



CAPE PENINSULA DAY TRIP, CUSTOM TOUR 10 JANUARY 2018

Dominic Rollinson



African Oystercatcher (Dominic Rollinson)

Highlights: African Oystercatcher, Cape Spurfowl, Spotted Eagle-Owl, Olive Woodpecker, Cape Bulbul, Cape Grassbird, Cape Batis, Orange-breasted Sunbird, Sweet Waxbill, Cape Siskin, Forest Canary

Today I showed Danny from the UK around some of the Cape Peninsula's top birding spots.

After fetching Danny in Rondebosch we made our way to the greenbelts around Constantia, to target a few forest species. The morning started off relatively slow but soon picked up once it started to warm up. Some of the better birds seen included **Common Buzzard, Black Saw-wing, Forest** and **Cape Canary, Common Chaffinch, Cape Bulbul, Sweet Waxbill, Southern Double-collared Sunbird** and **Olive Woodpecker**.

We then moved round the corner to Cecilia Forest, where despite the hot conditions, no raptors were using the thermals. We thus focused on some of the fynbos and forest species and soon came across **Cape Siskin, Cape Grassbird, Neddicky, Karoo Prinia, Cape Batis, Malachite Sunbird** and a flyover **African Olive Pigeon**.



Cape Grassbird (Dominic Rollinson)

The beautiful Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens were next on the itinerary. We made our way to a spot where a pair of Buff-spotted Flufftails had set up a territory, however despite waiting in silence for an hour the birds did not put in an appearance. A friend let me know he saw them later that evening; right place at the right time I guess! We wandered around the well-maintained gardens for a couple hours and came across **Sombre Greenbul, Olive Thrush, Cape Robin-Chat, Bar-throated Apalis, African Paradise** and **African Dusky Flycatchers, Orange-breasted Sunbird** and a **Spotted Eagle-Owl** at its day roost.

After a quick lunch we moved to the Strandfontein Sewage Works, to add a few waterbirds to the list. We soon came across a number of new waterfowl species for the day including **Yellow-billed Duck, Cape Shoveler, Cape Teal, Red-billed Teal, South African Shelduck, Spur-winged Goose**. Waders were also in abundance and included **Common Greenshank, Marsh Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit, Little Stint, Ruff, Three-banded Plover** as well as a few **African Oystercatchers**. Exploring the many pans further yielded **Lesser and Greater Flamingo, Glossy Ibis, White Pelican, White Stork, Intermediate and Little Egret** as well as both **Hartlaub's and Grey-headed Gulls**. A number of species were seen in the adjoining bush such as **Cape Spurfowl, Spotted and Water Thick-knees, African Marsh Harrier, White-necked Raven, Cape Longclaw and Black-shouldered Kite**. The farmland near the sewage works had **Capped Wheatear, Red-capped Lark and African Pipit**.



Cape Shoveler (Dominic Rollinson)

To finish off the day we moved to Rondevlei on the western side of Zeekoeivlei. This little reserve produced a few new species for the day including **Caspian Tern, Wood Sandpiper, Pied** and **Malachite Kingfisher** and a brief sighting of **Little Bittern**.

We finished a thoroughly enjoyable day with a species count of 99.