



## Rockjumper Birding Tours

Worldwide Birding Adventures

# South African Endemics Mega Birding Tour

*24<sup>th</sup> September to 17<sup>th</sup> October 2008 (24 days)*



Drakensberg Rockjumper by Tom Schall

**Trip report compiled by Tour Leader Jan Pienaar**

Our 24-day Mega Birding adventure through South Africa was truly spectacular. With 471 bird species recorded, including a host of South African endemics and near-endemics, and 59 mammal species seen

there was certainly no shortage of excitement for all of us on tour. This, coupled with stunning scenery, excellent food and wine, made for an unforgettable tour!

After leaving a bustling Johannesburg, we headed north toward Polokwane, our stop for the first night. The journey was not too long, so we made plenty of stops along the way. These provided us with numerous birding opportunities where we recorded Natal Spurfowl, Black Stork, smart Northern Black Korhaan, Namaqua Dove, Grey Go-away-bird, the gaudy Lilac-breasted Roller, the outrageously coloured Crimson-breasted Shrike, Magpie Shrike and White-throated Robin-Chat.

The next morning we headed for the nearby Polokwane Game Reserve, where a small pond produced a plethora of seed eaters, including such colourful gems as Blue and Violet-eared Waxbills, Green-winged Pytilia and Cut-throat Finch. After enjoying the sight of three monstrous White-Rhinos walking across the road, we headed to the nearby Magoebaskloof. Highlights here included the uncommon Black-fronted Bushshrike, Knysna Turaco and Grey Cuckooshrike. We also had a troop of the smart Samango Monkey.

We had an early start the next day as we had a long way to go to Wakkerstroom, but headed first thing to a site for the range-restricted Short-clawed Lark, which we found running around in some old farmlands. We enjoyed our breakfast at a nesting site for the scarce Bat Hawk, a pair of which we saw sitting on their nest, offering us excellent views.

Another early start saw us heading into the grasslands surrounding Wakkerstroom. The area is well-known for its numerous species of lark, of which we recorded Rudd's, Spike-heeled, Red-capped, Pink-billed and Botha's. Other good birds we had included Southern Bald Ibis, Denham's Bustard, Blue and Barrow's Korhaans, African Rail, large flocks of Blue and Grey Crowned Cranes, Pied Starling, Ant-eating Chat and African Quail-Finch. Mammals in the area included Scrub Hare and family groups of the comical Meerkat.

The drive south towards Hluhluwe produced raptors such as White-backed Vulture, Brown Snake Eagle, Bateleur and Tawny, Wahlberg's and Long-crested Eagles. Nearer to our accommodations we had Shelley's and Crested Francolins and Black-bellied Bustard. We were also treated to our first sightings of Common Warthog and Nyala, with a Thick-tailed Bushbaby joining us in the dining room that evening! We also had our first Spotted Eagle Owl, while back at the camp we had to work hard to find a pair of Wood Owl.

Birding the dune forests and woodland in the Hluhluwe area, we had African Yellow White-eye, Bearded Scrub-Robin, Ashy and Grey Tit-Flycatcher, Rudd's Apalis and Neergaard's Sunbird, while a visit to the nearby Muzi Pans produced Knob-billed Duck, Greater Flamingo, Yellow-billed Stork, Goliath and Black Herons, Great White and Pink-backed Pelicans, Water Thick-knee, Kittlitz's Plover and large numbers of Collared Pratincole. That night we enjoyed a stunning South African 'braai' (or barbecue, if you like!), joined again by the bushbabies – four of them this time. A night drive after dinner produced Spotted Thick-knee and Scrub Hare.



Leaving Hluhluwe behind, we headed for the well-known Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Game Reserve, as much for the birding as for the opportunity of seeing some large species of mammal. Birding highlights included several Bateleur, the huge Martial Eagle, Striped Kingfisher, Little Bee-eater, Common Scimitarbill, Crowned Hornbill, Crested Barbet, Black-crowned Tchagra, Brubru, Southern Black Tit, Flappet Lark, Red-billed Oxpecker, White-browed Scrub Robin, Southern Black Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Petronia and White-winged Widowbird, many males already in their breeding



plumage. Mammals that excited us included Chacma Baboon, Giraffe, African Buffalo, Bushbuck and Blue Wildebeest. Heading to the coast and the town of St Lucia, we stopped near the mouth and had sightings of Pied Avocet, Terek Sandpiper, Sanderling and Caspian and Swift Terns, in addition to some massive crocodiles and many Hippopotami.

Early the next morning we headed for the dune forest on the edge of town, where we walked the trails criss-crossing this endangered habitat. Specials we recorded here included Livingstone's Turaco, White-eared Barbet, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, Eastern Nicator, Red-capped Robin-Chat and Brown Scrub Robin. A quick visit to the pretty coastal town of Mtunzini produced a Palm-nut Vulture and we then headed inland again to Eshowe, visiting the storied Ongoye forest on the way. Here we had Black Sparrowhawk and displaying Crowned Eagle, but, as it was in the late morning, the rest of the forest was pretty quiet. In the afternoon we headed into Dlinza Forest, famous for its aerial boardwalk offering great views over the forest. Our focus was, however, the trails and here we had the scarce Spotted Ground Thrush, Chorister Robin-Chat and Eastern Olive Sunbird. Close to our B&B we were treated to sightings of a pair of Green Twinspot and a pair of Mountain Wagtail (thanks for your help Hugh!).



Another long drive loomed ahead, but we first headed into Dlinza again, this time going on the boardwalk and up the canopy tower. From here we had great views of Trumpeter Hornbill, Purple-crested Turaco, African Emerald Cuckoo and Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon, the highlight of the morning. After a wonderful breakfast in the forest, we headed south and inland, first stopping near the town of Richmond. Our target here was the endangered Blue Swallow and, although it was early in the season, we had a magnificent pair flying over the grasslands below us. A visit later to the Xumeni Forest

produced sightings of the rare Cape Parrot and the uncommon Orange Ground Thrush.

Next up was one of the major highlights of the tour: a day trip up the magnificent Sani Pass. The weather looked threatening, but we still had excellent birding. Birds included Bearded and Cape Vultures, Red-chested Cuckoo, Ground Woodpecker, Bokmakierie, Drakensberg Rockjumper, Grey Tit, Wailing Cisticola, Drakensberg Prinia, Fairy Warbler, great views of Barratt's Warbler, Dark-capped Yellow Warbler, Gurney's Sugarbird, Buff-streaked Chat, Cape and Sentinel Rock Thrushes, Mountain Pipit and Drakensberg Siskin. The endearing Slogget's Ice Rat made their appearance, as well as other mammals such as Cape Clawless Otter and Mountain and Common Reedbuck.

The scenic midlands area of our home province was our next site of interest, starting with a visit to the Karkloof. In the grass- and farmlands we had Grey Crowned and Blue Cranes, Cape Weaver, Fan-tailed and Red-collared Widowbirds and Cape Canary. The forests of the Karkloof didn't disappoint either, although the mist was quite low. Here we had sightings of Olive Woodpecker, Cape Batis, Olive Bushshrike, Bar-throated and Yellow-breasted Apalises, Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler, Bush Blackcap and White-starred Robin. An afternoon and evening spent in Midmar Game Reserve produced Black-winged Lapwing, Cape Longclaw, Barn and Marsh Owls, Black Wildebeest, Red Hartebeest and Oribi.

The next day we headed early for the nearby Doreen Clarke Nature Reserve, where we had unbeatable views of a female Buff-spotted Flufftail, White-starred Robin and Olive Woodpecker. Then it was off to Durban to board our flight towards Cape Town.

The first birds in evidence as we arrived in Cape Town were the introduced House Crows, particularly common around the airport. We headed east toward the Overberg region for a night's stay,



*en route* seeing more Denham's Bustard and Blue Crane, as well as Cape Spurfowl, Kelp and Hartlaub's Gulls, Large-billed Lark, Karoo Prinia, Cape Bulbul, Cape Sugarbird, Capped Wheatear and Yellow Canary. In the evening we heard a Fiery-necked Nightjar as it flew past our accommodations.

As we were leaving our accommodations the next morning, we were treated to the display flight of a Southern Tchagra. Inside De Hoop Nature Reserve we had Grey-winged Francolin, Great Crested Grebe, Pearl-breasted Swallow and, after a long search, the scarce, endemic Knysna Woodpecker. We then left the reserve and begun our drive back to Cape Town, hugging the coast. This route provided sightings of Jackass Penguins just offshore, as well as numerous Southern Right Whales, in the area to calve and mate. Closer to Cape Town we had sightings of the beautiful Orange-breasted Sunbird and Cape Rockjumper.

We set off for the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve the next morning, stopping in the suburb of Constantia at a site for Knysna Warbler. After a lot of searching (much of it seemingly at our feet!) we were treated to a sighting of this master skulker. In the Cape of Good Hope we were treated to sightings of White-necked Raven, Grey-backed Cisticola and Cape Bunting, with a stint of sea-watching producing sightings of Black-browed Albatross, White-chinned Petrel and Cape Gannet. We headed back into



Cape Town to visit the spectacular Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens at the foot of Table Mountain. The landscaped gardens gave us sightings of Black Saw-wing, Sombre Greenbul, African Dusky Flycatcher, Sweet Waxbill, Forest Canary and the introduced Common Chaffinch.

Another highlight of the tour was the pelagic out of Simon's Town. We departed the harbour in a slight drizzle, which dissipated as we rounded Cape Point. The trip highlights were three albatross species (Black-browed, Yellow-nosed and Shy), Southern and Northern Giant Petrels, Great Shearwater, Black-bellied Storm Petrel, Spectacled Petrel, Little Shearwater, Cape, Bank and Crowned Cormorants, Sabine's Gull and Arctic Tern. Afterwards we paid a visit to Boulders Beach and its famous Jackass Penguin colony. In the late afternoon we headed to the Strandfontein Water Treatment Plant, a site that produced sightings of two hundred or so Greater Flamingo, Cape Teal, Maccua and White-backed Ducks and Black-necked Grebe.

The next day we headed to the West Coast National Park, situated an hour's drive north of Cape Town. *En route* we were treated to a great sighting of a Black Harrier flying low over the vegetation on the roadside. After tearing ourselves away from this, we headed into the park. Here we had Common Kestrel, Southern Black Korhaan, White-backed Mousebird, Cardinal Woodpecker, the diminutive Cape Penduline Tit, Karoo Scrub Robin and Malachite Sunbird. The lagoon and associated wetlands produced sightings of Common Ringed and White-fronted Plovers, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot and Sandwich Tern. In the late afternoon we headed back to Constantia where we had another sighting of Knysna Warbler.



After leaving Cape Town in the early morning, we stopped off in Paarl to search for Protea Seedeater, an elusive endemic that we managed to find with fair ease! In addition, we also had Booted Eagle and Amethyst Sunbird. In the Tanqua Karoo we were treated to sightings of Black-chested Snake Eagle, Pale Chanting Goshawk, Karoo Korhaan, Pririt Batis, the difficult Cinnamon-breasted Warbler, Dusky Sunbird and Black-headed Canary. In the afternoon we



reached the town of Calvinia, named after the 16<sup>th</sup> century French theologian John Calvin.

Early the next morning we headed into the nearby Akkerendam Nature Reserve, where we had sightings of Acacia Pied Barbet, Karoo and Karoo Long-billed Larks, Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark, Karoo Eremomela and Pale-winged Starling. We then headed north to Brandvlei, where initial exploring produced Namaqua Sandgrouse, Sabota Lark, Black-eared Sparrow-Lark, Rufous-eared Warbler, Chat Flycatcher and Lark-like Bunting. Night drives in Bushmanland can be very rewarding, and this was no exception with Spotted Eagle-Owl, Rufous-cheeked Nightjar, Striped Polecat, African Wild Cat and Bat-eared Fox being seen.

After driving south from Brandvlei to a site for Red Lark, we headed northwest toward the town of Springbok. The drive was long but on the frequent stops we recorded Pygmy Falcon, Karoo Korhaan and Sociable Weaver.

We had a pre-dawn start to the next day as we headed west toward the coastal town of Port Nolloth. We needed to be here early to catch the dawn chorus and increase our chances of finding two elusive near-endemics, Cape Long-billed and Barlow's Larks. In addition to these we also had Crowned and Bank Cormorants, African Oystercatcher, Grey Tit and Karoo and Tractrac Chats. In the afternoon we visited the scenic Goegab Nature Reserve, where we had Ludwig's Bustard, Karoo Eremomela, Layard's Tit-babbler and Long-billed Pipit, while the strange Dassie Rat topped the mammal list. Our night drive in the area produced Cape and Spotted Eagle-Owls, Bat-eared and Cape Foxes and Smith's Red Rock Rabbit.

Upon leaving Springbok, we headed east again toward Augrabies Falls National Park. On the way we were treated to the spectacle of hundreds of Namaqua Sandgrouse coming in to drink at a roadside dam. Other highlights of the morning included a Secretarybird, the very red 'dune' form of the Red Lark and a pair of Selater's Lark at a water trough. As soon as we arrived at Augrabies, we were off to the thundering, 56 meter high falls which gave the park its name. The colourful Broadley's Flat Lizards were everywhere on the near-vertical canyon walls and large, wheeling flocks of swifts included Alpine, Horus and White-rumped. A lone Peregrine Falcon was in attendance, waiting for an unsuspecting victim.



The next morning we walked in the camp grounds and drove into the park itself, where we had Pygmy Falcon, Lesser Honeyguide, African Reed and Namaqua Warblers and Karoo Thrush. Mammals we had included Rock Hyrax, Giraffe, Klipspringer and Small Grey Mongoose. We then took to the road again, heading further east toward the diamond mining town of Kimberley, arriving in the late afternoon.

We did some early morning birding around our lodge and saw Northern Black Korhaan, Dideric Cuckoo, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, Crimson-breasted Shrike, Ashy Tit, Short-toed Rock Thrush, Scaly-feathered Weaver and Red-headed Finch. Then we headed into Kimberley, visiting the Big Hole, where we had Lanner Falcon, the near-endemic Bradfield's Swift, Pririt Batis and Chestnut-vented Tit-babbler. The nearby Kamfer's Dam produced probably the most spectacular sighting of the tour: thousands upon thousands of Lesser Flamingos, most in tight groups. The sight of these huge pink flotillas of birds was truly awesome. Back at the game farm, we did an afternoon drive which produced Double-banded Courser, Pink-billed Lark, Springbok, Blesbok and Meerkat. That evening we went on



a night drive, on which we had Porcupine, Springhare, Aardwolf and the amazing Aardvark. What a way to end an epic tour!

**Photos, from top to Bottom: Brown Scrub Robin, Spotted Ground Thrush, Cape Rockjumper, Tanqua Karoo scenery and Namaqua Sandgrouse. Photos taken by Jan Pienaar.**

## **BIRD LIST (471 species)**

*Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Frank Gill & Minturn Wright Birds of the World: Recommended English Names (2006) Princeton University Press, with updates to October 2007. With notes where Clements differs or Clements names in parenthesis.*

**E** = Endemic, **NE** = Near-endemic, **BE** = Breeding-endemic (These refer to birds in a South African context)

### **Ostriches Struthionidae**

**Common Ostrich**

*Struthio camelus*

Seen first in the Polokwane area, we had more sightings around Himeville, the West Coast NP and the Northern Cape.

### **Guineafowl Numididae**

**Helmeted Guineafowl**

*Numida meleagris*

Recorded on most days during the tour, except in the more arid parts of the country.

### **Pheasants, Fowl & Allies Phasianidae**

**Coqui Francolin**

*Peliperdix coqui*

Only heard in the Wakkerstroom area.

**Grey-winged Francolin (E)**

*Scleroptila afra*

A covey of ten was seen on our day in De Hoop NR.

**Shelley's Francolin**

*Scleroptila shelleyi*

We had one at the roadside in the Hluhluwe area, where we also heard them calling the following day.

**Crested Francolin**

*Dendroperdix sephaena*

Although more often heard than seen, we found this species in the Hluhluwe area.

**Cape Spurfowl (Francolin) (NE)**

*Pternistis capensis*

First recorded in the De Hoop area, we had more sightings on the Cape Peninsula and West Coast NP.

**Natal Spurfowl (Francolin)**

*Pternistis natalensis*

We had a single bird near Polokwane.

**Swainson's Spurfowl (Francolin)**

*Pternistis swainsonii*

This species was seen in the Polokwane area, where it was fairly common.

*Note: Clements places all the above species in the Francolinus genus*

**Common Quail**

*Coturnix coturnix*

We flushed a number of individuals in the Wakkerstroom area, with more sightings in Midmar GR.

### **Ducks & Geese Anatidae**

**White-faced Whistling Duck**

*Dendrocygna viduata*

This attractive duck was seen on a number of days at the start of the tour, with highest numbers at Muzi Pans.

**White-backed Duck**

*Thalassornis leuconotus*

We observed a number of birds at the Strandfontein Water Works.

**Spur-winged Goose**

*Plectropterus gambensis*

Seen at most wetlands on tour, with good numbers at Muzi and the Wakkerstroom area.



**Knob-billed Duck***Sarkidiornis melanotos*

We had sightings at Muzi and Midmar, including a male sporting its distinctive ‘comb’.

Note: Clements lumps this species with Comb Duck *S. sylvicola* of South America calling it Comb Duck

**Egyptian Goose***Alopochen aegyptiacus*

Commonly recorded at wetlands throughout the tour.

**South African Shelduck (NE)***Tadorna cana*

This South African near-endemic was seen at some wetlands near the town of Wakkerstroom, with more sightings at Midmar and the Calvinia area.

**Cape Teal***Anas capensis*

We recorded good numbers of this attractive duck in the Western and Northern Cape Provinces.

**African Black Duck***Anas sparsa*

We had a pair on a river in the Howick area.

**Yellow-billed Duck***Anas undulata*

Commonly recorded at wetlands throughout the tour.

**Cape Shoveler***Anas smithii*

We recorded this species near Wakkerstroom, Sani Pass, Strandfontein and Calvinia.

**Red-billed Teal (Duck)***Anas erythrorhyncha*

We recorded these birds near Polokwane, with further sightings near Wakkerstroom, Muzi and the Karkloof.

**Hottentot Teal***Anas hottentota*

Recorded in small numbers near Wakkerstroom.

**Southern Pochard***Netta erythrophthalma*

We had largest numbers near Zaagkuilsdrift, where we had a flock of fifteen. We had further sightings near Wakkerstroom, Sani Pass, Strandfontein and Calvinia.

**Maccoa Duck***Oxyura maccoa*

We recorded small numbers at Strandfontein.

**Penguins Spheniscidae****Jackass Penguin (NE)***Spheniscus demersus*

Recorded in good numbers on our pelagic out of Simon’s Town and at Boulders Beach, we also had sightings at Hermanus.

**Albatrosses Diomedidae****Yellow-nosed Albatross***Thalassarche chlororhyncos*

We had five of the Indian Ocean form and two of the Atlantic Ocean form on our pelagic out of Simon’s Town. Some authors split these two forms into 2 species; usually they are treated as races only.

**Black-browed Albatross***Thalassarche melanophrys*

Seen in good numbers on our pelagic trip.

**Shy Albatross***Thalassarche cauta*

This species was recorded in good numbers on our pelagic tour.

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

We had many birds attending a trawler on our pelagic trip.

**Northern (Hall’s) Giant Petrel***Macronectes halli*

After carefully checking all the giant petrels on our pelagic trip, we were rewarded with two sightings of this bird.

**Cape Petrel***Daption capense*

Although most birds had already left for their breeding grounds, we still saw this species in good numbers on our pelagic trip.

**White-chinned Petrel***Procellaria aequinoctialis*

Seen in large numbers on the pelagic tour.

**Spectacled Petrel***Procellaria conspicillata*

A critically endangered species, uncommon in South African waters. We had the good fortune of seeing two birds on our pelagic.

Note: Clements treats this bird as a race of White-chinned Petrel.

**Little Shearwater***Puffinus assimilis*

We had a single bird on our pelagic trip – a rare bird in our waters!

**Sooty Shearwater***Puffinus griseus*

Seen in good numbers on our pelagic.

**Great Shearwater***Puffinus gravis*

We had about twenty birds on our pelagic.

**Storm Petrels Hydrobatidae****Wilson's Storm Petrel***Oceanites oceanicus*

We had large numbers of this tiny seabird on our pelagic.

**Black-bellied Storm Petrel***Fregatta tropica*

A fairly common passage migrant off the Cape, we had at least five birds on our pelagic.

**Grebes Podicipedidae****Little Grebe (Dabchick)***Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Small numbers of this rather common bird were seen at several wetlands on tour.

**Great Crested Grebe***Podiceps cristatus*

First recorded at De Hoop, we had more birds at Strandfontein.

**Black-necked (Eared) Grebe***Podiceps nigricollis*

We had good numbers at Strandfontein, Calvinia and Kamfer's Dam.

**Flamingos Phoenicopteridae****Greater Flamingo***Phoenicopterus roseus*

We had large numbers, upward of two hundred, at Strandfontein. Our first sighting was of two birds at Muzi.

**Lesser Flamingo***Phoeniconaias minor*

One of the spectacles of the tour: we had thousands of these bright pink beauties at Kamfer's Dam – recent estimates put the number at 35 to 40 000 individuals!

**Storks Ciconidae****Yellow-billed Stork***Mycteria ibis*

Good numbers were observed at a roost at Lake St Lucia.

**Black Stork***Ciconia nigra*

We had a single bird near Polokwane, with a further three near the Abel Erasmus Pass.

**Woolly-necked Stork***Ciconia episcopus*

A single bird was seen near Polokwane, with more sightings at Lake St Lucia and the Karkloof.

**Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae****Sacred Ibis***Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Fairly common at wetlands throughout the tour.

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

We had good numbers in the Wakkerstroom district, with more sightings up Sani Pass. Our first sighting was near Polokwane.

Note: Clements just calls this bird Bald Ibis

**Hadada Ibis (Hadeda)***Bostrychia hagedash*

This noisy bird was recorded on almost every day throughout the tour.

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

We had sightings near Zaagkuilsdrift, Muzi Pans and the Western Cape.

**African Spoonbill** *Platalea alba*

Our first sighting was of a single bird in the Zaagkuilsdrift area, with more sightings near Wakkerstroom, Muzi, Sani Pass and Calvinia.

### Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns Ardeidae

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Two were seen in Wakkerstroom on consecutive days and we had another sighting at Strandfontein.

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*

Commonly seen throughout the tour on almost every day.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

Recorded at most wetland localities during the tour.

**Black-headed Heron** *Ardea melanocephala*

This grassland species was commonly recorded throughout the tour with highest numbers in the Wakkerstroom area.

**Goliath Heron** *Ardea goliath*

We had a single bird at Muzi Pans.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*

Seen at a few aquatic habitats during the tour with the best views in the Wakkerstroom wetlands.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*

We had sightings at most wetlands in the eastern part of the country.

**Yellow-billed (Intermediate) Egret** *Egretta intermedia*

Recorded only once during the tour near Wakkerstroom.

**Black Heron** *Egretta ardesiaca*

We had two birds at Muzi pans.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

We saw this species near Wakkerstroom, Muzi, St Lucia and De Hoop.

### Hamerkop Scopidae

**Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta*

This bizarre looking species was recorded in the Rust-de-Winter and Wakkerstroom areas.

### Pelicans Pelecanidae

**Great White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

First recorded on the shores of Lake St Lucia, we had good numbers at various localities in the Western Cape.

**Pink-backed Pelican** *Pelecanus rufescens*

We had wonderful views of this species at Muzi Pans and St Lucia village.

### Gannets Sulidae

**Cape Gannet (E)** *Morus capensis*

We had good numbers on our pelagic trip out of Simon's Town, with more seen offshore from the Peninsula.

### Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae

**Reed (Long-tailed) Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax africanus*

Highest numbers at Wakkerstroom, with more sightings at most other wetlands.

**Crowned Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax coronatus*

Recorded during our pelagic tour and near Simon's Town the day before, we had a total of five birds.



**Bank Cormorant***Phalacrocorax neglectus*

We had a total of ten birds on our pelagic trip.

**White-breasted Cormorant***Phalacrocorax lucidus*

First recorded in the Wakkerstroom area, we also recorded them at various other localities.

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

**Cape Cormorant***Leucocarbo capensis*

The most common of the coastal cormorants, we had hundreds of birds on our pelagic and the preceding two days.

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

**Anhingas Anhingidae****Darter***Anhinga melanogaster*

Good numbers were seen in the Rust-de-Winter area, with more sightings in St Lucia, Himeville, West Coast NP and Augrabies NP.

**Falcons Falconidae****Pygmy Falcon***Polihierax semitorquatus*

We had a pair near Springbok and one in Augrabies NP.

**Common (Rock) Kestrel***Falco tinnunculus*

First seen in the Wakkerstroom area, we a few more sightings in the Cape of Good Hope NR and the Tanqua Karoo.

**Greater Kestrel***Falco rupicoloides*

First seen near Calvinia, we had good numbers (including a few breeding on telephone poles) near Springbok.

**Lanner Falcon***Falco biarmicus*

We had a flight view of a singleton near Richmond, with good views later on of a family near Howick.

**Peregrine Falcon***Falco peregrinus*

A single bird at Augrabies NP.

**Hawks, Kites, Eagles & Vultures Accipitridae****Secretarybird***Sagittarius serpentarius*

We had three birds in the grasslands outside the town of Wakkerstroom, with another one near the town of Aggeneys.

**Bat Hawk***Macheiramphus alcinus*

We had a pair near their nest in Magoebaskloof.

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

Recorded on a number of days during the tour.

**Black Kite***Milvus migrans*

Recorded on most days throughout the tour.

Note: The subspecies we recorded, *M. m. parasitus*, is often split as Yellow-billed Kite.

**African Fish Eagle***Haliaeetus vocifer*

We had a single bird near Wakkerstroom, with more at St Lucia, Midmar and near Calvinia.

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

We saw at least five individuals, including a stunning adult, on our day visit up Sani Pass.

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

This, the regions most widespread and numerous vulture, was seen near Tzaneen and the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi GR.

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

We had flight views in the Magoebaskloof and great sightings of numerous birds in Lesotho during our Sani Pass excursion. We also had distant views in the Overberg region of the Western Cape.

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

A single bird was seen in the Tanqua Karoo.

**Brown Snake Eagle** *Circaetus cinereus*

We had a single bird near the town of Mkhuze.

**Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus*

A single bird near Pongola and more in the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi GR.

**African Marsh Harrier** *Circus ranivorus*

We had sightings in the Wakkerstroom area, Strandfontein and West Coast NP.

**Black Harrier (NE)** *Circus maurus*

We had a total of nine birds in the West Coast NP, with more views in the Tanqua Karoo.

**African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogone)** *Polyboroides typus*

We enjoyed two separate sightings of this species in the Hluhluwe area and in Cape Town.

**Pale Chanting Goshawk (NE)** *Melierax canorus*

One of the most common birds in the western part of the country, we had numerous sightings in that area.

**African Goshawk** *Accipiter tachiro*

We had singletons on two consecutive days in Magoebaskloof.

**Black Sparrowhawk (Goshawk)** *Accipiter melanoleucus*

A single bird was seen in the Ongoye Forest.

**Common (Eurasian) Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

A summer migrant to the region, we recorded them only on the second last day of the tour.

**Jackal Buzzard (NE)** *Buteo rufofuscus*

This endemic was first seen in the Wakkerstroom district, followed by further sightings in the Karkloof, Sani Pass and in the Western Cape.

**Tawny Eagle** *Aquila rapax*

We had a single bird near the town of Mkhuze.

**Wahlberg's Eagle** *Aquila wahlbergi*

A singleton was seen near Mkhuze.

**African Hawk Eagle** *Hieraaetus spilogaster*

Uncommon in the south of its range, we had good views of one in the Polokwane GR.

*Note: Clements places this species in the genus Aquila*

**Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus*

We had a single bird in the scenic town of Paarl, with more sightings in Bushmanland.

*Note: Clements places this species in the genus Aquila*

**Martial Eagle** *Polemaetus bellicosus*

This massive eagle was first seen in the Hluhluwe area, with more sightings near Calvinia and Brandvlei.

**Long-crested Eagle** *Lophaetus occipitalis*

We enjoyed various sightings of this regal bird with the bulk of the sightings being along the roads on telephone poles.

**Crowned Eagle** *Stephanoaetus coronatus*

We had sightings near Hluhluwe and Ongoye and Dlinza Forests, which included one displaying individual.

### Bustards Otididae

**Ludwig's Bustard (NE)** *Neotis ludwigii*

We had a total of four birds in the Springbok area.

**Denham's (Stanley's) Bustard** *Neotis denhami*

This bustard was first found in the grasslands in the Wakkerstroom district, with later sightings at Midmar and the Overberg.

**Barrow's Korhaan (E)** *Eupodotis barrowii*

Five birds were seen in the grasslands around Wakkerstroom.

*Note: Clements lumps this species under White-bellied Bustard as Eupodotis senegalensis from further north in Africa.*

**Blue Korhaan (Bustard) (E)** *Eupodotis caerulescens*

We recorded up to ten of these stunning bustards during our time in the Wakkerstroom area.



**Karoo Korhaan (Bustard) (NE)***Eupodotis vigorsii*

First seen in the Tanqua Karoo, with another sighting near Brandvlei.

**Southern Black Korhaan (Black Bustard) (E)***Afrotis (Eupodotis) afra*

We had several displaying in the West Coast NP.

**Northern Black Korhaan (White-quilled Bustard)***Afrotis (Eupodotis) afraoides*

First seen in the Rust-de-Winter area, we had later sightings near Kimberley.

**Black-bellied Bustard***Eupodotis melanogaster*

We had excellent views of several in the Hluhluwe area, including a male doing its strange, ‘cork-popping’ display.

**Flufftails Sarothruridae****Buff-spotted Flufftail***Sarothrura elegans*

We had one female in a small forest patch near Hilton, with birds heard on two other occasions in the Constantia area of Cape Town.

*Note: Clements places flufftails in the same family as rails, gallinules & coots.*

**Rails, Gallinules & Coots Rallidae****African Rail***Rallus caerulescens*

We had two birds in a wetland outside Wakkerstroom.

**Black Crake***Amaurornis flavirostra*

This very striking rail was recorded at Muzi Pans, the St Lucia area and at Strandfontein.

**African Swamphen***Porphyrio madagascariensis*

At least 6 of these colourful birds were seen at the wetland near Wakkerstroom, with more at Strandfontein.

*Note: Clements lumps this species under Purple Swamphen P. porphyrio.*

**Common Moorhen***Gallinula chloropus*

A common bird, encountered at several wetland sites throughout the tour.

**Red-knobbed Coot***Fulica cristata*

As with the above species, good numbers were seen throughout the tour.

**Cranes Gruidae****Grey Crowned Crane***Balearica regulorum*

This exceptionally beautiful crane was seen in the Wakkerstroom and Underberg districts.

**Blue Crane (E)***Anthropoides paradisea*

This elegant crane was encountered in the grasslands around the Wakkerstroom district, with more sightings in the Karkloof and the Overberg.

**Thick-knees Burhinidae****Water Thick-knee***Burhinus vermiculatus*

We encountered this species at Muzi Pans.

**Spotted Thick-knee***Burhinus capensis*

A pair of these birds was seen during our night drive in the Hluhluwe area, with more in the West Coast NP and near Kimberley.

**Oystercatchers Haematopidae****African Oystercatcher (NE)***Haematopus moquini*

We recorded good numbers at coastal sites in the Western and Northern Cape.

**Stilts & Avocets Recurvirostridae****Black-winged Stilt***Himantopus himantopus*

First recorded near Zaagkuilsdrift, we had further sightings at most other wetland sites.

**Pied Avocet***Recurvirostra avosetta*

We had views of at least twenty of these pied waders at the salt works in Velddrif. First recorded near the St Lucia mouth.

**Plovers & Lapwings Charadriidae****Blacksmith Lapwing (Plover)***Vanellus armatus*

This common species was recorded on most days of the tour at most wetlands throughout Eastern South Africa and a few sites in the Western Cape.

**Black-winged Lapwing***Vanellus lugubris*

We had good numbers in Midmar.

**Crowned Lapwing***Vanellus coronatus*

Small numbers recorded near Rust-de-Winter on the first day, with further sightings at various other sites.

**African Wattled Lapwing***Vanellus senegallus*

This striking lapwing was encountered in the Wakkerstroom area, where we had a total of three birds.

**Grey (Black-bellied) Plover***Pluvialis squatarola*

We had large numbers in West Coast NP.

**Common Ringed Plover***Charadrius hiaticula*

We encountered two birds at the St. Lucia Estuary, with further sightings in West Coast NP.

**Kittlitz's Plover***Charadrius pecuarius*

We had good numbers around Muzi Pans.

**Three-banded Plover***Charadrius tricollaris*

A widespread and fairly common species, we nevertheless had few sightings. Two birds in Lesotho on our day up Sani Pass, a singleton near De Hoop and good numbers in the west Coast NP.

**White-fronted Plover***Charadrius marginatus*

First encountered in the St Lucia area, we had more sightings in the West Coast NP and Cape of Good Hope NR.

**Jacanas Jacanidae****African Jacana***Actophilornis africanus*

It was commonly encountered in eastern areas, gracing wetlands with its delicate lily trotting abilities.

**Sandpipers & Allies Scolopacidae****African Snipe***Gallinago nigripennis*

We had good views of several birds in the wetlands at Wakkerstroom, with more in Midmar.

**Whimbrel***Numenius phaeopus*

Good numbers in the West Coast NP.

**Marsh Sandpiper***Tringa stagnatilis*

We had small numbers in the West Coast NP.

**Common Greenshank***Tringa nebularia*

Small numbers were encountered in the West Coast NP and near Calvinia.

**Wood Sandpiper***Tringa glareola*

Singletons were seen near Polokwane and the Karkloof.

**Terek Sandpiper***Xenus cinereus*

We had a single bird in St Lucia.

**Common Sandpiper***Actitis hypoleucos*

We found this species at St Lucia and near Calvinia.

**Ruddy Turnstone***Arenaria interpres*

We had about twenty in the West Coast NP, with another three in Port Nolloth.

**Red Knot***Calidris canutus*

We had small numbers in the West Coast NP.



**Sanderling***Calidris alba*

We encountered small numbers in the West Coast NP.

**Little Stint***Calidris minuta*

First seen in St Lucia, we had large numbers, approaching three hundred, in the West Coast NP.

**Curlew Sandpiper***Calidris ferruginea*

Six birds of this wader species were seen at the St. Lucia Estuary, with larger numbers in the West Coast NP.

**Ruff***Philomachus pugnax*

We had sightings of this species at various wetlands throughout the country.

**Courser & Pratincoles Glareolidae****Double-banded Courser***Rhinoptilus africanus*

We enjoyed several sightings in the Kimberley area.

**Collared Pratincole***Glareola nordmanni*

We had good numbers at Muzi Pans.

**Gulls & Terns Laridae****Kelp Gull***Larus dominicanus*

Commonly recorded in coastal areas of the Western and Northern Cape.

**Grey-hooded (headed) Gull***Larus cirrocephalus*

Seen in Johannesburg on our first day, with more on our way to Wakkerstroom, in St Lucia, Calvinia and Port Nolloth.

**Hartlaub's Gull (NE)***Larus hartlaubii*

This near-endemic gull was seen in all coastal areas of the Western Cape, as well as in Port Nolloth.

**Sabine's Gull***Xema sabini*

Recorded on our pelagic trip, where we had good numbers.

**Caspian Tern***Sterna caspia*

First recorded in St Lucia, we had further sightings in the West Coast NP.

**Sandwich Tern***Sterna sandvicensis*

We first recorded them near Hermanus, with a further sighting of roosting birds in the West Coast NP.

**Swift (Great Crested) Tern***Sterna bergii*

Small numbers in St Lucia, with larger numbers at coastal sites in the Western Cape.

**Common Tern***Sterna hirundo*

Good numbers were seen at their roost in Cape of Good Hope NR, with even larger numbers on the pelagic.

**Arctic Tern***Sterna paradisaea*

We had small numbers on our pelagic out of Simon's Town.

**Whiskered Tern***Chlidonias hybridus*

This species frequents the inland water bodies around the country and it was seen in the Wakkerstroom area.

**White-winged Tern***Chlidonias leucopterus*

We had large numbers at Muzi Pans.

**Skuas Stercorariidae****Subantarctic (Brown) Skua***Stercorarius antarcticus*

We had good numbers on our pelagic tour.

**Sandgrouse Pteroclididae****Namaqua Sandgrouse***Pterocles namaqua*

We had several sightings in the north-western part of the country, including the spectacle of several hundred coming to drink at a roadside water trough.



### Doves & Pigeons Columbidae

- Common (Rock) Pigeon** *Columba livia*  
Recorded at various towns throughout the country.
- Speckled Pigeon** *Columba guinea*  
This species was most common in Wakkerstroom and the Western Cape.
- African Olive (Rameron) Pigeon** *Columba arquatrix*  
We had a single bird at the Xumeni forest, with further sightings around our accommodation at De Hoop.
- Eastern Bronze-naped (Delegorgue's) Pigeon** *Columba delegorguei*  
We had scope views of a pair in the Dlinza forest.
- Lemon Dove** *Columba larvata*  
We had good views of this secretive forest dweller in Dlinza forest.
- Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata*  
Another widespread and common bird in South Africa, this large dove was seen almost daily in the east of the country.
- Ring-necked Dove** *Streptopelia capicola*  
This widespread and common species was observed on most days of the tour.
- Laughing Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis*  
The region's most commonly encountered *Streptopelia* dove, seen on many days of the tour.
- Emerald-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur chalcospilos*  
A woodland species, it was seen in Magoebaskloof and the Hluhluwe area.
- Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*  
Seen very well when we had a male near Zaagkuilsdrift, with more sightings near Calvinia and Springbok.
- African Green Pigeon** *Treron calva*  
A very colourful pigeon, it was seen on our morning walk in St Lucia.

### Parrots & Allies Psittacidae

- Cape Parrot (E)** *Poicephalus robustus*  
We had flight views of two in the Xumeni forest.
- Brown-headed Parrot** *Poicephalus cryptoxanthus*  
We had a small group next to the Mkhuze River near Muzi Pans.

### Turacos Musophagidae

- Livingstone's Turaco** *Tauraco livingstonii*  
We had good views of this lovely species in the dune forest at St. Lucia.
- Knysna Turaco (E)** *Tauraco corythaix*  
We had one of these colourful birds in Magoebaskloof.
- Purple-crested Turaco** *Tauraco porphyreolophus*  
This species was recorded at most of the Zululand reserves and in Dlinza forest.
- Grey Go-away-bird** *Corythaixoides concolor*  
A very vocal bird, it was seen in the Rust-de-Winter and Polokwane areas.

### Cuckoos Cuculidae

- Burchell's Coucal** *Centropus burchellii*  
Seen in the Hluhluwe area, where we had two birds.  
*Note: Clements lumps this species with Neumann's and White-browed Coucal as C. superciliosus*
- Dideric Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx caprius*  
A bird that parasitizes weavers, it was seen in the Kimberley area.
- African Emerald Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx cupreus*  
We had brilliant views of a stunning male in Dlinza forest.
- Black Cuckoo** *Cuculus clamosus*



We had a single bird in the early morning near De Hoop.

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

First heard in the Hluhluwe and Eshowe areas, we had views of one on our day up Sani Pass.

**African Cuckoo** *Cuculus gularis*

We had a single bird at Cape Vidal.

### Barn Owls Tytonidae

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

We had a single bird on our night drive in Midmar.

### Typical Owls Strigidae

**Cape Eagle-Owl** *Bubo capensis*

We were fortunate to have good views of this scarce species on a night drive in the Springbok area.

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

Seen in the Hluhluwe area, Kirstenbosch and the Springbok area.

**African Wood Owl** *Strix woodfordii*

It took us a while to locate the calling birds around our accommodations near Hluhluwe, but we were rewarded with an excellent sighting of one bird.

**Marsh Owl** *Asio capensis*

We had one bird on our night drive in Midmar.

### Nightjars Caprimulgidae

**Rufous-cheeked Nightjar** *Caprimulgus rufigena*

Two birds were seen on a night drive near Brandvlei.

### Swifts Apodidae

**African Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus*

This delicate, long-tailed swift was recorded at several localities during the first half of the tour, as well as at Augrabies NP.

**Alpine Swift** *Tachymarptis melba*

We had one bird near the Strijdom Tunnel, with more sightings up Sani Pass, Augrabies and Kimberley

**African Black Swift** *Apus barbatus*

We had flocks at several locations, including Wakkerstroom and Underberg.

*Note: Clements just calls this African Swift*

**Bradfield's Swift** *Apus bradfieldi*

We had a number of individuals in the Kimberley area.

**Little Swift** *Apus affinis*

The most common swift of the region, it was seen regularly throughout the tour.

**Horus Swift** *Apus horus*

We had a single bird at Strandfontein and a small flock at Augrabies.

**White-rumped Swift** *Apus caffer*

This species was seen regularly in small numbers throughout the tour.

### Mousebirds Coliidae

**Speckled Mousebird** *Colius striatus*

This common mousebird was recorded at several localities through the first half of the tour.

**White-backed Mousebird (E)** *Colius colius*

We had small numbers of these birds in the West Coast NP, as well as several other localities in the Western and Northern Cape.



**Red-faced Mousebird***Urocolius indicus*

We had good sightings of this classic bushveld species in the Polokwane and Hluhluwe areas.

**Trogons Trogonidae****Narina Trogon***Apaloderma narina*

This bird was only heard in the Dlinza forest and the Karkloof.

**Rollers Coraciidae****Lilac-breasted Roller***Coracias caudata*

A delight for the whole group, this beautiful bird was found in the Polokwane and Hluhluwe areas.

**Kingfishers Alcedinidae****Brown-hooded Kingfisher***Halcyon albiventris*

A woodland kingfisher, it was recorded in Polokwane, Hluhluwe and St Lucia.

**Striped Kingfisher***Halcyon chelicuti*

We had two birds in the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi GR.

**Malachite Kingfisher***Alcedo cristata*

We encountered this little gem of a kingfisher at Muzi Pans.

**Giant Kingfisher***Megaceryle maxima*

This very large kingfisher species was recorded at Wakkerstroom and Midmar.

**Pied Kingfisher***Ceryle rudis*

The world's most widespread kingfisher was found at various water bodies during the tour.

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

An inhabitant of *Acacia* woodland, we had three birds in the Kimberley area.

**Little Bee-eater***Merops pusillus*

We had sightings on two consecutive days in the Hluhluwe area.

**European Bee-eater***Merops apiaster*

This beautiful species, a summer visitor to our region, was found on several days during the last half of the tour.

**Hoopoes Upupidae****African Hoopoe***Upupa africana*

Found at several localities during the tour.

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

**Wood Hoopoes Phoeniculidae****Green Wood Hoopoe***Phoeniculus purpureus*

This very vocal bird was only heard near Muzi Pans.

**Common Scimitarbill***Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*

Singletons were seen in Polokwane and Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Game Reserves.

**Hornbills Bucerotidae****Crowned Hornbill***Tockus alboterminatus*

We had several sightings in the Hluhluwe area.

**Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill (NE)***Tockus leucomelas*

Seen in the Rust-de-Winter area and on our way to Hluhluwe.

**Trumpeter Hornbill***Ceratogymna bucinator*

Our days spent in the Hluhluwe, St Lucia and Eshowe areas produced a number of sightings.



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

### Barbets Capitonidae

- White-eared Barbet** *Stactolaema leucotis*  
We had a number of sightings in all the Zululand forests.
- Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus bilineatus*  
First seen in Hluhluwe, we later had another sighting in St Lucia.
- Red-fronted Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus pusillus*  
Unfortunately, this bird was only heard in Ongoye forest.
- Acacia Pied Barbet (NE)** *Tricholaema leucomelas*  
We had sightings near Calvinia, Augrabies and Kimberley.  
Note: Clements just calls this bird *Pied Barbet*
- Black-collared Barbet** *Lybius torquatus*  
A number of birds were seen in the Hluhluwe area.
- Crested Barbet** *Trachyphonus vaillantii*  
This brightly patterned barbet was seen well in Polokwane and Hluhluwe-iMfolozi GR.

### Honeyguides Indicatoridae

- Lesser Honeyguide** *Indicator minor*  
This parasitic species was seen well in the Augrabies NP.
- Scaly-throated Honeyguide** *Indicator variegates*  
We only heard this species in the coastal forest of St Lucia.

### Woodpeckers Picidae

- Red-throated Wryneck** *Jynx ruficollis*  
We had great views of a single bird in Wakkerstroom.
- Golden-tailed Woodpecker** *Campethera abingoni*  
We had a single bird in the Hluhluwe area.
- Knysna Woodpecker (E)** *Campethera notata*  
After extensive searching, we had brief views of a single bird in De Hoop.
- Ground Woodpecker (E)** *Geocolaptes olivaceus*  
We had at least six birds in Lesotho on our day trip up Sani Pass.
- Cardinal Woodpecker** *Dendropicus fuscescens*  
This very small woodpecker species was found in West Coast NP and Kimberley.
- Olive Woodpecker** *Dendropicus griseocephalus*  
We had sightings in the Karkloof and near Hilton.

### Wattle-eyes and Batises Platysteiridae

- Cape Batis (E)** *Batis capensis*  
First seen in Magoebaskloof, we had more sightings at Ongoye, the Karkloof and Kirstenbosch.
- Chinspot Batis** *Batis molitor*  
Our first birds were seen in Polokwane, with further sightings in False Bay, Hluhluwe.
- Pririt Batis (NE)** *Batis pririt*  
First seen in the Tanqua Karoo, we had more sightings in the Springbok and Kimberley areas.

### Bushshrikes & Helmetshrikes Malaconotidae

- White-crested Helmetshrike** *Prionops plumatus*  
We had a flock of six in Magoebaskloof.  
Note: Clements just calls this bird *White Helmetshrike*



**Black-fronted Bushshrike***Chlorophoneus nigrifrons*

This species has a very restricted range in South Africa and we were fortunate to see it in Magoebaskloof.

**Olive Bushshrike (NE)***Chlorophoneus olivaceus*

We had one bird in the forests of the Karkloof.

**Orange-breasted Bushshrike***Telophorus sulfureopectus*

Seen in False Bay Park and Hluhluwe-iMfolozi GR.

**Bokmakierie (NE)***Telophorus zeylonus*

This very beautiful Bushshrike was seen on a number of occasions in the Underberg district, De Hoop, the West Coast NP and Bushmanland.

**Brown-crowned Tchagra***Tchagra australis*

A single bird was seen on our drive to Hluhluwe.

**Southern Tchagra (E)***Tchagra tchagra*

We had a single bird displaying around our accommodations near De Hoop.

**Black-crowned Tchagra***Tchagra senegala*

This species was found in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi GR, where we had excellent views.

**Black-backed Puffback***Dryoscopus cubla*

Commonly recorded during our tour in the eastern part of South Africa.

**Southern Boubou (E)***Laniarius ferrugineus*

This very vocal species was first seen in the Polokwane area, and later in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi, the Karkloof and Betty's Bay.

**Crimson-breasted Shrike***Laniarius atrococcineus*

We had a pair of these outrageous birds on the Zaagkuilsdrift Road, Polokwane GR and near Kimberley.

**Brubru***Nilaus afer*

We had a pair in the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi GR.

**Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae****Grey Cuckooshrike***Coracina caesia*

Seen well in Magoebaskloof, Ongoye and Dlinza forests.

**Black Cuckooshrike***Campephaga flava*

We had sightings in the Hluhluwe and Eshowe areas.

**Shrikes Laniidae****Magpie Shrike***Corvinella melanoleuca*

This striking species was seen in the woodland of Rust-de-Winter.

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

**Southern White-crowned Shrike***Eurocephalus anguitimens*

We had a single bird in the woodlands south of Tzaneen.

Note: Clements just calls this bird *White-crowned Shrike*

**Common Fiscal***Lanius collaris*

This is a common bird throughout South Africa and was seen on almost every day of the tour.

**Orioles Oriolidae****Black-headed Oriole***Oriolus larvatus*

Recorded near Hluhluwe, Dlinza forest and the Karkloof.

**Drongos Dicruridae****Square-tailed Drongo***Dicrurus ludwiggii*

A drongo that inhabits forested areas, we saw them in Magoebaskloof, Hluhluwe and St Lucia.

**Fork-tailed Drongo***Dicrurus adsimilis*

Recorded regularly at most sites visited in eastern South Africa, with further sightings around Kimberley.



### Monarch Flycatchers Monarchidae

- Blue-mantled (African) Crested Flycatcher** *Trochocercus cyanomelas*  
We had sightings on two consecutive days in False Bay Park and St Lucia.
- African Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone viridis*  
Recorded at Hluhluwe, St Lucia and Betty's Bay.

### Crows, Jays & Magpies Corvidae

- House Crow** *Corvus splendens*  
This introduced species was seen around the airport in Cape Town.
- Cape Crow** *Corvus capensis*  
We had sightings in the Wakkerstroom, Underberg, Overberg, Calvinia and Springbok areas.
- Pied Crow** *Corvus albus*  
Probably the most common bird of the tour, it was only missed on two days!
- White-necked Raven** *Corvus albicollis*  
We enjoyed good views of this species en route to Sani Pass and in the Western Cape.

### Rockjumpers Chaetopidae

- Cape (Rufous) Rockjumper (E)** *Chaetops frenatus*  
We had a flock of five birds in the Rooi Els area in the Western Cape.
- Drakensberg (Orange-breasted) Rockjumper (E)** *Chaetops aurantius*  
We enjoyed several sightings of this smart bird on our day up Sani Pass.

### Tits Paridae

- Southern Black Tit (NE)** *Parus niger*  
A bird we encountered regularly in bushveld habitats during the tour. This bird is often in association with feeding flocks or 'bird parties'.
- Ashy Tit** *Parus cinarescens*  
We had a single bird near our accommodations near Kimberley.
- Grey Tit (E)** *Parus afer*  
We had two birds in Lesotho on our day up Sani Pass, with more seen in Port Nolloth.  
*Note: Clements places these three birds in the genus Melaniparus.*

### Penduline Tits Remizidae

- Cape Penduline Tit** *Anthoscopus caroli*  
We had two flocks of this tiny bird in West Coast NP.

### Swallows & Martins Hirundinidae

- Black Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne pristopectera*  
We had two separate sightings in the Hluhluwe area, with another in Kirstenbosch.
- Brown-throated (Plain) Martin** *Riparia paludicola*  
We had sightings around Wakkerstroom and at Midmar.
- Banded Martin** *Riparia cincta*  
Recorded in the Overberg region and West Coast NP.
- Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*  
A very common bird during the summer months, we saw them in Hluhluwe, West Coast NP and Kimberley.
- White-throated Swallow** *Hirundo albigularis*  
An attractive swallow, we had peak numbers of this species in the Wakkerstroom area, with further sightings on most other days.



- Blue Swallow** *Hirundo atrocaerulea*  
We had a pair of these rare swallows in the Richmond area of Kwa-Zulu Natal.
- Pearl-breasted Swallow** *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*  
A small flock in De Hoop NR.
- Rock Martin** *Hirundo fuligula*  
This species was seen at Polokwane, the Abel Erasmus Pass and almost everyday in the west of the country.
- Common House Martin** *Delichon urbicum*  
We had a small flock in the Hluhluwe area.  
*Note: Clements just calls this bird House-Martin*
- Greater Striped Swallow** *Cecropis cucullata*  
An intra-African migrant, seen at most high altitude grassland sites in the east including good numbers in the Wakkerstroom area.
- Lesser Striped Swallow** *Cecropis abyssinica*  
Recorded at lower elevations in eastern South Africa, with highest numbers experienced *en route* from Hluhluwe to St Lucia.
- Red-breasted (Rufous-chested) Swallow** *Cecropis semirufa*  
Seen around Polokwane, Wakkerstroom and Kimberley.
- South African Cliff Swallow (BE)** *Petrochelidon spilodera*  
Good numbers seen near Wakkerstroom town at a bridge crossing, with more on our day up Sani Pass and near Brandvlei.  
*Note: Clements just calls this bird South African Swallow*

### Larks Alaudidae

- Rufous-naped Lark** *Mirafra africana*  
Small numbers were seen in grasslands habitats around Polokwane, Wakkerstroom and Hluhluwe.
- Flappet Lark** *Mirafra rufocinnamomea*  
Two birds seen on consecutive days, including a male doing his characteristic, ‘wing-snapping’ display flight.
- Clapper Lark (NE)** *Mirafra apiata*  
We had a single bird displaying near De Hoop, with more sightings around Kimberley.  
*Note: Clements regards the Clapper Lark complex as two species, Eastern (M. fasciolata) and Cape (M. apiata), both of which we recorded. Other authors split Cape Clapper lark into a further two species, Cape and Agulhas (M. marjoriae). Following this view, we recorded Cape and Agulhas Clapper Larks.*
- Fawn-colored Lark** *Mirafra africanoides*  
We had a single bird near Pofadder in the Northern Cape.  
*Note: Clements places this in the genus Calendulauda.*
- Sabota Lark** *Mirafra sabota*  
We had sightings of this bird near Calvinia and Kimberley.  
*Note: Clements places this in the genus Calendulauda.*
- Rudd's Lark (E)** *Heteromirafra ruddi*  
We had good views of this localised endemic after flushing it from some short grassland in a field in Wakkerstroom.
- Karoo Long-billed Lark (NE)** *Certhilauda subcoronata*  
We had good views of several sitting on roadside fences in Bushmanland, with more sightings in Augrabies NP.
- Cape Long-billed Lark (E)** *Certhilauda curvirostris*  
A single bird displaying near Port Nolloth, with many more heard calling.  
*Note: Clements just calls this Cape Lark.*
- Short-clawed Lark (NE)** *Certhilauda chuana*  
We had a single bird in short grass near Polokwane. A very localised near-endemic.
- Karoo Lark (E)** *Certhilauda albescens*  
Good views of this bird in the Calvinia, Brandvlei and Port Nolloth areas.
- Barlow's Lark (NE)** *Certhilauda barlowi*



We had a total of four birds in the Port Nolloth area.

**Red Lark (E)** *Certhilauda burra*

Another very localised endemic, we had great views near Brandvlei and again near the town of Aggeneys.

**Spike-heeled Lark** *Chersomanes albofasciata*

We first saw these larks in short, degraded grassland patches in the Wakkerstroom area. We later had more birds in the Tanqua Karoo, Augrabies NP and Kimberley.

**Red-capped Lark** *Calandrella cinerea*

We had sightings of this bird near Polokwane, Wakkerstroom, Sani Pass, the Overberg, Calvinia, Springbok and Kimberley.

**Pink-billed Lark (NE)** *Spizocorys conirostris*

A single bird near Wakkerstroom, with a further two birds near Kimberley.

**Botha's Lark (E)** *Spizocorys fringillaris*

An extremely localised endemic, we had four birds in the Wakkerstroom area.

**Sclater's Lark (NE)** *Spizocorys sclateri*

After extensive searching, we had two birds come in to a water trough near Pofadder.

**Large-billed Lark (E)** *Galerida magnirostris*

Two of these endemic larks were seen well in Lesotho during our day excursion up Sani Pass. We later had good views again in the Overberg and Calvinia.

**Black-eared Sparrow-Lark (NE)** *Eremopterix australis*

A highly nomadic bird, we had several flocks in the Brandvlei area.

**Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark** *Eremopterix verticalis*

Seen in the Calvinia, Brandvlei and Springbok areas.

### Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae

**Red-faced Cisticola** *Cisticola erythrops*

A noisy species of rank grass in riverine habitats, we only heard them near Muzi pans.

**Rattling Cisticola** *Cisticola chinianus*

This noisy and conspicuous species was recorded in the Zaagkuilsdrift, Polokwane and Hluhluwe areas.

**Grey-backed Cisticola (NE)** *Cisticola subruficapilla*

We had several birds in De Hoop, the Cape of Good Hope NR, West Coast NP and Bushmanland.

**Wailing Cisticola** *Cisticola lais*

A denizen of rocky hillsides, we found a singleton on our Sani Pass day trip.

**Levaillant's Cisticola** *Cisticola tinniens*

A common cisticola recorded at many wetland locations throughout our tour. We had good views of several in the Karkloof.

**Croaking Cisticola** *Cisticola natalensis*

We had one bird near Hluhluwe.

**Neddicky** *Cisticola fulvicapillus*

This species was seen well in the Rooi Els area.

**Desert Cisticola** *Cisticola aridulus*

We had a few displaying near Kimberley.

**Cloud Cisticola** *Cisticola textrix*

We had fairly good views of some displaying near Darling in the Western Cape.

**Rufous-eared Warbler (NE)** *Malcorus pectoralis*

We had excellent views in Bushmanland at several localities.

**Tawny-flanked Prinia** *Prinia subflava*

We saw these near Magoebaskloof, Eshowe and Hilton.

**Black-chested Prinia** *Prinia flavicans*

First seen near Johannesburg, we had more at Augrabies and Kimberley.

**Karoo Prinia (NE)** *Prinia maculosa*



We had a number of sightings at various sites in the Western Cape.

**Drakensberg Prinia (E)** *Prinia hypoxantha*

We first had a singleton near Wakkerstroom, with more up Sani Pass.

**Namaqua Warbler (Prinia) (NE)** *Phragmacia substriata*

A pair was seen well in Augrabies NP.

*Note: Clements has still kept this bird in the genus Prinia*

**Bar-throated Apalis** *Apalis thoracica*

We enjoyed good sightings of this species in Magoebaskloof, the Karkloof, Betty's Bay and again in Paarl.

**Rudd's Apalis (NE)** *Apalis ruddi*

This range-restricted near-endemic was found near Hluhluwe and then again in the coastal forest around St Lucia.

**Yellow-breasted Apalis** *Apalis flavida*

We enjoyed several sightings of this bird near Hluhluwe, St Lucia and the Karkloof.

**Green-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brachyura*

A dweller of thick undergrowth, we had sightings near Hluhluwe and St. Lucia.

**Cinnamon-breasted Warbler (NE)** *Euryptila sudcinnamomea*

We had two birds on our day through the Tanqua Karoo.

**Fairy Warbler (Flycatcher) (NE)** *Stenostira scita*

First found in Wakkerstroom, we saw it later up Sani Pass and the Tanqua Karoo.

### Bulbuls Pycnonotidae

**African Red-eyed (Black-fronted) Bulbul** *Pycnonotus nigricans*

We had numerous sightings at all sites in the Northern Cape.

**Cape Bulbul (E)** *Pycnonotus capensis*

Seen daily in the Western Cape.

**Dark-capped Bulbul** *Pycnonotus tricolor*

Recorded almost everyday at virtually all locations visited in eastern Southern Africa.

*Note: Clements lumps this bird with Common, Somali and Dodson's Bulbul as Common Bulbul P. barbatus*

**Sombre Greenbul** *Andropadus importunus*

A species that is far more often heard than seen, we encountered the bird at most of the Zululand Game Reserves with our first sighting being in False Bay Park. Also seen in Kirstenbosch.

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

Small numbers were seen in False Bay Park, St. Lucia and Eshowe.

**Terrestrial Brownbul** *Phyllastrephus terrestris*

Usually fairly common in the tangled undergrowth of forests and thickets, we had only one sighting on a forest trail near Hluhluwe.

**Eastern Nicator** *Nicator gularis*

A particularly elusive bird with a beautiful song, we heard its wonderful call and found it in St Lucia.

### Old World Warblers Sylviidae

**Victorin's Warbler (E)** *Cryptillas victorini*

Only heard at Betty's Bay and Rooi Els.

**Little Rush (African Bush-) Warbler** *Bradypterus baboecala*

This skulking inhabitant of dense reedbeds was only heard at Strandfontein.

**Knysna Warbler (E)** *Bradypterus sylvaticus*

We found this master-skulker on two occasions in Cape Town.

**Barratt's (African Scrub-) Warbler (NE)** *Bradypterus barratti*

We had unbelievable views of this species in the riverine scrub on our day visit up Sani Pass.

**Cape Grassbird (E)** *Sphenoeacus afer*

First seen *en route* to Sani Pass, we also had good views in De Hoop and the Cape of Good Hope NR.



**Lesser Swamp Warbler***Acrocephalus gracilirostris*

We had two birds in a wetland just outside Wakkerstroom.

**African Reed Warbler***Acrocephalus baeticatus*

We enjoyed good views of three in Augrabies NP.

**Dark-capped (African) Yellow Warbler***Chloropeta natalensis*

Two birds were seen on our day up Sani Pass.

**Yellow-throated Woodland (Wood) Warbler***Phylloscopus ruficapilla*

Our visit to a small patch of indigenous forest on a private farm in the Karkloof rewarded us with views of this beautiful warbler.

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

We had a small flock of four near Calvinia, with more seen near Springbok.

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

We found this almost 'tail-less' bird near Zaagkuilsdrift, Hluhluwe and in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi GR.

**Chestnut-vented Tit-babbler (Rufous-vented Warbler)***Parisoma subcaeruleum*

We had two on our first day near Rust-de-Winter, with more sightings near Kimberley.

**Layard's Tit-babbler (Warbler) (NE)***Parisoma layardi*

We had a total of four birds on our day excursion up Sani Pass, with more sightings in the Tanqua Karoo and near Springbok.

**Babblers Timaliidae****Arrow-marked Babbler***Turdoides jardineii*

A family group of these noisy birds was seen in Polokwane GR.

**Bush Blackcap (E)***Lioptilus nigricapillus*

Seen in the Karkloof, where we had a total of six birds.

**Sugarbirds Promeropidae****Cape Sugarbird (E)***Promerops cafer*

First recorded around stands of *Protea* near De Hoop, we also had sightings in the Cape of Good Hope, Rooi Els and Kirstenbosch.

**Gurney's Sugarbird (NE)***Promerops gurneyi*

At least six were recorded going up Sani Pass.

**White-eyes Zosteropidae****Cape White-eye (NE)***Zosterops pallidus*

We had many encounters with this common species during the tour.

*Note: Some authors split Cape White-eye into Cape (Z. virens) and Orange River White-eye (Z. pallidus). Clements does not follow this view.*

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

We found quite a few around our accommodations near Hluhluwe.

**Starlings Sturnidae****Common Myna***Acridotheres tristis*

A species that was introduced to Durban in 1900, it was common in and around urban centres of eastern South Africa.

**Common (European) Starling***Sturnus vulgaris*

Another introduced species, this one was common in urban centres in the Western Cape. First seen in Wakkerstroom.

**Wattled Starling***Creatophora cinerea*

Small numbers were seen near Polokwane and Muzi Pans.

**Cape (Glossy-) Starling***Lamprotornis nitens*

Recorded regularly in the east, we had later sightings around Augrabies and Kimberley.

**Black-bellied (Glossy-) Starling** *Lamprotornis corruscus*

Hluhluwe and St. Lucia produced sightings of this species.

**Violet-backed Starling** *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

This absolutely gorgeous summer visitor to South Africa was seen in Magoebaskloof.

**(African) Pied Starling (E)** *Spreo bicolor*

Good numbers of this endemic were seen in the Wakkerstroom grasslands and the Western and Northern Cape.

**Red-winged Starling** *Onychognathus morio*

Recorded at Wakkerstroom, up Sani Pass, the Karkloof, Betty's Bay, Cape of Good Hope and Kirstenbosch.

**Pale-winged Starling** *Onychognathus naboroupp*

Seen regularly at rocky areas in the Northern Cape with highest numbers at Augrabies.

**Red-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*

This bird was seen near Mkhuze town and Hluhluwe-iMfolozi GR.

### Thrushes & Allies Turdidae

**Orange Ground Thrush** *Zoothera gurneyi*

We had one in the Xumeni Forest.

**Spotted Ground Thrush** *Zoothera guttata*

Four birds were found and seen well in the forest interior of the magical Dlinza Forest.

**Groundscraper Thrush** *Psophocichla litsitsirupa*

We had a single bird in Polokwane.

**Kurrichane Thrush** *Turdus libonyanus*

Seen in Magoebaskloof and Hluhluwe.

**Olive Thrush** *Turdus olivaceus*

We found small numbers in Underberg, up Sani Pass, Hilton and Kirstenbosch.

**Karoo Thrush (NE)** *Turdus smithii*

First found near Calvinia and later near Kimberley.

*Note: Clements lumps this, Olive, Somali and Taita Thrushes as Olive Thrush (T. olivaceus).*

### Chats, Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

**White-starred Robin-Chat** *Pogonocichla stellata*

Two individuals were seen, one in the Karkloof and the other near Hilton.

**Cape Robin-Chat** *Cossypha caffra*

First seen in the Wakkerstroom area, we also had several sightings up Sani Pass, the Western Cape, Augrabies and Kimberley.

**White-throated Robin-Chat (NE)** *Cossypha humeralis*

We had a sighting of one bird singing on the Zaagkuilsdrift road.

**Red-capped Robin-Chat** *Cossypha natalensis*

We had sightings near Hluhluwe and St Lucia.

**Chorister Robin-Chat (E)** *Cossypha dichroa*

First heard in Magoebaskloof, we later had excellent sightings in Dlinza forest.

**Bearded Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas quadrivirgata*

We had a single bird in False Bay Park.

**Brown Scrub Robin (NE)** *Cercotrichas signata*

We had a total of three in the dune forests of St Lucia.

**White-browed (Red-backed) Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas leucophrys*

Recorded in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi GR, where we had to work hard to find a calling bird.

**Kalahari Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas paena*

A single bird was found singing in Polokwane GR.

**Karoo Scrub Robin (NE)** *Cercotrichas coryphaeus*



We had several sightings in the Western and Northern Cape.

**Eurasian (African) Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus*

A common bird in South Africa, we had many sightings during the tour in Wakkerstroom and Kwa-Zulu Natal Midlands, as well as around Calvinia and Springbok.

**Buff-streaked (Bush) Chat (E)** *Saxicola bifasciata*

We enjoyed good views of a pair on Sani Pass.

**Capped Wheatear** *Oenanthe pileata*

First seen near Johannesburg, this handsome bird was seen again in the Overberg and Bushmanland.

**Mountain Wheatear** *Oenanthe monticola*

A denizen of rocky areas, we had sightings near Wakkerstroom, in the Tanqua Karoo, Springbok and Augrabies.

**Sickle-winged Chat (NE)** *Cercomela sinuata*

This near-endemic was seen well in Lesotho during our day visit up Sani Pass, with further sightings near Calvinia.

**Karoo Chat (NE)** *Cercomela schlegelii*

We had five birds in the Tanqua Karoo, with more sightings near Brandvlei and Springbok.

**Tractrac Chat (NE)** *Cercomela tractrac*

Our first sighting was near Calvinia, with another near Springbok.

**Familiar Chat** *Cercomela familiaris*

First seen on Sani Pass, we had later sightings in the Overberg, Bushmanland and near Kimberley.

**Ant-eating (Southern Ant-eater-) Chat (NE)** *Myrmecocichla formicivora*

We had good numbers in the Wakkerstroom district, followed by sightings around Springbok and Kimberley.

**Cape Rock Thrush (E)** *Monticola rupestris*

We found four birds on our tour of Sani Pass, with a further sighting near Rooi Els.

**Sentinel Rock Thrush (NE)** *Monticola explorator*

This good-looking bird was seen well in the Wakkerstroom area and also on Sani Pass and Rooi Els.

**Short-toed Rock Thrush (NE)** *Monticola brevipes*

A single male was seen during our stay near Kimberley.

**Southern Black Flycatcher** *Melaenornis pammelaina*

We had a pair in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi GR.

**Chat Flycatcher** *Bradornis infuscatus*

This large flycatcher was seen near Calvinia, Brandvlei, Springbok and Kimberley.

**Marico (Mariqua) Flycatcher** *Bradornis mariquensis*

We had sightings on the Zaagkuilsdrift road and Polokwane GR.

**Fiscal Flycatcher (NE)** *Sigelus silens*

This near-endemic was seen well near Polokwane, with further sightings at De Hoop, Kirstenbosch, the Tanqua Karoo and Kimberley.

**Ashy Flycatcher** *Muscicapa caerulescens*

We found this riverine habitat species in False Bay Park.

**African Dusky Flycatcher** *Muscicapa adusta*

A flycatcher of forest and woodland, we had sightings in Magoebaskloof and Kirstenbosch.

**Grey Tit-Flycatcher** *Myioparus plumbeus*

We had a singleton in False Bay Park.

### Sunbirds Nectariniidae

**Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris*

We had sightings of this tiny jewel of a bird at Hluhluwe, St. Lucia and in forests in the midlands.

**Orange-breasted Sunbird (E)** *Anthobaphes violacea*

We had numerous sightings, including several stunning males, around flowering plants in the Western Cape.

**Eastern Olive Sunbird** *Cyanomitra olivacea*

We had many sightings in the forests of Zululand.



<b>Grey Sunbird</b>	<i>Cyanomitra veroxii</i>
Three birds were seen on the shores of Lake St Lucia.	
<b>Amethyst Sunbird</b>	<i>Chalcomitra amethystine</i>
One in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi and a couple in Paarl.	
<b>Malachite Sunbird</b>	<i>Nectarinia famosa</i>
We enjoyed good views of this bird up Sani Pass, West Coast NP, the Tanqua Karoo and Springbok.	
<b>Southern Double-collared Sunbird (NE)</b>	<i>Cinnyris chalybeus</i>
Commonly seen everywhere in the Western Cape.	
<b>Neergaard's Sunbird</b>	<i>Cinnyris neergaardi</i>
A single male was seen in False Bay Park.	
<b>Greater Double-collared Sunbird (E)</b>	<i>Cinnyris afra</i>
One bird in Magoebaskloof, with more up Sani Pass and in the Karkloof.	
<b>Marico (Mariqua) Sunbird</b>	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>
We had a few sightings in the Polokwane area.	
<b>Purple-banded Sunbird</b>	<i>Cinnyris bifasciatus</i>
We had numerous sightings around Hluhluwe.	
<b>White-bellied Sunbird</b>	<i>Cinnyris talatala</i>
We had sightings in the Abel Erasmus Pass and the Hluhluwe area.	
<b>Dusky Sunbird</b>	<i>Cinnyris fuscus</i>
An inhabitant of dry scrubland, we had sightings at most localities in the Northern Cape.	

### Old World Sparrows Passeridae

<b>White-browed Sparrow-Weaver</b>	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>
We found several birds near their nests on the Zaagkuilsdrift road, near Polokwane and around Kimberley.	
<b>Sociable Weaver</b>	<i>Philetairus socius</i>
Although their massive nests were more evident than the birds, we nevertheless had excellent views in the drier parts of the Northern Cape.	
<b>House Sparrow</b>	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
This species was regularly recorded in urban centres around South Africa.	
<b>Great Sparrow</b>	<i>Passer motitensis</i>
A pair was seen well in Polokwane GR.	
<b>Cape Sparrow (NE)</b>	<i>Passer melanurus</i>
Commonly found around South Africa, with the exception of Zululand.	
<b>Southern Grey-headed Sparrow (NE)</b>	<i>Passer diffusus</i>
Seen in the Polokwane and Kimberley districts.	
<b>Yellow-throated Petronia</b>	<i>Gymnornis superciliaris</i>
We had a total of four in the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi GR.	
<i>Note: Clements places this bird in the genus Petronia.</i>	

### Weavers & Allies Ploceidae

<b>Scaly-feathered (Scaly) Weaver (NE)</b>	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>
We found these diminutive birds in the <i>Acacia</i> woodlands near Rust-de-Winter and Kimberley.	
<b>Thick-billed (Grosbeak) Weaver</b>	<i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>
We had a singleton in Magoebaskloof and more in St Lucia.	
<b>Spectacled Weaver</b>	<i>Ploceus ocularis</i>
This species was recorded in the coastal forests of Hluhluwe and St. Lucia.	
<b>Cape Weaver (E)</b>	<i>Ploceus capensis</i>
We found this endemic weaver in Wakkerstroom, up Sani Pass, De Hoop, the West Coast NP and Bushmanland.	
<b>Yellow (African Golden-) Weaver</b>	<i>Ploceus subaureus</i>



This bird is confined to the east coast littoral belt and we had several at their colonies in False Bay Park and St Lucia.

**Lesser Masked Weaver***Ploceus intermedius*

Seen only once, in False Bay Park.

**Southern Masked Weaver***Ploceus velatus*

Recorded in the highveld region near Rust-de-Winter, Polokwane, Wakkerstroom and in the Northern Cape.

**Village Weaver***Ploceus cucullatus*

This species was recorded near Hluhluwe and in the Karkloof.

**Dark-backed (Forest) Weaver***Ploceus bicolor*

We had sightings at Hluhluwe and St. Lucia.

**Red-headed Weaver***Anaplectes melanotis*

We had a single male attending his nests near Klaserie in the Limpopo Province.

**Red-billed Quelea***Quelea quelea*

Seen in large numbers in the Polokwane area.

**Southern Red Bishop***Euplectes orix*

Recorded at most wetland sites throughout the tour.

**Yellow Bishop***Euplectes capensis*

This species was seen several times on the tour, in the Underberg area, on our way up Sani Pass and in the Western Cape.

**Fan-tailed Widowbird***Euplectes axillaries*

We saw this bird in the Karkloof.

**White-winged Widowbird***Euplectes albonotatus*

We had sightings of this bird near Polokwane and in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi GR.

**Red-collared Widowbird***Euplectes ardens*

Many birds were noted in the grasslands of the Kwa-Zulu Natal Midlands and up Sani Pass.

**Long-tailed Widowbird***Euplectes progne*

Common in most high altitude grassland areas, we observed this species near Johannesburg, in Wakkerstroom and the Kwa-Zulu Natal Midlands.

### Waxbills & Allies Estrildidae

**Green-winged Pytilia***Pytilia melba*

We had sightings in the Polokwane area and Magoebaskloof.

**Red-headed Finch***Amadina erythrocephala*

We found this striking species near Polokwane and Kimberley.

**Cut-throat Finch***Amadina fasciata*

A pair came to drink at a small waterhole in Polokwane GR.

**Green (-backed) Twinspot***Mandingoa nitidula*

We had the pleasure of watching a pair of these stunning little birds in Eshowe.

**Red-billed Firefinch***Lagonostica senegala*

A pair was seen during our time spent in False Bay Park.

**African Firefinch***Lagonostica rubricate*

Seen in Magoebaskloof, Hluhluwe-iMfolozi and the Kwa-Zulu Natal Midlands.

**Jameson's Firefinch***Lagonostica rhodopareia*

We had a pair in the Polokwane area.

**Blue Waxbill (Blue-breasted Cordonbleu)***Uraeginthus angolensis*

This species was commonly recorded in the Polokwane area and Hluhluwe-iMfolozi GR.

**Violet-eared Waxbill***Uraeginthus granatinus*

We had several individuals of this good-looking species in Polokwane GR.

**Sweet Waxbill (E)***Estrilda melanotis*

A very beautiful endemic Estrildid, we had a pair in Kirstenbosch.



<b>Common Waxbill</b>	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
We had small flocks of this common species at various wetland sites on the tour.	
<b>Black-faced Waxbill</b>	<i>Estrilda erythronotos</i>
We had several in Polokwane GR, with further sightings around Kimberley.	
<b>African Quail-Finch</b>	<i>Ortygospiza fuscocrissa</i>
We had four birds in the grasslands outside Wakkerstroom.	
<b>Bronze Mannikin</b>	<i>Lonchura cucullata</i>
Seen in Magoebaskloof, Hluhluwe and the Underberg area.	

### Indigobirds & Whydahs Viduidae

<b>Pin-tailed Whydah</b>	<i>Vidua macroura</i>
This aggressive little brood parasite was encountered in the Wakkerstroom area.	
<b>Shaft-tailed Whydah</b>	<i>Vidua regia</i>
We found a male sporting his smart breeding plumage near Polokwane.	
<b>Long-tailed (Eastern) Paradise Whydah</b>	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>
We had several birds, including males in breeding plumage, in the Polokwane area.	

### Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae

<b>Cape Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>
Regularly recorded in small numbers at most wetland locations during the tour.	
<b>Mountain Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla clara</i>
We found a pair on a river near Eshowe.	
<b>African Pied Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>
A couple of sightings around St Lucia.	
<b>Cape (Orange-throated) Longclaw (NE)</b>	<i>Macronyx capensis</i>
This species was seen in the Wakkerstroom area and Midmar.	
<b>Yellow-throated Longclaw</b>	<i>Macronyx croceus</i>
Seen daily in the Hluhluwe area.	
<b>African Pipit</b>	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>
This common species was seen at most grassland sites on tour.	
<b>Mountain Pipit (BE)</b>	<i>Anthus hoeschi</i>
A single bird was seen in the alpine grasslands of Lesotho during our day visit up Sani Pass.	
<b>Long-billed Pipit</b>	<i>Anthus similis</i>
Two birds on Sani Pass and more near Springbok.	

### Finches Fringillidae

<b>Common Chaffinch</b>	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
We had a pair of this introduced species in Kirstenbosch.	
<i>Note: Clements just calls this Chaffinch.</i>	
<b>Cape Canary</b>	<i>Serinus canicollis</i>
Typically encountered at higher elevation sites in the east, we had small flocks in Magoebaskloof, up Sani Pass and in the Western Cape.	
<b>Forest Canary (E)</b>	<i>Crithagra scotops</i>
Seen well in Kirstenbosch, where we had four birds.	
<i>Note: Clements places this bird in the genus Serinus</i>	
<b>Black-throated Canary</b>	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>
We had a small flock in the Polokwane area, with another sighting at Augrabies.	
<i>Note: Clements places this bird in the genus Serinus</i>	
<b>Yellow-fronted Canary</b>	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>
This good-looking canary was seen on two consecutive days in Magoebaskloof and then again around Hluhluwe.	



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

**Yellow Canary (NE)**

*Crithagra flaviventris*

First seen around Polokwane, we had later sightings at various localities in the Northern and Western Cape.

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

**Brimstone Canary**

*Crithagra sulphurata*

Seen once, in the De Hoop area.

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

**White-throated Canary (NE)**

*Crithagra albogularis*

First found on our day in the Tanqua Karoo; later found near Springbok.

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

**Streaky-headed Seedeater (NE)**

*Crithagra gularis*

We found this species in the Magoebaskloof area.

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

**Protea Canary (E)**

*Crithagra leucoptera*

We had a single bird in Paarl.

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

**Cape Siskin (E)**

*Crithagra totta*

We had a small group near Rooi Els.

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

**Drakensberg Siskin (E)**

*Crithagra symonsi*

Good numbers of this endemic siskin were seen during our day visit up the magnificent Sani Pass.

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

**Black-headed Canary (NE)**

*Crithagra alario*

We had sightings in the Tanqua Karoo, Calvinia area and near Springbok.

Note: Clements places this bird in the genus *Alario*.

**Buntings Emberizidae**

**Lark-like Bunting**

*Emberiza impetuani*

Found commonly at several localities in the Northern Cape.

**Cape Bunting**

*Emberiza capensis*

Good numbers were found along the way up Sani Pass, with numerous sightings in the mountainous areas of the Western and Northern Cape.

**Golden-breasted Bunting**

*Emberiza flaviventris*

We had two birds on our day up Sani Pass.

**MAMMAL SPECIES LIST (59 species)**

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

**Bats Pteropodidae**

**Peter's Epauletted Fruit-Bat**

*Epomophorus crypturus*

We had one feeding on fruit near Hluhluwe.

**Cheek-Pouch Monkeys Cercopithecidae**

**Chacma Baboon**

*Papio ursinus*

First seen in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi with further sightings up Sani Pass and the Western Cape.

**Vervet Monkey**

*Cercopithecus aethiops*

A common species, it was seen at most localities in eastern South Africa with good numbers in most game reserves.

**Samango (Blue) Monkey**

*Cercopithecus mitis*



We had a small troop in Magoebaskloof.

### Bushbabies Loridae

**Thick-tailed Bushbaby (Greater Galago)** *Galago crassicaudatus*

We had the pleasure of watching feeding individuals around our accommodation near Hluhluwe.

### Hares & Rabbits Leporidae

**Scrub Hare** *Lepus saxatilis*

We had good views of several on the trip. Our first was found in the Wakkerstroom area with more in Hluhluwe, Midmar, Brandvlei and Kimberley.

**Smith's Red Rock Hare (Rabbit)** *Pronolagus rupestris*

We had one on a night drive in the Springbok area.

### Squirrels Sciuridae

**South African Ground Squirrel** *Geosciurus inauris*

We found good numbers in the Kimberley area.

**Red Forest Squirrel** *Paraxerus palliates*

While birding in the dune forests around St. Lucia we found a number of these richly coloured mammals.

**Grey Squirrel** *Sciurus carolinensis*

An introduced species from North America, we had quite a few in the suburbs of Cape Town.

### Springhare Pedetidae

**Springhare** *Pedetes capensis*

We had a single animal on a night drive in the Kimberley district.

### Porcupines Hystricidae

**South African Porcupine** *Hystrix africaeaustralis*

We had two on a night drive in the Kimberly area.

### Dassie Rat Petromuridae

**Dassie Rat** *Petromus typicus*

A strange-looking rodent, we had sightings near Springbok and Augrabies.

### Rat-like Rodents Muroidea

**Large-eared Mouse** *Malacothrix typica*

We had a singleton on a night drive near Kimberley.

**Whistling Rat** *Parotomys*

As with many small rodents, we were unable to identify the Whistling Rat we had near Springbok to species level. Both Brant's (*P. brantsii*) and Littledale's (*P. littledalei*) occur in the region.

**Sloggett's Ice Rat** *Otomys sloggetti*

Good numbers of these cute creatures were found in Lesotho during our day visit up the Sani Pass.

### Rats & Mice Cricetidae & Muridae

**Striped Mouse** *Rhabdomys pumilio*

We had a couple of sightings of this smart rodent – near Richmond, in the West Coast NP and near Kimberley.

### Dogs & Allies Canidae

**Cape Fox** *Vulpes chama*



We had a single animal on a night drive near Springbok.

**Bat-eared Fox** *Otocyon megalotis*  
Seen on night drives near Brandvlei, Springbok and Kimberley.

### Mustelids Mustelidae

**Zorilla (Striped Polecat)** *Ictonyx striatus*

We had one on a night drive near Brandvlei.

**Cape Clawless Otter** *Aonyx capensis*

We had a singleton in a farm dam near Himeville.

### Mongoose Herpestidae

**Small Grey Mongoose** *Herpestes pulverulenta*

Quite common at various localities in the west of the country.

**Yellow Mongoose** *Cynictis pencilata*

We had sightings at most grassland sites on tour.

**Suricate (Meerkat)** *Suricata suricatta*

We found family groups of this gregarious animal near Wakkerstroom and Kimberley.

### Hyaenas Hyaenidae

**Aardwolf** *Proteles cristata*

A single animal was seen on a night drive near Kimberley.

*Note: Many authors place the Aardwolf in its own family, Protelidae. This view is not followed by Kingdon, who places it in a subfamily of Hyaenidae.*

### Cats Felidae

**African Wild Cat** *Felis sylvestrus*

We had one on a night drive near Brandvlei.

### Aardvark Orycteropodidae

**Aardvark** *Orycteropus afer*

One of the highlights of the tour, we had views of one near Kimberley on a night drive.

### Hyraxes Procaviidae

**Rock Hyrax (Dassie)** *Procavia capensis*

We had encounters with these strange-looking animals in the Kwa-Zulu Natal Midlands, Cape of Good Hope, Springbok and Augrabies.

### Horses Equidae

**Common (Burchell's/Plains) Zebra** *Equus quagga*

This species was recorded in good numbers during the tour, especially in the Polokwane area.

**Cape Mountain Zebra** *Equus zebra zebra*

We saw a herd of six in De Hoop.

### Rhinoceroses Rhinocerotidae

**White (Square-lipped) Rhinoceros** *Ceratotherium simum*

Our first sightings were in the Polokwane GR, after which we found several in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi GR.

### Hippopotamuses Hippopotamidae



**Hippopotamus***Hippopotamus amphibius*

We saw good numbers of these bloated beasts at the estuary in St. Lucia.

**Pigs Suidae****Common Warthog***Phacochoerus africanus*

Seen in Polokwane GR, around Hluhluwe and Kimberley.

**Giraffes Giraffidae****Giraffe***Giraffa camelopardalis*

These strange-looking animals were seen at a private reserve near Klaserie, in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi GR and Augrabies NP.

**Bovids & Horned Ungulates Bovidae****African (Cape) Buffalo***Syncerus caffer*

Small numbers of these powerful creatures were seen in the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi GR.

**Eland***Taurotragus oryx*

Our first sighting was on a private reserve near Carolina, with more seen later in De Hoop.

**Greater Kudu***Tragelaphus strepsiceros*

These magnificent antelope were recorded near Polokwane and Hluhluwe-iMfolozi GR.

**Nyala***Tragelaphus angasii*

We had several sightings of this striking antelope in the Hluhluwe area.

**Bushbuck***Tragelaphus scriptus*

Small numbers were seen in St Lucia.

**Southern Oryx (Gemsbok)***Oryx gazella*

First seen near Polokwane, we later had sightings near Carolina, Springbok, Augrabies and Kimberley.

**Common Waterbuck***Kobus ellipsiprymnus*

This stunning antelope was seen well in Polokwane GR.

**Mountain Redbuck***Redunca fulvorufula*

We found a total of five on our day up Sani Pass.

**Common Redbuck***Redunca arundinum*

Several were seen near Himeville and the Kwa-Zulu-Natal Midlands.

**Grey Rhebok***Pelea capreolus*

We had a distant sighting of several animals in the grasslands of the Overberg.

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

We had several sightings on the highveld grasslands, with highest numbers in Midmar.

**Brindled Gnu (Blue Wildebeest)***Connochaetes taurinus*

This mammal was encountered in Polokwane and Hluhluwe-iMfolozi GR.

**Red Hartebeest***Alcelaphus buselaphus*

Our first sighting was in Midmar, with good numbers in the Kimberley area.

**Blesbok E***Damaliscus dorcas phillipsi*

We saw many in the high elevation grasslands around Polokwane, Wakkerstroom, the Kwa-Zulu Natal Midlands and Kimberley.

**Bontebok E***Damaliscus dorcas dorcas*

We had a total of four near De Hoop.

**Tsessebe***Damaliscus lunatus*

We had several animals in the Polokwane GR.

**Impala***Aepyceros melampus*

Arguably the commonest antelope in the game reserves of the east, we enjoyed many sightings of this attractive mammal.

**Springbok***Antidorcas marsupialis*

We found this, South Africa's national mammal, near Carolina, Calvinia, Springbok and Kimberley.

**Klipspringer** *Oreotragus oreotragus*

We had three animals at Rooi Els, with more near Springbok and at Augrabies NP.

**Steenbok** *Raphicerus campestris*

These dainty antelope were observed in the Polokwane, Brandvlei and Springbok areas.

**Oribi** *Ourebia ourebi*

One seen near Carolina and four in the Kwa-Zulu Natal Midlands.

**Blue Duiker** *Cephalophus monticola*

We had incredible close views of three in Dlinza forest.

**Red Duiker** *Cephalophus natalensis*

This richly coloured antelope was found in the coastal forests of Hluhluwe and St. Lucia.

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

This, the commonest duiker in South Africa, was seen in small numbers in Polokwane, Hluhluwe area and the Springbok area.

### Right Whales Balaenidae

**Southern Right Whale** *Eubalaena glacialis*

Common inshore at this time of year, we had numerous sightings along the Western Cape coast.

### Seals Otariidae

**Cape Fur Seal** *Arctocephalus pusillus*

We had numerous sightings of these mammals on our pelagic, both in-shore and out at sea.

### REPTILE SPECIES LIST (14 species)

**Leopard Tortoise** *Geochelone pardalis*

We had one near Kimberley.

**Angulate Tortoise (E)** *Chersina angulata*

Commonly seen in De Hoop.

**Marsh (Helmeted) Terrapin** *Pelomedusa subrufa*

We found a few of these creatures at Muzi Pans.

**Boomslang** *Dispholidus typus*

We had a male cross the road in West Coast NP.

**Western Three-striped Skink** *Mabuya occidentalis*

We had a singleton in the Springbok area.

**Black Girdled Lizard (E)** *Cordylus niger*

We had numerous sightings of this range-restricted lizard in the Cape of Good Hope NR.

**Karoo Girdled Lizard (NE)** *Cordylus polyzonus*

We enjoyed good views of this species in the Springbok area.

**Broadley's Flat Lizard (E)** *Platysaurus broadleyi*

These colourful endemics graced the canyon walls at the Augrabies Falls.

**Nile (Water) Monitor** *Varanus niloticus*

This beast was seen in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi GR.

**Ground Agama** *Agama aculeata*

We saw many individuals on the fence-posts of Bushmanland.

**Southern Rock Agama (E)** *Agama atra*

Another colourful endemic, it was seen in Cape of Good Hope and Augrabies.

**Southern Tree Agama** *Acanthocercus atricollis*

We had a singleton in False Bay Park.

**Bibron's Thick-toed Gecko (NE)** *Pachydactylus bibronii*

We had singletons in Augrabies and Kimberley.



**Nile Crocodile**

*Crocodylus niloticus*

A number was seen in St. Lucia.

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