



Rockjumper Birding Tours

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Western Cape Private Tour

18th to 23rd April 2009 (6 days)



Trip Report compiled by tour leader Glen Valentine

Tour Summary



We set off on our journey around South Africa's Western Cape in search of the region's numerous sought endemics as well as to soak in the awe-inspiring scenery, great mammals and wonderful cuisine. Leaving Jetty two at the Cape Town docks, we made our way through the "Mother City" and on towards Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens.

Kirstenbosch was beautiful and very birdy as usual despite the overcast conditions and we picked up several key endemics in quick

succession before enjoying a hearty lunch in the picturesque gardens. Flamboyant Cape Sugarbird, resplendent Orange-breasted Sunbird and equally stunning Malachite and Southern Double-collared Sunbirds entertained us at the numerous flowering *Proteas*, *Ericas* and *Aloes*. Karoo Prinia was seen skulking in thickets, whilst Cape Francolin showed off unperturbed on the lush lawns.

A visit to the nearby coastal town of Kommetjie yielded the prize bird, the rare, localized and endemic Bank Cormorant, along with the more abundant but no less desirable Crowned and Cape Cormorants.

The world renown Cape of Good Hope National Park, which encompasses the famous landmarks of Cape Point and Cape of Good Hope (the most south westerly point in Africa) was our next destination. Traversing the network of roads saw us adding the endemic Bontebok, a very special and boldly-patterned antelope restricted to a few reserves in the South Western Cape. African Oystercatchers patrolled the beaches, whilst Cape Grassbird and Southern Boubou revealed their presence in patches of *Strandveld* scrub. Literally thousands of Sooty Shearwaters could be seen just off of Cape of Good Hope with the odd White-chinned Petrel putting in an appearance. The south easterly wind began to pick up in the afternoon so heading back into the bay to enjoy the African Penguin spectacle at Boulders seemed a more logical decision and this did not disappoint! The colony was in full swing with calling and displaying individuals occupying nests among the boulders and coastal bush. Several juvenile birds and chicks were also present and the whole experience was most enjoyable and entertaining.



One of the Cape's star avian attractions is the Cape Rockjumper. This bizarre endemic is restricted to the South Western Cape Fold Mountains where it bounds from rock to rock calling intermittently and fanning its long, black, orange and white tail. Now placed in its own unique family along with its eastern counterpart, the Drakensberg Rockjumper, it has got to be one of the worlds most sought after birds. We arrived at a good site where we had two pairs "rockjumping" in the filtered shade covering the lower slopes of the Hottentots Holland Mountains. A pair of Verreaux's Eagle soared overhead, whilst a family group of Cape Rock Thrush showed well for an extended period. An afternoon visit to the Starandfontein Sewage Works produced an array of water birds and highlights included Maccoa Duck, Cape Teal, Great Crested Grebe, a flock of Greater Flamingo and a single White-winged Tern.

Leaving the Cape Peninsula we made our way up the West Coast towards the West Coast National Park, a RAMSAR site, which harbours tens of thousands of migratory waders during the summer months. Winter is equally rewarding though as the resident specialties can still be found with relative ease. Karoo Scrub-Robin, White-backed Mousebird, Cape Bulbul, Cape Weaver and Cape Sparrow entertained us throughout the day. The

jet black Southern Black Korhaan was encountered striding through the coastal scrub along with Cape Spurrow and Grey-winged Francolin but the ultimate prize of the reserve is the Black Harrier. This show-stopper is one of the world's rarest raptors and was seen brilliantly quartering the reserve in the late afternoon.

The endless vistas of the Karoo awaited us and we were keen to get an early start in this unique and arid landscape. The crisp morning air filled our senses with excitement and anticipation as we wended our way down Karoopoort, the gateway to the Tanqua Karoo. The first specialty of the day was Namaqua Warbler and it wasn't long before we were sifting through a huge mixed flock that contained many of the region's target species. Cape, Streaky-headed, White-throated and Yellow Canaries fed alongside Cape Buntings, whilst Acacia Pied Barbet, the beautiful Bokmakierie, Mountain Wheatear, Cape Rock Thrush and Chestnut-vented Warbler were also seen in the vicinity. As we moved deeper into the heart of the Karoo the landscape opened up even more with small, rocky inselbergs punctuating the bushy, stony plains. In this very unique and endemic habitat we located several elusive and nomadic species such as Karoo Eremomela, Layard's Warbler, Large-billed Lark, Pirit Batis and Fairy Warbler. Other species that kept the excitement levels up included Karoo and Spike-heeled Larks, Rufous-eared Warbler, Pied Starling, Karoo and Tractrac Chats, the stately Jackal Buzzard and impressive Pale Chanting Goshawk. Whilst traversing the gravel roads in the late afternoon we came across a Yellow Mongoose eating on a dead Puff Adder in the road and soon afterwards a family group of Karoo Korhaans were encountered very near to the road and offered wonderful photographic opportunities. Later that night we undertook a short night drive, which yielded a superb Spotted Eagle Owl.



It was time to leave the splendid Karoo and make our way back to Cape Town. We visited several birding sites en route to the airport which yielded many of the regions specialties such as Cape Sugarbird and Orange-breasted Sunbird and also added some new species like the delicate Swee Waxbill and Bar-throated Apalis. We ended off with a delicious lunch in the rather quaint little town of Paarl before heading off to the airport to depart on our flights home.

BIRD LIST (145 species)

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows IOC Birds of the World.

E = Endemic to South Africa, **RE** = Regional endemic (Endemic to Southern Africa), **NE** = Near-endemic to Southern Africa, **BE** = Breeding-endemic to Southern Africa.

Ostriches Struthionidae

Common Ostrich

Struthio camelus

Small numbers were seen in the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve and in West Coast National Park.

Guineafowl Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl

Numida meleagris

Small numbers were encountered and proved exceptionally confiding.

Pheasants, Fowl & Allies Phasianidae

Cape Spurrow (RE)

Pternistis capensis

Many excellent views were enjoyed of this endemic with especially memorable views of several coveys dust-bathing in West Coast National Park.

Grey-winged Francolin (E)

Scleroptila afra

This sought-after endemic was seen exceptionally well in West Coast NP associating with Cape Spurfowl.

Ducks & Geese Anatidae

White-backed Duck

Thalassornis leuconotus

A total of three birds were seen on a small water body en route to West Coast NP.

Spur-winged Goose

Plectropterus gambensis

A flock was seen at Strandfontein with a further flock being encountered in a field near West Coast NP.

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiacus

Small numbers were seen at most wetlands on tour.

South African Shelduck (RE)

Tadorna cana

Hundreds of these extremely attractive and endemic ducks were scoped on a pan in the Karoo.

Cape Teal

Anas capensis

Good numbers were found at Strandfontein Sewage Works.

Yellow-billed Duck

Anas undulata

A common species found on most water bodies.

Cape Shoveler (RE)

Anas smithii

Good numbers at Strandfontein and at several other wetlands along the west coast.

Red-billed Teal

Anas erythrorhyncha

Several birds were seen amongst the numerous Cape Teal at Strandfontein.

Maccoa Duck

Oxyura maccoa

Several of these beautiful birds were found at Strandfontein.

Penguins Spheniscidae

Jackass Penguin (RE)

Spheniscus demersus

Amazing, prolonged and intimate encounters were enjoyed with this boldly-patterned, localized and endearing creature at its breeding colony at Boulders.

Petrels & Shearwaters Procellariidae

White-chinned Petrel

Procellaria aequinoctialis

A few birds were seen from shore off Cape of Good Hope.

Sooty Shearwater

Puffinus griseus

Huge numbers were seen from land off Cape of Good Hope.

Grebes Podicipedidae

Little Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis

Commonly seen throughout the tour.

Great Crested Grebe

Podiceps cristatus

At least six birds were seen well at Strandfontein Sewage Works amongst the ubiquitous Little Grebes.

Flamingos Phoenicopteridae

Greater Flamingo

Phoenicopterus roseus

Descent size flocks were seen at Strandfontein and at a pan in the Karoo.

Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

African Sacred Ibis

Threskiornis aethiopicus

Good numbers were encountered throughout the tour.

Hadada Ibis

Bostrychia hagedash

This noisy bird was recorded on every day of the tour.

Glossy Ibis

Plegadis falcinellus

A singleton was located in the Karoo.

African Spoonbill

Platalea alba

One bird was seen at a small wetland en route to West Coast NP.

Bitterns & Herons Ardeidae

- Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*
 This widespread species was commonly seen throughout the tour.
- Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*
 Singletons were seen on most days of the tour.
- Black-headed Heron** *Ardea melanocephala*
 This grassland species was recorded on many occasions.
- Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*
 Small numbers were found throughout the tour, especially along the coast.

Hamerkop Scopidae

- Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta*
 A single bird was seen flying over the Karoo, a rather unusual sighting indeed!

Pelicans Pelecanidae

- Great White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus*
 A few large flocks were seen soaring overhead in the West Coast area.

Gannets Sulidae

- Cape Gannet (BE)** *Morus capensis*
 Adults and juveniles were seen from the shore at Cape of Good Hope, Kommetjie and Rooiels.

Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae

- Crowned Cormorant (RE)** *Phalacrocorax coronatus*
 Small numbers were seen at Kommetjie and from Boulders Beach.
- Bank Cormorant (RE)** *Phalacrocorax neglectus*
 This rare and extremely localized endemic was scoped at Kommetjie. A total of three birds were seen.
- White-breasted Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax lucidus*
 Good numbers were found at most wetlands throughout the tour.
- Cape Cormorant (BE)** *Leucocarbo capensis*
 Huge numbers were seen throughout the Cape peninsula.

Anhingas Anhingidae

- African Darter** *Anhinga melanogaster*
 Two birds were seen on separate occasions at Strandfontein and West Coast NP.

Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae

- Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*
 Small numbers of this common and widespread raptor were found along the west coast and in the Karoo.
- African Marsh Harrier** *Circus ranivorus*
 Two birds were seen; one at Strandfontein and another in West Coast NP.
- Black Harrier (RE)** *Circus maurus*
 An immaculate male and a sub-adult male showed very well in West Coast NP. This is undoubtedly one of the world's rarest and most sought after raptors!
- African Harrier-Hawk** *Polyboroides typus*
 A juvenile bird was seen in the town of Paarl.
- Pale Chanting Goshawk (NE)** *Melierax canorus*
 Good numbers were found in the Tanqua Karoo. This is a bold and rather attractive raptor.
- Jackal Buzzard (RE)** *Buteo rufofuscus*
 Another endemic that was enjoyed on many occasions with many superb, close encounters.
- Verreaux's Eagle** *Aquila verreauxii*
 A pair of these massive eagles was seen well in flight near Rooiels.

Caracaras, Falcons Falconidae

Rock Kestrel

Falco tinnunculus

Small numbers were encountered on most days of the tour.

Peregrine Falcon

Falco peregrinus

Good views were had of three birds during our time on the Cape peninsula.

Bustards Otididae

Karoo Korhaan (RE)

Eupodotis vigosii

A family group of three birds was seen at extremely close range in the Tanqua Karoo providing fantastic photographic opportunities!

Southern Black Korhaan (E)

Afrotis afra

This striking endemic was seen extremely well in West Coast NP.

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae

Black Crake

Amaurornis flavirostra

Three birds were seen at the edge of reedbeds at Strandfontein Sewage works.

African Swamphen

Porphyrio madagascariensis

A single bird was seen at Strandfontein.

Common Moorhen

Gallinula chloropus

Abundant at all water bodies throughout the tour.

Red-knobbed Coot

Fulica cristata

As with the previous species this widespread waterbird was seen in prolific numbers at all water bodies during the trip.

Oystercatchers Haematopidae

African Oystercatcher (RE)

Haematopus moquini

We recorded good numbers at most coastal sites.

Stilts, Avocets Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt

Himantopus himantopus

Large numbers were found at most wetlands on tour.

Pied Avocet

Recurvirostra avosetta

Small numbers were found at Strandfontein.

Plovers Charadriidae

Blacksmith Lapwing

Vanellus armatus

Good numbers were seen on most days – amazingly this species is a recent arrival on the Cape Peninsula.

Three-banded Plover

Charadrius tricollaris

This attractive little plover was seen on several occasions.

White-fronted Plover

Charadrius marginatus

Two birds were encountered at Olifantsbos in Cape of Good Hope NP.

Gulls & Terns Laridae

Hartlaub's Gull (RE)

Larus hartlaubii

This endemic gull was seen abundantly in all coastal areas.

Kelp Gull

Larus dominicanus

Commonly recorded throughout the Western Cape coast.

Caspian Tern

Sterna caspia

Two birds were seen at flight over Langebaan Lagoon.

Swift Tern

Sterna bergii

Good numbers were seen, with close encounters at Kommetjie.

Sandwich Tern

Sterna sandvicensis

A few birds were found and scoped amongst a large flock of Swift Tern at Kommetjie.

White-winged Tern

Chlidonias leucopterus

A single bird in non-breeding plumage was encountered at Strandfontein Sewage Works.

Pigeons & Doves Columbidae

- Common Pigeon** *Columba livia*
A common species of urban areas.
- Speckled Pigeon** *Columba guinea*
Flocks were seen almost daily throughout the tour.
- Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata*
This large, widespread dove was seen on a single occasion in Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens.
- Ring-necked Dove** *Streptopelia capicola*
This common species was observed on almost every day of the tour.
- Laughing Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis*
Good numbers were seen during our day in the Karoo.

Cuckoos Cuculidae

- Klaas's Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx klaas*
A beautiful male was seen really well in the Karoo.

Owls Strigidae

- Spotted Eagle-Owl** *Bubo africanus*
A single bird was seen on a night drive near Ceres.

Swifts Apodidae

- Alpine Swift** *Tachymarptis melba*
Good numbers of these huge swifts were seen in Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve attending termite emergences.
- African Black Swift** *Apus barbatus*
Huge numbers were seen in Cape of Good Hope NR attending termite emergences with the latter species.
- Little Swift** *Apus affinis*
Several birds were seen in West Coast NP.

Mousebirds Coliidae

- Speckled Mousebird** *Colius striatus*
A single bird was seen on the last day of the trip, whilst making our way back to Cape Town.
- White-backed Mousebird (NE)** *Colius colius*
Small flocks were seen on the west coast and in the Karoo.
- Red-faced Mousebird** *Urocolius indicus*
This noisy species was seen during our day in the Tanqua Karoo.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

- Giant Kingfisher** *Megaceryle maxima*
This huge and boldly-marked kingfisher was seen near Paarl on the last day of the trip.
- Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*
This, the world's most widespread kingfisher was seen on successive days at Kommetjie.

African Barbets Lybiidae

- Acacia Pied Barbet (NE)** *Tricholaema leucomelas*
A pair of these attractive barbets was seen during our day in the Karoo.

Wattle-eyes & Batises Platysteiridae

- Cape Batis (RE)** *Batis capensis*
A single bird was seen in the Constantia Greenbelt.
- Pririt Batis (NE)** *Batis pririt*
These lively little birds were found on a few occasions in the Tanqua Karoo.

Bushshrikes Malaconotidae

- Bokmakierie (NE)** *Telophorus zeylonus*
A gorgeous species seen in good numbers along the west coast and in the Karoo.
Southern Boubou (RE) *Laniarius ferrugineus*
Another endemic species seen on a few occasions on the Cape Peninsula.

Shrikes Laniidae

- Common Fiscal** *Lanius collaris*
This is a common bird throughout South Africa and was seen on almost every day of the tour.

Crows Corvidae

- Pied Crow** *Corvus albus*
Commonly seen throughout the tour.
White-necked Raven *Corvus albicollis*
A corvid of mountainous areas that was seen on many occasions.

Rockjumpers Chaetopidae

- Cape Rockjumper (E)** *Chaetops frenatus*
One of the Cape's iconic species! This beauty was found with relative ease in the Hottentots Holland Mountains. Great views were obtained of several birds fanning their tails whilst "rockjumping".

Fairy Flycatchers Stenostiridae

- Fairy Warbler (RE)** *Stenostira scita*
This highly-active endemic was seen brilliantly in the Tanqua Karoo.

Penduline Tits Remizidae

- Cape Penduline Tit (NE)** *Anthoscopus minutus*
A small flock was seen briefly in West Coast National Park.

Larks Alaudidae

- Karoo Lark (E)** *Certhilauda albescens*
This endemic species was seen very well on several occasions in the Tanqua Karoo.
Spike-heeled Lark (NE) *Chersomanes albofasciata*
A very attractive and spectacularly patterned lark that was seen on several occasions in the Karoo.
Large-billed Lark (E) *Galerida magnirostris*
This large, endemic lark was seen on two occasions in the Tanqua Karoo.

Bulbuls Pycnonotidae

- Cape Bulbul (E)** *Pycnonotus capensis*
Ubiquitous throughout the South Western Cape.
Sombre Greenbul *Andropadus mportunes*
This forest species was commonest in Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens with further sightings at Harold Porter Botanical Gardens.

Swallows & Martins Hirundinidae

- Black Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne pristoptera*
Sightings were had at Harold Porter Botanical Gardens and Paarl Mountain Reserve.
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
Large numbers were found at Strandfontein Sewage Works and West Coast National Park.
Rock Martin *Hirundo fuligula*
Good numbers were found on most days of the tour.

Reed Warblers & Allies

Lesser Swamp Warbler

Acrocephalus gracilirostris

Two birds were seen and heard at a small wetland en route to West Coast NP.

Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae

Grey-backed Cisticola (NE)

Cisticola subruficapilla

We found this endemic Cisticola in West Coast National Park and in the Karoo.

Neddicky

Cisticola fulvicapillus

Singletons were found in Cape of Good Hope NP and near Rooiels.

Cloud Cisticola

Cisticola textrix

A single bird was seen Cape of Good NP. The Western Cape race of this species is very distinctive and is endemic to Fynbos.

Rufous-eared Warbler (RE)

Malcorus pectoralis

We had excellent views of at least 25 birds in the Tanqua Karoo.

Karoo Prinia (E)

Prinia maculosa

Good numbers were seen on every day of the trip. This is probably the Cape's commonest endemic.

Namaqua Warbler (E)

Phragmacia substriata

Brilliant views were obtained of a single bird near Ceres.

Bar-throated Apalis

Apalis thoracica

Several individuals were found in thick vegetation near Ceres and in the Paarl area.

Yellow-bellied Eremomela

Eremomela icteropygialis

A total of four birds were seen during our day in the Tanqua Karoo.

Karoo Eremomela (RE)

Eremomela gregalis

Three separate flocks of this usually scarce and elusive endemic was seen in the Tanqua Karoo.

Family Uncertain Incertae Sedis

Cape Grassbird (RE)

Sphenoeacus afer

This attractive but rather secretive species was seen in West Coast NP and near Rooiels.

Long-billed Crombec

Sylvietta rufescens

Two separate sightings were had with singletons being seen in West Coast NP and in the Karoo.

Sylviid Babblers Sylviidae

Chestnut-vented Warbler (NE)

Sylvia subcaeruleum

Another lively and attractive species that was seen on many occasions in the Karoo.

Layard's Warbler (RE)

Sylvia layardi

A total of two birds were found during our day in the Tanqua Karoo.

White-eyes Zosteropidae

Cape White-eye (RE)

Zosterops pallidus

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

Sugarbirds & Allies Promeropidae

Cape Sugarbird (E)

Promerops cafer

We recorded this spectacular species around stands of *Protea* throughout the Cape.

Starlings Sturnidae

Common Starling

Sturnus vulgaris

Another introduced species, which was common in urban centres in the Western Cape.

Pied Starling (E)

Spreo bicolor

Good numbers were found along the West Coast and in the Tanqua Karoo.

Red-winged Starling

Onychognathus morio

Small flocks were found throughout the Cape Peninsula.

Thrushes Turdidae

Olive Thrush

Turdus olivaceus

This species of forested areas has adapted well to gardens and was seen commonly throughout the Cape Peninsula.

Chats, Old World Flycatchers Muscipidae

- Cape Robin-Chat** *Cossypha caffra*
 We had many wonderful views of this attractive and rather confiding species.
- Karoo Scrub Robin (RE)** *Cercotrichas coryphaeus*
 This endemic robin was commonly encountered in West Coast NP and in the Tanqua Karoo.
- Capped Wheatear** *Oenanthe pileata*
 We enjoyed several good sightings of this boldly-patterned species west of Ceres.
- Mountain Wheatear (NE)** *Oenanthe monticola*
 This species was common during our day visit to the Tanqua Karoo.
- Karoo Chat (NE)** *Cercomela schlegelii*
 Commonly seen in the Tanqua Karoo.
- Tractrac Chat (NE)** *Cercomela tractrac*
 At least 20 birds were seen during our visit to the Tanqua Karoo.
- Familiar Chat** *Cercomela familiaris*
 Singletons and pairs were seen on several occasions on tour.
- Cape Rock Thrush (E)** *Monticola rupestris*
 Several gorgeous males and females were seen at Rooi Els with a further sighting in the Karoo.
- Fiscal Flycatcher** *Sigelus silens*
 Two birds were found at Harold Porter Botanical Gardens with further sightings near Ceres and Paarl.
- African Dusky Flycatcher** *Muscicapa adusta*
 Several extremely confiding individuals were found at Kirstenbosch and Harold Porter Botanical Gardens.

Sunbirds Nectariniidae

- Orange-breasted Sunbird (E)** *Anthobaphes violacea*
 We had numerous sightings, including several stunning males, around flowering plants in the Western Cape.
- Malachite Sunbird** *Nectarinia famosa*
 We enjoyed good views of many individuals including several immaculate males throughout the tour.
- Southern Double-collared Sunbird (E)** *Cinnyris chalybeus*
 Commonly seen at most sites throughout the tour.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

- House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*
 This species was regularly recorded in urban centres around South Africa.
- Cape Sparrow (NE)** *Passer melanurus*
 Large numbers were encountered in West Coast NP with further sightings in the Karoo.

Weavers & Widowbirds Ploceidae

- Cape Weaver (E)** *Ploceus capensis*
 Small numbers were seen at scattered sites throughout the tour with peak numbers in West Coast NP.
- Southern Masked Weaver** *Ploceus velatus*
 Small flocks were found in the Karoo.
- Yellow Bishop** *Euplectes capensis*
 Small flocks were found at scattered sites throughout the tour with peak numbers being found in the Ceres and Paarl areas. Several males were in stunning breeding plumage!

Waxbills & Allies Estrildidae

- Sweet Waxbill (E)** *Estrilda melanotis*
 These delicate and exquisite little birds were seen near Paarl Mountain Reserve - a great find!
- Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild*
 Small flocks were found in moister areas in the Karoo.

Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae

- Cape Wagtail** *Motacilla capensis*
 Regularly recorded in small numbers at most wetland locations during the tour.
Cape Longclaw (E) *Macronyx capensis*
 A single bird was seen in West Coast NP.

Finches Fringillidae

- Cape Canary** *Serinus canicollis*
 Small flocks were found at Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, near Ceres and at Paarl Mountain Reserve.
Forest Canary (E) *Crithagra scotops*
 We were delighted to find a small flock of these attractive, endemic canaries in Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens.
Yellow Canary (NE) *Crithagra flaviventris*
 This golden yellow canary was seen in good numbers in the Karoo with our first sightings in West Coast NP.
Brimstone Canary *Crithagra sulphurata*
 A large, bold canary with a monstrous grosbeak-like bill - this species was first seen at Harold Porter Botanical Gardens with further good sightings near Paarl Mountain Reserve.
White-throated Canary (NE) *Crithagra albogularis*
 Large numbers were encountered in the Tanqua Karoo.
Streaky-headed Seedeater *Crithagra gularis*
 Good numbers were found in moister areas in the Karoo and around Ceres and Paarl.

Buntings Emberizidae

- Cape Bunting** *Emberiza capensis*
 Small numbers of these boldly-marked and attractive buntings were found in Cape of Good Hope NP with further sightings in the Karoo.

MAMMAL SPECIES LIST (11 species)

Note: Names and taxonomical order of the land mammals follow that of The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals.

Baboons & Monkeys Cercopithecidae

- Chacma Baboon** *Papio ursinus*
 Large troops were seen almost daily throughout the tour.

Squirrels Sciuridae

- Grey Squirrel** *Sciurus carolinensis*
 This introduced mammal was seen in the Constantia Greenbelt.

Rats & Mice Cricetidae & Muridae

- Striped Mouse** *Rhabdomys pumilio*
 Singletons were seen scurrying around low dense bushes in Cape of Good Hope NP and in the Karoo.
Brant's Whistling Rat *Parotomys brantsii*
 Many were seen during our day in the Karoo.

Mongoose Herpestidae

- Small Grey Mongoose** *Galerella pulverulenta*
 Two separate individuals were found; one near Boulders and another near Rooiels.
Yellow Mongoose *Cynictis penicillata*
 This ferocious little predator was seen eating on a dead Puff Adder in the Tanqua Karoo.

Hyraxes Procavidae

- Rock Hyrax** *Procavia capensis*

Several were found around rocky areas in the Karoo.

Bovids & Horned Ungulates Bovidae

Red Hartebeest

Alcelaphus buselaphus

Three were seen in Cape of Good Hope NP with larger numbers being found in West Coast NP.

Bontebok

Damaliscus dorcas dorcas

We had several animals in the Cape of Good Hope NR. This is a really localized and good-looking animal.

Springbok

Antidorcas marsupialis

We had four individuals of this, South Africa's national mammal, in the Tanqua Karoo.

Steenbok

Raphicerus campestris

Only one of the endearing little antelopes was encountered in West Coast NP.

REPTILE SPECIES LIST (3 species)

Spotted Desert Lizard

Meroles reticulatus

This beautiful species was seen in the Tanqua Karoo.

Karoo Girdled Lizard

Cordylus polyzonus

We were fortunate to see this species on one occasion in the Tanqua Karoo.

Southern Rock Agama

Agama atra

This species was seen in the Cape of Good Hope National Park.

Photo Credits (in order of appearance): African Penguin (Markus Lilje); Forest Canary (Markus Lilje); Bontebok (Keith Valentine); Betty's Bay Scenery (James Wakelin) and Orange-breasted Sunbird (James Wakelin).

Rockjumper Birding Tours
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