

Out of Africa (finalizing the last five false Holarctic species)

A report of a short trip to see five rain species I missed in the years before.



Finally seen well this Dwarf Bittern at Zaalkuifdrift

Itinerary

01-02 After arrival in JoBurg from Frankfurt straight to Riedvlei a reserve to see Banded Martin. After that the the lodge in Zaagkuifdrift and birded on Crake Road see: <http://wiki.sabirding.co.za/Portal.aspx?Page=Zaagkuifdrift&AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

02-02 Drove to Nylsvlei and birded there in the morning, after that to Kgomo Kgomo and Zaagkuifdrift.

03-02 Birded all day at Kgomo Kgomo and Zaagkuifdrift.

04-02 Birded in the morning at Kgomo Kgomo and Zaagkuifdrift in the morning and at Zonderwater wetland near Cullinan for Red-Chested Flufftail.

05-02 Birded at Kgomo Kgomo in the morning and then flew to Harare, Zimbabwe in the afternoon.

06+07 and the morning of **08-02** Birded at Monavale Vlei (several times), Marlborough Vlei and Haka Reserve in Zimbabwe, for Striped Crake and found it on the last morning. **08-02** in the afternoon flew back to Frankfurt via JoBurg.



The Place for Striped crane, with Ian Riddel, Bob and the “star of the day” Rommel!

Useful addresses:

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Legenda:

***AAA** = New Holarctic species (2)

Aaa = A target species, not new, but “better views required”

Aaa = Good record for myself or the area

The Birdlist.

Ostriches			
Common Ostrich	Struthio	camelus	About 10 birds (a few adult males) seen at Riedvlei and Nylsvlei, all disputable to count.
Guineafowl			
Helmeted Guineafowl	Numida	meleagris	Quite common in SA and Zim, even in de vlei's
Pheasants, Fowl and Allies			
Crested Francolin	Dendroperdix	sephaena	Common in SA
Natal Spurfowl	Pternistis	natalensis	Common in SA
Swainson's Spurfowl	Pternistis	swainsonii	Common in SA
Harlequin Quail	Coturnix	delegorguei	A total of 48 seen very well at Zaagkuil drift, often in pairs and seen well in flight and on the ground.
Ducks, Geese and Swans			
White-faced Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna	viduata	Common throughout, often in pairs
Fulvous Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna	bicolor	02-02, 4 birds seen at Nylsvlei
White-backed Duck	Thalassornis	leuconotus	02-02 1 ex near Nylsvlei
Spur-winged Goose	Plectropterus	gambensis	Quite common at SA and Zim
Egyptian Goose	Alopochen	aegyptiaca	Seen in low numbers at SA and Zim (1)
African Black Duck	Anas	sparsa	A total of 4 seen, two in SA and two in Zim in pairs.
Yellow-billed Duck	Anas	undulata	Quite common in SA.
Cape Shoveler	Anas	smithii	2 birds a pair at Nylsvlei.
Red-billed Teal	Anas	erythrorhynchos	Common at Zaagkuil drift in flocks.
Southern Pochard	Netta	lima	04-02 2 birds a pair at Zaagkuil drift.

Grebes			
Little Grebe	Tachybaptus	ruficollis	A total of 3 seen at SA.
Storks			
Yellow-billed Stork	Mycteria	ibis	About 20 seen almost daily in SA
Abdim's Stork	Ciconia	abdimii	About 70 seen on 03-02 in one flock behind a farmer working on the land in SA + Common in Zim,
White Stork	Ciconia	ciconia	11 birds seen in SA mainly in the flock of Abdims on 03-02.
Saddle-billed Stork	Ephippiorhynchus	senegalensis	03-02 1 ex. seen very close at Kgomo Kgomo.
Ibises and Spoonbills			
African Sacred Ibis	Threskiornis	aethiopicus	Quite common and seen daily at SA and Zim
Hadedda Ibis	Bostrychia	hagedash	Common in SA
Glossy Ibis	Plegadis	falcinellus	03-02 10 ex at Kgomo Kgomo
African Spoonbill	Platalea	alba	03-02 4 ex at Kgomo Kgomo
Hérons and Bitterns			
Little Bittern	Ixobrychus	minutus	02-02 2 ex. at Nylsvlei, most likely ssp: <i>minutus</i> + 04-02 1 male ssp: <i>pavesii</i> (dark side neck and eye)
<u>Dwarf Bittern</u>	Ixobrychus	sturmii	01-02 2 ex. seen at a presumed nesting site (dead acacia in a swamp), very close and prolonged views, one bird had reddish shoulders. The birds could not be found on the days after this date.
Black-crowned Night Heron	Nycticorax	nycticorax	Quite common in Kgomo Kgomo and 1 in Zim.
Green-backed Heron	Butorides	striata	04-02 1 ex. at Kgomo Kgomo.
Squacco Heron	Ardeola	ralloides	Common in SA
Western Cattle Egret	Bubulcus	ibis	Common in SA and Zim.
Grey Heron	Ardea	cinerea	2 seen at Kgomo Kgomo
Black-headed Heron	Ardea	melanocephala	Common in SA and Zim.
Goliath Heron	Ardea	goliath	01-02 1 ex. along the way.
Purple Heron	Ardea	purpurea	A total of 3 seen in SA and 1 in Zim.
Western Great Egret	Ardea	alba	A total of 4 seen in SA.
Yellow-billed Egret	Egretta	intermedia	04-02 1 ex at Kgomo Kgomo
Black Heron	Egretta	ardesiaca	A flock of 20 birds seen daily at the same place at Kgomo Kgomo
Little Egret	Egretta	garzetta	A total of 12 birds seen at Kgomo Kgomo.
Hamerkop			
Hamerkop	Scopus	umbretta	Seen in low numbers in SA and Zim (where building a nest behind the hotel.
Cormorants and Shags			
Reed Cormorant	Phalacrocorax	africanus	Common in SA and 1 bird seen in Zim.
White-breasted Cormorant	Phalacrocorax	lucidus	01-02 30+ birds in a little colony at Riedvlei.
Anhingas and Darters			
African Darter	Anhinga	rufa	Quite common in SA, also a colony with young at Riedvlei.
Kites, Hawks and Eagles			
Black-shouldered Kite	Elanus	caeruleus	One of the commonest raptor in SA and Zim. and seen daily.
Yellow-billed Kite	Milvus	parasitus	04-02 1 ex. at Kgomo Kgomo was surprisingly the only seen.
African Fish Eagle	Haliaeetus	vocifer	3 seen in total in SA
Black-chested Snake Eagle	Circaetus	pectoralis	02-02 1 ex. seen along the way.
Brown Snake Eagle	Circaetus	cinereus	A total of 3 seen in SA.
Pallid Harrier	Circus	macrourus	04-02 1 very nice male seen at Kgomo Kgomo.
Montagu's Harrier	Circus	pygargus	03-02 3 ex. seen, one male and two immatures at Kgomo Kgomo

Pale Chanting Goshawk	Melierax	canorus	02-02 1 seen perched along the road at SA.
Gabar Goshawk	Micronisus	gabar	08-02 1 ex. flying around calling
Little Sparrowhawk	Accipiter	minullus	2 birds seen in SA perched.
Ovambo Sparrowhawk	Accipiter	ovampensis	07-02 2 birds (a pale bird and a very reddish one) seen very well (perched and in flight) at Monavale Vlei
Lizard Buzzard	Kaupifalco	icus	07-02 1 ex at Haka Reserve, nice views.
Common "Steppe" Buzzard	Buteo	buteo	The commonest raptor in SA all not red individuals.
<u>Lesser Spotted Eagle</u>	Aquila	pomarina	9 adults in one flock at Zaagkuildrift, seen daily hunting termites. Very nice views
Long-crested Eagle	Lophaetus	occipitalis	1 ex. in Harare, Zim

Caracaras and Falcons

Amur Falcon	Falco	amurensis	Common but far not that common as last winter in SA.
Eurasian Hobby	Falco	subbuteo	2 immatures seen very well at Zaagkuildrift and 1 ex. at Monavale Vlei, Zim.
Lanner Falcon	Falco	biarmicus	03-02 1 ex. at Zaagkuildrift perched in a dead tree giving very nice views.

Bustards

Northern Black Korhaan	Afrotis	afraoides	4 ex. in total giving very nice views in SA.
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Flufftails

<u>Red-chested Flufftail</u>	Sarothrura	rufa	04-02 2 ex. a pair seen very well at Zonderwater wetland. The male seen in full view, with the red head and chest and spots on the upperparts. Almost the bird of the trip. Also heard, also 1 in Zim
<i>Streaky-breasted Flufftail</i>	<i>Sarothrura</i>	<i>boehmi</i>	<i>Heard very close at the Vlei's in Zim, not seen so not counted.</i>

Rails, Crakes and Coots

African Crake	Crecopsis	egregia	A total of 14 seen in SA and Zim., seen very well also in flight and 3 nests with eggs found.
Corn Crake	Crex	crex	08-02 1 ex. at Monavale Vlei in flight, seen very well and prolonged in flight.
Black Crake	Amauornis	flavirostra	Seen on most days in SA.
*STRIPED CRAKE	Aenigmatolimnas	marginalis madagascariensis	1 male flushed at close range, with much red in the upperwings, open buff face, long greenish bill and very orange undertailcoverts, see also: http://observado.org/waarmeming/view/81780911
African Swamphe	Porphyrio	ensis	2 birds seen briefly at Nylsvlei
Allen's Gallinule	Porphyrio	alleni	1 ad. seen in flight (very dark with bright red legs) at Nylsvlei
Common Moorhen	Gallinula	chloropus	Seen and heard at various sites in SA and Zim.
Lesser Moorhen	Gallinula	angulata	A total of 5 !! Seen very well at Kgomo Kgomo and Nylsvlei, giving great views also heard.
Red-knobbed Coot	Fulica	cristata	Common at open water area's at SA.

Buttonquail

<u>Kurrichane Buttonquail</u>	Turnix	sylvaticus	04-02 1 ex. seen very well in flight, small, pale, with an orange breast and pale eye.
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Thick-knees

Spotted Thick-knee	Burhinus	capensis	Common mainly during the night drives at SA.
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Stilts and Avocets

Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus	himantopus	A total of 7 birds seen in SA.
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Plovers

Blacksmith Lapwing	Vanellus	armatus	Common mostly in pairs in SA.
Crowned Lapwing	Vanellus	coronatus	Common in small flocks in SA.
African Wattled Lapwing	Vanellus	senegallus	The less commonest Lapwing in SA, but a few seen daily. Also a pair near Crake Cottage in Zim.
Kittlitz's Plover	Charadrius	pecuarius	A total of 18 birds seen at Kgomo Kgomo.
Three-banded Plover	Charadrius	tricoloris	A total of 35 birds seen at Kgomo Kgomo.

Painted Snipes			
Greater Painted Snipe	Rostratula	benghalensis	A total of 25 seen mostly in pairs at the marsh area of Kgomo Kgomo.
Jacanas			
African Jacana	Actophilornis	africanus	Quite common and seen daily, also with chicks at Kgomo Kgomo.
Sandpipers and Snipes			
African Snipe	Gallinago	nigripennis	02-02 1 ex. at Kgomo Kgomo
Marsh Sandpiper	Tringa	stagnatilis	05-02 1 ex. in winter plumage at Kgomo Kgomo
Common Greenshank	Tringa	nebularia	05-02 1 ex. in winter plumage at Kgomo Kgomo
Wood Sandpiper	Tringa	glareola	The commonest wader recorded in the marshy area's and a few in Zim.
Little Stint	Calidris	minuta	2 ex. seen daily at Kgomo Kgomo
Ruff	Philomachus	pugnax	A maximum of 10 in one flock at Kgomo Kgomo
Courasers and Pratincoles			
Bronze-winged Courser	Rhinoptilus	chalcopterus	04-02 1 ex. seen very well near the cottage on one of the night drives
Black-winged Pratincole	Glaeola	nordmanni	A flock of 50 birds seen daily at the ponds of Kgomo Kgomo.
Gulls, Terns and Skimmers			
Grey-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus	cirrocephalus	04-02 1 ex in winterplumage along a the Pienaarsriver
White-winged Tern	Chlidonias	leucopterus	04-02 7 ex. in moulting winterplumage along the Pienaarsriver.
Pigeons and Doves			
Speckled Pigeon	Columba	guinea	Quite common in the fields of Kgomo Kgomo
Red-eyed Dove	Streptopelia	semitorquata	Common throughout
Cape Turtle Dove	Streptopelia	capicola	Common throughout
Laughing Dove	Stigmatopelia	senegalensis	Common throughout
Namaqua Dove	Oena	capensis	05-02 1 ex. in flight at Kgomo Kgomo
Turacos			
Grey Go-away-bird	Corythaixoides	concolor	Quite common throughout
Cuckoos			
Burchell's Coucal	Centropus	burchelli	02-02 1 ex. seen well at Zaagkuildrift.
Black Coucal	Centropus	grillii	2 ex. seen and heard daily at Monavale Vlei in the evening and morning.
Great Spotted Cuckoo	Clamator	glandarius	03-02 2 ex, both juv. at Kgomo Kgomo.
Levaillant's Cuckoo	Clamator	levaillantii	3 ex. seen well at Zaagkuildrift.
Jacobin Cuckoo	Clamator	jacobinus	03-02 3 ex. seen and heard very well.
Dideric Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx	caprius	5 seen in SA + 1 seen at Marlborough Vlei, most where in breeding plumage.
Black Cuckoo	Cuculus	clamosus	08-02 1 immature seen twice in flight in the garden of the cottage in flight.
Barn Owls			
Western Barn Owl	Tyto	alba	2 ex. seen well during the night drives in SA.
Owls			
African Scops Owl	Otus	senegalensis	Seen and heard daily at the lodge in SA.
Southern White-faced Owl	Ptilopsis	granti	2 ex. seen well during the night drives at Zaagkuildrift. A total of 5 seen during the night drives in SA and only one seen very well at Zaagkuildrift.
Spotted Eagle-Owl	Bubo	africanus	
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	Bubo	lacteus	1 ex. seen and heard daily at the cottage, great views.
Pearl-spotted Owlet	Glaucidium	perlatus	Heard almost every day and night at SA, no good views this trip. A total of 6 seen and heard during the nightdrives in SA and 4 birds at Monavale Vlei, Zim.
Marsh Owl	Asio	capensis	

Nightjars			
Rufous-cheeked Nightjar	Caprimulgus	rufigena	01-02 1 ex. seen well on the ground (with a rufous cheek) at Zaagkuil drift.
Fiery-necked Nightjar	Caprimulgus	pectoralis	04-02 1 ex. along the way in flight, good views + 2 at the cottage in Zim.
Swifts			
African Palm Swift	Cypsiurus	parvus	Common in both countries
African Black Swift	Apus	barbatus	04-02 20 ex. at a colony near a diamond mine in SA.
Little Swift	Apus	affinis	Quite common in SA and Zim.
White-rumped Swift	Apus	caffer	Seen in low numbers
Mousebirds			
Speckled Mousebird	Colius	striatus	04-02 1 ex. along the way in SA + 02-02 1 ex. at Marlborough Vlei.
Red-faced Mousebird	Urocolius	indicus	A total of 16 birds seen in SA spread over the days.
Rollers			
Lilac-breasted Roller	Coracias	caudatus	The commonest roller in SA.
European Roller	Coracias	garrulus	A total of 14 seen in SA giving great views.
Kingfishers			
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	Halcyon	albiventris	3 birds being the lodge in SA.
Striped Kingfisher	Halcyon	chelicuti	02-02 1 ex. along the way.
Woodland Kingfisher	Halcyon	senegalensis	Common in SA in dry areas
African Pygmy Kingfisher	Ispidina	picta	02-02 1 ex. behind the lodge, seen in flight.
Malachite Kingfisher	Alcedo	cristata	2 birds seen in SA.
Giant Kingfisher	Megaceryle	maxima	02-02 2 ex. seen spread over the day.
Pied Kingfisher	Ceryle	rudis	2 ex. seen in SA.
Bee-eaters			
Little Bee-eater	Merops	pusillus	A total of 5 ex. at Monavale Vlei.
White-fronted Bee-eater	Merops	bullockoides	01-02 1 ex. along the way in SA.
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	Merops	persicus	Seen almost daily in small flocks in Kgomo Kgomo. The commonest bee-eater in SA and Zim (where I saw a big flock in the evening of 07-02 of 30 birds)
European Bee-eater	Merops	apiaster	
Southern Carmine Bee-eater	Merops	nubicoides	A flock of maximum 15 birds seen in Pienaarsrivier along the main road, daily.
Hoopoes			
African Hoopoe	Upupa	africana	01-02 1 ex. seen at Riedvlei. Very dark orange compared with eurasian birds.
Wood-hoopoes			
Green Wood-hoopoe	Phoeniculus Rhinopomastus	purpureus	Seen almost daily in Zaagkuil drift.
Common Scimitarbill		cyanomelas	02-02 1 ex. seen sitting in a tree in front of the lodge in the early morning.
Hornbills			
African Grey Hornbill	Tockus	nasutus	04-02 1 ex. at Zaagkuil drift.
Southern Red-billed Hornbill	Tockus	rufirostris	A total of 3 seen in SA
Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	Tockus	leucomelas	The commonest Hornbill in SA.
African Barbets			
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	Pogoniulus Trachyphonus	chrysoconus	2 ex. near the lodge in SA, found on call.
Crested Barbet		vaillantii	1 ex. at the cottage in Zim, on the roof of my room.

Honeyguides			
Lesser Honeyguide	Indicator	minor	05-02 1 ex. seen very well (with white in the tail) at Zaagkuil drift
Woodpeckers			
Golden-tailed Woodpecker	Campethera	abingoni	04-02 1 ex. seen at Zaagkuil drift.
Bearded Woodpecker	Dendropicos	namaquus	04-02 1 ex. seen at Zaagkuil drift.
Bushshrikes			
Black-crowned Tchagra	Tchagra	senegalus	02-02 1 ex. at Zaagkuil drift, singing.
Black-backed Puffback	Dryoscopus	cubla	02-02 1 ex. near the lodge in SA
Southern Boubou	Laniarius	ferrugineus atrococcineu	02-02 1 ex. fighting with a Crimson-breasted in SA.
Crimson-breasted Shrike	Laniarius	s	A total of 4 seen in SA.
Shrikes			
Magpie Shrike	Urolestes	melanoleucus	The commonest shrike recorded in SA, often in loose flocks.
Southern White-crowned Shrike	Eurocephalus	anguitimens	Small flocks recorded daily in SA.
Red-backed Shrike	Lanius	collurio	Common in SA, great to see them wintering.
Lesser Grey Shrike	Lanius	minor	3 ex. seen at Kgomo Kgomo in two adults and one first year bird.
Common Fiscal	Lanius	collaris	A total of 5 seen in SA and
Drongos			
Fork-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus	adsimilis	Common in SA + 5 ex. together in Haka, Zim.
Monarchs			
African Paradise Flycatcher	Terpsiphone	viridis	Both in SA and Zim (from the balcony) 1 male seen very well.
Crows and Jays			
Pied Crow	Corvus	albus	Common in SA sometimes in big flocks.
Larks			
Rufous-naped Lark	Mirafra	africana rufocinnamo	01-02 2 ex. singing and showing very well + 2 ex at Haka, Zim, big larks.
Flappet Lark	Mirafra	mea	02-02 1 ex. at Zaagkuil drift, singing + 2 ex. at Haka.
Sabota Lark	Calendulauda	sabota	2 birds seen well at Zaagkuil drift.
Spike-heeled Lark	Chersomanes	albofasciata	01-02 3 ex. together at Zaagkuil drift, the birds looked like longclows in shape.
Bulbuls			
Dark-capped Bulbul	Pycnonotus	tricolor	Common throughout
Swallows and Martins			
*BANDED MARTIN	Riparia	cincta	30 birds in total in two flocks at Riedvlei (01-02) and Nylsvlei (02-02). Huge swallows, like big flycatchers, nothing to do with Sand martins. Finally this bogy bird on my list.
Grey-rumped Swallow	Pseudhirundo	griseopyga	A small flock seen at Marlborough Vlei, nice swallow with defuse markings
Barn Swallow	Hirundo	rustica	Common in SA and a few seen in Zim.
White-throated Swallow	Hirundo	albigularis	A total of 10 birds present at the bridge of Kgomo Kgomo + 2 ex. at Zim.
Rock Martin	Ptyonoprogne	fuligula	02-02 1 ex. near a gas station in SA.
Greater Striped Swallow	Cecropis	cucullata	01-02 common at Riedvlei, not seen after this date.
Lesser Striped Swallow	Cecropis	abyssinica	A total of 7 seen in SA and 2 in Zim, very nice swallows.
Red-breasted Swallow	Cecropis	semirufa	A total of 30 ex. seen
South African Cliff Swallow	Petrochelidon	spilodera	04-02 30 ex. near a colony.
Reed Warblers and Allies			
Lesser Swamp Warbler	Acrocephalus	gracilirostris	3 ex. seen at Marlborough Vlei, a stubby warbler with quite white underparts + supercilium and rufous undertailcoverts.
Great Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus	arundinaceus schoenobaenus	A total of 4 ex. seen in SA.+ ex. seen well in Monavale Vlei.
Sedge Warbler	Acrocephalus	us	Common in Kgomo Kgomo, singing.+ 1 ex. in Zim.

African Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus	baeticatus	5 ex. seen and heard (same song as European) in SA and 2 ex. at Marlborough Vlei. Short winged.
Marsh Warbler	Acrocephalus	palustris	3 ex. two seen well in SA.
Dark-capped Yellow Warbler	Iduna	natalensis	06-02 2 ex. seen very well at Monavale and Marlborough Vlei. Long tailed, high crown, long tail.
<u>Olive-tree Warbler</u>	Hippolais	olivetorum	03-02 2 ex. seen very well at the end of Crake Road, nice views of this huge warbler.
Willow Warbler	Phylloscopus	trochilus	4 birds seen in SA (all yellowish) + 1 ex. at Haka, Zim.

Grassbirds and Allies

Little Rush Warbler	Bradypterus	baboecala	06-02 1 ex. at Marlborough Vlei, dull quite big with a long tail.
River Warbler	Locustella	fluviatilis	07-02 1 ex. seen skulking at Haka nature Reserve, Zim. Undertail not seen.

Cisticolas and Allies

Red-faced Cisticola	Cisticola	erythroptus	07-02 1 ex. seen very well at Monavale Vlei.
Rattling Cisticola	Cisticola	chiniana	A total of 8 seen in SA. + 06-02 common at Marlborough Vlei.
Levaillant's Cisticola	Cisticola	tinniens	06-02 4 ex. at Marlborough Vlei found on song.
Croaking Cisticola	Cisticola	natalensis	Common in Zim, a big heavy built Cisticola with a very obvious call.
Zitting Cisticola	Cisticola	juncidis	Common in SA and Zim.
Desert Cisticola	Cisticola	aridulus	A total of 3 seen in Zaagkuildrift, ID on song and call.
Cloud Cisticola	Cisticola	textrix	Common at Riedvlei, ID on song.
Pale-crowned Cisticola	Cisticola	cinnamomeus	07-02 1 ex. seen at Haka, Zim, ID on call not very different in looks than Zitting.
Tawny-flanked Prinia	Prinia	subflava	A total of 3 seen in Zaagkuildrift, and 2 at Monavale Vlei, Zim
Bar-throated Apalis	Apalis	thoracica	07-02 1 ex. seen very well behind my room in Zim.

Family uncertain

Long-billed Crombec	Sylvietta	rufescens	2 ex. seen in Zaagkuildrift, giving good views.
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Babblers and Parrotbills

Arrow-marked Babbler	Turdoides	jardineii	Common in small family parties in SA and Haka, Zim.
Southern Pied Babbler	Turdoides	bicolor	3 seen in SA in a family party.

Sylviid Babblers

Chestnut-vented Tit-babbler	Parisoma	subcaerulea	02-02 1 adult seen at Nylsvlei, very nice views (and bird)
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White-eyes

Cape White-eye	Zosterops	capensis	A total of 8 seen in SA.
African Yellow White-eye	Zosterops	senegalensis	2 ex. seen in the garden of the lodge in Zim. Very yellow white-eye

Starlings

Common Myna	Acridotheres	tristis	Quite common in the inhabited area's in SA.
Cape Glossy Starling	Lamprotornis	nitens	Common and seen daily in SA.
Burchell's Starling	Lamprotornis	australis	Common and seen daily in SA.
Pied Starling	Lamprotornis	bicolor	01-02 15 ex. at Riedvlei, giving very close views. Great birds.
Red-winged Starling	Onychognathus	morio	2 ex. seen at a gas station in SA + 3 ex. in Zim.

Oxpeckers

Red-billed Oxpecker	Buphagus	erythrorhynchus	A total of 12 seen in two flocks in SA.
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Thrushes

Kurrichane Thrush	Turdus	libonyanus	A total of 6 seen in SA + 1 ex. in Zim.
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Chats and Old World Flycatchers

Thrush Nightingale	Luscinia	luscinia	05-02 1 ex. found near the village at Kgomo Kgomo, in song, a rare bird in SA
White-throated Robin-Chat	Cossypha	humeralis	05-02 1 seen while searching for the Thrush Nightingale, what a bird!
Kalahari Scrub Robin	Erythropygia	paena	02-02 1 ex. seen very well at Zaagkuildrift.
African Stonechat	Saxicola	torquatus	Common throughout
"Southern" Ant-eating Chat	Myrmecocichla	formicivora	Quite common at Zaagkuildrift.

Southern Black Flycatcher	Melaenornis	pammelaina	A total of 5 birds seen SA.
Marico Flycatcher	Bradornis	mariquensis	02-02 1 ex. seen along the way.
Fiscal Flycatcher	Sigelus	silens	01-02 1 ex. seen very well at Riedvlei.
Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa	striata	Common in SA.
Grey Tit-Flycatcher	Myioparus	plumbeus	1 ex. seen and heard every morning near the lodge at Zaagkuildrift.
Sunbirds			
Amethyst Sunbird	Chalcomitra	amethystina	A total of 9 seen in Zim, mainly in the garden of the cottage.
Miombo Double-collared Sunbird	Cinnyris	manoensis	2 ex. in the sunbirdflock in the garden in Zim.
Purple-banded Sunbird	Cinnyris	bifasciatus	2 ex. daily in the garden of the cottage in Zim.
White-bellied Sunbird	Cinnyris	talatala	02-02 1 male seen at Zaagkuildrift near the lodge, the only Sunbird seen in SA.
Variable Sunbird	Cinnyris	venustus	Common in the garden of the cottage in Zim.
Old World Sparrows			
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	Plocepasser	mahali	2 ex. seen at Zaagkuildrift.
House Sparrow	Passer	domesticus	Common at inhabited area's
Cape Sparrow	Passer	melanurus	Seen daily in low numbers, great sparrow.
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	Passer	diffusus	Common at Riedvlei and 1 ex. near the other lodge on 04-02.
Weavers and Widowbirds			
Scaly-feathered Finch	Sporopipes	squamifrons	A total of 3 birds at the edge of the village at Kgomo Kgomo bridge. Nice birds and a former cage bird..
Thick-billed Weaver	Amblyospiza	albifrons	Common in small flocks in SA.
Lesser Masked Weaver	Ploceus	intermedius	03-02 30 birds in a colony at a gas station in SA.
Southern Masked Weaver	Ploceus	velatus	Common in SA and Zim at colonies at the end of there breeding.
Village Weaver	Ploceus	cucullatus	Common in SA and Zim at colonies at the end of there breeding.
Red-billed Quelea	Quelea	quelea	By far the commonest bird recorded in SA, in almost scary flocks. Common in SA but less common in Zim. All in breeding plumage (as big bumblebee's)
Yellow-crowned Bishop	Euplectes	afer	Common in SA and Zim at colonies at the end of there breeding.
Southern Red Bishop	Euplectes	orix	Common in SA and Zim at colonies at the end of there breeding.
Yellow-mantled Widowbird	Euplectes	macrourus	Common on the vlei's in Zim.
White-winged Widowbird	Euplectes	albonotatus	Common in SA + common on Marlborough Vlei.
Red-collared Widowbird	Euplectes	ardens	01-02 5 ex. at Riedvlei + common on the vlei's in Zim.
Long-tailed Widowbird	Euplectes	progne	Common at Riedvlei + 7 ex. in the rest of the SA part of the trip.
Waxbills, Munias and Allies			
Green-winged Pytilia	Pytilia	melba	Great views of an adult male drinking near the other lodge on 05-02.
Red-billed Firefinch	Lagonosticta	senegala	4 ex (pairs) at Crake Road in Zaagkuildrift on two occasions 05-02 2 ex, a pair at a drinking place at the second lodge in Zaagkuildrift + 08-02 1 ex. at Monavale Vlei
Blue Waxbill	Uraeginthus	angolensis	Common in Riedvlei in SA and Zim.
Common Waxbill	Estrilda	astrild	05-02 2 ex. a pair at a drinking site at the second lodge in Zaagkuildrift.
Black-faced Waxbill	Estrilda	erythronotos	Common in quite large flocks in the vlei's in Zim, great views
Zebra Waxbill	Amandava	subflava	Common in Zim.
Bronze Mannikin	Spermestes	cucullata	Common in Zim.
Indigobirds and Whydahs			
Village Indigobird	Vidua	chalybeata	10 ex. seen in SA, often solitaire + 1 ex. in Zim.
Pin-tailed Whydah	Vidua	macroura	Common in large flocks in SA and Zim often one male with a lot of females.
Shaft-tailed Whydah	Vidua	regia	01-02 2 males briefly seen at Zaagkuildrift in SA.
Long-tailed Paradise Whydah	Vidua	paradisaea	02-02 1 ex. seen at Zaagkuildrift.
Wagtails and Pipits			
Cape Wagtail	Motacilla	capensis	04-02 2 ex. in the low fields at Kgomo Kgomo.
African Pied Wagtail	Motacilla	aguimp	03-02 1 ex. seen well at Zaagkuildrift.
Cape Longclaw	Macronyx	capensis	Common in SA.

Yellow-throated Longclaw	Macronyx	croceus	3 ex. seen in Haka and Marlborough Vlei in Zim.
Rosy-throated Longclaw	Macronyx	ameliae	06-02 2 ex. seen at Haka, Zim.
African Pipit	Anthus	cinnamomeus	Common at Riedvlei and 1 ex. on 04-02 at Zaagkuildrift.

Finches and Canaries

Streaky-headed Seed-eater	Serinus	gularis	1 ex. seen a few times in the garden of the cottage in Zim.
Black-throated Canary	Crithagra	atrogularis	Common in SA.
Yellow-fronted Canary	Crithagra	mozambica	02-02 2 ex. at Zaagkuildrift and 4 ex. in Monavale Vlei.

Buntings and New World Sparrows

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	Emberiza	tahapisi	15 ex. seen spread over the days in SA.
Golden-breasted Bunting	Emberiza	flaviventris	02-02 1 ex. seen very well at Zaagkuildrift.



Jacobin Cuckoo (not that common), Lesser Moorhen (easier than last year), Red-Billed Teal, Southern White Faced Owl



Banded Martin (finally on my list) and Black-winged Pratincoles all the way from central Eurasia.



Zebra Waxbill (c.in Zim), Spotted Eagle Owl (hard to see well), Harlequin Quail (Foto Mark Tittley, great views) and Lesser Spotted Eagle.



Great Spotted Cuckoo (unfortunately this bird died by a car later in the week) and African Crake (great to see them in these numbers).



Striped Crake Legs, found before I saw the species, what a way to end the mission..

