



**FANGS & FEATHERS**  
WILDLIFE ADVENTURES

# **Western Cape Coastline Birding Tour, South Africa**

Summary Report  
28th October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2019



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King Penguin, Buffels Bay, Cape of Good Hope, Cape Town

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## Tour Summary

**Tour Participants:** Joshua and Judy Berenbom (USA)

**Tour leader:** Matt Prophet

**Daytime temperature range:** 15°C to 28°C

**Total Birds Seen:** 155

**Total Mammals Seen:** 13

**Birds of the Trip:** King Penguin, African Penguin, Cape Rockjumper, Cape Siskin, Black Harrier, Orange-breasted Sunbird, Cape Rock Thrush, Cape Sugarbird, Knysna Turaco, Olive Bushshrike, Ground Woodpecker, Bank Cormorant.

**Trip Report and Photos:** Matt Prophet

### Summary:

This six-day relaxed birding tour was designed to provide our clients a combination of Western Cape endemic birds and mammals, beautiful coastal scenery and experience its stunning coastal reserves. The first two days were run from Cape Town where our guests stayed in a quality hotel. During the day we conducted day trips to places like the West Coast National Park, Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens, Cape of Good Hope and Strandfontein Birding Area. Hereafter we travelled to the Overberg Region, staying at De Hoop Nature Reserve and Marine Protected Area, followed by the Garden Route while based in the coastal town of Wilderness. A large number of endemic birds were seen during the trip and a sudden unplanned twitch for a magnificent King Penguin which had graced South Africa's shores was the undoubted highlight for all.



Cape Rockjumper, a fynbos biome endemic

## Trip Breakdown

### Day 1: 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019

**Route:** Based at the beautiful Hohenhort Hotel in Constantia, Cape Town. Early in-house breakfast followed by drive to the West Coast National Park for the day. Start 07:30, finish at 17:30.

**Weather:** Strong winds, low twenties.

**Best birds:** Common Ostrich, Cape Spurfowl, Yellow-billed Duck, Cape Teal, Namaqua Dove, African Rail, African Swamphen, Greater Flamingo, Lesser Flamingo, African Oystercatcher, Greater-crested Tern, Crowned Cormorant, Black-headed Heron, Black Harrier, Jackal Buzzard, African Hoopoe, Cape Bulbul, Pearl-breasted Swallow, Karoo Prinia, Cape White-eye, Karoo Scrub Robin, Malachite Sunbird, Southern Double-collared Sunbird, Cape Weaver, Yellow Bishop, Yellow Canary, Cape Canary.

**Bird of the day:** Black Harrier



Black Harrier in West Coast National Park

### Day 2: 29 October 2019

**Route:** Early breakfast followed by Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens and brunch. Afternoon trip to Cape Town's Atlantic Seaboard followed Strandfontein Birding Area. Start 7:30, finish 17:30.

**Weather:** Strong winds, partly cloudy, low twenties.

**Best birds:** Cape Spurfowl, South African Shelduck, Cape Shoveler, Cape Teal, Red-billed Teal, Southern Pochard, Black-necked Grebe, Greater Flamingo, Whiskered Tern, Hartlaub's Gull, Bank Cormorant, Crowned Cormorant, Cape Cormorant, Great White Pelican, Spotted Eagle Owl, Olive Woodpecker, Cape Batis, White-necked Raven, Sombre Greenbul, White-throated Swallow, Karoo Prinia, Olive Thrush, Cape Robin-Chat, African Dusky Flycatcher, Orange-breasted Sunbird, Southern Double Collared Sunbird, Sweet Waxbill, Forest Canary.

**Bird of the day:** Orange-breasted Sunbird



Orange-breasted Sunbird, the star of the Fynbos

### **Day 3: 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

**Route:** Constantia to Cape of Good Hope, Rooiels and Betty's Bay, onward to De Hoop Nature Reserve in the Overberg Region.

Start: 07:00, finish 18:00.

**Weather:** Sunny, no wind, mid twenties.

**Best birds:** Blue Crane, African Oystercatcher, King Penguin, Cape Gannet, Jackal Buzzard, Ground Woodpecker, Cape Rockjumper, Cape Sugarbird, Cape Rock Thrush, Southern Red Bishop, Yellow Bishop, Cape Siskin, Cape Bunting, Denham's Bustard.

**Bird of the day:** King Penguin



The elusive Ground Woodpecker

### **Day 4: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019**

**Route:** De Hoop Nature Reserve (Overberg Region) to Kingfisher Country House in Wilderness on the Garden Route. Start 07:30, finish 17:30.

**Weather:** Sunny, mid twenties.

**Best birds:** Cape Spurfowl, Knysna Turaco, Blue Crane, Great-crested Grebe, Greater Flamingo, Lesser Flamingo, African Oystercatcher, White-fronted Plover, Grey-headed Gull, Caspian tern, African Spoonbill, Hamerkop, Great White Pelican, Jackal Buzzard, Bokmakierie, Southern Boubou, Fork-tailed Drongo, Cape Crow, Agulhas Long-billed Lark, Large-billed Lark, Red-capped Lark, Cape Bulbul, Sombre Greenbul, Pearl-breasted Swallow, Lesser-striped Swallow, Bar-throated Apalis, Fiscal Flycatcher, Chorister Robin Chat, Sweet Waxbill, Forest Canary, White-throated Canary,

**Bird of the day:** Blue Crane



Agulhas Long-billed Lark, a highly localised endemic

### **Day 5: 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019**

**Route:** Birding the grounds at Kingfisher Country House, followed by a trip to Hoekwil Forest (Garden Route National Park). Afternoon birding in Wilderness National Park, exploring various bird hides and trails.

**Weather:** Sunny, mid twenties.

**Best birds:** Knysna Turaco, Narina Trogon, Cape Batis, Olive Bushshrike, Southern Boubou, Grey Cuckooshrike, Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher, African Paradise Flycatcher, Black Saw-wing, Greater-striped Swallow, Chorister Robin-Chat, Grey Sunbird, Amethyst Sunbird, Southern Double-collared Sunbird, Greater Double-collared Sunbird, Streaky-headed Seedeater,

**Bird of the day:** Knysna Turaco





A gorgeous Knysna Turaco

**Day 6: 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2019**

**Route:** Kingfisher Country House to George Airport to connect with international flight departing from Johannesburg.

**Weather:** Sunny, mid-twenties

**Birds of note:** Knysna Turaco, Chorister Robin Chat, Olive Bushshrike, Grey Sunbird, Greater Double-collared Sunbird, Amethyst Sunbird,

**Bird of the day:** Olive Bush Shrike



Olive Bush Shrike can be a difficult bird to see