Pternistis swainsonii
Another spurfowl that was seen often in Kruger NP after initial views along the Zaagkuildrift Road.

Common Quail  Coturnix coturnix
One bird was flushed near Wakkerstroom.

Ducks & Geese  Anatidae

White-faced Whistling Duck  Dendrocygna viduata
We had these ducks at various wetlands around the country.

Fulvous Whistling Duck  Dendrocygna bicolor
A single bird showed very well in Wakkerstroom.

White-backed Duck  Thalassornis leuconotus
We saw a total of 14 birds at Wakkerstroom and St Lucia.

Spur-winged Goose  Plectropterus gambensis
This large goose was seen often in croplands and wetlands in the eastern half of the country.

Knob-billed Duck  Sarkidiornis melanotos
We saw birds at Kruger NP and near Muzi Pan.

Egyptian Goose  Alopochen aegyptiacus
Recorded on all but the last day of tour.

South African Shelduck (RE)  Tadorna cana
We had a pair of these attractive ducks at Wakkerstroom.

African Pygmy Goose  Nettapus auritus
We had a marvellous sighting of 9 of these exquisite little geese just outside St Lucia.

Cape Teal  Anas capensis
This pale duck was common at Strandfontein SW.

African Black Duck  Anas sparsa
We found one duck on ponds near Underberg.

Mallard  Anas platyrhynchos
A male flew past us near Rietvlei in Cape Town.

Yellow-billed Duck  Anas undulata
Seen often throughout the tour.

Cape Shoveler (RNE)  Anas smithii
We found this regional endemic on wetlands around Cape Town.

Red-billed Teal (Duck)  Anas erythrorhyncha
A widespread species that we encountered all over the country.

**Southern Pochard**  *Netta erythrophthalma*
We had great views of birds near Carolina, Wakkerstroom and at Strandfontein SW.

**Maccoa Duck**  *Oxyura maccoa*
Following scope views at Wakkerstroom we saw four birds nice and close at Strandfontein SW.

**Penguins  Spheniscidae**

**African (Jackass) Penguin (RE)**  *Spheniscus demersus*
Stony Point near Betty’s Bay held a large number of these small penguins, and more were seen on the pelagic.

**Albatrosses  Diomedeidae**

**Black-browed Albatross**  *Thalassarche melanophris*
We found three of these lovely birds on the pelagic.

**Shy (White-capped) Albatross**  *Thalassarche cauta*
We stopped counting this common albatross on the pelagic trip!

**[Atlantic] Yellow-nosed Albatross**  *Thalassarche chlororhynchos*
We had seven of these stunning mollymawks on our pelagic.

*NOTE: Clements lumps this species with the Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross T. carteri as Yellow-nosed Albatross, T. chlororhynchos.*

**Petrels & Shearwaters  Procellariidae**

**Northern Giant Petrel**  *Macronectes halli*
At least one happily identified on the pelagic as well as a second, distant giant petrel that was too far to tell.

**Cape Petrel**  *Daption capense*
December’s not the best time of year for this so we were quite lucky to find two of these black and white beauties on the pelagic.

**White-chinned Petrel**  *Procellaria aequinoctialis*
Commonly seen on the pelagic.

**Cory’s Shearwater**  *Calonectris borealis*
This species proved common out at sea on the pelagic.

**>>Scopoli’s Shearwater**  *Calonectris xxxx*
We had brief views of a bird which showed many of the characteristics of this new split off of the previous species, but the ID was not certain.

**Sooty Shearwater**  *Puffinus griseus*
Another common species out on the open sea.

**Great(er) Shearwater**  *Puffinus gravis*
We found a dozen birds out on the pelagic trip.

**Storm Petrels  Hydrobatidae**

**Wilson’s Storm Petrel**  *Oceanites oceanicus*
Three of these tiny ocean wanderers turned up on the pelagic.

**European Storm Petrel**  *Hydrobates pelagicus*
We saw two of these northern migrants on the pelagic.

**Grebes  Podicipedidae**

**Little Grebe**  *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
This waterbird was seen at various wetlands across the country.
Great Crested Grebe  
*Podiceps cristatus*

We had marvellous views of two displaying birds at Rietvlei in Cape Town – much more rewarding than the distant, three second views we kept getting of an actively diving bird the previous day at Strandfontein SW.

Black-necked (Eared) Grebe  
*Podiceps nigricollis*

Eight birds in full breeding dress were seen at Strandfontein SW.

Flamingoes  
*Phoenicopteridae*

Greater Flamingo  
*Phoenicopterus roseus*

Sightings at Wakkerstroom, Muzi Pan and West Coast NP did not compare to the magical spectacle of 3,000 birds whirling past and settling on the ponds in the late afternoon at Strandfontein.

Lesser Flamingo  
*Phoenicopterus minor*

We caught up with this species at West Coast NP, where we saw 25.

Storks  
*Ciconiidae*

Yellow-billed Stork  
*Mycteria ibis*

We had various sightings in the north-east of the country including a juvenile at Wakkerstroom.

African Openbill  
*Anastomus lamelligerus*

Seen at Kruger NP and Mkhuze GR.

Black Stork  
*Ciconia nigra*

We saw an unprecedented EIGHT birds together in Kruger NP. While watching four birds (already an impressive tally) in a tree, four more alighted alongside them!

Abdim’s Stork  
*Ciconia abdimii*

This species showed well at Kgomo-Kgomo and en route to Kruger NP.

Woolly-necked Stork  
*Ciconia episcopus*

We saw numerous individuals in the north-east section of KwaZulu-Natal.

White Stork  
*Ciconia ciconia*

We had this Palearctic migrant in good numbers around Wakkerstroom, Himeville and Karkloof.

Saddle-billed Stork  
*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

We enjoyed a few sightings of this strikingly coloured stork in Kruger NP.

Woolly-necked Stork  
*Ciconia episcopus*

Completing a full house of storks for the trip, we saw a total of three of these massive scavengers in Kruger NP.

Ibis & Spoonbills  
*Threskiornithidae*

[African] Sacred Ibis  
*Threskiornis aethiopicus*

This species was common throughout our tour, except in Kruger NP.

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

We saw this species very well in Lesotho and around Himeville and Karkloof.

Hadeda Ibis  
*Bostrychia hagedash*

A constant and LOUD companion throughout the trip, only missed on the last day.

Glossy Ibis  
*Plegadis falcinellus*

This slender ibis was found at various wetlands on tour.

African Spoonbill  
*Platalea alba*

First seen near Carolina, we had more sightings at Wakkerstroom, Mkhuze GR and Strandfontein SW.

Herons, Egrets & Bitterns  
*Ardeidae*

Little Bittern  
*Ixobrychus minutus*
We had the most marvellous views of two males and a female in golden morning light at Wakkerstroom.

**Black-crowned Night Heron**  *Nycticorax nycticorax*
Seen at Wakkerstroom, Muzi Pan and Cape Vidal GR.

**Striated Heron**  *Butorides striata*
We saw many birds in Kruger NP.

**Squacco Heron**  *Ardeola ralloides*
Common at Wakkerstroom and around Mkhuze GR.

**[Western] Cattle Egret**  *Bubulcus ibis*
Seen almost daily across the country.

**Grey Heron**  *Ardea cinerea*
This widespread species was recorded at most wetlands during the tour.

**Black-headed Heron**  *Ardea melanocephala*
This species was found in grassland and wetland habitats around the country.

**Goliath Heron**  *Ardea goliath*
We had splendid sightings of this huge heron in Kruger NP and Mkhuze GR.

**Purple Heron**  *Ardea purpurea*
Seen at Wakkerstroom, St Lucia and Strandfontein SW.

**[Western] Great Egret**  *Ardea alba*
Singletons were seen at wetlands around the country.

**Intermediate Egret**  *Egretta intermedia*
A few were found at Kgomo-Kgomo, Kruger NP and Wakkerstroom.

**Black Heron**  *Egretta ardesiaca*
A single entertained us at Muzi Pan as it foraged using its famed umbrella technique.

**Little Egret**  *Egretta garzetta*
This species was found at a few scattered wetlands across the country.

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**Hamerkop  Scopidae**

**Hamerkop**  *Scopus umbretta*
We came across this species multiple times in the north-east.

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**Pelecaniformes Pelecanidae**

**Great White Pelican**  *Pelecanus onocrotalus*
Seen at False Bay Park and later at Strandfontein SW and West Coast NP.

**Pink-backed Pelican**  *Pelecanus rufescens*
Good numbers were seen at Mkhuze GR and Muzi Pan.

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**Gannets  Sulidae**

**Cape Gannet**  *Morus capensis*
A common bird out on the pelagic.

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**Cormorants  Phalacrocoracidae**

**Reed (Long-tailed) Cormorant**  *Microcarbo africanus*
Widespread; encountered frequently on inland waterbodies.

**Crowned Cormorant (RE)**  *Microcarbo coronatus*
We saw four birds at Cape Point NR.

**Bank Cormorant (RE)**  *Phalacrocorax neglectus*
There were 29 birds breeding on boulders near Simons Town and five more the next day at Stony Point.
**White-breasted (Great) Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax lucidus*

Common on bodies of freshwater as well as along the coast, particularly at Cape Point NR.

*Note: Clements treats this sub-Saharan bird as a race of the Great Cormorant* *P. carbo.*

**Cape Cormorant (BE)** *Leucocarbo capensis*

Very common on the pelagic and at Stony Point and Cape Point NR.

*Note: Clements places this bird within the Phalacrocorax genus as* *P. capensis.*

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**Anhinga Anhingidae**

**African Darter** *Anhinga rufa*

Seen at Kgomo-Kgomo, Mkhuze GR and Strandfontein SW.

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

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**Secretarybird Sagittariidae**

**Secretarybird** *Sagittarius serpentarius*

WE saw this monotypic species in Kruger NP and again near Wakkerstroom, where it made a half-hearted grab at a Cape Hare.

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**Ospreys Pandionidae**

**[Western] Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

We saw two of these piscivorous raptors at Mkhuze GR.

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**Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae**

**Black-winged(shouldered) Kite** *Elanus caerules*

This little raptor was common around Wakkerstroom, Hluhluwe, St Lucia and the Western Cape.

**African Harrier-Hawk** *Polyboroides typus*

We had four sightings, most of which were in Kruger NP.

**Palm-nut Vulture** *Gypohierax angolensis*

We had excellent views of two birds at Mtunzini.

**Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier)** *Gypaetus barbatus*

We had absolutely fantastic views of two birds in Lesotho.

**European Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*

We spotted this South African rarity in Cape Vidal GR.

**Hooded Vulture** *Necrosyrtes monachus*

Four birds were seen in Kruger NP.

**White-backed Vulture** *Gyps africanus*

This vulture was common in Mkhuze GR and Kruger NP.

**Cape Vulture (Griffon) (RE)** *Gyps coprotheres*

A single bird was seen at Abel Erasmus Pass, but we really had superb views of birds soaring low over the escarpment at the top of Sani Pass.

**White-headed Vulture** *Trigonoceps occipitalis*

We saw singletons of this scarce vulture twice in Kruger NP.

**Lappet-faced Vulture** *Torgos tracheliotus*

This massive vulture was seen in Kruger NP and Mkhuze GR.

**Black-chested(breasted) Snake Eagle** *Circaetus pectoralis*

Seen well along Zaagkuildrift Road, in Kruger NP and at Cape Vidal GR.

**Brown Snake Eagle** *Circaetus cinereus*

We had sightings in Kruger NP.

**Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus*
We had plenty of these in Kruger NP, including many juvenile birds.

**Crowned (Hawk-)Eagle** *Stephanoaetus coronatus*
A single, particularly massive bird (probably a female) was seen on our way out of Mkhuze GR.

**Martial Eagle** *Polemaetus bellicosus*
Kruger NP was especially productive for this large eagle where we even saw an immature bird feeding on its freshly-killed Nile Monitor.

**Long-crested Eagle** *Lophaetus occipitalis*
We saw this eagle frequently along the road in the north-east of the country and around Himeville and Karkloof.

**Lesser Spotted Eagle** *Aquila pomarina*
Seen a few times in Kruger NP and along Zaagkuildrift Road.

**Wahlberg’s Eagle** *Hieraaetus wahlbergi*
This small eagle was regular in Kruger NP.

**Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus*
WE saw two pale-phase birds in the Tanqua Karoo.

**Tawny Eagle** *Aquila rapax*
Seen twice in Kruger NP.

**Verreaux’s Eagle** *Aquila verreauxii*
A family of three put on a show for us at Betty’s Bay.

**Lizard Buzzard** *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*
These stunners just kept popping up during our day in the Tanqua Karoo – we saw nine in total.

**African Goshawk** *Accipiter tachiro*
A single bird dashed across the road in front of us in Kruger NP.

**Rufous-breasted(chested) Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter rufiventris*
Seen twice, in Wakkerstroom and along Sani Pass.

**Black Sparrowhawk (Goshawk)** *Accipiter melanoleucus*
First seen very, very far away in Mkhuze GR, we later had much closer sightings at our guesthouse in Noordhoek.

**African Marsh Harrier** *Circus ranivorus*
We saw them daily around Wakkerstrom, also seen near Himeville.

**Black Harrier** *Circus maurus*
We saw of five of these handsome raptors in West Coast NP.

**Pallid Harrier** *Circus macrourus*
A female bird was seen in Kruger NP.

**Yellow-billed Kite** *Milvus aegyptius*
This common raptor was seen almost daily.

*Note: This bird is often considered conspecific with the Black Kite M. migrans from which the IOC splits it.*

**African Fish Eagle** *Haliaeetus vocifer*
Common in Kruger, it was also seen at False Bay Park and West Coast National Park.

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*
Another common raptor seen almost daily.

**Jackal Buzzard (E)** *Buteo rufofuscus*
This dapper endemic was seen around Wakkerstrom, Sani Pass, Karkloof and in the Western Cape.

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**Falcons Falconidae**

**Lesser Kestrel** *Falco naumanni*
A female was seen in Mkhuze GR.

Rock (Eurasian) Kestrel
Falco rupicolum
Common in the Western Cape.

Greater Kestrel
Falco rupicoloides
A sub-adult was seen in the Tanqua Karoo.

Amur Falcon
Falco amurensis
Pretty good numbers were seen in Kruger NP and near Wakkerstroom.

Eurasian Hobby
Falco subbuteo
This stork was regular around St Lucia, Mtunzini and in Kruger NP.

Lanner Falcon
Falco biarmicus
We had an adult and juvenile at Wakkerstroom.

Peregrine Falcon
Falco peregrinus
We saw a total of three birds in the Western Cape, one of which was harassing a Jackal Buzzard.

Bustards Otididae

Kori Bustard
Ardeotis kori
We saw six of these, the heaviest flying bird, in Kruger NP.

Blue Korhaan (E)
Eupodotis caerulescens
Two birds were seen distantly near Wakkerstroom.

Red-crested Korhaan (RNE)
Lophotis ruficrista
This species entertained us many times with its tongue-thrusting vocalisation routine in Kruger NP.

[Southern] Black Korhaan (E)
Afrotis afra
We saw two males in West Coast NP.

Northern Black Korhaan (White-quilled) (RNE)
Afrotis afraoides
A male bird showed well at Zaagkuildrift Road.

Black-bellied Bustard
Lissotis melanogaster
We had multiple sightings of males and females in Kruger NP, Mkhuze GR and Hluhluwe.

Rails, Gallinules & Coots Rallidae

African Rail
Rallus caerulescens
Two birds showed well at Wakkerstroom.

Black Crake
Amaurornis flavirostra
Seen in Kruger NP, Wakkerstroom and St Lucia.

African (Purple) Swamphen
Porphyrio madagascariensis
This colourful species was seen at Wakkerstroom, Muzi Pan and Strandfontein SW.

Common Moorhen
Gallinula chloropus
Seen at various wetlands across the country.

Red-knobbed Coot
Fulica cristata
Huge numbers were seen, especially at Wakkerstroom.

Cranes Gruidae

Grey Crowned Crane
Balearica regulorum
We recorded good numbers of this species at Wakkerstroom and around Himeville.

Blue Crane (RE)
Grus paradisea
Seen at Wakkerstroom and near Ceres.

Wattled Crane
Grus carunculata
We had a nice, close-ish sighting of two relaxed birds in the Karkloof area.
Buttonquail  *Turnicidae*

**Common (Small) Buttonquail**  *Turnix sylvaticus*
A bird was flushed along the Zaagkuildrift Road.

**Hottentot Buttonquail**  *Turnix hottentottus*
One bird was seen by a guest in Cape Point NR.

Thick-knees  *Burhinidae*

**Water Thick-knee**  *Burhinus vermiculatus*
Recorded often in Kruger NP, Strandfontein SW and Mkhuze GR.

**Spotted Thick-knee**  *Burhinus capensis*
Seen very well near Wakkerstroom and in the Western Cape.

Oystercatchers  *Haematopididae*

**African Oystercatcher (E)**  *Haematopus moquini*
Good numbers were seen around Simons Town, Betty’s Bay and West Coast NP.

Stilts & Avocets  *Recurvirostridae*

**Black-winged Stilt**  *Himantopus himantopus*
Seen a few times at Kruger NP, West Coast NP and at Strandfontein SW.

**Pied Avocet**  *Recurvirostra avosetta*
Found in good numbers at West Coast NP and Strandfontein SW.

Plovers & Lapwings  *Charadriidae*

**Blacksmith Lapwing (Plover)**  *Vanellus armatus*
This very alert bird was seen almost every day.

**White-crowned(headed) Lapwing**  *Vanellus albiceps*
A single bird was somehow spotted by a sharp-eyed guest in Kruger NP and we later all had excellent views.

**Crowned Lapwing**  *Vanellus coronatus*
This species was common in dry grassland in the east of the country.

**African Wattled Lapwing**  *Vanellus senegallus*
Seen a few times, with our best views of four birds at Cape Vidal GR.

**Grey (Black-bellied) Plover**  *Pluvialis squatarola*
Seen in West Coast NP.

**Common Ringed Plover**  *Charadrius hiaticula*
Seen a few times, most notably at West Coast NP.

**Kittlitz’s Plover**  *Charadrius pecuarius*
Recorded at Muzi Pan and West Coast NP.

**Three-banded Plover**  *Charadrius tricolor*
We saw this neat little plover at a few small wetlands and puddles across the country.

**White-fronted Plover**  *Charadrius marginatus*
We found this at Fals Bay Park and West Coast NP.

Jacanas  *Jacanidae*

**Lesser Jacana**  *Microparra capensis*
This tiny bird was seen alongside it much bigger cousin on a small pond near St Lucia.

**African Jacana**  *Actophilornis africanus*
Common around St Lucia, Cape Vidal GR, Mkhuze GR and Muzi Pan.
Sandpipers & Allies  Scolopacidae

African Snipe  Gallinago nigripennis
A single bird appeared briefly at Wakkerstroom.

Bar-tailed Godwit  Limosa lapponica
We saw half a dozen at West Coast NP.

Whimbrel  Numenius phaeopus
Many were seen at West Coast NP.

Marsh Sandpiper  Tringa stagnatilis
A singleton was seen near Carolina.

Common Greenshank  Tringa nebularia
A commonly encountered shorebird on tour.

Green Sandpiper  Tringa ochropus
We saw this South African rarity in Kruger NP.

Wood Sandpiper  Tringa glareola
We had a few in Kruger NP, Mkuze GR and Muzi Pan.

Common Sandpiper  Actitis hypoleucos
Seen at Muzi Pan and Strandfontein SW.

Sanderling  Calidris alba
One bird showed well at West Coast NP.

Little Stint  Calidris minuta
Good numbers were present at Muzi Pan and West Coast NP.

Curlew Sandpiper  Calidris ferruginea
We had lots at Muzi Pan and West Coast NP.

Ruff  Philomachus pugnax
We got particularly good looks at this at Muzi Pan.

Coursers & Pratincoles  Glareolidae

Temminck’s Courser  Cursorius temminckii
Two birds gave great views near Hluhluwe.

Collared Pratincole  Glareola pratincola
This streamlined species was seen in Kruger NP and Cape Vidal GR.

Gulls & Terns  Laridae

Grey-hooded (headed) Gull  Larus cirrocephalus
Very common at False Bay Park.

Hartlaub’s Gull (RE)  Larus hartlaubii
Abundant all around the Western Cape.

Kelp Gull  Larus dominicanus
Equally plentiful, also in the Western Cape.

Caspian Tern  Hydroprogne caspia
We saw this tern, with its fluorescent red bill at False Bay Park and West Coast NP.

Great[er] Crested Tern  Thalasseus bergii
Seen on our pelagic, near Stony Point and in West Coast NP.

Sandwich Tern  Thalasseus sandvicensis
Seen on our pelagic and at Stony Point.

Common Tern  Sterna hirundo
Seen sitting on kelp rafts during our pelagic trip plus there was a flock of around 3,000 birds at West Coast NP.

Rockjumper Birding Tours
Trip Report – RBT SA VI December 2013

**Arctic Tern**  
*Sterna paradisea*  
A single bird was seen on the pelagic.

**Whiskered Tern**  
*Chlidonias hybridus*  
Seen often around Wakkerstroom, Muzi Pan and Kruger NP, as well as a large flock flying over an agricultural field en route to Kruger.

**Skuas Stercorariidae**

**Pomarine Skua (Jaeger)**  
*Stercorarius pomarinus*  
One bird showed briefly.

**Parasitic Jaeger**  
*Stercorarius parasiticus*  
We saw two birds on the pelagic trip.

**Sandgrouse Pteroclidae**

**Namaqua Sandgrouse (RNE)**  
*Pterocles namaqua*  
In possibly one of the most rand moments on the tour, a very distant fleeing Cape Grysbok flushed a pair of these birds in the Tanqua Karoo.

**Doves & Pigeons Columbidae**

**Common (Rock) Pigeon**  
*Columba livia*  
This feral species was found in urban areas.

**Speckled Pigeon**  
*Columba guinea*  
Common in Western Cape towns and in rocky/mountainous terrain.

**African Olive (Rameron) Pigeon**  
*Columba arquatrix*  
Seen well in Karkloof and at Marutswa Forest.

**Lemon Dove**  
*Columba larvata*  
Single birds were seen briefly at Dhlinza Forest and Kirstenbosch BG.

**Mourning Collared (African Mourning) Dove**  
*Streptopelia decipiens*  
We recorded this dove in central Kruger NP.

**Red-eyed Dove**  
*Streptopelia semitorquata*  
This dove was common in wooded habitat in KwaZulu-Natal.

**Ring-necked Dove**  
*Streptopelia capicola*  
Recorded often on tour except in the north-eastern coastal region.

**Laughing Dove**  
*Streptopelia senegalensis*  
Another common and widespread dove.

**Emerald-spotted Wood Dove**  
*Turtur chalcospilos*  
We had good views in Kruger NP and Mkuhe GR.

**Tambourine Dove**  
*Turtur tympanistra*  
Frustratingly shy, we caught a few glimpses of this dove as it raced through the air from one bit of forest to the next.

**Namaqua Dove**  
*Oena capensis*  
These petite doves were seen at Zaagkuildrift Road, Kruger NP, Mkuhe GR and in cropland in the Western Cape.

**African Green Pigeon**  
*Treron calva*  
This parrot-like pigeon was seen nicely in Kruger NP and St Lucia.

**Parrots & Allies Psittacidae**

**Cape (Brown-necked) Parrot (E)**  
*Poicephalus robustus*  
We saw seven birds rather nicely at Marutswa Forest before dashing to Durban airport for our flight to Cape Town.
Brown-headed Parrot  
*Poicephalus cryptoxanthus*

Two birds were seen distantly in Kruger NP.

Turacos  
**Musophagidae**

**Livingstone’s Turaco**  
*Tauraco livingstonii*

We saw two birds beautifully in a fruiting fig in St Lucia.

**Knysna Turaco (E)**  
*Tauraco corythaix*

After tough views of a bird at Benvie Gardens we had better views at Marutswa Forest.

**Purple-crested Turaco**  
*Tauraco porphyreolophus*

Seen in Kruger NP, Mkhuze GR and around St Lucia.

**Grey Go-away-bird**  
*Corythaixoides concolor*

This species was common in Kruger NP, with one at Mkhuze GR.

Cuckoos  
**Cuculidae**

**Burchell’s (White-browed) Coucal**  
*Centropus burchelli*

Seen often in the north-east of the country.

**Green Malkoha (Yellowbill)**  
*Ceuthmochares australis*

This very shy species showed briefly in forest at St Lucia.

**Levaillant’s Cuckoo**  
*Clamator levaillantii*

Singletons were seen on three occasions in Kruger NP.

**Jacobin Cuckoo**  
*Clamator jacobinus*

Common in Kruger NP and around Rust-de-Winter.

**Diederik (Dideric) Cuckoo**  
*Chrysococcyx caprius*

Common around Zaagkuildrift Road, Kruger NP and Mkhuze GR.

**Klaas’s Cuckoo**  
*Chrysococcyx klaas*

This species heard only, around St Lucia and Cape Vidal GR.

**African Emerald Cuckoo**  
*Chrysococcyx cupreus*

Also heard only, this time at Benvie Gardens.

**Black Cuckoo**  
*Cuculus clamosus*

Excellent views of birds perched in the open around Underberg and Sani Pass.

**Red-chested Cuckoo**  
*Cuculus solitarius*

After a few fleeting glimpses one sat out on a telephone wire and allowed extremely close approach near Underberg.

**African Cuckoo**  
*Cuculus gularis*

One was seen in Mkhuze GR.

Barn Owls  
**Tytonidae**

**Barn Owl**  
*Tyto alba*

One was seen very well on a night drive in Kruger NP, and briefly at Wakkerstroom.

Typical Owls  
**Strigidae**

**African Scops Owl**  
*Otus senegalensis*

Two birds were seen at close range just before dusk in Kruger NP.

**Spotted Eagle-Owl**  
*Bubo africanus*

We came within metres of three birds at Wakkerstroom and later saw single birds near Hluhluwe and in Kirstenbosch BG.

**African Wood Owl**  
*Strix woodfordii*

One flew into a window at our Hluhluwe accommodation and we also saw one very well on a night drive through St Lucia.
**Nightjars** Caprimulgidae

**Fiery-necked Nightjar** *Caprimulgus pectoralis*
A very pale individual was flushed near Wakkerstroom.

**Swifts** Apodidae

**African Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus*
We recorded this swift along Zaagkuildrift Road and around St Lucia.

**Alpine Swift** *Tachymarptis melba*
We saw this massive swift very well around Sani Pass.

**Common Swift** *Apus apus*
Seen near Zaagkuildrift Road and in Kruger NP.

**African [Black] Swift** *Apus barbatus*
Good numbers around Howick Falls, Sani Pass and Betty’s Bay.

**Little Swift** *Apus affinis*
Common in Kruger NP.

**Horus Swift** *Apus horus*
Seen en route to Kruger NP and near Wakkerstroom.

**White-rumped Swift** *Apus caffer*
Seen at various sites around the country, including Kruger NP.

**Mousebirds** Coliidae

**Speckled Mousebird** *Colius striatus*
Common throughout the eastern half of the country.

**White-backed Mousebird (E)** *Colius colius*
Seen at West Coast NP and then very well in the Tanqua Karoo.

**Red-faced Mousebird** *Urocolius indicus*
Seen at Muzi Pan, Zaagkuildrift Road and Kruger NP.

**Trogons** Trogonidae

**Narina Trogon** *Apaloderma narina*
We had sublime sightings of this fabulous bird – a male and female close to the road in Cape Vidal GR and then a family of four in forest at St Lucia the following morning!

**Rollers** Coraciidae

**Purple (Rufous-crowned) Roller** *Coracias naevius*
This large roller was seen in Kruger NP.

**Lilac-breasted Roller** *Coracias caudata*
This species dazzled us in Kruger NP.

**European Roller** *Coracias garrulus*
We saw these often in Kruger NP.

**Broad-billed Roller** *Eurystomus glaucurus*
One bird was seen at Cape Vidal GR.

**Kingfishers** Alcedinidae

**Brown-hooded Kingfisher** *Halcyon albiventris*
Recorded often in Kruger NP, St Lucia, Cape Vidal GR and Mkhuze GR.

**Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti*
This kingfisher was seen in Kruger NP and Mkhuze GR.

**Woodland Kingfisher** *Halcyon senegalensis*
One of the characteristic sounds of summer in the bushveld, this exquisite bird was common in Kruger NP and Mkhuze GR.

**Malachite Kingfisher** *Corythornis cristata*
This cutie was encountered in Kruger NP and Cape Vidal GR.

**Giant Kingfisher** *Megaceryle maxima*
This heavy-billed kingfisher was found in Kruger NP, Wakkerstroom and near Himeville.

**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*
A common kingfisher that was seen in Kruger NP, Mkhuze GR and other spots.

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

**Little Bee-eater** *Merops pusillus*
We had good sightings of this in Kruger NP, Mkhuze GR and Cape Vidal GR.

**White-fronted Bee-eater** *Merops bullockoides*
We discovered five of these alongside the road while travelling to Kruger NP.

**Blue-cheeked Bee-eater** *Merops persicus*
First seen along Zaagkuildrift Road, with good numbers in Cape Vidal and Mkhuze GRs.

**European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*
This species was seen in Kruger NP and the Tanqua Karoo.

**Hoopoes** **Upupidae**

**African (Eurasian) Hoopoe** *Upupa africana*
This charismatic chap was seen in Kruger NP, Mkhuze GR and West Coast NP.

*Note: Clements lumps this species with Eurasian Hoopoe as Upupa epops*

**Woodhoopoes** **Phoeniculidae**

**Green Wood Hoopoe** *Phoeniculus purpureus*
We had this species in Kruger NP and Mkhuze GR.

**Common Scimitarbill** *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*
Seven birds were seen in Mkhuze GR.

**Hornbills** **Bucerotidae**

**Crowned Hornbill** *Tockus alboterminatus*
St Lucia and Mkhuze GR produced sightings of this hornbill.

**African Grey Hornbill** *Tockus nasutus*
We saw this species fairly often in Kruger NP.

**[Southern] Red-billed Hornbill** *Tockus rufirostris*
These characters were common in Kruger NP.

**Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill (RNE)** *Tockus leucomelas*
Equally common in Kruger NP as the previous species, and also seen at Mkhuze GR.

**Trumpeter Hornbill** *Bycanistes bucinator*
These comically whiny birds were seen well in, among other places, St Lucia where they shared a fruiting fig tree with Livingstone’s Turaco and African Green Pigeon!

*Note: Clements places this species under the genus Ceratogymna*

**Ground Hornbills** **Bucorvidae**

**Southern Ground Hornbill** *Bucorvus leadbeateri*
We saw a total of nine of these wonderful ground birds in Kruger NP.
Barbets  Capitonidae

**White-eared Barbet**  *Stactolaema leucotis*
These showed extremely well around St Lucia.

**Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird**  *Pogoniulus bilineatus*
This diminutive barbet was also seen well in St Lucia.

**Red-fronted Tinkerbird**  *Pogoniulus pusillus*
A single bird showed well just inside Mkhuz GR.

**Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird**  *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*
This dinky little bird showed wonderfully on our drive from Rust-de-Winter to Kruger NP.

[Acacia] Pied Barbet  *(RNE)*  *Tricholaema leucomelas*
We came upon two birds at the entrance to the Tanqua Karoo, Karoopoort.

**Black-collared Barbet**  *Lybius torquatus*
We saw this barbet at Kruger NP, Mkhuz GR and St Lucia.

**Crested Barbet**  *Trachyphonus vaillantii*
This species was common in Kruger NP and at Wakkerstroom.

Honeyguides  Indicatoridae

**Lesser Honeyguide**  *Indicator minor*
We found this species in Kruger NP and Cape Vidal GR.

**Scaly-throated Honeyguide**  *Indicator variegatus*
Such a tricky species! We got glimpses of birds at Dhlinza Forest and Benvie Gardens.

Woodpeckers  Picidae

**Red-throated Wryneck**  *Jynx ruficollis*
We saw a young bird near Himeville and later a really smart adult along Sani Pass.

**Golden-tailed Woodpecker**  *Campethera abingoni*
Our best views were of birds in Mkhuz GR.

**Ground Woodpecker**  *(E)*  *Geocolaptes olivaceus*
We had three apiece at Wakkerstroom and Sani Pass.

**Cardinal Woodpecker**  *Dendropicos fuscescens*
The smallest woodpecker in the region, we saw this at Zaagkuil Road, Kruger NP and Mkhuz GR.

**Olive Woodpecker**  *Dendropicos griseocephalus*
Our only view was of a bird near Benvie Gardens.

Broadbills  Eurylaimidae

**African Broadbill**  *Smithornis capensis*
We had the most incredible views of a pair of these hard-to-find birds in Mkhuz GR.

Wattle-eyes and Batises  Platysteiridae

**Cape Batis**  *(RE)*  *Batis capensis*
This batis showed well near Wakkerstroom, Sani Pass and Marutswa Forest.

**Woodward’s Batis**  *(RNE)*  *Batis fratrum*
We saw this near-endemic species on two consecutive mornings at St Lucia.

**Chinspot Batis**  *Batis molitor*
Common in Kruger NP.

**Pirit Batis**  *Batis pririt*
A male showed beautifully in the Tanqua Karoo.

**Helmetshrikes  Prionopidae**

**White-crested Helmetshrike**  *Prionops plumatus*
We had eight birds in Mkhuze GR.

**Retz’s Helmetshrike**  *Prionops retzii*
Amazingly, we had two sightings of this uncommon species, once in Kruger NP and again in Mkhuze GR.

**Bushshrikes  Malaconotidae**

**Grey-headed Bushshrike**  *Malacanotus blanchoti*
We had multiple sightings of this stunner in Kruger NP and Mkhuze GR.

**Olive Bushshrike (RNE)**  *Chlorophoneus olivaceus*
One was seen well near Benvie Gardens.

**Olive (Suphur)-breasted Bushshrike**  *Chlorophoneus sulphureopectus*
A bird gave us super views on our first day, at Zaagkuildrift Road.

**Four-coloured Bushshrike**  *Chlorophoneus quadricolor*
Living up to its reputation of being incredibly secretive this bird showed briefly to some guests in Mkhuze GR.

*Note: Clements lumps this bird with Gorgeous Bushshrike as Telephorus viridis*

**Bokmakierie (RNE)**  *Telophorus zeylonus*
After much anticipation we finally had good views of this stunning bird in West Coast NP as well as on Sani Pass.

**Brown-crowned Tchagra**  *Tchagra australis*
We saw three birds in Kruger NP.

**Black-crowned Tchagra**  *Tchagra senegalus*
Seen in Kruger NP, Mkhuze GR and Cape Vidal GR.

**Black-backed Puffback**  *Dryoscopus cubla*
Seen in Kruger NP and heard often elsewhere.

**Southern Boubou (RE)**  *Laniarius ferrugineus*
We saw this vocal species in Kruger NP, Cape Vidal GR and St Lucia.

**Crimson-breasted Shrike (Gonolek) (RNE)**  *Laniarius atrococcineus*
After dipping on this at Zaagkuildrift Road we managed to see it near Rust-de-Winter.

**Brubru**  *Nilaus afer*
We found birds in Kruger NP and Mkhuze GR.

**Cuckooshrikes  Campephagidae**

**Grey Cuckooshrike**  *Campephaga caesia*
We saw this at Benvie Gardens and Dhlinza Forest.

**Black Cuckooshrike**  *Campephaga flava*
A pair showed nicely just inside Mkhuze GR.

**Shrikes  Laniidae**

**Magpie Shrike**  *Urolestes melanoleuca*
This shrike was present in good numbers in Kruger NP and along Zaagkuildrift Road.

*Note: Clements places this bird in the genus Corvinella*

**Redbacked Shrike**  *Lanius collurio*
One of the commonest birds in Kruger NP, Mkhuz GR and Cape Vidal GR. If there was ever a bird along the way that was obviously not a hornbill, eagle or ostrich it was bound to be this species!

**Lesser Grey Shrike** *Lanius minor*
We saw quite a few in Kruger Np and along Zaagkuildrift Road.

**Southern (Common) Fiscal** *Lanius collaris*
A common roadside bird that was seen on many days of the tour

*NOTE: The IOC recently split the widespread Common Fiscal, L. collaris, into Southern (the species we recorded) and Northern (L. humeralis) Fiscals. Clements does not accept this split.*

**Fibrgs & Orioles Oriolidae**

**Eurasian Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*
We had four birds at a hide in Mkhuz GR.

**African Black-headed Oriole** *Oriolus larvatus*
Seen at Kruger NP and later around Himeville and Karkloof.

**Drongos Dicruridae**

**Square-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus ludwigii*
Seen well at St Lucia.

**Fork-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus adsimilis*
Seen almost daily on the eastern leg of the tour.

**Monarchs Monarchidae**

**Blue-mantled (African) Crested Flycatcher** *Trochocercus cyanomelas*
We had this in St Lucia.

**African Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone viridis*
Seen at Kruger NP and Marutswa Forest.

**Crows, Jays & Magpies Corvidae**

**House Crow** *Corvus splendens*
We had a few around Cape Town airport.

**Cape Crow** *Corvus capensis*
Common in higher areas, e.g. around Wakkerstroom.

**Pied Crow** *Corvus albus*
Seen often across the country.

**White-necked Raven** *Corvus albicollis*
Seen on Abel Erasmus Pass and nearly daily in the Western Cape.

**Rockjumpers Chaetopidae**

**Cape Rockjumper (E)** *Chaetops frenatus*
Thanks to a very sharp-eyed guest we saw a pair at Rooi Els.

**Drakensberg (Orange-breasted) Rockjumper (E)** *Chaetops aurantius*
We saw two birds at the top of Sani Pass.

**Fairy Flycatchers Stenostiridae**

**Fairy Flycatcher (E)** *Stenostira scita*
Seen well at Sani Pass and the Tanqua Karoo.

**Tits Paridae**
**Southern Black Tit**  
*Parus niger*
Common in Kruger NP and around St Lucia and Mkhuze GR.  
*Note: Clements places this bird in the genus Melaniparus*

**Grey Tit (RE)**  
*Parus afer*
One showed well in Lesotho.  
*Note: Clements places this bird in the genus Melaniparus*

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**Penduline Tits Remizidae**

**Cape (Southern) Penduline Tit**  
*Anthoscopus minutus*
South Africa’s smallest bird species was seen in the West Coast NP.  
*Note: Clements places this bird in the genus Melaniparus*

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**Nicators Nicatoridae**

**Eastern Nicator**  
*Nicator gularis*
Seen in St Lucia.

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**Larks Alaudidae**

**Rufous-naped Lark**  
*Mirafr a africana*
Seen at Zaagkuildrift Road and around St Lucia.

**Eastern Clapper Lark (RNE)**  
*Mirafr a fasciolata*
A single bird was seen near Wakkerstroom.

**Rudd’s Lark (E)**  
*Heteromirafr a ruddi*
We saw this endangered lark near Wakkerstroom.

**Sabota Lark (RNE)**  
*Mirafr a sabota*
Seen well in Kruger NP and Mkhuze GR.  
*Note: Clements places this bird in the genus Calendulauda*

**Karoo Lark (E)**  
*Certhilauda albescens*
Two birds showed briefly in the Tanqua Karoo.  
*Note: Clements places this bird in the genus Calendulauda*

**Eastern Long-billed Lark (E)**  
*Certhilauda semitorquata*
One showed nicely near Wakkerstroom.

**Spike-heeled Lark (NE)**  
*Chersomanes albofasciata*
We had good views near Wakkerstroom and in the Tanqua Karoo.

**Red-capped Lark**  
*Calandrella cinerea*
Also seen well near Wakkerstroom and in the Tanqua Karoo.

**Pink-billed Lark**  
*Spizocorys conirostris*
We saw half a dozen near Wakkerstroom.

**Botha’s Lark (E)**  
*Spizocorys fringillaris*
This bird made us work, but we were rewarded with excellent views of two birds near Wakkerstroom.

**Large-billed Lark (E)**  
*Galerida magnirostris*
We saw this well in Lesotho and the Tanqua Karoo.

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**Bulbuls Pycnonotidae**

**Cape Bulbul (E)**  
*Pycnonotus capensis*
We saw this every day in the Western Cape.

**Dark-capped Bulbul**  
*Pycnonotus tricolor*
We saw this every day in the east of the country.  
*Note: Clements lumps this bird with Common, Somali and Dodson’s Bulbul as Common Bulbul P. barbatus*

**Sombre Greenbul**  
*Andropodus importunus*
This vocal species was seen often in the eastern part of the country.

**Yellow-bellied Greenbul** *Chlorocichla flaviventris*

Our first sighting was in Kruger NP with more around St Lucia and Cape Vidal GR.

**Terrestrial Brownbul** *Phyllastrephus terrestris*

Seen numerous times around St Lucia.

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**Swallows & Martins** *Hirundinidae*

**Black Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne pristoptera*

Small numbers were seen near Bulwer and St Lucia.

**Brown-throated (Plain) Martin** *Riparia paludicola*

We saw this well around Underberg and Himeville.

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

We had good views of birds at Wakkerstroom and near Hluhluwe.

**Banded Martin** *Riparia cincta*

Big number were found around Wakkerstroom.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

Recorded almost every day.

**White-throated Swallow** *Hirundo albigularis*

This beautiful hirundine was found in the Western Cape, near Himeville and around Wakkerstroom.

**Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii*

We saw birds in Kruger NP and St Lucia.

**Rock Martin** *Hirundo fuligula*

Common around rocky and hilly areas in the Western Cape, Sani Pass and Abel Erasmus Pass.

**Greater Striped Swallow** *Cecropis cucullata*

Common in the Western Cape, Himeville, Zaagkuildrift Road and Wakkerstroom.

**Lesser Striped Swallow** *Cecropis abyssinica*

Common in the north-eastern section of the country.

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

We saw this very well in Kruger NP, Cape Vidal GR, near Hluhluwe and along the Zaagkuildrift Road.

**South African Cliff Swallow** *Petrochelidon spilodera*

Seen in large numbers around Wakkerstroom.

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**Crombecs & African Warblers** *Macrosphenidae*

**Cape Grassbird (RE)** *Sphenoeacus afer*

Seen well along Sani Pass and later at Rooi Els.

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

Seen mostly in Kruger NP.

**Victorin’s (Scrub-) warbler** *Cryptillas victorini*

After numerous attempts we finally had brief but good views of a bird along Du Toitskloof Pass.

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**Leaf Warblers & Allies** *Phylloscopidae*

**Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler** *Phylloscopus ruficapilla*

We saw of these delightful, hyperactive warblers in the Karkloof area.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Seen mostly in Kruger NP and Mkuze GR.

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**Reed Warblers & Allies** *Acrocephalidae*

**Lesser Swamp Warbler** *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*
Seen a few times at Wakkerstroom and around St Lucia.

**African Reed Warbler**  
*Acrocephalus baeticatus*  
This showed well at Wakkerstroom and near Karoopoort.

**Dark-capped (African) Yellow Warbler**  
*Iduna natalensis*  
A bird showed splendidly in the Karkloof area.

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### Grassbirds & Allies  
**Megaluridae**

**Little Rush Warbler  (African Bush-Warbler)**  
*Bradypterus baboeckala*  
We saw a bird at Wakkerstroom.

**Barratt’s (African Scrub-) Warbler**  
*Bradypterus barratti*  
We saw birds at Wakkerstroom and Sani Pass.

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### Cisticolas & Allies  
**Cisticolidae**

**Red-faced Cisticola**  
*Cisticola erythrops*  
We had terrific views of a bird in Kruger NP.

**Rattling Cisticola**  
*Cisticola chinianus*  
Commonly seen and heard in bushveld areas in the north-east of the country.

**Grey-backed (Red-headed) Cisticola  (RNE)**  
*Cisticola subruficapilla*  
This cisticola was common in fynbos and Karoo habitat in the Western Cape.

**Wailing Cisticola**  
*Cisticola lais*  
Seen well in Wakkerstroom and along Sani Pass.

**Rufous-winged Cisticola**  
*Cisticola galactotes*  
We saw one of these in Cape Vidal GR.

**Levaillant’s (Tinkling) Cisticola**  
*Cisticola tinniens*  
This showed well around Wakkerstroom, Himeville and the Western Cape.

**Croaking Cisticola**  
*Cisticola natalensis*  
We had good views of this large cisticola near Hluhluwe and Cape Vidal GR.

**Neddycky (Piping Cisticola)**  
*Cisticola fulvicapilla*  
A bird was heard along the Zaagkuildrift Road.

**Zitting Cisticola**  
*Cisticola juncidis*  
Seen well along the Zaagkuildrift Road, at Wakkerstroom and in the Karkloof area.

**Desert Cisticola**  
*Cisticola aridulus*  
A singleton showed well on the Zaagkuildrift Road.

**Cloud Cisticola**  
*Cisticola textrix*  
We heard a bird near Wakkerstroom.

**Pale-crowned Cisticola**  
*Cisticola cinnamomeus*  
Seen very nicely at Wakkerstroom.

**Wing-snapping Cisticola**  
*Cisticola ayresii*  
Heard at Wakkerstroom and seen well in the Karkloof area.

**Tawny-flanked Prinia**  
*Prinia subflava*  
Seen mostly in Kruger NP.

**Black-chested Prinia  (RNE)**  
*Prinia flavicans*  
Four birds were seen on the Zaagkuilsdrift Road.

**Karoo Prinia  (RE)**  
*Prinia maculosa*  
Recorded daily in the Western Cape.

**Drakensberg Prinia  (E)**  
*Prinia hypoxantha*  
Seen below Sani Pass and at Marutswa Forest.

**Namaqua Warbler  (Prinia)  (RE)**  
*Phragmacia substriata*  
After initially struggling we enjoyed good views of four birds at Karoopoort.
Bar-throated Apalis  
*Apalis thoracica*

Seen at West Coast NP, Gordon’s Bay and Marutswa Forest.

Rudd’s Apalis (RE)  
*Apalis ruddi*

Seen near St Lucia and Hluhluwe.

Yellow-breasted Apalis  
*Apalis flavida*

Common around St Lucia and Mkhuze GR.

Rufous-eared Warbler (RE)  
*Malcorus pectoralis*

We found 11 of these great little birds in the Tanqua Karoo.

Green-backed Camaroptera  
*Camaroptera brachyura*

A noisy little denizen of thick bush in Kruger NP and around coastal KwaZulu-Natal.

Cinnamon-breasted Warbler (RE)  
*Euryptila subcinnamomea*

We had a sinfully easy sighting of one of these birds in the Tanqua Karoo!

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

Five birds showed nicely in the Tanqua Karoo.

Burnt-necked Eremomela  
*Eremomela usticollis*

Two birds were seen near Rust-de-Winter and the Zaagkuildrift Road.

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**Babblers Timaliidae**

Arrow-marked Babbler  
*Turdoides jardineii*

Common in Kruger NP.

Southern Pied Babbler (RE)  
*Turdoides bicolor*

We saw two of these clean-looking birds near Rust-de-Winter.

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**Sylviid Babblers Sylvidae**

Bush Blackcap (E)  
*Lioptilus nigricapillus*

After poor views at Wakkerstroom we had a lengthy sighting along Sani Pass.

Garden warbler  
*Sylvia borin*

One bird was seen in Kruger NP.

Chestnut-vented Warbler (RNE)  
*Sylvia subcaeruleum*

We saw two birds just into the Tanqua Karoo.

Layard’s Warbler (RE)  
*Sylvia layardi*

We found this species in Lesotho and the Tanqua Karoo.

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**White-eyes Zosteropidae**

Cape White-eye (E)  
*Zosterops capensis*

Seen often on the latter half of the tour.

*NOTE: Clements lumps this species with the Orange River White-eye Z. pallidus as Cape White-eye Z. pallidus.*

African Yellow White-eye (E)  
*Zosterops senegalensis*

We found one bird in False Bay Park.

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**Sugarbirds & Allies Promeropidae**

Cape Sugarbird (E)  
*Promerops cafer*

This wonderful endemic was common in fynbos in the Western Cape.

Gurney’s Sugarbird (RE)  
*Promerops gurneyi*

We saw five of these sugarbirds along Sani Pass.

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**Starlings Sturnidae**

Common Myna  
*Acridotheres tristis*

This introduced species was common around urban areas on the eastern leg of the tour.
Common (European) Starling  *Sturnus vulgaris*
This other introduced species was common in the Western Cape and was also encountered in Wakkerstroom.

**Wattled Starling**  *Creatophora cinerea*
These were very common in Kruger NP and along the Zaagkuildrift Road.

**Black-bellied (Glossy-) Starling**  *Lamprotornis corruscus*
Seen well at St Lucia.

**Cape (Glossy-) Starling (RNE)**  *Lamprotornis nitens*
Common in Kruger NP.

**Greater Blue-eared (Glossy-) Starling**  *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*
Also common in Kruger NP, but more localised than the previous species.

**Burchell’s (Glossy-) Starling (RNE)**  *Lamprotornis australis*
Kruger NP and Zaagkuildrift Road provided many sightings of these birds.

**(African) Pied Starling (E)**  *Spreo bicolor*
Seen in the Western Cape, near Underberg and in Wakkerstroom where we had thousands roosting in the reedbeds at dusk.

**Violet-backed Starling**  *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*
These stunners were seen in Kruger NP, St Lucia, Mkhuze GR and around Hluhluwe.

**Red-winged Starling**  *Onychognathus morio*
Associated with rocky and mountainous habitat, this species was common in the Western Cape, Kruger NP and around Sani Pass.

### Oxpeckers  *Buphagidae*

**Yellow-billed Oxpecker**  *Buphagus africanus*
We spotted half a dozen birds on large game animals in Kruger NP.

**Red-billed Oxpecker**  *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*
Seen at Cape Vidal GR, Zaagkuildrift Road, Mkhuze GR and Kruger NP.

### Thrushes & Allies  *Turdidae*

**Orange Ground Thrush**  *Zoothera gurneyi*
One bird showed briefly in Marutswa Forest.

**Groundscraper Thrush**  *Psophocichla litsitsirupa*
Seen well in Groblersdal.

**Kurrichane Thrush**  *Turdus libonya*
We had good views in Kruger NP and near Hluhluwe.

**Olive Thrush (RE)**  *Turdus olivaceus*
Seen well in Wakkerstroom, Benvie Gardens and in the Western Cape.

**Karoo Thrush (RE)**  *Turdus smithii*
This bird was at our first night accommodations in Johannesburg.

*NOTE: Clements lumps Karoo and Olive Thrushes as Olive Thrush, T. olivaceus.*

### Chats, Old World Flycatchers  *Muscicapidae*

**White-starred Robin**  *Pogonochroa flaviventris*
A single bird gave a very quick fly-by in Marutswa Forest.

**Cape Robin-Chat (E)**  *Cossypha caffra*
Common, especially in the Western Cape.

**White-throated Robin-Chat (RE)**  *Cossypha humeralis*
One was seen in Kruger NP.

**White-browed Robin-Chat (RE)**  *Cossypha heuglini*
Two of these accomplished songsters were seen in Kruger NP.

**Red-capped Robin-Chat**  *Cossypha natalensis*
This colour-saturated species showed beautifully in St Lucia.

**Chorister Robin-Chat (E)**  *Cossypha dichroa*
Four of these endemics were seen at Benvie Gardens.

**Bearded Scrub Robin**  *Erythropygia quadrivirgata*
A family of four allowed exceptionally close views in Mkhuze GR.

**Brown Scrub Robin (RE)**  *Erythropygia signata*
We saw two birds in forest at St Lucia.

**White-browed (Red-backed) Scrub Robin**  *Erythropygia leucophrys*
Common in Kruger NP and Mkhuze GR.

**Karoo Scrub Robin (RE)**  *Erythropygia coryphaeus*
Very common in the Western Cape.

**[African] Stonechat**  *Saxicola torquatus*
We saw this around Himeville, Sani Pass and Wakkerstroom.

*Note: Clement’s calls this species Stonechat and lumps it with Eurasian and Siberian Stonechats.*

**Buff-streaked (Bush) Chat (E)**  *Campicoloides bifasciata*
This attractive chat was seen very well in Wakkerstroom.

**Mountain Wheatear**  *Oenanthe monticola*
We had good views of birds just inside the Tanqua Karoo.

**Familiar Chat**  *Oenanthe familiaris*
Seen well along Sani Pass and at Rooi Els.

**Sickle-winged Chat (RE)**  *Emarginata sinuata*
Several birds were seen in Lesotho.

**Karoo Chat (RNE)**  *Emarginata schlegelii*
This large chat was common in the Tanqua Karoo.

**Tractrac Chat (RE)**  *Emarginata tractrac*
We found quite a few of these in the Tanqua Karoo.

**Ant-eating (Southern Ant-eater-) Chat (RE)**  *Myrmecocichla formicivora*
Very common around Wakkerstroom.

**Mocking Cliff Chat**  *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*
A pair showed nicely in the Kruger NP.

**Cape Rock Thrush (E)**  *Monticola rupestris*
This beauty was seen below Sani Pass and at Rooi Els.

**Sentinel Rock Thrush (E)**  *Monticola explorator*
A lovely endemic that was seen at Wakkerstroom and in Lesotho.

**Southern Black Flycatcher**  *Melaenornis pammelaina*
First seen in the Kruger NP.

**Marico (Mariqua) Flycatcher (RNE)**  *Bradornis mariquensis*
Common in the Rust-de-Winter and Zaagkuildrift areas.

**Fiscal Flycatcher (RE)**  *Sigelus silens*
We found one bird at Gordon’s Bay.

**Spotted Flycatcher**  *Muscicapa striata*
Encountered a few times on tour, both in the east and west.

**Ashy Flycatcher**  *Muscicapa caerulescens*
Five were seen in Kruger NP.

**African Dusky Flycatcher**  *Muscicapa adusta*
We had good sightings of this unwary little bird at Kirstenbosch BG, Sani Pass, Marutswa Forest and Dhlinza Forest.

**Grey Tit-Flycatcher**  *Myioparus plumbeus*
Two birds were seen in Mkuhe GR.

**Sunbirds  Nectariniidae**

**Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris*
We saw these little sunbirds in St Lucia, Mkuhe GR, Cape Vidal GR and around Hluhluwe.

**Orange-breasted Sunbird (E)** *Anthobaphes violacea*
This species was common in fynbos habitat in the Western Cape.

**(Eastern) Olive Sunbird** *Cyanomitra olivacea*
Seen in St Lucia.

**Grey (Mouse-coloured) Sunbird** *Cyanomitra veroxii*
Seen at St Lucia and Dhlinza Forest.

**Amethyst Sunbird** *Chalcomitra amethystina*
Dazzling males were seen in Wakkerstroom and near Himeville.

**Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra senegalensis*
Seen a few times, with excellent views at Kruger NP.

**Malachite Sunbird** *Nectarinia famosa*
We found this species along Du Toitskloof Pass, Sani Pass and near Wakkerstroom.

**Southern Double-collared Sunbird (E)** *Cinnyris chalybeus*
Common in the Western Cape and the Karkloof area.

**Greater Double-collared Sunbird (E)** *Cinnyris afrar*
We had superb views of birds at the base of Sani Pass.

**Marico (Mariqua) Sunbird** *Cinnyris mariquensis*
This maroon-banded sunbird was common in Kruger NP and along the Zaagkuildrift Road.

**Purple-banded Sunbird** *Cinnyris bifasciatus*
Common around St Lucia and Hluhluwe.

**White-bellied (breasted) Sunbird** *Cinnyris talatala*
Seen best along the Zaagkuildrift Road.

**Dusky Sunbird (RNE)** *Cinnyris fuscus*
Eight birds in varying plumages were seen in the Tanqua Karoo.

**Old World Sparrows  Passeridae**

**White-browed Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser mahali*
We saw a dozen along the Zaagkuildrift Road.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*
This introduced sparrow was commonly found in urban areas.

**Cape Sparrow (RNE)** *Passer melanurus*
Recorded often in the Western Cape and other areas such as Wakkerstroom.

**Southern Grey-headed Sparrow (NE)** *Passer diffusus*
Seen at Zaagkuildrift Road, Karkloof area, Kruger NP, Sani Pass and Mkuhe GR.

**Yellow-throated Petronia** *Gymnornis superciliaris*
We saw four birds in Mkuhe GR.

*Note: Clements places this bird in the genus Petronia*

**Weavers & Allies  Ploceidae**

**Red-billed Buffalo Weaver** *Bubalornis niger*
We saw numerous birds in Kruger NP.

**Scaly[feathered] Weaver (RNE)** *Sporopipes squamifrons*
We saw three along the Zaagkuildrift Road.

**Thick-billed (Grosbeak) Weaver** *Amblyospiza albifrons*
First seen very well at lodge near Rust-de-Winter.

**Spectacled Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis*
Seen in Kruger Np and St Lucia.

**Cape Weaver** *(E)* *Ploceus capensis*
Very common in the Western Cape and around Wakkerstroom.

**Eastern (African) Golden Weaver** *Ploceus subaureus*
Found commonly around St Lucia.

**Southern Brown-throated Weaver** *Ploceus xanthopterus*
We saw some beautiful displaying males at Muzi Pan.

**Lesser Masked Weaver** *Ploceus intermedius*
Common in Kruger Np and near Rust-de-Winter.

**Southern Masked Weaver** *Ploceus velatus*
Common around Wakkerstroom and in the Western Cape.

**Village Weaver** *Ploceus cucullatus*
Seen near Hluhluwe and St Lucia.

**Dark-backed Weaver** *Ploceus bicolor*
This forest weaver showed well at St Lucia.

**Red-headed Weaver** *Anaplectes rubriceps*
A beautiful pair was seen in Kruger NP.

**Red-billedQuelea** *Quelea quelea*
Common around Hluhluwe, Mkhuze GR and St Lucia.

**Yellow-throated Twinspot (RE)** *Hypargos margaritatus*
We had good views of two birds near Hluhluwe.

**Red-billed Firefinch** *Lagonostica senegala*
Seen in Kruger NP.

**White-throated Twinspot (RE)** *Hypargos margaritatus*
We had good views of two birds near Hluhluwe.

**Red-collared Widowbird** *Euplectes ardens*
Seen around Wakkerstroom and Hluhluwe.

**Long-tailed Widowbird** *Euplectes progne*
This regal widowbird was abundant around Wakkerstroom and Karkloof.

### Waxbills & Allies _Estrildidae_

**Green-winged Pytilia** *Pytilia melba*
Seen along Zaagkuildrift Road and in Mkhuze GR.

**Pink-throated Twinspot (RE)** *Hypargos margaritatus*
We had good views of two birds near Hluhluwe.

**Red-billed Firefinch** *Lagonostica senegala*
Seen in Kruger NP.

**African Firefinch** *Lagonostica rubricata*
Seen in Kruger Np, with excellent vies at Marutswa Forest.

**Jameson’s Firefinch** *Lagonostica rhodopareia*
Two birds were seen well on our last day in Kruger NP.

**Blue Waxbill (Blue-breasted Cordonbleu)** *Uraeginthus angolensis*
This dinky species was common in Kruger NP and Mkhuze GR.
Violet-eared Waxbill (RNE)  
*Uraeginthus granatinus*
We saw one male bird very well along Zaagkuildrift Road.

Swee Waxbill (RE)  
*Coccopygia melanotis*
Three birds appeared briefly near Benvie Gardens.

Common Waxbill  
*Estrilda astrild*
Seen often across the tour.

**African Quail-Finch**  
*Ortygospiza fuscocissna*
We saw half a dozen near Wakkerstroom.

**Bronze Mannikin**  
*Lonchura cucullata*
Common around St Lucia, Hluhluwe and Cape Vidal GR.

*Note: Clements places this bird in the genus Spermestes*

**Red-backed (Black & White) Mannikin**  
*Lonchura nigriceps*
We saw this species really well at Dhlinza Forest and again at Benvie Gardens.

*Note: Clements places this bird in the genus Spermestes*

**Indigobirds & Whydahs**  
*Viduidae*

**Pin-tailed Whydah**  
*Vidua macroura*
A common bird around Wakkerstroom, St Lucia, Hluhluwe, Mkhuze GR and Karkloof areas.

**Shaft-tailed Whydah**  
*Vidua regia*
We saw a stunning male in full breeding dress along the Zaagkuildrift Road

**Long-tailed (Eastern) Paradise Whydah**  
*Vidua paradisea*
Singletons were seen in Kruger NP and Mkhuze GR.

**Wagtails & Pipits**  
*Motacillidae*

**Cape Wagtail**  
*Motacilla capensis*
A common species of wetlands across the country.

**Mountain Wagtail**  
*Motacilla clara*
We saw two birds at Benvie Gardens.

**African Pied Wagtail**  
*Motacilla aguimp*
Especially common in Kruger NP.

**Cape (Orange-throated) Longclaw (RE)**  
*Macronyx capensis*
Seen well around Wakkerstroom and Underberg.

**Yellow-throated Longclaw**  
*Macronyx croceus*
Seen best in Cape Vidal GR.

**African Pipit**  
*Anthus cinnamomeus*
The commonest pipit on tour, seen in the east and west.

**Long-billed Pipit**  
*Anthus similis*
A single bird was seen near Wakkerstroom with two more near Ceres.

**Yellow-breasted Pipit (E)**  
*Anthus chloris*
Two birds were seen near Wakkerstroom.

**Finches**  
*Fringillidae*

**Common Chaffinch**  
*Fringilla coelebs*
We saw a male very well in Kirstenbosch BG.

**Forest Canary (E)**  
*Crithagra scotops*
We encountered this species in the Karkloof area and at Marutswa Forest.

*Note: Clements places this bird in the genus Serinus*

**Black-throated Canary**  
*Crithagra atrogularis*
Four birds were seen along the Zaagkuildrift Road.

*Note: Clements places this bird in the genus Serinus*
Lemon-breasted Canary (Seed-eater) (RNE)  \textit{Crithagra citrinipecta}
After distant views of a pair in Mkhuze GR we had marvellous views of a male near Hluhluwe.
Note: Clements places this bird in the genus \textit{Serinus}

Yellow-fronted Canary  \textit{Crithagra mozambica}
A common canary that was seen near St Lucia, in Kruger NP, Mkhuze Gr and Cape Vidal GR.
Note: Clements places this bird in the genus \textit{Serinus}

Cape Siskin (E)  \textit{Crithagra totta}
Seen incredibly well both at Rooi Els and Cape Point.
Note: Clements places this bird in the genus \textit{Pseudochloroptila}

Drakensberg Siskin (E)  \textit{Crithagra symonsi}
Good views were had at the top of Sani Pass.
Note: Clements places this bird in the genus \textit{Pseudochloroptila}

Yellow Canary (RNE)  \textit{Crithagra flaviventris}
A beautiful, richly-coloured canary that was seen in Lesotho and the Western Cape.
Note: Clements places this bird in the genus \textit{Serinus}

Streaky-headed Seedeater  \textit{Crithagra gularis}
Seen well along Sani Pass.
Note: Clements places this bird in the genus \textit{Serinus}

White-throated Canary (RNE)  \textit{Crithagra albogularis}
We saw a few in the Tanqua Karoo.
Note: Clements places this bird in the genus \textit{Serinus}

Protea Canary (E)  \textit{Crithagra leucoptera}
We had numerous sightings of birds in the Tanqua Karoo totalling 14 birds!
Note: Clements places this bird in the genus \textit{Serinus}

Cape Canary (RE)  \textit{Serinus canicollis}
Very common in higher-lying areas in the east and all across the Western Cape.

Black-headed Canary  \textit{Serinus alario}
Three young birds were seen in the Tanqua Karoo.
Note: Clements places this bird in the genus \textit{Serinus}

Buntings  \textit{Emberizidae}

Lark-like Bunting (RNE)  \textit{Emberiza impetuani}
Seen along Zaagkuildrift Road, in Kruger NP and in the Tanqua Karoo.

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting  \textit{Emberiza tahapisi}
We saw birds in Kruger NP.

Cape Bunting (RNE)  \textit{Emberiza capensis}
An often-encountered species especially in rockier areas in the Western Cape.

Golden-breasted Bunting  \textit{Emberiza flaviventris}
This beautiful bird was seen in Kruger NP and near Hluhluwe.

MAMMAL SPECIES LIST (64 species)

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

Bats  \textit{Pteropodidae}

Wahlberg’s Epauletted Fruit-Bat  \textit{Epomophorus wahlbergi}
Two were observed feeding at night in St Lucia.

Peter’s Epauletted Fruit-Bat  \textit{Epomophorus crypturus}
We saw a few bats roosting in a tree in Satara camp in Kruger NP.
Baboons and Monkeys  *Cercopithecidae*

**Chacma Baboon*  *Papio ursinus*
This primate was common in Kruger NP and in the Western Cape, especially Cape Point where there was one rather aggressive male.

**Vervet Monkey**  *Cercopithecus aethiops*
Seen often in the eastern leg of the tour.

**Samango/White-throated (Blue) Monkey**  *Cercopithecus (mitis) albogularis*
We saw five animals in Cape Vidal GR.

**Bushbabies  *Lorisidae***

**Thick-tailed Bushbaby**  *Galago crassicaudatus*
We had saturation views of a total of 11 of these cute arboreal animals during night drives in St Lucia and the Hluhluwe area.

**Hares & Rabbits  *Leporidae***

**Scrub Hare**  *Lepus saxatilis*
Seen on various night-drives in Kruger NP and at Himeville.

**Cape Hare**  *Lepus capensis*
A Secretarybird was trying to make a meal of one of these near Wakkerstroom.

**Squirrels  *Sciuridae***

**Grey Squirrel**  *Sciuris carolinensis*
One ran across the road near Noordhoek.

**Red Forest Squirrel**  *Paraxerus palliates*
We had two great sightings of this brightly-coloured squirrel in St Lucia.

**Tree Squirrel**  *Paraxerus cepapi*
We saw these daily in Kruger NP.

**Porcupines  *Hystricidae***

**Porcupine**  *Hystrix africaeaustralis*
We were very excited to find one on our night drive in Kruger NP.

**Rats & Mice  *Cricetidae & Muridae***

**Striped Mouse**  *Rhabdomys pumilio*
We saw at least five of these little mice darting around in the West Coast NP.

**Pouched Mouse**  *Saccostomus campestris*
We found one of these too-cute hamster-like rodents doddering around while on a mini night-drive.

**Sloggett’s Ice Rat (E)**  *Otomys sloggetti*
These pika-like rodents were common in Lesotho.

**Dogs & Allies  *Canidae***

**Black-backed Jackal**  *Canis mesomelas*
Seen well on our Kruger NP night drive and around Himeville.

**Side-striped Jackal**  *Canis adustus*
One was seen on a night drive in Kruger NP.

**African Wild Dog**  *Lycaon pictus*
We saw nine “painted wolves” within an hour of entering Kruger NP!
**Mustelids Mustelidae**

**Ratel (Honey Badger)**  
*Mellivora capensis*  
We had an incredible sighting of an individual running around Satara camp early one morning.

**Mongooses Herpestidae**

**Slender Mongoose**  
*Herpestes sanguinea*  
Seen daily in Kruger NP.

**Dwarf Mongoose**  
*Helogale parvula*  
We just couldn’t get enough of these cuties which we saw on three days in Kruger NP.

**Small Grey Mongoose (RE)**  
*Galerella pulverulenta*  
We saw this species very well in the Western Cape.

**Banded Mongoose**  
*Mungos mungo*  
Seen a few times, including in Kruger NP and a group of 12 walking down St Lucia’s main street early in the morning.

**Yellow Mongoose (RNE)**  
*Cynictis penicillata*  
This mongoose proved common around Wakkerstroom.

**Suricate (Meerkat) (RNE)**  
*Suricata suricatta*  
We saw 8 of these little charismatic creatures near Wakkerstroom.

**Hyaenas Hyaenidae**

**Spotted Hyaena**  
*Crocuta crocuta*  
We saw these on every day we were in Kruger NP!

**Genets & Civets Viverridae**

**Small-spotted Genet**  
*Genetta genetta*  
We had super sightings of this beautiful creature on a night drive in Kruger NP.

**Blotched (Large-spotted) Genet**  
*Genetta tigrina*  
Seen very briefly on a night drive through St Lucia.

**African Civet**  
*Civetticus civetta*  
Could Kruger night-drive have gotten any better??! We had great, close views of one of these scarce animals.

**Cats Felidae**

**African Wild Cat**  
*Felis sylvestris*  
We saw these small felines on our Satara night-drive and one in camp too!

**Serval**  
*Felis serval*  
Continuing with our extraordinary night-drive luck, we saw one of these exquisite felines on a night-drive around Wakkerstroom.

**Cheetah**  
*Acinonyx jubatus*  
We saw two slinky supermodel-like cheetahs in Kruger NP.

**Lion**  
*Panthera leo*  
A male was seen by some on one of the night-drives while a female proved to be one of our last mammals seen in the park as we saw a female near her freshly killed zebra on our way out.

**Leopard**  
*Panthera pardus*  
On the night-drive to end all night-drives we watched a young female stalking a nervous impala right alongside the vehicle!!

**Hyraxes Procaviidae**
Rock Hyrax (Dassie)  
*Procavia capensis*
We saw three animals very well at Stony Point.

**Elephants  Elephantidae**  
African Elephant  *
*Loxodonta africana*
The largest land mammal was very common in Kruger NP.

**Zebras  Equidae**  
Common (Burchell's/Plains) Zebra  *
*Equus quagga*
Common in Kruger NP, Cape Vidal GR and Mkhuze GR.

**Rhinoceroses  Rhinocerotidae**  
White (Square-lipped) Rhinoceros  *
*Ceratotherium simum*
We saw an incredible total of 28 of these massive mammals in Kruger NP, Cape Vidal GR and Mkhuze GR.

**Hippopotamuses  Hippopotamidae**  
Hippopotamus  *
*Hippopotamus amphibius*
We saw large numbers in Kruger NP and around St Lucia, Mkhuze GR and Cape Vidal GR.

**Pigs  Suidae**  
Common Warthog  *
*Phacochoerus africanus*
Common in the same reserves as the previous species.

**Giraffes  Giraffidae**  
Giraffe  *
*Giraffa camelopardalis*
Also common in Kruger NP and Mkhuze GR.

**Bovids & Horned Ungulates  Bovidae**  
African (Cape) Buffalo  *
*Syncerus caffer*
We saw these beasts in large numbers in Kruger NP and Cape Vidal GR.

Eland  *
*Taurotragus oryx*
These huge antelope were seen along Sani Pass and Zaagkuildrift Road.

Greater Kudu  *
*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*
This fine antelope was seen in Kruger NP, Mkhuze GR and Cape Vidal GR.

Nyala  *
*Tragelaphus angasii*
Common in Mkhuze GR and False Bay Park.

Bushbuck  *
*Tragelaphus scriptus*
We saw this in Cape Vidal GR and Kruger NP.

Sable  *
*Hippotragus niger*
A single magnificent animal was seen at a game reserve along the Zaagkuildrift Road.

Gemsbok (Southern Oryx)  *
*Oryx gazella*
These striking antelope were seen near West Coast NP.

Common Waterbuck  *
*Kobus ellipsiprymnus*
These large antelope were seen in Mkhuze GR, Cape Vidal GR and Kruger NP.

Common Reedbuck  *
*Redunca arundinum*
Most individuals were seen in Cape Vidal GR.

Grey Rhebok (E)  *
*Pelea capreolus*
We saw buck along Sani Pass.

**Black Wildebeest (White-tailed Gnu) (E)***  
*Connochaetes gnou*

We were lucky to see nine of these endemic antelope en route to Himeville.

**Blue Wildebeest***  
*Connochaetes taurinus*

This species was common in the reserves of the north-east.

**Red Hartebeest***  
*Alcephalus buselaphus*

Two animals were seen in Cape Point NR.

**Blesbok (E)***  
*Damaliscus phillipsi*

We saw good numbers around Wakkerstroom as well as a number of the south-western subspecies (known as Bontebok) at Cape Point NR.

**Tsessebe***  
*Damaliscus lunatus*

We had a single antelope in Cape Vidal GR.

**Impala***  
*Aepyceros melampus*

This animal was abundant in Kruger NP and Mkhuze GR.

**Springbok***  
*Antidorcas marsupialis*

We saw South Africa’s national animal near the West Coast NP and in the Tanqua Karoo.

**Cape Grysbok***  
*Raphicerus melanotus*

A single animal was seen bounding away from us in the Tanqua Karoo.

**Steenbok***  
*Raphicerus campestris*

This delicate little buck was quite numerous in Kruger NP.

**Blue Duiker***  
*Cephalophus monticola*

We saw two Blue Duiker in Dhlinza Forest, including one totally hyperactive (or playful?) individual.

**Red Duiker***  
*Cephalophus natalensis*

This gorgeous little buck was common around St Lucia, Hluhluwe and Mkhuze GR.

**Common (Grey) Duiker***  
*Sylvicapra grimmia*

We saw this small antelope quite a few times, with most sightings from Kruger NP.

**Seals  Otariidae**

**Cape (South African) Fur Seal***  
*Arctocephalus pusillus*

This species was common on our pelagic and was also seen at Stony Point.

**Pleated Whales  Balaenopteridae**

**Hump-backed Whale***  
*Megaptera novaeangliae*

We saw at least two of these huge creatures out at sea near Hout Bay.

>>> **Baleen Whale sp.***  
???

A number of these whales, possibly Bryde’s Whales, were seen near the previous species off Hout Bay.

**REPTILE and AMPHIBIAN SPECIES LIST (37 species)**

**Parrot-beaked Tortoise***  
*Homopus areolatus*

We narrowly avoided running this rare tortoise over en route to Ceres, but we managed to move it to safety at the edge of the road before any harm could come to it.

**Angulate Tortoise***  
*Chersina angulata*

We found a few of these in the Tanqua Karoo and West Coast NP.

**Bells’ Hinged Tortoise***  
*Kinixys belliana*

One of these has taken up residence at our St Lucia guest house.

**Spek’s Hinged Tortoise***  
*Kinixys spekii*

We were lucky to see one of these scarce tortoises in Kruger NP.
Marsh Terrapin

*Pelomedusa subrufa*

Seen in Kruger NP and Mkhuze GR.

Serrated Hinged Terrapin

*Pelusios sinuatus*

A few of these round-domed terrapins were found in Kruger NP.

Schlegel’s Blind Snake

*Rhinotyphlops schlegelii*

We were most fortunate to see one of these snakes, which usually live deep underground, in Kruger NP.

Cape Centipede Eater

*Aparallactus capensis*

Another normally subterranean snake that we were lucky to see in Kruger NP.

Boomslang

*Dispholidus typus*

We had two extraordinary sightings of this snake – the first of a small female that was in the process of killing a Flap-necked Chameleon and the second of a huge female making her way through a number of weaver nests swallowing the contents of each. Both sightings were in Kruger NP.

Western Rock Skink

*Mabuya sulcata*

This lithe, shiny skink was seen in the Tanqua Karoo.

Rainbow Skink

*Mabuya quinquitaeniata*

We saw this lovely skink in Kruger NP.

Striped Skink

*Mabuya striata*

This was seen near Rust-de-Winter.

Variable Skink

*Mabuya varia*

One was seen in Mkhuze GR.

Red-sided Skink

*Mabuya homalocephala*

Males were seen at Cape Point NR and Harold Porter BG.

GIant Plated Lizard

*Gerrhosaurus validus*

We saw a few of these huge lizards very well in Kruger NP.

Black Girdled Lizard

*Cordylus niger*

A few were seen in Cape Point NR.

Tropical Girdled Lizard

*Cordylus tropidosternum*

We saw a couple of these chasing after termite alates, a favourite food source, in Kruger NP.

Drakensberg Crag Lizard (E)

*Pseudocordylus melanotis*

This attractive lizard was seen in Lesotho.

Nile (Water) Monitor

*Varanus niloticus*

We saw one at close range in Mkhuze GR.

Southern Rock Agama (RE)

*Agama atra*

Seen in the Tanqua Karoo and at Rooi Els.

Southern Tree Agama

*Agama atricollis*

We saw three of these “blue-headed lizards” in Kruger NP.

Setaro’s Dwarf Chameleon

*Bradyptodon setaroi*

We saw one of these diminutive chameleons at our lodge in St Lucia.

Moreau’s Tropical House Gecko

*Hemidactylus mabouia*

A common nocturnal lizard around buildings in St Lucia and Hluhluwe.

Nile Crocodile

*Crocodylus niloticus*

A few examples were seen in Kruger NP and Cape Vidal GR.

Brown-backed Tree Frog

*Leptopelis mossambicus*

We saw two of these frogs on our St Lucia night drive.

Natal Tree Frog

*Leptopelis natalensis*

We also had two of these on our night drive in St Lucia, one of which was a bright green juvenile.

Eastern Olive Toad

*Amietophrynus garmani*
This was found at our lodge near Hluhluwe.

**Guttural Toad** *Amietophrynus gutturalis*
One was found along the roadside en route to Himeville.

**Raucous Toad (RE)** *Amietophrynus rangeri*
This toad was common in the road in Wakkerstroom after the recent rains.

**Red Toad** *Schismaderma carens*
These were common around our Hluhluwe accommodation.

**Golden Leaf-folding Frog** *Afrixalus aureus*
Initially seen in Cape Vidal GR, we had a number of these tiny frogs hopping around the road during our St Lucia night drive.

**Greater Leaf-folding Frog** *Afrixalus fornasini*
This boldly-marked frog was seen on our St Lucia night drive, plus there was one waiting on the entrance gate when we arrived home!

**Bubbling Kassina** *Kassina senegalensis*
This frog was heard around Zaagkuildrift Road and Wakkerstroom.

**Giant Bullfrog** *Pyxicephalus adspersus*
Unfortunately not seen, these large amphibians were most certainly heard at the inundated floodplain near Kgomo-Kgomo.

**Cape River Frog** *Amietia fuscigula*
We saw a number of these in Harold Porter BG.

**Foam Nest Frog** *Chiromantis xerampelina*
We had two frogs crouched right in front of us at a hide in Mkhuzu GR.