

CUSTOM BIRD AND MAMMAL TOUR SOUTH AFRICA: KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE AND KRUGER NATIONAL PARK TRIP REPORT

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2016

By Matt Prophet



African elephant, Kruger National Park (photo ©Janet Atkinson)



ITINERARY

9th-11th October Giant's Castle Nature Reserve, KwaZulu-Natal,

12th-13th October Dlinza Forest, Eshowe

14th October iSimangaliso Wetland Park, St Lucia

15th-16th OctoberHluhluwe Game Reserve17th-18th OctoberMkhuze Game Reserve19th-20th OctoberNdumo Game Reserve

21st October Hlane Royal National Park, Swaziland

22nd-23rd October Lower Sabi Rest Camp, Kruger National Park (KNP)

24th-25th October
Satara Rest Camp, KNP
26th- 27th October
Letaba Rest Camp, KNP
28th October
Shingwedzi Rest Camp, KNP
29th-30th October
Punda Maria Rest Camp, KNP

31st October – 1st November Pafuri Camp, KNP

2nd November Polokwane Game Reserve

3rd November Johannesburg

OVERVIEW

This custom tour was specially designed for our clients. A total of 313 species of birds were seen, a further 13 heard, and 47 mammal species recorded for the tour. This report details the highlights of each location during the tour and does not detail every single species seen by our clients. The trip lists include species which were seen and heard by the clients and the guides while together.

Overall we enjoyed a brilliant tour with lifetime wildlife experiences. Unfortunately, drought conditions throughout the region presented challenging conditions on the birding front, and some of the summer migrants had not yet arrived in the area. Nevertheless we managed to see most of our target species and enjoyed some exceptional sightings.

THE TOUR

Days 1 – 3. Giant's Castle Nature Reserve, KwaZulu-Natal Province (KZN)

Our first day entailed traveling from Johannesburg to Giant's Castle Nature Reserve in the Drakensberg in KwaZulu-Natal province. We took stock of the birds we saw en route, but the real birding was to commence the following day once at our destination.

The next day after breakfast we headed out for the legendary vulture hide situated at about 1800 meters above sea level within the reserve. Our main target species here were Bearded and Cape Vultures. Within an hour of sitting at the hide we started getting our first flight views of **Bearded Vultures**, which would perform fly-bys at eye level within 50 meters of where we sat. The views we had of these birds were amazing, and every sighting was as exciting as the next. A number of **Cape Vultures** were also seen flying overhead. Other birds seen while in the hide included **Buff-streaked Chat**, **White-necked Raven**, **Jackal Buzzard**, and **Rock Kestrel**.

Once satisfied with our vulture sightings we returned to the lower altitudes of the valley. En route what appeared to be a Short-tailed Pipit was flushed off the track, but further views were not obtained of this sought-after species, and it was therefore excluded from the trip list.



In the valley we picked up species such as **Red-necked Spurfowl**, **Ground Woodpecker**, **White-throated Swallow**, **Cape Robin-Chat**, **Grey-backed Cisticola**, **Malachite Sunbird**, and **Cape Longclaw**.

The following day we birded the vicinity of the main rest camp and found Southern Boubou, Olive Woodpecker, Dark-capped Bulbul, Common Waxbill, Cape Weaver, Cape Canary, and Greater Double-collared Sunbird. Further sightings of Bearded and Cape Vultures were had as we scanned the skies above us.

An afternoon drive with frequent stops to look and listen for new birds produced **Gurney's Sugarbird**, **Long-tailed Widowbird**, **Drakensberg Prinia**, and **Cape Grassbird**. We also birded the farmlands outside of the reserve, which delivered views of a **Secretarybird**, much to our delight.

The following day flight views of two **Black Storks** were had as they lazily soared a few hundred meters away from us at low altitude. Other birds included **African Yellow Warbler** and lovely views of a confiding **Fairy Flycatcher**.



Bearded Vulture, Giant's Castle Nature Reserve

Days 4 – 5. Dlinza Forest, Eshowe, and St Lucia (KZN)

We departed Giant's Castle the next day, and while driving we encountered **Southern Bald Ibis** in the midlands.

Our next destination was Dlinza Forest, situated on the edge of the Zululand town of Eshowe. This well-known patch of forest harbors some fantastic forest birds, which is why we had allocated some time to explore it.

We checked into our comfortable guesthouse, which was situated on the edge of a forest, and were treated to sightings of **Black-bellied Starling**, **African Olive Pigeon**, **Purple-crested Turaco**, and **White-eared Barbet**. **African Emerald Cuckoo** called persistently and was heard at many locations during the trip but was unfortunately never seen.

An afternoon drive through the town delivered **Woolly-necked Stork**, great views of **Trumpeter Hornbill**, **Southern Black Flycatcher**, and **Lesser Striped Swallow**, and **Crowned Hornbill** was observed feeding on a massive flying insect at close range.





Blue duiker, Dlinza Forest

A late-afternoon session at Dlinza Forest in the rain yielded Chorister Robin-Chat, Cape Batis, Tambourine Dove, and Green-backed Camaroptera. We heard Narina Trogon but did not obtain views of this stunning species.

The next morning we found ourselves back at Dlinza Forest with our main target species for the area being one of the area's specials, **Spotted Ground Thrush**. We walked slowly along the forest trail, listening and watching carefully for the thrush. Not long into our search we located the bird about 20 meters off the path. It remained partially hidden as it fed among the leaf litter, occasionally appearing in open areas and offering better views. It then flew unexpectedly onto the trail and gave us excellent views as well as allowing us to photograph it.



Spotted Ground Thrush, Dlinza Forest



Movement on the forest floor drew our attention to a blue duiker, a very tough antelope to find anywhere else in South Africa. We were treated to multiple sightings of this diminutive forest dwelling browser, one of the smallest ungulates in Africa. Despite the overcast rainy weather, which made for difficult birding, the active duiker coupled with the ground thrush sighting made our morning very worthwhile and entertaining. **Red-chested Cuckoo**, **Klaas's Cuckoo**, **Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher**, **Narina Trogon**, and **Olive Bushshrike** were all heard but not seen, with the rain and poor light making things tough for us.

We then set off for the town of St Lucia, where the next two days would be spent exploring the local forest patches on the fringe of the town and the coastline to its north within the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, South Africa's first World Heritage Site.

We checked into our comfortable guesthouse, which abutted the park, and decided to bird one of the local patches of coastal forest adjacent to Lake St Lucia, the larges estuarine lake in South Africa. On entering the forest we quickly detected new birds like **Purple-banded Sunbird**, **Dark-backed Weaver**, **Livingstone's Turaco**, **Buff-spotted Flufftail** (which we heard), **Terrestrial Brownbul**, and **Yellow-bellied Greenbul**. We tried for **Green Malkoha**, which was heard and pinpointed, but the rainy conditions worked against us and views were not obtained.

Day 6. iSimangaliso Wetland Park – St Lucia to Cape Vidal (KZN)

The next morning our objective was to bird the coastal dune forest around Cape Vidal north of the town of St Lucia.

We birded as we drove through the park towards Cape Vidal, stopping as we traveled to look at things that caught our eyes. We had great views of greater kudu, African buffalo, blue wildebeest, Natal red duiker, bushbuck, and plains zebra. **Rufous-naped Lark**, **European Bee-eater**, **Black-chested Snake Eagle**, **Broad-billed Roller**, and **African Fish Eagle** were all seen on this drive.



Brown Scrub Robin, iSimangaliso Wetland Park

Arriving at the rest camp at Cape Vidal we had lovely sighting of a soaring **Crowned Eagle**. **Yellow-fronted Canary** was common, along with **Magpie Mannikin**, **Yellow-breasted Apalis**, **Ashy Flycatcher**, and **Green Twinspot**, which proved challenging initially. **Brown**



Scrub Robin, a target species, offered great views and completed our clients' set of southern Africa scrub robins. Samango monkey was commonly seen, as were bushbuck and red duiker.

On the drive back to St Lucia we ticked African Harrier-Hawk, Crested Guineafowl, African Pygmy Kingfisher, Croaking Cisticola, Black-collared Barbet, Red-breasted Swallow, Brown Snake Eagle, Black-bellied Bustard, Collared Pratincole, Whiskered Tern, and Burchell's Coucal. A stop at a viewpoint overlooking a section of the lakeshore produced Ruff, Little Stint, Black-winged Stilt, Curlew Sandpiper, African Wattled Lapwing, and Common Greenshank.

Days 7 – 8. Hluhluwe Game Reserve (KZN)

Before leaving St Lucia for our next destination, the wonderful Hluhluwe Game Reserve, we attempted to obtain views of calling **Buff-spotted Flufftails** again. Despite being very vocal, they did not appear from the dense cover in which they were moving about. St Lucia is a fantastic birding destination with some great birds and diverse mammals.

After a relatively short drive to Hluhluwe Game Reserve the birding commenced again. En route to Hilltop Camp, where we would be based, we spotted **Brown-crowned Tchagra**, **Greater Blue-eared Starling**, **Village Weaver**, and **Red-collared Widowbird**.

Over the next two days we had terrific sightings of White rhinoceros, African buffalo, African elephant, and many antelope species.



White rhinoceros cow and calf

Other avian species encountered included White-throated Robin-Chat, White-browed Robin-Chat, White-backed Vulture, Emerald-spotted Wood Dove, White-browed Scrub Robin, Brubru, Wattled Starling, Red-billed Oxpecker, Grey Sunbird, Yellow-throated Petronia, Tawny Eagle, Blue Waxbill, Yellow-throated Longclaw, and Golden-breasted Bunting.

The standout bird on this leg of the trip was **Gorgeous Bushshrike**, of which we managed to obtain views and which was a lifer for our clients. Many were heard, but, as always, this skulking species is never easy to see.



Days 9 – 10. Mkhuze Game Reserve (KZN)

From Hluhluwe we drove north to Mkhuze Game Reserve, famous in southern Africa for its very diverse and surprising birdlife. On entering Mkhuze, however, it was evident that drought had also taken its toll here and would make birding during our stay tough.

Birds like Martial Eagle, Little Bee-eater, Common Scimitarbill, Acacia Pied Barbet, Pale Flycatcher, Chinspot Batis, White-crested Helmetshrike, and Violet-backed Starling were seen. Nyala, one of the most striking southern African antelopes, are a common mammal in Mkhuze and were concentrated around the rest camp. During the evening Fiery-necked Nightjar was heard, a common resident here.

A visit to the well-known Nsumo Pan, which was virtually dry, held a herd of hippopotamus, which were concentrated in the last bit of water within the pan and battling to survive. Fortunately two weeks after we had visited the reserve the rains arrived and breathed life back into the area.

A highlight was a view of a completely melanistic **Gabar Goshawk**. Other new species included **Golden-tailed Woodpecker**, **Long-billed Crombec**, **Crested Francolin**, and **White-bellied Sunbird**. Neergard's Sunbird sadly could not be found, even after considerable effort was made to locate the species.

A visit to the waterhole at the Khumasinga Hide produced great views of southern giraffe, common warthog, and other ungulates at very close range from the shelter of the hide.

Our main target bird at Mkhuze, **Pink-throated Twinspot**, was eventually located, and we were afforded wonderful views of a brightly-colored male and a female, as they fed unobtrusively among the dried grass only meters from where we stood. What impressed us was how easily the male would blend into the sparse ground cover.

Days 11 – 12. Ndumo Game Reserve (KZN)

Departing Mkhuze Game Reserve we continued our trip north to Ndumu River Lodge, from where we would explore the bird-rich Ndumo Game Reserve on the South African border with Mozambique.

The birding here was productive, and raptors included **Bateleur** and fantastic views of two **African Cuckoo-Hawks**. Waterbirds and shorebirds included **Great White** and **Pinkbacked Pelicans**, **Great Egret**, **Striated Heron**, **Saddle-billed Stork**, **Greater** and **Lesser Flamingos**, **Three-banded Plover**, **Water Thick-knee**, **Caspian Tern**, **Common** and **Wood Sandpipers**, and **Giant** and **Pied Kingfishers**.

Brilliant views of **African Broadbill** were our birding highlight at Ndumo. It was at first its characteristic call which drew our attention to the location where it was perched. After photographing it we moved in search of other species. The endemic **Rudd's Apalis** was next on our list, and after some efforts driving through its habitat and stopping at regular intervals to look and listen for it we were rewarded with good views.

Other species seen included Brown-hooded, Malachite and Striped Kingfishers, the latter feeding on a scorpion, Scarlet-chested Sunbird, Dark-backed Weaver, Grey Penduline Tit, Green-capped Eremomela, Retz's Helmetshrike, Lesser Masked Weaver, and Southern Brown-throated Weaver.





African Broadbill, Ndumo Game Reserve

Day 13. Hlane Royal National Park, Swaziland

We left Ndumo River Lodge and made our way north to Hlane Royal National Park in the small kingdom of Swaziland, where we would spend an afternoon and the following morning exploring before heading off to the world-renowned Kruger National Park. A quick roadside stop delivered a stunning male Klaas's Cuckoo, and African Jacana and White-faced Whistling Duck followed at a roadside dam.

Hamerkop, Marabou Stork, Namaqua Dove, Grey Go-away-bird, Jacobin Cuckoo, Arrow-marked Babbler, Kurrichane Thrush, African Paradise Flycatcher, and Burchell's Starling were all seen in the rest camp at Hlane Royal National Park.

A birding highlight during our short stay here was a female **Bennett's Woodpecker**, which probed for prey in the sand next to the chalets where we were staying. Lovely views of **Orange-breasted Bushshrike** were also obtained here.

The park was very dry. Mammal sightings included nyala, southern giraffe, impala, and hippopotamus, and a Nile crocodile resided in the small dam at the main camp. Lion was also heard during the early hours of the following morning – always exciting to hear on any trip.

Days 14 – 15. Lower Sabi Rest Camp, Kruger National Park (KNP)

Entering the Kruger National Park is always such an exciting experience; one never knows what exactly to expect. Our time in the Kruger was to be no different, and we traveled from the south of the park to its northern reaches, staying in various rest camps as we went, and were treated to a great diversity of wildlife.

Some of the new birds for our trip list while birding the Lower Sabi Rest Camp and the road network in this part of the park included Natal Spurfowl, Swainson's Spurfowl, Common Ostrich, Black Crake, White-crowned Lapwing, Little Stint, Marsh Sandpiper, Horus Swift, African Grey Hornbill, Lilac-breasted Roller, Southern White-crowned Shrike, Magpie Shrike, Marico Sunbird, Red-billed Buffalo Weaver, Squacco Heron, African Fish Eagle, Goliath Heron, African Openbill, and the impressive Lapped-faced Vulture.

The wildlife was concentrated along the Sabi River, and we saw over 100 African elephants in our first two days, along with two sightings of lion. Herds of African buffalo, two spotted



hyaenas, greater kudu, common waterbuck, steenbok, hippopotamus, and white rhinoceros were also seen, and reptiles included common water monitor and African rock python.

Days 16 – 17. Satara Rest Camp, KNP

This well-known rest camp is always an exciting place to visit and famous for its sightings of large cats. En route to Satara we managed glimpses of a leopard up a tree, despite being far from the road and difficult to see. New birds for the day included **Bearded Woodpecker**, **Hooded Vulture**, **Brown-headed Parrot**, and the impressive **Southern Ground Hornbill**, one of the "specials" of the park.

Other species seen while exploring this area included **Southern Red-billed Hornbill**, **Purple Roller**, **African Grey Hornbill**, **African Hoopoe**, **Mourning Collared Dove**, **Green Wood Hoopoe**, **Wire-tailed** and **Mosque Swallows**, and **White-headed Vulture.**

Standout mammal sightings included six male lions and a lioness in open country lazing about next to the roadside. We spent some time photographing them, since we realized what a great opportunity this was, unlikely to be repeated on the trip. After observing them for about an hour we set off for our rest camp. Within a few kilometers from where we'd been watching the lions we encountered a cheetah walking through the savanna, which provided beautiful views in the setting sun.

Glimpses of two leopards in a riverbed near Satara got our excitement levels up. It seemed as if they were playing with one another, but unfortunately dense cover and a steep riverbank shrouded them from our view and we were not able to see them clearly.



Lions bask in the late afternoon sun near Satara Rest Camp, Kruger National Park.

Days 18 – 19. Letaba Rest Camp, KNP

While in the Letaba area of the park, highlights were the breeding herds of African elephant, which were concentrated along the river. Hippopotamus, African buffalo, impala, greater kudu, and common waterbuck could all be seen moving about the river course from the magnificently-laid-out camp.

Birding here produced Cardinal and Golden-tailed Woodpeckers, Natal Spurfowl, African Cuckoo, Striated Heron, and Saddle-billed and Yellow-billed Storks. The



bushbucks that frequent the rest camp are very tame and could be approached within meters while we birded the grounds.

Fantastic views of a pair of **Double-banded Sandgrouse** were had on an afternoon drive as they crossed the road in front of us. One of the standout sightings in this area was a large group of **White-backed**, **Lapped faced**, and **Hooded Vultures** and a single **Cape Vulture** on a buffalo carcass. Watching the interactions between the numerous White-backed Vultures and the menacing Lapped-faced Vultures was fascinating and was a sighting that stuck with us.

Bearded Scrub Robin, European Roller, Long-tailed Paradise Whydah, Rufous-bellied Heron, and Red-headed Weaver were new birds for our trip list.



Lapped-faced (a highlight) and White-backed Vultures, Kruger National Park

Day 20. Shingwedzi Rest Camp, KNP

En route to Shingwedzi from Letaba we observed large herds of African buffalo, numbering hundreds of individuals, coming down to a river to drink. Both **Red-billed** and **Yellow-billed Oxpeckers** were seen among the herd. Another welcome sighting was tsessebe, the swiftest of the African antelopes and not frequently seen in South Africa.

We spent a single evening at this remote rest camp en route to the north of the park. Temperatures had been very hot during the day and had ranged between 35 °C and 41 °C. During the evening we heard **African Scops Owl** as we sat at the rest camp's waterhole while watching a grazing herd of common waterbuck.

Willow Warbler, Grey Tit-Flycatcher, African Goshawk, and Green-winged Pytilia were all new for our trip list, and we watched a young black mamba (1.5m) crossing the road.

Days 21 – 22. Punda Maria Rest Camp, KNP

This area of the Kruger National Park is well known as the best birding region in the north of South Africa, as it delivers a high diversity of species. En route to Punda Maria we obtained views of approximately 50 African elephants as they emerged from the mopane to drink at a waterhole. We also enjoyed a fully-grown lioness lying only meters away from us off the road.

Arriving at the rustic Punda Maria Rest Camp we made arrangements with the South African



National Parks (SANParks) staff to join them on one of their sunset drives to search for one of our main target species of the trip, the highly sought-after Pennant-winged Nightjar. We managed to book spaces on their vehicle for the following evening, which we were all very excited about since the birds had been recently seen at a known display area.

The following day found us driving through the hills and mopane woodlands searching for Arnot's Chat and Grey-headed Parrot. Unfortunately, despite our protracted efforts, neither of these species was located, and we simply put it down to the very dry conditions that we had experienced during the trip. We obtained views of **Cut-throat Finch**, a lifer for our clients, **African Hawk-Eagle**, **Dark Chanting Goshawk**, **African Green Pigeon**, **Square-tailed Nightjar**, and **Cinnamon-breasted Bunting**, though.



African Hawk-Eagle, Kruger National Park

On the evening of our "nightjar mission" we traveled to the known display site. En route we located three male lions that added to the experience. The weather conditions according to our local guide were not ideal, as the wind was stronger than was hoped. The males are more likely to display on evenings with little or no wind. Arriving at the site, which was a drainage line surrounded by low woodland with some open ground among the hills, we parked, disembarked from the vehicle, and waited quietly for the bird to show itself. After much anticipation at approximately 6:30 p.m. to our excitement a male **Pennant-winged Nightjar** appeared in all his glory with his characteristic wing streamers trailing behind. He then landed under a tree not far from us and began calling. Within minutes a female flew in and disappeared from view again in the fading light. The male then took to the sky for a second time, showing us his form before landing and calling once more. By now it was dark, and we could know longer see clearly.

This was without a doubt the bird of the trip for us, a lifer not only for us but also for others that had joined us with the same objective on this drive. With big smiles we returned to the Punda Maria Rest Camp, having seen what some of us had exclaimed was a childhood dream. On the way home we enjoyed views of a young spotted hyaena in its den close to the road.

Days 23 – 24. Pafuri Camp, KNP



Our last two nights were to be spent at Pafuri Camp on a concession right in the north of Kruger. The wildlife around our lodge was simply amazing; the dry conditions had resulted in wildlife concentrating along the banks of the Luvuvhu River, and we enjoyed permanent views of African elephant, African buffalo, common waterbuck, nyala, greater kudu, impala, and hippopotamus during the day from the lodge.

On one morning the elephants were right at the lodge and walked within four meters of where we sat in safety on a raised deck that encircled the lodge. They moved about the edges of the camp, feeding peacefully. Walking to and from our accommodation and vehicles was not possible, and so rather than embarking on our morning drive we simply spent the first two hours observing the heard and soaking up the experience.

Later that morning we had another incredible elephant experience, where a middle-aged elephant bull wandered up to us while we were on foot with a local guide in the concession. Our guide called for it to stop when it starting getting too close for comfort and eventually halted the massive animal when it stood four meters away, looking down at us. It was heart-stopping stuff, and the picture at the top of this report shows this experience. This elephant meant us no harm and was merely curious of us. The group remained calm during the interaction, and we were left with an experience of a lifetime.

Some of the new birds for our list included **Burnt-necked Eremomela**, the exquisite **Meves's Starling**, **Red-billed Firefinch**, **Red-chested Cuckoo**, **Verreaux's Eagle-Owl**, **Böhm's Spinetail**, **Marico Sunbird**, and **White-winged Widowbird**. **Gorgeous Bushshrike**, seen earlier in the trip, called loudly from the thickets around the lodge each morning but remained hidden from view, and a four-toed sengi scuttled in the undergrowth at dawn and dusk around the lodge's boardwalks. **White-fronted Bee-eater** was common, and there were literally hundreds of them adding to the color scheme of the environment.

Our stay in the Kruger National Park was brilliant, and we experienced some magnificent wildlife sightings. It was sad to leave this iconic park, which may have no equal anywhere in Africa in terms of the diversity it delivers to the visitor.

Day 25. Polokwane Game Reserve

Our last evening was spent in the area of Polokwane en route back to Johannesburg, where our trip would end. Our main target bird while exploring the Polokwane Game Reserve was **Short-clawed Lark**, a southern African endemic. We managed to locate the bird without too much difficulty. It impressed us with its amazing display flight, which consisted of a vertical accent to about 50 meters and a vertical plummet back to the ground. Other new birds seen here included **Violet-eared Waxbill**, **Brown-crowned Tchagra**, and a stunning **Crimson Breasted Shrike** that was a nice surprise.

Much to our surprise we stumbled on a spectacular sable antelope bull that was lying among the thorn trees. This was to be the final mammal for our trip before leaving the reserve. We then drove to Johannesburg, where our tour ended, and caught our various flights back home. It had been an adventure of a lifetime with exceptional people, birdlife, and wildlife!





Short-clawed Lark, Polokwane Game Reserve

Other South African trip reports are at the Birding Ecotours website.

SOUTH AFRICA	CUSTOM TOUR	RIRD LIST OCT	OBER/NOVEMBER	2016
SOUTH AFRICA	CUSTOM TOUR			. 4 010

Bold = country endemic

Status: NT = Near-threatened, VU = Vulnerable, EN = Endangered, CE = Critically Endangered

Common Name (IOC 6.4)	Scientific name (IOC 6.4)	Trip
	STRUTHIONIFORMES	
<u>Ostriches</u>	Struthionidae	
Common Ostrich	Struthio camelus	1
	ANSERIFORMES	
Ducks, Geese and Swans	<u>Anatidae</u>	
White-faced Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna viduata	1
Spur-winged Goose	Plectropterus gambensis	1
Egyptian Goose	Alopochen aegyptiaca	1
Yellow-billed Duck	Anas undulata	1
	GALLIFORMES	
Guineafowl	<u>Numididae</u>	
Helmeted Guineafowl	Numida meleagris	1
Crested Guineafowl	Guttera pucherani	1
Pheasants and allies	Phasianidae Phasianidae	
Crested Francolin	Dendroperdix sephaena	1



Natal Spurfowl	Pternistis natalensis	1
Red-necked Spurfowl	Pternistis afer	1
Swainson's Spurfowl	Pternistis swainsonii	1
	PODICIPEDIFORMES	
Grebes	Podicipedidae	
Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis	1
	PHOENICOPTERIFORMES	
<u>Flamingos</u>	Phoenicopteridae	
Greater Flamingo	Phoenicopterus roseus	1
Lesser Flamingo - NT	Phoeniconaias minor	1
	CICONIIFORMES	
<u>Storks</u>	<u>Ciconiidae</u>	
Yellow-billed Stork	Mycteria ibis	1
African Openbill	Anastomus lamelligerus	1
Black Stork	Ciconia nigra	1
Woolly-necked Stork	Ciconia episcopus	1
Saddle-billed Stork	Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis	1
Marabou Stork	Leptoptilos crumenifer	1
	PELECANIFORMES	
Ibises, Spoonbills	Threskiornithidae	
African Sacred Ibis	Threskiornis aethiopicus	1
Southern Bald Ibis - VU	Geronticus calvus	1
Hadada Ibis	Bostrychia hagedash	1
African Spoonbill	Platalea alba	1
<u>Herons, Bitterns</u>	<u>Ardeidae</u>	
Striated Heron	Butorides striata	1
Squacco Heron	Ardeola ralloides	1
Rufous-bellied Heron	Ardeola rufiventris	1
Western Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis	1
Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea	1
Black-headed Heron	Ardea melanocephala	1
Goliath Heron	Ardea goliath	1
Great Egret	Ardea alba	1
Intermediate Egret	Ardea intermedia	1
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	1
<u>Hamerkop</u>	Scopidae	
Hamerkop	Scopus umbretta	1
Pelicans	<u>Pelecanidae</u>	
Great White Pelican	Pelecanus onocrotalus	1
Pink-backed Pelican	Pelecanus rufescens	1
	SULIFORMES	
Cormorants, Shags	Phalacrocoracidae	



Reed Cormorant	Microcarbo africanus	1
White-breasted Cormorant	Phalacrocorax lucidus	1
	ACCIPITRIFORMES	
Secretarybird	<u>Sagittariidae</u>	
Secretarybird - VU	Sagittarius serpentarius	1
Kites, Hawks and Eagles	Accipitridae	
Black-winged Kite	Elanus caeruleus	1
African Harrier-Hawk	Polyboroides typus	1
Bearded Vulture - NT	Gypaetus barbatus	1
African Cuckoo-Hawk	Aviceda cuculoides	1
Hooded Vulture - CE	Necrosyrtes monachus	1
White-backed Vulture - CE	Gyps africanus	1
Cape Vulture - E	Gyps coprotheres	1
White-headed Vulture - CE	Trigonoceps occipitalis	1
Lappet-faced Vulture - E	Torgos tracheliotos	1
Black-chested Snake Eagle	Circaetus pectoralis	1
Brown Snake Eagle	Circaetus cinereus	1
Bateleur - NT	Terathopius ecaudatus	1
Crowned Eagle - NT	Stephanoaetus coronatus	1
Martial Eagle - VU	Polemaetus bellicosus	1
Long-crested Eagle	Lophaetus occipitalis	1
Wahlberg's Eagle	Hieraaetus wahlbergi	1
Tawny Eagle	Aquila rapax	1
African Hawk-Eagle	Aquila spilogaster	1
Gabar Goshawk	Micronisus gabar	1
Dark Chanting Goshawk	Melierax metabates	1
African Goshawk	Accipiter tachiro	1
African Fish Eagle	Haliaeetus vocifer	1
Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo	1
Jackal Buzzard	Buteo rufofuscus	1
	OTIDIFORMES	
Bustards	Otididae	
Kori Bustard - NT	Ardeotis kori	1
Red-crested Korhaan	Lophotis ruficrista	1
Black-bellied Bustard	Lissotis melanogaster	1
	GRUIFORMES	
<u>Flufftails</u>	<u>Sarothruridae</u>	
Buff-spotted Flufftail	Sarothrura elegans	Н
Rails, Crakes and Coots	Rallidae	
Black Crake	Amaurornis flavirostra	1
	CHARADRIIFORMES:	
Stone-curlews, Thick-knees	<u>Burhinidae</u>	



Water Thick-knee	Burhinus vermiculatus	1
Stilts, Avocets	Recurvirostridae	
Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus	1
Plovers	<u>Charadriidae</u>	
Blacksmith Lapwing	Vanellus armatus	1
White-crowned Lapwing	Vanellus albiceps	1
Crowned Lapwing	Vanellus coronatus	1
African Wattled Lapwing	Vanellus senegallus	1
Common Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula	1
Kittlitz's Plover	Charadrius pecuarius	1
Three-banded Plover	Charadrius tricollaris	1
	CHARADRIIFORMES:	
<u>Jacanas</u>	<u>Jacanidae</u>	
African Jacana	Actophilornis africanus	1
Sandpipers, Snipes	Scolopacidae	
Marsh Sandpiper	Tringa stagnatilis	
Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia	1
Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola	1
Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos	1
Little Stint	Calidris minuta	1
Curlew Sandpiper - NT	Calidris ferruginea	1
Ruff	Philomachus pugnax	1
Coursers, Pratincoles	<u>Glareolidae</u>	
Collared Pratincole	Glareola pratincola	1
Gulls, Terns and Skimmers	<u>Laridae</u>	
Grey-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus	1
Caspian Tern	Hydroprogne caspia	1
Whiskered Tern	Chlidonias hybrida	1
	PTEROCLIFORMES	
Sandgrouse	Pteroclidae	
Double-banded Sandgrouse	Pterocles bicinctus	1
	COLUMBIFORMES	
Pigeons, Doves	Columbidae	
Rock Dove	Columba livia	1
Speckled Pigeon	Columba guinea	1
African Olive Pigeon	Columba arquatrix	1
Mourning Collared Dove	Streptopelia decipiens	1
Red-eyed Dove	Streptopelia semitorquata	1
Ring-necked Dove	Streptopelia capicola	1
Laughing Dove	Spilopelia senegalensis	1
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	Turtur chalcospilos	1
Tambourine Dove	Turtur tympanistria	1



Namaqua Dove	Oena capensis	1
African Green Pigeon	Treron calvus	1
	MUSOPHAGIFORMES	
Turacos	Musophagidae	
Livingstone's Turaco	Tauraco livingstonii	1
Purple-crested Turaco	Tauraco porphyreolophus	1
Grey Go-away-bird	Corythaixoides concolor	1
	CUCULIFORMES	
Cuckoos	<u>Cuculidae</u>	
Burchell's Coucal	Centropus burchellii	1
Green Malkoha	Ceuthmochares australis	Н
Jacobin Cuckoo	Clamator jacobinus	1
Diederik Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx caprius	1
Klaas's Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx klaas	1
African Emerald Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx cupreus	Н
Red-chested Cuckoo	Cuculus solitarius	1
African Cuckoo	Cuculus gularis	1
	STRIGIFORMES	
Owls	Strigidae	
African Scops Owl	Otus senegalensis	Н
Spotted Eagle-Owl	Bubo africanus	1
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	Bubo lacteus	1
African Wood Owl	Strix woodfordii	Н
	CAPRIMULGIFORMES	
<u>Nightjars</u>	<u>Caprimulgidae</u>	
Fiery-necked Nightjar	Caprimulgus pectoralis	Н
Square-tailed Nightjar	Caprimulgus fossii	1
Pennant-winged Nightjar	Caprimulgus vexillarius	1
	APODIFORMES	
<u>Swifts</u>	Apodidae	
Böhm's Spinetail	Neafrapus boehmi	1
African Palm Swift	Cypsiurus parvus	1
African Black Swift	Apus barbatus	1
Little Swift	Apus affinis	1
Horus Swift	Apus horus	1
White-rumped Swift	Apus caffer	1
	COLIIFORMES	
Mousebirds	Coliidae	
Speckled Mousebird	Colius striatus	1
Red-faced Mousebird	Urocolius indicus	1
	TROGONIFORMES	
Trogons	Trogonidae	



Narina Trogon	Apaloderma narina	Н
	CORACIIFORMES	
Rollers	Coraciidae	
Purple Roller	Coracias naevius	1
Lilac-breasted Roller	Coracias caudatus	1
European Roller	Coracias garrulus	1
Broad-billed Roller	Eurystomus glaucurus	1
Kingfishers	Alcedinidae	
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	Halcyon albiventris	1
Striped Kingfisher	Halcyon chelicuti	1
African Pygmy Kingfisher	Ispidina picta	1
Malachite Kingfisher	Corythornis cristatus	1
Giant Kingfisher	Megaceryle maxima	1
Pied Kingfisher	Ceryle rudis	1
Bee-eaters	Meropidae	
Little Bee-eater	Merops pusillus	1
White-fronted Bee-eater	Merops bullockoides	1
European Bee-eater	Merops apiaster	1
•	BUCEROTIFORMES	
Hoopoes	<u>Upupidae</u>	
African Hoopoe	Upupa africana	1
Wood Hoopoes	Phoeniculidae	
Green Wood Hoopoe	Phoeniculus purpureus	1
Common Scimitarbill	Rhinopomastus cyanomelas	1
Ground Hornbills	Bucorvidae	
Southern Ground Hornbill - VU	Bucorvus leadbeateri	1
<u>Hornbills</u>	Bucerotidae	
Southern Red-billed Hornbill	Tockus rufirostris	1
Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	Tockus leucomelas	1
Crowned Hornbill	Lophoceros alboterminatus	1
African Grey Hornbill	Lophoceros nasutus	1
Trumpeter Hornbill	Bycanistes bucinator	1
	PICIFORMES	
African Barbets	Lybiidae	
White-eared Barbet	Stactolaema leucotis	1
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird	Pogoniulus bilineatus	1
Red-fronted Tinkerbird	Pogoniulus pusillus	Н
Acacia Pied Barbet	Tricholaema leucomelas	1
Black-collared Barbet	Lybius torquatus	1
Crested Barbet	Trachyphonus vaillantii	1
Woodpeckers	<u>Picidae</u>	
Red-throated Wryneck	Jynx ruficollis	1





<u>Drongos</u>	<u>Dicruridae</u>	
Square-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus ludwigii	1
Fork-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus adsimilis	1
Monarchs	Monarchidae	
Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher	Trochocercus cyanomelas	Н
African Paradise Flycatcher	Terpsiphone viridis	1
Crows, Jays	Corvidae	
Pied Crow	Corvus albus	1
White-necked Raven	Corvus albicollis	1
Fairy Flycatchers	<u>Stenostiridae</u>	
Fairy Flycatcher	Stenostira scita	1
Tits, Chickadees	Paridae	
Southern Black Tit	Melaniparus niger	1
Penduline Tits	<u>Remizidae</u>	
Grey Penduline Tit	Anthoscopus caroli	1
<u>Larks</u>	<u>Alaudidae</u>	
Short-clawed Lark	Certhilauda chuana	1
Sabota Lark	Calendulauda sabota	1
Rufous-naped Lark	Mirafra africana	1
<u>Bulbuls</u>	Pycnonotidae	
Dark-capped Bulbul	Pycnonotus tricolor	1
Sombre Greenbul	Andropadus importunus	1
Yellow-bellied Greenbul	Chlorocichla flaviventris	1
Terrestrial Brownbul	Phyllastrephus terrestris	1
Swallows, Martins	Hirundinidae	
Black Saw-wing	Psalidoprocne pristoptera	1
Brown-throated Martin	Riparia paludicola	1
Banded Martin	Riparia cincta	1
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	1
White-throated Swallow	Hirundo albigularis	1
Wire-tailed Swallow	Hirundo smithii	1
Rock Martin	Ptyonoprogne fuligula	1
Greater Striped Swallow	Cecropis cucullata	1
Lesser Striped Swallow	Cecropis abyssinica	1
Red-breasted Swallow	Cecropis semirufa	1
Mosque Swallow	Cecropis senegalensis	1
South African Cliff Swallow	Petrochelidon spilodera	1
Crombecs, African Warblers	<u>Macrosphenidae</u>	
Cape Grassbird	Sphenoeacus afer	1
Long-billed Crombec	Sylvietta rufescens	1
Leaf Warblers and allies	Phylloscopidae	
Willow Warbler	Phylloscopus trochilus	1





Kurrichane Thrush	Turdus libonyana	1
Olive Thrush	Turdus olivaceus	1
Karoo Thrush	Turdus smithi	1
Chats, Old World Flycatchers	Muscicapidae	
Bearded Scrub Robin	Cercotrichas quadrivirgata	1
White-browed Scrub Robin	Cercotrichas leucophrys	1
Brown Scrub Robin	Cercotrichas signata	1
Grey Tit-Flycatcher	Myioparus plumbeus	1
Southern Black Flycatcher	Melaenornis pammelaina	1
Pale Flycatcher	Melaenornis pallidus	1
Marico Flycatcher	Melaenornis mariquensis	1
Fiscal Flycatcher	Melaenornis silens	1
Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata	1
Ashy Flycatcher	Muscicapa caerulescens	1
African Dusky Flycatcher	Muscicapa adusta	1
Cape Robin-Chat	Cossypha caffra	1
White-throated Robin-Chat	Cossypha humeralis	1
White-browed Robin-Chat	Cossypha heuglini	1
Red-capped Robin-Chat	Cossypha natalensis	1
Chorister Robin-Chat	Cossypha dichroa	1
White-throated Robin	Irania gutturalis	1
Cape Rock Thrush	Monticola rupestris	1
African Stonechat	Saxicola torquatus	1
Buff-streaked Chat	Campicoloides bifasciatus	1
Ant-eating Chat	Myrmecocichla formicivora	1
Familiar Chat	Oenanthe familiaris	1
Sunbirds	<u>Nectariniidae</u>	
Collared Sunbird	Hedydipna collaris	1
Olive Sunbird	Cyanomitra olivacea	1
Grey Sunbird	Cyanomitra veroxii	1
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	Chalcomitra senegalensis	1
Malachite Sunbird	Nectarinia famosa	1
Greater Double-collared Sunbird	Cinnyris afer	1
Marico Sunbird	Cinnyris mariquensis	1
Purple-banded Sunbird	Cinnyris bifasciatus	1
	Cinnyris bifasciatus Cinnyris talatala	1 1
Purple-banded Sunbird	· ·	
Purple-banded Sunbird White-bellied Sunbird	Cinnyris talatala	
Purple-banded Sunbird White-bellied Sunbird Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches	Cinnyris talatala Passeridae	1
Purple-banded Sunbird White-bellied Sunbird Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	Cinnyris talatala Passeridae Plocepasser mahali	1
Purple-banded Sunbird White-bellied Sunbird Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches White-browed Sparrow-Weaver House Sparrow	Cinnyris talatala Passeridae Plocepasser mahali Passer domesticus	1 1 1





Golden-breasted E	Bunting	Emberiza flaviventris	1	
TOTAL			313	

SOUTH AFRICA CUSTOM TOUR MAMMAL LIST OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2016		
Common Name (IUCN)	Scientific Name (IUCN)	Trip
	MACROSCELIDEA	
Elephant Shrews	Macroscelididae	
Four-toed sengi	Petrodromus tetradactylus	1
-	CHIROPTERA	
Megabats	Pteropodidae	
Wahlberg's epauletted fruit bat	Epomophorus wahlbergi	1
	RODENTIA	
Squirrels	Sciuridae	
Red bush squirrel	Paraxerus palliatus	1
Smith's bush squirrel	Paraxerus cepapi	1
Spring hares	Pedetidae	
Spring hare	Pedetes capensis	1
	LAGOMORPHA	
Rabbits, hares	Leporidae	
Scrub hare	Lepus saxatilis	1
	HYRACOIDEA	
Hyraxes	Procaviidae	
Rock hyrax	Procavia capensis	1
	PROBOSCIDEA	
Elephants	Elephantidae	
African elephant	Loxodonta africana	1
	PERISSODACTYLA	
Horses and allies	Equidae	
Plains zebra	Equus quagga	1
Rhinoceroses	Rhinocerotidae	
White rhinoceros	Ceratotherium simum	1
	CETARTIODACTYLA	
Hippopotamuses	Hippopotamidae	
Hippopotamus	Hippopotamus amphibius	1
Hogs, pigs	Suidae	
Common warthog	Phacochoerus africanus	1
Giraffe, okapi	Giraffidae	
Southern giraffe	Giraffa camelopardalis giraffa	1
Cattle and allies	Bovidae	
Blue wildebeest	Connochaetes taurinus taurinus	1



Red hartebeest	Alcelaphus buselaphus caama	1
Blesbok	Damaliscus pygargus phillipsi	1
Tsessebe	Damaliscus lunatus lunatus	1
Blue duiker	Philantomba monticola	1
Natal red duiker	Cephalophus natalensis	1
Common duiker	Sylvicapra grimmia	1
Klipspringer	Oreotragus oreotragus	1
Steenbok	Raphicerus campestris	1
Sharpe's grysbok	Raphicerus sharpei	1
Common impala	Aepyceros melampus melampus	1
Grey rhebok	Pelea capreolus	1
Sable antelope	Hippotragus niger	1
African buffalo	Syncerus caffer	1
Greater kudu	Tragelaphus strepsiceros	1
Nyala	Tragelaphus angasii	1
Bushbuck	Tragelaphus scriptus	1
Common eland	Tragelaphus oryx	1
Southern reedbuck	Redunca arundinum	1
Common waterbuck	Kobus ellipsiprymnus ellipsiprymnus	1
	CARNIVORA	
Hyaenas	Hyaenidae	
Spotted hyaena	Crocuta crocuta	1
Cats	Felidae	
Cheetah	Acinonyx jubatus	1
Leopard	Panthera pardus	1
Lion	Panthera leo	1
Wolves, dogs and allies	Canidae	
Black-backed jackal	Canis mesomelas	1
Civets, genets and allies	Viverridae	
Cape genet	Genetta tigrina	1
Mongooses	Herpestidae	
Slender mongoose	Galerella sanguinea	1
Cape gray mongoose	Galerella pulverulenta	1
Banded mongoose	Mungos mungo	1
Common dwarf mongoose	Helogale parvula	1
	PRIMATES	
Galagos	Galagidae	
Southern lesser galago	Galago moholi	1
Old World monkeys	Cercopithecidae	
Chacma baboon	Papio ursinus	1
Samango monkey	Cercopithecus mitis labiatus	1
Vervet monkey	Chlorocebus pygerythrus	1
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