



KALAHARI AND KWAZULU-NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA: CUSTOM TRIP REPORT

02 – 17 APRIL 2019

By Dylan Vasapolli & Dominic Rollinson



We had fantastic views of Spotted Ground Thrush in Eshowe

Overview

This 16-day birding tour was designed to include many diverse South African ecosystems from the seemingly desolate landscape of the Kalahari Desert in the west to the lush and biodiverse forests of KwaZulu-Natal in the east. David and Catriona had a long list of target birds for the trip and it was these birds (and mammals) that we would primarily be focusing on. As we were covering a large portion of South Africa, it did mean a few big drives, however we generally had at least two nights at most destinations which meant we could explore the area and its wildlife before moving on.

A total of 358 bird species were recorded, with some of the birding highlights going to **African Pygmy Goose, Crested Guineafowl, Natal Spurfowl, Southern Bald Ibis, Bearded and Cape Vultures, Southern Banded Snake-Eagle, Kori Bustard, Northern Black Korhaan, Grey Crowned, Wattled and Blue Cranes, Black-winged and Senegal Lapwings, Double-banded Courser, Namaqua Sandgrouse, Livingstone's and Knysna Turacos, White-backed Mousebird, Mangrove Kingfisher, Green and Acacia Pied Barbet, Scaly-throated Honeyguide, Ground Woodpecker, Pygmy Falcon, Woodward's Batis, Gorgeous Bushshrike, Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher, Cape Penduline Tit, Spike-heeled, Eastern Clapper, Fawn-colored and Pink-billed Larks, Cape Grassbird, Karoo and Drakensberg Prinias, Rudd's Apalis, Rufous-eared Warbler, Bush Blackcap, Orange River White-eye, Spotted Ground Thrush, Bearded and Brown Scrub Robins, Chorister Robin-Chat, Cape Rock Thrush, Buff-streaked Chat, Greater Double-collared Sunbird, Eastern Golden Weaver, Green and Pink-throated Twinspot, Grey Waxbill, Short-tailed Pipit and Lemon-breasted Canary.**



Double-banded Courser were seen in good numbers on the Kalahari leg of this tour

We also came across a number of rarely-seen and charismatic African mammal species such as **Samango Monkey**, **Thick-tailed Greater Galago**, **South African Ground** and **Red Squirrel**, **Springhare**, **Cape Porcupine**, **Bat-eared Fox**, **Suricate**, **Aardwolf**, **Aardvark**, **African Elephant**, **Roan Antelope**, **Sable Antelope**, **Southern Oryx** (Gemsbok), **Tsessebe**, **Red** and **Blue Duikers** and **Mountain Reedbuck**.



Thick-tailed Greater Galago came to visit us at Mkhuze Game Reserve

Detailed Report

Day 1, 2nd April 2019. Upington to Witsand Nature Reserve

After collecting David and Catriona from Upington Airport, we picked up the last of our supplies needed for the next few days in the heart of the Kalahari, at Witsand Nature Reserve, and began the drive. With a lunch stop en route, we made good time, and were soon birding on the roads leading to the reserve. Virtually our first bird went to a glorious **Pygmy Falcon** perched up on a roadside wire. Continuing further along, we also picked up **Pale Chanting Goshawk**, **Red-crested** and many **Northern Black Korhaans**, **Chat Flycatcher**, **Ant-eating Chat**, **Scaly-feathered Weaver** (Finch) and **Lesser Grey Shrike**. We eventually arrived at the reserve, and after a little delay in the check-in process, we quickly unloaded our gear, and set off on a late-afternoon walk. There was still a bit of activity around and we enjoyed some excellent birds. Some of the highlights went to **Pirit Batis**, **Chestnut-vented Warbler** (Tit-babbler), **Kalahari Scrub Robin**, **Cape Starling**, **Ashy Tit**, **Long-billed Crombec**, **White-browed Sparrow-Weaver**, **Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill**, **Red-eyed Bulbul** and **Black-chested Prinia**. We also picked up our first mammals of the trip, namely **South African Ground Squirrel**, **Yellow Mongoose**, **Springbok**, **Common Duiker**, **Greater Kudu**, and after dark, a friendly **Small-spotted Genet**.



*This male **Pririt Batis** was seen in **Acacia** thickets at **Witsand Nature Reserve***

Day 2, 3rd April 2019. Witsand Nature Reserve

With a full day in store for us at Witsand NR, we were up at dawn for a morning walk. We had a bit of wind to contend with which slowed things down a bit but were still able to eke out a number of new species, combined with many of those we had yesterday. **Acacia Pied Barbets** and **White-browed Sparrow-Weavers** showed well early on, before we fortuitously stumbled into a **Pearl-spotted Owlet**, which although remained shy, gave us some great looks! We were also able to add **Violet-eared Waxbill**, **Marico Sunbird**, **Marico Flycatcher**, **Brubru** and **Fork-tailed Drongo**. We slowly made our way to the hide, timing it for sandgrouse coming in to drink but despite waiting it out a while, we had to walk away without any sandgrouse, and somewhat surprisingly, only a few birds were present around the water – namely **Yellow** and **Black-throated Canaries**, **Dusky Sunbird** and **Namaqua Dove**.

Following a good breakfast, we took a drive out to see the roaring dunes and although it was getting warm, and the wind had steadily been picking up as the day progressed, we enjoyed a few more new birds. Dainty **Fawn-colored Larks** scampered about the grassy regions, while a **Brown-crowned Tchagra** kept to the thicker trees and a superb pair of **Namaqua Sandgrouse** paused next to the road, giving us excellent and prolonged views. **Black-backed Jackal**, **Gemsbok** and **Leopard Tortoise** were noted on the way as well. David and I made the jaunt up to the top of the dunes but were nearly blown away and so we made our way back down, covered in sand. Another turn past the hide to see what was around during the midday period was also a little quiet and we were just able to add **Red-headed Finch**, and **Kalahari Tent Tortoise**.

Following a bit of an afternoon siesta, just as we were gearing up to head off for the afternoon, the sky darkened and an impressive thunderstorm put our plans on hold. Fortunately, the storm abated soon enough for us to still head out for the last portion of the afternoon and while we were witness to some impressive skies, the birding was rather quiet, with the only notable

sighting going to a showy **Crimson-breasted Shrike**. A number of **Scrub Hares** were seen in the evening coming back to camp and the friendly **Small-spotted Genet** along with a **Cape (Small) Grey Mongoose** around our chalet.



Namaqua Sandgrouse posed beautifully for us at Witsand Nature Reserve

Day 3, 4th April 2019. Witsand Nature Reserve

We had another full day at our disposal at Witsand Nature Reserve and awoke to a fine, clear day. We started off with an early morning trip to the bird hide, where we spent a while waiting for birds to come in but like yesterday it was awfully quiet. A similar collection of species did come in, namely **Yellow Canary**, **Namaqua Dove**, **Acacia Pied Barbet**, **Red-headed Finch**, **Familiar Chat**, **Cape Wagtail**, **Red-faced Mousebird**, **Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill**, **Red-eyed Bulbul**, **White-browed Sparrow-Weaver**, **Fiscal Flycatcher**, **Greater Striped Swallow**, **Ashy Tit**, **Southern Masked Weaver**, **Namaqua Sandgrouse** (heard only) and **Lark-like Bunting**, while the highlight went to a pair of glorious **Green-winged Pytilia** that showed for a little while, before they moved out of sight.

A quick walk around the Acacia thickets at the chalets delivered a feisty **Fairy Flycatcher**, that never stopped moving, along with a showy **Common Scimitarbill**, **Black-throated Canary**, **Pirit Batis**, **Crowned Lapwing**, **Rock Martin** and **Kalahari Scrub Robin**. We took a break over the midday period, before resuming later in the afternoon. The afternoon stint was rather quiet, with a bit of wind and cloud gathering, although we were finally able to hear the 'roaring dunes' that Witsand is known for. Some of the birds seen on the afternoon portion included **Pygmy Falcon**, **White-backed Mousebird**, **Sabota** and **Fawn-colored Larks**, **Kalahari Scrub Robin**, **Sociable Weaver**, **Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill**, and a few small groups of **Namaqua Sandgrouse** among a few others. A late afternoon walk around the chalets gave us a few new species, namely **Blacksmith Lapwing**, **Crested Barbet** and **Cardinal Woodpecker**.

We had a similar collection of mammals today as to the last few days. A wonderful sunset, and tasty dinner rounded up our lovely stay at Witsand Nature Reserve.



Red-headed Finch were fairly common on the Kalahari leg of this tour

Day 4, 5th April 2019. Witsand Nature Reserve to Marrick Safaris

We awoke to cold, windy morning and with a grey sky looming overhead, decided to rather have an earlier breakfast and transit to Kimberley and Marrick Safaris a bit earlier. Stops along the route gave us a group of the spectacular **Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters** and a large **Black-breasted Snake Eagle**. We arrived in Kimberley in good time and made our way to The Big Hole, for a quick visit. Whilst admiring the view over the depression, we kept our eyes alert for birds and enjoyed a number of species, namely **Orange River White-eye**, **White-backed Mousebird**, **Cinnamon-breasted Bunting**, **Cape Sparrow**, **Brown-throated Martin** and eye-level views of a **Booted Eagle**.

Following lunch in town, we made our way over to Marrick Safaris, checked in and got ourselves settled before heading out on an afternoon walk. The walk was excellent and we raked up many fine species, the highlights going to a stately **Secretarybird** perched in the road, a tiny **Cape Penduline Tit**, and the gaudy **Black-faced Waxbill**, **Golden-breasted Bunting**, and **Shaft-tailed Whydah**. Amongst others we also enjoyed **African Hoopoe**, **Wattled Starling**, **Rock Kestrel**, **Three-banded Plover**, **Lark-like Bunting**, numbers of **Grey-backed Sparrow-Larks**, **Red-billed Firefinch**, **Quailfinch**, **Golden-tailed Woodpecker**, **Lesser Grey Shrike**, **Diederick Cuckoo**, **Desert Cisticola**, **Blue Crane**, **White Stork**, **Red-breasted Swallow** and a host of Swifts comprising **Alpine**, **Bradfield's** and **Little**. A truly great afternoon, and a fine welcome to Marrick Safaris.

Day 5, 6th April 2019. Mokala National Park

We set off at dawn, bound for the nearby Mokala National Park, where we would spend the day. We arrived in good time and began birding the entrance road and the outskirts of the reserve. Some of the species seen included a fine pair of **Pale Chanting Goshawks**, **Rufous-eared Warbler**, **Ant-eating Chat**, **Buffy Pipit**, along with **Lark-like Buntings** that seemed to have moved into this area en masse (as there were hundreds, almost everywhere you looked). After checking into the reserve, and enjoying our breakfast we set off on our first drive. With the sun already quite high in the sky, the activity was a bit on the slow side but we were able to add a brief **Long-tailed Paradise Whydah**, **Mountain Wheatear**, **Common Ostrich**, **Yellow-bellied Eremomela**, **White-rumped Swift**, **Long-billed** and **Buffy Pipits** and **Striped Kingfisher**, while also enjoying a number of species we had already seen such as **Sociable Weaver**, **Yellow Canary**, **Red-headed Finch**, **Booted Eagle**, **Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill**, **Swallow-tailed Bee-eater**, **Rock Kestrel**, **Shaft-tailed Whydah**, as well as few of the tiny **Pygmy Falcons** – always a treat to see.



Sociable Weavers were common at Mokala National Park

We also had seen a wide selection of the reserve's mammals through our drives, including the scarce **Tsessebe**, as well as **Sable Antelope**, **Red Hartebeest**, **Blue Wildebeest**, **Plains Zebra**, **Giraffe**, **Steenbok**, **Common Warthog**, **Impala** and some of the mammals we had already seen including **Gemsbok**, **Springbok** and **Vervet Monkey**. Sadly, a part of the reserve we wanted to access was flooded, which meant no access was allowed, so we had to change our plans around slightly, as we went off in search of our lunch spot. The midday period was rather quiet, with our only sightings going to another few **Pygmy Falcons** (surprisingly good numbers of these fierce-looking raptors around) and **Red-crested Korhaan**. We took a little break after our lunch, before setting off, bound for the entrance gate, and eventually Marrick. After much searching, we

eventually located one of our main targets, **Short-toed Rock Thrush**, at the last possible site and enjoyed good views, before it moved out of sight, with not too many other birds around. However, a number of mammals were around and active in the late afternoon and we enjoyed great views of many of the species we had encountered during the day. One of our main targets, **Suricate** (or Meerkat) had eluded us so far and quite literally just as we were about to leave the reserve, we ran into a small family group next to the road but they remained a bit shy, as they disappeared into the grass, bound for their den. We notched up **Greater** and **Lesser Kestrels** on our way back.

The day was not done yet, however, as the main event was still to follow – our night drive. We set off after dinner and the next few hours went by in a relative blur, as we enjoyed the excellent night-life of Marrick. We notched up many pairs of **Bat-eared Fox**, no less than four **Aardwolfs**, two great and prolonged sightings of **Aardvark**, and a family of four **Cape Porcupines**, amongst a host of more common mammals such as **Springhare**, and **Scrub** and **Cape Hares**. It wasn't all about the mammals though, as we also enjoyed a number of **Double-banded Coursers**, **Red-capped Lark**, **Spotted Thick-knee** and **Rufous-cheeked Nightjars** during the course of the night. A fantastic end to a great day!



*We had prolonged views of the bizarre **Aardvark** at Marrick Safaris*

Day 6, 7th April 2019. Full day at Marrick Safaris

We had a full day at Marrick, and began things off with a morning drive through the dry grasslands. We started off well with two flushed **Common Buttonquails**, which gave us great views. The cold wind blowing didn't keep us outside the vehicle for too long but we made stops for **Cloud Cisticola**, **Eastern Clapper Lark**, a pair of **Secretarybirds** and a large group of **Suricates** (Meerkats) which were sunbathing. A little while later we found a second family of **Suricates**, much closer to us this time and we spent some time watching them. As the temperature began warming up, we noted an increase in lark activity and we soon enjoyed views

of the sought-after **Pink-billed Lark**, along with **Spike-heeled**, **Red-capped** and **Fawn-colored Larks** and good numbers of **Grey-backed Sparrow-Larks**. We also ran into a few groups of **Double-banded Courser**, which are always a joy to see and it was good seeing them in the day time as well. We rounded the morning drive off well with the same pair of **Secretarybirds** as earlier, much closer to us and we also noted an immature foraging not too far from them which we had missed earlier.

We enjoyed a good breakfast to celebrate our fine morning, before we set off for the hide, where we'd spend some time over the midday period. There was a lot of activity at the hide with birds regularly coming and going and over the short time we spent here, we notched up **Green-winged Pytilia**, **Violet-eared** and **Black-faced Waxbill**, **Ashy Tit**, **Lark-like** and **Cinnamon-breasted Buntings**, large numbers of **Red-billed Queleas**, **Yellow** and **Black-throated Canaries**, **Red-headed Finch** and **Long-tailed Paradise Whydah**. We took a break until the mid-afternoon, when we resumed our birding once more.

Our afternoon drive started off well with a **Western Barn Owl** at a day roost, before we searched the usually dry but now shallowly-inundated pan, notching up a number of scarcer Northern Cape wetland birds. There were small groups of **Red-billed Teal** and **South African Shelduck** located throughout the pan and careful scanning revealed **Spur-winged** and **Egyptian Geese**, **Cape Teal** and **Southern Pochard**, along with **Glossy** and **African Sacred Ibis**. As we walked around, we also picked up a group of **African Spoonbills**, many **Black-headed Herons**, **White Storks**, while a pair of **Blue Cranes** strolled around the edges. A closer search of the pan periphery gave us **Ruff**, **Common Greenshank**, **African Snipe**, **Quailfinch**, **Pink-billed Lark**, and large numbers of colourful **Yellow-crowned** and **Southern Red Bishops**. The plains around the pan held more **Double-banded Coursers**, **Capped Wheatear**, **Spike-heeled Lark**, **Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark** along with a small family of **Cape Penduline Tits**, before we ran out of daylight and called it a day. There were similar mammals present today as we had seen regularly over the last few days, with the highlights going to the scarce **Roan Antelope**.

Day 7, 8th April 2019. Marrick Safaris to Giants Castle, Drakensberg

With a long drive ahead of us to Giants Castle in the southern Drakensberg, we set off from Kimberly after an early breakfast, bound for Golden Gate Highlands National Park, which would be our main port of call en route to Giants Castle. There was a general paucity of birds along the route, with the only notable bird going to a **Kori Bustard** and as a result we made good time, arriving at this scenic park at lunch time. Although we didn't have much time available to explore the park, we were still able to enjoy a few species, such as **Jackal Buzzard**, **White-necked Raven**, **Drakensberg Prinia**, **Rock Kestrel**, **Mountain Wheatear**, **Pied** and **Red-winged Starlings** and **African Stonechat**. All too soon, we had to leave this spectacular park, bound for Giants Castle and the drive would take up the remaining portion of the day, with us arriving just as it started getting dark. Dom Rollinson joined up with us here and would be guiding the trip for the KwaZulu-Natal leg.

Day 8, 9th April 2019. Giants Castle, Drakensberg

We were up early today and managed a couple hours of productive birding before breakfast. With the huge change in habitat from the first leg of the trip it meant many of the birds we were seeing were new. Highlights in the montane grassland and forest patches around Giants Castle

included **Cape Batis**, **Black Saw-wing**, **Cape Grassbird**, **Drakensberg Prinia**, **Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler**, **Lazy Cisticola**, **Cape White-eye**, **Cape Rock Thrush**, **Buff-streaked Chat** and **Ground Woodpecker**. After a hearty breakfast we bade Dylan farewell and then had another walk around the camp. The star bird on this walk was certainly **Bush Blackcap** which eventually showed well for us. Other good birds included **Greater Double-collared Sunbird**, **Olive Woodpecker**, **Southern Boubou**, **Black-backed Puffback**, **Bar-throated Apalis** and **African Stonechat**.

In the afternoon we went on a couple drives out of camp to explore a little further afield and had some more fantastic birding. **Bearded** and **Cape Vultures** were seen overhead with **Red-necked Spurfowl**, **Gurney's Sugarbird**, **Ant-eating** and **Buff-streaked Chats**, **African Firefinch**, **Yellow Bishop** and **Red-collared Widowbirds** seen in the nearby grassland. The most unexpected sighting was that of a **Lark-like Bunting**; an extremely rare species in the province of KwaZulu-Natal!



Ground Woodpeckers were seen in good numbers in the Drakensberg

Day 9, 10th April 2019. Giants Castle to Eshowe

We had a fairly brief birding session before breakfast where we managed to add **Bokmakierie**, **African Black Swift**, **Banded Martin** as well as **Wailing** and **Levillant's Cisticola**. After breakfast we left Giants Castle and headed down to Eshowe where we were based for the next two nights. We had some great birding along the drive and a few stops in the Midlands produced **Wattled Crane**, **Southern Bald Ibis**, **Cape Longclaw**, **Quailfinch**, **Jackal Buzzard**, **Black-winged Kite** and **Lanner Falcon**. A stop at a small dam near Karkloof yielded **Grey Crowned Crane**, **Giant Kingfisher**, **Cape Shoveler**, **South African Shelduck** and **White-backed Duck**, with **Black-winged Lapwings** in the nearby grasslands.

At a small forest patch not far from Eshowe we found a single **Knysna Turaco** (right on the edge of its range here) along with **Collared Sunbird** and **Red-fronted Tinkerbird**, as well as a **Dusky Indigobird** in the grassland on the edge of the forest. After checking into our accommodation in Eshowe we did some birding on the edge of town, unfortunately the weather had closed in and it was not too productive, we did however come across **White-bellied Sunbird** and **Trumpeter Hornbill**.

Day 10, 11th April 2019. Ongoye Forest and Eshowe birding

Green Barbet was top of the agenda today, which meant a predawn departure from Eshowe to make it to the nearby Ongoye Forest, just after sunrise. This is the only forest in which the southern subspecies (*S. o. woodwardi*) of **Green Barbet** occurs and it did not take too long until its choc-choc call betrayed its presence. Other birds seen in the forest included **Grey Cuckooshrike**, **Black-bellied Starling**, **White-eared Barbet**, **Green-backed Camaroptera**, **Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher**, **Lemon Dove**, **Black Sparrowhawk**, **African Olive Pigeon**, **Purple-crested Turaco**, **Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird**, **Olive Sunbird** and **Samango Monkey**. When things got slow in the forest we decided to take a drive into the beautiful grasslands surrounding the forest and got lucky by flushing a single **Short-tailed Pipit** while also adding **Yellow-throated Longclaw** as well as **Zitting** and **Croaking Cisticolas**.

We then decided to bird the bushveld in the valley below us, in particular the riparian vegetation which again proved productive with **Burchell's Coucal**, **Black-collared** and **Crested Barbet**, **Orange-breasted Bushshrike**, **African Paradise Flycatcher**, **Southern Black Tit**, **Sombre Greenbul**, **Arrow-marked Babbler**, **Southern Black Flycatcher** and **Spectacled Weaver** all showing themselves.

We got back to Eshowe and had a quick bite to eat before heading out again later in the afternoon when we birded at Dlinza Forest, right in the middle of Eshowe. Birding was fairly slow going however we did find **Tambourine Dove**, **Trumpeter Hornbill**, **Square-tailed Drongo** and had very brief views of our main target, **Spotted Ground Thrush**. After another great meal at our B & B we decided to turn in for the evening.



*This female **Tambourine Dove** was seen at the hide at Dlinza Forest*

Day 11, 12th April 2019. Eshowe to St Lucia

We were up before sunrise again this morning and headed to Dlinza Forest to try improve our sighting of Spotted Ground Thrush and find any other forest species we were still missing. At the bird hide on the edge of the forest we had great views of a single female **Green Twinspot** as it came down to feed on seed laid out for them. A **Blue Duiker** also came into inspect the bird bath as did a very obliging **Chorister Robin-Chat**. Afterwards, we headed deeper into the forest where a certain high-pitched call betrayed the presence of a juvenile **Spotted Ground Thrush** which was being fed by one of its parents. We watched this interaction for a good 20 minutes and managed some great pictures. We then spent some time tracking down a couple of noisy **Terrestrial Brownbuls** which eventually showed enough of themselves.

After a full English breakfast, we then left Eshowe and headed down towards the coast at St Lucia. We did however have a couple of birding stops en route. First at a small farm dam where we quickly found **African Pygmy Goose** as well as **White-backed** and **White-faced Whistling Duck**, **Black Crake** and a **Rufous-winged Cisticola** in the surrounding cane fields. Next, we headed to the coastal forests of Mtunzini where we were targeting **Mangrove Kingfisher**. The kingfisher did not take long too locate however we did not have any luck with Palm-nut Vulture which breed in the area.

We arrived in the coastal village of St Lucia and after checking into our accommodation, we headed out for the afternoon's birding. We started with the iGwalagwala Trail which takes you through some beautiful costal forest with some fantastic birding. Highlights here included **Livingstone's Turaco**, **Golden-tailed** and **Cardinal Woodpeckers**, **Square-tailed Drongo**, **Ashy Flycatcher** and **Red Squirrel**. We then popped down to the estuary to try add a few waterbirds, unfortunately the water levels were about the highest I had ever seen them and as a result, there was not a great deal around. We did however add **Water Thick-knee**, **Pink-backed**

Pelican, Caspian Tern, a few common waders and a vagrant **Eurasian Oystercatcher** which had been here the last few months.

Day 12, 13th April 2019. Full day's birding around St Lucia

The morning started with another walk in St Lucia's coastal forest where we were still after a few specials. Thankfully it did not take too long until **Brown Scrub Robin, Woodward's Batis** and **Rudd's Apalis** showed themselves, along with **Yellow-bellied Greenbul, Scaly-throated Honeyguide, Crowned Hornbill, Yellow-breasted Apalis, Grey Sunbird** and **Crested Guineafowl**, with **African Goshawk** and **Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters** flying overhead. A troop of **Banded Mongoose** were seen as they ran across the path in front of us.

The rest of the day was spent birding around St Lucia village and along the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia in the Isimangaliso Wetland Park where we easily found our target **Southern Banded Snake-Eagle** as well as fleeting glimpses of **Grey Waxbill** with Green Malkoha heard calling incessantly, however frustratingly it would not show itself for now. Other good birds which were seen in Isimangaliso Wetland Park included **Black-chested Snake-Eagle, Long-crested Eagle, Eastern Golden Weaver** and **Brimstone Canary**.



Southern Banded Snake-Eagle was the highlight around St Lucia.

Day 13, 14th April 2019. St Lucia to Mkhuze Game Reserve

We had another quick walk around the forest in St Lucia before breakfast. We had a similar collection of birds as yesterday however managed great views of a confident **Grey Waxbill** before it was time to pack up and be on our way north. We drove along the western edge of Lake St Lucia today and managed to find a few late **Amur Falcons** feeding in the coastal grassland.

We enjoyed our lunch in a shady spot in some Acacia woodland near Hluhluwe town and were seriously distracted by a nearby bird party which turned out to be a frenetic 45 minutes of birding. The bird party held **Common Scimitarbill**, **Golden-tailed Woodpecker**, **Chinspot Batis**, **Orange-breasted Bushshrike**, **Black Cuckooshrike**, **Southern Black Tit**, **Willow Warbler**, **Burnt-necked Eremomela**, **Grey Tit-Flycatcher**, **Scarlet-chested Sunbird**, **Yellow-throated Petronia**, **Blue Waxbill** and other common bushveld species.

We stopped a little further north at Mpempe Pan and drove down to the floodplain where **Crowned**, **Senegal**, **Black-winged** and **African Wattled Lapwings** were in abundance as well as **Kittlitz's Plover**, however no sign of any Caspian Plovers which presumably had already left for their breeding grounds. The pan had a good collection of waterbirds including **White-faced Whistling Duck**, **Red-billed Teal**, **Yellow-billed Stork**, **Pink-backed Pelican**, **Glossy Ibis**, **Squacco Heron**, **Purple** and **Goliath Heron** and **Whiskered Tern**. Unfortunately, the longclaw that we stalked in the nearby grassland turned out to be **Cape** and not the Rosy-throated Longclaw we were hoping for. Surprisingly, we found a small flock of **Lemon-breasted Canary** in the grassland; another big target bird in the bag!



*A small flock of **Lemon-breasted Canaries** were seen well at Mpempe Pan*

We then left the Lake St Lucia's floodplain and continued north to Mkhuze Game Reserve where we arrived late in the afternoon. We checked into our accommodation and enjoyed a good old South African braai!

Day 14, 15th April 2019. Mkhuze Game Reserve

This morning we headed straight to the sand forest at Masinga bird hide which was fairly quiet however we did pick up our target bird **Pink-throated Twinspot** as well as **African Green Pigeon**, **Emerald-spotted Wood Dove**, **Bearded Scrub Robin**, **Red-faced Mousebird** and **African Hoopoe**, with Eastern Nicator making it onto the 'heard only' list. The rest of the day was spent driving around the park and visiting the park's many impressive hides where we accumulated many new birds. Some of the highlights of the day included **Crested Francolin**, **White-backed Vulture**, **Martial and Tawny Eagles**, **Namaqua Dove**, **Bearded Woodpecker**, **Lilac-breasted Roller**, **Striped Kingfisher**, **Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill**, **White-crested Helmetshrike**, **Sabota Lark**, **White-browed Scrub Robin**, **Pale Flycatcher**, **Marico Sunbird**, **Green-winged Pytilia** and a single **Pearl-spotted Owlet**, which is a rare bird in the park. The normally bird-filled Nsumo Pan was incredibly quiet today however we did find **White-breasted Cormorant**, **Goliath Heron**, **Whiskered Tern** and **Wire-tailed Swallow**.



*A pair of **Bearded Woodpeckers** were enjoyed in Mkhuze Game Reserve*

We also had a few good mammal sightings in Mkhuze with **Plains Zebra**, **Buffalo**, **Greater Kudu**, **Nyala**, **Impala** and **Slender Mongoose**. Later that evening a **Thick-tailed Greater Galago** came to visit us while we were busy preparing our food and was not at all disturbed by us admiring it at close range.

Day 15, 16th April 2019. Mkhuze Game Reserve to Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park

We had a couple hours birding around Mkhuze this morning where we added a few new birds such **Green Malkoha**, **Greater Honeyguide**, **Grey-headed Bushshrike** and **Jameson's**

Firefinch, before we made our way out of the park and onto Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park for our final night. A quick stop outside Mkhuze added **Malachite Kingfisher**, **African Reed Warbler** and **African Dusky Flycatcher** but otherwise it was a fairly uneventful drive back south.

We entered Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park in the early afternoon and checked into our accommodation at Hilltop Camp before taking a drive out into the surrounding bushveld which produced **Natal Spurfowl**, **Violet-backed Starling**, **Lesser Masked Weaver** and **Golden-breasted Bunting**. Later that evening we went on a night drive where we managed to find a couple of new birds in the form of **Fiery-necked Nightjar** and **Spotted Eagle-Owl** as well as good numbers of larger mammals such as **White Rhinoceros**, **African Elephant** and **Buffalo**.

Day 16, 17th April 2019. Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park to Durban

We had a decent drive ahead of us today to get back south to Durban however we did have time for a couple hours of birding this morning. On our drive from Hilltop camp we came across **Crested Guinea fowl**, **Green Wood Hoopoe**, **Black-headed Oriole**, **Fan-tailed Widowbird**, a calling **Red-throated Wryneck** and **Red-faced Cisticola**, with the highlight of the morning going to a very showy **Gorgeous Bushshrike**. As we were leaving Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park a very obliging pair of **Mocking Cliff Chats** put in an appearance.

We had a very pleasant lunch stop at Mtunzini however again the Palm-nut Vultures would not play along but we did however manage a small flock of **Great White Pelicans**. We made time for a quick stop at a wetland near Stanger which was simply alive with birds including **Hottentot**, **Red-billed** and **Cape Teals**, **Cape Shoveler**, **Goliath Heron**, **Ruff**, **Curlew Sandpiper**, and a few **Sand Martins** in amongst the many **Brown-throated Martins**. We then continued further south to Durban where I dropped off David and Catriona who had a few days to enjoy the city.



Bad hair day?! We saw a number of groups of the bizarre Crested Guinea fowl on this trip

Bird List - Following IOC (8.1)

The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following BirdLife International: CE = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, NT = Near Threatened. Region endemics are bolded.

Common name	Scientific name
Ostriches (Struthionidae)	
Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>
Ducks, Geese and Swans (Anatidae)	
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
White-backed Duck	<i>Thalassornis leuconotus</i>
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>
South African Shelduck	<i>Tadorna cana</i>
African Pygmy Goose	<i>Nettapus auritus</i>
Hottentot Teal	<i>Spatula hottentota</i>
Cape Shoveler	<i>Spatula smithii</i>
Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>
Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>
Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>
Southern Pochard	<i>Netta erythrophthalma</i>
Guineafowl (Numididae)	
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
Crested Guineafowl	<i>Guttera pucherani</i>
Pheasants and allies (Phasianidae)	
Crested Francolin	<i>Dendroperdix sephaena</i>
Natal Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis natalensis</i>
Red-necked Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis afer</i>
Common Quail (H)	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>
Grebes (Podicipedidae)	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Storks (Ciconiidae)	
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>
Woolly-necked Stork - VU	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
Ibises, Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)	
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>
Southern Bald Ibis - VU	<i>Geronticus calvus</i>

Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>
Hérons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)	
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Hamerkop (Scopidae)	
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
Pelicans (Pelecanidae)	
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>
Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>
Cormorants, Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)	
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>
White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>
Anhingas, Darters (Anhingidae)	
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>
Secretarybird (Sagittariidae)	
Secretarybird - VU	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>
Kites, Hawks and Eagles (Accipitridae)	
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
Bearded Vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>
White-backed Vulture - CR	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
Cape Vulture - EN	<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>
Black-chested Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>
Southern Banded Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus fasciolatus</i>
Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>
Martial Eagle - VU	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>
Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>
African Goshawk	<i>Accipiter tachiro</i>

Black Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter melanoleucus</i>
African Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>
Jackal Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>
Bustards (Otididae)	
Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>
Red-crested Korhaan	<i>Lophotis ruficrista</i>
Northern Black Korhaan	<i>Afrotis afraoides</i>
Rails, Crakes and Coots (Rallidae)	
Black Crake	<i>Amaurornis flavirostra</i>
African Swamphe (H)	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>
Cranes (Gruidae)	
Grey Crowned Crane - EN	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>
Wattled Crane - VU	<i>Grus carunculata</i>
Blue Crane - VU	<i>Grus paradisea</i>
Buttonquail (Turnicidae)	
Common Buttonquail	<i>Turnix sylvaticus</i>
Stone-curlews, Thick-knees (Burhinidae)	
Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>
Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>
Oystercatchers (Haematopodidae)	
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
Stilts, Avocets (Recurvirostridae)	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
Plovers (Charadriidae)	
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>
Senegal Lapwing	<i>Vanellus lugubris</i>
Black-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus melanopterus</i>
Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>
African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>
Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>
White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>

Jacanas (Jacanidae)	
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>
Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopacidae)	
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
African Snipe	<i>Gallinago nigripennis</i>
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Courasers, Pratincoles (Glareolidae)	
Double-banded Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus africanus</i>
Gulls, Terns and Skimmers (Laridae)	
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
Sandgrouse (Pteroclididae)	
Namaqua Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles namaqua</i>
Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)	
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>
African Olive Pigeon	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>
Lemon Dove	<i>Columba larvata</i>
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>
Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>
Tambourine Dove	<i>Turtur tympanistria</i>
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>
African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>
Turacos (Musophagidae)	
Livingstone's Turaco	<i>Tauraco livingstonii</i>
Knysna Turaco	<i>Tauraco corythaix</i>
Purple-crested Turaco	<i>Tauraco porphyreolophus</i>
Cuckoos (Cuculidae)	
Burchell's Coucal	<i>Centropus burchellii</i>
Green Malkoha	<i>Ceuthmochares australis</i>
Diederik Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>

Barn Owls (Tytonidae)	
Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>
Owls (Strigidae)	
Spotted Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>
Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)	
Rufous-cheeked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus rufigena</i>
Fiery-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus pectoralis</i>
Swifts (Apodidae)	
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>
African Black Swift	<i>Apus barbatus</i>
Bradfield's Swift	<i>Apus bradfieldi</i>
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>
Mousebirds (Coliidae)	
Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>
White-backed Mousebird	<i>Colius colius</i>
Red-faced Mousebird	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>
Rollers (Coraciidae)	
Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)	
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>
Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>
Mangrove Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegaloides</i>
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>
Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
Bee-eaters (Meropidae)	
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>
White-fronted Bee-eater	<i>Merops bullockoides</i>
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
Hoopoes (Upupidae)	
African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>

Wood Hoopoes (Phoeniculidae)	
Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>
Common Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>
Hornbills (Bucerotidae)	
Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>
Crowned Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros alboterminatus</i>
Trumpeter Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes bucinator</i>
African Barbets (Lybiidae)	
White-eared Barbet	<i>Stactolaema leucotis</i>
Green Barbet	<i>Stactolaema olivacea</i>
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus bilineatus</i>
Red-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus pusillus</i>
Acacia Pied Barbet	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>
Black-collared Barbet	<i>Lybius torquatus</i>
Crested Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>
Honeyguides (Indicatoridae)	
Scaly-throated Honeyguide	<i>Indicator variegatus</i>
Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>
Woodpeckers (Picidae)	
Red-throated Wryneck (H)	<i>Jynx ruficollis</i>
Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>
Ground Woodpecker	<i>Geocolaptes olivaceus</i>
Bearded Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus namaquus</i>
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>
Olive Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos griseocephalus</i>
Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)	
Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>
Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicolus</i>
Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>
Amur Falcon	<i>Falco amurensis</i>
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>
Wattle-eyes, Batises (Platysteiridae)	
Cape Batis	<i>Batis capensis</i>
Woodward's Batis	<i>Batis fratum</i>
Chinspot Batis	<i>Batis molitor</i>
Pirit Batis	<i>Batis pririt</i>

Helmetshrikes (Prionopidae)	
White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>
Bushshrikes (Malaconotidae)	
Grey-headed Bushshrike	<i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i>
Orange-breasted Bushshrike	<i>Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus</i>
Gorgeous Bushshrike	<i>Telophorus viridis</i>
Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>
Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>
Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>
Southern Boubou	<i>Laniarius ferrugineus</i>
Crimson-breasted Shrike	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>
Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae)	
Grey Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina caesia</i>
Black Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga flava</i>
Shrikes (Laniidae)	
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>
Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>
Figbirds, Orioles & Turnagra (Oriolidae)	
Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>
Drongos (Dicruridae)	
Square-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus ludwigii</i>
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
Monarchs (Monarchidae)	
Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher	<i>Trochocercus cyanomelas</i>
African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>
Crows, Jays (Corvidae)	
Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>
White-necked Raven	<i>Corvus albicollis</i>
Fairy Flycatchers (Stenostiridae)	
Fairy Flycatcher	<i>Stenostira scita</i>
Tits, Chickadees (Paridae)	
Southern Black Tit	<i>Melaniparus niger</i>

Ashy Tit	<i>Melaniparus cinerascens</i>
Penduline Tits (Remizidae)	
Cape Penduline Tit	<i>Anthoscopus minutus</i>
Nicator (Nicatoridae)	
Eastern Nicator (H)	<i>Nicator gularis</i>
Larks (Alaudidae)	
Spike-heeled Lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>
Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix verticalis</i>
Sabota Lark	<i>Calendulauda sabota</i>
Fawn-colored Lark	<i>Calendulauda africanaoides</i>
Eastern Clapper Lark	<i>Mirafra fasciolata</i>
Rufous-naped Lark (H)	<i>Mirafra africana</i>
Pink-billed Lark	<i>Spizocorys conirostris</i>
Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>
Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)	
African Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>
Dark-capped Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus tricolor</i>
Sombre Greenbul	<i>Andropadus importunus</i>
Yellow-bellied Greenbul	<i>Chlorocichla flaviventris</i>
Terrestrial Brownbul	<i>Phyllastrephus terrestris</i>
Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)	
Black Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne pristoptera</i>
Grey-rumped Swallow	<i>Pseudhirundo griseopyga</i>
Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Banded Martin	<i>Riparia cincta</i>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
White-throated Swallow	<i>Hirundo albigularis</i>
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>
Greater Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis cucullata</i>
Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>
Red-breasted Swallow	<i>Cecropis semirufa</i>
Crombecs, African Warblers (Macrospenidae)	
Cape Grassbird	<i>Sphenoeacus afer</i>
Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>
Leaf Warblers and allies (Phylloscopidae)	
Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus ruficapilla</i>

Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
Reed Warblers and allies (Acrocephalidae)	
Lesser Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>
African Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>
Cisticolas and allies (Cisticolidae)	
Red-faced Cisticola	<i>Cisticola erythrops</i>
Lazy Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aberrans</i>
Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>
Wailing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola lais</i>
Rufous-winged Cisticola	<i>Cisticola galactotes</i>
Levaillant's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola tinniens</i>
Croaking Cisticola	<i>Cisticola natalensis</i>
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Desert Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aridulus</i>
Cloud Cisticola	<i>Cisticola textrix</i>
Pale-crowned Cisticola (H)	<i>Cisticola cinnamomeus</i>
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>
Black-chested Prinia	<i>Prinia flavicans</i>
Karoo Prinia	<i>Prinia maculosa</i>
Drakensberg Prinia	<i>Prinia hypoxantha</i>
Bar-throated Apalis	<i>Apalis thoracica</i>
Rudd's Apalis	<i>Apalis ruddi</i>
Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>
Rufous-eared Warbler	<i>Malcorus pectoralis</i>
Green-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>
Burnt-necked Eremomela	<i>Eremomela usticollis</i>
Laughingthrushes & allies (Leiothrichidae)	
Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>
Sylviid Babblers (Sylviidae)	
Bush Blackcap - VU	<i>Lioptilus nigricapillus</i>
Chestnut-vented Warbler	<i>Sylvia subcoerulea</i>
White-eyes (Zosteropidae)	
Cape White-eye	<i>Zosterops virens</i>
Orange River White-eye	<i>Zosterops pallidus</i>
Sugarbirds (Promeropidae)	
Gurney's Sugarbird	<i>Promerops gurneyi</i>

Starlings, Rhabdornis (Sturnidae)	
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>
Black-bellied Starling	<i>Notopholia corusca</i>
Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>
Pied Starling	<i>Lamprotornis bicolor</i>
Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>
Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>
Oxpeckers (Buphagidae)	
Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>
Thrushes (Turdidae)	
Spotted Ground Thrush - EN	<i>Geokichla guttata</i>
Kurrichane Thrush	<i>Turdus libonyana</i>
Olive Thrush	<i>Turdus olivaceus</i>
Chats, Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)	
Bearded Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas quadrivirgata</i>
Kalahari Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas paena</i>
White-browed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>
Brown Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas signata</i>
Grey Tit-Flycatcher	<i>Myioparus plumbeus</i>
Southern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pammelaina</i>
Pale Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pallidus</i>
Chat Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis infuscatus</i>
Marico Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis mariquensis</i>
Fiscal Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis silens</i>
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
Ashy Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa caerulescens</i>
African Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>
Cape Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha caffra</i>
Red-capped Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha natalensis</i>
Chorister Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha dichroa</i>
Cape Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola rupestris</i>
Short-toed Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola brevipes</i>
African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>
Buff-streaked Chat	<i>Campicoloides bifasciatus</i>
Mocking Cliff Chat	<i>Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris</i>
Ant-eating Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>
Mountain Wheatear	<i>Myrmecocichla monticola</i>
Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>
Familiar Chat	<i>Oenanthe familiaris</i>

Sunbirds (Nectariniidae)	
Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>
Olive Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra olivacea</i>
Grey Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra veroxii</i>
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>
Greater Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris afer</i>
Marico Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>
Purple-banded Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris bifasciatus</i>
White-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris talatala</i>
Dusky Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris fuscus</i>
Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches (Passeridae)	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>
Yellow-throated Petronia	<i>Gymnoris superciliaris</i>
Weavers, Widowbirds (Ploceidae)	
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>
Sociable Weaver	<i>Philetairus socius</i>
Scaly-feathered Weaver	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>
Thick-billed Weaver	<i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>
Spectacled Weaver	<i>Ploceus ocularis</i>
Eastern Golden Weaver	<i>Ploceus subaureus</i>
Lesser Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus intermedius</i>
Southern Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>
Dark-backed Weaver	<i>Ploceus bicolor</i>
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>
Yellow-crowned Bishop	<i>Euplectes afer</i>
Southern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>
Yellow Bishop	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>
Fan-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes axillaris</i>
Red-collared Widowbird	<i>Euplectes ardens</i>
Long-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes progne</i>
Waxbills, Munias and allies (Estrildidae)	
Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>
Red-headed Finch	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>
Green Twinspot	<i>Mandingoa nitidula</i>
Pink-throated Twinspot	<i>Hypargos margaritatus</i>
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>
African Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rubricata</i>
Jameson's Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rhodopareia</i>
Blue Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>

Violet-eared Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus granatinus</i>
Grey Waxbill	<i>Estrilda perreini</i>
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
Black-faced Waxbill	<i>Estrilda erythronotos</i>
Quailfinch	<i>Ortygospiza atricollis</i>
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Lonchura cucullata</i>
Indigobirds, Whydahs (Viduidae)	
Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>
Dusky Indigobird	<i>Vidua funerea</i>
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>
Shaft-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua regia</i>
Long-tailed Paradise Whydah	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>
Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)	
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>
Cape Longclaw	<i>Macronyx capensis</i>
Yellow-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx croceus</i>
African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>
Long-billed Pipit	<i>Anthus similis</i>
Buffy Pipit	<i>Anthus vaalensis</i>
Short-tailed Pipit	<i>Anthus brachyurus</i>
Finches, Euphonias (Fringillidae)	
Black-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>
Lemon-breasted Canary	<i>Crithagra citrinipectus</i>
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>
Yellow Canary	<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>
Brimstone Canary	<i>Crithagra sulphurata</i>
Buntings (Emberizidae)	
Lark-like Bunting	<i>Emberiza impetuari</i>
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>
Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>
Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>

Total seen	352
Total heard only	6
Total recorded	358

Mammal List

Common name	Scientific name
Dogs, Wolves, Foxes (Canidae)	
Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>
Bat-eared Fox	<i>Octocyon megalotis</i>
Mongoose (Herpestidae)	
Small Grey Mongoose	<i>Galerella pulverulenta</i>
Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>
Common Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>
Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>
Suricate (Meerkat)	<i>Suricata suricatta</i>
Hyaenas, Aardwolf (Hyaenidae)	
Aardwolf	<i>Proteles cristatus</i>
Genets, Binturong, Civets (Viverridae)	
Small-spotted Genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>
Bovids (Bovidae)	
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>
Tsessebe	<i>Damaliscus lunatus</i>
Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>
Common Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>
Black Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes gnou</i>
Red Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>
Mountain Reedbuck	<i>Redunca arundinum</i>
Blesbok	<i>Damaliscus phillipsi</i>
African Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>
Common Eland	<i>Tragelaphus oryx</i>
Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>
Roan	<i>Hippotragus equinus</i>
Sable	<i>Hippotragus niger</i>
Nyala	<i>Tragelaphus angasii</i>
Southern Oryx (Gemsbok)	<i>Oryx gazella</i>
Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>
Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>
Natal Red Duiker	<i>Cephalophus natalensis</i>
Blue Duiker	<i>Philantomba monticola</i>
Common Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>
Giraffes, Okapis (Giraffidae)	
Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>
Hippopotamuses (Hippopotamidae)	
Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>
Hogs, Pigs (Suidae)	
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>
Hyraxes (Procaviidae)	
Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>
Rabbits, Hares (Leporidae)	
Cape Hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i>
Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>
Springhares (Pedetidae)	
Springhare	<i>Pedetes capensis</i>
Old World Porcupines (Hystricidae)	
Cape Porcupine	<i>Hystrix africaaustralis</i>
Horses, Asses, Zebras (Equidae)	
Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>
Rodents (Muridae)	
Water Rat	<i>Rhabdomys pumilio</i>
Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae)	
White Rhinoceros	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>
Old World Monkeys (Cercopithecidae)	
Samango Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mitis</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Vervet Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>
Bushbabies, Galagos (Galagidae)	
Thick-tailed Greater Galago	<i>Otolemur crassicaudatus</i>
Aardvark (Orycteropodidae)	
Aardvark	<i>Orycteropus afer</i>
Elephants (Elephantidae)	
African Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>
Squirrels, Chipmunks, Marmots, Prairie Dogs (Sciuridae)	
South African Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus inauris</i>
Red Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus palliatus</i>
Total seen	49