

South Africa Birding & Nature | Species List

September 27 – October 11, 2023 | with Naturalist Journeys



With guides Dalton Gibbs, Nick Fordyce and Mason Flint; and participants Donna, Richard, Scott, Joan, Geary, Marilyn and Gord

Compiled by Mason Flint

Summary:

This journey, organized by Naturalist Journeys and Birding Africa, provided a wonderful introduction to South Africa's diversity of birds, wildlife, flora, spectacular scenery and rich culture.

With Dalton Gibbs, Nick Fordyce and Mason Flint guiding, the group saw 360 species of birds. Those included members of 85 families, a third of the bird families in the world! We saw 31 species endemic or near-endemic to South Africa including Black Bustard, Knysna Turaco, Knysna Woodpecker and Cape Rockjumper. A feat only possible in South Africa, we saw two species of Albatross and a Penguin one day, and Cape Sugarbird (another South Africa endemic) the next. We saw 25 species of raptors, six owls, and nine sunbirds. We enjoyed fascinating behavior including a large flock of Blue Cranes, South Africa's national bird, displaying and vocalizing close to the road. And that's just the birds!

We also saw 47 species of mammals including three cats, nearly a dozen antelope, four whales and more than a dozen different reptiles and amphibians. For some in the group, highlights of the trip included observing a family of elephants bathing in a roadside pond and watching a pack of African wild dogs feeding on a kill.

KEY

(HO)= Distinctive enough to be counted as heard only

(GO) = Heard and/or seen by guide only

(#) After Family Name = Number of species seen in family.

(#) After Species Name = Number of days each species was encountered

BIRDS (360 species recorded, of which 8 were heard only):

OSTRICHES: STRUTHIONIDAE (1)

Common Ostrich *Struthio camelus* — (10) First seen in West Coast National Park (WCNP), then just outside our cabins at De Hoop, and most other days of the trip.

DUCKS, GEESE, AND WATERFOWL: ANATIDAE (14)

White-faced Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna viduata* — (2) First at Abrahamskraal Hide in WCNP, and twice on our second full day in Kruger.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor* — (1) We saw a handful at Strandfontein.

Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos* — (1) We saw a handful at two locations in Kruger during our drive north from Skukuza Rest Camp (Skukuza) to Satara Rest Camp (Satara).

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca* — (14) Widespread and common, seen every day of the trip except our full day at Mount Sheba.

South African Shelduck *Tadorna cana* — (1) We saw two or three at Strandfontein.

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis* — (4) First seen along the roadside during our drive to De Hoop with small numbers nearby, and again at Strandfontein.

Cape Shoveler *Spatula smithii* — (4) First seen by some in the group at Intaka Island on September 27, and by the rest of the group at WCNP, De Hoop and Strandfontein.

African Black Duck *Anas sparsa* — (1) Only recorded once, early in the morning, at the Sabie River Bridge near Skukuza on our drive toward Satara.

Yellow-billed Duck *Anas undulata* — (10) Recorded in ponds most days of the trip.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* — (1) We saw what appeared to be a few “pure” and at least one domestic Mallard on our last day at Dullstroom Nature Reserve.

Cape Teal *Anas capensis* — (3) The group that visited Intaka Island saw a pair, and the whole group saw at least 100 at Strandfontein later in the week.

Red-billed Duck *Anas erythrorhyncha* — (2) A pair at Intaka Island, then a few more near De Hoop and at Strandfontein.

Southern Pochard *Netta erythrophthalma* — (1) Only recorded at Strandfontein in small numbers.

Maccoa Duck *Oxyura maccoa* — (1) Everyone got a look at a single bird on our way out of Strandfontein.

GUINEAFOWL: NUMIDIDAE (1)

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* — (15) Common and widespread, one of only two species seen every day of the trip.

PHEASANTS, GROUSE, AND ALLIES: PHASIANIDAE (10)

Crested Francolin *Ortygornis sephaena* — (5) Recorded every day in Kruger, in some cases very close to the road.

Coqui Francolin *Campocolinus coqui* — (1) HO by some early in the morning after leaving Skukuza on our drive down the Sabie River.

Red-winged Francolin *Scleroptila levaillantii* — (2) HO by some in the group during our morning at Verloren Valei Nature Reserve (Verloren Valei) at the spot where we saw the VERY distant scope views of the Gurney's Sugarbird. Dalton caught a glimpse of one on our morning drive to Olifants Camp on October 8.

Gray-winged Francolin *Scleroptila afra* — (1) Some of the group saw one on our first day at WCNP after our picnic lunch.

Shelley's Francolin *Scleroptila shelleyi* — (1) HO/GO by Dalton when he was driving the van from Skukuza to Satara.

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix* — (4) We were very fortunate to actually see this elusive species near Utijyk Lookout in WCNP, and again on October 3.

Cape Spurfowl *Pternistis capensis* — (6) Seen every day during the first part of the trip, but absent after leaving Cape Town.

Natal Spurfowl *Pternistis natalensis* — (3) Seen several times during our first three days in Kruger.

Swainson's Spurfowl *Pternistis swainsonii* — (3) First seen during our drive from Skukuza to Satara and again in ones and twos the next few days.

Red-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis afer* — We heard them several times at Mount Sheba, and some in the group saw them before we started our drive toward Dullstroom.

FLAMINGOS: PHOENICOPTERIDAE (2)

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* — (2) We saw some through the heat shimmer at Langebaan Lagoon in WCNP, and then great looks at Strandfontein later in the week.

Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor* — (1) Great looks at Strandfontein including some side-by-side with Greater Flamingos.

GREBES: PODICIPEDIDAE (3)

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* — (5) First seen at Abrahamskraal Hide at WCNP, and again at Rodevlei Nature Reserve, De Hoop, Verloren Valei Nature Center and Dullstroom Nature Reserve.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* — (2) One in the very full lake at De Hoop, and again at Rondevlei and Strandfontein.

Eared Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* — (2) First at De Hoop on our drive back from Koppie Alleen, and then at least a hundred at Strandfontein.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: COLUMBIDAE (10)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* — (9) Widespread but not particularly common, mostly in developed areas.

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea* — (9) First recorded at the Stony Point Penguin Colony, and several other days later in the trip including at least 100 at the Alzu Rest Stop during the drive to Johannesburg.

Rameron Pigeon *Columba arquatrix* — (1) Only one recorded during our morning at Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden (Kirstenbosch).

Mourning Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decipiens* — (3) Only present in Kruger.

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata* — (11) Common and widespread, seen most days of the trip.

Ring-necked Dove *Streptopelia capicola* — (13) Seen and heard (Drink La-ger, drink La-ger...) throughout the trip except at Mount Sheba.

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis* — (13) Abundant and widespread throughout the trip except at Mount Sheba.

Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove *Turtur chalcospilos* — (5) First seen at the pond/blind just after we arrived in Kruger, and small numbers every day in Kruger.

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis* — (4) First seen as we approached De Hoop on September 29, and then in Kruger and a flyby during our drive back to Johannesburg.

African Green-Pigeon *Treron calvus* — (3) Only in Kruger including single birds in Skukuza Camp, and several during the drive from Skukuza to Satara.

SANDGROUSE: PTEROCLIDAE (1)

Double-banded Sandgrouse *Pterocles bicinctus* — (2) We were very fortunate to see a pair early in the morning on our drive to Olifants Camp, and again the next day.

BUSTARDS: OTIDIDAE (5)

Kori Bustard *Ardeotis kori* — (2) First seen when we flushed one during our night drive out of Satara, and again a handful of individuals and pairs on our drive back from Olifants the next afternoon.

Denham's Bustard *Neotis denhami* — (2) Only seen near De Hoop, mostly distant looks but one more accommodating female.

Red-crested Bustard *Lophotis ruficrista* — (2) We got first looks early on our first morning in Kruger, and ones and twos later the same day and the next during our drive to Satara.

Black Bustard *Afrotis afra* — (1) One of our most sought after targets, we saw one on Ganzekraal Road on the way to WCNP, another in the Potberg section in the park, and then at least four at Abrahamskraal Hide late in the afternoon!

Black-bellied Bustard *Lissotis melanogaster* — (1) GO by Dalton who saw one when he was driving the van alone between Satara and the Orpen Gate.

TURACOS: MUSOPHAGIDAE (3)

Knysna Turaco *Tauraco corythaix* — (2) Despite their gaudy appearance, catching sight of these birds at Mount Sheba was challenging, but most in the group got decent looks.

Purple-crested Turaco *Gallirex porphyreolophus* — (2) Also challenging to see, we saw a pair in Skukuza early in the morning before departing for Satara, and HO at Satara before departing for Mount Sheba.

Gray Go-away-bird *Crinifer concolor* — (5) Seen every day in Kruger, often pairs or more.

CUCKOOS: CUCULIDAE (5)

White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus* — (4) We saw small numbers of the “Burchell’s” subspecies most days in Kruger.

Dideric Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx caprius* — (1) HO, making the Dee-dee-dee-deedrick call early in the morning at Satara before departing for Mount Sheba.

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas* — (3) Seen well at Harold Porter Botanical Gardens (Harold Porter) and HO twice in Kruger.

African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus* — (2) Frustrating, but not surprisingly given their sneaky behavior, HO both days at Mount Sheba.

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius* — (4) HO early our first morning in Kruger, and again at Satara a few days later, and recorded both days at Mount Sheba where some in the group got brief glimpses.

NIGHTJARS AND ALLIES: CAPRIMULGIDAE (1)

Square-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus fossii* — (1) We saw one during our night drive out of Satara.

SWIFTS: APODIDAE (5)

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* — (5) We saw just a few, first during our drive back to Cape Town from De Hoop, and again in Kruger and Mount Sheba.

African Swift *Apus barbatus* — (2) First seen early our first morning in Kruger, and then several during our full day at Mount Sheba including a pair tending a nest on the upper entrance road.

Little Swift *Apus affinis* — (7) Common and often in good numbers at De Hoop, and every day in Kruger.

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer* — (8) Fairly common and widespread, first seen at Rooi-Els, and again at De Hoop and every day in Kruger.

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus* — (3) Small numbers most days in Kruger and a few both days at Mount Sheba.

RAILS, GALLINULES, AND COOTS: RALLIDAE (4)

Eurasian Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* — (5) Fairly common near freshwater ponds around Cape Town and Kruger.

Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata* — (7) Seen every day during the Cape Town part of the trip except the day we were offshore.

African Swamphen *Porphyrio madagascariensis* — (2) First seen by the group that visited Intaka Island on September 27, and from the hide at Rondevlei a few days later.

Black Crake *Zapornia flavirostra* — (5) First seen at Intaka Island, and then most days in Kruger.

CRANES: GRUIDAE (1)

Blue Crane *Anthropoides paradiseus* — (4) One of the most beautiful birds seen on the trip, and South Africa's national bird, we saw hundreds including fantastic looks at a large flock that included displaying adults at the "Construction of Cranes" near De Hoop.

THICK-KNEES: BURHINIDAE (2)

Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis* — (2) We saw one on Ganzekraal Road on our way to WCNP and another at De Hoop a few days later.

Water Thick-knee *Burhinus vermiculatus* — (6) First seen at De Hoop and again most days in Kruger.

STILTS AND AVOCETS: RECURVIROSTRIDAE (1)

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* — (4) We saw large numbers at Strandfontein, and a few near the dams in Kruger.

OYSTERCATCHERS: HAEMATOPODIDAE (1)

African Oystercatcher *Haematopus moquini* — (4) Seen in small numbers during most stops along the coast.

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: CHARADRIIDAE (9)

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* — (1) Only seen at Strandfontein where we saw six or eight.

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris* — (4) Seen most days in Kruger where there was water.

Blacksmith Lapwing *Vanellus armatus* — (12) Abundant and widespread near water.

White-crowned Lapwing *Vanellus albiceps* — (2) Just a few including distant looks from the overlook at Olifants Camp.

Senegal Lapwing *Vanellus lugubris* — (2) One seen by some in the group early our first morning in Kruger and another two days later.

Crowned Lapwing *Vanellus coronatus* — (6) We saw this dapper bird at several stops near the coast, and at De Hoop and a few in Kruger.

Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus* — (1) A few in the group saw one during our drive through Verloren Valei.

Kittlitz's Plover *Anarhynchus pecuarius* — (1) Only seen at Strandfontein.

White-fronted Plover *Anarhynchus marginatus* — (1) Only seen during our stop at Hol Bah Beach where we saw two just before we departed.

JACANAS: JACANIDAE (1)

African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus* — (1) We saw several at the pond at Leeupan during our drive from Skukuza to Satara.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: SCOLOPACIDAE (5)

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* — (3) First seen our first morning in Kruger at the Lower Sabie Bridge, and good looks at another standing close to a Common Greenshank during our drive from Satara to Mount Sheba.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* — (4) Seen most days in Kruger where there was water.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* — (1) We had close looks at one during our drive from Satara to the Orpen Gate.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* — (1) Nick picked one out on the far side of the pond on our drive from Satara to the Orpen Gate.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* — (1) We saw at least 20 in one pond during our drive through Strandfontein.

PRATINCOLES AND COURSERS: GLAREOLIDAE (2)

Bronze-winged Courser *Rhinoptilus chalcopterus* — (3) Perhaps one of the biggest surprises of the trip, we saw this difficult-to-see species twice, first along the Lower Sabie-Nkuhlu Road, and then adults with chicks the next day near the Skukuza Sabie River Bridge.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* — (1) We saw three after lunch near the Lower Sabie Bridge during our first hot afternoon in Kruger.

GULLS, TERNS, AND SKIMMERS: LARIDAE (8)

Hartlaub's Gull *Chroicocephalus hartlaubii* — (7) Seen every day when close to the coast.

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus* — (7) Seen every day when close to the coast.

African Skimmer *Rynchops flavirostris* — (1) We were fortunate to see this Kruger rarity during our lunch stop at the Lower Sabie Rest Camp.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* — (2) Seen during our afternoon beach stop at WCNP, and again at Koppie Alleen in De Hoop.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* — (1) One of the last species seen on the trip, we were treated to great looks of three or four flying above the pond at Dullstroom Nature Reserve before we continued on toward Johannesburg.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* — (1) One offshore during the pelagic trip, and another at Strandfontein the next day.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* — (2) We saw five or six offshore during the pelagic trip, and one at Strandfontein.

Great Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii* — (3) First seen during our afternoon stop at Koppie Alleen, and again during the pelagic trip and at Strandfontein.

PENGUINS: SPHENISCIDAE (1)

African Penguin *Spheniscus demersus* — Close looks from the beach at the Stony Point Penguin Colony, and then more than 100 on the beach as we returned to Simonstown after the pelagic trip.

ALBATROSSES: DIOMEDEIDAE (2)

White-capped Albatross *Thalassarche cauta* — (1) Surprisingly, we saw only about 10 far offshore during the pelagic trip.

Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris* — (1) We saw at least two including very close looks far offshore.

SHEARWATERS AND PETRELS: PROCELLARIIDAE (4)

Cape Petrel *Daption capense* — (1) Not long before we started our return to shore, we had good looks at this beautiful bird flying close to the boat.

White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis* — (1) Certainly the most common tubenose seen during the pelagic trip.

Great Shearwater *Ardenna gravis* — (1) Five made close passes to the boat.

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea* — (1) Four passed by the boat, a few giving nice comparisons with nearby Great Shearwater.

STORKS: CICONIIDAE (4)

African Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia microscelis* — One seen by some in the group during our first morning in Kruger.

Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis* — (2) We saw a few on the drive toward Olifants Camp, and then had distant looks from the overlook after breakfast.

Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumenifer* — (2) First seen early in the morning at the Sabie River Bridge near Skukuza, then again the same day close to Satara, and at Satara Camp two days later.

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis* — (3) Seen in small numbers where there was water on three days in Kruger.

BOOBIES AND GANNETS: SULIDAE (1)

Cape Gannet *Morus capensis* —(1) We saw at least 20 offshore during the pelagic trip.

ANHINGAS: ANHINGIDAE (1)

African Darter *Anhinga rufa* — (3) Single birds seen on two days at De Hoop and at Rondevlei.

CORMORANTS AND SHAGS: PHALACROCORACIDAE (5)

Long-tailed Cormorant *Microcarbo africanus* — (8) Seen at many locations where there was water.

Crowned Cormorant *Microcarbo coronatus* — (3) Only seen near shore, first at our afternoon beach stop in WCNP.

Bank Cormorant *Phalacrocorax neglectus* —(2) We saw this endangered cormorant at the Stony Point Penguin Colony, and from the boat between Cape Point and Simonstown.

Cape Cormorant *Phalacrocorax capensis* — (2) Another endangered cormorant, we had distant looks at a large flock from Rooi-Els, and more from the boat between Cape Point and Simonstown.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* — (8) This “White-breasted” subspecies was common during the first part of the trip around Cape Town, and we saw a few on our last day at Dullstroom Nature Reserve.

PELICANS: PELECANIDAE (1)

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* — (1) Marilyn called out three that some in the Fun Van (before re-named Adventure Van) saw on our drive to WCNP.

HAMERKOP: SCOPIDAE (1)

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta* — (4) We were treated to many great looks at the only members of the family *Scopidae* including long, memorable looks at one scarfing down a frog.

HERONS, EGRETS, AND BITTERNS: ARDEIDAE (11)

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* —(1) Only one, seen flying over the lake during our morning walk at De Hoop.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* — (3) First seen at Intaka Island, then again at De Hoop and near the Sabie River in Kruger.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* — (2) First seen from the blind after our arrival in Kruger, and again a few days later.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* — (2) Great looks from the blind after our arrival in Kruger, and again during our drive back from Olifants Camp.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* — (11) Common and widespread.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* — (2) Just two our first day in Kruger along the Sabie River.

Yellow-billed Egret *Ardea brachyrhyncha* — (1) Possibly a post-tour life-bird for some in the group after this was split from Intermediate Egret, we saw one at De Hoop before we started our drive back to Cape Town.

Gray Heron *Ardea cinerea* — (9) Common and widespread, we saw one or two at many locations where there was water throughout the trip.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* — (2) Our first sighting wasn't at a particularly scenic spot - the Spur Rest Stop on a break between De Hoop and Cape Town. A few in the group saw another a few days later at Rondevlei.

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala* —(9) Widespread and fairly common, we saw small numbers of these herons that prefer drier habitats throughout the trip.

Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath* — (1) We saw just one of these enormous herons from a bridge during our first morning in Kruger.

IBISES AND SPOONBILLS: THRESKIORNITHIDAE (5)

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* —(1) We saw three during our brief stop at Rondevlei.

African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus* — (7) Seen at several locations during the first part of the trip with large numbers at Strandfontein.

Southern Bald Ibis *Geronticus calvus* — (1) Some in the group saw one flying away during our drive through Verloren Valei. We scanned recently burned areas, their preferred habitat, during the rest of the trip, but didn't find more.

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash* — (14) The second of two species seen every day of the trip, they're seemingly everywhere, almost always calling when in flight. I dreamt about that call for a week or so after I returned home.

African Spoonbill *Platalea alba* — (2) One was found before lunch near De Hoop, and another during our first full day in Kruger.

HAWKS, EAGLES, AND KITES: ACCIPITRIDAE (25)

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* — (7) First seen at Intaka Island, then on Darling Hills Road during our drive to WCNP, and at a handful of other locations including Kruger.

African Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides typus* — (2) Some in the group saw a flyover at Kirstenbosch and another during the drive between Skukuza and Satara.

White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis* — (1) Some in the group saw one very early on our last morning at Satara, while others were pre-occupied by a closer (and more photogenic) Pearl-spotted Owlet.

Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos* — (1) Just one after lunch during our drive from Skukuza to Satara.

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus* — (1) One recorded our first day in Kruger.

White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus* — (5) Seen every day in or near Kruger including one soaring group of 25 along the bumpy road between Dullstroom and the Kruger entrance.

Cape Griffon *Gyps coprotheres* —(2) The poor weather had Dalton and Nick concerned that we might miss this at the go-to spot near De Hoop, but we were treated to more than three dozen soaring above the mountains.

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus* — (4) A group favorite, we saw several teeter-tottering across the sky every day in Kruger.

Black-chested Snake-Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis* — (1) When most of the group was taking a much-needed afternoon siesta, a small group saw one during our hike to "The Lost City" on the upper Mount Sheba entrance road.

Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus* — (4) Another group favorite, the first confused us. After initially calling out an Osprey, Dalton and Nick realized we were looking at a juvenile Martial Eagle during our stop on the Darling Hills Road on our first day. We saw at least four more over three days in Kruger including very close looks at a perched bird during our drive from Skukuza to Satara.

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis* — (2) Another treat, we saw one with its floppy crest our first morning in Kruger, and another high-speed look on our last day during our drive to Dullstroom.

Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraetus wahlbergi* — (4) We had a handful of sightings on four different days in Kruger including a dark morph feeding young close enough for photos.

Booted Eagle *Hieraetus pennatus* — (2) We had brief looks at a soaring bird as we drove away from Rooi-Els, and another during our drive from De Hoop back to Cape Town a few days later.

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* — (5) Perhaps the most common raptor in Kruger, we saw several individuals over four days in Kruger.

African Hawk-Eagle *Aquila spilogaster* — (3) First seen in the morning during our drive from Skukuza to Satara, and then two soaring high after our breakfast at Olifants Camp, and another during our drive to Mount Sheba.

Pale Chanting-Goshawk *Melierax canorus* — (1) Our long detour drive from De Hoop to Cape Town was brightened by looks at this beautiful bird that Dalton called out during a flower-watching stop.

African Marsh Harrier *Circus ranivorus* — (1) One recorded during our drive to WCNP.

Black Harrier *Circus maurus* — (1) We saw two, both in WCNP, including one late in the afternoon at Abrahamskraal Hide.

African Goshawk *Accipiter tachiro* — (4) We had our best looks at one close to our cabins at Skukuza and another at Mount Sheba.

Little Sparrowhawk *Accipiter minullus* — Some in the group saw one the first morning in Kruger.

Shikra *Accipiter badius* — GO Dalton saw one early our first morning in Skukuza.

Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk *Accipiter rufiventris* — We had distant views of one as we relaxed at Tom's lakeside house while he tended the Braai.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans* — (8) Common and widespread, we saw many of the "Yellow-billed" subspecies throughout the trip.

African Fish-Eagle *Icthyophaga vocifer* — (8) After very distant looks at one our last morning at De Hoop, we saw or heard several others including every day in Kruger.

Jackal Buzzard *Buteo rufofuscus* — (8) We saw several of this South African endemic in many locations except Kruger.

BARN-OWLS: TYTONIDAE (1)

Barn Owl *Tyto alba* — We saw one during our night drive out of Satara.

OWLS: STRIGIDAE (5)

African Scops-Owl *Otus senegalensis* — (2) HO during our night drive out of Satara and two briefly copulating the next afternoon.

Spotted Eagle-Owl *Bubo africanus* — (2) Great looks at three individuals at Kirstenbosch.

Verreaux's Eagle-Owl *Ketupa lactea* — (1) A happy surprise, we saw one perched during our night drive out of Satara.

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum* — (1) After fruitless searching, we finally found one of these diminutive owls at Satara before we departed for Mount Sheba.

African Wood-Owl *Strix woodfordii* — (1) After striking out the night before in blustery winds, HO after our last dinner together at Mount Sheba.

MOUSEBIRDS: COLIIDAE (3)

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus* — (10) The most common and widespread mousebird, seen most days of the trip.

White-backed Mousebird *Colius colius* — (2) Only seen the first two days of the trip, close to Cape Town.

Red-faced Mousebird *Urocolius indicus* — (6) First seen at De Hoop and then on most days in Kruger.

TROGONS: TROGONIDAE (1)

Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina* — (2) Heard regularly both days at Mount Sheba, but we only had brief glimpses in the forest.

HOOPOES: UPUPIDAE (1)

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops* — (6) Heard and seen regularly at De Hoop, and most days in Kruger.

WOODHOOPES AND SCIMITARBILLS: PHOENICULIDAE (2)

Green Woodhoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus* — (4) Fairly common in Kruger, giving us good looks most days.

Common Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas* — (3) Seen three days in Kruger including a pair along the road with Green Woodhoopoe our first morning.

GROUND-HORNBILLS: BUCORVIDAE (1)

Southern Ground-Hornbill *Bucorvus leadbeateri* — (3) We thought we were fortunate to see a pair early in the morning during our drive from Skukuza to Satara, then we saw them at least five other times over the next two days including a pair feeding young!

HORNBILLS: BUCEROTIDAE (5)

Crowned Hornbill *Lophoceros alboterminatus* — (1) Brief looks at a small flock when we were having coffee on our first morning at Skukuza.

African Gray Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus* — (4) Fairly common in Kruger with good looks at Satara.

Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill *Tockus leucomelas* — (4) The most common hornbill, particularly in the camps.

Southern Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus rufirostris* — (3) Less common than Southern Yellow-billed, but seen regularly in the camps.

Trumpeter Hornbill *Bycanistes bucinator* — (1) GO Dalton saw one on October 6 when he returned to Skukuza with Amanda.

KINGFISHERS: ALCEDINIDAE (4)

Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus* — (6) First seen by some in the group on our last morning at De Hoop, and then several more times in Kruger and again at Dullstroom Nature Reserve.

Brown-hooded Kingfisher *Halcyon albiventris* — (5) Seen at least once each day in Kruger.

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima* — (1) Aptly named, we saw one of this largest kingfisher in the world from the bridge over the Sabie River when we were looking for an African Finfoot that Andrew had seen there recently.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* — (7) Common and widespread, particularly in Kruger.

BEE-EATERS: MEROPIDAE (3)

White-fronted Bee-eater *Merops bullockoides* — (3) First seen from the bridge over the Sabie River where we saw the Giant Kingfisher.

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus* — (2) We had good looks at a flock of these jewel-like birds twice in Kruger.

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* — (1) We saw a small flock high up on the ridge on the upper Mount Sheba entrance road while searching for the Drakensberg Prinia.

ROLLERS: CORACIIDAE (2)

Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus* — (4) Seen on four of five days in Kruger including one that “rolled” for us our first morning.

Rufous-crowned Roller *Coracias naevius* — (1) Formerly called Purple Roller, we saw one during our drive from Satara to the Kruger Orpen Gate.

AFRICAN BARBETS: LYBIIDAE (3)

Crested Barbet *Trachyphonus vaillantii* — (3) Fairly common and often heard in the camps in Kruger.

Pied Barbet *Tricholaema leucomelas* — (4) First seen on our first day at De Hoop, and again at Rondevlei and Kruger.

Black-collared Barbet *Lybius torquatus* — (3) Seen or heard most days in Kruger, mostly in the camps.

HONEYGUIDES: INDICATORIDAE (1)

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator* — (3) HO three times during the trip by some in the group, first at De Hoop and again at Kruger.

WOODPECKERS: PICIDAE (5)

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens* — (3) We saw three individuals on three days in Kruger.

Olive Woodpecker *Dendropicos griseocephalus* — (2) Only at Mount Sheba where we saw an adult going in and out of a nest hole along the entrance road.

Ground Woodpecker *Geocolaptes olivaceus* — (1) The bird of the trip for at least one member of the group, we were very fortunate to see one of these odd woodpeckers perched on the same rock as a Cape Rockjumper.

Knysna Woodpecker *Campethera notata* — (1) Although the area near the restaurant at De Hoop may be one of the best places to see this rare species, we were very fortunate to see one during breakfast on our last morning.

Golden-tailed Woodpecker *Campethera abingoni* — (2) First seen on our first morning at Kruger during the same stop where we saw a Cardinal Woodpecker.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: FALCONIDAE (1)

Rock Kestrel *Falco rupicolus* — (5) First seen well, perched on a wire on Ganzekraal Road on our way to WCNP, and again on four other days.

NEW WORLD AND AFRICAN PARROTS: PSITTACIDAE (1)

Brown-headed Parrot *Poicephalus cryptoxanthus* — (4) Only seen in Kruger, most often in the rest camps.

CUCKOOSHRIKES: CAMPEPHAGIDAE (1)

Gray Cuckooshrike *Coracina caesia* — (2) Seen both days at Mount Sheba.

OLD WORLD ORIOLES: ORIOLIDAE (1)

African Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus larvatus* — (4) Not closely related to western hemisphere orioles (which are *Icterids*), we saw at least a few on four of our five days in Kruger.

WATTLE-EYES AND BATISES: PLATYSTEIRIDAE (2)

Cape Batis *Batis capensis* — (3) First seen at Kirstenbosch, but otherwise seen far from the Cape at Mount Sheba.

Chin-spot Batis *Batis molitor* — (4) Regularly seen on four days in Kruger, and again at Abel Erasmus Pass during our drive to Mount Sheba.

VANGAS, HELMETSHRIKES, AND ALLIES: VANGIDAE (1)

White Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus* — (3) First seen just after we entered the Paul Kruger Gate, and again the next two days near Skukuza.

BUSHSHRIKES AND ALLIES: MALACONOTIDAE (10)

Brubru *Nilaus afer* — (4) Mostly HO, but at least some in the group got looks at one in Kruger.

Black-backed Puffback *Dryoscopus cubla* — (4) Fairly common in Kruger, and seen again at Abel Erasmus Pass on our drive to Mount Sheba.

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus* — (4) Seen or heard most days in Kruger.

Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis* — (3) Less common than Black-crowned, we saw one or two on three days in Kruger.

Southern Tchagra *Tchagra tchagra* — (2) Only seen in De Hoop during our walks through the campground both mornings.

Southern Boubou *Laniarius ferrugineus* — (8) Seen, but more often heard, on several days including at De Hoop, Kirstenbosch, Kruger and Mount Sheba.

Bokmakierie *Telophorus zeylonus* — (6) Most common at De Hoop, but also seen in Dullstroom.

Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike *Telophorus sulfureopectus* — (3) Seen on three days in Kruger.

Olive Bushshrike *Telophorus olivaceus* — (1) One of our targets at Mount Sheba, we saw a few during our full day there.

Gray-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti* — (1) Only seen once, along the fence line at Satra before we departed for Mount Sheba.

DRONGOS: DICRURIDAE (1)

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis* — (7) First seen on our drive back to the lodge from Koppie Alleen at De Hoop, and common every day in Kruger.

MONARCH FLYCATCHERS: MONARCHIDAE (1)

African Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis* — (5) We saw two at our picnic spot at Harold Porter, and again at Kirstenbosch and Kruger.

SHRIKES: LANIIDAE (3)

Magpie Shrike *Lanius melanoleucus* — (4) Common in Kruger.

Southern Fiscal *Lanius collaris* — (8) Common and widespread, eventually everyone got comfortable separating them from the superficially similar Fiscal Flycatcher.

White-crowned Shrike *Eurocephalus anguitimens* — (3) Seen in small numbers on three days in Kruger.

CROWS, JAYS, AND MAGPIES: CORVIDAE (3)

Cape Crow *Corvus capensis* — (6) Fairly common during the first part of the trip, and a few at Verloren Valei and Mount Sheba.

Pied Crow *Corvus albus* — (8) Common around the Cape and some at Verloren Valei.

White-necked Raven *Corvus albicollis* —(5) We first saw a few soaring below the cliffs at Rooi-Els, then more at De Hoop, Verloren Valei and Mount Sheba.

ROCKJUMPERS: CHAETOPIDAE (1)

Cape Rockjumper *Chaetops frenatus* — (1) Perhaps South Africa's most sought after bird, we got wonderful looks at two...hopping up on rocks close to the road.

TITS, CHICKADEES, AND TITMICE: PARIDAE (1)

Southern Black-Tit *Melaniparus niger* — (4) One or two seen almost daily in Kruger.

PENDULINE-TITS: REMIZIDAE (1)

Southern Penduline-Tit *Anthoscopus minutus* — (1) This fairly drab bird had Dalton and Nick in a tizzy when we saw it gathering nesting material at close range after our picnic lunch at Langebaan Lagoon in WCNP.

LARKS: ALAUDIDAE (7)

Eastern Long-billed Lark *Certhilauda semitorquata* — (1) We saw at least two at Verloren Valei.

Cape Lark *Certhilauda curvirostris* — (2) We recorded the "Agulhas" sub-species of Cape Lark on two days near De Hoop.

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix leucotis* —(1) Most of the group (but not Mason!) saw this attractive bird on our drive toward Olifants from Satara.

Sabota Lark *Calendulauda sabota* — (1) Seen a few times between Satara and Olifants.

Cape Clapper Lark *Mirafrapa apiata* —(1) We saw two on our drive out of De Hoop. The males, perched close to the ground, rose into the air, clapping their wings and whistling, before parachuting back to the ground.

Red-capped Lark *Calandrella cinerea* — (3) Recorded three times, first near De Hoop and again at Strandfontein and Verloren Valei.

Large-billed Lark *Galerida magnirostris* — (3) This chunky bird with a heavy bill was one of the easier larks to identify, giving us great looks on the side of the road at WCNP, and again near De Hoop.

AFRICAN WARBLERS: MACROSPHENIDAE (2)

Cape Crombec *Sylvietta rufescens* —(4) First seen at WCNP, and then most days in Kruger.

Cape Grassbird *Sphenoeacus afer* — (6) We first saw this streaky warbler during the flurry of activity just before we left Abrahamskraal Hide in the afternoon at WCNP. We saw or heard others at De Hoop and Mount Sheba.

CISTICOLAS AND ALLIES: CISTICOLIDAE (15)

Yellow-bellied Eremomela *Eremomela icteropygialis* — (1) Seen three times on our first day in Kruger, on the Sabie River Road and in Skukuza.

Burnt-neck Eremomela *Eremomela usticollis* — (1) One, at Leeupan between Skukuza and Satara.

Green-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brachyura* —(4) As Dalton would say, we saw or heard the "camera-operator" most days in Kruger.

Bar-throated Apalis *Apalis thoracica* — (8) Widespread in small numbers except in Kruger. First HO at Harold Porter, and later seen at De Hoop, Abel Erasmus and Mount Sheba.

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida* — (3) Seen in small numbers on two days in Kruger and at Abel Erasmus.

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava* — Seen most days in Kruger.

Karoo Prinia *Prinia maculosa* — (6) Seen daily during the first part of the trip, but none after departing for Johannesburg.

Drakensberg Prinia *Prinia hypoxantha* — (2) One of the targets for Mount Sheba, mostly HO but a few quick glimpses on the upper entrance road.

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops* — (2) HO our first morning in Kruger on the Skukuza-Nkuhlu Road, and seen two days later, possibly only by Dalton, when he was driving the van between Skukuza and Satara.

Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola chiniana* —(4) Seen once or twice each day in Kruger including some in Skukuza and Satara camps.

Red-headed Cisticola *Cisticola subruficapilla* —(4) One perched up for us where we parked the vans at Hol Bay Beach, another later the same day in the Potberg section of WCNP, three at Rooi-Els and another north of De Hoop during our drive back to Cape Town.

Wailing Cisticola *Cisticola lais* — (2) We saw several during our full day at Mount Sheba, and at least one more the next morning after we departed for Dullstroom.

Levaillant's Cisticola *Cisticola tinniens* —(6) Fairly common and widespread with sightings at Intaka Island, Darling Hills Road, Rondevlei, Strandfontein, Verloren Valei, and Dullstroom Nature Reserve.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* — (1) Another “LBJ” that we heard often and saw at least once near De Hoop.

Cloud Cisticola *Cisticola textrix* — (3) HO by Dalton and Marilyn on Darling Hills road, and by others on both days around De Hoop.

REED WARBLERS AND ALLIES: ACROCEPHALIDAE (2)

African Yellow-Warbler *Iduna natalensis* — (1) I believe this was the last new bird for the trip, seen perched high in a tree just before we departed Dullstroom Nature Reserve on our last day.

Lesser Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus gracilirostris* — (2) Seen and photographed by part of the group at Intaka, and by the rest of the group at Rondevlei and Strandfontein later in the week. Very vocal with a raspy, musical song.

GRASSBIRDS AND ALLIES: LOCUSTELLIDAE (1)

Little Rush Warbler *Bradypterus baboecala* — (1) The group that went to Intaka heard several and got photos of one. The rest of the group caught glimpses of one at Abrahamskraal in WCNP the next day. Otherwise, HO at Rondevlei, Strandfontein and Dullstroom Nature Reserve.

SWALLOWS: HIRUNDINIDAE (12)

Black Sawwing *Psalidoprocne pristoptera* —(5) We saw this all-black swallow with an atypical flying style for a swallow at several spots including Harold Porter, De Hoop, Kirstenbosch and Mount Sheba.

Gray-rumped Swallow *Pseudhirundo griseopyga* — GO Dalton saw one at the Sabie River Bridge while driving the van between Skukuza and Satara.

Banded Martin *Neophedina cincta* — (1) We recorded one pair at Abrahamskraal Hide in WCNP.

Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola* — (3) First seen at De Hoop before we departed for Cape Town, and again at Strandfontein and at the Lower Sabie River Bridge on our first day in Kruger.

Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* — (1) Widespread in small numbers at several locations including Rooi-Els, Harold Porter, De Hoop, Verloren Valei, Abel Erasmus, Mount Sheba and Dullstroom Nature Reserve.

Pearl-breasted Swallow *Hirundo dimidiata* — (4) First seen on Darling Hills Road, where we saw a pair mating, and again the next three days at or near De Hoop.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* — (2) Nick and possibly another in the group saw one in WCNP, Mason saw one the afternoon we arrived in Dullstroom, and others saw one our last morning in Kruger.

White-throated Swallow *Hirundo albigularis* — (8) Widespread and common in most locations except Kruger.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* — (4) Seen on four days in Kruger near water.

Greater Striped Swallow *Cecropis cucullata* — (7) Similar to Lesser Striped but with finer streaks, they were abundant in De Hoop, often seen picking up grit in the parking area. Also seen at Verloren Valei, at the Paul Kruger Gate when we arrived in Kruger and on both days at Mount Sheba.

Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica* — (4) Only seen in Dullstroom and in Kruger where it mostly replaced Greater Striped.

Rufous-chested Swallow *Cecropis semirufa* — (3) Seen by some in the group on three days in Kruger.

BULBULS: PYCNONOTIDAE (6)

Sombre Greenbul *Andropadus importunus* — (9) More often heard than seen at De Hoop, Kirstenbosch, Kruger and Mount Sheba.

Yellow-bellied Greenbul *Chlorocichla flaviventris* — (1) Only seen once, during the afternoon walk on our first night at Skukuza.

Yellow-streaked Greenbul *Phyllastrephus flavostriatus* — (2) Only seen at Mount Sheba on both days.

Terrestrial Brownbul *Phyllastrephus terrestris* — (2) Seen twice on our first day in Kruger, and HO at Mount Sheba.

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus* — (8) Seen in numbers every day after we departed Cape Town, often noted with “Another bloody bulbul...”

Cape Bulbul *Pycnonotus capensis* — (7) Seen every day before we departed Cape Town.

LEAF WARBLERS: PHYLLOSCOPIIDAE (1)

Yellow-throated Woodland-Warbler *Phylloscopus ruficapilla* — (2) We got brief glimpses of this relative of the Arctic Warbler both days in the dense forest at Mount Sheba.

SYLVIID WARBLERS AND ALLIES: SYLVIIDAE (1)

Chestnut-vented Warbler *Curruca subcoerulea* — GO Dalton saw one while driving the van between Skukuza and Satara.

WHITE-EYES, YUHNAS, AND ALLIES: ZOSTEROPIDAE (1)

Cape White-eye *Zosterops virens* — (13) Seen or heard often daily except for the last two days in Kruger.

LAUGHINGTHRUSHES AND ALLIES: LEIOTHRICHIDAE (1)

Arrow-marked Babbler *Turdoides jardineii* — (3) Seen three days in Kruger, most commonly at Satara.

OXPECKERS: BUPHAGIDAE (2)

Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorhynchus* — (4) Seen most days in Kruger, some giving the group photo opportunities feeding on Nyala or other mammals.

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus* — (2) Less common than Red-billed.

STARLINGS: STURNIDAE (9)

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* — (7) Only recorded during the first part of the trip.

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea* — (5) First seen on Darling Hills Road on our way to WCNP, and almost daily in Kruger.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* — (5) Much to Nick's chagrin, we saw this invasive species at several locations after we left Cape Town.

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* — GO Mason saw one, and captured a terrible photo, on our drive from Satara to the Orpen Gate. Marilyn saw the backlit bird, but it flew before anyone else could get on it.

Red-winged Starling *Onychognathus morio* — (12) Widespread and common throughout the trip.

Burchell's Starling *Lamprotornis australis* — (5) Seen daily in Kruger, often giving us good side-by-side comparisons with Greater Blue-eared and Cape. Most abundant at Satara.

African Pied Starling *Lamprotornis bicolor* — (6) Seen most days on the first part of the trip, and around Dullstroom, but absent at Kruger and Mount Sheba.

Greater Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus* — (5) Seen daily in Kruger inside and out of the rest camps.

Cape Starling *Lamprotornis nitens* — (2) Only seen on two days, mostly near Skukuza but also present in Satara.

THRUSHES AND ALLIES: TURDIDAE (4)

Orange Ground-Thrush *Geokichla gurneyi* — HO early on our first morning at Mount Sheba.

Kurrichane Thrush *Turdus libonyana* — (1) Only seen in the morning at Dullstroom before we started our drive to Verloren Valei.

Olive Thrush *Turdus olivaceus* — (5) First seen at Harold Porter while we ate our picnic lunch and again at Kirstenbosch, Dullstroom, and Mount Sheba.

Karoo Thrush *Turdus smithi* — (2) Another Dullstroom-only thrush, seen by some in the group after checking into their cottages.

OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS: MUSCICAPIDAE (20)

African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta* — (2) Surprisingly, only recorded on two days, first at Kirstenbosch and again at Mount Sheba.

Marico Flycatcher *Bradornis mariquensis* — (1) Seen once in Kruger, during our drive from Skukuza to Satara.

Gray Tit-Flycatcher *Fraseria plumbea* — (1) We saw one early in the morning during our drive on the Sabie River Road.

Ashy Flycatcher *Fraseria caerulescens* — (1) Some in the group saw a pair at Skukuza after we returned from the Sabie River drive.

Fiscal Flycatcher *Melaenornis silens* — (4) Possibly under-reported, only a handful during the first part of the trip including at Harold Porter and De Hoop.

Karoo Scrub-Robin *Cercotrichas coryphoeus* — (1) Only seen on our first full day, first in the morning at Hol Bay Beach, and again at Tsaarbank Beach in WCNP that afternoon.

Bearded Scrub-Robin *Cercotrichas quadrivirgata* — (1) We saw a few on our first day in Kruger including at least one during our morning drive and a couple more during our afternoon walk in Skukuza.

Red-backed Scrub-Robin *Cercotrichas leucophrys* — (5) Seen daily in Kruger, mostly inside the rest camps.

Cape Robin-Chat *Cossypha caffra* — (13) Possibly the first life bird of the trip for some in the group at Greenwood Villa, we saw this lovely thrush-like flycatcher almost daily.

White-throated Robin-Chat *Cossypha humeralis* —(3) Only seen in Kruger, first during our morning drive along the Sabie River, and again at Olifants and Satara.

White-browed Robin-Chat *Cossypha heuglini* — (1) We saw at least one during coffee on our first morning, and another in the afternoon in Skukuza.

Red-capped Robin-Chat *Cossypha natalensis* — (1) Another Kruger-only old-world flycatcher, we saw one in Skukuza after we returned from the Sabie River.

Chorister Robin-Chat *Cossypha dichroa* — (1) Switching to Mount Sheba-only old-world flycatchers, we saw two or three during our first morning walk.

White-starred Robin *Pogonochla stellata* — (1) Those who joined the morning walk before we departed Mount Sheba had to work hard to catch glimpses of this bird in the dense forest.

Cape Rock-Thrush *Monticola rupestris* — (2) We missed this at Rooi-Els, but saw one near the pass close to Paarl on our drive back to Cape Town from De Hoop, and two at Abel Erasmus Pass on our drive to Mount Sheba.

African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus* — (5) Fairly commonly seen perched on fences around De Hoop, also seen at Verloren Valei and on the Mount Sheba entrance road.

Buff-streaked Chat *Campicoloides bifasciatus* — (2) Only seen around Dullstroom, first during our drive through Verloren Valei, and again on our last day at Dullstroom Nature Reserve.

Mountain Wheatear *Myrmecocichla monticola* —(1) Also only seen at Verloren Valei and Dullstroom Nature Reserve.

Capped Wheatear *Oenanthe pileata* — (5) Seen most days during the first part of the trip, and at Verloren Valei.

Familiar Chat *Oenanthe familiaris* — (4) We got our first look at this very plain chat at Rooi-Els, and again at Harold Porter and Mount Sheba.

SUGARBIRDS: PROMEROPIIDAE (2)

Gurney's Sugarbird *Promerops gurneyi* — (3) Mason picked out a very distant bird that required squinted eyes and imagination at Verloren Valei, but we later got better looks at Mount Sheba.

Cape Sugarbird *Promerops cafer* — (3) First seen at Rooi-Els, and again at Harold Porter and Kirstenbosch.

SUNBIRDS AND SPIDERHUNTERS: NECTARINIIDAE (9)

Collared Sunbird *Hedydipna collaris* —(1) Seen just after we arrived in Kruger.

Orange-breasted Sunbird *Anthobaphes violacea* — (2) A pair gave us nice looks just after we parked at Rooi-Els, and we had distant looks at another at the pass near Paarl during our drive back to Cape Town from De Hoop.

Amethyst Sunbird *Chalcomitra amethystina* — (3) We saw one at the Potberg section at De Hoop, and another both days at Mount Sheba.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis* — (2) Recorded twice in Kruger, first when we arrived at Skukuza, and again early in the morning before we departed Satara.

Malachite Sunbird *Nectarinia famosa* —(6) Seen most days during the first part of the trip, once in Kruger, and again at Mount Sheba and Dullstroom Nature Reserve.

Southern Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris chalybeus* — (6) Seemingly everywhere during the first part of the trip, with at least 20 at Kirstenbosch.

Greater Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris afer* — (2) We saw our first at the Potberg section at De Hoop, and a handful both days at Mount Sheba.

Marico Sunbird *Cinnyris mariquensis* — (3) Small numbers on most days in Kruger, and one at Abel Erasmus Pass.

White-breasted Sunbird *Cinnyris talatala* —(3) Recorded most days in Kruger, and again at Abel Erasmus Pass.

WEAVERS AND ALLIES: PLOCEIDAE (21)

Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver *Bubalornis niger* — (4) Seen most days in Kruger, often near their giant communal nests made of thorny twigs.

Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes rubriceps* — (1) One was seen by some of the group during our drive from Satara to the Orpen Gate.

Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis* — (2) First seen during our lunch stop at the Lower Sabie Rest Camp in Kruger, and again at Abel Erasmus Pass on our drive to Mount Sheba.

Cape Weaver *Ploceus capensis* — (8) Seen daily during the first part of the trip, and again at Dullstroom Nature Reserve.

Lesser Masked-Weaver *Ploceus intermedius* — (4) Recorded in good numbers four days in Kruger.

Southern Masked-Weaver *Ploceus velatus* — (12) Common and widespread with great looks at nest building during our stop at Dullstroom Nature Reserve.

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus* —(3) Fairly common in Kruger, particularly at Skukuza.

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea* — (2) We saw two good-sized flocks between Satara and Olifants and several at the Alzu Rest Stop between Dullstroom and Johannesburg.

Southern Red Bishop *Euplectes orix* — (6) Common during the first part of the trip and at Dullstroom.

Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis* —(6) Seen most days during the first part of the trip, and at Dullstroom.

White-winged Widowbird *Euplectes albonotatus* — (2) We saw six or seven on two days in Kruger.

Long-tailed Widowbird *Euplectes progne* — (3) We saw several during our drive through Verloren Valei, and one posed nicely for photos at Dullstroom Nature Reserve on our last day.

Bronze Mannikin *Spermestes cucullata* — (1) A few in the group had fleeting looks at one at Kirstenbosch.

Swee Waxbill *Coccyzygia melanotis* — (4) We saw our first at Harold Porter, a few at Kirstenbosch and several on both days at Mount Sheba.

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild* — (6) Fairly common and widespread, first around Cape Town and almost daily in Kruger.

Quailfinch *Ortygospiza atricollis* — (1) We came across a large flock along the road between Olifants and Satara, not long before we saw the Cheetah family.

Violet-eared Waxbill *Granatina granatina* — (1) We saw one during our drive back to Satara from Olifants.

Southern Cordonbleu *Uraeginthus angolensis* — (4) Formerly called Blue Waxbill, common in Kruger.

Green-winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba* — (3) Seen three days in Kruger.

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala* — (4) Seen four days in Kruger.

African Firefinch *Lagonosticta rubricata* — (2) Seen twice in Kruger, the first early on our first morning, and the second during our drive from Satara to the Orpen Gate.

INDIGOBIRDS: VIDUIDAE (2)

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura* — (4) First seen at Intaka Island by part of the group, and then good looks for everyone at De Hoop and Dullstroom Nature Reserve on our last day.

Eastern Paradise-Whydah *Vidua paradisaea* —(1) One seen by some in the group during our drive to Olifants.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: PASSERIDAE (3)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* — (13) Recorded daily except our full day at Mount Sheba, usually in populated areas.

Cape Sparrow *Passer melanurus* — (8) Common during the first part of the trip, but absent in Kruger.

Southern Gray-headed Sparrow *Passer diffusus* — (7) We saw small numbers around De Hoop, and then dozens or more every day in Kruger.

WAGTAILS AND PIPITS: MOTACILLIDAE (6)

Cape Wagtail *Motacilla capensis* — (12) Very common and widespread, except in Kruger where African Pied was more common.

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp* — (3) Seen regularly in Kruger, often in the rest camps.

African Pipit *Anthus cinnamomeus* — (6) Recorded in small numbers on six days, but there were likely many more among the LBJ's in grassland areas.

Nicholson's Pipit *Anthus nicholsoni* — (1) Some of the group saw this, initially tagged as a "mystery pipit," during our drive through Verloren Valei.

Orange-throated Longclaw *Macronyx capensis* — (3) First a pair on Darling Hills Road on our way to WCNP, and again at Verloren Valei and on the Mount Sheba entrance road.

Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus* — (1) We saw one early in the morning during our drive from Satara to Olifant.

FINCHES, EUPHONIAS, AND ALLIES: FRINGILLIDAE (8)

Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica* — (5) Seen every day in Kruger, and again at Abel Erasmus Pass.

Forest Canary *Crithagra scotops* — (1) We saw two during our beautiful morning walk at Kirstenbosch.

Brimstone Canary *Crithagra sulphurata* — (2) One perched nicely by our picnic spot at Harold Porter, and we saw another the next day near De Hoop.

Yellow Canary *Crithagra flaviventris* — (3) First seen at Abrahamskraal Hide at WCNP, and again at De Hoop.

White-throated Canary *Crithagra albogularis* — (1) We saw a pair in De Hoop just after we started our drive back to Cape Town.

Streaky-headed Seedeater *Crithagra gularis* — (2) Some in the group saw one during our drive through Verloren Valei, and another at the Dullstroom Nature Reserve on our last day.

Cape Siskin *Crithagra totta* — (1) We saw a pair at Rooi-Els during our search for the Rockjumper.

Cape Canary *Serinus canicollis* — (8) Common near Cape Town and Dullstroom.

OLD WORLD BUNTINGS: EMBERIZIDAE (3)

Golden-breasted Bunting *Emberiza flaviventris* — (1) The group in Andrew's vehicle saw one during the drive back from Olifant Camp to Satara.

Cape Bunting *Emberiza capensis* — (5) We saw our first during our picnic lunch on the beach at Langebaan Lagoon in WCNP, and saw or heard more daily during the Western Cape portion of the trip.

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting *Emberiza tahapisi* — (1) Everyone had nice looks at one as we got close to the Orpen Gate at Kruger on our drive to Mount Sheba.

MAMMALS (47 species recorded):

OLD WORLD MONKEYS: CERCOPITHECIDAE (3)

Chacma Baboon *Papio ursinus* — Our first primate, first seen during our drive to De Hoop, and most

days in Kruger.

Vervet Monkey *Chlorocebus pygerythrus* — First seen near Cape Town, and again in Kruger.

Blue (Samango) Monkey *Cercopithecus mitis albobularis* — Only seen at Mount Sheba where there were usually a few near the entrance gate.

BUSH BABIES: GALAGIDAE (1)

Greater Galago *Otolemur crassicaudatus* — One was seen close to the restaurant at Satara.

MEGABATS: PTEROPODIDAE (1)

Wahlberg's Epauletted Fruit Bat *Epomophorus wahlbergi* — There were several hanging from the trees by the restaurant at Satara.

RABBITS AND HARES: LEPORIDAE (1)

Scrub Hare *Lepus saxatilis* — Fairly common around De Hoop.

SQUIRRELS: SCIURIDAE (1)

Smith's Bush Squirrel *Paraxerus cepapi* — Seen several times in Kruger.

OLD WORLD RATS AND MICE: MURIDAE (1)

Four-striped Grass Mouse *Rhabdomys pumilio* — The mousers in the group saw this species a few times during the first part of the trip.

WOLVES, COYOTES, FOXES AND JACKALS: CANIDAE (2)

Black-backed Jackal *Canis mesomelas* — We saw one during our night drive out of Satara, and another the next day on the way back from Olifants.

African Wild Dog *Lycaon pictus* — One of the non-bird high points of the trip, we were very fortunate to see a large family feeding close to the road during our drive to Olifants.

MONGOOSES: HERPESTIDAE (5)

Banded Mongoose *Mungos mungo* — We saw several during the trip, usually skittering across the road or a creek bed.

Common Dwarf Mongoose *Helogale parvula* — Some in the group saw this small mongoose around De Hoop.

Cape Grey (Small) Mongoose *Herpestes pulverulenta* — Seen at least twice, first in WCNP, and again in De Hoop.

Egyptian Mongoose *Herpestes ichneumon* — Recorded one day at De Hoop.

Common Slender Mongoose *Herpestes sanguinea* — Recorded once during the first part of the trip.

HYENAS: HYAENIDAE (1)

Spotted Hyaena *Crocuta Crocuta* — Seen three days in Kruger including one that was habituated to people, lazing around just outside of the fence at Satara.

CIVETS AND GENETS: VIVERRIDAE (1)

Common Genet *Genetta genetta* — Some in the group saw one the day we visited Olifants.

CATS: FELIDAE (3)

Leopard *Panthera pardus* — We saw one very well hidden in brush during our drive back to Skukuza from the Sabie River.

Cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus* — Another contender for best non-bird sighting of the trip, we enjoyed watching a female and three cubs relaxing not far from the road on our way back to Satara from Olifants. The nearby herd of Impala seemed unaware of their presence.

Lion *Panthera leo* — We saw a distant female during our drive along the Sabie River, and then incredible, close looks at a small pride just before the Orpen Gate during our drive to Mount Sheba.

HYRAXES: PROCAVIIDAE (1)

Rock Hyrax *Procavia capensis* — These surprising cousins of elephants and manatees were seen close to the coast including the Stony Point Penguin Colony and De Hoop.

ELEPHANTS: ELEPHANTIDAE (1)

African Bush (Savanna) Elephant *Loxodonta africana* — We saw elephants daily in Kruger. The top non-bird experience for Mason, and possibly others, was watching a family enjoy a bath close to the road.

HORSES AND ZEBRAS: EQUIDAE (2)

Plains (Common) Zebra *Equus quagga* — Seen daily in Kruger, often close to the road.

Mountain (Cape) Zebra *Equus zebra* — We saw the “Cape” subspecies, the smallest of all extant zebra species, in WCNP and at De Hoop, where they were often feeding very close. Some in the group saw a pair mating.

PIGS AND HOGS: SUIDAE (1)

Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus* — Seen daily in Kruger.

HIPPOS: HIPPOPOTAMIDAE (1)

Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius* — Almost every pond or section of river seemed to have hippos, often remaining submerged for long periods before briefly coming up for air.

GIRAFFE: GIRAFFIDAE (1)

Giraffe *Giraffa camelopardalis* — Another daily sight in Kruger including some peering down at us close to the road.

YAKS, BISON, BUFFALO, ANTELOPES, SHEEP AND GOATS: BOVIDAE (15)

African Buffalo *Syncerus caffer* — We saw many throughout Kruger, but seeing a giant male aggressively forcing another out of the herd on our drive back from Olifants was amazing to witness.

Bushbuck *Tragelaphus scriptus* — We saw this medium-sized antelope several times in Kruger.

Nyala *Tragelaphus angasii* — Seen most days in Kruger, the dark shaggy males with spiral horns look quite different than the tan, white-striped females.

Greater Kudu *Tragelaphus strepsiceros* — We saw our first near De Hoop, and then daily in Kruger.

Common Eland *Taurotragus oryx* — We saw this second largest antelope in the world (only the Giant Eland is bigger) in WCNP, and the next day at De Hoop.

Steenbok *Raphicerus campestris* — We saw our first in WCNP where there are fewer predators. These small antelope seemed much more vulnerable in Kruger where predators are very common.

Klipspringer *Oreotragus oreotragus* — Appropriately, we saw this small antelope in its preferred rocky habitat on our drive back to Skukuza from the Sabie River.

Gray Rhebok *Pelea capreolus* — This medium-sized antelope was fairly common at De Hoop.

Mountain Reedbuck *Redunca fulvorufula* — We saw this antelope in its preferred, higher-altitude habitat during our drive through Verloren Valei.

(Common) Waterbuck *Kobus [e.] ellipsiprymnus* — Another sexually dimorphic species seen in Kruger, the males are heavier with spiral curved horns, and the females are smaller and lighter colored.

Springbok *Antidorcas marsupialis* — We saw a few of these slender, long-legged antelope in WCNP, and around De Hoop.

Impala *Aepyceros melampus* — One of the most important prey species in Kruger, we saw them daily in large numbers.

Bontebok *Damaliscus pygargus pygargus* & **Blesbok** *Damaliscus pygargus phillipsi* — Bontebok, the nominate subspecies, only occurs naturally in the fynbos and renosterveld habitats in the Western Cape Province where we saw them. We saw Blesbok, the other subspecies, in their preferred highveld habitat during our drive through Verloren Valei. Both subspecies are large with white faces, but Blesbok are typically lighter brown with a brown patch on their face dividing the white.

Blue Wildebeest *Connochaetes taurinus* — Fairly common in Kruger. We admired their agility when two leaped across the road during our drive from Olifants back to Satara.

Black Wildebeest (White-tailed Gnu) *Connochaetes gnou* — Seeing Black Wildebeest was a pleasant surprise during our drive through Verloren Valei.

PINNIPEDS: PINNIPEDIA (1)

Brown (Cape) Fur Seal *Arctocephalus pusillus* — We saw the “Cape” subspecies of Brown Fur Seal at Stony Point Penguin Colony, and from the boat as we returned from the pelagic trip.

WHALES, DOLPHINS, PORPOISES: CETACEA (4)

Southern Right Whale *Balaena glacialis* — During our afternoon stop at Koppie Alleen, we saw a dozen or more including adults with calves moving down the coast.

Bryde’s Whale *Balaenoptera brydei* — We saw one, a member of a poorly understood “complex” that may include three or four species, far offshore from Cape Point.

Humpback Whale *Megaptera novaengliae* — We had close looks at a few of these large baleen whales during the pelagic trip including one that made loud whistling sounds when taking in air.

Sei Whale *Balaenoptera borealis* — Another giant baleen whale seen on pelagic trip, identified by the hooked dorsal fin about two-thirds down the back.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (16 species recorded):

TORTOISES: TESTUDINIDAE (3)

Angulate Tortoise *Chersina angulata* — We saw a few in dry, coastal scrub habitat.

Leopard Tortoise *Stigmochelys pardalis* — We saw at least one of these large, strikingly marked tortoises in their preferred grassland habitat in Kruger.

CROCODILES: CROCODYLIDAE (1)

Nile Crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus* — Seen most days in Kruger where there was water, they provided another reason to stay in the safari vehicle!

SNAKES AND LIZARDS: [SQAMATA] (7)

Boomslang *Dispholidus typus* — Dalton may have caught a glimpse of one at Rondevlei, and there were rumors of another at Satara.

Mole Snake *Pseudaspis cana* — We saw this large snake disappear into the grass in WCNP.

Nile (Water) Monitor *Varanus niloticus* — Some in the group saw one in Kruger.

Cape Girdled Lizard *Cordylus cordylus* — Several were sunning themselves on the rocky outcrop we visited in WCNP after lunch.

Common Crag (Drakensberg) Lizard *Pseudocordylus melanotus*

Cape Skink *Trachylepis capensis*

Red-sided Skink *Trachylepis homalocephala*

FROGS: [ANURA] (5)

Arum (Lilly) Frog *Hyperolius horstockii* — We saw or heard several species of frogs at Rondevlei.

Cape Sand Frog *Tomopterna delalandii*

Clicking Stream Frog *Strongylopus grayii*

Flat Dainty Frog (Flat Caco) *Cacosternum platys*

Comon Platanna *Xenopus laevis*