

# Western South Africa: Cape Endemics, Namaqualand Wildflowers and the Kalahari

25 August - 06 September 2025 By Zach Simpson



Namaqualand at this time of the year has some of the most dazzling flowers.



#### **Overview**

The tour (co-guided with <u>Dylan Vasapolli</u>) started in Cape Town where we got our first taste of the endemic birding in the fynbos. We enjoyed top specials like **Victorin's Warbler**, **Cape Rockjumper**, **Orange-breasted Sunbird**, **Cape Sugarbird**, **Cape Siskin**, and a few others. Some wetland birding was also rewarding with birds like **Maccoa Duck**, **White-backed Duck**, and **Knob-billed Duck**. Amazingly, we also managed to see two flufftail species on this western South Africa tour; **Striped Flufftail** was also seen during our time around Cape Town, while **Redchested Flufftail** was seen during our time in the west coast farmlands.



Cape Rockjumper is one of the most iconic endemics from this area.

Heading up the west coast we were met with more specials like **Cape Long-billed**, **Cape Clapper**, and **Karoo Larks** and then, further north, **Protea Canary** near Clanwilliam. Our time around Springbok produced **Karoo Eremomela** and **Cinnamon-breasted Warbler**. Further west, on our day trip to Port Nolloth, we had **Dune** (**Barlow's**) **Lark**. Our time around Pofadder produced some tough nomadic species such as **Stark's** and **Sclater's Lark**, as well as **Black-eared Sparrow-Lark**. Other specials included **Red Lark** and **Karoo Korhaan**.

On our way to the Kgalagadi we stopped in at Augrabies Falls where we were treated to the likes of **Namaqua Warbler** and **Black Stork**, and later in the trip we had **Rosy-faced Lovebirds** in a similar area. The Kgalagadi produced some great species including five owl species and other raptors such as **Bateleur**, **Tawny Eagle**, **Secretarybird**, **Lanner**, **Pygmy**, and **Red-necked** 



Falcons. Lappet-faced and White-backed Vultures were also seen. Burchell's Sandgrouse, Kori Bustard, and Common Ostrich were also among the avian highlights.

Mammals were also well represented during the trip. Bryde's Whale was a firm favorite around Cape Town. As we moved north, we had Large Gray and Cape Mongoose, Steenbok, Bush Duiker, Mountain Zebra, Gemsbok, Eland, Greater Kudu, Bontebok, and Springbok. A night drive from Pofadder produced Springhare, Aardwolf, and Bat-eared Fox. The Kgalagadi rounded up the mammals well, adding Red Hartebeest, Cape Fox, Small-spotted Genet, African Wildcat, and Leopard.



**Orange-breasted Sunbird** is one of the more common endemics around Cape Town.

#### **Detailed Report**

# Day 1, 25th August 2025. Birding Cape Town and its Wetlands

After meeting up at our accommodation in the late morning, we set out for our first bit of birding of the tour. Our first stop was at Rondebosch Common, where our main target was **Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk**. A little bit of patience paid off and we were treated to outstanding views of a pair. We observed them feeding, mating, and nest building. We also saw **Karoo Prinia**, **Levaillant's Cisticola**, Cape Buzzard (not a valid species), and a few others.

From there we made a quick stop at Woolworths to get some lunch. We got what we needed and proceeded to Strandfontein Sewage Works, where we started off with a quick picnic. From here we headed into the sewage works. We were treated to thousands of waterfowl, ibises, and gulls.



Our first stop produced Fulvous Whistling Duck, Cape Shoveler, Cape Teal, Yellow-billed Duck, Southern Pochard, and a few others. We also encountered a Mallard, which was accompanied by a mixed bag of emotions towards this invasive species. The next stop produced Cape Canary, Little Rush and Lesser Swamp Warblers, White-throated and Barn Swallows, and Brown-throated Martins. We also encountered a single Greater Flamingo a little further on. Heading to one of the busier pans, we were greeted with large numbers of waterfowl. Eared Grebe was abundant and far outnumbered the Little Grebes. The most exciting species was Maccoa Duck, with about 20 individuals present. Further along we encountered some White-backed Ducks, which were a great addition to the waterfowl so far. Other species of note were African Swamphen, Great White Pelican, Cape Spurfowl, Pin-tailed Whydah, and Pied Avocet. African Sacred Ibises, Kelp Gull, and Hartlaub's Gulls were present in their thousands around the pans.

Before heading back to the accommodation, we made a quick stop at Philippi Wetlands. Here we added vagrant **Knob-billed Ducks**, a **Black-crowned Night Heron**, **White-faced Whistling Ducks**, and a few others. This wrapped up the birding for the day. We enjoyed a nice supper out, did our checklists for the day, and then called it a night.



Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk was one of the first targets we saw.

### Day 2, 26th August 2025. Rooi-Els and Betty's Bay

We started with an early morning as we headed towards Rooi-Els. After enjoying the scenic route along Clarence Drive we stopped at a site for **Striped Flufftail**. This proved very successful and there were smiles all round after getting fleeting views of this species. We then enjoyed a coffee



with some more Woolworths treats before doing a bit of birding in a similar area. Here we got views of **Orange-breasted Sunbird**, **Yellow Bishop**, and a few others. We then moved on to the main site at Rooi-Els to look for **Cape Rockjumper**. Unfortunately, the wind was blasting and we only got poor distant views of them. We transferred to one of our back-up spots where we were able to get much better views of a pair on the boulder-strewn hillsides. We then made a quick visit to Stony Point to see the **African Penguins**. We were also greeted with **Crowned**, **Bank**, **Cape**, and **Great Cormorants**. A flyby of **Caspian Tern** was a good addition.



**Crowned Cormorant** feeding chicks at Stony Point.

Lunch was had at Harold Porter Botanical Gardens. After lunch we had a walk around the gardens, adding a number of good species. We quickly got **Swee Waxbill**, **Fiscal Flycatcher**, **Malachite Sunbird**, and a few others. We made headway to the top of the gardens where we spent some time looking for **Victorin's Warbler**. We had great success with everyone in the group getting good views of this tough species. Other more common species included **Streaky-headed Seedeater**, **Cape Grassbird**, **Cape Batis**, and **Bar-throated Apalis**. **Verreaux's Eagle** and **Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk** also made a flyby. We wrapped it up at Harold Porter and made headway towards Cape Town. On the way, a quick stop at a viewpoint along Clarence Drive produced a **Bryde's Whale**. This was a great addition to our fledgling mammal list. Other mammals for the day included **Chacma Baboon**, **Cape Fur Seal**, and **Rock Hyrax**. This wrapped up our day of birding.



Southern Double-collared Sunbirds were plentiful around Cape Town.

## Day 3, 27th August 2025. Morning Birding at Kirstenbosch before transfer to Langebaan

A slightly later start with a fantastic sit-down breakfast at our accommodation was followed by a short stint of birding at Cecilia Forest for Cape Siskin. As the sun started to warm the area up, we were treated to good-sized flocks of these cool little endemics. We then moved on to Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. While enjoying the magnificent gardens we also had some good bird activity. We started with a Spotted Eagle-Owl roosting at the garden entrance. We proceeded to search some of the more forested parts of the garden for Lemon Dove, but, unfortunately, we were unable to locate any. However, Forest Canary, Olive Woodpecker, Swee Waxbill, and Common Chaffinch (introduced) kept us busy. Further up in the gardens we had very obliging Cape Spurfowl, Amethyst Sunbird, Brimstone Canary, Fork-tailed Drongo, and a few other species. The interesting Elgin Buzzard also put on a show. This bird is not a recognized species and is not well understood. It is possibly a population of hybrid Common and Forest Buzzards. A Black Sparrowhawk also put in a quick flyby.

After our Botanical Gardens stint, we headed out towards the west coast and had a quick stint of birding around Silwerstroomstrand. Here we added **Cape Penduline Tit** to the list. A small reserve, Tienie Versfeld, also known for its great flowers, produced the Cape form of Cloud Cisticola. Other additions were **Pearl-breasted Swallow**, **Cape Longclaw**, **Large-billed** and **Red-capped Larks**, as well as **Egyptian Mongoose** and **Steenbok**.

Birding the area southwest of Darling along a gravel road was next on the agenda. Here we had great views of **Red-chested Flufftail**. We also had **Wattled** and **Pied Starlings**, **Southern Red** 



and Yellow Bishops, Cape Weaver, Capped Wheatear, and Southern Black Korhaan. We then proceeded and checked into the accommodation. We finished off the day with great calamari on the edge of the lagoon.



**Red-chested Flufftail** was our second flufftail sighting of the trip.

## Day 4, 28th August 2025. Flowers and larks

With sunrise only being at around 7 o'clock in the morning and with our birding very close to where we were staying, we ate breakfast at 7 o'clock, before heading out. Our first spot was some open strandveld birding where we got White-throated and Yellow Canaries, Gray-winged Francolin, Long-billed Crombec, and the stars of the show, Cape Clapper and Cape Long-billed Larks. We also had more Red-capped and Large-billed Larks, as well as a distant calling Karoo Lark. We would have to work harder to get views of a Karoo Lark.

We then headed into West Coast National Park where we had a coffee stop not far from Geelbek Hide. Our coffee and rusks were accompanied by a covey of very friendly **Cape Spurfowl**. We then headed to the Geelbek Hide where we added **Common Greenshank**, **Eurasian Whimbrel**, **Marsh** and **Curlew Sandpipers**, and **Sandwich Tern**. By this time things were starting to warm up slightly and the sun started to get through the cloud bank that had formed. This was a good sign as our next stop was the flowers. We then headed to the Postberg Nature Reserve section of the national park. Along the way we connected with a **Black Harrier**. This was a great special to finally get in the bag. We also saw a few **Common Ostriches**, the first of the wild 'genuine' ostriches we would see.



The flowers were immaculate, with all different colors splashed across the landscape. The group enjoyed the flowers as well as the inhabitants of the area. Much time was spent photographing more common species in the flowers. We even saw a **Black-headed Heron** on two occasions catch and eat a rodent from within the flowers. Our lunch spot in the reserve near the sea produced **Cape Gannet**. This was a bird the group was very keen to see. On the way out of the reserve we added some good mammals including **Gemsbok**, **Mountain Zebra**, **Springbok**, **Bontebok**, and **Greater Kudu**. Heading back into West Coast National Park we stopped at another hide in search of **Black Crake** and **African Rail**. Unfortunately, we only heard these species and did not manage to get views. We then made a stop at Seeberg Hide on the way out. The walkway produced **Gray Tit**, this was one of the last strandveld birds we needed. We also got **White-fronted Plover** and **Common Terns** from the hide.

We then enjoyed some rest at the accommodation, followed by another great dinner. After dinner we went out in search of nocturnal species. We managed brief views of **Fiery-necked Nightjars**. **Bush Duiker** also made a brief appearance.



Spectacular flowers were the perfect backdrop for this Black-headed Heron.

# Day 5, 29th August 2025. Transfer to Springbok

Our day started off with another breakfast around 7 o'clock at our accommodation. From here we packed up and headed to a site just outside of town. Our main target was **Karoo Lark**. Within no time we had a bird displaying not far away. The group managed to get good views of it displaying and sitting on a nearby bush. From here we started making our way towards Jacob's Bay. Along the way we saw a few pairs of South Africa's national bird, the **Blue Crane**. At Jacobs Bay we



enjoyed a large flock of **Antarctic Terns** on a roost. The birds were going into breeding plumage in preparation for heading south to breed. We then continued to Velddrif. Here we had our coffee stop in the middle of the salt pans. We added a number of good species to our list, including **Chestnut-banded Plover**, **Great Crested Grebe**, **Whiskered Tern**, and the local rarities, the **Red-necked Phalaropes**. We then started with the first leg of our journey north. We drove for about two hours before making another stop just outside Clanwilliam. This was a strategic lunch spot, with the hopes of finding **Protea Canary**. After a quick bite to eat we headed up the road. After a bit of time we heard one calling and the whole group was able to get good views of this tricky species. Other notable species included **Layard's Warbler**, **Streaky-headed Seedeater**, and **Fairy Flycatcher**.



We spent some time with a large Antarctic Tern roost at Jacob's Bay.

From here we had roughly another three hours' drive north. The Karoo had good rain and was looking stunning. There were flowers everywhere. A leg stretch halfway through produced **Rufous-eared Warbler**. We then continued to our accommodation in Springbok for a good rest after one of our longer days of travel. Our supper was had at the local steakhouse. This was a fantastic way to finish off the day.

# Day 6, 30th August 2025. Day trip to Port Nolloth

The day started with us heading out towards Port Nolloth, about an hour and a half's drive from Springbok. From Port Nolloth we headed about 12 miles (20 km) north. Here our main target was **Dune** (Barlow's) **Lark**. We had a slight issue in the sand as we pulled off the road, however we



dropped the tire pressure and were out in no time. Very soon we had a number of larks displaying. It took a bit of time to get scope views of a bird that landed on a distant bush. Unfortunately, we could not get closer views. We then had our morning coffee. During this time, we had **Blackheaded Canary** and **Namaqua Sandgrouse**. We also managed good views of **Rufous-eared Warbler** and **Tractrac Chat**. A bit of time was spent at Port Nolloth watching the bay. We were hoping for some whales and dolphins. We only managed brief views of a breaching whale, most likely **Southern Right**, but we were unable to confirm. A few birds were seen here, with **White-chinned Petrel** being new for the trip. We then started our journey back to Springbok. We made a few stops on the way home, with not much of major interest, however we did see a **Black Harrier** flying through.

After grabbing some lunch, we headed back to the accommodation for some down time. At around four o'clock we headed out again for a drive along a public dirt road past Goegap Nature Reserve. This was a very productive afternoon. Within no time, we had a pair of **Karoo Eremomelas** and some **Karoo Chats**. We then headed to a spot where the road passed close to rocky outcrops. Here we had views of a pair of **Cinnamon-breasted Warblers**. Heading back along the same road, only this time a bit slower, we added **Acacia Pied Barbet**, **Spike-heeled Lark**, **Southern Anteater-Chat** and **Mountain Chat**, as well as better scope views of **Black-headed Canary**. After supper we headed out for a short night drive. Here we were able to get good views of a **Freckled Nightjar**.



Karoo Eremomelas were more abundant with all the greenery around!



#### Day 7, 31st August 2025. Goegap Nature Reserve and transfer to Pofadder

Having seen pretty much all the targets for this area so far, we were able to set aside some time to focus on the flowers. After a later start with breakfast at about 8 o'clock, we arrived at Goegap Nature Reserve. We started our birding around the visitors' area. Here we added **Pririt Batis**, **Cardinal Woodpecker**, and finally **Ground Woodpecker**. We also had better repeat views of **Layard's Warbler**, **Fairy Flycatcher**, **Dusky Sunbird**, and some others.

We then went to one of the picnic sites for our morning coffee. Here we had another **Cinnamon-breasted Warbler**. Another very cool addition was a **Noki (Dassie Rat)** that was collecting nesting material around the rocks. We then moved on, with our focus on the flowers. We were treated to a **Many-horned Adder** crossing the road, which caused great excitement. Pushing forward, we spent the next few hours observing the incredible flower spectacle. Some valleys contained more pink, orange, and yellow than green. It was as though a colorful carpet covered the valley floors. A few birds were added during this time. These included **Nicholson's Pipit** and **Stark's Lark** (guide only).



Many-horned Adder was a cool non-avian highlight.

After our time in the reserve, we enjoyed a lunch at Wimpy and then transferred to Pofadder to check in to our new accommodation. Once checked in, we had a short break before heading out onto a public dirt road to see what we could find. It proved to be rather successful. We found a pair of **Double-banded Coursers** as well as **Karoo Long-billed Lark**, **Gray-backed Sparrow-Lark**, **Namaqua Sandgrouse**, **Sociable Weaver**, and a large number of **Lark-like Buntings** and **Spike-heeled Larks**.



#### Day 8, 1st September 2025. Full day around Pofadder

We had two major lark targets during this day. Unfortunately, they were both about an hour away on opposite ends of Pofadder. This meant we had an earlier start and were on the road at 6:30 am. We arrived at Koa Dunes sometime after 7 am. On the dirt road into this area, we had our first views of Northern Black Korhaan. When we arrived at the dunes, in no time we had a displaying Red Lark just off the road. This led to great views shortly after, when a bird perched on a bush and then the fence. We also had a few Fawn-coloured Larks perched up, which was another new bird for the trip. Once we had our lark in the bag, we drank our coffee watching some nearby drinking troughs. Here we were able to watch many bird species, some with hundreds of individuals coming down to drink. These included Sociable Weaver, Namaqua Dove, Redheaded Finch, Namaqua Sandgrouse, Gray-backed Sparrow-Lark and, more abundantly, Lark-like Buntings. Heading out of this area we also managed to get distant views of Eastern Clapper Lark.



Sclater's Lark was one of the toughest birds to see on the trip.

We then went back to Pofadder, made a quick stop, got some lunch for later on, and then headed out in the other direction, this time in hopes of finding **Sclater's Lark**. Shortly after we got onto the dirt road, we had views of **Karoo Korhaan**, one that we were really hoping to see in this area. We made a few other short stops as we headed to our **Sclater's Lark** spot. Some of these stops were at small dams or distant water troughs. These added a few new birds such as **South African Shelduck** and, for some, **Black-throated Canary**. These places with water often held thousands of **Lark-like Buntings** and **Gray-backed Sparrow-Larks**. Another quick stop produced another



**Double-banded Courser**. We eventually arrived on the plains where we looked for the **Sclater's Lark**. Thankfully we had two individuals out on the plains. We then turned around and headed back towards Pofadder. Despite the heat, we added two new mammals, **Yellow Mongoose** and **Meerkat**.

We got back to our accommodation at around 3 pm and rested for a few hours. We planned on heading out on a night drive after supper. The night drive was a success on the mammal front. Unfortunately, we did not see the main bird target, Cape Eagle-Owl. Nevertheless, we had a number of mammals including **Aardwolf**, **Springhare**, **Bat-eared Fox**, **Steenbok**, and a hare species (either Cape or Scrub).



Our views of the ant-eating **Aardwolf** were unbeatable.

#### Day 9, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2025. Transfer to Kgalagadi National Park

Another travel day lay ahead of us, but we started with about an hour of birding on roads just outside Pofadder. We headed straight out to rocky plains. Here the birds played ball and, in no time, we had fantastic views of **Stark's Lark** and then a single male **Black-eared Sparrow-Lark**.

After breakfast at the hotel we started the journey to our lodge in the Kalahari. On the way we made a stop at Augrabies Falls. Here we spent some time walking around the camp in search of targets. Our main target was **Namaqua Warbler**, we heard one calling in a reedbed on the edge of the camp and, after some time, managed to get views. We also had **Orange River White-eye**, **Crested Barbet**, and **Golden-tailed Woodpecker**. After lunch at the restaurant we went for a walk to see the falls. We added **Black Stork** and had good views of a **Verreaux's Eagle** flying overhead. There was also a big flock of **Alpine Swifts** around. Continuing, we headed towards



Upington. On this road we had our first **Pygmy Falcon**. Once in Upington we refueled and then started heading north towards the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. Another stop along the road produced **Yellow-bellied Eremomela**. We arrived at our accommodation a little while before dark. We were welcomed by a friendly pair of **Crimson-breasted Shrikes**. This was a colorful end to the day.



Stark's Lark put on an incredible show in the golden morning light.

#### Day 10, 3 August 2025. Full day along the Nossob riverbed and night drive

Today was a day long awaited, a full-day drive into the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. We started the morning at around 5:30 am with a quick coffee. We then proceeded to the park gate where we met our ranger. After transferring to our open vehicle, we set off into the vast expanse of the Kgalagadi. One of our first stops was for a roosting **Spotted Eagle-Owl**. The second stop was for a family of **Southern White-faced Owls**. As we continued, we saw a herd of **Springbok** all standing alert, looking down the dry riverbed. Suddenly, a male Leopard walked into view. We watched the **Leopard** walk right past the vehicle, accompanied by two **Black-backed Jackals** alerting the area to its presence. It slowly headed over the dune and disappeared. We spent the rest of the day driving the Nossob riverbed. One of the highlights was later on at a waterhole, where we had large numbers of **Burchell's Sandgrouse** coming down to drink. While we were watching them a **Red-necked Falcon** swooped down and took a **Cape Sparrow**.





Burchell's Sandgrouse was a firm favorite in the Kgalagadi.

Other notable sightings for the day included **Ashy Tit**, **Swallow-tailed Bee-eater**, **Crimson-breasted Shrike**, **Kori Bustard**, **Lappet-faced Vulture**, **Tawny** and **Martial Eagles**, **Western Barn** and **Verreaux's Eagle-Owls**, and **Lanner Falcons**. Unusually, we also had a **Ruff** walking along the gravel road. **Red Hartebeest** was another addition to our mammal list. Once our drive was over, we spent the afternoon at leisure. The group opted for a night drive back into the reserve. At 5:30 pm we were back in the park. This proved to be a great success, with a large number of nocturnal mammals. These included **Small-spotted Genet**, **Bat-eared** and **Cape Fox**, **Springhare**, and **African Wildcat**. This was a nice way to wrap up the day.

#### Day 11, 4th August 2025. Second full day in the Kgalagadi

Our second day in the park was a little quieter than the first. We headed up the dry Auob riverbed. As we entered the riverbed, we had large numbers of Northern Black Korhaan. We managed to pick out a single Red-crested among them. Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill was also added to our trip list. We saw the same plains game, however, we also saw a herd of Greater Kudu. The Kgalagadi must be one of the top destinations to see roosting owls during the day. Once again, we had a large number of Spotted Eagle, Southern White-faced, and Barn Owls. Remarkable features of this reserve are the little cosmopolitan cities created by the massive Sociable Weaver nests. During our time in the Kgalagadi we observed a number of different species benefiting from these nests, including Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, Western Barn Owl, Spotted Eagle-Owl, Pygmy Falcon, and Small-spotted Genet. Eventually we had to say goodbye to the park and started heading south again. We were due to spend one night on route to Upington. Our drive to our next



accommodation produced **White-backed Vultures** and **Pearl-spotted Owlet** on the side of the road. These were major targets for this area. The rest of the afternoon was spent at leisure.



This male **Leopard** was one of the highlights of the Kgalagadi.



The unique Bateleur gave us nice close views in the Kgalagadi.



## Day 12, 5th August 2025. Transfer back to Upington

The day started with a sit-down breakfast at our accommodation at 7 o'clock. We then spent some time on the lodge grounds. The lodge was like a green oasis and attracted lots of birds. We started with **Red-billed Firefinch**, and then had a flyover **Red-billed Oxpecker**. We also had a brief view of a **Southern White-crowned Shrike** as it passed through. A **Pearl-spotted Owlet** caused quite a stir. We had a number of new birds mobbing the owlet, including **Black-faced Waxbill**, **Greenwinged Pytilia**, **Cinnamon-breasted Bunting**, and **Southern Pied Babbler**. We then packed up our things and left our accommodation. Before we bombed down to Upington we spent a bit of time driving a gravel road through some sparse acacia woodland in search of a few remaining species from this area. We were able to connect with **African Gray Hornbill** and **Red-billed Buffalo Weaver**.

This rounded off our time in this area well. We made a few stops along the road on the gravel plains before Upington to look for Burchell's Courser, but unfortunately had no luck. We then continued on our way and checked into our accommodation. At around 3 pm we headed out again, this time in search of a rather colorful bird that really contrasted with all the larks we had been seeing. Our first stop proved unsuccessful but our next stop, at the Orange River, proved very successful. As we were standing on the bridge we heard our target, **Rosy-faced Lovebird**, calling. Soon we had incredible views of about six pairs in the vegetation along the river. We also had a few **African Black Ducks** and **African Pied Wagtail** along the river. We enjoyed our last dinner together at the local steakhouse.



Secretarybird, a strange raptor, was seen on a few occasions.



# Day 13, 6th August 2025. Departure

Our last morning was spent on the accommodation grounds. We spent about an hour at the Orange River. Here we saw some good birds including **Hamerkop**, **African Fish Eagle**, and **Squacco** and **Striated Herons**. We also had repeat views of **South African Shelduck**, **African Black Duck**, and **Namaqua Warbler**.

We then enjoyed a full breakfast together, followed by our goodbyes and a short trip to the airport where we all went our own ways.



Sociable Weavers and their giant nests were commonly seen in the Kgalagadi.

## Western South Africa Bird List - Following IOC (15.1 / March 2025)

Birds 'heard only' are marked with (H) after the common name, all other species were seen.

The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following the IUCN Red List:

CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Ostriches (Struthionidae)	
Common Ostrich	Struthio camelus
Ducks, Geese, Swans (Anatidae) - 15	5 / 174
White-faced Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna viduata
Fulvous Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna bicolor
White-backed Duck	Thalassornis leuconotus
Spur-winged Goose	Plectropterus gambensis
Knob-billed Duck	Sarkidiornis melanotos
Egyptian Goose	Alopochen aegyptiaca
South African Shelduck	Tadorna cana
Cape Shoveler	Spatula smithii
African Black Duck	Anas sparsa
Yellow-billed Duck	Anas undulata
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos
Cape Teal	Anas capensis
Red-billed Teal	Anas erythrorhyncha
Southern Pochard	Netta erythrophthalma
Maccoa Duck - EN	Oxyura maccoa
Guineafowl (Numididae)	
Helmeted Guineafowl	Numida meleagris
Pheasants & Allies (Phasianidae)	
Grey-winged Francolin	Scleroptila afra
Common Quail	Coturnix coturnix
Cape Spurfowl	Pternistis capensis
Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)	
Fiery-necked Nightjar	Caprimulgus pectoralis
Freckled Nightjar	Caprimulgus tristigma
Swifts (Apodidae)	
African Palm Swift	Cypsiurus parvus



Common Name	Scientific Name
Alpine Swift	Tachymarptis melba
Bradfield's Swift	Apus bradfieldi
Little Swift	Apus affinis
Bustards (Otididae)	
Kori Bustard	Ardeotis kori
Karoo Korhaan	Heterotetrax vigorsii
Red-crested Korhaan	Lophotis ruficrista
Southern Black Korhaan - VU	Afrotis afra
Northern Black Korhaan	Afrotis afraoides
Cuckoos (Cuculidae)	
Klaas's Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx klaas
Sandgrouse (Pteroclidae)	
Namaqua Sandgrouse	Pterocles namaqua
Burchell's Sandgrouse	Pterocles burchelli
Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)	
Rock Dove	Columba livia
Speckled Pigeon	Columba guinea
Red-eyed Dove	Streptopelia semitorquata
Ring-necked Dove	Streptopelia capicola
Laughing Dove	Spilopelia senegalensis
Namaqua Dove	Oena capensis
Flufftails & Forest Rails (Sarothi	ruridae)
Red-chested Flufftail	Sarothrura rufa
Striped Flufftail	Sarothrura affinis
Rails, Crakes & Coots (Rallidae)	
African Rail (H)	Rallus caerulescens
Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus
Red-knobbed Coot	Fulica cristata
African Swamphen	Porphyrio madagascariensis
Black Crake (H)	Zapornia flavirostra
Cranes (Gruidae)	
Blue Crane - VU	Grus paradisea
Grebes (Podicipedidae)	
Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis
Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus
Black-necked Grebe	Podiceps nigricollis
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Common Name	Scientific Name
Flamingos (Phoenicopteridae)	
Greater Flamingo	Phoenicopterus roseus
Lesser Flamingo	Phoeniconaias minor
Stone-curlews, Thick-knees (Bur	,
Spotted Thick-knee	Burhinus capensis
Water Thick-knee	Burhinus vermiculatus
Oystercatchers (Haematopodida	ne)
African Oystercatcher	Haematopus moquini
Stilts, Avocets (Recurvirostridae	
Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus
Pied Avocet	Recurvirostra avosetta
Plovers (Charadriidae)	
Grey Plover - VU	Pluvialis squatarola
Three-banded Plover	Charadrius tricollaris
Blacksmith Lapwing	Vanellus armatus
Crowned Lapwing	Vanellus coronatus
Kittlitz's Plover	Anarhynchus pecuarius
Chestnut-banded Plover	Anarhynchus pallidus
White-fronted Plover	Anarhynchus marginatus
Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopacida	
Eurasian Whimbrel	Numenius phaeopus
Bar-tailed Godwit	Limosa lapponica
Red-necked Phalarope	Phalaropus lobatus
Terek Sandpiper	Xenus cinereus
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos
Marsh Sandpiper	Tringa stagnatilis
Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola
Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia
Ruff	Calidris pugnax
Curlew Sandpiper - VU	Calidris ferruginea
Sanderling	Calidris alba
Little Stint	Calidris minuta
Coursers, Pratincoles (Glareolidae)	
Double-banded Courser	Rhinoptilus africanus
Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae	
Caspian Tern	Hydroprogne caspia



Common Name	Scientific Name
Whiskered Tern	Chlidonias hybrida
Antarctic Tern	Sterna vittata
Common Tern	Sterna hirundo
Sandwich Tern	Thalasseus sandvicensis
Greater Crested Tern	Thalasseus bergii
Hartlaub's Gull	Chroicocephalus hartlaubii
Kelp Gull	Larus dominicanus
Penguins (Spheniscidae)	
African Penguin - CR	Spheniscus demersus
Petrels, Shearwaters, Diving Petre	els (Procellariidae)
White-chinned Petrel - VU	Procellaria aequinoctialis
Winte-chimical retrei - VO	1 roceitaria aequinocitatis
Storks (Ciconiidae)	
Black Stork	Ciconia nigra
Gannets, Boobies (Sulidae)	
Cape Gannet - EN	Morus capensis
•	•
Anhingas, Darters (Anhingidae)	
African Darter	Anhinga rufa
Cormorants, Shags (Phalacrocora	cidae)
Reed Cormorant	Microcarbo africanus
Crowned Cormorant	Microcarbo coronatus
Bank Cormorant - EN	Phalacrocorax neglectus
Cape Cormorant - EN	Phalacrocorax capensis
Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo
Ibises, Spoonbills (Threskiornithic	T
African Sacred Ibis	Threskiornis aethiopicus
Hadada Ibis	Bostrychia hagedash
Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus
African Spoonbill	Platalea alba
Herons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)	
Black-crowned Night Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta
Little Heron	Butorides atricapilla
Squacco Heron	Ardeola ralloides
Western Cattle Egret	Ardea ibis
Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea
Black-headed Heron	Ardea melanocephala
	steetetemic copilotto



Common Name	Scientific Name
Hamerkop (Scopidae)	
Hamerkop	Scopus umbretta
Pelicans (Pelecanidae)	
Great White Pelican	Pelecanus onocrotalus
Secretarybird (Sagittariidae)	
Secretarybird - EN	Sagittarius serpentarius
beeletary on a Div	Sagitter tus serpenter tus
Kites, Hawks, Eagles (Accipitrida	ne)
Black-winged Kite	Elanus caeruleus
Lappet-faced Vulture - EN	Torgos tracheliotos
White-backed Vulture - CR	Gyps africanus
Bateleur - EN	Terathopius ecaudatus
Black-chested Snake Eagle	Circaetus pectoralis
Martial Eagle - EN	Polemaetus bellicosus
Tawny Eagle - VU	Aquila rapax
Verreaux's Eagle	Aquila verreauxii
Gabar Goshawk	Micronisus gabar
Pale Chanting Goshawk	Melierax canorus
Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk	Accipiter rufiventris
Black Sparrowhawk	Astur melanoleucus
Black Harrier - EN	Circus maurus
African Marsh Harrier	Circus ranivorus
Yellow-billed Kite	Milvus aegyptius
African Fish Eagle	Icthyophaga vocifer
Jackal Buzzard	Buteo rufofuscus
Barn Owls (Tytonidae)	
Western Barn Owl	Tyto alba
Owls (Strigidae)	I
Pearl-spotted Owlet	Glaucidium perlatum
Southern White-faced Owl	Ptilopsis granti
Spotted Eagle-Owl	Bubo africanus
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	Ketupa lactea
Mousebirds (Coliidae)	
Speckled Mousebird	Colius striatus
White-backed Mousebird	Colius colius
Red-faced Mousebird	Urocolius indicus



Common Name	Scientific Name
Hoopoes (Upupidae)	
Eurasian Hoopoe	Upupa epops
•	
Wood Hoopoes (Phoeniculidae)	
Common Scimitarbill	Rhinopomastus cyanomelas
Hornbills (Bucerotidae)	
Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	Tockus leucomelas
African Grey Hornbill	Lophoceros nasutus
Rollers (Coraciidae)	
Purple Roller	Coracias naevius
Lilac-breasted Roller	Coracias caudatus
Lifac-bleasted Roller	Coracias canadius
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)	1
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	Halcyon albiventris
Pied Kingfisher	Ceryle rudis
Bee-eaters (Meropidae)	
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	Merops hirundineus
White-fronted Bee-eater	Merops bullockoides
African Barbets (Lybiidae)	
Crested Barbet	Trachyphonus vaillantii
Acacia Pied Barbet	Tricholaema leucomelas
Treacta Fred Barbet	Trenouena teneomens
Woodpeckers (Picidae)	1
Ground Woodpecker	Geocolaptes olivaceus
Golden-tailed Woodpecker	Campethera abingoni
Cardinal Woodpecker	Dendropicos fuscescens
Olive Woodpecker	Dendropicos griseocephalus
Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)	D 1/1
Pygmy Falcon	Polihierax semitorquatus
Rock Kestrel	Falco rupicolus
Greater Kestrel	Falco rupicoloides
Red-necked Falcon	Falco chicquera
Lanner Falcon	Falco biarmicus
Old World Parrots (Psittaculidae)	1
Rosy-faced Lovebird	Agapornis roseicollis
Wattle-eyes, Batises (Platysteiridae)	
Cape Batis	Batis capensis



Common Name	Scientific Name
Pririt Batis	Batis pririt
<b>Bushshrikes</b> (Malaconotidae)	
Bokmakierie	Telophorus zeylonus
Southern Boubou	Laniarius ferrugineus
Crimson-breasted Shrike	Laniarius atrococcineus
Brubru	Nilaus afer
Drongos (Dicruridae)	
Fork-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus adsimilis
Shrikes (Laniidae)	
Southern White-crowned Shrike	Eurocephalus anguitimens
Southern Fiscal	Lanius collaris
~ 5 SWILLIAM I 100MI	Serving Cover is
Crows, Jays (Corvidae)	1
Cape Crow	Corvus capensis
Pied Crow	Corvus albus
White-necked Raven	Corvus albicollis
Rockjumpers (Chaetopidae)	
Cape Rockjumper	Chaetops frenatus
Fairy Flycatchers (Stenostiridae)	
Fairy Flycatcher	Stenostira scita
Tits, Chickadees (Paridae)	Table 1
Ashy Tit	Melaniparus cinerascens
Grey Tit	Melaniparus afer
Penduline Tits (Remizidae)	
Cape Penduline Tit	Anthoscopus minutus
Cape i chidanne Tit	иннозсориз тишиз
Larks (Alaudidae)	
Spike-heeled Lark	Chersomanes albofasciata
Karoo Long-billed Lark	Certhilauda subcoronata
Cape Long-billed Lark	Certhilauda curvirostris
Black-eared Sparrow-Lark	Eremopterix australis
Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark	Eremopterix verticalis
Sabota Lark	Calendulauda sabota
Fawn-colored Lark	Calendulauda africanoides
Karoo Lark	Calendulauda albescens
Red Lark - VU	Calendulauda burra
Dune Lark	Calendulauda erythrochlamys
	<u> </u>



Common Name	Scientific Name
Cape Clapper Lark	Corypha apiata
Eastern Clapper Lark	Corypha fasciolata
Sclater's Lark	Spizocorys sclateri
Stark's Lark	Spizocorys starki
Large-billed Lark	Galerida magnirostris
Red-capped Lark	Calandrella cinerea
red capped Eark	Catalita Cita Cita Cita
Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)	
Sombre Greenbul	Andropadus importunus
African Red-eyed Bulbul	Pycnonotus nigricans
Cape Bulbul	Pycnonotus capensis
Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)	
Black Saw-wing	Psalidoprocne pristoptera
Banded Martin	Neophedina cincta
Brown-throated Martin	Riparia paludicola
Large Rock Martin	Ptyonoprogne fuligula
Pearl-breasted Swallow	Hirundo dimidiata
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica
White-throated Swallow	Hirundo albigularis
Greater Striped Swallow	Cecropis cucullata
Crombecs, African Warblers (Maci	T =
Cape Grassbird	Sphenoeacus afer
Long-billed Crombec	Sylvietta rufescens
Victorin's Warbler	Cryptillas victorini
Reed Warblers & Allies (Acrocepha	T
Lesser Swamp Warbler	Acrocephalus gracilirostris
Common Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus scirpaceus
Chasshinds & Allies (Legystellides)	
Grassbirds & Allies (Locustellidae) Little Rush Warbler	Bradypterus baboecala
Little Rush Warbler	Bradypierus babbecaia
Cisticolas & Allies (Cisticolidae)	L
Grey-backed Cisticola	Cisticola subruficapilla
Zitting Cisticola	Cisticola juncidis
Cloud Cisticola	Cisticola textrix
Black-chested Prinia	Prinia flavicans
Karoo Prinia	Prinia maculosa
Namaqua Warbler	Phragmacia substriata
Bar-throated Apalis	Apalis thoracica
Rufous-eared Warbler	Malcorus pectoralis
Cinnamon-breasted Warbler	Euryptila subcinnamomea
Chimanion orcanica warder	-w. ypina succiniumomica



Common Name	Scientific Name
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	Eremomela icteropygialis
Karoo Eremomela	Eremomela gregalis
Sylviid Babblers (Sylviidae)	
Layard's Warbler	Curruca layardi
Chestnut-vented Warbler	Curruca subcoerulea
White-eyes (Zosteropidae)	
Orange River White-eye	Zosterops pallidus
Cape White-eye	Zosterops virens
Laughingthrushes & Allies (Lei	othrichidae)
Southern Pied Babbler	Turdoides bicolor
Cugawhinda (Duamanasida a)	
Sugarbirds (Promeropidae)	D
Cape Sugarbird	Promerops cafer
Starlings, Rhabdornises (Sturni	idae)
Common Myna	Acridotheres tristis
Common Starling	Sturnus vulgaris
Wattled Starling	Creatophora cinerea
Cape Starling	Lamprotornis nitens
Pied Starling	Lamprotornis bicolor
Red-winged Starling	Onychognathus morio
Pale-winged Starling	Onychognathus nabouroup
	3
Oxpeckers (Buphagidae)	
Red-billed Oxpecker	Buphagus erythrorynchus
•	
Thrushes (Turdidae)	
Groundscraper Thrush	Turdus litsitsirupa
Olive Thrush	Turdus olivaceus
Karoo Thrush	Turdus smithi
Chats, Old World Flycatchers (	
Karoo Scrub Robin	Tychaedon coryphoeus
Kalahari Scrub Robin	Cercotrichas paena
Chat Flycatcher	Agricola infuscatus
Fiscal Flycatcher	Sigelus silens
Marico Flycatcher	Bradornis mariquensis
African Dusky Flycatcher	Muscicapa adusta
Cape Robin-Chat	Dessonornis caffer
Cape Rock Thrush	Monticola rupestris
African Stonechat	Saxicola torquatus



Common Name	Scientific Name
Karoo Chat	Emarginata schlegelii
Tractrac Chat	Emarginata tractrac
Ant-eating Chat	Myrmecocichla formicivora
Mountain Chat	Myrmecocichla monticola
Capped Wheatear	Oenanthe pileata
Familiar Chat	Oenanthe familiaris
	,
Sunbirds (Nectariniidae) -	
Orange-breasted Sunbird	Anthobaphes violacea
Amethyst Sunbird	Chalcomitra amethystina
Malachite Sunbird	Nectarinia famosa
Southern Double-collared Sunbird	Cinnyris chalybeus
Marico Sunbird	Cinnyris mariquensis
Dusky Sunbird	Cinnyris fuscus
<b>Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches</b>	(Passeridae)
Cape Sparrow	Passer melanurus
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	Passer diffusus
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus
Weavers, Widowbirds (Ploceidae)	
Red-billed Buffalo Weaver	Bubalornis niger
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	Plocepasser mahali
Sociable Weaver	Philetairus socius
Scaly-feathered Weaver	Sporopipes squamifrons
Cape Weaver	Ploceus capensis
Southern Masked Weaver	Ploceus velatus
Red-billed Quelea	Quelea quelea
Southern Red Bishop	Euplectes orix
Yellow Bishop	Euplectes capensis
Waxbills, Munias & Allies (Estrildi	dae)
Bronze Mannikin	Spermestes cucullata
Swee Waxbill	Coccopygia melanotis
Black-faced Waxbill	Brunhilda erythronotos
Common Waxbill	Estrilda astrild
Red-headed Finch	Amadina erythrocephala
Green-winged Pytilia	Pytilia melba
Red-billed Firefinch	Lagonosticta senegala
Indicabinda Whadaba (W. 1911)	
Indigobirds, Whydahs (Viduidae)	V: 1
Pin-tailed Whydah	Vidua macroura
Long-tailed Paradise Whydah	Vidua paradisaea



Common Name	Scientific Name
Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)	
Cape Wagtail	Motacilla capensis
African Pied Wagtail	Motacilla aguimp
Cape Longclaw	Macronyx capensis
African Pipit	Anthus cinnamomeus
Nicholson's Pipit	Anthus nicholsoni
Finches, Euphonias (Fringillidae)	
Eurasian Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs
Forest Canary	Crithagra scotops
Black-throated Canary	Crithagra atrogularis
Cape Siskin	Crithagra totta
Yellow Canary	Crithagra flaviventris
Brimstone Canary	Crithagra sulphurata
Streaky-headed Seedeater	Crithagra gularis
White-throated Canary	Crithagra albogularis
Protea Canary	Crithagra leucoptera
Cape Canary	Serinus canicollis
Black-headed Canary	Serinus alario
<b>Buntings</b> (Emberizidae)	
Lark-like Bunting	Emberiza impetuani
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	Emberiza tahapisi
Cape Bunting	Emberiza capensis

Species Seen:	294
Species Heard:	2
Total Species Recorded:	296



# Western South Africa Mammal List – Following Mammalwatching.com (January 2024)

The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following the IUCN Red List:

VU = Vulnerable, NE = Not Evaluated.

Common name	Scientific name
Hyraxes (Procaviidae)	
Rock Hyrax	Procavia capensis
Old World Monkeys (Cercopithecida	T
Vervet Monkey	Chlorocebus pygerythrus
Chacma Baboon	Papio ursinus
African Molerats (Bathyergidae)	
Common Mole-rat	Cryptomys hottentotus
Dassie Rats (Petromuridae)	
Noki	Petromus typicus
INOKI	1 etromus typicus
Squirrels (Sciuridae)	
South African Ground Squirrel	Geosciurus inauris
Springhares (Pedetidae)	1
Southern African Springhare	Pedetes capensis
Old World Mice and Rats (Muridae)	
West-central Four-striped Grass Rat	Rhabdomys bechuanae
Xeric Four-striped Grass Rat	Rhabdomys pumilio
Faved Scale (Otaviidae)	
Eared Seals (Otariidae) Afro-Australian Fur Seal	Arctocephalus pusillus
Allo-Australian Fur Sear	Arctocephatus pustitus
Canids (Canidae)	1
Black-backed Jackal	Lupulella mesomelas
Bat-eared Fox	Otocyon megalotis
Cape Fox	Vulpes chama
Felids (Felidae)	
African Wildcat	Felis lybica
Leopard - VU	Panthera pardus
Mongooses (Herpestidae)	
Yellow Mongoose	Cynictis penicillata
Egyptian Mongoose	Herpestes ichneumon



Common name	Scientific name
Cape Gray Mongoose	Herpestes pulverulentus
Meerkat	Suricata suricatta
Hyaenas (Hyaenidae)	
Southern Aardwolf	Proteles cristatus
Civets, Genets, and Oyans (V	<u>iverridae)</u>
Feline Genet - NE	Genetta felina
E . (E .1)	
Equines (Equidae)	
Mountain Zebra - VU	Equus zebra
Bovids (Bovidae)	
Hartebeest	Alcelaphus buselaphus
Blue Wildebeest	Connochaetes taurinus
Bontebok	Damaliscus pygargus
Springbok	Antidorcas marsupialis
Steenbok	Raphicerus campestris
Gemsbok	Oryx gazella
Common Eland	Tragelaphus oryx
Greater Kudu	Tragelaphus strepsiceros
Rorquals (Balaenopteridae)	
Bryde's Whale - NE	Balaenoptera brydei
Species Seen:	31

