

South Africa's Garden Route

Naturetrek Tour Report

25th August – 5th September 2025



Blue Cranes



African Savanna Elephant



Caracal



Southern Right Whale

Tour report by J P Le Roux



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Tour participants: J P Le Roux (leader) with five Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Monday 25th August

Arrival

Some of the group departed from London Heathrow on the evening flight to Johannesburg, with the remaining members already being in South Africa.

Day 2

Tuesday 26th August

Arrival and Addo Elephant National Park

The group flew in from Johannesburg, meeting at Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth) Chief Dawid Stuurman International Airport. After collecting our bags and grabbing a quick snack, we set off for Addo Elephant National Park.

The park was originally proclaimed to protect the last remaining Elephants, then numbering fewer than sixteen individuals. Today, the population has grown to over 550, and the park has expanded from its original 2230ha to an impressive 1800 km² stretching across the Sundays River Valley, the Zuurberg Mountains, and even into the ocean. The marine section protects Bird Island and St Croix Island, home to the world's largest breeding colony of Cape Gannets and the second-largest colony of African Penguins. Addo is the only national park in South Africa to conserve the "Big Seven": Elephant, Lion, Leopard, Cape Buffalo, Black Rhinoceros, Great White Shark and Southern Right Whale.

We entered the park from the south through the Matyholweni Gate, and drove for about an hour and a half before catching up with the rest of the group, who had arrived several days earlier. Along the way, we enjoyed sightings of both mammals and birds. For many, the Addo Elephants were the highlight, while others were fascinated by the park's unique flightless dung beetle (*Circellium bacchus*), a species found almost nowhere else.

Once united, the full group gathered for a briefing before heading out on an afternoon walk. We explored the bird hides and the surrounding area near our accommodation. Birding highlights included several endemics such as Cape Weaver, Southern Tchagra, Karoo Scrub Robin, and Bokmakierie.

As evening approached, we gathered for an early dinner, after which everyone settled in for a well-deserved rest: many still weary from the long international flight the night before.

Day 3

Wednesday 27th August

Addo Elephant National Park

The day began with an early morning safari at 6.00am. The crisp winter air was a reminder of the lingering season, but spirits were high as everyone anticipated what the day might bring. Our efforts were soon rewarded with wonderful sightings of Spotted Hyenas, which made for a thrilling start to the morning.

After returning to camp, we enjoyed a hearty breakfast before heading out again, first on a short walk through the camp area, then on another three-hour drive across the park. This proved especially rewarding, with superb encounters with Elephants, an abundance of general game, and several sought-after bird species. Highlights included excellent views of both Denham's and Ludwig's Bustards, while other memorable birding moments included exceptional views of both Lesser and Greater Honeyguides.

By mid-afternoon, we returned to camp for a relaxed lunch break, followed by another short walk to stretch our legs. As the day cooled, we set out once more for a sunset game drive, which turned out to be one of the highlights of the trip so far: we were delighted to locate a Black Rhino. This species, the more endangered of Africa's rhinos, was once widespread and numerous. Seeing one in Addo was a rare privilege, and a memorable way to end the day.

Day 4

Thursday 28th August

Addo to Storms River Mouth

We had an early start at 6.30am, and departed Addo Elephant National Park through the southern gate. The morning produced several new bird species, another excellent sighting of Spotted Hyena, and a lively group of Black-backed Jackals, all preoccupied with scratching vigorously to relieve the irritation of fleas.

We made our way toward Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth), stopping along the coast for breakfast. As we ate, we were treated to an extraordinary sight: a pod of about fifty Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphins feeding in the surf. The dolphins were soon joined by a Humpback Whale, while numerous seabirds added to the spectacle.

A short visit to Cape Recife Lighthouse enriched our bird list further, with additions such as Cape Gannet, African Black Oystercatcher, Grey Plover, Arctic and Antarctic Terns, and several other tern species.

In the afternoon, we continued westward to Storms River Mouth, arriving late in the day. After settling in, we took a walk along the rugged coastline, where we witnessed a spectacular feeding frenzy as Cape Gannets and Cape Fur Seals hunted shoals of sardines close to shore. The commotion drew in pelagic species, and we were rewarded with thrilling views of both Black-browed Albatross and Sooty Shearwater.

After dinner, we strolled back to our accommodation, keeping an eye (and ear) out for frogs and toads, before settling in for the night to the sound of the ocean.

Day 5

Friday 29th August

Storms River and Nature's Valley

We started our morning fairly early, working our way through the forest before first light. Highlights included Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher, Narina Trogon, Forest Buzzard, Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler, Olive Woodpecker and several other species.

We continued towards Nature's Valley, stopping at various forest patches in search of Grey Sunbird, Narina Trogon, and Grey Cuckooshrike. A short walk in the area also offered the chance to look for African Finfoot, though unfortunately we were not successful. We did, however, manage to spot a Southern Bushbuck tiptoeing through the undergrowth, placing its hindfeet precisely on the same spot as its front feet, and eventually into the open area, allowing for some great photographic opportunities.

After lunch, we travelled back towards Storms River, where we enjoyed a walk across the Storms River suspension bridge. Following a short break, we set out in the late afternoon, exploring the coastal terrace in search of forest and marine species. Our efforts were richly rewarded with sightings of several large pods of dolphins, as well as Southern Right and Humpback Whales offshore. Excellent seabird activity included Shy and Black-browed Albatrosses, and hundreds of Sooty Shearwaters. Other notable records included Brown Skua and Northern Giant Petrel. To crown the afternoon, we experienced the rare sight of a Bryde's Whale unusually close to shore.

After dinner, we made our way back slowly, stopping at small ponds along the route in hope of finding more frog species to round off the day.

Day 6

Saturday 30th August

Storms River to Plettenberg Bay and Wilderness

We started our morning early with a focus on forest birding as we departed from Storms River. The forest was alive with activity, and we connected with a number of rewarding species, including Knysna Turaco, Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher. We drove towards Plettenberg Bay, making scenic stops overlooking the Robberg Peninsula, keeping a sharp lookout for whales and dolphins along the coastline.

Our next stop was the town of Knysna, where we explored fynbos and estuary habitats. Here we were rewarded with sightings of some of South Africa's endemic specials, including Knysna Warbler and other sought-after forest and wetland birds.

In the afternoon, we continued to Wilderness. We visited the Big Tree and enjoyed more forest birding, before exploring estuary and river systems. The latter part of the afternoon was spent at bird hides, where the quiet setting allowed us to round off the day with excellent birding. As the sun set, we made our way back to Sedgefield for our overnight stay.

Day 7

Sunday 31st August

Sedgefield to De Hoop Nature Reserve

We had an early breakfast, knowing it would be a long day on the road. We followed the N2 highway eastwards towards Riversdale, before turning south towards Witsand, where we planned to stop for lunch. Along the way, we passed through patches of Renosterveld and extensive agricultural fields of the Overberg region. Several small pans produced excellent sightings of both Greater and Lesser Flamingoes, along with a variety of other waterbird species. Our lunch stop was made even more memorable by views of a large number of Southern Right Whales just offshore.

From here, we continued towards the pontoon over the Breede River, an unusual and scenic part of the journey, before entering De Hoop Nature Reserve, arriving late in the afternoon. Before dinner, the group gathered for a short walk and some birding, scanning over the wetlands in search of a few more species to round off the day.

Day 8

Monday 1st September

De Hoop Nature Reserve

Some of us started fairly early, while most of the group took the opportunity for a short break before breakfast. We were fortunate to find new species, including Great White Pelican and Caspian Tern. Because the weather remained overcast and threatened rain, we did not locate any Cape Vultures, which rely on thermals to soar and scavenge efficiently.

From here, we set out towards Koppie Alleen, stopping at Bites Restaurant for lunch. While there, we enjoyed spectacular views of Southern Right Whales, including a brindled calf. A rough count suggested we saw approximately twenty to thirty whales within just a few hundred metres of the shore. A brindled Southern Right Whale calf is a rare and striking sight. This unusual coloration is caused by a partial loss of pigmentation, giving the calf a white or pale grey appearance. Only about 2-4% of calves are born with this pattern, and they are almost always male.

After lunch, we returned to our accommodation at De Hoop, where we had some time to relax. During the afternoon and evening walks, we were treated to sightings of remarkable mammals, including Cape Mountain Zebra, Bontebok, Grey Rhebok, and Cape Eland. After dinner, the group ventured out for a short walk to see what wildlife we could encounter, rounding off another rewarding day in the reserve.

Day 9

Tuesday 2nd September

De Hoop to Hermanus

We started the day with an early morning departure, heading out well before sunrise in search of new bird species. After a rewarding start, we returned for breakfast before setting off towards the southernmost tip of Africa, Cape Agulhas. At the cape, we stopped to take photographs and enjoy the scenery, keeping a lookout for seabirds along the coastline. We returned to the vehicle for a leisurely lunch before continuing our journey.

We then made our way through the Overberg region and Agulhas plains, actively searching for more endemic species. One of the highlights along the route, and a 'tick' on many group members' lists, was a pair of Karoo Korhaans. Continuing through the historic town of Elim, many of the group also opted to visit Strandveld Vineyards, one of the southernmost vineyards on the African continent. Here, we enjoyed wine tasting while observing the gardens, with another highlight sighting of a Red-chested Sparrowhawk.

By late afternoon, we arrived in Hermanus, just in time for dinner. After an early evening meal, we returned to our accommodation, reflecting on a long but highly rewarding day on the road.

Day 10

Wednesday 3rd September

Hermanus

We started our morning early, just as the sun rose, scanning the waters of Walker Bay for signs of whales and dolphins. After a quick breakfast, we made our way to Hermanus Harbour to join our boat for a morning of whale watching.

The morning proved incredibly rewarding. We enjoyed several close encounters with Southern Right Whales, and were entertained by the playful antics of an Indo-Pacific Humpback Dolphin that decided to follow a Bryde's Whale, providing several spectacular breaches. On a personal level, this was one of my highlights of the trip and without any doubt my best day out at sea viewing whales.

After returning from the sea, we stopped for an early lunch, before heading to Fernkloof Nature Reserve, keeping a keen eye out for the unique fynbos species of the area. Highlights included excellent views of Cape Sugarbird and Orange-breasted Sunbird.

The afternoon was spent doing more land-based whale watching and taking in the stunning coastal scenery, before we drove to the top of the Rotary Way, which offers breathtaking views over Hermanus and Walker Bay. The day concluded with a relaxed dinner.

Day 11

Thursday 4th September

Harold Porter National Botanical Gardens, Stoney Point and Rooiels

We started the morning fairly early: a quick scan over the ocean revealed several Southern Right Whales were still present. Afterwards, we set off for the Vermont salt pan, where we connected with a few more bird species not yet recorded on the tour. A real highlight was Purple Swamphen, which we saw well.

We continued to the Harold Porter National Botanical Gardens in search of a few more specials. However, with the weather changing, activity was subdued, and the gardens proved less productive than usual.

Our next stop was Stony Point, where African Penguins absolutely stole the show and became one of the highlights of the trip. The site also offered excellent views of several cormorant species, with all four marine species present.

Our final birding stop took us to the rocky slopes in search of the Cape Rockjumper. We were exceptionally fortunate to locate two birds quickly and at close range: it was a memorable encounter with which to close the tour. From Rooi Els, we continued along the beautiful coastal route, making a few final stops before a farewell lunch at Gordons Bay. We then proceeded to the airport at Cape Town, ahead of the return flight to Heathrow.

Day 12

Friday 5th September

Return home

Clients returned to Heathrow after a long overnight flight.

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Species lists

Birds

E=endemic, N=near-endemic, I=introduced		August - September 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
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>		✓	✓			✓				
Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>						✓				
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey-winged Francolin	<i>Scleroptila afra</i>							✓	✓	✓	
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>							✓			
Cape Spurfowl - N	<i>Pternistis capensis</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-necked Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis afer</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓					
Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>						✓				
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>						✓				
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>					✓	✓	✓			
Knysna Turaco - N	<i>Tauraco corythaix</i>				✓	✓	✓				
Ludwig's Bustard	<i>Neotis ludwigii</i>		✓	✓							
Denham's Bustard	<i>Neotis denhami</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
Karoo Korhaan - N	<i>Heterotetrax vigorsii</i>						✓	✓			
Southern Black Korhaan - E	<i>Afrotis afra</i>			✓							
Burchell's Coucal	<i>Centropus burchellii</i>						✓				
Namaqua Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles namaqua</i>										
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lemon Dove	<i>Aplopelia larvata</i>				✓						
Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
African Olive Pigeon	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>			✓	✓						
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rock Dove - I	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓		✓							
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>			✓	✓						
African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>		✓								
Grey Crowned Crane	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>										
Blue Crane	<i>Grus paradisea</i>						✓	✓	✓		
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>										✓
Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>			✓							
Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>			✓				✓	✓		
Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>							✓	✓		
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
African Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus moquini</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>			✓							
Three-banded Plover	<i>Thinornis tricoloris</i>					✓	✓		✓	✓	

E=endemic, N=near-endemic, I=introduced		August - September 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>			✓	✓					✓	
Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Anarhynchus pecuarius</i>							✓			
White-fronted Plover	<i>Anarhynchus marginatus</i>							✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>			✓							
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>					✓	✓				
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>					✓	✓	✓			
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>								✓		
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>						✓	✓			
Damara Tern	<i>Sternula balaenarum</i>			✓							
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>					✓	✓				
Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>			✓							
Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>				✓						
Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>				✓						
Hartlaub's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus hartlaubii</i>			✓					✓	✓	✓
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>			✓					✓	✓	✓
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
African Penguin	<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>									✓	✓
Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>				✓						
Northern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>				✓						
Cape Gannet	<i>Morus capensis</i>			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Crowned Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo coronatus</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bank Cormorant - N	<i>Phalacrocorax neglectus</i>										✓
Cape Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>						✓				
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>					✓		✓	✓	✓	
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>						✓				
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>						✓	✓	✓		
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>								✓		
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>										
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>					✓					
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>				✓						
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>					✓	✓				
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Freckled Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus tristigma</i>						✓				
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>			✓	✓						
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>					✓					
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Horus Swift	<i>Apus horus</i>					✓	✓				
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
African Black Swift	<i>Apus barbatus</i>						✓	✓			

E=endemic, N=near-endemic, I=introduced		August - September 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>						✓				
Spotted Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>						✓	✓	✓		
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>					✓	✓	✓			
Black-chested Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>			✓							
Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>		✓								
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>			✓	✓						
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>		✓								
Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			
Little Sparrowhawk	<i>Tachyspiza minulla</i>					✓					
Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter rufiventris</i>								✓		
Black Sparrowhawk	<i>Astur melanoleucus</i>					✓	✓				
Black Harrier	<i>Circus maurus</i>					✓		✓			
African Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>								✓		
African Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga vocifer</i>					✓			✓		
Jackal Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Forest Buzzard	<i>Buteo trizonatus</i>					✓	✓				
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>			✓	✓			✓			
Red-faced Mousebird	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Narina Trogon	<i>Apaloderma narina</i>				✓						
Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	
Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>				✓	✓					
Crowned Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros alboterminatus</i>					✓					
White-fronted Bee-eater	<i>Merops bullockoides</i>			✓							
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>								✓		
Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>					✓	✓				
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>					✓	✓				
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>			✓	✓						
Acacia Pied Barbet	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>			✓							
Black-collared Barbet	<i>Lybius torquatus</i>			✓							
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>		✓								
Scaly-throated Honeyguide	<i>Indicator variegatus</i>				✓						
Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>			✓							
Olive Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos griseocephalus</i>				✓	✓	✓				
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>										
Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicolus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>			✓							
Southern Tchagra	<i>Tchagra tchagra</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Grey-headed Bushshrike	<i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i>			✓	✓	✓					
Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓					
Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Olive Bushshrike	<i>Chlorophoneus olivaceus</i>				✓	✓					
Southern Boubou	<i>Laniarius ferrugineus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cape Batis	<i>Batis capensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓			
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher	<i>Trochocercus cyanomelas</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

E=endemic, N=near-endemic, I=introduced		August - September 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
White-necked Raven	<i>Corvus albicollis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cape Rockjumper - E	<i>Chaetops frenatus</i>										✓
Karoo Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda subcoronata</i>								✓		
Cape Long-billed Lark - N	<i>Certhilauda curvirostris</i>								✓		
Cape Clapper Lark - N	<i>Corypha apiata</i>								✓		
Large-billed Lark	<i>Galerida magnirostris</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	
Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>						✓	✓	✓		
Cape Grassbird	<i>Sphenoeacus afer</i>						✓	✓	✓		
Victorin's Warbler - E	<i>Cryptillas victorini</i>					✓					
Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>			✓	✓						
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>			✓							
Bleating Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>				✓	✓					
Bar-throated Apalis	<i>Apalis thoracica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Karoo Prinia	<i>Prinia maculosa</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey-backed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola subruficapilla</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Levaillant's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola tinniens</i>								✓	✓	
Neddicky	<i>Cisticola fulvicapilla</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>							✓	✓	✓	
Lesser Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>					✓			✓		
Knysna Warbler - E	<i>Bradypterus sylvaticus</i>					✓					
Little Rush Warbler	<i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>					✓					
Black Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne pristoptera</i>			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>						✓	✓	✓		
Large Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>		✓	✓							
Pearl-breasted Swallow	<i>Hirundo dimidiata</i>		✓	✓	✓					✓	
White-throated Swallow	<i>Hirundo albigularis</i>					✓		✓	✓	✓	
Greater Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis cucullata</i>				✓			✓	✓	✓	
Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus ruficapilla</i>				✓	✓					
Sombre Greenbul	<i>Andropadus importunus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Terrestrial Brownbul	<i>Phyllastrephus terrestris</i>					✓	✓				
African Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>		✓	✓	✓						
Cape Bulbul - E	<i>Pycnonotus capensis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>		✓	✓							
Layard's Warbler	<i>Curruca layardi</i>		✓	✓							
Chestnut-vented Warbler	<i>Curruca subcoerulea</i>		✓	✓	✓						
Cape White-eye	<i>Zosterops virens</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Starling - I	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓			
Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Black-bellied Starling	<i>Notopholia corusca</i>			✓	✓						
Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>		✓	✓	✓						
Pied Starling - N	<i>Lamprotornis bicolor</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
Karoo Thrush	<i>Turdus smithi</i>		✓	✓				✓			
Olive Thrush	<i>Turdus olivaceus</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓		
Karoo Scrub Robin - N	<i>Tychaemon coryphoeus</i>	✓	✓	✓					✓		
White-browed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>										
Fiscal Flycatcher	<i>Sigelus silens</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
African Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>			✓	✓	✓				✓	✓

E=endemic, N=near-endemic, I=introduced		August - September 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
White-starred Robin	<i>Pogonocichla stellata</i>				✓	✓					
Chorister Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha dichroa</i>				✓	✓					
Cape Robin-Chat	<i>Dessonornis caffer</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cape Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola rupestris</i>										✓
African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	✓	✓					✓			
Ant-eating Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>	✓	✓	✓							
Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Familiar Chat	<i>Oenanthe familiaris</i>	✓	✓		✓						✓
Cape Sugarbird - E	<i>Promerops cafer</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓
Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>	✓			✓	✓					
Orange-breasted Sunbird - E	<i>Anthobaphes violacea</i>									✓	✓
Grey Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra veroxii</i>			✓	✓						
Malachite Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia famosa</i>		✓	✓							✓
Amethyst Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra amethystina</i>					✓	✓				
Southern Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris chalybeus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greater Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris afer</i>		✓	✓	✓						✓
Spectacled Weaver	<i>Ploceus ocularis</i>	✓		✓							
Cape Weaver	<i>Ploceus capensis</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Southern Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>		✓								
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>		✓								
Southern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>		✓								
Yellow Bishop	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>					✓	✓				
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>									✓	✓
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
House Sparrow - I	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nicholson's Pipit	<i>Anthus nicholsoni</i>						✓				
African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>		✓				✓	✓	✓		
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>		✓	✓							
Forest Canary - N	<i>Crithagra scotops</i>					✓					✓
Brimstone Canary	<i>Crithagra sulphurata</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Yellow Canary	<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>			✓	✓						
White-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra albogularis</i>		✓	✓							
Streaky-headed Seedeater	<i>Crithagra gularis</i>					✓	✓	✓			
Cape Canary	<i>Serinus canicollis</i>					✓	✓	✓			✓
Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>					✓					
Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>							✓	✓		✓

Mammals

Common name	Scientific name	August - September 2025									
		26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
African Savanna Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	✓	✓	✓							
Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>				✓	✓					
Vervet Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>			✓							
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>					✓					
Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>					✓					
Afro-Australian Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>		✓								✓
Black-backed Jackal	<i>Lupulella mesomelas</i>	✓	✓	✓							
Cape Fox	<i>Vulpes chama</i>		✓	✓							
Caracal	<i>Caracal caracal</i>						✓				
Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>	✓	✓			✓					
Egyptian Mongoose	<i>Herpestes ichneumon</i>					✓					
Cape Gray Mongoose	<i>Herpestes pulverulentus</i>	✓	✓	✓							✓
Meerkat	<i>Suricata suricatta</i>		✓								
Spotted Hyena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>		✓	✓							
Black Rhinoceros	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>		✓								
Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>	✓	✓	✓							
Mountain Zebra	<i>Equus zebra</i>						✓	✓			
Southern Right Whale	<i>Eubalaena australis</i>								✓	✓	✓
Bryde's Whale	<i>Balaenoptera brydei</i>						✓			✓	
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>				✓						
Panglobal Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>				✓						
Indo-Pacific Humpback Dolphin	<i>Sousa chinensis</i>									✓	
Indo-Pacific Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops aduncus</i>			✓							
Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>	✓	✓	✓							
Bontebok	<i>Damaliscus pygargus</i>						✓	✓			
Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>					✓					
Cape Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>	✓	✓	✓							
Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>	✓	✓	✓							
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>	✓	✓	✓							