



## 1-DAY JOHANNESBURG – HIGHVELD AND WETLANDS BIRDING TOUR



*Cape Shoveler is fairly common at Marievale Bird Sanctuary.*

Our birding guide will fetch you after breakfast from your hotel anywhere in the Johannesburg/Pretoria area, and take you first to Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve in the morning, then to Marievale wetlands in the afternoon.

Suikerbosrand is a remarkably wild area surprisingly close to Johannesburg. It is wonderful being able to get right away from the city so easily, soon seeing various antelope species, zebra, and a plethora of excellent grassland and bushveld birds here in this hilly reserve. The avian pickings include a fine suite of southern African endemics, some generally uncommon birds, and many very showy birds, such as **Red-throated Wryneck**, **Grey-winged Francolin**, **Kalahari Scrub Robin**, **Bokmakierie**, **Mocking Cliff Chat**, **Sentinel Rock Thrush** (winter only), **Eastern Long-billed Lark**, **Black-chested Prinia**, **Mountain Wheatear**, **African Red-eyed Bulbul**, a fine collection of spectacular widowbirds, bishops, and whydahs, **Marsh Owl** and even **African Grass Owl** and **Orange-breasted Waxbill**, and a great many other species.



*The massive **Goliath Heron** can be seen at Marievale Bird Sanctuary.*

After lunch, we head to Marievale, which is an extensive and very bird-rich wetland only half an hour's drive from Suikerbosrand. Marievale provides an awesome opportunity to see a completely different suite of birds compared to those you will have encountered in the morning. A rich assemblage of waterbirds awaits us, such as **Goliath**, **Squacco**, and **Black Heron**, **Malachite** and **Pied Kingfisher**, **Cape Shoveler**, **African Rail**, and with luck some skulkers such as **Baillon's Crake** and **Red-chested Flufftail**. There is also a chance of finding **African Clawless Otter** here.

The guide for day trips is allocated only after you have booked, as all of them are run as private trips. But we always use the country's top birding guides.

**Duration:** 1 day

**Start:** Johannesburg/Pretoria

**End:** Johannesburg/Pretoria

**Price:** R5,500 for one person (then R500 per extra person)