

## SOUTH AFRICA 2007

*October 5, 2007 to October 27, 2007*

Guided by  
**Phil Gregory & Rod Cassidy**

South Africa 2007 was the second Field Guides tour to include the world-famous Kruger Park as a part of the itinerary, but we began in the dry acacia country at Kwa Ndaba near Johannesburg where a Rufous-cheeked Nightjar at dusk was one of the first group birds. Next morning brought a fine selection of bush birds, with Barred Wren-Warbler, Burnt-neck Eremomela, Crimson-breasted Gonolek and Kalahari Scrub-robin being memorable, not forgetting the raucous Hadada Ibis and spectacular Burchell's Starlings.

The drive up to the montane mist forests at Magoesbaskloof gave us the rare Short-clawed Lark as one of the first of many of the family, which has speciated in South Africa into a bewildering range of species. A fine co-operative Wood Owl was a nice after dinner treat too. We were lucky with a fine sunny morning at Magoesbaskloof, and we quickly found two elusive species of bush-shrike in Olive and Black-fronted, with a Grey-headed for good measure. The endangered Cape Parrot put on a great show, African Goshawk displayed overhead, Narina Trogon showed well and we put a big dent in the special birds from here.

The drive to Kruger NP was enlivened by a stop for one of the world's rarest falcons, the Taita Falcon! It sat on a ledge of a huge cliff face and gave great views, even flying out and calling. Coming in to Kruger we met with African Elephant, a big herd of Cape Buffalo right by the road, Giraffe, and a Secretarybird atop a nest. The next couple of days saw us bird several routes in the park and come up with lovely looks at Goliath Heron, Saddlebill, Red-crested and an incredible displaying Kori Bustard, the simply wonderful Southern Ground Hornbill, White-crowned Lapwing, Brown-necked Parrot, both species of oxpecker and some brilliant hippos and crocodiles along with more elephants, warthog and impala. The return to Jo'burg met with bad weather, but also gave us memorable views of Bat Hawk by its nest and a useful pick up of Northern Black Bustard at a pit-stop.

The short flight to Upington was the commencement of the Cape section of the tour, beginning in the arid northern Cape where we had lunch at Augrabies Falls along with Pale-winged Starlings, Orange River White-eyes and White-backed Mousebirds, with Pirit Batis and Namaqua Warbler close by and a superb Peregrine on the gorge cliff face. Nest morning was lark city, with Fawn-coloured, Large-billed, Karoo Long-billed, Sabota (Bradfield's), Stark's and the scarce and elusive Sclater's Lark, plus great looks at a Pygmy Falcon near a Sociable Weaver colony. Pale Chanting Goshawks were common here, as were Rock and Greater Kestrels and Namaqua Sandgrouse, whilst Red Lark and Rufous-eared Warbler made for exciting additions.

The drive down to the Cape was enlivened by Ludwig's and Karoo Bustards, with the usually hard to find Karoo Eremomela showing well at Springbok and the stunning Malachite Sunbird making its first appearance. Lambert's Bay was notable for the Cape Gannet colony and the African Black Oystercatchers nearby, with a great comparison of Crowned, Cape and White-breasted cormorants in the harbor there. Cape Clapper Lark, Cape Penduline Tit and a marvelous close pair of Blue Cranes made for a fine pre-breakfast outing, and a stop on the drive later gave us wonderful views of the rare Protea Canary and Ground Woodpecker. Phil's vehicle almost hit a Black Harrier, which we then watched hunting over a marsh, surely one of the most spectacular of the family. A stop in the West Coast NP

added a lovely sighting of Southern Black Bustard and Grey-winged Francolin, whilst African Penguins greeted us at our lovely little hotel at Boulder's Beach.

The time around the Cape was very rewarding, with Southern Right Whales just offshore, plus Cape Siskin, Orange-breasted Sunbird, the amazing Cape Rockjumper, Bank Cormorant and Verreaux's Eagle at nest and being mobbed by two Peregrines. The pelagic day was rough but suitable to go out, and we lucked onto a trawler with thousands of seabirds tailing behind it, a truly incredible spectacle- Shy, Black-browed, Indian and Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross, both giant petrels, Great, Sooty and a lone Cory's Shearwater, White-chinned Petrel, Pintado Petrel, Wilson's and Black-bellied Storm-petrels. It was just fantastic and well worth braving the seas to see it. Ian Sinclair made a visit this night and many folks got their field guides duly signed by the great man. Our last morning pre-flight to Durban we even managed a sewage farm trip and added Maccoa Duck, African Pochard and a Terek Sandpiper.

The final eastern leg of the tour commenced in Durban and we had a night near Oribi Gorge, where misty damp weather was a hindrance but let up enough for us to add the immense African Crowned Eagle, Red-breasted Wryneck, Amethyst, Eastern Olive and Collared Sunbird, a fine and unexpected Striped Pipit and Lazy Cisticola, plus Crowned and Trumpeter Hornbills and a great male Fiery-necked Nightjar. We then headed inland to Himeville and the spectacular Sani Pass into the mountain kingdom of Lesotho, being blessed by a beautiful sunny day, which made it one of the high points of the trip both literally and figuratively. We saw more Lammergeiers this day than on all the previous trips added together, with at least 7 being seen! Orange-breasted Rockjumper was nesting by the pub at the top of the pass and Drakensberg Siskin was tame here, whilst the delightful Sloggett's Ice-rat gave great looks. Fairy Flycatcher, Buff-streaked Chat, Sentinel Rock-thrush, Southern Gray Tit and Gurney's Sugarbird were some of the other highlights of a memorable day, and South Africa (sadly but not unexpectedly!) even beat England in the Rugby World Cup Final that night, much to Rod's delight.

The drive to St. Lucia gave us Red-breasted Sparrowhawk and the fabulous Bush Blackcap, with the estuary providing Lesser Crested and Little Tern, then very nice Livingstone's Turaco and Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird. The morning birding here was terrific with Nyala and Natal Red Duiker, as well as Eastern Nicator, Red-capped Robin, Woodward's Batis, Rudd's Apalis and a simply incredible sighting of a male Buff-spotted Flufftail for most of us. Yellow and Southern Brown-throated Weaver's were other valuable additions. Muzi Pan was great for shorebirds and ducks, with a brilliant pair of African Pygmy-Goose, a vagrant Pacific Golden Plover, Malachite Kingfisher and Pin-tailed Whydah, whilst the nearby Mkhuzi River gave us Purple-crested Turaco and Broad-billed Roller. Mkhuzi GR gave us the immense and impressive Pleistocene relic White Rhino, seen twice, and the specials came up nicely with a fine male Neergaard's Sunbird, Pink-throated Twinspot and African Barred Owlet before a hot dry wind made birding die-off and we beat a retreat to Banghoek for lunch. Birding here next day yielded Gorgeous and Sulphur-breasted Bush-shrikes, Martial Eagle, Burchell's Coucals drying out after a big rain overnight, and a wonderful close Secretarybird, as well as the striking White-throated Robin.

The final birding around Wakkerstroom was hit by unseasonable low fog, a biting wind and winter temperatures, but the drive in gave us a great show with displaying Black-bellied Bustards, a pair of Barrow's Bustard and a quail-finch stomp by Phil. Despite the poor conditions we did pretty well and knocked off the very rare Rudd's Lark next morning, with our final bustard the Blue Korhaan nearby. Pink-billed Lark showed nicely, and African Black Duck and a Cape clawless otter were other memorable sightings. The night spotlighting gave us a fantastic sighting of a Serval hunting in the marsh, the first time this has been seen on the tour, and bonus find of Spotted Thick-knee which I feared we had missed. This is a great introduction to the huge country of South Africa, with a fine and comprehensive selection of the endemics and some great landscapes and mammals. My thanks to Rod for being such a fine local leader, and to Terry for the chance to do the trip after so many years away. The various local guides were fun to meet and it was good to see them being employed for birding, I loved that guide advertising on the boulder at the Taita Falcon site too! Particular thanks to Sharon at Field Guides central command for great logistics. Why not join us for 2008?  
Phil Gregory Jo'burg and Kuranda Oct 07.

*List total: 496 bird taxa and 46 mammal taxa*

*If marked to left of list, \* = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic,  
N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant*

*saf07-PG*

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### **Struthionidae**

(COMMON) OSTRICH (*Struthio camelus*)

*Sinclair's guides say the only wild ones are in the Kalahari and northern Namibia, but they are sure well-established elsewhere and in convincing settings. The new Roberts Birds of SA handbook gives them from the karoo and arid zone too, including Kruger, so can be ticked with a clear conscience! The birds near Springbok got us onto the Ludwig's Bustards too.....*

### **Spheniscidae**

E JACKASS PENGUIN (*Spheniscus demersus*)

*The first was an immature at the Lambert's Bay gannet colony, then came the very approachable birds at Boulder's Beach and Stony Point. Bizarre to have a sub-tropical penguin!*

### **Podicipedidae**

LITTLE GREBE (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)

*Quite common at various wetland sites.*

GREAT CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps cristatus*)

*A couple near Peleishauwel kloof and again at Strandfontein SP.*

EARED (BLACK-NECKED) GREBE (*Podiceps nigricollis*)

*About 20 birds were at Strandfontein SP.*

### **Diomedeidae**

BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS (*Thalassarche melanophris*)

*About 10 birds on the Capetown pelagic.*

SHY ALBATROSS (*Thalassarche cauta*)

*The common albatross off Capetown, we saw at least 150.*

YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS (*Thalassarche chlororhynchos*)

*The Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross is split by both the South African and Australian field guides now, so doubtless Clements will eventually follow suit. We saw a couple of adults off Capetown, the grey head quite obvious. Immatures of the Atlantic and Indian Yellow-nosed are not separable, and we saw about such 10 birds.*

INDIAN YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS (*Thalassarche chlororhynchos carteri*)

*Split by the South Africans and Australians, we saw one white headed adult.*

### **Procellariidae**

ANTARCTIC (SOUTHERN) GIANT PETREL (*Macronectes giganteus*)

*The commoner of the two giant petrels off Capetown, we saw at least 15.*

HALL'S (NORTHERN) GIANT PETREL (*Macronectes halli*)

*The dark-tipped bill is the diagnostic feature, we saw about 7 of them close enough to identify.*

CAPE PETREL (*Daption capense*)

*Common off Capetown, this is a very striking species, the Portuguese name of Pintado meaning painted petrel.*

WHITE-CHINNED PETREL (*Procellaria aequinoctialis*)

*Very common with hundreds around the fishing boat off Capetown. One striking individual had a white forehead and cap and a white belly patch, a plumage type we never see off Australia, and maybe showing some Spectacled Petrel influence?*

CORY'S SHEARWATER (*Calonectris diomedea*)

*One not far off the Cape of Good Hope.*

GREATER SHEARWATER (*Puffinus gravis*)

*Very common off the Cape, with hundreds of birds by the trawler.*

SOOTY SHEARWATER (*Puffinus griseus*)

*About 50 of this far southern migrant off the Cape around the fishing boat.*

### **Hydrobatidae**

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL (*Oceanites oceanicus*)

*A few on the pelagic trip, about 6 being seen.*

BLACK-BELLIED STORM-PETREL (*Fregetta tropica*)

*This species comes through in a narrow period in October, so we were lucky to have fine views of about 5 individuals.*

### **Pelecanidae**

GREAT WHITE PELICAN (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*)

*Only seen at two wetland sites, the best views being 2 at Muzi Pan.*

### **Sulidae**

CAPE GANNET (*Morus capensis*)

*About 3000 birds at the Lambert's Bay colony, and a few off the Cape.*

### **Phalacrocoracidae**

WHITE-BREASTED (GREAT) CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

*Usually split these days as White-breasted Cormorant *P. lucidus*, they were widespread.*

**E** CAPE CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax capensis*)

*Seen nicely at Lambert's Bay and the Capetown area.*

**E** BANK CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax neglectus*)

*We saw this local endemic on just the one day at Stony Point.*

LONG-TAILED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax africanus*)

*Widespread in small numbers, the first were in Kruger NP.*

**E** CROWNED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax coronatus*)

*This rather scarce cormorant was seen very well at Lambert's Bay and Stony Point.*

### **Anhingidae**

"AFRICAN" DARTER (*Anhinga melanogaster rufa*)

*A nesting colony of about 70 birds was at Mkhuzi GR and we had odd birds at four other sites, the last being at Wakkerstroom. Darters are usually split into 4 species and Clements will eventually catch up.*

### **Ardeidae**

GRAY HERON (*Ardea cinerea*)

*Widespread, but only ever in ones and twos.*

BLACK-HEADED HERON (*Ardea melanocephala*)

*Seen most days, it likes to forage in fields.*

GOLIATH HERON (*Ardea goliath*)

*Seen in Kruger NP and at Mkhuzi GR, one of the world's largest herons.*

PURPLE HERON (*Ardea purpurea*)

*One at Kwa Ndaba and Pat had one at Wakkerstroom.*

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*)

*Small numbers at the wetland sites.*

INTERMEDIATE EGRET (*Mesophoyx intermedia*)

*Just one at Wakkerstroom.*

LITTLE EGRET (*Egretta garzetta*)

*Four individuals at 4 wetlands, the first was at Langebaan and last at Wakkerstroom.*

SQUACCO HERON (*Ardeola ralloides*)

*A few at Muzi Pan and Mkhuzi GR.*

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*)

*Widespread.*

STRIATED HERON (*Butorides striata*)

*One at Olifants R. in Kruger NP and also seen by a couple of folks in Mkhuzi GR.*

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

*Four singles, the first at Langebaan and last at Wakkerstroom.*

### **Scopidae**

HAMERKOP (*Scopus umbretta*)

*Very few, with just 4 sightings, the first in Kruger NP and the last at Wakkerstroom.*

### **Ciconiidae**

YELLOW-BILLED STORK (*Mycteria ibis*)

*Ten in Kruger and two at Muzi Pan.*

BLACK STORK (*Ciconia nigra*)

*A super adult was an unexpected find at Wakkerstroom, it came and sat on the power pole by the Weaver's Nest on the second day.*

SADDLE-BILLED STORK (*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*)

*Two fine adults in Kruger NP and an immature at Letaba camp.*

### **Threskiornithidae**

SACRED IBIS (*Threskiornis aethiopicus*)

*Widespread away from the arid zone.*

**E** BALD IBIS (*Geronticus calvus*)

*Three striking adults in Lesotho, then a flock of 15 followed by a flock of 12 as we came near Wakkerstroom, and a single on the last day. This is a rare species, not as endangered as the Northern Bald Ibis in Morocco but still threatened.*

HADADA IBIS (*Bostrychia hagedash*)

*Seen (and heard) most days, and Rod's scared Hadada dance was quite a sight!*

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

*Ten at Strandfontein SP and two at Muzi Pan.*

AFRICAN SPOONBILL (*Platalea alba*)

*Seen on seven days, the first at Letaba camp, with a flock of 6 spotlighted at Wakkerstroom being the only multiple sighting.*

### **Phoenicopteridae**

GREATER FLAMINGO (*Phoenicopterus roseus*)

*About 30 on the estuary near Lambert's Bay and 150 at Strandfontein SP, sadly none with Lesser Flamingo.*

### **Anatidae**

WHITE-FACED WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna viduata*)

*A couple near Jo'burg and 6 at Muzi Pan.*

EGYPTIAN GOOSE (*Alopochen aegyptiacus*)

*Widespread.*

SOUTH AFRICAN SHELDUCK (*Tadorna cana*)

*Only seen on two dates, near Pofadder and then at Springbok.*

SPUR-WINGED GOOSE (*Plectropterus gambensis*)

*Widespread in the wetlands.*

COMB DUCK (*Sarkidiornis melanotos*)

*Four near Kwa Ndaba for one van, then a couple of flybys in Kruger for some before 2f at Muzi Pan.*

AFRICAN PYGMY-GOOSE (*Nettapus auritus*)

*This exquisite tiny species was seen on the river near Muzi Pan thanks to the local guide knowing the site. We had great views of a pair.*

AFRICAN BLACK DUCK (*Anas sparsa*)

*A single was on the Slang River near Wakkerstroom, and gave great views.*

CAPE TEAL (*Anas capensis*)

*Four at Lambert's Bay, then 150 at Strandfontein SP.*

YELLOW-BILLED DUCK (*Anas undulata*)

*Widespread in small numbers in the wetlands.*

RED-BILLED DUCK (TEAL) (*Anas erythrorhyncha*)

*Four records, the first at Strandfontein and last at Wakkerstroom.*

HOTTENTOT TEAL (*Anas hottentota*)

*I had thought we were going to dip on this species, but we had 10 in the vlei at Wakkerstroom.*

**E** CAPE SHOVELER (*Anas smithii*)

*This uncommon dull plumaged shoveler was seen at Lambert's Bay, Strandfontein and Wakkerstroom.*

SOUTHERN POCHARD (*Netta erythrophthalma*)

*Another scarce duck, we saw them at Strandfontein and 2f at Franklin Marsh, with one on the pan near Wakkerstroom.*

MACCOA DUCK (*Oxyura maccoa*)

*This very local stiff-tail was seen nicely at Strandfontein with some 12 birds, then distantly on the pan near Wakkerstroom on the last day.*

**Accipitridae**

AFRICAN CUCKOO-HAWK (*Aviceda cuculoides*)

*One flew by at the Harold Porter Botanic Gardens and those at the front got a fair flight view.*

BAT HAWK (*Macheiramphus alcinus*)

*There are just 5 pairs known in SA, and this nest near Magoesbaskloof has been in use for some 20 years. We saw the sitting bird on the nest, (actually just its wing tips!), but a fine adult was sat nearby in the very atmospheric misty rain and was one of the birds of the trip.*

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE (*Elanus caeruleus*)

*Widespread in small numbers.*

BLACK (YELLOW-BILLED) KITE (*Milvus migrans parasitus*)

*Usually split these days as Yellow-billed Kite *M. parasitus*, with Black Kite as the migrant species. They were widespread in small numbers.*

AFRICAN FISH-EAGLE (*Haliaeetus vocifer*)

*Seen in Kruger NP and at and near St Lucia, a spectacular and striking species.*

HOODED VULTURE (*Necrosyrtes monachus*)

*Just 3 birds seen in Kruger NP, good flight views.*

LAMMERGEIER (BEARDED VULTURE) (*Gypaetus barbatus*)

*We had an amazing day with them up the Sani Pass, seeing an immature and then an adult in South Africa, with presumably the same two huge birds then seen perched amongst sheep. Then there were at least 5 more seen in Lesotho, with 5 together at one point. Rod says this is more than all the other trips combined, and some years they miss them. This is also an isolated and endemic race, existing with just a few hundred birds in these remote areas.*

WHITE-BACKED VULTURE (*Gyps africanus*)

*A few seen in Kruger NP and odd birds at Mkhuzi.*

**E** CAPE GRIFFON (*Gyps coprotheres*)

*This rare endemic was seen at Abel Erasmus Pass, with 7 birds, then one at Nylsvlei and 2 in Lesotho.*

LAPPET-FACED VULTURE (*Torgos tracheliotus*)

*We saw two singles of this huge vulture in Kruger NP, becoming rare across its range.*

WHITE-HEADED VULTURE (*Trigonoceps occipitalis*)

*This striking bird was seen well with a pair in Kruger NP.*

BLACK-BREASTED SNAKE-EAGLE (*Circaetus pectoralis*)

*An adult and an imm. were seen near Pofadder, with another next day at the Red Lark site.*

BROWN SNAKE-EAGLE (*Circaetus cinereus*)

*One at Mkhuzi GR was a good trip addition.*

BATELEUR (*Terathopius ecaudatus*)

*A few sightings from Kruger, and one seen by some at Mkhuzi.*

AFRICAN MARSH-HARRIER (*Circus ranivorus*)

*One in West Coast NP, then again at Strandfontein SP, Muzi Pan and Mkhuzi.*

**E** BLACK HARRIER (*Circus maurus*)

*My van almost hit one over the highway near West Coast NP, and we had great looks at it hunting over a vleibosch nearby. We saw a further 3 next day, one of the most striking of all the harriers.*

AFRICAN HARRIER-HAWK (GYMNOGENE) (*Polyboroides typus*)

*Two at Polokwane and one in Kruger NP.*

LIZARD BUZZARD (*Kaupifalco monogrammicus*)

*One near Nylsvlei and one for a few folks at Mkhuzi GR.*

- E PALE CHANTING-GOSHAWK** (*Melierax canorus*)  
*Common on power poles around Pofadder, we saw 10+ on some days there.*
- GABAR GOSHAWK** (*Micronisus gabar*)  
*One at Kwa Ndaba and one imm. in Kruger by the Kori Bustards.*
- AFRICAN GOSHAWK** (*Accipiter tachiro*)  
*A fine pair were calling and displaying over the forest at Magoebaskloof, and there was another sat right by the vans at Oribi Gorge.*
- SHIKRA** (*Accipiter badius*)  
*One was seen by a few at Kwa Ndaba.*
- LITTLE SPARROWHAWK** (*Accipiter minullus*)  
*One was glimpsed tearing by the waterhole hide at Mkhuzi GR.*
- RUFIOUS-CHESTED SPARROWHAWK** (*Accipiter rufiventris*)  
*Two were soaring over the highway in the dense eucalyptus forests near Pietermaritzburg, with one giving fairly good flight views as it soared away. This is an elusive species and was a good pick-up.*
- EURASIAN BUZZARD** (*Buteo buteo*)  
*Two singles of the migrant form known as Steppe Buzzard B. (b.) vulpinus were seen near Piet Retief; this taxon is sometimes split.*
- JACKAL BUZZARD** (*Buteo rufofuscus*)  
*A few over in the west starting near Springbok, then quite common around Himeville and the Sani Pass.*
- TAWNY EAGLE** (*Aquila rapax*)  
*Five individuals were seen in Kruger NP.*
- WAHLBERG'S EAGLE** (*Aquila wahlbergi*)  
*We had five day records of this species, starting near Kwa Ndaba, and it was seen perched very nicely in Kruger and Mkhuzi GR.*
- VERREAUX'S EAGLE** (*Aquila verreauxii*)  
*A fantastic adult flew in and landed on a nest on a crag at False Bay, where it was then noisily mobbed by a pair of Peregrines. A great bird.*
- AFRICAN HAWK-EAGLE** (*Aquila spilogaster*)  
*Some folks got to see one when we were doing the paperwork to get into Kruger NP.*
- MARTIAL EAGLE** (*Polemaetus bellicosus*)  
*A good trip for this large species, with a pair and an imm. in Kruger, an imm. at Banghoek and an adult again near Wakkerstroom.*
- LONG-CRESTED EAGLE** (*Lophaetus occipitalis*)  
*Three singles were seen sat on perches by the highway, the first being near Polokwane.*
- CROWNED HAWK-EAGLE** (*Stephanoaetus coronatus*)  
*A pair had a surprisingly small stick nest in a huge tree at Oribi Gorge, and they gave some great looks. This is a huge bird that preys on monkeys and has been known to take toddlers.....*
- Sagittariidae***
- SECRETARY-BIRD** (*Sagittarius serpentarius*)  
*This unique member of its own family was seen first in Kruger, where one flapped up onto its nest in a flat top acacia. We had another great sighting at Banghoek too, where one was stalking about in a field close to the road and gave brilliant views.*
- Falconidae***
- PYGMY FALCON** (*Polihierax semitorquatus*)  
*A fine male was sat atop a power pole near a Sociable Weaver colony near Pofadder, looking very shrike-like at times.*
- ROCK (EURASIAN) KESTREL** (*Falco tinnunculus*)  
*Usually now split as *F. rupicolus*, this grey-headed rather dark resident form was seen around Pofadder, Lambert's Bay and Capetown.*
- GREATER KESTREL** (*Falco rupicoloides*)  
*This large pale eyed species was first seen near Pofadder, where they were quite common.*

LANNER FALCON (*Falco biarmicus*)

*Four sightings of single birds, the first near Pumulani, then at Augrabies, near Lambert's Bay and lastly one at the Sani Pass in Lesotho.*

TAITA FALCON (*Falco fasciinucha*)

*A fabulous perched bird sat on the huge cliff face at Abel Erasmus Pass, then flying out and calling. The local guide has his phone number painted on a rock below with the word "falcon" alongside, and the artefact sellers at the cliff base know all about it! This is one of the rarest falcons in the world, known from a handful of sites in SA and long gone from the old good spot at Vic Falls. They look so tiny in flight too.*

PEREGRINE FALCON (*Falco peregrinus*)

*One in the gorge at Augrabies Falls, and then a pair mobbing a Verreaux's Eagle at False Bay. Chris also saw one near Wakkerstroom.*

**Phasianidae**

CRESTED FRANCOLIN (*Francolinus sephaena*)

*The first francolin we saw, at Kwa Ndaba, then quite widespread thereafter.*

**E** RED-WINGED FRANCOLIN (*Francolinus levaillantii*)

*Fine views of two as the mist lifted at a site above Wakkerstroom, with a useful recent comparison with Grey-winged seen just before and initially thought to be this species.*

**E** GRAY-WINGED FRANCOLIN (*Francolinus africanus*)

*Four adults and 4 juvs. seen very well in West Coast NP, then a pair near Wakkerstroom that were initially thought to be Red-winged till they ignored the tape but responded to Grey-wing! We got it right eventually!*

**E** CAPE FRANCOLIN (*Francolinus capensis*)

*Four in West Coast NP and two at False Bay.*

**E** NATAL FRANCOLIN (*Francolinus natalensis*)

*They were quite widespread in Kruger NP and gave great looks.*

SWAINSON'S SPURFOWL (*Francolinus swainsonii*)

*A few around Kwa Ndaba and Kruger, then again near Wakkerstroom.*

**Numididae**

HELMETED GUINEAFOWL (*Numida meleagris*)

*Seen almost every day and common in fields almost throughout.*

CRESTED GUINEAFOWL (*Guttera pucherani*)

*This shy forest and thicket species gave fantastic looks in Mkhuzi GR, where we saw about 8 birds, always in pairs.*

**Gruidae**

GRAY CROWNED-CRANE (*Balearica regulorum*)

*First seen near Franklin Marsh and then about 40 on the Sani Pass day, 6 next day and 16 near Wakkerstroom. A great and spectacular species.*

**E** BLUE CRANE (*Grus paradisea*)

*The pair near Lambert's Bay were wonderful, being seen at close range and then flying off right overhead. We had a couple of other singles up near Wakkerstroom, but the first view was unforgettable. It is a rare and declining species over much of its range.*

**Rallidae**

BUFF-SPOTTED FLUFFTAIL (*Sarothrura elegans*)

*This was unbelievable, as a male began calling from a small roadside thicket at St Lucia just as we walked by. Rod's tape loop eventually lured it across some less dense vegetation and most of us got pretty good views of this mega-skulker. It was a life bird for Phil, who had only heard it in Uganda otherwise, and was most unexpected.*

**\*** AFRICAN RAIL (*Rallus caerulescens*)

*One responded to the tape from dense reeds at Wakkerstroom, but stayed out of sight.*

BLACK CRAKE (*Amaurornis flavirostra*)

*Lucky we persevered with the bird at Olifants River in Kruger, as it was the only one we saw this trip! It gave great looks eventually.*

PURPLE SWAMPHEN (*Porphyrio porphyrio*)

*This is more usually split as Green-backed Swamphen P. madagascariensis these days as the complex is divided up into 5 species. We had nice looks at Strandfontein and Wakkerstroom.*

COMMON MOORHEN (*Gallinula chloropus*)

*Widespread in small numbers.*

RED-KNOBBED (CRESTED) COOT (*Fulica cristata*)

*Quite common on most wetlands, and many showing the red knobs on the forehead quite well. The call is an almost human sounding "hoo" note.*

### **Otididae**

KORI BUSTARD (*Ardeotis kori*)

*Mary spotted us a pair of this huge bird in Kruger, with the male displaying, his neck ruff puffed out like he'd swallowed a football. A lucky find, and enabled us to clean up on all the SA bustards.*

**E** LUDWIG'S BUSTARD (*Neotis ludwigii*)

*Phil's stopping to gawk at Ostrich revealed a Ludwig's Bustard behind it, and we saw them again at Springbok the same day. It is an elusive nomad and could easily be missed.*

STANLEY (DENHAM'S) BUSTARD (*Neotis denhami*)

*A very distant bird at Franklin Marsh, just about identifiable via the scope, and maybe a distance record for the species.*

**E** WHITE-BELLIED (BARROW'S) BUSTARD (*Eupodotis senegalensis barrowii*)

*A fine pair in a pasture near Piet Retief, usually split these days as Barrow's Bustard *E. barrowi*.*

**E** BLUE BUSTARD (*Eupodotis caerulescens*)

*Three showed moderately well at the Rudd's Lark site, then 10 birds next day at the Pink-billed Lark area, seen very close by and giving great views.*

**E** KAROO BUSTARD (*Eupodotis vigorsii*)

*Great hoarse, dry cackling vocals from this bird, which showed very nicely for us around Pofadder where we had 2 on one day and then 12 next day.*

RED-CRESTED BUSTARD (*Eupodotis ruficrista*)

*A single in Kruger NP, which gave good views, and another at Nylsvlei.*

**E** (SOUTHERN) BLACK BUSTARD (*Eupodotis afra*)

*A fine pair in West Coast NP, even seen in flight so we could see the dark primaries.*

**E** WHITE-QUILLED (N. BLACK) BUSTARD (*Eupodotis afrooides*)

*This was a lucky pick-up at a pitstop near Jo'burg, where scanning some nearby flood water led to a couple of this small bustard being found in the fields nearby.*

BLACK-BELLIED BUSTARD (*Lissotis melanogaster*)

*This was just outstanding, we had some 5 males displaying and parachuting down to earth in fields near Piet Retief, with single female stalking about nearby. Two males were chasing each other too, walking rapidly through the grass and tussling with wings spread to show the dramatic white pattern.*

### **Jacaniidae**

AFRICAN JACANA (*Actophilornis africanus*)

*Relatively few, seen at Kruger, Muzi Pan and Mkhuzi GR.*

### **Haematopodidae**

**E** AFRICAN BLACK OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus moquini*)

*Two by the gannets at Lambert's Bay, and two at Boulder's Beach. This is a quite rare species, declining due to disturbance.*

### **Recurvirostridae**

BLACK-WINGED STILT (*Himantopus himantopus*)

*A few at various wetlands.*

PIED AVOCET (*Recurvirostra avosetta*)

*Seen at Langebaan and Strandfontein SP.*

### **Burhinidae**

WATER THICK-KNEE (*Burhinus vermiculatus*)  
*Some good views in Kruger, and then at Muzi Pan.*

SPOTTED THICK-KNEE (*Burhinus capensis*)  
*We heard it at Kwa Ndaba, then unexpectedly had two in the spotlight at Wakkerstroom.*

### **Glareolidae**

COLLARED PRATINCOLE (*Glareola pratincola*)  
*The first were at Letaba Camp in Kruger, then much nicer views at Muzi Pan.*

### **Charadriidae**

BLACKSMITH LAPWING (*Vanellus armatus*)  
*Widespread, many with small chicks.*

WHITE-HEADED LAPWING (*Vanellus albiceps*)  
*Four of this mainly central African riverine species were at Olifants R. in Kruger NP.*

CROWNED LAPWING (*Vanellus coronatus*)  
*Widespread in small numbers, the first near Kwa Ndaba having small youngsters.*

WATTLED LAPWING (*Vanellus senegallus*)  
*Two near Kwa Ndaba, one for some in Kruger, and one at Muzi Pan.*

PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER (*Pluvialis fulva*)  
*Amazingly our local guide at Muzi Pan casually mentioned there was a golden plover about, which had been there for two days. I got onto it's head in a small hollow, which was frustrating as I couldn't tell whether it was the Pacific or American species. Happily just as we were leaving it emerged and showed characters of an adult Pacific Golden moulting into winter plumage. The primary projection was level with the tail tip and it looked very much like the Australian birds. It is a very rare vagrant here, not even annual.*

COMMON RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius hiaticula*)  
*Fay saw one at Langebaan and there a couple at Muzi Pan.*

KITTLITZ'S PLOVER (*Charadrius pecuarius*)  
*Two at Lambert's Bay estuary, and ten seen well at Muzi Pan*

THREE-BANDED PLOVER (*Charadrius tricollaris*)  
*Five day records of this striking small plover, the first from Kruger and last near Wakkerstroom.*

WHITE-FRONTED PLOVER (*Charadrius marginatus*)  
*A couple of singles in Kruger, and four St. Lucia.*

### **Scolopacidae**

BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa lapponica*)  
*One at Strandfontein SP.*

WHIMBREL (*Numenius phaeopus*)  
*One at Langebaan. This old world form is sometimes split from the Nearctic hudsonicus.*

MARSH SANDPIPER (*Tringa stagnatilis*)  
*One at Langebaan for a couple of us.*

COMMON GREENSHANK (*Tringa nebularia*)  
*Small numbers at most wetlands, and 70 at Langebaan.*

WOOD SANDPIPER (*Tringa glareola*)  
*Two in Kruger, 2 at Muzi Pan and one near Wakkerstroom.*

TEREK SANDPIPER (*Xenus cinereus*)  
*One at Strandfontein SP was a good trip bird and new for a lot of folks. The bright orange legs are a good character, as is the upturned bill and typical hurried almost toppling-forward gait.*

COMMON SANDPIPER (*Actitis hypoleucos*)  
*One in Kruger for some, then one at St. Lucia and 2 at Muzi Pan.*

SANDERLING (*Calidris alba*)  
*Three at St. Lucia.*

LITTLE STINT (*Calidris minuta*)  
*Four at Strandfontein SP.*

CURLEW SANDPIPER (*Calidris ferruginea*)  
*70 at Langebaan, and odd birds at Strandfontein SP, St. Lucia and Muzi Pan.*

RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*)  
*One near Himeville and 4 at Muzi Pan, a good tick for Bill!*

### **Stercorariidae**

BROWN (SOUTHERN) SKUA (*Stercorarius antarctica antarctica*)  
*8 on the pelagic trip off Capetown.*

PARASITIC JAEGER (ARCTIC SKUA) (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)  
*One off Betty's Bay and 8 on the pelagic trip.*

### **Laridae**

**E** KELP (CAPE) GULL (*Larus dominicanus vetula*)  
*Somed gull taxonomists now split this race as Cape Gull L. vetula, based on minor wing formula differences. It was common from Lambert's Bay southwards.*

GRAY-HEADED GULL (*Larus cirrocephalus*)  
*This attractive gull was curiously scarce, first seen well at Lambert's Bay, then a few at St. Lucia and Jo'burg.*

**E** HARTLAUB'S GULL (*Larus hartlaubii*)  
*Small numbers from the west coast southwards, first seen at Lambert's Bay.*

### **Sternidae**

CASPIAN TERN (*Sterna caspia*)  
*One at Langebaan and about 4 at St. Lucia.*

LESSER CRESTED TERN (*Sterna bengalensis*)  
*There were a couple of this large orange-billed tern at the St. Lucia estuary.*

SANDWICH TERN (*Sterna sandvicensis*)  
*There were about 300 at Lambert's Bay, but the red-legged bird that I initially called a Common Tern must have been just that as I have no records of Sandwich Tern having anything but black legs. One was at Strandfontein SP and a few off the Cape.*

GREAT CRESTED TERN (*Sterna bergii*)  
*This nominate race is called Swift Tern here and is a bit different to the Australian ones, though the greeny-yellow bill is similar. There were lots at Lambert's Bay and a few off the Cape.*

COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirundo*)  
*One at Lambert's Bay with Crested Terns, and 6 off the Cape.*

ARCTIC TERN (*Sterna paradisaea*)  
*One about 20 miles off the Cape during the pelagic.*

LITTLE TERN (*Sterna albifrons*)  
*One at St. Lucia, now split from the American Least Tern by most.*

WHISKERED TERN (*Chlidonias hybrida*)  
*Nice views of both summer and winter plumage birds at Strandfontein SP and Muzi Pan.*

WHITE-WINGED (BLACK) TERN (*Chlidonias leucopterus*)  
*4 at Muzi Pan, in winter dress.*

### **Pteroclididae**

**E** NAMAQUA SANDGROUSE (*Pterocles namaqua*)  
*We got some great views around Pofadder, seeing up to 80 birds per day.*

DOUBLE-BANDED SANDGROUSE (*Pterocles bicinctus*)  
*We had fantastic looks at three pairs in Kruger NP, sat right by the track.*

### **Columbidae**

**I** ROCK (FERAL) PIGEON (*Columba livia*)  
*Just a few around Jo'burg and Capetown.*

SPECKLED PIGEON (*Columba guinea*)  
*Quite common, a town pigeon in many areas.*

RAMERON (AFRICAN OLIVE) PIGEON (*Columba arquatrix*)

*A flock of 8 were perched quite distantly at Magoesbaskloof, then nice views of a couple at Oribi Gorge.*

AFRICAN MOURNING DOVE (*Streptopelia decipiens*)

*Great views of 4 birds by the picnic tables at Letaba Camp, it is a very local mainly riverine bird here. The yellow eye and growling call make it distinctive.*

RED-EYED DOVE (*Streptopelia semitorquata*)

*Widespread in small numbers in the north-east.*

RING-NECKED DOVE (CAPE TURTLE-DOVE) (*Streptopelia capicola*)

*The default small dove for much of the tour.*

LAUGHING DOVE (*Streptopelia senegalensis*)

*The other default small dove for much of the tour.*

EMERALD-SPOTTED WOOD-DOVE (*Turtur chalcospilos*)

*Nice looks in Kruger and Mkhuzi GR.*

TAMBOURINE DOVE (*Turtur tympanistria*)

*One female at St. Lucia and a cracking male at the waterhole hide in Mkhuzi GR.*

NAMAQUA DOVE (*Oena capensis*)

*Very scarce, we had one in Kruger and odd birds around Pofadder.*

AFRICAN GREEN-PIGEON (*Treron calva*)

*A few in Kruger, then again at Oribi Gorge and St. Lucia. This is a fig specialist and quite nomadic.*

### **Psittacidae**

**E** BROWN-NECKED (CAPE) PARROT (*Poicephalus robustus*)

*Cape Parrot is now split into Grey-headed (*P. suahelicus*), Brown-necked (*P. fuscicollis*) and Cape parrots (*P. robustus*, with this southern taxon a rare and endangered form. We had fantastic looks at Magoesbaskloof, seeing them perched up beautifully with about a dozen birds seen there.*

BROWN-HEADED PARROT (*Poicephalus cryptoxanthus*)

*Five at Letaba Camp gave very nice looks.*

### **Musophagidae**

**E** LIVINGSTONE'S TURACO (*Tauraco livingstonii*)

*Nice looks of one at St. Lucia.*

**E** KNYSNA TURACO (*Tauraco corythaix*)

*This striking bird was seen well at Kruger NP and Oribi Gorge.*

PURPLE-CRESTED TURACO (*Tauraco porphyreolophus*)

*Great views of singles at the Mkhuzi River and then in Mkhuzi GR.*

GRAY GO-AWAY BIRD (*Corythaixoides concolor*)

*Common in the north around Kwa Ndaba and Kruger, and one at Banghoek.*

### **Cuculidae**

RED-CHESTED CUCKOO (*Cuculus solitarius*)

*Lovely views at Nylsvlei and then at Himeville, sat on power lines.*

BLACK CUCKOO (*Cuculus clamosus*)

*We called in one at Oribi Gorge for nice looks.*

KLAAS' CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx klaas*)

*Just a single male at St. Lucia. One of only a couple of species named after black Africans, he was the cuckolded husband of the beautiful Narina (who was the collector Levillant's mistress!)*

AFRICAN EMERALD CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx cupreus*)

*One male briefly at Magoesbaskloof, then a fine perched one at St. Lucia. Surely one of the most beautiful African birds.*

DIDERIC CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx caprius*)

*A fine male at Oribi Gorge, then up to 5 chasing and calling around the Village Weaver nest colonies at Banghoek.*

YELLOWBILL (GREEN COUCAL) (*Ceuthmochares aereus*)

*The South Africans now split this as Green Malkoha from the central African Blue Malkoha taxon. It sure looks more like a malkoha than any of the other cuckoo genera. We had fabulous look at one in St Lucia, with it's strange clicking call.*

**E** WHITE-BROWED (BURCHELL'S) COUCAL (*Centropus superciliosus burchelli*)

*Pat saw one at Letaba, and we all finally caught up with it at Banghoek after wet night when they came up to dry out.*

### **Tytonidae**

BARN OWL (*Tyto alba*)

*A single was glimpsed at Wakkerstroom on the owling trip.*

### **Strigidae**

AFRICAN WOOD-OWL (*Strix woodfordii*)

*Great views of a responsive bird at Magoesbaskloof.*

PEARL-SPOTTED OWLET (*Glaucidium perlatum*)

*We did well for them, with nice looks at a pair at Kwa Ndaba and then a single as we were coming out of Kruger.*

AFRICAN BARRED OWLET (*Glaucidium capense*)

*We stirred up a pair at Mkhuzi GR and got great looks at one eventually, coming in to sit up and peer at us.*

### **Caprimulgidae**

RUFIOUS-CHEEKED NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus rufigena*)

*One began calling at Kwa Ndaba as we were going for dinner, and it was duly lured in by Rod for very fine looks. It is an intra-African migrant that is only just back, and was a life bird for Phil, a fine way to start the trip!*

FIERY-NECKED NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus pectoralis*)

*A fine male was lured in at Oribi Gorge.*

### **Apodidae**

AFRICAN PALM-SWIFT (*Cypsiurus parvus*)

*Common in the north.*

ALPINE SWIFT (*Tachymarptis melba*)

*A few near Abel Erasmus Pass and one in Kruger.*

AFRICAN (BLACK) SWIFT (*Apus barbatus*)

*Good looks from above at Oribi Gorge Falls, and also near Wakkerstroom. Some dark swifts near Pietermaritzburg were I felt more likely to be the very similar Common Swift.*

**E** BRADFIELD'S SWIFT (*Apus bradfieldi*)

*Six over the hotel at Pofadder one morning were a useful pick-up of this dry country endemic.*

LITTLE SWIFT (*Apus affinis*)

*Common throughout, likes to nest in road culverts and by bridges.*

WHITE-RUMPED SWIFT (*Apus caffer*)

*Fairly common, especially around Himeville, though the first were in Kruger NP.*

### **Coliidae**

SPECKLED MOUSEBIRD (*Colius striatus*)

*Small numbers in the north.*

**E** WHITE-BACKED MOUSEBIRD (*Colius colius*)

*Great looks in the dry country, starting at Augrabies.*

**E** RED-FACED MOUSEBIRD (*Urocolius indicus*)

*Small numbers in the northern thorn-scrub areas.*

### **Trogonidae**

NARINA TROGON (*Apaloderma narina*)

*A pair at Magoesbaskloof gave good views. This is one of only a couple of species named after black Africans, honoring Levallant's mistress.*

### **Alcedinidae**

**MALACHITE KINGFISHER (Alcedo cristata)**

*One at Olifants River, one at Muzi Pan and one at Wakkerstroom, a gem of a bird.*

**BROWN-HOODED KINGFISHER (Halcyon albiventris)**

*Small numbers near and in Kruger and near Muzi Pan.*

**STRIPED KINGFISHER (Halcyon chelicuti)**

*One at Mkhuzi GR, nesting in a hollow tree limb.*

**GIANT KINGFISHER (Megaceryle maximus)**

*Great looks at one in Kruger, and some folks saw another next day. A huge bird more like a Striated Heron in size!*

**PIED KINGFISHER (Ceryle rudis)**

*A few in Kruger and at St. Lucia, Muzi and Mkhuzi.*

**Meropidae**

**WHITE-FRONTED BEE-EATER (Merops bullockoides)**

*Great looks in Kruger NP.*

**LITTLE BEE-EATER (Merops pusillus)**

*Two near Banghoek were a late addition and much appreciated.*

**EUROPEAN BEE-EATER (Merops apiaster)**

*A handful around Springbok, and Tom saw one at Nylsvlei.*

**Coraciidae**

**LILAC-BREASTED ROLLER (Coracias caudata)**

*This beautiful bird showed nicely in Kruger and around Mkhuzi GR, but only in very small numbers.*

**BROAD-BILLED ROLLER (Eurystomus glaucurus)**

*Three at the Mkhuzi River, a very local species in SA.*

**Upupidae**

**EURASIAN (AFRICAN) HOOPOE (Upupa epops africana)**

*Small numbers in Kruger, at Augrabies and Mkhuzi. Usually split from the Eurasian Hoopoe these days, Clements may eventually catch-up!*

**Phoeniculidae**

**GREEN (RED-BILLED) WOODHOOPOE (Phoeniculus purpureus)**

*Great looks at this striking and noisy species in Kruger, and a couple at Mkhuzi.*

**COMMON (GREATER) SCIMITAR-BILL (Rhinopomastus cyanomelas)**

*Seen very nicely on our first morning at Kwa Ndaba, then again in Kruger and Mkhuzi.*

**Bucerotidae**

**RED-BILLED HORNBILL (Tockus erythrorhynchus)**

*Fairly common in Kruger NP.*

**SOUTHERN YELLOW-BILLED HORNBILL (Tockus leucomelas)**

*Also fairly common in KNP.*

**CROWNED HORNBILL (Tockus alboterminatus)**

*Nice looks at St. Lucia and Mkhuzi GR.*

**AFRICAN GRAY HORNBILL (Tockus nasutus)**

*Quite common in Kwa Ndaba and KNP.*

**TRUMPETER HORNBILL (Ceratogymna bucinator)**

*Lovely looks at Oribi Gorge and then St. Lucia.*

**SOUTHERN GROUND-HORNBILL (Bucorvus leadbeateri)**

*This was one of the sightings of the trip, with 4 of these huge birds (including an immature) seen very close by in Kruger NP, a very lucky find as it is quite rare these days. More usually now placed in their own family too as the biology and morphology is very different to regular hornbills.*

**Capitonidae**

**WHITE-EARED BARBET (Stactolaema leucotis)**

*Great looks at St. Lucia.*

YELLOW-RUMPED (GOLDEN-RUMPED) TINKERBIRD (*Pogoniulus bilineatus*)

*A fine view of one at St. Lucia.*

RED-FRONTED TINKERBIRD (*Pogoniulus pusillus*)

*Joan picked one up for us at Oribi Gorge, and we had another seen well at Banghoek.*

PIED BARBET (*Tricholaema leucomelas*)

*Just a couple seen, with one in KNP and another near Lambert's Bay. This is the Acacia Pied Barbet.*

BLACK-COLLARED BARBET (*Lybius torquatus*)

*Quite common and very vocal, we had great looks at Kwa Ndaba, Kruger and Banghoek where a pair had a nest in a dead limb.*

CRESTED BARBET (*Trachyphonus vaillantii*)

*Good views in Kruger NP of this exotic looking creature with the purring call.*

### **Indicatoridae**

SCALY-THROATED HONEYGUIDE (*Indicator variegatus*)

*Heard at several spots in St. Lucia, and one seen briefly by a few of us in Mkhuzi GR.*

GREATER HONEYGUIDE (*Indicator indicator*)

*A fantastic look at a male in KNP.*

LESSER HONEYGUIDE (*Indicator minor*)

*One came in at Augrabies NP and gave a good look.*

### **Picidae**

RUFOUS-NECKED (RED-THROATED) WRYNECK (*Jynx ruficollis*)

*Great looks at this aberrant woodpecker at Oribi Gorge, then at Wakkerstroom, with one on a metal fence post there.*

BENNETT'S WOODPECKER (*Campethera bennettii*)

*A terrific view of a male at Nylsvlei was a fine trip addition.*

GOLDEN-TAILED WOODPECKER (*Campethera abingoni*)

*Quite common in KNP.*

**E\*** KNYSNA WOODPECKER (*Campethera notata*)

*Aaargh! We were undone by misty rain, and despite much effort only got one sporadically calling without showing itself.*

**E** GROUND WOODPECKER (*Geocolaptes olivaceus*)

*Brilliant looks at the Protea Canary site, then again at Sani Pass, what a strange bird this is for sure, a rock loving woodpecker.*

CARDINAL WOODPECKER (*Dendropicos fuscescens*)

*A couple of sightings of this diminutive woodpecker in KNP.*

OLIVE WOODPECKER (*Dendropicos griseocephalus*)

*Fine views of 3 obliging birds at Magoesbaskloof, a bird of the mist forests here.*

### **Alaudidae**

RUFOUS-NAPED LARK (*Mirafra africana*)

*We had good views of this large species near Kwa Ndaba.*

**E** CAPE CLAPPER LARK (*Mirafra apiata apiata*)

*Great views of a couple near Lambert's Bay on our early morning walk, singing, calling and clapping in display.*

**E** EASTERN CLAPPER LARK (*Mirafra fasciolata*)

*We saw one nicely on our last morning at Wakkerstroom, the final tick of the trip. The red in the wings was very obvious in flight.*

SABOTA LARK (*Calendula sabota*)

*These were quite common at Kwa Ndaba and then in Kruger.*

FAWN-COLORED LARK (*Calendula africanoides*)

*Nice views of a couple near Pofadder.*

**E** FERRUGINOUS (RED) LARK (*Calendula burra*)

*Quite a rare lark, we eventually had great views of a couple of the red sand dune form near Pofadder.*

- E KAROO LARK (*Calendula albescens*)  
*Seen very well at Lambert's Bay.*
- E SABOTA (BRADFIELD'S) LARK (*Mirafraba sabota naevia*)  
*This large-billed taxon is a potential split, as Bradfield's Lark, and we saw one nicely on the Kenhardt Road near Pofadder.*
- E RUDD'S LARK (*Heteromirafraba ruddi*)  
*One of the rarest larks in the world, the population small and declining with a high chance of extinction. One was singing near Wakkerstroom, and we spent some 20 minutes waiting for it to descend before tracking it down for great scope looks. There is a narrow pale crown stripe, and the bird is very short-tailed.*
- E KAROO LONG-BILLED LARK (*Certhilauda subcoronata*)  
*Nice views of this large species near Pofadder.*
- E SHORT-CLAWED LARK (*Certhilauda chuana*)  
*Another of the rare and restricted range South African larks, we had one singing and calling from a fence near Polokwane.*
- SPIKE-HEELED LARK (*Chersomanes albofasciata*)  
*Quite common, we saw them well around Pofadder and Wakkerstroom; the pale tail tip is quite distinctive, as are the rusty underparts.*
- CHESTNUT-BACKED SPARROW-LARK (*Eremopterix leucotis*)  
*A flock in Kruger were unexpected and gave quite good views, with a couple of males amongst them.*
- GRAY-BACKED SPARROW-LARK (FINCH-LARK) (*Eremopterix verticalis*)  
*Good views around Pofadder of this dry country nomad.*
- RED-CAPPED LARK (*Calandrella cinerea*)  
*First seen at Springbok, then at Wakkerstroom, the red cap quite well marked.*
- PINK-BILLED LARK (*Spizocorys conirostris*)  
*This rare and declining rusty bellied species showed well on two mornings near Wakkerstroom, with a single on the first day and two on the second.*
- E SCLATER'S LARK (*Spizocorys sclateri*)  
*A mega find as it is a very local and highly nomadic erratic species. One came to drink at a water trough along the Kenhardt road, with two more slightly later, and most folks got views of them. This was a lifer for Phil who had missed it on his various trips here years back. It has a strange biology and only raises a single nestling.*
- E STARK'S LARK (*Spizocorys starki*)  
*Nice looks at a small flock of 8 on the Kenhardt Road, another elusive dry country nomad.*
- E LARGE-BILLED LARK (*Galerida magnirostris*)  
*One near Pofadder and two up in Lesotho at the Sani Pass.*

### **Hirundinidae**

- PLAIN (BROWN-THROATED) MARTIN (*Riparia paludicola*)  
*A few around in Kruger and then at Mkhuzi and near Wakkerstroom.*
- BANDED MARTIN (*Riparia cincta*)  
*One near Lambert's Bay, and then seen twice near Wakkerstroom.*
- SOUTH AFRICAN (CLIFF) SWALLOW (*Petrochelidon spilodera*)  
*Great views at a roadside culvert en route to Wakkerstroom, and also at the Slang R. bridge, this is summer migrant not long back from the wintering grounds to the north.*
- ROCK MARTIN (*Ptyonoprogne fuligula*)  
*Quite widespread.*
- BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*)  
*Small numbers in Kruger and in the east.*
- WHITE-THROATED SWALLOW (*Hirundo albigularis*)  
*Small numbers at lots of sites, most around Wakkerstroom.*
- WIRE-TAILED SWALLOW (*Hirundo smithii*)  
*A few at Kwa Ndaba and in Kruger NP.*

BLUE SWALLOW (*Hirundo atrocaerulea*)

*This rare bird hangs on in a grassy valley at Wedza, surrounded by a forest of eucalypts. We had quite good scope views of two birds, luckily avoiding the nearby fog that threatened to occlude us.*

PEARL-BREASTED SWALLOW (*Hirundo dimidiata*)

*Great looks at 4 near Langebaan, a local and uncommon species.*

GREATER STRIPED-SWALLOW (*Cecropis cucullata*)

*Widespread from Kwa Ndaba onwards, with great looks at Himeville and Wakkerstroom.*

LESSER STRIPED-SWALLOW (*Cecropis abyssinica*)

*Quite common in the more humid zones, starting at Kruger.*

RUFIOUS-CHESTED SWALLOW (*Cecropis semirufa*)

*This large swallow was seen near Kwa Ndaba.*

NORTHERN HOUSE-MARTIN (*Delichon urbica*)

*One at the SA Cliff Swallow site, and another at the Weaver's Nest.*

BLACK SAWWING (*Psalidoprocne holomelas*)

*Seen briefly at St. Lucia and Mkhuzi.*

### **Motacillidae**

AFRICAN PIED WAGTAIL (*Motacilla aguimp*)

*Small numbers from Kwa Ndaba onwards, much outnumbered by Cape Wagtail.*

CAPE WAGTAIL (*Motacilla capensis*)

*Widespread, often seen at Wimpey stops.*

MOUNTAIN WAGTAIL (*Motacilla clara*)

*We were lucky and had great views of one on the river at Oribi Gorge.*

YELLOW-THROATED LONGCLAW (*Macronyx croceus*)

*This meadowlark lookalike was seen a few times near Oribi Gorge and Banghoek.*

**E** ORANGE-THROATED LONGCLAW (*Macronyx capensis*)

*We had lovely views of this striking species around Himeville and again at Wakkerstroom.*

**E** YELLOW-BREASTED PIPIT (*Hemimacronyx chloris*)

*A rare and restricted range grassland endemic which we saw very well near Wakkerstroom.*

STRIPED PIPIT (*Anthus lineiventris*)

*This was a surprise find at Oribi Gorge, and gave very nice looks.*

**E** MOUNTAIN PIPIT (*Anthus hoeschi*)

*This is a recent split and is only found in a small montane area, so finding a pair atop the Sani Pass was very pleasing.*

AFRICAN (GRASSVELD) PIPIT (*Anthus cinnamomeus*)

*Widely distributed in small numbers, the first being near Kwa Ndaba.*

LONG-BILLED PIPIT (*Anthus similis*)

*We had good look at a pair at the base of the Sani Pass.*

### **Campephagidae**

GRAY CUCKOO-SHRIKE (*Coracina caesia*)

*We saw them twice at Magoesbaskloof.*

### **Pycnonotidae**

COMMON (DARK-CAPPED) BULBUL (*Pycnonotus barbatus tricolor*)

*Widespread.*

**E** BLACK-FRONTED (RED-EYED) BULBUL (*Pycnonotus nigricans*)

*We only saw this arid country bird at Augrabies. The Clements name is as so often the case inappropriate, as it lacks a black front, but does have a red eye ring.*

**E** CAPE BULBUL (*Pycnonotus capensis*)

*Quite local, we just saw a few around the Cape area.*

SOMBRE GREENBUL (*Andropadus importunus*)

*Noisy, and seen well at Magoesbaskloof and St Lucia.*

YELLOW-BELLIED GREENBUL (*Chlorocichla flaviventris*)  
*A nice one en route to Abel Erasmus Pass, then again at St. Lucia and Mkhuzi GR.*

TERRESTRIAL BROWNBUL (*Phyllastrephus terrestris*)  
*Seen well at Oribi Gorge and St. Lucia.*

YELLOW-STREAKED GREENBUL (*Phyllastrephus flavostriatus*)  
*This wing-flicking species was one of the Magoesbaskloof specials.*

EASTERN NICATOR (*Nicator gularis*)  
*A fine singing bird at St Lucia sat out high in a tree for us, nicely spotted by Pat.*

### **Turdidae**

E CAPE ROCK-THRUSH (*Monticola rupestris*)  
*Seen well at Oribi Gorge and again at the base of the Sani Pass.*

E SENTINEL ROCK-THRUSH (*Monticola explorator*)  
*A lovely neat little bird that showed very well atop the Sani Pass and was also seen by some at Wakkerstroom.*

\* ORANGE GROUND-THRUSH (*Zoothera gurneyi*)  
*Heard at Magoesbaskloof but no sighting this time.*

GROUNDSCRAPER THRUSH (*Psophocichla litsipsirupa*)  
*Some fancy traffic manoeuvring by Rod got us one as we came out of Kruger, with another next day at a service station stop.*

OLIVE THRUSH (*Turdus olivaceus*)  
*Seen in Kruger and at Oribi Gorge.*

E OLIVE (KAROO) THRUSH (*Turdus olivaceus smithi*)  
*This dark split from Olive Thrush showed nicely at Kwa Ndaba and Pofadder.*

KURRICHANE THRUSH (*Turdus libonyanus*)  
*Great looks in Kruger and at Mkhuzi.*

### **Cisticolidae**

RED-FACED CISTICOLA (*Cisticola erythroptus*)  
*One was seen en route to Kruger and another in the park itself.*

ROCK-LOVING (LAZY) CISTICOLA (*Cisticola aberrans aberrans*)  
*One at Oribi Gorge Falls was a surprise, not usually seen on this trip.*

RATTLING CISTICOLA (*Cisticola chiniana*)  
*Common in the dry thorn scrub in the east, especially at Mkhuzi.*

E RED-HEADED (GRAY-BACKED) CISTICOLA (*Cisticola subruficapillus*)  
*This dry country bird was seen around Pofadder and Lambert's Bay.*

WAILING CISTICOLA (*Cisticola lais*)  
*The birds at the Blue Swallow site were very obliging and sang and chased for us as we scanned the fields.*

E WINDING (BLACK-BACKED) CISTICOLA (*Cisticola galactotes*)  
*This is now a 5-way split, and we saw the Rufous-winged Cisticola *C. galactotes* at St. Lucia. Winding Cisticola becomes *C. marginatus* and is a central African species.*

TINKLING (LEVAILLANT'S) CISTICOLA (*Cisticola tinniens*)  
*This was common in the wetlands at Langebaan and Strandontein, also near Wakkerstroom. Clements yet again muddies the waters as Tinkling Cisticola is actually *C. rufilatus*, a different more central African species. The perils of renaming other people's birds!*

CROAKING CISTICOLA (*Cisticola natalensis*)  
*Heard at Sani Pass, and seen at Mkhuzi and Wakkerstroom. One of the largest of the family.*

PIPING CISTICOLA (NEDDICKY) (*Cisticola fulvicapillus*)  
*Common in the dry thorn scrub of Kwa Ndaba and Kruger.*

ZITTING (FAN-TAILED) CISTICOLA (*Cisticola juncidis*)  
*They were displaying near Piet Retief.*

E CLOUD (TINK-TINK) CISTICOLA (*Cisticola textrix*)  
*A couple were seen at Wakkerstroom.*

- PALE-CROWNED CISTICOLA (*Cisticola cinnamomeus*)  
*We got one perched up a fence at the Rudd's Lark site, a distinctive and attractive cisticola.*
- TAWNY-FLANKED PRINIA (*Prinia subflava*)  
*A few in Mkhuzi and at Kruger.*
- BLACK-CHESTED PRINIA (*Prinia flavicans*)  
*Seen well at Kwa Ndaba.*
- E** KAROO PRINIA (*Prinia maculosa*)  
*Quite common around Pofadder.*
- E** DRAKENSBERG PRINIA (*Prinia hypoxantha*)  
*This split from Karoo Prinia was seen nicely at the Sani Pass.*
- E** NAMAQUA PRINIA (*Prinia substriata*)  
*Now taken out from prinias and placed as a warbler in Phragmacia, named after its reed habitat, a local and scarce bird. We got one responding at Augrabies and most folks got onto it.*
- E** RUFIOUS-EARED WARBLER (*Malcorus pectoralis*)  
*Fantastic, a very striking warbler of dry scrub that showed very well on the Kenhardt Road.*
- BAR-THROATED APALIS (*Apalis thoracica*)  
*Seen well at Magoesbaskloof and St. Lucia.*
- YELLOW-BREASTED APALIS (*Apalis flavida*)  
*A couple were seen in Kruger.*
- E** RUDD'S APALIS (*Apalis ruddi*)  
*This restricted range endemic showed very nicely at St. Lucia.*
- GREEN-BACKED CAMAROPTERA (*Camaroptera brachyura*)  
*Great views at St. Lucia, where a close one chased the green dot, and again at Mkhuzi.*
- GREEN-(GRAY-)BACKED CAMAROPTERA (*Camaroptera brachyura brevicaudata*)  
*A nice obliging one at Letaba camp in Kruger.*
- E** BARRED CAMAROPTERA (WREN-WARBLER) (*Calamonastes fasciolatus*)  
*We were lucky and got a nice close one at Kwa Ndaba.*
- E\*** KOPJE (CINNAMON-BREASTED) WARBLER (*Euryptila subcinnamomea*)  
*Sadly only heard this year at Springbok, not responding well at all.*
- Sylviidae***
- AFRICAN (LITTLE RUSH) BUSH-WARBLER (*Bradypterus baboecala*)  
*One at a wetland near Polokwane, and seen again at Wakkerstroom.*
- AFRICAN SCRUB-WARBLER (BARRATT'S WARBLER) (*Bradypterus barratti*)  
*Heard at Magoebaskloof, then a fine pair which responded very well at the Sani Pass.*
- E\*** VICTORIN'S SCRUB-WARBLER (*Bradypterus victorini*)  
*Heard quite close at the Harold Porter Bot Gardens, but stayed in dense cover.*
- E** CAPE GRASSBIRD (*Sphenoeacus afer*)  
*Great views at False Cape, Sani Pass and Slang River, a very attractive and large species.*
- AFRICAN REED-WARBLER (MARSH-WARBLER) (*Acrocephalus baeticatus*)  
*One was trapped at Magoesbaskloof in the restaurant (!), then we got to see it at Augrabies for some and finally for all at Wakkerstroom.*
- LESSER SWAMP-WARBLER (CAPE REED-WARB.) (*Acrocephalus gracilirostris*)  
*Seen well at Lambert's Bay and Wakkerstroom.*
- AFRICAN YELLOW WARBLER (*Chloropeta natalensis*)  
*One up the Sani Pass, and another at Wakkerstroom.*
- YELLOW-BELLIED EREMOMELA (*Eremomela icteropygialis*)  
*One of these short-tailed guys was seen near Pofadder.*

- E** YELLOW-RUMPED (KAROO) EREMOMELA (*Eremomela gregalis*)  
*We were lucky and got onto a flighty band in the grassland at Springbok, looking very little like the picture in Sinclair, the head being much greyer and the lores quite dark, also longer tailed. It is scarce and elusive bird and this was a good find.*
- BURNT-NECK EREMOMELA (*Eremomela usticollis*)  
*Great looks at Kwa Ndaba and again at Banghoek.*
- CAPE (LONG-BILLED) CROMBEC (*Sylvietta rufescens*)  
*This almost tail-less species was seen well in Kruger and at Mkhuzi GR.*
- YELLOW-THROATED WOODLAND-WARBLER (*Phylloscopus ruficapillus*)  
*Great views at Magoebaskloof, and some saw it at Oribi Gorge.*
- FAN-TAILED (BROAD-T WARBLER) GRASSBIRD (*Schoenicola brevirostris*)  
*One at the Blue Swallow site at Wedza was unexpected, sitting up to dry off after heavy rain and not a bird we usually see on this trip.*
- E** LAYARD'S WARBLER (TITBABBLER) (*Parisoma layardi*)  
*We finally got one up in the afro-montane grasslands of Lesotho.*
- E** RUFOUS-VENTED WARBLER (TITBABBLER) (*Parisoma subcaeruleum*)  
*Seen well at Kwa Ndaba and in Kruger, a notable songster too.*
- Muscicapidae***
- PALE (MOUSE-COLORED) FLYCATCHER (*Bradornis pallidus*)  
*Three were seen by one van load at Mkhuzi.*
- E** CHAT FLYCATCHER (*Bradornis infuscatus*)  
*A few seen around Pofadder.*
- MARIQUA (MARICO) FLYCATCHER (*Bradornis mariquensis*)  
*Common at Kwa Ndaba and a few in Kruger.*
- SOUTHERN BLACK-FLYCATCHER (*Melaenornis pammelaina*)  
*First at Oribi Gorge where they were feeding on the hotel lawn. Also seen at Mkhuzi GR.*
- E** FISCAL FLYCATCHER (*Sigelus silens*)  
*One at Augrabies and others at Pofadder.*
- AFRICAN DUSKY FLYCATCHER (ALSEONAX) (*Muscicapa adusta*)  
*Great looks at this unobtrusive bird at Magoesbaskloof, also seen near Betty's Bay and at Oribi Gorge.*
- ASHY (BLUE-GRAY) FLYCATCHER (ALSEONAX) (*Muscicapa caerulescens*)  
*One by a river crossing near Abel Erasmus Pass.*
- E** FAIRY FLYCATCHER (*Stenostira scita*)  
*Fantastic views of two at the SA border post at Sani Pass, a bird of uncertain affinities.*
- WHITE-STARRED ROBIN (*Pogonocichla stellata*)  
*Heard at Magoesbaskloof, and an imm. seen at Oribi Gorge.*
- CAPE ROBIN-CHAT (*Cossypha caffra*)  
*Quite common, a pair with a juv. at Kwa Ndaba being the first.*
- E** WHITE-THROATED ROBIN-CHAT (*Cossypha humeralis*)  
*One sat up for us at Banghoek as we came back from breakfast, a really distinctive black and white robin-chat with an orangey and black tail.*
- WHITE-BROWED (HEUGLIN'S) ROBIN-CHAT (*Cossypha heuglini*)  
*Fine views of one at Letaba Camp in Kruger.*
- RED-CAPPED (NATAL) ROBIN-CHAT (*Cossypha natalensis*)  
*The birds at St Lucia were very obliging and gave great looks.*
- E** CHORISTER ROBIN-CHAT (*Cossypha dichroa*)  
*This one proved difficult, we heard it at Magoesbaskloof and a few got onto it briefly at Oribi Gorge.*
- (EASTERN) BEARDED SCRUB-ROBIN (*Cercotrichas quadrivirgata*)  
*Great looks at two individuals in Mkhuzi GR.*

- E** BROWN SCRUB-ROBIN (*Cercotrichas signata*)  
*This shy skulker was quite outgoing at St Lucia and gave some lovely looks.*
- RED-BACKED (WHITE-BROWED) SCRUB-ROBIN (*Cercotrichas leucophrys*)  
*Widespread, we got some nice views at Kwa Ndaba then in Kruger and Mkhuzi.*
- E** KALAHARI SCRUB-ROBIN (*Cercotrichas paena*)  
*This was a good find at Kwa Ndaba, right by the White-browed Scrub-robin.*
- E** KAROO SCRUB-ROBIN (*Cercotrichas coryphaeus*)  
*Common at Lambert's Bay on our early morning walk, this is a very dark species of the heathlands.*
- AFRICAN STONECHAT (*Saxicola torquata*)  
*Now split from Common Stonechat of Europe, and widespread, very common at Sani Pass.*
- E** BUFF-STREAKED STONECHAT (*Oenanthe bifasciata*)  
*Great looks at both male and female at Sani Pass, and again at Wakkerstroom, it does look like a typical Oenanthe wheatear too so the Clements name is a bit of a puzzle!*
- E** MOUNTAIN WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe monticola*)  
*Polymorphic, we got nice looks at various sites, starting at Pofadder where this big dark wheatear (Anglo-saxon, white arse!) was first seen.*
- CAPPED WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe pileata*)  
*We only saw them at Springbok, where 10 birds were in the little Nature Reserve there.*
- E** SICKLEWING CHAT (*Cercomela sinuata*)  
*Nice looks up on the afro-montane moorlands in Lesotho and SA.*
- E** KAROO CHAT (*Cercomela schlegelii*)  
*One seen well near Pofadder.*
- E** TRACTRAC CHAT (*Cercomela tractrac*)  
*A few were seen along the Kenhardt road near Pofadder.*
- FAMILIAR CHAT (*Cercomela familiaris*)  
*The first was at Augrabies, then a few around Pofadder.*
- SOUTHERN ANTEATER-CHAT (*Myrmecocichla formicivora*)  
*Common at Sani Pass, the first were in Kruger and last at Wakkerstroom.*
- MOCKING CLIFF-CHAT (*Thamnodia cinnamomeiventris*)  
*Great looks at a pair at Letaba Camp in Kruger.*

### **Platysteiridae**

- E** CAPE BATIS (*Batis capensis*)  
*This colorful batis was seen in Kruger NP and then at Mkhuzi, with a male out on a fence in the bleak windy grasslands at Wakkerstroom being very odd.*
- E** WOODWARDS' BATIS (*Batis fratrum*)  
*Great views of a pair of this very localized endemic at St. Lucia.*
- CHINSPOT BATIS (*Batis molitor*)  
*Quite widespread, being seen at Kwa Ndaba, Kruger, Mkhuzi etc.*
- E** PRIRIT BATIS (*Batis pririt*)  
*One fine male of this arid country species was at Augrabies.*

### **Monarchidae**

- AFRICAN PARADISE-FLYCATCHER (*Terpsiphone viridis*)  
*Great looks at Magoesbaskloof, then at Himeville and Oribi Gorge.*

### **Timaliidae**

- E** ORANGE-BREASTED ROCK-JUMPER (*Chaetops aurantius*)  
*Sensational views of 3 males and a female by the pub atop the Sani Pass, with one male nest building under a tussock there. We saw a couple of others earlier on the way up but they were very wary, so it was nice to have obliging ones. An endemic family and a great bird, a trip highlight for sure.*
- E** RUFIOUS (CAPE) ROCK-JUMPER (*Chaetops frenatus*)  
*Great looks at False Bay of a pair with 2 well grown young, it really is a terrific bird.*

ARROW-MARKED BABBLER (*Turdoides jardineii*)  
*Seen well in Kruger and at Banghoek.*

- E** BUSH BLACKCAP (*Lioptilus nigricapillus*)  
*A late catch-up at a roadside stop near P'mburg, with two obliging individuals. What a great little bird it is, like a tiny bulbul with a pink bill, grey underparts and a black cap, the exact affinities still uncertain.*

**Paridae**

SOUTHERN BLACK-TIT (*Melaniparus niger*)  
*A couple in Kruger and again at Mkhuzi GR and Banghoek.*

- E** ASHY TIT (*Melaniparus cinerascens*)  
*One at the rocky escarpment near Pofadder was a useful addition.*
- E** (SOUTHERN) GRAY TIT (*Melaniparus afer*)  
*We finally saw two of them in the windswept moorland in Lesotho, a very odd place to see one of this family.*

**Remizidae**

AFRICAN (GRAY) PENDULINE-TIT (*Anthoscopus caroli*)  
*A single was seen briefly by a couple of us with a bird party in Kruger .*

- E** SOUTHERN (CAPE) PENDULINE-TIT (*Anthoscopus minutus*)  
*Rod has a great site for this at Lambert's Bay, and we had very close views of what is an easily missed endemic, a lifer for PG who had dipped in earlier years.*

**Nectarinidae**

COLLARED SUNBIRD (*Hedydipna collaris*)  
*Just singles at St Lucia and Oribi Gorge.*

- E** ORANGE-BREASTED SUNBIRD (*Anthobaphes violacea*)  
*Great views at False Bay and the botanic gardens of this spectacular endemic sunbird.*
- EASTERN OLIVE-SUNBIRD (*Cyanomitra olivacea*)  
*Seen well at Oribi Gorge then St. Lucia.*
- MOUSE-COLORED (GRAY) SUNBIRD (*Cyanomitra veroxii*)  
*A single at St. Lucia was a good trip bird.*
- AMETHYST (BLACK) SUNBIRD (*Chalcomitra amethystina*)  
*This was one of the commoner sunbirds and we saw them at various sites starting at Magoesbaskloof. They were particularly good at Oribi Gorge and St. Lucia.*
- SCARLET-CHESTED SUNBIRD (*Chalcomitra senegalensis*)  
*Great views of a male at Banghoek after just seeing a female at Oribi Gorge.*
- MALACHITE SUNBIRD (*Nectarinia famosa*)  
*This is another stunning sunbird, first seen on the aloes at Springbok. then again around False Bay and the botanic gardens. They really are well named.*
- E** SOUTHERN DOUBLE-COLLARED SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris chalybeus*)  
*A few around at False Bay and the botanic gardens, after a female at Magoesbaskloof.*
- E** NEERGAARD'S SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris neergaardi*)  
*A fine very demonstrative male was at Mkhuzi, singing loudly atop a tall tree. Panic stations for Tom who was the only one to miss it, but we got it or another not too long after.....It's a rather rare and localized endemic too.*
- E** GREATER DOUBLE-COLLARED SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris afer*)  
*A female at Magoesbaskloof and then some fine males at Oribi Gorge, Himeville and Sani Pass.*
- MARIQUA SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris mariquensis*)  
*Seen at Kwa Ndaba and Kruger, then again at Mkhuzi.*
- PURPLE-BANDED SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris bifasciatus*)  
*A great view of a male at St. Lucia.*
- WHITE-BREASTED SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris talatala*)  
*Fairly common at Kwa Ndaba and Kruger, then again towards the end of the trip. It is another Clements name botch, as it has a white belly, not breast, and is really known as White-bellied Sunbird.*

- E** DUSKY SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris fuscus*)  
*We saw a few around Augrabies and at Pofadder.*

**Zosteropidae**

AFRICAN YELLOW WHITE-EYE (*Zosterops senegalensis*)  
*One at St. Lucia was unexpected and is not often seen on this itinerary*

- E** CAPE (ORANGE RIVER) WHITE-EYE (*Zosterops pallidus pallidus*)  
*This is a very distinctive species and we had great looks at Augrabies, the only place we saw it. The flanks are washed peachy and it sounds a bit different too. The South Africans split it as Orange River White-eye *Z. pallidus* and no doubt Clements will eventually catch up.*
- E** PALE (CAPE) WHITE-EYE (*Zosterops pallidus capensis*)  
*The Cape White-eye *Z. capensis* was the common white-eye of the trip, starting at Magoesbaskloof. Clements will eventually catch up as it's long been split here!*

**Promeropidae**

- E** GURNEY'S SUGARBIRD (*Promerops gurneyi*)  
*Great views of this fine endemic at the base of the Sani Pass, and an endemic family too.*
- E** CAPE SUGARBIRD (*Promerops cafer*)  
*Fine looks at Harold Porter Botanic Gardens, a large and distinctive species of an endemic family.*

**Oriolidae**

AFRICAN BLACK-HEADED ORIOLE (*Oriolus larvatus*)  
*A couple at Nylsvlei, and then again at Oribi Gorge.*

**Laniidae**

COMMON FISCAL (*Lanius collaris*)  
*Common throughout the trip, replaced by the taxon *subcoronatus* in the Pofadder area.*

COMMON (LATAKOO) FISCAL (*Lanius collaris subcoronatus*)  
*Nice views of this dry country form with the white eyebrow at Pofadder, a potential split perhaps.*

MAGPIE SHRIKE (*Corvinella melanoleuca*)  
*Great looks at Kwa Ndaba and in Kruger.*

**Malaconotidae**

- BRUBRU (*Nilaus afer*)  
*They showed exceptionally well as we were leaving Kwa Ndaba, and then with another later in Kruger.*
- BLACK-BACKED PUFFBACK (*Dryoscopus cubla*)  
*Widespread, the first being at Abel Erasmus pass.*
- BLACK-CROWNED TCHAGRA (*Tchagra senegala*)  
*We finally got one very nicely near Banghoek.*
- BROWN-CROWNED TCHAGRA (*Tchagra australis*)  
*Nice views near Kwa Ndaba.*
- E** SOUTHERN BOUBOU (*Laniarius ferrugineus*)  
*We watched a pair duetting at Oribi Falls, a very nice performance in full view.*
- CRIMSON-BREASTED GONOLEK (*Laniarius atrococcineus*)  
*This eye-popping bush-shrike gave nice looks at Kwa Ndaba and Kruger.*
- E** BOKMAKIERIE (*Telophorus zeylonus*)  
*A bush-shrike that runs about on boulders and feeds on lawns, truly strange! We got great looks near Springbok, then at False Bay, Sani Pass and Wakkerstroom.*
- SULPHUR-BREASTED (ORANGE-BR.) BUSHSHRIKE (*Telophorus sulfureopectus*)  
*We got a nice responsive one at Banghoek, with another shortly afterwards for good measure.*
- OLIVE BUSHSHRIKE (*Telophorus olivaceus*)  
*This a a tough skulking species and we were lucky to have a fairly obliging one at Magoesbaskloof.*
- BLACK-FRONTED BUSHSHRIKE (*Telophorus nigrifrons*)  
*Another tough skulking species, we were lucky to have a fairly obliging one at Magoesbaskloof.*

FOUR-COLORED (GORGEOUS) BUSHSHRIKE (*Telophorus viridis quadricolor*)

*We worked hard at Banghoek and eventually got a fine pair to sit up and pose for us, a very attractive species.*

GRAY-HEADED BUSHSHRIKE (*Malaconotus blanchoti*)

*Good views of one by the other two bush-shrikes at Magoesbaskloof, and then one in Kruger.*

### **Prionopidae**

WHITE HELMETSHRIKE (*Prionops plumatus*)

*Lovely views in Mkhuzi, an endemic family too.*

### **Dicruridae**

SQUARE-TAILED DRONGO (*Dicrurus ludwigii*)

*A few at Oribi Gorge, the tail surprisingly well forked on some, and then again at St. Lucia.*

FORK-TAILED DRONGO (*Dicrurus adsimilis*)

*Widespread in small numbers, first at Kwa Ndaba.*

### **Corvidae**

**I** HOUSE CROW (*Corvus splendens*)

*A few of this introduced pest around Capetown.*

CAPE CROW (*Corvus capensis*)

*The Cape Rook as it used to be called was thinly distributed from near Pofadder and Franklin Marsh to Sani Pass and Wakkerstroom. It's a thin billed almost chough-like species that pokes about in grasslands.*

PIED CROW (*Corvus albus*)

*Widespread.*

WHITE-NECKED RAVEN (*Corvus albicollis*)

*Seen near Pofadder, then at False Bay and Sani Pass.*

### **Sturnidae**

**I** COMMON MYNA (*Acridotheres tristis*)

*Fairly common around the urban centres.*

EUROPEAN STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

*Likewise.*

**E** CAPE GLOSSY-STARLING (*Lamprotornis nitens*)

*Common from Kwa Ndaba north, and again from Durban northwards, the default glossy starling.*

GREATER BLUE-EARED GLOSSY-STARLING (*Lamprotornis chalybaeus*)

**E** BURCHELL'S GLOSSY-STARLING (*Lamprotornis australis*)

*A few of this large long-tailed species were around Kwa Ndaba.*

BLACK-BELLIED GLOSSY-STARLING (*Lamprotornis corruscus*)

*We got onto these at Oribi Gorge, St. Lucia and Muzi Pan, also Mkhuzi and Banghoek, A small and dark bellied species.*

VIOLET-BACKED (PLUM-COLORED) STARLING (*Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*)

*Great looks in a fruiting fig at Oribi Gorge, also at St Lucia and Mkhuzi. The old name of Amethyst Starling still has a certain ring to it.*

**E** AFRICAN PIED STARLING (*Spreo bicolor*)

*This large gawky species was first seen at Lambert's Bay, and was common at Sani Pass and Wakkerstroom.*

RED-WINGED STARLING (*Onychognathus morio*)

*A widespread and quite common species.*

**E** PALE-WINGED STARLING (*Onychognathus naboroupe*)

*Great looks at Augrabies, where they come to the tables.*

RED-BILLED OXPECKER (*Buphagus erythrorhynchus*)

*Often placed in their own family now, we saw this one nicely in Kwa Ndaba and Kruger, where they were poking about on hippos.*

YELLOW-BILLED OXPECKER (*Buphagus africanus*)

*Phil was lucky enough to get onto two of this rather rare bird in Kruger at Olifants Bridge, and after a lengthy wait they emerged and began feeding on a partly hidden hippo for all to see. A good pick-up.*

### **Passeridae**

- I** HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*)  
*Widespread in urban areas.*
- E** CAPE SPARROW (*Passer melanurus*)  
*This striking bird was quite common, the first being at Kwa Ndaba.*
- SOUTHERN GRAY-HEADED SPARROW (*Passer diffusus*)  
*Likewise quite common.*
- YELLOW-THROATED PETRONIA (*Petronia superciliaris*)  
*Seen in Kruger and then again at Mkhuzi GR.*

### **Ploceidae**

- RED-BILLED BUFFALO-WEAVER (*Bubalornis niger*)  
*A single was perched on a power pole with starlings near Kwa Ndaba, a good find.*
- SCALY (-FEATHERED) WEAVER (*Sporopipes squamifrons*)  
*Eight at a roadside stop near Pofadder, more usually called Scaly-feathered Finch.*
- WHITE-BROWED SPARROW-WEAVER (*Plocepasser mahali*)  
*About 10 at Polokwane as we looked for Short-clawed Lark.*
- E** SOCIABLE WEAVER (*Philetairus socius*)  
*The amazing huge colonial nests are a distinctive feature of power lines in the Pofadder region, it's amazing how they have adapted to this new feature. We got some fine looks at the birds too.*
- LESSER MASKED-WEAVER (*Ploceus intermedius*)  
*A small colony at Kwa Ndaba, also seen in Kruger and Mkhuzi. The pale eye is distinctive.*
- SPECTACLED WEAVER (*Ploceus ocularis*)  
*Just a single male seen at Letaba Camp.*
- E** CAPE WEAVER (*Ploceus capensis*)  
*Widespread but not common, the best views were at Oribi Gorge and Himeville.*
- AFRICAN GOLDEN (YELLOW) WEAVER (*Ploceus subaureus*)  
*A single of this bright yellow bird at St Lucia was a pleasing find. Clements again causes great confusion by using an inappropriate name, Yellow Weaver is the one to use.*
- HOLUB'S GOLDEN-WEAVER (*Ploceus xanthops*)  
*See what I mean by confusing? This large billed golden species was seen at Mkhuzi River and then again in Mkhuzi GR.*
- E** SOUTHERN BROWN-THROATED WEAVER (*Ploceus xanthopterus*)  
*A small nesting colony was near St. Lucia, with great looks at this uncommon endemic.*
- SOUTHERN MASKED-WEAVER (*Ploceus velatus*)  
*Widespread from Kwa Ndaba to Kruger, this red-eyed weaver is often split out from the more northerly Vitelline Masked P. vitellinus.*
- VILLAGE WEAVER (*Ploceus cucullatus*)  
*A big colony at Banghoek was being harassed by very persistent Didric Cuckoos, the nest parasite of this species.*
- FOREST (DARK-BACKED) WEAVER (*Ploceus bicolor*)  
*Seen at Oribi Gorge and St. Lucia.*
- RED-HEADED WEAVER (*Anaplectes rubriceps*)  
*The strange nests festoon power lines on the way to Kruger, and we saw the birds very well at several sites. The male is a very colorful creature for sure.*
- RED-BILLED QUELEA (*Quelea quelea*)  
*Small flocks were widespread, mostly in non-breeding dress. The first were at Kwa Ndaba and there was a big flock by Franklin Marsh.*
- (SOUTHERN) RED BISHOP (*Euplectes orix*)  
*Widespread, with a few males in full breeding dress already.*

YELLOW BISHOP (*Euplectes capensis*)

*Poorly named, the old Cape Bishop reflects the scientific name better. We saw good plumaged males at the Protea Canary site and near Sani Pass.*

FAN-TAILED WIDOWBIRD (*Euplectes axillaris*)

*Small numbers around Oribi Gorge, Franklin Marsh and Wakkerstroom.*

WHITE-WINGED WIDOWBIRD (*Euplectes albonotatus*)

*A sizeable flock was at Nylsvlei and odd birds were seen in the east.*

RED-COLLARED WIDOWBIRD (*Euplectes ardens*)

*The birds at Sani Pass do have red collars, and the long tail is quite distinctive.*

LONG-TAILED WIDOWBIRD (*Euplectes progne*)

*A super bird, the amazing males with their huge tails are a sight to marvel at in the high altitude grasslands from Sani Pass onwards.*

GROSBEAK WEAVER (*Amblyospiza albifrons*)

*Four nondescript immature birds were at Oribi Gorge and had us puzzled for a bit!*

### **Estrildidae**

GREEN-WINGED PYTILIA (MELBA FINCH) (*Pytilia melba*)

*Good views at Kwa Ndaba and in Kruger, but only a very few individuals.*

**E** PINK-THROATED TWINSPOT (*Hypargos margaritatus*)

*A striking restricted range endemic that showed well in Mkhuzi GR when we were working the Neergaard's Sunbird and the Barred Owllet.*

AFRICAN (BLUE-BILLED) FIREFINCH (*Lagonosticta rubricata*)

*Sparse this trip, we saw them at Magoesbaskloof then at Oribi Gorge and Himeville.*

BLUE-BREASTED CORDONBLEU (*Uraeginthus angolensis*)

*Nice looks at Kwa Ndaba, Kruger and Banghoek. Also called Southern Blue Waxbill.*

VIOLET-EARED WAXBILL (COMMON GRENADIER) (*Uraeginthus granatina*)

*One van got onto one as we were coming out of Kruger.*

COMMON WAXBILL (*Estrilda astrild*)

*Small numbers at several sites, starting in Kruger.*

BLACK-CHEEKED WAXBILL (*Estrilda erythronotos*)

*We saw a couple at a roadside stop near Polokwane.*

BLACK-FACED QUAILFINCH (*Ortygospiza atricollis*)

*A single was in the high altitude grasslands near Piet Retief, and Phil's stomping of the short grass gave flight views, just as well we tried as it was the only one of the trip!*

BRONZE MANNIKIN (*Spermestes cucullatus*)

*Surprisingly scarce and really only added as late as Muzi Pan, with more at Banghoek.*

BLACK-AND-WHITE MANNIKIN (*Spermestes bicolor nigriceps*)

*A single of the red-backed form was at Oribi Gorge and was glimpsed by a couple of us.*

**E** RED-HEADED FINCH (*Amadina erythrocephala*)

*A single female was feeding on short grass by the Jo'burg hotel, and some of the early arriving folks saw males there.*

### **Viduidae**

PIN-TAILED WHYDAH (*Vidua macroura*)

*A male in Kruger and then quite a few at Muzi Pan.*

### **Fringillidae**

**E** CAPE CANARY (*Serinus canicollis*)

*A few singles, starting at Magoesbaskloof, and with a small flock at the Weaver's Nest at Wakkerstroom.*

**E** FOREST CANARY (*Serinus scotops*)

*One at Magoesbaskloof for some of us, then again at Oribi Gorge, it's a scarce endemic.*

BLACK-THROATED CANARY (*Serinus atrogularis*)

*We saw a few as we came near to Jo'burg.*

- E** LEMON-BREASTED SEEDEATER (*Serinus citrinipectus*)  
*I still think we flushed one in Kruger, it had a white belly and distinct face pattern! As we dipped on a hot and windy day at the usual site I wish I'd gone back for it! Usually known as Lemon-breasted Canary.*
- YELLOW-FRONTED CANARY (*Serinus mozambicus*)  
*Widespread, the default canary for much of the trip.*
- E** YELLOW CANARY (*Serinus flaviventris*)  
*This brightly colored species was quite common over by Pofadder in the dry country.*
- BRIMSTONE (BULLY) CANARY (*Serinus sulphuratus*)  
*Two of this robust canary at Oribi Gorge were a pleasing find.*
- E** WHITE-THROATED CANARY (*Serinus albogularis*)  
*A few around Augrabies and Pofadder.*
- STREAKY-HEADED SEEDEATER (*Serinus gularis*)  
*A few sightings, with one in Kruger, some at Nylsvlei and then again at Oribi Gorge.*
- E** PROTEA CANARY (*Serinus leucopterus*)  
*A fantastic look at a singing bird at the gorge site near Lambert's Bay, it's rather rare and very restricted range fynbos endemic.*
- E** CAPE SISKIN (*Pseudochloroptila totta*)  
*Two birds feeding on a rock slab by a creek at Harold Porter Botanic Gardens gave great views.*
- E** DRAKENSBURG SISKIN (*Pseudochloroptila symonsi*)  
*Five birds by the pub atop the Sani Pass were very confiding, another restricted range endemic too. The males were unexpectedly brightly colored.*
- E** DAMARA CANARY (*Alario leucolaemus*)  
*I think Rod and Tom were maybe the only persons to see this over at Pofadder, it's a scarce and difficult nomad and a great shame it vanished so soon.*

### **Emberizidae**

- E** LARK-LIKE BUNTING (*Emberiza impetuanii*)  
*A few in Kruger were unexpected, then a handful over at Pofadder, not an irruption year by the look of things.*
- CINNAMON-BREASTED BUNTING (*Emberiza tahapisi*)  
*Good views of a few in Kruger NP.*
- E** CAPE BUNTING (*Emberiza capensis*)  
*They were quite common at False Bay, with a few at the Sani Pass.*
- GOLDEN-BREASTED BUNTING (*Emberiza flaviventris*)  
*A beautiful bird, seen at Kwa Ndaba and Kruger and a great one at the main camp in Mkhuzi.*

### **MAMMALS**

- WAHLBERG'S EPAULETTED FRUIT BAT (*Epomophorus wahlbergi*)  
*One at Kruger NP, quite a large species.*
- BLUE MONKEY (*Cercopithecus mitis*)  
*A few at the hotel at Magoesbaskloof- remember to shut your windows! This is the Samango Monkey here, a split from Blue Monkey.*
- BLACK-FACED VERVET MONKEY (*Cercopithecus aethiops*)  
*We had a van invader in Kruger, luckily not doing any damage! They were common in the various parks.*
- CHACMA BABOON (*Papio ursinus*)  
*Common in various parks.*
- RED RABBIT SP. (*Pronolagus rupestris*)  
*We saw a couple of what used to be called Smith's Red Rock Hare near Springbok, on a rocky hillside. The species has now been split into 3 it seems.*
- SCRUB HARE (*Lepus saxatilis*)  
*A great look at one in Kruger, and again when spotlighting at Wakkerstroom.*

- CAPE GROUND SQUIRREL (*Xerus inaurius*)  
*A few at False Bay.*
- RED BUSH SQUIRREL (*Paraxerus palliatus*)  
*This handsome mammals was seen well at St. Lucia.*
- TREE SQUIRREL (*Paraxerus cepapi*)  
*A few were seen in Kruger NP at the camps.*
- SLOGGETT'S ICE RAT (*Otomys sloggetti*)  
*This was the endearing little chap at the Sani Pass, also called Sloggett's vlei rat, and one of the mammalian stars of the trip.*
- RIGHT WHALE (*Balaena glacialis*)  
*Amazing looks at 4 of this huge creature in False Bay, they pass very close inshore. One cafe has a bell they ring when one is sighted, they are a major tourist attraction these days.*
- CAPE CLAWLESS OTTER (*Aonyx capensis*)  
*Great views of one in the Slang River near Wakkerstroom, hauling out onto the rocks to eat a fish.*
- CAPE GRAY MONGOOSE (*Herpestes pulverulentus*)  
*One at Pofadder and one at Strandontein SP.*
- SLENDER MONGOOSE (*Herpestes sanguineus*)  
*One was seen in Kruger.*
- BANDED MONGOOSE (*Mungos mungo*)  
*A few were seen in Kruger.*
- YELLOW MONGOOSE (*Cynictis penicillata*)  
*This striking animal that looks like a marten was seen a couple of times around Wakkerstroom.*
- SLENDER-TAILED MEERKAT (*Suricata suricatta*)  
*Nice groups around Pofadder, also called Suricates here.*
- SERVAL (*Felis serval*)  
*A trip highlight on the penultimate night, we spotlight one stalking through the rushes in the vlei at Wakkerstroom, huge ears erect. A lucky find and a first for this tour it seems.*
- CAPE (AUSTRALIAN) FUR SEAL (*Arctocephalus pusillus*)  
*A colony at Lambert's Bay, where they eat gannets it seems! Also a few on the pelagic, flippers waving as they rolled about in the waves.*
- AFRICAN ELEPHANT (*Loxodonta africana*)  
*Fabulous looks in Kruger, at point-blank range, they are just wonderful. We saw 15 one day, 2 the next and finally 8 animals.*
- ROCK HYRAX (*Procavia capensis*)  
*Great looks at Augrabies, Sani Pass and Wakkerstroom.*
- BURCHELL'S ZEBRA (*Equus burchelli*)  
*A few in Kruger and Mkhuzi.*
- WHITE RHINOCEROS (*Ceratotherium simum*)  
*Wow! A genuine Pleistocene megafauna relic, we saw three in Mkhuzi GR, with one right by the road which gave a great look.*
- WARTHOG (*Phacochoerus aethiopicus*)  
*A few in the game parks, and some ate one for dinner one night!*
- HIPPOPOTAMUS (*Hippopotamus amphibius*)  
*Lots in Kruger, and some at St. Lucia, always very impressive.*
- COMMON GIRAFFE (*Giraffa camelopardalis*)  
*We saw some near Polokwane, and some fantastic huge ones in Kruger, what a bizarre creature this is.*
- NYALA (*Tragelaphus angasi*)  
*A fine male at St. Lucia and then some great ones in Mkhuzi, the stripey females are very distinctive.*
- BUSHBUCK (*Tragelaphus scriptus*)  
*They are tame in Kruger and haunt the camps where the grass is good and the shade abundant, with no predators! Sounds ideal...*

- GREATER KUDU (*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*)  
*A few at Kwa Ndaba and odd ones at Mkhuzi.*
- COMMON ELAND (*Taurotragus oryx*)  
*This huge antelope was seen at the Sani Pass, it is an impressive beast.*
- RED DUIKER (*Cephalophus natalensis*)  
*Great looks at this lovely burnished coppery duiker at St. Lucia, where they are tame.*
- BUSH (GRAY) DUIKER (*Sylvicapra grimmia*)  
*A couple were seen in Mkhuzi.*
- COMMON WATERBUCK (*Kobus ellipsiprymnus*)  
*Some nice looks in Kruger at this large buck.*
- REEDBUCK (*Redunca arundinum*)  
*First at Nylsvlei, then at Franklin Marsh.*
- MOUNTAIN REEDBUCK (*Redunca fulvorufula*)  
*Three at the Sani Pass.*
- RHEBOK (*Pelea capreolus*)  
*This SA endemic mammal was seen well at the Sani Pass.*
- ROAN ANTELOPE (*Hippotragus equinus*)  
*A nice herd at Nylsvlei, a scarce antelope.*
- BONTEBOK (*Damaliscus dorcas*)  
*Small numbers of the form known as the Blesbok were widespread, starting at Kwa Ndaba and ending at Wakkerstroom. This was once an Endangered species but has been widely reintroduced.*
- HARTEBEEST (KONGONI) (*Alcelaphus buselaphus*)  
*3 were near Wakkerstroom and some were seen by a few en route to Kwa Ndaba.*
- BLUE WILDEBEEST (*Connochaetes taurinus*)  
*A few in Kruger and a good herd at Mkhuzi, coming in to drink at the waterhole hide.*
- KLIPSPRINGER (*Oreotragus oreotragus*)  
*Great views near Springbok of this strange little pepper and salt colored rock dwelling antelope.*
- STEENBOK (*Raphicerus campestris*)  
*Small numbers were seen in the game parks, with a great close one laying down at Mkhuzi.*
- GRYSBOK (*Raphicerus melanotis*)  
*One was seen en route to Capetown in West Coast NP*
- SUNI (*Neotragus moschatus*)  
*This tiny and scarce antelope showed very well in Mkhuzi GR one afternoon with two diminutive animals.*
- IMPALA (*Aepyceros malampus*)  
*Common in the game parks, the males have quite large harems and young bucks gather in bachelor herds.*
- SPRINGBOK (*Antidorcas marsupialis*)  
*A few of this attractive antelope were seen near Pofadder.*

### ***Additional Comments***

It was a great trip, giving a marvelous overview of this huge and diverse country. First timers to Africa added over 430 lifers, and those who have been to Kenya still saw between 200-300 additions. We saw most species very nicely and had a great back up of exciting mammals with Elephant, White Rhino, Giraffe, Hippo, Cape Buffalo, Southern Right Whale and equally fascinating smaller creatures like the Serval we saw at Wakkerstroom, Yellow Mongoose, Cape Clawless Otter and the engaging Sloggett's Ice-rat!

Birds of the trip were Southern Ground Hornbill, Blue Crane, Lammergeier, Bat Hawk in the mist, Kori Bustard in display and the rockjumpers, with the day at the Sani Pass ranking highly as an experience and also the unbelievable seabird spectacle around the trawler off Capetown.

Various colorful lizards were seen including blue-headed agamas, Augrabies Flat Lizard (*Platysaurus broadleyi*), and Drakensberg Gray Lizard. Tortoises and terrapins also featured in Kruger, Augrabies and Mkhuzi GR, with serrated-hinged turtle being the one at Kruger. Nile Crocodiles showed well at Kruger and St Lucia, and there was a large sunfish (*Mola mola*) on the pelagic trip.

PG Jo'burg Oct 07

*saf07-PG*