



## SOUTH AFRICA Custom Tour Johannesburg-Mpumalanga- Limpopo Loop

November 17-26, 2017

### Tour leader: Josh Engel

South Africa in early summer is bursting with animal life. Birds' breeding season is kicking into gear, migrants are pouring in, and birdsong is at its peak. This itinerary was designed as a driving loop starting and ending at the international airport in Johannesburg, taking in some of the best birding spots in the region along the route and the visiting a wide diversity of habitats full of endemic birds and other wildlife. In just ten days we packed in some of the finest grassland, bushveld, and forest birding the country has to offer, racking up 388 species of birds, including almost all of the top birds on the route, along with an amazing 47 species of mammals. It was a great introduction to African birds, animals, and experiences for the group, none of whom had been to Africa before. Among the bird highlights were **Botha's**, **Rudd's**, and **Short-clawed Larks**, **Yellow-breasted Pipit**, **Bush Blackcap**, **Southern Ground-Hornbill**, all **five of the endangered vultures** possible on the route (among 27 species of hawks, eagles, and relative), **Cape Parrot**, **Gurney's Sugarbird**, **Wattled Crane**, **Bat Hawk**, **Green Twinspot**, **Black-fronted Bush-Shrike**, **African Crowned-Eagle**, seven species of bustards, and excellent numbers of migrants.



### **TOP 5 BIRDS & MAMMALS AS VOTED BY THE GROUP**

#### **BIRDS**

1. Secretarybird
2. (tie) Zebra (Orange-breasted) Waxbill
2. (tie) Malachite Kingfisher
2. (tie) Green Twinspot
2. (tie) Malachite Sunbird

#### **MAMMALS**

1. Elephant
2. White Rhinoceros
3. Giraffe
4. (tie) Lion
4. (tie) Honey Badger

### Nov 17, Day 1: Arrival, to Wakkerstroom

After a slightly delayed flight, I picked up the group in Johannesburg and we were off. After long flights, we broke up the drive with a stop at Suikerbosrand, not from Joburg. It was a great way to start getting familiar with South African birds, with our first **Southern Red Bishop**, **Southern Masked Weaver**, **Blacksmith Lapwing**, **African Stonechat**, and other common birds. We also had great views of an **African Reed Warbler** in an area of reeds and enjoyed watching **South African Swallows** zipping around.

We made it to Wakkerstroom in the early afternoon (along the way one lucky participant saw a **Cape Fox** by the roadside), had a picnic lunch in the courtyard of our hotel, and set out again. It was a great afternoon of birding in the local grasslands. We picked up several endemics, including **Eastern Long-billed Lark**, **Buff-streaked Bushchat**, and **Sentinel Rock-Thrush**. We enjoyed the brightly colored **Malachite Sunbird** and the strikingly patterned **Mountain Wheatear**. A pair of the uncommon **Horus Swift** seemed to be nesting in the area and provided a nice surprise. A definite mammal highlight was watching many **Meerkats**, and we also saw a small group of **Gray Rhebok** antelope that included a baby.

### Nov 18, Day 2: Wakkerstroom

Wakkerstroom is well-known among birders for its outstanding grassland birding, and today it lived up to its billing. We picked up our local guide Norman and set out early. Our first target was **Yellow-breasted Pipit**. After lots of scanning, we had nice views of several birds chasing each other around the hillside before one obligingly flew down and landed on the road for spectacular views.



***White-bellied Korhaan in Wakkerstroom***

Next, we headed north. **Blue Korhaans** and **Blue Cranes** showed very nicely along the way to our next stop, this time to look for **Rudd's Lark**. We spent some time wandering around the fields before finding

a surprisingly obliging individual that even posed nicely for photos. **Wing-snapping Cisticola** also showed well here and we added many waterbirds, including **Maccoa Duck** and **Greater Flamingo**, while we ate breakfast overlooking a wetland. Nearby we found a **Secretarybird** hunting an overgrown field with **Gray Crowned-Cranes** in the background.

We continued north (stopping when a pair of **Denham's Bustards** took off from a roadside field) to look for the last of the endangered endemics that call Wakkerstroom home—**Botha's Lark**. It didn't take long before we spotted them and it wasn't much longer before we had incredible looks at (and very good photos of) a wonderfully cooperative pair.

After a successful detour to look for **Black-winged Lapwing**, as well as a beautiful **Oribi** in a field, we returned to Wakkerstroom for lunch. We headed back out after our meal, this time to a different area. We quickly found **White-bellied Korhaan**, a beautiful male that allowed very close approach by the vehicle. A **Southern Bald Ibis** was less cooperative, but we saw many over the course of the day. Our drive back to Wakkerstroom was punctuated by several more good birds, including **Drakensberg Prinia** and **Bush Blackcap**.

After an afternoon break to sample the local beer, we finished our day's birding at the nearby wetlands, which, as usual, were full of birds, all with the backdrop of a gorgeous African sunset. We had great looks at **African Snipe**, **African Swamphen**, **African Marsh Harrier**, and **Lesser Swamp Warbler**. As we were leaving some other birders told us about a family of otters that had come out into the wetlands, and sure enough we found four **Spotted-necked Otters** feeding away.



***Male Sentinel Rock Thrush***

### **Nov 19, Day 3: Wakkerstroom to Long Tom Pass**

We had a final short morning in Wakkerstroom, birding not too far from town before breakfast. We picked up several endemic birds we had missed the previous day, including **Bokmakierie** and **Cape**



**Grassbird.** A **Barratt's Warbler** was surprisingly cooperative, as well. We returned to town via the wetlands, where we had great views of **Little Rush-Warbler** and improved on our views of **Whiskered Tern**.

After breakfast, we headed north to the town of Dullstroom. A **Black Sparrowhawk** had us piling out of the car just after leaving Wakkerstroom, and the same thing happened as we neared Dullstroom with **Secretarybirds**. While watching an incredible aerial display by the **Secretarybirds**, we noticed a group of **Cape Vultures** high overhead. Hitting a dirt road near the town, we had only fleeting glimpses of **Gurney's Sugarbird**. But our mood perked up when further down the beautiful grassland road we found our other target bird for the area, a **Wattled Crane**. We stopped at another grove of the sugarbird's favored proteas after hitting the paved road again, and this time were rewarded with outstanding views of a male **Gurney's Sugarbird**.

We arrived at our montane hotel in the afternoon and took a walk around the lovely grounds. It was our first time in forested habitat and new birds came quickly. We had many outstanding views of **Greater Double-collared Sunbird**, watched **Chorister Robin-Chat** sing, and were awed by the green, red, and blue of **Knysna Turaco**. A flock of **Red-backed Mannakins** was a nice surprise and it was great to see the endemic **Sweet Waxbill** and **Forest Canary**. As we were returning to our rooms we found a bird that threw us momentarily, until we figured out it was a juvenile **Olive Bush-Shrike** showing uncharacteristically well.



*Secretarybird, a monotypic Africa family*

#### **Nov 20-23, Days 4-7: Kruger National Park**

We departed the mountain pass early to drop down in elevation and maximize our time in Kruger National Park, one of the world's great wildlife reserves. On the way down, we ground to a halt when we spotted a spectacular adult **African Crowned Eagle** by the roadside, sitting right in the open in a dead eucalyptus. We continued on to the park, finding some good birds at the entrance gate, including **Jameson's Firefinch**. Birds and animals were nearly non-stop for the next three days in the park. The

camp are always tremendous birding, and there we found **Brown-headed Parrot**, **Gray-headed** and **Sulphur-breasted Bushshrikes**, **African Scops Owl**, **African Green Pigeon**, along with tremendous photo ops of a wide diversity of Lowveld birds.

Mammal-watching is always world-class here. We had many close encounters with **Elephants**, including a group of two mothers and three variously aged babies, including a very young one, just next to the road. We saw two male **Lions** sleeping under a tree, every once in a while lifting their heads to show us their impressive manes. Our first **Giraffes** were a large group, maybe a dozen animals, including two males vigorously fighting, ramming their necks and horns into each other. We watched two **White Rhinoceros** calmly munching grass along the road. And of course we saw hordes of **Impala**, **Burchell's Zebra**, and other common mammals. We had some great small mammals too, like a colony of **Dwarf Mongoose** and some beautiful **Slender Mongoose**.

The birding is equally world-class. We had numerous encounters with some of Kruger's top birds, including four different groups of **Southern Ground Hornbill**, a very close **Secretarybird**, incredible looks at **White-headed**, **Hooded**, **White-backed**, and **Lappet-faced Vultures** (and even a distant **Cape Vulture**), **Saddle-billed Stork**, more **Bateleur** than we could possibly count, **Temminck's Courser**, **Chestnut-backed Sparrowlark**, **Martial Eagle**, **Pallid Harrier**, **Greater Painted-Snipe**, **Ostrich**, **Kori** and **Black-bellied Bustards**, **Red-crested Korhaan**, and much more. Migrants were arriving in good numbers, with **Red-backed** and **Lesser Gray Shrikes**, **Eurasian Golden Oriole**, and **European Roller** all fairly common.



*Migrants like this European Roller were arriving in big numbers.*

We took night drives as well, which padded our mammal list with many otherwise difficult to find animals. This includes a gorgeous **African Civet**, **Side-stripe Jackal** with pups, **Large-spotted** and **Small-**



**spotted Genet, South African Galago, African Wild Cat** kittens, many **Spotted Hyena**, plus **Barn Owl, Spotted Eagle-Owl**, and **Square-tailed Nightjar**.

Kruger is a never-ending fountain of great sightings, and even on our last day there, on our way out of the park, we were still picking up new birds and animals. We saw a few common birds for the first time, like **Lesser Masked Weaver** and **White-browed Scrub Robin**, plus a few less common ones, including the unpredictable and nomadic **Dusky Lark**. A fully breeding plumage **Eastern Paradise-Whydah** was a real treat. We had our last views of typical Kruger mammals like **Cape Buffalo** and **African Elephants**, but the unquestionable highlight was a **Honey Badger** in a small stream bed that perked up when we stopped, then ran off.

We left the park, ran some errands, and headed west to our next destination, Kurisa Moya, set adjacent to the montane forest habitat that have become so rare in South Africa. We stopped for lunch along the way, which doubled as a birding spot, where we found a flock of the uncommon **Magpie Mannakins**, a South Africa tick for the guide. Before we had reached the lodge, we saw a **Mountain Wagtail** on the road, and a walk around the grounds whetted our appetite for birding in the area. A visit to the forest hide allowed us incredible views of **Green-backed Twinspot**, **African Firefinch**, and **Lemon Dove**, and a walk through the forest got us great views of a pair of **Narina Trogons**.



*Kruger is a tremendous place to see raptors, like these Bateleurs.*

#### **Nov 24, Day 8: Magoebaskloof area**

We met our guide Paul early and set off for the forest, the second largest continuous forest in the country. It was a cool, misty morning as we started a walk along a small forest road. We were looking especially for Cape Parrot, but in the meantime, we found an excellent mixed flock that included the very local **Black-fronted Bushshrike** along with a great supporting cast, including **Yellow-throated Woodland-Warbler**, **White-starred Robin**, **Gray Cuckooshrike**, **African Emerald Cuckoo**, **Olive**

**Woodpecker**, and many **Yellow-streaked Greenbuls**. Just as we got back to the car we heard **Cape Parrot** calling, but only got a flyby view. Paul then took us to a spot where he had been seeing **African Wood Owl** recently, and a pair came right in when we played the call, giving us a rare daytime glimpse of this mostly nocturnal species.

Not satisfied with our earlier Cape Parrot views, we next went to a spot where the guide knew they liked feeding, and sure enough there they were. We had great views of this endangered **Cape Parrot** feeding in large fruiting trees in the middle of a field. **African Yellow Warbler** was also in the same area and posed beautifully for us.

We then headed through Tzaneen to the famous **Bat Hawk** nest site nearby. We quickly found our quarry, which gave great views as it stared down at us. We then stopped in at a small city park in Tzaneen, where our first **Lesser Honeyguide** and **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird** gave scope views as they sang from a fever tree. After lunch, we headed over the mountains—stopping to see a troop of **Samango Monkeys**—towards Kurisa Moya, stopping in at a nearby grasslands. Here we were looking for the very local **Short-clawed Lark**, and sure enough we quickly found them. We also found our first **Piping Cisticola** here. Returning to the lodge, we stopped for a cooperative **Lazy Cisticola** (but a **Wahlberg's Honeybird** was less cooperative). It was a fun, productive day.

#### **Nov 25, Day 9: Kurisa Moya to Zaagkuilsdrift**

We had a final morning at Kurisa Moya and elected to walk on their forest trails. Unfortunately, rain started early on and rained out our walk. It seemed like flufftail weather, so we tried for Buff-spotted Flufftail, but got no response. After breakfast at the farmhouse, we forged on. Our first planned stop was Polokwane Game Reserve, but the heavy rains had shut down the reserve due to muddy roads, so we walked around the campsite a bit, finding **Marico Flycatcher**, **Red-headed Finch**, **Groundscraper Thrush**, and a few others.

With Polokwane rained out, we shifted our plans and headed to Nylsvley Nature Reserve instead. Things got off to a good start when we spotted a pair of **Bush Pipits** before even entering the reserve. Around the reserve itself we found a nice bunch of migrant falcons, including **Eurasian Hobby**, **Lesser Kestrel**, and an early **Amur Falcon**, a cooperative adult male. **Cuckoos** were also out, and we got our first views of **Levaillant's** and **Black**. We also got lucky with a flock of the declining **Zebra Waxbills**.

It was time to head to the Zaagkuilsdrift Road, where we were to spend the night. Rain washed out any hope of birding (we did see a **Black Heron** in a roadside wetland), especially given the challenge of just reaching the lodge with the difficult state of the road after the day's heavy rainfall. We arrived with little time for birding, but with plenty of time to celebrate our final night of the tour.

#### **Nov 26, Day 10: Zaagkuilsdrift Road to Johannesburg, departure**

We started our final morning birding around the lodge and along the scrub-lined road nearby. We found a number of typical Kalahari species, including **Crimson-breasted Shrike**, **Violet-eared Waxbill**, **Scaly Weaver**, **Black-faced Waxbill**, and **Black-chested Prinia**. Migrants had clearly been arriving, and we saw large numbers of **Red-backed Shrike**, an impressive flock of **Lesser Kestrel**, and massive kettles of **Abdim's Stork**.

Our final stop was at Rietvlei Nature Reserve, conveniently located on the way to the airport. We had close-up views of a stunning **Cape Longclaw**, all four species of **widowbirds**, and many beautiful **Yellow-crowned Bishops**. Best of all, perhaps, was the last-gasp success with one of the group member's most wanted South African bird, **Malachite Kingfisher**, which gave us a great show. We were still adding new mammals to our list, too, including **Eland**, **Black Wildebeest**, and **Red Haartebeest**. After lunch, it was time to head to the airport. It was a great trip full of incredible birds, wildlife, and interesting experiences, a perfect first Africa trip for the group.



***Violet-backed Starling with the sun lighting up some of its violet feathers.***

**BIRD LIST.** 388 species. Taxonomy follows the Clements/eBird Checklist, 2017 update. Names in wide use in Southern Africa are in parentheses. Asterisk (\*) denotes Southern African endemic or near-endemic. IUCN Red List status listed for threatened and near-threatened species: CR=Critically Endangered, EN=Endangered, VU=Vulnerable, NT=Near-threatened. ORDER NAME: Family Name precedes the list of birds observed in each family.

**STRUTHIONIFORMES: Struthionidae**

Common Ostrich

*Struthio camelus*

**ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae**

White-faced Whistling-Duck

*Dendrocygna viduata*

Fulvous Whistling-Duck

*Dendrocygna bicolor*

Comb (Knob-billed) Duck

*Sarkidiornis melanotos*

Egyptian Goose

*Alopochen aegyptiaca*

South African Shelduck\*

*Tadorna cana*

Spur-winged Goose

*Plectropterus gambensis*

Yellow-billed Duck

*Anas undulata*

Cape Shoveler

*Anas smithii*

Red-billed Duck (Teal)

*Anas erythrorhyncha*



Hottentot Teal

*Anas hottentota*

Cape Teal

*Anas capensis*

Southern Pochard

*Netta erythrophthalma*

Maccoa Duck (NT)

*Oxyura maccoa*

**GALLIFORMES: Numididae**

Helmeted Guineafowl

*Numida meleagris*

**GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae**

Common Quail

*Coturnix coturnix*

Natal Francolin (Spurfowl)

*Pternistis natalensis*

Swainson's Francolin (Spurfowl)

*Pternistis swainsonii*

Crested Francolin

*Fringillidae sphaena*

Coqui Francolin (heard)

*Peliperdix coqui*

Gray-winged Francolin\*

*Scleroptila afra*

**PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae**

Little Grebe

*Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Great Crested Grebe

*Podiceps cristatus*

**PHOENICOPTERIFORMES: Phoenicopteridae**

Greater Flamingo

*Phoenicopterus roseus*

**CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae**

African Openbill

*Anastomus lamelligerus*

Abdim's Stork

*Ciconia abdimii*

Woolly-necked Stork

*Ciconia episcopus*

White Stork

*Ciconia ciconia*

Saddle-billed Stork

*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

Marabou Stork

*Leptoptilos crumenifer*

Yellow-billed Stork

*Mycteria ibis*

**SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae**

Long-tailed Cormorant

*Microcarbo africanus*

Great Cormorant

*Phalacrocorax carbo*

**PELECANIFORMES: Scopidae**

Hamerkop

*Scopus umbretta*

**PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae**

Gray Heron

*Ardea cinerea*

Black-headed Heron

*Ardea melanocephala*

Goliath Heron

*Ardea goliath*

Purple Heron

*Ardea purpurea*

Great Egret

*Ardea alba*

Intermediate (Yellow-billed) Egret

*Mesophoyx intermedia*

Little Egret

*Egretta garzetta*

Black Heron (Egret)

*Egretta ardesiaca*

Cattle Egret

*Bubulcus ibis*

Squacco Heron

*Ardeola ralloides*

Striated Heron

*Butorides striata*

Black-crowned Night-Heron

**PELECANIFORMES: Threskiornithidae**

Glossy Ibis

Sacred Ibis

Southern Bald Ibis\* (VU)

Hadada Ibis

African Spoonbill

**ACCIPITRIFORMES: Sagittariidae**

Secretary-bird (VU)

**ACCIPITRIFORMES: Pandionidae**

Osprey

**ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae**

Black-shouldered Kite

African Harrier-Hawk

White-headed Vulture (CR)

Lappet-faced Vulture (EN)

Hooded Vulture (CR)

White-backed Vulture (CR)

Cape Griffon\* (EN)

Bateleur (NT)

Black-breasted Snake-Eagle

Brown Snake-Eagle

Bat Hawk

Crowned Eagle (NT)

Martial Eagle (VU)

Long-crested Eagle

Wahlberg's Eagle

Tawny Eagle

African Hawk-Eagle

Lizard Buzzard

Dark Chanting-Goshawk

African Marsh-Harrier

Pallid Harrier (NT)

Little Sparrowhawk

Black Goshawk (Sparrowhawk)

Black (Yellow-billed) Kite

African Fish-Eagle

Common (Steppe) Buzzard

Jackal Buzzard\*

**OTIDIFORMES: Otidae**

Kori Bustard (NT)

Denham's Bustard (NT)

White-bellied (Barrow's) Bustard (Korhaan)

*Nycticorax nycticorax*

*Plegadis falcinellus*

*Threskiornis aethiopicus*

*Geronticus calvus*

*Bostrychia hagedash*

*Platalea alba*

*Sagittarius serpentarius*

*Pandion haliaetus*

*Elanus caeruleus*

*Polyboroides typus*

*Trionoceph occipitalis*

*Torgos tracheliotos*

*Necrosyrtes monachus*

*Gyps africanus*

*Gyps coprotheres*

*Terathopius ecaudatus*

*Circaetus pectoralis*

*Circaetus cinereus*

*Macheiramphus alcinus*

*Stephanoaetus coronatus*

*Polemaetus bellicosus*

*Lophaetus occipitalis*

*Hieraaetus wahlbergi*

*Aquila rapax*

*Aquila spilogaster*

*Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

*Melierax metabates*

*Circus ranivorus*

*Circus macrourus*

*Accipiter minullus*

*Accipiter melanoleucus*

*Milvus migrans*

*Haliaeetus vocifer*

*Buteo buteo*

*Buteo rufofuscus*

*Ardeotis kori*

*Neotis denhami*

*Eupodotis senegalensis*

Blue Bustard (Korhaan)\*

Red-crested Bustard (Korhaan)\*

White-quilled Bustard (N. Black Korhaan)\*

Black-bellied Bustard

**GRUIFORMES: Rallidae**

African Rail

Black Crake

African (Purple) Swamphe

Eurasian (Common) Moorhen

Red-knobbed Coot

**GRUIFORMES: Sarothruridae**

Red-chested Flufftail

**GRUIFORMES: Gruidae**

Gray Crowned-Crane (EN)

Blue Crane\* (VU)

Wattled Crane (VU)

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Burhinidae**

Water Thick-knee

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae**

Black-winged Stilt

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae**

Blacksmith Lapwing

White-headed (-crowned) Lapwing

Senegal Lapwing

Black-winged Lapwing

Crowned Lapwing

(African) Wattled Lapwing

Three-banded Plover

White-fronted Plover

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Rostratulidae**

Greater Painted-Snipe

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Jacanidae**

African Jacana

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae**

Ruff

Little Stint

African Snipe

Common Sandpiper

Common Greenshank

Marsh Sandpiper

Wood Sandpiper

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Turnicidae**

Small Buttonquail

*Eupodotis caerulescens*

*Eupodotis ruficrista*

*Eupodotis afraoides*

*Lissotis melanogaster*

*Rallus caerulescens*

*Zapornia flavirostra*

*Porphyrio madagascariensis*

*Gallinula chloropus*

*Fulica cristata*

*Sarothrura rufa*

*Balearica regulorum*

*Anthropoides paradiseus*

*Bucconas carunculatus*

*Burhinus vermiculatus*

*Himantopus himantopus*

*Vanellus armatus*

*Vanellus albiceps*

*Vanellus lugubris*

*Vanellus melanopterus*

*Vanellus coronatus*

*Vanellus senegallus*

*Charadrius tricollaris*

*Charadrius marginatus*

*Rostratula benghalensis*

*Actophilornis africanus*

*Calidris pugnax*

*Calidris minuta*

*Gallinago nigripennis*

*Actitis hypoleucos*

*Tringa nebularia*

*Tringa stagnatilis*

*Tringa glareola*

*Turnix sylvaticus*



**CHARADRIIFORMES: Glareolidae**

Temminck's Courser

Collared Pratincole

Black-winged Pratincole (NT)

*Cursorius temminckii*

*Glareola pratincola*

*Glareola nordmanni*

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae**

Gray-hooded Gull

White-winged Tern

Whiskered Tern

*Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*

*Chlidonias leucopterus*

*Chlidonias hybrida*

**COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae**

Rock Pigeon

Speckled Pigeon

Rameron (African Olive) Pigeon

Lemon Dove

(African) Mourning Collared-Dove

Red-eyed Dove

Ring-necked (Cape Turtle) Dove

Laughing Dove

Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove

Tambourine Dove

Namaqua Dove

African Green-Pigeon

*Columba livia*

*Columba guinea*

*Columba arquatrix*

*Columba larvata*

*Streptopelia decipiens*

*Streptopelia semitorquata*

*Streptopelia capicola*

*Streptopelia senegalensis*

*Turtur chalcospilos*

*Turtur tympanistria*

*Oena capensis*

*Treron calvus*

**CUCULIFORMES: Musophagidae**

Knysna Turaco\*

Gray Go-away-bird

*Tauraco corythaix*

*Corythaixoides concolor*

**CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae**

White-browed (Burchell's) Coucal\*

Levaillant's Cuckoo

Pied (Jacobin) Cuckoo

Dideric Cuckoo

Klaas's Cuckoo

African Emerald Cuckoo

Black Cuckoo

Red-chested Cuckoo

African Cuckoo

*Centropus superciliosus*

*Clamator levaillantii*

*Clamator jacobinus*

*Chrysococcyx caprius*

*Chrysococcyx klaas*

*Chrysococcyx cupreus*

*Cuculus clamosus*

*Cuculus solitarius*

*Cuculus gularis*

**STRIGIFORMES: Tytonidae**

Barn Owl

*Tyto alba*

**STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae**

African Scops-Owl

Spotted Eagle-Owl

Pearl-spotted Owlet

African Wood-Owl

Marsh Owl

*Otus senegalensis*

*Bubo africanus*

*Glaucidium perlatum*

*Strix woodfordii*

*Asio capensis*

**CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae**

Square-tailed Nightjar

**CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Apodidae**

Alpine Swift

African (Black) Swift

Little Swift

Horus Swift

White-rumped Swift

African Palm-Swift

**COLIIFORMES: Coliidae**

Speckled Mousebird

Red-faced Mousebird

**TROGONIFORMES: Trogonidae**

Narina Trogon

**BUCEROTIFORMES: Upupidae**

Eurasian (African) Hoopoe

**BUCEROTIFORMES: Phoeniculidae**

Green Woodhoopoe

Common Scimitarbill

**BUCEROTIFORMES: Bucorvidae**

Southern Ground-Hornbill (VU)

**BUCEROTIFORMES: Bucerotidae**

Crowned Hornbill

African Gray Hornbill

Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill

Southern Red-billed Hornbill

**CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae**

Malachite Kingfisher

African Pygmy-Kingfisher

Woodland Kingfisher

Brown-hooded Kingfisher

Giant Kingfisher

Pied Kingfisher

**CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae**

White-fronted Bee-eater

Little Bee-eater

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater

European Bee-eater

**CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae**

European Roller

Lilac-breasted Roller

Rufous-crowned (Purple) Roller

**PICIFORMES: Lybiidae**

Crested Barbet

*Caprimulgus fossii*

*Apus melba*

*Apus barbatus*

*Apus affinis*

*Apus horus*

*Apus caffer*

*Cypsiurus parvus*

*Colius striatus*

*Urocolius indicus*

*Apaloderma narina*

*Upupa epops*

*Phoeniculus purpureus*

*Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*

*Bucorvus leadbeateri*

*Lophoceros alboterminatus*

*Lophoceros nasutus*

*Tockus leucomelas*

*Tockus rufirostris*

*Corythornis cristatus*

*Ispidina picta*

*Halcyon senegalensis*

*Halcyon albiventris*

*Megaceryle maxima*

*Ceryle rudis*

*Merops bullockoides*

*Merops pusillus*

*Merops persicus*

*Merops apiaster*

*Coracias garrulus*

*Coracias caudatus*

*Coracias naevius*

*Trachyphonus vaillantii*

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird

Black-collared Barbet

**PICIFORMES: Indicatoridae**

Wahlberg's Honeyguide (Brown-backed Honeybird)

Lesser Honeyguide

**PICIFORMES: Picidae**

Rufous-necked (Red-throated) Wryneck

Golden-tailed Woodpecker

Ground Woodpecker\*

Cardinal Woodpecker

Bearded Woodpecker

Olive Woodpecker

**FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae**

Lesser Kestrel

Amur Falcon

Eurasian Hobby

Lanner Falcon

**PSITTACIFORMES: Psittacidae**

Brown-necked (Cape) Parrot\* (EN)

Brown-headed Parrot

**PASSERIFORMES: Platysteiridae**

Cape Batis\*

Chinspot Batis

**PASSERIFORMES: Vangidae**

White(-crested) Helmetshrike

Retz's Helmetshrike

**PASSERIFORMES: Malaconotidae**

Brubru

Black-backed Puffback

Black-crowned Tchagra

Brown-crowned Tchagra

Southern Boubou\*

Crimson-breasted Gonolek (Bush-shrike)

Bokmakierie\*

Sulphur (Orange)-breasted Bushshrike

Olive Bushshrike\*

Black-fronted Bushshrike

Gray-headed Bushshrike

**PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae**

Gray Cuckooshrike

Black Cuckooshrike

**PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae**

Red-backed Shrike

*Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

*Lybius torquatus*

*Prodotiscus regulus*

*Indicator minor*

*Jynx ruficollis*

*Campethera abingoni*

*Geocolaptes olivaceus*

*Dendropicos fuscescens*

*Dendropicos namaquus*

*Dendropicos griseocephalus*

*Falco naumanni*

*Falco amurensis*

*Falco subbuteo*

*Falco biarmicus*

*Poicephalus robustus*

*Poicephalus cryptoxanthus*

*Batis capensis*

*Batis molitor*

*Prionops plumatus*

*Prionops retzii*

*Nilaus afer*

*Dryoscopus cubla*

*Tchagra senegalus*

*Tchagra australis*

*Laniarius ferrugineus*

*Laniarius atrococcineus*

*Telophorus zeylonus*

*Telophorus sulfureopectus*

*Telophorus olivaceus*

*Telophorus nigrifrons*

*Malaconotus blanchoti*

*Coracina caesia*

*Campephaga flava*

*Lanius collurio*



Lesser Gray Shrike

Southern (Common) Fiscal

Magpie Shrike

**PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae**

Eurasian Golden Oriole

African Black-headed Oriole

**PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae**

Square-tailed Drongo

Fork-tailed Drongo

**PASSERIFORMES: Monarchidae**

African (Blue-mantled) Crested-Flycatcher

African Paradise-Flycatcher

**PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae**

Cape Crow

Pied Crow

White-necked Raven

**PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae**

Spike-heeled Lark

Short-clawed Lark\*

Eastern Long-billed Lark\*

Dusky Lark

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark

Sabota Lark

Rudd's Lark\* (VU)

Eastern Clapper Lark\*

Rufous-naped Lark

Red-capped Lark

Pink-billed Lark

Botha's Lark\* (EN)

**PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae**

Plain Martin

Bank Swallow (Sand Martin)

Banded Martin

Rock Martin

Barn Swallow

White-throated Swallow

Wire-tailed Swallow

Greater Striped-Swallow

Lesser Striped-Swallow

Rufous-chested (Red-breasted) Swallow

South African (Cliff-)Swallow

Black Sawwing

Gray-rumped Swallow

*Lanius minor*

*Lanius collaris*

*Corvinella melanoleuca*

*Oriolus oriolus*

*Oriolus larvatus*

*Dicrurus ludwigii*

*Dicrurus adsimilis*

*Trochocercus cyanomelas*

*Terpsiphone viridis*

*Corvus capensis*

*Corvus albus*

*Corvus albicollis*

*Chersomanes albofasciata*

*Certhilauda chuana*

*Certhilauda semitorquata*

*Pinarocorys nigricans*

*Eremopterix leucotis*

*Calendulauda sabota*

*Heteromirafra ruddi*

*Mirafra fasciolata*

*Mirafra africana*

*Calandrella cinerea*

*Spizocorys conirostris*

*Spizocorys fringillaris*

*Riparia paludicola*

*Riparia riparia*

*Riparia cincta*

*Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

*Hirundo rustica*

*Hirundo albigularis*

*Hirundo smithii*

*Cecropis cucullata*

*Cecropis abyssinica*

*Cecropis semirufa*

*Petrochelidon spilodera*

*Psalidoprocne pristoptera*

*Pseudhirundo griseopyga*

**PASSERIFORMES: Paridae**

Southern Black-Tit

*Melaniparus niger*

Ashy Tit\*

*Melaniparus cinerascens*

**PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae**

Sombre Greenbul

*Andropadus importunus*

Yellow-bellied Greenbul

*Chlorocichla flaviventris*

Yellow-streaked Greenbul

*Phyllastrephus flavostriatus*

Common (Dark-capped) Bulbul

*Pycnonotus barbatus*

**PASSERIFORMES: Macrosphenidae**

Cape (Long-billed) Crombec

*Sylvietta rufescens*

Cape Grassbird\*

*Sphenoeacus afer*

**PASSERIFORMES: Phylloscopidae**

Yellow-throated Woodland-Warbler

*Phylloscopus ruficapilla*

Willow Warbler

*Phylloscopus trochilus*

**PASSERIFORMES: Acrocephalidae**

African (Dark-capped) Yellow-Warbler

*Iduna natalensis*

African Reed-Warbler

*Acrocephalus baeticatus*

Lesser Swamp-Warbler

*Acrocephalus gracilirostris*

**PASSERIFORMES: Locustellidae**

Barratt's Warbler (VU)

*Bradypterus barratti*

Little Rush-Warbler

*Bradypterus baboecala*

**PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae**

Bar-throated Apalis

*Apalis thoracica*

Yellow-breasted Apalis

*Apalis flavida*

Green-backed Camaroptera

*Camaroptera brachyura*

Rock-loving (Lazy) Cisticola

*Cisticola aberrans*

Rattling Cisticola

*Cisticola chiniana*

Wailing Cisticola

*Cisticola lais*

Levaillant's Cisticola

*Cisticola tinniens*

Piping Cisticola (Neddicky)

*Cisticola fulvicapilla*

Zitting Cisticola

*Cisticola juncidis*

Desert Cisticola

*Cisticola aridulus*

Cloud Cisticola

*Cisticola textrix*

Wing-snapping Cisticola

*Cisticola ayresii*

Tawny-flanked Prinia

*Prinia subflava*

Black-chested Prinia\*

*Prinia flavicans*

Drakensberg Prinia\*

*Prinia hypoxantha*

**PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae**

Bush Blackcap\* (NT)

*Sylvia nigricapilla*

Rufous-vented Warbler (Chestnut-vented Tit-Babbler)

*Sylvia subcaerulea*

**PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae**

Cape White-eye\*

*Zosterops capensis*

**PASSERIFORMES: Leiothrichidae**

Arrow-marked Babbler

*Turdoides jardineii*

**PASSERIFORMES: Promeropidae**

Gurney's Sugarbird\*

*Promerops gurneyi*

**PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae**

Dusky-brown (African Dusky) Flycatcher

*Muscicapa adusta*

Spotted Flycatcher

*Muscicapa striata*

Mariqua Flycatcher\*

*Bradornis mariquensis*

Ashy Flycatcher

*Fraseria caerulea*

Fiscal Flycatcher\*

*Melaenornis silens*

Southern Black-Flycatcher

*Melaenornis pammelaina*

Kalahari Scrub-Robin\*

*Cercotrichas paena*

Red-backed (White-backed) 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*

White-starred Robin

*Pogonocichla stellata*

Sentinel Rock-Thrush\*

*Monticola explorator*

African Stonechat

*Saxicola torquatus*

Buff-streaked Bushchat\*

*Saxicola bifasciatus*

Southern Anteater-Chat\*

*Myrmecocichla formicivora*

Mountain Wheatear

*Oenanthe monticola*

Capped Wheatear

*Oenanthe pileata*

**PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae**

Groundscraper Thrush

*Psophocichla litsitsirupa*

Kurrichane Thrush

*Turdus libonyana*

Olive Thrush

*Turdus olivaceus*

**PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae**

European Starling

*Sturnus vulgaris*

Wattled Starling

*Creatophora cinerea*

Common Myna

*Acridotheres tristis*

Violet-backed Starling

*Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

Red-winged Starling

*Onychognathus morio*

Burchell's Starling

*Lamprotornis australis*

African Pied Starling

*Lamprotornis bicolor*

Greater Blue-eared Starling

*Lamprotornis chalybaeus*

Cape (Glossy-)Starling

*Lamprotornis nitens*

**PASSERIFORMES: Buphagidae**

Red-billed Oxpecker

*Buphagus erythrorhynchus*

Yellow-billed Oxpecker

*Buphagus africanus*

**PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae**

Collared Sunbird

*Hedydipna collaris*



Amethyst Sunbird  
 Scarlet-chested Sunbird  
 Malachite Sunbird  
 Southern Double-collared Sunbird\*  
 Greater Double-collared Sunbird\*  
 Mariqua (Marico) Sunbird  
 White-breasted Sunbird

**PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae**

Cape Wagtail  
 Mountain Wagtail  
 African Pied Wagtail  
 African Pipit  
 Long-billed Pipit  
 Striped Pipit  
 Bush(veld) Pipit  
 Yellow-breasted Pipit (VU)  
 Orange-throated Longclaw\*  
 Yellow-throated Longclaw

**PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae**

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting  
 Cape Bunting\*  
 Golden-breasted Bunting

**PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae**

Cape Canary  
 Yellow-fronted Canary  
 Forest Canary\*  
 Black-throated Canary  
 Streaky-headed Seedeater

**PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae**

House Sparrow  
 Cape Sparrow  
 Southern Gray-headed Sparrow  
 Yellow-throated Petronia

**PASSERIFORMES: Ploceidae**

Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver  
 Scaly Weaver (Scaly-feathered Finch)\*  
 White-browed Sparrow-Weaver  
 Red-headed Weaver  
 Spectacled Weaver  
 Cape Weaver\*  
 Lesser Masked-Weaver  
 Southern Masked-Weaver  
 Village Weaver

*Chalcomitra amethystina*  
*Chalcomitra senegalensis*  
*Nectarinia famosa*  
*Cinnyris chalybeus*  
*Cinnyris afer*  
*Cinnyris mariquensis*  
*Cinnyris talatala*

*Motacilla capensis*  
*Motacilla clara*  
*Motacilla aguimp*  
*Anthus cinnamomeus*  
*Anthus similis*  
*Anthus lineiventris*  
*Anthus caffer*  
*Hemimacronyx chloris*  
*Macronyx capensis*  
*Macronyx croceus*

*Emberiza tahapisi*  
*Emberiza capensis*  
*Emberiza flaviventris*

*Serinus canicollis*  
*Serinus mozambicus*  
*Serinus scotops*  
*Serinus atrogularis*  
*Serinus gularis*

*Passer domesticus*  
*Passer melanurus*  
*Passer diffusus*  
*Petronia superciliaris*

*Bubalornis niger*  
*Sporopipes squamifrons*  
*Plocepasser mahali*  
*Anaplectes rubriceps*  
*Ploceus ocularis*  
*Ploceus capensis*  
*Ploceus intermedius*  
*Ploceus velatus*  
*Ploceus cucullatus*

Red-billed Quelea  
Southern Red Bishop  
Yellow-crowned Bishop  
Yellow Bishop  
White-winged Widowbird  
Red-collared Widowbird  
Fan-tailed Widowbird  
Long-tailed Widowbird  
Grosbeak (Thick-billed) Weaver

**PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae**

Sweet Waxbill\*  
Green-backed (Green) Twinspot  
Common Waxbill  
Black-faced Waxbill  
Southern Cordonbleu (Blue Waxbill)  
Violet-eared Waxbill\*  
Green-winged Pytilia  
Red-billed Firefinch  
African Firefinch  
Jameson's Firefinch  
Red-headed Finch  
Zebra (Orange-breasted) Waxbill  
African Quailfinch  
Bronze Mannikin  
Black-and-white (Red-backed) Mannikin  
Magpie Mannikin

**PASSERIFORMES: Viduidae**

Pin-tailed Whydah  
Eastern (Long-tailed) Paradise-Whydah

*Quelea quelea*  
*Euplectes orix*  
*Euplectes afer*  
*Euplectes capensis*  
*Euplectes albonotatus*  
*Euplectes ardens*  
*Euplectes axillaris*  
*Euplectes progne*  
*Amblyospiza albifrons*

*Coccyzygia melanotis*  
*Mandingoa nitidula*  
*Estrilda astrild*  
*Estrilda erythronotos*  
*Uraeginthus angolensis*  
*Granatina granatina*  
*Pytilia melba*  
*Lagonosticta senegala*  
*Lagonosticta rubricata*  
*Lagonosticta rhodopareia*  
*Amadina erythrocephala*  
*Sporaeginthus subflavus*  
*Ortygospiza fuscocrissa*  
*Spermestes cucullata*  
*Spermestes bicolor*  
*Spermestes fringilloides*

*Vidua macroura*  
*Vidua paradisaea*

**MAMMAL LIST.** 47 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. IUCN Red List status listed for threatened and near-threatened species: CR=Critically Endangered, EN=Endangered, VU=Vulnerable, NT=Near-threatened. Family name precedes the list of mammals observed in each family.

**RODENTIA: Rodents**

Springhare  
Tree Squirrel

*Pedetes capensis*  
*Paraxerus cepapi*

**LAGOMORPHA: Hares**

Scrub Hare

*Lepus capensis*

**CERCOPITHECIDAE: Cheek-pouched Monkeys**

Chacma Baboon\*

*Papio ursinus*

Vervet Monkey

*Cercopithecus aethiops*

Samango (Blue, Sykes') Monkey

*Cercopithecus mitis*

**GALAGIDAE: Galagoes**

South African Galago (Thick-tailed Bushbaby)

*Galago moholi*

**CANIDAE: Dogs & allies**

Cape Fox

*Vulpes cham*

Black-backed Jackal

*Canis mesomelas*

Side-striped Jackal

*Canis adustus*

**HYAENIDAE: Hyaenas**

Spotted Hyena

*Crocuta crocuta*

**VIVERRIDAE: Genets & Civets**

African Civet

*Civettictis civetta*

Blotched Genet

*Genetta tigrina*

Common (Small-spotted) Genet

*Genetta genetta*

**FELIDAE: Cats**

African Wild Cat

*Felis lybica*

Lion (VU)

*Panthera leo*

**HERPESTIDAE: Mongooses**

Slender mongoose

*Galerella sanguinea*

Dwarf mongoose

*Helogale parvula*

Yellow mongoose\*

*Cynictis penicillata*

Meerkat (Suricate)\*

*Suricata suricatta*

**MUSTELIDAE: Mustelids**

Spotted-necked Otter

*Lutra maculicollis*

Honey Badger (Ratel)

*Mellivora capensis*

**PROCAVIDAE: Hyraxes**

Cape Rock Hyrax

*Procavia capensis*

**ELEPHANTIDAE: Elephants**

(African) Elephant (VU)

*Loxodonta africana*

**GIRAFFIDAE: Giraffes**

Giraffe (VU)

*Camelopardus giraffa*

**EQUIDAE: Horses**

Burchell's Zebra

*Equus burchellii*

**HIPPOPOTAMIDAE: Hippopotamuses**

Hippopotamus (VU)

*Hippopotamus amphibious*

**RHINOCEROTIDAE: Rhinoceroses**

White Rhino (NT)

*Ceratotherium simus*

**SUIDAE: Pigs**

Warthog

*Phacochoerus africanus*

**BOVIDAE: Horned Ungulates**

African (Cape) Buffalo  
Eland  
Greater Kudu  
Nyala  
Bushbuck  
Common Waterbuck  
Southern Reedbuck  
Black Wildebeest\*  
Blue Wildebeest  
Red Haartebeest  
Blesbok  
Tsessebe  
Gray Rhebok  
Impala  
Springbok  
Oribi  
Steenbok  
Common (Gray) Duiker

*Syncerus caffer*  
*Taurotragus oryx*  
*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*  
*Tragelaphus angasii*  
*Tragelaphus scriptus*  
*Kobus ellipsiprymnus*  
*Redunca arundinum*  
*Connochaetes gnou*  
*Connochaetes taurinus*  
*Alcelaphus buselaphus*  
*Damaliscus phillipsi*  
*Damaliscus lunatus*  
*Pelea capreolus*  
*Aepyceros melampus*  
*Antidorcas marsupialis*  
*Ourebia ourebi*  
*Raphicerus campestris*  
*Sylvicapra grimmia*



***Meerkat family in the Wakkerstroom grasslands***





*Spotted Hyenas in Kruger*



*Endangered vultures are still numerous in Kruger, like this White-headed Vulture.*