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# A guide to the bird species

## Found in Bonza Game Farm and the surrounds

In this booklet, 155 bird species can be observed in Bonza and in its surrounds.

Bonza game farm is situated between the Shrub veld and Mountain veld.

Shrubveld: The Campor bush (*Tarchonanthus camphoratus*) is the characteristic feature of the Shrubveld on the dolomitic plateau. Attractive forests of Olive trees *Olea europaea* variety *Africana* are a peculiar feature in some areas.

Mountain veld: displays an interesting diversity of grasses; shrubs and unusual trees such as Karee (*Rhus*) species, Namaqua fig and the lavender croton on the hard, rugged slopes.



Shrubveld



Mountain veld

## Cattle Egret SH



### Afrikaans: Beesreiger

Small, compact white a relatively short yellow bill. More frequently seen in dry habitats. In breeding season, look for pale salmon color on head and breast with a brighter bill. Leg color varies from reddish or yellow during the breeding season to black during the nonbreeding season. Juveniles have dark bill. Always note relatively short, thick neck and short legs compared with other egrets. Widespread and common across the globe. Often gathers in flocks, frequently following cattle.

## Abdim's Stork **SH**



### Afrikaans: Klein swart Ooievaar

A medium-sized, dark stork with a white belly. This gregarious African migrant often appears in huge nomadic flocks numbering in the thousands, normally in response to heavy rains or large fires, after which they forage on insect emergences. It prefers open grassland and woodland but also uses wetland margins and fields. Could be confused with the more solitary Black Stork, but Abdim's Stork is smaller, has a white rump, and has a green-gray (not red) bill and dull (not bright red) legs.



## Hadedda Ibis SH



### Afrikaans: Hadedda

A large, bulky, gray-brown ibis with an iridescent green-purple gloss on the wings. It has a bicolored black-and-red bill and a white streak across the cheek under the eye. Pairs and small flocks occur in a variety of habitats including open country, wetland margins, and forest edge; they forages on the ground, digging, probing soft soil, and picking up invertebrates with their long bills. The frequently heard call is one of the most characteristic sounds of Africa: a loud, raucous, trumpeting "ha-da-da" which gives the bird its name.



## Secretarybird SH



### Afrikaans: Sekretaris voël

A distinctive, tall, long-legged, crane-like raptor with unique quill-like plumes on its head and bright-red facial skin. In flight, the dark edge to the hind wing, diamond-shaped tail, and long spatulas tail feathers make it unmistakable. It prefers open rangeland and savanna, where it strides about hunting for reptiles, small mammals, and insects, which it bludgeons with its powerful legs.

## Whitebacked Vulture SH



### Afrikaans: Witrugasvoël

A large, buff-brown vulture with pale under wing patches and a pale rump patch that is best seen in flight. Prefers open savanna and plains. It breeds in loose colonies in tall trees. It remains Africa's commonest vulture but is declining rapidly as it is highly susceptible to poisoning. The similar Cape Griffon is larger and paler, with a pale honey-colored eye (visible at close range), and less contrast between the flight feathers and the reminder of the under wing in flight.



## Cape Vulture (vulnerable) SH MV



### Afrikaans: Kraansaasvoël

Overall, the Cape Griffon is creamy-white, much paler and larger than the white-backed Vulture. At close range, the adult's eyes are honey-colored, and there is a speckled stripe along the middle of the wing. They nest in small to large colonies in hills and mountains but will fly hundreds of kilometers to forage. The similar white-backed Vulture is smaller and darker with a wing that is more contrasting between flight feathers and the remainder of the under wing; at close range its dark eyes are visible.

## Lappet faced Vulture SH



### Afrikaans: Swartaasvoël

A massive vulture with a naked, square head, a bulky bluish-yellow beak and wrinkled loose skin (lappets) on the face. Adults have a brown-and-white streaked chest and puffy white leggings, while chicks are all brown. In flight, the very broad wings, white leggings, and small white lines at the front of the wing are diagnostic. Rare and declining but widespread in open country; found in drier areas than other vultures. Aggressive at kills, dominating and opening the carcass for other scavengers.

## Blackshouldered Kite SH



### Afrikaans: Blou valk

Small and distinctive falcon like kite. Light underneath, blue-gray above with conspicuous black shoulders formed by black wing coverts. Juveniles have a scaly back and brownish-washed breast. Found in open savannah, semi-desert, and agricultural lands with scattered woods; frequently seen on exposed perches. Varied flight style, hovering like a kestrel or gliding like a harrier with deep wing beats and raised wings.



## Black Eagle SH MV



### Afrikaans: Swart Arend

Large and distinctive dark eagle. Adults appear all dark from a distance, but closer inspection reveals pale barring on the primaries, secondary, and under tail, as well as a bright yellow bill and feet. Readily separated from other large birds of prey in range by structure as well as coloration; Black Eagles have broad wings with distinct "fingers" (emarginated primaries) in the tip, as well as a long tail that is fan-shaped when open and slightly wedge-shaped when closed.

## Martial Eagle SH



### Afrikaans: Breëkoparend

A massive eagle with a short but prominent crest. The adult is brown on the head, back, and chest, with a pale belly covered in brown blotches. In flight the under wings are brown. Either solitary or in pairs, it inhabits woodland, plains, and semi-desert, where it hunts for vertebrates. Martial Eagles have extremely keen eyesight and can locate prey from six kilometers away. They hunt mostly on the wing and surprise prey from above. Juvenile Martial and Crowned eagles are similar, but Martial has whitish (not buffy) under parts, unspotted flanks, and narrower bars on the tail.

## Steppe Buzzard SH



### Afrikaans: Bruinjakalsvoël

Commonest large hawk in many areas, often seen soaring. Favors woodland and forest edge, farmland with hedges. Also hunts over open country, especially moorland and rough grassland. Mainly seen as singles or pairs, circling over fields and woodlands with wings slightly raised. Rather stocky hawk with broad wings and short, square-tipped tail (rounded when spread). Plumage variable but typically has paler breast band, fine dark tail barring (broad dark tail tip on adult) (non-breeding migrant)



## Gabar Goshawk SH



### Afrikaans: Witkruissperwer/klein sing-valk

A small, slender grayish hawk with a distinct hood and a white rump; resembles a miniature chanting-goshawk. In flight, note heavily barred under wings and tail. Pairs inhabit moist and arid savanna, where they terrorize small birds and other small vertebrates at waterholes. Distinctive piping repeated "peeii-peeii-peeii" and "teeui-teeui-teeui"

## Pale Chanting Goshawk SH



### Afrikaans: Bleeksingvalk

A tall, long-tailed, pewter-gray hawk with pink-orange legs and bill base. In flight, the wing pattern is strongly contrasting, with pale inner hind wings and a dark tip. Pairs inhabit thorn veld, steppe, and desert below 2000 m. Chanting-goshawks give a strong gull-like “kleeeu” call, hence their name. Dark Chanting-Goshawk prefers moister woodland, has darker flight feathers creating a uniformly colored wing, and always has a gray-barred rump; Pale Chanting-Goshawk is paler, with pale panels in the wings and an unbarred white rump.



## Peregrine Falcon SH MV



### Afrikaans: Swerfvalk

Burly, powerful, sharp-winged raptor that feeds mainly on birds captured in flight. Found across the globe; considerable plumage variation across subspecies. Chases prey down at high speeds with continuous powerful wing beats. Becoming increasingly common, especially in cities, where they can nest on tall buildings and feed on pigeons. Also frequents mudflats and open areas with shorebirds. (Rare)

## Red-capped Peregrine Falcon SH



### Afrikaans: Rooikopvalk

It is a large and powerful falcon. Several subspecies breed in the region. Adults are grayer above than Saker and have a paler cap. Juveniles are extremely similar to Saker and Peregrine Falcons. Compared to Saker juvenile Lanner Falcons have non-streaked trousers. Compared to Peregrine, juvenile Lanners are more heavily streaked on the under wings and under parts. Often hunts pigeons in canyons. Breeds on high mountainous cliffs in desert, semi-desert, and Mediterranean climates. Call is a typical falcon scream.

## Rock Kestrel SH MV



### Afrikaans: Kransvalk

Typical kestrel with a rufous back and under parts, barred tail and a dark "moustache" mark on the face. Found in a wide variety of open habitats, especially in rocky areas. Spends much of its time on the wing, often hovering. Call is a high, repeated "kreek". Very similar to Eurasian Kestrel, but little overlap in range, and Rock Kestrel shows paler under wings. Similar to Lesser Kestrel but slightly larger. Male Rock Kestrel also separated by its lack of pale gray on the top of the wing. Female Rock Kestrel has darker rufous under parts.



## Greater Kestrel SH



### Afrikaans: Grootroivalk

Large pale-brown kestrel. Gray tail has broad black bands, and the back is heavily marked with black. Found in semi-desert, grassland, and arid savanna. Often perches conspicuously in an isolated tree. Calls are high-pitched squealing notes and much lower barks. Larger than all other kestrels, but similar in size to smaller falcons. Uniform brownish color is distinctive.

## Lesser Kestrel SH



### Afrikaans: Kleinrooivalk

Shape very similar to Eurasian Kestrel but tail slightly shorter and central tail feathers project slightly. Wings more rounded and shorter than Eurasian Kestrel; claws are white rather than black. Males are unspotted above with blue-gray patches on the upper wings and largely pale under wings. Females have an indistinct mustache but otherwise are rather similar to Eurasian Kestrel. Hovers frequently and catches insects on the wing. Breeds colonially. (Non-breeding migrant)

## Orange River francolin SH



### Afrikaans: Kalaharipatrys

Medium-sized, beautifully patterned francolin. Shows rufous patches in the wings in flight. Found on the ground in areas with thick grass, including pure grassland and open savanna. Shy and retiring. Loud call is a quickly repeated "chuk-a-cheiw". Similar to several other francolin species, which also show rufous in the wing. Lacks the belly barring of Shelley's Francolin, has a black necklace unlike Red-winged Francolin, and found at lower elevations than the mountain-dwelling Moorland Francolin



## Swainson's Francolin **SH**



### Afrikaans: Bosveldfisant

A large brown francolin with some darker streaks, dark blackish legs, and a distinctive bare red face and throat. It frequents grasslands and savannas where it is bold and conspicuous, standing on open branches and termite mounds to call its loud screeching "kreeeeet-kreeeeet-kreeeeet" call at dawn and dusk.

## Common Quail **SH**

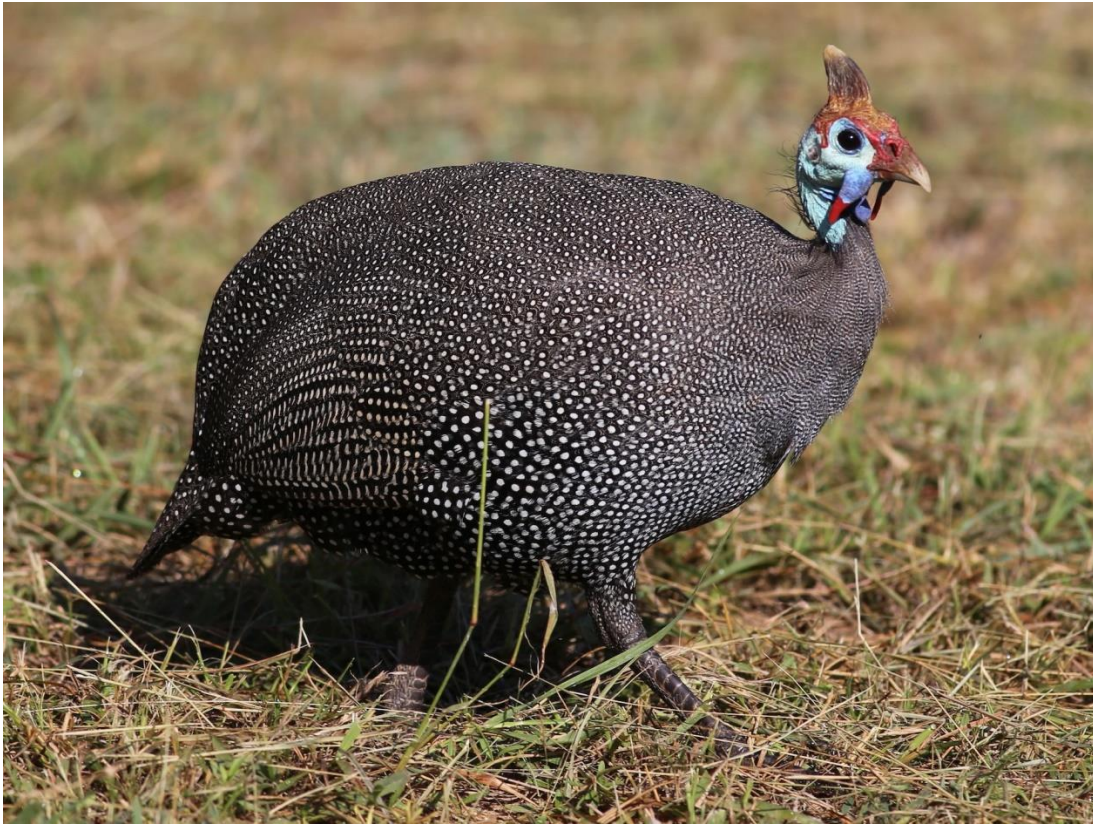


### Afrikaans: Kwartel

This is a small pear-shaped game bird. It breeds in taller grassland and grain fields from Europe to central Asia and winters in similar habitat in Africa, southern Europe, and South Asia. Rarely seen, and most often detected by male's emphatic whistled "wet-my-lips!" song, which can be given at night. When flushed, explodes from underfoot and flies off strongly with whirring wing beats and short glides. Plumage cryptic and streaky brown with pale eyebrow; male has black throat stripe.



## Helmeted Guineafowl SH



### Afrikaans: Tarentaal

A large-bodied, small-headed, slightly gray game bird perfectly lined with rows of hundreds of white spots. The distinctive head sports a strange bone-like casqued and naked warty facial skin, which is colored white, blue, or red depending on geographic location. Young birds are brown and are usually found with adults. It is common throughout its range, and large flocks roam the savannas, digging for invertebrates and tubers. Guineafowl often charge around issuing a loud and distinctive “kek-kek-kek-kraaaaaaah” alarm. It also calls a distinctive, plaintive “kuuh-keeerk”.

## Ludwig's Bustard SH



### Afrikaans: Ludwig's pou

A large-to-medium-sized bustard with a dull oranges nape and hind neck, and dark gray-brown fore neck and face. Female and juvenile are smaller than male and paler on the face and throat. Pairs and small groups march purposefully in open shrub land and arid woodland in the Karoo and Kalahari. It is partially nomadic within its range and can gather in groups of up to 70 individuals after good rains. (Vulnerable)



## Redcrested Korhaan SH



### Afrikaans: Boskorhaan

A medium-sized, black-bellied bustard with diagnostic white chevrons on a brown-and-black mottled back. The male has a brown-gray neck and slate cap, and the female is plainer. The red crest is usually hidden. It walks slowly and steadily in arid woodlands, where it is common but due to its camouflage often avoids detection. The song is a sequence of clicking "tic-tic" notes that are followed by a mournful piping "sweee-swee-sweee sweet" series that accelerates to a crescendo. The male indulges in an absurd display in which he flies nearly vertically into the sky and then folds his wings and somersaults down as if shot, only to unbelievably land on his feet. In flight, it has all black under wings.

## White Quilled Korhaan/Northern Black Korhaan SH



### Afrikaans: Witvlerkkorhaan

The male is a striking, medium-sized, mostly dark with a bold white cheek patch and a reddish bill. The female has a black belly and is elsewhere finely barred. In flight, it has a conspicuous white window on both the upper and lower sides of the wing. Scattered individuals, sometimes associated in small groups, inhabit arid savanna and Karoo scrub. It sings calls a strident, ratcheting "kraak-kraak-kraak" which leads into a maniacal "raa-cha-ka-ka-ka...cha-ka-ka-ka" display as the male flies around 20-30 m above the ground, with legs dangling.



## African Jacana SH



### Afrikaans: Grootlangtoon

A distinctive chestnut, white, and black water bird with a sky-blue bill and enormous feet. The chicks lack the blue bill and shield and is brown-headed. Resident and nomadic, this species trots on the surface of water lilies and other aquatic vegetation, using its long legs and ludicrously elongated toes to prevent it from sinking. It flies weakly, low over the water, with legs and toes dangling behind awkwardly, and calls with a honking repeated "kyaaan" and wheezy hurried "skreeeeeet"-most often in flight. Highly unusual mating system in which one dominant female maintains a harem of multiple males. After egg laying, each male will raise a brood alone.

## Spotted Dikkop SH



### Afrikaans: Gewone dikkop

A tall, tawny-brown, terrestrial, plover-like bird with bold, blackish spots on the upper parts and without wing bars. It prefers a variety of drier country habitats up to 2500 m; avoids wetlands. Its huge yellow eyes hint at its mainly nocturnal habits. By day, this odd species uses its cryptic plumage to conceal itself under cover. After dark, it emerges to run around feeding on insects. Spotted Thick-knee has a loud, distinctive "ti-ti-ti teeeteeeteeeee-ti ti ti" call.



## Burchell's Courser SH



### Afrikaans: Bloukopdrawwertjie

An elegant, mostly pale-rufous-brown, dry-country shorebird with a diagnostic blue-gray patch on the back of the head. In flight, it has a white edge to the inner portion of the hind wing. Pairs and small groups run rapidly on long legs when foraging. A nomad in deserts and semi-deserts, preferring sparsely grassed plains, shrublands, and gravel deserts.

## Temminck's Courser SH



### Afrikaans: Trekdrawwertjie

Elegant, long-legged, upland shorebird. Note the rufous crown and black patch on the belly. Shows a completely black wing in flight. Found in very open areas such as short grassland, semi-desert, and overgrazed and recently burned areas. Usually seen in pairs or family groups. Like all coursers, ducks the head and runs across the ground at great speed. Call is a mournful, off-key, up-and-down series. All-rufous crown, black belly patch, and all-black wing are not shown by the area's other coursers.



## Double banded courser SH



### Afrikaans: Dubbel band drawwertjie

Beautiful, cryptic, upland shorebird. Adults show a scaly back and two bands across the chest. Juveniles lack the chest bands but usually associate with adults. Found within savanna and grassland in very open microhabitats such as gravel plains and heavily grazed patches. Call is an accelerating series of high whistles. Somewhat similar to Three-banded Courser but is more diurnal and has a less complex head and chest pattern.

## Namaqua Sandgrouse SH



### Afrikaans: Kelkiewyn

A dumpy, short-legged, pigeon-like bird that shuffles awkwardly on the ground and flies in a fast and direct manner, singly or in groups. It has a long, pointed tail and sharply pointed wings. The male has a pair of black-and-white bands across the chest and has a plain buffy face and head; the female is mottled with black, brown, and white. Namaqua Sandgrouse is nomadic in desert, semi-desert, and arid savanna. It feeds on grass seed and can frequently be seen coming to drink in the early morning or at dusk. Call a far-carrying, tremulous, musical "Kelkie-wyn".



## Burchell's Sandgrouse SH



### Afrikaans: Gevlekte sandpatrys

A dumpy, short-legged, pigeon-like bird that shuffles awkwardly on the ground and flies in a fast and direct manner, singly or in groups. It has a long, pointed tail and sharply pointed wings. The male has a pair of black-and-white bands across the chest and has a plain buffy face and head; the female is mottled with black, brown, and white. Namaqua Sandgrouse is nomadic in desert, semi-desert, and arid savanna. It feeds on grass seed and can frequently be seen coming to drink in the early morning or at dusk. Call a far-carrying, tremulous, musical "Kelkie-wyn".

## Rock dove SH MV



### Afrikaans: Wildeposduif

Fairly large pigeon with wild and feral populations throughout the world. True wild birds nest on cliffs and in caves from Western Europe to central Asia. Pale gray overall with two bold black wing bars and iridescent purple and green on neck. Feral varieties are common in cities and farmland, often in large flocks. Variable plumage: some identical to wild-type birds, but can be completely black, white, or orangey-brown and any combination in between.



## Redeyed dove SH



### Afrikaans: Groot-rooioogtortelduif

The largest and stockiest "ring neck" dove; it has a pale-fronted, pinkish head and a dark red eye surrounded by red skin. In flight, the dirty-brown tail tips distinguish it from other ring neck-doves. It is an abundant resident throughout urban, rural, and wild Africa. The Red-eyed Dove gives an insistent and characteristic six-note song: "I am a Red-eyed Dove"

## Cape Turtle Dove SH



### Afrikaans: Gewone tortelduif

A small, mostly gray-brown “ring neck” dove with a gentle-looking dark eye that is not obviously surrounded by bare skin. It has a pale belly and shows broad white tips and sides to the tail in flight. It is an abundant resident in most habitats and its incessant, often-repeated three-note “work HAR-der, work HAR-der” song is a common and characteristic sound of Africa.



## Laughing Dove SH



### Afrikaans: Lemoendui

Small, similar in size to European Turtledove. Tail is strikingly long with white corners and a grey center, but is all white underneath. Its body is pastel shades of brown and pink with a spotted black collar. Usually associated with human-modified landscapes, such as plantations, gardens, and urban areas as long as some trees are present. The call is a repetitious “coo-coo ru” replicated 5-8 times.

## Namaqua Dove SH



### Afrikaans: Namakwaduif

Tiny, long-tailed dove that is dark above and pale below. Male has a black mask and colorful bill. Female has a plain head and dark bill. In flight, the wings are bright rufous. Found in a variety of dry, open habitats at low and middle elevations. Voice is a long, two-parted "hoo-oooooo" which is repeated, sometimes endlessly. Distinguished from all other doves in its range by its small size and long-tailed shape.



## Jacobin Cuckoo SH



### Afrikaans: Bontnuwejaarsvoël

Black-and-white cuckoo with a spiffy crest (also known as the "Jacobin Cuckoo" for its smartly attired appearance). Some southern African birds exhibit a dark morph: all black with a white wing patch. Found in lowland and foothill open forests and plains, often in thorny growth. Song is a widely spaced series of somewhat hoarse whistled notes. Lays its eggs in the nests of babblers, bulbuls, and shrikes. (Breeding migrant)



## Jacobin Cuckoo SH



### Afrikaans: Bontnuwejaarsvoël

A small, greenish cuckoo. The male has barred flanks, white flecking on the wing, white patches in front of and behind the eye, and a distinctly red eye surrounded by a red eye-ring. The bronzy-green female has a diagnostic white patch in front of the eye, a plain back, and white patches in the wings. This common resident and migrant is not a habitat specialist, but it prefers riverine and wetland areas where its preferred brood-parasite hosts, weavers and bishops, are common. The distinctive call is a loud, rising, high-pitched "deee-deee-deee-deee-dederik". (Breeding migrant)

## Barn owl SH



### Afrikaans: Nonnetjie-uil

Pale owl; white below and orangey with gray spotting above. Heart-shaped white facial disc. Hunts primarily rodents in open areas by night. Roosts in old buildings and nest boxes by day. Widespread across every continent except Antarctica. Appears very white in headlights at night. Its call is a bone chilling, rising shriek.



## Spotted Eagle Owl SH



### Afrikaans: Gevlekte ooruil

A large, gray-brown owl with bright yellow eyes, erect ear tufts, and finely barred belly and lower breast. The default large owl throughout its range; occurs in a broad range of lightly wooded habitats, including suburbia. The typical call is a soft, booming "whooo-whooo" or "whoo-are-you?" The similar Cape Eagle-Owl is larger, prefers cliffs and gullies, has a heavily blotched upper breast, and has burnt-orange eyes. Grayish Eagle Owl is more heavily barred and has dark-brown eyes.



## European Nightjar SH



### Afrikaans: Naguil

Masterfully camouflaged night bird. Active at night and rarely seen by chance, but might be flushed from daytime roost on the ground. Favors heathland and forest clearings, where it hunts from perch on ground or tree, sallying out and flying with agile, rather jerky wing beats. Shape resembles a cuckoo or falcon, but plumage is cryptic, like dead leaves. Male has white tail corners and white band in wing. Loud churning song at dusk and night may draw attention. (Non-breeding migrant)

## Rufous-cheeked Nightjar SH



### Afrikaans: Rooiwangnaguil

Medium-sized, typical nightjar, with a vague rufous collar. Both sexes have pale marks in the outer wings and at the tail corner that are white in males and buff in females. This migratory species is found in a variety of open habitats on migration and during the non-breeding season. Breeds in arid savanna and scrub. Song is a long, dry, fast trill. Most similar to Fiery-necked Nightjar, but paler, with a less bright and distinct rufous collar. Male is whiter in the wing and less white in the tail than Fiery-necked Nightjar. Female has smaller buff tail corners than Fiery-necked Nightjar. (Breeding migrant)

## European Swift SH



### Afrikaans: Europese windswael

Usually seen in flight, which, as the name suggests, is swift. Nests in cavities in cliffs and buildings. Ranges widely over any habitat in search of aerial insects, often over lakes and reservoirs where swallows congregate. Usually flies higher than swallows except when swooping low to drink by splashing briefly on water surface. Bigger and longer-winged than swallows, with dark plumage, strong stiff wing beats, faster and more direct flight. Lacks the white rump patches of similarly sized Pacific Swift (and other "fork-tailed swifts") and various needle tails. (Non-breeding migrant)



## Whiterumped Swift SH



### Afrikaans: Witkruiswindswael

Small, lithe swift with a long and deeply forked tail that is often held closed, and long and slender wings. Note the pale tips to the inner part of the trailing wing in flight. The dark body contrasts strongly with the narrow white rump and throat. Mostly quiet. Breeds in old Red-rumped Swallow nests. (Breeding migrant)

## Little Swift SH



### Afrikaans: Kleinwindswael

Small swift with a square-tipped tail, broad outer wings and sharply demarcated white rump resembling Common House-Martin. White on the rump extends to the sides and is visible from below. Note obvious contrasting white throat. Breeds both in natural cliff settings and in urban area where it nests on buildings. (Non-breeding migrant)

## White-backed Mousebird SH



### Afrikaans: Witkruis muisvoël

A mostly grayish, buff-bellied mouse bird with a long tail, black-tipped silvery bill, and back with diagnostic white patch flanked by two dark stripes. Small groups inhabit coastal shrublands, farms, and semi-desert; prefers drier areas. A cooperative breeder; chicks from the prior year will remain with parents and help feed and protect the new brood. Sings a melancholic "cheee-wee-wee-wiit"; also produces a distinctive series of buzzes and clicks.



## Red-faced Mousebird SH



### Afrikaans: Rooiwang muisvoël

It is a slightly gray mouse bird with naked red facial skin and a buffy forehead. In flight, the streamlined tail is sleek and long, and a pale patch can be seen on the rump. Pairs and small groups occur in a wide range of wooded habitats, where they are resident and nomadic. In flight, it gives a distinctive high-pitched melodious “ti-wii-wii” call.

## European Bee-eater SH



### Afrikaans: Europese byvreter

Distinctive, common summer migrant to warmer regions, from winter grounds in Africa. Found in open and semi-open country, mainly in drier areas; nests colonially in burrows dug into sand banks, often riverbanks. Usually seen perched on wires or circling in swallow like flight, often in small groups; feeds by catching insects (especially bees) on the wing. This bird is spectacularly colorful, with a yellow throat and a blue-and-rusty body. (Breeding migrant)

## Swallow-tailed Bee-eater SH



### Afrikaans: Swael stert byvreter

Swallow-tailed bee-water is a beautiful mid-sized bee-eater with a deeply forked blue tail. Immature has duller coloration but still has distinctive tail shape. Found in a wide variety of habitats, from semi-desert scrub to savannah to forest edge. Perches in the open and swoops out to catch insects on the wing. Call is a quiet "chirrup," sometimes given in chorus by a pair or small group.



## Lilac-breasted Roller SH



### Afrikaans: Gewone trou pant

This is a chunky, large-headed bird with a lilac breast, rusty cheeks, and spring-green crown. Singles and pairs sit on prominent perches in open woodland and lightly treed grasslands. It has an amazing display flight, which includes side-to-side rolling, which gives rollers their name. Mostly quiet, but sometimes calls a loud guttural “gwhaaak, gwhaaak”. European Roller is chunkier, has a blue breast and face, and has a shorter, square-tipped tail.

## Hoopoe SH



### Afrikaans: Hoopoe

It is an utterly unmistakable orange bird with a zebra-striped wings, a Chinese fan of a crest (usually held closed, but often raised just after landing), and a rapier of a bill. Favors semi open habitats such as heathland, farmland, orchards, grassy lawns, where it feeds on the ground, probing with its long bill for insects. Its flight is fast and direct, with rather deep wing beats. Unlikely to be confused, but flight pattern and round wings may loosely resemble that of woodpeckers; note far longer and thinner bill.

## Scimitar-billed Wood-hoopoe SH



### Afrikaans: Swart bek kakelaar

It is an elongated matte-black bird with black legs and a slender, strongly curved black bill. Females and juveniles are browner on the front. In flight, it has white tail tips and a single band of white towards the end of the wing. Singles or pairs are found in arid and broadleaved woodland, where they are found clambering around on trunks, probing for invertebrates, and often joining mixed-species flocks. It is most easily detected by its plaintive, whistled, three-noted "wheep, wheep, wheep" call... Woodhoopoes are large, with chunky reddish bill, with social habits, and glossy iridescent plumage.



## Gray Hornbill SH



### Afrikaans: Grys neus horingvoël

An ashy-colored hornbill with a bicolored bill that differs between the sexes: the male's bill is mostly dark with a pale wedge at the base, and the female's bill is mostly ivory above with a purple-reddish tip. It has a buoyant and undulating flight pattern; note the pale rump and pale tail tip. Pairs are common in open dry savanna and broadleaved woodland. Its territorial call, given with the bill raised skywards and the wings flicked with each note, is a long series of plaintive piping "piu-piu-piu" notes that concludes with some rolling whistles.

## Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill **SH**



### Afrikaans: Geel bek neus horingvoël

A medium-sized, mostly black-and-white hornbill with a diagnostic yellow bill that gives it the nickname of “flying banana”. Pairs and small groups occupy semi-desert, savanna, and broadleaved woodland; associates closely with humans in camps. Hops on the ground foraging for invertebrates, and flies into trees when disturbed. It calls a continuous rollicking “ko-ko, ko-ko”, working up to a crescendo, “ko-kukuk, ko-kukuk, ko-kukuk”, with its wings held open and its head bowed.



## Acacia Pied Barbet SH



### Afrikaans: Bont hout kapper

It is a medium-sized barbet with uniformly white under parts, a black throat patch, a red forehead, and a striking yellow-and-white eyebrow. Pairs reside in semi-desert, savanna, and gardens, preferring thickets and more treed areas with suitable for nest cavities. Calls a distinctive melancholy "pooooop" 6-7 times, often accompanied with a nasal, repeated "nyeeeeeear".



## Golden-tail woodpecker SH



### Afrikaans: Goud stertspeg

It is a medium-sized woodpecker with a streaky breast and throat. Golden coloration in the tail is shared with many of Africa's woodpeckers, and is thus a poor feature. The male has a reddish crown and moustache; the female has a faint moustache and dark crown marked red only toward the back of the head. Pairs are resident in savanna, woodland, and forest edge, exploring large branches in the lower and middle canopy while foraging for insects. Often joins flocks. A nasal shrieking "wheaaa-aaaa" call often betrays its presence.

## Cardinal Woodpecker SH



### Afrikaans: Kardinaalspeg

It is a small, compact woodpecker with heavily streaked under parts and a solid black moustache streak. In the female the top of the head is completely dark, while in the male the fore crown is brown and hind crown and nape are red. Pairs inhabit a wide range of savanna, woodland, forest-edge, and riverine forest, where they feed in dead branches and smaller twigs ignored by larger woodpeckers. An angry-sounding, dry, trilled rattle call often gives it away.



## Cape Clapper Lark **SH**



### Afrikaans: Kaapse klappertjie

It is a medium-sized, stocky lark with a small bill and rufous-gray barring and scalloping on the feathers of the head and upper parts, giving it a scaly appearance. Under parts is a rich buff with diffuse streaking on the chest. Pairs prefer thick dense shrub land in fynbos and semi-arid Karoo, where they are difficult to see except when they are displaying from August to October. The male perches on a small rock or low bush, before rising up 3-5 meters in the air with an accelerating wing-clapping display, then giving a 1-2 note whistled "seeoooo" or "tsee-tseeoooo" and parachuting down to the ground on raised wings. The species runs and creeps on the ground unobtrusively, foraging in tall vegetation.



## Fawn-coloured Lark **SH**



### Afrikaans: Vaal bruin lewerik

It is a medium-sized rufous-brown lark with a white eyebrow. It has a plain face lacking moustache streaks, diffuse streaking on the chest, and a white belly. A rich rufous wing panel can be seen in flight and on the ground. Pairs are resident in arid and moist savanna, preferring softer sandy soils where they walk and run, digging in soft sand for insects and seeds. In spring and summer, the male sits up on a prominent perch singing a distinctive canary-like song that starts with "chip" notes and is followed by a jumbled warble of buzzy but melodious notes. The song may include imitations of other bird species.

## Sabota Lark **SH**



### Afrikaans: Sabotalewerik

A medium-sized, streaky lark with a strong white eyebrow that gives it a capped appearance and a bold face pattern that is emphasized by a white crescent under the eye and strong moustache streaks. The heavily streaked breast contrasts with a plain whitish belly and throat. The western races in South Africa's Northern Cape and in Namibia have heavier, longer bills than their eastern counterparts. Pairs are resident in Karoo shrubland and arid savanna, preferring grassy areas. In spring and summer, the male sits up on a prominent perch singing a rich, melodious, variable song that often includes imitations of other birds.

## Shortclawed Lark **SH**



### Afrikaans: Kortkloulewerik

A long, slim pipit-like lark with a slender bill, a bold white eyebrow, and warm-and-dark spangled upper parts. Pairs forage for invertebrates in open thorny savanna, preferring short-cropped grass and open grazed fields. In a characteristic display the male flies low to the ground before flying directly up 8 to 10 meters, then closing its wings and plummeting to the ground while emitting a "weeeeeooo" whistle. It also gives a clear, very high-pitched "tseeet-tsooooo" and other whistles. Its range does not overlap with any of the similar long-billed larks.



## Spiked-heeld Lark SH



### Afrikaans: Vlaktelewerik

A sociable lark with a slightly curved bill, upright posture, and a diagnostic short white-tipped tail. The plumage is highly variable, but the throat is always paler than the under parts, which vary from buff to rusty; eastern populations are darker than western ones. Small groups of 3 to 10 birds are resident in desert, semi-desert, and grassland, where they forage for invertebrates and seeds in open country with sparse low bushes. The species flies low with a bobbing flight pattern, and generally for distances of only 10 to 50 meters, before dropping suddenly to the ground. Gives a characteristic quavering trill “trrrri-trrrri-trrrri-trrrri” and other soft contact calls.

## Red-capped Lark SH



### Afrikaans: Rooikoplewerik

A medium-sized, slender, lark with a long tail and a weak bill. It has a distinctive white eyebrow, a diagnostic brick-red crown that can be raised like a small crest, and reddish sides to the chest. Small to large groups are resident or locally nomadic, occupying cropped grasslands, open fields, edges of wetlands, and other open areas. Surprisingly cryptic on the ground, pairs or small groups run 5-10 meters and then pause, foraging for seeds and insects. Can also be found drinking at waterholes. Calls include semi-musical chirps and short buzzy notes. The song, often given in an extended undulating pipit-like display flight, consists of semi-musical chirping notes, often in series, often imitates other birds.

## Kalahari Scrub-Robin SH



### Afrikaans: Kalahariwipstert

It is a medium-sized sandy-brown scrub-robin with pale non-streaked under parts. It has a brownish back and an auburn-rusty rump and tail with a white-tipped black terminal band. Pairs frequent thickets and clumps of thorn trees in Kalahari woodland, where they forage on the ground with the tail often cocked and rocking sideways, or perch in trees singing a varied musical song that often reveals their presence.



## Chestnut-vented Titbabbler SH



### Afrikaans: Bosveldtjerik

It is a distinctive gray bird with a pale eye, streaked throat, rufous vent, and large white patches on the tail. Found in a variety of habitats with thick shrubs, including fynbos, Karoo, semi-desert, and savanna. A skulking species that is usually detected by voice: an exuberant mixture of ratcheting notes, chatters, and whistles. (Non-breeding migrant)

## Layard's Titbabbler SH MV



### Afrikaans: Grystjeriktik

It is a stout grayish warbler with a pale eye, a streaky throat, and a pale whitish under tail. Pairs occupy scrubby bushes mostly in semi-arid rangelands, often preferring areas with boulders and slopes. The species often sings a short melodic phrase of 6-10 notes, most notes repeated 2-3 times, interspersed with scolding and chattering.



## Long-billed Crombee SH



### Afrikaans: Bosveldstompstert

It is a tiny, rotund, virtually tailless warbler with buff-orange under parts, gray-brown upper parts, and a dark eye-stripe that forms a buffy eyebrow. Pairs often join mixed-species flocks actively hopping along branches, occasionally hanging like mini-nuthatches, searching for invertebrates, and occasionally eating plant matter. The Cape Crombec occupies broadleaf woodland, savanna, and arid scrub, where it is often detected by its quiet but distinctive faltering “chree-chirrit, chree-chirrit, chree-chirrit” song.



## Yellow-bellied Eremomela SH



### Afrikaans: Geelpensbossanger

It is a small, nondescript bird with a typical warbler shape. The upper parts are gray, the breast is pale gray, and the belly is variably marked with yellow. Note the dark brownish eye. Found in a wide variety of savanna and woodland habitats. An active, restless bird often joins mixed flocks. Song is a short, up-and-down series of chirpy notes. With a combination of range and eye color that separate it from most other eremomelas.

## Zitting Cisticola/Fan tailed Cisticola SH



### Afrikaans: Landerykloppie

It is a very small, with distinctive short, rounded tail with conspicuous terminal spots. Body sandy-colored below, streaky above. Breeding males have a dark bill and crown. Found in open grasslands, meadows, and agricultural areas. They are most often seen high in the sky uttering its monotonous and repetitive "tchip...tchip....tchip..." song in undulating song flight.

## Desert Cisticola SH



### Afrikaans: Woestynkloppie

It is a small, pale brown, heavily streaked cisticola. Plumage is darker in breeding plumage, washed-out in non-breeding plumage. Found in dry, open grasslands, including open stretches within savanna. Song is a mix of high-pitched peeps, scratchy lower notes, and "tic" notes. Best distinguished by song, though subtle plumage differences include Desert's more uniformly blackish tail and slightly streaked rufous rump.



## Levaillant's Cisticola SH



### Afrikaans: Vleitinktinkie

It is a relatively colorful, mid-sized, long-tailed cisticola of the wetlands. Note the heavily streaked back and rump, and rufous in the cap, wing, and tail. Found in and adjacent to dense wetland habitats. Distinctive song is an introductory "chip" note or two followed by a quick, warbled jumble. Similar to Winding Cisticola, but Levaillant's has a rufous tail and a streaked rump. Relatively bold colors separate the two from other cisticolas.

## Neddicky SH



### Afrikaans: Neddikie

It is a small, very plain cisticola of uplands. Note the rufous cap. The under parts are gray in southern South Africa and buffy throughout the rest of the range. Found in open woodland, scrub, plantations, and fynbos. Song is a repeated, high-pitched peep. As with all cisticolas, habitat and voice are important cues in Afrikaans: Similar to Short-winged Cisticola, but Piping shows rufous on the cap.

## Black-chested Prinia SH



### Afrikaans: Swartbandlangstertjie

An active, non-streaked warbler with a long graduated tail that is sometimes cocked. It is yellowish below with a distinct white throat. When breeding it has a broad dark chest band (narrower in the female) that is reduced or absent in northern populations. Pairs inhabit arid savanna, shrubland, and gardens, where they glean small insects from leaves. The species' typical song is a dry harsh "dziiip" note repeated 10-30 times in rapid succession



## Rufous-eared Warbler SH



### Afrikaans: Rooioorlangstertjie

A long-tailed, pale prinia-like warbler with a rufous facial patch on the side of the head and a neat black band across the throat on otherwise white under parts. The juvenile may lack the throat band and have duller facial patches. Singles and pairs avoid trees, preferring arid open shrubland on sparsely vegetated plains, where they forage on low shrubs, sometimes hopping between bushes on the ground with the tail cocked. The species sings a distinctive high-pitched shrill "tzeee" note 6-20 times in rapid succession, often betraying its presence.

## Chat Flycatcher **SH**



### Afrikaans: Grootvlieëvanger

It is a large, chat-like buff-brown flycatcher. Lighter edges to the flight feathers form a pale wing panel. Individuals, pairs, and loosely associated groups sit on shrubs, fences, and telephone wires in arid shrublands and savanna. They drop to the ground, where they look distinctly chat-like, to hunt insects and small vertebrates. They also hawk for food. The plain brown tail and rump differentiates Chat Flycatcher from all chats.

## Fiscal Flycatcher **SH**



### Afrikaans: Fiskaalvlieëvanger

A large pied flycatcher is most commonly mistaken for Southern Fiscal. However, the upright stance and slender unhooked bill are distinctive flycatcher traits, and the pattern of white in the flight feathers and basal windows of the tail is diagnostic. The female is duller than the male. Singles and pairs frequent a variety of open country habitats, including gardens, parks, shrubland, and woodland, where they perch conspicuously and hawk insect prey from the ground or aerially. The species is mostly silent but occasionally it utters a thin high-pitched song.



## Pirit Batis SH



### Afrikaans: Priritbosbontrokkie

A cute, dumpy, colorful flycatcher-like bird. Sexes differ: the male has a black chest band, a short white eyebrow, and a white throat; the distinctive female has a mostly uniform sandy beige throat and breast, and a white wing bar. Pairs often join mixed-species flocks, actively hover-gleaning and hawking insects in riverine woodland in semi-desert and arid savanna. The species makes clicks by snapping its bill; also gives a monotonous series of piping "tseeep" notes that slowly descends in pitch, as well as a croaking "krunk".

## Fairy Flycatcher SH



### Afrikaans: Feevlieëvanger

It is a small, neat, mostly blue-gray bird with a dark mask, tail, and wings, a bold white wing-stripe, and a rose-washed pale belly. Singles and pairs flit between thorn trees, bushes, thickets, and woody gullies in the Karoo. It forages actively for insects, sometimes joining mixed-species flocks, characteristically fanning its tail and drooping its wings. The Fairy Flycatcher is resident in the south of its range but is mostly a non-breeding winter visitor farther north. Its presence is often betrayed by a distinctive high-pitched phrase of short squeaky notes typically rendered as "tsee-tseeit-zee-tzee-tzweeet" or similar.

## Cape Wagtail SH



### Afrikaans: Gewone kwikkie

An elegant, long-tailed bird with a brownish back, pale under parts, and a black chest band. White outer tail is conspicuous in flight. Found in most open habitats, especially those near water. They feed by walking along the ground, bobbing its tail constantly. Call is a buzzy "tseei" that is often doubled. Song is a complex jumble of different repeated notes. Similar to Mountain Wagtail but has brown rather than gray upper parts, and Cape has less white in the wings and tail.



## Grass pipit SH



### Afrikaans: Gewone Koester

This is the default pipit across much of Africa. Brown above and pale below, with a streaked back, well-marked face, and white outer tail feathers. There is considerable geographic variation, from pale, sandy to rich brown, and rufous. Found in a variety of open and usually grassy habitats, both near water and in dry areas. Call is a sneezing "tzsht". Song comprises consecutive series of rattles, given in flight. Very similar to other pipits; some of the key features to look for include the yellow base of the bill, streaked back, and white outer tail feathers.

## Barn/ European swallow SH



### Afrikaans: Europese swael

It is a fairly large and colorful swallow. Usually easy to identify with its long, forked tail and dark rump. Iridescent navy-blue above with a rich orange throat and forehead. Under parts vary across range, from bright buffy-orange to whitish. It occurs in any open habitat, especially large fields and wetlands. Often seen foraging in flocks, sometimes mixed with other species of swallow. Typically nests close to human habitation; builds a muddy cup nest in a barn or under a dock. Listen for dry, scratchy "svit svit" calls. (Non-breeding migrant)

## Redbreasted Swallow SH



### Afrikaans: Rooiborsswael

This large swallow has a brick-red rump and under parts and dark blue upper parts. It is told from other swallows by the metallic-blue patches on the side of the head that cover the ears and eyes. It is resident near the equator and is a wet season breeding visitor in the north and south of its range. The Rufous-chested Swallow flies strongly, with frequent swoops and changes of course, over sparse woodland, grassland, wetland edges, and other open habitats. (Breeding migrant)



## Greater Striped Swallow SH



### Afrikaans: Grootstreepswael

Large, beautiful swallow with a long, forked tail. Note the rufous cap, cinnamon rump, and pale buffy under parts with fine streaking. Usually found in grassland and wetland, though can be seen in other habitats, especially when migrating. They are often in flocks, sometimes mixed with other swallow species. Similar to Lesser Striped Swallow, but larger, with buffy under parts with finer streaks, and with less orange on the face. Only striped-swallows have streaked under parts. (Breeding migrant)

## South African Cliff Swallow SH



### Afrikaans: Familieswael

They are chunky, martin-like dark blue and reddish-brown cliff swallows with a rusty rump and under tail and a smudgy dark collar that may be incomplete. Colonies of 10-1000 pairs nest under bridges, in culverts, in quarries, and occasionally on cliffs, often near water. After breeding in South Africa, Namibia, and Zimbabwe between September and April, the species migrates to the southern Congo basin for the austral winter. It forages over grassland, lightly wooded savanna, and arid shrubland for insects.

## Rock Martin SH MV



### Afrikaans: Kransswael

It is a small, light brown member of the swallow family. Note the slightly forked tail with white spots. It is smaller and paler than the very similar Eurasian Crag-Martin. It is under wing coverts only slightly darker than rest of wing unlike Eurasian Crag-Martin. Favors arid and semi-arid cliffs and canyons, but also found in villages and towns. Often seen in pairs or small groups; in winter congregates in larger flocks.



## Fork-tailed Drongo SH



### Afrikaans: Mikstertbyvanger

Glossy small black cuckoo with a forked tail. Juvenile has a galaxy-like smattering of white spots all over the body. Adults may be confused with Drongos, but are lighter-billed and smaller, with distinctly white-barred under tail. Widespread, found in forests and scrubby plains from lowlands up into foothills and mountainous areas, but much more often heard than seen, typically sitting still in the middle and upper levels of forest; song is an extremely loud ascending series of whistles. Lays its eggs in the nests of babblers, bulbuls, and shrikes.

## Pied Crow SH



### Afrikaans: Witborskraai

It is a handsome black-and-white crow. Found in almost all habitats except driest desert and thick rainforest. It feeds by walking along the ground. This bird is a strong flier that will fly high and occasionally soar. Common call is a typical crow "cawk". Overall shape and size similar to some raptors, but none of them show Pied Crow's contrast between black tail, white under parts, and black head.



## Ashy Tit SH



### Afrikaans: Akasiagrysmees

It is a large grayish tit with a black-and-white head pattern and a black bib. Pairs and small groups favor arid savanna and thorn trees, but also occur in riverine and broadleaf woodland, foraging for insects in small groups or mixed-species flocks. The song is typically a series of short, repeated musical notes "treeuw-treeuw-treeuw-treeuw," with chattering, trills, or dry buzzing interspersed.



## Cape Penduline Tit SH



### Afrikaans: Kaapse kapokvoël

A tiny, short-tailed bird with a small fine bill, yellowish under parts, a green back, and a gray head with fine grizzled black-and-white scaly patterning on the forehead. Pairs and small groups forage restlessly for invertebrates and fruits, dangling upside down while they search. The species occurs in desert and semi-desert scrub, preferring taller thorn trees for nesting. Its song, a repeated series of 5-7 high-pitched "chiueew" notes, often detects it. Multiple birds may also give simple high-pitched tinkling and rasping notes.

## African Red-eyed Bulbul SH



### Afrikaans: Rooioogtiptol

It is a typical open-country African bulbul with a dark head and a conspicuous and diagnostic fleshy orange-red eye-ring. Pairs and small groups forage in riverine thickets in the Karoo and in arid thorny woodland and scrub, eating a variety of fruit and invertebrates. The species has a typical bubbly musical bulbul song, slower than that of the similar-sounding Common Bulbul.



## Olive Thrush SH



### Afrikaans: Olyflyster

A typical thrush with olive-brown upper parts and rufous under parts. Its taxonomic status remains under review, and it is most easily identified by range. In the north, it is primarily a species of forest and forest edge, but farther south it occurs in gardens, woodland, plantations, and heath. It has a varied song, and often reveals its presence with typical thrush "chk-chk" or thin "tseeep" calls. An understory specialist that sometimes skulks, but at other times can be quite bold. Most similar thrushes do not overlap geographically.



## Groundscraper Thrush SH



### Afrikaans: Gevlekte lyster

A tall, bold, long-legged, short-tailed thrush with gray-brown upper parts heavily streaked white under parts, and a strongly marked face. In flight, it shows distinctive large buff patches in the broad wings. Pairs and small groups occupy moorland, grassland, and open woodland, favoring heavily grazed and burned areas. It runs long distances on the ground hunting invertebrates, stopping bolt upright and flicking its wings. The song is a grating, unmelodic "lit-sit-siru-pa."

## Mountain Robin Chat SH MV



### Afrikaans: bergrin-klets

It is a plain brown-and-orange robin-chat with a white eyebrow and a dark face. As in most robin-chats, the tail has a dark center and orange edges. Sometimes follows columns of ants. It is similar to white-bellied Robin-Chat, but distinguished by the orange belly and the much bolder white eyebrow. Also similar to Bocage's Akalat, but distinguished by the white eyebrow and the two-colored tail. The song is a series of several squeaky, rasping whistles, far less conspicuous and musical than the vocalizations of most robin-chats.



## Capped Wheateater SH



### Afrikaans: Hoëveldskaapwagter

Boldly patterned open country chat. Note the white eyebrow, black mask through the eye, and black band across the chest. The outer half of the tail is black and the inner half white, which is conspicuous in flight. Found in desert, dry savanna, and short grassland. Often perches up on fences and other structures. Variable song is a fast series of clucks and whistles. (Breeding migrant)



## Familiar Chat SH MV



### Afrikaans: Gewone spekvreter

A plain gray-brown chat that has rusty ear patches and a rufous rump and outer tail feathers that outline an inverted black "T" pattern on the tail. The juvenile is spotted and scaled buff. The species occurs in a broad range of habitats, but favors rocky areas, gullies, outcrops, and buildings, where it often perches conspicuously. It drops to the ground or into a bush to feed on invertebrates and frequently flicks both wings simultaneously and lifts its tail.

## Anteater Chat SH



### Afrikaans: Swartpiek

A dumpy dark brown chat with an upright posture. It flies fast on short round wings, exposing bold white patches in the outer webs of the primary feathers that are diagnostic. Pairs and small groups occupy open grassy country, especially near dense collections of termite mounds. It sits on fences, rocks, or other perches and drops to the ground to pursue ants, termites, and other invertebrates to feed on. The song is a varied collection of whistles, clucks, and grating notes, including imitations of other species, while the call is a characteristic one-note high-pitched plaintive "peek."

## Cape robin chat SH



### Afrikaans: Gewone janfrederik

Pretty robin-chat with a short white eyebrow and a rufous chest. This is the only robin-chat with a gray belly. The outer tail feathers are orange, which can be conspicuous in flight. Found in many different habitats, including fynbos, scrub, heath, gardens, forest edge, and thicket. More fond of open habitats than other robin-chats. Away from South Africa, only found in the mountains. Song is a typical thrush-like series of inquisitive, cheerful notes



## Karoo Scrub Robin SH



### Afrikaans: Kalahariwipstert

A drab, gray-brown scrub-robin with bold white tail tips, eyebrow, and throat markings. Pairs are active and noisy in dry scrubby thickets and arid brush, where they vocalize prominently from the top of shrubs, fences, and rocks, or hop and run around on the ground, sometimes with their tails cocked. A scolding harsh contact call and warbler-like song draws attention to them. Other scrub-robins in the same range are more strikingly colored, and chats lack the white tail tips of Karoo Scrub-Robin.

## Lesser Gray Shrike SH



### Afrikaans: Gryslaksman

Prominent black fore crown and contrast between pinky breast and white throat distinctive. Bill thicker and more rounded than Great Gray Shrike. Found in open country with scattered bushes and trees with prominent perches, often seen perching on telephone wires. A warmth-loving summer migrant breeding in southern Europe and wintering in Africa. Feeds mostly on invertebrates. (Non-breeding migrant)

## Fiscal Shrike/Common Shrike **SH**



### Afrikaans: Fiskaallaksman

A common black-and-white shrike of open country that perches upright. Singles and pairs are conspicuous on perches 1 to 10 meters above the ground in grassland, light and dense woodland, savanna, and modified habitats. They perch for extended periods and swoop down on insects and small vertebrates that they catch on the ground; these are sometimes impaled on thorns and stored for later consumption. The under parts of the similar Northern Fiscal are cleaner and whiter than the dingy gray under parts of the Southern Fiscal.



## Red-backed Shrike SH



### Afrikaans: Rooiruglaksman Rooiruglaksman

Uncommon to locally fairly common summer migrant from winter grounds in Africa. Found in heathland, open farmland with hedges and scattered bushes, especially thorny plants on which prey (small birds, large insects, rodents) can be impaled in "larders." Hunts from perches atop bushes and on wires, but at other times is retiring and easily overlooked. Male distinctive, with blue-gray head, black mask, rusty-brown back; female has warm brown upper parts, fine dark scalloping on breast and flanks. Rooi rug laksman.

## Crimson-breasted Shrike SH



### Afrikaans: Rooiborslaksman

A striking black-and-crimson bush shrike with a white stripe on its wing; a rare morph with yellow under parts also occurs. Singles and pairs forage alone or sometimes in mixed-species flocks in dry thorn veld and dense tangles, where they prefer foraging on thicker trunks but will also forage on the open ground. Calls are variable, but mostly comprise loud ringing whistles answered by electric buzzing and grating notes.

## Brubru SH



### Afrikaans: Bontroklaksman

A small, mostly black-and-white bush shrike with a pale wing stripe and a checkered back. In most races, a strong chestnut stripe runs from the shoulders to the flanks, but in some races, it is absent. Females are less boldly marked than males. Pairs frequently join mixed-species flocks in arid savanna and broadleaf woodland, where they acrobatically glean for invertebrates. The species' distinctive main call is remarkably telephone-like, a ringing burry "preeeeeee" with some associated clicks and whistles.



## Tree-streaked Tchagra SH



### Afrikaans: Rooivlerktjagra

A mostly gray tchagra of dry country. Of the three fine namesake streaks, two run through the eyes and one along the top of the head. The mostly rufous wings and white tail tips are conspicuous in flight. Found in areas of dry savanna and thorn scrub with dense undergrowth. Generally uncommon and inconspicuous. Reminiscent of Brown-crowned and Black-crowned Tchagras, but separated by the gray head, which lacks buff eyebrows. The song is a descending series of whistles, often given in a parachuting display flight, similar to the song of Brown-crowned Tchagra, but slightly higher-pitched.

## Bokmakerie SH



### Afrikaans: Bokmakerie

A large, sturdy olive-gray and yellow bush shrike with a distinctive black chest band that arcs up to the bill base, forming a broad necklace. In flight, the dark tail has striking yellow tips. The juvenile is dull and lacks the chest band. Pairs are bold in shrubby and open country, where they forage low in bushes or grass clumps, hopping on open ground or running between clumps looking for invertebrates. The species has a varied and complex repertoire of songs and calls, the most characteristic of which is a dueted onomatopoeic "bok-mak-erie," often delivered from a conspicuous perch.

## African Pied Starling SH



### Afrikaans: Witgatspreu

A large, dark brown starling with upright posture that shows white under the short tail. Up close, it has a pale eye, a yellow gape, and a dull greenish sheen on the shoulders. The juvenile is duller and lacks the pale eye. Normally the species is seen in small to large groups, feeding on the ground in open grassland and agricultural areas, often near domestic stock. It often breeds colonially and cooperatively, excavating tunnels in small sandbanks. The flight call is a characteristic loud "weeek-weeek" and the song is a combination of sweet and harsh notes.



## Wattled Starling SH



### Afrikaans: Lelspreen

A medium-sized gray-brown starling with dark wings and tail and a whitish rump. The pale bill and lemon-yellow facial skin in females and non-breeding males is subdued, but breeding males often acquire long, fleshy, dangling black wattles and canary-yellow naked skin on the head. This nomad always tends to be in groups, and breeds opportunistically in colonies. It occurs irregularly and is irruptive in short grasslands and open savannas; at any given location it may number in the thousands in some years, and be absent in others. It may associate with large mammals, capturing insects that they flush. Both sexes give a variety of squeaks and hissing notes.

## Cape Glossy Starling SH



### Afrikaans: Kleinglansspreeu

A medium-sized iridescent blue-green glossy starling that lacks dark ear-patches and has greenish flanks and belly, giving it a uniform appearance than the “blue-eared” starlings. Pairs and small groups occupy high-altitude grassland, Karoo, and savanna, including drier habitats than other glossy starlings. The species feeds on the ground and in trees on fruit and insects; often it scavenges from people. It gives a rolling “turrreaau” flight call and harsh “karr” alarm notes.

## Pale-winged Starling SH MV



### Afrikaans: Bleekvlerkspreu

A large glossy-black starling that shows whitish wing patches in flight. Pairs and small groups are resident in semi-desert and desert, where they prefer rocky areas and cliffs, but they also occur in towns and scrubland foraging for fruit and invertebrates. The species breeds semi-colonially on cliffs between October and April. A ringing melodious "preeeeeooo" flight call and varied warbling often draws attention to it. The Pale-winged Starling sometimes flocks together with the similar Red-winged Starling.



## Dusky Sunbird SH



### Afrikaans: Namakwasuikerbekkie

A small sunbird. The male is dark overall, with a pale lower belly and orange tufts at the shoulder that are sometimes hidden. The female is plain gray-brown with a paler lower belly. Singles and pairs prefer arid scrub and savanna, feeding on insects and nectar. The species is nomadic and can irrupt in large numbers into areas where it is normally irregular, often on the fringes of its range.

## Cape white-eye SH



### Afrikaans: Kaapse glasogie

A small, active, mostly yellow-green warbler-like bird with an obvious white eye-ring. The two races have different breast and belly coloration: gray in the south and greenish in the north. Pairs are common in all habitats, where they form a strong component of mixed-species flocks. A sweet, rolling reedy warble that is disjointed and rambling is often the first sign that they are around.

## Whitebrowed Sparrow weaver SH



### Afrikaans: Koringvoël

A large, boldly patterned brown-and-white sparrow-weaver. The bold white eyebrow, wing bars, and rump are striking. Family groups are resident in arid thorn scrub and drier broadleaf woodland, where they make messy nests in trees and forage mostly on the ground for insects and seed. The song is high-pitched, varied, and metallic, sounding like a computer-generated laser gun.



## Sociable weaver SH



### Afrikaans: Versamelvoël

A small, dumpy buff-and-brown weaver with a blue-gray bill, a dark bib, and scaly patterning on the back and flanks. Juveniles are duller, lacking the bib and scaling. It is restricted to open arid country, where hundreds can breed colonially in gigantic grass nests that are placed in trees or on manufactured structures. Small to large groups forage on the ground, hopping and running after insects and seeds.

## House sparrow SH



### Afrikaans: Huismossie

Widespread and abundant in cities, neighborhoods and farms. Avoids dense woods. Flocks cluster in dense bushes, bustling around and chattering to one another. Males have smart black bibs, bright rufous napes, and stunningly patterned wings with brilliant buffs and browns. Under parts are pale pearly-gray. Females are plain brown with cute face and lighter eyebrow. Native to Eurasia; introduced too much of the rest of the world.

## Cape sparrow SH



### Afrikaans: Gewone mossie

A handsome, streaked, brightly colored sparrow with different-looking males and females. The male has a distinctive black head and throat with a striking white crescent extending from the eye around the ear. The female has a pale gray head with a diffuse pale crescent, similar in shape to the males. Pairs and small flocks are resident in a wide variety of natural and human-altered habitats. House and Great Rufous Sparrows have streaked backs and lack the distinctive facial pattern of the Cape Sparrow.



## Southern Grey-headed Sparrow SH



### Afrikaans: Gryskopmossie

A sparrow with a uniform gray head and under parts, a brown rump, mantle and wings, and a variable (sometimes absent) white wing bar below the shoulders. The bill is black during the breeding season and horn-colored at other times of year. Pairs and small groups are resident in a wide variety of natural and man-altered habitats. The extremely similar Northern Gray-headed Sparrow differs by having a darker head, a more contrasting white throat, and a heavier bill that is dark year-round.

## Scaly-feathered Finch SH



### Afrikaans: Baardmannetjie

A very small, sandy-colored finch-like weaver with a scaly crown, a pale pink bill, and a black moustache on a white throat that gives it a fierce-looking expression. Small groups are resident and nomadic in grassy arid savanna, where there are trees and scrub nearby in which to build their untidy oval grass nests. The species sometimes gives a soft, reedy "cheet-cheet-cheet" flight call. The Sociable Weaver is much larger than the Scaly Weaver, with a blue-gray bill.



## Southern Masked Weaver SH



### Afrikaans: Swartkeelgeelvink

This red-eyed masked-weaver has a lightly streaked green back and pink-brown legs. The breeding male has a black facemask with a narrow black band on the forehead above the bill. The female and juvenile are dull. The species is an abundant resident throughout open savanna and semi-arid areas, nesting colonially above water or in large trees. Many similar-looking weavers do not overlap in range.



## Red-billed Quelea SH



### Afrikaans: Rooibekkelele

A small, short-tailed weaver with a mottled back and a yellow or reddish bill, eye-ring, and legs. When breeding, the male develops a variable black facemask with a surrounding wash that can be rosy, buff, or cinnamon, although the face can also be whitish. Large flocks are resident and nomadic in arid savanna, grassland, and cultivated areas. In wetter years, this species forms enormous flocks numbering tens of thousands, earning it the name "feathered locust."

## Southern Red Bishop SH



### Afrikaans: Rooivink

A small, dumpy sparrow-like weaver. The breeding male is a mix of velvety vermillion and black; the narrow black fore crown is diagnostic. The female and non-breeding male are nondescript, with a short tail and strong buff eyebrow, and are difficult to tell apart from other bishops. Pairs and small flocks are always close to water when breeding, and mixed-species colonies occur in reed beds and swampy grassland, but they disperse into adjacent scrub in the non-breeding season, often in flocks. The song is an extended fizzling sizzle. Breeding males of other red bishop species either have no black forehead, or have a much more extensive black crown.

## Red-billed Fire Finch SH



### Afrikaans: Rooibekvuurvinkie

The combination of a red bill, yellow-green eye-ring, and brown (not black) under tail are characteristic of this fire finch. The male has a pink face, crown, and under parts, while the female is mostly brown with a small pink patch between the eye and bill and a pink upper tail. Pairs and small flocks are resident in a variety of grassy savanna habitats and in cultivation, where they feed on the ground for seeds and fly into trees when disturbed. The species may join mixed-species flocks and often drinks or bathes. It gives a melodic "swee-tee-eeer" song and a spitting, tinny "prrrrrrt" call.



## Violet-eared Waxbill SH



### Afrikaans: Koningblousie

A stunning long-tailed waxbill with a red bill, mauve cheeks, and a blue rump. The under parts are vibrant chestnut in the male and cream-buff in the female. Pairs are resident in arid thorn savanna and drier woodlands, where they forage on the ground and lower layers of scrub, often in the company of other finches. The species can be secretive, flying quite a distance when flushed.

## Black-cheeked Waxbill SH



### Afrikaans: swartwang-vink

A slim, pretty waxbill with a bold black facemask. Found mainly in dry thorn scrub and woodland, especially in grassy areas, usually in pairs and small flocks. Difficult to separate from Black-faced waxbill in the narrow zone of overlap in East Africa, but note that Black-cheeked waxbill usually shows less black on the belly, a completely pale chin, and paler overall coloration. Calls include a dry "tsip" and "see" which are often doubled, and a whimsical, rising "tew-tweee."

## Redheaded Finch SH



### Afrikaans: Rooikop-vink

A chunky, grayish-brown waxbill with a plain back boldly barred and scalloped under parts, and a white-tipped outer tail. The head and throat of the male are characteristically red, while the female is uniform gray-brown. Pairs breed in arid thorn scrub, but in the non-breeding season, they flock and become nomadic and irruptive, also occupying grassland, broadleaf woodland, and cultivation. The call is a sparrow-like dry chipping. The female cutthroat looks similar to the larger female Redheaded Finch, but its barred (not plain) head and lack of a white-tipped outer tail differentiate it.



## Pin-tailed whydah SH



### Afrikaans: Koningrooibekkie

A small, gregarious, and tame species that is found in wide variety of open habitats including agricultural fields, parks, and gardens. The glorious adult male is unmistakable with its long tail and bright reddish bill. In nonbreeding plumage, both male and female have streaks on the sides of the upper chest, a boldly striped head, an orange-pink bill, and dark legs. In breeding plumage, the bill of female is dusky. Juveniles are dull brown overall. Vocalizations include "zhweet," "chee-chee-chee-chee..." and a plaintive down-slurred "seeeeeoooo" as well as various squeaky and buzzy twitters.

## Shaft-tailed whydah SH



### Afrikaans: Pylstertrooibekkie

A small whydah with a reddish-orange bill and legs. The breeding male has buffy-orange under parts and neck, a dark cap, and 17-centimeter-long black tail feathers. The female and non-breeding male have streaky upper parts and pale buffy under parts. Breeding males hold territories in dry thorn scrub, but form flocks with other seedeaters after breeding. The species imitates the song of the Violet-eared waxbill, which it parasitizes.

## Black-throated Canary SH



### Afrikaans: Bergkanarie

A small, nondescript, streaky gray-brown seedeater with a lemon-yellow rump, white tail tips, and a variable dark throat (more obvious in the male). Pairs and flocks frequent thorn scrub, broadleaf woodland, scrubby patches in upland grassland, cultivation, and gardens, where they forage on the ground and in small shrubs and grass. The song is a complex collection of whistles and warbles, and calls include a simpler melodic one- or two-note "soooo-sweee."



## Yellow Canary SH



### Afrikaans: Geelkanarie

A large canary with different-looking males and females. The male has bright yellow underparts, yellow-green upperparts, and a well-marked face pattern. The female is drab gray-brown with streaky underparts, yellowish edges of the wing feathers, and a yellow rump. Pairs and small groups occupy dry rangelands including coastal scrub, Karoo, and arid thornveld, where they are resident and nomadic, moving when food becomes scarce.

## White-throated canary SH



### Afrikaans: Witkeelkanarie

A large, unstreaked drab canary with facial markings, a white throat, and a yellow-green rump. A pale eyebrow and heavy bill further differentiate it. Pairs and small groups occur in a variety of arid environments including coastal heathland, Karoo, arid grassland, and thorn scrub, where they are resident and nomadic, wandering in flocks after breeding. The species has a typical sweet canary song including some imitations of other species, and the call is a distinctive tri-syllabic "speak-to-me."



## Cape Bunting SH MV



### Afrikaans Roovlerkstreekkopie:

A gray-brown bunting with a boldly striped head and bright chestnut wings. Pairs and small groups are resident, preferring rocky areas in heathland, arid shrubland, woodland, and grassland, where they mostly hop on the ground searching for food. The song is variable, but is typically a slightly accelerating phrase of 5-6 similar well-spaced notes, "chet-shwit-set-chwit-chet-swit." The distinctive call is a nasal rising "neeh-neerh-neeeerh-neh" or similar.



## Rock Bunting SH MV



### Afrikaans: Rotsvink

Large, distinctive bunting. Males have a boldly black-striped gray head and breast, chestnut underparts, and streaked upperparts. Females and juveniles similar to males, just more subdued. Breeds on rocky slopes just above the treeline, preferring bushy areas with scattered trees. Feeds on seeds and invertebrates. Unobtrusive, although not particularly shy. Clear, high-pitched song draws attention to its presence.

## Lark-like Bunting SH



### Afrikaans: Vaalstreepkopie

A dull, nondescript, slender buffy bunting. Subtle features include a rusty wing panel, a pale spot near the ear, a buffy eyebrow, and a small pale silvery bill. Pairs can be low-density residents, but typically, the species is nomadic, and large flocks irrupt into the semi-arid Karoo, Kalahari, and Namib after rainfall events; but it may reach savanna and other atypical habitats, particularly in drier years. It prefers areas with bare stony soil and often is found close to pools of drinking water. The song is a short series of varied scratchy trills, but the distinctive flight call is short, dry, crisp one-note "tec" which often betrays its presence.

## Jackal Buzzard MV



### Afrikaans: Rooiborsjakkalsvoël

A large, heavy buzzard with striking black, chestnut, and white patterning that is especially evident in flight. Occupies a wide range of open habitats, where it sits on poles, fences, and rocks hunting for small and large vertebrates. The harsh scolding "kaaaa-haa-haa" call is distinctive and similar to that of a jackal. A rare pale-chested morph can resemble Augur Buzzard, but Jackal Buzzard is always differentiated by the dark (not pale) forward part of the under wing. The brown-and-rufous juvenile Jackal Buzzard is similar to other buzzards, but it is larger, with broad wings and a hefty head.



## Natal Francolin MV



### Afrikaans: Natalse fisant

A medium-size brownish francolin with distinctive yellow nostrils and a bright orange-red bill and legs. The back is mottled brown, and the under part feathers are edged brown and white, giving it a marbled scaled appearance. Juveniles are similar to adults, with duller legs and bill. It is common in savanna, preferring thicker understory. The call is a loud raucous "kak-kreek" that variably accelerates and decelerates. Red-billed Francolin differs from Natal Francolin by having barred (not scaled) under parts and a yellow eye-ring.

## Cape Eagle Owl MV



### Afrikaans: Kaapse oorui

Large, dark, powerfully built owl. Has orange eyes and rufous tones to the plumage, on both the back and the under parts. Found in rugged and rocky terrain, mainly in the mountains, though down to sea level in southern Africa. Uncommon to rare across its range. Call is 2-3 deep hoots. Similar to Spotted Eagle-Owl, but larger, with bright-orange eyes, more rufous in the plumage, and coarser markings below.



## Freckled Nightjar MV



### Afrikaans: Donkernaguil

Large, grayish nightjar. Both sexes show a small white mark in the outer wing. Male shows large white tail corners, while the female's tail is plain. Found on rocky hills and outcrops, usually in savannah. Song is a loud, repeated "kow-chow." Most similar to Eurasian Nightjar, but smaller, and lacks strong pale markings on the upper parts.



## Bradfield's Swift MV



### Afrikaans: Muiskleurwindswael

A large, chunky, strong-flying swift that is gray-brown and appears scaled on the underparts. The darker tail and flight feathers contrast with the body. It is resident and nomadic in arid habitats, preferring rocky cliffs, gorges, and hills, where it is often the most frequently encountered swift. It is paler, more slender, and narrower-winged than other co-occurring large dark swifts. (Interminate)

## Alpine Swift MV



### Afrikaans: Witpenswindswael

Spectacular and distinctive large swift, noticeably larger than Common Swift and Blyth's Swift, but with slower wing beats and a "lazier" and wider soaring flight. Dark brown overall with white belly; at close range, white throat patch is visible. Breeds colonially in cliff faces, mountains, larger buildings. Migratory in parts of its range. (Non-breeding migrant)

## Thick-billed Lark MV



Afrikaans: dikwortelhark of Clotbey-haai

Unmistakable large lark with a huge bill and prominent white areas on the wing in flight. Breast is spotted. Males have more contrasting plumage than females. Favors flat arid deserts (stony and sandy deserts).



## Common House Martin MV



### Afrikaans: Huiswael

Fairly common-to-common summer migrant from winter grounds in Africa. Breeds colonially under eaves of buildings, where builds mud nests; feeds over varied open and semi open habitats, especially water bodies and adjacent fields. Distinctive plumage, with blue-black upper parts, big white rump patch, and white under parts; tail fork shallower than on Barn Swallow, and flight jerkier overall, less smooth and graceful. Juvenile in late summer-autumn is duller above, dingier below than adult. (Non-breeding migrant, Interminate)

## Short-toed Chat MV



### Afrikaans: Spekvreter

A small, compact rock-thrush with short legs. The male has a gray back and a diagnostic pearly blue-gray crown. Although some individuals (particularly farther east) have darker crowns, they retain the pale eyebrow, always giving the head a two-toned appearance. The female is differentiated from other rock-thrushes by her squat shape and white throat bordered by dark stipples. Pairs and loose groups inhabit rocky country in arid bush lands, where they perch conspicuously on taller bushes, wires, and poles.

## Sickle-winged Chat MV



### Afrikaans: Vlaktespekvreter

A tall, plain gray-brown chat with upright posture that has a conspicuous eye-ring and a creamy-orange rump. Inner to outer tail feathers have progressively more creamy-orange coloration at the bases, resulting in a black triangle on the tail. Singles and pairs occupy open rangelands, pastures and alpine scrub, where they forage on the ground and from low perches. It flicks its wings, but less habitually than the similar Familiar Chat.



## African Stonechat MV



### Afrikaans: Gewone bontrokkie

Small, chunky robin-like bird. Males are black and white, with a variable amount of rufous on the under parts. Ethiopian population has a black chest and no red. Females are dark brown on the back and pale below. Both sexes show a variable white wing patch. Found in a wide variety of open habitats, including grassland, heath, marsh, and scrub. Perches up conspicuously. Song is a quick jumbled mix of musical and raspy notes.

## Long-billed Pipit MV



### Afrikaans: Nicholsonse koester

A large, slender pipit with considerable variation across its range. All subspecies possess a pale eyebrow, a long tail, and a relatively long bill. As with many other pipits, can be frustratingly difficult to identify in the field; habitat and voice are important clues. Prefers dry, open areas with clumps of vegetation and scattered rocks and boulders, typically on slopes. Calls include squeaky sparrow-like chirps and sweet two-noted whistles. Song doesn't quite sound like a song: a sequence of plaintive whistles, two-noted chirps, and other call-like vocalizations strung together with pauses in between.



## Red-winged Starling MV



### Afrikaans: Rooivlerkspreu

A large glossy-black starling with a graduated, pointed tail and brick-red windows in the wings that are striking in flight. The male and female have black and gray heads respectively. Pairs and flocks prefer rocky outcrops and gorges, but have adapted to buildings in urban areas; they avoid forests. The species gives a characteristic loud liquid oriole-like “wher-teooo” contact call and other musical whistles and warbles.



## Malachite Sunbird MV



### Afrikaans: Jangroentjie

Breeding male is unmistakable: bright green with a long tail. Non-breeding male is duller but usually still shows some iridescent green and an elongated tail. Female is a big, dull sunbird with a long bill. Found in fynbos, moorland, grassland, scrub, and exotic tree plantations. Restricted to high elevations except in South Africa, where it occurs down to sea level. Song consists of "tyep" notes and emphatic rattles. Female similar to female Bronze Sunbird but larger, duller below, and with a fainter eyebrow.

## Verreaux's Eagle SH MV



### Afrikaans: Witkruisarend

Spectacular large black eagle. Distinctive in flight, when it shows a long tail and long wings that pinch in at the base. There are white patches toward the ends of the wings and on the back. Immature is brownish on the back and streaked below but still shows white panels in the wings and the characteristic shape. Found around cliffs and other rocky terrain in mountainous areas. Call is an upslurred scream.

## African Fish-Eagle SH MV



### Afrikaans: Visarend

The adult is a large, distinctive, chestnut-and-white eagle that sits prominently on perches near rivers, lakes, and other waterbodies. The scruffy immature is dark brown and mottled with white on head. In flight, the white windows in the wings and pale, dark-tipped tail make the juvenile distinctive. It catches fish with a graceful, shallow plunge to the water's surface, but it will also eat birds, reptiles, and carrion. It tosses its head backwards while making a loud penetrating "wheeee-ah-kleew-kleew-kluuu" call; it is one of the most distinctive bird sounds of Africa.