



Troops Trip Report

CAPE POINT

WESTERN CAPE OUTING - JUNE '23



As "early as possible" is the motto of a wildlife photographer. A chilly multi-hour drive brought together our biggest Cape meet, 13 people, same passion.

From the get-go fynbos birds were singing and dancing along the roadside. Orange-breasted, Southern double-collared and malachite sunbirds. Cape sugarbirds too. So small and so shy your eyes needed to be peeled.



Around a turn, we found bontebok grazing, in the most beautiful golden light, rams and ewes and calves. We also saw, a lone Cape mountain zebra, a red hartebeest and couple of eland in the distance.

Then pointing the cars' noses west, we crawled along to Olifantsbos, the main focus of our lenses that day. The Olifant's beach was bursting with good birding. Species from African sacred ibis to African pipit.



We considered strolling along the beach for a longer list, but decided protection is our greatest passion.

The sun was soaring in the skies, so just two more stops...like chilling at the lighthouse with a small spotted skaapteker and an endemic black girdled lizard. Lizards were in whopping count, everywhere. From that high point we made out ocean-going and coastal birds (quite a list by now!)

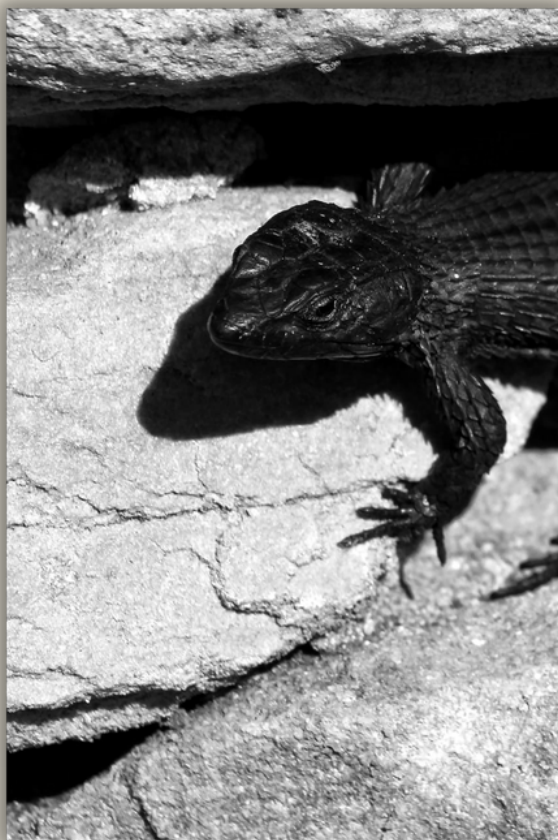


A brief halt at our continent's most Southwestern point sealed the end of a successful and great day with friends.

LISTS FOR THE DAY

Mammals

Cape Mountain Zebra
Red Hartebeest
Eland
Bontebok
Cape Fur Seal



Reptiles

Cape Sand Toad
Black Girdled Lizard
Southern Rock Agama
Spotted Grass Snake
(Skaapteker)



Birds



Orange-breasted sunbird,
Malachite sunbird, Cape sugarbird, Cape grassbird
Egyptian goose , Cape shoveler, Familiar chat
Spur-winged goose, Hadada ibis, Cape robin-chat
African sacred ibis, Little egret, Laughing dove
Western cattle egret, Pied avocet, House sparrow
Blacksmith lapwing, White-fronted plover
Kittlitz' plover, Three-banded plover, Red-winged starling
Cape cormorant, Crowned cormorant
Cape gannet, White-chinned petrel, Rock martin
Sooty shearwater, Kelp gull , Hartlaub's gull
Greater-crested (swift) tern, Cape wagtail, African pipit
Plain-backed pipit, African harrier-hawk, Jackal buzzard
Pied crow, White-necked raven, Rock kestrel
Grey-backed cisticola, Bokmakierie, Southern fiscal
Fiscal flycatcher, Cape bulbul, Yellow bishop
Southern double-collared sunbird

Organised by Justin Ponder, Finn Gretschel and
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