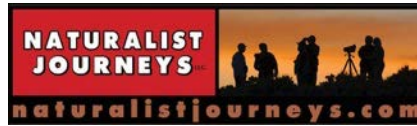


South Africa: Birding & Wildlife Safari | Trip Report

September 27 – October 11, 2023



Naturalist Journeys Tour Leader: Mason Flint • **Guides:** Dalton Gibbs & Nick Fordyce • **Tour Participants:** Donna, Richard, Joan, Geary, Scott, Marilyn & Gord



Wed., Sept. 27

Arrivals in Cape Town and Local Birding

Today was the official arrival day, although some arrived early to rest up after long flights and check out Cape Town, using the comfortable Greenwood Villa Guesthouse as a base. After lunch, Mason, Joan, Geary, Donna, and Richard visited Intaka Island, a public nature reserve that Mason visited last year. The 16-acre wetland was set aside when development of Century City began in 1996 and received Voluntary Conservation Status from Cape Nature in 2006. Before we entered the reserve, Geary spied a Black Crake on the edge of the canal while we watched Southern Maske-Weaver darting in and out of nests. We enjoyed a leisurely walk around the main pond got a head start familiarizing ourselves with many common Western Cape birds including Cape Shoveler (a South African endemic), Yellow-billed Duck, Cape Teal, Red-billed Duck, Red-knobbed Coot, and White-backed Mousebird, Pin-tailed Whydah, and Levillant's Cisticola. We were fortunate to get nice looks at Lesser Swamp and Little Rush Warblers flitting around the cattails by the visitor center.

Late in the afternoon, the whole group convened at Greenwood Villa before where we met Dalton and Nick who, along with Mason, would be our guides for the next two weeks. Dalton and Nick gave a short presentation on South Africa and plans for the trip, and we got our first glimpses of their deep knowledge and passion for sharing their beautiful country with us. That, along with their good humor, kindness, and teamwork, played a big part in making the trip a great experience.



Greenwood Villa, our home in Cape Town, sits on a quiet street in the Pinelands, a lovely neighborhood close to the center of Cape Town. Just a short walk from shops and restaurants, we had plenty of room in two guest houses. Except for meals, we spent most of our time outside on the patio, enjoying the garden where we enjoyed watching common birds including Red-eyed and Laughing Doves, Cape Robin-Chat, Cape Wagtail, Cape

Weaver, and Cape Sparrow. These were just the first of many “Cape” birds and mammals we’d see during the trip. Those visiting South Africa for the first time soon became accustomed to one of the characteristic sounds of Africa – the loud, raucous “ha-da-da” calls of the Hadada Ibis – which we heard every day of the trip. Cathy, owner of Greenwood Villa, and her wonderful staff took great care of us with friendly service, several tasty meals, help with transportation to local attractions, and laundry service.

Thurs., Sept. 28 West Coast National Park

Our first full day started early with hot coffee and breakfast at Greenwood Villa before loading up in our two vans and heading west toward West Coast National Park (WCNP). The Western Cape, which includes WCNP, is one of the reasons South Africa is considered one of the most biodiverse countries in the world with nearly 800 regularly occurring species of birds, more than 300 species of mammals, and 400 species of mammals. But plant diversity sets South Africa apart with at least 21,000 species, the sixth most of any country in the world. The dry, often sandy and nutrient poor soils cause plants to specialize, creating what is called the Cape Floral Region, the smallest of six recognized floral regions in the world with more than 9000 species of plants. Most of this diversity is associated with the *fynbos*, a small belt of shrubland or heathland vegetation located in the Western and Eastern Cape provinces. Although we spent more time looking at birds and mammals, plants were a close third and it seemed that Dalton knew the Latin names for most of those 9000 species.

We followed the coast west of Cape Town through the coastal *strandveld* that Greg Smith, Naturalist Journeys guide and frequent South Africa guide, noted is very reminiscent of the coastal dune scrub of coastal California. Our first stop was Hol Bay where we walked out to the beach to look at one of the iconic views of Table Mountain looming above Cape Town. African Oystercatchers and Hartlaub’s and Kelp Gulls flew by above the



waves, and we found our only White-fronted Plover of the trip high up on the beach. Just before we got back into the vans we saw Karoo Prinia, Karoo Scrub-Robin, and a pair of Southern Double-collared Sunbird in the scrubby bushes by the parking area.

After a few miles on the highway, we turned onto a dirt road and drove slowly down Ganzekraal Road toward the coast, hoping to see Black Bustard, a South Africa endemic. The first of many Rock Kestrel perched up nicely for us and a Black Kite (Yellow-billed) made an appearance, along with a White-backed Mousebird...but no Bustard. We turned around and started the drive back to the highway when the group in the trailing “Fun Bus” (later re-named “Adventure Bus”) saw a large, mostly black bird with a white check patch. Nick shouted “Black Korhaan!” into the radio, calling Dalton and the rest of the group back and everyone got looks at the striking bird. Black Bustard (aka Black Korhaan) was one of dozens of species where the name commonly used in South Africa was different than the name used in eBird. The North Americans and South Africans kidded each other about the differences (the South Africans noting that they had the “correct” names...).

Happy with the ~~Korhaan~~ Bustard sighting, we continued west on the highway a few miles and turned onto another dirt road and drove away from the coast up Darling Hills Road. We spent nearly an hour enjoying the beautiful grasslands and new birds for the trip including Black-winged Kite, Pearl-breasted Swallow, Capped Wheatear, and Orange-throated Longclaw. While scanning, Dalton saw a distant partly white raptor perched on a utility pole that initially had him thinking Osprey. Once we had it in the scope, Nick called out Martial Eagle, a life bird for most of the group. It was a juvenile, white underneath and on the face, but with a small crest visible through the heat shimmer.

After a short bio-break, we continued west and entered West Coast National Park where we were greeted with carpets of wildflowers including ground-creeping Suurvy, purple Elandsy, bright orange Gousblom and White Rain Daisy. We saw our first Cape Mountain Zebra, a sub-species of Mountain Zebra that was hunted to near extinction in the 1930’s when their population was reduced to about 100. There are now estimated to be nearly 3000 in the wild. Many Antelope including Common Eland, Springbok, Bontebok, and the tiny Steenbok (~ 25 lbs.) grazed along the entrance road.

Our first stop was a picnic lunch on the shore of Langebaan Lagoon where we saw our first Cape Bunting perched on nearby rocks and a Cape Crombec popped up from the low bushes. We could make out pink



smudges of Greater Flamingo in the distance. As we made our way back to the vans, we saw a Southern Penduline-Tit gathering nesting material right next to the trail. This rather drab bird had Dalton and Nick very excited.

We spent the rest of the afternoon exploring the peninsula that separates the lagoon from the Atlantic Ocean. Cape Girdled Lizards sunned on the rocks at Uitjyk Lookout and a Red-headed Cisticola perched up and vocalized nearby. We saw two of the often “Heard Only” Common Quail on the road near the lookout. As we drove slowly back south through the Postberg section of the park we had great looks at Large-billed Lark and Crowned Lapwing close to the road. We stopped at the beach on Tsaarabank Road where Crowned Cormorant, endemic to coastal South Africa and Namibia, perched on the rocks and a Karoo Scrub-Robin showed nicely on the edge of the small parking area. Our last stop before heading back to Cape Town was Abrahamskraal Hide. Our short visit was packed with several great birds. There was a pair of White-throated Swallow nesting inside the hide and the adults perched inches away from us as we looked out to the pond where we saw Cape Shoveler with recently fledged young, Little Grebe, and Red-knobbed Coot. We heard calls and caught quick glimpses of Little Rush Warbler peeking out from the reeds. As we walked back toward the vans and Malachite Sunbird perched up and a Black Harrier soared above. Then we heard the harsh krrack-krrack-krrack of a Black Bustard as it flew above the pond. Soon, we saw and heard as many as four displaying males flying with deeply exaggerated wingbeats while calling. Our first Cape Grassbird of the trip was hardly noticed in the excitement.

Fri., Sept. 29 Rooi-Els, Stony Point and De Hoop Nature Reserve

We had a leisurely morning at Greenwood Villa, giving everyone plenty of time for breakfast and to pack up for two nights at De Hoop Nature Reserve. We had to modify the normal route along the coast due to road closures following the historic flooding earlier in the week, but we arrived at our first stop, Rooi-Els (sometimes one word – Rooiels), by 10:00.

Rooi-Els is a small town sandwiched between the coast and the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve, a 3,000-hectare nature reserve. Immediately after parking, a pair of Orange-breasted Sunbird popped up in a nearby conifer, giving everyone great looks. We walked along the gravel road below the rugged Klein-Hangklip mountains to search for Cape Rockjumper, one of the most sought-after South Africa endemics. One of only two species in its family, Cape Rockjumper is (according to Birds of the World) inextricably linked to its mountain fynbos habitat and is a keystone species within the mountain fynbos. This near-threatened species can be very difficult to see. They’ve never been observed using sustained, wing-flapping flight, mostly walking, running, and jumping

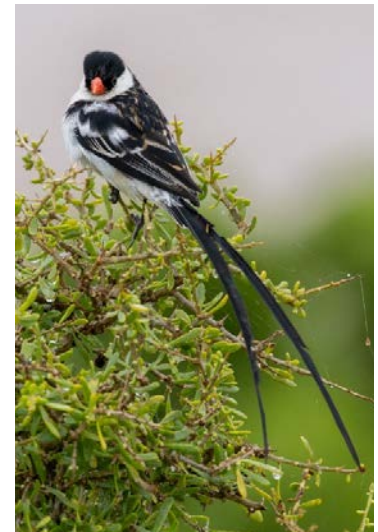


through the grass and across boulders, popping up briefly to sing or call. Nick jogged ahead of the group to start the search while the rest of us walked slowly. A few dozen Cape Cormorant, an endangered and almost exclusively marine species, were perched on rocks below. White-necked Ravens soared high below the cliffs and Familiar Chats perched up on the tops of utility poles. We also saw our first Cape Sugarbird, another South Africa endemic and, along with Gurney's Sugarbird, one of only two species in the family Promeropidae.

In the distance, Nick called out that he heard Ground Woodpecker! One of only three ground-dwelling woodpeckers in the world, they also prefer open rocky terrain with grass and boulders. After Mason jogged down the road toward Nick to help find the bird, the rest of the group kept searching and soon Geary saw one perched up on a rock. To our astonishment, a Cape Rockjumper popped up and, before we knew it, we had both species perched up on the same rock. We eventually saw at least two Rockjumpers less than 50 meters from the road and the photographers in the group captured shots of both. Success!

A Booted Eagle made a brief appearance, soaring high above the mountain top, during our short drive to Betty's Bay, home to the Stony Point Penguin Colony. African Penguin, the only penguin species that breeds in Africa, is endangered largely due to food shortages from commercial fishing for anchovy and pilchard. Populations declined from between 500,000 – 1,000,000 pairs at the beginning of the 20th century to less than 30,000 today. They mostly breed on nearshore islands, but two mainland colonies were established by penguins in the 1980's including Stony Point and Boulders Beach near Simons Town. We got wonderful, close looks at these amazing creatures as they relaxed on the beach and fed close to the shore. Storm damage to the boardwalk prevented us from getting close looks at Bank and Great Cormorant further out. We also saw our first Rock Hyrax, one of five species in the order Hyracoidea. Although Hyrax reminded some in the group of marmots, they're more closely related to elephants.

We continued east a short distance to our next stop, Harold Porter Botanical Gardens, where we enjoyed a picnic lunch. Harold Porter covers about 200 hectares within the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve. Our lunch was briefly delayed when a pair of African Paradise-Flycatcher made an appearance. Olive Thrush fed in the grass and Cape Robin-Chat sang from the nearby trees as we ate. After lunch, we took a leisurely walk through the gardens where we saw several species including Klaas's Cuckoo, Bar-throated Apalis, Karoo Prinia, Black Sawwing, Yellow Bishop, and Brimstone Canary. Although we had yet to see a Baboon, Mason photographed some scat on the trail.



We had to push on toward De Hoop which took longer than normal because of road closures due to floods earlier in the week. We mostly birded from the vans, making quick stops as we drove through grasslands and agricultural fields. We saw Spur-winged Goose perched up on fence posts, a pair of Namaqua Dove, and larks including Cape Lark (Agulhas) and Large-billed. Not long before we arrived at the De Hoop gates, we saw a flock of as many as 60 Blue Crane, South Africa's national bird, which we'd see often over the next two days. We passed through the gate just before the 5:00 deadline and drove into the beautiful De Hoop Nature Reserve. Common Ostrich, Cape Spurfowl, and Crowned Lapwing were common along the road. Mountain Zebra, Common Eland, the second largest antelope in the world, Gray Rhebok, Springbok, and Bontebok dotted the fields. After a long day, everyone was happy to check into their lovely cabins at De Hoop before enjoying a delicious meal in the dining room. After dinner, Dalton pointed out the Southern Cross while some of the group walked back to our cabins under a star filled sky.

Sat., Sept. 30 De Hoop

Our time at De Hoop was a highlight of the trip for many in the group. Covering nearly 340 square kilometers in the Overberg region, De Hoop is a UNESCO World Heritage Site with pristine coastline, white sand dunes, grasslands, and the De Hoop Vlei, a 750-hectare lake that was practically overflowing due to the recent rains. Formerly a farm, the reserve was bought by the South African government in the mid twentieth century and is one of the largest natural reserves managed by CapeNature, a governmental organization responsible for maintaining wilderness areas in the Western Cape Province.

We spent a full day in and around De Hoop, starting with an early morning walk from our cabins. Helmeted Guineafowl and Cape Spurfowl grazed in the grass along with the zebra and antelope. We soon heard the calls of aptly named Eurasian Woodhoopoe and Southern Boubou calling from the trees. We got our first looks at bright yellow Bokmakierie, often vocalizing from exposed, and a Southern Tchagra, one of the specialties at De Hoop. From the bluff over the Vlei we saw Water Thick-knee, African Darter, Long-tailed Cormorant, and a Western Cattle Egret. After breakfast, we loaded up in the vans and drove toward the exit. On the way we saw a Hamerkop, likely a relative of the Shoebill, feeding in the grass next to the road.

Once we were back on the main road to the north of De Hoop we drove east, making several stops. Highlights included Denham's Bustard, African Spoonbill, and African Stonechat. We heard but didn't see Common Quail. The blustery weather caused some concern that we may not see Cape Griffon, one of our key targets, but we saw nearly 40 soaring above the mountains as we approached Potberg. Cape Griffon is another endangered species, declining in population and decreased range, likely due to a combination of persecution, exposure to



agro-chemicals, loss of habitat, and other factors. We spent a bit less than an hour at Potberg where we saw our first Greater Double-collared Sunbird, Amethyst Sunbird, and a cooperative Southern Boubou that posed for photos. On our drive back to the lodge we stopped at what Dalton Coined a “Construction of Cranes” where we watched perhaps 100 Blue Crane feeding close to the road. Our trip coincided with the beginning of breeding season and this flock included several that males displaying with dancing and jumping. It was difficult for the only Zitting Cisticola seen during the trip to compete with their very distant Blue Crane relatives.

Just before we arrived back at De Hoop for lunch we saw a Hamerkop – possibly the same bird we saw on the way out. This time, we got to watch the bird devour a large frog for several minutes, an amazing experience. After lunch, we wrapped the day with a drive through the white sand dunes to Koppie Alleen, a secluded beach overlooking the ocean. We saw another Denham’s Bustard and a Fork-tailed Drongo during the drive and other birds at the beach including Caspian and Great Crested Terns, but Koppie Alleen was about enjoying the spectacular views of the ocean, crashing waves, and a stream of Southern Right Whales heading down the coast toward Cape Agulhas, the southern tip of Africa about 60 kilometers away.

Mon., Oct. 1 Morning at De Hoop and Return to Cape Town

Some in the group slept in this morning while others woke up early for a morning walk from our cabins to the lodge. The weather was improved with mostly clear skies. We saw Speckled and Red-faced Mousebirds moving around in small flocks, Southern Boubou, several swallows including Black Sawwing, Plain and Rock Martin, Pearl-breasted, White-throated, and Greater Stiped Swallow. With calmer water on the Vlei we saw ducks including Cape Shoveler and Yellow-billed Duck and a Great Crested Grebe. We also spied a very distant African Fish Eagle across the lake before we settled down outside under the sun. Minutes into breakfast we saw a woodpecker fly past us into a nearby tree – Knysna Woodpecker! This is another South Africa endemic and one that we were all fortunate to see – not an easy bird.

After breakfast we returned to our cabins to pack up and started our drive back to Cape Town. Because of road closures, we took a longer route north to one of the main highways – R60 – and then west to Paarl and south to Cape Town. The route didn’t allow a lot of time for birding but provided a few surprises. As we drove toward the De Hoop exit, we stopped to enjoy the scenery and try to pick out some of the LBJ’s flitting around in the grasslands. Dalton soon saw a Cape Clapper Lark (Agulhas) which was performing its distinctive aerial display involving a steep ascent while rapidly clapping its wings and a simple ascending whistle before plummeting back to the ground. Seeing this was a real treat.



Some in the group saw a Malachite Kingfisher just before exiting De Hoop onto the paved road. From there we wound our way north on small country roads through agricultural fields, making several short stops. Sightings included Jackal Buzzard, an endemic buteo with blackish upperparts and rufous breast, Black Kite, Red-capped Lark, Cape Lark (Agulhas), and several more Spur-winged Geese. The first surprise was buying lunch. Normally, Dalton and Nick have every meal stop planned far in advance, but the route change required some improvisation. Not wanting to waste precious time at a restaurant, we drove into Swellendam, a prosperous agricultural town and stopped at a grocery store. Everyone grabbed what they wanted for lunch and loaded it into the shopping cart. When we reached the checkout line we saw trouble – a long line that looked like it would take an hour to get through. Thinking quickly, Dalton drove the cart up to the coffee bar at the entrance and asked the barista if she'd take care of us. She kindly did, was amply rewarded with a nice tip, and we were soon on our way.

We found a roadside spot for a quick picnic before continuing west, following the highway which passes south of the Langeberg Mountains, a range that separates the Agulhas Plain on to the south and the Little Karoo to the north. We made a serendipitous stop at a scenic spot west of Robertson. The scrubby landscape had many interesting plants and flowers which prompted a botany lecture from Dalton that was interrupted first by an Alpine Swift (new bird for the trip) and then by a beautiful Pale Chanting Goshawk (another new bird for the trip). Time well spent. We made a quick fuel/bio-break near Paarl (one of the oldest cities in South Africa and famous as the place where Nelson Mandela walked out of prison, ending his 27 years of imprisonment). Unfortunately, we didn't have time to visit the city, but we did see a Purple Heron behind the rest stop. Our last stop was near Du Toitskloof Pass where we stretched our legs with a short walk up a closed road. We didn't see Protea Canary, which Nick had seen in this area before, but the views were worth the stop.

After our long travel day, we arrived back at the Greenwood Villa late afternoon where we enjoyed a traditional South African Braai courtesy of Cathy and team at the villa and cooked by Dalton and Nick.

Tues., Oct. 2 Pelagic Trip off Cape Point

What a difference a day makes. After driving through agricultural fields and mountains on Monday, we spent most of Tuesday on the ocean off the Cape of Good Hope looking for seabirds and whales. We departed Greenwood Villa a few minutes late because "someone" didn't set his alarm. The usually chronically on time "someone" was chagrined but we managed to arrive at the boat launch in Simons Town on time.



After leaving the harbor at Simons Town, we hightailed it out of False Bay toward Cape Point, stopping briefly to look for whales that briefly surfaced. Our destination was the edge of the continental shelf, about 40 kilometers/20 nautical miles offshore. Pelagic birding is always a roll of the dice with variable weather, sea conditions, and bird activity. We lucked out with weather, relatively calm seas, and marine mammals, but bird activity was slower than we hoped because there were no nearby trawlers offshore. We started seeing a few White-chinned Petrels and a few Cape Gannett just a few miles offshore, but it remained quiet until we got close to the shelf. After we arrived in deeper water, the activity picked up as more White-chinned Petrels and a few White-capped Albatross soared around the boat. We enjoyed watching tuna leaping out of the water, terrorizing smaller fish. Our captain and Dalton kept watching the radar, looking for trawlers that we might reach but all were many miles away. We resorted to chumming which brought in more birds, giving us close looks at several White-capped and a few Black-browed Albatross. A handful of dark-capped Great Shearwater and Sooty Shearwater with silvery underwings cruised around the boat. A few Great Crested and Common Terns and one Arctic Tern came in, hovering close to the boat. Eventually, a beautiful Cape Petrel made a quick flyby.

Fortunately, whales helped make up for the small numbers of seabirds. Not long after leaving the dock, a Bryde's Whale briefly surfaced. This whale is part of a poorly understood "complex" that includes three of four species, but classification is unclear because of limited research. After we arrived at the shelf, a large whale with a hooked dorsal fin about two-thirds of the way down its back surfaced briefly enough for photos. We later confirmed that this was a Sei Whale, the third largest *rorqual* after Blue Whale and Fin Whale. Then, just before we headed back to shore, at least two Humpback Whales gave us a wonderful show. They surfaced a few times close to our boat, showing us their long flippers and tails and emitting very loud whistles. Members of the group captured great photos and video of these majestic creatures.

We headed back to shore, moving at a brisk pace until we reached Cape Point. Cape Point is a rocky promontory on the southeast corner of the Cape Peninsula, about 2 kilometers east of Cape of Good Hope. There is a common misconception that the Cape of Good Hope is the southernmost point in Africa, marking the dividing point between the Atlantic and Indian oceans. The southern tip of Africa, Cape Agulhas, is about 150 kilometers west, not far from the beach at Koppie Alleen. Regardless, the rugged promontory at the tip of the Cape Peninsula is more beautiful.



Shortly after re-entering False Bay, we stopped and watched a few dozen Brown (Cape) Fur Seals hauled out on the cliffs the larger males staking out the high points, with Cape Cormorant perched nearby. We continued further into False Bay, hugging the shoreline where we saw many more Cape Cormorant and smaller numbers of Bank and Great (White-necked) Cormorant, along with a few African Oystercatcher. When we reached Boulders Beach, a few kilometers south of Simons Town, we saw the second mainland colony of African Penguin in South Africa with more than 100 resting on the beach and feeding close to shore. We had another “only in Africa” experience nearby when we saw Common Ostrich from the boat.

We arrived at the harbor at Simons Town by 2:30 with many in the group fatigued from the trip. We squeezed out of the parking lot, Gord offering driving tips to Nick, and headed back toward Greenwood Villa with a short stop where we took in spectacular views of Table Mountain. Most of the group spent the rest of the afternoon relaxing before meeting for the evening checklist and dinner.

Wed., Oct. 3 Kirstenbosch, Rondevlei, Strandfontein

We had a more leisurely morning with coffee and breakfast before making the short drive to Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden, one of the jewels of South Africa. Nestled the foot of Table Mountain in Cape Town, the garden emphasizes plants indigenous to South Africa and provides an oasis for residents and travelers with sweeping views in every direction. Dalton and Nick parked the fans near the top entrance to the garden, allowing the group to walk slowly down through the gardens to the main entrance. We heard the now familiar “Work harder, work harder...” calls of Ring-necked Dove (switching to “Drink larger, drink larger...” after lunch) the raucous Hadada Ibis, and the persistent songs of Sombre Greenbul. Cape Spurfowl and Egyptian Geese grazed in grassy areas. Cape Bulbuls and Cape White-eye were abundant. When we reached the Protea gardens, dozens of Southern Double-collared Sunbirds and smaller numbers of Cape Sugarbirds flitted around, feeding on the flowers. Midway down the hill we found two Spotted Eagle-Owl, one tending a shadowy nest on the ground, and another perched on an exposed branch for the photographers in the group. Some in the group saw a passing African Harrier-Hawk and a Bronze Manakin. Speckled Mousebirds, an African Paradise-Flycatcher, Karoo Prinia, African Dusky Flycatcher, Sweet Waxbill, Forest and Cape Canary and many other species made appearances. It was a joy to watch local people, including groups of school children enjoying the gardens.



When we reached the main entrance, the group split up for an hour to walk the grounds or visit the wonderful shop while Dalton and Nick moved the vans from the top entrance to the exit and set up our picnic lunch, completing a wonderful morning.

Our next stop was Rondevlei Nature Reserve, located in a suburb of Cape Town. The sanctuary covers 290 hectares and is one of the most important wetlands in South Africa. Rondevlei is home to more than 200 species of birds, countless species of plants and several amphibians (including many endemics), and home to Dalton and his wife. Dalton is a leader in nature conservation in Cape Town and manages the Rondevlei Nature Reserve. He could barely contain himself as he walked us through the fields near his house, sharing what he knows about the flora and fauna. He tracked down a tiny Arum Frog, a South Africa endemic just across the road from his house. Later that night, we drove down the road nearby and heard a cacophony of frogs including a handful of other species. After Rondevlei, we drove a short distance to Strandfontein Wetlands, a sprawling complex of ponds and one of the most well-known birding sites in South Africa. We spent about 2-1/2 hours driving around the ponds. We saw several species of waterfowl including South African Shelduck, Cape Teal, Red-billed Duck, and our only Southern Pochard and Maccoa Duck of the trip. We saw at least 250 Greater and 200 Lesser Flamingo feeding in larger ponds, in some cases side by side. Other highlights included Black-winged Stilt and palearctic migrants including Common Ringed Plover, Kittlitz's Plover, and Little Stint.

We ended a long but productive day with a braai on the Zeekoevlei shoreline, hosted by Dalton's friend Tom. While the barbecue heated up, Tom took Richard out on his boat and got great looks at African Fish Eagles and those who stayed behind saw our only Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk of the trip.

Thurs., Oct. 4 Johannesburg to Dullstroom

This was a travel day, starting with a morning flight from Cape Town to Johannesburg where we were met at the airport by two comfortable vans. From there we drove to Dullstroom, with a brief stop at the Steer Restaurant. The long day of travel didn't involve much birding but got us to a very different part of South Africa that we'd enjoy for the rest of the trip. After checking into our comfortable guest houses near the center of town, we enjoyed a tasty dinner before heading to bed early.



Fri., Oct. 5 Dullstroom, Verloren Vlei, Kruger

Our morning started with birding around our guesthouses where we saw Kurrichane and Olive Thrush. We enjoyed a nice outdoor breakfast where we saw our first Common Bulbul which replaced Cape Bulbul common around Cape Town. After breakfast we headed toward Verloren Valei (Lost Valley), a protected area about 15 km north of Dullstroom. The reserve sits on the Steenkampsberg Plateau. Over about three hours we drove slowly north through rolling grasslands and mixed wetlands, reaching altitudes above 7000 feet. We soon saw Long-billed Lark, African Stonechat, Buff-streaked Chat, Long-tailed Widowbird, and Streaky-head Seedeater. Mason spied a *very* distant Gurney's Sugarbird that took a bit of imagination when peering through the spotting scope. Fortunately, we got better looks at this South Africa endemic later in the trip. As we moved further up, we saw several more grassland birds including Eastern Long-billed Lark, Buff-streaked Chat, Mountain and Capped Wheatear, Nicholson's Pipit and Orange-throated Longclaw. A few in the group saw a Southern Bald Ibis that flew out of a recent burn, their preferred habitat. We saw two herds of Black Wildebeest (aka White-tailed Gnu), an uncommon sighting for the area.

Before noon we had to push onward toward Kruger. The drive involved a stretch of bumpy road that reminded Mason of the potholed roads in northeastern Ohio in winter. Holding tight, we headed east, descending the Great Escarpment. The Great Escarpment consists of steep slopes that descend from the high central plateau down toward the oceans that surround southern Africa. A mantle plume under the "supercontinent" Gondwana about 180 million years ago, causing a building of the crust in the area that would eventually become southern Africa. Rift valleys that formed on either side of the bulge flooded and eventually became the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. We descended the eastern part of the escarpment which is known as the Drakensberg. Later in the trip we'd spend time searching for the elusive Drakensberg Prinia.

Eager to get to Kruger on time, Nick's van was briefly pulled over while driving a few KPH over the speed limit, but the understanding police officer quickly waved us onward, and we arrived at the Paul Kruger Gate just before 4:00 pm. While Dalton and Nick checked us in at the gate the rest of the group stretched out their legs and spied a few birds including our first Gray Go-away Bird of the trip and a White-backed Vulture soaring high above. Pressed for time, we made a few quick stops on our way to Lake Panic Bird Hide. We paused to check a very distant pair of birds that turned out to be Southern Red-billed Hornbills but pushed on quickly, knowing

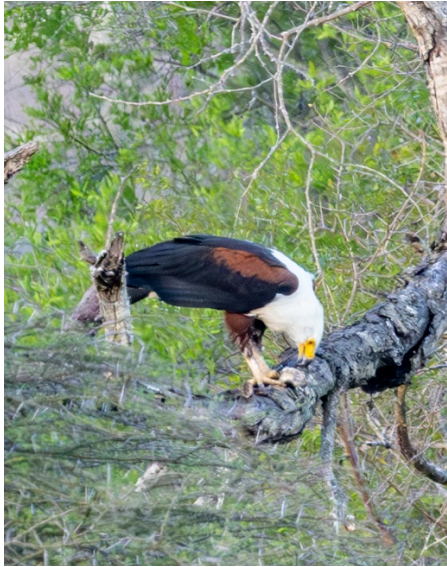


we'd see them again at much closer range. At the Lake Panic parking area, we were greeted by Andrew and Henroux, our safari guides for the next four days. After brief introductions, we walked the short (well fenced!) walkway to the hide and were immediately immersed in the magic of Kruger. Dozens of Village Weaver tended densely packed nests. Black Crake walked around the edges of the pond, oddly visible compared to their North American rail relatives that are usually difficult to see. A Squacco Heron and a few Striated Heron crept along the shoreline and a pied Kingfisher dove into the water from nearby tree and a few in the group saw a Malachite Kingfisher. A pair of African Fish Eagle perched in a snag further up the pond and the heads of Hippos poked above the surface here and there. With darkness approaching, we reluctantly pulled ourselves away and drove the short distance to Skukuza Camp. Skukuza is gated and surrounded by a high fence to keep out...lots of potentially dangerous animals! We were all assigned to a small, round *Rondavel* with a thatched roof. Although not luxurious, they had comfortable beds, simple bathrooms with hot water, and air-conditioning. After freshening up, we met at the outdoor dining area for the evening checklist and dinner before retiring for the night.

Fri., Oct. 6 **Skukuza, Sabie River**

We started our first full day in Kruger early with coffee and rusk, served by Andrew out of the back of his safari vehicle. Andrew and one of his colleagues guide Naturalist Journeys tours in Kruger most years and his incredible knowledge, sharp eyes, and good humor make him a group favorite. Andrew and Henroux seemed to know exactly where to look to find birds and animals.

Kruger, the first national park in South Africa, covers more than 7,500 square miles. It extends 220 miles north to south and about 40 miles east to west. The lands, long populated by indigenous people, were first set aside to control hunting as the Sabi Game Reserve starting in the late 1800's and the park was officially proclaimed in 1918. Many first-time visitors have images of vast savanna grasslands but much of Kruger but much of Kruger is mixed woodlands and scrub. Our visit started near the southern part of the park and reached as far north as Olifants which is at about the north/south midpoint. Kruger is famous for mammals with more than 20 species of antelope, many carnivores that prey on them, elephants, hippos, giraffes, and many more. We saw at least 25 species of mammals during our visit including the four of the "Big 5" – Lion, Elephant, African Buffalo, and Leopard. More than 500 species of birds have been seen in the park, about half residents and the rest non-breeding migrants or nomads.



We spent the day driving the Skukuza-Lower Sabie River Road toward the Mozambique Border before returning mid-afternoon for a siesta. This would be the hottest day of the trip but also the most productive in terms of birds with 112 species recorded. While drinking our coffee, a pair of Crowned Hornbill and single Crested and Black-collared Barbet perched up nicely for us. Just after we loaded up into the vans, an African Goshawk flew low over the road before landing on a radio tower near the camp gate. After leaving the camp we drove slowly, making numerous short stops. We were confined to safari vehicles (large mammals including predators are common) but the open vehicle with roof providing shade gave everyone good views in every direction.

Shortly after leaving camp, we saw several species including White-browed Coucal (Burchell's), Cardinal and Golden-tailed Woodpecker, Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike, Southern Black-Tit, Marico and White-breasted Sunbird, and Red-billed and African Firefinch. A bit further east we added several more species including a nesting Wahlberg's Eagle, Long-crested Eagle, Black-backed Puffback, Black-crowned Tchagra, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Rattling Cisticola, Gray Tit-Flycatcher, and Bearded and Red-backed Scrub-Robin.

Amanda wasn't feeling well so Henroux drove her and Dalton back to Skukuza Camp while the rest of us continued to the Sabie River bridge. We hoped to find an African Finfoot that had been seen there recently and later teased Dalton that we saw a flock of them (a species Dalton hasn't seen). We didn't see the finfoot but enjoyed many birds including Little Egret, Goliath Heron, White-backed Vulture, and Giant Kingfisher. As we continued east, we added Brown-hooded Kingfisher and Black-backed Puffback before reaching the Nkuhlu Picnic Site. We spent about 30 minutes eating a simple picnic breakfast by the side of the Sabie River, briefly fending off a hungry Vervet Monkey. Black Crake padded around in the open and soon we added Three-banded Plover and Wood Sandpiper. We continued east, stopping for fantastic looks at a Martial Eagle and a Red-billed Oxpecker removing ticks from a Greater Kudu before reaching a small pond where we watched Yellow-billed Stork and a Hamerkop feeding nearby. As we continued east, we added Bronze-winged Courser (not at all common), Black-winged Kite, Black Kite (Yellow-billed), Green Woodhoopoe, Common Scimitarbill, and White Helmetshrike before reaching Sunset Dam. At Sunset Dam, an important watering spot, Andrew pointed out the Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver communal nest while several other species including Wood Sandpiper and African Spoonbill fed along the shoreline.



With temperatures rising, we were happy to reach the shady Lower Sabie Rest Camp where we enjoyed ice-cold drinks and lunch with views of the river. Little Swift and African Palm Swift zoomed above, and Greater Blue-eared Starling perched nearby hoping for handouts. Black-winged Stilt fed on the shoreline and Andrew pointed out two rare African Skimmer in the distance. We got somewhat better looks at the skimmers after lunch. On our way back to the vehicle we added Spectacled Weaver and close looks at Black-collared Barbet at a birdbath. Our last stop before heading back toward Skukuza Camp was the N'watimhiri Bridge crossing over the Sabie River. We lucked out seeing three rarely seen Collared Pratincole including a pair mating as well as White-crowned Lapwing, Common Sandpiper, a light morph Tawny Eagle, and close looks at Hippos below the bridge.

By 1:30 we were ready to head back for an afternoon siesta or slow birding in the shady Skukuza Camp, but we made a few short stops on the way. Andrew called in a Lilac-breasted Roller that “rolled” for the group and a few Bateleur teeter-tottered across the sky. Then we saw our first cats! First, a female Lion that came out of the bush to drink from a small stream and then a Leopard resting in the shade not far from the road.

After returning to the camp, most of the group rested up while a few walked around near our cabins before we all walked over to dinner at Kruger Station, an old rail platform converted into a lovely restaurant. We added several new birds for the trip including Brown-headed Parrot (one of six parrots found in Africa), Yellow-bellied Greenbul, Terrestrial Brownbul, Ashy Flycatcher, White-browed and Red-capped Robin-Chat and Collared and Scarlet-chested Sunbird. Whew!

Sat., Oct. 7 Skukuza to Satara, Night Drive

We started our second full day in Kruger with coffee and rusk enjoying the sounds of Eurasian Hoopoe and nice looks at Green Woodhoopoe and African Black-headed Oriole perched above. After loading up, we started our drive north toward Satara Camp. While crossing the Sabie River Bridge we saw our only African Black Ducks of the trip and good luck struck again when Andrew saw two adult Bronze-winged Courser with chicks close to the road. We also saw a distant Marabou Stork perched up in the distance. Over the next few hours, we saw several new species for the trip and what seemed like dozens of raptors. Bird highlights included several Tawny, Martial, and Wahlberg's Eagles (including one on a nest with chicks), Bateleurs, African Harrier-Hawk, African Hawk-Eagle, Lappet-faced Vulture, two families of Southern Ground-Hornbill (known as “Uncle Tutu” to the local people), and White-crowned Shrike. At around noon we witnessed what many in the group thought was one of the peak experiences of the trip when we watched a family of elephants' bathe and play in a pond close to the



road. Watching the young elephants play in the water and the silent (at least to human ears) communication from the adults signaling when it was time to leave was a moving experience. We arrived at Satara Camp in time for an outdoor lunch and relaxed birding nearby before most in the group took a much-needed siesta for the rest of the afternoon. A pair of Common Scimitarbill moved around the trees and another pair of Crested Barbet hopped around on the ground near a water feature. A few in the group got great looks at a Cardinal Woodpecker low on a tree trunk and a handful of Brown-headed Parrots perched nearby. After dinner we took a night drive led by one of the camp rangers. A few in our group were handed flashlights to help scan the darkness. As usual, Dalton and Nick were indispensable, helping identify birds including our first Kori Bustard of the trip, a Square-tailed Nightjar, Barn Owl, and Verreaux's Eagle-Owl. We also heard Barn and African Scops-Owl and saw several mammals including Black-backed Jackal.

Sun., Oct. 8 Olifants

After two hot days with temperatures reaching the low 90's F (~ 33 C), we woke to a cool morning in the high 60's. Following a familiar pattern, we started early with coffee and rusk in the camp with swarms of Little Swift zooming above before heading north toward the Olifants River.

Our luck continued when we saw a pair of Double-banded Sandgrouse and more Southern Ground-Hornbill not far from Satara. Then we got our first daylight look at the massive Kori Bustard, followed by at least five more later in the day. The abundance of raptors continued with sightings of Bateleur, Martial, Wahlberg's, and Tawny Eagles, and Black Kite within miles of Satara. A few in the group saw less ostentatious birds including Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark, Sabota Lark, Common Waxbill, Southern Cordonbleu, Green-winged Pytilia, and Yellow-throated Longclaw.

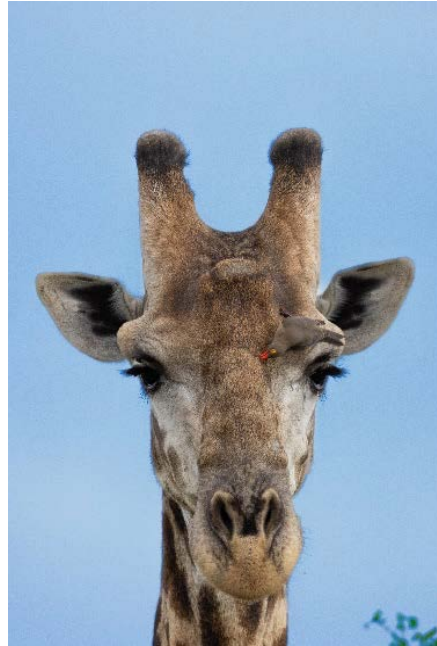
Just before 8:00 AM we came upon a handful of vehicles stopped on the road and saw that they were observing a pack of African Wild Dogs feeding on a fresh kill. The largest wild canine in Africa, there are estimated to be fewer than 7,000 adults remaining in Africa. Our first looks were glimpses in the high grass, but patience paid off when we eventually got close, unobstructed looks at perhaps a dozen members of the pack. Birds were almost forgotten for a while, but a Brown-hooded Kingfisher perched up nicely nearby along with an African Paradise-Flycatcher, and Marico Sunbird.



We arrived at Olifants Camp before 10:00 and sat down for a nice breakfast before stepping outside to enjoy the spectacular views of the Olifants River below and the views toward Mozambique to the east. We were able to pick out White-crowned Lapwing, Saddle-billed Stork, and Hamerkop along the river below and a pair of African Hawk-Eagle soared above. We paused for a group photo with the valley as a backdrop before beginning our leisurely drive back toward Satara. We mostly had the road to ourselves for the afternoon. During a brief stop at the bridge over the Olifants River we saw Three-banded Plover, Common, and Wood Sandpiper, African Fish-Eagle, and Pied Kingfisher. A few miles later we got great looks at a Brown-crowned Tchagra, Violet-eared Waxbill, and a few in the group saw a Golden-breasted Bunting. Within another few miles we added Black-crowned Tchagra, Marico Flycatcher, Red-billed Firefinch, Red-billed Quelea, and another Golden-breasted Bunting for those who missed the earlier sighting.

We passed a pair of Black-backed Jackel resting in the grass and then came across another one of those only-in-Africa experiences. First, we saw three young Cheetah resting on the top of a small hill. Andrew said there must be an adult nearby and a few minutes later we watched the mother approaching through the grass before settling next to them. We spent about a half-hour quietly observing these magnificent creatures as they rested, stretched, and (I imagine) contemplated the herd of Impala that we could see a few hundred meters to the east. Experiencing this in solitude, without any other vehicles nearby, was unforgettable.

The overcast and breezy conditions provided a moody contrast from the previous sunny days as we continued our drive toward Satara. We came across a large flock of Quailfinch, more Red-crested and Kori Bustards, a few Namaqua Dove, and White-winged Widowbirds before coming across more impressive mammalian spectacles. First, we observed a large herd of African Buffalo moving around on a distant hill, raising clouds of dust. Even at a great distance, we could see blood on at least one unfortunate beast as he was pushed out of the herd by dominant males. Then a few miles further down the road we came across a small herd of elephants including one giant male that Andrew called a "Big Tusker," increasingly rare due to poaching. When crossing the road nearby, another large male paused briefly and faced Henroux's vehicle, seemingly sending the message that he was in charge, before continuing. Finally, just before we re-joined the main road to Satara, a few in our group were amazed to see a couple of Blue Wildebeest run through the grass and leap across the road in front of us. By the time we got distant looks at a small pride of Lion, most in the group were ready to get back to camp where most relaxed before dinner and started packing up for the travel day the following morning.



Sun., Oct. 9

Satara, Orpen Gate, Drive to Mount Sheba

Some chose to sleep in while others got up early for birding around the camp before breakfast. The rest-camps offer incredible birding with shade and water attracting birds and other creatures. A Spotted Hyena walked close to the fence, hoping for a handout, Chacma Baboon move around inside the camp (and best left alone), and Andrew said that an African Wildcat had been seen in the camp but we couldn't find it. Our leisurely walk around the camp gave us great looks at some of the common birds overlooked during our safari drives including the charismatic hornbills (African Gray, Southern Yellow-billed, and Southern Red-billed), Crested and Pied Barbet, Chinspot Batis, Burchell's, Greater Blue-eared, and Cape Starling, and dozens of Southern Gray-headed Sparrows. We added new birds for the trip including White-headed Vulture, an accommodating Pearl-spotted Owllet, Dideric Cuckoo (heard only), and Gray-headed Bushshrike.

After loading up, we reluctantly started our drive out of Kruger toward the Orpen Gate. We saw several not familiar birds as we drove west. As we approached the Nsemani Dam we saw a Rufous-crowned Roller, a new species for the trip, and the more common Lilac-breasted Roller. At the dam we enjoyed a nice study of palearctic migrants with Common and Wood Sandpiper, Common Greenshank, and a distant Curlew Sandpiper while Yellow-billed Stork walked the edges of the pond. As we continued west, we added more Tawny Eagles including one on a nest (we ended the trip with at least 10!), Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike, and Green-backed Camaroptera (aka "camera-operator" as Dalton called them). Later we added another Wahlberg's Eagle (our 7th for the trip), nice looks at Cinnamon-breasted Bunting, some saw a Red-headed Weaver, and Mason and Marilyn caught backlit glimpses of a Violet-backed Starling. Just before we reached the Orpen Gate and departed Kruger we came across a "cat jam," several vehicles stopped in the road by a pride of Lion. A male and a female rested in the middle of the road, preventing vehicles from passing. The female moved off the road and eventually the male followed. As we drove by, we saw the rest of the pride relaxing just off the road. We stopped at the Orpen Gate for snacks and cold drinks and said goodbye to Andrew and Henroux before continuing toward our home for the last two nights of the trip, Mount Sheba. By this part of the trip, most in the group were tired so we only made one stop, at Abel Erasmus Pass. We hoped to see a few birds seen at this spot in prior years including Mocking Cliff-chat and Mountain Wagtail, but the tricky trail conditions a bit much for tired legs, so we mostly



birded from the side of the road by the market. Still, we added White-breasted Sunbird, and our best looks at Cape Rock-thrush and great looks a yellow-breasted sub-species of the highly variable Bar-throated Apalis. We arrived at Mount Sheba late in the afternoon with time to unpack before sitting down for dinner.

Mon., Oct. 10 Mount Sheba

Most years, Naturalist Journeys trips stop at Mount Sheba on the way to Kruger. Due to scheduling challenges, this year we ended the tour at Mount Sheba. Although we prefer to end with a bang in Kruger, wrapping up the tour in the comparative luxury of Mount Sheba and the somewhat shorter drive back to Johannesburg had its advantages. Mount Sheba Rainforest Hotel sits on the mountains on the Great Escarpment at about 1700 meters (5600 feet) within one of the few expanses of mostly undisturbed Afromontane forests in South Africa. The beautiful mountain scenery and lodge with cozy rooms and fireplaces provides a striking contrast with the mostly open expanses and more spartan accommodations in Kruger. Birding in the dense forest and searching for birds in the canopy was challenging but rewarding.

We started with a morning walk around the lodge and partway down the Marcos Mantle trail. We saw White-rumped and a few Alpine Swift zooming above and Amethyst and Greater Double-collared Sunbirds feeding in the trees near the main lodge and heard an African Emerald Cuckoo. We had several targets that were not possible earlier in the trip. One was the exotic Knysna Turaco which played hard to get in the thick forest but gave most of the group decent looks. Another was the Narina Trogon which we heard repeatedly and finally caught glimpses of later in the morning. We also added Olive Bushshrike, a heard-only Orange Ground-Thrush, and a Yellow-throated Woodland-Warbler before we returned to the lodge for breakfast.

After breakfast we loaded up into one of the vans and drove partway up the entrance road and out of the forest. A Jackal Buzzard soared over, and we saw a flock of European Bee-eater above us near the ridgeline. One of our targets near the top was Drakensberg Prinia which played hard to get. We heard at least 3 of 4 and caught brief glimpses but this southern Africa endemic mostly stayed hidden in the grass. We saw a handful of Gurney's Sugarbird and Black Sawwing tending a nest in a dirt bank. We repeatedly heard Red-necked Spurfowl but didn't see one. During our walk down to the lodge we re-entered the forest and added more birds including Red-chested Cuckoo, Narina Trogon, an Olive Woodpecker tending a nest, and Chorister Robin-Chat. After lunch, some in the group relaxed at the lodge and a few of us drove back up the entrance road and hiked to the "Lost City", apparently named for eerie rock formations poking out of the grass. We enjoyed the spectacular scenery



with sweeping views in every direction from the high point of our hike and saw a few good birds including a Black-chested Snake-Eagle, a somewhat more accommodating Drakensberg Prinia, Wailing Cisticola, and an Orange-throated Longclaw. After returning to the lodge and freshening up, the whole group met for our last evening checklist where Dalton and Nick recounted highlights of the trip before our final dinner together. Overcoming fatigue, a few of the group walked out into the darkness and heard an African Wood-Owl calling before heading to bed.

Tues., Oct. 11 Mount Sheba, Dullstroom Nature Reserve, Departures

Today was our last day together and involved a fairly long drive back to Johannesburg but we had time for a relaxed breakfast and more birding around the lodge and lower entrance road. Those who joined the morning walk got good looks at the Olive Woodpecker near the nest hole and added two new birds for the trip – Yellow-streaked Greenbul and White-starred Robin. A few in the group finally saw a Red-necked Spurfowl and another Drakensberg Prinia near the lodge before we loaded up and departed. We saw a few birds during the drive including another Long-crested Eagle but mostly hightailed it to Dullstroom. Mason suggested we visit the Dullstroom Nature Reserve, a small reserve just outside of town, after seeing that a Secretarybird had been reported there recently. No luck with the Secretarybird but the stop was well worth it. A few Whiskered Tern, a life bird for many in the group, flew above the pond. We enjoyed watching Southern Masked-Weaver building nests, several Southern Red Bishop, and an accommodating Long-tailed Widowbird. Just before loading back into the vans someone spotted a small yellow bird high on a treetop. After giving it a look, Dalton and Nick agreed it was an African Yellow Warbler which turned out to be the last new bird of the trip.

We drove from Dullstroom toward Johannesburg under rather dreary skies due to coal burning power plants, stopping only for lunch at the Alzu Rest Stop. The arrival at the airport was a bit hectic but we said our last goodbyes, either heading home or staying longer in South Africa.

We finished the trip with just under 360 species of birds (including 8 heard only). 31 of those were endemic or near-endemic to South Africa. We also saw 47 species of mammals, 16 species of reptiles and amphibians, and countless plants, often shared with us by Dalton using Latin names!



Photo Credits:

Group Photo at Olifants/Kruger, Nick Fordyce; Cape Shoveler, Mason Flint; Yellow-billed Duck, Mason Flint; Greenwood Villa, Cathy; Hol Beach, Mason Flint; Cape Robin-Chat, Marilyn Weber; West Coast National Park, Mason Flint; Crowned Lapwing, Mason Flint; Cape Bunting, Mason Flint; Rooi-Els, Mason Flint, African Penguin, Mason Flint; Joan & Geary at Harold Porter, Mason Flint; Orange-breasted Sunbird, Richard Antonelli; De Hoop Dining Room, Mason Flint; Group Photo at Koppie Alleen, Mason Flint; Bokmakierie, Mason Flint; Pin-tailed Whydah, Mason Flint; Southern Boybou, Mason Flint; Hamerkop, Mason Flint; Bontebok, Mason Flint; Blue Crane, Mason Flint; Pale-chanting Goshawk, Mason Flint; Southern Red Bishop, Mason Flint; Du Toitskloop Pass, Richard Antonelli; Boulders Beach, Mason Flint; White-capped Albatross, Mason Flint; Cape Gannett, Mason Flint; Humpback Whale, Mason Flint; White-chinned Petrel, Mason Flint; View Toward Cape Town, Mason Flint, Cape Spurfowl, Marilyn Weber; African Paradise-Flycatcher, Mason Flint; Cape Sugarbird, Mason Flint; Spotted Eagle-Owl, Mason Flint; Cape Dwarf Chameleon, Marilyn Weber; Greater & Lesser Flamingo, Mason Flint; African Sacred Ibis, Mason Flint; Little Grebe, Mason Flint; Kurrichane Thrush, Mason Flint; Eastern Long-billed Lark, Mason Flint; Squacco Heron, Mason Flint; African Fish Eagle, Mason Flint; Crowned Hornbill, Mason Flint; White-browed (Burchell's) Coucal, Mason Flint; Brown-hooded Kingfisher, Mason Flint; Giant Kingfisher, Mason Flint; Long-crested Eagle, Mason Flint; Bearded Scrub-Robin, Mason Flint; Three-banded Plover, Mason Flint; Greater Kudu and Red-billed Oxpecker, Mason Flint; Yellow-billed Stork, Mason Flint; White-crowned Lapwing, Mason Flint; Lion, Mason Flint; Afternoon Sky, Mason Flint; Yellow-bellied Greenbul, Mason Flint; White Helmetshrike (Yellow-eyed), Mason Flint; Elephants, Mason Flint; Black Crake, Mason Flint; White-crowned Shrike, Mason Flint; Martial Eagle, Marilyn Weber; Impala, Marilyn Weber; Vervet Monkey, Mason Flint; Cardinal Woodpecker, Mason Flint; Southern Ground Hornbill, Mason Flint; Safari Van, Mason Flint; Giraffe and Red-billed Oxpecker, Mason Flint; Waterbuck, Mason Flint; Group at Olifants Camp, Nick Fordyce; African Buffalo, Mason Flint; Cheetah, Richard Antonelli; Hippos, Richard Antonelli; Kori Bustard, Mason Flint; Swainson's Spurfowl, Mason Flint; Pearl-spotted Owlet, Richard Antonelli; Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver, Mason Flint; Lion, Mason Flint; Cinnamon-breasted Bunting, Mason Flint; Lilac-breasted Roller, Mason Flint; Rufous-crowned Roller, Mason Flint; Green Woodhoopoe, Mason Flint; Mount Sheba Sunrise, Mason Flint; Gurney's Sugarbird, Mason Flint, Southern Double-collared Sunbird, Mason Flint; Marilyn at Mount Sheba, Mason Flint; Group on Mount Sheba Entrance Road, Mason Flint; Richard and Donna at Mount Sheba, Mason Flint