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A Birding Trip Report

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Peru: Marañón
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Sabah
Spain
Scotland
Thailand
Trinidad-Tobago
Turkey
Venezuela (NW)

The Southern and Western Cape of Africa

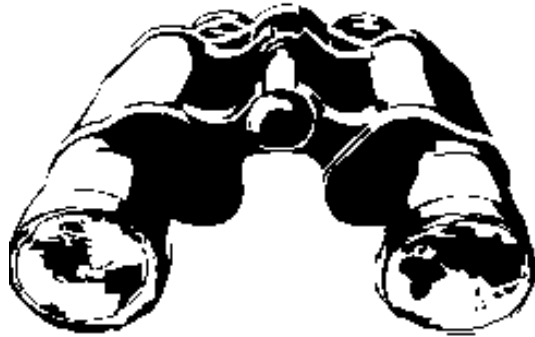
October 27– November 5, 1999

Led by Patrick and Marie-Louise Cardwell

Avian Leisure

Written and Published by Mark Elwonger for Ornifolks

Printed on Friday, December 24, 1999 in Victoria, Texas



ORNIFOLKS... networking birders with destinations

Policy Regarding Trip Leaders

The goal of our organization is to enable birders to visit difficult areas at less expense than with a professional group. If any Ornifolks member can set up trips for a fraction of the cost of a professional tour, find other members willing to participate, and go for less or at no cost, we see no ethical problem. Many participants don't have the time, expertise, or inclination to do the necessary research or make the preparations, but instead are willing to assist the leaders by defraying their expenses, and few potential organizers will step forward to lead a trip for nothing.

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Acknowledgement

We are grateful to the Cardwells for making this trip a success, and for reviewing this report for accuracy.

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Besides serving as a bulletin board and providing its members with safe and economical ways to visit foreign birding destinations, *Ornifolks* offers members:

- ◆ Custom international birding
- ◆ a library of trip reports

Ornifolks in the Southwestern Cape of Africa

	10/27/99	10/28/99	10/29/99	10/30/99	10/31/99	11/1/99	11/2/99	11/3/99	11/4/99	11/5/99	
Mammals											
CHIROPTERA											
Egyptian fruit bat		2									<i>Rousettus aegyotiacus</i>
RODENTIA											
Gray Squirrel		1									<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>
Ground Squirrel								3			<i>Xerus inauris</i>
Cape Dune Mole-Rat				1							<i>Bathyergus suillus</i>
Rock Hyrax	1		4				6	1	✓	✓	<i>Procavia capensis</i>
Scrub Hare				1		1			1		<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>
CETACEA											
Long-finned Pilot Whale	2										<i>Globicephala melaena</i>
Common Dolphin	✓										<i>Delphinus delphis</i>
Southern Right Whale	3	2									<i>Eubalaena australis</i>
PRIMATES											
Chacma Baboon				h	✓	6					<i>Papio cynocephalus ursinus</i>
CARNIVOROUS MAMMALS											
Bat-eared Fox			1					1			<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>
Wild Cat										1	<i>Felix lybica</i>
Fur Seal	30										<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>
Zorilla			1								<i>Ictonyx striatus</i>
Slender Mongoose					1						<i>Galerella sanguinea</i>
Lesser Gray Mongoose		1							L	1	<i>Galerella pulverulenta</i>
Yellow Mongoose			1				1			1	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>
Meercat (Suricate)						2		3			<i>Suricata suricatta</i>
UNGULATES											
Bontebuck		10									<i>Damaliscus dorcas dorcas</i>
Gray Duiker		8	✓							1	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>
Cape Grysbok			4								<i>Raphicerus melanotis</i>
Bushbuck					1						<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>
Eland				2							<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>
Mountain Zebra				✓							<i>Equus zebra zebra</i>
Burchell's Zebra		5									<i>Equus burchelli</i>
Hartebeest				✓							<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>
Oryx (Gemsbok)								1			<i>Oryx gazella</i>
Springbok					5	✓	✓	20			<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>
Black Wildebeast (white-tailed gnu)		2									<i>Connochaetes gnu</i>
Steenbok		✓	✓		✓						<i>Ramphicerus campestris</i>
Gray Rhebok			15								<i>Pelea capreolus</i>
Reptiles											
River Monitor								1			<i>Varanus niloticus</i>
Puff Adder			1								<i>Bitis Arietans</i>
Cape Cobra			1								<i>Naja Nivea</i>

The Itinerary

	27-Oct	28-Oct	29-Oct	30-Oct	31-Oct	1-Nov	2-Nov	3-Nov	4-Nov	5-Nov	
Scaly Weaver								8			<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>
Sociable Weaver							100	X			<i>Philetairus socius</i>
Cape Weaver		C	X	X	X	X					<i>Ploceus capensis</i>
Southern Masked-Weaver		4			X	X	X	2	1		<i>Ploceus velatus</i>
Red Bishop		6	8	X	X	X	X	X	5	X	<i>Euplectes orix</i>
Yellow Bishop		6	1	X	X	X	X	X	10	X	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>
Swee Waxbill					10						<i>Estrilda melanotis</i>
Common Waxbill				X		X					<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
African Quailfinch				2							<i>Ortygospiza atricollis</i>
Red-headed Finch								1			<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>
Pin-tailed Whydah				4	2						<i>Vidua macroura</i>

Finches and Allies

Fringillidae

Chaffinch		H									<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
-Yellow-crowned Canary		6	1	X	X		X		4	X	<i>Serinus canicollis flavivertex</i>
Forest Canary					6						<i>Serinus scotops</i>
Southern Yellow-rumped Seedeater								3			<i>Serinus atrogularis</i>
Yellow Canary		40				X	X	X			<i>Serinus flaviventris</i>
Brimstone Canary		4	1	X	X		2		1		<i>Serinus sulphuratus</i>
White-throated Canary		8		4			X	X	1		<i>Serinus albogularis</i>
Streaky-headed Seedeater		6		3	X	2			2		<i>Serinus gularis</i>
White-winged Seedeater									2		<i>Serinus leucopterus</i>
Cape Siskin				1							<i>Serinus totta</i>
Black-headed Canary						2			3	NY	<i>Serinus alario</i>
Lark-like Bunting							10	6			<i>Emberiza impetuani</i>
Cape Bunting		3							1	L	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>

- 10/26/99 International Arrivals
- 10/27/99 South Atlantic Pelagic
- 10/28/99 Simon's Town to West Coast Park
- 10/29/99 Simon's Town to deHoop Nature Reserve
- 10/30/99 Buchu Bush Camp, DeHoop Nature Reserve
- 10/31/99 Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve to Sadawa Bush Camp
- 11/1/99 Sadawa to Calvinia
- 11/2/99 Calvinia to Pofadder
- 11/3/99 Pofadder, Orange River, Aggeneys, Kamieskroon
- 11/4/99 Kamieskroon to Lamberts Bay
- 11/5/99 Lambert's Bay to Simon's Town

Editor's Note:

This trip report differs from previous Ornifolks reports in that specific locations are left intentionally vague. The reason is that we respect the hard work that **Avian Leisure** has undertaken to arrange for visiting specific sites and for staking out certain species. We encourage future international birders that come to the southwestern Cape to take advantage of the services that the Cardwells can offer, since lodging rates will be the same whether you make the reservations yourself or take advantage of their service.

MAE

Ornifolks in the Southwestern Cape of Africa



The Group in the Little Karoo

Left to right: Hugh, Mike, Ken, Paul, Louise, Mark, Travis, Al, and Patrick.

Nomenclature

This trip report follows the taxonomic order proposed by Sibley & Monroe, **A World Checklist of Birds**, 1993; incipient species have been amended according to information provided by Rolf deBy's website. (<http://www.itc.nl/%7Edeby/SM/sibley4.html>).

Nomenclature for common names may differ from that used by the widely accepted Southern African Ornithological Society and **Roberts' Birds of Southern Africa** (Maclean 1984). To reduce confusion, some of these discrepancies are reconciled below:

Discrepancies resulting from incipient species:

Sibley	Roberts	Latin
-Bare-throated Spurfowl	Rednecked Francolin	<i>Francolinus afer afer</i>
-South African Nightjar	Fierynecked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus pectoralis pectoralis</i>
-Cape Thrush	Southern Olive Thrush	<i>Turdus olivaceus olivaceus</i>
-South African Reed-Warbler	African Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus baeticatus</i>
-Yellow-crowned Canary	Cape Canary	<i>Serinus canicollis flavivertex</i>

Continued on P. 6

	27-Oct	28-Oct	29-Oct	30-Oct	31-Oct	1-Nov	2-Nov	3-Nov	4-Nov	5-Nov	
-South African Reed-Warbler						2	H				<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus baeticatus</i>
Lesser Swamp-Warbler		1	3	2				FC	FC		<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>
Fairy Warbler						2	1				<i>Stenostira scita</i>
Yellow-rumped Eremomela						2	1				<i>Eremomela gregalis</i>
-Cape Crombec		1		1							<i>Sylvietta rufescens rufescens</i>
Yellow-throated Woodland-Warbler					2						<i>Phylloscopus ruficapillus</i>
Layard's Warbler									1		<i>Sylvia layardi</i>
Rufous-vented Warbler								1			<i>Sylvia subcaeruleum</i>

Larks Alaudidae

-Cape Clapper-Lark		2									<i>Mirafra apiata apiata</i>
-Namaqua Clapper-Lark				10							<i>Mirafra apiata rufipilea</i>
Fawn-colored Lark								1	1		<i>Mirafra africanoides</i>
Bradfield's Lark							1	1	1		<i>Mirafra naevia</i>
-Karoo Long-billed Lark								1	1		<i>Certhilauda curvirostris subcoronata</i>
-Agulhas Long-billed Lark				1							<i>Certhilauda curvirostris brevirostris</i>
-Benguela Long-billed Lark										3	<i>Certhilauda curvirostris benguelensis</i>
Karoo Lark						10					<i>Certhilauda albescens</i>
Ferruginous Lark								12	4		<i>Certhilauda burra</i>
Spike-heeled Lark					3	3	10				<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>
Black-eared Sparrow-Lark						30	3				<i>Eremopterix australis</i>
Gray-backed Sparrow-Lark							4	40			<i>Eremopterix verticalis</i>
Red-capped Lark		3	X	X		6				X	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>
Slater's Lark								6			<i>Spizocorys sclateri</i>
Large-billed Lark				1			1		1		<i>Galerida magnirostris</i>

Sunbirds and Allies Nectariniidae

Cape Sugarbird		2	3		4						<i>Promerops cafer</i>	
Orange-breasted Sunbird		1	2			X					<i>Nectarinia violacea</i>	
Southern Double-collared Sunbird		1		10	1		X			X	<i>Nectarinia chalybea</i>	
Greater Double-collared Sunbird						10					<i>Nectarinia afra</i>	
Dusky Sunbird							2		1		<i>Nectarinia fusca</i>	
Malachite Sunbird				2	10	2	8			4	1	<i>Nectarinia famosa</i>

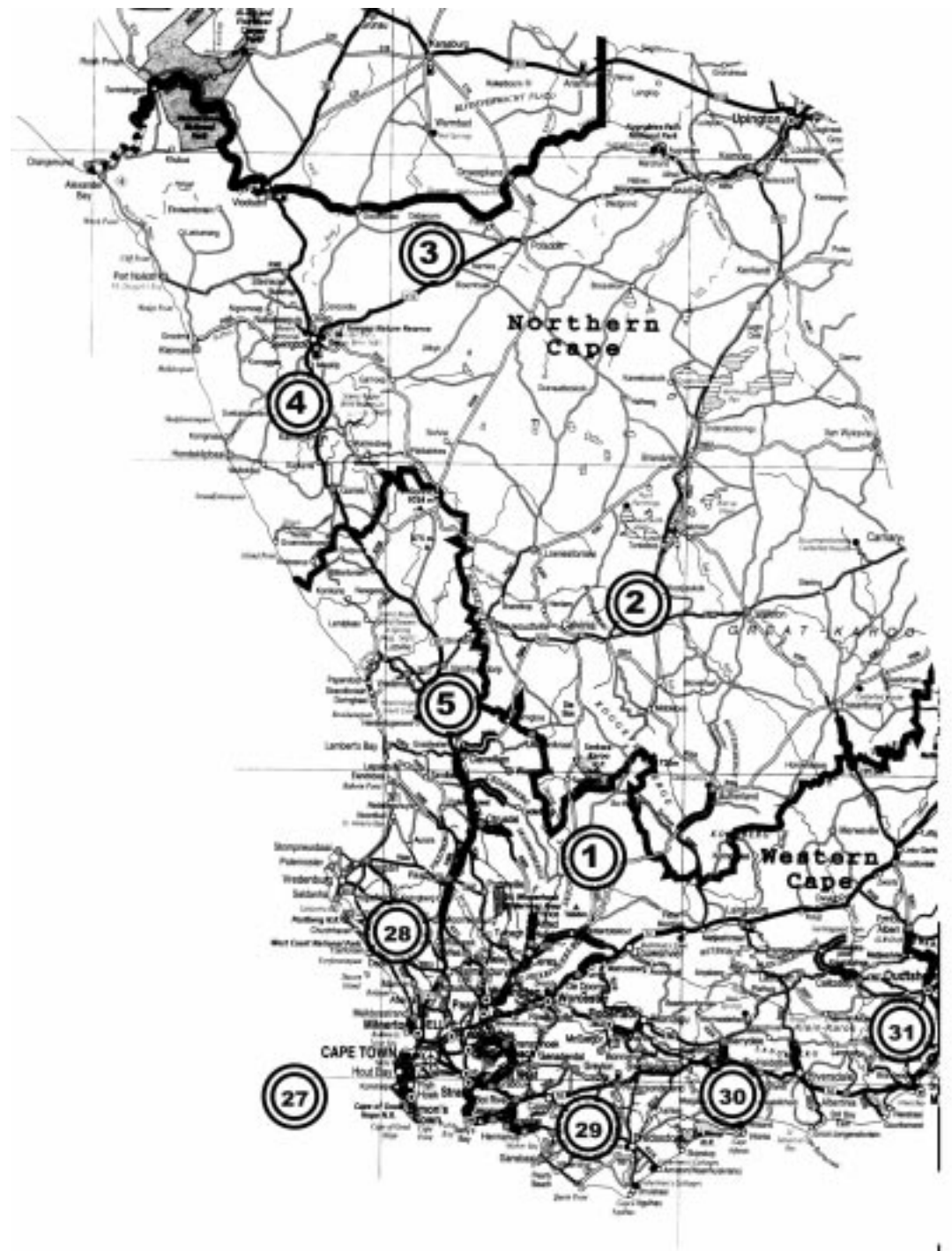
Sparrows and Allies Passeridae

-House Sparrow		1		FC	3	X	X	X	X	FC	X	<i>Passer domesticus domesticus</i>
Mossie				FC	3	5	10	6	X	FC	X	<i>Passer melanurus</i>
African Pied Wagtail										2		<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>
-Cape Wagtail		2	FC	FC			X	X	X			<i>Motacilla capensis capensis</i>
Cape Longclaw				4	2	FC	2			L	X	<i>Macronyx capensis</i>
African Pipit			1		4	X	2	1	1		X	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>
-Long-billed Pipit										?	KC	<i>Anthus similis similis</i>

Ornifolks in the Southwestern Cape of Africa

	27-Oct	28-Oct	29-Oct	30-Oct	31-Oct	1-Nov	2-Nov	3-Nov	4-Nov	5-Nov	
Wattled Starling						1				X	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>
Common Starling	10	FC L	X	X	X				X	X	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Tits and Allies											
Paridae											
Southern Penduline-Tit		2			1	1					<i>Anthoscopus minutus</i>
Gray Tit					1	1		2		2	<i>Parus afer</i>
Swallows and Allies											
Hirundinidae											
Plain Martin			6				X	X	X	X	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>
Banded Martin		2	1								<i>Riparia cincta</i>
-African Rock-Martin		6	2	X		X		2	X		<i>Hirundo fuligula fuligula</i>
-Eurasian Swallow		1	2	X		X					<i>Hirundo rustica rustica</i>
White-throated Swallow		10	X	X		X			X	X	<i>Hirundo albigularis</i>
Pearl-breasted Swallow		15				FC X		2			<i>Hirundo dimidiata</i>
Greater Striped-Swallow		6	1	FC	FC	FC X		X	X	X	<i>Hirundo cucullata</i>
South African Swallow							20	X	X	X	<i>Hirundo spilodera</i>
Northern House-Martin				1							<i>Delichon urbica</i>
Black Sawwing					2						<i>Psalidoprocne holomelas</i>
Bulbuls											
Pycnonotidae											
Black-fronted Bulbul								20			<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>
Cape Bulbul	H	FC	X	X	X				X	X	<i>Pycnonotus capensis</i>
-Southern Sombre-Greenbul		LH	L	4	X						<i>Andropadus importunus importunus</i>
Terrestrial Brownbul					3						<i>Phyllastrephus terrestris</i>
African Warblers											
Cisticolidae											
Red-headed Cisticola		3	1			2					<i>Cisticola subruficapillus</i>
Tinkling Cisticola			5				1		2		<i>Cisticola tinniens</i>
Piping Cisticola			X	X							<i>Cisticola fulvicapillus</i>
Zitting Cisticola					1	2					<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Tink-tink Cisticola										3	<i>Cisticola textrix</i>
Black-chested Prinia								2			<i>Prinia flavicans</i>
-Karoo Prinia	2	FC		2	3	1	X		1		<i>Prinia maculosa maculosa</i>
Namaqua Warbler											<i>Phragmacia substriata</i>
Rufous-eared Warbler				2	1	4	2	2			<i>Malcorus pectoralis</i>
-Bar-throated Apalis				2	1						<i>Apalis thoracica thoracica</i>
Kopje Warbler						1					<i>Euryptila subcinnaomea</i>
White-eyes											
Zosteropidae											
... 'Cape' White-eye	2	8	2	X	X	X		X	X	X	<i>Zosterops pallidus 'capensis'</i>
Old World Warblers and Allies											
Sylviidae											
African Bush-Warbler		2	1								<i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>
Knysna Scrub-Warbler		S		H	H						<i>Bradypterus sylvaticus</i>
Victorin's Scrub-Warbler			3								<i>Bradypterus victorini</i>
Cape Grass-Warbler	2		1	X	X						<i>Sphenoeacus afer</i>

Ornifolks in the Southwestern Cape of Africa



Ornifolks in the Southwestern Cape of Africa

Discrepancies resulting for other reasons:

Sibley	Roberts	Latin
Rock Pigeon	Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>
Rameron Pigeon	African Olive-Pigeon	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>
Cape Turtle Dove	Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>
Northern Black Korhaan	White-quilled Bustard	<i>Eupodotis afraoides</i>
Southern Black Korhaan	Black Bustard	<i>Eupodotis afra</i>
Hartlaub's Gull	King Gull	<i>Larus hartlaubii</i>
Black Eagle	Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>
Rock Kestrel	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Reed Cormorant	Long-tailed Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>
Pintada Petrel	Cape Petrel	<i>Daption capense</i>
Bluemantled Flycatcher	African Crested-Flycatcher	<i>Trochocercus cyanomelas</i>
Dusky Flycatcher	Dusky Alseonax	<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>
Cape Robin	Cape Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha caffra</i>
Mountain Chat	Mountain Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe monticola</i>
Glossy Starling	Red-shouldered Glossy-Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>
Brownthroated Martin	Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>
Redeyed Bulbul	Black-fronted Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>
Greybacked Cisticola	Red-headed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola subruficapillus</i>
Levaillant's Cisticola	Tinkling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola tinniens</i>
Neddicky	Piping Cisticola	<i>Cisticola fulvicapillus</i>
Fantailed Cisticola	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Cloud Cisticola	Tink-tink Cisticola	<i>Cisticola textrix</i>
Namaqua Prinia	Namaqua Warbler	<i>Phragmacia substriata</i>
African Sedge Warbler	African Bush-Warbler	<i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>
Grassbird	Cape Grass-Warbler	<i>Sphenoeacus afer</i>
Cape Reed Warbler	Lesser Swamp-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>
Fairy Flycatcher	Fairy Warbler	<i>Stenostira scita</i>
Karoo Eremomela	Yellow-rumped Eremomela	<i>Eremomela gregalis</i>
Layard's Titbabbler	Layard's Warbler	<i>Sylvia layardi</i>
Titbabbler	Rufous-vented Warbler	<i>Sylvia subcaeruleum</i>
Red Lark	Ferruginous Lark	<i>Certhilauda burra</i>
Cape Sparrow	Mossie	<i>Passer melanurus</i>
Orangethroated Longclaw	Cape Longclaw	<i>Macronyx capensis</i>
Rock Pipit	Yellow-tufted Pipit	<i>Anthus crenatus</i>
Grassveld Pipit	African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>
Scalyfeathered Finch	Scaly Weaver	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>
Yellowrumped Widow	Yellow Bishop	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>
Bully Canary	Brimstone Canary	<i>Serinus sulphuratus</i>

Ornifolks in the Southwestern Cape of Africa

	27-Oct	28-Oct	29-Oct	30-Oct	31-Oct	1-Nov	2-Nov	3-Nov	4-Nov	5-Nov	
Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross	10										<i>Diomedea chlororhynchos</i>
-Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross											<i>Diomedea chlororhynchos bassi</i>
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	15										<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>
European Storm-Petrel	2*										<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>
True Shrikes											
Laniidae											
-Common Fiscal		4	FC	X	X	1	X	X	X	X	<i>Lanius collaris collaris</i>
Crows and Allies											
Corvidae											
House Crow				10 ON 3							<i>Corvus splendens</i>
Cape Crow				X	X	X		X	1		<i>Corvus capensis</i>
Pied Crow		X	X		X	X	X	X	X		<i>Corvus albus</i>
White-necked Raven		3	X		X	X	X	X			<i>Corvus albicollis</i>
Gray Cuckooshrike					1	6					<i>Coracina caesia</i>
Fork-tailed Drongo			2	X							<i>Dicurus adsimilis</i>
African Crested-Flycatcher					1	6	1				<i>Trochocercus cyanomelas</i>
-African Paradise-Flycatcher		1				6					<i>Terpsiphone viridis viridis</i>
Southern Tchagra			2	3	X						<i>Tchagra tchagra</i>
Southern Boubou	1		2H	4	X	1					<i>Laniarius ferrugineus</i>
Bokmakierie Bushshrike		6		X	X	X	H		4	X	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>
Olive Bushshrike				X	H						<i>Telophorus olivaceus</i>
Cape Batis		1		1	2				1		<i>Batis capensis</i>
Pirit Batis						4					<i>Batis pirit</i>
Rockfowl											
Picathartidae											
Rufous Rock-jumper			2								<i>Chaetops frenatus</i>
Old World Flycatchers and Allies											
Muscicapidae											
Cape Rock-Thrush				1 2							<i>Monticola rupestris</i>
-Cape Thrush				1 2	4	2			1	3	<i>Turdus olivaceus olivaceus</i>
Chat Flycatcher								4	X		<i>Bradornis infuscatus</i>
Fiscal Flycatcher		2	1	X	X	1				X	<i>Sigelus silens</i>
Dusky Alseonax				X	2	4	X				<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>
Cape Robin-Chat	1	8	1	X	1	1					<i>Cossypha caffra</i>
Karoo Scrub-Robin		10 8	1	1	X	X	X		1		<i>Cercotrichas coryphaeus</i>
-Common Stonechat		1	6	FC 2	FC	X				X	<i>Saxicola torquata torquata</i>
Mountain Wheatear						5		10	4		<i>Oenanthe monticola</i>
Capped Wheatear		2		6	1					1	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>
Sicklewing Chat										2	<i>Cercomela sinuata</i>
Karoo Chat					5	X	X			X	<i>Cercomela schlegelii</i>
Tractrac Chat					1	4	X	X			<i>Cercomela tractrac</i>
Familiar Chat	1			1	1	4	X	X	2		<i>Cercomela familiaris</i>
Southern Anteater-Chat						2		X	X		<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>
Starlings and Allies											
Sturnidae											
Pale-winged Starling						10	2	X			<i>Onychognathus nabouroup</i>
Red-winged Starling	C	C	X	X	X	X			X	X	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>
African Pied Starling		C	X	X	X	X			X	X	<i>Spreo bicolor</i>

	27-Oct	28-Oct	29-Oct	30-Oct	31-Oct	1-Nov	2-Nov	3-Nov	4-Nov	5-Nov
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Cormorants	Phalacrocoracidae										
Long-tailed Cormorant			4	6	X	FC				X	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>
Crowned Cormorant			1	6					15		<i>Phalacrocorax coronatus</i>
Bank Cormorant		10	1								<i>Phalacrocorax neglectus</i>
-White-breasted Cormorant	30	16	1	6	X				X		<i>Phalacrocorax carbo lucidus</i>
Cape Cormorant	1	10	3		X		2		200	X	<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>

Herons	Ardeidae										
Little Egret			8	1	6						<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
-Gray Heron	2	2	2	6	3	3				X	<i>Ardea cinerea cinerea</i>
Black-headed Heron		6	4	4	3	30	2	1			<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>
Goliath Heron								1	1		<i>Ardea goliath</i>
-Purple Heron									1		<i>Ardea purpurea purpurea</i>
-Yellow-billed Egret					1	1					<i>Mesophoyx intermedia brachyrhyncha</i>
-Common Cattle-Egret		10	X		X				X	X	<i>Bubulcus ibis ibis</i>
Black-crowned Night-Heron					3	3					<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Little Bittern								2			<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>

Flamingos	Phoenicopteridae										
... 'Greater' Flamingo			600							X	<i>Phoenicopus ruber 'roseus'</i>
Lesser Flamingo		L							34		<i>Phoenicopus minor</i>

Ibises	Threskiornithidae										
Glossy Ibis				3		15					<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
Hadada Ibis			10	3	H	4	4		10		<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>
-Sacred Ibis		5	6	6	15	500			20	X	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus aethiopicus</i>
African Spoonbill		3	2	6						2	<i>Platalea alba</i>

Pelicans and Allies	Pelecanidae										
Great White Pelican		10	1							6	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>

Storks and Allies	Ciconiidae										
Black Stork						1					<i>Ciconia nigra</i>

Penguins	Spheniscidae										
Jackass Penguin	400								25		<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>

Petrels and Allies	Procellariidae										
Antarctic Giant-Petrel		1									<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>
Hall's Giant-Petrel		1									<i>Macronectes halli</i>
Cape Petrel		10									<i>Daption capense</i>
Great-winged Petrel		4									<i>Pterodroma macroptera</i>
White-chinned Petrel	300										<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>
Great Shearwater	400										<i>Puffinus gravis</i>
Sooty Shearwater	3										<i>Puffinus griseus</i>
Black-browed Albatross	20	20									<i>Diomedea melanophris</i>
-Shy Albatross	20										<i>Diomedea cauta cauta</i>

Trip Diary

10/27/99 South Atlantic Pelagic

Our trip began in earnest with a deep-water pelagic aboard the **Broadbill** captained by Dave Smith. Having arrived fairly late the evening before, we were to test the theory that the best prevention for seasickness is a good night's sleep. Leaving Hout Bay at dawn, we struck a bearing of about 260° and headed for the nearest long-line trawler. Pelagic birds began appearing quite close to shore, before we had entered the deep waters off the shelf. The trawlers we encountered had attracted a fair share of albatrosses, with Shy and Black-browed outnumbering the Atlantic form of Yellow-nosed about 2 to 1. The most numerous pelagic species were Great Shearwater and White-chinned Petrel. These numbered into the hundreds. Special treats included both Giant-Petrels (we were close enough to distinguish the bill coloration), and a late fly-by of the Indian Ocean (gray-headed) form of Yellow-nosed Albatross, which might become a separate species. Our chum, and shoaling tuna schools provided additional birding action. Wilson's Storm-Petrels and a few Great-winged Petrels, Arctic Terns and Parasitic Jaegers were seen by all, but only two of us reported early-arriving European Storm-Petrels. Fur seals, pilot whales and a small pod of southern right whales would begin our mammal list. The day was just about right in terms of weather. It had been very windy earlier, and the wind picked up again subsequently, so we were lucky. With 3-4 foot seas, no one got sick, suggesting a new theory- the best prevention for seasickness is a continuous pageant of new pelagic birds! We finished the day with some local birding to the neighborhood penguin colony and were introduced to several other locally common resident species.

10/28/99 West Coast Park Strandveld

Our first stop was at a coastal beach community near Kommetjie to sort out the four resident cormorants and to garner a White-backed Duck near Rietvlei. Next we visited a neighborhood park near the botanical garden for a stake-out of Knysna warbler, which required some time and patience to coax from heavy cover. Here we carelessly spurned a singing Chaffinch, where it stuck on the list as a "heard only". At the Modder River we flushed the trip's only African Snipe. Continuing north by northwest along the coast, we made brief stops for Capped Wheatear, the nominate or western Cape race of the Clapper Lark, and Southern Penduline-Tit. Reaching the West Coast National Park around lunchtime, we spent a windy afternoon in a blind as the incoming tide pushed hundreds of shorebirds into close view. Bustards did not materialize on a late afternoon drive, but we got great looks at both resident harriers. Finally, at dusk, some of us managed to double-dip on both Wattled Starlings and Cape Crombec, but were compensated by a glimpse of the "green flash" as the sun slipped below the horizon (over land!). Our day list had topped 120 species.

10/29/99.....Capetown to deHoop Nature Reserve

.....Montane & Lowland Fynbos

Leaving our comfortable accommodations at Windy Ridge behind, we set off heading east for Betty's Bay, stopping first for a House Crow and then at the Strandfontein Water Works to pad the list with waterfowl. Maccoa Duck, African Swamphen and White-winged Tern were trip exclusives at the treatment plant.

African Fish-Eagle was a roadside fly-by, and a roadside pond provided us with looks at recently-arrived Whiskered Terns. At a mountain pass en route we twitched Victorin's Warbler. Descending back to the east side of False Bay, Patrick had a great stake-out for both Cape Rock-Thrush and Rufous Rock-Jumper.

Continuing east, we made a late afternoon stop at the Die Mond beachfront reserve, where Mike and Mark encountered a puffadder. Walking onto the tidal flat, we eventually earned convincing looks at a lone Damara tern.

Our arrival at the Buchu Bush Camp was delayed by a stop to view a pair of Stanley Bustards. Our hosts had our dinner of snook hot and waiting for us.

The Buchu Bush Camp is a recently constructed facility designed for tourists wishing to visit the deHoop National Park. It is a state-of-the art environmentally-friendly facility with 24 hour electricity and modern water treatment.

10/30/99.....Buchu Bush Camp, DeHoop Nature Reserve.. Lowland Fynbos

We were in for a special treat this morning. Hiking a trail in the foggy dawn, we could hear the dawn song and see the display of the eastern or Agulhas form of Clapper Lark-*Mirafra apiata (algoensis- marjorae- marjorica- rufipilea-apiata??)*. But our scraggly skirmish line also began to flush buttonquail at 10-minute or 60-meter intervals. These

proved to be the rare, endangered and little-known Black-rumped (or, more precisely, Hottentot) Buttonquail. A total of 8 were kicked up. The female's booming was taped and compared to the commercial tape.

Several of us are also certain they flushed a Striped Flufftail- but we were unable to relocate this tiny skulker.

Cape Griffon *Gyps coprotheres* breeds on cliffs in open country, foraging over scrub, grassland and desert in Botswana (400 pairs, stable: Borello and Borello 1993), Lesotho (estimated 552 pairs but with a continuing decline at some colonies: Donnay 1990), Mozambique (no post-1985 information, when 200 pairs guessed, save for a colony of 10--15 pairs within 5 km of the Swaziland border: D. G. Allan in litt. 1994), Namibia (massive decline to 10 pairs; no post-1985 information), South Africa (2,850 pairs estimated in the early 1980s, revised upwards with assessments of c.3,000 pairs in Transvaal and at least 1,325 birds in the Natal Drakensberg during this period: Brown and Piper 1988, Benson et al. 1990), Swaziland (50 pairs guessed in 1985, but now no longer breeds: Parker in press) and formerly Zimbabwe, with a world population estimated in 1983 at 10,000 birds (possibly as many as 12,000 at the start of the 1990s owing to more complete data), steadily declining in the face of a multitude of threats including accidental poisoning, organochlorine contamination, electrocution, disturbance at colonies, food-stress during chick-rearing, and persecution (Brooke 1984, Collar and Stuart 1985, Robertson and Boshoff 1986, Boshoff and de Kock 1988, Mundy et al. 1992, Komen and Brown 1993).

	27-Oct	28-Oct	29-Oct	30-Oct	31-Oct	1-Nov	2-Nov	3-Nov	4-Nov	5-Nov	
Common Tern	X	X	X						1		<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Arctic Tern	2										<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>
Little Tern		4									<i>Sterna albifrons</i>
Damara Tern			20	1							<i>Sterna balaenarum</i>
Whiskered Tern			20	20							<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>
White-winged Tern			20								<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>

Hawks and Allies

Accipitridae

-Black-winged Kite		4	X	3	2	4				X	<i>Elanus caeruleus caeruleus</i>
... 'Yellow-billed' Kite		3	3	1	2				1		<i>Milvus migrans 'parasitus'</i>
African Fish-Eagle			1	10	1			1			<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>
Cape Griffon				10	1						<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>
-Beaudouin's Snake-Eagle							4				<i>Circaetus gallicus beaudouini</i>
African Marsh-Harrier		3	2								<i>Circus ranivorus</i>
Black Harrier		2	1	1	1					1	<i>Circus maurus</i>
African Harrier-Hawk						1					<i>Polyboroides typus</i>
Pale Chanting-Goshawk					2	8	6	3			<i>Melierax canorus</i>
Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk										1	<i>Accipiter rufiventris</i>
-Western Steppe-Buzzard			6	6	6	6	3	1		1	<i>Buteo buteo vulpinus</i>
... 'Forest' Buzzard					4	1					<i>Buteo oreophilus 'trizonatus'</i>
Jackal Buzzard	L		3	3	4				3		<i>Buteo rufufuscus</i>
Booted Eagle		1				2			1		<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
Martial Eagle						2					<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>

Secretarybird

Sagittariidae

Secretarybird				1							<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>
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Falcons

Falconidae

Pygmy Falcon								1			<i>Polhierax semitorquatus</i>
Common Kestrel		2	4	1	1	2	4	2	X	X	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Greater Kestrel						4		X	1		<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>
Lanner Falcon						1			1		<i>Falco biarmicus</i>

Grebes

Podicipedidae

Little Grebe		10	15							X	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Great Crested Grebe		2	40	10	2	6				3	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Black-necked Grebe			40	8	6						<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>

Boobies

Sulidae

Cape Gannet	100	10							10		<i>Morus capensis</i>
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Anhingas

Anhingidae

Oriental Darter		2	1	1	4			4			<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>
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Ornifolks in the Southwestern Cape of Africa

	27-Oct	28-Oct	29-Oct	30-Oct	31-Oct	1-Nov	2-Nov	3-Nov	4-Nov	5-Nov	
African Swamphen											<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>
Common Moorhen		FC 2			FC						<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Red-knobbed Coot		FC	FC 25 2	50	FC	3			20	X	<i>Fulica cristata</i>
Sandgrouse <i>Pteroclididae</i>											
Namaqua Sandgrouse						14	3	7	2		<i>Pterocles namaqua</i>
Snipe and Allies <i>Scolopacidae</i>											
African Snipe											<i>Gallinago nigripennis</i>
Bar-tailed Godwit		6 3 1								X	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
-Whimbrel		6	X 1								<i>Numenius phaeopus phaeopus</i>
Eurasian Curlew			3							3	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
Marsh Sandpiper		10 6									<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
Common Greenshank			X							X	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Wood Sandpiper							1				<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Common Sandpiper				1							<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>
Ruddy Turnstone		FC FC	2								<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Red Knot		FC FC									<i>Calidris canutus</i>
Sanderling		FC									<i>Calidris alba</i>
Little Stint		4						4	X		<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Curlew Sandpiper		C						X	X	X	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Ruff								1			<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>
Plovers and Allies <i>Charadriidae</i>											
Spotted Thick-knee		H			1	1					<i>Burhinus capensis</i>
African Oystercatcher		2									<i>Haematopus moquini</i>
-Black-winged Stilt			10 2			5		4	10	X	<i>Himantopus himantopus himantopus</i>
Pied Avocet				1	20 10					X	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
Gray Plover			10 3							3 3	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Common Ringed Plover			10 10 3			3			10 2	X	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Kittlitz's Plover			10 10 3						10 2		<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>
Three-banded Plover			1	1		3	2		X		<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>
Chestnut-banded Plover									3		<i>Charadrius pallidus</i>
White-fronted Plover			FC	6							<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>
Blacksmith Lapwing		10	X	FC 1		X	X	4	X	X	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>
Crowned Lapwing	1	1	3	FC 1					2		<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>
Gulls and Allies <i>Laridae</i>											
Southern Skua		15									<i>Catharacta antarctica</i>
Parasitic Jaeger		FC 2									<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>
Kelp Gull		FC	1 50							X	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>
Gray-headed Gull			FC 1	X	10					1	<i>Larus cirrocephalus</i>
King Gull		FC	FC	FC						X	<i>Larus hartlaubii</i>
Caspian Tern			1	6	2						<i>Sterna caspia</i>
Great Crested-Tern	X	30	X	X						X	<i>Sterna bergii</i>
-Sandwich Tern	4	40	X								<i>Sterna sandvicensis sandvicensis</i>

Ornifolks in the Southwestern Cape of Africa

Later, heading east to the coast, we watched Cape Vultures soaring off the roost and twitched the trip's only Secretarybird. A patch of gallery forest yielded three trip exclusives: Greater Honeyguide, Cardinal Woodpecker and Cape Siskin, as well as the uncommon Knysna Woodpecker.

Returning to the main entrance of deHoop, we stopped for the Agulhas form of Long-billed Lark and for a Black Bustard. Driving past the big game, we spent the rest of the morning searching the headquarters for Barn Owl, Spotted Thick-knee, and Bar-throated Apalis. Northern House-Martin, Black-crowned Night-Heron and Common Sandpiper were unexpected additions to our growing list.

Continuing east, we arrived at Bontebok Nature Reserve, which was home to African (Rameron) Olive-Pigeon, African Bush-(Sedge)Warbler and Black Duck (fly-bys were seen by the van as the jeep was watching quailfinch). As the light faded we had reasonable views of a South African (Fiery-necked) Nightjar.

But the day was not yet over. Continuing to the Skeiding Farm between Heidelberg and Riversdale, we consumed a fine Ostrich dinner and went for an owl prowl at the nearby Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve. Here we called in a pair of African Wood-Owls as a Knysa Warbler sang a nocturnal.

10/31/99 Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve to Sadawa Bush Camp

Succulent Karoo

This was to be our easternmost day of the trip, spent in moist evergreen forest, and we had a hit-list of 12 species to see before breakfast. We got off to a great start, with Greater Double-collared Sunbird, Olive Woodpecker, and African (Blue-mantled) Crested-Flycatcher. Yellow-throated Woodland-Warbler and Gray Cuckooshrike soon knocked off the list, in that order. Bare-throated (Red-necked) Spurfowl could be heard in the distance. Later, while reviewing the tape, we realized that we had narrowly missed an Olive Bush-Shrike. Eventually we added Forest Buzzard, Sweet Waxbill, Black Sawwing and Forest Canary. As we were leaving a Red-chested Cuckoo flew across the road. We had earned breakfast.

Other spots we checked in the foothills of the Langeberg provided views of Tambourine Dove, Terrestrial Bulbul and Klaas's Cuckoo, but no more Black Duck.

Skirting the Hexrivierberg, we crossed into the Little Karoo by late afternoon. Near Ceres, a water impoundment and rookery offered a chance for more waterfowl viewing and an encounter with Red-chested Flufftail (which we did not see). A brief stop in the karoo scrub gave us a taste of Ground Woodpecker, Zitting Cisticola, Yellow-rumped (Karoo) Eremomela, Namaqua Warbler and Karoo Warbler (Prinia).

Reaching the Sadawa Bush Camp at dusk, we were offered another fine meal (this time *real* karoo lamb) before engaging the staff for a nocturnal game drive- the object of which was to locate a Rufous-cheeked Nightjar. No time for a dip in the pool. We saw four kinds of mammals but no nightjar. But not to worry- they would waken us the next morning.

We ended the day with about 120 species.

11/1/99 Sadawa to Calvinia Succulent Karoo

While calling from all around the camp, the nightjars proved more difficult to see! The morning's early walk offered us stunning views of Pirit Batis and Fairy Flycatcher. A short drive brought us within viewing range of Yellow-rumped (Karoo) Eremomelas and Namaqua Sandgrouse.

Leaving Sadawa, as the heat built we were introduced to the frustrations of desert birding. Black-eared Sparrow-Larks were difficult to approach and impossible to relocate. Did Travis toss a Martial Eagle for a Booted Eagle?

The only African Harrier-hawk of the trip was encountered on the Louriesfontein/Calvinia road.

Lunch found us at a caprock spring/ oasis which we bashed thoroughly for White-winged Starling, South African Reed-(Marsh)Warbler, Mountain Chat and the uncommon and local Kopje (Cinnamonbreasted) Warbler. Our approach to Calvinia was through good bustard country, and we finally hit the jackpot on Ludwig's after a short detour. We spent the sunset hour at a scenic canyon with a waterfall at the top. Here we glimpsed a Lanner and a Black Stork, both fly-bys. Longer looks were possible of a Booted Eagle nest, and of baboons as they bedded down for the night.

One of the best meals of the trip was a traditional supper at the historic Hantam House, an 1860-period national monument, and the oldest original building in Calvinia.

11/2/99 Calvinia to Pofadder Succulent Karoo

The day in Bushmanland was devoted exclusively to looking for Sclater's Lark. We checked every seep, windmill and leaking water tank in the arid countryside for larks and canaries. We saw more sandgrouse and Ludwig's Bustards as well as Beaudouin's form of the Banded Snake Eagle, an incipient species.

We saw Bradfield's Lark, a recent split from Sabota lark. We also encountered flocks of Gray-backed Larks and a few Lark-like Buntings. The South African Swallows had recently arrived and were selecting nest sites under a bridge.

One tank, late in the day, was visited by a Dusky Sunbird. We did not see Sclater's Lark, and retreated to the Pofadder Hotel to try again the next morning.

11/3/99 Pofadder, Orange River, Aggeneys, Kamieskroon

..... Succulent Karoo and Kalahari Sands

Perseverance paid off when a half-dozen Sclater's Larks flew into the water tanks we were watching shortly after dawn. At this site we also heard White-quilled Koraans. Back to the hotel for breakfast, before driving to the Orange River and the border with Namibia for the only Palm Swifts, Black-chested Prinia, Goliath Heron, Bradfield's Swift and Little Bittern of the trip. The Long-billed Lark here was the distinctive *C. curvirostris subcoronata*.

	27-Oct	28-Oct	29-Oct	30-Oct	31-Oct	1-Nov	2-Nov	3-Nov	4-Nov	5-Nov		
Bee-eaters												<i>Meropidae</i>
European Bee-eater		10			3	5	12			1		<i>Merops apiaster</i>
Mousebirds												<i>Coliidae</i>
Speckled Mousebird		2	2	40		6						<i>Colius striatus</i>
White-backed Mousebird		2					6	1	X			<i>Colius colius</i>
Red-faced Mousebird				L		1		1				<i>Urocolius indicus</i>
Old World Cuckoos												<i>Cuculidae</i>
Red-chested Cuckoo					1	1						<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>
Klaas's Cuckoo					1	1						<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>
Typical Swifts												<i>Apodidae</i>
-African Palm-Swift								2				<i>Cypsiurus parvus parvus</i>
Alpine Swift		10	4	2	X					1		<i>Tachymarpis melba</i>
-African Swift		10	4		X							<i>Apus barbatus barbatus</i>
Bradfield's Swift								2				<i>Apus bradfieldi</i>
Little Swift				1		X		X	X	X		<i>Apus affinis</i>
White-rumped Swift			2	X	X	X		X	X			<i>Apus caffer</i>
Typical Owls												<i>Strigidae</i>
Spotted Eagle-Owl		1						1	1			<i>Bubo africanus</i>
African Wood-Owl					2							<i>Strix woodfordii</i>
Nightjars and Allies												<i>Caprimulgidae</i>
Rufous-cheeked Nightjar					H	4		H				<i>Caprimulgus rufigena</i>
-South African Nightjar				1		4						<i>Caprimulgus pectoralis pectoralis</i>
Freckled Nightjar									H			<i>Caprimulgus tristigma</i>
Pigeons												<i>Columbidae</i>
Rock Pigeon				X		X	X	X		1		<i>Columba livia</i>
Speckled Pigeon	X	X	X	X	X	X	4	4	X	X		<i>Columba guinea</i>
African Olive-Pigeon				1	4							<i>Columba arquatrix</i>
Laughing Dove	1	1	1	2	X		X	X	1	X		<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>
Ring-necked Dove	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>
Red-eyed Dove	H	X	X	X	4	X	4	X	X			<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>
Tambourine Dove					2							<i>Turtur tympanistria</i>
Namaqua Dove		2			3	X	2	4	3	X		<i>Oena capensis</i>
Bustards												<i>Otididae</i>
-Stanley Bustard			2	2								<i>Neotis denhami stanleyi</i>
Ludwig's Bustard						18	2		2			<i>Neotis ludwigii</i>
White-quilled Bustard								H				<i>Eupodotis afrooides</i>
Black Bustard				2	1							<i>Eupodotis afra</i>
Karoo Bustard					2	H	1					<i>Eupodotis vigorsii</i>
Cranes												<i>Gruidae</i>
Blue Crane			20	4	4					1		<i>Grus paradisea</i>
Rails												<i>Rallidae</i>
Red-chested Flufftail					H							<i>Sarothrura rufa</i>
Striped Flufftail				1								<i>Sarothrura affinis</i>

Ornifolks in the Southwestern Cape of Africa

	27-Oct	28-Oct	29-Oct	30-Oct	31-Oct	1-Nov	2-Nov	3-Nov	4-Nov	5-Nov	
Ostrich <i>Struthionidae</i>											
-African Ostrich		30		X		4		1			<i>Struthio camelus camelus</i>
Grouse and Allies <i>Phasianidae</i>											
Gray-winged Francolin		FC 8	FC	FC 4							<i>Francolinus africanus</i>
Cape Francolin	2	FC	FC	FC	FC	X			2		<i>Francolinus capensis</i>
-Bare-throated Spurfowl					H						<i>Francolinus afer afer</i>
-African Quail					H					4	<i>Coturnix coturnix africana</i>
Guineafowls <i>Numididae</i>											
-Tufted Guineafowl	1	10	FC	C	C	2				X	<i>Numida meleagris mitrata</i>
Whistling-Ducks <i>Dendrocygnidae</i>											
White-backed Duck		8									<i>Thalassornis leuconotus</i>
Ducks and Allies <i>Anatidae</i>											
Maccoa Duck				12							<i>Oxyura maccoa</i>
Egyptian Goose	2	10	X	X	50	X	X	X	X	X	<i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>
South African Shelduck		3	2			3		10	X	X	<i>Tadorna cana</i>
Spur-winged Goose			20						1	1	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>
Cape Teal		6	25	2				30		X	<i>Anas capensis</i>
African Black Duck				3							<i>Anas sparsa</i>
-Common Mallard										1	<i>Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos</i>
Yellow-billed Duck		8	40	X	20	2			X		<i>Anas undulata</i>
Cape Shoveler		3	4		30			50			<i>Anas smithii</i>
Red-billed Duck		6	6		10						<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>
Southern Pochard			40		6			20		X	<i>Netta erythrophthalma</i>
Buttonquails <i>Turnicidae</i>											
Hottentot Buttonquail				8							<i>Turnix hottentotta</i>
Honeyguides <i>Indicatoridae</i>											
Greater Honeyguide				3							<i>Indicator indicator</i>
Woodpeckers <i>Picidae</i>											
Knysna Woodpecker				1	1						<i>Campethera notata</i>
Ground Woodpecker					2				2		<i>Geocolaptes olivaceus</i>
Cardinal Woodpecker				1							<i>Dendropicus fuscescens</i>
Olive Woodpecker					2						<i>Dendropicus griseocephalus</i>
African Barbets <i>Lybiidae</i>											
Pied Barbet				2	1	1		2			<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>
Hoopoes <i>Upupidae</i>											
African Hoopoe		3	3	4	1			1	1	1	<i>Upupa africana</i>
Alcedinid Kingfishers <i>Alcedinidae</i>											
Malachite Kingfisher									1		<i>Alcedo cristata</i>
Cerylid Kingfishers <i>Cerylidae</i>											
Pied Kingfisher	1								1	4	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>

Ornifolks in the Southwestern Cape of Africa

A Red-headed Finch was seen by Al and confirmed by Patrick- it was subsequently flushed and reconfirmed - unfortunately it flew away from the group.

The hot part of the day was spent driving to points south and east of Pofadder, to the Kalahari red sands-habitat for Ferruginous (Red) Lark.

The mining town of Aggeneys proved to be an attractive oasis for birds. We came quickly to grips with Pygmy Falcon and Southern Yellow-rumped Seedeater, but missed Spotted Flycatcher. The wastewater plant had attracted a wayward Ruff and a Wood Sandpiper. Later we saw an Oryx off Loop 10 and walked the dunes (avoiding the porcupine and aardvark holes) for Scaly Weaver (Scaly-feathered Finch) and for terrific scope views of Ferruginous Lark.

There was no joy during the evening drive as we searched for Burchell's Courser, Martial Eagle, and Freckled Nightjar. We lodged at the Kamieskroon Motel in the heart of Namaqualand.

11/4/99 Kamieskroon to Lambert's Bay Strandveld, estuaries

A pre-dawn departure put us in the right habitat early enough to hear a distant Freckled Nightjar, and the canyon also provided a Layard's Warbler (Tit-Babbler).

After breakfast, we drove south, stopping only briefly for more Ludwig's Bustards and a Karoo Bustard.

At the Olifants River, back in wine country, we came to grips with Purple Heron and Malachite Kingfisher. At lunch, in a canyon near the river, TM found a perched White-winged Canary that gave us long and satisfying looks.

We continued south, checking potential spots for Black-headed Canary and Horus Swift. At a salt pan near the coast a few Chestnut-banded Plovers were seen.

The late afternoon sun gilded thousands of Cape Gannets at Lambert's Bay, where we ate seafood at the Kreefthuis.

11/5/99 Lambert's Bay to Simon's Town..... Strandvelt, Estuaries

Our last day in South Africa was spent mopping up on a few targets and getting better views of others. We started the day with four juvenile Lesser Flamingos near the bed & breakfast, just in case the following prime spot didn't pan out. But the nearby estuaries and shallow bays yielded awesome looks at these intensely pink adult birds later on, along with a single Mallard.

Hayfields en route offered us the nominate form of Long-billed lark *Certhilauda curvirostris curvirostris* (or was it *falcirostris*?) and Sickling Chat, which we ticked from the vehicle. We formed one last skirmish line for Tink Tink (Cloud) Cisticola, flushing close looks of African Quail in the process.

Red Lark *Certhilauda burra* is highly nomadic in response to localized rainfall in the red sand (semi-desert) country of north-west Cape Province, east to near Prieska, South Africa; all records but one (from Kleinkaras, Namibia) are from south of the Orange River (Brooke 1984, Collar and Stuart 1985). It occurs on well vegetated sand-dunes or flats with perennial tussock-grasses, of which only 1,400 km², supporting c.9,400 birds, remains and which is under continuing heavy grazing pressure from domestic livestock (Dean et al. 1991).

(Continued from page 11)

Arriving back at Windy Ridge in time to pack and take a shower, some of us elected to go downtown for last-minute shopping while others visited a botanical garden en route to the airport at dusk. Red-chested Sparrowhawk was seen for the last bird to be added to our list.

The Bird List

Codes used in the Trip List

L Leader Only
H Heard Only
FC Fairly Common
S Seen

Breeding Evidence:

ON On nest
NY Nest with Young
NE Nest with Egg(s)

NB: When a taxon is seen by only one observer, the observer's initials are indicated.

..."Bird name" denotes an incipient split

Overall Statistics

Number of birding days.....	10
Kilometers traveled.....	3800
Number of sightings recorded.....	922
Number of taxon identified (including heard)	288
Species heard only	5
Possible additional splits.....	5

Red-list Status of Birds Seen

Listed as Vulnerable: Three species

Cape Griffon	<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>
Blue Crane	<i>Grus paradisea</i>
Ferruginous Lark	<i>Certhilauda burra</i>

Listed as Near-threatened: Sixteen species

Jackass Penguin	<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>
Hall's Giant-Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>
Cape Gannet.....	<i>Morus capensis</i>
Crowned Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax coronatus</i>
Bank Cormorant.....	<i>Phalacrocorax neglectus</i>
Lesser Flamingo.....	<i>Phoenicopterus minor</i>
Black Harrier	<i>Circus maurus</i>
African Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus moquini</i>
Damara Tern	<i>Sterna balaenarum</i>
Knysna Woodpecker	<i>Campethera notata</i>
Ground Woodpecker.....	<i>Geocolaptes olivaceus</i>
Sclater's Lark.....	<i>Spizocorys sclateri</i>
Rufous Rock-jumper	<i>Chaetops frenatus</i>


Endemic Scorecard

Southern Africa Endemics: 65 out of 71 possible
 Near-endemics: 14 out of 18 possible
 Breeding Endemics: Four out of four possible

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BIRDS RECORDED FROM THE SOUTHERN AND WESTERN CAPE OF AFRICA	
Cape Francolin, <i>Francolinus capensis</i> , 6 sec. Hottentot Buttonquail, <i>Turnix hottentotta</i> , 9 sec. Greater Honeyguide, <i>Indicator indicator</i> , 55 sec. Olive Woodpecker, <i>Dendropicos griseocephalus</i> , 4 sec. Pied Barbet, <i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i> , 64 sec. Klaas's Cuckoo, <i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i> , 42 sec. African Wood-Owl, <i>Strix woodfordii</i> , 31 sec. Rufous-cheeked Nightjar, <i>Caprimulgus rufigena</i> , 33 sec. Ring-necked Dove, <i>Streptopelia capicola</i> , 25 sec. Tambourine Dove, <i>Turtur tympanistria</i> , 14 sec. Red-chested Flufftail, <i>Sarothrura rufa</i> , 148 sec. Jackass Penguin, <i>Spheniscus demersus</i> , 42 sec. -Common Fiscal, <i>Lanius collaris collaris</i> , 80 sec. African Crested-Flycatcher, <i>Trochocercus cyanomelas</i> , 5 sec.	 Southern & Western Cape
Southern Boubou, <i>Laniarius ferrugineus</i> , 22 sec. Olive Bushshrike, <i>Telophorus olivaceus</i> , 23 sec. Cape Batis, <i>Batis capensis</i> , 62 sec. Pririt Batis, <i>Batis pririt</i> , 63 sec. Dusky Alseonax, <i>Muscicapa adusta</i> , 48 sec. Cape Robin-Chat, <i>Cossypha caffra</i> , 31 sec. Cape Bulbul, <i>Pycnonotus capensis</i> , 3 sec. -Southern Sombre-Greenbul, <i>Andropadus importunus importunus</i> , 58 sec. Terrestrial Brownbul, <i>Phyllastrephus terrestris</i> , 52 sec. -Karoo Prinia, <i>Prinia maculosa maculosa</i> , 4 sec. -Bar-throated Apalis, <i>Apalis thoracica thoracica</i> , 28 sec. Knysna Scrub-Warbler, <i>Bradypterus sylvaticus</i> , 89 sec. Victorin's Scrub-Warbler, <i>Bradypterus victorini</i> , 140 sec. Cape Grass-Warbler, <i>Sphenoeacus afer</i> , 34 sec.	

Fairy Warbler, *Stenosira scita*, 26 sec.
 Yellow-throated Woodland-Warbler, *Phylloscopus ruficapillus*, 74 sec.
 Rufous-vented Warbler, *Sylvia subcaeruleum*, 32 sec.
 -Cape Clapper-Lark, *Mirafra apiata apiata*, 43 sec.
 Karoo Lark, *Certhilauda albescens*, 50 sec.
 Southern Double-collared Sunbird, *Nectarinia chalybea*, 11 sec.
 Greater Double-collared Sunbird, *Nectarinia afra*, 41 sec.
 -Yellow-crowned Canary, *Serinus canicollis flavivertex*, 6 sec.

Useful Contacts

Usually, when we do these trips ourselves, we use this section to plug our favorite hotels, charter boat operators, local guides, and sometimes even good restaurants. But Patrick and Marie-Louise, doing business as **Avian Leisure**, have indicated they will be happy to assist visiting birders with a fully-guided tour (as we had) or with assisting in parts of a self-guided tour. Avian Leisure is **SA-TOUR** accredited and all bookings for accommodation, car hire and charter vessels are commission -inclusive, so why do the bookings yourselves?

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Special Species Accounts

Hottentot Buttonquail..... *Turnix hottentotta*.....Rare & endangered

Patrick didn't say that the spot near DeHoop was a known stake-out, but if this species is site-loyal he certainly has a good location.

Knysna Woodpecker *Campethera notata*.....Endemic, locally common

We lucked into this species at two locations: one at deHoop and the other at Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve.

Rufous-cheeked Nightjar *Caprimulgus rufigena*locally common

Reliable stake-outs are the Acacia drainage lines north of Karoopoort on the Calvinia road.

Freckled Nightjar *Caprimulgus tristigma*locally common

Racing the dawn, we eventually enticed a distant answer-back on a mountain pass near Kamieskroon.

-Stanley Bustard *Neotis denhami stanleyi*Endemic, uncommon

We encountered a pair while en route to the Damara Tern site and again on the following day.

Ludwig's Bustard..... *Neotis ludwigii*.....Near-endemic, uncommon

Although we encountered this species subsequently, Patrick had a sure-fire site south of Calvinia which provided us with scope views of over a dozen birds.

Striped Flufftail *Sarothrura affinis*locally common

One was flushed briefly by our skirmish line but it melted into the fynbo and was not seen again.

Burchell's Courser..... *Cursorius rufus*Near-endemic, uncommon

We searched diligently for these near Aggenys to no avail.

Damara Tern..... *Sterna balaenarum* Breeding endemic, locally common

At Die Mond Reserve, we located a single bird on a sand flat behind the beach, and had distant scope views.

Black Harrier *Circus maurus*.....Endemic, uncommon

We had many great looks of birds in flight on six different days.

Jackal Buzzard *Buteo rufofuscus* Endemic, locally common

Seen on four separate days and not uncommon.

Crowned Cormorant..... *Phalacrocorax coronatus* Endemic, locally common

We encountered this near-threatened species only twice- once near Hout Bay and again at Lambert's Bay.

Hall's Giant-Petrel *Macronectes halli*..... Near-threatened

We were able to get close enough to members of this genus to separate them by their bill color. Lighter plumage might be a helpful identification feature off the Cape (but Sinclair warns that plumages are variable).

Rufous Rock-jumper *Chaetops frenatus* Endemic, locally common

Patrick's stake-out on the east side of False Bay scored us a pair of these which we watched for some time amongst rocks on a boulder-strewn hillside.

Sentinel Rock-Thrush *Monticola explorator*..... Endemic, locally common

This species can be found atop Table Mountain near Capetown, which would have taken an additional day to visit. Maybe next time...

Kopje Warbler *Euryptila subcinnamomea* Endemic, uncommon and local

This shy and elusive warbler was staked out by Patrick in a canyon of the Roggeveldberge. We nailed it after our picnic lunch.

Knysna Scrub-Warbler..... *Bradypterus sylvaticus*..... Endemic, uncommon and local

Another shy skulker, it yielded only after we situated ourselves in an appropriate spot in a suburban park near Capetown. It was heard again at Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve.

Victorin's Scrub-Warbler . *Bradypterus victorini* Endemic, locally common

A stakeout in mountain fynbos near False Bay provided us close looks of two pairs, which responded well to our tapes.

Yellow-rumped Eremomela *Eremomela gregalis* Endemic, uncommon and local

Eremomelas proved to be difficult to see in the Little Karoo. Eventually we got a few along the Sutherland road north of Sadawa. However, we dipped on the Yellow-bellied, *icteropygialis*.

Bradfield's Lark *Mirafrna naevia*

Bradfield's Lark is an established taxonomic split from *Mirafrna sabota*, the Sabota Lark (Clancey 1966, Hall & Moreau 1970) of the Northern Cape Province south to Barkley West, west to the Free State and the Transvaal. But Fry, Keith & Urban still consider *M. s. bradfeldi* of the central Eastern and Northern Cape Province as within the *naevia* group, which is within *M. sabota*. *Naevia* has a much larger bill than *sabota*.

Long-billed Lark *Certhilauda curvirostris*

Fry, Keith and Urban, in **The Birds of Africa**, regard *curvirostris* as forming a superspecies with *chuana*, the Short-clawed Lark of NE South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe. They define six subspecies, which involve three recently-proposed groups:

1. -Karoo Long-billed Lark
Certhilauda curvirostris subcoronata:
nw South Africa: nw Cape Province, Karoo and Bushmanland; Namibia: from c south) is the "northwestern" group. It includes race *C. c. bradshawi* (western Northern Cape, Little Namaqualand, Lower Orange River, Pofadder) which we saw in Bushmanland between Pofadder and the Orange River.
2. -Agulhas Long-billed Lark
Certhilauda curvirostris brevirostris which we saw in the karst and lowland fynbos near deHoop Nature Reserve. An incipient species, it is known only from Cape Agulhas to Knysna (sw South Africa: sc Cape Province, Agulhas Plain s & w of Swellendam, Coastal lowlands

E of Swellendam).

3. -Benguela Long-billed Lark
Certhilauda curvirostris benguelensis which is in NW Namibia and SW Angola (nw Namibia: Damaraland).

- The nominate race occurs from the southern Western Cape province from Cape Agulhas to the Olifants River. This "western form" is believed to be the race we saw on the last day.
- *C. c. falcirostris* is found from the southern Western Cape coast between the Olifants River and the Holgat River.
- Eastern Long-billed Lark *C. c. semitorquata* may also be an incipient species but is found in eastern South Africa: Transvaal and Orange Free State.

Perhaps the following article in *The Auk* will shed some light:

Peter Ryan & Paulette Bloomer, **The Long-billed Lark complex: A species mosaic in southwest Africa**; *The Auk* 116, 1 (1999): 194-208

-Cape Wagtail *Motacilla capensis capensis*
The nominate form is considered distinct from *wellsi* of east Africa and from *simplicissima* of south-central and southeast Africa.

-Yellow-crowned Canary *Serinus canicollis flavivertex*
The southern African form is considered distinct from the nominate form of eastern and south-central Africa.

torquata applies to the African forms.”

European Stonechat* *Saxicola rubicola*
(Linnaeus) 1766

w,s Europe, nw Africa; Turkey

split from: *Saxicola torquata*

insert after: *Saxicola torquata*

U. Wittmann, P. Heidrich, M. Wink & E. Gwinner,

Speciation in the Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*) inferred from nucleotide sequences of the cytochrome-b gene

Journal of Zoological Systematics & Evolutionary Research
33, 3 (1995): 116-122

- Sibley & Monroe, in their 1996 update, split the form occurring in the Cape as the African Stonechat *Saxicola axillaris* (fide Ken Cole).

-African Rock-Martin *Hirundo fuligula fuligula*

The nominate form of South Africa is considered distinct from the Red-throated Rock-Martin *pusilla* of north, central and southeast Africa.

-Eurasian Swallow *Hirundo rustica rustica*

The nominate form is considered distinct from the New World's Barn Swallow, *erythrogaster*.

-Southern Sombre-Greenbul *Andropadus importunus importunus*

The nominate form of southern Africa is considered distinct from *fricki* in central Kenya and from *insularis* in eastern and southeastern Africa.

Tink-tink Cisticola *Cisticola textrix*

The Cape form *C. t. tetrax* has distinctive breast streaking, absent on any other southern african cisticola. No splits have been proposed.

-Karoo Prinia *Prinia maculosa maculosa*

The nominate form of southwest Africa is considered distinct from *hypoxantha*, “Drakensburg” Prinia.

-Bar-throated Apalis *Apalis thoracica thoracica*

The nominate form of southern South Africa is considered distinct from five other forms found in southern and eastern Africa.

... 'Cape' White-eye *Zosterops pallidus*
'capensis'

The southern South African form *capensis* may be distinct from *virens* and from the nominate form in southwest Africa. Documentation proposing species status is lacking.

Z. p. capensis is found in the Cape Province south of the Orange River. Birds are greenish above and greyish below. *Z. p. virens* is found in eastern South Africa and is greenish overall. *Z. p. pallidus* is found from the Orange River Valley west to Port Nolloth and north through Namibia. Birds have yellow underparts with pinkish flanks.

-South African Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus baeticatus baeticatus*

The nominate form in southern Africa is considered distinct from the form *cinnamomeus* found in the rest of Africa.

-Cape Crombec *Sylvietta rufescens rufescens*

The nominate form in southern and central Africa is considered distinct from *ansorgei* in western Angola.

-Cape Clapper-Lark *Mirafra apiata apiata*

Fry, Keith and Urban, in **The Birds of Africa**, regard *M. apiata* as forming a superspecies with *M. rufocinnamomea*, the Flappet Lark, which is found further north.

Sibley and Monroe, 1993, recognize three groups within *apiata*. The nominate form of western coastal South Africa, which we saw on 28 Oct, is distinct from *damarensis* (Damara Clapper-Lark) of south-central Africa and from *rufipilea* (Namaqua Clapper-Lark) of eastern South Africa. It is found from the southern Western Cape province north to Namaqualand and across the Little Karoo to Port Elizabeth and Grahamstown.

According to Roberts (Maclean 1984), *M. a. algoensis* was the De Hoop form seen on October 30. But according to **The Birds of Africa**, this race is *marjorae* (*marjorica?* *marjorae?*), which is found only south of 34° S from the Cape to Knysna. Work on these groups has only recently begun, and it is unclear if *algoensis* will fall within the *rufipilea* group or the nominate group.

Ferruginous Lark.....Certhilauda burra Endemic, uncommon and local

The “Red” Lark was flushed in the early afternoon as we skirmished a section of Kalahari dunes off Loop 10. The best looks would come later that evening as we had scope views of a perched and displaying individual at close range.

Black-eared Sparrow-LarkEremopterix australis.... Endemic, uncommon

Most of us saw a flock of about thirty birds flying through the Karoo as we were leaving Sadawa.

Sclater's Lark.....Spizocorys sclateri..... Endemic, uncommon

This little-known lark lived up to its reputation. A flock of a half dozen was seen as they came to drink from a concrete windmill-tank early in the morning near Pofadder.

Swee WaxbillEstrilda melanotis Endemic, locally common

A small flock was noted near the rangers' residences at the Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve

Forest Canary.....Serinus scotops Endemic, locally common

Also at the rangers' residences, but not seen by all and difficult to relocate.

White-winged Seedeater ..Serinus leucopterus..... Endemic, locally common

We thought we would have to be content with fleeting glimpses of an individual bird as we lunched in a canyon near the Oliphants River. But Travis found a resting, preening bird that allowed us scope looks.

Cape Siskin.....Serinus totta Endemic, locally common

Only one bird was seen in a patch of forest at the eastern end of DeHoop nature Reserve.

Black-headed CanarySerinus alario Endemic, locally common

Two were reported on the drive north from Sadawa, and one was feeding young in a borrow pit near Lambert's Bay.

Taxonomic Notes

-Bare-throated Spurfowl *Francolinus afer afer*

Two groups are involved. The black and white group, *F. a. afer*, includes the nominate *afer*, as well as South Africa's *castaneiventer*, and *swynnertoni*, *melanogaster* and *leucoparaeus*. The vermiculated or rufous-striped group includes *cranchii* (Cranch's Spurfowl) of central and eastern Africa and *harteri* (Hall 1963).

-Tufted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris mitrata*

The South African form is considered distinct from *galeata* (western Africa) and the nominate form (NE Africa).

-Blackrumped (Hottentot) Buttonquail *Turnix hottentotta*

The form breeding in the SW Cape, known as Hottentot Buttonquail, *t. h. hottentotta*, is distinct from the more widespread *T. h. nana* form, and may be a separate species.

-South African Nightjar *Caprimulgus pectoralis pectoralis*

The nominate form is considered distinct from *C. p. fervidus* (Fiery-necked Nightjar).

-Stanley Bustard *Neotis denhami stanleyi*

The southern African form is considered distinct from the nominate Denham's Bustard.

... 'Yellow-billed' Kite *Milvus migrans 'parasitus'*

The African form is considered distinct from the nominate Palearctic form (Black Kite), but documentation proposing species status is lacking.

-Beaudouin's Snake-Eagle *Circaetus gallicus beaudouini*

This subsaharan form is considered distinct from the nominate Palearctic form (Short-toed Snake-Eagle).

-Western Steppe-Buzzard *Buteo buteo vulpinus*

This form is considered distinct from western Palearctic (nominate), southern Asian (*menetriesi*),

and southeast Asian (*japonicus*) forms.

... 'Forest' Buzzard *Buteo oreophilus 'trizonatus'*

Is *trizonatus* the form that occurs in the eastern Cape? Documentation to distinguish *trizonatus* from nominate *oreophilus* is lacking.

-White-breasted Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo lucidus*

Lucidus is considered distinct from the nominate Asian and Palearctic forms.

-Yellow-billed Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia brachyrhyncha*

The form *brachyrhyncha* is considered distinct from the Australasian (*plumifera*) and southern Asia (nominate) forms.

... 'Greater' Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber 'roseus'*

Roseus may be distinct from the nominate form found in the neotropics, but documentation proposing species status is lacking.

-Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross *Diomedea chlororhynchos bassi*

Bassi of the Indian Ocean is considered a recent split from the nominate Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross.

-Cape Thrush *Turdus olivaceus olivaceus*

The nominate form of southern Africa is considered distinct from six other forms occurring throughout Africa.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

From Rolf A. de By's website at <http://www.itc.nl/~deby/SM/TaxChanges.html>:

"The Stonechat is another group of taxa with a checkered taxonomic history, regularly crossing the full-species boundary from both ends. Sangster and CSNA 1998 have pointed out that if the c,s African forms are separated from the European forms,

(Continued on page 20)