SOUTH AFRICA Oct - 2004

	CCIES:		No of days out of 8 recorded
	Common Name	Scientific Name	
1	Common Ostrich	Struthio camelus	5
2	African Penguin	Spheniscus demersus	2
3	Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis	5
4	Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus	2
5	Black-necked Grebe	Podiceps nigricollis	2
6	Shy Albatross	Thalassarche cauta	1
7	Black-browed Albatross	Thalassarche melanophris	1
8	Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross	Thalassarche chlororhynchos	1
9	Southern Giant-Petrel	Macronectes giganteus	1
10	Northern Giant-Petrel	Macronectes halli	1
11	Pintado Petrel	Daption capense	1
12	Great-winged Petrel	Pterodroma macroptera	1
13	Soft-plumaged Petrel	Pterodroma mollis	1
14	White-chinned Petrel	Procellaria aequinoctialis	1
15	Great Shearwater	Puffinus gravis	1
16	Sooty Shearwater	Puffinus griseus	2
17	Manx Shearwater	Puffinus puffinus	1
18	Wilson's Storm-petrel	Oceanites Oceanicus	1
19	Black-bellied Storm-petrel	Fregetta tropica	1
20	Great White Pelican	Pelecanus onocrotalus	2
21	Cape Gannet	Morus capensis	3
22	White-breasted Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo lucidus	5
23	Cape Cormorant	Phalacrocorax capensis	3
24	Bank Cormorant	Phalacrocorax neglectus	2
25	Reed (Long-tailed) Cormorant	Phalacrocorax africanus	5
26	Crowned Cormorant	Phalacrocorax coronatus	1
27	African Darter	Anhinga rufa	3
28	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea	4
29	Black-headed Heron	Ardea melanocephala	5
30	Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea	2
31	Yellow-billed (Intermediate) Egret	Egretta intermedia	2
32	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	4
33	Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis	4
34	Black-crowned Night-heron	Nycticorax nycticorax	2
35	Little Bittern	Ixobrychus minutus	2
36	African Sacred Ibis	Threskiornis aethiopicus	7
37	Hadada Ibis	Bostrychia hagedash	4
38	Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus	8
39	African Spoonbill	Platalea alba	4
40	Greater Flamingo	Phoenicopterus ruber	2
41	Egyptian Goose	Alopochen aegyptiacus	7
42	Yellow-billed Duck	Anas undulata	5
43	Spur-winged Goose	Plectropterus gambensis	4
44	White-faced Duck	Dendrocygna viduata	2
45	African Black Duck	Anas sparsa	1
46	Cape Teal	Anas capensis	2
47	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	2
48	Red-billed Duck	Anas erythrorhyncha	2
49	Cape Shoveler	Anas smithii	2
50	Southern Pochard	Netta erythrophthalma	2
51	Maccoa Duck	Oxyura maccoa	2
52	Black-shouldered Kite	Elanus caeruleus	3
53	Yellow-billed Kite	Milvus migrans parasitus	5
54	African Fish Eagle	Haliaeetus vocifer	1
55	Cape Griffon	Gyps fulvus	1
56	African Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus	1

57	Black Harrier	Circus maurus	4
58	African Harrier-Hawk	Polyboroides radiatus	1
59	African Goshawk	Accipiter tachiro	2
		1	6
60	Steppe Buzzard	Buteo vulpinus	0
61	Forest Buzzard	Buteo oreophilus trizonatus	1
62	Jackal Buzzard	Buteo rufofuscus	4
63	Booted Eagle	Hieraaetus pennatus	1
64	Martial Eagle	Polemaetus bellicosus	1
65	Rock Kestrel	Falco rupicolis	5
66	Eurasian Hobby	Falco subbuteo	1
67	Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus	1
68	Secretary-bird	Sagittarius serpentarius	1
69	Helmeted Guineafowl	Numida meleagris	7
70	Grey-winged Francolin	Francolinus africanus	1
71	Cape Spurfowl (Francolin)	Francolinus capensis	4
72	Common Quail	Coturnix coturnix	H only
73	African Rail	Rallus caerulescens	1
74	Black Crake	Amaurornis flavirostris	1
75	African Purple Swamphen	Porphyrio madagascariensis	2
76	Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	4
70	Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>	5
78	Blue Crane	Anthropoides paradisea	3
78 79	Denham's (Stanley's) Bustard	Neotis denhami	1
			1
80	Southern Black Korhaan	Eupodotis afra	1
81	Karoo Korhaan	Eupodotis vigorsii	1
82	African Black Oystercatcher	Haematopus moquini	3
83	Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus	3
84	Pied Avocet	Recurvirostra avosetta	2
85	Water Thick-knee(Dikkop)	Burhinus vermiculatus	1
86	Spotted Thick-knee (Dikkop)	Burhinus capensis	1
87	Blacksmith Lapwing (Plover)	Vanellus armatus	7
88	Crowned Lapwing (Plover)	Vanellus coronatus	4
89	Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula	1
90	Three-banded Plover	Charadrius tricollaris	3
91	White-fronted Plover	Charadrius marginatus	1
92	Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos	1
93	Subantarctic Skua	Catharacta antarctica	1
94	Parasitic Jaeger (Arctic Skua)	Stercorarius parasiticus	1
95	Cape Gull	Larus vetula	7
96	Grey-headed Gull	Larus verau	2
90	Hartlaub's Gull	Larus cirrocephalas	5
		Larus sabini	
98	Sabine's Gull		1
99	Caspian Tern	Sterna caspia	1
100	Swift (Great Crested) Tern	Sterna bergii	4
101	Sandwich Tern	Sterna sandvicensis	3
102	Arctic Tern	Sterna	1
103	Common Tern	Sterna hirundo	2
104	Whiskered Tern	Chlidonias hybridus	1
105	Rock Dove	Columba livia	8
106	Speckled Pigeon	Columba guinea	8
107	African Olive-pigeon (Rameron Pigeon)	Columba arquatrix	3
108	Red-eyed Dove	Streptopelia semitorquata	8
109	Cape Turtle (Ring-necked) Dove	Streptopelia capicola	8
110	Laughing (Palm) Dove	Streptopelia senegalensis	6
111	Tambourine Dove	Turtur tympanistria	1
112	Klaas' Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx klaas	1+H
112	Dideric Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx caprius	1
113	Red-chested Cuckoo	Cuculus solitarius	4
114	Burchell's Coucal	Centropus burchelli	1
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116	Fiery-necked Nightjar	Caprimulgus pectoralis	H only
117	Alpine Swift	Tachymarptis melba	4
118	African (Black) Swift	Apus barbatus	6
119	Little Swift	Apus affinis	7

121 Speckled Mousebird Collus striants 3 122 African Hoopoe Uppug africana 4 123 Maluchite Kinglisher Hecka cristata 1 124 Brown-booded Kinglisher Helcela cristata 1 125 Giant Kingfisher Megaceryle maxima 1 126 Pied Kingfisher Cervile ruls 3 127 Cardinal Woodpecker Dendropicos fiscescens 1 128 Olive Woodpecker Dendropicos griscecephalus 2 213 Alguillas Long-billed Lark Carlinardial cinerea 3 138 Rock-apped Lark Galardial cinerea 1 139 Boron-throated (Plain) Martin Hirundo fuligula 6 139 Boron-throated (Plain) Martin Hirundo fuligula 6 139 Brack Saw-wing Paari-breasted Swallow Hirundo cultata 8 130 Brown-throated (Plain) Martin Hirundo cultata 8 8 139 Black Saw-wing Paalidoproene pristoptera 3 14 140 Cape (Waguil Motaculia cugensis <td< th=""><th>120</th><th>White-rumped Swift</th><th>Apus caffer</th><th>7</th></td<>	120	White-rumped Swift	Apus caffer	7
122 African Hoopoe Lippa giricana 4 123 Malachire Kungfisher Halcyon albiventris 1 124 Brown-hooded Kingfisher Magacerrie maxima 1 125 Giant Kingfisher Cerole ristata 1 126 Pied Kingfisher Cerole ristata 3 127 Cardinal Woodpecker Dendropicos giscecephalus 2 128 Algulhas Long-billed Lark Certifianda brevirostris 2 130 Regulhas Long-billed Lark Calandral mayinsaria 3 131 Brown-throated (Plain) Martin Ripparta publiclea 6 132 Large-billed Lark Calandral mayinsaria 1 133 Brown-throated (Plain) Martin Hipmata publiclea 6 134 Rock Martin Hirando nusica 1 1 135 Barn Swallow Hirando nusica 1 1 1 136 White-throated Swallow Hirando alignata 1 1 1 1 136 Barn Swallow Hirando alignata 1 1 1 1 1 1				
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5 5 F				
	182	Common (European) Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	7

183	Cape Sugarbird	Promerops cafer	6
184	Orange-breasted Sunbird	Anthobaphes violacea	6
185	Malachite Sunbird	Nectarinia famosa	7
186	Amethyst (Black) Sunbird	Chalcomitra amethystina	1
187	Southern Double-collared Sunbird	Cinnyris chalybea chalybeus	7
188	Greater Double-collared Sunbird	Cinnyris afra afer	2
189	Cape White-eye	Zosterops pallidus capensis	7
190	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	6
191	Cape Sparrow	Passer melanurus	7
192	Cape Weaver	Ploceus capensis	7
193	Southern (Vitelline) Masked-weaver	Ploceus velatus	3
194	Yellow Bishop (Cape Widow)	Euplectes capensis	5
195	Southern Red Bishop	Euplectes orix	4
196	Swee Waxbill (Black-faced Swee)	Estrilda melanotis	2
197	Common Waxbill	Estrilda astrild	8
198	Pin-tailed Whydah	Vidua macroura	6
199	Yellow Canary	Serinus flaviventris	3
200	Brimstone (Bully) Canary	Serinus sulphuratus	5
201	White-throated Canary	Serinus albogularis	2
202	Cape Canary	Serinus canicollis	8
203	Cape Bunting	Emberiza capensis	5
204	Protea Seedeater	Serinus leucopterus	1
205	Forest Canary	Serinus scotops	1
206	Cape Siskin	Serinus totta	4
207	Common Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs	1

	MAMMALS & OTHER SIGHTINGS	Scientific Name	
1	Southern Right Whale	Balaena australis	3
2	Humpback Whale	Magaptera novaeangliae	1
3	Long-finned Pilot Whale	Globicephala melas	1
4	South African Fur Seal	Arctocephalus pusillus	3
5	Bushbuck	Tragelaphus scriptus	1
6	Eland	Taurotragus oryx	1
7	Mountain Zebra	Equus zebra zebra	1
8	Grey Rherok	Pelea capreolus	3
9	Chacma Baboon	Papio ursinus	2
10	Rock Hyrax	Procavia capensis	3
11	Southern Scrub Hare	Lepus saxatilis	1
12	Eastern Grey Squirrel	Sciurus carolinensis	2
13	Four-striped Grass Mouse	Rhabdomys pumilio	2
14	Springbok	Antidorcas marsupialis	2
15	Bontebok	Damaliscus pygargus	2
16	Steenbok	Raphicerus campestris	2
17	Striped Polecat	Ictonyx striatus	1 dead
18	Cape Grey Mongoose	Herpestes pulverulentus	1
19	Yellow Mongoose	Herpestes ochracea	3
20	Angulate Tortoise	Chersina angulate	3
21	Leopard Tortoise	Geochelone paradalis	1
22	Puff Adder	Bitis arietans	1
23	Southern Rock Agama	Agama atra	1
24	Karoo Girdled Lizard	Cordylus polyzonus	1
25	Marico Thick-toed Gecko	Pachydactylus mariquensis	1
26	Cape Crag Lizard	Pseudocordylus microlepidotus	1
27	Cape Skink	Mabuya capensis	1

More mammal info below -

MAMMALS (CLASS: MAMMALIA)

These are presented in taxonomic order with details of the sightings. Taxonomic order and species definitions are based upon Mammals of the World a Checklist, Duff and Lawson (2004). Supplementary text is derived from a range of sources, including: The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals, Kingdon (2001), The Encyclopaedia of Mammals ed Macdonald (1984) and various websites. Mammal taxonomy, like that of birds, is complex, often contested and subject to change. Some species are extremely variable, not only within adjacent populations, but often within individual populations.

Order: RODENTIA FAMILY: Sciuridae

Eastern Grey Squirrel

Rodents Squirrels

Sciurus carolinensis

'Our' very own Grey Squirrels introduced to South Africa from the eastern United States, via the United Kingdom, to animate the introduced Oaks (Quercus robor) and remind the Brits of home!

Seen whilst shopping at Spar in Paal and in Kirstenbosch. **FAMILY: Muridae**

Mice, Rats, Voles and Gerbils Rhabdomys pumilio

Four-striped Grass Mouse Called Striped Mouse within the list. The six species of Striped Mouse actually belong to a different genus, Hybomys.

Only seen by two members of the group, including Johan. Seen at Kirstenbosch and on the path from the Visitor Centre to the coastal road at Cape Point. 'Views' consisted of a rapid dash by the mouse from one area of cover to another. Regarded as common.

Order: CARNIVORA

FAMILY: Herpestridae

Carnivores Mongooses

Mongooses are the second largest group of predators, after the Mutselids (Weasels etc), which they displace (in terms of total number of species) in Africa.

Cape Grey Mongoose

Herpestes pulverulentus Called Small Grey Mongoose within both the list and Kingdon.

Two individuals were seen. As a means of escape, one initially insisted on running ahead of the vehicles on our first day at Strandfontein Sewage Works. Another was seen on a path in Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. This mammal is generally solitary and nocturnal. It occurs in a range of habitats, with a preference for drier rocky areas, especially in the coastal plain.

Yellow Mongoose

Cynictis penicillata Seen on several occasions, mostly singularly but also a pair and three animals together. The coats of southern forms of this widespread mongoose are more yellow and the white-tipped tail was clear. It was interesting that we saw this diurnal animal traverse very large open areas. What might this say about the abundance of its predators in those areas, eg Martial Eagles and other raptors, have they declined? On several occasions they were observed to stand upright in the 'Meerkat' position!

Order: PINNEPEDIA FAMILY: Otariidae

Seals and Sea Lions Eared Seals

Species in this family have hind-limbs that can be articulated in front of their body so that they can 'walk', unlike the True or Hair Seals (Family: Phocidae, the Earless Seals), which have their hind-limbs pointing backwards for better performance in water, but less so on land.

The common name suffix is not necessarily a clue to family, as species with the suffix 'seal' occur in both families.

South African Fur Seal

Arctocephalus pusillus

(Australian Fur Seal)

Called Cape Fur Seal within the list.

Seen both in the sea and on the land and when we were both on land (esp Cape Point and Boulders Beach) and on the water (the pelagic!).

Their easy aquatic agility contrasted sharply with their terrestrial ungainliness.

Order: PRIMATES FAMILY: Cercopithecidae **Chacma Baboon**

Primates Old World Monkeys

Papio ursinus

The second largest of the five species of baboon within the genus Papio. Adaptable, opportunist and omnivorous.

Seen on various occasions and at a range of sites varying from mountain-sides within reserves (eg Cape Point) to residential suburbs, including gardens and patios (the Rock-jumper site). This adaptability makes them, on occasions, a dangerous pest (the skulls in the Visitor Centre at Strandfontein Sewage Works show how their canines compare quite favourably with those of a leopard).

Whales and Dolphins **Rorgual Whales**

Humpback Whale

Megaptera novaeangliae

So-called because of the small (relatively) hump before the dorsal fin. The distinctive blow was seen by some on the pelagic.

FAMILY: Balaenidae

Southern Right Whale

Right Whales

Balaena australis

Although seen whilst on the pelagic, the sightings from the land at Hermanus were truly spectacular.

No one will forget the practically continuous display of tail flukes as the whales 'sailed' for periods of 10+ minutes at a time. This behaviour is associated with temperature regulation. The related behaviour of lobtailing being associated with communication. Quite amazing. Earlier on our trip we were also treated to excellent cliff-top views of mothers with their calves.

FAMILY: Delphinidae Long-finned Pilot Whale

Marine Dolphins

Globicephala melas

Whilst on the pelagic, a pod passed both boats. This gave all of those not suffering from sea-sickness an excellent view of this species.

Order: ARTIODACTYLA

FAMILY: Bovidae

Rhebok

Even-toed Ungulates Cattle, Antelope, Sheep and Goats

Pelea capreolus

The (Grey) Rhebok was seen on many occasions in a variety of circumstances wherever there was shorter vegetation for both grazing and to provide the animal with clear views (their means of avoiding predation). Herd size was typically small.

Springbok

Antidorcas marsupialis

It was good to see this important symbol of South Africa. Although superficially resembling gazelles, they are different (for example, having hollow horn cores, like Impala). Extensively ranched, with much 'wild' stock living in fenced rangeland.

Steenbok

Raphicerus campestris Much smaller than the Springbok, although also an inhabitant of arid grassland scrub (often in more stony areas). A type of dwarf antelope.

Bushbuck

Tragelaphus scriptus

Seen by most on 25 October (in the Swellandam farm area) and by some on the 28 October (after the pelagic).

Unlike the Rhebok, this species usually occurs in dense vegetation and is solitary. As such, Johan was very surprised to see one in the open at Swellendam and exclaimed, "What are you doing out there?". Taurotragus oryx

Eland

Also called Common or Cape Eland (and although this species once ranged over much of Africa south of the Equator, it is now rare In the Cape). This majestic spirally-horned bovine (which is larger than the Giant (or Derby's) Eland *T. derbianus*) is the world's largest antelope.

It was seen in the finbos at Cape Point.

Bontebok

Damaliscus pygarus

Also known as the Blesbok and down as D. dorcas dorcas in the list (both are now regarded as subspecies D. *p. dorcas* = Bontebok and *D. p. phillipsi* = Blesbok)).

This beautiful antelope, once widespread in open grassland and finbos (fynbos) areas, is now the subject of a successful re-introduction programme in the Cape National Park. We also saw individuals being ranched in, appropriately, the Bontebok National Park area (in a reserve / breeding site near De Hoop). Both subspecies are extensively ranched.

Mountain Zebra

Equus zebra We saw the Cape Mountain subspecies, E. z. zebra, in arable/scrub on the way to Swellandam (where we also saw Rhebok, Steenbok and Springbok). Zebra taxonomy is complex for a superficially 'simple' mammal. All species have subspecies and there is a plethora of common names.

Order: URANOTHERIA FAMILY: Procaviidae **Rock Hyrax**

Even-toed Ungulates Hyraxes

Procavia capensis

One of two species of Hyrax found in South Africa (other = Dendrohyrax arboreus (Southern Tree Hyrax)). The formally five species of Rock Hyrax (or Dassie) are now treated as one species, ie P. capensis. Excellent views of this superficially rodent/rabbit like mammal on three days, especially on the path from the Visitor Centre to the coastal road at Cape Point.

REPTILES (CLASS: REPTILIA)

These are presented in taxonomic order with details of the sightings. Taxonomic order and species definitions are based upon a range of websites. Reptile taxonomy is very complex and contested. In addition, and far more so than for Birds and Mammals, there is very frequent use of the 'full range' of taxonomic levels. For example, sub-Families, sub-Orders, infra-Orders and much more, are frequently used within Reptile taxonomy. These have been omitted!

Order TESTUDINES

FAMILY Testudinidae

Turtles

Note that the term Turtle can refer to what UK residents call Tortoises, Turtles and Terrapins.

Tortoises

South Africa has the richest diversity of tortoise species and genera in the world

Chersina angulata

Seen on three occasions on the first three days, with particularly good views being had at the Strandfontein Sewage Works. Found in Namibia and South Africa. This tortoise has a very domed carapace.

Geochelone pardalis

Leopard Tortoise

Angulate Tortoise

This tortoise, is, sadly, one of the species of tortoise most commonly kept as a pet. It has a huge range across the dry-lands of sub-Saharan Africa. Close-up views had by virtually all the group at the Strandfontein Sewage Works.

Order: SQUAMATA

Lizards and Snakes

Comprises 95%+ of living reptiles, 40 or so families and over 6,600 species (with the number likely to increase with more research).

FAMILY Agamidae

Agama Lizards Agama atra

Southern Rock Agama Agama atra Seen by some in the Cape Point and Boulders Beach areas on the second day. The males can be wonderfully coloured with vivid blue to the front and lower body, hence another common name the Blue-headed Agama.

FAMILY Gekkonidae Marico's Thick-toed Gecko

Pachydactylus mariquensis

Always good to see, this Gecko was found on our first day in the Strandfontein Sewage Works. The genus Pachydactylus is known as the Thick-Toed or Rough Geckos, this says it all really! Found in a range of habitats and mostly nocturnal.

FAMILY Cordylidae

Spinytail or Girdled Lizards

Karoo Girdled Lizard Cordylus polyzonus

A rock-dwelling lizard with a longish tail. It is probably the most common species in the arid western and central parts of South Africa.

Like the Agama above, Seen by some in the Cape Point area and again in Swellendam.

Geckos

Cape Crag Lizard

Another Cape Point finding, seen by some. The common name aptly describes its habits.

FAMILY Scincidae Cape Skink

Mabuya capensis

Pseudocordylus microlepidotus

The familiar form of the skink was our first reptile, seen at the airport, and later at Strandfontein Sewage Works.

Skinks

FAMILY Viperidae

Puff Adder

Vipers and Pit Vipers

Bitis arietans

What a delightful genus name! Particularly for a snake that has has one of the fastest strikes in the world of around 7 metres per second. It is Common throughout South Africa, except for mountain tops, true desert and dense forest. They very seldom move out of the way when approached. It is a bad-tempered and excitable snake that may hiss or puff when disturbed. It is highly venomous and accounts for up to 60% in SA.

However, it is a beautiful animal that mostly feeds on rats and mice and, in this respect, is beneficial. Our specimen, just under a metre in length with an attractive sand colouration (colour pattern is highly variable), was observed on 23 October crossing the road in the Cape National Park.

Please note that our checklists do not include species seen by leaders only. We also do not include single observer sightings or very poor views. We do not count heard only or subspecies, although they are noted. This we believe gives us a very honest accurate group total.

With this in mind we welcome you to compare our lists with other companies, check out our high standards and above all our prices which offer the very best value for money.

Check out our gallery for photos from this and other tours

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