



INTRODUCTION TO AFRICA: THE CAPE, KRUGER AND VICTORIA FALLS

30 MAY – 10 JUNE 2024

By Joshua Olszewski and Dylan Vasapolli



*A regal male **Lion** strutting his stuff in the greater Kruger.*

Overview

This was a custom tour, designed by both the Golden Gate Bird Alliance and Birding Ecotours, offering an overview of arguably the two most popular and famous attractions in South Africa – Cape Town and Kruger. A short extension to visit the impressive Victoria Falls, in neighboring Zimbabwe, was added on as well for an excellent introduction to birding within southern Africa.

Southern Africa as a whole is an extremely bird-rich region, containing almost 1,000 species and including some of Africa's most highly sought-after specials, as well as an array of other wildlife and stunning scenery. Although this tour took in only a small section of the entire area, it was as a whole successful, enjoying excellent birding throughout, and fine game viewing within the greater Kruger area.



This private tour came to a close at the world-renowned Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe – a must visit destination for any traveler.

Starting off around Cape Town, the dramatic mountains here produced sought-after birds like **Cape Rockjumper** and **Cape Sugarbird** (both bird families restricted to southern Africa), along with others like **Victorin's Warbler**, **Southern Black Korhaan**, **Black Harrier**, **Blue Crane**, **Grey-winged Francolin**, **Maccoa Duck** and lots of waterfowl. Transiting to the Kruger area, big game and big cats were a feature, with the group enjoying sightings of **Lion**, **Leopard** and a special **Cheetah** encounter, along with the rest of the “Big 5”, including **Cape Buffalo**, **African Elephant** and **White Rhino**, along with many others. Birding was equally good, with raptors like the glorious **Bateleur**, dramatic birds like **Southern Ground Hornbill** and charismatic birds like the **Southern**

Yellow-billed Hornbill and fabulous **Lilac-breasted Roller**. The tour concluded at the Victoria Falls, where a combination of boat cruises and the falls themselves ended the trip on a high.

A detailed daily account can be read below, and the full bird and mammal lists are located at the end of the report.

Detailed Report

Day 1, 30th May 2024. Arrival into Cape Town

After everyone's arrival at our suburban guesthouse in Cape Town, we decided to go for a short afternoon walk around the idyllic Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. Despite the rainy weather, we managed to clock up a good number of species and familiarize ourselves with some typical denizens of the Cape. These included **Southern Double-collared** and **Orange-breasted Sunbirds**, **Sweet Waxbill**, **Forest Canary**, **Cape Robin-Chat**, **Cape Sugarbird**, **Olive Thrush**, **Cape White-eye**, **Jackal Buzzard**, **White-necked Raven**, **Karoo Prinia**, **African Dusky Flycatcher**, **Sombre Greenbul**, **Cape Bulbul** and **Speckled Mousebird**. The highlight of the outing was a juvenile **African Goshawk** which provided prolonged, perched visuals for the group.

We then headed back to the guesthouse after a great dinner, looking forward to the next day of exciting birding that awaited us.



*Bright birds like this **Southern Double-collared Sunbird** are common around Cape Town.*

Day 2, 31st May 2024. Birding the Kogelberg Mountains near Rooi Els and Pringle Bay

We made an early start this morning to beat the Cape Town traffic and reach our first birding spot by sunrise. We arrived at the scenic Sir Lowry's Pass right on time, and quickly got stunning views of the secretive **Victorin's Warbler**, a skulking endemic of the mountain fynbos in the Cape which can often prove difficult to see. Here we also added **Cape Grassbird** and **Malachite Sunbird** to the trip list. We then headed south along the well-known Clarence Drive, which meanders along the eastern side of False Bay. We relished the breathtaking views as we approached our next stop: the small holiday town of Rooi Els. The lower slopes on the outskirts of the town provided us with the charismatic **Cape Rockjumper**, as well as a bonus sighting in the form of a confiding group of **Ground Woodpeckers**. The supporting cast included **Cape Rock Thrush**, **Fiscal Flycatcher**, **Cape Bunting**, **Neddicky** and **Grey-backed Cisticola**.



Cape Rockjumpers are always one of the biggest targets outside of Cape Town. It took a little while on this trip, but eventually we were rewarded with views of these stunning birds!

After a lovely time at Rooi Els, we made the obligatory stop at the **African Penguin** colony at Stony Point in the neighboring town of Betty's Bay, where we also got acquainted with the four local marine cormorant species: **White-breasted**, **Cape**, **Crowned** and, rarest of all, **Bank Cormorant**. Other highlights seen along the coast here included, **Kittlitz's Plover**, **Water Thick-knee**, **African Oystercatcher** and **Hartlaub's Gull**, as well as a few pelagic birds which had been forced inshore by the bad weather. These included thousands of **Sooty Shearwaters**, **White-chinned Petrel** and a single **Northern Giant Petrel**. We then had lunch at Harold Porter Botanical Gardens, another picturesque location that also provided us with improved views of **Brimstone**

Canary. Other notable sightings from around Betty's Bay included close views of **Cape Spurfowl** and a **Cape Grey Mongoose** running along the road.

Before heading home, we made a brief stop at the iconic wetlands of Strandfontein Sewage Works, where we got familiar with the local water birds. This included great looks at **African Swamphen**, **Cape Teal**, **Cape Shoveler**, **Great White Pelican** and masses of **Greater Flamingos**, though we would revisit this sight later in the trip to do it justice.



*It is always fun watching the often-comical **African Penguins** swimming in the ocean.*

Day 3, 1st June 2024. Birding West Coast National Park and surrounds

This morning was yet another early start, but this time we went north instead of east. Leaving the mountains behind, we entered the vast expanse of low, coastal, scrubby dunes and farmland areas known as the strandveld. Before reaching West Coast National Park, we made a couple of roadside stops where, having entered a new habitat, we started connecting with a whole new suite of birds. These included the likes of **Cape Penduline Tit**, **Long-billed Crombec**, **Chestnut-vented Warbler**, **Bokmakierie**, **Bar-throated Apalis**, **Cape Sparrow**, **Pied and Wattled Starlings**, **Red-capped Lark**, **Capped Wheatear**, **African Pipit**, **Karoo Scrub Robin** and the first of many **Black-winged Kites**. The best sightings that came from these roadside stops were brief views of both **Grey-winged Francolin** and a **Black Harrier**, as well as much more prolonged views of the exquisite **Southern Black Korhaan**.

Upon reaching West Coast National Park, our first port of call was the Abrahamskraal waterhole where we added **Yellow Canary**, **African Stonechat**, **Black Crake**, **White-backed Mousebird**, **Lesser Swamp Warbler**, **Lesser Flamingo** and the secretive **African Rail**. However, the best sighting we had near Abrahamskraal was of a **Caracal** wandering down the road in front of us as we approached the waterhole. Spending time with this secretive cat was a truly unforgettable

experience! The stately **Bontebok**, an attractive antelope endemic to the Cape, was also enjoyed near Abrahamskraal. We were treated to a lovely fly-by from an **African Marsh Harrier** on our way to our next stop, the Seeberg hide at the northern end of the Langebaan Lagoon, which is enclosed within the park. Being high tide when we arrived, we enjoyed close-up views of roosting coastal birds, the highlights being a group of ten **Eurasian Curlews**, good numbers of **African Oystercatchers** and **White-fronted Plovers** and a tern roost that consisted of **Common**, **Caspian**, **Greater Crested** and **Sandwich Terns**. An **Osprey** flying past with prey was another great sighting.



Southern Black Korhaan is a scarce bird of the strandveld fynbos— which we watched at length on the Cape's west coast.

Our last area to address before heading back to Cape Town was the coastline and coastal scrub around the town of Jacob's Bay, half an hour northwest of the park. The mix of farmland and strandveld surrounding this town is rich with birdlife, and provided us with **Sickle-winged Chat**, **Large-billed Lark**, **Cape Weaver**, **Crowned Lapwing** and **White-throated Canary**, in addition to previously mentioned species. The coastline itself played host to a massive wintering flock of **Antarctic Terns**, which returns to this spot every winter from their breeding grounds on islands in the subantarctic. A confiding **Acacia Pied Barbet** in one of the town's gardens was also a welcome find. The drive back to Cape Town gave us a few good raptor sightings, such as a stunning **Pale Chanting Goshawk**, another **African Marsh Harrier** and a distant **Martial Eagle** perched near its nest on a pylon.

Day 4, 2nd June 2024. Cleaning up the Cape

Today was more of a clean-up day, just adding ones and twos at various locations around the Cape. We started our day in the farmlands northeast of Cape Town. Although most of the region was blanketed with thick mist this morning, we still managed to scrape out a few new species, among which great views of displaying **Cape Clapper Larks** was a highlight. **Cape Longclaw**, **Quailfinch**, **Cloud** and **Zitting Cisticolas**, **Ant-eating Chat**, **African Hoopoe**, **Southern Masked Weaver**, **Southern Red Bishop**, **Red-billed Quelea**, and brief views of a **Lanner Falcon** were all additions to our trip list. We then decided to escape the fog and head south towards Paarl, back into the mountains. The nearby Du Toit's Kloof Pass caught us up with another fynbos endemic, the elusive **Protea Canary**, as well as a fly-by from a **Black Sparrowhawk**.



Blue Crane is South Africa's national bird, and one we enjoyed seeing on our last day around Cape Town.

We then proceeded south towards our lunch stop in Stellenbosch, where a roadside dam got us great views of **Maccoa Duck**, **Grey Heron**, **Red-billed Teal**, and more prolonged views of a **Lanner Falcon**. A vineyard next to our lunch stop in Stellenbosch provided us with a couple of roosting **Spotted Thick-knees**, while a park on the outskirts of town got us stunning views of **African Fish Eagle** and **Malachite Kingfisher**. We also added **Fork-tailed Drongo**, **African Spoonbill**, **Red-faced Mousebird** and **Grey-headed Gull** to the trip list here.

Our last stop of the day, and indeed, this leg of the trip, was to return to the Strandfontein Sewage Works. Having more time to spend on this second visit, we enjoyed the scene of hundreds of different waterbird species in the golden light of sunset. Thousands of both **Greater** and **Lesser Flamingos** were an obvious highlight, as were large numbers of **Black-necked Grebes** and **Southern Pochards**, and more views of **Maccoa Duck** and **African Fish Eagle**. The vocal **Little**

Rush Warbler finally gave itself up and showed well in the reedbeds surrounding the pans, and we also added **Cape Canary**, **Fulvous Whistling Duck**, **Purple Heron** and **Whiskered Tern** to the trip list. The last sighting of the day was a bit bittersweet: a **Western Barn Owl** sitting on the access road to the sewage works with a broken wing. Fortunately, we managed to contact local wildlife rehabbers who promptly fetched it.

We then enjoyed a lovely last dinner in Cape Town, after having enjoyed our time here, and looked forward to our next destination.



Greater Flamingos were numerous at the Strandfontein Sewage Works, along with their similar Lesser Flamingo cousins.

Day 5, 3rd June 2024. Flight to Hoedspruit and transfer to Karongwe Private Game Reserve

After a productive three days of birding around Cape Town, Joshua bade the group farewell, as they caught a flight up to Hoedspruit, near the border of the immense Kruger National Park. After landing at Hoedspruit, the group met up with Dylan, who would be leading the rest of the tour.

A short drive followed, as we transited to our comfortable lodge set in the Karongwe Private Game Reserve, bordering the massive Kruger National Park. We didn't have much time to check in and settle down, before being whisked away on our first of several lovely afternoon safari drives. We started off well, enjoying some of our first bushveld species like **Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill**, **Chinspot Batis**, **Southern Black Tit**, **Black-crowned Tchagra**, **Arrow-marked Babbler** and **Blue Waxbill**, while also enjoying our first mammals including a fine **Giraffe**, **Greater Kudu**, **Impala** and **Plains Zebra**. Before long, we struck gold and found a stunning male **Lion** walking down the track, and sat in awe as this majestic cat walked right past us, and went to lay down nearby – still in view. We spent a little while with this cat, soaking up our views, before eventually leaving it be. Before we knew it, we had arrived at our sundowner spot, and chatted

away, until dark, when we began our night drive back to camp. It was fairly quiet on the return journey, with several **Scrub Hares** making appearances, before our tracker spotted a **Leopard** crouched low to the ground. We came to a halt, and in the torch beam sat a glorious spotted cat – we had to be quick though, as before we knew it, it had slunk back into the deep cover. Buoyed by a wonderful first safari drive, we settled in for the evening, eager for our coming days.



*We had a stunning **Lion** sighting on our first safari drive in Karongwe – in-situ picture of our sighting (see cover image for another take on this spectacular individual).*

Days 6 – 7, 4th – 5th June 2024. The best of Karongwe Private Game Reserve

Our two full days in Karongwe are discussed below as one, due to the similar nature of the safari drives, routes taken and species seen. Our days started off before dawn with pre-safari coffee and biscuits, before we headed off for our long morning safari drive. We took various routes around, exploring as much of this reserve as possible. A midday break would typically follow (where we'd usually have a walk around the lodge), before we'd resume in the later afternoon for another safari drive, returning after dark.

We were sure to include some time at several dams and other drinking points, which had droves of birds coming down on a regular basis, on top of the resident waterbirds themselves. While the likes of **Striated Herons** and **Three-banded Plovers** paraded around the edges, noisy **Pied Kingfishers** flitted about, while colorful denizens like **Golden-breasted Bunting**, **Green-winged Pytilia** and **Jameson's Firefinches** came down to drink in the shadows. Riverine trees held the bright **Purple-crested Turaco**, along with **African Green Pigeons** and **Black-headed Orioles**. We also found many other typical bushveld species including **Crested Francolin**, **Natal Spurfowl**, **Grey Go-away-bird**, **Emerald-spotted Wood Dove**, **Red-faced Mousebird**, **Purple Roller**, **Green Wood Hoopoe**, **Black-collared Barbet**, **Brown-hooded Kingfisher** (a non-

aquatic kingfisher), **Cardinal** and **Golden-tailed Woodpeckers**, **White-crested Helmetshrike**, **Orange-breasted Bushshrike**, **White-browed Scrub Robin**, **Cape Starling**, **Red-billed Buffalo Weaver** and **Yellow-fronted Canary**, amongst many others. We also began to find our first raptors of the park, with dashing birds like **Bateleur** and **African Hawk-Eagle**, to iconic species like the **African Fish Eagle**, and scarcer smaller raptors such as **Lizard Buzzard** and **African Cuckoo-Hawk**. We picked up a few waterbirds as well, ranging from the common **Water Thick-knee** and **Grey Heron**, to the strange **Hamerkop**, along with the massive **Giant Kingfisher**.



***Bateleur** is one spectacular raptor, and is always a highlight of the Kruger ‘bushveld’.*

We also took a break from being cooped up in the safari vehicles and ensured we spent a bit of time walking around the lodge area, where it is safe to do so. These walks allowed us to try for some of the more skulking and secretive woodland birds that inhabit the area, and we did well. Small and dainty birds like **Long-billed Crombec**, **Yellow-bellied Eremomela**, **Grey-backed Camaroptera**, **Yellow-breasted Apalis**, **Stierling’s Wren-Warbler** and **Ashy Flycatcher** all showed well, with notable crowd favorites going to the bright **Collared Sunbird** and striped **Brubru**, with further honorable mentions going to **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird** and **Black-backed Puffback**.

Mammals were naturally a major feature as well, and our drives yielded several encounters with several prides of **Lions**, including some sightings on kills. We enjoyed a few close encounters with family herds of **African Elephants**, along with the massive **Cape Buffalos**, and at some of the larger waterholes, several pods of **Hippos**. We made a special effort to find **White Rhino**, and were rewarded with a spectacular sighting of these gentle giants. Arguably the main highlight, however, was getting to walk up to a **Cheetah** in the wild, and then watching this sleek and slender cat, go about surveying its territory.



*This **Stierling's Wren-Warbler** is one of the special LBJs of the bushveld region.*



*Our up-close **Cheetah** sighting and experience was a major highlight of our time at Karongwe.*

Day 8, 6th June 2024. Transfer to the Kruger National Park

Following our final morning safari drive around Karongwe, enjoying further excellent sightings of our now familiar **Southern Yellow-billed Hornbills**, **African Green Pigeons**, and so many

more, we loaded up all our belongings and started the long drive down to southern Kruger, where we would be based for a few nights. The travel down is always slow-going, and we eventually rolled into Skukuza Camp in the earlier afternoon. We rounded off the day with a long walk around the always birdy camp, which was extremely productive. The large riverine trees on the Sabie River are always loaded with birds, and we enjoyed several new birds, including the likes of **White-fronted Bee-eater**, **White-browed** and **White-throated Robin-Chats**, **Bearded Scrub Robin**, **Spectacled Weaver**, **Red-billed Firefinch**, and a fine **Verreaux's Eagle Owl**, which gave us great views! A night walk after dinner gave us another owl – this time an **African Wood Owl**, before settling down for the night.



*The fabulous **Verreaux's Eagle Owl** we found whilst walking around Skukuza Camp.*

Day 9, 7th June 2024. Birds and animals in the Kruger National Park

We gathered outside my cottage early in the morning while it was still dark, enjoyed a coffee and early snacks, before we set off in our open-top safari vehicle, for our day out in the park. We ultimately decided to follow the course of the Sabie River, to the Lower Sabie camp, before taking a different route back to our base. Although many of the mammals often seen along this route (such as Leopard), were surprisingly absent, we had a superb morning drive down, filled with loads of new birds, and some of the mammals (like **African Elephants** and **Cape Buffalos** we had seen already).

We enjoyed many more new bushveld birds, ranging from the famous **Lilac-breasted Roller**, to other stunning birds like **Magpie Shrike**, **Burchell's Starling** and **Gorgeous Bushshrike**. We also enjoyed far greater numbers of raptors out and about, including several groups of **Hooded** and **White-backed Vultures**, along with the massive **Tawny Eagle** and spectacular **Bateleur**. We could hardly believe our luck when we found another **Verreaux's Eagle Owl** perched out along

the way, while adding further riverine woodland birds like **Brown-headed Parrot** and the stunning **Greater Blue-eared Starling**. Open spots on the river, along with close-by dams were packed with a wide array of other waterbirds as well. We enjoyed everything from the massive **Marabou Stork**, along with other stork species including the scarce **Black Stork**, and **African Openbill**, to the strange **African Jacana** and the striking **White-crowned Lapwing**. We enjoyed an excellent brunch at Lower Sabie camp, adding a few more birds to our list as we scoped out birds from the amazing deck of the restaurant here. Before long, we had to force ourselves to get back in the safari vehicle, and make tracks back to our camp. Taking some back roads proved very productive, and netted us yet more new birds, ranging from **Swainson's Spurfowl** to **African Grey Hornbill** to **Southern White-crowned Shrike**, before we struck gold and found a family of the massive **Southern Ground Hornbills** striding about their patch. We returned back to camp in the late afternoon, and took it easy watching the comings and goings of the river in front of camp.



*It took some time, but we eventually found a family of **Southern Ground Hornbills**.*

Day 10, 8th June 2024. Flight to Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Today was virtually a full travel day, as we made the journey to Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe, via a direct flight from Nelspruit. This all meant we had to depart the Kruger in the morning, before a stop on the route for a nesting pair of **Bat Hawks**. After arriving at the Nelspruit airport, before long we were at the boarding gate waiting for our onward flight, and after navigating our way through the busy Victoria Falls airport, we were soon headed for our comfortable lodge in Victoria Falls. We settled down for a bit, before undertaking a short afternoon excursion birding around the town. We started off by walking along the edge of the river and around 'The Big Tree'. Overlooking the falls, the mighty Zambezi River gave us birds including the massive **Goliath Heron** and the striking **African Darter**. The surrounding woods were also productive and yielded

the scarce **Collared Palm Thrush**, along with others like **Little Sparrowhawk**, **Little Bee-eater**, **Crested Barbet**, **Crimson-breasted Shrike**, **Scarlet-chested Sunbird** and **White-browed Sparrow-Weaver**. Little did we know that our buffet dinner at our lodge would be filled with musicians, dancers and lots of fun.

Day 11, 9th June 2024. Taking in Victoria Falls

Our final full day of the tour had arrived all too soon, and we started the morning off with a sunrise boat cruise on the Zambezi River, complete with a lovely breakfast on board. The boat cruise was filled with waterbirds, and we found progress getting through our breakfast quite difficult due to the many and frequent ‘interruptions’. Pride of place on the Zambezi River boat cruises always goes to **African Finfoot** – a shy and secretive denizen of African rivers and waterways, and we did well with several sightings of this sought-after bird. A wide array of other waterbirds were seen throughout the duration of our cruise, including storks and herons such as **African Openbill** and **Goliath**, **Black** and **Squacco Herons**. A flyby **Bat Hawk** was a surprise sighting overhead, while kingfishers were well represented with four species including the scarce **Half-collared Kingfisher**. Back on land, the long-tailed **Meves’s Starlings** entertained us.



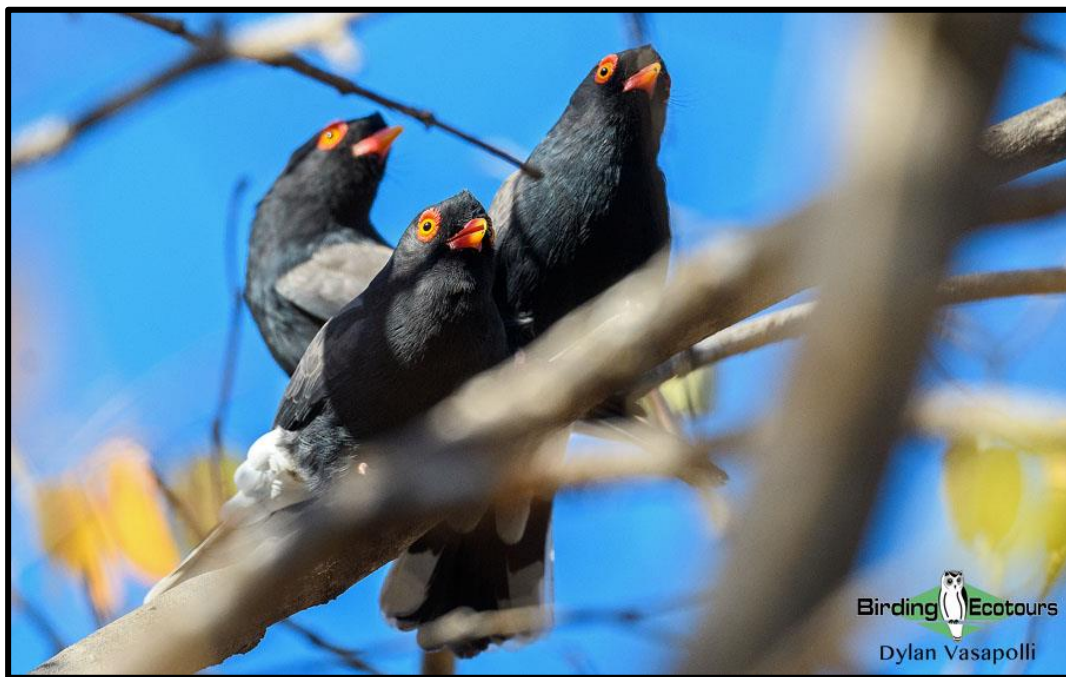
*The Zambezi River, upstream of Victoria Falls must surely rank as one of the best places to see the sought-after **African Finfoot** – and it didn't disappoint on this trip.*

Following our boat cruise, we headed off to the Victoria Falls themselves, where we would spend the rest of the morning, admiring the falls. The flow down the falls was high and meant there was much spray about which obstructed our views of the falls for the most part. Birds were few and far between, though we did manage to add a **Trumpeter Hornbill** in the spray. Unfortunately, one of the group took a fall at one of the viewpoints and sustained a nasty injury – which required a trip

to the local hospital. With everyone back together at the lodge in one piece, we convened again for our sundown boat cruise. Although we all took this more leisurely, we still sought out birds as we went along, finding yet more **African Finfoots** on the river, along with a dainty pair of **Brown Firefinches** feeding on a small island in the river. We enjoyed lots of other birds we were familiar with, and watched as the sun set over the river with the mighty Victoria Falls behind us.

Day 12, 10th June 2024. Final birding, and departure

Our departure was upon us, and with most departing around midday, it meant we could fit in a final morning birding walk around the area. We had a productive walk around the lodge grounds, with several feeding flocks of birds containing the likes of **White-crested** and **Retz's Helmetshrikes**, **Orange-breasted** and **Grey-headed Bushshrikes**, **Yellow-bellied Greenbul** and **Southern Yellow White-eyes**, along with enjoying our last looks at familiar favorites like **Black-backed Puffback**, **Southern Black Tit**, **Chinspot Batis** and **Black-collared Barbet**, amongst others. After breakfast, we gathered our things, said our final goodbyes and loaded up for our flights back home, as the trip came to an end.



Retz's Helmetshrikes are always a curious and comical species – a fitting way to end the tour.

We would like to thank the group for sharing in fun moments throughout, and for making the trip the success it was, despite the occasional problem and issue arising (as it so often does in Africa). The fantastic group camaraderie, in particular, helped make it such an enjoyable trip. Birding was all-round good, and we enjoyed views of many sought-after birds and mammals.

Bird List - Following IOC Version 14.2

Birds 'heard only' are marked with (H) after the common name, all other species were seen.

The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following the IUCN Red List:

CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Ducks, Geese, Swans (Anatidae)	
Fulvous Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>
Cape Shoveler	<i>Spatula smithii</i>
African Black Duck	<i>Anas sparsa</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>
Maccoa Duck - EN	<i>Oxyura maccoa</i>
Guineafowl (Numididae)	
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
Pheasants & Allies (Phasianidae)	
Crested Francolin	<i>Ortygornis sephaena</i>
Grey-winged Francolin	<i>Scleroptila afra</i>
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>
Cape Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis capensis</i>
Natal Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis natalensis</i>
Swainson's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>
Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)	
Fiery-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus pectoralis</i>
Swifts (Apodidae)	
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>
African Black Swift	<i>Apus barbatus</i>
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Turacos (Musophagidae)	
Grey Go-away-bird	<i>Crinifer concolor</i>
Purple-crested Turaco	<i>Gallirex porphyreolophus</i>
Bustards (Otididae)	
Red-crested Korhaan	<i>Lophotis ruficrista</i>
Southern Black Korhaan - VU	<i>Afrotis afra</i>
Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)	
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</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>
African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>
Finfoots (Heliornithidae)	
African Finfoot	<i>Podica senegalensis</i>
Rails, Crakes & Coots (Rallidae)	
African Rail	<i>Rallus caerulescens</i>
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>
Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>
Cranes (Gruidae)	
Blue Crane - VU	<i>Grus paradisea</i>
Grebes (Podicipedidae)	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
Flamingos (Phoenicopteridae)	
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>
Stone-curlews, Thick-knees (Burhinidae)	
Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>
Oystercatchers (Haematopodidae)	
African Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus moquini</i>
Stilts, Avocets (Recurvirostridae)	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
Plovers (Charadriidae)	
Grey Plover - VU	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>
White-crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus albiceps</i>
Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>
African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>
Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Anarhynchus pecuarius</i>
White-fronted Plover	<i>Anarhynchus marginatus</i>
Jacanas (Jacanidae)	
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>
Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopacidae)	
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)	
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
Antarctic Tern	<i>Sterna vittata</i>
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>
Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>
Hartlaub's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus hartlaubii</i>
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>
Skuas (Stercorariidae)	
Brown Skua	<i>Stercorarius antarcticus</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Penguins (Spheniscidae)	
African Penguin - CR	<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>
Petrels, Shearwaters, Diving Petrels (Procellariidae)	
Northern Giant Petrel	<i>Macronectes halli</i>
White-chinned Petrel - VU	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>
Storks (Ciconiidae)	
African Openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>
Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>
African Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia microscelis</i>
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
Anhingas, Darters (Anhingidae)	
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>
Cormorants, Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)	
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>
Crowned Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo coronatus</i>
Bank Cormorant - EN	<i>Phalacrocorax neglectus</i>
Cape Cormorant - EN	<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Ibises, Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)	
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>
Hérons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)	
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Little Heron	<i>Butorides atricapilla</i>
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Yellow-billed Egret	<i>Ardea brachyrhyncha</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>
Hamerkop (Scopidae)	
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
Pelicans (Pelecanidae)	
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>
Ospreys (Pandionidae)	
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Kites, Hawks, Eagles (Accipitridae)	
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>
African Cuckoo-Hawk	<i>Aviceda cuculoides</i>
Hooded Vulture - CR	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>
White-backed Vulture - CR	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
Bateleur - EN	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>
Bat Hawk	<i>Macheiramphus alcinus</i>
Martial Eagle - EN	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>
Tawny Eagle - VU	<i>Aquila rapax</i>
African Hawk-Eagle	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>
Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>
Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>
Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>
African Goshawk	<i>Aerospiza tachiro</i>
Little Sparrowhawk	<i>Tachyspiza minulla</i>
Shikra	<i>Tachyspiza badia</i>
Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter rufiventris</i>
Black Sparrowhawk	<i>Astur melanoleucus</i>
Black Harrier - EN	<i>Circus maurus</i>
African Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>
African Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga vocifer</i>
Jackal Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Barn Owls (Tytonidae)	
Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>
Owls (Strigidae)	
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Ketupa lactea</i>
African Wood Owl	<i>Strix woodfordii</i>
Mousebirds (Coliidae)	
Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>
White-backed Mousebird	<i>Colius colius</i>
Red-faced Mousebird	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>
Hoopoes (Upupidae)	
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
Wood Hoopoes (Phoeniculidae)	
Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>
Common Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>
Ground Hornbills (Bucorvidae)	
Southern Ground Hornbill - VU	<i>Bucorvus leadbeateri</i>
Hornbills (Bucerotidae)	
Southern Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus rufirostris</i>
Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>
Trumpeter Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes bucinator</i>
Rollers (Coraciidae)	
Purple Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>
Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)	
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>
Striped Kingfisher (H)	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>
Half-collared Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo semitorquata</i>
Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Bee-eaters (Meropidae)	
Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>
White-fronted Bee-eater	<i>Merops bullockoides</i>
African Barbets (Lybiidae)	
Crested Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>
Acacia Pied Barbet	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>
Black-collared Barbet	<i>Lybius torquatus</i>
Woodpeckers (Picidae)	
Ground Woodpecker	<i>Geocolaptes olivaceus</i>
Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>
Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)	
Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicolus</i>
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>
African & New World Parrots (Psittacidae)	
Brown-headed Parrot	<i>Poicephalus cryptoxanthus</i>
Wattle-eyes, Batises (Platysteiridae)	
Cape Batis	<i>Batis capensis</i>
Chinspot Batis	<i>Batis molitor</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>
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>
Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>
Southern Boubou (H)	<i>Laniarius ferrugineus</i>
Crimson-breasted Shrike	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Vangas & Allies (Vangidae)	
White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>
Retz's Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops retzii</i>
Figbirds, Old World Orioles, Piopios (Oriolidae)	
Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>
Drongos (Dicuridae)	
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
Shrikes (Laniidae)	
Southern White-crowned Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus anguitimens</i>
Magpie Shrike	<i>Lanius melanoleucus</i>
Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>
Crows, Jays (Corvidae)	
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>
White-necked Raven	<i>Corvus albicollis</i>
Rockjumpers (Chaetopidae)	
Cape Rockjumper	<i>Chaetops frenatus</i>
Tits, Chickadees (Paridae)	
Southern Black Tit	<i>Melaniparus niger</i>
Penduline Tits (Remizidae)	
Cape Penduline Tit	<i>Anthoscopus minutus</i>
Larks (Alaudidae)	
Cape Clapper Lark	<i>Corypha apiata</i>
Large-billed Lark	<i>Galerida magnirostris</i>
Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>
Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)	
Sombre Greenbul	<i>Andropadus importunus</i>
Yellow-bellied Greenbul	<i>Chlorocichla flaviventris</i>
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>
Cape Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus capensis</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)	
Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>
Large Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
Crombecs, African Warblers (Macrosphenidae)	
Cape Grassbird	<i>Sphenoeacus afer</i>
Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>
Victorin's Warbler	<i>Cryptillas victorini</i>
Reed Warblers & Allies (Acrocephalidae)	
Lesser Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>
Grassbirds & Allies (Locustellidae)	
Little Rush Warbler	<i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>
Cisticolas & Allies (Cisticolidae)	
Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>
Grey-backed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola subruficapilla</i>
Neddicky	<i>Cisticola fulvicapilla</i>
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Cloud Cisticola	<i>Cisticola textrix</i>
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>
Karoo Prinia	<i>Prinia maculosa</i>
Bar-throated Apalis	<i>Apalis thoracica</i>
Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>
Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>
Green-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>
Stierling's Wren-Warbler	<i>Calamonastes stierlingi</i>
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>
Burnt-necked Eremomela	<i>Eremomela usticollis</i>
Sylviid Babblers (Sylviidae)	
Chestnut-vented Warbler	<i>Curruca subcoerulea</i>
White-eyes (Zosteropidae)	
Cape White-eye	<i>Zosterops virens</i>
Southern Yellow White-eye	<i>Zosterops anderssoni</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Laughingthrushes & Allies (Leiothrichidae)	
Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>
Sugarbirds (Promeropidae)	
Cape Sugarbird	<i>Promerops cafer</i>
Starlings, Rhabdornises (Sturnidae)	
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>
Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>
Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>
Meves's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis mevesii</i>
Burchell's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis australis</i>
Pied Starling	<i>Lamprotornis bicolor</i>
Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>
Oxpeckers (Buphagidae)	
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>
Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>
Thrushes (Turdidae)	
Olive Thrush	<i>Turdus olivaceus</i>
Kurrichane Thrush	<i>Turdus libonyana</i>
Chats, Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)	
Karoo Scrub Robin	<i>Tychaemon coryphoeus</i>
Bearded Scrub Robin	<i>Tychaemon quadrivirgata</i>
White-browed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>
Pale Flycatcher	<i>Agricola pallidus</i>
Ashy Flycatcher	<i>Fraseria caerulescens</i>
Southern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pammelaina</i>
Fiscal Flycatcher	<i>Sigelus silens</i>
African Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>
White-browed Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha heuglini</i>
Collared Palm Thrush	<i>Cichladusa arquata</i>
White-throated Robin-Chat	<i>Dessonornis humeralis</i>
Cape Robin-Chat	<i>Dessonornis caffer</i>
Cape Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola rupestris</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>
Sickle-winged Chat	<i>Emarginata sinuata</i>
Ant-eating Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>
Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>
Familiar Chat	<i>Oenanthe familiaris</i>
Sunbirds (Nectariniidae)	
Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>
Orange-breasted Sunbird	<i>Anthobaphes violacea</i>
Amethyst Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra amethystina</i>
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>
Malachite Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia famosa</i>
Southern Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris chalybeus</i>
White-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris talatala</i>
Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches (Passeridae)	
Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Weavers, Widowbirds (Ploceidae)	
Red-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>
Spectacled Weaver	<i>Ploceus ocularis</i>
Cape Weaver	<i>Ploceus capensis</i>
Lesser Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus intermedius</i>
Southern Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>
Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>
Southern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>
Yellow Bishop	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>
Waxbills, Munias & Allies (Estrildidae)	
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>
Swee Waxbill	<i>Coccygia melanotis</i>
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
Quailfinch	<i>Ortygospiza atricollis</i>
Blue Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>
Jameson's Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rhodopareia</i>
Brown Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta nitidula</i>
Indigobirds, Whydahs (Viduidae)	
Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>
Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)	
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>
Cape Longclaw	<i>Macronyx capensis</i>
African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>
Finches, Euphonias (Fringillidae)	
Forest Canary	<i>Crithagra scotops</i>
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>
Cape Siskin	<i>Crithagra totta</i>
Yellow Canary	<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>
Brimstone Canary	<i>Crithagra sulphurata</i>
Streaky-headed Seed eater	<i>Crithagra gularis</i>
White-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra albogularis</i>
Protea Canary	<i>Crithagra leucoptera</i>
Cape Canary	<i>Serinus canicollis</i>
Buntings (Emberizidae)	
Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>
Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>
Species seen:	289
Species heard:	2
Total recorded:	291

Mammal List – Following Mammalwatching.com (Jan 2024)

The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following the

IUCN Red List:

EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Elephants (Elephantidae)	
African Savanna Elephant - EN	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>
Old World Monkeys (Cercopithecidae)	
Vervet Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>
Old World Porcupines (Hystricidae)	
Cape Porcupine	<i>Hystrix africaeaustralis</i>
Old World Mice and Rats (Muridae)	
Xeric Four-striped Grass Rat	<i>Rhabdomys pumilio</i>
Old World Fruit Bats (Pteropodidae)	
Wahlberg's Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Epomophorus wahlbergi</i>
Eared Seals (Otariidae)	
Afro-Australian Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>
Felids (Felidae)	
Cheetah - VU	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>
Caracal	<i>Caracal caracal</i>
Lion - VU	<i>Panthera leo</i>
Leopard - VU	<i>Panthera pardus</i>
Mongoose (Herpestidae)	
Cape Gray Mongoose	<i>Herpestes pulverulentus</i>
Civets, Genets, and Oryxes (Viverridae)	
Rusty-spotted Genet	<i>Genetta fieldiana</i>
Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae)	
White Rhinoceros	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Equines (Equidae)	
Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>
Bovids (Bovidae)	
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>
Blue Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>
Bontebok	<i>Damaliscus pygargus</i>
Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>
Bush Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>
Sable Antelope	<i>Hippotragus niger</i>
Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>
Cape Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>
Common Eland	<i>Tragelaphus oryx</i>
Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>
Southern Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus sylvaticus</i>
Giraffes and Okapi (Giraffidae)	
Southern Giraffe	<i>Giraffa giraffa</i>
Suids (Suidae)	
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>
Hippopotamuses (Hippopotamidae)	
Common Hippopotamus - VU	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>

Species seen:	29
Total recorded:	29

Reptile List

Common Name	Scientific Name
Crocodiles (Crocodylidae)	
Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>
Dragons (Agamidae)	
Southern Rock Agama	<i>Agama atra</i>
Typical Geckos (Gekkonidae)	
Common Dwarf Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus capensis</i>
Skinks (Scincidae)	
Rainbow Skink	<i>Trachylepis margaritifera</i>
Monitor Lizards (Varanidae)	
Nile Monitor	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>

Species seen:	5
Total recorded:	5