



SOUTH AFRICA: MEGA ROAD TRIP

**A Birding with a Camera
Custom Tour**

**September 13 - October 3, 2021
Guide: Ken Behrens**

**Participants: Jolie Harrison and
Chris Ludwig**

**Text by Chris Ludwig,
Ken Behrens, & Jolie Harrison**

All Photos by Jolie Harrison

TOUR SUMMARY

South Africa is renowned as a site of high bird diversity and endemism. It's also one of the best countries on Earth for mammal-watching, as well as one of its most remarkable botanical treasure-houses. This trip was designed to take in all of these, with certain concessions to the current pandemic, including largely avoiding Johannesburg, not taking domestic plane flights, and doing some self-catering. Although the pandemic imposed a few hassles and uncertainties, namely the need for a couple of covid tests, the trip came off without a hitch. Springtime in South Africa is a delight, and doing a long "road trip" was the perfect way to take in a huge cross-section of this diverse and endlessly beautiful country.

In the Gauteng area, we had a couple of crazy days of racking up birds and mammals that weren't possible later in the trip. Our next stop, at Marrick, was all about the nocturnal mammals, including Aardvark and Aardwolf. Several days were spent in the arid and rugged Karoo, crossing

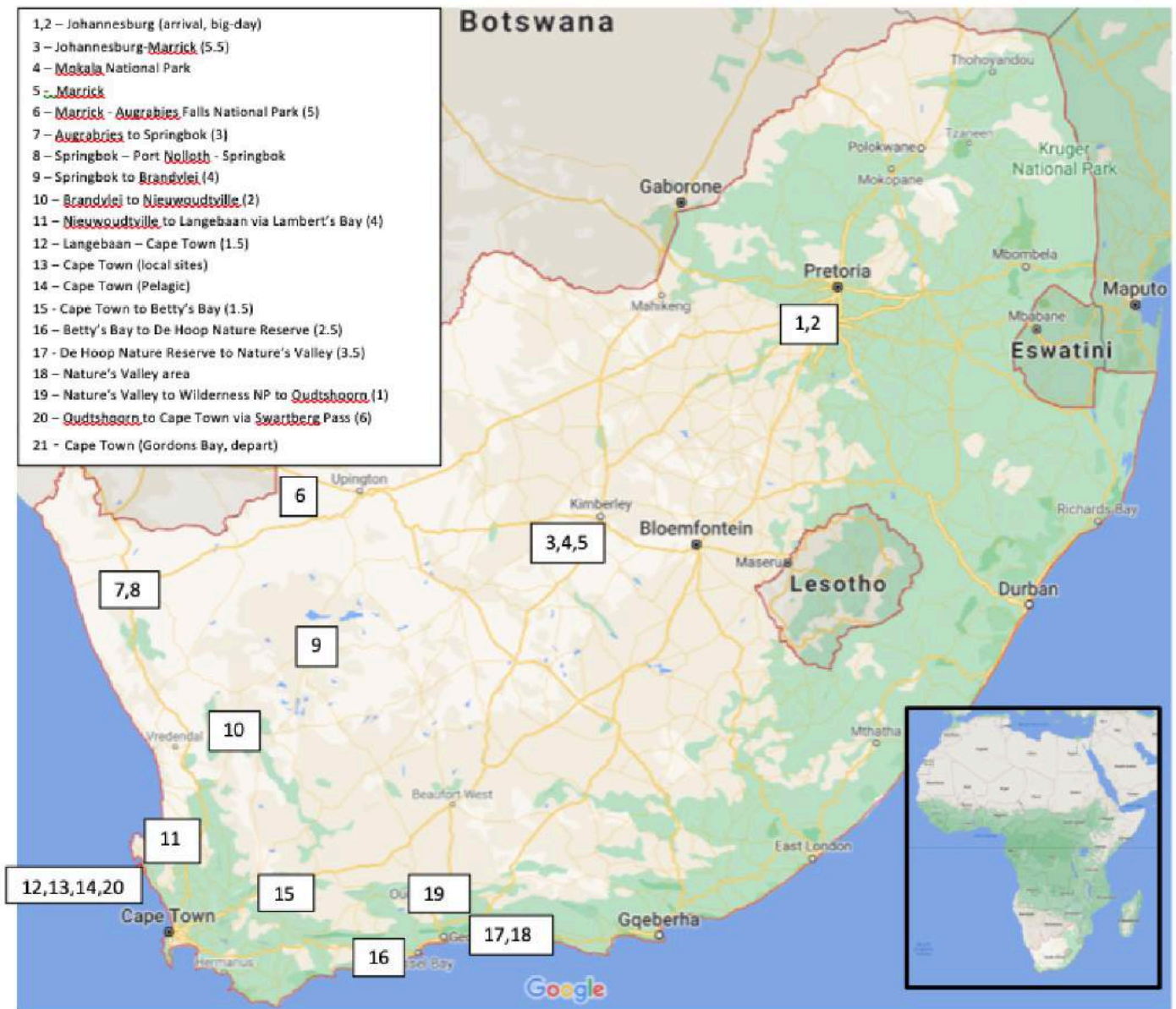
between the Nama Karoo and succulent Karoo multiple times. This biome is a delight – rich in endemic birds, and in the succulent Karoo, bursting with extravagant springtime wildflowers. Cape Town is always a joy; it has to be among the world’s most beautiful cities. In the Cape area, we racked up a bunch of Fynbos endemic birds, and continued to revel in glorious springtime botany. The trip wrapped up in a very different habitat, on the Garden Route: lush rainforest, holding a whole different set of wonderful birds.

Although the covid pandemic has created challenges for global travellers, this trip was a good demonstration of how travel is still possible and downright delightful. Overall, South Africa “has its act together” when it comes to covid. Most folks are quite conscientious about masking, hand sanitation, and other precautions. Although we had a minor glitch when our scheduled outcall covid test nurse didn’t show up on the last day, this was easily sorted with a rapid test at the airport. The natural world is still out there folks, and travel may be easier than you imagine!



A miniature termite-eating hyena: the Aardwolf! A major trip highlight at Marrick.

ITINERARY



Monday, September 13, Day 1:

Perfectly uneventful transport features a celebratory beer at the Newark airport for Chris and Jolie as Jolie has finally finished the last of her work and all is set to board our 15-hour flight to Johannesburg. Ken greets Chris and Jolie after a breeze through O.R. Tambo International Airport Customs (including close scrutiny of our negative Covid tests) and we are off! Ken has been



One of many Gauteng-area “life birds” for Chris and Jolie: the Kurrichane Thrush, in Mabusa Nature Reserve.

busy and we jump into his gassed-up and well-provisioned Toyota Fortuna rental. We snack on the bottomless goodies Ken has provided on the way to our lodging at Ezemvelo Nature Reserve, ca. 1.5 hours from the airport.

We reconnect during our 90-minute drive – it’s so nice on this custom tour because the three of us can really get to know one another. Our first mammal – a Common Duiker – is fun, but our first bird – an African Grass Owl, which briefly alights on a fence post – is fantastic. This is only the second time that Ken has seen this widespread but rare species. Amazing bird and a tantalizing reminder of the stellar birding in front of us (also fun because it apparently allows Ken to immediately “grip off” his friend and Tropical Birding owner Keith Barnes!).

We arrive at Ezemvelo, amidst the song of a few Fiery-necked Nightjars and Jolie and Chris are tucked in to our cabin (Chalet #8) and asleep by 11:00. Happy Africa!



Ezemvelo has a good selection of mammals, including Red Hartebeest.

Tuesday, September 14, Day 2: This will be a long day as we have many bird species to find in the Bushveld (acacia and broad-leaf savanna) and Highveld (grassland) that will be tough or impossible to find later in the trip. Ken has done his research, judiciously deciding where we need to go to find all the birds that Chris and Jolie had not seen in the savannas of Tanzania. The care with which Ken considered this day is extraordinary, as the birds of the day will show.

We start off at 5:00 with a pre-dawn walk around our cabins for 3 nightjars: we hear all 3 and get good looks at Fiery-necked with less-than-stellar looks at Freckled and

Rufous-cheeked. We return to our cabin at sunrise for a breakfast of yogurt, muesli,

and scrambled eggs (Ken can do it all!). We eat at a picnic table in front of the cabin and under the “lifer tree” as it comes to be known because of all the life birds that join us, some enticed by playback and others visiting unbidden. A pair of striking Black-collared Barbets are memorable.

Then we are off, starting with local birding in the Ezemvelo Preserve. Ken’s prowess and pre-scouting is on full display. We stop at a picnic ground and he says “look for Rufous-necked Wryneck and Striped Pipit”. The birds, responding to playback, appear just as Ken predicts. We enjoy many new birds as we take a local road trip, birding at locales including Mabusa Nature Reserve, Old Venera Spa Road, and the Wilge River Road.

The birding was special and so was the coffee and lunch: Coffee by Ken: 1) Pull over at a birdy spot, 2) Position car out of the wind, 3) Set a pot to boil over propane burner, 4) Set up two French presses with coffee, 5) Pour in boiling water, 6) Press, pour, drink. Chris and Jolie help with step 6!

Lunch by Ken: 1) Buy two Tupperware chests and a small cooler, 2) Fill said chests and cooler with crackers, cheese, pickles, mustard, sun-dried tomatoes in oil, peppadews, biltong, etc., 3) Pull over at a birdy spot, 4) Remove said contents from said chests and cooler, 5) Devour. Again, Chris and Jolie help with the last step!

Regarding our field lunches on this trip – Chris recalls the word “charcuterie” which he is happy to use as our lunch moniker until Jolie, quite cleverly, re-labels our road lunch as ‘**Carch**uterie’. For the trip, any lunch from our Tupperware chests and cooler, is now labeled as our ‘Carchuterie’!

We end our day back at Ezemvelo enjoying a dusk show of African Snipe, three Marsh Owls interacting with each other, and Rufous-cheeked Nightjar. Wow. We retire to our respective chalets and Ken whips up a delicious pasta dish with chicken, and we go through our first read off of the bird list with a few beers and a glass of wine. All are happy and all are tired. Time for bed as we have another very busy day tomorrow.



The soft light of sunset, at the end of Day 2, in Ezemvelo Nature Reserve. “Happy Africa!”

Wednesday, September 15, Day 3:

Today we have an ambitious schedule and hit the road by 5:00am. We drive north and east to a well-known birding locale north of Pretoria, the Khoma-Khoma road. It takes 2 hours and we want to get in the morning bird activity so we strive for an efficient trip, taking breakfast in the car and buying coffee as we gas up. It's a good plan, as we are immediately rewarded with great birding when we arrive in the acacia savanna habitat at 7:15. Grey Go-away bird, Southern Red-billed Hornbill, Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Marsh Owl, Pied Babbler, and other species are dripping from the trees in an abundance one rarely encounters outside of the acacia savannas of Africa. Our early drive was perfectly timed as the bird activity slows by 8:30.



Gray Go-away-bird is a flashy savanna bird that was only possible around Gauteng on this itinerary.

Next, we have scheduled our longest drive of the trip, a 7-hour ramble to Marrick Game Reserve with 3 nights of lodging just west of Kimberly. Along the way, we struggle to converse as the AC is broken, and we have to choose between yelling with the windows open or sweating with the windows closed (noting that Ken very quickly figures out how to fix this situation efficiently and we traded in the car shortly thereafter). We mostly choose the former as it's a sincere joy to get to know one another better. This trip is filled, filled with laughter.

Why Marrick Game Reserve? Two words: night drive. Actually a few more words... Aardvark, Aardwolf, Black-spotted Cat, Zorilla, Porcupine, ... Upon arrival, we enjoy a hearty dinner Ken prepares of grilled beef and lamb, salad, and broccoli, then jump in a truck outfitted for

night wildlife viewing and crewed by Johnny Boy, a legendary guide that has been running this particular tour for 18 years. Johnny and the night drive live up to the hype. Within minutes we observe numerous Aardwolves and the first half-hour is a spectacle of night creatures roaming the grasslands of Marrick. The night drive is also legendarily cold and, though we knew this going in, we are all terribly chilled. That said, we have seen 7 Aardwolves, 4 Porcupines, 1 Zorilla, 1 Barn Owl, 1 Smith's Rock Rabbit, and numerous Springhare, Cape Hare, and Scrub Hare – all of which are ample compensation for a bit of cold!

We are finishing up our 2nd full day and already have years of great memories. Whew! Bed by 10:30 – what a great day!



African Wild Cat on our first epic Marrick night drive.

Thursday, September 16, Day 4: Our last two days have been a steady roll, so we slow down a bit today with a short drive for morning birding at nearby Mokala National Park, the newest of South Africa's park system. The highlight here is a hide constructed near a watering hole where, over lunch, we observed a cadre of ungulates that trickle in for a drink among a constant stream of savanna birds including a bubbling mass of finches such as the dazzling Violet-eared Waxbills that perch close to our hide.



A couple of waterhole gems at Mokala NP: Violet-eared Waxbill (left) and Greater Kudu (right).

We return to Marrick mid-afternoon. Chris and Jolie enjoy a siesta while Ken heads into Kimberly to replace our silver Fortuna with no air-conditioning for a white Fortuna with air-conditioning. Ken is often working while Jolie and Chris relax. The new Fortuna is well-appointed and comfortable; however, the car computer seems determined to make Ken's life difficult by requiring complicated combinations of button pushing, brake pressing, and engine ignition to accomplish the simplest of things - such as unlocking the passenger door behind him. Fortuna's idiosyncrasies continue to unfold and reach epic proportions by the end of the trip!

Tonight, staff at Marrick supply dinner, and we head out for our second night drive. Ken brings along his sleeping bag for added warmth on the night drive – Chris is envious!

Johnny Boy does his best but the nightlife is a more subdued on this chilly evening. However, we get some outstanding looks at a Spotted Eagle -Owl. It doesn't escape Chris' notice that this is our 4th day of the trip and we have seen owls every day! Day 1: African Grass Owl,

Day 2: Marsh Owl, Day 3: Barn Owl, Pearl-spotted Owlet, and Marsh Owl, Day 4: Spotted Eagle-Owl. We finish the drive with great looks at a couple of Aardvarks! The first adjective that comes to mind: weird!



Point-blank views of Spotted Eagle-Owl in Marrick.

Friday, September 17, Day 5 (67/39): Today, we relax a bit and trek over the extensive terrain at Marrick. We enjoy a morning walk featuring great looks at Crested Barbet, Common Scimitarbill, and Fairy Flycatcher among others. Mammals are a highlight as well. Most of the larger mammals were wiped out through much of the region, but many have been reintroduced in the national parks and larger private game reserves. Thus, at Marrick, we enjoy birding among the myriad hooved beasts. One of our trip mammal highlights occurs in the afternoon when Johnny Boy takes us to a koppie (stony hill) where Karoo Rock Elephant-Shrew (Senji) is found. We are on this diurnal mammal very quickly, getting some nice photos of the 8 inch-long mammal, quite an impressive little critter.

After dinner, we head out for our 3rd and final night drive. Even more heavily cloaked, we are still quite chilly. Tonight, we enjoy our best look at the remarkable Aardwolf. The combined mammal tally for our three Marrick drives seeking night critters: 12 Aardwolves, 3 Aardvarks, 2 African Wildcats, 3 Smith's Red Rock Rabbits (which we understand is rarely seen), 1 Zorilla, 10 Cape Porcupines, 1 Cape Fox, 12 Bat-eared Foxes, and innumerable hares (Cape, Scrub) and Springhares.

Saturday, September 18, Day 6: Before we say goodbye to Marrick this morning, we drive out to one of the watering holes where Johnny Boy has frequently found African Quailfinch. We don't wait long before we get to observe a small group that comes in for a quick drink among the more common weavers and finches.



Karoo Rock Elephant-Shrew, a delightful daytime sighting in Marrick.

Then we are off for a long drive to Augrabies Falls National Park where we will stay the night. During the 5-hour trip we learn more about the “Karoo”, a large ecosystem that we are slowly easing into, leaving the savannas, grasslands, and agriculture of the east. The Karoo is a semi-arid landscape dominated by low shrubs, and, after rainy periods, produces a dazzling and diverse display of wildflowers. In eastern parts of the Karoo known as the Nama Karoo, summer

rains are prevalent and droughts are frequent. In large areas of the western Karoo, known as the succulent Karoo, winter rains are the rule, and wildflowers are abundant in spring, particularly in September. We have timed our trip for this display. Today, we are getting into the Nama Karoo. The vegetation is low and only a few wildflowers are in evidence.

We drop our gear off at the hotel and head directly to the national park to get a few hours of birding in before the gates shut at 6:00pm. We walk down to the falls and enjoy the new habitat but barely get enough time to explore. Amidst a roil of swifts at the falls Jolie spots an all-white bird and takes it for a small tern until Ken confirms it's an albino Rock Martin. Verreaux's Eagle is a target here and we see a beautiful adult just a few minutes before the park gates close.

We take dinner at the hotel and are serenaded by drunken revelers enjoying a raucous Saturday-night party in the neighborhood across the street. Chris, and particularly Ken, are not feeling it nor are they sleeping.

Sunday, September 19, Day 7: We get an early start, leaving the Augrabies Inn at 6:10 for a full day to explore the Karoo, driving to Springbok for a 2-night stay. We gas up and get a few snacks at Pofadder (aka Puff Adder) and are deep in the Nama Karoo immediately thereafter. The new birds of this habitat, many endemic, make themselves known, particularly at



Crested Barbet is a ridiculously gaudy bird of savanna habitats in eastern South Africa.

“waterpoints” such as a livestock tank fed by a well. During our journey we see Karoo Bustard, Ludwig’s Bustard, Karoo Eremomela, and a slew of Lark’s including Sclater’s Lark – a lifer for Ken!

It's difficult to describe the vastness of this landscape and its attendant lack of humans. Today, we drive on well-maintained gravel roads for hours and see a car about once every half an hour on average! After a productive morning including a wonderful field coffee and Red Larks, we start to see the landscape slowly take color. Spring is springing as we transition from the Nama to the succulent Karoo. By mid-day the wildflowers are raging and we stop at Aardvark Kloof for a memorable lunch of Carchuterie and exploration. Kloof is an Afrikaans term for a steep-sided, ravine or valley. This afternoon at the kloof is a blur of discovery from the Layard’s Warbler to the Black-headed Canary to the Dassie Rat to the ice-plants to the agama lizards to the Toktok Beetle to the butterflies - you get the idea! Around every outcrop, there is something new and colorful. Spring in the Karoo. Ken comes up with a refrain for this part of the trip... “that is so Karoo!” – a refrain employed to describe the extreme beauty and harshness of this arid landscape.



The delightful Aardvaark Kloof, bursting with spring wildflowers and breeding birds.

It is worth noting that, in a way, we have a fourth naturalist with us on this journey: iNaturalist. This app, with its AI and large community of users, helps us identify the plants and insects we encounter.

We tear ourselves away from Aardvark Kloof and head east through the increasingly colorful landscape to Springbok, for dinner at the Springbok Inn and the nightly tally of our bird list. We have finished our first week of this amazing journey. What a trip!



Just two of the hundreds of amazing wildflowers that we saw in the succulent Karoo.

Monday, September 20, Day 8: Spring in Springbok and the flowers are all around us. Ken decides we should head over to Port Nolloth near the northwestern boundary of South Africa along the south Atlantic a mere 40 miles or so south of Namibia. As we approach the coast, the wildflowers give way to a dry coastal scrub, as we aren't far from the Namib Desert of Namibia, one of the driest deserts in the world. We bird and ramble through a beachside expanse associated with an aquaculture facility after getting chased off some weakly-posted diamond mine property. Amidst the scrub we get great looks at numerous larks including our target, the restricted Barlow's Lark. Back at Port Nolloth, we gather the first of our marine mammals (Atlantic Bottlenosed Dolphin, Heaviside's Dolphin, and Cape Fur Seal) and seaside birds for the trip. Then it's time for a yummy fish lunch overlooking the ocean and a drive back to the Springbok Inn.

We siesta, dine, and then do a night drive on some gravel roads. No rest for the weary but we are so glad we go because it's a 3-owl night drive with heard Barn Owl and enjoy great views of both a Cape Eagle-Owl and a Spotted Eagle-Owl. Aardwolf and Klipspringer are also spotted. Wow!



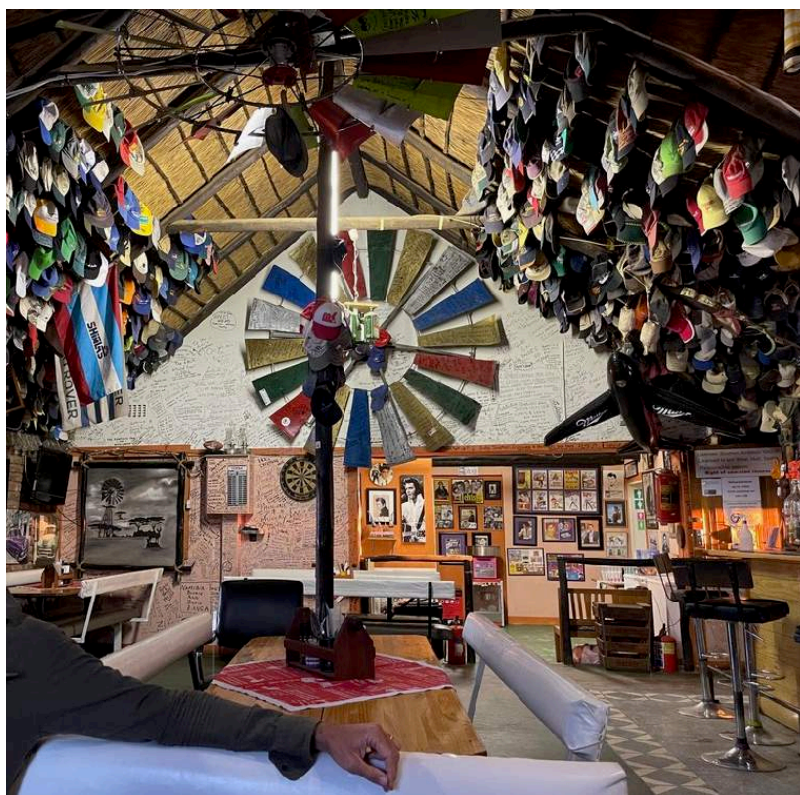
A landscape near Springbok: so Karoo!

Tuesday, September 21, Day 9: This morning we sleep in and enjoy the Springbok Inn breakfast buffet at the decadently late hour of 7:00am. Then we gather our gear and head to Goegap Nature Reserve, a provincial park with beautiful wildflower-rich valleys amidst rocky small mountains. We enjoy great views of Ludwig Bustards and responsive Karoo (Yellow-rumped) Eremomelas.

Since we are heading east, we drive out of the succulent Karoo back into the Nama Karoo. The wildflower-laden landscape gives way to a desiccated, barren shrubland where a drought has taken a noticeable toll. Our journey ends at Brandvlei and the 1/2-pad Guesthouse. The austere landscape is striking, and as we would remark, “it is so Karoo”!



Ludwig's Bustards were all over the landscape.



The unforgettable Die Windpomp restaurant.

Chris and Jolie rest a bit while Ken scouts the barren landscape. We re-adjoin for dinner at the Windmill (Die Windpomp) Restaurant – it's quite a place. The high ceiling is adorned with hundreds of ballcaps and one wall features the bladed wheel of a windpomp. The owners are Afrikaans and treat us to a concert in Afrikaans on a giant TV. The show is as difficult to describe as it is loud, featuring a particularly memorable Abba medley. We have a great time with delicious lamb chops, the bird list, and better-than-average beer. Also memorable is

Jolie handing Chris the large bottle of creamy hot sauce when he asks for the salad dressing. Surprise and hilarity ensue, and Jolie's declaration that Chris had asked for hot sauce is quickly debunked by Ken, and the incident is repeatedly laughingly raised by Chris afterwards as proof that perhaps things do not always go as Jolie remembers them.

One of the many culinary joys of the trip is the discovery of rusks (typically expressed as RRRUSKS!), a dry, oft-nutty, treat - of similar texture to biscotti, but typically less sweet. After finding no desert at Die Windpomp, we happily cap our night with a RRUSK!



A couple more examples of wildflowers at one of South Africa's flower capitals: Nieuwoudtville.

Wednesday, September 22, Day 10: Sunrise this morning finds us a bit out of town on a desiccated flatland with leafless, drought-stricken shrubs and no greenery in sight. Ken scouted Red Lark here yesterday and hopes for another look but there are no larks or other birds. The landscape is devoid, entirely devoid, of birds - a startling and fascinating place to be on this perfect-weather morning. We head back, enjoy our self-catered breakfast of yogurt, muesli, and snacks before hitting the road to drive through the Karoo to Nieuwoudtville

Before leaving the dry, nama Karoo, we find a waterpoint where we get great views of Sclater's Lark and Namaqua Sandgrouse. After our Carchuterie we approach Nieuwoudtville. As Ken will later point out, here we have entered spring for a second time as the Nama gives way to the succulent Karoo again. The point is driven home when we see our first Blue Cranes in an expanse of wildflowers near town.

We drop our gear at the lavish Linda se Dop Guesthouse in Nieuwoudtville and head-out for some botany and birding before dinner. We are dazzled at every stop by the flora. During our botanical exploration, we luck into a great look at a Common Quail.

Back to the guesthouse for dinner. We are treated to home-made bread, good wine, and bobotie, a classic South African ground meat (lamb in this case) and egg casserole. Tomorrow we head to the coast and into the Fynbos.



Large-billed Lark, a South African near-endemic bird, was common for most of the western portion of the trip.

Thursday, September 23,

Day 11 (76/44): We leave

Nieuwoudtville early, heading towards Lambert's Bay. We descend a dramatic escarpment and transition unevenly from the Karoo into the Fynbos. The term Fynbos is Afrikaans and it denotes a distinctive habitat almost entirely limited to the southern portion of South Africa. Here the vegetation is comprised of fire-prone shrubland over acidic, oligotrophic soils derived from quartzite and sandstone (except along the coast where the soils are more calcareous). The flora is incredibly rich with over 9000 native vascular plant species, and it includes 7 families of vascular plants found nowhere else. The vegetation is so distinct, in fact, that the Fynbos region of South Africa is considered its own floristic province - the Cape Floristic Region, far and away the

smallest of the six recognized floral kingdoms of the world. As in the succulent Karoo, September wildflowers are spectacular in the Fynbos.

We arrive in Lambert's Bay for a great cup of coffee on our way to Bird Island, a Cape Gannet rookery managed by Cape Nature with a blind allowing close approach to the Gannets which are paired off and on nests, though we see no eggs. In addition to the raucous (and smelly) rookery, many birds are using the area with terns, gulls, cormorants, and a few shorebirds all in evidence.

The coffee is so good that we grab another cup in the same shop, and drive south towards Lambert's Bay, stopping farther down the coast for lunch in a little surfing town. Seafood is on the menu for much of the rest of our trip and we gladly order.



The Cape Gannet colony at Lambert's Bay, always a remarkable scene.

We arrive at our lodging, the Glenfinnan Guest House in Langebaan, shed our gear and drive to the nearby West Coast National Park. We barely need to enter the park before we are birding and enjoying new birds, as the activity is high with breeding season in full swing. We soak

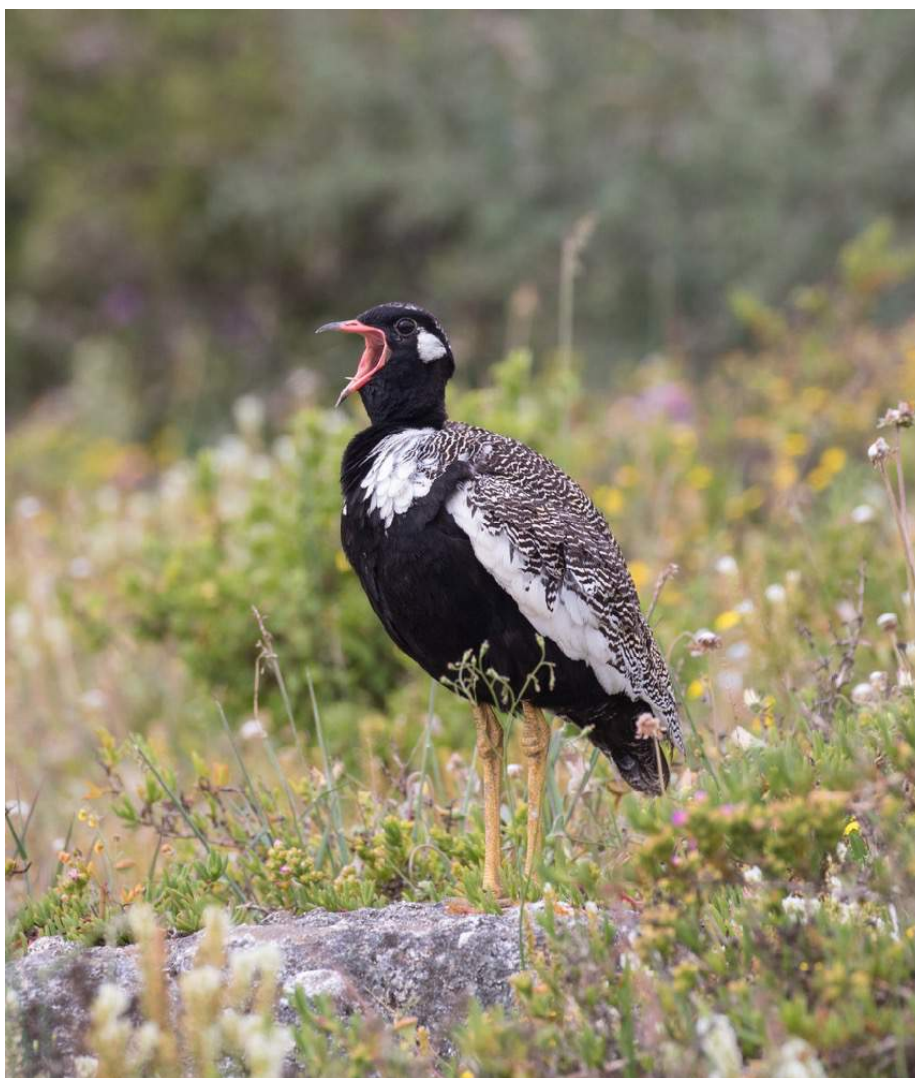
up views of Gray-winged Francolin, Cape Grassbird, and Southern Black Korhaan among other new species. The Fynbos wildflowers are equally alluring.

To end the day, we grab a seafood dinner in Lambert's Bay, tally the bird list amidst the noise of the restaurant, and head to the guesthouse for bed.

Friday, September 24, Day 12: Today we get a relaxed start and enter West Coast National Park for an easy morning of birding before we drive to Cape Town. The trip starts with some excitement when Ken spots a

feisty Cape Mole Rat atypically out in full view along the side of the road. What a beautiful view and what teeth! After some close pics by Jolie and Ken, Ken tries to boot-nudge the critter gently into the Fynbos. The ungrateful critter bites Ken's boot forcefully before getting the hint and finally entering the safety of the shrubbery. Best look ever at this shy critter.

Birding follows with a visit to two of the park's blinds. The tidal flats deliver a few nice birds including an unobstructed view of African Rail. We visit the famed Postberg Section of the park where the wildflowers are striking but a bit past peak. This area of the park is quite crowded as is the rocky beach where we have our Carchuterie. Jolie peels off right after lunch to explore the tidepools, one of her favorite haunts.



Southern Black Korhaan (Bustard) in full throat in the Fynbos of West Coast National Park.

We depart in the early afternoon for Cape Town. After a few quick stops (including Ken's old abode and former office of Tropical Birding) we tuck into the super-comfy Harfield Guest House for the next three nights.

Tonight, we try a local Mexican restaurant, imbibe a few beers, tally the bird list, and thoroughly, as always, enjoy each other's company.



Prized bird sightings in West Coast NP: African Rail (left) and Malachite Sunbird (right).

Saturday, September 25, Day 13: Graham, proprietor at Harfield, cooks us a delicious breakfast, we become acquainted with his sweet dog Roxy, and we head off to bird in the parks around Cape Town. By far the most striking is the Cape of Good Hope section of the Table Mountain National Park. This area includes some 20,000 acres of Fynbos blanketing a peninsula that juts into the Atlantic Ocean, delineating the western end of False Bay. We are surprised when, after a fair walk up and out towards the end of the point, we round a corner and come upon a low building with...an Eland standing on the roof looking down at us! We love the 600-foot cliffs and spectacular views at the point, and are surprised to learn that the park is full of Chacma Baboons. We are thrilled to see at least a couple of humpback whales breaching and fin-slapping off the

point, and excited when a Rock Kestrel that we sighted earlier is chased by a Peregrine Falcon right over our heads. We grab a cup of disappointing coffee at the snack bar before leaving the park.



Glorious views from Cape Point, on a day with perfect weather.

Ken takes Chris and Jolie along the Atlantic and we find a far superior coffee near Kommetjie, our next stop. Here, near the lighthouse, Ken and Chris scope the sea while Jolie spends about an hour really exploring the extensive tidepools. Ken has very thoughtfully arranged this stop specifically for Jolie, and she thoroughly enjoys her time in the colorful pools, which are teeming with a variety of swaying, darting, and sessile life. Amid the overlay of big waves and meters-long washed-up kelp, she finds limpets, mussels, barnacles, and other mollusks, brightly colored anemones and tubeworms, gobies and other more elusive fishes, and, finally, a beautiful Portuguese Man-o'-war. Chris and Ken find a near-shore Shy Albatross among some White-chinned Petrels and a giant petrel that is too far out to be identified to species.



Tidepool riches: a Portuguese Man-o'-war (left) and a powder blue anemone (right).

On the way back to the guesthouse, we stop at a sushi restaurant, which features a Cape Canary singing in the courtyard. Lunch and a lifer! A friendly chap at an adjacent table inexplicably gifts Jolie with a painted rock! We rest up back at Harfield before visiting the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens for some evening birding. We see some new birds, including Olive Thrush and Rameron Pigeon. Also exciting to Jolie and Ken, the botanical backdrop is bursting with bright color and interesting forms and it is a great opportunity to take some especially well-framed photos of birds. A Caracal with babies has been seen over the last week but we aren't among the lucky folks that catch a glimpse.

We pick up pizza for a feast back at Harfield. At dinner, Graham hangs around for a chat and we discuss the absence of crushed red pepper in South Africa, and learn that Peppadews, which are much-loved by many, have also caused marital strife for one of Ken's close friends. Tomorrow is our Cape Town Pelagic Trip – Ken has confirmed we are a go!

Sunday, September 26,
Day 14: An early breakfast and quick drive delivers us to the

Simon's Town harbor for a pelagic trip. This trip runs almost every weekend, weather

permitting, and we luck out with relatively low winds and a green light! Jolie, Ken, and Chris immediately head to the front of the smallish boat – perhaps a strategic error as the swell is considerable (up to 4 meters) and the ride proves a bit bouncy.

Nevertheless, the birding is a joy. Almost all of the pelagic birds are new for Jolie and Chris and they gather great looks at many lifers including Shy Albatross, Black-browed Albatross, Yellow-nosed Albatross, Northern Giant Petrel, Cape Petrel, White-chinned Petrel, and Brown Skua. An Antarctic Prion flies by quickly but all manage at least a glance – this is a lifer for Ken as well as Chris and Jolie. Other non-lifer pelagic birds seen include Sabine's Gull, Sooty Shearwater, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, and (a rarity this far south) Manx Shearwater. The captain was very dedicated to getting us the birds, and at one point, we skirt tightly past a huge Japanese tanker



One of many pelagic bird species that we saw on our boat trip out of Simon's Town: Shy Albatross.

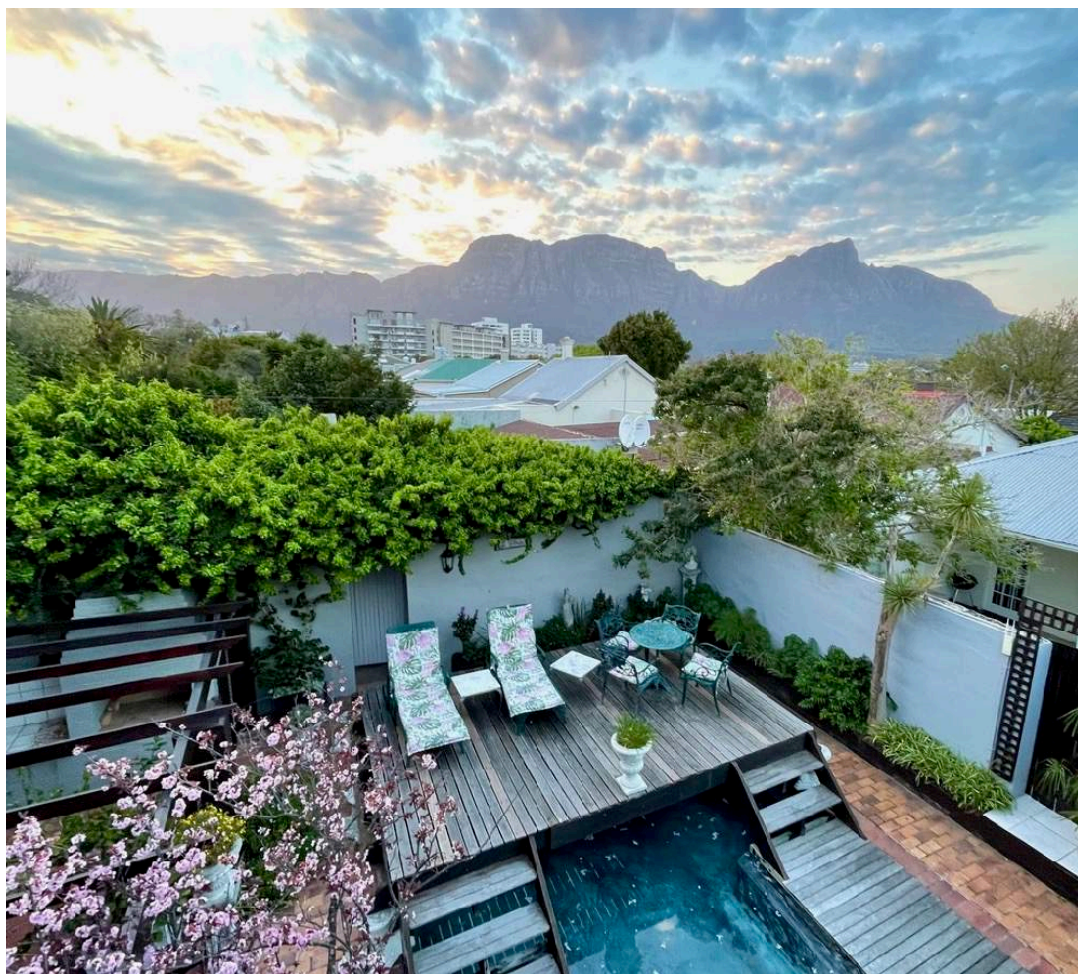
while in pursuit of a fishing vessel. We also learn that great white sharks have inexplicably left the area and have been seen in greatly reduced numbers in recent years.

The Cape Town pelagic is renowned and we get a taste as to why. The birds aren't as numerous as they can be on some trips, but the variety is great and there is no question that in this confluence of the Atlantic, Indian, and Southern Oceans anything can happen!

We return at lunch and snack when tucked into the calm waters of False Bay. We cruise by a small cormorant rookery with nesting Bank Cormorants and a small rock with 40 or so resting Cape Fur Seals. We are perplexed by a resident juvenile humpback whale in the harbor as we return.

Jolie and Chris shop a bit in Simon's Town while Ken meets with his coauthor on a Birds of Madagascar book he is writing. We bird mid-afternoon at the False Bay Nature Reserve. In reality,

this is a sewage treatment plant with some great waterbirding. Finally, it's back to Harfield for a last night in Cape Town. Tonight, we have our heart set on fish and chips but, alas, the restaurant has closed. We make due with more sushi a few blocks from our villa – life is tough!

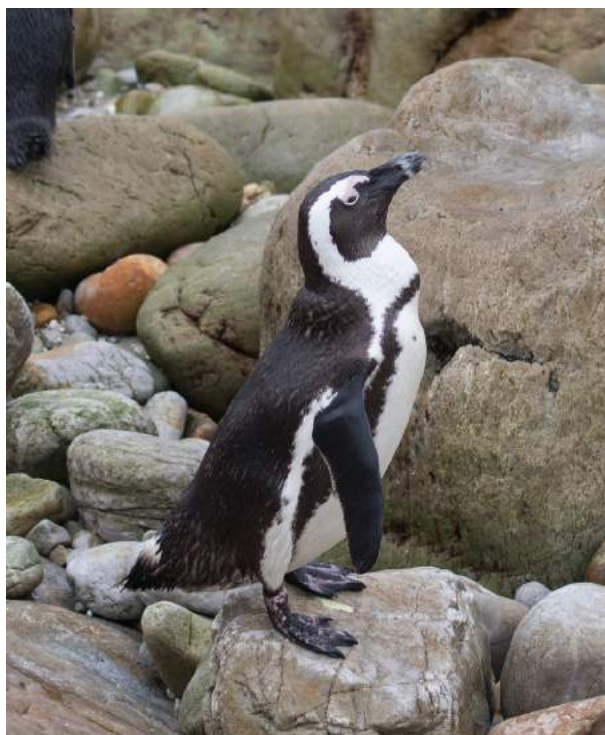


The wonderful Harfield Guesthouse, which we called home for our nights in Cape Town.

Monday, September 27, Day 15: We wish Graham well and head east towards the Garden Route. For the next four days or so, we will soak up the Fynbos ecosystem and the coast of southern South Africa. We start on the eastern burbs of Cape Town, successfully (thanks to Ken) scanning various lakes to pick up two relatively uncommon waterfowl (Macoa Duck and White-backed Duck).

Then it is time for some birding in the Fynbos and along the

coast on the way to Betty's Bay. We have stops before lunch – first is a steep road where we try



An African Penguin at the Betty's Bay colony.



Cape Rock-Thrush might be a handsome endemic, but it's not above scavenging some rusk crumbs from a parking lot!

for Cape Rockjumper and Ground Woodpecker. Neither appear, but instead we are treated to a beautiful Victorin's Warbler singing for a tremendous extended look. Chris is particularly enamored. Just after this, Orange-breasted Sunbirds appear and we are mere feet from them as they flit about us. Wow – great looks!

The next stop is unscheduled. Multi-tasking Ken observes a perched Cape Rock-Thrush as he takes a curve and quickly turns the Fortuna around so we can get good looks and photos. We pull over, the bird sits for its photo and then flies over to the car, appearing to eat a few crumbs. Ken notes the bird's predilection and sprinkles more, allowing wonderfully close viewing and pics.



We had an incredible encounter with a whole family group of Cape Rockjumpers. Here the male feeds the juvenile.

Next, we visit a large colony of South African Penguins – one of only two on the mainland and the carefully managed site allows us great looks from a boardwalk amidst the colony. We enjoy the penguins' comical ingress and egress from the water. Several species of cormorants are also nesting and resting at the site.

Following lunch, we walk a beautiful trail through the Fynbos with mountains on

the left and the sea on the right. This is a well-known

Cape Rockjumper site and we have tremendous success, finding a family group (1 male and 2-3 females) feeding a juvenile. Later, looking at pictures, we realize that the male is banded. As if these looks weren't enough, this was preceded by extended looks at a striking pair of Ground Woodpeckers.

With the Warbler, Sunbird, Rock Thrush, Penguin, Woodpecker, and Rockjumper – today is the day of beautiful birds giving us all the viewing we could desire!

At the Van dens Berg guesthouse in Betty's Bay, we meet Keith Barnes, founder and owner of Tropical Birding, who is in country for a few tours of his own and has a couple of days to share with us. Keith, Ken, Jolie and Chris head out for a seafood dinner (Jolie's huge bowl of seafood stew is a culinary highlight and devoured with especial thoroughness) and then it's back to the guesthouse for bed and more adventures to come.

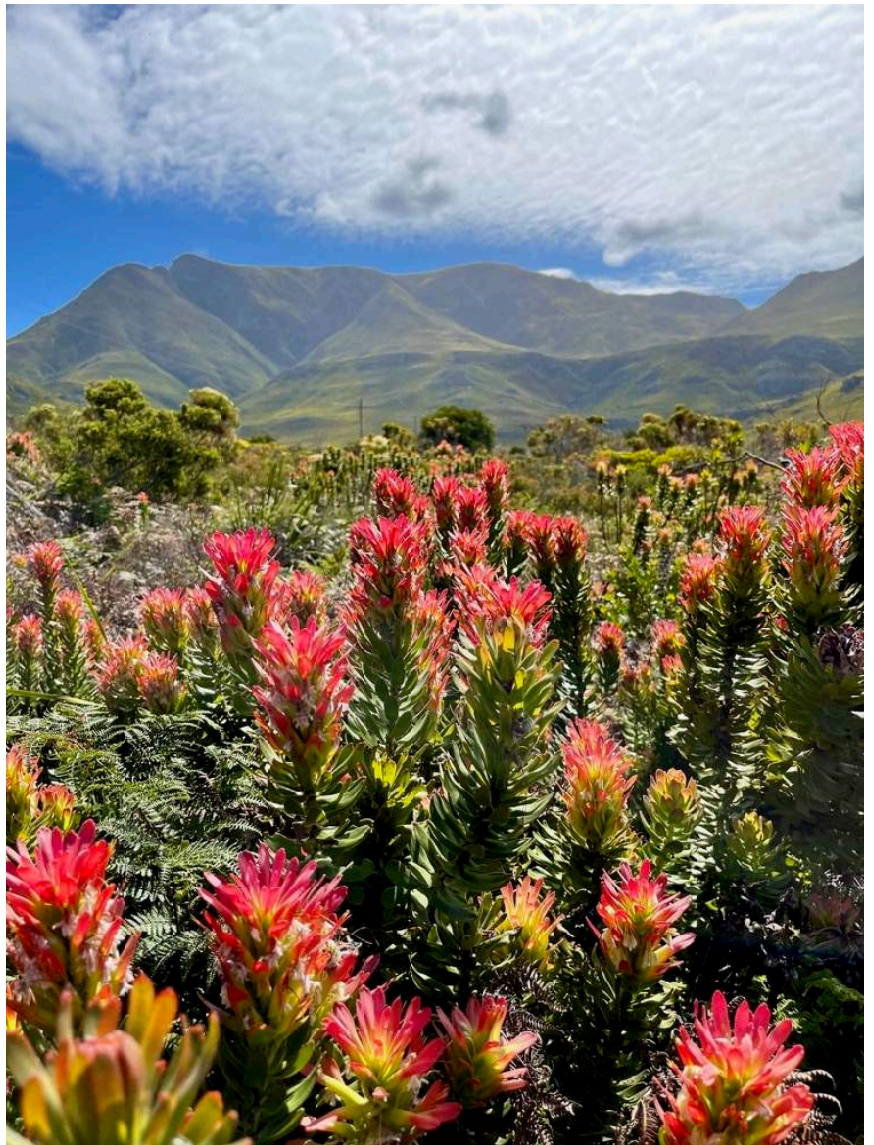
Tuesday, September 28, Day 16: Literally just up the hill from our guesthouse, Keith owns a couple of acres which we explore. Keith shares his botanical knowledge of the Fynbos with Chris. Ken expertly picks out a perched, distant Sentinel Rock Thrush and we all get a view through the scope. Keith departs but provides some scouting ahead for Ken, Jolie, and Chris – we will all converge at De Hoop later in the afternoon.

Our next stop is Hermanus, a town famed for easy viewing of Southern Right Whales. We see a distant pair but Keith has scouted a pair close to shore! We celebrate our whale siting with a great lunch of fresh fish overlooking the bay.

We leave Hermanus with a bit of a drive to the De Hoop Nature Reserve. Much of the drive features large agricultural operations – mostly wheat – but we find our 3 target birds amidst the fields – Aghulas Lark, Denham's Bustard, and Cape Griffon.

After an all-too-brief drive around De Hoop, with views of the extensive and tall fynbos-covered dunes, we arrive at our cabins with Jolie and Chris housed next to Keith and Ken. Keith has cooked up a delicious curry, complimented by one of his favorite South African wines. The meal is delicious and made all the better with our lively conversations.

Wednesday, September 29, Day 17: De Hoop Nature Reserve is flush with life, and we are excited to wake to three zebra right outside our front door, as well as a friendly and vocal Bokmakierie hopping



Spectacular springtime Cape scenery.
Common Pagoda in the foreground.

about the little patio. After early morning coffee, the gang takes a short walk around the cabins and De Hoop. Next, Ken cooks us up some eggs with veggies that Keith has brought. We enjoy this with our coffee and muesli before splitting up as Keith is heading back to Cape Town to lead a tour, while the trio is continuing east.

Rain sets in on the drive (our first of the trip!) thwarting much of the birding en route but



giving us some extra time to relax in beautiful Nature's Valley at the Tranquility Inn, which has a functioning wood stove and a wonderful nesting Chorister Robin-Chat. Dinner is delicious at the restaurant next door - Jolie and Ken love the butterfish, and Chris tries and likes the Ostrich burger.

Thursday, September 30, Day 18:

The Tranquility Inn is dreamy but the weather not, alternating cloudy, misty, and breezy. No complaints as we walk the town and some local trails to grab a

Our lodge in Nature's Valley had a Chorister Robin-Chat nesting right in the garden!

few life birds including Lemon Dove, Knysna Turaco, Terrestrial Brownbul,

African Crested-Flycatcher, and Mouse-colored Sunbird. Birds are found throughout the beautiful residential area where folks have left the native vegetation intact. Nature's Valley is aptly named.

We eat lunch at a delightful farm stall, where, amid the tussling roosters, Jolie enjoys her first red cappuccino and shops the interesting foodstuffs (she foregoes the ostrich pate, but does come away with some yummy ginger/orange/chocolate energy balls). After a quiet, relaxed day, we grab dinner next door again and settle in for the evening.

Friday, October 1, Day 19: We grab a coffee and head out for a last morning walk in Nature's Valley. We take a lovely stroll on a wide empty beach east of town, where we find the

Cape Beach Daisy trailing across the sand. Ken then chooses a lagoon-side walk in Garden Route National Park on the east edge of town. It's quiet about ½ way around the lagoon and Ken heads back to grab the car to meet Chris and Jolie near a bridge at the back end of the lagoon. All is well until Chris and Jolie encounter an unavoidable wade across a finger of the lagoon – fortunately the water is only knee deep and not too cold. We soon forget this as the team, reunited, is rewarded (thanks to Ken's persistence, knowledge, and skill) with great birds at the bridge, the Knysna and Olive Woodpeckers! Both provide extended viewing after some chasing and careful positioning.

After a late breakfast, we head east for birding and lunch in the small coastal town of Wilderness, adjacent to Wilderness National Park.

Following lunch where Jolie enjoys another Red Cappuccino, we have a target bird, the outrageously-shy Knysna Warbler.

Ken guides us to some tiny woodlots among the coastal development in town and Chris is nonplussed when Ken gets a vocal male responding to playback. The spot is just plain ugly, with a road, houses, a highway, an abandoned railroad track, cut brush, and rats under a nearby trashcan. Ugliness notwithstanding, a pair of Knysna Warblers are making a thicket here their home. Jolie and Ken pull out some respectable shots of these super-sneaky brown birds.



Our views of the incredibly skulking Knysna Warbler were ridiculously good. And we even managed some photos!

From there, we head to the “Little Karoo”, an inland valley region with typical Karoo vegetation nestled among higher ridges of Fynbos. After some driving, we arrive in Oudtshoorn to

the DeZeekoe B&B with a quick rest before dinner. Chris orders the ostrich fillet and we enjoy our bird list and beer.

Saturday, October 2, Day 20: This morning the gang grabs a coffee and drives out to meet local guide Devey for a visit to a Meerkat colony where they have been habituated to accept close observation. The colony is in flux right now with a new alpha female that is younger than typical and already pregnant. There are also some new nervous males, and the colony has stayed the night at a more distant and less-frequently used group of tunnels. We get some nice photos of the pregnant female and Devey teaches us about these critters and their social structure, diet, etc. (key takeaway, they stink). It is entertaining seeing Ken forced to remain seated for an hour or more. He occupies himself by asking questions, taking photos, looking at plants, and probably doing differential equations in his head. A light rain begins so we quickly head out. Back to the hotel for breakfast and our last long drive of the trip – this time back to Cape Town.

Mid-morning, the rain is falling as we approach Swartberg Pass, which tops out at more than 4700' above sea level. Between the rain, wind, and clouds it's tough to fully experience on the way up. It is worth noting at this point that Ken has found virtually every new bird that we could potentially see on this trip, and he hops out in the wet thrashing weather to attempt to call in one of the few remainders - the Protea Canary. No luck with the canary, but Jolie does manage to grab a nice photo of the large, showy broad-leaved sugarbush through the rain. The weather abates as we descend with beautiful scenery of colorful contorted rocks prominent among the recently-burned Fynbos.

Our last Carchuterie is amidst a fascinating, stark, barren, rocky habitat featuring many rock-loving plants "geophytes" in the western portion of the Little Karoo. What a pleasure these lunch stops have provided. Our fun continues with a last bit of extended time for conversation in the car. Over the last 3 weeks the topics have varied from our families, to our passions (aquariums, birds, photography, plants, fishing, stamp collecting, music, mountain climbing, health, food...), to books, to the future of our species, to religion and society and politics. What a sincere joy to converse openly over the many hours of this road trip.

We arrive in time for a scheduled covid test at our Gordon's Bay hotel, the "Manor on the Bay" so that we are permitted to fly back to the U.S. Due to a scheduling error, this doesn't

happen – meaning we have to do this tomorrow, the day of our flight. While a negative test is almost assured, a bit of anxiety is experienced by Chris.



A Meerkat posing at close range, near Oudtshoorn.

This evening, we walk to “Zest” a lively restaurant with delicious food and wine. We enjoy the atmosphere and make the most of our time with our respective “Top 10” list of experiences for the trip. Many are shared. Tomorrow, Chris and Jolie depart for the U.S. and Ken heads north to Johannesburg and for further adventure in Mozambique, as his adopted home of Madagascar remains closed, and he’s unable to return directly to his family.

Monday, October 3, Day 21: Can this really be the last day? This morning, Ken knows we need a Covid-test, good coffee, and three last birds: Protea Canary, Streaky-headed Seedeater, and Sweet Waxbill. With Ken’s knowledge of Cape Town, all of this comes to pass. With a negative test, our departure is granted and we part ways with goodbyes at the airport in the late afternoon.

What an amazing trip for Chris and Jolie. What a well-run trip by Ken. What a fine time for all!



We had some close-range Cape Sugarbirds on our last morning, near Paarl.

BIRD LIST

Taxonomy and nomenclature follow *The Clements Checklist of the Birds of the World v2019* (including updates through August 2019).

Day:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Common Ostrich (<i>Struthio camelus</i>)																					
White-faced Whistling-Duck (<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>)																					
White-backed Duck (<i>Thalassornis leuconotus</i>)																					
Egyptian Goose (<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>)																					
South African Shelduck (<i>Tadorna cana</i>)																					
Spur-winged Goose (<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>)																					
Cape Shoveler (<i>Spatula smithii</i>)																					
Yellow-billed Duck (<i>Anas undulata</i>)																					
Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)																					
Cape Teal (<i>Anas capensis</i>)																					
Red-billed Duck (<i>Anas erythrorhynchos</i>)																					
Southern Pochard (<i>Netta erythrophthalma</i>)																					
Maccoa Duck (<i>Oxyura maccoa</i>)																					
Helmeted Guinea fowl (<i>Numida meleagris</i>)																					
Common Quail (<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>)																					
Cape Francolin (<i>Pternistis capensis</i>)																					
Natal Francolin (<i>Pternistis natalensis</i>)																					
Swainson's Francolin (<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>)																					
Red-necked Francolin (<i>Pternistis afer</i>)																					
Coqui Francolin (<i>Peliperdix coqui</i>)																					
Orange River Francolin (<i>Scleroptila gutturalis</i>)																					
Gray-winged Francolin (<i>Scleroptila afra</i>)																					

Shelley's Francolin (<i>Scleroptila shelleyi</i>)																				
Greater Flamingo (<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>)																				
Lesser Flamingo (<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>)																				
Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>)																				
Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>)																				
Eared Grebe (<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>)																				
Rock Pigeon (<i>Columba livia</i>)																				
Speckled Pigeon (<i>Columba guinea</i>)																				
Rameron Pigeon (<i>Columba arquatrix</i>)																				
Lemon Dove (<i>Columba larvata</i>)																				
Red-eyed Dove (<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>)																				
Ring-necked Dove (<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>)																				
Laughing Dove (<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>)																				
Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove (<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>)																				
Namaqua Dove (<i>Oena capensis</i>)																				
Namaqua Sandgrouse (<i>Pterocles namaqua</i>)																				
Burchell's Sandgrouse (<i>Pterocles burchelli</i>)																				
Kori Bustard (<i>Ardeotis kori</i>)																				
Ludwig's Bustard (<i>Neotis ludwigii</i>)																				
Denham's Bustard (<i>Neotis denhami</i>)																				
White-bellied (Barrow's) Bustard (<i>Eupodotis senegalensis</i>)																				
Karoo Bustard (<i>Eupodotis vigorsii</i>)																				
Red-crested Bustard (<i>Eupodotis ruficrista</i>)																				
Black Bustard (<i>Eupodotis afra</i>)																				
White-quilled Bustard (<i>Eupodotis afraoides</i>)																				
Knysna Turaco (<i>Tauraco corythaix</i>)																				

Gray Go-away-bird (Corythaixoides concolor)																			
Klaas's Cuckoo (Chrysococcyx klaas)																			
Red-chested Cuckoo (Cuculus solitarius)																			
Rufous-cheeked Nightjar (Caprimulgus rufigena)																			
Fiery-necked Nightjar (Caprimulgus pectoralis)																			
Freckled Nightjar (Caprimulgus tristigma)																			
Alpine Swift (Apus melba)																			
African Swift (Apus barbatus)																			
Bradfield's Swift (Apus bradfieldi)																			
Little Swift (Apus affinis)																			
White-rumped Swift (Apus caffer)																			
African Palm-Swift (Cypsiurus parvus)																			
Red-chested Flufftail (Sarothrura rufa)																			
African Rail (Rallus caerulescens)																			
Eurasian Moorhen (Gallinula chloropus)																			
Red-knobbed Coot (Fulica cristata)																			
African Swampphen (Porphyrio madagascariensis)																			
Blue Crane (Anthropoides paradiseus)																			
Water Thick-knee (Burhinus vermiculatus)																			
Spotted Thick-knee (Burhinus capensis)																			
Black-winged Stilt (Himantopus himantopus)																			
Pied Avocet (Recurvirostra avosetta)																			
African Oystercatcher (Haematopus moquini)																			
Black-bellied Plover (Pluvialis squatarola)																			
Blacksmith Lapwing (Vanellus armatus)																			
Crowned Lapwing (Vanellus coronatus)																			

Wattled Lapwing (<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>)																			
Kittlitz's Plover (<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>)																			
Common Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>)																			
Three-banded Plover (<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>)																			
White-fronted Plover (<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>)																			
African Jacana (<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>)																			
Whimbrel (<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>)																			
Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>)																			
Ruddy Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>)																			
Curlew Sandpiper (<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>)																			
Little Stint (<i>Calidris minuta</i>)																			
African Snipe (<i>Gallinago nigripennis</i>)																			
Common Sandpiper (<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>)																			
Common Greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>)																			
Temminck's Courser (<i>Cursorius temminckii</i>)																			
Double-banded Courser (<i>Smutsornis africanus</i>)																			
Brown Skua (<i>Stercorarius antarcticus</i>)																			
Sabine's Gull (<i>Xema sabini</i>)																			
Gray-hooded Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>)																			
Hartlaub's Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus hartlaubii</i>)																			
Kelp Gull (<i>Larus dominicanus</i>)																			
Caspian Tern (<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>)																			
Whiskered Tern (<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>)																			
Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>)																			
Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>)																			
Great Crested Tern (<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>)																			
Sandwich Tern (<i>Thalasseus</i>)																			

capensis)																			
Barn Owl (<i>Tyto alba</i>)																			
Cape Eagle-Owl (<i>Bubo capensis</i>)																			
Spotted Eagle-Owl (<i>Bubo africanus</i>)																			
Pearl-spotted Owlet (<i>Glaucidium perlatus</i>)																			
Marsh Owl (<i>Asio capensis</i>)																			
Speckled Mousebird (<i>Colius striatus</i>)																			
White-backed Mousebird (<i>Colius colius</i>)																			
Red-faced Mousebird (<i>Urocolius indicus</i>)																			
Narina Trogon (<i>Apaloderma narina</i>)																			
Eurasian Hoopoe (<i>Upupa epops</i>)																			
Green Woodhoopoe (<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>)																			
Common Scimitarbill (<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>)																			
Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill (<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>)																			
Southern Red-billed Hornbill (<i>Tockus rufirostris</i>)																			
Malachite Kingfisher (<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>)																			
Brown-hooded Kingfisher (<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>)																			
Giant Kingfisher (<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>)																			
Pied Kingfisher (<i>Ceryle rudis</i>)																			
White-fronted Bee-eater (<i>Merops bullockoides</i>)																			
Little Bee-eater (<i>Merops pusillus</i>)																			
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater (<i>Merops hirundineus</i>)																			
European Bee-eater (<i>Merops apiaster</i>)																			
Rufous-crowned Roller (<i>Coracias naevius</i>)																			
Lilac-breasted Roller (<i>Coracias caudatus</i>)																			
Crested Barbet (<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>)																			
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird (<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>)																			

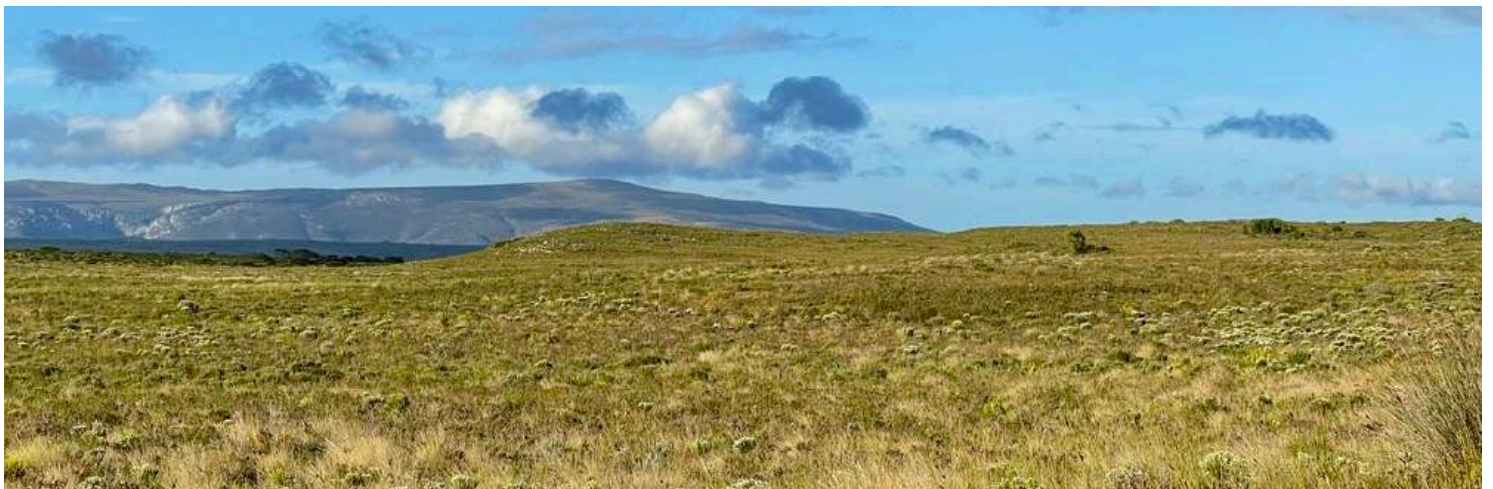
Pied Barbet (<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>)																			
Black-collared Barbet (<i>Lybius torquatus</i>)																			
Lesser Honeyguide (<i>Indicator minor</i>)																			
Rufous-necked Wryneck (<i>Jynx ruficollis</i>)																			
Cardinal Woodpecker (<i>Chloropicus fuscescens</i>)																			
Bearded Woodpecker (<i>Chloropicus namaquus</i>)																			
Olive Woodpecker (<i>Chloropicus griseocephalus</i>)																			
Ground Woodpecker (<i>Geocolaptes olivaceus</i>)																			
Knysna Woodpecker (<i>Campethera notata</i>)																			
Golden-tailed Woodpecker (<i>Campethera abingoni</i>)																			
Pygmy Falcon (<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>)																			
Rock Kestrel (<i>Falco rupicolus</i>)																			
Greater Kestrel (<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>)																			
Lanner Falcon (<i>Falco biarmicus</i>)																			
Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)																			
Rosy-faced Lovebird (<i>Agapornis roseicollis</i>)																			
Black Cuckooshrike (<i>Campephaga flava</i>)																			
African Black-headed Oriole (<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>)																			
Cape Batis (<i>Batis capensis</i>)																			
Chinspot Batis (<i>Batis molitor</i>)																			
Pirit Batis (<i>Batis pririt</i>)																			
White Helmetshrike (<i>Prionops plumatus</i>)																			
Brubru (<i>Nilaus afer</i>)																			
Black-backed Puffback (<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>)																			
Black-crowned Tchagra (<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>)																			
Brown-crowned Tchagra (<i>Tchagra australis</i>)																			
Southern Tchagra (<i>Tchagra</i>)																			

Sabota Lark (<i>Calendulauda sabota</i>)																			
Fawn-colored Lark (<i>Calendulauda africanoides</i>)																			
Karoo Lark (<i>Calendulauda albescens</i>)																			
Red Lark (<i>Calendulauda burra</i>)																			
Barlow's Lark (<i>Calendulauda barlowi</i>)																			
Cape Clapper Lark (<i>Mirafra apiata</i>)																			
Eastern Clapper Lark (<i>Mirafra fasciolata</i>)																			
Rufous-naped Lark (<i>Mirafra africana</i>)																			
Latakoo Lark (<i>Mirafra cheniana</i>)																			
Red-capped Lark (<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>)																			
Sclater's Lark (<i>Spizocorys sclateri</i>)																			
Large-billed Lark (<i>Galerida magnirostris</i>)																			
Cape Crombec (<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>)																			
Cape Grassbird (<i>Sphenoeacus afer</i>)																			
Victorin's Warbler (<i>Cryptillas victorini</i>)																			
Yellow-bellied Eremomela (<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>)																			
Greencap Eremomela (<i>Eremomela scotops</i>)																			
Yellow-rumped Eremomela (<i>Eremomela gregalis</i>)																			
Burnt-neck Eremomela (<i>Eremomela usticollis</i>)																			
Namaqua Warbler (<i>Phragmacia substriata</i>)																			
Green-backed Camaroptera (<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>)																			
Bar-throated Apalis (<i>Apalis thoracica</i>)																			
Tawny-flanked Prinia (<i>Prinia subflava</i>)																			
Black-chested Prinia (<i>Prinia flavicans</i>)																			
Karoo Prinia (<i>Prinia maculosa</i>)																			

libonyana)																			
Olive Thrush (<i>Turdus olivaceus</i>)																			
Karoo Thrush (<i>Turdus smithi</i>)																			
African Dusky Flycatcher (<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>)																			
Mariqua Flycatcher (<i>Bradornis mariquensis</i>)																			
Pale Flycatcher (<i>Agricola pallidus</i>)																			
Chat Flycatcher (<i>Agricola infuscatus</i>)																			
Fiscal Flycatcher (<i>Melaenornis silens</i>)																			
Southern Black-Flycatcher (<i>Melaenornis pammelaina</i>)																			
Karoo Scrub-Robin (<i>Cercotrichas coryphoeus</i>)																			
Kalahari Scrub-Robin (<i>Cercotrichas paena</i>)																			
Red-backed Scrub-Robin (<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>)																			
Cape Robin-Chat (<i>Cossypha caffra</i>)																			
White-throated Robin-Chat (<i>Cossypha humeralis</i>)																			
Chorister Robin-Chat (<i>Cossypha dichroa</i>)																			
Short-toed Rock-Thrush (<i>Monticola brevipes</i>)																			
Sentinel Rock-Thrush (<i>Monticola explorator</i>)																			
Cape Rock-Thrush (<i>Monticola rupestris</i>)																			
African Stonechat (<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>)																			
Sickle-winged Chat (<i>Emarginata sinuata</i>)																			
Karoo Chat (<i>Emarginata schlegelii</i>)																			
Tractrac Chat (<i>Emarginata tractrac</i>)																			
Southern Anteater-Chat (<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>)																			
Mountain Wheatear (<i>Myrmecocichla monticola</i>)																			
Capped Wheatear (<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>)																			

(Euplectes progne)																			
Grosbeak Weaver (Amblyospiza albifrons)																			
Swee Waxbill (Coccothraupis melanotis)																			
Common Waxbill (Estrilda astrild)																			
Black-faced Waxbill (Estrilda erythroneura)																			
Southern Cordonbleu (Uraeginthus angolensis)																			
Violet-eared Waxbill (Granatina granatina)																			
Green-winged Pytilia (Pytilia melba)																			
Red-billed Firefinch (Lagonosticta senegala)																			
Jameson's Firefinch (Lagonosticta rhodopareia)																			
Red-headed Finch (Amadina erythrocephala)																			
Quailfinch (Ortygospiza atricollis)																			
Pin-tailed Whydah (Vidua macroura)																			
Eastern Paradise-Whydah (Vidua paradisaea)																			
Shaft-tailed Whydah (Vidua regia)																			
House Sparrow (Passer domesticus)																			
Great Rufous Sparrow (Passer motitensis)																			
Cape Sparrow (Passer melanurus)																			
Southern Gray-headed Sparrow (Passer diffusus)																			
Yellow-throated Bush Sparrow (Gymnoris superciliosus)																			
Cape Wagtail (Motacilla capensis)																			
African Pied Wagtail (Motacilla alpestris)																			
African Pipit (Anthus cinnamomeus)																			
Long-billed Pipit (Anthus similis)																			
Plain-backed Pipit (Anthus leucophrys)																			

Buffy Pipit (<i>Anthus vaalensis</i>)																				
Striped Pipit (<i>Anthus lineiventris</i>)																				
Orange-throated Longclaw (<i>Macronyx capensis</i>)																				
Common Chaffinch (<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>)																				
Yellow-fronted Canary (<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>)																				
Forest Canary (<i>Crithagra scotops</i>)																				
Black-throated Canary (<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>)																				
Brimstone Canary (<i>Crithagra sulphurata</i>)																				
Yellow Canary (<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>)																				
White-throated Canary (<i>Crithagra albogularis</i>)																				
Protea Canary (<i>Crithagra leucoptera</i>)																				
Streaky-headed Seedeater (<i>Crithagra gularis</i>)																				
Cape Siskin (<i>Crithagra totta</i>)																				
Cape Canary (<i>Serinus canicollis</i>)																				
Black-headed Canary (<i>Serinus alario</i>)																				
Golden-breasted Bunting (<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>)																				
Cape Bunting (<i>Emberiza capensis</i>)																				
Lark-like Bunting (<i>Emberiza impetuani</i>)																				
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting (<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>)																				



MAMMAL LIST

Macroscelidea: Elephant Shrews		
E	Karoo Rock Elephant Shrew (Sengi)	<i>Elephantulus pilicaudus</i>
Cercopithecidae: Cheek-pouched Monkeys		
	Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>
	Vervet Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>
Lagomorpha: Hares		
	Cape Hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i>
	Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>
E	Smith's Red Rock Rabbit (Hare)	<i>Pronolagus rupestris</i>
Sciuridae: Squirrels		
E	South African Ground Squirrel	<i>Geosciurus inauris</i>
Pedetidae: Springhares		
	South African Springhare	<i>Pedetes capensis</i>
Hystriidae: Porcupines		
	Cape Porcupine	<i>Hystrix africaeaustralis</i>
Muridae: Rats & Mice		
	Four-Striped Grass Mouse	<i>Rhabdomys pumilio</i>
	African Pygmy Mouse	<i>Mus minutoides</i>
	Gerbil sp.	Gerbillinae
Bathyergidae: Blesmols		
	Cape Mole-Rat	<i>Georchus capensis</i>
Mustelidae: Mustelids		
	Striped Polecat (Zorilla)	<i>Ictonyx striatus</i>
Herpestidae: Mongooses		
	Small (Cape) Grey Mongoose	<i>Herpestes pulverulentus</i>
	Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>
	Marsh Mongoose	<i>Atilax paludinosus</i>
	Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>
	Suricate (Meerkat)	<i>Suricata suricatta</i>
Viverridae: Genets & Civets		
	Small-spotted Genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>
Hyaenidae: Hyaenas		
	Aardwolf	<i>Proteles cristata</i>
Felidae: Cats		
	African Wild Cat	<i>Felis lybica</i>
Orycteropodidae: Aardvark		
	Aardvark	<i>Orycteropus afer</i>
Procaviidae: Hyraxes		
	Rock Dassie (Hyrax)	<i>Procavia capensis</i>
Equidae: Horses		
	Cape Mountain Zebra	<i>Equus zebra zebra</i>
	Plains (Burchell's) Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>

Suidae: Pigs		
	Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>
Giraffidae: Giraffes		
	Giraffe	<i>Giraffa giraffa</i>
Bovidae: Horned Ungulates		
	Common Eland	<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>
	Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>
	Nyala	<i>Tragelaphus angasii</i>
	Gemsbok (Southern Oryx)	<i>Oryx gazella</i>
	Common Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>
	Sable Antelope	<i>Hippotragus niger</i>
	Roan Antelope	<i>Hippotragus equinus</i>
	Mountain Reedbuck	<i>Redunca fulvorufula</i>
	Gray Rhebok	<i>Pelea capreolus</i>
	Black Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes gnou</i>
	Red Haartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus caama</i>
E	Bontebok	<i>Damaliscus pygargus pygargus</i>
E	Blesbok	<i>Damaliscus pygargus phillipsi</i>
	Common Tsessebe	<i>Damaliscus lunatus</i>
	Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>
	Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>
	Klipspringer	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>
	Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>
	Common (Bush) Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>
Otariidae: Fur Seals		
	Cape Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>
Balaenopteridae: Rorquals		
	Southern Right Whale	<i>Eubalaena australis</i>
	Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>
Delphinidae: Dolphins		
	Heaviside's Dolphin	<i>Cephalorhynchus heavisidii</i>
	Common Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>
	Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>

