



# Rockjumper Birding Tours

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Cape Town to Windhoek

*29<sup>th</sup> September - 13<sup>th</sup> October 2006*



**Tour Leader: Cuan Rush**

**Trip report Compiled by Tour Leader Cuan Rush**

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**Top 10 Birds of the Tour as voted by participants:**

**Knysna Scrub-Warbler**  
**Black Harrier**  
**Verreaux's Eagle**  
**Red-necked Falcon**  
**Ostrich**  
**Cinnamon-breasted Warbler**  
**Southern Black Bustard**  
**Jackass Penguin**  
**Black-eared Sparrowlark**  
**Cape Rockjumper**

## **Tour Summary**

Our trip from Cape Town to Windhoek covered a wide variety of habitats ranging from the endemic-rich fynbos to the succulent and Nama Karoo's, coastal Strandveld, arid Kalahari savanna, *Acacia* woodland and even the rich pelagic waters off the Cape. This afforded us the opportunity to rack-up an impressive total of 280 species. The birding was awesome and in general we were treated to splendid close-up views of most of the birds on the tour including a very special encounter with Knysna Scrub-Warbler. Some of the mammalian highlights included fantastic views of a pride of Lions, five separate sightings of African Wild Cat, an extremely relaxed Cape Fox and some good views of the beautiful and nimble Smith's Red Rock Rabbit.

We started off the trip in the Constantia Greenbelts close to Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. Knysna Scrub-Warbler proved to be very tricky on the morning and it was frustrating to hear the bird calling so close and moving in the undergrowth but not showing itself. However, as we exited the forest, Hermann spotted our first accipiter of the trip, a Black Goshawk, which let us have our fill of good scope views. Thereafter, we spent the rest of the morning in the magnificent Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens where we were treated to great scope views of a pair of the endemic Cape Sugarbird and a vocal Dideric Cuckoo. Whilst birding in the *Protea* section of the gardens, Hermann's shoe became the obsession of a male Angulate Tortoise. The tortoise decided that we were encroaching on his territory and he proceeded to try and flip-over the shoe in order to defeat his foe. A truly hilarious sight! When then proceeded to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, where we notched-up the largest bird on the planet, the Ostrich, one of Bill's favorites. Our final stop for the day was the quaint coastal town of Kommetjie where we found the endemic Crowned Cormorant and White-fronted Plover.

A cool, overcast day greeted us on the morning of our pelagic trip and after a debriefing from the pelagic guide we set off for the open ocean. The trip out to the point was fairly uneventful, however, not long after hitting open water, the skipper found two long liner boats and soon we were surrounded by a mass of seabirds. Some of the highlights were excellent views of Shy and Black-browed Albatross, both Antarctic and Hall's Giant Petrel, two very early Sabine's Gulls and a single Black-bellied Storm-Petrel. After several runs close to the long-liners we headed back to Simonstown. The weather had closed in and we had a fairly rough and wet ride back to the docks but once we rounded the point conditions improved drastically and we visited a small nesting colony of Bank Cormorant and picked up a few majestic Southern Right Whales. Boulders Beach's Jackass Penguin colony was our next stop and these cute



creatures did not fail to capture our hearts with their almost human-like nature and antics. We then headed back to the Constantia Greenbelts for another crack at the notorious skulker, Knysna Scrub-Warbler! After many frustrating attempts at trying to get a visual of the vocal bird in the misty rain, I eventually sighted one in the thick undergrowth. I rushed back to find Hermann and Bill and we made our way back to the site hoping the bird would still be there. I parted the vegetation and to my amazement the bird had not moved! It was exhibiting its strange feeding behavior: head down scratching the leaf litter, wings spread out and tail drooping totally unbothered by our presence. A truly rewarding sighting!

Glorious sunshine greeted us as we headed out for the small coastal town of Rooiels and our main quarry for the day, Cape Rockjumper. After an extremely scenic drive we arrived at the site and it did not take long to locate this handsome bird. We had several good views of a pair of birds that were hopping from rock to rock in typical rockjumper fashion. Other notable birds seen in Rooiels were Cape Rock Thrush and three Ground Woodpeckers, which were calling from the cliffs. Harold Porter Botanical Gardens was our next port of call and it did not disappoint. After a brief rain shower, we managed to entice another endemic skulker, Victorin's Scrub-Warbler, out of the thick fynbos for brief but repeated views. The stunning Sweet Waxbill was next, followed by a great sighting of a pair of Cape Siskin and a very excited male African Crested-Flycatcher. On our way back to our B&B in Cape Town we stopped off at Strandfontein Water Works in search of a host of waterfowl. The various ponds here produced all the usual suspects including good numbers of Great White Pelican, over one hundred Greater Flamingos, a few pairs of the endemic South African Shelduck and Hottentot Teal.

After weaving our way through early morning traffic in Cape Town we continued our journey northwards to West Coast National Park. We stopped off at Tienie Versveld Wildflower Reserve *en route* and the grassland was alive with bird song. Here we found another few endemics, namely Cape Clapper and Thick-billed Lark, the pale '*textrix*' race of Cloud Cisticola and the majestic Blue Crane, South Africa's national bird. Despite the windy conditions at West Coast National Park we had an amazing time with some great highlights, which included two sightings of the magnificent Black Harrier, a calling Black Bustard, a covey of Gray-winged Francolin and Gray Tit. Throughout the day we encountered many Leopard Tortoises on the roads, the smallest being only slightly bigger than a five Rand coin. It was then off to Lamberts Bay for an overnight stop in this small coastal town.

After an early visit to the Cape Gannet colony we set-off on a short boat cruise in the bay. The main purpose of this special event was to locate the diminutive and endemic Heaviside's Dolphin. The first half of the cruise proved to be uneventful; however, it was not long before we were watching a small pod of these beautiful dolphins swimming in the wake of the boat. We were even treated to a couple of aerial jumps out of the water by one of the more brazen individuals of the pod. On the way back to the harbor we spend a few minutes viewing the sizeable colony of Cape Fur Seals. Once we were back on dry land, we went in search of Cape Long-billed Lark. Unfortunately, we did not find this range restricted species but had good views of Pearl-breasted Swallow and Bokmakierie. *En route* to our next destination, the quiet town of Brandvlei in the Karoo, we visited Akkerendam Nature Reserve just outside Calvinia. Shortly after entering the reserve we had a displaying Karoo Lark and not long after that we found both Sickling and Tracrac Chats and Layard's Warbler. The top bird for the reserve was another endemic, the very attractive Rufous-eared Warbler. We arrived in Brandvlei in the late afternoon after adding South African Cliff Swallow to our burgeoning list.



The Karoo was unusually cold and we had to contend with icy winds for most of the day. This did not deter our spirits and we had a good days birding. The specials for the day included a number of sightings of displaying Black-eared Sparrowlark (a nomadic species often difficult to find), the plains form of Ferruginous Lark, a family of Karoo Bustard (usually more often heard than seen) and the energetic Yellow-rumped (Karoo) Eremomela. We were also entertained by some of the more common species and it was fun to watch Karoo Long-billed Lark performing its rise-and-fall display flight while the noisy Rufous-vented Warbler chattered away from a nearby *Acacia* tree.

Traveling from Brandvlei in a northerly direction we stumbled upon our only Double-banded Courser, a cryptic desert species. We also began to encounter our first Social Weaver colonies and we stopped at an active nest to admire the fantastic architectural skills of these small birds. We also had scope views of the cute Pygmy Falcon, which uses the Social Weaver nest as a roosting and breeding site. *En route* we startled a Kori Bustard that was foraging close to the road and it took to the air, showing-off its title as the heaviest flying bird. After a quick lunch in the small town of Kenhardt we proceeded to Augrabies Falls National Park. Shortly after crossing the Orange River we picked-up our first of many Black-fronted (Red-eyed) Bulbuls and in the town of Keimoes, which is located along the river, we sighted a good few African Pied Wagtails. Upon entering Augrabies Falls National Park we had an extremely quick fly-by of a small flock of Rosy-faced Lovebirds. After checking in we spent some time at the top of the gorge and found the recently split Orange River White-eye and had great views of the large Alpine Swift which zoom past at eye-level.

We started the day with a fly-over Black Stork and then headed out into the reserve. We were soon rewarded with good views of the endemic Namaqua Prinia, which inhabits the riverine scrub in the reserve. On the way down to Echo Corner, we had many sightings of Mountain Wheatear and the agile Klipspringer, an antelope that is completely at home in this rocky environment. Bird of the day was Kopje (Cinnamon-breasted) Warbler, another endemic species which is difficult to find and on the 'wanted list' for most birders to this area. The afternoon session produced a good number of birds including two woodpeckers, Golden-tailed and Cardinal, Brubru, Pale-winged Starling, Karoo Thrush and Swallow-tailed Bee-eater. We ended the day with a night drive in the reserve and this proved to be more fruitful in the mammal department with highlights being African Wild Cat and Smith's Red Rock Rabbit, however, we did find Spotted Eagle-Owl and Rufous-cheeked Nightjar.

After some final birding around the camp at Augrabies, with Lesser Honeyguide being the pick of the morning, we continued north to the wonderful Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. Our lunch stop was very welcome after the long straight road north and the venue produced a good number of new birds for our trip. These included a delightful pair of Red-billed Firefinch, Groundscraper Thrush, our first Mariqua Flycatchers, Red-headed Finches and Black-throated Canaries. Shortly after arriving in the park the weather turned but we ventured out on a game drive in the high winds and dust storm. We were rewarded with extended close views of two pairs of Spotted Eagle-Owls, a lonely Red-necked Falcon, Secretary-bird and a Puffadder.

The next few days in the park were great and we had many fantastic sightings and experiences in the fossil Kalahari riverbeds and dunes. Among the bird highlights were two separate sightings of Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, a good number of Red-necked Falcon, Sentinel Rock-Thrush, the gorgeous Crimson-breasted Gonolek and Pygmy Falcon. The night birding in the two camps, Twee Rivieren and Mata Mata, was generally good and we found the ever present Pearl-spotted Owlet and Southern White-faced Scops Owl. We also enjoyed two night drives in the park and these produced a good number of nocturnal animals



including Springhare, African Wild Cat, Bat-eared Fox, Tree Rat and Porcupine. On the last afternoon we finally found a pride of four Lions, which happened to be very close to the exit gate at Twee Rivieren. These creatures are always an awesome sight and we spend a good deal of time admiring the king of the beasts. Other larger mammals of interest that we observed during our stay were Giraffe, Gemsbok and Eland.

From the Kgalagadi we entered into the final stage of our journey into Namibia. On the way, not far from the park, we had a flock of Burchell's Sandgrouse flying in for the morning drink. The sighting was marred slightly by a male sandgrouse that flew into one of the nearby power lines. We left him in his dazed condition and hoped that he would recover. The long drive to Fish River Canyon was not uneventful and it was interesting to watch how the scenery changed as we headed north. Not long after arriving at the lodge we raced to the canyon to enjoy the sunset but the road was rough and we ended up with a puncture. Bill and Hermann continued up the road to the viewpoint on foot while I changed the tyre. We eventually made it to the top and enjoyed the sunset over the canyon. On the way back to the lodge we found two Zorillas, a nocturnal denizen that is not seen very often.

On the final day we also had a long journey to the capital city of Namibia, Windhoek. We started off with a quick visit to the canyon where we found Alpine and Bradfield's Swift and some daredevil Rock Hyrax. Then we were off on the long haul to Windhoek. Closer to the city, the vegetation changed from grassland into some taller *Acacia* woodland and with the change in habitat we managed to pick-up Gray Go-away-bird. After checking into the lodge we went on a short walk that produced White-backed Mousebird, Rosy-faced Lovebird and many Little Swifts. We then headed back to the lodge to enjoy another beautiful African sunset!

## Annotated List of Bird Species recorded

*Nomenclature and taxonomy follows J. F. Clements Birds of the World: A Checklist 5<sup>th</sup> Edition (2000) Ibis Publishing Company, with updates to June 2005.*

**E** = Endemic, **NE** = Near-endemic, **BE** = Breeding-endemic

**Total = 280 species**

### Ostrich *Struthionidae*

**(Common) Ostrich**

*Struthio camelus*

Our first birds encountered were of four birds in the Cape of Good Hope National Park. Thereafter, they were seen in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park and the Fish River Canyon area.

*NOTE: The subspecies S. c. molybdophanes of dry East Africa is regarded by some authorities as a distinct species; Somali Ostrich. The form we observed would remain with the nominate Common Ostrich S. camelus. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.*

### Penguins *Spheniscidae*

**Jackass (African) Penguin (NE)**

*Spheniscus demersus*

Good numbers of 100+ were encountered at Boulders Beach on the Cape Peninsula. It must be said that one of the highlights of the trip was watching these adorable creatures at close range.



### Grebes *Podicipedidae*

#### **Little Grebe (Dabchick)**

*Tachybaptus ruficollis*

This species was seen on most bodies of fresh water with the highest count being at Strandfontein Water Works.

#### **Great Crested Grebe**

*Podiceps cristatus*

We had good scope views of a few pairs of this elegant grebe at Strandfontein Water Works.

#### **Eared (Black-necked) Grebe**

*Podiceps nigricollis*

Our most impressive sighting was a large group of 30+ at Strandfontein Works. The birds were in both breeding and non-breeding plumage.

### Albatrosses *Diomedidae*

#### **Black-browed Albatross**

*Thalassarche melanophris*

Approximately 50 of these splendid birds were seen on the pelagic trip off Cape Town. They have to be one of the best looking albatrosses off our coast.

#### **Shy Albatross**

*Thalassarche cauta*

We enjoyed stunning views of adults and juveniles flying right past the boat at close range on the pelagic trip off Cape Town. The estimated was 150+ birds and it was by far the most common albatross on the day.

*NOTE: Some authorities split the Shy Albatross *Thalassarche cauta*, the one we observed, into two further species, Salvin's Albatross *T.c.salvini* and Chatham Island Albatross *T.c.erimita*. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.*

#### **[Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross]**

*Thalassarche [chlororhynchos] carteri*

A single adult bird was seen briefly a good distance from the boat.

*NOTE: Some authorities split the Yellow-nosed Albatross into the Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross *T. chlororhynchos*, the nominate form, and the Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross *T. carteri*. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.*

### Shearwaters and Petrels *Procellariidae*

#### **Antarctic (Southern) Giant Petrel**

*Macronectes giganteus*

At least 3 of these large birds were encountered during the pelagic trip.

#### **Hall's (Northern) Giant Petrel**

*Macronectes halli*

The pelagic trip produced 2 birds of this species.

#### **Cape (Pintado) Petrel**

*Daption capense*

This attractive black-and-white bird was well represented with numbers in excess of 75 birds in attendance at the trawlers.

#### **White-chinned Petrel**

*Procellaria aequinoctialis*

This was by far the most available species during the pelagic trip off the Cape with numbers exceeding 500 birds.

*NOTE: The circumpolar White-chinned Petrel, *P.a.aequinoctialis*, is regarded by many authorities as a separate species from the endangered Spectacled Petrel, *P.a.conspicillata*, which breeds only on the Inaccessible Islands. Clements does not as yet recognize this split.*

#### **Greater (Great) Shearwater**

*Puffinus gravis*

Ten birds were encountered on the pelagic.

#### **Sooty Shearwater**

*Puffinus griseus*

We had good views of a large number of these birds in flight, showing their distinctive silvery underwings.

### Storm-Petrels *Hydrobatidae*

#### **Wilson's Storm-Petrel**

*Oceanites oceanicus*

Approximately 150 were seen at close range as they flew close to the boat with their typical feet pattering flight.

#### **Black-bellied Storm-Petrel**

*Fregetta tropica*

This was definitely one the highlights of the Cape pelagic trip. At first we only had fleeting glimpses of the bird, but later it returned for several fly-bys and we all had good views in the end.

### Pelicans *Pelecanidae*



**Great White Pelican**

*Pelecanus onocrotalus*

More than 40 of these impressive birds were seen at Strandfontein Water Works. We enjoyed watching them fishing gliding in to land on the water.

**Boobies and Gannets *Sulidae***

**Cape Gannet (BE)**

*Morus capensis*

Our first birds were observed from a distance at the lighthouse lookout point in the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. We also had great close-up views of these sleek birds at the Lambert's Bay breeding colony.

**Cormorants & Shags *Phalacrocoracidae***

**Great (White-breasted) Cormorant**

*Phalacrocorax carbo (lucidus)*

This species was seen at several localities including wetland sites both at the coast and inland

NOTE: The white-breasted African subspecies of the widely distributed Great Cormorant *P. carbo* is sometimes considered a different species; *P. lucidus*.

**Cape Cormorant (BE)**

*Phalacrocorax capensis*

This common marine cormorant was observed on most days spend in the Cape Town area and large flocks were seen flying low over the ocean at Lamberts Bay.

**Bank Cormorant (E)**

*Phalacrocorax neglectus*

The first birds were seen on the pelagic trip off Cape Town (10+) and thereafter, good numbers were encountered at Lambert's Bay on a visit to the Cape Gannet colony.

**Long-tailed (Reed) Cormorant**

*Phalacrocorax africanus*

This cormorant species was seen regularly during the first half of the trip. The highest numbers were encountered at Strandfontein.

**Crowned Cormorant (NE)**

*Phalacrocorax coronatus*

Our first sighting was of a few birds at Kommetjie on the Cape Peninsula. We had further sightings of this species at Simon's Town on the return from the pelagic seabird trip.

**Anhinga & Darter *Anhingidae***

**(African) Darter**

*Anhinga melanogaster (rufa)*

Two birds were seen en route to the West Coast National Park near Tableview.

NOTE: The resident African form *P. rufa* is sometimes lumped with the Asian *P. melanogaster* and the enlarged species called Darter. Clements uses the latter treatment of lumping these forms.

**Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns *Ardeidae***

**Gray Heron**

*Ardea cinerea*

This was the most common heron on our trip with peak numbers at Strandfontein.

**Black-headed Heron**

*Ardea melanocephala*

These birds were observed most often feeding in open grassy areas next to roads.

**Goliath Heron**

*Ardea goliath*

We were very lucky to find a single adult bird in Au-grabies Falls National Park as this is a rare bird in the western and Northern Cape.

**Purple Heron**

*Ardea purpurea*

A couple of birds were flushed from the reedbeds at Strandfontein Water Works, our only sightings for the whole trip.

NOTE: The Cape Verde Islands *A. p. bournei* is sometimes split off as Cape Verde Purple Heron or Bourne's Heron.

**Little Egret**

*Egretta garzetta*

A few individuals were seen en route to West Coast National Park in a slipway alongside the main road.

NOTE: Clements lumps Little, Western Reef (*E. gularis*) and Madagascar's Dimorphic (*E. dimorpha*) Egret into a single species. This treatment is not widely accepted.



**Squacco Heron**

*Ardeola ralloides*

A few birds were encountered at a wetland en route to the Namibian border. These were the only records for our trip.

**Cattle Egret**

*Bubulcus ibis*

Our highest count was reached on the journey to the West Coast National Park.

NOTE: This group may be split into 2 species, the nominate Common Cattle Egret and the Asian/Australasian Eastern Cattle Egret (*E. coromanda*). This split is as yet not recognized by Clements.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron**

*Nycticorax nycticorax*

Strandfontein Water Works produced a few birds and we had another individual at a wetland en route to West Coast National Park.

**Hamerkop Scopidae**

**Hamerkop**

*Scopus umbretta*

This unusual looking bird, which is placed in its own family – *Scopidae*, was seen at the Augrabies Falls National Park.

**Storks Ciconidae**

**Black Stork**

*Ciconia nigra*

A single bird was seen flying over the rest camp at Augrabies Falls National Park.

**Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae**

**(African) Sacred Ibis**

*Threskiornis aethiopicus*

This species was commonly recorded at wetlands throughout the South Western Cape, with highest numbers recorded at Strandfontein Water Works.

NOTE: The Malagasy *T. e. bernieri* and Aldabran *T. e. abbotti* are sometimes split off as Madagascar White Ibis (*T. bernieri*)

**Hadada Ibis (Hadeda)**

*Bostrychia hagedash*

This common ibis was recorded on a daily basis for the first half of our trip.

**Glossy Ibis**

*Plegadis falcinellus*

Our only sighting was of a few flocks at Strandfontein Water Works.

**African Spoonbill**

*Platalea alba*

We only recorded 4 birds at the West Coast National Park.

**Flamingos Phoenicopteridae**

**Greater Flamingo**

*Phoenicopterus ruber*

Our first sighting was of 100+ birds at Strandfontein with awesome fly-bys. This magnificent species was also seen at the West Coast National Park and Velddrift.

NOTE: Old World *P. roseus* may be distinct from New World *P. ruber*.

**Lesser Flamingo**

*Phoenicopterus minor*

These equally stunning flamingos were recorded at the same sites as Greater Flamingo.

**Swans, Geese & Ducks Anatidae**

**Egyptian Goose**

*Alopochen aegyptiacus*

This goose was commonly recorded at wetlands throughout the trip in Western South Africa.

**South African Shelduck (E)**

*Tadorna cana*

The first few birds were seen at Strandfontein and then on the following two days.

**Spur-winged Goose**

*Plectropterus gambensis*

This impressive goose was found at Strandfontein and then seen en route to West Coast National Park.

**Cape Teal**

*Anas capensis*

Good numbers of this attractive teal were found at Strandfontein Water Works. The wetland on the way to the Namibian border also produced a small flock of these birds.



**Yellow-billed Duck***Anas undulata*

This common species was observed at Strandfontein Water Works and en route to the West Coast National Park.

**Red-billed Duck (Teal)***Anas erythrorhyncha*

A number of birds were found in Strandfontein Water Works and we also had some at a wetland near the Namibian border.

**Hottentot Teal***Anas hottentota*

Strandfontein was the only place we had this species with two pairs seen on the ponds. It is an uncommon species in the Western Cape, so we were fortunate to see them on our route.

**Cape Shoveler (NE)***Anas smithii*

This near-endemic was encountered in good numbers at Strandfontein Water Works.

**Southern Pochard***Netta erythrophthalma*

We only found small numbers of this uncommon species at Strandfontein Water Works.

**Maccoa Duck***Oxyura maccoa*

Our only sighting of this species was at Strandfontein Water Works with both male and female birds present.

### **Hawks, Kites, Eagles & Vultures *Accipitridae***

**Black-shouldered (-winged) Kite***Elanus caeruleus*

This master hoverer was recorded on most days throughout the trip hunting alongside the road.

**Black (Yellow-billed) Kite***Milvus [migrans] parasitus*

This kite was seen in small numbers during the first few days of the tour.

*NOTE: This locally breeding form of the Black Kite M. migrans is considered by most authorities as a distinct species, M. parasitus.*

**African Fish-Eagle***Haliaeetus vocifer*

Our only sighting was of a distant bird in flight at Strandfontein Water Works.

**(African) White-backed Vulture***Gyps africanus*

First seen en route to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, thereafter they were seen every day in the park.

**Cape Griffon (Vulture) (BE)***Gyps coprotheres*

We had a couple of birds in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. This species is not common in this part of the country.

**Bateleur***Terathopius ecaudatus*

Our only sightings of this regal species were a few birds in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**African Marsh-Harrier***Circus ranivorus*

We enjoyed good views of several at Strandfontein Water Works and a couple at the West Coast National Park.

**Black Harrier (E)***Circus maurus*

We were fortunate to have excellent views of two birds quartering over the fynbos in the West Coast National Park. This species has to be one of the finest looking raptors around.

**African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene)***Polyboroides typus*

A single bird was seen in flight on the first day of the tour in the world-famous Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. This was the only record for this species for the trip.

**(Southern) Pale Chanting-Goshawk (NE)***Melierax canorus*

This was the most commonly seen raptor in the drier habitats during the trip, with our first bird recorded in the Brandvlei area.

**Gabar Goshawk***Melierax gabar*

We enjoyed good views of several birds in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, including an immature bird harassing an adult Red-necked Falcon.

**African Goshawk***Accipiter tachiro*

Good extended views were had of a solitary bird in the forests of the Constantia Greenbelt in Cape Town. The bird flushed several times but only flew a few metres further along the trail to perch in plain sight.

**Black Goshawk***Accipiter melanoleucas*

This was another accipiter produced by the Constantia Greenbelt. We had good scope views of a perched bird, high up in an exotic tree.

**Steppe Buzzard**

*Buteo buteo*

This was one of the first records for the season of this non-breeding migrant.

**Tawny Eagle**

*Aquila rapax*

A good number of birds were seen daily in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

NOTE: The nominate African Tawny Eagle *A. r. rapax* may be split from the Asian Tawny Eagle *A. r. vindhiana*. This split is as yet not recognized by Clements.

**Verreaux's (Black) Eagle**

*Aquila verreauxii*

We had an excellent sighting of a pair in Au-grabies Falls National Park. We came over a rise in the road and found the birds standing side-by-side on a rock not more than 50 meters away. A truly magnificent sighting and it proved to be one of Hermann's favorite birds of the trip.

**Martial Eagle**

*Polemaetus bellicosus*

A single bird was seen flying in the distance in the Clanwilliam area.

**Secretarybird Sagittariidae**

**Secretary-bird**

*Sagittarius serpentarius*

This species was seen regularly in the Transfrontier National Park. It is always a treat to watch these birds striding over the open plains in search of their prey.

**Falcons & Kestrels Falconidae**

**Pygmy Falcon**

*Polihierax semitorquatus*

Our first sighting was of a female en route to Au-grabies Falls National Park from the Brandvlei area. Thereafter, we had good views of a number of birds in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Eurasian (Rock/Common) Kestrel**

*Falco tinnunculus*

This good-looking species was first seen on a rocky cliff just outside Noordhoek. It was fairly common throughout the trip being seen most days.

**Greater Kestrel**

*Falco rupicoloides*

Our first birds were seen near Brandvlei and were recorded daily thereafter.

**Red-necked Falcon**

*Falco chicquera*

We were extremely fortunate to have at least five separate sightings of this falcon species during our stay in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. On one occasion we witnessed an altercation between an adult bird and an immature Gabar Goshawk.

**Lanner Falcon**

*Falco biarmicus*

First seen in Au-grabies Falls National Park, this species was also recorded on most days in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Pheasants & Partridges Phasianidae**

**Gray-winged Francolin (E)**

*Francolinus africanus*

We flushed a covey of four birds of this endemic francolin in the West Coast National Park. After flushing the birds we circled around to where they had landed and were rewarded with great views of a bird calling and then two birds crossing over the dirt track.

**Cape Francolin (E)**

*Pternistes capensis*

This endemic species was first seen in Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens at close quarters. It was also observed on a number of other occasions including sightings in West Coast National Park.

**Guineafowl Numididae**

**Helmeted Guineafowl**

*Numida meleagris*



Recorded on the first five days and the last day of the tour, this colorful species, was always entertaining with chicken-like clucking and feeding habits.

NOTE: The nominate *N. m. meleagris* Helmeted Guineafowl, is sometimes regarded as distinct from the western (*N. m. galeata*) West African Guineafowl and the southern, which we recorded, (*N. m. mitrata*) Tufted Guineafowl. Clements does not as yet recognize these splits.

### Cranes *Gruidae*

#### **Blue Crane (E)**

*Anthropoides paradisea*

Unfortunately, we only had distant scope views of South Africa's national bird at Tienie Versveld Wildflower Reserve.

### Rails, Gallinules & Coots *Rallidae*

#### **Purple Swamphen**

*Porphyrio porphyrio*

We had good sightings of these birds at Strandfontein Water Works and a roadside wetland en route to West Coast National Park.

NOTE: This cosmopolitan species is currently in taxonomic review and several forms are expected to be recognized as distinct species. The form we recorded would then become African Swamphen (*P. madagascariensis*.) Other forms to be recognized may include Indian Swamphen (*P. poliocephalus*), Philippine Swamphen (*P. pulverulentus*) and Eastern Swamphen (*P. melanotus*).

#### **Common Moorhen**

*Gallinula chloropus*

This species was seen in three locations on our route and was common at each site.

#### **Red-knobbed Coot**

*Fulica cristata*

Another common species in the south western Cape, we had good numbers at Strandfontein Water Works and other sites on our trip route.

### Bustards *Otididae*

#### **Kori Bustard**

*Ardeotis kori*

First seen near Kenhardt en route to Augrabies Falls, these magnificent birds were then recorded on a daily basis in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. This huge bird is the world's heaviest flying species.

#### **Karoo Bustard (E)**

*Eupodotis vigorsii*

The Brandvlei area is extremely good for this species and we were not disappointed while staying there. We had a family of two adults and a youngster during our stay. This bird is more often heard than seen.

#### **Black Bustard (Southern Black Korhaan) (E)**

*Eupodotis afra*

We had awesome views of two males calling in the West Coast National Park. This endemic bird was one of the four bustard species we encountered on our trip.

#### **White-quilled Bustard (Northern Black Korhaan) (NE)**

*Eupodotis afraoides*

This bustard was very common in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park and we were treated to superb close-up views of both male and female birds during our stay in the park.

### Oystercatchers *Haematopodidae*

#### **African (Black) Oystercatcher (E)**

*Haematopus moquini*

During our stay on the Cape Peninsula, we had numerous sightings of this endemic oystercatcher. This pitch black bird with its bright red bill, legs and eye-ring is always worth some extra viewing time as it one of the rarest oystercatchers in the world despite being locally common.

### Stilts & Avocets *Recurvirostridae*

#### **Black-winged Stilt**

*Himantopus himantopus*

Good numbers of this long-limbed species were seen at Strandfontein Water Works and West Coast National Park.

#### **Pied Avocet**

*Recurvirostra avosetta*



Our first encounter was of a large flock of 50+ birds at Strandfontein Water Works, with further sightings at Geelbek hide.

### Thick-knees *Burhinidae*

**Water Thick-knee (Dikkop)** *Burhinus vermiculatus*

The only sightings we had were a couple of birds at Strandfontein Water Works.

**Spotted Thick-knee (Dikkop)** *Burhinus capensis*

This nocturnal species was first seen at dusk in an overgrown field close to our accommodation in Cape Town. We then found a few more birds in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

### Courser & Pratincoles *Glareolidae*

**Double-banded Courser** *Smutsornis [Rhinoptilus] africanus*

First heard on a night drive in the Brandvlei area, we managed to stumble upon a single bird along the roadside en route to Augrabies Falls National Park.

### Plovers & Lapwings *Charadriidae*

**Blacksmith Plover (Lapwing)** *Vanellus armatus*

This bird was seen regularly during our stay on the Cape Peninsula and en route to West Coast National Park.

**Crowned Lapwing (Plover)** *Vanellus coronatus*

The most common lapwing on our tour was encountered in good numbers in the Cape Peninsula and the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Black-bellied (Grey) Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

Small numbers were seen in the West Coast National Park in non-breeding plumage.

**Kittlitz's Plover** *Charadrius pecuarius*

Geelbek hide in West Coast National Park produced the first few birds of the tour, followed by a few sightings in the Lamberts Bay area.

**Three-banded Plover** *Charadrius tricollaris*

First recorded in West Coast National Park, this species was later seen in Augrabies falls National Park.

**White-fronted Plover** *Charadrius marginatus*

This aggressive plover species was seen on the first afternoon of the trip at Kommetjie. It was later observed in the West Coast national Park.

### Sandpipers & Allies *Scolopacidae*

**Common Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

We had good numbers on the mudflats at Langebaan Lagoon in the West Coast NP

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*

A couple of birds were seen from Geelbek hide in West Coast National Park.

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

This fairly common species was seen at Strandfontein Water Works followed by more sightings at West Coast National Park.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

A few individuals were recorded at a wetland en route to the Namibian border from the Kgalagadi.

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

This attractive bird was seen on day three of the tour at Rooiels.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

Seen in West Coast National Park.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

Seen at Geelbek hide in West Coast National Park.



**Skuas *Stercorariidae*****Brown (Subantarctic) Skua** *Stercorarius antarctica*

Good views were obtained on the pelagic boat trip off Cape Town.

**Pomarine Jaeger (Skua)** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Fairly distant views of a few individuals were had on the pelagic trip off Cape Town.

**Gulls *Laridae*****Cape (Kelp) Gull (NE)** *Larus [dominicanus] vetula*

Commonly recorded along the West Coast of South Africa for the first five days of the trip.

*NOTE: Recent work suggests that the Kelp Gull complex L. dominicanus may be split into as many as four species, the form we saw would become Cape Gull L. vetula which breeds in South Africa.***Hartlaub's Gull (E)** *Larus hartlaubii*

As above, large numbers were seen on the west coast of South Africa.

**Sabine's Gull** *Xema sabini*

Two early (seasonal) birds were seen well on the pelagic boat trip.

**Terns *Sternidae*****Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia*

This large tern was recorded at West Coast National Park.

**Greater Crested (Swift) Tern** *Sterna bergii*

Our first birds 5+ were seen at Strandfontein and our highest count of thirty were recorded at Lambert's Bay.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

Good numbers (approximately 100 birds) were found at Kommetjie, and then seen again on the pelagic and at West Coast National Park.

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

A couple of birds were seen on our pelagic off Cape Town.

**Sandgrouse *Pteroclididae*****Namaqua Sandgrouse (NE)** *Pterocles namaqua*

Our first encounter was in the Brandvlei area and then good numbers were seen in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Burchell's Sandgrouse (NE)** *Pterocles burchelli*

A small flock was seen coming in to drink at a roadside waterhole shortly after leaving the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. One of the males unfortunately collided with a power lines and damaged his forehead. We hope he was able to recover.

**Doves & Pigeons *Collumbidae*****Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)** *Columba livia*

This feral species was common in urban centers throughout the tour.

**Speckled (Rock) Pigeon** *Columba guinea*

It was commonly recorded in urban centers, rocky areas and fields throughout Western Southern Africa.

**Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata*

This large dove was seen during the first few days on the Cape Peninsula.

**Ring-necked Dove (Cape Turtle-Dove)** *Streptopelia capicola*

This widespread and common species was recorded throughout Western Southern Africa on almost every day of the tour.

**Laughing Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis*

Common in urban centers, it was first seen in the Cape Town area and then on virtually every day of the trip.

**Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*

First observed in the West Coast National Park, we recorded this bird almost daily thereafter.



**Parrots & Lovebirds *Psittacidae*****Rosy-faced Lovebird***Agapornis roseicollis*

An extremely fast fly-by of four birds was had upon entry into Augrabies Falls National Park. These colorful birds were later seen in the Windhoek area.

**Turacos *Musophagidae*****Gray Go-away-bird***Corythaixoides concolor*

This bird was seen as we neared Windhoek on the long travel day from Fish River Canyon.

**Cuckoos *Cuculidae*****Klaas' Cuckoo***Chrysococcyx klaas*

Still early in the season, we only recorded a single individual in Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens.

**Barn & Grass Owls *Tytonidae*****Barn Owl***Tyto alba*

This commonly recorded was seen daily in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park with an excellent sighting of a nest and five young birds.

**Typical Owls *Strigidae*****Southern White-faced (-Scops-) Owl***Ptilopsis granti*

Great views were had of this good-looking owl at Mata Mata camp in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Spotted Eagle-Owl***Bubo africanus*

First seen briefly en route to Lamberts Bay, it was later seen on a night drive in Augrabies Falls National Park. The highlight was separate sightings of two pairs on a stormy evening in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

*NOTE: Clements splits the northern, dark-eyed form Grayish Eagle-Owl (*B.cinerascens*) from the more southerly yellow-eyed Spotted Eagle-Owl *B. africanus*. This split is not widely accepted.*

**Verreaux's Eagle-Owl***Bubo lacteus*

This large eagle-owl was seen well during the day on two occasions in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Pearl-spotted Owlet***Glaucidium perlatum*

We had superb views of this diminutive bird daily in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Nightjars *Caprimulgidae*****Rufous-cheeked Nightjar***Caprimulgus rufigena*

This species was first heard in the Brandvlei area on a night drive. It was then seen in Augrabies and the Kgalagadi.

**Swifts *Apodidae*****African Palm-Swift***Cypsiurus parvus*

This long-tailed swift is experiencing a range expansion and we had a number of sightings at Augrabies Falls National Park and en route to Windhoek.

**Alpine Swift***Tachymarptis melba*

First recorded in the Rooiels area, we later observed this massive swift at close quarters in Augrabies Falls National Park and at the Fish River Canyon.

**Common Swift***Apus apus*

Some of the first birds of the season were found en route from the Fish River Canyon to Windhoek.

**African (Black) Swift***Apus barbatus*

This species was observed in the Rooiels area and in West Coast and Augrabies Falls National Park.

**Bradfield's Swift***Apus bradfieldi*

This large brown swift was seen at the spectacular Fish River Canyon and in the Windhoek area.



**Little Swift**

*Apus affinis*

Seen fairly regularly throughout the trip with high numbers in Brandvlei and Windhoek.

**White-rumped Swift**

*Apus caffer*

Only recorded on one day during the trip en route from Lamberts Bay to Brandvlei.

**Mousebirds Coliidae**

**Speckled Mousebird**

*Colius striatus*

Seen on the first two days of the tour during our stay on the Cape Peninsula.

**White-backed Mousebird (NE)**

*Colius colius*

We had good sightings of this near-endemic species in West Coast National Park, the Brandvlei area and Augrabies Falls National Park.

**Red-faced Mousebird**

*Urocolius indicus*

Recorded in the Brandvlei area and in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Kingfishers Alcedinidae**

**Striped Kingfisher**

*Halcyon chelicuti*

Great views of a displaying pair were obtained in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Pied Kingfisher**

*Ceryle rudis*

A few birds were seen en route from Cape Town to West Coast National Park and in the Lamberts Bay area.

**Bee-eaters Meropidae**

**Swallow-tailed Bee-eater**

*Merops hirundineus*

First seen in Augrabies Falls National Park, we later obtained outstanding views on several occasions in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**European Bee-eater**

*Merops apiaster*

This migrant was first found en route to Lamberts Bay, followed by sightings in the Brandvlei area and in the Kgalagadi.

**Rollers Coraciidae**

**Lilac-breasted Roller**

*Coracias caudata*

This attractive species was seen on a daily basis in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

NOTE: The Ethiopian *C. c. lorti* might be split as Blue-breasted Roller.

**Rufous-crowned (Purple) Roller**

*Coracias naevia*

We had good views of a singleton perched in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Hoopoes Upupidae**

**Eurasian (African) Hoopoe**

*Upupa epops*

Seen on a fairly regular basis during the trip, we had our best views at West Coast National Park.

NOTE: The Hoopoe complex has had a confusing taxonomic history, with one to four species being recognized by various authorities. Clements splits the group into two forms, Madagascar (*U. marginalis*) and Eurasian *U. epops*. The white-winged African form is often split by other authorities as West African Hoopoe (*U. senegalensis*) with the fourth species, the one we observed, being African Hoopoe (*U. africana*). However, the most generally accepted treatment is that of three species, Madagascar, Eurasian and African.

**Woodhoopoes Phoeniculidae**

**Common Scimitar-bill**

*Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*

First recorded in Augrabies, it was later seen in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Hornbills Bucerotidae**



**Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill (NE)**

*Tockus leucomelas*

The Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park produced daily sightings of this wonderful species.

**African Gray Hornbill**

*Tockus nasutus*

This species was only seen on one day during the tour en route to Fish River Canyon.

**Barbets *Capitonidae***

**(Acacia) Pied Barbet (NE)**

*Tricholaema leucomelas*

Initially recorded in the Brandvlei area, it was then seen almost daily for the rest of the tour.

**Honeyguides *Indicatoridae***

**Lesser Honeyguide**

*Indicator minor*

A single bird was seen during the early morning in the camp at Augrabies Falls National Park.

**Woodpeckers *Picidae***

**Golden-tailed Woodpecker**

*Campethera abingoni*

We had an excellent sighting of a male bird feeding in the camp at Augrabies and another sighting at Mata-Mata camp, Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Ground Woodpecker (E)**

*Geocolaptes olivaceus*

Fairly distant scope views were obtained of a small family of these endemic birds in the Rooiels area.

**Cardinal Woodpecker**

*Dendropicops fuscescens*

Great views of a pair were had in the camp at Augrabies Falls National Park. The birds were actively working at a nest hole, obviously preparing for breeding season.

**Larks & Sparrow-larks *Alaudidae***

**[Cape] Clapper Lark (E)**

*Mirafrapa apiata*

We decent views of a few birds at Tienie Versveld en route to Lamberts Bay.

*NOTE: Clapper Lark has recently been split into three species, the nominate Cape Clapper Lark *M. apiata*, Agulhas Clapper Lark (*M. marjoriae*) and Eastern Clapper Lark (*M. fasciolata*.) Clements does not as yet recognize this split.*

**Sabota Lark (NE)**

*Mirafrapa sabota*

We found several birds around Brandvlei and also in Augrabies.

*NOTE: Some authorities consider the thick-billed form, Bradfield's Lark *M. bradfieldi* of Western Southern Africa a separate species. This is not widely accepted.*

**[Bradfield's Lark]**

*Mirafrapa bradfieldi*

This species was recorded en route from the Fish River Canyon to Windhoek.

*NOTE: Refer to the previous species.*

**Fawn-colored Lark**

*Mirafrapa africanoides*

We obtained good views of these birds calling from low bushes in the dunes of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

*NOTE: The Ethiopian subspecies (*M. a. macdonaldi*) is sometimes considered to belong to a distinct species; Abyssinian Lark (*M. alopex*).*

**Ferruginous (Red) Lark (E)**

*Certhilauda burra*

We enjoyed stunning views of displaying bird in the Brandvlei area. This area is home to plains form of this species and as you move further west the dunes form takes over.

**Karoo Lark (E)**

*Calendulauda albescens*

This endemic was found in Akkerendam Nature Reserve near Calvinia. It responded well to tape and proceeded to give us great display views.

**Karoo Long-billed Lark (E)**

*Certhilauda subcoronata*

Good numbers of these birds were found in the Brandvlei area.

*NOTE Recent vocal and biochemical evidence suggests that the Long-billed Lark complex consists of 5 allo-species, named Benguela (*C. benguelensis*), ranging from the northernmost populations south to the Brandberg, Karoo (*C. subcoronata*), Spitzkoppe south through the Karoo to the eastern Cape, Cape *C. curvirostris*, winter-rainfall areas north of Cape Town,*



Agulhas (*C. brevirostris*), winter-rainfall areas in the vicinity of Cape Agulhas and Eastern (*C. semitorquata*), eastern Cape north-eastwards through KZN to Mpumalanga.

**Spike-heeled Lark (NE)** *Chersomanes albofasciata*

Small parties of these birds were seen in the Karoo around Brandvlei and in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

NOTE: The Tanzanian isolate *C. a. beesleyi* is considered a separate species by some authorities.

**Black-eared Sparrow-Lark (E)** *Eremopterix australis*

We found small numbers of this species in the Brandvlei area and several males were observed displaying. We also had brief scope views of several birds.

**Gray-backed Sparrow-Lark (NE)** *Eremopterix verticalis*

The Brandvlei area was teeming with flocks of these birds.

**Red-capped Lark** *Calandrella cinerea*

First recorded at Tienie Versveld Flower Reserve, we also had many sightings of this species in the Karoo.

NOTE: The African Red-capped Lark complex (*C. cinerea*), was lumped within the Greater Short-toed Lark complex (*C. brachydactyla*) but is now considered distinct by most authorities. Several distinctive groupings have now been split off from Red-capped Lark, including Blanford's Lark of Ethiopia (*C. blanfordi*).

**Sclater's Lark (E)** *Spizocorys sclateri*

Two birds were seen on the gravel plains of the Fish River Canyon National Park.

**Stark's Lark (NE)** *Eremalauda starki*

This bird was seen on our last morning in the Brandvlei area.

**Long-billed (Large-billed, Southern Thick-billed) Lark (E)** *Galerida magnirostris*

A few birds were observed at Tienie Versveld Flower Reserve and in the Brandvlei region.

### Swallows & Martins *Hirundinidae*

**Plain (Brown-throated) Martin** *Riparia paludicola*

First seen in Strandfontein Works, a few birds were also seen in Augrabies Falls National Park.

**Rock Martin** *Hirundo fuligula*

Seen on everyday bar one during our tour.

NOTE: This confusing polytypic complex is being reviewed for multi-species splitting. Within the African populations, three potential species exist. The southern African nominate form *H. f. fuligula* would remain as Rock Martin and the more northern populations would become Red-throated Rock Martin (*H. pusilla*). Palaearctic birds would become Pale Crag Martin (*H. obsoleta*). Clements does not as yet recognize any of these splits.

**White-throated Swallow** *Hirundo albigularis*

This species was first recorded at Strandfontein and later seen in both West Coast and Augrabies Falls National Parks.

**Pearl-breasted Swallow** *Hirundo dimidiata*

Recorded on a number of days in the Karoo district.

**Greater Striped-Swallow** *Cecropis cucullata*

This bird was observed in Tienie Versveld Flower Reserve, Augrabies Falls National Park and en route to Windhoek.

**South African (Cliff-) Swallow (E)** *Petrochelidon spilodera*

Large numbers of this endemic species were seen under the low bridges en route to Brandvlei.

**Black Sawwing** *Psalidoprocne pristoptera*

This species was found on day one at Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. We had good scope views of these birds.

### Wagtails, Pipits & Longclaws *Motacillidae*

**Cape Wagtail** *Motacilla capensis*

Regularly recorded during the first half of our tour through Western South Africa.

**African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp*

First recorded on the Orange River in the town of Keimoes, and later seen in Augrabies Falls National Park.

**Orange-throated (Cape) Longclaw (E)** *Macronyx capensis*

This beautiful bird was seen at Strandfontein Water Works and Tienie Versveld Flower Reserve.



**Plain-backed Pipit**

*Anthus leucophrys*

A few birds were seen during the early part of our tour at Tienie Versveld and West Coast National Park.

**African (Grassveld) Pipit**

*Anthus cinnamomeus*

Strandfontein produced the first of these birds, followed by sightings at Tienie Versveld and near Niewoudtville.

*NOTE: African pipit taxonomy is in rather a disarray and much further research is required in the phylogeny of this grouping. Several forms which are considered subspecies are likely to become full species in their own right and several new forms are surely still to be described. The identification of two new species of pipits from an urban hockey field in Kimberley, South Africa, provides an excellent illustration regarding how little is known about African pipits and how little attention has been paid to them.*

**Bulbuls & Greenbuls Pycnonotidae**

**Black-fronted (African Red-eyed) Bulbul (NE)**

*Pycnonotus nigricans*

Our first sighting was at Augrabies Falls National Park, thereafter, it was seen almost daily for the rest of the tour.

**Cape Bulbul (E)**

*Pycnonotus capensis*

This fairly common endemic was recorded regularly on the Cape Peninsula, West Coast and a few sightings en route to Brandvlei.

**Sombre Greenbul (Bulbul)**

*Andropadus importunus*

We had sightings of this vocal species at Kirstenbosch, Constantia Greenbelt and Harold Porter Botanical Gardens.

**Thrushes & Allies Turdidae**

**Cape Rock-Thrush (E)**

*Monticola rupestris*

Good views were obtained of a male bird in the Rooiels area.

**Short-toed Rock-Thrush (NE)**

*Monticola brevipes*

Our only encounter was of a male bird in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park at a picnic site.

*NOTE: The South African isolate M. b. pretoriae may be split as Transvaal Rock-Thrush.*

**Groundscraper Thrush**

*Psophocichla litsipsirupa*

A pair of these strikingly-marked birds was seen at our lunch stop en route to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Olive Thrush**

*Turdus olivaceus*

This species was first seen at Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens, with further sightings on the Cape Peninsula and in Augrabies.

**[Karoo Thrush] (E)**

*Turdus smithi*

We observed some birds in the Brandvlei area.

*NOTE: Refer to the previous species.*

**Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae**

**Tinkling (Levaillant's) Cisticola**

*Cisticola tinniens*

Regularly recorded at most wetland locations throughout Western South Africa.

**Piping Cisticola (Neddicky)**

*Cisticola fulvicapillus*

This species was found in the Rooiels area.

*NOTE: Some authorities lump this species with Tabora, Long-tailed Cisticola (C. angusticaudus), of East Africa.*

**Cloud Cisticola (E)**

*Cisticola textrix*

We had good views of these endemic birds at Tienie Versveld Flower Reserve on the west coast.

**Red-headed (Grey-backed) Cisticola (NE)**

*Cisticola subruficapillus*

We encountered this species in the fynbos on the Cape Peninsula in good numbers and a few others in West Coast National Park and the Brandvlei area.

**Black-chested Prinia (NE)**

*Prinia flavicans*

We enjoyed superb views of these birds in the Brandvlei area, thereafter, it was seen everyday for the rest of the tour.

**Karoo Prinia (E)**

*Prinia maculosa*



Our first sighting was at Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, followed by regular sightings during our stay on the Cape Peninsula and the west coast of the Cape.

*NOTE: This species used to be lumped with Drakensberg Prinia (P hypoxantha) as Spotted Prinia but is now considered a separate species by most authorities including Clements.*

**Namaqua Prinia (Warbler) (E)** *Phragmacia substriata*

This endemic species was very responsive to tape and we enjoyed superb views of an individual in a riverbed at Augrabies Falls National Park.

**Rufous-eared Warbler (E)** *Malcorus pectoralis.*

Akkerendam Nature Reserve produced the first encounter with this delightful little bird, followed by further sightings in the Brandvlei region and the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Bar-throated Apalis** *Apalis thoracica*

First seen in Kirstenbosch, this forest species was also found in Harold Porter Botanical Gardens and West Coast National Park.

*NOTE: Some forms of Bar-throated Apalis are sometimes split off as Namuli Apalis A. lynesi and Taita Apalis (A. fuscigularis). There is likely to be further splitting of this group.*

**Kopje (Cinnamon-breasted) Warbler (E)** *Euryptila subcinnamomea*

Spectacular, close-up views were obtained of a pair of these energetic birds at Augrabies Falls National Park.

### Warblers & Allies *Sylviidae*

**African Bush (Little Rush/African Sedge) Warbler** *Bradypterus baboecala*

This species was recorded at Strandfontein Water Works and West Coast National Park.

**Knysna Scrub-Warbler (E)** *Bradypterus sylvaticus*

We managed excellent views of this master skulker in the Constantia Greenbelts on a cool, misty-rainy day. The bird was exhibiting its unusual feeding behavior: wings open, tail down & fanned while it scoured the leaf litter for tasty morsels.

**Victorin's Scrub-Warbler (E)** *Bradypterus victorini*

Another denizen of the dense undergrowth, we had good views (albeit brief) of two birds in Harold Porter Botanical Gardens.

**Cape Grassbird (E)** *Sphenoeacus afer*

This attractive bird was recorded on a couple of occasions on the Cape Peninsula and the Rooiels area.

**African Reed-Warbler** *Acrocephalus baeticatus*

Good views of this noisy warbler were had in Augrabies Falls National Park.

**Lesser Swamp (Cape Reed) Warbler** *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*

A couple of birds were seen at Strandfontein Water Works on our third day.

**Yellow-bellied Eremomela** *Eremomela icteropygialis*

Our first sighting was in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park followed by further sightings for the rest of the trip.

**Yellow-rumped (Karoo) Eremomela (E)** *Eremomela gregalis*

We were treated to good, close-up views of two birds in the scrubby bushes of the Brandvlei area.

**Cape (Long-billed) Crombec (Sylvietta)** *Sylvietta rufescens*

First seen in the Brandvlei region, it was later observed en route to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Layard's Warbler (Tit-babbler) (E)** *Parisoma layardi*

We enjoyed good views of this bird at West Coast National Park.

**Rufous-vented Warbler (Tit-babbler) (NE)** *Parisoma subcaeruleum*

First recorded in West Coast National Park, it was then seen at regular intervals for the rest of the tour.

### Flycatchers *Muscicapidae*

**Chat Flycatcher (NE)** *Bradornis infuscatus*

Our first birds were seen in the Brandvlei region, followed by many more sightings until we reached southern Namibia.

**Mariqua (Marico) Flycatcher (NE)** *Bradornis mariquensis*



We had good views of a pair at our lunch stop en route to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. Thereafter, we had good numbers during our stay in the park.

**Fiscal Flycatcher (E)** *Sigelus silens*

We found this bird at Harold Porter Botanical Gardens and in the West Coast National Park.

**African Dusky Flycatcher** *Muscicapa adusta*

This bird was seen during our stay on the Cape Peninsula.

**Cape Robin-Chat** *Cossypha caffra*

Good numbers encountered in Western South Africa for the first eight days of the tour.

**Kalahari Scrub-Robin (NE)** *Cercotrichas paena*

This charismatic species was recorded on a number of days during our stay in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Karoo Scrub-Robin (E)** *Cercotrichas coryphoeus*

Small numbers were seen daily in the West Coast Park, Brandvlei and Augrabies.

**African Stonechat** *Saxicola axillaris*

Seen on two days of the tour, at West Coast National Park and in the Lamberts Bay area.

NOTE: Clements recognizes the split of African (*S. torquata*) and Common (*S. rubicola*) Stonechats (the latter a Palearctic species), which is not followed by all authorities. Further splitting may occur in both groups including the highland Ethiopian form (*S. t. albofasciata*) that may become Ethiopian Stonechat.

**Mountain Wheatear (Chat) (NE)** *Oenanthe monticola*

Our first birds were seen near Brandvlei with other sightings at Augrabies Falls (highest numbers) and the Fish River Canyon.

**Capped Wheatear** *Oenanthe pileata*

This striking species was seen on only one day of the tour. Three birds were seen at Tienie Versveld Flower Reserve.

**Sicklewing Chat (E)** *Cercomela sinuata*

This dull-looking endemic was recorded in the Akkerendam Nature Reserve.

**Karoo Chat (E)** *Cercomela schlegelii*

We enjoyed good views of birds near Brandvlei on the fifth day of the tour.

**Tractrac Chat (NE)** *Cercomela tractrac*

We observed these birds daily in the Brandvlei area.

**Familiar Chat** *Cercomela familiaris*

This commonly recorded chat was first seen at Rooiels followed by further sightings at Augrabies and Kgalagadi.

**Southern Anteater-Chat (E)** *Myrmecocichla formicivora*

We enjoyed good views of several around Brandvlei, Augrabies and Fish River Canyon.

### Batides *Platysteiridae*

**Cape Batis (E)** *Batis capensis*

This species was observed daily during our stay on the Cape Peninsula. We had good views of a pair in Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens and at Harold Porter.

**Pirit Batis (NE)** *Batis pririt*

Our first bird was found in the Brandvlei area, followed by great sightings in Augrabies Falls National Park.

### Monarch Flycatchers *Monarchidae*

**African (Blue-mantled) Crested-Flycatcher** *Trochocercus cyanomelas*

Good views of a male bird were obtained in a forest patch at Harold Porter Botanical Gardens.

**African Paradise-Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone viridis*

This very attractive flycatcher was seen in Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens and the Constantia Greenbelts.

### Babblers & Allies *Timalidae*

**Rufous (Cape) Rock-jumper (E)** *Chaetops frenatus*

A pair was seen in the Rooiels area and we managed to have great scope views of the male bird.



**Tits Paridae**

**Ashy Tit (E)**

*Melaniparus [Parus] cinerascens*

This bubbly little bird was seen on three days during our stay in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Gray Tit (E)**

*Melaniparus [Parus] afer*

Recorded only on one day of the tour in West Coast National Park. We had a couple bird actively foraging in a mixed bird party.

**Sunbirds Nectarinidae**

**Orange-breasted Sunbird (E)**

*Anthobaphes violacea*

The fynbos on the Cape Peninsula was buzzing with this stunning little sunbird. We recorded good numbers in Kirstenbosch, Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve and Harold Porter Botanical Gardens.

**Malachite Sunbird**

*Nectarinia famosa*

These magnificent birds were seen in full breeding plumage at Kirstenbosch and Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve.

**Southern Double-collared Sunbird (E)**

*Cinnyris chalybea*

Good numbers were seen on the Cape Peninsula with further sightings at the West Coast National Park and en route to Brandvlei.

**Dusky Sunbird (NE)**

*Cinnyris fuscus*

First seen in the Brandvlei area, we also recorded this species at Augrabies, Kgalagadi and Fish River Canyon.

**White-eyes Zosteropidae**

**Cape (Pale) White-eye (E)**

*Zosterops virens*

Recorded daily on the Cape Peninsula and also at West Coast National Park.

NOTE: This species has recently been split into a further species, Orange River White-eye *Z. pallidus* which occurs in Western Southern Africa and further splitting may still occur.

**Orange River White-eye (E)**

*Zosterops pallidus*

This recent split was found each day in Augrabies Falls National Park.

NOTE: Refer to the above species.

**Sugarbirds Promeropidae**

**Cape Sugarbird (E)**

*Promerops cafer*

We obtained great, lengthy scope views of a pair in Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, with other sightings at Harold Porter Botanical Gardens.

**Shrikes Laniidae**

**Common Fiscal (Shrike)**

*Lanius collaris*

Recorded almost daily at all sites throughout Western Southern Africa. Peak numbers of twenty were seen in the Brandvlei area. We observed several of the white-browed desert form in the Northern Cape.

NOTE: The form *L. marwitzi* is sometimes split off as Uhehe Fiscal occurring in East Africa.

**Bush-Shrikes Malaconotidae**

**Brubru**

*Nilaus afer*

This bird was seen at Augrabies Falls National Park.

NOTE: This previously monotypic genus might be split 4 ways: Northern Brubru *N. afer*, Black-browed Brubru (*N. nigritemporalis*), Angola Brubru (*N. affinis*) and Southern Brubru (*N. brubru*). Only the Southern Brubru occurs in South Africa. Clements does not as yet recognize these splits.

**Southern Boubou (E)**

*Laniarius ferrugineus*

We had good views of a bird at Boulders Beach in the coastal scrub around the penguin colony.



**Crimson-breasted Gonolek (Shrike) (NE)** *Laniarius atrococcineus*

We were treated daily to great views of this spectacular species in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Bokmakierie (NE)** *Telophorus zeylonus*

West Coast National Park, Akkerendam Nature Reserve and the Brandvlei area produced sightings of this species.

### Drongos *Dicruridae*

**Fork-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus adsimilis*

Our first bird was found in wooded areas in Harold Porter Botanical Gardens, followed by numerous sightings in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park and daily thereafter.

*NOTE: Older versions of Clements lump the forest dwelling Velvet-mantled Drongo (D. modestus) of East and West Africa within Fork-tailed Drongo D. adsimilis but the split has been recognized in recent Clements updates as well as by most other authorities.*

### Crows & Ravens *Corvidae*

**Cape (Black) Crow** *Corvus capensis*

Recorded en route from Lamberts Bay to Brandvlei and in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Pied Crow** *Corvus albus*

Regularly seen in small numbers throughout Western Southern Africa.

**White-necked Raven** *Corvus albicollis*

Our first sighting was at Cape Point lighthouse with other views in the Rooiels area and the West Coast National Park.

### Starlings *Sturnidae*

**European (Common) Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

Seen daily for the first five days of the tour.

**Wattled Starling** *Creatophora cinerea*

Recorded in the Brandvlei area, Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park and en route from Fish River Canyon to Windhoek.

**Cape (Red-shouldered) Glossy-Starling (NE)** *Lamprotornis nitens*

First recorded at Augrabies Falls National Park and seen daily thereafter.

**Burchell's Glossy-Starling (NE)** *Lamprotornis australis*

This species was only recorded en route from Fish River Canyon to Windhoek.

**African Pied Starling (E)** *Spreo bicolor*

We had good numbers of this endemic at Tienie Versveld Flower Reserve, West Coast National Park and in the Brandvlei area.

**Red-winged Starling** *Onychognathus morio*

Small groups were seen around Cape Town including sightings at Kirstenbosch, Rooiels area and en route to Lamberts Bay.

**Pale-winged Starling (NE)** *Onychognathus nabouroup*

Augrabies Falls National Park and the Fish River Canyon produced good sightings of several birds.

### Old World Sparrows *Passeridae*

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

Widespread and fairly common in urban areas throughout Western South Africa.

**Southern Gray-headed Sparrow (NE)** *Passer diffusus*

This species was found daily in Augrabies and the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

*NOTE: The Gray-headed Sparrow complex P. griseus has been split into five full species with the South African form being given the name P. diffusus*

**Cape Sparrow (NE)** *Passer melanurus*

Our first birds were seen at Tienie Versveld and West Coast National Park, followed by daily sightings thereafter.



### Weavers & Allies Ploceidae

**Scaly Weaver (Scaly-feathered Finch) (NE)** *Sporopipes squamifrons*

Our first sighting was of a small group in the Brandvlei region, with further sightings en route to and within the Kgalagadi Park and in southern Namibia.

**White-browed Sparrow-weaver** *Plocepasser mahali*

First recorded en route to the Kalahari, we also enjoyed great views of many birds at their nests in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Social (Sociable) Weaver (E)** *Philetairus socius*

We had fantastic views of a colony en route to Augrabies Falls National Park near Kenhardt. They were also seen in really good numbers in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Cape Weaver (E)** *Ploceus capensis*

Our first record was good sightings of a breeding colony at West Coast National Park, with another sighting en route from Lamberts Bay to Augrabies.

**Southern Masked-Weaver** *Ploceus velatus*

Recorded en route to West Coast National Park, in the Brandvlei area and Augrabies Falls National Park.

*NOTE: African Masked Weaver P. velatus is sometimes split into the nominate Southern Masked Weaver which we recorded and the more northerly occurring Vitelline Masked-Weaver P. vitellinus.*

**Red-billed Quelea** *Quelea quelea*

Sightings of this abundant species were had in the Brandvlei area, Augrabies Falls and the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**(Southern) Red Bishop** *Euplectes orix*

A number of birds were seen en route to West Coast National Park and in the Brandvlei region.

**Yellow Bishop** *Euplectes capensis*

Recorded during the first few days of the tour with our best sightings in the Rooiels area.

### Waxbills & Allies Estrildidae

**Green-winged Pytilia** *Pytilia melba*

This gorgeous species was seen in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Red-billed Firefinch** *Lagonosticta senegala*

We found this beautiful firefinch in the gardens of the lodge that where we stopped for lunch en route to Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Violet-eared Waxbill** *Uraeginthus [Granatina] granatina*

This absolutely stunning bird was seen very well in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park near Twee Rivieren.

**Swee Waxbill (E)** *Estrilda [Coccopygia] melanotis*

Great views were had of this species in the Harold Porter Botanical Gardens.

**Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild*

Our best sightings of this red-masked waxbill were on a trail in Augrabies Falls National Park.

**Black-cheeked (-faced) Waxbill** *Estrilda erythronotos*

We also had good views of this waxbill in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Red-headed Finch (NE)** *Amadina erythrocephala*

Our lunch stop en route to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park produced our first sighting of this species, followed by more sightings in the park itself.

### Indigobirds & Whydahs Viduidae

**Shaft-tailed Whydah** *Vidua regia*

This good-looking bird was seen in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Pin-tailed Whydah** *Vidua macroura*

Recorded during the first few days in the Western Cape.



**Canaries, Siskins & Allies *Fringillidae*****(Common-) Chaffinch***Fringilla coelebs*

Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens and the gardens of our accommodation in Cape Town produced sightings of this bird.

**Cape Canary***Serinus canicollis*

Good numbers were seen during our stay on the Cape Peninsula.

*NOTE: This species complex might be split into two, the nominate southern group would remain as Cape Canary and the form which occurs in East Africa would become Yellow-crowned Canary (S. flavivertex.) Clements does not as yet recognize this split.*

**Black-throated Canary***Serinus atrogularis*

This species was recorded at our lunch stop en route to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park and also within the park itself.

*NOTE: This species complex is sometimes split with the South African form remaining in the Black-throated Seed-eater group as opposed to Kenya Yellow-rumped Seed-eater (S. reichenowi). Several endemic Ethiopian forms are sometimes lumped into the nominate S. atrogularis group including Yellow-throated Seed-eater (S. flavigula), Salvadori's Seed-eater (S. xantholaemus) and Yellow-rumped Seed-eater (S. xanthopygius).*

**Yellow Canary (NE)***Serinus flaviventris*

Recorded first on the fourth day of the tour, it was then seen almost daily for the rest of the tour.

**White-throated Canary (NE)***Serinus albogularis*

First found in West Coast National Park, it was then seen around Brandvlei and Augrabies Falls National Park.

**Cape Siskin (E)***Pseudochloroptila totta*

We had excellent close-up views of a pair in Harold Porter Botanical Gardens. This endemic flew into a tree very near to us and then down to ground where it proceeded to feed for a few minutes.

**Buntings & Allies *Emberizidae*****Lark-like Bunting (NE)***Emberiza impetuum*

This plain bird was seen in the Brandvlei area, Augrabies Falls and the Fish River Canyon area.

**Cape Bunting***Emberiza capensis*

We had good views of our first bird at Rooiels, others were seen at West Coast National Park, en route to Brandvlei and in the Fish River Canyon.

**MAMMALS****Elephant-Shrews *Macroscelidae*****Cape Rock Elephant-Shrew***Elephantulus edwardii*

We had great views on an individual at Rooiels. The creature was not concerned by our presence and we were able to approach it within a couple of meters for photographs.

**Baboons & Monkeys *Cercopithecidae*****Chacma Baboon***Papio ursinus*

This species is fairly common in rocky and mountainous areas in the Cape Peninsula. We had a troop in the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve with further sightings at Augrabies Falls National Park.

**Vervet Monkey***Cercopithecus aethiops*

This species was only recorded in the campsite at Augrabies Falls National Park.

**Hares & Rabbits *Leporidae*****Smith's Red Rockhare***Lepus capensis*

An excellent sighting was had of the handsome hare on a night drive at Augrabies Falls National Park.

**Scrub Hare***Lepus saxatilis*

We had good views of this species in Augrabies Falls and in the Fish River Canyon area.

**Squirrels Sciuridae**

**Ground Squirrel**

*Xerus inauris*

These delightful squirrels were very confiding in Augrabies Falls and the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Springhares Sciuridae**

**Springhare**

*Pedetes capensis*

This bizarre-looking animal was seen on both our night drives in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Porcupines Hystricidae**

**Porcupine**

*Hystrix africae australis*

This denizen of the dark was also seen on both night drives in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Rats & Mice Cricetidae & Muridae**

**Four-striped Grass Mouse**

*Rhabdomys pumilio*

This cute creature was seen well in the *Protea* gardens of Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens.

**Tree Rat**

*Thallomys paedulus*

An individual was seen in the Mata Mata region on a night drive in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Brants' Whistling Rat**

*Parotomys brantsii*

Good numbers were seen daily in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Dogs & Allies Canidae**

**Cape Fox**

*Vulpes chama*

Excellent views of this pretty fox were had in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. The animal was lounging around just outside its den and we eventually left it alone after a good 15 minutes of viewing.

**Bat-eared Fox**

*Otocyon megalotis*

One seen at night on route to Lamberts Bay.

**Black-backed Jackal**

*Canis mesomelas*

Good numbers were seen in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Mustelids Mustelidae**

**Zorilla**

*Ictonyx striatus*

Two of these nocturnal animals were found on our way back from the Fish River Canyon to the lodge after dark.

**Mongoose Herpestidae**

**Small Gray Mongoose**

*Galerella pulverulenta*

Good numbers were seen on the Cape Peninsula, west coast and Augrabies Falls.

**Slender Mongoose**

*Herpestes sanguinea*

We had brief views of the chestnut form of this mongoose just outside the entrance to Augrabies Falls National Park.

**Yellow Mongoose**

*Cynictis penicillata*

First seen in the Brandvlei area, it was later recorded daily in the Kgalagadi and the Fish River Canyon area.

**Suricate (Meerkat)**

*Suricata suricatta*

We had fairly distant views of these delightful creatures in the Kgalagadi and en route to the Fish River Canyon.

**Cats Felidae**

**African Wild Cat**

*Felis sylvestrus*



Our first views of this cat were on a night drive in Augrabies Falls, we later had many sightings in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park which included four separate sightings during one day.

**Lion**

*Panthera leo*

On our last afternoon in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park we had awesome views a big male and three lionesses very close to the gate of Twee Rivieren camp.

**Hyraxes Procaviidae**

**Rock Hyrax (Dassie)**

*Procavia capensis*

Our first was seen on the Cape Peninsula and our highest count was at Augrabies Falls National Park.

**Giraffes Giraffidae**

**Giraffe**

*Giraffa camelopardalis*

We were lucky to find fifteen of these ungainly-looking beasts in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park as the population is estimated at thirty animals.

**Bovids & Horned Ungulates Bovidae**

**Eland**

*Taurotragus oryx*

A young animal was seen on the night drive at Augrabies Falls National Park, followed by views of adults in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Gemsbok (Oryx)**

*Oryx gazella*

We enjoyed many daily sightings of this regal animal in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Red Hartebeest**

*Alcelaphus buselaphus*

This species was found in the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, Augrabies and the Kgalagadi.

**Blue Wildebeest (Brindled Gnu)**

*Connochaetes taurinus*

Large numbers were recorded daily in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Bontebok**

*Damaliscus dorcas dorcas*

We had views of this antelope species in the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve.

**Klipspringer**

*Oreotragus oreotragus*

Good numbers of this very agile antelope were observed at Augrabies Falls National Park.

**Springbok**

*Antidorcas marsupialis*

Our first sighting was at Brandvlei, followed by views in Augrabies and then highest numbers the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

**Steenbok**

*Raphicerus campestris*

Several were seen daily in the Kgalagadi and in southern Namibia

**Pleated Whales Balaenopteridae**

**Southern Right Whale**

*Eubalaena australis*

Good numbers of these massive creatures were seen off the Western Cape coast during our stay on the Cape Peninsula.

**Dolphins Delphinidae**

**Heaviside's Dolphin**

*Cephalorhynchus heavisidii*

This endemic to the west coast of southern Africa was one of the target species for Hermann. We indulged in an early morning boat ride at Lambert's Bay and were rewarded with good sightings of this diminutive dolphin.

**Fur Seals Otariidae**

**Cape Fur Seal**

*Arctocephalus pusillus*



First seen along the coast at Cape Point and during our pelagic trip from Simonstown, we also had superb views of a breeding colony at Lamberts Bay.

## REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

### Leopard Tortoise

This species was seen during our stay in Augrabies Falls National Park.

*Geochelone pardalis*

### Angulate Tortoise

We saw this tortoise during our stay on the Cape Peninsula and in good numbers in the West Coast National Park.

*Chersina angulata*

### Puffadder

This slow-moving snake was seen very well crossing one of the dirt tracks in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park on our first afternoon.

*Bitis arietans*

### Striped Skink

Several seen at Augrabies Falls National Park.

*Mabuya striata*

### Cape Girdled Lizard

This species was seen in Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens.

*Cordylus polyzonus*

### Common Barking Gecko

This vocal gecko was seen on a night drive in Augrabies Falls National Park and in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

*Ptenopus garrulous*

### Southern Tree Agama

Recorded in the Augrabies Falls National Park.

*Acanthocercus atricollis*

### Southern Rock Agama

One of the most common agamas in southern Africa, we found it at several localities on the tour including Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve and Augrabies Falls National Park.

*Agama atra*

### Augrabies Flat Lizard

We had good views of a number of these brightly colored lizards at Augrabies Falls National Park.

*Platysaurus broadleyi*

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