



South Africa : Cape to Kruger September 12 - 26, 2019

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with 10 participants: Renata, Linda, Sandy, Liz, Terry, Rita & Mike, Laura & George, Rebecca & David*

List compiled by Greg Smith



Summary: Our unspoken goal was to surpass last year's species list in numbers – bringing even more magic to the trip than the three guides had viewed with 2018's clients. And we accomplished this by finding 100 more bird species than last year! This success was due to weather, clients and past experience. Given that we were further south on the continent, there were still some migrants that hadn't quite made it to the tip of Africa. We excelled on raptors with twenty-four species and with mammal numbers coming in at 51 species. We achieved great looks at Africa's Big Five on two of our three days in Kruger National Park, which is a success given the status of the white rhinoceros. The weather cooperated both in the Western Cape where much needed sporadic rain happened mostly during the night time hours, and in the eastern part of the country where the summer rainy season waited until two days after our departure. The following list gives you an indication of just how rich South Africa is in diversity with wildlife and birds, but doesn't even point to its world-renowned plant biomes. Take a read and enjoy what we experienced...

BIRDS: 359 species recorded

OSTRICHES: Struthionidae (1)

Common Ostrich *Struthio camelus*— Our time in Kruger was where we saw most of the wild birds, not common though

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae (11)

White-faced Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*— Only seen in Strandfontein's restored wetlands in Capetown
Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*— All over the country, favored farm and ranch ponds
South African Shelduck *Tadorna cana*— Our only sighting was on the coastal side on the Strandfontein wetlands
Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*— Scattered across the country, not as common as in Botswana
Hottentot Teal *Anas hottentota*—It took a bit of looking, but we turned up a few pair in Strandfontein
Cape Shoveler *Dendrocygna bicolor*—Our first sighting was in the pond where we found the Cloud Cisticola
Yellow-billed Duck *Anas undulata*— Scattered throughout the country, always associated with ponds
Cape Teal *Anas capensis*— Strandfontein had loads of this species in the open ponds
Red-billed Duck *Anas erythroryncha*— Not common, and usually in pairs throughout the trip
Southern Pochard *Netta erythrophthalma*— We had four individuals in Strandfontein, nowhere else though
Maccoa Duck *Oxyura maccoa* – A total of three and all were in Strandfontein

GUINEAFOWL: Numididae (1)

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*— Everywhere...

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS AND ALLIES: Phasianidae (8)

Common Quail *Corturnix corturnix* – Heard in the Tillie Verstheld Bulb Reserve (Cloud Cisticola...)
Cape Spurfowl *Pternistis capensis* – We had this species every day on the Cape Town side of the country
Natal Francolin *Pternistis natalensis* – Only seen in Kruger on the last two days of our journey
Swainson's Francolin *Pternistis swainsonii*— Kruger was where we got to view this species, pretty docile
Red-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis afer*—Only seen on one day in the grasslands of Verloren Valei Reserve
Crested Francolin *Dendroperdix sephaena*—Only in Kruger and only two sightings total
Red-winged Francolin *Scleroptila levaillantii* – The grasslands of Verloren Valei provided us with our only sighting
Gray-winged Francolin *Scleroptila levaillantii*—Best looks were on the road with the Black Korhaan along the coast south of West Coast NP

Flamingos: Phoenicopteridae (2)

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruficollis* – Strandfontein gave us great looks of a very docile flock
Lesser Flamingo *Phoenicopterus minor* – Best looks were from the hide in West Coast National Park

Grebes Podicipedidae (3)

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*— All three grebes were seen in the restored wetlands of Strandfontein
Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* – All three grebes were seen in the restored wetlands of Strandfontein
Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* - All three grebes were seen in the restored wetlands of Strandfontein

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (10)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*— Seen in all of the major cities we visited on this countrywide tour
Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea* – Best looks were on the lawn of our lunch stop in West Coast National Park
Lemon Dove *Columba larvata* – Only one found was in the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens in dense shade
Mourning Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decipiens*— Seen only on the last two days of the trip in Kruger
Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata*—The largest dove we saw, and usually seen in pairs
Ring-necked Dove *Streptopelia capicola*— This was the most common dove of the trip seen in big numbers daily
Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*— More common than in Botswana, and again, usually in pairs
Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove *Turtur chalcospilos*— An uncommon species on this trip, usually seen near water
Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*—Seen in groups of one to two pairs in the eastern part of the country
African Green-Pigeon *Treron calvus*— Only seen a couple of times on the trip

SANDGROUSE: Pteroclididae (2)

Namaqua Sandgrouse *Pterocles Namaqua* – Seen in the Western Cape at De Hoop Nature Preserve, again in pairs
Double-banded Sandgrouse *Pterocles bicinctus*— Seen in pairs in the central part of Kruger National Park

BUSTARDS: Otididae (5)

Kori Bustard *Ardeotis kori*— Kori's were the more common of the large bustards, seen on five different occasions
Denham's Bustard *Neotis denhami* – Our first sighting was of three flying just as we left the De Hoop hills
White-bellied Bustard *Eupodotis senagalensis*— Seen on our drive back to Cape Town and just outside Dullstrom
Red-crested Bustard *Lophodotis ruficristata*—Seen alongside the road on our last two days in Kruger NP
Black Bustard *Afrotis afra* – We saw a number of males on a coastal road just south West Coast NP

TURACOS: Musophagidae (3)

Knynsa Turaco *Tauraco corythaix*— Seen a number of times in the Afromontane forest of Mt. Sheba
Purple-crested Turaco *Tauraco porphyreolophus* – This species was spotted flying over the road driving to Joburg
Gray Go-away-bird *Corythaixoides concolor*— Mostly seen in the central part in Kruger National Park

CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: Cuculidae (3)

Burchell's Coucal *Centropus burchelli* – We saw this species in riverbeds that had water and some willows
White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus* – Seen on our drive back to Joburg from Kruger
Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx* – Heard in Kirstenbosch and seen on our drive out of De Hoop

NIGHTJARS AND ALLIES: Caprimulgidae (1)

Fiery-necked Nightjar *Caprimulgus pectoralis*— Seen and heard outside the De Hoop dining room at night hawking insects in the lights

SWIFTS: Apodidae (8)

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* – Sporadically flying over Kirstenbosch Botanic Center during our visit
Common Swift *Apus apus* – Over Kirstenbosch and again flying above the hills at Mt. Sheba
African Swift *Apus barbatus*—Seen on a number of days throughout the trip, especially above Mt. Sheba
Bradfield's Swift *Apus bradfieldi* – Kirstenbosch is the only place that we saw this species
Little Swift *Apus affinis*—We got to see this swift every day in Kruger National Park
Horus Swift *Apus horus* – The groups of early morning swifts at De Hoop always had a few of this species
White-rumped Swift *Apus coffer* – This species put in appearances over the dining hall at De Hoop
African Palm-Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*— Seen on a number of days, usually around thatch-roofed structures

RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae (4)

Eurasian Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*— Scattered around Strandfontein in reedy areas of the wetlands
Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata* – Easiest sighting was again at the Strandfontein wetlands
African Swamphen *Porphyrio madagascariensis*—Only seen once, in the late afternoon at Strandfontein
Black Crake *Zapornia flavirostra*— Seen at the same time as we saw the swamphens

CRANES: Gruidae (1)

Blue Crane *Grus paradisea* — Seen most every day when we were on the west side of the country

THICK-KNEES: Burhinidae (2)

Water Thick-knee *Burhinus vermiculatus*— Seen around the coastal wetlands near Dalton's place
Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis*— We only saw one pair, and they were in a parking lot in Cape Town

STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae (2)

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*— All over the place in coastal wetlands of the Western Cape
Pied Avocet *Himantopus avocete* – Not nearly as common as the stilts in the coastal wetlands

Oystercatchers: Haematopodidae (1)

African Oystercatcher *Haematopus moquini* – Seen along the rocky intertidal areas of the Western Cape

LAPWINGS AND PLOVERS: Charadriidae (9)

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* – A few were seen from the hide in West Coast National Park

Long-toed Lapwing *Vanellus crassirostris*—Seen briefly at the southern end of Kruger near the Sand River

Blacksmith Lapwing *Vanellus armatus*— Seen most any place there was quiet waters

White-headed Lapwing *Vanellus albiceps*—We only had this species twice, both times in Kruger

Crowned Lapwing *Vanellus coronatus*— Seen on a couple of days in the De Hoop area

Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus*—We found a nest alongside the road in the grasslands of Verloren Valei

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius*— Seen on the boardwalk that led out to the hide at West Coast NP

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris*— Scattered around the wetlands at Strandfontein

White-fronted Plover *Charadrius marginatus* – Seen on the beach at our first stop as we headed to West Coast NP

JACANAS: Jacanidae (1)

African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus*— Seen on the Sand River on our late arrival at Skakuza

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (10)

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* – This and the next two species were seen from the hide at West Coast NP

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* – As above, but only one individual seen

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa nigripennis* – As above, but only two individuals viewed

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*— Seen at Strandfontein and from the hide at West Coast NP

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*—A great looking bird still in partial alternate plumage at Strandfontein

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*—When we saw a small stint, it was always this species

African Snipe *Gallinago nigripennis*— Best looks were at the small watering hole right next to the De Hoop Lodge

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*— Seen a few times, both in clam waters and in intertidal areas

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*—Seen at the Strandfontein wetlands

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*— As above...

Skua: Stercorariidae (1)

Brown Skua *Stecororius antarcticus* – Seen on our pelagic trip out of Simon's Town

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (6)

Gray-hooded Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*— Best looks were in group of mixed gulls at Strandfontein

Hartlaub's Gull *Chroicocephalus hartlaubii* – Seen up and down the coast of the Western Cape

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus* – As above...

White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*— We watched this species forage the waters at De Hoop dining room

Caspian Tern *Hydropogone caspia*— Seen foraging over the water at the De Hoop Lodge

Greater Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii* – Large groups resting on near shore rocks at Cape Point National Park

Penguins: Spheniscidae (1)

African Penguin *Spheniscus demersus* – Seen at Stony Point and at Boulders near Simon's Town

Albatrosses: Diomedidae (3)

Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche carteri* – All three of the albatross' were seen off of Cape Point NP

Shy Albatross *Thalassarche cauta* – Seen on the pelagic trip, not at all common

Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophis* – The most common of the three species of albatross

Austral Storm Petrels: Hydrobatidae (1)

Wilson's Storm-Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* – Only on the pelagic trip and not too many were around

Petrels: Procellariidae (5)

Southern Giant Petrel *Macronectes giganteus* – The more common of the two giant petrels on the pelagic

Northern Giant Petrel *Macronectes halli* – The bullies of the pelagic world, and they did justice to their name

Cape Petrel *Daption capense* – Great looking bird with the dappled spotting, Pintados

White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis* – The common petrel in the open waters off of the Cape

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea* – Not as many as were expected on this trip

STORKS: Ciconiidae (5)

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* – Best looks were in a tree over the Sand River at Skakuza

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* – We only saw five this year as compared to last year, and that was a brief sighting

Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*—Not common, but seen a number of times, usually in pairs

Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumenifer*— Kruger had the largest numbers of this the undertaker bird

Yellow-billed Stork *Mytheria ibis* – Seen in Strandfontein in very loose groups

ANHINGAS: Anhingidae (1)

African Darter *Anhinga rufa*— We had our best looks at individual birds in the Strandfontein wetlands

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (5)

Long-tailed Cormorant *Microcarbo africanus*— The Reed was the most common of the cormorants on daily basis'

Crowned Cormorant *Microcarbo coronatus* – Seen at the Simonstown Harbour and again at Stony Point

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*— Very good looks small numbers on the near shore rocks at Cape Point

Cape Cormorant *Phalacrocorax capensis* – Seen along the coast along the Cape shore

Bank Cormorant *Phalacrocorax neglectus* - We found a number of pairs nesting at Cape Point National Park

PELICANS: Pelecanidae (2)

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*— Seen in very small numbers at the Strandfontein wetlands

Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens* – A group of three was seen soaring overhead on our drive into Kruger

HAMMERKOP: Scopidae (1)

Hammerkop *Scopus umbretta*— Seen a number with the most unusual sighting being of a hovering bird picking fish off the top of the water on a pond in Kruger

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (10)

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*— Seen from one of the hides at the Strandfontein wetland complex

Gray Heron *Ardea cinerea*— We usually saw at least one or two a day, always near water

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala*— Not seen daily, but when seen they were usually foraging in uplands

Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath*— Seen twice while we were in Kruger National Park

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*— Only one seen was at the Strandfontein wetlands

Great Egret *Ardea alba*— First seen on a pond just outside of Dullstrom

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*— Seen on both sides of the country, usually in freshwater

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*—Seen near cattle and large wildlife throughout the trip

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*— Seen just after we made landfall for our evening BBQ along Strandfontein

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*— Seen at the BBQ after dark

Ibis and Spoonbills: Threskiornithidae (4)

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*— Just a few were seen during our afternoon at Strandfontein

African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*— A number of days where there were pools of water or flooded fields

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash*— The only species we saw every day of the journey

African Spoonbill *Platalea alba*— Best looks were at small groups along the Strandfontein wetlands

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (24)

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*— We saw a number of adults, but even more juveniles on the trip

African Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides typus*—A single bird was observed on our first day in Kruger

White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis*— We had two on the ground near the road cleaning up a carcass

Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos*— We never got to see this the largest vulture on the ground, only flying

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus*— Seen a number of times in trees and on carcasses

White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus*— The most common vulture on the trip

Cape Griffon *Gyps coprotheres* – We got to see a few individuals of this rare species near a nesting site

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus*— Distinctive in flight, which might have accounted for the number of sightings

Brown Snake-Eagle *Circaetus cinereus*— Seen on the drive to Kruger and in Kruger on one other day

Crowned Eagle *Stephanoartus coronatus* – We saw one soaring overhead when we were looking for Taita Falcons

Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus*— Soaring overhead on the coast while we were found the Cape Rockjumper

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis* – Spotted by one of our ace eagle spotters on a pole heading to Sheba

Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraaetus wahlbergi*—A fine-looking intermediate morph was perched below us on the Olifant

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax*— Probably the most common eagle on the journey

Verreaux's Eagle *Aquila verreauxii* –Seen twice along the coast over the mountains, a such a fine-looking bird

Dark Chanting-Goshawk *Melierax metabates*— Seen perched on a tree on our first day in Kruger NP

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar*— Good looks at a perched bird on our first day in Kruger NP

African Marsh-Harrier *Circus ranivorus*— Best looks were of a bird flying with the setting sun at Strandfontein

Black Harrier *Circus maurus* – Seen a number of times in West Coast National Park

African Goshawk *Accipiter tachiro*— Only one sighting and that was on our last full day in Kruger

Little Sparrowhawk *Accipiter minullus*— Again, only one sighting and that was on our last Kruger day

Black Goshawk *Accipiter melanoleucus*—Seen twice, once in Kirstenbosch & then driving to De Hoop the next day

Black Kite *Milvus aegyptus* – Best looks were of a squadron doing aerial combat with termites

African Fish-Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer*—Seen anywhere there was a body of water that held fish

Steppe Buzzard *Buteo vulpinnus* – Seen at least three times on our drive out to De Hoop

Jackal Buzzard *Buteo rufofuscus* – The common large raptor for the trip, seen almost daily

OWLS: Strigidae (5)

African Scops-Owl *Otus senegalensis*— Heard and seen on the walk back from dinner at Satara

Spotted Eagle-Owl *Bubo africanus*—A male was roosting on a low branch in Kirstenbosch Gardens

Verreaux's Eagle-Owl *Bubo lacteus*— Found roosting in a tree alongside the road in our drive into Kruger

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum*—Mostly heard, but seen a couple of times being mobbed in Kruger

African Barred-Owlet *Glaucidium capense*— Fly by for sure, but heard calling in Kruger where we had Trumpeters

MOUSEBIRDS: Coliidae (3)

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus* – Mostly in the De Hoop area and then in Kruger

White-backed Mousebird *Colius colius* – Right next to the road in West Coast National Park

Red-faced Mousebird *Urocolius indicus*— Only seen in Kruger National Park on three days

Trogon: Trogonidae (1)

Narina Trogon *Apoloderma narina* – Seen on the morning bird walk in the forest around Mt. Sheba

HOOPOES: Upupidae (1)

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*— Seen ten out of the fourteen days with some very cooperative birds at Satara

WOODHOOPES: Phoeniculidae (2)

Green Woodhoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus*— Lots of family groups in Kruger made for easy looks

Common Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*— Only seen in Mt. Sheba and in Kruger, both on the east

GROUND-HORNBILLS: Bucorvidae (1)

Southern Ground-Hornbill *Bucorvus leadbeateri*— Only once in Kruger did we see a family group of these big ones

HORNBILLS: Bucerotidae (4)

African Gray Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus*— We got looks at this species & the next two on our four days in Kruger

Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill *Tockus leucomelas*— As above, but the commonest of the three

Southern Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus rufirostris*— As above with the gray...

Trumpeter Hornbill *Bycanistes bucinator*—We had only one pair, and they let us watch them in the tops of trees

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (4)

Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus*— Seen on our second to last day in Kruger, near Olifants

Brown-hooded Kingfisher *Halcyon albiventris*— One group heard the bird and the other group saw it

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima*— Seen in fading light at a pond with no vegetation in Kruger

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*—We got to see this species every day we were in Kruger, mostly around ponds

BEE-EATERS: Meropidae (2)

White-fronted Bee-eater *Merops bullockoides*— This species was just arriving in Kruger toward the end of our trip

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*— Good look at two on our very first day as we drove north to West Coast

ROLLERS: Coraciidae (2)

Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus*— Both rollers were seen in Kruger and Mt. Sheba, and just arriving

Rufous-crowned Roller *Coracias naevius*— The Purple Roller was much more common this as opposed to last

AFRICAN BARBETS: Lybiidae (3)

Crested Barbet *Trachyphonus vaillantii*— Relatively common around the grounds at Satara

Pied Barbet *Tricholaema leucomelas*—Heard and finally seen on our last day in Kruger National Park

Black-collared Barbet *Lybius torquatus*— We got very good look on day two of three in Kruger

WOODPECKERS: Picidae (4)

Cardinal Woodpecker *Chloropicus fuscescens* – Sen on our early morning outing from Satara along the riparian corridor

Bearded Woodpecker *Chloropicus namaquus*—Seen once on our trip, perched in a dead tree next to the road

Olive Woodpecker *Dendropicos griseocephalu*—This woodpecker was also seen once in the Afromontane Forest

Golden-tailed Woodpecker *Campethera abingoni*—We got two different good looks in Kruger of this species

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (2)

Rock Kestrel *Falco rupicolus*—The pair that we saw at the lodge in West Coast might have been the same duo from last year's trip

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*— We had an adult perch in the radio tower at the tip of Cape Hope

PARROTS: Psittacidae (1)

Brown-headed Parrot *Poicephalus cryptoxanthuis*— We got to see this parrot a number of times in the eastern part of South Africa

Cuckooshrikes:Campephagidae (2)

Gray Cuckooshrike *Coracina caesia* – We kept following this bird in the treetops of Mt. Sheba until we all got good but fleeting looks

Black Cuckooshrike *Casmephaga flava* – This one was easier to see while we were in Kruger National Park

OLD WORLD ORIOLES: Oriolidae (1)

African Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus larvatus*—Seen fairly close all four days in Kruger

WATTLE-EYES AND BATIS: Platysteiridae (2)

Cape Batis *Batis capensis* – Best looks were in Kirstenbosch Botanic Garden where we saw a number of these

Chinspot Batis *Batis molitor*—This was the only Batis we saw while we were in Kruger

VANGAS AND HELMETSHRIKES: Vangidae (1)

White Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus*— We were fortunate to see a number of family groups of this yellow-eyed wonder while in Kruger

BUSHSHRIKES: Malaconotidae (10)

Brubru *Nilaus afer*— We only saw this species once and that was on our second to last day of the journey

Black-backed Puffback *Dryoscopus cubla*—Lots of good looks at this species every day in Kruger

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus*— Seen twice in Kruger, with the best look right next to the road

Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis*—For those that went on the early ride just outside of Satara along the riparian corridor

Southern Tchagra *Tchagra tchagra* – The pair at De Hoop gave us great early morning looks in the sun

Southern Boubou *Laniarius ferrugineus*—De Hoop environs showed us this species on three different days

Bokmakiere *Telophorus zeylonus* – Out early morning walks in the mist of De Hoop subdued the colors, but not the attitude of the species

Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike *Telophorus sulfureopectus*— Half of us got to see this species during one of our Kruger game drives

Olive Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus olivaceus* – This species appeared off the balcony during our Olifants breakfast

Gray-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti*— Best look was at Satara before we headed off on our morning game drive

DRONGOS: Dicruridae (1)

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis*—In most habitats with multiple sightings of family groups every day

MONARCH FLYCATCHERS: Monarchidae (2)

African Crested Flycatcher *Trochocercus cyanomelas* – Seen only once during a break on one of our game drives

African Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*—Numerous males put on a show at our lunch stop as we drove to Skakuza

SHRIKES: Laniidae (4)

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* – We were able to get a glimpse of this stunner on our drive to Skakuza

Southern Fiscal Shrike *Lanius collaris* – Very common on all days except while we were at Kruger

Magpie Shrike *Corvinella melanoleuca*— Small family groups were common along the roads of central Kruger

White-crowned Shrike *Eurocephalus anguitimens*— Seen on both of our days while we were at Satara

ROCKJUMPERS: Chaetopidae (1)

Cape Rockjumper *Chaetops frenatus* – It was a bit of a walk, but we were able to see both a male and a female on the rocks at Rooi Els

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (3)

Cape Crow *Corvus capensis*—We only saw this species near the coast at De Hoop Nature Preserve

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*— Seen on a most days of the trip, and usually in pairs given that it was spring

White-necked Raven *Corvus albicollis* – Best looks were overhead at the De Hoop Lodge dining room

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae (1)

Southern Black-Tit *Melaniparus niger*— Seen on both of our days at Satara during our game drives

LARKS: Alaudidae (6)

Eastern Long-billed Lark *Cirrhilauda semitorquata* – We found this species near the road in the grasslands of Verloren Vlei Preserve

Agulhas Lark *Certhilauda brevirostris* – Seen in the fields near De Hoop when we were looking at the Cape griffons

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark *Eromopterix leucotis* – We saw this species very close to the road just before we saw our first three white rhinoceros'

Sabota Lark *Calendulauda sabota*— Also seen on during the morning of our first three white rhinoceros

Red-capped Lark *Callendrella cinereal* – Very common during our morning drive out to view the Cape Griffons

Large-billed Lark *Galerida magnirostris* – Seen in the fields around the Cape Griffon viewing location

AFRICAN WARBLERS: Macrosphenidae (2)

Cape Crombec *Sylvietta rufescens*—Seen in both Satara and Skakuza Rest Camp areas

Cape Grassbird *Sphenoeacus afer* – Stunning looks at Rooi Els of a nesting bird with an insect-filled bill

CISTICOLAS AND ALLIES: Cisticolidae (19)

Yellow-bellied Eremomela *Eremomela icteropygialis* – Seen on our morning riparian drive outside of Satara

Greencap Eremomela *Eremomela scotops* – Same as the Yellow-bellied...

Green-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brachyura*— Also seen on the morning riparian drive

Bar-throated Apalis *Apalis thoracica* – Seen every day of the trip except in Kruger

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida*—Seen in different locations on three days during our time in Kruger

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*—Only seen in Kruger, with one sighting right next to the road

Karoo Prinia *Prinia maculosa* – Seen on multiple days during our time in the Western Cape

Drakensburg Prinia *Prinia hypoxantha* – Only one sighting and that during our morning game drive from Satara

Rock-loving Cisticola *Cisticola aberrans* – Our drive through Verloren Vlei Preserve was the only time we saw this

Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola chiniana*—Much easier to get good looks at this species as we saw them on all four days in Kruger

Red-headed Cisticola *Cisticola subruficapilla*— Seen multiple days in the Western Cape & one day near Dullstrom

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*- Seen on our day out at Strandfontein wetlands

Wailing Cisticola *Cisticola lais* – Seen on the dry hillsides above Mt. Sheba

Levaillant's Cisticola *Cisticola tinniens* – Best looks were along the canals at Strandfontein

Pipping Cisticola *Cisticola fulvicapilla* – Seen on our look for Cape Rockjumper at Steenbras Point

Cloud Cisticola *Cisticola textrix*— Seen displaying way above the ground in the Tiene Versfeld Nature Reserve

Pale-crowned Cisticola *Cisticola cinnamomeus* – Another species seen in the Verloren Vlei Preserve

Wing-snapping Cisticola *Cisticola ayersii* – Seen along the road in the Verloren vlei Preserve

REED-WARBLERS: Acrocephalidae (3)

African Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus baeticatus*— Heard once and seen once on our Strandfontein day

Lesser Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*—We saw a few working the reeds from a hide at Strandfontein

GRASSBIRDS AND ALLIES: Locustellidae (1)

Little Rush-Warbler *Bradypterus baboecala*— Seen just once in some cattails between two ponds at Strandfontein

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (13)

Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola*— Only seen on the Western Cape, but seen most every day

Bank Martin *Riparia riparia* – Migrants were seen on our first day of the journey only in the Western Cape

Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* – We got to see this species on both sides of the country, and on about half the days. Best looks were at De Hoop

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*— Seen foraging around the grounds of Satara Rest Camp

White-throated Swallow *Hirundo rustica* – Best looks were of a perched bird right next to the boardwalk out to the hide in West Coast National Park

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*— Our last full day in Kruger (and on the tour...) is when we got our only look

Pearl-breasted Swallow *Hirundo dimidiata*— One slightly early individual was seen on two consecutive days outside of De Hoop watching over its potential nest site

Greater Striped-Swallow *Cecropis cucullate* – Seen every day at De Hoop, best looks were near the dining room

Lesser Striped-Swallow *Cecropias abyssinica*—Only seen in Kruger on the last two days of our journey

Rufous-chested Swallow *Cecropias semirufa*—Swallow migration was just commencing, so not surprisingly our only sighting was at the end of the trip

Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis* – Again because of migration, our two sightings were on the final days

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum* – Only on our last day in Kruger

Black Saw-wing *Psalidiprocne pristoptera* – Seen twice, first on our drive back to Cape Town from De Hoop and then again outside of Dullstrom

BULBULS: Pycnonotidae (6)

Sombre Greenbul *Andropadus importunes* – Viewed on a number of days with great looks from the canopy walk at Kirstenbosch

Yellow-bellied Greenbul *Chlorocichla flaviventris*—Just one day, and that was during our drive from Kruger back to Joburg

Terrestrial Brownbul *Phyllastrephus terrestris*—Only seen in the eastern half of the country

Dark-capped Bulbul *Pycnonotus tricolor* – Very common from Dullstrom east to Kruger National Park

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus* - First seen on our early morning riparian drive from Satara

Cape Bulbul *Pycnonotus capensis* – And on the western side of the country, this was the common bulbul

WHITE-EYES: Zosteropidae (1)

Cape White-eye *Zosterops virens*— Kirstenbosch gave us great looks of the white-eyed form, while De Hoop showed us the yellow-eyed form

LEAF-WARBLERS: Phylloscopidae (1)

Yellow-throated Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus ruficapilla*— Only sighting was during our time in the Afromontane forest of Mt. Sheba

LAUGHINGTHRUSHES AND ALLIES: Leiothrichidae (1)

Arrow-marked Babbler *Turdoides jardineii*—Only in the eastern portion of South Africa

OXPECKERS: Buphagidae (2)

Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*—The more common of the two oxpeckers & seen only in Kruger

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus*—Less common than its sister species & seemed to favor African buffs

STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae (9)

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* – Introduced to the western part of South Africa, but not the east

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea*—Only seen twice, in Mt. Sheba and then in Skakuza

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* – Seen in Dullstrom where every couple of houses had a pair of them

Red-winged Starling *Onychognathus morio*—Very common on the Western Cape, less so in the east

Burchell's Starling *Lamprotornis australis*—Seen in the Satara area where it was not uncommon

Meves's Starling *Lamprotornis mevesii*—A little out of its home turf, one bird was seen by the restrooms on our lunch stop while driving to Skakuza

African Pied Starling *Lamprotornis bicolor* – Mostly seen on our drive out to De Hoop Nature Preserve
Greater Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*—This was the common starling during our time in Kruger
Cape Starling *Lamprotornis nitens*— You would think with “Cape” in its name it would’ve been present in the west. We only saw this species in Kruger

THRUSHES: Turdidae (3)

Orange Ground Thrush *Geokichla gurneyi* – Heard both days in the Afromontane Forest, & seen well the second day

Kurrichane Thrush *Turdus libonyana*— Seen only on our two days in the Dullstrom area

Olive Thrush *Turdus olivaceus*— Seen and heard in Kirstenbosch and heard only on our first day

OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS AND CHATS: Muscicapidae (18)

African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta* – Seen three different days with the best view at Kirstenbosch

Fiscal Flycatcher *Melaenornis silens* – Seen in the De Hoop environs and that was all

Southern Black-Flycatcher *Melaenornis pammelaina*— Only seen on the day we moved between Satara & Skakuza

Karoo Scrub-Robin *Cerotrachus coryphoeus* – We had it on the first two days of the trip in the Western Cape

Red-backed Scrub-Robin *Cercotrachus leucophrys* —See well on our morning riparian drive from Satara

Cape Robin-Chat *Cossypha caffra* – Seen on nine of the first ten days of the trip, pretty common

White-browed Robin-Chat *Cossypha heuglini*—Two of us got looks at the bird in the area by the Taita Falcon site

White-throated Robin-Chat *Cossypha humeralis* – Seen while working the stream at the Taita Falcon location

Red-capped Robin-Chat *Cossypha natalensis* – This and the next two were seen when we were birding the Afromontane forest near Mt. Sheba

Chorister Robin-Chat *Cossypha dichroa* – As above...

White-starred Robin *Pogonocichla stellata* – As above...

Cape Rock Thrush *Monticola rupestris* – We got great looks of a pair of these at Rooi Els

African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*—Seen just about every day except in Kruger National Park

Buff-streaked Chat *Campicoloides bifasciatus* – We got very satisfying looks of this species just before we entered Verloren Vlei Preserve

Southern Ant-eater Chat *Myrmecochila formicivore* – Seen flying along next to the van as we driving towards Dullstrom

Mountain Wheatear *Myrmecocichla monticola* – Most everyone got good looks near the stream at the Taita Falcon site

Capped Wheatear *Oenanthe pileata*—De Hoop Nature Preserve is where they were most abundant

Familiar Chat *Oenanthe familiaris* – Only seen twice on Western Cape days of the tour

Sugarbirds: Promeropidae (2)

Gurney’s Sugarbird *Promerops gurneyi* – More than satisfying looks – We had a bird very close, in full, late afternoon sun, about 6.5 meters away at Mt. Sheba

Cape Sugarbird *Promerops cafer* – Very good looks on *Leucospermums* at Kirstenbosch

SUNBIRDS: Nectariniidae (9)

Collared Sunbird *Hedychia collaris*— Only seen on our very last day of the trip while in Kruger

Orange-breasted Sunbird *Anthobaphes violacea* – Stunning looks at Kirstenbosch as both genders fed on *Leucospermum* about two meters away

Amethyst Sunbird *Chalcomitra amethystina*—Best looks were on our drive from Mt. Sheba to Satara

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis*— As we had lunch at 24 Degrees South, this species was feeding all around us

Malachite Sunbird *Nectarinia famosa* – Best looks of the trip were at Cape Point National Park

S. Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris chalybeus* – De Hoop and areas of the Western Cape provided us with regular looks of this species

Greater D-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris afer* – As we walked down the road to Mt. Sheba, this sunbird kept appearing

Mariqua Sunbird *Cinnyris bifasciatus*—This was the Dullstrom area sunbird, we didn't find it anywhere else

White-breasted Sunbird *Cinnyris talatala*—This species was limited to our time in Kruger National Park

WEAVERS: Ploceidae (9)

Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver *Bubalornis niger*— Only in Kruger and always in small groups of three to eight birds

Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes rubriceps* – Only seen a couple of times in Kruger, quite a stunning view

Cape Weaver *Ploceus capensis* —Of course, only seen in the Western Cape side of South Africa

Southern Masked-Weaver *Ploceus velatus*— We had sightings of this species all across South Africa

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*— We saw small groups of this species in Kruger as they readied for nesting

Southern Red Bishop *Euplectes orix* – Very good looks as we were pulled across the river at Malagas Pont

Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis* – Our sightings were usually limited to single males along the Western Cape

Long-tailed Widowbird *Euplectes progne*—Veroren Vlei seemed to have a number of males going through their molt into alternate plumage

White-winged Widowbird *Euplectes albonotatus* – We had four in basic plumage mixed in with a group of Red-billed Quelea

WAXBILLS: Estrildidae (8)

Sweet Waxbill *Coccyzygia melanotis*— Stunning waxbill seen numerous times, great views at the Potter Garden

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*— Seen on both sides of the country, usually in pairs

Southern Cordonbleu *Uraeginthus angolensis*— Seen in small groups on all four days in the Kruger area

Green-winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba*— As above with the Cordonbleu

African Firefinch *Lagonosticta rubricate* – Seen driving along the riparian zone from Satara

Jameson's Firefinch *Lagonosticta rhodopareia*—Seen only once in Kruger as we drove from Satara to Skakuza

Bronze Mannikin *Spermestes cucullata* – Only views were on our last full day in Kruger

Rufous-backed Mannikin *Lonchura nigricaps* – A few got views in the Mt. Sheba parking lot atop some trees

WYDAHs: Viduidae (3)

Village Indigobird *Vidua chalybeate* – A mixed flock with each of these three species were seen on our drive from Satara to Skakuza

Variable Indigobird *Vidua funerea* – As above...

Purple Indigo Bird *Vidua purpurascens* – As above...

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (4)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*—Really unfortunate to see this species anywhere in South Africa

Cape Sparrow *Passer melanurus* – Almost daily on the Western Cape side of the country

Southern Gray-headed Sparrow *Passer diffusus*—Seen only on our first two day in Kruger National Park

Yellow-throated Bush Sparrow *Petronia supercilialis*— We only had one sighting of this species and that was during our drive from Satara to Skakuza

WAGTAILS AND PIPITS: Motacillidae (9)

Cape Wagtail *Motacilla capensis*— This active tail-wagger was seen every day except while we were in Kruger

Mountain Wagtail *Motacilla clara* – Most everyone got looks at this species up by the Taita Falcon site

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp*—As we cooped on the bridge over the Olifants River, we had a number of these individuals foraging below us

Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis* – We had two of this species in the grasslands of Verloren Vlei near Dullstrom

African Pipit *Anthus cinnamomeus*— Only seen on the western side of South Africa in the De Hoop farm areas
Mountain Pipit *Anthus hoeschi*— A migrant was seen in the fields above Mt. Sheba in the late afternoon
Buffy Pipit *Anthus vaalensis*— Viewed next to the road in the grasslands above Mt. Sheba
Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys* – Seen at the water hole on the south side Satara Rest Camp
Bush Pipit *Anthus caffer* – Seen alongside the road on our full day game drive to the north of Satara
Cape Longclaw *Macronyx capensis* – Seen on all but two days on our Cape side of the tour

FINCHES: Fringillidae (7)

Yellow-fronted Canary *Serinus mozambica*— Seen in Dullstrom and over in Kruger National Park
Forest Canary *Crithagra scotops* – Our only sighting was in Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens
Brimstone Canary *Crithagra sulphurata* – Best look of the species were in the hills above Mt. Sheba
Yellow Canary *Serinus flaviventris*—This species was quite common in the De Hoop area of our trip
White-throated Canary *Serinus atrogularis*—Seen a couple of times on drive through West Coast National Park
Streaky-headed Seedeater *Crithagra gularis* – Just one was seen on the road through the grasslands above Mt. Sheba
Cape Siskin *Crithagra totta* – Stellar views of this species during our Rockjumper hike
Cape Canary *Serinus canicollis* – This was also a regular at De Hoop Nature Preserve

OLD WORLD BUNTINGS: Emberizidae (2)

Golden-breasted Bunting *Emberiza flaviventris*— Very good looks at this species on three of four days in Kruger
Cape Bunting *Emberiza capensis* – Only seen in the Western Cape, mostly in the De Hoop area

MAMMALS: 51 species recorded

Cape Serotine *Neoromicia capensis*— We got to look at this bat species on the night of our Strandfontein BBQ
Chacma Baboon *Papio ursinus*— Big troupes were seen on both sides of the country
Vervet Monkey *Chlorocebus pygerythrus*—Common in treed areas of Kruger near both of our rest camps
Blue Monkey (Samango) *Ceropithicus mitis* – Small numbers were seen cavorting around the Mt. Sheba grounds
Greater Gallago *Otolemur crassicaudatus* – Seen in the trees during the night at Satara
Cape Hare *Lepus capensis*—Seen on the grounds of the De Hoop[Lodge
Smith's Bush Squirrel *Paraxerus cepapi*—Very common cruising the treed areas of Kruger National Park
Karoo Bush Rat *Otomys unisulcatus* – We all got great looks during the late afternoon in West Coast National Park
Four-striped Mouse *Rhabdomys pumelo* – We had one eating flowers in a tree at eye level right next to the road in De Hoop
Black-backed Jackal *Canis mesomelas*— We had two different sighting on different days up at Satara
Dwarf Mongoose *Helogale parvula* – Small family groups were seen twice on our drive from Satara to Skukuza
Small Grey Mongoose *Herpestes snaguinea* –
Mongoose *Herpestes ichneumon* –
Yellow Mongoose *Cynictis penicillata*—Seen in De Hoop and outside of Dullstrom
Slender Mongoose *Galerella sanguine*—Only one sighting, and that was outside of Dullstrom
Large Gray (Egyptian) Mongoose *Herpestes ichneumon*— Only viewed in the De Hoop Preserve part of our trip
Spotted Hyena *Crocuta crocuta*—A communal den next to the road near Satara gave us great looks at different aged animals
African Wildcat *Felis silvestris lybica*— Seen on our night drive out of Satara
Small Spotted (Common) Genet *Genetta genetta*—As above...
African Civet *Civettictis civetta* – As above...
Leopard *Panthera pardus*—Seen on two different days in Kruger. Always a stunning sighting
Lion *Panthera leo*—Lots of lions on three days in Kruger
Rock Hyrax *Procavia capensis* – Seen in the Western Cape and gain in Kruger
African Elephant *Loxodonta africana*—Lots of these animals around, every day in Kruger
Burchell's Zebra *Equus quagga burchellii*—Every day in Kruger had lots of these in open grasslands

Mountain Zebra *Equus zebra* – Only seen in West Coast National Park and De Hoop Preserve
White Rhinoceros *Ceratotherium simum* – We got to see at least eleven of these giants
Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus*—Everyday in Kruger we got to see different family groups
Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibious*—Only seen one day, our first day in Kruger
(Southern Reticulated) Giraffe *Giraffa camelopardalis*—Multiple animals on every day in Kruger
African Buffalo *Syncerus caffer*—Again, only seen on our first day in Kruger
Nyala *Tragelaphus angasii* – Seen on two different occasions in the middle part of Kruger
Greater Kudu *Tragelaphus strepsiceros*— Our very first mammal when we drove into Kruger, feeding with impala
Eland *Taurotragus oryx* – The biggest antelope was seen in De Hoop, mostly with other eland
Bush Duiker *Sylvicapra grimmia* – Seen on our drive day between Satara and Skukuza
Cape Grysbok *Raphicerus melanotis* – Best looks were in the highlands near Mt. Sheba
Steenbok *Raphicerus campestris*—Fairly common around the country, with good looks outside of De Hoop
Oribi *Ourebia ourebi* – Seen just once at the entrance to Verloren Vlei Preserve
Klipspringer *Oreotragus oreotragus*—We only saw two pair, with the firs fairly close and very confiding
Rhebok *Pelea capreolu* – Best looks were on our drive back to Cape Town from De Hoop
Mountain Reedbuck *Redunca fulvorufula* – Another Verloren Vlei species that was at one of the trout ponds
Waterbuck *Kobus ellipsiprymnus* – Very common in Kruger when there was some type of water nearby
Springbok *Antidorcas marsupialis*—Only on our first day up near the coast in West Coast National Park
Impala *Aepyceros melampus*—All over the park while we were in Kruger, very confiding
Blesbok *Damaliscus pygargus phillipsi* – At the end of our drive through Verloren Vlei we had a small group just before we got on the asphalt road
Bontebok *Damaliscus pygargus* – Seen in West Coast National Park, very confiding
Blue Wildebeest (Brindled Gnu) *Connochaetes taurinus*—
Gemsbok *Oryx gazella*— Only seen once, at that was by the trout ponds outside of Dullstrom
Cape Fur Seal *Arctocephalus pusillus* – On the rocks around Cape Point National Park
S. Right Whale *Balaena glacialis* – Seen from the dunes at De Hoop Preserve
Common Dolphin *Delphinus capensis* – Only on the pelgic trip, right next to the boat

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (species recorded):

Southern Tree Agama *Acanthocercus atricollis*—Seen on our drive from Satara to Skukuza
Ground Agama *Agama aculeate* Best looks were in the Stony Point penguin colony
Nile Crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus*—Only in Kruger, where there were plentiful
African Leopard Tortoise *Stigmochelys pardalis*—We found two individuals coming to a water hole at De Hoop