

South Africa's Rare Mammals

Naturetrek Tour Report

27th April – 8th May 2023



Bat-eared Fox



African Wildcat



Aardwolf



Crimson-breasted Shrike

Tour report and images by Jason Steward and Ian Bruce



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Tour Participants: Rick Nuttall and Jason Stewart (leaders) with 9 Naturetrek clients.

Summary

Another wonderful Rare Mammals tour starting in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park and ending at New Holme guest lodge at the Karoo Gariep nature reserve. A number of species were seen with only the Black-footed Cat staying elusive. The weather was for the most part perfect with the normal cool mornings and warm days ensuing. We did have a bit of unseasonable rain in the Karoo which caused us to miss out on some sundowners but didn't affect the night drives. In such an arid climate it is always special to see rain.

Day 1

Friday 28th April

Upington – Tweerivieren Kgalagadi

The 2023 April Rare mammals started with the arrival of the group at 12h30 after a long trip from Heathrow to OR Thambo Airport and connecting to Upington. We headed straight in to town once loaded into the vehicles to stock up on some food for the road and snacks for the upcoming game drives. It was then on to Tweerivieren which is about 250km on very straight roads and we got to the main gate at 16h30. There was a short break until 17h30 whereafter we went in for an early dinner, dressed and ready to go, to allow for the 19h00 night drive. As there was space Rick and Jason joined the group for a pretty successful drive. Cape Fox, Bat-eared Fox and Genet were some of the animals seen. In the distance we had storm clouds which made for dramatic scenery with the lightning lighting up the clouds. Returning at 21h15 it was back to the rooms for a well-deserved rest after a long haul for the travellers.

Mammal sightings for the day: 13

Day 2

Saturday 29th April

Tweerivieren - Kgalagadi

Approaching winter, the sun rise was a bit later and gates only opened at 7h00. We had tea and coffee to kickstart our day at 6h45 and after collecting our permits and lowering the tyre pressures we headed out into the park. There are two ancient river beds that form the main routes for the game drives. The Auob drive starts by crossing sand dunes for 10km and then dropping down into the bed. The Nossob, on the eastern side is what you start out on from the camp. Both beds have amazing Camel Thorns and Grey Acacia of the genus *Vachellia* which are able to source deep ground water with their incredible tap roots. These trees provide browse and the pods are very nutritious. These trees also give shade and nesting sites for birds. This morning's drive was up the Auob river bed and we had sightings aplenty of general game such as Gemsbuck, Springbuck, Wildebeest and a couple of iconic little critters, the Ground Squirrels and Meerkats.

After stopping for a comfort break at the museum we returned to camp seeing a Leopard Tortoise out in the middle of the river bed on the way, and went straight in for a meal at 12h00. After another short break we headed out up the Nossob river for the afternoon drive. Apart from general game we had a good distant sighting of a Honey Badger going after rodents and chasing away a Pale Chanting Goshawk. Thereafter back for a 17h30 dinner and 19h00 night drive. This time the Parks Board vehicle was full and Rick and Jason stayed behind. Some

of the same night animals were spotted with only one new species to add to the list, namely the Common Duiker. A 21h10 return and back to the rooms.

Mammal sightings for the day: 19

Day 3

Sunday 30th April

Tweerivieren - Kgalagadi

This morning was a repeat of the morning tea and coffee before heading up the Nossob river for a longer trip. It was decided to use some of the snacks purchased in Upington to allow us to stay out a bit longer and have a later main meal. Again, after collecting our permit, we made our way out and soon after came across two Lionesses, which had very full bellies, lying up on the dunes. There was a bit of excitement when a lone male Blue Wildebeest came strolling past but he had a lucky morning as the two cats had no interest at all. After stopping to look at an Eagle Owl the front vehicle spotted something moving across the road ahead and went to investigate. It was a Caracal on the move and the second vehicle was quickly radioed. Unfortunately, it did not hang around and went up into the dunes and disappeared. Only James was quick enough to get some pics but only of its rear end.

After a stop at Melkville picnic site we then headed back to camp returning at 14h15. At 15h30 we again went up the Nossob river with no new sightings but good views of Red Hartebeest, Springbuck, Gemsbuck, Steenbuck and Wildebeest as well as some larger birds such as Kori Bustard and Ludwig's Bustard. We got back to camp and gate closing time and went straight in to dinner. There was no night drive and folks had time to get bags sorted for the following days departure.

Mammal sightings for the day: 12

Day 4

Monday 1st May

Kgalagadi to Augrabies Falls National Park

Today was a travel day and we forewent a morning drive to have breakfast at 8h00 and get on the road. While waiting one of the other guests at breakfast let us know of an African Wild Cat that was hanging about outside which caused a mass exodus from our table. We all managed to see the cat which was very skittish and moved into the scrub out of sight.

After eating and packing we travelled through Upington and stopped for lunch at De Werf Lodge which is set in beautiful green gardens, a stark contrast to the arid surroundings. As we travelled along the Gariep river you get to see all the vineyards making use of the water that has fallen in the central part of South Africa and making it's way to the west coast. We arrived at Augrabies around 16h30 and as no night drives were available people had the time to walk to the falls and relax until 19h00 when we met for dinner. Augrabies Falls National Park is centred on the main falls, where the Gariep River (formally the Orange River) is channelled through a narrow gap to cascade some 56 meters to the bottom of the gorge below, with the gorge being around 240 meters deep and stretching downriver for 18 kilometres. The name is derived from the Khoi word 'Aukoerebis', which means 'place of great noise'. The park is some 55,000 hectares / 136,000 acres in extent, conserving a large tract of a vegetation type known as Orange River Broken Veld. This includes over 70 species of plants, one of the most striking of which is the Quiver Tree, *Aloe dichotoma*, which was used by the Khoi to make quivers for their arrows, while the remarkable 'rock-splitting' Namaqua Fig (*Ficus cordata*) grows out of cracks in the rocks along the gorge.

Mammal sightings for the day: 6

Day 5

Tuesday 2nd May

Augrabies Falls National Park

Our first day at Augrabies started with our 6H40 tea and coffee and then a drive into the park with gates also opening at 7h00. The first stop was Ararat view point where the usual Augrabies Flat Lizards had not made an appearance yet, being too cold. It was then on to Oranjekom view point a bit further along with both sites having spectacular views into the gorge. Fish Eagle, Mountain Wheatear, Pale-winged Starlings and Rock Martins were some of the birds seen but still too cold for any reptiles.

On the way to Echo Corner the Dassie Rats made an appearance as well as the Klipspringer adding two new species of mammals to our list. The Rock Hyrax were also out in abundance which is a good food source for the Verreaux's Eagle which has a nesting site across from this view point. One of the birds was on the nest and calling when we arrived. We were back by 11h00 for brunch and then a break until 15h30 allowing for down time or strolls around the waterfall and camp site. For the afternoon we went a little further out to the Western section in the hope of spotting the Hartman's Mountain Zebra but to no avail. Klipspringer were spotted as well as Kudu and, on the way back, a road block of Giraffe near the exit gate. We got in at 18h30, gate closing time and made our way to dinner at 19h00.

Mammal sightings for the day: 13

Day 6

Wednesday 3rd May

Augrabies to Kimberley

Another travel day which started with a 7h00 breakfast whereafter we loaded the bags and were on the road by 9h00. This took us back through Upington and a stop at Griekwastad for lunch at Proviand restaurant. Another quaint setting with a variety of flowers and butterflies. A few pics were taken of the Painted Lady, Orange Tips and Blue Pansy which were flitting around and entertained a few of the group while waiting to be served. We arrived at the accommodation around 16h30 and dinner was at 19h00. It was then straight out for the night drive at Marrick. No Aardvark this night but good sightings of the Aardwolf were had along with some of the other more common nocturnal animals such as Spring Hares and Cape Hares. It was then back to base for a good night's rest.

Mammal sightings for the day: 12

Day 7

Thursday 4th May

Kimberley

Today we had our coffee and tea provided by our accommodation, Jungnickel Guest house at 6h30 whereafter we headed out to Mokala with a packed breakfast and lunch. Mokala National Park, a 65,500-acre National Park located about 70 km south of Kimberley. Mokala is a relatively new park, proclaimed in 2007, and is used as a resource pool of endangered and uncommon antelope species from which to restock other parks and reserves. We entered the park via the Southern gate and went directly to Mosu lodge to check in and pay our conservation fees.

Here we had our packed breakfast and took a walk down onto the front lawn hoping to see some Sengi on the way. None were out but a few birds such as Shaft-tailed Whydah, Red-billed firefinch and Kalahari Scrub Robin as well as Yellow Mongoose made an appearance.

We then moved on and made our way to Stofdam bird hide which was very productive with the various Waxbills coming down to drink with Buffalo, Kudu and Springbuck in the backdrop. All in all, a great scene. We moved further north and had lunch at Kameeldoring picnic site and then towards Lilydale, passing Roan Antelope and stopping at another viewpoint on the way. Here there were more Buffalo and a very large male Eland. Unluckily we missed out on the Sable and Rhino although there were plenty of signs they were around. It was then back to Kimberley and another night drive at Marrick. A highlight for the evening was the Aardvark which was seen by both vehicles even though we had split up. The vegetation was quite tall after some decent rain earlier in the season and the local guides said it made it very difficult to locate and see the Black-footed Cat which we did not see.

Mammal sightings for the day: 22

Day 8

Friday 5th May

Kimberly to Karoo Gariep Nature reserve

Once again it was time to move on and to our final destination. After a 7h00 breakfast we first headed into town to locate some Gluten free products, bank and chemist for some of the group. After a successful shop we then went via Britstown where we had lunch and then on to New Holme guest lodge. Here the focus is on the night drives and there are few large mammals apart from the stocked game. We arrived around 15h00 and once settled in went out for an afternoon drive and snacks to the Hippo pool. This farm has a very large population of Blue Crane which enjoy the lucerne being cultivated for the sheep farming. PC, our host has set up hides for photographing these stunning birds around the fields in the hope of covering the costs of the Cranes as well as the other water fowl that eat the crop.

Nearby is a dammed reservoir on the aptly named Seekoi river in which the cranes roost and hosts many geese and duck varieties. Arriving at the encamped section we met the only Hippo in the Northern Cape, part of a plan to re-introduce these animals which had been shot out in the 1800's. After scrumptious snacks and with the setting sun we made our way back to the guest house, on the way spotting a Cape Fox and African Wild Cat. Shortly thereafter dinner was served and the night drive commenced. Porcupine and Aardwolf were the order of the night as well as Spring Hare and Cape Scrub Hare.

Mammal sightings for the day: 16

Day 9

Saturday 6th May

Karoo Gariep Nature reserve

Today we had an early start with tea and coffee and a 6h30 departure to the San etchings nearby. On the way the group was fortunate enough to spot a pair of Karoo Korhaan which is a Southern Arica endemic. The early start was to be at the rocks at sunrise to hopefully catch the Sengi coming out to bask in the morning sun. This proved successful and everyone had a good view of a Rock Sengi who was very obliging in allowing us to get close. It was a beautiful cool morning and PC gave us a very insightful talk on the etchings and other paraphernalia left behind by the Dutch settlers and some possibly British soldiers during the Boer war.

After a cup of tea and coffee we went back for breakfast and thereafter people had time off to wander around or catch up on sleep until the 15h00 afternoon drive. No new mammal species were seen but there are a multitude of larks and cisticolas for the birders which Rick pointed out. Due to some rain, we headed back in and skipped the sundowners, which were enjoyed around the fire in the main dinning area. After dinner it was out again for another night drive. No new nocturnal species were found but good sightings again of Porcupine and Aardwolf.

Mammal sightings for the day: 17

Day 10

Sunday 7th May

Karoo Gariep Nature reserve

Today, our last full day of the tour, we had a leisurely start with a 7h00 tea and coffee and then out on a long morning drive. It was back for the same routine as the previous day and once again there was rain in the afternoon causing us to head back. After another superb meal it was out on the night drive where once again, we had good Porcupine and Aardwolf with the occasional Spring Hare and Scrub Hare making appearances. Fortunately, the rains played along and, on both nights, did not interrupt the drives. Sadly we had no Black-footed Cat here either and for this trip remained unseen.

Mammal sightings for the day: 16

Day 11

Monday 8th May

Departure

Today was a transit day, so we met at 07h00 for those who wanted to join for a short hour long drive along the reservoir, checking out the birds and a Yellow Mongoose. Breakfast was at 8h00, bags were packed and the journey to Bloemfontein, with departure at 10h30 began. Reaching the airport around 15h00 we had a late lunch and Rick and Jason bid farewell to start their own journeys home.

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Species lists

Mammals

E=Endemic N=Near-endemic		April - May 2023										
Common name	Scientific name	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Common Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>				✓	✓	✓			✓		
Aardvark	<i>Orycteropus afer</i>							✓				
Western Rock Sengi	<i>Elephantulus rupestris</i>									✓		
Caracal	<i>Caracal caracal</i>			✓								
African Wildcat	<i>Felis lybica</i>				✓			✓				
Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>			✓								
Common Genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>	✓	✓								✓	
Aardwolf	<i>Proteles cristata</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Cape Grey Mongoose	<i>Herpestes pulverulentus</i>					✓						
Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>	✓	✓	✓								
Meerkat	<i>Suricata suricatta</i>		✓	✓							✓	
Black-backed Jackal	<i>Lupulella mesomelas</i>	✓	✓	✓							✓	
Bat-eared Fox	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>	✓	✓									
Cape Fox	<i>Vulpes chama</i>	✓	✓						✓		✓	
Honey Badger	<i>Mellivora capensis</i>		✓									
Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>							✓				
White Rhinoceros	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>							✓				
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>							✓	✓	✓		
Southern Giraffe	<i>Giraffa giraffa</i>		✓			✓						
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>							✓		✓	✓	
Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>		✓	✓				✓				
Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓				
Blesbok - E	<i>Damaliscus pygargus phillipsi</i>									✓	✓	
Bontebok - E	<i>Damaliscus pygargus dorcas</i>							✓	✓			
Roan Antelope	<i>Hippotragus equinus</i>							✓	✓			
Sable Antelope	<i>Hippotragus niger</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Klipspringer	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>						✓					
Gemsbok	<i>Oryx gazella</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>		✓									
African Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>							✓	✓	✓		
Nyala	<i>Tragelaphus angasii</i>						✓					

E=Endemic N=Near-endemic		April - May 2023										
Common name	Scientific name	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Common Eland	<i>Tragelaphus oryx</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓	
Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>					✓		✓				
Vervet	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>					✓		✓				
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>					✓	✓	✓				
Cape Hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i>						✓					
Cape Scrub Hare - N	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Cape Porcupine	<i>Hystrix africaeaustralis</i>						✓		✓	✓	✓	
Dassie Rat	<i>Petromus typicus</i>					✓						
South African Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus inauris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Southern African Spring-hare	<i>Pedetes capensis</i>	✓	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	
Gerbil (Large-eared) Mouse	<i>Malacothrix typica</i>									✓		
Four-striped Grass Mouse	<i>Rhabdomys pumilio</i>		✓	✓								

Birds

N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		April - May 2023										
Common name	Scientific name	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>		✓	✓				✓				
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>								✓			
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>									✓	✓	✓
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
South African Shelduck	<i>Tadorna cana</i>								✓	✓	✓	✓
Cape Shoveler	<i>Spatula smithii</i>									✓	✓	✓
Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>									✓	✓	✓
Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhynchos</i>						✓					
Helmeted Guinea fowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>			✓				✓		✓	✓	
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>									✓		
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓			
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>				✓	✓						
Bradfield's Swift	<i>Apus bradfieldi</i>						✓		✓			
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>					✓		✓	✓			
Blue Crane	<i>Grus paradisea</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>		✓	✓								
Ludwig's Bustard	<i>Neotis ludwigii</i>			✓							✓	
Blue Korhaan - N	<i>Eupodotis caerulea</i>									✓	✓	✓
Karoo Korhaan - N	<i>Eupodotis vigorsii</i>									✓		
Northern Black Korhaan	<i>Afrotis afraoides</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		April - May 2023											
Common name	Scientific name	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Red-crested Korhaan	<i>Lophotis ruficrista</i>							✓					
Namaqua Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles namaqua</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Burchell's Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles burchelli</i>			✓									
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>		✓							✓	✓		
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>						✓		✓			✓	
Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>					✓							
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>									✓			
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>											✓	
Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>							✓		✓	✓		
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>								✓	✓	✓	✓	
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		
Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>									✓	✓	✓	
Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>					✓				✓	✓	✓	
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>											✓	
African Snipe	<i>Gallinago nigripennis</i>									✓			
Temminck's Courser	<i>Cursorius temminckii</i>			✓									
Double-banded Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus africanus</i>						✓				✓		
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>					✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>					✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>									✓	✓	✓	
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>						✓	✓			✓		
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>									✓	✓	✓	
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>							✓					
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>							✓		✓	✓	✓	
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>											✓	
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>						✓						
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>							✓	✓				
White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>	✓		✓	✓			✓					
Black-chested Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>					✓							
Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>			✓									
Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>		✓	✓					✓				
Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>					✓							

N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		April - May 2023											
Common name	Scientific name	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>			✓									
Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
African Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>					✓				✓	✓	✓	
Jackal Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>					✓							
Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>							✓					
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓								
Spotted Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>		✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	
White-backed Mousebird	<i>Colius colius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	
Red-faced Mousebird	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>					✓	✓						
African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>									✓	✓	✓	
Common Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>					✓		✓					
Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓					
Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>			✓									
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>							✓					
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>				✓					✓			
Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>					✓							
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>						✓				✓		
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>		✓			✓							
Acacia Pied Barbet	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓					
Crested Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>					✓		✓					
Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>		✓										
Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>			✓									
Pirit Batis	<i>Batis pririt</i>		✓		✓	✓							
Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>				✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	
Crimson-breasted Shrike	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>		✓	✓									
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>		✓										
Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				
Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>		✓						✓	✓			
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Fairy Flycatcher	<i>Stenostira scita</i>							✓					
Ashy Tit	<i>Melaniparus cinerascens</i>		✓										
Cape Penduline Tit	<i>Anthoscopus minutus</i>							✓					
Spike-heeled Lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>									✓	✓		
Karoo Long-billed Lark - N	<i>Certhilauda subcoronata</i>					✓							

N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		April - May 2023											
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Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix verticalis</i>		✓		✓					✓	✓		
Sabota Lark	<i>Calendulauda sabota</i>		✓	✓									
Fawn-colored Lark	<i>Calendulauda africanoides</i>		✓	✓				✓					
Eastern Clapper Lark	<i>Mirafra fasciolata</i>									✓	✓	✓	
Rufous-naped Lark	<i>Mirafra africana</i>							✓					
Melodious Lark	<i>Mirafra cheniana</i>									✓			
Stark's Lark	<i>Spizocorys starki</i>							✓			✓		
Large-billed Lark	<i>Galerida magnirostris</i>									✓	✓		
Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>									✓	✓	✓	
African Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
Greater Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis cucullata</i>	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓		
Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>					✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>						✓			✓			
Lesser Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>							✓		✓			
Grey-backed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola subruficapilla</i>											✓	
Levaillant's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola tinniens</i>										✓	✓	
Neddicky	<i>Cisticola fulvicapilla</i>							✓					
Desert Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aridulus</i>							✓		✓	✓		
Cloud Cisticola	<i>Cisticola textrix</i>									✓	✓		
Black-chested Prinia	<i>Prinia flavicans</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Namaqua Warbler	<i>Phragmacia substriata</i>				✓	✓	✓						
Rufous-eared Warbler	<i>Malcorus pectoralis</i>		✓	✓		✓				✓			
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>			✓		✓					✓		
Chestnut-vented Warbler	<i>Curruca subcoerulea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					
Orange River White-eye	<i>Zosterops pallidus</i>				✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		
Cape White-eye	<i>Zosterops virens</i>										✓		
Common Myna - I	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>							✓	✓				
Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>					✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Pied Starling - N	<i>Lamprotornis bicolor</i>								✓	✓	✓		
Pale-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus nabouroup</i>				✓	✓	✓						
Groundscraper Thrush	<i>Turdus litsitsirupa</i>		✓	✓	✓								
Karoo Thrush	<i>Turdus smithi</i>				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Karoo Scrub Robin - N	<i>Cercotrichas coryphoeus</i>					✓	✓				✓		
Kalahari Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas paena</i>		✓	✓				✓					
Marico Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis mariquensis</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓					

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Chat Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis infuscatus</i>		✓			✓							
Fiscal Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis silens</i>						✓				✓		
Cape Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha caffra</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>										✓		
Sickle-winged Chat	<i>Emarginata sinuata</i>									✓	✓		
Ant-eating Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Mountain Wheatear	<i>Myrmecocichla monticola</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓			
Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	
Familiar Chat	<i>Oenanthe familiaris</i>		✓			✓		✓		✓			
Dusky Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris fuscus</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓					
Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>					✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
House Sparrow - I	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓				
Sociable Weaver	<i>Philetairus socius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Scaly-feathered Weaver	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Southern Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>							✓		✓	✓		
Southern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Black-faced Waxbill	<i>Brunhilda erythronotos</i>				✓		✓	✓					
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>				✓	✓	✓						
Quailfinch	<i>Ortygospiza atricollis</i>							✓					
Red-headed Finch	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓		
Violet-eared Waxbill	<i>Granatina granatina</i>						✓						
Blue Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>						✓						
Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>						✓						
Jameson's Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rhodopareia</i>							✓					
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>					✓	✓						
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>										✓		
Shaft-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua regia</i>							✓					
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>				✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>					✓							
Cape Longclaw	<i>Macronyx capensis</i>										✓		
African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>									✓			
Buffy Pipit	<i>Anthus vaalensis</i>					✓		✓					
Black-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>					✓	✓						
Yellow Canary	<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓					

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White-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra albogularis</i>				✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Lark-like Bunting	<i>Emberiza impetuani</i>			✓		✓				✓	✓	
Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>					✓	✓					

Reptiles

		April/May 2023										
Common name	Scientific name	28	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Leopard Tortoise	<i>Stigmochelys pardalis</i>		✓					✓				
Karasburg Tree Skink	<i>Trachylepis sparsa</i>			✓								
Bibron's (Thick-toed) Gecko	<i>Chondrodactylus bibronii</i>			✓								
Augrabies Flat Lizard	<i>Platysaurus broadleyi</i>				✓							
Southern Rock Agama	<i>Agama atra</i>				✓							
Plain Sand Lizard (juvenile)	<i>Pedioplanis inornata</i>				✓							

Lesser Tick-tailed Scorpion – *Uroplectes sp* - seen on 30th April