

Ornitholidays

Free State, KZN & Lesotho Birding Tour

6 – 18 February 2010

Trip Report



Cover photo: Cape Vultures; Giant's Castle.

Tour Summary

Tour Participants

Mrs. W. Oatley

Dr K. Wilson-Davis

Dr. M. Wilson-Davis

Tour Leader: Leon Marais

Photo acknowledgments

Leon Marais

Total Distance Travelled

2450 km

Temperature Range

14 – 30 Degrees Celsius

Total Birds Seen: 195

Total Mammals Seen: 22

Trip Report

Compiled by Leon Marais



Above: Malachite Sunbird, Sani Pass; Ground Woodpecker, Giant's Castle

Trip Breakdown

Day 1: Saturday 6th February 2010.

JNB International Airport via Suikerbosrand to Golden Gate National Park – 415 km.

Weather: Fine and clear; 15 – 26 Degrees Celsius.

Day 2: Sunday 7th February 2010.

Golden Gate National Park: Blesbok Loop, walk to Glenreenen Rest Camp, roadside birding PM – 165 km.

Weather: clear and hot; 15 – 28 Degrees Celsius.

Day 3: Monday 8th February 2010.

Golden Gate National Park: Oribi Road and district roads AM, Holkrans walk after breakfast, district roads PM – 90 km.

Weather: Clear and warm AM, with afternoon thundershowers; 15 – 26 Degrees Celsius.

Day 4: Tuesday 9th February 2010.

Golden Gate National Park to Giant's Castle Game Reserve via Oliviershoek Pass and Estcourt - 280km.

Weather: Warm and clear; 16 – 28 Degrees Celsius.

Day 5: Wednesday 10th February 2010.

Giants Castle Game Reserve: Camp walk and Vulture Hide AM, main caves walk PM.

Weather: Clear and Warm; 15 -27 Degrees Celsius

Day 6: Thursday 11th February 2010.

Giant's Castle Game Reserve: Main Caves walk AM, River Walk PM.

Weather: Clear and warm AM, with afternoon thundershower; 15 - 23 Degrees Celsius.

Day 7: Friday 12th February 2010.

Giant's Castle to Sani Pass Hotel: Sani Pass via Hlatikulu and Himeville after breakfast, afternoon walk in hotel grounds - 130 km.

Weather: Clear and hot; 16 - 30 Degrees Celsius.

Day 8: Saturday 13th February 2010.

Lesotho plateau via Sani Pass.

Weather: Fine, warm and clear, with afternoon thundershower; 15 – 26 Degrees Celsius.

Day 9: Sunday 14th February 2010.

Marutswa Forest (Bulwer) and Creighton – 250 km.

Weather: Cool with mist and light rain; 14 - 19 Degrees Celsius.

Day 10: Monday 15th February 2010.

Sani Pass to Memel, via Pevensey, Chelmsford Nature Reserve and Newcastle - 470 km.

Weather: Clear and hot; 16 – 28 Degrees Celsius.

Day 11: Tuesday 16th February 2010.

Seekoeivlei Nature Reserve and Loop – 76 km.

Weather: Clear and warm AM, with afternoon thundershowers; 15 – 26 Degrees Celsius.

Day 12: Wednesday 17th February 2010.

Normandien Pass AM, Seekoeivlei Loop PM – 194 km.

Weather: Cool with mist and rain; 14 – 19 Degrees Celsius.

Day 13: Thursday 18th February 2010.

Seekoeivlei Loop AM, Memel to JNB International Airport via Marievale after breakfast - 380 km.

Weather: Cold and cloudy to start, clearing later; 15 - 24 Degrees Celsius

Day 1: Saturday 6th February 2010.

We left the airport in Johannesburg nice and early and were soon on our way to the Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve not far out of the city. This wonderful 13 337 Hectare reserve lies to the south-west of Johannesburg, just outside the town of Heidelberg. It's named after the Transvaal Suikerbos (Sugar Bush), *Protea caffra*, which is common on the rocky slopes in the reserve. Altitudes in the reserve vary from the low areas at 1 545 metres above-sea-level to 1 917 metres on the rocky plateau. Habitats include rocky slopes, wooded river courses, open grassland (montane grassland above the 1 800 metre mark) and some small bodies of water. The reserve, with a list of 286 recorded birds, is interesting in that it forms the eastern limit of range for some species of birds.

After we turned off the main N3 highway we began with the birding, quickly recording three species of birds that would become somewhat symbolic of the tour – Long-tailed Widowbird, the breeding males of which are summer icons of the grasslands as they flutter phantom-like in display over the fields; Yellow-crowned Bishops, the males of which buzz around like overgrown bumble bees; and Amur Falcons, visitors from the Northern realms that gather along fences and telephone lines in great numbers. After entering the reserve we did the circular route on the plateau before having a wonderful picnic lunch where we were entertained by Fiscal Flycatchers, Karoo Thrushes, Mocking Cliff-Chats and Southern Masked Weavers. After leaving the reserve we



rejoined the highway and headed on to Golden Gate National Park in the Maluti Mountains (the mountainous region of the eastern Free State to the north-west of the main Drakensberg Escarpment). We arrived under stunning weather conditions, and after a rest Keith and I took a walk up to the top of Brandwag, the ship's-prow like hunk of rock that overlooks the rest camp. With an important Six Nations rugby game (Ireland vs. Italy) on we didn't tarry and rushed back to camp for some free time before dinner at a nearby restaurant.

Daily Bird Total: 49

Bird of the day: Long-tailed Widowbird.

Day 2: Sunday 7th February 2010.

We awoke to fine and clear weather conditions and met up for an early cup of coffee before heading out on a drive along the Blesbok and Oribi Loops, the two game-viewing roads in the reserve. Birds seen during the morning included Yellow-billed and African Black Ducks, Black-shouldered Kite, Steppe and Jackal Buzzards, Lesser Kestrel, African Black and White-rumped Swifts, Ground Woodpecker (the first of many sightings of this special bird), Wailing Cisticola, Drakensberg Prinia, Cape Longclaw, Bokmakierie, Pied Starling and Malachite Sunbird, among others. After completing the Oribi Loop we headed on to The Trout and Mallard, a restaurant just outside the park, where we had a wonderful breakfast on the veranda. After breakfast we took a short walk up to the Glen Reenan Campsite, but as the day was proving to be rather warm the birds were keeping a low profile, though we did manage to spot a Red-chested Cuckoo, Neddicky and Cape Grassbird. It was then time for a bit of a rest and in the afternoon we headed out in the vehicle to do some roadside birding, driving back through the town of Clarens and taking a dirt road out to the east and returning along the same route. The afternoon produced White Stork, Malachite Kingfisher, White-throated and Greater Striped Swallows, Cape Sparrow, Cape Weaver, Southern Red and Yellow Bishops, Red-collared Widowbird, Cape Canary and others. We then headed back to the rest camp where we had an outdoor meal under the guard of the spot-lit Brandwag rock and a brilliant night sky.

Daily Bird Total: 61.

Bird of the day: Ground Woodpecker

Day 3: Monday 8th February 2010.

Leaving camp early we drove through the park and took a dirt road off to the north for a morning of roadside birding, which proved to be one of the highlights of our stay in the



Golden Gate area. The road climbed up over a sandstone ridge and opened up in a splendid valley of the Golden Gate National Park, with groups of Black Wildebeest and Burchell's Zebra part of the overall vista. We had a wonderful coffee stop while enjoying the views, and the morning

produced, among others, birds such as Black Harrier, Grey-winged Francolin, Diederik Cuckoo, Red-throated Wryneck, Cape Rock-Thrush, Buff-streaked Chat, Ant-eating Chat and Wing-snapping Cisticola (the entire valley ringing with their aerial display calls). As the morning drew on we headed back to The Trout and Mallard for breakfast, after which Keith and I took a walk along the Holkrans Trail, which climbs up the side of the sandstone ridge behind the camp. On the trail we had great views of Ground Woodpecker, Cape Grassbird, Bokmakierie and others. Not long after we arrived back at camp a thunderstorm rolled in and we had a few hours of rain before we headed out on an afternoon drive along the Blesbok and Oripi Loops. In the evening we had a final dinner at The Trout and Mallard, having brief views of a Spotted Eagle-Owl as we left for home after the meal.

Daily Total: 56.

Bird of the day: Black Harrier.

Day 4: Tuesday 9th February 2010.

With the restaurant at Golden Gate out of action due to renovations (hence our meals at The Trout and Mallard) we decided to have breakfast en-route and left Golden Gate at 7:00 AM, heading on towards Harrismith, past the Sterkfontein Dam (where we spotted an Osprey and our first Lammergeier) and on to Little Switzerland, a country lodge on the Oliviershoek Pass where we stopped for breakfast. After the meal we were given a tour of the gardens by a rather enthusiastic garden manager, who was apt to delve into much detail concerning the plants and flowers in her garden. We continued on, passing within sight of the majestic Amphitheatre, the main feature of the northern Drakensberg, though the visibility wasn't too good and foretold a hot day to come. Heading on we passed through Estcourt and then turned towards the main range, with the road getting smaller and quieter as we approached the Giant's Castle Game Reserve, which was originally established to protect the Drakensberg's free ranging herds of Eland. The camp is situated in the foothills of the Drakensberg, with spectacular views of the Bushman's River valley and the dark basalt cliffs of the main range. After settling in to our well furnished and equipped chalets we had a rest followed by a birding walk back down the main road. Giant's Castle does not allow for much driving, as there is only one road in and out, so most of the activities involve walking, with everything from casual strolls to steep hikes available. Birds seen for the day included Hamerkop, Sacred Ibis, Spur-winged Goose, African Olive Pigeon, White-necked Raven, Gurney's Sugarbird, Cape White-eye and Fan-tailed Widowbird, among others. Later in the evening we met in the camp's restaurant for a surprisingly good meal.

Daily Total: 46.

Bird of the day: Gurney's Sugarbird.

Day 5: Wednesday 10th February 2010.

On yet another fine and clear day we met up early for a walk around camp before breakfast, which produced a view of Bush Blackcap, one of the target birds for the camp, as well as



a group of Rock Hyrax that reside in among the boulders in the camp. After breakfast we were driven up to the vulture hide, set high on a cliff overlooking the Bushman's River and affording spectacular views of the main range. After settling into the hide the patient waiting began. Some read books while Keith and I concentrated on photographing anything that came within view of the hide, such as a Table Mountain Beauty (butterfly sp),

Familiar Chat, White-necked Raven and Cape Crow. After a long wait we were suddenly visited by an adult Lammergeier, with several close flypasts as it inspected the offerings. It didn't land however, for unknown reasons, and soon disappeared from view, leaving us to continue with the waiting game. As Keith and I had elected to walk back down to the camp we stayed on for a while after the others had left and just as we began packing up a large shadow passed over us, indicating the arrival of a Cape Vulture. We had great views as it landed on a rock in front of the hide, and it was soon joined by a second bird. We thought that we were quite lucky with the arrival of the two vultures, and after getting good photographs we had an hour long walk back to camp. After lunch we had an afternoon of free time, during which Keith and Lilian walked up to the Main Caves for a tour of the San rock art, and once again had a fine dinner in the restaurant.

Daily Total: 33.

Birds of the day: Lammergeier, Cape Vulture.

Day 6: Thursday 11th February 2010.

Our before-breakfast routine involved a walk along the contour path towards the Main Caves, with the basalt cliffs of the Drakensberg resplendent in the morning sunlight (and I for one was quite amazed at yet another sunny start to the day, as the weather can be notoriously changeable in the Drakensberg region). We didn't make it all the way to the Main Caves, only getting as far as the forested gully some distance below the caves. New birds were not really forthcoming, though it was a pleasant walk nevertheless and we saw species such as African Olive Pigeon, African Black and Alpine Swifts, Greater Striped Swallow, Rock Martin, Bush Blackcap, Olive Thrush, Cape Rock-Thrush, Chorister and Cape Robin-Chats, Dark-capped Yellow Warbler, Lazy Cisticola, Common Waxbill, Malachite Sunbird and others. We arrived back in time for a leisurely breakfast and then Keith, Lilian and I drove down towards the gate and attempted the Champagne Pools walk. We hadn't gone far however when our path was blocked by a stream, and not being keen to wade through with all our camera gear decided to head on back to camp, though we did have good views of Southern Boubou, Gurney's Sugarbird and Red-necked Spurfowl on the way back. We also had views of at least forty Cape Vultures perched on the cliff around the vulture hide, as well as a Black-backed Jackal running in among them (and we thought that we'd been lucky to see two vultures from the hide the previous day). We then had a break for lunch and afternoon rest, and our planned walk was delayed due to a large thunderstorm that rolled in (though Keith and I did manage a late afternoon walk along the river before dinner).

Daily Bird Total: 37.

Bird of the day: Malachite Sunbird, Red-necked Spurfowl.

Day 7: Friday 12th February 2010.

With a long but wonderful drive ahead of us, skirting around the Drakensberg from Giant's Castle to Sani Pass, we met for breakfast as soon as the restaurant opened and departed soon thereafter. The route took us through some wonderful countryside, most of it empty farmland and nature reserves, virtually the entire 130 kilometres being on narrow gravel roads. Not far out of Giant's Castle we came across a pair of Wattled Cranes and a pair of Grey Crowned Cranes, both of which were rearing young chicks, which was very encouraging to see. Other birds seen included Long-crested Eagle, Hamerkop, Three-banded Plover, Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk, Ground Woodpecker and others. The birding slowed down a bit as the day heated up, turning into a very hot day for the region, the mercury reaching an estimated 30 degrees C (rather hot for the Drakensberg, but not necessarily that hot for the lower lying regions of the province). We all enjoyed the drive thoroughly, but were also relieved to arrive at the Sani Pass Hotel in time for lunch in the shade of the large trees around the swimming pool. After lunch and settling in we had a rest and then a walk in the hotel grounds, which produced African Black Duck, Giant Kingfisher, Black Sawwing, Brown-throated Martin and other species. In the evening we met up in the restaurant for a fine roast lamb dinner, and retired in anticipation of an exciting following day.



Daily Bird Total: 56.

Birds of the day: Wattled Crane, Grey Crowned Crane.

Day 8: Saturday 13th February 2010.

We met up at 6:00 AM ready for our full day trip up Sani Pass and into Lesotho. Malcolm Gemmel, our guide and driver for the day, met us at the hotel and soon we were on our way towards the border post and the famous road to the top of the escarpment and beyond. The birding started right away with a Half-collared Kingfisher perched on a dead tree overhanging a stream, Buff-streaked Chat on the lower slopes, a pair of Horus Swifts flying overhead as well as a pair of impressive Verreaux's Eagles seen in flight. Several groups of free-ranging Eland were also spotted on the green and lush lower slopes. After climbing for a while we stopped off for an incredibly scenic breakfast stop, with the hot coffee going down well and the great views of the basalt-topped escarpment pleasing to the eye. Further on we rounded a corner and came across a wonderful scene comprising a large depression filled with Red Hot Pokers (*Kniphofia* sp) with the escarpment as a fantastic backdrop. The next stop was at the South African Border Post, where our passports were stamped, and then the real climbing began, with the road ascending via a series of tight switch-back turns. At a view stop we discovered a group of Black-faced Orchids (*Corycium* sp), the discovery of which Malcolm was rather pleased with.



Moving on we passed a couple of 4 x 4 taxis ferrying people from villages in Lesotho to and

from Underberg, a small town in the South African foothills that serves as the closest retail centre for the Basotho people of eastern Lesotho. On the way up we had our first views of Drakensberg Siskin (below), one of the high-altitude specials for the region. As we reached the top we went through the Lesotho Customs Post and then headed over to the Sani Pass Pub for a drink at the highest pub in Africa. Siskins and Slogget's Ice Rats were common outside the pub, and two Basotho herdsmen serenaded us from the edge of the



escarpment with their home made guitar (plank of wood attached to a square plastic can). Soon it was time to move on, heading deeper into Lesotho in search of more birds, and we recorded Southern Bald Ibis, Yellow Canary, Layard's Tit-babbler, Grey Tit, Mountain Pipit (pictured on the previous page, right), Large-billed Lark, Sicklewinged Chat, Black Harrier, Lammergeier and Sentinel Rock-Thrush on our way towards Black Mountain, and Drakensberg Rock-jumper (probably the top bird for the area) on the other side. Far from being a flat plateau the region above Sani Pass is very mountainous, and the climb up Black Mountain took us well over the 3000 metre mark in altitude. On the other side of the pass, with views of the mountainous terrain decreasing in altitude to the west, we

stopped for lunch, with our leftovers eagerly shared by three Basotho herdsmen and their dog. With the afternoon drawing on it was soon time to head back to Sani Pass, and although the weather was still reasonable on the top a large thunderstorm was brewing below us over the foothills. The trip down produced Gurney's Sugarbird, Barratt's and Broad-tailed Warblers, and we arrived back at the hotel with an hour or so to spare before meeting up for dinner. All in all it was a great day and definitely the highlight of the tour.

Daily Bird Total: 52.

Birds of the day: Drakensberg Rock-jumper, Drakensberg Siskin, Mountain Pipit.

Day 9: Sunday 14th February 2010.

The day proved to be our first day of inclement weather, and although we set out at 6:00 AM in mist and rain we were glad that the previous day had been so fine. We set off for the Marutswa Forest near the town of Bulwer, and had a wet morning in a dark, damp forest looking for elusive forest birds. It wasn't entirely fruitless, as we saw Forest Canary, Dark-backed Weaver, Grey Cuckooshrike, Olive Woodpecker, Yellow-throated Woodland-Warbler, Bar-throated Apalis, Green-backed Cameroptera, Cape Batis and Cape Glossy Starling. After a cup of coffee and breakfast we headed on to Creighton, where we had to recover two hats from Malcolm Gemmel. After coffee and biscuits at Malcolm's house he took us towards Ixopo, where he has a stake-out for the endangered Blue Swallow. We had superb views of no fewer than four individuals, including a male with splendid tail streamers. After the swallows we had a long drive back to the hotel, and took the rest of the day as personal time for some rest and relaxation.

Daily Bird Total: 41.

Bird of the day: Blue Swallow.

Day 10: Monday 15th February 2010.

After meeting up for an early walk in the hotel grounds (which produced African Paradise Flycatcher, White-faced Duck and Great Reed Warbler) we had breakfast and departed shortly thereafter, with a long day ahead getting to Memel in the Free State. It was another warm day, and the long drive was very scenic, taking us through the grasslands of the KwaZulu-Natal midlands, where just over a century ago Boer and British forces fought

each other in the first and second South African Wars. We had a stop at Chelmsford Dam Nature Reserve, where we saw Pink-billed Lark, Spotted Thick-knee, Goliath Heron and African Fish Eagle, as well as a single Oribi. Moving on, we passed through Newcastle and then headed on to Memel, a small agricultural town in the eastern Free State. We arrived in the late afternoon and had a rest before an absolutely superb meal at the guest house.

Daily Bird Total: 47.

Bird of the day: Goliath Heron.

Day 11: Tuesday 16th February 2010.

We met up early and headed out on a morning drive, birding along the roads that border the Seekoeivlei Nature Reserve, a system of marshes, pans and ox-bow lakes along the Klip River.



It was a beautiful morning, with layers of ground fog clinging to the valleys and depressions as the sun crept up into the otherwise clear sky. There's nothing like being out in the countryside on a fresh, clear morning looking for birds and animals. Birds seen for the morning included Great, Little and Yellow-billed Egrets, African Darter, Glossy Ibis, African Spoonbill, Cape Shoveler, African Snipe, Spike-heeled Lark, African Pipit and Blue Korhaan. We also had a fantastic time on a small bridge

that housed a huge colony of South African Cliff Swallows nesting underneath, with hundreds of the birds flying all around us. After a coffee stop we continued on, arriving back at the guest house for breakfast. Afterwards we went on an expedition into the Seekoeivlei Nature Reserve, which took up what was left of the morning and produced good views of Common Quail and Red-footed Falcon, as well as a splendid Common Pineapple Flower (*Eucomis* sp) in full bloom (above). With the afternoon rapidly becoming stormy we headed back to the guest house, and the afternoon's plans were cancelled due to rain, giving us ample time to rest up before our final full day of the tour. Once again we enjoyed a fantastic dinner prepared by Sylvia, accompanied by some lovely South African wine.

Daily Bird Total: 62.

Bird of the day: South African Cliff Swallow.

Day 12: Wednesday 17th February 2010.

After heavy overnight rain our last full day began overcast and cool. We planned on a long morning route, heading up onto the high ground near the Normandien Pass. On the way we encountered a pair of Side-striped Jackals, and had a lucky stop that produced Yellow-breasted Pipit, Denham's Bustard and Secretarybird. Other birds seen during the morning included Crowned and Black-winged Lapwings, African Quail-Finch, Southern Bald Ibis, Yellow Bishop, Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk, Black Harrier, Amur Falcons by the hundreds and thousands, Grey-winged Francolin, Red-capped Lark and others. We inadvertently headed over the Normandien Pass, which was quite rough and slippery after the rain, and found ourselves not far from Chelmsford Dam, a good 80 kilometres out of our way, making for a long return route back to Memel via Newcastle. We arrived in the early afternoon, and took some time out after our long morning expedition. Keith, Wendy and I then headed out on a late afternoon drive along the western side of the Seekoeivlei Nature Reserve, which produced Wattled Lapwing, African Openbill (far out of range here, but not too surprising as recent sightings show incredible dispersal of this species across the country), Whiskered Tern, Banded Martin, Cape

Longclaw, Cape Sparrow and two new mammal species: Roan Antelope and Cape Buffalo. By the time we reached our turn-around point a big storm had rolled in and it began raining, bringing a premature end to the birding activities.

Daily Bird Total: 58.

Bird of the day: Yellow-breasted Pipit.

Day 13: Thursday 18th February 2010.

For our last morning we decided to play it safe and not attempt any mountain passes or muddy roads that could waylay us (after our Normandien Pass experience of the previous day). We took the road up the eastern side of the nature reserve and returned along the same route. Highlights for the day included excellent views of a group of five Blue



Korhaans, Amur Falcons (left) perched on the fences all along the road and a wonderful coffee stop near the large South African Cliff Swallow colony. Just before getting back to town we had a final highlight that typified birding in the South African grasslands: a group of Suricates on the left hand side of the road, a group of Blue Korahaans calling from the right and several Southern Bald Ibises

flying overhead. After breakfast we packed, bought last minute gifts from the guest house's small shop and then began the drive back to Johannesburg and the airport, encountering a flock of Black-winged Pratincoles and a Ground Squirrel on the way. We had plans to visit the Marievale Bird Sanctuary in the town of Nigel on the way back, but upon arrival at the gates were informed that it was closed due to flooding, which put a large spanner in the works of the afternoon plans. We used up some time with a drink at a local Nigel restaurant, and then headed on to the airport where the trip came to an end, 2450 kilometres, 195 bird species, 18 mammal species and 13 days after it began.

Daily Bird Total: 56.

Bird of the day: Blue Korhaan, Southern Bald ibis.

Bird Trip Total: 195 species.

Acknowledgements:

Thanks first of all to all for joining us on the tour. It really was something a bit different, and we got to see many places that are usually missed by most tourists to South Africa. We saw some wonderful birds, and the general scenery was extraordinarily beautiful and hard to put into words (perhaps some of the pictures will say it better). It was hard to narrow down the highlights, and for each person they are different, but for me they included the Lammergeier at Giant's Castle, the incredible natural and cultural experience of Sani Pass and Lesotho and sitting on the bridge near Memel while hundreds of Cliff Swallows swirled and chattered all around us. Anyway, thanks again to all for their contributions, and may the tour run again soon!

Leon Marais.

199	Swainson's Spurrow (Francolin) (NE)	4	2	<i>Pternistes swainsonii</i>
200	Common Quail	1	1	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>
203	Helmeted Guineafowl	10	3	<i>Numidamaleagris</i>
207	Wattled Crane	1	1	<i>Grus carunculatus</i>
209	Grey (Southern) Crowned Crane	6	3	<i>Balearicargulorum</i>
226	Common Moorhen	1	1	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
228	Red-knobbed Coot	5	2	<i>Fulica cristata</i>
234	Blue Korhaan (E)	2	3	<i>Eupodotis caerulescens</i>
249	Three-banded Plover	3	1	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>
255	Crowned Lapwing (Plover)	3	1	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>
257	Black-winged Lapwing	1	1	<i>Vanellus melanopterus</i>
258	Blacksmith Lapwing (Plover)	4	2	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>
260	African Wattled Lapwing (Plover)	2	1	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>
286	African (Ethiopian) Snipe	2	1	<i>Gallinago nigripennis</i>
295	Black-winged Stilt	1	1	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
297	Spotted Thick-knee (Dikkop)	1	1	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>
305	Black-winged Plover	1	2	<i>Glaucopis olivacea</i>
338	Whiskered Tern	3	3	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>
339	White-winged Tern	1	3	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>
348	Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	12	2	<i>Columba livia</i>
349	Speckled (Rock) Pigeon	7	3	<i>Columba guinea</i>
350	African Olive-Pigeon (Rufous Pigeon)	6	2	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>
352	Red-eyed Dove	5	2	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>
354	Cape Turtle-Dove	10	3	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>
355	Laughing Dove	5	3	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>
377	Red-chested Cuckoo	4	1	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>
378	Black Cuckoo	1H		<i>Cuculus clamor</i>
382	Jacobin Cuckoo	1H		<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>
386	Diderrick Cuckoo	4	2	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>
401	Spotted Eagle-Owl	1	1	<i>Bubo africanus</i>
412	African Black Swift	7	3	<i>Apus barbatus</i>
415	White-rumped Swift	9	2	<i>Apus caffer</i>
416	Horus Swift	1	1	<i>Apus horus</i>
418	Alpine Swift	1	1	<i>Apus melba</i>
424	Speckled Mousebird	2	2	<i>Colinus striatus</i>
429	Giant Kingfisher	2	1	<i>Ceryle maxima</i>
430	Half-collared Kingfisher	1	1	<i>Alcedo semitorquata</i>
431	Mala chite Kingfisher	2	1	<i>Alcedo cristata</i>
451	African Hoopoe	2	1	<i>Upupa africana</i>
473	Crested Barbet	3	1	<i>Trachyphonus vaillanti</i>
476	Lesser Honeyguide	1	1	<i>Indicator minor</i>
480	Ground Woodpecker (E)	5	2	<i>Geocolaptes olivaceus</i>
488	Olive Woodpecker	1	1	<i>Denropicos griseacephalus</i>
489	Red-throated Wryneck	1	1	<i>Jynx ruficollis</i>
494	Rufous-naped Lark	2	1	<i>Mirafra africana</i>
495	Eastern Clapper Lark	1H		<i>Mirafra rufocinnamomea</i>
500	Eastern Long-billed Lark (E)	1H		<i>Certhilauda semitorquata</i>
506	Spike-heeled Lark	3	2	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>
507	Red-capped Lark	5	2	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>
508	Pink-billed Lark	3	1	<i>Spizocorys conirostris</i>
512	Large-billed Lark	1	1	<i>Galerida magnirostris</i>
518	Barn (European) Swallow	11	3	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
520	White-throated Swallow	6	3	<i>Hirundo albigularis</i>
521	Blue Swallow	1	1	<i>Hirundo atrocaerulea</i>
526	Greater Striped Swallow (E)	9	3	<i>Hirundo cucullata</i>
528	South African Cliff-Swallow (E)	3	3	<i>Hirundo spilodera</i>
529	Rock Martin	3	3	<i>Hirundo fuligula</i>
533	Brown-throated Martin	2	1	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>
534	Banded Martin	7	2	<i>Riparia cinerea</i>
536	Black Saw-wing (Swallow)	1	1	<i>Psalidoprone holomelas</i>
540	Grey Cuckoo-shrike	1	1	<i>Coraciacaesia</i>

541	Fork-tailed Dron go	5	2	<i>Dicru rus adsimilis</i>
545	(East ern) Black-headed Or iole	2	1	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>
547	Cape (B lack) Cr ow	9	23	<i>Corvus ca pensis</i>
548	Pied Cr ow	1	2	<i>Corvus albus</i>
550	White -necked Raven	6	3	<i>Corvus albicolis</i>
551	Grey Tit	1	1	<i>Parus afer</i>
554	Southern Black Tit	1	1	<i>Parus niger</i>
565	Bush Black cap (E)	2	2	<i>Liop tilus nigricapillus</i>
567	African Red -eyed Bu lbu l (NE)	1	1	<i>Pycno notus nigricans</i>
568	Dark -capped (Black eyed) Bulbu l	8	3	<i>Pycno notus barbatus</i>
577	Olive Thrush	4	2	<i>Turdus olivace us</i>
579	Karoo Thrush	2	2	<i>Turdus smi thi</i>
581	Cape Rock -Thrush (E)	4	1	<i>Montico la rupestris</i>
582	Sent in el R ock -Thrush (E)	1	1	<i>Montico la explorator</i>
586	Mounta in Wheatear (Chat) (NE)	1	1	<i>Oen anthe m ontico la</i>
588	Buff -streaked Chat (E)	2	1	<i>Oen anthe bifascia ta</i>
589	Fam iliar Chat	4	2	<i>Cercom ela fam iliaris</i>
591	Sickle-winged Chat (E)	1	1	<i>Cercom ela sinuata</i>
593	Mocking C liff -Chat	1	1	<i>Tham no laea cin nam omeiventris</i>
595	(Southe rn) Ant -eating Chat (E)	5	2	<i>Myrm ecocich la formici vora</i>
596	Afri can (Comm on) St one chat	12	3	<i>Saxicola to rquata</i>
598	Chor ister R obin -Chat (R obin) (E)	2	1	<i>Cos sypha dich roa</i>
601	Cape Rob in -Chat (Rob in)	8	3	<i>Cos sypha caffra</i>
612	Drakensbe rg R ock -Jumpe r	1	2	<i>Cha etops auranitius</i>
621	Chestnut -vent ed Tit -Babbl er	1	1	<i>Pari sma subca eruleum</i>
622	Layard's Tit -babbl er (E)	1	1	<i>Pari soma l ayardi</i>
628	Great R eed Warb ler	1	1	<i>Acrocep halus arundinaceus</i>
637	Dark -capped (Afri can) Yel low Warb ler	2	1	<i>Chlorop eta natalensis</i>
638	Little Rush -Warbler	1	1	<i>Bra dypterus baboecal a</i>
639	Bar ratt 's Warb ler (E)	3	1	<i>Bra dypterus barratti</i>
642	Bro ad -tailed Warb ler	1	1	<i>Scho enico la b revirostris</i>
643	Willow Warb ler	2	1	<i>Phyl loscopus tro chilus</i>
644	Yellow -throated Wood land -Warbl er	1	1	<i>Phyl loscopus r uficapilla</i>
645	Bar -throated Apali s	1	1	<i>Apa lis thoracica</i>
657a	Green -backed Came ropters	1	1	<i>Came roptera brachyura</i>
661	Cape Gra ssbird (E)	2	2	<i>Sphenoeacu s afer</i>
664	Zitt ing (Fan -tailed) C isticola	3	1	<i>Cistic ola junci dis</i>
667	Wing -snappin g (Ayres ') Cisticola	2	2	<i>Cistic ola ayresii</i>
670	Wai ling C isticola	4	2	<i>Cistic ola lais</i>
677	Levai llant' s Cisticola	7	2	<i>Cistic ola tinniens</i>
679	La zy Cist icola	1	1	<i>Cistic ola aberrans</i>
681	Neddi cky	2	1	<i>Cistic ola fulvic apillus</i>
686a	Karoo (Spot ted) P rinia (E)	1	1	<i>Prin ia macul osa</i>
686b	Drakensbe rg Prinia	5	2	<i>Prin ia hypoxantha</i>
690	African Dusky F lycatch er	3	1	<i>Muscic apa adusta</i>
698	Fisca l Flycatch er (E)	3	1	<i>Sige lus silens</i>
700	Cape Bat is (E)	3	1	<i>Bati s capensis</i>
710	Afri can Parad ise Flyca tche r	1	2	<i>Terpsi pho ne vi ridis</i>
713	Cape Wagtai l	7	2	<i>Mot acil la ca pensis</i>
716	Afri can (Gras sveld) Pipit	3	3	<i>Anth us cin nam omeus</i>
725	Yellow -breas ted Pipit (E)	1	1	<i>Hemim acro nyx ch loris</i>
901	Mounta in P ipit	1	1	<i>Anth us hoeschi</i>
727	Cape (Orang eth roated) Lon gclaw (E)	6	3	<i>Macr onyx c apensis</i>
731	Lesser Gr ey Shr ike	1	1	<i>Lani us min or</i>
732	Comm on F iscal (Fiscal Shr ike)	10	3	<i>Lani us coll aris</i>
736	Southern Boubou (E)	3	2	<i>Lani arius ferrug ineus</i>
740	Black -backed Puffback	1	1	<i>Dry oscopus cu bla</i>
746	Bokmaki erie (E)	6	2	<i>Telo phorus z eylonus</i>
758	Comm on (Indian) Myna	4	3	<i>Acrid othe res tristis</i>
759	(African) Pied Star ling (E)	6	3	<i>Spreo bico lor</i>
764	Cape G lossy Star ling	3	1	<i>Lamp rotomis nitens</i>

769	Red-winged Starling	11	3	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>
774	Gurney's Sugarbird (E)	3	1	<i>Promerops gurneyi</i>
775	Malchite Sunbird	7	1	<i>Nectarinia famosa</i>
785	Greater Double-collared Sunbird (E)	2	2	<i>Nectarinia afra</i>
796	Cape White-eye (E)	7	2	<i>Zosterops pallidus</i>
799	White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	1	2	
801	House Sparrow	1	2	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
803	Cape Sparrow (NE)	5	3	<i>Passer melanurus</i>
804	Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	5	2	<i>Passer diffusus</i>
813	Cape Weaver (E)	8	3	<i>Ploceus capensis</i>
814	Southern Masked-Weaver	6	2	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>
821	Red-billed Quelea	3	1	<i>Quelea quelea</i>
824	Southern Red Bishop	10	3	<i>Euplectes orix</i>
826	Yellow-crowned Bishop	8	3	<i>Euplectes afer</i>
827	Yellow Bishop	5	2	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>
828	Fan-tailed Widowbird	4	2	<i>Euplectes axillaris</i>
831	Red-collared Widowbird (Widow)	9	3	<i>Euplectes ardens</i>
832	Long-tailed Widowbird (Widow)	9	3	<i>Euplectes progne</i>
846	Common Waxbill	6	2	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
852	African Quailfinch	1	1	<i>Ortygospiza atricollis</i>
856	Red-headed Finch	1	1	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>
860	Pin-tailed Whydah	10	2	<i>Vidua macroura</i>
870	Black-throated Canary	1	1	<i>Serinus atrogularis</i>
872	Cape Canary	5	3	<i>Serinus canicollis</i>
873	Forest Canary (E)	1	2	<i>Serinus scotops</i>
875	Drakensberg Siskin (E)	1	2	<i>Pseudochloroptila symonsi</i>
878	Yellow Canary (NE)	1	2	<i>Serinus flaviventris</i>
881	Streaky-headed Seedeater (Canary)	2	1	<i>Serinus gularis</i>
885	Cape Bunting (NE)	4	1	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>

Checklist of Mammals Seen During Tour

Antelope, Roan	Eland	Mongoose, Yellow	Suricate
Baboon, Chacma	Hare, Scrub	Oribi	Wildebeest, Black
Blesbok	Hartebeest, Red	Zebra, Burchell's	Rat, Sloggett's
Dassie, Rock (Hyrax)	Jackal, Black-backed	Buffalo, Cape	Reedbuck, Common
Duiker, Common	Rhebok, Grey	Springbok	Squirrel, Ground
Jackal, Side-striped	Steenbok		

Some of the wild flowers seen on the tour:

Grass-leaved Poker (*Kniphofia augustifolia*); Lesotho Red-hot Poker (*Kniphofia caulescens*); Scarlet River Lily (*Hesperantha coccinea*); Falling Stars (*Crocasmia aurea*); ZigZag *Crocasmia* (*Crocasmia paniculata*); Pig's Ears (*Cotyledon orbiculata*); Hukobetsi (*Helichrysum trilieatum* – plants gathered and used as fuel in Lesotho); Nerine (*Nerine appendiculata*); Giant Candelabra Flower (*Brunsvigia grandiflora*); Broad-leaved Hairbell (*Dierama latifolium*); Fringed Stenoglottis (*Stenoglottis fimbriata* – growing on rocks in Marutswa Forest); Blushing Bride *Satyrium* (*Satyrium longicauda*); Bell *Agapanthus* (*Agapanthus campanulatus*); Common Pineapple Lily (*Eucomis autumnalis*); Black-faced Orchid (*Corycium nigrescens*).