



FALSE BAY DAY TRIP, CUSTOM TOUR 18 DECEMBER 2017

By Dominic Rollinson



Cape Sugarbird (Dominic Rollinson)

Highlights: Cape Gannet, Bank and Crowned Cormorant, Peregrine Falcon, African Oystercatcher, African Penguin, Cape Spurfowl, Cape & Sentinel Rock Thrush, Cape Rockjumper, Cape Bulbul, Orange-breasted Sunbird, Cape Sugarbird, Sweet Waxbill, Cape Siskin, Bryde's Whale

Today I showed Rosalie from the United States around some of the top birding spots along the eastern shores of False Bay to the east of Cape Town.

After fetching Rosalie from Seepoint we made our way to the small town of Rooi Els which was our first birding destination of the day. The main target here was **Cape Rockjumper** which was surprisingly easy to find today and we eventually managed to find two or three groups, with the birds calling nonstop during our time here. On the rocky slopes we also came across **White-necked Raven**, **Familiar Chat**, **Cape** and **Sentinel Rock Thrush**, **Cape Bunting** and **Cape Siskin**, while both **Rock Kestrel** and **Peregrine Falcon** were seen hunting overhead. We heard a number of Ground Woodpeckers high up on the slopes but unfortunately could not get any visuals. In the fynbos around the village we came across **Orange-breasted Sunbird**, **Cape Bulbul** and many **Cape Sugarbirds**. A single **Cape Gannet** was scoped just offshore as well as a **Bryde's Whale**.

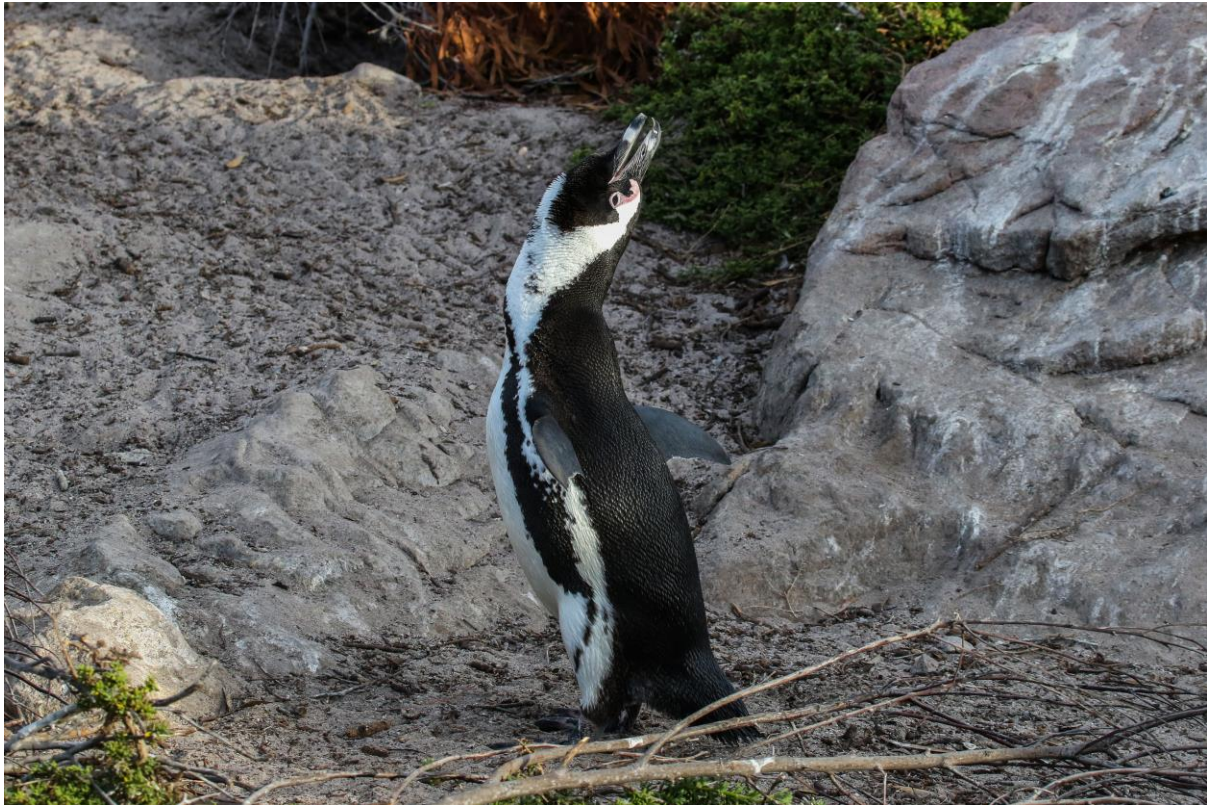


Cape Rockjumper (Dominic Rollinson)

We moved into some nearby fynbos where despite hearing Victorin's Warbler we could not get any views. We did however find **Yellow Bishop**, **Karoo Prinia**, **Southern Double-collared Sunbird**, **Cape White-eye** and **Neddicky**.

From here we moved onto the penguin colony at Stony Point in Betty's Bay. Many **African Penguins** were seen here at point-blank range, affording for some nice photographic opportunities. We also saw **Cape**, **Crowned** and **Bank Cormorant** breeding on the nearby

rocks. **Hartlaub's** and **Kelp Gulls** were seen nearby, as well as a flyby **African Oystercatcher**. **Rock Dassies** were seen lazing about the rocks in among the penguins.



African Penguin (Dominic Rollinson)

Next stop was the beautiful Harold Porter Botanical Gardens. Here we added **Cape Spurfowl**, **Fiscal** and **African Dusky Flycatcher**, **Speckled Mousebird**, **White-necked Raven**, **Olive Thrush**, **Sombre Greenbul**, **Cape Batis**, **Cape Robin-Chat**, **Brimstone Canary** and **Swee Waxbill**.

From Betty's Bay we made our way back toward Cape Town, however decided to pop in briefly to Strandfontein Sewage Works, to add a few waterbirds to the list. Unfortunately the wind was blowing a gale which meant many of the waterfowl were not as visible as normally, however we did add **Yellow-billed Duck**, **Cape Shoveler**, **Cape Teal** and **Spur-winged Goose**. Waders were also in abundance and included **Common Greenshank**, **Marsh and Curlew Sandpiper**, **Little Stint**, **Ruff**, **Grey Plover** as well as a single **African Snipe**. Exploring the many pans further yielded **Greater Flamingo**, **Glossy Ibis**, **White-throated Swallow**, **Cape Spurfowl**, **Spotted Thick-knee** and **Black-shouldered Kite**.

We finished a thoroughly enjoyable day with a species count of 81 with many new species for Rosalie.