

South Africa, Western Cape

9th – 23rd February 2011



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Participants

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General

This trip report contains the bird observations made during a holiday trip to the Cape area in South Africa. Although the main purpose of the trip was vacation and recreation we also tried to maximize our bird watching opportunities. South Africa is a fantastic country and this was our second visit. During our first trip in 2002/2003 we missed some species and a planned pelagic trip was cancelled due to bad weather and therefore we now targeted some key species. This report covers all days but for birdwatchers visiting the Cape area we specifically would like to point towards the days in Bredasdorp (especially Monday 14th February) and the Karoo excursion (Sunday 20th February).

The trip lasted two weeks and we spent the time in the Western Cape province. We made a three-day excursion to the east where we stayed in Bredasdorp visiting among other areas the De Hoop Nature Reserve. A couple of days were spent in Stellenbosch for wine tasting purposes and one full day excursion was made into the Karoo. To our frustration, the strong south-easter prevented us from getting out at sea also this time.



Travel

We flew with British Airlines from Copenhagen to Cape town via London. Our tickets were bought through Nätresebyrå in Malmö and cost 7658 SEK/ adult (app. € 840) including taxes and airport fees. The tickets for the children were 6400 SEK/child.

Car rental, roads and traffic

We rented a Volkswagen minibus, which was a very suitable car for our party, through Avis. The car was large enough to accommodate four adults and two children with all luggage and was a better and

cheaper alternative than two smaller cars. The total cost was 11000 SAR and we drove totally 2502 km.

The roads in South Africa are generally of very good standard. People normally follow the traffic rules and speed cameras, red light cameras and police speeding controls are common. The traffic in Cape Town is not particularly intense, it is like any other normal large city.

Accommodation

We had pre-booked accommodation for all nights in advance via internet and e-mail contacts. The first and last night were spent in the aircraft.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Accommodation</i>	<i>Price and comments</i>
Thursday 10 th to Sunday 13 th	Cheriton Guest House B&B , 19 Belmont Road, Seaforth, Simon's Town, 7975 Western Cape, SA. Denise & Dirk Brinkman Phone: +27 21 786 3933 Mobile: +27 82 414 4163 (Denise) Mobile: +27 82 415 1235 (Dirk) E-mail: cheriton@global.co.za Web: www.cheriton.co.za	Very nice B&B. We can only give this place our highest recommendations. Very kind, helpful and flexible owners. 420 SAR/adult incl. breakfast.
Sunday 13 th to Tuesday 15 th	Kate's Country Kitchen 12 Waterkant Street Bredasdorp, 7280 Western Cape, SA Phone: +27 28 425 3406 Mobile: +27 79 952 4223 www.katescountrykitchen.co.za jacqueline@katescountrykitchen.co.za	Very picturesque accommodation. 1000 SAR for the whole group (3 bedrooms). If asked, the landlord Jacqueline can cook a typical South African dish, a stew cooked over open fire, very good!
Tuesday 15 th to Friday 18 th	Knorhoek Country Guesthouse PO Box 2, Koelenhof 7605 South Africa Phone/fax: +27 21 865 2114 / 2115 Web: www.knorhoek.co.za E-mail: mobilar@knorhoek.co.za	Very nice B&B at the Knorhoek winery. We choose one of the luxury cottages for the whole group, 2000 SAR/night but there are cheaper smaller rooms as well. Their wines are very nice too.
Friday 18 th to Tuesday 22 nd	Cheriton Guest House B&B	See above.

Literature, trip reports and websites

Our main literature was the SASOL guide "Birds of Southern Africa, 3rd edition" by Sinclair, Hockey and Tarboton. Although other books exist this is the best to our minds. We also used "Essential birding Western South Africa" by Cohen and Spottiswoode. Specifically we followed the excursions described in the book for "Farmland loops" and "Grootvadersbosch nature reserve" in the Overberg section and several of the trips in Tanqua Karoo loop.

There are numerous travel guides covering South Africa and we used "The eyewitness travel guides for South Africa" (Första klassens reseguider Sydafrika). It covered all the general information that we needed for this trip regarding culture, food etc.

A good selection of trip reports can be found at www.travellingbirder.com/tripreports/default.php

Useful websites

We planned to go on an organized pelagic tour which was pre-booked through Cape Town Pelagics (<http://www.capetownpelagics.com>). Unfortunately this was cancelled due to the weather conditions.

Itinerary

Wednesday 9th February

Our journey started when we gathered at Kastrup airport, Copenhagen in Denmark. The group consisted of Hans-Åke and Karin Gustavsson and Maria, Thomas, Kajsa (aged 5) and Alice Lindblad (aged 2). We travelled with British airways to Cape Town via London. Night in the aircraft.

Thursday 10th February

We landed in the early afternoon, checked out our car and travelled south to Simonstown, checking in at Cheriton B&B. Along the road we saw **House crow** by the airport (one of a very few places in South Africa this bird is present), common birds such as **Egyptian geese**, some white egrets and in Simonstown abundant **Helmeted guineafowls**. At the bird feeders in the garden of our B&B we found **Cape sugar birds** and **Orange-breasted sunbirds**. We had dinner at a very good restaurant at Boulders beach with excellent views of **Jackass penguins**.



Cape francolin and Jackass penguins

Friday 11th February

The whole day was spent at the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, where the main target species was **Cape siskin**. Just after the park entrance, we saw some Elands, Blesboks and two distant Cape mountain zebras, otherwise mammals are relatively sparse. At a couple of stops along the road to Cape Point we saw more **Orange-breasted sunbirds**, a **Bokmakierie** and **Cape Robins**. We then spent a few hours just walking around in the area of the Cape Point where we had good views of **Karoo prinias** and frustratingly brief views of two flying **Cape siskins**. We also spent some time seawatching which produced many **Sooty shearwaters**, two **Cory's shearwaters**, a few **White-chinned Petrels** and two **Sabine's gulls**. After lunch we walked between the Cape point parking lot and the Cape of Good Hope. Finally, we got excellent views of a **Cape siskin** perched in a small bush near the Cape of Good Hope. We also passed small groups of very unshy Rock dassies along the track.

In the evening we had dinner at Seaforth restaurant by the harbor in Simonstown. We unfortunately cannot recommend this place, the food was poor and service was slow.

Saturday 12th February

Kirstenbosch botanical garden was the excursion for the day. We made an extensive walk through the gardens and besides being a beautiful place there are many birds to see. We had good views of **Brimstone canary**, **Southern boubou**, **Sweet waxbill** and of course **Spotted eagle owl**. The owl has a couple of favorite roosting places and you can ask at the entrance where it was last seen. We found it by “the Dell” straight in from the entrance. It is not particularly difficult to find, the owl is large and it normally perches low where the foliage is not too dense.



From top left: Pririt batis, Spotted eagle owl, Hartlaub's gull, Black-headed heron

We spent an hour watching seabirds in False Bay in the late afternoon due to the strong southeasterly winds. We chose Fishermans beach in Simonstown but there are several good places, getting away from the wind being the primary objective. We saw a good selection of species including **White-chinned petrel**, **Sooty shearwaters** and **Cory's shearwaters**.

Sunday 13th February

This morning we packed ourselves in the car and travelled east towards Bredasdorp. We passed through some nice landscape but only saw a few new birds, e.g. **Black-shouldered kite**, **Black kite**

and **Steppe buzzard**. We arrived in Bredasdorp for a late lunch before we checked in at Kate's Country Kitchen, a picturesque place to stay where we got a view into a South African family's everyday life.

In the afternoon we drove down to Cape Agulhas, the southernmost point of Africa. This place is, albeit the real south point, not at all as stunning as the Cape of Good Hope, but still worth a visit. A few birds were seen here but nothing really exciting. We watched seabirds for a while but birds were generally farther out than around the Cape making identification difficult. We also visited the beach at De Mond and on the way back, maybe 5 km outside Bredasdorp, we made a short stop for a roadside **European roller**. At the same spot we found several **Denham's (Stanley's) bustards**, **Malachite kingfisher** and **Three-banded plover**.

Monday 14th February

From a bird watching perspective this was one of the important days. We split up for the day and while Maria, Karin and the children spent time in Bredasdorp, Hans-Åke and Thomas left early for a trip to Grootvadersbosch nature reserve. Driving at dawn can be exciting and just outside Bredasdorp we soon encountered a group of Bat-eared foxes. Several **Blue cranes** were seen along the road and we made some short stops here and there. We arrived at the park entrance just before the opening at 8 am. We walked around in the forested valley for a circular walk following one of the marked trails where we encountered a family of Chacma baboons. This group was much shyer than the ones we had encountered earlier in the vicinity of the Cape and it was fun to see them in a more natural environment.

But more important, in the forest we also saw several nice species, e.g. **African paradise flycatcher**, **Blue-mantled crested flycatcher**, **Grey Cuckoo-shrike**, **Yellow-throated woodland-warbler** and **Cape batis**. It was clear that the morning is the best time to visit the forest. Birds were active but during our walk it became quite hot and towards the end of our chosen trail, birds became more secretive and difficult to find. One of our target species, **Greater double-collared sunbird**, can easily be found without entering the park. It was present drinking from a water tank just by the camping area.



From top left: Cape clapper lark, Agulhas long-billed lark, Bokmakierie, Cardinal woodpecker, Karoo bustard

After the forest visit we aimed for the farmlands between Swellendam and De Hoop Nature reserve, an area where two sought after larks are present, **Cape clapper lark** and **Agulhas long-billed lark**. We were not extremely optimistic since the temperature increased rapidly and at mid-day it peaked at 41°C. However, we followed the Farmland loops in the Essential birding book and started by parking a couple of kilometers south of Buffeljagsrivier. We walked along the gravel road as described in the book and managed to find **Grey-backed cisticola** and most importantly **Cape clapper lark**. It was hard work in the heat of the day but we got excellent views. In this area we also saw several **Blue cranes**, **Red-capped larks**, **African pipits** and **Capped wheatears**.

We continued driving and scanning the roadside for all potential larks and finally we found one **Agulhas long-billed lark**. Of course the larks are always present here and can be found at any time of the year but it can require hard work to find them. However, driving slowly and scanning the roadside ought to pay off.

From the rest of the group who stayed in Bredasdorp we can recommend a visit to the candle factory, Kapula candles. Furthermore, a very nice breakfast restaurant we can recommend is Adrian's bistro and a good (but slow service) lunch and dinner restaurant is Julians. In the latter you can also find a small handcraft shop worth visiting.

Tuesday 15th February

The focus for this day was to go to De Hoop Nature Reserve. Between Bredasdorp and De Hoop we did some roadside birdwatching. It paid off with **Jackal buzzards**, a **Lanner falcon**, **Karoo bustards** and **White-necked ravens**. In the park we drove to the camping area. We walked around the area and searched for, unsuccessfully, Pearl-breasted swallow. Neither did we find the other target species, Southern tchagra and obviously mid-February is a bit tricky for some species. We did however see **African fish-eagle**, many egrets, loads of ducks, **African hoopoe**, **Bokmakierie** and many other nice birds. We also saw Zebras, Eland and Rock dassie.



Prey and predator: Rock dassie and Lanner falcon

Just outside the park we visited a good spot for Hottentot buttonquail. However, the site has recently had a fire and the birds could not be found in the mid-day heat. Although they still might be present they are hard to find and despite searching the scrub for some time we did not manage to see any.

We drove back towards Cape Town and headed for Stellenbosch. We checked in at Knorhoek Country guesthouse where we would stay for a couple of days. From our garden we could hear a calling **Fiery-necked nightjar** in the evening.

Wednesday 16th February

Our aim in Stellenbosch was to do some wine tasting. We saw some occasional birds as well but they were mainly roadside birds or garden findings either at Knorhoek or at other wineries.

We visited and would like to recommend some wineries. We started by visiting Thelema (pre-booked) where we were very well received and had an excellent and pleasant tasting, highly recommended for a visit. Very close, almost at the same site, we also visited Tokara. This winery makes good wines but felt much more commercial and business-like compared to Thelema. The people serving in the wine room did not seem to know especially much about their wines. We also visited Uva Mira, good and well-known for their Chardonnay and the place also offers excellent views over Stellenbosch and False Bay. Reds are also good. We then went to an old friend: Kaapzicht. We visited them on our last visit and it felt very good to return. We tasted several wines and especially their Steytler pinotage is very good and almost worth the trip alone.



Visiting Thelema winery

In the evening, we had dinner at Winery road 96, a very good restaurant which we can only give our highest recommendations.

Thursday 17th February

Most of the group took a slow morning but one (Thomas) went to Vergelegen for a wine tasting. Bonteboks can be seen on the estate and the winery is very impressive. Please note that they charge for entrance, wine tasting and tour. Their wines are however excellent and they are very professional.

Lunch at the Delheim winery where we also did some nice garden birding while waiting for the food. We had dinner at Knorhoek (needs to be pre-booked) and found **Spotted eagle owls** on the winery, at least one adult and two young birds. Obviously they breed at the winery every year and according to one of the staff at the winery, Cape eagle owl also has sometimes bred on the hillside above the winery, but none this year.

Friday 18th February

Slow morning and after packing us into the car we went to an interesting winery: De Trafford. It can be tricky to find since they don't have so many signs leading up to their site but this is by purpose - only the keen visitors make it there. However, the wines are very good, their Chenin blancs were the best that we tasted and they also make a highly sought after Straw wine. It was already sold out but we could see grapes drying outside for next year's bottling.



From left: Kaapzicht with host Yngvild Steytler, large bottles at Kanonkop, drying grapes for straw wine

After this we went to Franschhoek where we also had lunch. This small town is very picturesque and well worth a visit. We had lunch at the excellent Reuben's and maybe we had the best meal during our trip here.



Lunch at Reuben's

We headed back to Simonstown for the last days of our stay. Along the road we stopped at Spier winery, a very commercial place, but also good for handcraft pieces. Although not the cheapest place it is much cheaper than downtown Cape town. Pearl figures are common and fun!

Unfortunately we learnt that the southeasterly wind known as The Cape doctor that had been blowing persistently the last few days would make our pelagic trip for Saturday impossible. And it proved to be cancelled also for the back-up on Sunday. When we went back to Simonstown we noted that loads of **Cory's shearwaters** and other seabirds could be seen from the coastal road. We therefore spent an hour before dusk to check the seabirds from Simonstown and saw loads of **Cory's** and **Sooty shearwaters**, **3 Great shearwaters**, some **White-chinned petrels** and one each of **Brown skua** and **Pomarine skua**. This felt promising for the days to come.

Saturday 19th February

The day was spent sightseeing downtown Cape Town around the Waterfront area. A visit to the Aquarium was very nice.

Sunday 20th February

As compensation to ourselves, for the cancelled pelagic, the bird watching part of the crew decided to go for a day trip to the Karooport, the closest Karoo area to Cape town. It lies about two and a half hours drive to the northeast. We headed there as fast as possible early in the morning and of course we had some target species. These were **Tractrac chat**, **Cape penduline tit** and **Pririt batis**.

We followed the Tanqua Karoo loop, described in the Essential birding book, which proved to be a good strategy. Besides roadside birds like **Pale-chanting goshawk** and larks we scanned the emerging Karoo desert for **Tractrac chat**. We found two birds close to the road a few km north of Eierkop. Furthermore, we stopped at a small acacia lined stream crossing the road out towards Katbakkies. There we found two **Cape penduline tits**. Further in along the road at the picnic site we found **Fairy flycatchers** and **White-backed mousebirds**. This is also a good spot for Cinnamon-breasted warbler but February is late and to find the birds is difficult. We then went back to the main gravel road and travelled a few km's further north on the R355 to the acacia thicket at a lay-by on the left hand side of the road. Here we easily found **Pririt batis** and also more **Fairy flycatchers**. We thereafter decided to go back after a successful trip. When we came back to Cape Town we still had some time at our disposal and we therefore decided to go and visit the sewage ponds at Strandfontein – a good decision. When we arrived the site looked closed and maybe even impossible to visit but soon a guard showed up. We told him what we wanted and it proved to be no problem to enter and visit the ponds. It was well worth the visit yielding several ducks, e.g. **Maccoa duck**, **Hottentot teal** and **Fulvous whistling duck**. We then tried our luck with Rondevlei and although the site was virtually closed for the day we managed a short visit. We saw **Great white pelicans** and **Spotted thick-knee**. We ended the day with some sea watching, again with nice numbers of **Cory's shearwater** but few other birds.



From top left: Blue crane, Capped wheatear, African pipit, Levallant's cisticola

Monday 21st February

We went for a visit to the District six museum in Cape Town, which is focusing on the apartheid history, a small but important museum and afterwards we went to the Tabletop mountain. This is a must when visiting the Cape Town. Magnificent views of the Cape Town and stunning views in general. From a bird perspective we managed to see another **Cape siskin**.



From left: Orange-breasted sunbird, Cape sugarbird, Greater double-collared sunbird

On our way back to Simonstown we visited Klein Constantia. This winery is well worth a visit for its ordinary range of wines but they are most famous for their Vin de Constance, the favorite wine of Napoleon. They hold several vintages of this wine for sale but the older vintages are very expensive, and very good.

In the evening we again tried our luck with seabirds. Mainly the usual stuff but a **Giant petrel sp.** was a bit of a surprise. Although it came close we were unfortunately not able to make a firm identification whether it was a Northern or Southern giant petrel.

Tuesday 22nd February

This day Hans-Åke spent a few hours seawatching alone. It was very successful and he managed to see one **Storm-petrel sp.** but unfortunately it disappeared before it could be safely confirmed. Furthermore a **Brown Skua** and 34 **Sabine's gulls** were seen.

After packing and breakfast we went slowly towards the airport where we handed in the car and checked in. The flight left on time and after a stop in Johannesburg we left South Africa for this time.

Wednesday 23rd February

After a brief stop and change of flights in London we arrived safely in Copenhagen.

List of species

English names and order of species follow, with a few exceptions, Checklist of the birds of South Africa, by the African Bird Club (2011) which can be found at <http://www.africanbirdclub.org/countries/checklists/index.html>

1. **Ostrich** *Struthio camelus*: 15 Cape Peninsula 11.2, 15 Bredasdorp-Cape Agulhas 13.2, 10 De Hoop 15.2. Additionally, several feral birds seen 13-15.2.
2. **Unidentified Giant Petrel** *Macronectes sp.*: 1 Fishermans Beach, Simonstown 21.2. Passing close to the shore, although not close enough to make a safe identification possible.
3. **White-chinned Petrel** *Procellaria aequinoctialis*: 2 Cape Point 11.2, observed from Fishermans Beach, just south of Simonstown: 1 12.2, 5 18.2, 4 19.2, 10 21.2, 4 22.2.
4. **Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris diomedea*: 2 Cape Point 11.2, good numbers observed from Fishermans Beach, just south of Simonstown: 2 12.2, c.300 18.2, c.100 19.2, c.50 20.2, c. 200 21.2, c.300 22.2.

5. **Great Shearwater** *Puffinus gravis*: 3 Fishermans Beach, Simonstown 18.2.
6. **Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus*: c.300 Cape Peninsula 11.2, observed from Fishermans Beach, just south of Simonstown: c.100 12.2, c.50 18.2, 15 19.2, c.75 21.2, c.100 22.2.
7. **Unidentified Storm-petrel** *Hydrobates/Oceanites sp.*: 1 Fishermans Beach, just south of Simonstown 22.2.
8. **Jackass Penguin** *Spheniscus demersus*: Numerous around Simonstown: 250 Boulders Beach 10.2, 100 Boulders Beach 11.2, 1 Simonstown 18.2, 10 Simonstown 19.2, 2 Simonstown 20.2.
9. **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*: 2 Surbraak 14.2, c. 50 De Hoop Vlei 15.2, c.30 Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2.
10. **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*: c.100 De Hoop Vlei 15.2, 1 Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2.
11. **Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*: 2 Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2.
12. **Cape Gannet** *Morus capensis*: Common along the coast. Good numbers observed 11-13.2 and 18-22.2.
13. **Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo lucidus*: Common along the coast. Totally 70 birds recorded 11-13.2 and 18-22.2.
14. **Cape Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax capensis*: Common along the coast.
15. **Reed Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax africanus*: 3 Surbraak-Swellendam-Malgas 14.2, c.40 De Hoop Vlei 15.2, 2 Stellenbosch 18.2, c.30 Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2.
16. **African Darter** *Anhinga rufa*: 1 Stellenbosch 16.2, 1 Stellenbosch 18.2.
17. **Great White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus*: 30 Rondevlei 20.2.
18. **Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*: 1 De Hoop Vlei 15.1, 1 Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2.
19. **Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*: Common. Daily counts of 10-50 birds 10-21.2.
20. **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*: 5 De Hoop Vlei 15.2, 1 Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2.
21. **Intermediate Egret** *Egretta intermedia*: 1 Spier Estate, Stellenbosch 18.2.
22. **Great Egret** *Egretta alba*: 1 Cape Town 10.2.
23. **Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*: 4 Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2.
24. **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*: Rather common. Totally 13 birds recorded 10-20.2.
25. **Black-headed Heron** *Ardea melanocephala*: Common. Totally 32 birds recorded 12-20.2.
26. **White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*: Common in the farmlands around Bredasdorp-Cape Agulhas with daily counts of 10-30 birds 13-15.2.
27. **Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*: 4 De Hoop Vlei 15.2, c.50 Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2.
28. **Hadedda Ibis** *Bostrychia hagedash*: Common. Totally 134 birds recorded 12-21.2.
29. **Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus*: Common. Totally 225 birds recorded 10-21.2.
30. **African Spoonbill** *Platalea alba*: 2 De Hoop Vlei 15.2.
31. **Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus ruber*: 20 close to Eierkop 20.2, c.150 Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2.
32. **Fulvous Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna bicolor*: 1 Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2.
33. **White-backed Duck** *Thalassornis leuconotus*: 3 in a roadside marsh, close to Surbraak 14.2.
34. **Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiacus*: Common. Daily counts of 2-150 birds 10-20.2.
35. **South African Shelduck** *Tadorna cana*: 5 De Hoop Vlei 15.2, 5 close to Eierkop 20.2, 3 Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2.
36. **Spur-winged Goose** *Plectropterus gambensis*: c.10 Swellendam 14.2, 2 De Hoop 15.2, c.30 Strandfontein Sewage Works 22.2.

37. **Cape Teal** *Anas capensis*: 2 De Hoop Vlei 15.2, c.300 Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2.
38. **Yellow-billed Duck** *Anas undulata*: 15 Surbraak-Swellendam 14.2, c.30 De Hoop Vlei 15.2, c.30 Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2.
39. **Red-billed Teal** *Anas erythrorhyncha*: 5 Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2.
40. **Hottentot Teal** *Anas hottentota*: 4 Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2.
41. **Cape Shoveler** *Anas smithii*: 1 De Hoop Vlei 15.2, c.100 Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2.
42. **Maccoa Duck** *Oxyura maccoa*: 7 Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2.
43. **Black-shouldered Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*: 1 east of Cape town along the road 13.2, 1 Cape Agulhas 13.2, 1 Cape Town 20.2, 1 Strandfontein Sewage Works 22.2.
44. **Black Kite** *Milvus migrans aegyptius*: Common. Totally 65 birds recorded 13-21.2.
45. **African Fish Eagle** *Haliaeetus vocifer*: 3 De Hoop Vlei 15.2.
46. **Cape Vulture** *Gyps coprotheres*: 1 De Hoop 15.2.
47. **African Marsh Harrier** *Circus ranivorus*: 2 Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2.
48. **Pale Chanting Goshawk** *Melierax canorus*: 3 Eierkop-Katbakkies 20.2.
49. **Steppe Buzzard** *Buteo buteo vulpinus*: Common. Totally 86 birds recorded 10-21.2.
50. **Jackal Buzzard** *Buteo rufofuscus*: 3 Bredasdorp-De Hoop 15.2, 1 Cape Town 19.2.
51. **Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus*: 1 Stellenbosch 16.2, 2 Karoo 20.2.
52. **Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus rupicolis*: Totally 8 birds recorded 11-21.2.
53. **Lanner Falcon** *Falco biarmicus*: 1 juvenile Bredasdorp-De Hoop 15.2.
54. **Peregrine falcon** *Falco peregrinus*: 1 subadult Cape Point 11.1, 1 De Hoop Vlei 15.2.
55. **Helmeted Guineafowl** *Numida meleagris*: Common. Daily counts of 5-200 birds 10-21.2.
56. **Cape Francolin** *Pternistes capensis*: Rather common. Totally 27 birds recorded 12-20.2.
57. **Purple Swamphen** *Porphyrio porphyrio*: 1 in a roadside marsh, close to Surbraak 14.2, 2 Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2.
58. **Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*: 2 in a roadside marsh, close to Surbraak 14.2, c.30 Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2.
59. **Red-knobbed Coot** *Fulica cristata*: Common. Totally c.370 birds recorded 10-20.2.
60. **Blue Crane** *Anthropoides paradisea*: 10 Bredasdorp-Cape Agulhas 13.2, c.50 Swellendam-Malgas-Bredasdorp 14.2, c.20 Bredasdorp-De Hoop 15.2.
61. **Denham's Bustard** *Neotis denhami*: 11 Bredasdorp-Cape Agulhas 13.2, 4 Bredasdorp-Cape Agulhas 14.2.
62. **Karoo Bustard** *Eupodotis vigorsii*: 2 Bredasdorp-De Hoop 15.2.
63. **African Black Oystercatcher** *Haematopus moquini*: Daily counts of 1-6 birds around Simonstown 10-14.2 and 18-21.2.
64. **Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*: c.50 Cape Town 10.2, 5 De Hoop Vlei 15.2, c.50 Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2.
65. **Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*: c.300 Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2.
66. **Spotted Thick-knee** *Burhinus capensis*: 2 Rondevlei 20.2.
67. **Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*: 1 De Hoop Vlei 15.2.
68. **Three-banded Plover** *Charadrius tricollaris*: 1 Bredasdorp-Cape Agulhas 13.2, 2 south of Eierkop 20.2.
69. **Blacksmith Lapwing** *Vanellus armatus*: Common. Totally 93 birds recorded 10-21.2.
70. **Crowned Lapwing** *Vanellus coronatus*: 3 Bredasdorp-Cape Agulhas 13.2, 8 Bredasdorp-Cape Agulhas 14.2.

71. **Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*: 2 De Hoop Vlei 15.2, c.15 Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2.
72. **Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*: 1 Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2.
73. **Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*: 1 immature Fishermans Beach, Simonstown 18.2.
74. **Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*: Totally 41 birds observed from Fishermans Beach, just south of Simonstown: 2 10.2, c.10 19.2, c.10 21.2, 19 22.2.
75. **Brown Skua** *Catharacta antarctica*: 1 Fishermans Beach, Simonstown 18.2, 1 Fishermans Beach, Simonstown 22.2.
76. **Hartlaub's Gull** *Larus hartlaubii*: Common along the coast. Recorded daily 10-15.2 and 18-22.2.
77. **Kelp Gull** *Larus dominicanus vetula*: Common along the coast. Recorded daily 10-15.2 and 18-22.2.
78. **Sabine's Gull** *Xema sabini*: 1 Cape Point 11.1, 1 Fishermans Beach, Simonstown 12.1, 1 Fishermans Beach, Simonstown 19.1, 34 Fishermans Beach, Simonstown 22.1,
79. **Caspian Tern** *Sterna caspia*: 3 Cape Agulhas-De Mond 13.2, 1 De Hoop Vlei 15.2.
80. **Greater Crested Tern** *Sterna bergii*: Common along the coast. Totally 254 birds recorded 10-22.2.
81. **Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*: 5 Simonstown 10.2, 1 Simonstown 19.2, c.100 Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2, 1 Simonstown 22.2.
82. **Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*: 5 Simonstown 19.2, 10 Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2.
83. **White-winged Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*: 1 Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2.
84. **Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*: 1 south of Swellendam 14.2, 4 Karoo 20.2.
85. **Speckled Pigeon** *Columba guinea*: Common. Recorded daily 10-15.2 and 18-21.2.
86. **Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia*: Recorded daily.
87. **Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata*: Rather common. Totally 35 birds recorded 12-16.2.
88. **Ring-necked Dove** *Streptopelia capicola*: Rather common. Totally 46 birds recorded 11-21.2.
89. **Laughing Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis*: Common.
90. **Senegal (Burchell's) Coucal** *Centropus senegalensis*: 1 Bredasdorp-Cape Agulhas 13.2, 1 De Trafford, Stellenbosch 18.2.
91. **Spotted Eagle Owl** *Bubo africanus*: 1 "The Dell" Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden 12.2, 2 Knorhoek, Stellenbosch 16.2, 1 Knorhoek, Stellenbosch 17.2.
92. **Fiery-necked Nightjar** *Caprimulgus pectoralis*: Heard calling at Knorhoek, Stellenbosch 15.1 and 16.1.
93. **African Black Swift** *Apus barbatus*: Observed in the Stellenbosch area: 100 16.2, 30 17.2, 15 18.2, 10 Tabletop Mountain 21.2.
94. **White-rumped Swift** *Apus caffer*: Rather common, totally 72 birds recorded 10-21.2.
95. **Little Swift** *Apus affinis*: Rather common but mainly seen in small numbers. Totally 40 birds recorded 12-21.2.
96. **Alpine Swift** *Tachymarptis melba*: Observed in the Stellenbosch area as follows: c.100 16.2, c.50 17.2 and 18.2, 10 Karooport-Katbakkies 20.2, 5 Tabletop Mountain 21.2.
97. **Red-faced Mousebird** *Urocolius indicus*: 10 Swellendam-Malgas 14.2,
98. **White-backed Mousebird** *Colius colius*: 8 Katbakkies 20.2.
99. **Speckled Mousebird** *Colius striatus*: 2 Cape Peninsula 11.2, 20 Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve 14.2, 10 De Hoop 15.2, 2 Stellenbosch 18.2.
100. **Malachite Kingfisher** *Alcedo cristata*: 1 just south of Bredasdorp 13.2.
101. **Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*: 2 Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2.

102. **European Roller** *Coracias garrulus*: 1 just south of Bredasdorp 13.2.
103. **African Hoopoe** *Upupa africana*: 2 De Hoop 15.2, 1 Cape Town 19.2.
104. **Cardinal Woodpecker** *Dendropicos fuscescens*: 1 De Hoop 15.2.
105. **Olive Woodpecker** *Dendropicos griseocephalus*: 5 Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve 14.2.
106. **Cape Clapper Lark** *Mirafra apiata*: 1 Swellendam-Malgas, 7.6 km south of Buffeljagsrivier 14.2.
107. **Agulhas Long-billed Lark** *Certhilauda brevirostris*: 1 Swellendam-Malgas, c.5 km before the Breda River 14.2.
108. **Red-capped Lark** *Calandrella cinerea*: c.40 Swellendam-Malgas-Bredasdorp 14.2, 5 Bredasdorp-De Hoop 15.2.
109. **Black Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne pristoptera*: 1 Kirstenbosch 11.1, c.10 Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve 14.2, 3 De Hoop Vlei 15.2, Stellenbosch: 2 16.2, 5 17.2 and 18.2.
110. **Plain (Brown-throated) Martin** *Riparia paludicola*: 1 Breda River 14.2, c.100 Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2.
111. **Banded Martin** *Riparia cincta*: 1 just south of Bredasdorp 13.2.
112. **Greater Striped Swallow** *Hirundo cucullata*: Rather common. Totally 51 birds recorded 11-21.2.
113. **Rock Martin** *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*: 5 Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve 11.2, 1 Swellendam-Malgas 14.2, 5 Karoo 20.2, 5 Table Mountain 21.2.
114. **White-throated Swallow** *Hirundo albigularis*: 5 Swellendam-Malgas 14.2, 5 Bredasdorp-De Hoop 15.2.
115. **Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*: Rather common. Totally 66 birds recorded 10-21.2.
116. **House Martin** *Delichon urbica*: 3 De Trafford, Stellenbosch 18.2.
117. **Cape Wagtail** *Motacilla capensis*: Common. Totally 54 birds recorded 10-21.2.
118. **African (Grassveld) Pipit** *Anthus cinnamomeus*: Common in the farmlands Swellendam-Bredasdorp-De Hoop. Totally c.30 birds recorded 13-15.2, 2 Karoo 20.2.
119. **Grey Cuckoo-shrike** *Campephaga caesia*: 1 Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve 20.2.
120. **Sombre Greenbul** *Andropadus importunus*: c.10 Kirstenbosch 12.2, 5 Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve 14.2, 2 Constantia 19.2.
121. **Cape Bulbul** *Pycnonotus capensis*: Common. Recorded daily.
122. **Cape Robin-chat** *Cossypha caffra*: Rather common. Totally 22 birds recorded 11-18.2.
123. **Mountain Wheatear** *Oenanthe monticola*: 1 Karooport 20.2.
124. **Capped Wheatear** *Oenanthe pileata*: 2 Bredasdorp-Cape Agulhas 13.2, c.15 Swellendam-Malgas-Bredasdorp 14.2, c.20 Bredasdorp-De Hoop 15.2.
125. **Karoo Chat** *Cercomela schlegelii*: 5 Karooport-Katbakkies 20.2.
126. **Familiar Chat** *Cercomela familiaris*: 5 Katbakkies 20.2, 2 Tabletop Mountain 21.2.
127. **Tractrac Chat** *Cercomela tractrac*: 2 Eierkop-Katbakkies 20.2.
128. **Olive Thrush** *Turdus olivaceus*: Rather common. Totally 19 birds recorded 12-18.2.
129. **Little Rush-warbler** *Bradypterus baboecala*: 1 singing Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2.
130. **Cape Grassbird** *Sphenoeacus afer*: 1 Cape Point 11.2, 1 Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve 11.2, 1 just south of Bredasdorp 13.2.
131. **Yellow-bellied Eremomela** *Eremomela icteropygialis*: 1 north of Eierkop 20.2.
132. **Yellow-throated Woodland-warbler** *Phylloscopus ruficapilla*: 1 Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve 14.2.
133. **Chestnut-vented Tit-babbler** *Parisoma subcaeruleum*: 1 just north of Katbakkies 20.2.

134. **Grey-backed Cisticola** *Cisticola subruficapillus*: 5 Swellendam-Malgas 14.2.
135. **Levaillant's Cisticola** *Cisticola tinniens*: 5 Karoo 20.2, 2 Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2.
136. **Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*: 2 Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve 11.2.
137. **Karoo Prinia** *Prinia maculosa*: Rather common. Totally 32 birds recorded 10-21.2.
138. **Bar-throated Apalis** *Apalis thoracica*: 1 De Mond 13.2, 8 Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve 14.2, 1 De Hoop 15.2.
139. **African Dusky Flycatcher** *Muscicapa adusta*: 4 Kirstenbosch 12.2, 6 Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve 14.2, 2 Stellenbosch 17.2 and 18.2.
140. **Fiscal Flycatcher** *Sigelus silens*: 1 Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve 14.2, 1 De Hoop 15.2, 1 Delheim, Stellenbosch 17.2, 2 Knorhoek, Stellenbosch 18.2.
141. **Fairy Flycatcher** *Stenostira scita*: Totally 5 Karooport-Katbakkies 20.2.
142. **Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher** *Trochocercus cyanomelas*: 1 male and 1 female Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve 14.2.
143. **African Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone viridis*: 2 Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve 14.2.
144. **Cape Batis** *Batis capensis*: 8 Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve 14.2.
145. **Pririt Batis** *Batis pririt*: 1 female just south of Katbakkies 20.2, 1 male and 2 females/juveniles just north of Katbakkies 20.2.
146. **Cape Penduline Tit** *Anthoscopus minutus*: 2 in acacia scrub just south of Katbakkies 20.2.
147. **Orange-breasted Sunbird** *Anthobaphes violacea*: Common around Cape Town, 1-15 birds recorded daily 10-13.2 and 19-22.2.
148. **Malachite Sunbird** *Nectarinia famosa*: 1 Simonstown 10.2, 1 Simonstown 12.2.
149. **Southern Double-collared Sunbird** *Cinnyris chalybea*: Rather common. Totally 21 birds recorded 11-21.2.
150. **Greater Double-collared Sunbird** *Nectarinia afra*: 8 Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve 14.2.
151. **Cape White-eye** *Zosterops pallidus*: Common. Daily figures of 5-50 birds 10-21.2.
152. **Cape Sugarbird** *Promerops cafer*: Common around Simonstown, 1-20 birds recorded daily 10-13.2 and 18-22.2.
153. **Common Fiscal** *Lanius collaris*: Common, especially in the farmlands Swellendam-Bredasdorp-De Hoop 13-15.2.
154. **Bokmakierie** *Telephorus zeylonus*: 1 Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve 11.2, 3 Bredasdorp-De Hoop 15.2, 1 Katbakkies 20.2.
155. **Southern Boubou** *Laniarius ferrugineus*: 2 Kirstenbosch 12.2, 3 Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve 14.2, 1 De Hoop 15.1, 1 Stellenbosch 17.2.
156. **European Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*: 1 male Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve 20.2.
157. **Fork-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus adsimilis*: c.10 Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve-Swellendam-Malgas 14.2, 1 De Hoop 15.2.
158. **Cape Crow** *Corvus capensis*: Rather common in the farmlands Swellendam-Bredasdorp-De Hoop: Totally c.45 birds recorded 13-15.2.
159. **Pied Crow** *Corvus albus*: Rather common. Totally 65 birds recorded 10-21.2.
160. **White-necked Raven** *Corvus albicollis*: 4 Simonstown 12.2, 5 Bredasdorp-De Hoop 15.2, 4 along the road Cape Town-Karooport 20.2, 3 Tabletop Mountain 21.2.
161. **House Crow** *Corvus splendens*: Only recorded around the Cape Town International Airport: 2 10.2, 2 13.2, 1 22.2.
162. **Red-winged Starling** *Onychognathus morio*: Common. Recorded daily.
163. **African Pied Starling** *Spreo bicolor*: 30-50 daily Cape Agulhas-Bredasdorp-De Hoop 13-15.2, c.20 Karoo 20.2.

164. **Common (European) Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*: Common. Recorded daily.
165. **Cape Sparrow** *Passer melanurus*: 1 Simonstown 10.2 and 11.2, 5 Swellendam-Malgas-Bredasdorp 14.2, 5 Bredasdorp-De Hoop 15.2, c.25 Karoo 20.2.
166. **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*: Common. Recorded daily.
167. **Cape Weaver** *Ploceus capensis*: 5 Bredasdorp-Cape Agulhas 13.2, c.20 Swellendam-Malgas-Bredasdorp 14.2, 2 Spier Estate, Stellenbosch 18.2, c.10 Karoo 20.2.
168. **Southern Red Bishop** *Euplectes orix*: c.30 Strandfontein Sewage Works 20.2.
169. **Yellow Bishop** *Euplectes capensis*: 1 Cape of Good Hope 11.2, 5 south of Swellendam 14.2.
170. **Sweet Waxbill** *Estrilda melanotis*: 3 Kirstenbosch 12.2, 1 Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve 14.2, 2 Knorhoek, Stellenbosch 18.2.
171. **Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild*: 1 Karoo 20.2.
172. **Common Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*: 2 Klein Constantia 21.2.
173. **Cape Siskin** *Pseudochloroptila totta*: 3 Cape Point 11.2, 1 Cape of Good Hope 11.2, 1 Tabletop Mountain 21.2.
174. **Brimstone Canary** *Serinus sulphuratus*: 5 Kirstenbosch 12.2, 4 Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve 14.2.
175. **Yellow Canary** *Serinus flaviventris*: c.30 Bredasdorp-Cape Agulhas 13.2, 5 Bredasdorp-De Hoop 15.2, 20 Karoo 20.2.
176. **White-throated Canary** *Serinus albogularis*: 3 Swellendam-Malgas 14.2, 2 De Hoop 15.2, c.10 Karoo 20.2.
177. **Cape Canary** *Serinus canicollis*: 10 Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve 14.2.
178. **Cape Bunting** *Emberiza capensis*: 1 Cape Point 11.2, 5 around Katbakkies 20.2.

Mammals

- Chacma Baboon** *Papio ursinus*: c.15 Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve 11.2, 4 Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve 14.2, c.35 Bredasdorp-De Hoop 15.1, c.10 Karooport 20.2.
- Tree Squirrel** *Paraxerus cepapi*: 1 Kirstenbosch 12.2, 1 Stellenbosch 17.2, 1 Klein Constantia 21.2.
- Bat-eared Fox** *Otocyon megalotis*: 5 along the road Bredasdorp-Swellendam 14.2.
- Rock Dassie** *Procavia capensis*: c.10 Cape Point 11.2, 5 De Hoop 15.2, 1 Tabletop Mountain 21.2.
- Cape Mountain Zebra** *Equus zebra*: 2 Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve 11.2, 3 De Hoop 15.2.
- Eland** *Taurotragus oryx*: 1 Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve 11.2, 5 De Hoop 15.2.
- Blesbok/Bontebok** *Damaliscus dorcas*: 1 Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve 11.2, 5 De Hoop 15.2.
- Steenbok** *Raphicerus campestris*: 1 Bredasdorp-De Hoop 15.1.
- Cape Fur Seal** *Arctocephalus pusillus*: 1 Cape of Good Hope 11.1, 2 Cape Town 19.2.

Herptiles

- Black Girdled Lizard** *Cordylus niger*: 5 Tabletop Mountain 21.2.
- Angulated Tortoise** *Chersina angulata*: 1 Bredasdorp-De Hoop 15.1.