



The Best of SOUTH AFRICA Birding Safari

October 15-31, 2018

Tour leaders: Josh Engel and David Nkosi

[Click here for the trip photo gallery](#)

Next trip: [October 10-26, 2020](#)

South Africa never fails to amaze. From the spectacular scenery and endemic birds of the Cape to the megafauna-filled wilderness of Kruger National Park, every single day brings something new, surprising, and awe-inspiring. This trip exceeded expectations—over 400 species of birds and an incredible 60 species of mammals, all seen while staying in interesting, varied, and excellent accommodations, eating delicious food, and thoroughly enjoying all aspects of traveling in South Africa.

It's hard to know where to start with bird and animal highlights. There are, of course, the most sought-after birds, like Protea Canary, Cape Rockjumper, Black Harrier, Rudd's Lark, Black-eared Sparrowlark, Southern Black Korhaan, and Blue Korhaan. There were also the incredible bird experiences—the Shy Albatrosses surrounding our pelagic boat, the Cape Sugarbird singing from atop of king protea flower, the nest-building Knysna Turacos, the Water Thick-knees trying to chase a Water Monitor away from their nest. Mammals take a front seat in South Africa, too. We had incredible sightings of Leopard and Lion in Kruger, numerous White and a single Black Rhinoceros, along with many encounters with Elephant, Giraffes, and other iconic African animals. But we also saw many awesome small mammals, including Meerkat, Large- and Small-spotted Genet, White-tailed Mongoose, and a Cape Clawless Otter munching on a fish.

TOP 5 BIRDS & MAMMALS AS VOTED BY THE GROUP

BIRDS

- 1. Knysna Turaco**
- 2. (tie) Lilac-breasted Roller**
- 2. (tie) Saddle-billed Stork**
- 4. Secretarybird**
- 5. (tie) many!**

MAMMALS

- 1. Leopard**
- 2. (tie) Elephant**
- 2. (tie) Giraffe**
- 4. Lion**
- 5. White Rhinoceros**



Knysna Turaco was voted Bird of the Trip.

Day 1, Cape Town arrival

The group gathered at our lovely bed & breakfast in Cape Town and took a look at some of the local wetlands in the limited time that we had. A pair of **White-backed Ducks** was right behind the hotel, which was a nice surprise among the more expected **Cape Shoveler**, **Yellow-billed Duck**, and **Southern Red Bishops**. Across the way, we found a small flock of bright pink **Lesser Flamingoes** among the more numerous **Greater**s, along with **African Swamphen**, **Pied Avocet**, and various other waterbirds. It was a nice start to the trip, with over 40 species in hardly an hour of birding.

Day 2, West Coast

For our first full day, we headed north up the coast, spending the morning in the wonderful West Coast National Park. Right at the gate we started seeing many of the typical birds, including **Southern Double-collared Sunbird**, **Cape Bulbul**, and **Bokmakierie**. Further in, we had great looks at **Southern Penduline-Tit** and **Bar-throated Apalis**. We were thrilled to find **Black Harrier** and **Southern Black Korhaan** in quick succession, both beautiful South African endemics that are sadly declining in numbers. We visited one of the park's hides, which had a large flock of terns in front of it along with a variety of shorebirds, including **White-fronted Plover** and breeding plumage **Black-bellied Plovers**.

From there, we checked a side road and found **Sickle-winged Chat** and **Large-billed Lark**, and along other roads we found our first **Blue Cranes** and **Capped Wheatear**. We reached our final destination of the day where we quickly spotted **South African Shelduck** among a large flock of **Egyptian Geese** eating grain in a recently harvested field, but all the birds were soon flushed by a **Lanner Falcon** seeking a meal. Another closer pair of **Blue Cranes** was here as well. We finished up birding salt pans along the Berg River, finding our main quarry here easily, **Chestnut-banded Plover**. Other birds here included **European Bee-eater**, **Ruff**, and **Red-necked Phalarope**.

Day 3, Kirstenbosch and Strandfontein

After another delicious breakfast, we made our way through Cape Town rush hour to Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. This is surely one of the world's most beautiful and interesting botanical gardens, and it has the side benefit of having great birding. A **Pin-tailed Whydah** greeted our arrival and we were quickly impressed by the number of **Southern Double-collared Sunbirds**, **Cape Robin-Chats**, and other birds in the gardens. We made our way to the protea garden where we soon had tremendous views of **Cape Sugarbird** and **Orange-breasted Sunbird**. **African Harrier-Hawks** flew past us a few times, as did **Black Sawwings**. Just as we were on our way out we found the resident **Spotted Eagle-Owl** family. The two adults and one juvenile were extremely photogenic.



Cape Sugarbird sitting atop a king protea, South Africa's national flower.

After a souvenir shopping and lunch break, we headed a little further south to the Strandfontein Sewage Works. They were full of birds, as they usually are. **Ducks** were plentiful, including **Maccoa Duck** and **Southern Pochard**. **Greater Flamingo** was numerous. **Shorebirds** were present in only low numbers, so were happy to find a **Curlew Sandpiper** along with flocks of **Pied Avocets**. We also found our first **Cape Longclaw** and **African Pipit** of the trip.

Day 4, Pelagic or Cape Point

We split into two groups today, with one group heading out on a boat to the trawling grounds off of Cape Point, and the other heading to Cape Point on land. The pelagic group had a tremendous day at sea, with relatively calm waters and lots of birds. We easily and quickly

found a fishing trawler that was just about to pull in its nets. Seabirds arrived accordingly, until there was a huge swirling mass of birds behind the boat. **White-chinned Petrels** were the most common, but we also found **Great** and **Sooty Shearwaters** and a single **Cape Petrel** among them. Just one lucky participant saw a **Spectacled Petrel** among the **White-chins** as well. There was also many **Shy Albatross**, often flying by practically at arm's length, with a few **Black-browed Albatross** mixed in along with single **Atlantic** and **Indian Yellow-nosed Albatrosses**. We also found **Northern Giant Petrel**, **Arctic Tern**, and had brief looks at **Bottlenose Dolphins** on our way back, before stopping to view **Bank Cormorant** and **African Penguin** colonies.

The Cape Peninsula group started at the Kommetjie Lighthouse, with its tern and cormorant flocks, which included **Crowned Cormorant**. The continued on to the beautiful Cape Point, taking in the views, and finding **Eland** and **Chacma Baboon** along the way. After a famously tremendous lunch (aka The Lunch), they stopped by the **African Penguin** colony before meeting up again with the pelagic group.

Together, we drove around False Bay, stopping for the views and to scan for whales, which, after some effort, was successful, with several **Humpback Whales** visible. We finally made it to our lovely hotel, where we were immediately distracted by birds like **Alpine Swift**, **Yellow Bishop**, and **Fiscal Flycatcher**. We finished the day with a delicious dinner in a local restaurant.



Shy Albatrosses surrounded our boat on the pelagic trip.

Day 5, Pringle Bay to Swellendam

We started our day with some pre-breakfast birding in the coastal mountains at Rooiels. This area is famous for **Cape Rockjumper**, which after a bit of effort we got excellent looks at. We

first found two distant males before being treated to a closer female. **Cape Siskins** were around but elusive, but the **Cape Sugarbirds**, **Orange-breasted Sunbirds**, and **Cape Rock-Thrushes** were more cooperative. A pair of **Verreaux's Eagles** made a couple of passes along the ridge.

After our success, we returned for breakfast (where we were frequently distracted by **Malachite Sunbirds**), packed up, and stopped in at the local **African Penguin** colony. They were as charming as usual, and we also got to see all three of the local endemic **cormorants**: **Bank**, **Cape**, and **Crowned**.

We then drove through the vineyards and wheat fields until we reached the Agulhas Plain, where we slowed down our pace to take in the roadside birding. **African Pipit**, **Large-billed Lark**, **Red-capped Lark**, and **Yellow Bishop** were common. We soon found one of our main targets, **Agulhas Lark**, found nowhere else in the world but here. Not long after we found another bird we were searching for, **Karoo Korhaan**. Later we found several **Denham's Bustard**, including one showing off puffy plumage while it displayed. While we were watching a large herd of **Eland**, a **Cape Vulture** made a low pass overhead when we weren't far from the last remaining colony in the Western Cape. It was finally time to head to our hotel on a beautiful farm near Swellendam.

Day 6, Swellendam to Wilderness

After a brief walk around the lodge grounds, we headed to the nearby Bontebok National Park. It didn't take us long to find an **Agulhas Clapper Lark**, which we enjoyed watching as it performed its flight display repeatedly. A short while later, we had excellent views of a cooperative singing **Cape Grassbird**, our first one seen after having heard them over the last few days. **Cloud Cisticola** remained heard only, but mammals were showy, and besides the many **Bontebok** and **Red Hartebeest**, we had nice views of a **Cape Grysbok**. One of the cars was lucky and not only saw a **Cape Gray Mongoose** but watched it flush two **Fiery-necked Nightjars**.

After breakfast back at the hotel, we continued east, seeing a pair of **Secretarybirds** not far from the road as we drove. We ate our lunch on our new hotel's veranda when we arrived and got our first show of the garden's incredible birds, immediately seeing **Red-necked Francolin** and **Lemon Dove**, two birds that are not especially easy to see! **Common** and **Sweet Waxbill**, **Fork-tailed Drongo**, **Forest Canary**, and more came to the feeders while we ate. We did some local birding walking from the hotel in the afternoon, finding a beautiful **Cape Batis**, **Olive Woodpecker**, cooperative **Southern Double-collared Sunbird**, and many **Sombre Greenbuls**. Over the course of the afternoon everybody got to see the incredible **Knysna Turaco**, and a few people found a **Brown-hooded Kingfisher**.

Day 7, Wilderness area

We started the day birding along the forested roads near our hotel. It was very birdy, with **sunbirds**, **white-eyes**, and **turacos** rarely out of eye-shot. The **Knysna Turacos** put on an especially good display, carrying nesting material and generally showing off. **Brown-hooded**

and **Giant Kingfishers** showed very well, and an **African Goshawk** displayed overhead. **Olive Bushshrike** showed briefly for some, but none of the several singing **Knysna Warblers** would come out. We had tremendous views of **Greater** and **Southern Double-collared Sunbirds** as well as a perched **Black Sawwing**. There was also an excellent swift flock that gave us great views of **Horus Swift** along with **African, Alpine, and African Palm Swifts**.

We returned for one of the best “breakfast with the birds” anywhere. The feeders just off the veranda were alive with **Common** and **Sweet Waxbills**, **Forest Canary**, **Chorister Robin-Chat**, **Fork-tailed Drongo**, **Terrestrial Brownbul**, and a male **Pin-tailed Whydah**. We returned to the field to visit one of the local wetlands, which gave us good views of three species of **grebes**. In the adjacent scrub we had nice views of **Black-bellied Starling** and **Brimstone Canary**, and a **Malachite Kingfisher** sat motionless deep in the reeds, where most of the group saw it before it took off. Only a lucky few, however, glimpsed **Half-collared Kingfisher**, and just one vehicle saw **Forest Buzzard**.

After a siesta, we converged back at the hotel, where we enjoyed **Red-necked Francolin** and **Knysna Turaco** coming to the feeders while we had coffee and tea. We then set out on a nice walk, finding many of the now-familiar birds like sunbirds and **Sombre Greenbul**, and also seeing a **Black Sparrowhawk** carrying prey and getting great looks at an unusually cooperative **Blue-mantled Flycatcher**. Returning to our hotel after a delicious dinner and a beachfront restaurant, we were treated to the song of **Fiery-necked Nightjar**.



Chorister Robin-Chat is an endemic forest bird, easily seen on the grounds our hotel in Wilderness.

Day 8, Wilderness to Karoo

We began our morning at Victoria Bay, a beautiful, small beach with some nice birds around it. Immediately upon arriving we heard **Knysna Warbler** singing, and despite our best efforts, only the guides glimpsed it. Distantly singing **Red-chested** and **African Emerald Cuckoos** didn't come in for us, but a **Southern Tchagra** did and showed brilliantly. We also had nice looks at **Southern Boubou** and **Giant Kingfisher** before heading back for breakfast. Breakfast again was interrupted by the many birds coming to the feeders, but it was time to say goodbye to our wonderful hosts and head over the Swartberg Mountains and into the Karoo.

Our birding started out with a bang as we headed up the breathtaking Swartberg Pass, with incredible looks at **Protea Canary**. We also had excellent looks at **Orange-breasted** and **Malachite Sunbirds** and most people saw **Cape Siskin** well. We also saw **Klipspringers** in their favored rocky habitat.

We dropped down into the Karoo, where our first Karoo endemics were **Fairy Flycatcher** and **Dusky Sunbird** at our lunch picnic spot. We arrived to Karoo National Park with a little time for birding. Here we saw **Pirit Batis**, **Karoo Chat**, and **Yellow-bellied Eremomela**, as well as plenty of non-birds, including some massive **Leopard Tortoises**, **Red Hartebeest**, and **Southern Oryx**. Most of the group went out on a night drive in the park, the highlight of which was an active **Black Rhinoceros**.

Day 9, Karoo

We spent the morning birding various areas in the beautiful, mountainous Karoo National Park. We did well with a number of Karoo and Southern African endemics, including **Karoo Long-billed Lark**, **Rufous-eared Warbler**, **Acacia Pied Barbet**, **Namaqua Warbler**, **Fairy Flycatcher**, **Chat Flycatcher**, **Ground Woodpecker**, **Pale-winged Starling**, **Pirit Batis**, and **Pale Chanting-Goshawk**. A migrant **Booted Eagle** soared overhead at one point. Mammals were plentiful as well, including **Cape Mountain Zebra**, **Southern Oryx**, **Steenbok**, and a **Scrub Hare**.

We had a nice midday break and set out again, this time to an area outside the park. When we got to our destinations, just about the first birds we saw were a flock of the rare **Black-eared Sparrowlark**. It was amazing how they could disappear behind the sparse vegetation, but everyone had nice views in flight. **Karoo** and **Sickle-winged Chats** dotted the fence and **Karoo Korhaans** were common. We had good views of **Rufous-eared Warbler** and **Spike-heeled Lark** as well.

Some of the group went out for a night drive, finding both **Cape** and **Scrub Hares**, **Spotted Eagle-Owl**, and many other **antelope**.

Day 10, Karoo to Cape Town to Johannesburg

Today was primarily a travel day, as we left early for the Cape Town airport. We were lucky to see a **Ludwig's Bustard** flying along the roadside. A **House Crow** was at the airport as we filled up our fuel tanks. The flight was easy to Johannesburg, we picked up our vehicles, and headed to our lovely little hotel near the airport, seeing our first **Cape Glossy-Starling** of the trip along the way.



Karoo Korhaan (aka Karoo Bustard) in the Karoo.

Day 11, Johannesburg to Wakkerstroom

We started out with some pre-breakfast birding in the hotel garden and surrounding neighborhood. It was very birdy, with four species of **doves**, two species of **mousebirds**, family groups of both **Southern Fiscal** and **Fiscal Flycatcher**, obliging **Crowned Lapwings**, and less obliging **Red-headed Finches**.

After breakfast we set off for Wakkerstroom. We did some highway birding from the car, spotting **Spotted Thick-knee**, **Blue Korhaan**, and **Red-billed Quelea**. We started birding as soon as we hit the back roads north of Wakkerstroom, with **South African Swallow**, **Southern Anteater-Chat**, and other typical grassland birds. We searched in vain for the increasingly difficult Botha's Lark, but enjoyed close up views of common grassland birds like **African Pipit**, **Red-capped Lark**, and **Cape Longclaw**. As we headed south, we found multiple **Secretarybirds**, including some very close to the road which we were able to study at length. We found **Meerkats** and **Yellow Mongoose** to increase our mammal list, before trying for the increasingly rare **Rudd's Lark**. This one we found after walking a bit through the grasslands, getting pretty

good views in flight and nice views on the ground. We got to hear the fantastic call of **Blue Korhaan** after flushing a group of them.

After a break at our hotel, we returned out to the local wetlands. These are incredibly rich with birdlife, not to mention a very pleasant place to spend the evening birding. We had fantastic views of many birds, including **African Snipe**, **African Swamphen**, and various other **shorebirds**, **ducks**, and **waterbirds**. Most people had good views of a sneaky **African Rail** feeding on the mudflats at the edge of the reeds, but a calling **Red-chested Flufftail** never came out. A definite highlight was getting scope views of a **Cape Clawless Otter** eating a fish on the shore. All-in-all it was a great start to our time in the high elevation grasslands around Wakkerstroom.

Day 12, Wakkerstroom

We began our day south of town at a little bit higher elevation. We easily found many of our targets, getting great views of **Eastern Long-billed Lark**, **Buff-streaked Chat**, **Drakensberg Prinia**, and **Sentinel Rock-Thrush**. Try as we might, we never did see **Yellow-breasted Pipit** and another pipit, **African Rock Pipit**, sang repeatedly but remained steadfastly out of view.

After breakfast back at our hotel, we set out east from town. After being distracted by **Hamerkop**, we soon found our next target, **White-bellied Korhaan**, getting excellent views. We then took a long drive to find Wattled Cranes where David knew they were nesting, but frustratingly the field where they usually hang out was being worked and the birds were nowhere to be found. We stopped by some local woodlands on our way back, getting good views of **Neddicky**, **Red-throated Wryneck**, and **African Paradise Flycatcher**. **Bush Blackcap** sang but wouldn't come out. On the drive home we found yet more **Secretarybirds** as well as **Oribi**, an uncommon grassland antelope.

We returned back to Wakkerstroom and a few people returned to the wetlands in the evening, where we had good views of **Dark-capped Yellow Warbler** along with **Black Crake**, **Whiskered Tern**, and other birds we saw yesterday, along with another sighting of **Cape Clawless Otter**. After dinner, some of the group went out spotlighting in the fields around town, finding two excellent new mammals for the trip—**Springhare** and **White-tailed Mongoose**.

Day 13, Wakkerstroom to Kruger

Before breakfast, some of the group pottered around Wakkerstroom. It's a birdy town and we had a really nice morning, getting excellent views of birds like **African Hoopoe**, **Swainson's Francolin**, **Bokmakierie**, **African Paradise-Flycatcher**, and **Black-collared Barbet**. After breakfast, we packed up and set off for Kruger National Park, the trip's grand finale.

We arrived and were immediately overwhelmed by the birds and creatures at the Crocodile River, before even formally entering the park. Best was an actively feeding pair of **Saddle-billed Stork**, with a great supporting cast of **Goliath Heron**, **Water Thick-knee**, **Wire-tailed Swallow**, **Purple Heron**, and **Malachite Kingfisher**, not to mention **Hippo** and **Nile Crocodile**. We

ate our picnic at the park entrance, where some **Southern White-crowned Shrikes** were hanging out.



We saw this White Rhinoceros, the first of many we would end up seeing, on our first afternoon in Kruger.

Finally, we set off inside the park, immediately finding many of the typical park birds, like **Lilac-breasted Roller**, **Southern Yellow-billed** and **Southern Red-billed Hornbill**, **Red-crested Korhaan**, **Bateleur**, **Blue Waxbill**, and **Green-winged Pytilia**. We stopped for a bathroom break and were overwhelmed again. Two male **elephants** were feeding right next to the picnic tables, occasionally looking over at the small group of admiring visitors. But there were also many birds, including **Brown-headed Parrot**, **African Green-Pigeon**, **Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove**, and three species of **francolins**. As we were getting ready to leave, a ripple went through the group—rhino! **White Rhino**! Right there next to the parking area, a **White Rhinoceros**, a critically endangered species, was feeding casually. Little did we know at the time that we would see nine more rhinos before reaching camp for the evening! We also had more excellent views of **elephants** and, nearing camp, a **Spotted Hyena** casually strolling down the road. Birding highlights included some more of Kruger's best birds, including a group of **Southern Ground-Hornbills** and a stunning **Verreaux's Eagle-Owl**. It was almost too much to take in for a single afternoon, but that's Kruger.

Day 14, Kruger National Park

We had a full day in the southern section of the park. We set out for our early morning drive, and before long we were looking at a female **lion** with cubs in the riverbed adjacent to the

road. Not a bad way to start the day! **Giraffes**, **elephants**, and **antelope** (including our first **Nyala**) were also plentiful. We especially enjoyed seeing a newborn elephant being helped along by its mother. We also added many new birds, including a close **Hooded Vulture** in a riverbed, **Bearded Scrub-Robin**, **Burchell's Coucal**, **Little Bee-eater**, **Orange-breasted Bushshrike**, **Violet-backed Starling**, and others.

We returned to camp for brunch (eating ours while **elephants** ate theirs in the adjacent river) and took a short walk around camp after, getting wonderful views of the spectacular **Purple-crested Turaco** that had been calling while we ate.

After a rest, we set out for an afternoon drive. We had some wonderful elephant encounters, seeing males, females, and young up close, as well as yet more **White Rhinos**. We had excellent views of the aptly named **Red-headed Weaver**, our first **Brown Snake-Eagle** and **Purple Roller**, and a migrant **Red-backed Shrike**. We also went on the camp's night drive. The unquestionable highlight was excellent views of a **Leopard** that stood in plain view for a minute before disappearing into the bush. We also saw **Large-spotted Genet**, **Lesser Bushbaby**, and **Spotted Hyena**, and we enjoyed the brilliantly starry sky.



Kruger is an excellent place to see Southern Ground Hornbills. It takes some luck to see its white primaries.

Day 15, Kruger National Park

We started our day with a pre-breakfast walk around camp. The beautiful **White-browed Robin-Chat** sat out for us and **Collared Sunbird** brightened the cloudy morning. After breakfast we headed north to our next camp, but not before screeching to a halt before even setting out

when Jeff spotted an **African Wood-Owl**. We all jumped out and had great views of this unexpected bird, along with the many birds mobbing it, including a male **Scarlet-chested Sunbird**. We did finally start off, but it wasn't long before we screeched to a halt again—this time for a pride of **lions** and their attendant cubs that walked right across the road in front of us and laid down in the shade of the riverine forest. It was quite a magical moment.

We carried on northward, enjoying the **Greater Blue-eared Starlings**, **Southern Yellow-billed Hornbills**, and **African Mourning-Doves** while we ate lunch. We visited Orpen Dam after lunch, which was full of waterbirds, including our first **African Openbill**, nice views of **African Jacana**, lots of **Black Crakes**, and various other **shorebirds** and **waders**. A pair of **Southern Black Flycatchers** seemed to be nesting in a tree next to the viewing area. We also got to see **Water Thick-knees** trying to chase away a **Nile Monitor** that was apparently too close to their nest, but the big lizard didn't seem bothered by the thick-knee's efforts.

Leaving the dam, a car stopped us to let us know of a **Leopard** up ahead. After some searching, there it was! Right on the bank of a dry river lying in the sun under a large tree, we were able to watch it for ten minutes before it stood up and sauntered off and out of view. Our second magical cat experience of the day.

We also saw great birds big and small. Among the tiny ones were **Burnt-necked Eremomela** and **Croaking Cisticola**. Significantly bigger were the **Southern Ground Hornbills** feeding along the road and the many raptors, including **Bateleur**, **White-backed** and **Lappet-faced Vulture**, and **African Harrier-Hawk**.



We had excellent views of this male Leopard in Kruger

We made it to camp, had a rest, then walked around camp a bit before dinner. It was a beautiful evening, made all the better by our views of a cooperative **Gray-headed Bushshrike** and a **Gray Tit-Flycatcher**, not to mention the **African Hoopoe** feeding a youngster on the lawn right by our rondavels. Part of the group set out on a night drive that turned out to be great for

small mammals, finding **African Wild Cat**, **Large-spotted** and **Small-spotted Genet**, **African Civet**, and **Lesser Bushbaby**. The icing on the cake was a very close **Southern White-faced Owl**.

Day 16, Kruger to Johannesburg

We took another pre-breakfast drive to look for the few likely birds and animals we still had not seen. We came across a puddle that contained both **Saddle-billed** and **Yellow-billed Stork**, with a **Giant Kingfisher** sitting on an overhanging branch. We found our first **Yellow-billed Oxpecker** pestering an Impala and an **African Hawk-Eagle** sat atop a river-edge tree.

There were lots of birds about while waiting for our food at breakfast, including **Brown-headed Parrot**, **Arrow-marked Babbler**, and **Long-billed Crombec**. It was finally time to leave the park. We saw **Elephant**, **Giraffe**, **Cape Buffalo**, and **Burchell's Zebras** one last time on our way out, along with our very first **Ostriches** for the park. We also saw our last **Lilac-breasted Roller**, **Magpie Shrike**, and **hornbills**. Our birding wasn't quite finished, however, with yet another new bird as our picnic lunch spot, **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird**. We capped the day with our final dinner and compiled our Top 5 lists.

Day 17, Johannesburg area and departure

We started out again with a pre-breakfast walk at the hotel. It was typically birdy, with nice looks at **Red-faced Mousebird**, **Red-headed Finch**, and **Wattled Lapwing**, plus flyovers of **Wattled Starling** and **Thick-billed Weaver**. After breakfast, we still had plenty of time, so we headed to the nearby Rietvlei Nature Center. It's a great spot to spend time not far from the airport. We added another bunch of new birds, including **Groundscraper** and **Kurrichane Thrushes** (with the Kurrichane feeding chicks in the nest) and a gorgeous **Crimson-breasted Shrike**. Mammals were as abundant as usual, with **Black Wildebeest**, **Eland**, **Cape Buffalo**, and **Blesbok** all seen well. Small mammals were excellent, too, with **Yellow Mongoose**, **Meerkat**, and a **Slender Mongoose** being harassed by a **Fork-tailed Drongo** before stopping in at a small waterhole for a drink. We took one last look at the remarkable **Long-tailed Widowbird** and headed back to our hotel to pack up, head to the airport, and say our goodbyes.

We created memories that will last a lifetime on an unforgettable African birding adventure.

BIRD LIST. 407 species. Taxonomy follows the Clements/eBird Checklist, 2018 update. Names in wide use in Southern Africa are in parentheses. Asterisk (*) denotes Southern African endemic or near-endemic. (H) = heard only. IUCN Red List status listed for threatened and near-threatened species: CR=Critically Endangered, EN=Endangered, VU=Vulnerable, NT=Near-threatened.

Common Ostrich - *Struthio camelus*

White-faced Whistling-Duck - *Dendrocygna viduata*

White-backed Duck - *Thalassornis leuconotus*

Egyptian Goose - *Alopochen aegyptiaca*
South African Shelduck* - *Tadorna cana*
Spur-winged Goose - *Plectropterus gambensis*
Hottentot Teal - *Spatula hottentota*
Cape Shoveler - *Spatula smithii*
African Black Duck - *Anas sparsa*
Yellow-billed Duck - *Anas undulata*
Mallard - *Anas platyrhynchos*
Cape Teal - *Anas capensis*
Red-billed Duck - *Anas erythrorhyncha*
Southern Pochard - *Netta erythrophthalma*
Maccoa Duck (VU)- *Oxyura maccoa*
Helmeted Guineafowl - *Numida meleagris*
Cape Francolin (Spurfowl)* - *Pternistis capensis*
Natal Francolin (Spurfowl)* - *Pternistis natalensis*
Swainson's Francolin (Spurfowl) - *Pternistis swainsonii*
Red-necked Francolin (Spurfowl) - *Pternistis afer*
Crested Francolin - *Dendroperdix sephaena*
Red-winged Francolin - *Scleroptila levaillantii*
Gray-winged Francolin* - *Scleroptila afra*
Greater Flamingo - *Phoenicopterus roseus*
Lesser Flamingo - *Phoeniconaias minor*
Little Grebe - *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
Great Crested Grebe - *Podiceps cristatus*
Eared (Black-necked) Grebe - *Podiceps nigricollis*
Rock Pigeon - *Columba livia*
Speckled Pigeon - *Columba guinea*
Rameron (African Olive) Pigeon - *Columba arquatrix*
Lemon Dove - *Columba larvata*
Mourning Collared-Dove (African Mourning Dove)- *Streptopelia decipiens*
Red-eyed Dove - *Streptopelia semitorquata*
Ring-necked (Cape Turtle-) Dove - *Streptopelia capicola*
Laughing Dove - *Streptopelia senegalensis*
Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove - *Turtur chalcospilos*
Namaqua Dove - *Oena capensis*
African Green-Pigeon - *Treron calvus*
Ludwig's Bustard* - *Neotis ludwigii*
Denham's Bustard - *Neotis denhami*
White-bellied Bustard (Korhaan)- *Eupodotis senegalensis*
Blue Bustard (Korhaan)* - *Eupodotis caerulea*
Karoo Bustard (Korhaan)* - *Eupodotis vigorsii*
Red-crested Bustard (Korhaan)* - *Eupodotis ruficrista*
Black Bustard (Southern Black Korhaan)* (VU)- *Eupodotis afra*
Knysna Turaco* - *Tauraco corythaix*

Purple-crested Turaco - *Tauraco porphyreolophus*
Gray Go-away-bird - *Corythaixoides concolor*
White-browed (Burchell's) Coucal - *Centropus superciliosus*
Pied (Jacobin) Cuckoo - *Clamator jacobinus*
Dideric Cuckoo - *Chrysococcyx caprius*
African Emerald Cuckoo (H) - *Chrysococcyx cupreus*
Red-chested Cuckoo (H) - *Cuculus solitarius*
African Cuckoo - *Cuculus gularis*
Fiery-necked Nightjar - *Caprimulgus pectoralis*
Alpine Swift - *Apus melba*
African Swift - *Apus barbatus*
Little Swift - *Apus affinis*
Horus Swift - *Apus horus*
White-rumped Swift - *Apus caffer*
African Palm-Swift - *Cypsiurus parvus*
Red-chested Flufftail (H) - *Sarothrura rufa*
African Rail - *Rallus caerulescens*
Eurasian (Common) Moorhen - *Gallinula chloropus*
Red-knobbed Coot - *Fulica cristata*
African (Purple) Swamphen - *Porphyrio madagascariensis*
Black Crane - *Zapornia flavirostra*
Gray Crowned-Crane (EN) - *Balearica regulorum*
Blue Crane* (VU) - *Anthropoides paradiseus*
Water Thick-knee - *Burhinus vermiculatus*
Spotted Thick-knee - *Burhinus capensis*
Black-winged Stilt - *Himantopus himantopus*
Pied Avocet - *Recurvirostra avosetta*
African Oystercatcher* - *Haematopus moquini*
Black-bellied Plover - *Pluvialis squatarola*
Blacksmith Lapwing - *Vanellus armatus*
White-headed (White-crowned) Lapwing - *Vanellus albiceps*
Senegal Lapwing - *Vanellus lugubris*
Crowned Lapwing - *Vanellus coronatus*
(African) Wattled Lapwing - *Vanellus senegallus*
Kittlitz's Plover - *Charadrius pecuarius*
Three-banded Plover - *Charadrius tricollaris*
White-fronted Plover - *Charadrius marginatus*
Chestnut-banded Plover (NT) - *Charadrius pallidus*
African Jacana - *Actophilornis africanus*
Whimbrel - *Numenius phaeopus*
Ruff - *Calidris pugnax*
Curlew Sandpiper - *Calidris ferruginea*
Little Stint - *Calidris minuta*
African Snipe - *Gallinago nigripennis*

Red-necked Phalarope - *Phalaropus lobatus*
Common Sandpiper - *Actitis hypoleucos*
Common Greenshank - *Tringa nebularia*
Wood Sandpiper - *Tringa glareola*
Brown (Subantarctic) Skua - *Stercorarius antarcticus*
Gray-hooded (Gray-headed) Gull - *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*
Hartlaub's Gull* - *Chroicocephalus hartlaubii*
Kelp Gull - *Larus dominicanus*
Caspian Tern - *Hydroprogne caspia*
Whiskered Tern - *Chlidonias hybrida*
Common Tern - *Sterna hirundo*
Arctic Tern - *Sterna paradisaea*
Great Crested Tern - *Thalasseus bergii*
Sandwich Tern - *Thalasseus sandvicensis*
African Penguin* (EN) - *Spheniscus demersus*
(Atlantic) Yellow-nosed Albatross (EN)- *Thalassarche chlororhynchos chlororhynchos*
(Indian) Yellow-nosed Albatross (EN) - *Thalassarche chlororhynchos carteri*
White-capped (Shy) Albatross (NT) - *Thalassarche cauta*
Black-browed Albatross - *Thalassarche melanophris*
Northern Giant-Petrel - *Macronectes halli*
Cape Petrel - *Daption capense*
White-chinned Petrel (VU)- *Procellaria aequinoctialis*
Great Shearwater - *Ardenna gravis*
Sooty Shearwater (NT)- *Ardenna grisea*
African Openbill - *Anastomus lamelligerus*
Woolly-necked Stork - *Ciconia episcopus*
Saddle-billed Stork - *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*
Marabou Stork - *Leptoptilos crumenifer*
Yellow-billed Stork - *Mycteria ibis*
Cape Gannet* (VU) - *Morus capensis*
African Darter - *Anhinga rufa*
Long-tailed Cormorant - *Microcarbo africanus*
Crowned Cormorant* (NT)- *Microcarbo coronatus*
Great (White-breasted) Cormorant - *Phalacrocorax carbo*
Cape Cormorant* (EN) - *Phalacrocorax capensis*
Bank Cormorant* (EN)- *Phalacrocorax neglectus*
Great White Pelican - *Pelecanus onocrotalus*
Hamerkop - *Scopus umbretta*
Gray Heron - *Ardea cinerea*
Black-headed Heron - *Ardea melanocephala*
Goliath Heron - *Ardea goliath*
Purple Heron - *Ardea purpurea*
Great Egret - *Ardea alba*
Intermediate Egret - *Ardea intermedia*

Little Egret - *Egretta garzetta*
Black Heron - *Egretta ardesiaca*
Cattle Egret - *Bubulcus ibis*
Squacco Heron - *Ardeola ralloides*
Striated Heron - *Butorides striata*
Black-crowned Night-Heron - *Nycticorax nycticorax*
Glossy Ibis - *Plegadis falcinellus*
Sacred Ibis - *Threskiornis aethiopicus*
Southern Bald Ibis* (VU) - *Geronticus calvus*
Hadada Ibis - *Bostrychia hagedash*
African Spoonbill - *Platalea alba*
Secretarybird (VU) - *Sagittarius serpentarius*
Black-winged (Black-shouldered) Kite - *Elanus caeruleus*
African Harrier-Hawk - *Polyboroides typus*
Lappet-faced Vulture (EN)- *Torgos tracheliotos*
Hooded Vulture (CR)- *Necrosyrtes monachus*
White-backed Vulture (CR)- *Gyps africanus*
Cape Griffon (Cape Vulture)* (EN) - *Gyps coprotheres*
Bateleur (NT) - *Terathopius ecaudatus*
Brown Snake-Eagle - *Circaetus cinereus*
Martial Eagle (VU) - *Polemaetus bellicosus*
Wahlberg's Eagle - *Hieraaetus wahlbergi*
Booted Eagle - *Hieraaetus pennatus*
Tawny Eagle - *Aquila rapax*
Verreaux's Eagle - *Aquila verreauxii*
African Hawk-Eagle - *Aquila spilogaster*
Lizard Buzzard - *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*
Pale Chanting-Goshawk* - *Melierax canorus*
African Marsh-Harrier - *Circus ranivorus*
African Goshawk - *Accipiter tachiro*
Shikra - *Accipiter badius*
Black Goshawk (Sparrowhawk)- *Accipiter melanoleucus*
Black (Yellow-billed) Kite - *Milvus migrans*
African Fish-Eagle - *Haliaeetus vocifer*
Common (Steppe) Buzzard - *Buteo buteo*
Jackal Buzzard* - *Buteo rufofuscus*
Southern White-faced Owl - *Ptilopsis granti*
Spotted Eagle-Owl - *Bubo africanus*
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl - *Bubo lacteus*
African Wood-Owl - *Strix woodfordii*
Speckled Mousebird - *Colius striatus*
White-backed Mousebird* - *Colius colius*
Red-faced Mousebird - *Urocolius indicus*
Eurasian (African) Hoopoe - *Upupa epops*

Green Woodhoopoe - *Phoeniculus purpureus*
Common Scimitarbill - *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*
Southern Ground-Hornbill (VU) - *Bucorvus leadbeateri*
Crowned Hornbill - *Lophoceros alboterminatus*
African Gray Hornbill - *Lophoceros nasutus*
Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill - *Tockus leucomelas*
Southern Red-billed Hornbill - *Tockus rufirostris*
Half-collared Kingfisher - *Alcedo semitorquata*
Malachite Kingfisher - *Corythornis cristatus*
Brown-hooded Kingfisher - *Halcyon albiventris*
Giant Kingfisher - *Megaceryle maxima*
Pied Kingfisher - *Ceryle rudis*
White-fronted Bee-eater - *Merops bullockoides*
Little Bee-eater - *Merops pusillus*
European Bee-eater - *Merops apiaster*
Lilac-breasted Roller - *Coracias caudatus*
Rufous-crowned (Purple) Roller - *Coracias naevius*
Crested Barbet - *Trachyphonus vaillantii*
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird - *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*
(Acacia) Pied Barbet - *Tricholaema leucomelas*
Black-collared Barbet - *Lybius torquatus*
Greater Honeyguide (H) - *Indicator indicator*
Rufous-necked (Red-throated) Wryneck - *Jynx ruficollis*
Cardinal Woodpecker - *Chloropicus fuscescens*
Bearded Woodpecker - *Chloropicus namaquus*
Olive Woodpecker - *Chloropicus griseocephalus*
Ground Woodpecker* (NT) - *Geocolaptes olivaceus*
Bennett's Woodpecker - *Campethera bennettii*
Golden-tailed Woodpecker - *Campethera abingoni*
Rock Kestrel* - *Falco rupicolus*
Lanner Falcon - *Falco biarmicus*
Brown-headed Parrot - *Poicephalus cryptoxanthus*
Cape Batis* - *Batis capensis*
Chinspot Batis - *Batis molitor*
Pirit Batis* - *Batis pririt*
White Helmetshrike - *Prionops plumatus*
Brubru - *Nilaus afer*
Black-backed Puffback - *Dryoscopus cubla*
Brown-crowned Tchagra - *Tchagra australis*
Southern Tchagra* - *Tchagra tchagra*
Southern Boubou - *Laniarius ferrugineus*
Crimson-breasted Gonolek (Bushshrike)* - *Laniarius atrococcineus*
Bokmakierie *- *Telophorus zeylonus*
Sulphur-breasted (Orange-breasted) Bushshrike - *Telophorus sulfureopectus*

Olive Bushshrike* - *Telophorus olivaceus*
Gray-headed Bushshrike - *Malaconotus blanchoti*
Black Cuckooshrike - *Campephaga flava*
Red-backed Shrike - *Lanius collurio*
Southern (Common) Fiscal - *Lanius collaris*
Magpie Shrike - *Corvinella melanoleuca*
White-crowned Shrike - *Eurocephalus anguitimens*
African Black-headed Oriole - *Oriolus larvatus*
Fork-tailed Drongo - *Dicrurus adsimilis*
African Crested-Flycatcher - *Trochocercus cyanomelas*
African Paradise-Flycatcher - *Terpsiphone viridis*
House Crow - *Corvus splendens*
Cape Crow - *Corvus capensis*
Pied Crow - *Corvus albus*
White-necked Raven - *Corvus albicollis*
Cape Rockjumper* (NT) - *Chaetops frenatus*
Spike-heeled Lark* - *Chersomanes albofasciata*
Karoo Long-billed Lark* - *Certhilauda subcoronata*
Eastern Long-billed Lark* - *Certhilauda semitorquata*
Agulhas (Long-billed) Lark* - *Certhilauda brevirostris*
Black-eared Sparrow-Lark* - *Eremopterix australis*
Sabota Lark - *Calendulauda sabota*
Karoo Lark* - *Calendulauda albescens*
Rudd's Lark* (EN)- *Heteromiraфра ruddi*
Cape (Agulhas) Clapper Lark* - *Miraфра apiata*
Rufous-naped Lark - *Miraфра africana*
Red-capped Lark - *Calandrella cinerea*
Large-billed Lark* - *Galerida magnirostris*
Plain (Brown-throated) Martin - *Riparia paludicola*
Banded Martin - *Riparia cincta*
Rock Martin - *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*
Barn Swallow - *Hirundo rustica*
White-throated Swallow - *Hirundo albigularis*
Wire-tailed Swallow - *Hirundo smithii*
Pearl-breasted Swallow - *Hirundo dimidiata*
Greater Striped Swallow - *Cecropis cucullata*
Lesser Striped Swallow - *Cecropis abyssinica*
Rufous-chested (Red-breasted) Swallow - *Cecropis semirufa*
South African (Cliff-) Swallow - *Petrochelidon spilodera*
Black Sawwing - *Psalidoprocne pristoptera*
Fairy Flycatcher* - *Stenostira scita*
Southern Black-Tit - *Melaniparus niger*
Southern Penduline-Tit* - *Anthoscopus minutus*
Sombre Greenbul - *Andropadus importunus*

Yellow-bellied Greenbul - *Chlorocichla flaviventris*
Terrestrial Brownbul - *Phyllastrephus terrestris*
Common (Dark-capped) Bulbul - *Pycnonotus barbatus*
Black-fronted Bulbul - *Pycnonotus nigricans*
Cape Bulbul - *Pycnonotus capensis*
Cape (Long-billed) Crombec - *Sylvietta rufescens*
Cape Grassbird* - *Sphenoeacus afer*
African (Dark-capped) Yellow-Warbler - *Iduna natalensis*
African Reed Warbler - *Acrocephalus baeticatus*
Lesser Swamp Warbler - *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*
Knysna Warbler* (VU) (H)- *Bradypterus sylvaticus*
Little Rush-Warbler - *Bradypterus baboecala*
Yellow-bellied Eremomela - *Eremomela icteropygialis*
Yellow-rumped (Karoo) Eremomela* - *Eremomela gregalis*
Burnt-neck Eremomela - *Eremomela usticollis*
Namaqua Warbler* - *Phragmacia substriata*
Green-backed Camaroptera (H)- *Camaroptera brachyura*
Bar-throated Apalis - *Apalis thoracica*
Yellow-breasted Apalis - *Apalis flavida*
Tawny-flanked Prinia - *Prinia subflava*
Black-chested Prinia* - *Prinia flavicans*
Karoo Prinia* - *Prinia maculosa*
Drakensberg Prinia* - *Prinia hypoxantha*
Rufous-eared Warbler* - *Malcorus pectoralis*
Red-faced Cisticola - *Cisticola erythrops*
Rattling Cisticola - *Cisticola chiniana*
Red-headed (Gray-backed) Cisticola* - *Cisticola subruficapilla*
Wailing Cisticola - *Cisticola lais*
Levaillant's Cisticola - *Cisticola tinniens*
Croaking Cisticola - *Cisticola natalensis*
Piping Cisticola (Neddicky) - *Cisticola fulvicapilla*
Zitting Cisticola - *Cisticola juncidis*
Cloud Cisticola (H) - *Cisticola textrix*
Wing-snapping Cisticola - *Cisticola ayresii*
Bush Blackcap* (VU) (H) - *Sylvia nigricapilla*
Layard's Warbler (Tit-Babbler)* - *Sylvia layardi*
Rufous-vented Warbler (Chestnut-vented Tit-Babbler) - *Sylvia subcaerulea*
Cape White-eye* - *Zosterops virens*
Arrow-marked Babbler - *Turdoides jardineii*
Cape Sugarbird* - *Promerops cafer*
Dusky-brown (African Dusky) Flycatcher - *Muscicapa adusta*
Chat Flycatcher* - *Agricola infuscatus*
Gray Tit-Flycatcher - *Fraseria plumbea*
Ashy Flycatcher - *Fraseria caerulescens*

Fiscal Flycatcher* - *Melaenornis silens*
Southern Black-Flycatcher - *Melaenornis pammelaina*
Karoo Scrub-Robin* - *Cercotrichas coryphoeus*
Bearded Scrub-Robin - *Cercotrichas quadrivirgata*
Red-backed (White-browed) Scrub-Robin - *Cercotrichas leucophrys*
Cape Robin-Chat - *Cossypha caffra*
White-throated Robin-Chat* - *Cossypha humeralis*
White-browed Robin-Chat - *Cossypha heuglini*
Chorister Robin-Chat* - *Cossypha dichroa*
Short-toed Rock-Thrush* - *Monticola brevipes*
Sentinel Rock-Thrush* (NT) - *Monticola explorator*
Cape Rock-Thrush* - *Monticola rupestris*
African Stonechat - *Saxicola torquatus*
Buff-streaked Bushchat (Chat)* - *Saxicola bifasciatus*
Southern Anteater-Chat (Anteating-Chat)* - *Myrmecocichla formicivora*
Sicklewing Chat* - *Cercomela sinuata*
Karoo Chat* - *Cercomela schlegelii*
Familiar Chat - *Cercomela familiaris*
Mountain Wheatear* - *Oenanthe monticola*
Capped Wheatear* - *Oenanthe pileata*
Groundscraper Thrush - *Psophocichla litsitsirupa*
Kurrichane Thrush - *Turdus libonyana*
Olive Thrush - *Turdus olivaceus*
Karoo Thrush* - *Turdus smithi*
European Starling - *Sturnus vulgaris*
Wattled Starling - *Creatophora cinerea*
Common Myna - *Acridotheres tristis*
Violet-backed Starling - *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*
Pale-winged Starling* - *Onychognathus nabouroup*
Red-winged Starling - *Onychognathus morio*
Black-bellied Starling - *Notopholia corrusca*
Burchell's Starling - *Lamprotornis australis*
African Pied Starling* - *Lamprotornis bicolor*
Greater Blue-eared Starling - *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*
Cape (Glossy-)Starling* - *Lamprotornis nitens*
Red-billed Oxpecker - *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*
Yellow-billed Oxpecker - *Buphagus africanus*
Collared Sunbird - *Hedydipna collaris*
Orange-breasted Sunbird* - *Anthobaphes violacea*
Mouse-colored (Gray) Sunbird - *Cyanomitra veroxii*
Amethyst Sunbird - *Chalcomitra amethystina*
Scarlet-chested Sunbird - *Chalcomitra senegalensis*
Malachite Sunbird - *Nectarinia famosa*
Southern Double-collared Sunbird* - *Cinnyris chalybeus*

Greater Double-collared Sunbird* - *Cinnyris afer*
Mariqua (Marico) Sunbird - *Cinnyris mariquensis*
White-breasted (White-bellied) Sunbird - *Cinnyris talatala*
Dusky Sunbird* - *Cinnyris fuscus*
Cape Wagtail - *Motacilla capensis*
African Pied Wagtail - *Motacilla aguimp*
African Pipit - *Anthus cinnamomeus*
Plain-backed Pipit - *Anthus leucophrys*
Yellow-tufted (African Rock) Pipit* (NT) (H) - *Anthus crenatus*
Orange-throated (Cape) Longclaw* - *Macronyx capensis*
Yellow-fronted Canary - *Crithagra mozambica*
Forest Canary* - *Crithagra scotops*
Black-throated Canary - *Crithagra atrogularis*
Brimstone Canary - *Crithagra sulphurata*
Yellow Canary* - *Crithagra flaviventris*
White-throated Canary* - *Crithagra albogularis*
Protea Canary* (NT) - *Crithagra leucoptera*
Streaky-headed Seedeater - *Crithagra gularis*
Cape Siskin* - *Crithagra totta*
Cape Canary - *Serinus canicollis*
Golden-breasted Bunting - *Emberiza flaviventris*
Cape Bunting* - *Emberiza capensis*
Lark-like Bunting* - *Emberiza impetواني*
House Sparrow - *Passer domesticus*
Cape Sparrow* - *Passer melanurus*
Southern Gray-headed Sparrow - *Passer diffusus*
Yellow-throated Petronia - *Gymnornis superciliaris*
Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver - *Bubalornis niger*
Red-headed Weaver - *Anaplectes rubriceps*
Spectacled Weaver - *Ploceus ocularis*
Cape Weaver - *Ploceus capensis*
Southern Masked-Weaver - *Ploceus velatus*
Village Weaver - *Ploceus cucullatus*
Red-billed Quelea - *Quelea quelea*
Southern Red Bishop - *Euplectes orix*
Yellow-crowned Bishop - *Euplectes afer*
Yellow Bishop - *Euplectes capensis*
White-winged Widowbird - *Euplectes albonotatus*
Fan-tailed Widowbird - *Euplectes axillaris*
Long-tailed Widowbird - *Euplectes progne*
Grosbeak (Thick-billed) Weaver - *Amblyospiza albifrons*
Swee Waxbill* - *Coccopygia melanotis*
Common Waxbill - *Estrilda astrild*
Southern Cordonbleu (Blue Waxbill) - *Uraeginthus angolensis*

Green-winged Pytilia - *Pytilia melba*
Red-billed Firefinch - *Lagonosticta senegala*
African Firefinch - *Lagonosticta rubricata*
Jameson's Firefinch - *Lagonosticta rhodopareia*
Red-headed Finch* - *Amadina erythrocephala*
African Quailfinch - *Ortygospiza fuscocrissa*
Bronze Mannikin - *Spermestes cucullata*
Pin-tailed Whydah - *Vidua macroura*

MAMMAL LIST. 59 species. Asterisk (*) denotes Southern African endemic or near-endemic. As there is no standard list of names for mammals, the names used here are simply commonly used names. (H) = heard only. IUCN Red List status listed for threatened and near-threatened species: CR=Critically Endangered, EN=Endangered, VU=Vulnerable, NT=Near-threatened.

Round-eared Elephant Shrew - *Macroscelides proboscideus*
Cape Rock Hyrax - *Procavia capensis*
African Elephant (VU) - *Loxodonta africana*
Lesser Bushbaby - *Galago moholi*
Greater Bushbaby (H) - *Otolemur crassicaudatus*
Vervet Monkey - *Chlorocebus pygerythrus*
Chacma Baboon - *Papio ursinus*
Springhare - *Pedetes capensis*
Tree Squirrel - *Paraxerus cepapi*
Four-striped Grass Mouse - *Rhabdomys pumilio*
Cape Hare - *Lepus capensis*
Scrub Hare - *Lepus saxatilis*
Wahlberg's Epauletted Fruit Bat - *Epomophorus wahlbergi*
Humpback Whale - *Megaptera novaeangliae*
Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphin - *Tursiops aduncus*
Lion (VU) - *Panthera leo*
Leopard (VU) - *Panthera pardus*
African Wild Cat - *Felis lybica*
African Civet - *Civettictis civetta*
Small-spotted (Common) Genet - *Genetta genetta*
Large-spotted (Rusty-spotted) Genet - *Genetta maculata*
Yellow Mongoose - *Cynictis penicillata*
Cape Grey Mongoose - *Galerella pulverulenta*
Slender Mongoose - *Galerella sanguinea*
Dwarf Mongoose - *Helogale parvula*
White-tailed Mongoose - *Ichneumia albicauda*
Meerkat - *Suricata suricatta*
Spotted Hyena - *Crocuta crocuta*
Side-striped Jackal - *Canis adustus*
Black-backed Jackal - *Canis mesomelas*

Cape Clawless Otter - *Aonyx capensis*
Cape Fur Seal - *Arctocephalus pusillus*
Burchell's Zebra (NT) - *Equus quagga*
Cape Mountain Zebra (VU) - *Equus zebra zebra*
Black Rhinoceros (CR) - *Diceros bicornis*
White Rhinoceros - *Ceratotherium simum*
Common Warthog - *Phacochoerus africanus*
Hippopotamus (VU) - *Hippopotamus amphibious*
Giraffe (VU) - *Giraffa giraffa*
Red Hartebeest - *Alcelaphus buselaphus caama*
Black Wildebeest - *Connochaetes gnou*
Blue Wildebeest - *Connochaetes taurinus*
Bontebok - *Damaliscus pygargus*
Springbok - *Antidorcas marsupialis*
Klipspringer - *Oreotragus oreotragus*
Oribi - *Ourebia ourebi*
Steenbok - *Raphicerus campestris*
Cape Grysbok - *Raphicerus melanotis*
African Buffalo - *Syncerus caffer*
Nyala - *Tragelaphus angasii*
Common Eland - *Tragelaphus oryx*
Bushbuck - *Tragelaphus scriptus*
Greater Kudu - *Tragelaphus strepsiceros*
Common Duiker - *Sylvicapra grimmia*
Gemsbok - *Oryx gazelle*
Grey Rhebok - *Pelea capreolus*
Impala - *Aepyceros melampus*
Waterbuck - *Kobus ellipsiprymnus*
Common (Southern) Reedbuck - *Redunca arundinum*

REPTILE & AMPHIBIAN LIST. 18 species.

Guttural Toad - *Amietophrynus gutturalis*
Common River Frog - *Amietia angolensis*
Angulate Tortoise - *Chersina angulata*
Leopard Tortoise - *Stigmochelys pardalis*
Marsh Terrapin - *Pelomedusa subrufa*
Nile Crocodile - *Crocodylus niloticus*
Nile (Water) Monitor - *Varanus niloticus*
Ornate Scrub Lizard – *Nucrus ornata*
Yellow-throated Plated Lizard - *Gerrhosaurus flavigularis*
Western Rock Skink - *Trachylepis sulcata*
African (Common) Striped Skink - *Trachylepis striata*
Cape Girdled Lizard - *Cordylus cordylus*
Southern Rock Agama - *Agama atra*

Tree (Black-necked) Agama - *Acanthocercus atricollis*
Cape Dwarf Day Gecko - *Lygodactylus capensis*
Tropical House Gecko - *Hemidactylus mabouia*
Namaqua (Rock) Gecko - *Afroedura namaquensis*
Cape Cobra - *Naja nivea*



Orange-breasted Sunbird is found only in the fynbos of the Western Cape.



We had great views of a family of Spotted Eagle Owl in Cape Town



We were surprised by a whole pride of lions crossing the road in front of us in Kruger.



Lilac-breasted Roller gets all the attention, but Purple Rollers are quite pretty too!