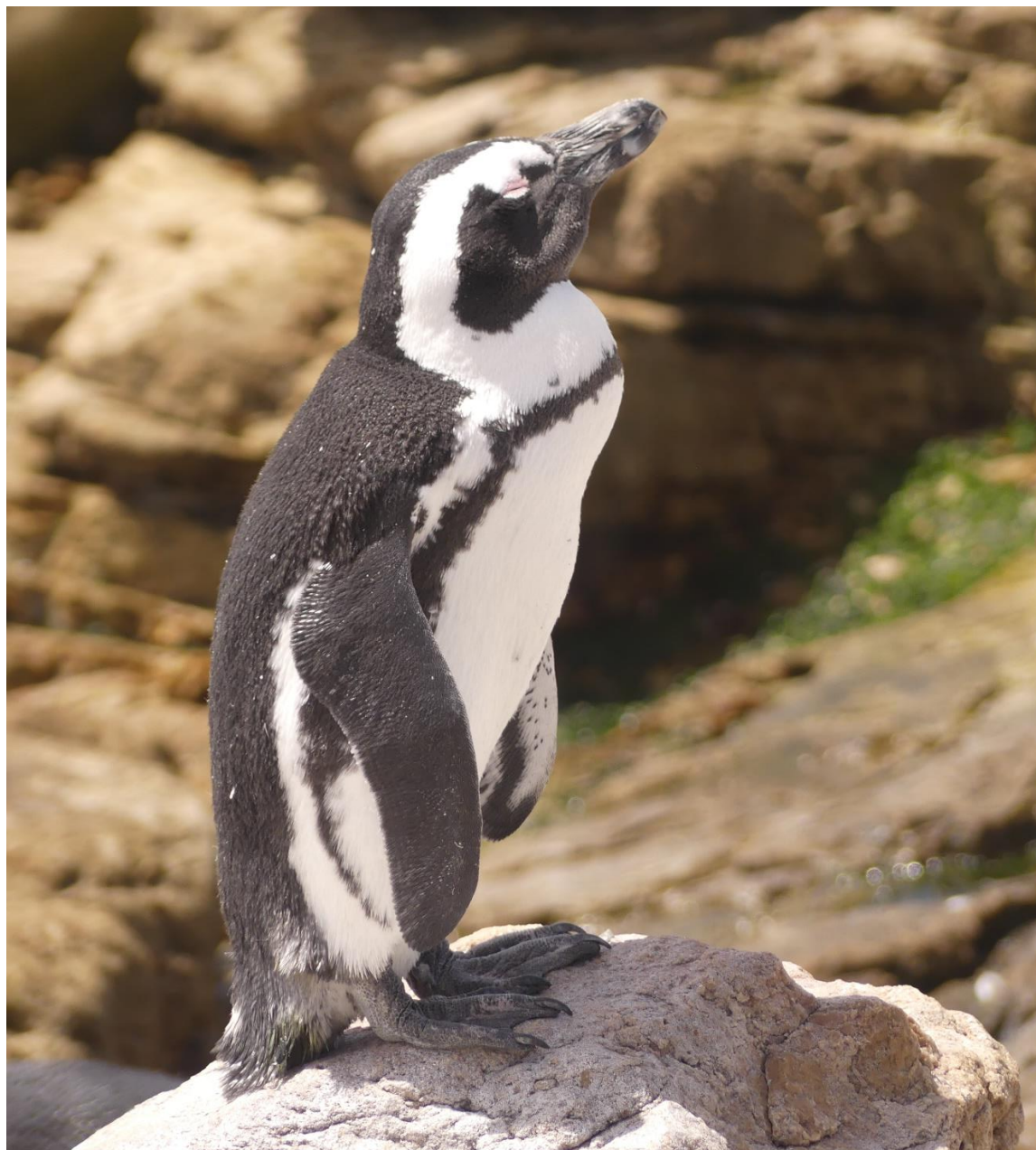




WESTERN CAPE – SOUTH AFRICA

OCTOBER 30TH TO NOVEMBER 11TH 2024

Wednesday 30th and Thursday 31st October: the Cape Crusaders

The Oriole Birding group of seven met at T5 Heathrow for the overnight flight to Cape Town. The flight was without incident, and we landed at midday on the 31st.

We soon met up with Brian, our local guide for the tour, and our driver Ian. A quick stop for lunch in the airport (lemon meringue pies to die for among other things!) and we were on our way to the staple of every self-respecting birding tour: a sewage farm. But this was no ordinary sewage farm. This was an enormous, drive round, RAMSAR site!

Ninety-minutes later, we had opened the tour's birding with a bang: thousands of Greater Flamingos, lesser numbers of Lesser Flamingos, Cape Shovelers, Cape Teals, Southern Pochards, Yellow-billed Ducks, Cape Shelducks and a Fulvous Whistling Duck.

Waders came in the shape of Blacksmith Lapwings, Avocets, Black-winged Stilts and Spotted Thick-knees. Thousands of Kelp, Hartlaub's and a couple of Grey-headed Gulls joined the throng along with a few Caspian Terns, Sandwich Terns and a single Greater Crested Tern. To cap it off, thousands of African Sacred Ibises were at every turn. It was a very 'birdy' start to the trip to say the least.

We checked into our lodge in Cape Town and had a quick turnaround to drive the short distance to dinner on Woodbridge Island. We were seated on a veranda overlooking the sea with Table Mountain in the background. I'm not sure I have ever eaten dinner in a more scenic surrounding.

We returned to the Lodge to compile the afternoon's bird log before retiring for an early night to be fresh for tomorrow's exciting birds.



Dinner overlooked by 'The Tablecloth'

Friday, November 1st: National Bird Day

After breakfast at 7.00am, we were out and watching a local stretch of river at 8.15am. We saw our first Great Crested Grebes, Little Egrets, Common Terns and African Oystercatchers of the trip.

We next made the forty-five-minute drive into the leafy suburbs of Cape Town to Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens. It was then only a matter of a minute's walk from the entrance gate to where a very confiding Spotted Eagle Owl was staring back at us. What a bird to start off our visit with!

For the next three and three quarter hours, Brian led us through the stunning gardens to the birding hotspots, where the species came thick and fast. Malachite and Southern Double-collared Sunbirds were much admired, as were Cape Sugarbirds, Cape Batis, Cape Canaries, Cape Bulbuls, Cape White-eyes, African Paradise Flycatchers and, erm, Egyptian Geese. A hot but satisfied bunch of birders flopped back into the van for the drive to lunch.

New birds kept coming even during the rest stop, with Southern Fiscal and Greater Striped Swallow added to the list while eating. Afterwards, we drove to a nearby shoreline where we saw Cape Sparrows, Crowned Cormorants and a delightful White-fronted Plover.

The rest of our birding day was spent driving along the back roads of Philadelphia, scanning for farmland birds. The undoubted highlight was the elegant Blue Cranes – South Africa's National Bird – we found by the track. Southern Red Bishops shone in the sun but the Long-billed and African Pipits not so much. A Cape Longclaw eluded most but everyone saw the Fiscal Flycatcher.

We followed the highway back towards the ever-present Table Mountain and arrived at the lodge at 6.00pm. After a quick turnaround, it was back to last evening's restaurant for another meal overlooking the stunning mountains and ocean.

Saturday, November 2nd: a Black day

During breakfast, Brian informed us that his meticulous plan for the day had been scattered to the wind by an overturned lorry which had spilled diesel on the road. Yes, as The Law of Sod would have it, this was our planned route to the National Park!

As all good bird guides do, Brian very quickly came up with Plan B and we were away! Our detour roads took us through some pristine Fynbos habitat – a small coastal belt of natural shrubland with a Mediterranean climate famous for its high degree of biodiversity and endemism.

Common Fiscals were regular companions on the fence posts, as were Pearl-breasted Swallows, Yellow-billed and Black-shouldered Kites and Cape Weavers. A major highlight came when a male Black Harrier was spotted quartering the Fynbos before it circled towards us to show superbly well. PHWOAR!

A side track provided us with an African Hoopoe, Southern Masked Weavers, Brimstone Canaries, a male Malachite Sunbird, confiding Karoo Bush Robins and two endemic Grey-winged Francolins.

We took lunch at a pleasant roadside restaurant-cum-farm shop before heading to the West Coast National Park. This turned out to be a vast area of Fynbos and coastal dunes. Bokmakieries did their best to hide from us as we made our way to a bird hide overlooking a small pool of water and reeds. Our first African Spoonbills were sleeping (of course) on an island where a dualling pair of Lesser Swamp Warblers tried to ruin their afternoon nap. Yellow Canaries added a dash of colour to proceedings.

We drove a few more miles through yet more amazing Fynbos habitat, where we glimpsed a Southern Black Korhaan seemingly in a friendship with a Black-headed Heron. We parked and walked along a boardwalk through an area of wildflowers to The High Water Hide. Here, we sorted through the waders and seabirds picking out African Oystercatchers, White-fronted and Kittlitz's Plovers, Little Stints, Whimbrel and Greenshanks, plus six species of tern. Two Black-winged

Kites flew quite close on the walk back to the van but the star bird turned out to be a showy Cape Grassbird.

We drove through Langebaan and past our guesthouse. Our confusion turned into anticipation when Brian told Ian to pull up by the side of the road by a quarry. "Keep your eyes open for Black Eagles", explained our guide teasingly.

Sure enough, after a very short wait, two huge eagles appeared and soared over the quarry! At one point, four Rock Kestrels and three White-necked Ravens were mobbing these magnificent birds. After extensive flight views, the eagles (now known as Verreaux's Eagles) went and sat on a specially built perch, where they were in full view to admire through telescopes. What a breathtaking end to the birding day!

At the restaurant that night, we made a toast to Mr. Jules Verreaux to thank him for his eagles. Cheers!

Sunday, November 3rd: waders galore

We took everything with us this morning, including a pack up breakfast and lunch. We made the short drive to the High Water Hide we had visited yesterday. The walk to the hide along the boardwalk was taken on a wonderfully clear and still morning. The birds were singing and we could already see a host of waders on the beach in the distance.

The light was perfect for sorting through the Whimbrels and Curlews, the various plovers and *calidris* species, which included Grey Plovers and Sanderlings new for the trip. After a good scan, we walked back to the van getting good views of Bokmakierie at last plus Karoo Prinias, Cape Bulbuls and Long-billed Crombecs. Afterwards, on the drive around the park, we were thrilled to see a fabulous Mole Snake basking in the sun and a super quick Boomslang darting across the road.

We left the park and headed for the fields and scrub around the steelworks. With a bit of effort, we truffled out Karoo and Large-billed Larks as well as Karoo Scrub Robins and Grey-backed Cisticolas. A 'Baboon Spider' scuttling away was a rather handsome beast, but not to everyone's taste!

We drove on a ways and scoured the farmland for birds. Blue Cranes were obvious and much appreciated, but it was the LBJs we were most after. Again, with effort, we managed to see a Sickle-winged Lark and a Cape Long-billed Lark as well as more Capped Wheatears, Cisticolas and swallows.

The morning ended at a local sewage works, which was full of birds. The first sighting was of a majestic Spotted Eagle Owl sat on the ground at the entrance! We drove around the salt pans examining every wader. There were reasonably large numbers of exquisite Chestnut-banded Plovers – with juveniles – Little Stints, Curlew Sandpipers, Black-winged Stilts, Kittlitz's Plovers and Avocets. We couldn't locate the reported Red-necked Phalarope.

We ate our picnic lunches overlooking a marsh and then had a coffee stop by the river, where a fishing African Darter and nest-building Little Swift kept us entertained. There then followed a two hour drive to Ceres, where the habitat became decidedly mountainous. Brian knew a rill by a layby where birds came down to drink of an evening.

This afternoon, we were treated to Karoo Thrushes, Cape Robin Chats and Cape White-eyes but there was no sign of the hoped for Protea Seed eaters. It was time to head for the Riverside Lodge but not before calling in at the river to try and find an African Black Duck: success!

After a quick turnaround, we drove into Ceres and had another pleasant meal in convivial company. We compiled the bird log back in the hotel's lounge. We had seen many birds; many good birds on what was essentially a travelling day.

Monday, November 4th: just deserts

After a quick coffee in the hotel, we collected our packed breakfasts and set off for the Karoo – which means 'Dry Land' - at 6.15am. Our targets today mainly included skulking dry habitat birds

such as larks, chats and warblers. What we didn't expect was how cold the Karoo was in the early morning (about 7 degrees). The wind chill added to the feeling of a Norfolk saltmarsh on a November day!

As usual, with this sort of habitat, we found quite a few good birds but also missed a few targets. The wind didn't help. Blue Cranes were seen on the crop fields as we drove to the semi desert but all eyes were peeled when we reached the rocky Karoo. Mountain Chat (Wheatear) was the first bird of note, followed by Southern Double-collared Sunbird and Long-billed Crombec.

A further stop at another rocky pull-in started well when we startled a couple of Spotted Eagle Owls off the ground. Layard's Warblers (Tit Babbler) showed well, as did Karoo Prinias and more Mountain Chats. A stunning Black Harrier lazily flapped over our heads bringing gasps of admiration from the group.

Although our constant search for Cinnamon-breasted Warbler proved fruitless, we managed good views of Cape Buntings, Black-headed Canaries, a Karoo Chat and a gorgeous Pale Chanting Goshawk. Neil's favourite was the beautiful Puff Adder that we admired on the road!

Lunch was taken at a marvellously quirky place called Tanqua Pedstal, which sold all manner of things from small sweets, huge cow bells and everything in between. It also served delicious, simple lunches.

The afternoon was spent exploring new tracks in the Karoo plus retracing our steps back to town. Everyone was happy to see the majestic Secretarybird despite the heat haze and dust. We weren't so happy to feel the first spots of rain of the trip.

New birds included Tractrac and Ant-eating Chats but we failed to find Spike-heeled Lark or Cinnamon-breasted Warbler. You win some; you lose some.

On the way back to the lodge, we tried again at the hillside watering spot we went to yesterday. Again, we failed to see any Protea Seed eaters but Cape White-eye and Cape Robin Chat kept us alert for things dropping in to drink.

The evening meal was taken in the lodge at 7.00pm, and very tasty it was too.

Tuesday, November 5th: persistence pays off

A leisurely breakfast in the hotel set us up for a morning of unfinished business. We headed straight back to the Karoo to find a couple of species we failed to find yesterday.

The wind wasn't as strong as yesterday which made finding the Fairy Flycatcher easier. The Cinnamon-breasted Warbler was still eluding us. In fact, Brian took us to a 'last chance saloon' site. Sure enough, we were soon watching a subtly beautiful warbler flitting about the rocks. The ultimatum from Brian worked!

We could now drive to Montague with a sense of satisfaction for a delicious lunch at a winery plus stock up with dried fruit, nuts, etc.

Our final destination was Honeywood Farm. The drive produced more birds, such as Cape Crow, Giant Kingfisher and Black Saw-wing. A Paradise Flycatcher was less expected in a roadside bush near the ground: a bizarre sighting.

We arrived at our rural accommodation at 4.30pm and settled into our rustic chalets. Four of us spent the next 90 minutes birdwatching from the lodge's veranda.

A Red-chested Cuckoo called constantly but we simply couldn't find it. Fiscal Flycatcher and Speckled Mousebird showed well, though. The four of us staying in the lodge away from the main buildings were picked up by Ian in the van at 6.15pm for a delicious homemade dinner in the main building. The four of us walked back to the chalet at 8.15pm. The less said about that adventure the better!

Wednesday 6th November: some forest birding

We had an early morning, pre-breakfast walk around Honeywood Farm on a glorious morning. The Cape Weavers building nests by the main building provided fine entertainment, as did the family of Olive Woodpeckers going about their morning business.

We piled into the van and drove the short distance to the Goortvaderbosch National Park and walked down several forested trails. To say it was such a sunny and still morning, birding activity was relatively quiet. Olive Thrushes, Cape Robin Chats, African Dusky Flycatchers and many Cape White-eyes showed well and a Forest Buzzard perched nicely for us.

We returned to Honeywood for a wonderful brunch at 10.00am. After the filling meal, we tried again for the honeyguides around the beehive but they remained invisible. We made a return to the National Park, where a Black-headed Oriole greeted our Oriole Birding group – rather aptly – before a couple of Olive Bushrikes played hide and seek with us. A close Cape Batis was a very welcome sight.

It was time to move on, so we drove to the Agulhas Plains and drove round the dusty farm roads searching for bustards, larks and other dry habitat species. We tried very hard and throughout the afternoon, our sharp-eyed group found two Karoo Korhaans, two Southern Black Korhaans, Blue Cranes, Large-billed and Red-capped Larks and hundreds of Helmeted Guinea-fowls. Perhaps the highlight was when three Cape Vultures drifted over and circled to give the group a once over.

We were back at the lodge at 6.00pm before another very tasty, home cooked dinner at 7.00pm. Our hosts Ian and Miranda Moodie were really treating us wonderfully.

Thursday. November 7th: larking about and an unexpected Leopard

Another beautiful sunny morning found us on a pre-breakfast walk around Honeywood Farm grounds. Greater Double-collared Sunbirds shone in the sun, a Forest Buzzard drifted over, the Cape Weavers were still busy noisily weaving nests but no honeyguides of any sort paid us a visit.

After breakfast, we waved goodbye to our hosts and drove slowly along the access roads. The river bridge provided us with Giant Kingfishers again, along with a Grey-hooded Kingfisher, White-throated Swallows, Red and Yellow Bishops and a delicate Pin-tailed Whydah.

It was now that Brian and Ian chose to break the devastating news that all pelagic trips had been cancelled for the rest of the week due to high winds. We were all hugely disappointed at the news: no albatrosses, shearwaters or petrels for us on this tour!

We headed for the Agulhas Plains in sombre mood. The sight of Blue Cranes lifted the mood a bit but then the larks took our minds off things for a while. Large-billed and Red-capped captured our attention before Brian and Ian heard our target bird singing: Agulhas Long-billed Lark.

In the very strong wind (and dust), it took us quite a while to locate where the sound was coming from but in the end we all had telescope views of the subtle lark (as two people held the tripod still!).

We then drove quite a way to our lunch stop in the café of the De Hoop National Park. On the way, we saw Ostriches, Bonteboks and Mountain Zebras. After a pleasant lunch, we took a stroll around the park's bushes, though the wind made finding any birds difficult. Southern Fiscals didn't seem to mind the conditions and we also startled a pair of Water Thick Knees off the path. A large Leopard Tortoise sort of stole the show.

A really long drive back to Cape Town and beyond followed. We arrived at our dinner venue in Simon's Town at 7.15pm. It was amusing to see Chacma Baboons walking down the High Street being escorted by the 'Baboon Monitors': people in hi-viz jackets waving flags to warn establishments to close doors and windows until the apes had passed. You don't see that in Brighton!

On arrival at our seaview hotel after 9.00pm, we decided to compile a double log tomorrow (always a dodgy decision in my experience).

Friday, November 8th: staring longingly out to sea!

After breakfast overlooking the ocean, we set off at 8.15am and headed back towards Cape Town. To our uninitiated eyes, the weather looked perfect for a day on a boat. However, conditions in a sheltered bay are a completely different kettle of fish to those 40 miles due South of Cape Horn!! We had to trust the experienced boat captains in these circumstances.

A two hour drive along the coast brought us to Rooi Els. We parked by a track and took a stroll. We had a rocky hillside to our left and holiday houses overlooking the sea to our right. It wasn't long before movement stopped us in our tracks. Up ahead was a pair of Cape Rockjumpers. As we stood still, these charismatic birds jumped from rock to rock as they came closer and closer. They paid us no attention at all while they hunted for bugs among the low scrub and flowers. Delightful!

A movement behind the rockjumpers turned out to be a stunning Orange-breasted Sunbird: two endemic species for the price of one. Brian then pointed behind us, where a Cape Rock Thrush was perched on a roof. Where should we look first?! Beautiful Southern Rock Agamas scuttled around us catching flies, and a singing male Cape Bunting vied for our attention. What a wonderful walk.

After quite a while, we returned to the van and drove the short distance to Stony Point. We were soon watching African Penguins on the rocks (not the name of a cocktail but perhaps it ought to be?). Some individuals were directly under the boardwalk, using our walkway as shelter from the heat!

We continued along the walkway to a point where we could see a cormorant nesting colony. Phalacrocorphiles had a great time, picking out White-breasted, Cape, Crested and Bank all together on the rocks. Unbelievably cute baby Rock Hyraxes completed the scene as we returned to our vehicle. We had a very tasty lunch in a nearby café.

It was 2.30pm by the time we set off again. Our intention was to complete some unfinished business with a certain bustard, so Ian drove us onto the Karwyderskloof Road. We scanned the grassland at regular intervals and could soon see a large bird walking on a distant hill. By the time we could assemble telescopes, the 'bustard' – or similar word – had walked over the ridge!

Further on, a large white plastic bag was spotted on another hill, which on closer inspection turned out to be our target: Denham's Bustard. Even this individual tried to hide from us behind vegetation.

We needn't have worried because a much shower bird was creeping through the low bushes on the hill behind us. This bustard was admired at length by everyone through telescopes. As we started back home, yet another male Denham's Bustard was spotted displaying in the open, if a little distant through a heat haze. What an amazing bird, as it fluffed out its feathers in an extravagant display. A Capped Wheatear came close to us, as if to give us the once over.

We returned to Simon's Town in the ever increasing wind and ate dinner in the same restaurant as yesterday (still Baboon free). Back at Whale View, we compiled two days' bird logs. Today had definitely been one of quality over quantity.

Saturday, 9th November: a whale of a time

Early risers were treated to the sight of a breaching whale from the hotel. Well, it is called Whale View, after all! Photographs later confirmed that the huge animal was a Humpback Whale. Then, and throughout breakfast, there were at least five more whale blows.

Conditions were blustery to say the least and all we could do was look out at the very choppy ocean and dream of seabirds. Instead, we drove along the coast to the Cape of Good Hope National Park.

We drove through the Fynbos to the coast and parked up with a rocky hillside on one side of us and the boiling sea on the other side. Three Ostriches were nonchalantly feeding close to the sea, providing a unique picture opportunity!

Sharp-eyed members of the group soon spotted two shapes on a rock on high. Telescope views confirmed the birds as Ground Woodpeckers, our target species. Everyone enjoyed views of this charismatic woody species.

Meanwhile, behind us, the scan for seabirds continued. Despite the cancellation of the boat, we were determined to eke out one or two pelagic species. The air was alive with fishing terns; thousands of them. Try as we might, we couldn't pick out anything other than cormorants from the throng. As we were about to leave, the shout rang out: "Three Cape Gannets, flying left!" They were quite close in, too.

We parked a bit further along the coast, where the obligatory Good Hope group photograph was taken. It had to be done. Thousands of terns and cormorants could still be seen. Afro-Australian (Cape) Fur Seals were basking on the rocks offshore, while closer terns could be identified as Common, Greater Crested and Sandwich.

Telescopes were put to use to scan the sea further out. One or two managed to pick out a handful of Sooty Shearwaters but try as we might, we left the park albatross less. A fairly long drive next took us along the coastal scenic route to Paarl Mountain Nature Reserve. This was also our lunch stop.

The view was spectacular! Table Mountain could be seen cloaked in cloud – the Tablecloth, as it is known – in the distance across the valley. Above us was the Afrikaans Taalmuseum – the Language Monument. Just in front of our table was a flower bed complete with Citrus Swallowtail butterflies, and a Karoo Prinia building a nest inches from the path. A Booted Eagle soared overhead as lunch arrived.

Afterwards, we took a dusty track up into the reserve, where we parked in the shade. We took an uphill walk into the Botanical Garden in search of birds. Cape Canaries were much in evidence and we saw four species of sunbird: Malachite, Greater Double-collared, Orange-breasted and a female Amethyst. Cape Sugarbirds patrolled the Giant Protea flowers.

We left the reserve at 4.30pm and drove to our hotel in Rostenbosch. And what a beautiful guesthouse it was! We checked in at 6.00pm, which left us an hour at leisure before dinner in-house at 7.00pm.

This was our last evening meal of the tour together, which is always a sad occasion. However, a few bottles of the local wine made for a convivial evening!

Sunday, November 10th: more bad wind

We woke to a couple of pieces of information: Jane, in the Oriole Office back in Blighty, had checked us in for the return flight later today; our cable car trip up Table Mountain had been cancelled due to 50mph winds. There's that pesky word again: wind! Compensation came in the form of a quite wonderful breakfast in the guesthouse.

We were loaded and away by 8.15am. There was an air of 'last day blues' in the van as we drove to a couple of wetland sites around Cape Town. A stop at an unpromising stretch of non-native pines by the road did little to lift spirits. We soon perked up when a Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk hurtled in to try and take out one of the introduced Grey Squirrels!

We next stopped at False Bay, scene of our first birding seemingly oh so long ago. The tide was coming in fast, pushing hundreds of terns off their roosting sandbanks. Waders included Spotted Thick Knees, Blacksmith Plovers, Black-winged Stilts, African Oystercatchers and a Greenshank.

A roadside pool provided us with our first views of charismatic White-backed Ducks before we moved on to Dolphin Beach. Here we took a walk along a busy road (cars and cyclists) to view the marsh either side of the highway. Wood Sandpipers joined the usual waders, and a

Little Rush Warbler sang it's heart out in full view. An African Swampphen was a most welcome sight for those who had missed them earlier in the trip.

Mid-morning found us pulling into the car park of the Rondevliet Wetland Reserve. The very strong wind was really quite cool! A leisurely stroll to the five hides saw us struggling to find birds, as they were keeping their heads down. A flyby of Great White Pelicans was dramatic, as they battled the wind but the Black Sparrowhawk seemed to be handling conditions better as it floated past us.

A Three-banded Plover defended its chicks with the broken wing trick and a few Cape Skinks were desperately trying to warm up on the sand. Southern Pochards battled the waves on a lake and a Klaas's Cuckoo mocked us from deep within a bush as we exited the park. We all decided we would like to return to this promising wetland on a lovely spring day.

We arrived at Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens at 1.00pm and went straight to the very busy tearoom for lunch. Afterwards, we strolled round the huge gardens, but a different part to when we were here before.

Cape White-eyes and Cape Bulbuls seemed to be everywhere, as were Cape Robin Chats, Southern Double-collared Sunbirds and Olive Thrushes. Like our last visit, we failed to find any Lemon Doves but it was nice to end the trip with some familiar birds we had seen on our first day in South Africa.

It was now time to admit that we couldn't delay the journey to the airport any longer. We arrived at the drop off at 5.00pm, where Brian, Ian and Neil waved off the rest of the group on the start of the long journey home...

Thank you to Helen, Lynne & Ron, Stephen, Tony and Paul for making this such an enjoyable trip. We certainly had plenty of laughs along the way, while seeing some fabulous birds and other creatures! And a huge thanks to Brian and Ian, our guide and driver, for their expertise and good humour throughout our Western Cape adventure. Pity about that pelagic, though...

Birds seen (216 species in order of IOC v14.2)

Blue highlight = Heard only

Red highlight = South African Endemic
(includes Eswatini & Lesotho)

Purple highlight = Leader only

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	IUCN STATUS
Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus australis</i>	LC
Fulvous Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>	LC
White-backed Duck	<i>Thalassornis leuconotus leuconotus</i>	LC
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis niger</i>	LC
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	LC
South African Shelduck	<i>Tadorna cana</i>	LC
Cape Shoveler	<i>Spatula smithii</i>	LC
African Black Duck	<i>Anas sparsa sparsa</i>	LC
Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata undulata</i>	LC
Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>	LC
Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>	LC
Southern Pochard	<i>Netta erythrophthalma brunnea</i>	LC
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris (coronatus?)</i>	LC
Grey-winged Francolin	<i>Scleroptila afra</i>	LC
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix africana</i>	LC
Cape Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis capensis</i>	LC

Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba (ssp?)</i>	LC
African Black Swift	<i>Apus barbatus barbatus</i>	LC
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis theresae</i>	LC
Horus Swift	<i>Apus horus</i>	LC
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>	LC
Denham's Bustard	<i>Neotis denhami stanleyi</i>	NT
Karoo Korhaan	<i>Heterotetrax vigorsii vigorsii</i>	LC
Southern Black Korhaan	<i>Afrotis afra</i>	VU
Burchell's Coucal	<i>Centropus burchellii burchellii</i>	LC
Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>	LC
Red-chested Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>	LC
Feral Pigeon/Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	LC
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea phaeonota</i>	LC
African Olive Pigeon	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>	LC
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	LC
Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola capicola</i>	LC
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis senegalensis</i>	LC
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis capensis</i>	LC
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus meridionalis</i>	LC
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>	LC
African Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>	LC
Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavo-rostra</i>	LC
Blue Crane	<i>Grus paradisea</i>	VU
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis capensis</i>	LC
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus infuscatus</i>	LC
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis gurneyi</i>	LC
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	LC
Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>	NT
Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis (capensis?)</i>	LC
Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus vermiculatus</i>	LC
African Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus moquini</i>	LC
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	LC
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	LC
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola squatarola</i>	LC
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula tundrae</i>	LC
Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris tricollaris</i>	LC
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>	LC
Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus coronatus</i>	LC
Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Anarhynchus pecuarius</i>	LC
Chestnut-banded Plover	<i>Anarhynchus pallidus pallidus pallidus</i>	LC
White-fronted Plover	<i>Anarhynchus marginatus (ssp)</i>	LC
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus phaeopus</i>	LC
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata (orientalis?)</i>	NT
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lipponica (yamalensis?)</i>	NT
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	LC
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	LC
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	LC
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	NT
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba alba</i>	LC
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	LC
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons albifrons</i>	LC

Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	LC
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida delalandii</i>	LC
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo hirundo</i>	LC
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	LC
Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii bergii</i>	LC
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus poiocephalus</i>	LC
Hartlaub's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus hartlaubii</i>	LC
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus vetula</i>	LC
African Penguin	<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>	EN
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardena grisea</i>	NT
Cape Gannet	<i>Morus capensis</i>	EN
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa rufa</i>	LC
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus africanus</i>	LC
Crowned Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo coronatus</i>	LC
Bank Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax neglectus</i>	EN
Cape Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>	EN
White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>	NR
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	LC
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash hagedash</i>	LC
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	LC
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>	LC
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax</i>	LC
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta garzetta</i>	LC
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>	LC
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea cinerea</i>	LC
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea purpurea</i>	LC
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>	LC
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta umbretta</i>	LC
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	LC
Secretarybird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>	EN
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus caeruleus</i>	LC
Cape Vulture	<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>	VU
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	LC
Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>	LC
Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus canorus</i>	LC
African Goshawk	<i>Aerospiza tachiro tachiro</i>	LC
Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter rufiventris rufiventris</i>	LC
Black Sparrowhawk	<i>Astur melanoleucus melanoleucus</i>	LC
African Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>	LC
Black Harrier	<i>Circus maurus</i>	EN
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius parasitus</i>	LC
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo vulpinus</i>	LC
Forest Buzzard	<i>Buteo trizonatus</i>	NT
Jackal Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>	LC
'Cape Buzzard'	"No one really knows what it is!"	
Spotted Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo africanus africanus</i>	LC
Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus striatus</i>	LC
White-backed Mousebird	<i>Colius colius colius</i>	LC
African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>	LC
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris albiventris</i>	LC
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus cristatus</i>	LC

Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima maxima</i>	LC
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis rudis</i>	LC
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	LC
Acacia Pied Barbet	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas leucomelas</i>	LC
Ground Woodpecker	<i>Geocolaptes olivaceus</i>	NT
Olive Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos griseocephalus griseocephalus</i>	LC
Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicolis</i>	LC
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus minor</i>	LC
Cape Batis	<i>Batis capensis capensis</i>	LC
Olive Bushshrike	<i>Chlorophoneus olivaceus olivaceus</i>	LC
Bokmakierie	<i>Telephorus zeylonus zeylonus</i>	LC
Southern Boubou	<i>Laniarius ferrugineus ferrugineus</i>	LC
Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus larvatus</i>	LC
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis adsimilis</i>	LC
Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher	<i>Trochocercus cyanomelas cyanomelas</i>	LC
African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis plumbeiceps</i>	LC
Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris collaris</i>	LC
House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens (ssp?)</i>	LC
Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis capensis</i>	LC
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	LC
White-necked Raven	<i>Corvus albicollis</i>	LC
Cape Rockjumper	<i>Chaetops frenatus</i>	NT
Fairy Flycatcher	<i>Stenostira scita saturatior</i>	LC
Cape Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda curvirostris curvirostris</i>	LC
Agulhas Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda brevirostris</i>	NR
Karoo Lark	<i>Calendulauda albescens guttata</i>	LC
Large-billed Lark	<i>Galerida magnirostris (sedentaria?)</i>	LC
Red-capped Lark	<i>Calendrella cinerea cinerea</i>	LC
Sombre Greenbul	<i>Andropadus importunus importunus</i>	LC
Cape Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus capensis</i>	LC
Black Saw-wing	<i>Psolidoprocne pristoptera holomelas</i>	LC
Banded Martin	<i>Neophedina cincta cincta</i>	LC
Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola paludicola</i>	LC
Large Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula fuligula</i>	LC
Pearl-breasted Swallow	<i>Hirundo dimidiata dimidiata</i>	LC
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica rustica</i>	LC
White-throated Swallow	<i>Hirundo albigularis</i>	LC
Greater Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis cucullata</i>	LC
Cape Grassbird	<i>Sphenoeacus afer afer</i>	LC
Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens diverga</i>	LC
Lesser Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracillirostris gracillirostris</i>	LC
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus (hallae?)</i>	LC
Little Rush Warbler	<i>Bradypterus baboecala baboecala</i>	LC
Grey-backed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola subruficapilla subruficapilla</i>	LC
Levaillant's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola tinniens elegans</i>	LC
Neddicky	<i>Cisticola fulvicapilla silberbauer</i>	LC
Karoo Prinia	<i>Prinia maculosa maculosa</i>	LC
Namaqua Warbler	<i>Phragmacia substriata substriata</i>	LC
Bar-throated Apalis	<i>Apalis thoracica (capensis?)</i>	LC
Rufous-eared Warbler	<i>Malcorus pectoralis pectoralis</i>	LC
Cinnamon-breasted Warbler	<i>Eurypytila subcinnamomea</i>	LC

Layard's Warbler	<i>Curruca layardi layardi</i>	LC
Chestnut-vented Warbler	<i>Curruca subcoerulea subcoerulea</i>	LC
Cape White-eye	<i>Zosterops virens capensis</i>	LC
Cape Sugarbird	<i>Promerops cafer</i>	LC
Common Starling	<i>Sternus vulgaris</i>	LC
Pied Starling	<i>Lamprotornis bicolor</i>	LC
Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio morio</i>	LC
Pale-winged Starling	<i>Onchognathus nabouroup</i>	LC
Olive Thrush	<i>Turdus olivaceus olivaceus</i>	LC
Karoo Thrush	<i>Turdus smithi</i>	LC
Karoo Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas coryphoeus cinerea</i>	LC
Fiscal Flycatcher	<i>Sigelus silens silens</i>	LC
African Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa adusta adusta</i>	LC
Cape Robin-Chat	<i>Dessonornis caffer caffer</i>	LC
Cape Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola rupestris</i>	LC
African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus (torquatus & clanceyi)</i>	LC
Karoo Chat	<i>Emarginata schlegeli pollux</i>	LC
Tractrac Chat	<i>Emarginata tractrac tractrac</i>	LC
Sickle-winged Chat	<i>Emarginata sinuata sinuata</i>	LC
Ant-eating Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>	LC
Mountain Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla monticola monticola</i>	LC
Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata pileata</i>	LC
Familiar Chat	<i>Oenanthe familiaris familiaris</i>	LC
Orange-breasted Sunbird	<i>Anthobaphes violacea</i>	LC
Amethyst Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra amethystina amethystina</i>	LC
Malachite Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia famosa famosa</i>	LC
Southern Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris chalybeus chalybeus</i>	LC
Greater Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris afer</i>	LC
Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus melanurus</i>	LC
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus (diffusus?)</i>	LC
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus (ssp?)</i>	LC
Cape Weaver	<i>Ploceus capensis</i>	LC
Southern Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>	LC
Southern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>	LC
Yellow Bishop	<i>Euplectes capensis capensis</i>	LC
Swee Waxbill	<i>Coccygia melanotis</i>	LC
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild astrild</i>	LC
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>	LC
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis capensis</i>	LC
Cape Longclaw	<i>Macronyx capensis capensis</i>	LC
African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus rufuloides</i>	LC
Nicholson's Pipit	<i>Anthus nicholsoni primarius</i>	DD
Forest Canary	<i>Crithagra scotops umbrosa</i>	LC
Yellow Canary	<i>Crithagra flaviventris flaviventris</i>	LC
Brimstone Canary	<i>Crithagra sulphurata sulphurata</i>	LC
White-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra albogularis albogularis</i>	LC
Cape Canary	<i>Serinus canicollis canicollis</i>	LC
Black-headed Canary	<i>Serinus alario alario</i>	LC
Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis capensis</i>	LC

MAMMALS (in order of *Mammals of the World*, Lynx Edicions)

Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis capensis</i>	LC
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus ursinus</i>	LC
Xeric Four-striped Grass Rat	<i>Rhabdomys pumilio</i>	LC
Eastern Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	LC
Humpback Whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae australis</i>	LC
Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris campestris</i>	LC
Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>	LC
Rhebok	<i>Pelea capreolus</i>	NT
Bontebok	<i>Damaliscus pygargus</i>	VU
Bush Duiker (Common)	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia grimmia</i>	LC
Mountain Zebra	<i>Equus zebra zebra</i>	LC
Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata penicillata</i>	LC
Egyptian Mongoose (Large Grey)	<i>Herpestes ichneumon</i>	LC
Cape Grey Mongoose	<i>Herpestes pulverulentus pulverulentus</i>	LC
Afro-Australian Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus pusillus</i>	LC

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

Angulate Tortoise	<i>Chersina angulata</i>	LC
Leopard Tortoise	<i>Stigmochelys pardalis</i>	LC
Spotted Skaapsteker	<i>Psammophylax rhombeatus</i>	LC
Puff Adder	<i>Bitis arietans arietans</i>	LC
Boomslang	<i>Dispholidus typus (typus?)</i>	LC
Mole Snake	<i>Pseudaspis cana</i>	LC
Southern Rock Agama	<i>Agama atra</i>	LC
Cape Dwarf Chameleon	<i>Bradypodion pumilum</i>	NT
Cape Dwarf Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus capensis</i>	LC
Cape Girdled Lizard	<i>Cordylus cordylus</i>	LC
Cape Skink	<i>Trachylepis capensis</i>	LC
Red-sided Skink	<i>Trachylepis homalocephala</i>	LC
Cape River Frog	<i>Amietia fuscigula</i>	LC

BUTTERFLIES (in order of *Butterflies of South Africa* by Woodhall)

African Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus orientis</i>	LC
Garden Acraea	<i>Acraea horta</i>	LC
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	LC
Silver Arrowhead	<i>Phasis thero thero</i>	LC
Red Russet	<i>Aloeides thyra thyra</i>	LC
Yellow Russet	<i>Aloeides aranda</i>	LC
Eastern Dotted Border	<i>Mylorthis agathina agathina</i>	LC
Citrus Swallowtail	<i>Papilio demodocus demodocus</i>	LC
Heady Maiden Moth	<i>Amata cerbera cerbera</i>	
Mountain White-spot caterpillar	<i>Mesocelis monticola</i>	
Cape Lappet Moth caterpillar	<i>Eutricha capensis</i>	

INSECTS

Blue Emperor dragonfly	<i>Anax imperator</i>	LC
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Tropical (Common) Bluetail	<i>Ischnura senegalensis</i>	LC
Double-banded Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa caffra</i>	
Keurboom Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa capitata</i>	
Black Burrowing Bug	<i>Cydnius aterrimus</i>	
Cape Mountain Rifle (Bean) Beetle	<i>Milabris oculata</i>	
Koppie Foam Grasshopper	<i>Dictyophorus spumans (spumans?)</i>	

MISCELLANEOUS CRITTERS

Common Black Baboon Spider	<i>Harpactira atra</i>
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IUCN CATEGORIES

DD = Data Deficient
 NR = Species Not recognised
 LC = Least Concern
 NT = Near Threatened
 VU = Vulnerable
 EN = Endangered
 CR = Critically Endangered
 EW = Extinct in the wild
 EX = Extinct

