



# ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## **South Africa**

### **Eastern Comprehensive XI**

*10<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017 (15 days)*

## **Trip Report**



**Gorgeous Bushshrike by Adam Riley**

**Trip report compiled by Tour Leader, André Bernon**

## Tour Summary

*We had a fantastic tour of the eastern side of South Africa, as well as venturing into the mountainous Kingdom of Lesotho. We had some superb mammal sightings in the famous Kruger National Park, including a huge male Lion walking straight towards us and past our vehicle, a fearless Honey Badger, Leopards, White Rhinoceroses, Giraffes and African Elephants! We ended up with a huge total bird list of 426, with special sightings such as many turacos, trogons, rare larks, all three crane species and all of the endemics that we target. We even found representatives of the two southern African endemics: namely Drakensberg Rockjumper and Gurney's Sugarbird! All in all, it was a fantastic and much-enjoyed tour of this great part of the world.*

### Top 10 list, as decided by the tour participants:

1. Gorgeous Bushshrike
2. Crimson-breasted Shrike
3. Taita Falcon
4. Livingstone's Turaco
5. Lilac-breasted Roller
6. Purple-crested Turaco
- Grey Crowned Crane
8. Narina Trogon
9. Little Bee-eater
10. Blue Waxbill
- Harlequin Quail

As today was set aside as an arrival day, we all met before dinner to acquaint ourselves. Our accommodation's gardens in the city of Johannesburg gave us views of Karoo Thrush, Southern Masked Weaver, Cape Wagtail and Red-headed Finch. We familiarised ourselves with the tour proceedings over a good meal before getting some rest to get rid of the last of the jet lag.

A pre-dawn departure this morning saw us heading north past the city of Pretoria. We ticked off African Palm Swift and Groundscraper Thrush during a quick toilet stop. We found a large flock of Abdim's Storks en route – *to our excitement*. Reaching the Zaagkuil drift road, which meanders along the Pienaarsrivier, we set out to do our first stint of proper birding. We quickly found a single melanistic Gabar Goshawk as it flew by. Many Zitting Cisticolas dotted the grassland and we had to work hard to eventually find some Desert Cisticolas amongst them.



Crimson-breasted Shrike by Adam Riley

This area is good habitat for many species more confined to the arid west, and therefore was the only place to connect with them on the tour. These birds formed our primary targets. A small reservoir had many water birds, including Grey-crowned Crane, many Knob-billed Ducks, Whiskered Tern, Intermediate Egret and Ruff. Other mouthwatering specials included White-throated Robin-Chat, Southern Pied Babbler, the

outrageous Crimson-breasted Shrike, White-browed Sparrow-Weaver, Black-faced and Violet-eared Waxbills, Chestnut-vented Warbler and Neddicky. Other great sightings were Southern Red-billed, Southern Yellow-billed and African Grey Hornbills, Lilac-breasted Roller, Wahlberg's Eagle, Cape Vulture, Lesser Grey and Magpie Shrikes and African Wattled Lapwing.

A small receding puddle of water on the edge of the floodplain near our turning point produced some exciting species. A Hamerkop searched optimistically alongside a Blacksmith Lapwing; whilst some nearby bushes held the tough to find Cut-throat Finch! A large bird flew in, which turned out to be the uncommon Great Spotted Cuckoo! It was shortly joined by another before they moved off. Some Black-throated Canaries were a good addition too, alongside Wood Sandpiper, Three-banded Plover, Red-faced Mousebird, Namaqua Dove, Yellow-billed Stork, White-faced Whistling and Yellow-billed Ducks, Black-winged Stilt, Squacco Heron, White-throated Swallow, Cape Shoveler and African Jacana. Our return trip found us Pearl-breasted Swallow and a Great Sparrow! We returned to some Red-headed Finches in our gardens, and a nice break before our ritual-to-be: checklist followed by a great dinner after a full, yet very successful day!



**Lilac-breasted Roller by David Hoddinott**

We were up early and left Johannesburg after some breakfast. The highveld grasslands gave us good looks of quartering Long-tailed Widowbirds in full breeding plumage. Later on, we also managed to connect with White-winged Widowbirds. Some raptors en route were Common Buzzard, Black-winged Kite, Cape Vulture and Brown Snake Eagle. Our first birding stop at the Abel Erasmus Pass saw us connecting with one of the world's toughest raptors: Taita Falcon! We watched a pair flying around magnificently. Passerines kept us busy too, with views of Mocking Cliff Chat, Cape Rock Thrush, Cinnamon-breasted Bunting, Rock Martin, Half-collared and Giant Kingfishers, Black-collared Barbet and the stunning Violet-backed Starling!



**Little Bee-eater by Rich Lindie**

colourful Little Bee-eater. Other great sightings on our way in included a crash of three White Rhinoceroses, African Elephants right next to us, Common Wildebeest, Plains Zebra, Hippopotamus and Giraffe. Some avian gems came in the form of Coqui Francolin, Grey-headed Kingfisher, Grey-headed Bushshrike, Bateleur, Common Buttonquail, Lesser Grey Shrike and Natal Spurfowl. A great

We had to leave this awesome place, and made our way down the escarpment. While waiting for our lunch order, the gardens produced Kurrichane Thrush, Yellow-fronted Canary, Bronze Mannikin, African Paradise Flycatcher and Black-backed Puffback. After lunch, we continued east and eventually made it to the Phabeni Gate. The excitement was riveting as we entered the world-famous Kruger National Park. Our first stop produced a stunner: the



*introduction to this wilderness!* We enjoyed a fantastic evening meal, even spotting some Wahlberg's Epauletted Fruit Bats and a confiding Thick-tailed Greater Galago to boot!

We were the first at the camp gate, just before opening time! We ventured into the wilderness to find some animals that call this place home. The first excitement came when someone spotted a huge male Lion! Unfortunately, as quickly as we found him, he made his way into the thickets to rest for the day. We pushed on and saw some great birds, like Black-bellied Bustard, Black-crowned Tchagra, Golden-breasted Bunting, Black Cuckooshrike, African Hoopoe and even a confiding Klaas's Cuckoo. A coffee stop at Afsaal Picnic area gave us a chance to wander, finding Greater Blue-eared Starling, Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill, Marico Sunbird, Woodland Kingfisher, Sombre Greenbul and a surprise Garden Warbler!



**Golden-breasted Bunting by Dubi Shapiro**

We moved on, and soon afterwards, found a few young Spotted Hyaenas around their den-site! Some Natal and Swainson's Spurfowls and Crested Francolins dotted the roads, as well as a single Woolly-necked Stork. We meandered east towards Biyamithi and couldn't believe our luck when we found a huge pack of the extremely endangered African Wild Dog right next to the road! *A total of twenty-two individuals were counted!* A nice stop on the Biyamithi River gave us many new birds, like Water



**Black-collared Barbet by Adam Riley**

Thick-knee, Lesser Masked Weaver, Red-faced Cisticola, Wire-tailed Swallows, as well as a huge Hippopotamus and Nile Crocodiles. Thereafter, we found more big male Lions lying in the riverbed, followed by sightings of both Jacobin and Levillant's Cuckoos! A crash of White Rhinoceroses graced us by walking across the road in front of us.

We made our way back to camp for brunch, followed by a good walk around the lush camp along the Sand River. We found Little Egret down in the river, whilst a fruiting tree nearby held Speckled Mousebird, Black-collared Barbet and African Green Pigeons. A bushy area near the river's edge gave us the gorgeous African Firefinch and Lesser Honeyguide. We heard some Dark-capped Bulbuls mobbing. Upon investigation, we eventually found the danger. A family of Thick-tailed Greater Galagos on their nest! *Exciting to see during the day.* We had a good siesta, followed by an afternoon drive. We couldn't believe our luck when we happened upon two Leopards! A mother and cub were sleeping in the shade of a tree, allowing great views from time to time. *We soon realised that we had spotted the Big Five in one day!* A small mixed flock produced Black Cuckooshrike, Orange-breasted

Bushshrike, Cardinal Woodpecker, Red-headed Weaver and Grey Tit-Flycatcher! We stopped at Lake Panic Hide and found many Striated Herons, weavers building nests – which included Village and Lesser Spotted – Grey Heron, Black Crane, Water Thick-knee, African Darter and a beautiful African

Goshawk on the nest! *A fantastic ending to a memorable day.*

We religiously left before the gate opening time, and it definitely paid off. We stopped on a large bridge of the Sabie River. Whilst looking at a Woolly-necked Stork, we spotted a Lioness lying in the riverbed! As we were watching her, we heard the powerful roar of a male Lion nearby! We quickly rushed there and found a huge dominant black-maned Lion walking on the road! We had absolutely insane views as he walked towards us and passed very close to the vehicle! A few good birds calmed our nerves, such as Jameson's Firefinch, White-crowned Lapwing, Black-crowned and Brown-crowned Tchagras, Green Wood Hoopoes, Woodland Kingfisher and Purple-crested Turaco. We rounded a corner and couldn't believe our eyes when we spotted a female Leopard walking in the middle of the road! We watched her for about 5 minutes before she moved off into a drainage line. *All this before half-past-six in the morning!*



Woodland Kingfisher by Adam Riley

We ventured into some grassland to the east and found many Bateleur and Black-winged Kites. Two male Purple Rollers also displayed and competed for the favour of a female. A great lookout was a fantastic vantage to view a waterhole below. Huge herds of African Buffalo and African Elephant were seen drinking. A stunning Black Stork was preening on the far edge, whilst Marsh Sandpiper and Collared Pratincole were new additions. The vegetation near us produced more Jameson's Firefinch, Spectacled Weaver, Black-backed Puffback, Brown-crowned Tchagra and Chinspot Batis. We made our way back to the Sabie River and found many House Martins feeding near a low-level bridge. A lioness was spotted hunting on the edge of the river – *another great sighting of this apex predator.*



African Hawk-Eagle by Markus Lilje

We enjoyed a great breakfast overlooking the river. A Western Barn Owl sat above us on the roof whilst White-crowned Lapwing, Malachite and Giant Kingfishers, Hottentot Teal and Glossy Ibises were in the river below. We continued to drive up the river after spotting a Bushbuck and White-browed Robin-Chat. We literally saw hundreds of African Elephants coming down to the river for a drink. Numerous Impala with new one-day-old babies were also seen. A nice view of two African Hawk-Eagles in flight was most welcome before returning to camp. We had a good siesta when the temperature was well above forty degrees Celsius. An afternoon excursion for some saw us striking luck with more African Hawk-Eagles, Common Dwarf Mongoose, Southern Black Tit, a displaying Black-bellied Bustard and the best views one could ask for of a Red-chested Cuckoo. We then enjoyed an early dinner as some had planned a night drive tonight. Highlights of the night drive were good looks at Spotted Eagle-Owl and even a Cape Porcupine!

We set off from our beloved Skukuza, departing through the park



and into the highveld once again. We started off with a cracking Stierling's Wren-Warbler! Thereafter, we had Common Dwarf Mongoose and a pair of Coqui Francolins. A family of Spotted Hyaena lazed around a small waterhole whilst a Hooded Vulture sat in a tree. We neared a small Koptjie and watched a Klipspringer and Giant Plated Lizards on the rocks. A flash of black and white appeared from our left: Honey Badger! We couldn't believe our luck, as it crossed the road right in front of us! We moved on, satisfied with our luck and then found a Verreaux's Eagle-Owl roosting in a tree next to the road. An African Wild Dog graced us with her presence, clearly on the move. We stopped for breakfast, ticking off a great-looking Brown-headed Parrot above our heads. We were amazed to find a Cheetah lying in the shade near a small waterhole! This was the perfect send-off from this special place.

We left the park and immediately had some heavy rain, causing some localised flooding on the road. We persevered slowly and eventually made our way up the escarpment. A few stops along the way saw us finding Greater Flamingo, Little Grebe, Cape Teal, Great Crested Grebe and South African Cliff Swallow. Nearing Wakkerstroom, we continued to bird on the Amersfoort road and did well. We quickly found a great-looking Cape Longclaw, followed by a group of the endemic Blue Korhaan. Banded Martin, Ant-eating Chat, African Stonechat, South African Shelduck and Jackal Buzzard were all new additions. Reaching Wakkerstroom, we paid homage to the wetland on the edge of town and managed a quick stint of birding. We quickly raked up African Swamphen, African Snipe, Cape Canary, African Reed Warbler, Levallant's Cisticola and a good-looking African Yellow Warbler. We called it a day as the light faded, and had a superb dinner out in the town that evening.



**Verreaux's Eagle-Owl by Rich Lindie**

We woke this morning to some freezing weather after heavy rain during the night. We headed out early to find some of the many specials and endemics to this richly-diverse grassland area. As we left our accommodations, we found a pair of Blue Crane – South Africa's National Bird. They were feeding alongside two Grey Crowned Cranes for comparison. We reached an area where we went in search of White-bellied Bustard. After some intense searching, we found a single male bird hunkered down in some tall grass. Success was followed by some close-up views as he remained still, undetected in his



**White-bellied Bustard by Rich Lindie**

mind. Many Southern Bald Ibis, and Red-capped and Spike-heeled Larks were also abounding. We ventured further and targeted some of the difficult pipit species to southern Africa. We quickly found a Plain-backed Pipit in the road, closely watched by its mate and newly fledged youngster nearby. Soon after, we found two separate Long-billed Pipits, allowing some superb views. Here, we also got Lazy Cisticola, followed by a pair of Buffy Pipits! We continued on home for breakfast, gaining good looks at Drakensberg Prinia and the outrageously-coloured Malachite Sunbird!

We devoured our breakfast, enjoying the large assortment of goodies. A short break was followed by our next stint of birding. We travelled west and managed to find some Black-winged Lapwings, Meerkats, Yellow Mongoose and Secretarybird! Some rare larks were on the cards, and we found Eastern Clapper Lark before our highly localised target – Botha's Lark. A Lanner Falcon was seen being harassed by many Pied Crows before we found a confiding Cloud Cisticola. We went in search of one of the world's rarest larks next, Rudd's Lark. After some strenuous searching and scanning, we came up trumps with superb looks at this critically endangered species. A wetland nearby produced some good waterbirds in the form of Maccoa and Yellow-billed Ducks, Southern Pochard, Cape Shoveler, Greater Flamingo, White-breasted Cormorant and Great Crested Grebe. A confiding Wing-snapping Cisticola was a nice distraction. We made our way back to Wakkerstroom and beyond the town. Three great birds were found here, and included the sought-after Yellow-breasted Pipit, Eastern Long-billed Lark and a gorgeous male Buff-streaked Chat. We called it a day and had a great meal before some good rest in preparation for tomorrow.



**Rudd's Lark by Glen Valentine**

We had an early morning outing to the wetlands on the edge of town. The weather had drastically improved, shining sun and all. We saw many of the usual suspects, as well as very good looks at African Rail! Other good species found were Little Rush, African Yellow, African Reed and Lesser Swamp Warblers, Levallant's Cisticola, Cape Weaver, Black-crowned Night Heron, Purple Heron, Whiskered Tern, African Snipe, African Marsh Harrier, South African Shelduck and a Little Bittern. A surprise came in the form of a Spotted-necked Otter! We made our way back for another hearty breakfast before ticking Black-headed Oriole and Cape Robin-Chat on our way out. We made our way down in elevation, to the Mkuze area within Zululand. The vegetation changed rapidly and we enjoyed the warm weather too. We had a fantastic lunch stop with some great birds whilst waiting for our order. Highlights were the tiny Grey Penduline Tit, Cardinal Woodpecker, African Paradise Flycatcher, Southern Black Flycatcher, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, Bronze Mannikin, Violet-backed Starling and Purple-crested Turaco. Thereafter, we left for our accommodations, which was nearby. Situated within a fantastic piece of dry forest or "sand forest", we enjoyed a walk around after our siesta. Some



**Pink-throated Twinspot by Clayton Burne**

"maputoland" specials we managed to find included the fantastic Pink-throated Twinspot and Rudd's Apalis. The forest was absolutely teeming with birdlife, and we also managed to see Bearded Scrub Robin, Orange-breasted Bushshrike, Grey Sunbird, Crested Guineafowl, Southern Boubou, Grey Tit-Flycatcher and an Eastern Nicator! We watched the sun rays disappear and nightfall take over, all whilst completing our checklist before dinner.

We left for the bird-rich Mkuze Game Reserve as dawn broke. En route, we had Saddle-billed and Yellow-billed Storks and Purple Heron in a



drying riverbed. Entering the park, we immediately had Trumpeter Hornbill, Rudd's Apalis and Chinspot Batis. Next excitement came when we found a young Gorgeous Bushshrike, unusually perched out in the open for all to see! Many sunbirds were abounding, which consisted of White-bellied, Marico and Purple-banded Sunbirds. We reached Nsumo Pan, where we had our breakfast. Thousands of birds were present, as well as a pod of Hippopotami. Birds included both White-winged and Whiskered Terns, African Darter, Pink-backed Pelican, African Jacana, Black-winged Stilt, White-faced Whistling Duck, Knob-billed Duck, Great Egret, African Fish Eagle and another Saddle-billed Stork. We pushed on while it was still cool and saw many Impala and Nyala antelopes. We found our first Yellow-bellied Greenbul, plus more sightings of Cardinal Woodpecker and Bearded Scrub Robin.



**Blue Waxbill by Adam Riley**

We reached the awesome Kumasinga Hide and enjoyed a good amount of time there. As soon as we sat down, we spotted a female Cut-throat Finch – *an extreme vagrant to this area with only a handful of records for the province*. Other birds seen from the hide included Red-faced Mousebird, Violet-backed Starling, White-winged Widowbird, Emerald-spotted Wood Dove, Blue Waxbill and a stunning African Pygmy Kingfisher! A superb surprise was when a herd of African Elephants appeared out of the thick bush, proceeding straight to the water in a hasty fashion. We enjoyed absolutely great and close-up views as they enjoyed a drink and wet themselves. A cute youngster was a firm favourite as he played around with the water. We left the hide, and soon afterwards heard the tell-tale call of a Neergaard's Sunbird! We persisted and eventually had a nice view of a male Neergaard's Sunbird. *This is a difficult regional endemic to connect, so we rejoiced!* We enjoyed lunch in the main rest camp before doing the river loop on our way out. We then visited some great coastal grasslands on our way back and managed to find many tricky species. Some good sightings were of the sought-after Lemon-breasted Canary, Senegal and Black-winged



**Collared Pratincole by Rob Williams**

Lapwings, many Collared Pratincoles, Kittlitz's Plover, Grey-rumped Swallow, African Marsh Harrier and Croaking Cisticola. A great surprise here was a large group of Temminck's Coursers and an extremely confiding male Harlequin Quail out in some short grass! *A fantastic ending to a magical day in this special location.*

We were up early and explored some grasslands near our accommodation. A Narina Trogon put in a very brief appearance. The open grassland produced our first Brimstone Canary, as well as more Yellow-throated Longclaws, Rufous-naped Lark, Red-breasted Swallow and an excellent look at a Thick-billed Weaver building a nest. We revisited our patch of forest and had many species, such as another young Gorgeous Bushshrike, followed by an Orange-breasted Bushshrike, Red-capped Robin-Chat, Terrestrial Brownbul, Sombre and Yellow-bellied Greenbuls, African Yellow White-eye, Eastern Nicator, Red-fronted Tinkerbird, Purple-banded Sunbird, Bearded Scrub Robin and Crested Guineafowl.



We left the area after a full breakfast and made our way south towards the coastal village of St Lucia. On the edge of the largest estuarine system in Africa, the combination of water and coastal dune forests makes this a super-rich and diverse destination. We visited the mouth of the estuary and had good looks of many Little, Greater Crested and Caspian Terns. A surprise was a vagrant Sooty Tern too! Other birds present were Goliath Heron, Pied Avocet, Curlew Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Western Osprey, and Common Ringed and White-fronted Plovers. We enjoyed a great lunch followed by a much-needed siesta in preparation for our night drive tonight!



**Livingstone's Turaco by Clayton Burne**

We had a good walk in the coastal forest bordering our accommodation before heading to dinner. As soon as we had started, we honed-in on a pair of Livingstone's Turacos! We proceeded to watch them as they moved from tree to tree, showing us their bright crimson wings. We continued our forest trail and found a male Narina Trogon! Thereafter, we had a lot of species, which consisted of White-eared Barbet, Golden-tailed Woodpecker, Black Saw-wing, Purple-banded Sunbird, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird and Rudd's Apalis. We pressed on and found Square-tailed Drongo, Collared Sunbird, Dark-backed Weaver and Red-capped Robin-Chat. Nearing the end, we got lucky with a Brown Scrub Robin feeding in the pathway!



**Narina Trogon by Adam Riley**

We enjoyed an early dinner before heading to our night drive into the eastern shores of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. We quickly found a snake crossing the road. It turned out to be a docile Rhombic Egg-eater. We found a confiding Common Genet perched up in a dead tree, observing us curiously. A Thick-tailed Greater Galago was also impressive. On our way back, we managed to find a baby Flap-necked Chameleon and a large group of the elusive Bushpig! *A successful night drive indeed!*

We started off the morning with a nice walk in the forest on the edge of town. The wind was a bit troublesome, nevertheless, we still managed good looks at Livingstone's Turaco, Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher, Brown Scrub Robin, Square-tailed Drongo, Red-capped Robin-Chat and Black-backed Puffback. We enjoyed a hearty breakfast followed by a short break before heading to the Eastern Shores of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. We meandered through the lush coastal grassland and surrounding dune forest, eventually reaching the Indian Ocean at Cape Vidal. Winding through the park, we managed to find Yellow-throated Longclaw, Orange-breasted Bushshrike, Collared Pratincole, Water Thick-

knee, African Wattled Lapwing, Hippopotami, Waterbuck, African Buffalo, Greater Kudu, Bushbuck, Southern Reedbuck, Common Warthog and Plains Zebra. We went in search for the sought-after Woodward's Batis, in a patch of pristine forest. We managed to find a gorgeous male bird, literally right above our heads!

We continued towards Cape Vidal and had a great sighting of many Banded Mongooses and Blue Monkeys. We dipped our toes into the Indian Ocean, enjoying the beautiful beach. A smaller flock of Red-backed Mannikins graced us with their presence as a large group of Vervets entertained us. We went in search of yet another target along the forested dunes. We heard our target and after a lot of searching and patience, we managed to eventually find a small group of Green Twinspots, including some beautiful males! *Success.* We ventured back and hoped to find the rare Southern Banded Snake Eagle. We scanned through many raptors and eventually found a bird after a lot of searching! We enjoyed great views before heading back for the day.



**Black-headed Oriole by Dubi Shapiro**

An early start was needed as we made our way down south towards the town of Eshowe. Here, we visited the great Dlinza Forest and its aerial boardwalk. We had breakfast on the tower, spotting birds such as African Goshawk, Black-bellied Starling, White-eared Barbet, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, Trumpeter Hornbill and Black-headed Oriole. As the mercury rose, we made our way down into the forest. The first highlight was of an extremely confiding Blue Duiker. Some bird species seen included Olive Thrush, Olive Bushshrike, Grey Cuckooshrike, Bar-throated Apalis and Tambourine Dove. We then made our way to a water reservoir nearby and managed to find Rufous-winged Cisticola and White-backed Duck. We had a



**Chorsiter Robin-Chat by Adam Riley**

great lunch overlooking the Umlalazi River and the Indian Ocean before heading south towards Durban. Passing the hustle and bustle, we found our way to Pietermaritzburg in no time. A short stop was enjoyed at Darvil, where we managed to spot Grey Crowned Crane, a posing Diederik Cuckoo, Brimstone Canary, and Cape, Hottentot and Red-billed Teal amongst the many other species. We checked into our accommodation soon afterwards and enjoyed a great meal in Hilton.

Our pre-breakfast birding was undertaken at the Doreen Clarke Forest. *It was absolutely cooking!* Before entering the forest, we had already found Forest Canary, Bush Blackcap, Olive Woodpecker, Olive Bushshrike, Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler and a posing Red-chested Cuckoo. Upon entering the forest, we heard an extreme vagrant and toughest endemic – Knysna Warbler! We tried hard to see it but to no avail. Other birds seen in the forest included White-starred Robin, Chorister Robin-Chat, Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher, African Paradise Flycatcher, African Goshawk, African Olive Pigeon, Collared Sunbird and the gorgeous Cape Batis.

We left for the Karkloof area after a good breakfast. Searching the fields en route gave us many White Stork. Reaching a good patch of forest, we went in search of some targets. We found our major target just before leaving: Orange Ground Thrush! Other great sightings here were Chorister Robin-Chat, Red-backed Mannikin, Amethyst and Southern Double-collared Sunbirds, Olive Thrush, Forest Canary

and Bar-throated Apalis. We visited Howick Falls for a quick lunch break; enjoying views of the spectacular falls, as well as Alpine and African Black Swifts and a smart Peregrine Falcon. We made our way to the spectacular Drakensberg region and hit a massive storm. We had a small window of opportunity around a staked-out Cape Parrot roosting site. We thought we would try as the mist had set in, albeit a bit early. We struck gold as at least forty of them were actively flying perching on exposed trees! We continued to our accommodations, finding yet another fantastic species en route, a pair of Wattled Crane with a young colt! The same vicinity also held a Secretarybird and a Mountain Reedbuck. We enjoyed a great home-cooked meal whilst watching a roaring fire.

We left early this morning for the adventurous Sani Pass. Traversing up a valley, we were to make our way up and into the mountainous kingdom of Lesotho. We stopped at the Pholela Bridge and managed to find Amethyst Sunbird, Brown-throated Martin, Giant Kingfisher, African Black Swift and African Paradise Flycatcher here. Another stop gave us absolutely stunning views of a male Greater Double-collared Sunbird whilst a Red-throated Wryneck called from above. A small covey of Red-necked Spurfowls was found nearby, whilst a Bokmakierie also showed itself here. We ventured further up the pass and managed to spot a Black Cuckoo as we started to ascend. Birds seen on our way up included Bush Blackcap, African Yellow Warbler, Cape Rock Thrush, Wailing Cisticola, Malachite Sunbird, Cape Grassbird, Yellow Bishop, Ground Woodpecker and Gurney's Sugarbird! We reached the top after some great switchbacks and quickly spotted some Drakensberg Rockjumpers! A group of Drakensberg Siskins were also around, as well as Sentinel Rock Thrush and the Sloggett's Vlei Rat. We stamped our passports and ventured into the Karoo-like habitat within Lesotho. A couple of stops gave us an exciting mammal, a young Cape Fox, whilst the birds were made up of Mountain Pipit, Large-billed Lark, Grey Tit, Fairy Flycatcher, Layard's Warbler and Bearded Vulture. We enjoy a traditional drink at the highest pub in Africa before making our way down.



African Paradise Flycatcher by  
Adam Riley

We left the Drakensberg region early this morning in order to get to Durban in time for our respective flights. We spotted the ever-present Hadada Ibis en route, as well as Common and Jackal Buzzards. We spoke about all the fond memories we made before reaching the King Shaka International Airport, where this great tour concluded.

## Annotated List of species recorded

**Note:** Number in brackets ( ) indicate number of days on the tour the species was recorded.

List powered through the report generator of our partner iGoTerra.

## Birds (436 in total: 424 seen, 12 heard)

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Gill, F and D Donsker (Eds). 2017. IOC World Bird List (v 7.1).

**Status codes:** **E** = Endemic, **NE** = Near-endemic, **I** = Introduced

**IUCN codes:** **CR** = Critically endangered, **EN** = Endangered, **VU** = Vulnerable, **EW** = Extinct in the Wild, **NT** = Near Threatened, **DD** = Data Deficient



**Ostrich *Struthionidae*****Common Ostrich***Struthio camelus australis*

(2) 4 en route 12.11 and 1 Wakkerstroom 16.11.

**Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl *Anatidae*****White-faced Whistling Duck***Dendrocygna viduata*

(4) 20 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11, 12 observed 14.11, 400 Mkuze GR 18.11 and 20 Darvill Sewage Works 21.11.

**White-backed Duck***Thalassornis leuconotus leuconotus*

(1) 4 Dlinza Forest NR 21.11.

Seen well at Rutledge Dam near Eshowe.

**Spur-winged Goose***Plectropterus gambensis niger*

Observed 4 days in total.

**Knob-billed Duck***Sarkidiornis melanotos*

(2) 100 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11 and 6 Mkuze GR 18.11.

**Egyptian Goose***Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Observed 10 days in total.

**South African Shelduck***Tadorna cana*

(2) 2 Wakkerstroom 15.11 and 2 Wakkerstroom 17.11.

**Cape Teal***Anas capensis*

(2) 1 En route - Carolina - Ermelo 15.11 and 10 Darvill Sewage Works 21.11.

**Yellow-billed Duck***Anas undulata undulata*

Observed 1 day in total.

**Cape Shoveler***Anas smithii*

(2) 1 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11 and 10 Wakkerstroom 16.11.

**Red-billed Teal***Anas erythrorhyncha*

(1) 8 Darvill Sewage Works 21.11.

**Hottentot Teal***Anas hottentota*

(2) 1 observed 14.11 and 20 Darvill Sewage Works 21.11.

**Southern Pochard***Netta erythrophthalma brunnea*

(1) 30 Wakkerstroom 16.11.

Seen well at Fickland Pan outside Wakkerstroom.

**Maccoa Duck (NT)***Oxyura maccoa*

(1) 25 Wakkerstroom 16.11.

Seen well at Fickland Pan outside Wakkerstroom.

**Guineafowl *Numididae*****Helmeted Guineafowl***Numida meleagris*

Observed 1 day in total.

**Crested Guineafowl***Guttera pucherani edouardi*

(4) 2 Umkhumbi Lodge 17.11, 15 Mkuze GR 18.11, 8 Umkhumbi Lodge 19.11 and 5 St Lucia 20.11.

**Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies *Phasianidae***

**Coqui Francolin***Peliperdix coqui coqui*

(3) 2 observed 12.11, 1 heard observed 13.11 and 2 observed 15.11.

Seen very well in Kruger; always in pairs.

**Red-winged Francolin***Scleroptila levaillantii levaillantii*

(1) 1 Wakkerstroom 15.11.

**Crested Francolin***Dendroperdix sephaena sephaena*

(5) 1 heard Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11 and up to 15 observed 12-15.11.

**Natal Spurrow***Pternistis natalensis natalensis*

(4) Up to 2 observed 12-15.11.

**Red-necked Spurrow***Pternistis afer castaneiventris*

(1) 2 Sani Pass 23.11.

We had to work hard to find a pair at the start of the pass.

**Swainson's Spurrow***Pternistis swainsonii swainsonii*

(4) Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11, observed 12.11, observed 13.11 and Wakkerstroom 15.11.

**Harlequin Quail***Coturnix delegorguei delegorguei*

(2) 2 observed 14.11 and 1 observed 18.11.

We had a great sighting of a male in some short grass!

**Grebes Podicipedidae****Little Grebe***Tachybaptus ruficollis capensis*

(4) 2 Wakkerstroom 15.11, 5 Wakkerstroom 16.11, 5 Darvill Sewage Works 21.11 and 2 Sani Pass 23.11.

**Great Crested Grebe***Podiceps cristatus infuscatus*

(2) 2 En route - Carolina - Ermelo 15.11 and 5 Wakkerstroom 16.11.

**Flamingos Phoenicopteridae****Greater Flamingo***Phoenicopterus roseus*

(2) 35 En route - Carolina - Ermelo 15.11 and 25 Wakkerstroom 16.11.

**Storks Ciconiidae****Yellow-billed Stork***Mycteria ibis*

(4) 25 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11, 3 observed 14.11, 40 Mkuze GR 18.11 and 2 St Lucia 19.11.

**African Openbill***Anastomus lamelligerus lamelligerus*

(2) 12 observed 14.11 and 1 Mkuze GR 18.11.

**Black Stork***Ciconia nigra*

(3) 1 observed 14.11, 1 observed 18.11 and 2 Sani Pass 23.11.

**Abdim's Stork***Ciconia abdimii*

(2) 50 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11 and 35 en route 12.11.

**Woolly-necked Stork (VU)***Ciconia episcopus microscelis*

(4) 1 observed 14.11, 2 Mkuze GR 18.11, 2 en route 19.11 and 8 en route 21.11.

**White Stork***Ciconia ciconia ciconia*

(1) 10 Karkloof 22.11.

**Saddle-billed Stork***Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

(2) 1 observed 14.11 and 2 Mkuze GR 18.11.

**Marabou Stork**

*Leptoptilos crumenifer*

(1) 3 observed 14.11.

**Ibises and Spoonbills *Threskiornithidae***

**African Sacred Ibis**

*Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Observed 3 days in total.

**Southern Bald Ibis (VU)**

*Geronticus calvus*

(3) 30 Wakkerstroom 16.11, 9 Sani Pass 22.11 and 12 Sani Pass 23.11.

**Hadada Ibis**

*Bostrychia hagedash hagedash*

Observed 15 days in total.

Seen on every day of the tour!

**Glossy Ibis**

*Plegadis falcinellus*

(5) 20 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11, 2 observed 14.11 and 3 Wakkerstroom 15.11.

**African Spoonbill**

*Platalea alba*

Observed 3 days in total.

**Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns *Ardeidae***

**Little Bittern**

*Ixobrychus minutus payesii*

(1) 1 Wakkerstroom 17.11.

Seen well at the wetland.

**Black-crowned Night Heron**

*Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax*

(1) 2 Wakkerstroom 17.11.

**Striated Heron**

*Butorides striata atricapilla*

(3) 4 observed 13.11, 1 observed 15.11 and 1 Mkuze GR 18.11.

**Squacco Heron**

*Ardeola ralloides*

(4) 1 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11, 1 Wakkerstroom 15.11, 2 Mkuze GR 18.11 and 1 St Lucia 20.11.

**Western Cattle Egret**

*Bubulcus ibis*

Observed 1 day in total.

**Grey Heron**

*Ardea cinerea cinerea*

Observed 1 day in total.

**Black-headed Heron**

*Ardea melanocephala*

Observed 3 days in total.

**Goliath Heron**

*Ardea goliath*

(5) 1 observed 14.11, 1 Mkuze GR 18.11, 1 St Lucia 19.11, 2 St Lucia 20.11 and 1 Darvill Sewage Works 21.11.

Seen many times; the largest heron in the world.

**Purple Heron**

*Ardea purpurea purpurea*

(3) 3 Wakkerstroom 17.11, 1 Mkuze GR 18.11 and 1 St Lucia 20.11.

**Great Egret**

*Ardea alba melanorhynchos*

(3) 1 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11, 6 Mkuze GR 18.11 and 1 St Lucia 20.11.

**Intermediate Egret**

*Ardea intermedia brachyrhyncha*

(2) 4 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11 and 1 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 20.11.



**Little Egret***Egretta garzetta garzetta*

(4) 1 observed 13.11, observed 14.11, 3 Mkuze GR 18.11 and 1 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 20.11.

**Hamerkop Scopidae****Hamerkop***Scopus umbretta umbretta*

(4) Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11 and observed observed 13-15.11.

**Pelicans Pelecanidae****Pink-backed Pelican***Pelecanus rufescens*

(2) 10 Mkuze GR 18.11 and 3 St Lucia 19.11.

**Cormorants and Shags Phalacrocoracidae****Reed Cormorant***Microcarbo africanus africanus*

Observed 1 day in total.

**White-breasted Cormorant***Phalacrocorax lucidus*

(3) 1 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11, Wakkerstroom 16.11 and Umkhumbi Lodge 17.11.

**Anhingas Anhingidae****African Darter***Anhinga rufa rufa*

(3) 2 Johannesburg 10.11, 1 observed 13.11 and 5 Mkuze GR 18.11.

**Secretary-bird Sagittariidae****Secretarybird (VU)***Sagittarius serpentarius*

(2) 1 Wakkerstroom 16.11 and 1 Sani Pass 22.11.

**Osprey Pandionidae****Western Osprey***Pandion haliaetus haliaetus*

(1) 1 St Lucia 19.11.

**Hawks, Eagles, and Kites Accipitridae****Black-winged Kite***Elanus caeruleus caeruleus*

Observed 1 day in total.

**African Harrier-Hawk***Polyboroides typus typus*

(3) 2 observed 13.11, 1 observed 14.11 and 1 Doreen Clark NR 22.11.

**Bearded Vulture (NT)***Gypaetus barbatus meridionalis*

(1) 1 Sani Pass 23.11.

**Hooded Vulture (EN)***Necrosyrtes monachus*

(3) Up to 5 observed 13-15.11.

**White-backed Vulture (NT)***Gyps africanus*

(6) Up to 30 observed 12-15.11, 2 Mkuze GR 18.11 and 1 en route 19.11.

**Cape Vulture (VU)***Gyps coprotheres*

(3) 20 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11, 6 Abel Erasmus Pass 12.11 and 1 en route 22.11.

**Brown Snake Eagle***Circaetus cinereus*

(3) 1 en route 12.11, 1 observed 14.11 and 2 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 20.11.

**Southern Banded Snake Eagle (NT)** *Circaetus fasciolatus*

(1) 1 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 20.11.

**Bateleur (NT)** *Terathopius ecaudatus*

(4) Up to 3 observed 12-15.11.

**Crowned Eagle (NT)** *Stephanoaetus coronatus*

(1) 1 heard Mkuze GR 18.11.

**Long-crested Eagle** *Lophaetus occipitalis*

(3) 1 en route 21.11, 2 Karkloof 22.11 and 1 Sani Pass 23.11.

**Wahlberg's Eagle** *Hieraaetus wahlbergi*

(5) 1 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11, up to 6 observed 12-14.11 and 2 Mkuze GR 18.11.

**Tawny Eagle** *Aquila rapax rapax*

(2) 2 observed 14.11 and 1 observed 15.11.

**African Hawk-Eagle** *Aquila spilogaster*

(1) 4 observed 14.11.

**Lizard Buzzard** *Kaupifalco monogrammicus meridionalis*

(1) 1 en route 12.11.

Seen perched on a telegraph post just before entering Kruger.

**Gabar Goshawk** *Micronisus gabar gabar*

(2) 1 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11 and 1 observed 14.11.

**African Goshawk** *Accipiter tachiro tachiro*

(4) 1 observed 13.11, 1 Mkuze GR 18.11, 1 Dlinza Forest NR 21.11 and 1 Doreen Clark NR 22.11.

**Black Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter melanoleucus melanoleucus*

(2) 1 Mkuze GR 18.11 and 1 Sani Pass 22.11.

We found a bird that had caught a Speckled Pigeon.

**African Marsh Harrier** *Circus ranivorus*

(3) 1 Wakkerstroom 17.11, 1 observed 18.11 and 1 Sani Pass 23.11.

**Yellow-billed Kite** *Milvus aegyptius parasitus*

Observed 5 days in total.

**African Fish Eagle** *Haliaeetus vocifer*

Observed 3 days in total.

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo vulpinus*

Observed 4 days in total.

**Jackal Buzzard** *Buteo rufofuscus*

(6) 3 Sani Pass 23.11 and 1 en route 24.11.

### **Bustards Otidae**

**Denham's Bustard (NT)** *Neotis denhami stanleyi*

(1) 1 Wakkerstroom 16.11.

We had a distant view of a male displaying!

**White-bellied Bustard** *Eupodotis senegalensis barrowii*

(1) 1 Wakkerstroom 16.11.

**Blue Korhaan (NT)** *Eupodotis caerulescens*

(2) 3 Wakkerstroom 15.11 and 5 Wakkerstroom 16.11.

**Red-crested Korhaan** *Lophotis ruficrista*

(2) 1 heard observed 12.11 and 1 heard observed 15.11.

**Northern Black Korhaan** *Afrotis afraoides afraoides*

(1) 1 heard Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11.

**Black-bellied Bustard** *Lissotis melanogaster notophila*

(2) 1 observed 13.11 and 1 observed 14.11.

### **Flufftails *Sarothruridae***

**Buff-spotted Flufftail** *Sarothrura elegans elegans*

(1) 1 heard iGwalagwala trail 20.11.

**Red-chested Flufftail** *Sarothrura rufa rufa*

(1) 1 heard Wakkerstroom 17.11.

### **Rails, Gallinules, and Coots *Rallidae***

**African Rail** *Rallus caerulescens*

(2) 1 heard Wakkerstroom 15.11 and 2 Wakkerstroom 17.11.

**Black Crane** *Amaurornis flavirostra*

(3) 6 observed 13.11, 2 Wakkerstroom 17.11 and 1 Darvill Sewage Works 21.11.

**African Swamphen** *Porphyrio madagascariensis*

(3) Observed Wakkerstroom 15-17.11.

**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus meridionalis*

(4) Observed Wakkerstroom 15-17.11 and Darvill Sewage Works 21.11.

**Red-knobbed Coot** *Fulica cristata*

(5) Observed Wakkerstroom 15-17.11, Darvill Sewage Works 21.11 and Sani Pass 23.11.

### **Cranes *Gruidae***

**Grey Crowned Crane (VU)** *Balearica regulorum regulorum*

Observed 3 days in total.

**Blue Crane (VU)** *Grus paradisea*

(2) 6 Wakkerstroom 16.11 and 2 Karkloof 22.11.

**Wattled Crane** *Grus carunculata*

(1) 3 Sani Pass 22.11.

We found a pair with a young colt!

### **Buttonquails *Turnicidae***

**Common Buttonquail** *Turnix sylvaticus lepurana*

(3) 1 observed 12.11, 1 observed 14.11 and 1 Mkuze GR 18.11.

### **Thick-knees *Burhinidae***

**Water Thick-knee** *Burhinus vermiculatus vermiculatus*

(4) 15 observed 13.11, 12 observed 14.11, 7 St Lucia 19.11 and 3 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 20.11.



**Stilts and Avocets *Recurvirostridae*****Black-winged Stilt***Himantopus himantopus*

Observed 1 day in total.

**Pied Avocet***Recurvirostra avosetta*

(1) 3 St Lucia 19.11.

**Plovers and Lapwings *Charadriidae*****Blacksmith Lapwing***Vanellus armatus*

Observed 1 day in total.

**White-crowned Lapwing***Vanellus albiceps*

(1) 6 observed 14.11.

Seen well along the Sabie River

**Senegal Lapwing***Vanellus lugubris*

(1) 1 observed 18.11.

Seen in the company of many Temminck's Coursers

**Black-winged Lapwing***Vanellus melanopterus minor*

(3) 3 Wakkerstroom 15.11, 7 Wakkerstroom 16.11 and 2 observed 18.11.

**Crowned Lapwing***Vanellus coronatus*

Observed 1 day in total.

**African Wattled Lapwing***Vanellus senegallus lateralis*

Observed 1 day in total.

**Common Ringed Plover***Charadrius hiaticula tundrae*

(1) 15 St Lucia 19.11.

**Kittlitz's Plover***Charadrius pecuarius*

(1) 40 observed 18.11.

**Three-banded Plover***Charadrius tricollaris tricollaris*

Observed 2 days in total.

**White-fronted Plover***Charadrius marginatus*

(1) 3 St Lucia 19.11.

**Jacanas *Jacanidae*****African Jacana***Actophilornis africanus*

Observed 1 day in total.

**Sandpipers and Allies *Scolopacidae*****African Snipe***Gallinago nigripennis nigripennis*

(2) 1 Wakkerstroom 15.11 and 2 Wakkerstroom 17.11.

Seen very well, out in the open!

**Bar-tailed Godwit***Limosa lapponica lapponica*

(1) 2 St Lucia 19.11.

**Marsh Sandpiper***Tringa stagnatilis*

(2) 1 observed 14.11 and 1 St Lucia 19.11.

**Common Greenshank***Tringa nebularia*

Observed 1 day in total.

**Wood Sandpiper**

*Tringa glareola*

Observed 1 day in total.

**Common Sandpiper**

*Actitis hypoleucos*

(4) Up to 2 observed 12-14.11 and 1 Mkuze GR 18.11.

**Ruddy Turnstone**

*Arenaria interpres interpres*

(1) 1 St Lucia 19.11.

**Little Stint**

*Calidris minuta*

(3) 3 observed 14.11, 1 Mkuze GR 18.11 and 12 St Lucia 19.11.

**Curlew Sandpiper**

*Calidris ferruginea*

(1) 35 St Lucia 19.11.

**Ruff**

*Philomachus pugnax*

(3) 2 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11, 1 observed 12.11 and 2 Darvill Sewage Works 21.11.

**Pratincoles and Coursers Glareolidae**

**Temminck's Courser**

*Cursorius temminckii ruvanensis*

(1) 15 observed 18.11.

We were extremely lucky to find many with young!

**Collared Pratincole**

*Glareola pratincola fuelleborni*

(3) 2 observed 14.11, 100 observed 18.11 and 2 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 19.11.

**Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers Laridae**

**Grey-headed Gull**

*Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus poiocephalus*

(4) 10 Johannesburg 10.11, 3 en route 12.11, 5 Muzi Pan 18.11 and 2 St Lucia 19.11.

**Caspian Tern**

*Hydroprogne caspia*

(2) 3 St Lucia 19.11 and 1 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 20.11.

**Greater Crested Tern**

*Thalasseus bergii bergii*

(1) 35 St Lucia 19.11.

**Little Tern**

*Sternula albifrons albifrons*

(1) 12 St Lucia 19.11.

**Sooty Tern**

*Onychoprion fuscatus*

(1) 1 St Lucia 19.11.

**Whiskered Tern**

*Chlidonias hybrida*

Observed 1 day in total.

**White-winged Tern**

*Chlidonias leucopterus*

(2) 1 Wakkerstroom 16.11 and 80 Mkuze GR 18.11.

**Pigeons and Doves Columbidae**

**Rock Dove**

*Columba livia var. domestica*

Observed 1 day in total.

**Speckled Pigeon**

*Columba guinea phaeonota*

Observed 2 days in total.

**African Olive Pigeon**

*Columba arquatrix*

(1) 14 Benvie Farm, Karkloof 22.11 and 1 Doreen Clark NR 22.11.

**Lemon Dove**

*Columba larvata larvata*

(1) 2 Dlinza Forest NR 22.11.

**Red-eyed Dove**

*Streptopelia semitorquata*

Observed 3 days in total.

**Ring-necked Dove**

*Streptopelia capicola*

Observed 2 days in total.

**Laughing Dove**

*Spilopelia senegalensis senegalensis*

Observed 2 days in total.

**Emerald-spotted Wood Dove**

*Turtur chalcospilos*

(4) 1 observed 13.11, 1 observed 15.11, 40 Mkuze GR 18.11 and 2 Umkhumbi Lodge 19.11.

**Tambourine Dove**

*Turtur tympanistria*

(2) 1 Abel Erasmus Pass 12.11 and 2 Dlinza Forest NR 21.11.

A male was seen well through the scope.

**Namaqua Dove**

*Oena capensis capensis*

(2) 3 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11 and 1 Mkuze GR 18.11.

**African Green Pigeon**

*Treron calvus delalandii*

(2) 5 observed 13.11 and 2 Dlinza Forest NR 21.11.

Beautiful views, feeding in a fig tree in camp.

### **Turacos *Musophagidae***

**Livingstone's Turaco**

*Tauraco livingstonii reichenowi*

(2) 2 iGwalagwala trail 19.11 and 3 iGwalagwala trail 20.11.

**Knysna Turaco**

*Tauraco corythaix*

(1) 1 Benvie Farm, Karkloof 22.11.

**Purple-crested Turaco**

*Tauraco porphyreolophus porphyreolophus*

(5) 2 observed 14.11 and 2 Umkhumbi Lodge 17.11.

**Grey Go-away-bird**

*Corythaixoides concolor*

Observed 5 days in total.

### **Cuckoos *Cuculidae***

**Burchell's Coucal**

*Centropus burchellii burchellii*

(3) 1 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11, 3 Mkuze GR 18.11 and 1 heard iGwalagwala trail 19.11.

**Green Malkoha**

*Ceuthmochares australis*

(2) 1 heard Umkhumbi Lodge 17.11 and 1 heard Dlinza Forest NR 21.11.

**Great Spotted Cuckoo**

*Clamator glandarius*

(1) 2 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11.

**Levaillant's Cuckoo**

*Clamator levaillantii*

(1) 1 observed 13.11.

**Jacobin Cuckoo**

*Clamator jacobinus serratus*

(3) Up to 1 observed 12-14.11.

**Diederik Cuckoo**

*Chrysococcyx caprius*



(7) 1 observed 12.11 and 3 observed 14.11.

**Klaas's Cuckoo***Chrysococcyx klaas*

(1) 1 observed 13.11.

**African Emerald Cuckoo***Chrysococcyx cupreus*

(1) 1 heard Dlinza Forest NR 21.11.

**Black Cuckoo***Cuculus clamosus clamosus*

(1) 1 Sani Pass 23.11.

**Red-chested Cuckoo***Cuculus solitarius*

Observed 7 days in total.

**African Cuckoo***Cuculus gularis*

(1) 1 heard Mkuze GR 18.11.

### **Barn-Owls Tytonidae**

**Western Barn Owl***Tyto alba poensis*

(2) 1 observed 12.11 and 1 observed 14.11.

Seen well, roosting in Lower Sabie camp roof.

### **Owls Strigidae**

**Spotted Eagle-Owl***Bubo africanus africanus*

(1) 2 observed 14.11.

**Verreaux's Eagle-Owl***Bubo lacteus*

(1) 1 observed 15.11.

**Pearl-spotted Owlet***Glaucidium perlatum licua*

(2) 1 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11 and 1 observed 13.11.

### **Swifts Apodidae**

**African Palm Swift***Cypsiurus parvus*

Observed 5 days in total.

**Alpine Swift***Tachymarptis melba*

(3) 1 observed 12.11, 20 en route 22.11 and 5 Sani Pass 23.11.

Seen well at Howick Falls.

**African Black Swift***Apus barbatus barbatus*

(2) 20 en route 22.11 and 30 Sani Pass 23.11.

Seen well at Howick Falls.

**Little Swift***Apus affinis*

Observed 1 day in total.

**White-rumped Swift***Apus caffer*

Observed 1 day in total.

### **Mousebirds Coliidae**

**Speckled Mousebird***Colius striatus*

Observed 1 day in total.

**Red-faced Mousebird***Urocolius indicus*

Observed 1 day in total.

### **Trogons Trogonidae**

#### **Narina Trogon**

*Apaloderma narina narina*

(2) 3 iGwalagwala trail 19.11 and 2 Karkloof 22.11.

### **Rollers Coraciidae**

#### **Purple Roller**

*Coracias naevius mosambicus*

(2) 3 observed 14.11 and 1 observed 15.11.

#### **Lilac-breasted Roller**

*Coracias caudatus caudatus*

Observed 5 days in total.

Refreshingly common in Kruger

### **Kingfishers Alcedinidae**

#### **Grey-headed Kingfisher**

*Halcyon leucocephala pallidiventris*

(1) 1 observed 12.11.

#### **Brown-hooded Kingfisher**

*Halcyon albiventris*

Observed 1 day in total.

#### **Striped Kingfisher**

*Halcyon chelicuti chelicuti*

(4) Up to 1 observed 12-14.11 and 1 Mkuze GR 18.11.

#### **Woodland Kingfisher**

*Halcyon senegalensis cyanoleuca*

(4) Up to 3 observed 13-15.11 and 1 Mkuze GR 18.11.

#### **African Pygmy Kingfisher**

*Ispidina picta natalensis*

(2) 1 Mkuze GR 18.11 and 2 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 20.11.

Close-up views at the Kumasinga Hide

#### **Malachite Kingfisher**

*Corythornis cristatus cristatus*

(2) 1 observed 13.11 and 1 observed 14.11.

#### **Half-collared Kingfisher**

*Alcedo semitorquata*

(1) 1 Abel Erasmus Pass 12.11.

Seen very briefly

#### **Giant Kingfisher**

*Megaceryle maxima maxima*

(4) 1 Abel Erasmus Pass 12.11, 1 observed 13.11, 1 observed 14.11 and 1 Sani Pass 23.11.

#### **Pied Kingfisher**

*Ceryle rudis rudis*

Observed 1 day in total.

### **Bee-eaters Meropidae**

#### **Little Bee-eater**

*Merops pusillus*

(4) 1 observed 12.11, 3 observed 14.11, 6 Mkuze GR 18.11 and 1 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 20.11.

#### **White-fronted Bee-eater**

*Merops bullockoides*

(2) 6 observed 15.11 and 4 Mkuze GR 18.11.

#### **Blue-cheeked Bee-eater**

*Merops persicus persicus*

(1) 1 heard iGwalagwala trail 19.11.

**European Bee-eater***Merops apiaster*

Observed 1 day in total.

**Hoopoes Upupidae****African Hoopoe***Upupa africana*

(3) Up to 2 observed 13-15.11.

**Woodhoopoes and Scimitar-bills Phoeniculidae****Green Wood Hoopoe***Phoeniculus purpureus*

(3) 2 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11, 3 observed 14.11 and 3 Umkhumbi Lodge 19.11.

**Common Scimitarbill***Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*

(2) 2 observed 15.11 and 2 Mkuze GR 18.11.

**Hornbills Bucerotidae****Southern Red-billed Hornbill***Tockus rufirostris*

Observed 5 days in total.

Very common on the first half of the tour

**Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill***Tockus leucomelas leucomelas*

Observed 5 days in total.

Very common on the first half of the tour

**Crowned Hornbill***Lophoceros alboterminatus*

(3) 2 Umkhumbi Lodge 18.11, 1 heard iGwalagwala trail 19.11 and 2 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 20.11.

**African Grey Hornbill***Lophoceros nasutus epirhinus*

Observed 5 days in total.

Very common on the first half of the tour

**Trumpeter Hornbill***Bycanistes bucinator*

(3) 6 Mkuze GR 18.11, 1 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 20.11 and 5 Dlinza Forest NR 21.11.

**African Barbets Lybiidae****White-eared Barbet***Stactolaema leucotis leucotis*

(3) 6 iGwalagwala trail 19.11, 5 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 20.11 and 20 Dlinza Forest NR 21.11.

**Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird***Pogoniulus bilineatus bilineatus*

(4) 1 Hluhluwe Town 17.11, 1 iGwalagwala trail 19.11, 1 iGwalagwala trail 20.11 and 2 Dlinza Forest NR 21.11.

**Red-fronted Tinkerbird***Pogoniulus pusillus pusillus*

(2) 1 Mkuze GR 18.11 and 1 Umkhumbi Lodge 19.11.

**Acacia Pied Barbet***Tricholaema leucomelas*

(1) 1 Mkuze GR 18.11.

**Black-collared Barbet***Lybius torquatus torquatus*

(4) 1 Abel Erasmus Pass 12.11, 2 observed 13.11, 1 heard Hluhluwe Town 17.11 and 2 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 20.11.

**Crested Barbet***Trachyphonus vaillantii vaillantii*

(3) 6 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11, 1 observed 13.11 and 1 Hluhluwe Town 17.11.



**Honeyguides Indicatoridae****Brown-backed Honeybird***Prodotiscus regulus regulus*

(1) 2 Sani Pass 23.11.

Seen briefly, chasing one another.

**Lesser Honeyguide***Indicator minor minor*

(2) 1 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11 and 2 observed 13.11.

**Scaly-throated Honeyguide***Indicator variegatus*

(1) 1 Dlinza Forest NR 21.11.

**Greater Honeyguide***Indicator indicator*

(1) 1 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11.

**Woodpeckers Picidae****Red-throated Wryneck***Jynx ruficollis ruficollis*

(1) 2 Sani Pass 23.11.

**Golden-tailed Woodpecker***Campethera abingoni*

(1) 2 iGwalagwala trail 19.11.

**Ground Woodpecker***Geocolaptes olivaceus*

(1) 4 Sani Pass 23.11.

**Cardinal Woodpecker***Dendropicos fuscescens*

(4) 2 observed 13.11, 4 observed 14.11, 1 Hluhluwe Town 17.11 and Mkuze GR 18.11.

**Olive Woodpecker***Dendropicos griseocephalus griseocephalus*

(1) 2 Doreen Clark NR 22.11.

Seen well in the dead trees in the parking lot.

**Falcons and Caracaras Falconidae****Greater Kestrel***Falco rupicoloides rupicoloides*

(1) 2 Wakkerstroom 15.11.

**Lanner Falcon***Falco biarmicus biarmicus*

(1) 2 Wakkerstroom 16.11.

**Peregrine Falcon***Falco peregrinus*

(1) 1 en route 22.11.

Seen feeding on a swift at Howick Falls.

**Taita Falcon (NT)***Falco fasciinucha*

(1) 2 Abel Erasmus Pass 12.11.

**African & New World Parrots Psittacidae****Cape Parrot***Poicephalus robustus*

(1) 40 Marutswa NR 22.11.

Superb views of birds coming in to roost!

**Brown-headed Parrot***Poicephalus cryptoxanthus cryptoxanthus*

(2) 1 heard observed 12.11 and 1 observed 15.11.

Seen up-close in Afsaal Picnic spot

**Wattle-eyes and Batises *Platysteiridae*****Cape Batis***Batis capensis*

(1) 2 Doreen Clark NR 22.11.

**Woodward's Batis***Batis fratrum*

(1) 1 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 20.11.

Right above our heads!

**Chinspot Batis***Batis molitor*

(3) 1 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11, 2 observed 14.11 and 4 Mkuze GR 18.11.

**Helmetshrikes and Allies *Prionopidae*****White-crested Helmetshrike***Prionops plumatus*

(2) 10 observed 15.11 and 3 Mkuze GR 18.11.

**Bushshrikes and Allies *Malaconotidae*****Grey-headed Bushshrike***Malaconotus blanchoti*

(1) 1 observed 12.11.

**Olive Bushshrike***Chlorophoneus olivaceus*

(2) 1 Dlinza Forest NR 21.11 and 2 Doreen Clark NR 22.11.

**Orange-breasted Bushshrike***Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus similis*

Observed 2 days in total.

**Gorgeous Bushshrike***Telophorus viridis quadricolor*

(4) 1 Umkhumbi Lodge 17.11, 1 Mkuze GR 18.11, 1 Umkhumbi Lodge 19.11 and 1 iGwalagwala trail 20.11.

We saw four birds! Excellent considering the skulking behaviour. We persisited and eventually found an adult male!

**Bokmakierie***Telophorus zeylonus*

(2) 1 heard Wakkerstroom 16.11 and 4 Sani Pass 23.11.

**Brown-crowned Tchagra***Tchagra australis*

Observed 1 day in total.

**Black-crowned Tchagra***Tchagra senegalus*

(2) 1 observed 13.11 and 1 observed 14.11.

**Black-backed Puffback***Dryoscopus cubla*

Observed 6 days in total.

**Southern Boubou***Laniarius ferrugineus*

(8) 1 heard Benvie Farm, Karkloof 22.11.

**Crimson-breasted Shrike***Laniarius atrococcineus*

(1) 4 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11.

**Brubru***Nilaus afer*

(2) 3 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11 and 1 observed 12.11.

**Cuckoo-shrikes *Campephagidae*****Grey Cuckooshrike***Coracina caesia caesia*

(1) 2 Dlinza Forest NR 21.11.

**Black Cuckooshrike**

(1) 2 observed 13.11.

*Campephaga flava***Shrikes *Laniidae*****Magpie Shrike**

Observed 5 days in total.

*Urolestes melanoleucus***Red-backed Shrike**

Observed 1 day in total.

*Lanius collurio***Lesser Grey Shrike**

(3) 2 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11, 1 observed 12.11 and 3 observed 14.11.

*Lanius minor***Southern Fiscal**

Observed 2 days in total.

*Lanius collaris***Old World Orioles *Oriolidae*****Black-headed Oriole**

Observed 1 day in total.

*Oriolus larvatus larvatus***Drongos *Dicruridae*****Square-tailed Drongo**

Observed 5 days in total.

*Dicrurus ludwigii ludwigii***Fork-tailed Drongo**

Observed 3 days in total.

*Dicrurus adsimilis***Monarch Flycatchers *Monarchidae*****Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher**

(4) 1 heard Umkhumbi Lodge 17.11, 1 heard iGwalagwala trail 19.11, 3 iGwalagwala trail 20.11 and 4 Doreen Clark NR 22.11.

*Trochocercus cyanomelas***African Paradise Flycatcher**

Observed 2 days in total.

*Terpsiphone viridis***Crows, Jays, and Magpies *Corvidae*****Cape Crow**

(4) 2 Wakkerstroom 15.11, 20 Wakkerstroom 16.11, Karkloof 22.11 and Sani Pass 23.11.

*Corvus capensis capensis***Pied Crow**

Observed 1 day in total.

*Corvus albus***White-necked Raven**

(1) 6 Sani Pass 23.11.

*Corvus albicollis***Rockjumpers *Chaetopidae*****Drakensberg Rockjumper**

(1) 3 Sani Pass 23.11.

*Chaetops aurantius***Fairy Flycatchers *Stenostiridae***

**Fairy Flycatcher***Stenostira scita*

(1) 2 Sani Pass 23.11.

Seen well, in Lesotho.

**Chickadees and Tits *Paridae*****Southern Black Tit***Melaniparus niger*

Observed 1 day in total.

**Grey Tit***Melaniparus afer*

(1) 1 Sani Pass 23.11.

Seen well, in Lesotho.

**Penduline-Tits *Remizidae*****Grey Penduline Tit***Anthoscopus caroli hellmayri*

(1) 1 Hluluwe Town 17.11.

**Nicators *Nicatoridae*****Eastern Nicator***Nicator gularis*

(4) Up to 1 Umkhumbi Lodge 17-19.11 and 1 heard iGwalagwala trail 20.11.

**Larks *Alaudidae*****Spike-heeled Lark***Chersomanes albofasciata*

(1) 5 Wakkerstroom 16.11.

**Eastern Long-billed Lark***Certhilauda semitorquata*

(1) 1 Wakkerstroom 16.11.

**Sabota Lark***Calendulauda sabota*

(3) 1 Zaagkuil Road 11.11, 1 observed 12.11 and 1 Mkuze GR 18.11.

**Rudd's Lark (VU)***Heteromiraфра ruddi*

(1) 1 Wakkerstroom 16.11.

Probably the world's rarest lark species.

**Eastern Clapper Lark***Miraфра fasciolata fasciolata*

(1) 6 Wakkerstroom 16.11.

**Rufous-naped Lark***Miraфра africana*

Observed 3 days in total.

**Botha's Lark (EN)***Spizocorys fringillaris*

(1) 1 Wakkerstroom 16.11.

**Large-billed Lark***Galerida magnirostris*

(1) 1 Sani Pass 23.11.

Seen well, in Lesotho.

**Red-capped Lark***Calandrella cinerea cinerea*

(2) 1 Wakkerstroom 15.11 and 20 Wakkerstroom 16.11.

**Bulbuls *Pycnonotidae*****Dark-capped Bulbul***Pycnonotus tricolor layardi*



Observed 1 day in total.

**Sombre Greenbul**

*Andropadus importunus*

(5) 1 observed 13.11, Umkhumbi Lodge 17.11, Mkuze GR 18.11, iGwalagwala trail 19.11 and iGwalagwala trail 20.11.

**Yellow-bellied Greenbul**

*Chlorocichla flaviventris*

(5) Umkhumbi Lodge 17.11, Mkuze GR 18.11, iGwalagwala trail 19.11, iGwalagwala trail 20.11 and Dlinza Forest NR 21.11.

**Terrestrial Brownbul**

*Phyllastrephus terrestris*

(2) 2 Umkhumbi Lodge 19.11 and 1 heard Doreen Clark NR 22.11.

**Swallows *Hirundinidae***

**Black Saw-wing**

*Psalidoprocne pristoptera holomelas*

Observed 1 day in total.

**Grey-rumped Swallow**

*Pseudhirundo griseopyga griseopyga*

(1) 1 observed 18.11.

**Brown-throated Martin**

*Riparia paludicola paludicola*

(1) 2 Sani Pass 23.11.

**Banded Martin**

*Riparia cincta cincta*

(2) 1 Wakkerstroom 15.11 and 10 Wakkerstroom 16.11.

**Barn Swallow**

*Hirundo rustica rustica*

Observed 7 days in total.

**White-throated Swallow**

*Hirundo albigularis*

(5) 3 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11.

**Blue Swallow (VU)**

*Hirundo atrocaerulea*

(3) 4 observed 13.11, 10 observed 14.11 and 1 Hluhluwe Town 19.11.

**Pearl-breasted Swallow**

*Hirundo dimidiata*

(1) 1 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11.

**Rock Martin**

*Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

(2) 10 Abel Erasmus Pass 12.11 and 5 Sani Pass 23.11.

**Common House Martin**

*Delichon urbicum*

(1) 30 observed 14.11.

**Greater Striped Swallow**

*Cecropis cucullata*

Observed 2 days in total.

**Lesser Striped Swallow**

*Cecropis abyssinica unitatis*

Observed 1 day in total.

**Red-breasted Swallow**

*Cecropis semirufa semirufa*

Observed 3 days in total.

**South African Cliff Swallow**

*Petrochelidon spilodera*

(3) 1 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11, 60 Wakkerstroom 15.11 and 5 Wakkerstroom 17.11.

**Crombecs, African warblers *Macrospenidae***

**Cape Grassbird**

*Sphenoeacus afer*

(2) 1 heard Sani Pass 22.11 and 5 Sani Pass 23.11.

**Long-billed Crombec**

*Sylvietta rufescens*

(4) 4 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11, 1 observed 12.11, 1 observed 13.11 and 1 Hluhluwe Town 19.11.

**Leaf-Warblers *Phylloscopidae***

**Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler**

*Phylloscopus ruficapilla*

(1) 2 Doreen Clark NR 22.11.

**Willow Warbler**

*Phylloscopus trochilus*

(1) 3 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11.

**Reed-Warblers and Allies *Acrocephalidae***

**Lesser Swamp Warbler**

*Acrocephalus gracilirostris*

(1) 6 Wakkerstroom 17.11.

**African Reed Warbler**

*Acrocephalus baeticatus*

(2) 2 Wakkerstroom 15.11 and 6 Wakkerstroom 17.11.

**Marsh Warbler**

*Acrocephalus palustris*

(1) 2 Darvill Sewage Works 21.11.

**African Yellow Warbler**

*Iduna natalensis natalensis*

(4) 2 Wakkerstroom 15.11, 1 Wakkerstroom 17.11, 2 Karkloof 22.11 and 1 Sani Pass 23.11.

**Grassbirds and Allies *Locustellidae***

**Little Rush Warbler**

*Bradypterus baboecala*

(2) 6 Wakkerstroom 17.11 and 1 Darvill Sewage Works 21.11.

**Knysna Warbler (VU)**

*Bradypterus sylvaticus*

(1) 1 heard Doreen Clark NR 22.11.

**Barratt's Warbler**

*Bradypterus barratti*

(1) 2 Sani Pass 23.11.

Unusual for them to be out in the open!

**Cisticolas and Allies *Cisticolidae***

**Red-faced Cisticola**

*Cisticola erythrops nyasa*

(1) 1 observed 13.11.

**Lazy Cisticola**

*Cisticola aberrans*

(1) 2 Wakkerstroom 16.11.

**Rattling Cisticola**

*Cisticola chiniana*

Observed 1 day in total.

**Wailing Cisticola**

*Cisticola lais*

(1) 6 Sani Pass 23.11.

**Rufous-winged Cisticola**

*Cisticola galactotes galactotes*

(1) 2 en route 21.11.

Seen at Rutledge Dam outside Eshowe

**Levaillant's Cisticola**

*Cisticola tinniens*

Observed 3 days in total.

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<b>Croaking Cisticola</b> (2) 1 heard observed 12.11 and 1 observed 18.11.	<i>Cisticola natalensis natalensis</i>
<b>Neddicky</b> (2) 2 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11 and 1 observed 12.11.	<i>Cisticola fulvicapilla</i>
<b>Zitting Cisticola</b> (3) 12 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11, 1 heard Wakkerstroom 16.11 and 2 observed 18.11.	<i>Cisticola juncidis terrestris</i>
<b>Desert Cisticola</b> (1) 3 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11.	<i>Cisticola aridulus</i>
<b>Cloud Cisticola</b> (1) 2 Wakkerstroom 16.11.	<i>Cisticola textrix</i>
<b>Wing-snapping Cisticola</b> (2) 1 heard Wakkerstroom 15.11 and 1 Wakkerstroom 16.11.	<i>Cisticola ayresii ayresii</i>
<b>Tawny-flanked Prinia</b> Observed 1 day in total.	<i>Prinia subflava</i>
<b>Black-chested Prinia</b> (1) 6 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11.	<i>Prinia flavicans</i>
<b>Drakensberg Prinia</b> (2) 2 Wakkerstroom 16.11 and 2 Sani Pass 23.11.	<i>Prinia hypoxantha</i>
<b>Bar-throated Apalis</b> (2) 2 Dlinza Forest NR 21.11 and 1 Doreen Clark NR 22.11.	<i>Apalis thoracica</i>
<b>Rudd's Apalis</b> (4) 2 Umkhumbi Lodge 17.11, 2 Mkuze GR 18.11, 4 iGwalagwala trail 19.11 and 2 iGwalagwala trail 20.11.	<i>Apalis ruddi fumosa</i>
<b>Yellow-breasted Apalis</b> Observed 3 days in total.	<i>Apalis flavida</i>
<b>Green-backed Camaroptera</b> Observed 3 days in total.	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>
<b>Stierling's Wren-Warbler</b> (1) 1 observed 15.11.	<i>Calamonastes stierlingi pintoii</i>
<b>Yellow-bellied Eremomela</b> (1) 1 observed 12.11.	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>
<b>Burnt-necked Eremomela</b> (3) 3 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11, 1 Hluhluwe Town 17.11 and 2 Mkuze GR 18.11.	<i>Eremomela usticollis usticollis</i>

### Laughingthrushes *Leiothrichidae*

<b>Arrow-marked Babbler</b> (3) 5 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11, 1 heard observed 12.11 and 1 heard observed 14.11.	<i>Turdoides jardineii jardineii</i>
<b>Southern Pied Babbler</b> (1) 5 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11. We found a small group feeding some young.	<i>Turdoides bicolor</i>

### Old World Warblers *Sylviidae*

<b>Bush Blackcap (NT)</b>	<i>Lioptilus nigricapillus</i>
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(2) 2 Doreen Clark NR 22.11 and 2 Sani Pass 23.11.

**Garden Warbler**

*Sylvia borin*

(1) 1 observed 13.11.

**Chestnut-vented Warbler**

*Sylvia subcoerulea*

(1) 2 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11.

**Layard's Warbler**

*Sylvia layardi*

(1) 1 Sani Pass 23.11.

**Yuhinas, White-eyes, and Allies Zosteropidae**

**Cape White-eye**

*Zosterops virens*

Observed 3 days in total.

**African Yellow White-eye**

*Zosterops senegalensis*

(1) 2 Umkhumbi Lodge 19.11.

**Sugarbirds Promeropidae**

**Gurney's Sugarbird**

*Promerops gurneyi gurneyi*

(1) 7 Sani Pass 23.11.

An endemic family to Southern Africa

**Starlings Sturnidae**

**Common Myna**

*Acridotheres tristis tristis*

Observed 2 days in total.

**Wattled Starling**

*Creatophora cinerea*

Observed 5 days in total.

**Black-bellied Starling**

*Notopholia corrusca corrusca*

(3) 1 Mkuze GR 18.11, 3 iGwalagwala trail 19.11 and 15 Dlinza Forest NR 21.11.

**Cape Starling**

*Lamprotornis nitens*

Observed 1 day in total.

**Greater Blue-eared Starling**

*Lamprotornis chalybaeus nordmanni*

(3) Up to 30 observed 13-15.11.

**Burchell's Starling**

*Lamprotornis australis*

Observed 5 days in total.

**Pied Starling**

*Lamprotornis bicolor*

(4) 200 Wakkerstroom 16.11, 20 Wakkerstroom 17.11, Karkloof 22.11 and Sani Pass 23.11.

**Violet-backed Starling**

*Cinnyricinclus leucogaster verreauxi*

Observed 1 day in total.

**Red-winged Starling**

*Onychognathus morio morio*

Observed 3 days in total.

**Oxpeckers Buphagidae**

**Red-billed Oxpecker**

*Buphagus erythrorhynchus*

Observed 1 day in total.



**Thrushes and Allies *Turdidae*****Orange Ground Thrush***Geokichla gurneyi*

(1) 1 Benvie Farm, Karkloof 22.11.

**Spotted Ground Thrush***Geokichla guttata guttata*

(1) 1 heard Dlinza Forest NR 21.11.

**Groundscraper Thrush***Turdus litsitsirupa litsitsirupa*

(1) 2 en route 11.11.

Seen at a service station

**Kurrichane Thrush***Turdus libonyana*

Observed 1 day in total.

**Olive Thrush***Turdus olivaceus*

(4) Wakkerstroom 17.11, Darvill Sewage Works 21.11, Dlinza Forest NR 21.11, Karkloof 22.11, Benvie Farm, Karkloof 22.11 and Sani Pass 23.11.

**Karoo Thrush***Turdus smithi*

(3) Up to 6 Johannesburg 10-12.11.

**Old World Flycatchers *Muscicapidae*****Bearded Scrub Robin***Cercotrichas quadrivirgata quadrivirgata*

(3) 1 Umkhumbi Lodge 17.11, 1 Mkuze GR 18.11 and 2 Umkhumbi Lodge 19.11.

**Kalahari Scrub Robin***Cercotrichas paena*

(1) 1 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11.

**White-browed Scrub Robin***Cercotrichas leucophrys leucophrys*

(3) 1 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11, 2 observed 13.11 and 1 Mkuze GR 18.11.

**Brown Scrub Robin***Cercotrichas signata*

(2) 1 iGwalagwala trail 19.11 and 1 iGwalagwala trail 20.11.

**Grey Tit-Flycatcher***Myioparus plumbeus*

(2) 2 observed 13.11 and 1 Umkhumbi Lodge 17.11.

**Southern Black Flycatcher***Melaenornis pammelaina*

(2) 4 observed 12.11 and 1 Hluhluwe Town 17.11.

**Marico Flycatcher***Melaenornis mariquensis*

(1) 10 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11.

**Spotted Flycatcher***Muscicapa striata*

(4) 2 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11, 1 observed 14.11, 3 Mkuze GR 18.11 and 1 Marutswa NR 22.11.

**Ashy Flycatcher***Muscicapa caerulescens*

(3) 3 observed 14.11, 1 Mkuze GR 18.11 and 2 Umkhumbi Lodge 19.11.

**African Dusky Flycatcher***Muscicapa adusta*

(1) 1 Sani Pass 23.11.

**Cape Robin-Chat***Cossypha caffra*

Observed 2 days in total.

**White-throated Robin-Chat***Cossypha humeralis*

(1) 1 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11.

**White-browed Robin-Chat***Cossypha heuglini*

(2) 1 observed 13.11 and 1 observed 14.11.

**Red-capped Robin-Chat** *Cossypha natalensis*

(2) 5 Umkhumbi Lodge 19.11 and 2 iGwalagwala trail 20.11.

**Chorister Robin-Chat** *Cossypha dichroa*

(2) 1 heard Dlinza Forest NR 21.11, 1 Benvie Farm, Karkloof 22.11 and 1 Doreen Clark NR 22.11.

**White-starred Robin** *Pogonocichla stellata*

(1) 1 Doreen Clark NR 22.11.

**Cape Rock Thrush** *Monticola rupestris*

(2) 1 Wakkerstroom 12.11 and 6 Sani Pass 23.11.

**Sentinel Rock Thrush** *Monticola explorator*

(1) 2 Sani Pass 23.11.

Seen in Lesotho.

**African Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus*

(4) 3 Wakkerstroom 15.11, 30 Wakkerstroom 16.11, 6 Karkloof 22.11 and 3 Sani Pass 23.11.

**Buff-streaked Chat** *Campicoloides bifasciatus*

(2) 1 Wakkerstroom 16.11 and 3 Sani Pass 23.11.

**Sickle-winged Chat** *Emarginata sinuata*

(1) 3 Sani Pass 23.11.

Seen in Lesotho.

**Mocking Cliff Chat** *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*

(1) 2 Abel Erasmus Pass 12.11.

**Ant-eating Chat** *Myrmecocichla formicivora*

(3) 8 Wakkerstroom 15.11, 30 Wakkerstroom 16.11 and 2 Sani Pass 22.11.

**Mountain Wheatear** *Myrmecocichla monticola monticola*

(1) 2 Wakkerstroom 16.11.

**Capped Wheatear** *Oenanthe pileata*

(2) 3 en route 12.11 and 1 Wakkerstroom 16.11.

### **Sunbirds and Spiderhunters Nectariniidae**

**Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris*

(5) 1 observed 13.11.

**Olive Sunbird** *Cyanomitra olivacea*

(3) 2 iGwalagwala trail 19.11, 1 iGwalagwala trail 20.11 and 1 Doreen Clark NR 21.11.

**Grey Sunbird** *Cyanomitra veroxii*

(2) 1 Umkhumbi Lodge 17.11 and 1 iGwalagwala trail 19.11.

**Amethyst Sunbird** *Chalcomitra amethystina*

(3) 1 Wakkerstroom 16.11, 1 Benvie Farm, Karkloof 22.11 and 2 Sani Pass 23.11.

**Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra senegalensis gutturalis*

(3) Up to 2 observed 12-14.11.

**Malachite Sunbird** *Nectarinia famosa famosa*

(2) 1 Wakkerstroom 16.11 and 5 Sani Pass 23.11.

**Southern Double-collared Sunbird** *Cinnyris chalybeus*

(1) 3 Benvie Farm, Karkloof 22.11 and 3 Doreen Clark NR 22.11.

**Neergaard's Sunbird** *Cinnyris neergaardi*

(1) 1 Mkuze GR 18.11.

A difficult endemic!

**Greater Double-collared Sunbird** *Cinnyris afer*

(1) 2 Sani Pass 23.11.

**Marico Sunbird** *Cinnyris mariquensis mariquensis*

(4) Up to 3 observed 13-15.11 and 1 Mkuze GR 18.11.

**Purple-banded Sunbird** *Cinnyris bifasciatus*

(3) 4 Mkuze GR 18.11, 6 Umkhumbi Lodge 19.11 and 4 iGwalagwala trail 20.11.

**White-bellied Sunbird** *Cinnyris talatala*

(2) 1 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11 and 6 Mkuze GR 18.11.

### **Old World Sparrows *Passeridae***

**White-browed Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser mahali mahali*

(2) 15 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11 and 2 en route 12.11.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

Observed 1 day in total.

**Great Sparrow** *Passer motitensis*

(1) 1 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11.

Seen well in the village of Kgomo-Kgomo

**Cape Sparrow** *Passer melanurus*

Observed 2 days in total.

**Southern Grey-headed Sparrow** *Passer diffusus*

Observed 1 day in total.

**Yellow-throated Petronia** *Gymnoris supercilialis*

(2) 2 observed 12.11 and 6 observed 13.11.

### **Weavers and Allies *Ploceidae***

**Red-billed Buffalo Weaver** *Bubalornis niger*

(4) 15 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11 and up to 12 observed 13-15.11.

**Scaly-feathered Weaver** *Sporopipes squamifrons*

(1) 12 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11.

**Thick-billed Weaver** *Amblyospiza albifrons*

(4) 1 Umkhumbi Lodge 19.11, 1 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 20.11, 15 Darvill Sewage Works 21.11 and 8 Doreen Clark NR 22.11.

**Spectacled Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis*

(3) 2 observed 14.11, 1 Hluhluwe Town 17.11 and 1 Darvill Sewage Works 21.11.

**Cape Weaver** *Ploceus capensis*

(3) 1 Wakkerstroom 16.11, 20 Karkloof 22.11 and 15 Sani Pass 23.11.

**Eastern Golden Weaver** *Ploceus subaureus subaureus*

(3) 20 Mkuze GR 18.11, 4 St Lucia 19.11 and 10 en route 21.11.

**Southern Brown-throated Weaver** *Ploceus xanthopterus marleyi*

(1) 3 St Lucia 19.11.

Seen well from the bridge

**Lesser Masked Weaver**

*Ploceus intermedius cabanisii*

(2) 30 observed 13.11 and 10 observed 14.11.

**Southern Masked Weaver**

*Ploceus velatus*

Observed 5 days in total.

**Village Weaver**

*Ploceus cucullatus*

(3) 20 observed 13.11, 12 Wakkerstroom 17.11 and 15 Mkuze GR 18.11.

**Dark-backed Weaver**

*Ploceus bicolor*

(4) 2 Mkuze GR 18.11, 6 Umkhumbi Lodge 19.11, 5 iGwalagwala trail 20.11 and 2 Doreen Clark NR 22.11.

**Red-headed Weaver**

*Anaplectes rubriceps rubriceps*

(1) 1 observed 13.11.

**Red-billed Quelea**

*Quelea quelea lathamii*

Observed 1 day in total.

**Southern Red Bishop**

*Euplectes orix*

Observed 3 days in total.

**Yellow Bishop**

*Euplectes capensis*

(1) 12 Sani Pass 22.11.

**Fan-tailed Widowbird**

*Euplectes axillaris axillaris*

Observed 2 days in total.

**White-winged Widowbird**

*Euplectes albonotatus albonotatus*

(2) 12 en route 12.11 and 20 Mkuze GR 17.11.

**Red-collared Widowbird**

*Euplectes ardens ardens*

(1) 2 Karkloof 22.11.

**Long-tailed Widowbird**

*Euplectes progne progne*

(5) en route 12.11, observed Wakkerstroom 14-16.11 and 7 Sani Pass 22.11.

### **Waxbills and Allies Estrildidae**

**Green-winged Pytilia**

*Pytilia melba melba*

(2) 3 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11 and 2 observed 13.11.

**Red-headed Finch**

*Amadina erythrocephala*

(3) Observed Johannesburg 10-12.11.

**Cut-throat Finch**

*Amadina fasciata*

(2) 4 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11 and 1 Mkuze GR 18.11.

A vagrant was found in Mkuze, KwaZulu-Natal

**Green Twinspot**

*Mandingoa nitidula nitidula*

(1) 5 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 20.11.

We worked hard to find this species eventually

**Pink-throated Twinspot**

*Hypargos margaritatus*

(3) 4 Umkhumbi Lodge 17.11, 2 Mkuze GR 18.11 and 1 Umkhumbi Lodge 19.11.

**Red-billed Firefinch**

*Lagonosticta senegala rendalli*

(2) 10 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11 and 5 observed 15.11.



**African Firefinch**

(1) 2 observed 14.11.

Seen along the river in Skukuza

*Lagonosticta rubricata rubricata***Jameson's Firefinch**

(1) 4 observed 15.11.

Seen just after a huge male Lion walked past our vehicle

*Lagonosticta rhodopareia jamesoni***Blue Waxbill**

Observed 1 day in total.

*Uraeginthus angolensis***Violet-eared Waxbill**

(1) 10 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11.

*Uraeginthus granatinus***Sweet Waxbill**

(1) 2 Sani Pass 23.11.

*Coccyzygia melanotis***Common Waxbill**

Observed 3 days in total.

*Estrilda astrild***Black-faced Waxbill**

(1) 15 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11.

*Estrilda erythrionotos***Quailfinch**

(3) 1 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11, 2 Wakkerstroom 16.11 and 2 Sani Pass 23.11.

Seen well, drinking at a small puddle.

*Ortygospiza atricollis digressa***Bronze Mannikin**

Observed 1 day in total.

*Lonchura cucullata scutata***Red-backed Mannikin**

(3) 2 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 20.11, 1 Dlinza Forest NR 21.11 and 2 Benvie Farm, Karkloof 22.11.

*Lonchura nigriceps***Indigobirds Viduidae****Dusky Indigobird**

(2) 1 observed 13.11 and 2 Mkuze GR 18.11.

*Vidua funerea funerea***Pin-tailed Whydah**

Observed 2 days in total.

*Vidua macroura***Wagtails and Pipits Motacillidae****Cape Wagtail**

Observed 3 days in total.

*Motacilla capensis capensis***African Pied Wagtail**

(4) 5 observed 13.11, 4 observed 14.11, 3 Mkuze GR 18.11 and 1 St Lucia 19.11.

*Motacilla aguimp***Cape Longclaw**

(3) 10 Wakkerstroom 15.11, 8 Wakkerstroom 16.11 and 2 Karkloof 22.11.

*Macronyx capensis***Yellow-throated Longclaw**

(3) 5 observed 18.11, 2 Umkhumbi Lodge 19.11 and 3 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 20.11.

*Macronyx croceus vulturinus***African Pipit**

Observed 2 days in total.

*Anthus cinnamomeus***Mountain Pipit***Anthus hoeschi*

(1) 2 Sani Pass 23.11.

**Long-billed Pipit**

*Anthus similis*

(1) 2 Wakkerstroom 16.11.

**Buffy Pipit**

*Anthus vaalensis*

(1) 2 Wakkerstroom 16.11.

**Plain-backed Pipit**

*Anthus leucophrys leucophrys*

(1) 3 Wakkerstroom 16.11.

**African Rock Pipit**

*Anthus crenatus*

(1) 1 heard Wakkerstroom 16.11.

**Yellow-breasted Pipit (VU)**

*Anthus chloris*

(1) 1 Wakkerstroom 16.11.

We had great views of a breeding male!

**Finches, Euphonias *Fringillidae***

**Forest Canary**

*Crithagra scotops*

(1) 9 Benvie Farm, Karkloof 22.11 and 3 Doreen Clark NR 22.11.

**Black-throated Canary**

*Crithagra atrogularis*

(1) 30 Zaagkuil drift Road 11.11.

**Lemon-breasted Canary**

*Crithagra citrinipectus*

(1) 15 observed 18.11.

**Yellow-fronted Canary**

*Crithagra mozambica*

Observed 2 days in total.

**Drakensberg Siskin**

*Crithagra symonsi*

(1) 6 Sani Pass 23.11.

Seen in Lesotho

**Yellow Canary**

*Crithagra flaviventris*

(1) 2 Sani Pass 23.11.

Seen in Lesotho

**Brimstone Canary**

*Crithagra sulphurata*

(2) 3 Umkhumbi Lodge 19.11 and 6 Darvill Sewage Works 21.11.

**Streaky-headed Seed eater**

*Crithagra gularis*

(1) 6 Sani Pass 23.11.

**Cape Canary**

*Serinus canicollis*

(4) Observed Wakkerstroom 15-17.11 and 15 Sani Pass 23.11.

**Buntings, Sparrows and Allies *Emberizidae***

**Cinnamon-breasted Bunting**

*Emberiza tahapisi tahapisi*

(1) 1 Abel Erasmus Pass 12.11.

**Cape Bunting**

*Emberiza capensis*

(1) 3 Sani Pass 23.11.

Seen in Lesotho

**Golden-breasted Bunting**

*Emberiza flaviventris*

(4) 1 observed 12.11, 4 observed 13.11, 1 Wakkerstroom 16.11 and 3 Mkuze GR 18.11.

## Mammals (51 in total: 51 seen)

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### Elephants *Elephantidae*

#### **African Elephant**

*Loxodonta africana*

(5) Observed observed 12-15.11 and Mkuze GR 18.11.

A special sighting was had of a small herd coming to drink right in front of us whilst we were sitting in a hide.

### Galagos *Galagidae*

#### **Thick-tailed Greater Galago**

*Otolemur crassicaudatus crassicaudatus*

(5) Up to 1 observed 12-14.11, 1 heard Mkuze GR 18.11 and iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 19.11.

### Old World monkeys *Cercopithecidae*

#### **Blue Monkey**

*Cercopithecus mitis*

(1) 20 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 20.11.

#### **Vervet**

*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*

Observed 6 days in total.

#### **Chacma Baboon**

*Papio ursinus ursinus*

Observed 1 day in total.

### Rabbits, Hares *Leporidae*

#### **Cape Hare**

*Lepus capensis*

(1) 2 Wakkerstroom 15.11.

#### **Scrub Hare**

*Lepus saxatilis*

(2) 1 observed 13.11 and 5 observed 14.11.

### Old World Porcupines *Hystricidae*

#### **Cape Porcupine**

*Hystrix africaeaustralis*

(1) 1 observed 14.11.

### True Mice and Rats, Gerbils, Spiny Mice, Crested Rat *Muridae*

#### **Bushveld Gerbil**

*Gerbilliscus leucogaster*

(1) 2 observed 13.11.

#### **Sloggett's Vlei Rat**

*Otomys sloggetti*

(1) 5 Sani Pass 23.11.

### Squirrels *Sciuridae*

#### **Smith's Bush Squirrel**

*Paraxerus cepapi*

(1) 3 observed 15.11.

#### **Red Bush Squirrel**

*Paraxerus palliatus*

(2) 3 iGwalagwala trail 19.11 and 2 iGwalagwala trail 20.11.

### **Cats *Felidae***

**Cheetah***Acinonyx jubatus jubatus*

(1) 1 observed 15.11.

**Lion***Panthera leo leo*

(2) 3 observed 13.11 and 3 observed 14.11.

We had a real special sighting of a male walking right past our vehicle!

**Leopard***Panthera pardus pardus*

(2) 2 observed 13.11 and 1 observed 14.11.

### **Mongoose *Herpestidae***

**Yellow Mongoose***Cynictis penicillata*

(1) 12 Wakkerstroom 16.11.

**Common Dwarf Mongoose***Helogale parvula*

(2) 5 observed 14.11 and 4 observed 15.11.

**Slender Mongoose***Herpestes sanguineus*

Observed 4 days in total.

**Banded Mongoose***Mungos mungo*

(1) 30 iGwalagwala trail 20.11.

**Meerkat***Suricata suricatta*

(1) 10 Wakkerstroom 16.11.

### **Hyaenas, Aardwolf *Hyaenidae***

**Spotted Hyaena***Crocuta crocuta*

(3) Observed 13-15.11.

### **Civets, Genets *Viverridae***

**Common Genet***Genetta genetta*

(1) 1 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 19.11.

A confiding individual on our night drive!

### **Wolves, Coyote, Foxes, Jackals *Canidae***

**African Wild Dog***Lycaon pictus*

(2) 22 observed 13.11 and 1 observed 15.11.

**Cape Fox***Vulpes chama*

(1) 1 Sani Pass 23.11.

### **Weasels, Skunks, Otters *Mustelidae***

**Spotted-necked Otter***Lutra maculicollis*

(1) 1 Wakkerstroom 17.11.

**Honey Badger***Mellivora capensis*

(1) 1 observed 15.11.



This fella almost destroyed a small car.

### **Zebras, Horse, Asses *Equidae***

#### **Plains Zebra**

*Equus quagga*

Observed 2 days in total.

### **Rhinoceroses *Rhinocerotidae***

#### **White Rhinoceros**

*Ceratotherium simum simum*

(2) observed 12.11 and observed 13.11.

### **Pigs *Suidae***

#### **Common Warthog**

*Phacochoerus africanus sundevallii*

Observed 2 days in total.

#### **Bushpig**

*Potamochoerus larvatus*

(1) 9 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 19.11.

Secretive, yet seen on our night drive.

### **Hippopotami *Hippopotamidae***

#### **Hippopotamus**

*Hippopotamus amphibius capensis*

Observed 3 days in total.

### **Cattle, Antelopes, Sheep, Goats *Bovidae***

#### **Impala**

*Aepyceros melampus melampus*

Observed 2 days in total.

#### **Springbok**

*Antidorcas marsupialis*

(1) 2 Wakkerstroom 16.11.

#### **Natal Red Duiker**

*Cephalophus natalensis*

(4) Umkhumbi Lodge 17.11, Umkhumbi Lodge 19.11, iGwalagwala trail 20.11 and iGwalagwala trail 21.11.

#### **Black Wildebeest**

*Connochaetes gnou*

(1) 20 Wakkerstroom 16.11.

#### **Common Wildebeest**

*Connochaetes taurinus*

Observed 3 days in total.

#### **Blesbok**

*Damaliscus pygargus*

(3) en route 11.11, Wakkerstroom 16.11 and Karkloof 22.11.

#### **Waterbuck**

*Kobus ellipsiprymnus ellipsiprymnus*

(3) observed 13.11, observed 14.11 and 1 en route 19.11.

#### **Klipspringer**

*Oreotragus oreotragus*

(2) 2 observed 13.11 and 1 observed 15.11.

#### **Oribi**

*Ourebia ourebi*

(1) 2 Wakkerstroom 16.11.

#### **Blue Duiker**

*Philantomba monticola*

(1) 1 Dlinza Forest NR 21.11.

A confiding male, came in right next to us.

**Steenbok**

*Raphicerus campestris campestris*

Observed 4 days in total.

**Southern Reedbuck**

*Redunca arundinum*

(2) 4 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 20.11, 3 Karkloof 22.11 and 4 Sani Pass 22.11.

**Mountain Reedbuck**

*Redunca fulvorufula fulvorufula*

(1) 1 Sani Pass 22.11.

**Common Duiker**

*Sylvicapra grimmia*

Observed 2 days in total.

**African Buffalo**

*Syncerus caffer caffer*

Observed 1 day in total.

**Nyala**

*Tragelaphus angasii*

(3) observed 14.11, Mkuze GR 18.11 and Umkhumbi Lodge 19.11.

**Bushbuck**

*Tragelaphus scriptus*

(3) observed 14.11, iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 19.11 and iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 20.11.

**Greater Kudu**

*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*

Observed 2 days in total.

### **Giraffe, Okapi Giraffidae**

**Giraffe**

*Giraffa camelopardalis giraffa*

Observed 1 day in total.

### **Old World Fruit Bats Pteropodidae**

**Wahlberg's Epauletted Fruit Bat**

*Epomophorus wahlbergi*

(2) observed 12.11 and observed 14.11.

## **Reptiles (14 in total: 14 seen)**

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### **Tortoises Testudinidae**

**Leopard Tortoise**

*Stigmochelys pardalis*

(2) observed 13.11 and observed 14.11.

### **Afro-American Sideneck Turtles Pelomedusidae**

**Helmeted Turtle**

*Pelomedusa subrufa nigra*

(3) observed 13.11, observed 14.11 and Mkuze GR 18.11.

### **Agamas Agamidae**

**Southern Tree Agama**

*Acanthocercus atricollis atricollis*

(3) observed 13.11, observed 14.11 and Mkuze GR 18.11.

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### Chameleons *Chamaeleonidae*

**Flap-neck Chameleon***Chamaeleo dilepis*

(1) iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 19.11.  
Seen on our night drive!

### Geckos *Gekkonidae*

**House Gecko***Hemidactylus mabouia*

(2) observed 12.11 and observed 20.11.

**Cape Dwarf Gecko***Lygodactylus capensis*

(1) observed 13.11.

### Plated Lizards *Gerrhosauridae*

**Giant Plated Lizard***Gerrhosaurus validus*

(2) 1 observed 14.11 and 2 observed 15.11.

### Skinks *Scincidae*

**Limpopo Burrowing Skink***Scelotes limpopoensis*

(1) 1 observed 13.11.

**African Five-lined Skink***Trachylepis quinquetaeniata*

(3) Observed 13-15.11.

**African Striped Skink***Trachylepis striata striata*

(3) observed 12.11, observed 14.11 and Umkhumbi Lodge 19.11.

**Variable Skink***Trachylepis varia*

(1) observed 13.11.

### Monitor Lizards *Varanidae*

**Nile Monitor***Varanus niloticus*

(1) 1 observed 13.11.

### Colubrid snakes *Colubridae*

**Common Egg Eater***Dasypeltis scabra*

(1) 2 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 19.11.

### Crocodiles and relatives *Crocodylidae*

**Nile Crocodile***Crocodylus niloticus cowiei*

Observed 2 days in total.

## **Amphibians (8 in total: 3 seen, 5 heard)**

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**True toads *Bufonidae*****Guttural Toad***Amietophrynus gutturalis*

(1) 3 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 19.11.

**Narrow-mouthed frogs *Microhylidae*****Plaintive Rain Frog***Breviceps verrucosus*

(1) 1 heard Wakkerstroom 16.11.

**Petropedetidae *Petropedetidae*****Common Caco***Cacosternum boettgeri*

(1) 1 heard Wakkerstroom 17.11.

**Bronze Caco***Cacosternum nanum*

(1) 1 heard Sani Pass 23.11.

**True frogs *Ranidae*****Common River Frog***Amietia angolensis*

(1) 1 heard Sani Pass 23.11.

**Moss frogs *Rhacophoridae*****Grey Foam-nest Treefrog***Chiromantis xerampelina*

(1) 1 observed 14.11.

**Phrynobatrachidae****Dwarf Puddle Frog***Phrynobatrachus mababiensis*

(1) 1 heard observed 12.11.

**Snoring Puddle Frog***Phrynobatrachus natalensis*

(1) 1 Karkloof 22.11.

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