South Africa
Eastern South Africa
21st July to 9th August 2017 (16 days)
Trip Report

Ground Woodpecker by Markus Lilje

Trip report compiled by Tour Leader, André Bernon
Tour Summary

A high diversity of fauna and flora, within a relatively small country, makes South Africa a superb destination to visit. This, coupled with a rich history, interesting culture and an industry geared for tourism, makes a South African adventure a memorable and very enjoyable one. We started in the highveld, targeting some species more typical of the arid west. We then headed to the Lowveld, where the world-famous Kruger National Park lies, with its huge expanse of true wilderness. Here, the iconic big game of Africa were definitely a feature, and we did well to pick up the legendary “Big 5” as well as Honey Badger! The eastern province of KwaZulu-Natal certainly competed in terms of diversity and species seen, with great scenery to boot. Two flufftail species and a vagrant Bat Hawk springs to mind, as well as tough endemics such as Rudd’s and Botha’s Larks, Neergaard’s Sunbird, Pink-throated Twinspot, Lemon-breasted Canary and a turaco frenzy – Livingstone’s and Purple-crested! The escarpment forests gave us some highlights such as Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon, rare Cape Parrot, Orange Ground Thrush, Bush Blackcap, Olive Bushshrike and Chorister Robin-Chat. Moving on to the “roof of Africa”, we traversed up the famous Sani Pass and into the Kingdom of Lesotho, with fantastic views of endemic families: Drakensberg Rockjumper and Gurney’s Sugarbird. This comprehensive tour of South Africa certainly delivered a great experience and fond memories to a beautiful part of the World.

Today was the first day of the tour, it had finally arrived! Most of us arrived a day earlier and decided to visit the Walter Sisulu National Botanical Gardens. The star attraction was definitely the pair of Verreaux’s Eagles that nest there. Other great species were African Black Duck, Cape Weaver and even a Cardinal Woodpecker. Our accommodation in Johannesburg gave us great birds in the form of many Red-headed Finch, Cape Robin-Chat and the endemic Karoo Thrush. We enjoyed a great first dinner together and discussed our future itinerary. Retiring early, we enjoyed some rest in preparation for an early start tomorrow.

This morning saw us leaving in the cold and dark. Heading north of Pretoria, we entered into the province of Limpopo and enjoyed great birding along the Zaagkuildrift Road towards Kgomo Kgomo. Here, an array of species, more prominent of the dry and arid west, are found. En route we were surprised to find four over-wintering White Stork in an open pasture. We had many targets for today, and did extremely well. Highlights included the outrageously coloured Crimson-breasted Shrike, Southern Pied Babbler, Black-faced and Violet-eared Waxbills, Marico Flycatcher, Scaly-feathered Weaver, Jameson’s Firefinch and Desert Cisticola. Other great additions included many Black-winged Kite, Knob-billed Duck, good-looking White-throated Robin-Chat, Brown-crowned Tchagra, and Southern Yellow-billed, Southern Red-billed and African Grey Hornbills. Two species of roller included many Lilac-breasted and a single Purple. Two species of owl were a rare sighting since it was daytime: a couple of Marsh Owl and the small Pearl-spotted Owlet!
The Kgomo Kgomo floodplain held lots of Capped Wheatear, Crowned, Blacksmith and African Wattled Lapwings and even African Hoopoe. We enjoyed lunch at a small receding pond and it paid off. The rare Great Sparrow came in to drink – one of four sparrow species for the day – as well as Black-throated Canary. We also managed many Burchell's Starlings, Swainson's Spurfowl and Crested Francolin. The mammalian highlight was definitely a young Black-backed Jackal and many Vervets. Arriving back home at sunset was followed by a good home-cooked meal; reflecting on an absolutely amazing day of birding – totalling a massive species count of 110 for the first full day of birding!

A hearty breakfast bode us farewell, out of Johannesburg. We headed east, through the highveld of South Africa, spotting Long-tailed Widowbirds en route. We started heading down the escarpment and spotted a Long-crested Eagle. Viewing this magnificent raptor, we were treated to the addition of Buff-streaked Chat and Streaky-headed Seedater to boot! A large kettle of Cape Vultures was seen. We witnessed about 150 of these large near-endemics, soaring right next to, and above, us. The Abel Erasmus Pass saw us enjoying a little stint of birding. Here, we had good views of Ashy Flycatchers, Collared Sunbird, Golden-tailed Woodpecker, Rock Kestrel and Thick-billed Weaver. The star attractions were definitely Mountain Wagtail and Mocking Cliff-Chat!

We enjoyed a great lunch at a restaurant under some African trees, and a short walk gave us the stunning Scarlet-chested Sunbird, Cardinal Woodpecker, Yellow-fronted Canary, Southern Black Flycatcher and Kurrichane Thrush. We could see the vegetation change as we neared the world-famous Kruger National Park. Upon entry, mammals abounded: Plains Zebra, Nyala, Impala, Greater Kudu, Common Wildebeest and Giraffe. Highlights were many African Elephants, including young, and a massive herd of African Buffalo with some Yellow-billed Oxpeckers on them. Some new raptors were Lizard Buzzard, White-headed and White-backed Vulture, Bateleur and Brown Snake Eagle. Arriving in the early evening at Satara Camp saw us having a great meal and some well-deserved rest.

We were at the gate in the dark before sunrise this morning, waiting for opening time. We shot through and headed north on the H1-4. Straight away, we had great views of both Common Buttonquail and Harlequin Quail together. The previous summer rainfall was good and had provided excellent grass cover as well as an abundance of food. Red-billed Queleas numbered in the hundreds of thousands and witnessing their synchronised flying in massive flocks was incredible. Black-winged Kites were around in big numbers, hovering all over the place. A great surprise was the majestic looking Kori Bustard, striding through the tall grass at

![Long-crested Eagle by Markus Lilje](image)

![Mountain Wagtail by Markus Lilje](image)
close quarters. We stopped for a large troop of Chacma Baboons and were rewarded with the endangered Southern Ground Hornbill – *four birds flying from tree to tree, out in the open!*

We traversed a small loop and it paid off. We neared a fresh buffalo kill and witnessed many Spotted Hyaenas running around chaotically – *one even had the entire leg of a buffalo clenched in its jaws.* The carcass caused absolute chaos and a feeding frenzy ensued. Black-backed Jackals and Spotted Hyaenas battled it out with White-headed, Hooded and White-backed Vultures. A couple hundred metres on was a large, yet young, male Lion. He and his pride had been defeated, so he decided to move off for good. *The adrenaline and excitement were riveting!* Nearby we saw a mixed flock of species consisting of the stunning Violet-eared Waxbill, Cinnamon-breasted Bunting and a female Red-headed Weaver.

We pushed further north towards our brunch spot, Letaba Rest Camp, situated in the centre of the park. A brief stop on the Olifants River bridge gave us many White-fronted Plovers, African Pied Wagtail, Three-banded Plover and Wire-tailed Swallow. Whilst watching a pair of Saddle-billed Stork further on, we struck luck when a female Leopard paused on the verge of the road in front of us. She checked if it was clear to cross, which she did. We crept forward and saw her disappearing in the thick Mopani scrub. Letaba Camp gave us new Red-capped and White-browed Robin-Chats, Orange-breasted Bushshrike, Golden-tailed Woodpecker, Lesser Striped Swallow, White-fronted Bee-eater and the iridescent Greater Blue-eared and Red-winged Starlings. An African Hawk-Eagle was a nice surprise before we moved on.

We visited Engelhart Dam, which gave us new Common Greenshank and Collared Pratincoles, and the star bird of the day: an African Skimmer! *A pair had recently moved in, a vagrant to South Africa and the first record for Rockjumper on all our comprehensive tours of eastern South Africa!* Just before reaching our planned stop at the Olifants Camp, we hit a few mixed species flocks. The first consisted of the uncommon Green-capped Eremomela and Green-backed Camaroptera; whilst Black Crake looked on from a patch of water nearby. The next few "parties" consisted of White-crested Helmetshrike, Golden-breasted Bunting, Burnt-necked and a single Yellow-bellied Eremomela, the uncommon Cut-throat Finch, Southern Black Tit and minute Grey Penduline Tit. A Klaas’s Cuckoo was seen extremely well in Olifants Camp as we made our way back to Satara. The grassland en route gave us our first Secretarybird, Lappet-
faced Vulture and Chestnut-backed Sparrowlark. An early evening arrival back to camp after a very successful day, followed by a sighting of a roosting African Scops Owl, was memorable and exciting, to say the least.

We were out before sunrise yet again this morning. Lots of general game was seen as we made our way south towards our next accommodations in Skukuza – the largest camp in Kruger, situated on the banks of the lush Sabie River. A few mixed flocks were searched through, producing Yellow-throated Petronia, Marico Sunbird, Common Scimitarbill, Green-winged Pytilia and Brown-crowned Tchagra. Many Harlequin Quail were seen yet again, with hordes of Red-billed Queleas on the move. A regal Saddle-billed Stork was seen feeding in a receding pond and we also found a good-looking Martial Eagle. Many hornbills, starlings, spurfowls and rollers littered the road and roadside as we pressed on.

After a quick breakfast stop at Tshokwane, we managed two new birds in the grounds, Red-faced Cisticola and colourful Black-headed Oriole. The next star bird definitely went to a small group of Grey-rumped Swallows, feeding above some great grassland. A lookout point gave us Yellow-breasted Apalis, Bearded Scrub Robin and a low fly-by of a Bateleur. We pushed on towards Lower Sabie and managed beautiful African Stonechat, Little Bee-eater, many Tawny Eagles, Black-winged Kite and White-winged Widowbirds. Another look out over a water reservoir produced many Hippopotamus and African Elephants amongst Yellow-billed Stork and Grey Heron. The lush surrounds gave us good looks at a gorgeous pair of Mocking Cliff-Chats, Dusky Indigobird, Speckled Mousebird, Black-collared Barbet and a surprise Lark-like Bunting – clearly being attracted here by the good conditions.

The Sabie River held a major target for us, two White-crowned Lapwing, which were seen extremely well with
some Tiger Fish swimming nearby. We reached Lower Sabie and managed to find a roosting Western Barn Owl, recently split from its New World relative. After a quick bite to eat, we found African Dusky Flycatcher, Acacia Pied Barbet, Arrow-marked Babbler, stunning Marico Sunbird, White-browed Robin-Chat and Spectacled Weaver in the gardens. A few minutes out of Lower Sabie, we found a large pride of the apex predator of the region – Lion! This pride consisted of over twenty individuals with tiny cubs, which were approximated to be 8-months old. We were treated to really good views of some lionesses that crossed the road in front of us, followed by the dominant male of the area in tow! *A great and memorable sighting indeed.*

We checked into our accommodations in Skukuza thereafter, and proceeded to go on a short sunset drive. We did extremely well, as we picked up a Verreaux's Eagle-Owl on a nest and our first White Rhinoceros too! A fantastic memory, yet sad reality as their population dwindles with the poaching onslaught continuing. We near Lake Panic bird hide and did well to pick up two Retz's Helmetshrikes! The hide was incredible: Goliath Heron, Water Thick-knee, Hippopotamus, Helmeted Guineafowl, Black Crake, African Darter, Cut-throat Finch on a nest and even Purple Indigobird were seen here. We were sad to leave, but had to in order to reach the camp gate before closure. A great meal out under the African stars was a superb ending to a super day.

Our last morning in Kruger had unfortunately arrived. We made the most of it by being out as soon as the camp gate opened, with our luggage in tow. Whilst still dark, we spotted a Honey Badger waddling along the road in front of us! We watched this special mammal for quite some time, unperturbed by our presence. He moved off into the bush and so did we. A definite highlight moving through the park this morning was no fewer than nine White Rhinoceros! *We couldn't believe our luck!* We enjoyed great views of the most prehistoric extant mammal. A great sighting of a Dark Chanting Goshawk was also enjoyed. Mixed species flocks consisted of Southern Black Tit, Long-billed Crombec, Black-crowned Tchagra, Chinspot Batis, Green-winged Pytilia and Brubru. We said goodbye to *lowveld* species, such as Magpie Shrike, African Grey and Southern Red-billed Hornbills. A great breakfast under some tambotie trees gave us good looks at Kurrichane Thrush, Natal Spurfowl and Greater Blue-eared Starling. We were treated to a great goodbye from a massive herd of African Elephant which were all around us. *These massive beasts were so relaxed and we enjoyed watching their natural behaviour from close quarters.*
We headed south, out the park, to the town of Wakkerstroom. The grassland biome around this quaint village holds a large number of Southern African endemics. We reached the area after lunch and managed some birding on our way in. This definitely paid off, as we had a lot of good birds and great sightings. First off was a wonderful quartering flight by a handsome endemic: Black Harrier! Furthermore, we had absolutely magnificent views of a confiding Cape Longclaw with its mesmerising orange throat. We knocked up Ant-eating Chat, Cape Crow, South African Shelduck, African Stonechat, Spike-heeled Lark, Greater Kestrel, Quailfinch, handsome Jackal Buzzard and many Long-tailed Widowbirds. The prize goes to two groups of the range-restricted Blue Korhaan! We reached Wakkerstroom and had a quick scan at the wetland on the edge of town. This produced African Snipe, African Swamphen and Black Crake.

A full day’s exploration of the endemic-rich grasslands surrounding Wakkerstroom was on the cards for today. We started early and had our minds and plans set. We reached an area for our first major target and succeeded after adding a good-looking pair of Black-winged Lapwings. We proceeded to get closer to a small group of White-bellied Bustards! This difficult species allowed for superb close-up views. We pressed on, back to our accommodations, via a good road for more targets. Pipits were on the cards now and we did extremely well in finding and having very good looks at Plain-backed, Long-billed and Buffy Pipits in that particular order. Other notable species here were Yellow Bishop, good looks at Quailfinch, Lazy and Wailing Cisticolas, Cape and Sentinel Rock Thrushes, Drakensberg Prinia and Eastern Long-billed Lark!

We had an absolutely exquisite breakfast and made our way out into the field yet again. A quick stop gave us Eastern Clapper Lark and Cloud Cisticola, before reaching the area for our next major target of the day. We scoured a field for the elusive Pink-billed Lark and succeeded! Further on, we scanned through many Red-capped and Spike-heeled Larks, for the highly range-restricted Botha's Lark. Exceptional views of this lark were had, as we watched it for all features and feeding behaviour. An area known as Fickland Pan was our next stop for one of the world’s rarest species of lark. Some skilful searching quickly produced our first bird, followed by a second! A Secretarybird strode through the grassland nearby as a Southern Bald Ibis watched on. The body of water nearby held many Maccoa Duck, Southern Pochard, Great Crested Grebe, Cape Shoveler and South African Shelduck.
Mammalian highlights were definitely the iconic Meerkat, alongside Yellow Mongoose for comparison, and Cape Hare. After some cake and tea, we hit the wetland surrounding Wakkerstroom. We quickly picked up on African Snipe, Malachite Kingfisher and African Rail! The rail had us spending some time on it and eventually, we managed an unobstructed view for a minute or two! We couldn't believe our eyes as a cracking male Red-chested Flufftail appeared on the edge of the reeds, which afforded us absolutely superb views of one the toughest families to get views of worldwide! A fantastic day to say the least!

The break of dawn had us heading out into the hillsides east of us. Frost completely covered the ground, but the birding was rather good. We started off with a superb view of a sunning Cape Sparrow, and then a few Eastern Long-billed Larks and Red-throated Wryneck! We searched for some francolins and managed to scope a calling pair of Red-winged. A large flock of Common Waxbills looked on before we found some Blue Crane with a young colt in tow. Our next stop had us searching for a sought-after and difficult species. We heard the tell-tale call atop the ridge and got great views of two African Rock Pipits! Heading down the hill, we found White-backed Duck, some resting Blue and Grey Crowned Cranes and a flying Black Sparrowhawk.

After another magnificent breakfast, we departed Wakkerstroom and headed to our next destination. First north, then south, we arrived at our perfectly situated accommodation in time for an afternoon stint at some Zululand specials. First up was an uncommon Brown-backed Honeybird and Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher. A brief walk on the grounds gave us Yellow-bellied Greenbul, Ashy and Grey Tit Flycatchers, Green-backed Camaroptera and Purple-banded Sunbird. A patch of grassland nearby gave us the largest cisticola in the world: Croaking. Some Zitting Cisticolas were around for some size comparison. A stunning Long-crested Eagle watched our antiques and Yellow-throated Longclaw and Rufous-naped Lark meandered through the grass below. We had an early dinner and retired to some rest in preparation for an early start the following morning, with a full day’s birding planned.

We left at 5:30 am for the bird-rich Mkuze Game Reserve. This reserve is just less than forty-thousand hectares in size, and is quite famous within birding circles. Vast arrays of different habitats are to be found here, with rare sand forest and bushveld with acacia scrub dominating. A myriad of watercourses run through the reserve, and with good years
We entered through the Ophansi gate before sunrise and it definitely paid off. The call of a Gorgeous Bushshrike close to the road prompted us to stop and search. A few minutes passed and a stunning male edged closer and proceeded to continue calling from the top of an acacia tree, out in the open! A **superb sighting of a true skulker in the open!** As if our luck couldn't get any better, we found a blossoming tree with some sunbird activity. The majority was Grey, White-bellied and Purple-banded Sunbirds. Within minutes, a stunning male Neergaard's Sunbird popped in, affording us good looks of this Maputoland endemic.

**Gorgeous Bushshrike by David Hoddinott**

Luck continued, as we found the rare Black Rhinoceros soon after! This feisty bull continued to run alongside us and then crossed the road into thicker bush. We reached the large Nsumo Pan in time for breakfast and managed to pick up Whiskered Tern, African Spoonbill, Goliath Heron displaying, African Jacana, White-faced Whistling Duck and Pink-backed Pelican. A raptor darted across the pan and perched in a fever tree – Bat Hawk! A **super rare bird in this region!** After a bite to eat, we pushed on to Kumasinga Hide. Late morning had crept in and the temperature outside prompted many animals to proceed to the only waterhole for a large area. Nyala, Common Wildebeest, Common Warthog, Chacma Baboon, Plains Zebra and Impala were all present. Watching these mammals, at close quarters, alongside Common and Blue Waxbills, Lizard Buzzard, Yellow-throated Petronia and Red-faced Mousebird, was special.

**Kumasinga Hide by Andre Bernon**
Sought-after species that also put in an appearance here were Grey Waxbill and even Lemon-breasted Canary! A truly magical experience indeed. We continued down to the Mkuze River and heard the soft call of a Bushveld Pipit! Moving on, we got Greater Honeyguide, Southern Black Tit, Little Bee-eater, Pale Flycatcher, Black-chested Snake Eagle, Brubru and Acacia Pied Barbet. The Kumahlala Hide gave us crippling views of a Purple-crested Turaco, Grey Tit-Flycatcher and Long-tailed Paradise Whydah. After a quick ice cream, Eastern Nicator, Bearded Scrub Robin and Yellow-bellied Greenbul, we moved on to some wetlands nearby, ticking Crested Guineafowl en route. Muzi Pan gave us Pink-backed Pelican, Collared Pratincole, and Grey-rumped and Red-breasted Swallows. A great ending to an absolutely superb day!

We were up at dawn to target a few more Maputoland specials. We headed to a floodplain on the northern section of the St Lucia Estuary, the largest estuarine system in Africa. Upon arrival, a flock of yellow rumped canaries shot up. Good looks confirmed suspicions, Lemon-breasted with a few Yellow-fronted Canaries for comparison. Pushing on, we reached the edge of a pan and started searching. No luck on our target, Rosy-throated Longclaw, but we did find many Yellow-throated and Cape. This is the only place in South Africa where you can find all three species together. Other good species here included Grey-rumped Swallow, Caspian Tern, Red-billed Teal, Kittlitz's Plover, Common Greenshank, Greater Honeyguide and African Yellow Warbler.

After a well-deserved breakfast, we left the Mkuze area and headed south. We arrived in the coastal village of St Lucia around midday and were immediately treated to an extended show by a flock of Crested Guineafowl. We watched as they interacted with one another and took turns to dust bathe. The estuary mouth held Lesser Flamingo, African Spoonbill, Curlew Sandpiper, and Common, Caspian and Great Crested Terns. We checked in and after a very short break, we headed to a forest on the edge of town to track down more targets. First up was Lesser Honeyguide and Olive Sunbird. A dry tree was absolutely teeming with birds, which included White-eared Barbet, Black-bellied Starling and Dark-backed Weaver. The give-away call of some nearby turacos saw us creeping up on them. Success! We found a few Livingstone's Turacos feeding up a ficus on the figs. A few minutes later we found a plethora of turacos, with two species in the same trees numerous times. Livingstone's preened in the afternoon light as Purple-crested watched on.
A small mixed flock consisted of Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, female Black Cuckooshrike, Rudd's Apalis and Collared Sunbird. Nearing darkness, we found a pack of Banded Mongoose, Green Malkoha and Brown Scrub Robin. A quick dinner after a great afternoon saw us boarding for our night drive excursion into the eastern shores of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park. We had many good mammal sightings, such as Hippopotamus, Common Duiker, African Buffalo, White Rhinoceros and Thick-tailed Greater Galago.

We woke to some heavy rain this morning, yet persisted through it after a hearty breakfast. We left the entertainment of a large family of Banded Mongoose and birded the forest near the edge of town once again. We hit a mixed flock of species and were rewarded with Square-tailed Drongo, Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird and Golden-tailed Woodpecker. Prize went to the sought-after Woodward's Batis, which showed really well. The downpour started yet again, and as we waited under a large tree, we heard the contact call of a Buff-spotted Flufftail. We persevered with patience and eventually had fantastic views of a female bird. She then crossed the path for us too, as if it wasn't enough! Our second flufftail species sighting for the trip!

We then visited the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, north of St Lucia, for the remainder of the day. We persisted through the rain and, eventually, it paid off when the rain stopped. Many Burchell's Coucals were sunning themselves, Little Bee-eaters and African Stonechats dotted the grassland whilst Croaking Cisticola and Fan-tailed Widowbird flew about. A small pan yielded Hottentot Teal, Brimstone Canary and African Wattled Lapwing. We visited the Mfazana Hide and found many Grey Waxbill, Olive Bushshrike, Dark-backed Weaver, Green Malkoha and Woodward's Batis. A stunning male African Paradise Flycatcher showed itself too, with its exquisitely long tail. We continued to Cape Vidal and as soon as we stopped the vehicle, a flock of Green Twinspots appeared from the shrubbery. We touched the Indian Ocean and managed to scope an Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross alongside many White-chinned Petrels. We decided to make our way back to St Lucia and quickly found our target: Southern Banded Snake Eagle! We rounded a corner to find a massive male Leopard, marking his territory after the rains. We watched this gorgeous animal for some time before he moved off into the bush. A fantastic memory and experience to end the day!

We left St Lucia this morning, for the Dlinza escarpment forest and its aerial boardwalk and tower. We had many White-eared Barbets, Purple-crested...
Turacos, Trumpeter Hornbill, Grey Cuckooshrike, Olive Woodpecker and Southern Double-collared Sunbird from the tower. Our main reason for having breakfast on the tower was to find Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon. We succeeded when a stunning male flew by at close quarters, followed by sightings of African Green and African Olive Pigeons too. We descended to the forest floor and continued our birding with a stunning Narina Trogon! Soon after, we found more Olive Woodpecker, Cape Batis, Red-fronted Tinkerbird and a perched Lemon Dove! Our major target on the forest floor was found near the track and we enjoyed views of the shy Spotted Ground Thrush. We moved to the coast once again, to the village of Mtunzini, where we visited the Umlalazi Nature Reserve with its myriad of mangroves.

We were lucky, as we quickly found the uncommon and beautiful Mangrove Kingfisher. We watched this winter visitor to the area for a while, as it even hunted a crab in front of us. Other birds here consisted of Palm-nut Vulture, Black-chested Snake Eagle, Western Osprey and a pair of Pied Kingfishers. We continued south to Durban and then inland towards Hilton. We stopped off briefly at a wastewater treatment plant and found Little Rush and Lesser Swamp Warblers. Other notable species here were many Red-billed Teal, African Marsh Harrier and Klaas's Cuckoo. A fantastic dinner ended a well-rounded and enjoyable day.

We visited the Doreen Clarke Nature Reserve, near our accommodation, first thing in the morning. Our first bird in the forest was an African Wood Owl! We proceeded to watch this splendid creature as he settled down and found a suitable roost. We worked hard for good looks of Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler, the impressive Bush Blackcap and Cape Batis. Other notable species here were Olive Bushshrike, Bar-throated Apalis, Collared and Olive Sunbirds, Dark-backed Weaver and Olive Woodpecker. We then moved to the Karkloof area after a picnic breakfast. We managed to find both Blue and Grey-crowned Cranes, as well as Black-winged Lapwings, Jackal Buzzard and Long-crested Eagle. We entered a beautiful garden surrounded by natural forest, which creates a better chance to observe some difficult species. We found a major target fairly quickly as an Orange Ground Thrush hopped around. Some mixed flocks included species such as Forest Canary, Dark-backed Weaver, Southern Double-collared Sunbird and Olive Thrush. A raptor overhead proved to be the sought-after Forest Buzzard! We then witnessed five endemic Knysna Turacos as they moved around the tops of trees, showcasing their bright crimson wings in flight. Before boarding our vehicle, we spotted a gorgeous Chorister Robin-Chat!
We moved on, further inland, and had a nice stop to witness the Howick Falls dropping one hundred and three metres to the bottom. A short detour en route to the Drakensberg area showed us Buff-streaked Chat, Cape Canary, Drakensberg Prinia, Wailing Cisticola, Red-throated Wryneck, Yellow Bishop and Cape Grassbird. As the light was fading, we stopped off to try our luck for the extremely rare Cape Parrot in an area where they sometimes come in to roost. We hit gold as a couple of birds were circling about, followed by a few more! We watched these birds as they squawked from a dead tree. A great surprise to end a very enjoyable day.

Today was set to be magical, as we set off to traverse the adventurous Sani Pass and then venture into the land-locked Kingdom of Lesotho. We started off with a bang when we found a small family of the rarely sighted Spotted-necked Otter, as well as Half-collared Kingfisher. Kingfishers were a feature at this wetland, seeing that we also found Malachite, Pied and Giant. The start of the pass saw us skilfully finding a covey of Red-necked Spurfowls. Our breakfast spot also produced the Gurney's Sugarbird, Brown-backed Honeybird, Wailing Cisticola, Greater Double-collared Sunbird, Black Stork, Cape Rock Thrush, Yellow Bishop and Wailing Cisticola. We neared the top of this spectacular route, traversing the mountains, and had views of Grey-winged Francolins, Mountain Reedbuck, Grey Rhebok and Rock Hyrax. We got frustrating glimpses of Drakensberg Rockjumper, as some Drakensberg Siskins also showed briefly alongside Cape Buntings.

We passed the watershed – the natural border between the two countries, and continued into the highlands of Lesotho after observing Sloggett's Vlei Rat. Our first birds in the new country were the ever-present Cape Sparrow, Sickle-winged Chat, Southern Bald Ibis and Sentinel Rock Thrush. We ventured further inland, to about 3,200 metres above sea level, and found some stunning Bearded Vultures, Cape Vulture, Large-billed and Red-capped Larks and African Rock Pipit. A traditional stop at the highest pub in southern Africa gave us crippling views of a pair of Drakensberg Rockjumper! We had the male within a few metres of us, with Drakensberg Siskins too. We unfortunately had to leave the "Roof of Africa" and make our way down. We reached the bottom and were treated to a nesting pair of Wattled Cranes! We watched these huge birds with two more crane species, Blue and Grey-crowned. A herd of Common Eland was scoped on a rocky hillside before we made our way back to town, where we found another nesting bird: Spotted Eagle-Owl. We had really good views of this pair before sunset. A fantastic ending to yet another great day in this spectacular part of the world.
We unfortunately had to leave this area early today, as we had to make our way to the King Shaka International Airport, just outside of Durban. Birds en route were the ever-present White-necked Raven, Cape Crow and even Southern Bald Ibis. Luckily, our flight was on time, as we winged our way to Cape Town, where this fun and memorable trip to the eastern parts of South Africa concluded.

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**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 (413 in total: 409 seen, 4 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*  
(5) Up to 6 Kruger NP 23-26.7 and 1 Wakkerstroom 28.7.

**Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl Anatidae**

**White-faced Whistling Duck**  
*Dendrocygna viduata*  
(2) 30 Mkuze GR 29.7 and 12 Karkloof 2.8.

**White-backed Duck**  
*Thalassornis leuconotus leuconotus*  
(1) 10 Wakkerstroom 28.7.  
We saw a large flock on a reservoir.

**Spur-winged Goose**  
*Plectropterus gambensis niger*  
Observed 1 day in total.

**Knob-billed Duck**  
*Sarkidiornis melanotos*  
(2) 60 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7 and 1 Mkuze GR 29.7.  
Large numbers were seen at the beginning of the Zaagkuildrift road.

**Egyptian Goose**  
*Alopochen aegyptiaca*  
Observed 13 days in total.

**South African Shelduck**  
*Tadorna cana*  
(4) Up to 4 Wakkerstroom 26-28.7 and 8 Sani Pass Road 3.8.

**African Black Duck**  
*Anas sparsa sparsa*  
(1) 7 Walter Sisulo botanical garden 21.7.  
A pair with ducklings were seen by those that travelled to the gardens.

**Yellow-billed Duck**  
*Anas undulata undulata*  
Observed 3 days in total.

**Cape Shoveler**  
*Anas smitii*  
(2) 3 Wakkerstroom 26.7 and 12 Wakkerstroom 27.7.

**Red-billed Teal**  
*Anas erythrorhyncha*
(5) 2 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7.

**Hottentot Teal**  
(1) 1 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7.  
A single individual was seen on a small pan.

**Southern Pochard**  
(1) 4 Wakkerstroom 27.7.  
Seen well at Fickland Pan.

**Maccoa Duck (NT)**  
(1) 12 Wakkerstroom 27.7.  
Seen well at Fickland Pan.

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**Guineafowl Numididae**

**Helmeted Guineafowl**  
*Numida meleagris*  
Observed 1 day in total.

**Crested Guineafowl**  
*Guttera pucherani edouardi*  
(2) 12 Mkhuze GR 29.7 and 25 St Lucia 30.7.  
A special sighting when we saw a flock dust bathing.

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**Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies Phasianidae**

**Grey-winged Francolin**  
*Scleroptila afra*  
(1) 7 Sani Pass Road 3.8.  
A large covey was seen well, calling next to the roadside.

**Red-winged Francolin**  
*Scleroptila levaillantii levaillantii*  
(2) 2 Wakkerstroom 27.7 and 2 Wakkerstroom 28.7.

**Crested Francolin**  
*Dendroperdix sephaena sephaena*  
(6) 20 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7, 1 heard Kruger NP 23.7, 5 Kruger NP 25.7, 3 Kruger NP 26.7, 1 heard Umkhumbi Lodge 28.7 and 1 heard Mkhuze GR 29.7.

**Natal Spurfowl**  
*Pternistis natalensis natalensis*  
(4) 1 heard Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7, 2 Kruger NP 23.7, 20 Kruger NP 25.7 and 6 Kruger NP 26.7.

**Red-necked Spurfowl**  
*Pternistis afer castaneiventer*  
(1) 6 Sani Pass Road 3.8.

**Swainson's Spurfowl**  
*Pternistis swainsonii swainsonii*  
Observed 7 days in total.

**Harlequin Quail**  
*Coturnix delegorguei*  
(2) 200 Kruger NP 24.7 and 50 Kruger NP 25.7.

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**Albatrosses Diomedeidae**

**Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross (EN)**  
*Thalassarche carteri*  
(1) 1 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7.

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**Shearwaters and Petrels Procellariidae**

**White-chinned Petrel (VU)**  
*Procellaria aequinoctialis*
(1) 5 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7.

**Grebes Podicipedidae**

**Little Grebe**  
*Tachybaptus ruficollis capensis*

(5) Up to 10 Wakkerstroom 26-28.7, 3 on route 30.7 and 2 en route 2.8.

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

(1) 3 Wakkerstroom 27.7.

**Flamingos Phoenicopteridae**

**Greater Flamingo**  
*Phoenicopterus roseus*

(1) 6 on route 26.7.  
Distantly seen en route to Wakkerstroom.

**Lesser Flamingo (NT)**  
*Phoeniconaias minor*

(1) 7 St Lucia 30.7.

**Storks Ciconiidae**

**Yellow-billed Stork**  
*Mycteria ibis*

(2) 30 Kruger NP 25.7 and 25 St Lucia 30.7.

**Black Stork**  
*Ciconia nigra*

(1) 1 Sani Pass Road 3.8.

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

Observed 2 days in total.

**White Stork**  
*Ciconia ciconia ciconia*

(1) 4 en route 22.7.  
A flock was seen on our way to Zaagkuildrift. A surprise this late in the season for this palearctic migrant.

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

(3) Up to 3 Kruger NP 24-26.7.

**Marabou Stork**  
*Leptoptilos crumenifer*

(2) 1 Kruger NP 24.7 and 6 Kruger NP 25.7.

**Ibises and Spoonbills Threskiornithidae**

**African Sacred Ibis**  
*Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Observed 3 days in total.

**Southern Bald Ibis (VU)**  
*Geronticus calvus*

Observed 2 days in total.

**Hadada Ibis**  
*Bostrychia hagedash hagedash*

Observed 14 days in total.

**Glossy Ibis**  
*Plegadis falcinellus*

(1) 1 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7.

**African Spoonbill**  
*Platalea alba*

Observed 1 day in total.
Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns *Ardeidae*

**Black-crowned Night Heron**
*Nycticorax nycticorax*

(1) 1 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 30.7.

Seen well on our night drive.

**Striated Heron**
*Butorides striata atricapilla*

(3) 1 Kruger NP 23.7, 2 Kruger NP 24.7 and 1 Kruger NP 26.7.

**Western Cattle Egret**
*Bubulcus ibis*

Observed 2 days in total.

**Grey Heron**
*Ardea cinerea cinerea*

Observed 9 days in total.

**Black-headed Heron**
*Ardea melanocephala*

Observed 4 days in total.

**Goliath Heron**
*Ardea goliath*

(3) 1 Kruger NP 25.7, 1 Kruger NP 26.7 and 1 Mkuze GR 29.7.

**Purple Heron**
*Ardea purpurea purpurea*

(1) 2 Wakkerstroom 27.7.

**Great Egret**
*Ardea alba melanorhynchos*

(4) 1 Kruger NP 24.7, 1 Kruger NP 26.7, 1 Mkuze GR 29.7 and 1 Mpempe Pan 30.7.

**Little Egret**
*Egretta garzetta garzetta*

Observed 2 days in total.

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**Hamerkop Scopidae**

**Hamerkop**
*Scopus umbretta umbretta*

(2) 2 Kruger NP 24.7 and 1 Wakkerstroom 27.7.

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**Pelecanidae**

**Pink-backed Pelican**
*Pelecanus rufescens*

(3) 10 Muzi Pan 29.7, 2 Mkuze GR 29.7, 6 St Lucia 30.7 and 2 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7.

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**Phalacrocoracidae**

**Reed Cormorant**
*Microcarbo africanus africanus*

Observed 11 days in total.

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

(2) 50 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7 and 1 Wakkerstroom 28.7.

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**Anhingidae**

**African Darter**
*Anhinga rufa rufa*

(3) 1 Kruger NP 25.7, 12 Mkuze GR 29.7 and 10 St Lucia 30.7.

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**Sagittariidae**

**Secretarybird (VU)**
*Sagittarius serpentarius*

(2) 1 Kruger NP 24.7 and 1 Wakkerstroom 27.7.
Osprey Pandionidae

Western Osprey  
Pandion haliaetus
(1) 2 Umlalazi NR 1.8.

Hawks, Eagles, and Kites Accipitridae

Black-winged Kite  
Elanus caeruleus caeruleus
Observed 1 day in total.

African Harrier-Hawk  
Polyboroides typus typus
(2) 1 Kruger NP 26.7 and 1 en route 30.7.

Palm-nut Vulture  
Gypohierax angolensis
(2) 1 en route 30.7 and 1 Umlalazi NR 1.8.

Bearded Vulture (NT)  
Gypaetus barbatus meridionalis
(1) 5 Sani Pass Road 3.8.
Seen extremely well in both Lesotho and South Africa.

Hooded Vulture (EN)  
Necrosyrtes monachus
(2) 7 Kruger NP 24.7 and 1 Kruger NP 25.7.

White-backed Vulture (NT)  
Gyps africanus
(5) Observed Kruger NP 23-25.7, Umkhumbi Lodge 28.7 and Mkuze GR 29.7.

Cape Vulture (VU)  
Gyps coprotheres
(2) 8 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7 and 120 Abel Erasmus Pass 23.7.
A memorable sighting when we saw a large kettle riding thermals next to us.

White-headed Vulture (VU)  
Trigonoceps occipitalis
(3) Up to 3 Kruger NP 23-25.7.
Seen perched on a fresh lion kill.

Lappet-faced Vulture (VU)  
Torgos tracheliotos tracheliotos
(1) 4 Kruger NP 24.7.

Black-chested Snake Eagle  
Circaetus pectoralis
(4) 1 Umkhumbi Lodge 29.7, 2 en route 30.7, 1 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7 and 1 Umlalazi NR 1.8.

Brown Snake Eagle  
Circaetus cinereus
(3) 1 Zaagkuildrift Road 23.7, 1 Kruger NP 25.7 and 1 Kruger NP 26.7.

Southern Banded Snake Eagle (NT)  
Circaetus fasciolatus
(1) 2 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7.

Bateleur (NT)  
Terathopius ecaudatus
(4) Up to 25 Kruger NP 23-25.7 and 2 Mkuze GR 29.7.

Bat Hawk  
Macheiramphus alcinus
(1) 1 Mkuze GR 29.7.

Crowned Eagle (NT)  
Stephanoaetus coronatus
(1) 1 Abel Erasmus Pass 23.7.

Martial Eagle (NT)  
Polemaetus bellicosus
(2) 1 Kruger NP 24.7 and 1 Kruger NP 25.7.
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**Long-crested Eagle**
Lophaetus occipitalis
(5) 2 en route 23.7, 1 Umkhumbi Lodge 28.7 and up to 3 en route 1-3.8.

**Tawny Eagle**
Aquila rapax rapax
(4) Observed Kruger NP 24-26.7 and Mkuze GR 29.7.

**Verreaux's Eagle**
Aquila verreauxii
(1) 2 Wakkerstroom 21.7.

**African Hawk-Eagle**
Aquila spilogaster
(1) 2 Kruger NP 24.7.

**Lizard Buzzard**
Kaupifalco monogrammicus meridionalis
(2) 1 Kruger NP 23.7 and 1 Mkuze GR 29.7.

**Gabar Goshawk**
Micronisus gabar gabar
(1) 1 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7.

**Dark Chanting Goshawk**
Melierax metabates mechowi
(1) 1 Kruger NP 26.7.
We were lucky to find a perched bird when departing Kruger.

**Shikra**
Accipiter badius polyzonoides
(1) 1 Kruger NP 25.7.

**Little Sparrowhawk**
Accipiter minullus minullus
(1) 1 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7.

**Black Sparrowhawk**
Accipiter melanoleucus melanoleucus
(2) 1 Wakkerstroom 28.7 and 2 Mpmpe Pan 30.7.

**African Marsh Harrier**
Circus ranivorus
(2) 1 Darvill Sewage Works 1.8 and 1 Sani Pass Road 3.8.

**Black Harrier (VU)**
Circus maurus
(1) 1 Wakkerstroom 26.7.

**African Fish Eagle**
Haliaeetus vocifer
Observed 3 days in total.

**Forest Buzzard**
Buteo trizonatus
(1) 1 Benvie Farm, Karkloof 2.8.
A fantastic find and sighting of a soaring bird.

**Jackal Buzzard**
Buteo rufouscus
(4) 3 Wakkerstroom 26.7, 1 Wakkerstroom 27.7 and 20 Sani Pass Road 3.8.

**Bustards Otidae**

**Kori Bustard (NT)**
Ardeotis kori kori
(1) 3 Kruger NP 24.7.
A great find near Olifants.

**Denham's Bustard (NT)**
Neotis denhami stanleyi
(2) 1 Wakkerstroom 26.7 and 1 Sani Pass Road 3.8.

**White-bellied Bustard**
Eupodotis senegalensis barrowii
(1) 3 Wakkerstroom 27.7.
Seen extremely well near the village of Dirkiesdorp.

**Blue Korhaan (NT)**  
*Eupodotis caerulescens*  
(1) 6 Wakkerstroom 26.7.

**Red-crested Korhaan**  
*Lophotis ruficrista*  
(3) 1 heard Kruger NP 23.7, 1 Kruger NP 24.7 and 1 heard Kruger NP 26.7.

**Northern Black Korhaan**  
*Afrotis afraoides afraoides*  
(1) 1 heard Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7.

**Flufftails Sarothruridae**

**Buff-spotted Flufftail**  
*Sarothrura elegans elegans*  
(1) 1 St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 31.7.  
A downpour gave us some luck when we were afforded exceptional views of a female, who also proceeded to cross the path.

**Red-chested Flufftail**  
*Sarothrura rufa rufa*  
(1) 2 Wakkerstroom 27.7.  
Unbelievably, we got views of a pair!

**Rails, Gallinules, and Coots Rallidae**

**African Rail**  
*Rallus caerulescens*  
(1) 2 Wakkerstroom 27.7.  
Superb views of this skulker were had.

**Black Crake**  
*Amaurornis flavirostra*  
Observed 1 day in total.

**African Swamphen**  
*Porphyrio madagascariensis*  
(2) 2 Wakkerstroom 26.7 and 10 Wakkerstroom 27.7.

**Common Moorhen**  
*Gallinula chloropus meridionalis*  
(3) 20 Wakkerstroom 26.7, 40 Wakkerstroom 27.7 and 2 en route 1.8.

**Red-knobbed Coot**  
*Fulica cristata*  
Observed 3 days in total.

**Cranes Gruidae**

**Grey Crowned Crane (VU)**  
*Balearica regulorum regulorum*  
(4) 2 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7, 5 Wakkerstroom 28.7, 1 Karkloof 2.8 and 6 Sani Pass Road 3.8.

**Blue Crane (VU)**  
*Grus paradisea*  
(4) 2 Wakkerstroom 27.7, 5 Wakkerstroom 28.7, 4 Karkloof 2.8 and 3 Sani Pass Road 3.8.  
Close views were eventually had of South Africa's national bird.

**Wattled Crane**  
*Grus carunculata*  
(1) 2 Sani Pass Road 3.8.  
We were treated to a nesting pair in the Sani area.

**Buttonquails Turnicidae**

**Common Buttonquail**  
*Turnix sylvaticus lepurana*
(3) Up to 2 Kruger NP 23-25.7.

**Thick-knees *Burhinidae***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water Thick-knee</td>
<td>Burhinus vermiculatus vermiculatus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) 4 Kruger NP 23.7, 5 Kruger NP 25.7 and 3 St Lucia 30.7.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotted Thick-knee</td>
<td>Burhinus capensis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1) 2 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Stilts and Avocets *Recurvirostridae***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black-winged Stilt</td>
<td>Himantopus himantopus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observed 1 day in total.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Plovers and Lapwings *Charadriidae***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blacksmith Lapwing</td>
<td>Vanellus armatus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observed 2 days in total.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-crowned Lapwing</td>
<td>Vanellus albiceps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1) 2 Kruger NP 25.7.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A great find as two birds flew in and perched in the river, next to the bridge we were parked on.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal Lapwing</td>
<td>Vanellus lugubris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1) 3 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-winged Lapwing</td>
<td>Vanellus melanopterus minor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) 2 Wakkerstroom 27.7 and 3 Karkloof 2.8.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crowned Lapwing</td>
<td>Vanellus coronatus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observed 2 days in total.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Wattled Lapwing</td>
<td>Vanellus senegallus lateralis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) 12 Walter Sisulu botanical garden 21.7, 6 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7, 1 en route 23.7 and 1 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kittlitz's Plover</td>
<td>Charadrius pecuarius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) 1 Kruger NP 24.7, 7 Muzi Pan 29.7, 25 St Lucia 30.7 and 4 Darvill Sewage Works 1.8.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three-banded Plover</td>
<td>Charadrius tricollaris tricollaris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observed 1 day in total.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-fronted Plover</td>
<td>Charadrius marginatus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) 3 Kruger NP 24.7, 1 Kruger NP 25.7, 10 St Lucia 30.7 and 1 St Lucia 31.7.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Jacanas *Jacanidae***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African Jacana</td>
<td>Actophilornis africanus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7, Kruger NP 25.7, Muzi Pan 29.7, Mkuze GR 29.7 and iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sandpipers and Allies *Scolopacidae***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African Snipe</td>
<td>Gallinago nigripennis nigripennis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) 2 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7, 3 Wakkerstroom 26.7, 6 Wakkerstroom 27.7 and 1 Darvill Sewage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Works 1.8.

**Common Greenshank**  
*Tringa nebularia*

(2) 2 Kruger NP 24.7 and 1 St Lucia 30.7.

**Curlew Sandpiper**  
*Calidris ferruginea*

(1) 12 St Lucia 30.7.

**Pratincoles and Coursers**  
**Glareolidae**

**Collared Pratincole**  
*Glareola pratincola*

(2) 2 Kruger NP 24.7 and 2 Muzi Pan 29.7.

**Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers**  
**Laridae**

**African Skimmer (NT)**  
*Rynchops flavirostris*

(1) 1 Kruger NP 24.7.

**Grey-headed Gull**  
*Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus poiocephalus*

Observed 4 days in total.

**Caspian Tern**  
*Hydroprogne caspia*

(2) 30 St Lucia 30.7 and 6 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7.

**Greater Crested Tern**  
*Thalasseus bergii bergii*

(1) 15 St Lucia 30.7.

**Common Tern**  
*Sterna hirundo hirundo*

(1) 1 St Lucia 30.7.

**Whiskered Tern**  
*Chlidonias hybrida*

(2) 1 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7 and 15 Mkuze GR 29.7.

**Pigeons and Doves**  
**Columbidae**

**Rock Dove**  
*Columba livia*

Observed 1 day in total.

**Speckled Pigeon**  
*Columba guinea phaeonota*

Observed 2 days in total.

**African Olive Pigeon**  
*Columba arquatrix*

(4) 1 Johannesburg 21.7, 2 Dlinza Forest NR 1.8, 1 heard Benvie Farm, Karkloof 2.8 and 100 Sani Pass Road 3.8.

**Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon**  
*Columba delegorguei delegorguei*

(1) 1 Dlinza Forest NR 1.8.

A quick fly-by of a male was had on the aerial tower overlooking the forest.

**Lemon Dove**  
*Columba larvata larvata*

(1) 1 Dlinza Forest NR 1.8.

We managed to scope a bird that flew up from the path.

**Mourning Collared Dove**  
*Streptopelia decipiens ambigua*

(1) 2 Kruger NP 24.7.

**Red-eyed Dove**  
*Streptopelia semitorquata*
Observed 8 days in total.

**Ring-necked Dove**  
*Streptopelia capicola*  
Observed 2 days in total.

**Laughing Dove**  
*Spilopelia senegalensis senegalensis*  
Observed 1 day in total.

**Emerald-spotted Wood Dove**  
*Turtur chalcospilos*  
Observed 1 day in total.

**Tambourine Dove**  
*Turtur tympanistria*  
(2) 2 Umkhumbi Lodge 28.7 and 1 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7.

**Namaqua Dove**  
*Oena capensis capensis*  
(2) 15 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7 and 4 Kruger NP 24.7.

**African Green Pigeon**  
*Treron calvus delalandii*  
(4) 1 Mkuze GR 29.7, 10 St Lucia 30.7, 4 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7 and 5 Dlinza Forest NR 1.8.

**Turacos Musophagidae**

**Livingstone's Turaco**  
*Tauraco livingstonii reichenowi*  
(2) 5 St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 30.7 and 1 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7.

We had a turaco frenzy when many individuals of two species congregated in the afternoon sun.

**Knysna Turaco**  
*Tauraco corythaix*  
(1) 5 Benvie Farm, Karkloof 2.8.

**Purple-crested Turaco**  
*Tauraco porphyreolophus porphyreolophus*  
(4) 1 heard Umkhumbi Lodge 28.7, 3 Mkuze GR 29.7, 5 St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 30.7 and 15 Dlinza Forest NR 1.8.

**Grey Go-away-bird**  
*Corythaixoides concolor*  
Observed 6 days in total.

**Cuckoos Cuculidae**

**Burchell's Coucal**  
*Centropus burchelli burchelli*  
(5) 3 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7, 1 Mkuze GR 29.7, 1 heard St Lucia 30.7, 11 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7 and 1 heard Darvill Sewage Works 1.8.

**Green Malkoha**  
*Ceuthmochares australis*  
(2) 1 St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 30.7 and 6 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7.

This bird is a serious skulking species yet we were lucky as they came out after some rain.

**Klaas's Cuckoo**  
*Chrysococcyx klaas*  
(2) 1 Kruger NP 24.7 and 1 Darvill Sewage Works 1.8.

**African Emerald Cuckoo**  
*Chrysococcyx cupreus*  
(1) 1 heard Dlinza Forest NR 1.8.

**Barn-Owls Tytonidae**

**Western Barn Owl**  
*Tyto alba poensis*  
(1) 1 Kruger NP 25.7.
We found a roosting bird in the roof at Lower Sabie Camp.

**Owls Strigidae**

**African Scops Owl**  
*Otus senegalensis senegalensis*  
(2) 3 Kruger NP 24.7 and 1 heard Kruger NP 25.7.

**Spotted Eagle-Owl**  
*Bubo africanus africanus*  
(2) 1 Wakkerstroom 27.7 and 2 Sani Pass Road 3.8.  
We got good looks of a nesting pair in Himeville town.

**Verreaux's Eagle-Owl**  
*Bubo lacteus*  
(1) 1 Kruger NP 25.7.  
We found a nesting bird near Skukuza Camp.

**African Wood Owl**  
*Strix woodfordii woodfordii*  
(3) 1 heard St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 30.7, 1 heard St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 31.7 and 1 Doreen Clark NR 2.8.  
We tried, frustratingly, in St.Lucia but actually saw an unexpected bird in Doreen Clarke Nature Reserve.

**Pearl-spotted Owlet**  
*Glaucidium perlatum licua*  
(4) 1 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7 and up to 2 Kruger NP 23-25.7.

**Marsh Owl**  
*Asio capensis capensis*  
(1) 2 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7.  
This crepuscular owl was seen quartering some rank grass in the morning and afternoon.

**Nightjars and Allies Caprimulgidae**

**Fiery-necked Nightjar**  
*Caprimulgus pectoralis*  
(2) 1 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 30.7 and 2 St Lucia 1.8.

**Square-tailed Nightjar**  
*Caprimulgus fossii*  
(1) 2 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 30.7.

**Swifts Apodidae**

**African Palm Swift**  
*Cypsiurus parvus*  
Observed 11 days in total.

**Alpine Swift**  
*Tachymarptis melba*  
(1) 10 Kruger NP 23.7.

**Little Swift**  
*Apus affinis*  
Observed 3 days in total.

**Mousebirds Coliidae**

**Speckled Mousebird**  
*Colius striatus*  
Observed 3 days in total.

**Red-faced Mousebird**  
*Urocolius indicus*  
Observed 2 days in total.
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**Trogons Trogonidae**

**Narina Trogon**  
*Apaloderma narina narina*  
(1) 1 Dlinza Forest NR 1.8.  
We found a confiding female as soon as we started our trail.

---

**Rollers Coraciidae**

**Purple Roller**  
*Coracias naevius mosambicus*  
(3) 1 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7, 1 Kruger NP 23.7 and 1 Kruger NP 25.7.  
**Lilac-breasted Roller**  
*Coracias caudatus caudatus*  
Observed 3 days in total.  
Refreshingly common.

---

**Kingfishers Alcedinidae**

**Brown-hooded Kingfisher**  
*Halcyon albiventris*  
Observed 1 day in total.  
**Striped Kingfisher**  
*Halcyon chelicuti chelicuti*  
(1) 2 Mkuze GR 29.7.  
**Mangrove Kingfisher**  
*Halcyon senegaloides*  
(1) 1 Umlalazi NR 1.8.  
We struck luck when a bird was seen in a small mangrove bush.  
**Malachite Kingfisher**  
*Corythornis cristatus cristatus*  
(4) Kruger NP 24.7, Wakkerstroom 27.7, Muzi Pan 29.7 and Sani Pass Road 3.8.  
**Half-collared Kingfisher**  
*Alcedo semitorquata*  
(1) Sani Pass Road 3.8.  
**Giant Kingfisher**  
*Megaceryle maxima maxima*  
(3) 1 Kruger NP 24.7, 2 en route 2.8 and Sani Pass Road 3.8.  
**Pied Kingfisher**  
*Ceryle rudis rudis*  
Observed 1 day in total.

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**Bee-eaters Meropidae**

**Little Bee-eater**  
*Merops pusillus*  
(4) Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7, Kruger NP 25.7, Mkuze GR 29.7 and iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7.  
**White-fronted Bee-eater**  
*Merops bullockoides*  
(2) 3 Kruger NP 24.7 and 3 Kruger NP 26.7.

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**Hoopoes Upupidae**

**African Hoopoe**  
*Upupa africana*  
Observed 1 day in total.

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**Woodhoopoes and Scimitar-bills Phoeniculidae**

**Green Wood Hoopoe**  
*Phoeniculus purpureus*  
Observed 5 days in total.

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Common Scimitarbill  
(1) 3 Kruger NP 25.7.

Ground Hornbills Bucorvidae

Southern Ground Hornbill (VU)  
(2) 4 Kruger NP 24.7 and 4 Kruger NP 25.7. 
Excellent sightings of two groups of birds.

Hornbills Bucerotidae

Southern Red-billed Hornbill  
Observed 5 days in total.

Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill  
Observed 5 days in total.

Crowned Hornbill  
(3) 2 Mkuze GR 29.7, 2 St Lucia 30.7 and 4 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7.

African Grey Hornbill  
Observed 5 days in total.

Trumpeter Hornbill  
(4) Mkuze GR 29.7, St Lucia 30.7, iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7 and Dlinza Forest NR 1.8.

African Barbets Lybiidae

White-eared Barbet  
(3) 30 St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 30.7, iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7 and Dlinza Forest NR 1.8.

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird  
(3) 4 St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 30.7, 5 St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 31.7 and 4 Dlinza Forest NR 1.8.

Red-fronted Tinkerbird  
(1) 2 Dlinza Forest NR 1.8.

Acacia Pied Barbet  
(2) 1 Kruger NP 25.7 and 2 Mkuze GR 29.7.

Black-collared Barbet  
Observed 1 day in total.

Crested Barbet  
Observed 1 day in total.

Honeyguides Indicatoridae

Brown-backed Honeybird  
(2) 1 Umkhumbi Lodge 28.7 and 3 Sani Pass Road 3.8.

Lesser Honeyguide  
(2) 1 St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 30.7 and 1 St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 31.7.

Scaly-throated Honeyguide  
Indicator variegatus
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(1) 1 heard Dlinza Forest NR 1.8.

Greater Honeyguide  
*Indicator indicator*

(2) 1 Mkuze GR 29.7 and 1 M pempe Pan 30.7.

**Woodpeckers Picidae**

Red-throated Wryneck  
*Jynx ruficollis ruficollis*

(3) 1 heard Wakkerstroom 27.7, 2 Wakkerstroom 28.7 and 1 Marutswa NR 2.8.

Golden-tailed Woodpecker  
*Campethera abingoni*

Observed 3 days in total.

Ground Woodpecker  
*Geocolaptes olivaceus*

(1) 3 Sani Pass Road 3.8.

Bearded Woodpecker  
*Chloropicus namaquus*

(3) 1 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7, 1 Kruger NP 24.7 and 1 Mkuze GR 29.7.

Cardinal Woodpecker  
*Dendropicos fuscescens*


Olive Woodpecker  
*Dendropicos griseocephalus griseocephalus*

(2) 3 Dlinza Forest NR 1.8 and 5 Benvie Farm, Karkloof 2.8.

**Falcons and Caracaras Falconidae**

Rock Kestrel  
*Falco rupicolus*

(2) 1 Abel Erasmus Pass 23.7 and 1 Sani Pass Road 3.8.

Greater Kestrel  
*Falco rupicoloides rupicoloides*

(1) 1 Wakkerstroom 26.7.

Lanner Falcon  
*Falco biarmicus biarmicus*

(2) 1 Kruger NP 24.7 and 2 Wakkerstroom 27.7.

**African & New World Parrots Psittacidae**

Cape Parrot  
*Poicephalus robustus*

(1) 5 Marutswa NR 2.8.

We hit gold when we found a small group of these rare birds coming in to roost.

Brown-headed Parrot  
*Poicephalus cryptoxanthus cryptoxanthus*

(2) 1 Kruger NP 24.7 and 1 Kruger NP 26.7.

**Wattle-eyes and Batises Platysteiridae**

Cape Batis  
*Batis capensis*

(2) 2 Dlinza Forest NR 1.8 and 3 Doreen Clark NR 2.8.

Woodward's Batis  
*Batis fratum*

(1) 2 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7 and 1 St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 31.7.

Chinspot Batis  
*Batis molitor*

Observed 1 day in total.
Helmetshrikes and Allies *Prionopidae*

**White-crested Helmetshrike**  *Prionops plumatus*
(2) 12 Kruger NP 24.7 and 8 Kruger NP 25.7.

**Retz's Helmetshrike**  *Prionops retzii*
(1) 2 Kruger NP 25.7.

Bushshrikes and Allies *Malaconotidae*

**Grey-headed Bushshrike**  *Malaconotus blanchoti*
(2) 1 heard Kruger NP 26.7 and 1 heard Kruger NP 29.7.

**Olive Bushshrike**  *Chlorophoneus olivaceus*
(2) 2 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7 and 1 Doreen Clark NR 2.8.

**Orange-breasted Bushshrike**  *Chlorophoneus sulphureopectus similis*
(3) 1 Kruger NP 24.7, 1 Mkuze GR 29.7 and 1 heard iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7.

**Gorgeous Bushshrike**  *Telophorus viridis quadricolor*
(1) 1 Mkuze GR 29.7.
A superb sighting of this skulker as it sang away on top of an acacia.

**Bokmakierie**  *Telophorus zeylonus*
(4) 1 heard Wakkerstroom 27.7, 1 Wakkerstroom 28.7, 1 Karkloof 2.8 and 2 Sani Pass Road 3.8.

**Brown-crowned Tchagra**  *Tchagra australis*
(3) 4 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7, 1 Kruger NP 25.7 and 2 Mkuze GR 29.7.

**Black-crowned Tchagra**  *Tchagra senegalus*
(3) Up to 3 Kruger NP 24-26.7.

**Black-backed Puffback**  *Dryoscopus cubla*
Observed 5 days in total.

**Southern Boubou**  *Laniarius ferrugineus*
Observed 7 days in total.

**Crimson-breasted Shrike**  *Laniarius atrococcineus*
(1) 15 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7.
We saw many of these bright birds foraging on the road.

**Brubru**  *Nilaus afer*
(4) 2 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7, 2 Kruger NP 24.7, 2 Kruger NP 26.7 and 1 Mkuze GR 29.7.

Cuckoo-shrikes *Campephagidae*

**Grey Cuckooshrike**  *Coracina caesia caesia*
(1) 2 Dlinza Forest NR 1.8.

**Black Cuckooshrike**  *Campephaga flava*
(4) Mkuze GR 29.7, Umkhumbi Lodge 30.7, iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7 and Doreen Clark NR 2.8.

Shrikes *Laniidae*

**Magpie Shrike**  *Urolestes melanoleucus*
Observed 5 days in total.

**Southern White-crowned Shrike**  
*Eurocephalus anguitimens*  
(2) 2 Kruger NP 23.7 and 1 Kruger NP 25.7.

**Southern Fiscal**  
*Lanius collaris*  
Observed 3 days in total.  
Recently split from Common Fiscal.

**Old World Orioles Oriolidae**

**Black-headed Oriole**  
*Oriolus larvatus larvatus*  
(3) 1 Kruger NP 24.7, 2 Kruger NP 25.7 and 1 Benvie Farm, Karkloof 2.8.

**Drongos Dicruridae**

**Square-tailed Drongo**  
*Dicrurus ludwigii ludwigii*  
(5) 1 heard Umkhumbi Lodge 28.7, 1 Mkuze GR 29.7, 6 St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 30.7, 10 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7 and 3 Dlinza Forest NR 1.8.

**Fork-tailed Drongo**  
*Dicrurus adsimilis*  
Observed 2 days in total.

**Monarch Flycatchers Monarchidae**

**Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher**  
*Trochocercus cyanomelas*  
(4) 1 Umkhumbi Lodge 28.7, 1 St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 30.7, 1 St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 31.7 and 1 Doreen Clark NR 2.8.

**African Paradise Flycatcher**  
*Terpsiphone viridis*  
(3) 1 Umkhumbi Lodge 28.7, 1 heard Mkuze GR 29.7 and 1 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7.

**Crows, Jays, and Magpies Corvidae**

**Cape Crow**  
*Corvus capensis capensis*  
Observed 3 days in total.

**Pied Crow**  
*Corvus albus*  
Observed 3 days in total.

**White-necked Raven**  
*Corvus albicollis*  
Observed 4 days in total.

**Rockjumpers Chaetopidae**

**Drakensberg Rockjumper**  
*Chaetops aurantius*  
(1) 3 Sani Pass Road 3.8.  
We had crippling views of a pair near the Sani Top hotel.

**Chickadees and Tits Paridae**

**Southern Black Tit**  
*Melaniparus niger*  
(3) 1 Kruger NP 24.7, 2 Kruger NP 26.7 and 3 Mkuze GR 29.7.
**Penduline-Tits Remizidae**

Grey Penduline Tit  \( Anthoscopus \text{caroli } hellmayri \)
(1) 2 Kruger NP 24.7.

**Nicators Nicatoridae**

Eastern Nicator  \( Nicator \text{gularis} \)
(1) 1 Mkuze GR 29.7.

**Larks Alaudidae**

Spike-heeled Lark  \( Chersomanes \text{albofasciata} \)
(2) 2 Wakkerstroom 26.7 and 20 Wakkerstroom 27.7.

Eastern Long-billed Lark  \( Certhilauda \text{semitorquata} \)
(2) 3 Wakkerstroom 27.7 and 3 Wakkerstroom 28.7.

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark  \( Eremopterix \text{leucotis smithi} \)
(1) 30 Kruger NP 24.7.

Sabota Lark  \( Calendulauda \text{sabota} \)
(3) 1 Zaagkuidrift Road 22.7, 10 Kruger NP 24.7 and 3 Kruger NP 25.7.

Rudd's Lark (VU)  \( Heteromira \text{fra ruddi} \)
(1) 2 Wakkerstroom 27.7.

We had superb views of a pair. One of the world's rarest lark species.

Eastern Clapper Lark  \( Mira \text{fra fasciolata fasciolata} \)
(1) 2 Wakkerstroom 27.7.

Rufous-naped Lark  \( Mira \text{fra africana} \)
Observed 5 days in total.

Botha's Lark (EN)  \( Spizocorys \text{fringillaris} \)
(1) 3 Wakkerstroom 27.7.

Pink-billed Lark  \( Spizocorys \text{conirostris} \)
(1) 2 Wakkerstroom 27.7.

Large-billed Lark  \( Galerida \text{magnirostris} \)
(1) 1 Sani Pass Road 3.8.

Red-capped Lark  \( Calandrella \text{cinerea cinerea} \)
(4) Up to 70 Wakkerstroom 26-28.7 and 2 Sani Pass Road 3.8.

**Bulbuls Pycnonotidae**

Dark-capped Bulbul  \( Pycnonotus \text{tricolor layardi} \)
Observed 14 days in total.

Sombre Greenbul  \( Andropadus \text{importunus} \)
Observed 6 days in total.

Yellow-bellied Greenbul  \( Chlorocichla \text{flaviventris} \)
Observed 5 days in total.
Terrestrial Brownbul  
**Phyllastrephus terrestris**  
Observed 6 days in total.

**Swallows Hirundinidae**

**Black Saw-wing**  
**Psalidoprocne pristoptera**  
Observed 5 days in total.

**Grey-rumped Swallow**  
**Pseudhirundo griseopyga griseopyga**  
(3) 5 Kruger NP 25.7, 1 Muzi Pan 29.7 and 7 Mpempe Pan 30.7.

**Brown-throated Martin**  
**Riparia paludicola paludicola**  
Observed 2 days in total.

**Wire-tailed Swallow**  
**Hirundo smithii smithii**  
Observed 2 days in total.

**Pearl-breasted Swallow**  
**Hirundo dimidiata**  
(1) 6 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7.

**Rock Martin**  
**Ptyonoprogne fuligula**  
Observed 2 days in total.

**Lesser Striped Swallow**  
**Cecropis abyssinica unitatis**  
Observed 1 day in total.

**Red-breasted Swallow**  
**Cecropis semirufa**  
(3) 2 Umkhumbi Lodge 28.7, 2 Muzi Pan 29.7 and 2 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7.

**Crombecs, African warblers Macrosphenidae**

**Cape Grassbird**  
**Sphenoeacus afer**  
(2) 3 Wakkerstroom 27.7.

**Long-billed Crombec**  
**Sylvietta rufescens**  
Observed 1 day in total.

**Leaf-Warblers Phylloscopidae**

**Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler**  
**Phylloscopus ruficapilla**  
(1) 4 Doreen Clark NR 2.8.

**Reed-Warblers and Allies Acrocephalidae**

**Lesser Swamp Warbler**  
**Acrocephalus graciilrostris**  
Observed 1 day in total.

**African Yellow Warbler**  
**Iduna natalensis natalensis**  
(1) 1 Mpempe Pan 30.7.  
We found this altitudinal migrant on the coast, where it winters.

**Grassbirds and Allies Locustellidae**

**Little Rush Warbler**  
**Bradypterus baboeacala**  
(1) 1 Darvill Sewage Works 1.8.
**Cisticolas and Allies Cisticolidae**

**Red-faced Cisticola**
*Cisticola erythrops nyasa*
(1) 1 Kruger NP 25.7. Seen extremely well in the reeds at Tshokwane picnic spot.

**Lazy Cisticola**
*Cisticola aberrans*
(2) 2 Wakkerstroom 27.7 and 1 heard Marutswa NR 2.8.

**Rattling Cisticola**
*Cisticola chiniana*
Observed 1 day in total.

**Wailing Cisticola**
*Cisticola lais*
(3) 3 Wakkerstroom 27.7, 3 Marutswa NR 2.8 and 5 Sani Pass Road 3.8.

**Rufous-winged Cisticola**
*Cisticola galactotes galactotes*
(1) 1 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7.

**Levaillant's Cisticola**
*Cisticola tinniens*
(3) 2 Wakkerstroom 26.7, 4 Wakkerstroom 27.7 and 3 Darvill Sewage Works 1.8.

**Croaking Cisticola**
*Cisticola natalensis natalensis*
(2) 1 Umkhumbi Lodge 28.7 and 3 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7.

**Neddicky**
*Cisticola fulvicapilla*
(1) 3 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7.

**Zitting Cisticola**
*Cisticola juncidis terrestris*
(3) 1 Wakkerstroom 27.7, 5 Umkhumbi Lodge 28.7 and 3 Mpempe Pan 30.7.

**Desert Cisticola**
*Cisticola aridulus*
(2) 20 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7 and 10 Kruger NP 24.7.

**Cloud Cisticola**
*Cisticola textrix*
(1) 3 Wakkerstroom 27.7.

**Wing-snapping Cisticola**
*Cisticola ayresii ayresii*
(2) 2 Wakkerstroom 27.7 and 2 Wakkerstroom 28.7.

**Tawny-flanked Prinia**
*Prinia subflava*
Observed 1 day in total.

**Black-chested Prinia**
*Prinia flavicans*
(1) 20 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7.

**Drakensberg Prinia**
*Prinia hypoxantha*
(3) 2 Wakkerstroom 27.7, 1 Marutswa NR 2.8 and 2 Sani Pass Road 3.8.

**Bar-throated Apalis**
*Apalis thoracica*
(3) 1 heard Abel Erasmus Pass 23.7, 1 Dlinza Forest NR 1.8 and 3 Doreen Clark NR 2.8.

**Rudd’s Apalis**
*Apalis ruddi fumosa*
(4) 2 Umkhumbi Lodge 28.7, 1 Mkuze GR 29.7, 6 St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 30.7 and 2 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7.

**Yellow-breasted Apalis**
*Apalis flavida*
Observed 4 days in total.

**Green-backed Camaroptera**
*Camaroptera brachyura*
(7) Kruger NP 24.7, Kruger NP 25.7, Umkhumbi Lodge 28.7, 1 heard Mkuze GR 29.7, St. Lucia,
iGwalaGwala Trail 30.7, iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7 and Dlinza Forest NR 1.8.

**Yellow-bellied Eremomela**  
*Eremomela icteropygialis*  
(2) Kruger NP 24.7 and Kruger NP 26.7.

**Green-capped Eremomela**  
*Eremomela scotops*  
(1) 5 Kruger NP 24.7.

**Burnt-necked Eremomela**  
*Eremomela usticollis usticollis*  
(2) 2 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7 and 2 Kruger NP 24.7.

**Laughingthrushes Leiothrichidae**

**Arrow-marked Babbler**  
*Turdoides jardineii jardineii*  
(5) 15 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7 and up to 20 Kruger NP 23-26.7.

**Southern Pied Babbler**  
*Turdoides bicolor*  
(1) 5 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7.

**Old World Warblers Sylviidae**

**Bush Blackcap (NT)**  
*Lioptilus nigricapillus*  
(1) 1 Doreen Clark NR 2.8.  
We were lucky to find this handsome endemic, as they migrate down from the escarpment in winter.

**Chestnut-vented Warbler**  
*Sylvia subcoerulea*  
(1) 20 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7.

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

**Cape White-eye**  
*Zosterops virens*  
Observed 2 days in total.  
A possible split in the future - *virens* sub-species (Green White-eye).

**Sugarbirds Promeropidae**

**Gurney's Sugarbird**  
*Promerops gurneyi gurneyi*  
(1) 8 Sani Pass Road 3.8.  
An endemic bird family!

**Starlings Sturnidae**

**Common Myna**  
*Acridotheres tristis tristis*  
Observed 2 days in total.

**Wattled Starling**  
*Creatophora cinerea*  
(4) Observed Kruger NP 23-25.7 and Mkuze GR 29.7.

**Black-bellied Starling**  
*Notophila corrusca corrusca*  
(4) Umkhumbi Lodge 28.7, St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 30.7, St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 31.7 and Dlinza Forest NR 1.8.

**Cape Starling**  
*Lamprotornis nitens*  
Observed 2 days in total.

**Greater Blue-eared Starling**  
*Lamprotornis chalybaeus nordmanni*
Observed Kruger NP 24-26.7.

**Burchell's Starling**

*Lamprotornis australis*

(5) Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7 and observed Kruger NP 23-26.7.

**Pied Starling**

*Lamprotornis bicolor*


**Red-winged Starling**

*Onychognathus morio morio*

Observed 3 days in total.

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**Oxpeckers**

**Buphagidae**

**Yellow-billed Oxpecker**

*Buphagus africanus africanus*

(2) 9 Kruger NP 23.7 and 4 Kruger NP 24.7.

Seen on some African Buffalo.

**Red-billed Oxpecker**

*Buphagus erythrorynchus*

Observed 1 day in total.

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**Thrushes and Allies**

**Turdidae**

**Orange Ground Thrush**

*Geokichla gurneyi*

(1) 3 Benvie Farm, Karkloof 2.8.

We had good looks at many birds.

**Spotted Ground Thrush**

*Geokichla guttata guttata*

(1) 2 Dlinza Forest NR 1.8.

**Kurrichane Thrush**

*Turdus libonyana*

(4) 2 Walter Sisulo botanical garden 21.7, 1 Abel Erasmus Pass 23.7, 1 Kruger NP 26.7 and Mkuze GR 29.7.

**Olive Thrush**

*Turdus olivaceus*

Observed 3 days in total.

**Karoo Thrush**

*Turdus smithi*

(2) Johannesburg 21.7 and Johannesburg 23.7.

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**Old World Flycatchers**

**Muscicapidae**

**Bearded Scrub Robin**

*Cercotrichas quadrivirgata quadrivirgata*

(3) Kruger NP 25.7, 1 heard Umkhumbi Lodge 28.7 and Mkuze GR 29.7.

**White-browed Scrub Robin**

*Cercotrichas leucophrys leucophrys*

Observed 2 days in total.

**Brown Scrub Robin**

*Cercotrichas signata*

(1) St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 30.7.

We managed to find a singing bird in fading light.

**Grey Tit-Flycatcher**

*Myioparus plumbeus*

Observed 2 days in total.

Surprisingly common.

**Southern Black Flycatcher**

*Melaenornis pammelaina*

(4) Abel Erasmus Pass 23.7, Kruger NP 25.7, Kruger NP 26.7 and 5 Mkuze GR 29.7.
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<td><strong>Marico Flycatcher</strong></td>
<td><em>Melaenornis mariquensis</em></td>
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<td><strong>Fiscal Flycatcher</strong></td>
<td><em>Melaenornis silens</em></td>
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<td><strong>Ashy Flycatcher</strong></td>
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<td><strong>African Dusky Flycatcher</strong></td>
<td><em>Muscicapa adusta</em></td>
<td>(4) Kruger NP 25.7, St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 30.7, iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7 and Dlinza Forest NR 1.8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cape Robin-Chat</strong></td>
<td><em>Cossypha caffra</em></td>
<td>Observed 3 days in total.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>White-throated Robin-Chat</strong></td>
<td><em>Cossypha humeralis</em></td>
<td>(1) 4 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>White-browed Robin-Chat</strong></td>
<td><em>Cossypha heuglini</em></td>
<td>(2) 1 Kruger NP 24.7 and 1 Kruger NP 25.7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Red-capped Robin-Chat</strong></td>
<td><em>Cossypha natalensis</em></td>
<td>(4) 2 Kruger NP 24.7, Umkhumbi Lodge 28.7, St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 30.7 and St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 31.7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chorister Robin-Chat</strong></td>
<td><em>Cossypha dichroa</em></td>
<td>(1) 1 Benvie Farm, Karkloof 2.8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cape Rock Thrush</strong></td>
<td><em>Monticola rupestris</em></td>
<td>(2) 1 Wakkerstroom 27.7 and 10 Sani Pass Road 3.8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sentinel Rock Thrush</strong></td>
<td><em>Monticola explorator</em></td>
<td>(3) 4 Wakkerstroom 27.7, 2 Wakkerstroom 28.7 and 12 Sani Pass Road 3.8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>African Stonechat</strong></td>
<td><em>Saxicola torquatus</em></td>
<td>Observed 13 days in total.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Buff-streaked Chat</strong></td>
<td><em>Campicoloides bifasciatus</em></td>
<td>(4) 1 en route 23.7, 6 Wakkerstroom 27.7, 3 Wakkerstroom 28.7 and 2 en route 2.8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sickle-winged Chat</strong></td>
<td><em>Emarginata sinuata</em></td>
<td>(1) 2 Sani Pass Road 3.8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Seen well on the border of Lesotho and Swaziland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mocking Cliff Chat</strong></td>
<td><em>Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris</em></td>
<td>(2) 2 Abel Erasmus Pass 23.7 and 2 Kruger NP 25.7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capped Wheatear</strong></td>
<td><em>Oenanthe pileata</em></td>
<td>(1) 20 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Familiar Chat  
\( \text{Oenanthe familiaris} \)  
(1) 4 Sani Pass Road 3.8.

### Sunbirds and Spiderhunters \textit{Nectariniidae}

**Collared Sunbird**  
\( \text{Hedydipna collaris} \)  
(7) Abel Erasmus Pass 23.7 and Kruger NP 24.7.

**Olive Sunbird**  
\( \text{Cyanomitra olivacea} \)  
(4) St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 30.7, St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 31.7, Dlinza Forest NR 1.8 and Doreen Clark NR 2.8.

**Grey Sunbird**  
\( \text{Cyanomitra veroxii} \)  
(3) 1 heard Umkhumbi Lodge 28.7, Mkuze GR 29.7 and 1 heard Doreen Clark NR 2.8.

**Amethyst Sunbird**  
\( \text{Chalcomitra amethystina amethystina} \)  
(1) 1 Walter Sisulo botanical garden 21.7.

**Scarlet-chested Sunbird**  
\( \text{Chalcomitra senegalensis gutturalis} \)  
(4) 2 Abel Erasmus Pass 23.7, 1 Umkhumbi Lodge 28.7, 1 Mkuze GR 29.7 and iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7.

**Malachite Sunbird**  
\( \text{Nectarinia famosa} \)  
(1) 3 Sani Pass Road 3.8.

**Southern Double-collared Sunbird**  
\( \text{Cinnyris chalybeus} \)  
(2) Dlinza Forest NR 1.8 and Benvie Farm, Karkloof 2.8.

**Neergaard's Sunbird**  
\( \text{Cinnyris neergaardi} \)  
(1) 1 Mkuze GR 29.7.

A gorgeous looking male came into a flowering tree that we had staked out. A tough endemic to pin down!

**Greater Double-collared Sunbird**  
\( \text{Cinnyris afer} \)  
(1) 12 Sani Pass Road 3.8.

**Marico Sunbird**  
\( \text{Cinnyris mariquensis mariquensis} \)  
(3) Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7, Kruger NP 25.7 and Mkuze GR 29.7.

**Purple-banded Sunbird**  
\( \text{Cinnyris bifasciatus microrhynchus} \)  
(3) Umkhumbi Lodge 28.7, Mkuze GR 29.7 and St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 30.7.

**White-bellied Sunbird**  
\( \text{Cinnyris talatala} \)  
(6) Mkuze GR 29.7.

### Old World Sparrows \textit{Passeridae}

**White-browed Sparrow-Weaver**  
\( \text{Plocepasser mahali mahali} \)  
(2) 30 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7 and en route 23.7.

**House Sparrow**  
\( \text{Passer domesticus} \)  
Observed 1 day in total.

**Great Sparrow**  
\( \text{Passer motitensis} \)  
(1) 2 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7.

We staked out a small waterhole and were rewarded with 2 males that came in to drink.

**Cape Sparrow**  
\( \text{Passer melanurus} \)
Weavers and Allies *Ploceidae*

**Southern Grey-headed Sparrow** *Passer diffusus*
(5) Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7, Kruger NP 24.7, Kruger NP 25.7, Mkuze GR 29.7 and Sani Pass Road 3.8.

**Yellow-throated Petronia** *Gynnoris superciliiaris*
(2) 3 Kruger NP 25.7 and 40 Mkuze GR 29.7.

**Red-billed Buffalo Weaver** *Bubalornis niger niger*
(1) 10 Kruger NP 24.7.

**Scaly-feathered Weaver** *Sporopipes squamifrons*
(1) 70 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7.

**Thick-billed Weaver** *Amblyospiza albifrons*
(4) 1 Abel Erasmus Pass 23.7, Umkhumbi Lodge 28.7, Mkuze GR 29.7 and St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 30.7.

**Spectacled Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis ocularis*
Observed 2 days in total.

**Cape Weaver** *Ploceus capensis*
Observed 1 day in total.

**Eastern Golden Weaver** *Ploceus subaureus subaureus*
(2) 15 St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 30.7 and 3 St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 31.7.

**Lesser Masked Weaver** *Ploceus intermedius cabanisii*
(4) Kruger NP 23.7, Mkuze GR 29.7, St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 30.7 and iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7.

**Southern Masked Weaver** *Ploceus velatus*
Observed 3 days in total.

**Village Weaver** *Ploceus cucullatus*
(3) 6 Wakkerstroom 27.7, 20 Wakkerstroom 28.7 and 40 Karkloof 2.8.

**Dark-backed Weaver** *Ploceus bicolor*
(4) St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 30.7, St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 31.7, Dlinza Forest NR 1.8 and Benvie Farm, Karkloof 2.8.

**Red-headed Weaver** *Anaplectes rubriceps rubriceps*
(2) 1 Kruger NP 24.7 and 1 Kruger NP 26.7.

**Red-billed Quelea** *Quelea quelea lathamii*
Observed 1 day in total.
Hundreds of thousands were seen flying in unison.

**Southern Red Bishop** *Euplectes orix*
Observed 1 day in total.

**Yellow Bishop** *Euplectes capensis*
(3) Wakkerstroom 27.7, en route 2.8 and Sani Pass Road 3.8.

**Fan-tailed Widowbird** *Euplectes axillaris axillaris*
(3) Wakkerstroom 27.7, Mpempe Pan 30.7 and iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7.
White-winged Widowbird  
*Euplectes albonotatus albonotatus*
(2) 2 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7 and 50 Kruger NP 25.7.

Red-collared Widowbird  
*Euplectes ardens ardens*
(2) 5 Wakkerstroom 27.7 and 40 en route 2.8.

Long-tailed Widowbird  
*Euplectes progne progne*
Observed 2 days in total.

**Waxbills and Allies Estrildidae**

Green-winged Pytilia  
*Pytilia melba melba*
Observed 1 day in total.

Red-headed Finch  
*Amadina erythrocephala*
(2) Johannesburg 21.7 and Johannesburg 23.7.

Cut-throat Finch  
*Amadina fasciata*
(2) Kruger NP 24.7 and Kruger NP 25.7.

Green Twinspot  
*Mandingoa nitidula nitidula*
(1) iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7.
A flock was seen feeding on cassuarinau0027s.

Pink-throated Twinspot  
*Hypargos margaritatus*
(1) 3 Mkuze GR 29.7.
We had to work hard to find this stunning Maputoland endemic.

Red-billed Firefinch  
*Lagonosticta senegala rendalli*
Observed 2 days in total.

Jameson's Firefinch  
*Lagonosticta rhodopareia jamesoni*
(1) 3 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7.

Blue Waxbill  
*Uraeginthus angolensis*
Observed 1 day in total.

Violet-eared Waxbill  
*Uraeginthus granatinus*
(2) 1 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7 and 1 Kruger NP 24.7.

Grey Waxbill  
*Estrilda perreini incana*
(2) 2 Mkuze GR 29.7 and 8 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7.

Common Waxbill  
*Estrilda astrild*
Observed 1 day in total.

Black-faced Waxbill  
*Estrilda erythronotos erythronotos*
(1) 4 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7.

Quailfinch  
*Ortygospiza atricollis digressa*
(2) 20 Wakkerstroom 26.7 and 2 Wakkerstroom 27.7.
We saw a pair extremely well through the scope, feeding on a small track.

Bronze Mannikin  
*Lonchura cucullata scutata*
(2) Kruger NP 25.7 and Benvie Farm, Karkloof 2.8.

Red-backed Mannikin  
*Lonchura nigriceps*
(1) 25 Benvie Farm, Karkloof 2.8.
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**Indigobirds Viduidae**

**Purple Indigobird**
(1) 1 Kruger NP 25.7.  
*Vidua purpurascens*

**Dusky Indigobird**
(2) 2 Kruger NP 25.7 and 2 Mkuze GR 29.7.  
*Vidua funerea*

**Pin-tailed Whydah**
(1) 5 Johannesburg 21.7.  
*Vidua macroura*

**Long-tailed Paradise Whydah**
(1) 2 Mkuze GR 29.7.  
*Vidua paradisaea*

**Wagtails and Pipits Motacillidae**

**Cape Wagtail**
Observed 3 days in total.  
*Motacilla capensis capensis*

**Mountain Wagtail**
(1) 1 Abel Erasmus Pass 23.7.  
A singleton was seen feeding in a stream.  
*Motacilla clara torrentium*

**African Pied Wagtail**
Observed 2 days in total.  
*Motacilla aguimp*

**Cape Longclaw**
Observed 2 days in total.  
*Macronyx capensis*

**Yellow-throated Longclaw**
(4) Kruger NP 25.7, Umkhumbi Lodge 28.7, Mpempe Pan 30.7 and iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7.  
*Macronyx croceus vulturnus*

**African Pipit**
Observed 11 days in total.  
*Anthus cinnamomeus*

**Long-billed Pipit**
(1) 10 Wakkerstroom 27.7.  
For this species, we had unbelievable views.  
*Anthus similis*

**Buffy Pipit**
(1) 4 Wakkerstroom 27.7.  
We were fortunate to find many along a newly burnt fire break.  
*Anthus vaalensis vaalensis*

**Plain-backed Pipit**
(2) Wakkerstroom 27.7 and Wakkerstroom 29.7.  
*Anthus leucophrys leucophrys*

**African Rock Pipit**
(1) 2 Wakkerstroom 28.7.  
A rare species, seen well atop some rocks.  
*Anthus crenatus*

**Bushveld Pipit**
(1) 1 Mkuze GR 29.7.  
A notoriously difficult species was seen well.  
*Anthus caffer*

**Yellow-breasted Pipit (VU)**
(1) 1 Wakkerstroom 27.7.  
A non-breeding bird was seen only in flight.  
*Anthus chloris*
### Finches, Euphonias Fringillidae

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Location &amp; Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forest Canary</td>
<td>10 Benvie Farm, Karkloof 2.8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-throated Canary</td>
<td>2 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lemon-breasted Canary</td>
<td>2 Mkuze GR 29.7 and 15 Mpempe Pan 30.7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-fronted Canary</td>
<td>Observed 6 days in total.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drakensberg Siskin</td>
<td>20 Sani Pass Road 3.8. See well in both Lesotho and South Africa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brimstone Canary</td>
<td>Observed 2 days in total.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streaky-headed Seedeater</td>
<td>3 en route 23.7, 1 Wakkerstroom 27.7 and 3 Sani Pass Road 3.8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Canary</td>
<td>10 Wakkerstroom 27.7 and 25 Karkloof 2.8.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Buntings, Sparrows and Allies Emberizidae

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Location &amp; Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lark-like Bunting</td>
<td>1 Kruger NP 25.7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cinnamon-breasted Bunting</td>
<td>30 Kruger NP 24.7 and 1 Wakkerstroom 27.7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Bunting</td>
<td>5 Sani Pass Road 3.8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden-breasted Bunting</td>
<td>Observed Kruger NP 24-26.7 and Mkuze GR 29.7.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Mammals (47 in total: 47 seen)

**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Location &amp; Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African Elephant</td>
<td>Loxodonta africana.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) Observed Kruger NP 23-26.7.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Location &amp; Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rock Hyrax</td>
<td>30 Sani Pass Road 3.8.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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**Galagos Galagidae**

**Thick-tailed Greater Galago**  
*Otolemur crassicaudatus crassicaudatus*  
(3) 1 heard Kruger NP 25.7, 2 St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 30.7 and 2 St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 31.7.

**Old World monkeys Cercopithecidae**

**Blue Monkey**  
*Cercopithecus mitis*  
(2) 12 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7 and 2 Benvie Farm, Karkloof 2.8.

**Vervet**  
*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*  
Observed 3 days in total.

**Chacma Baboon**  
*Papio ursinus ursinus*  
Observed 1 day in total.

**Rabbits, Hares Leporidae**

**Cape Hare**  
*Lepus capensis*  
(1) 1 Wakkerstroom 27.7.

**Scrub Hare**  
*Lepus saxatilis*  
(1) 1 Kruger NP 24.7.

**Cane Rats Thryonomyidae**

**Greater Cane Rat**  
*Thryonomys swinderianus*  
(1) 4 Umkhumbi Lodge 30.7.  
We saw a small family in the road.

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

**Sloggett's Vlei Rat**  
*Otomys sloggetti*  
(1) 14 Sani Pass Road 3.8.

**Squirrels Sciuridae**

**Smith's Bush Squirrel**  
*Paraxerus cepapi*  
(4) 1 heard Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7 and observed Kruger NP 23-25.7.

**Red Bush Squirrel**  
*Paraxerus palliatius*  
(1) 4 St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 30.7.

**Cats Felidae**

**Lion**  
*Panthera leo leo*  
(2) 1 Kruger NP 24.7 and 15 Kruger NP 25.7.  
A large pride and cubs were seen really well!

**Leopard**  
*Panthera pardus pardus*  
(2) 1 Kruger NP 24.7 and 1 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7.  
A fantastic sighting of a huge male was had as he proceeded to walk next to us and re-scent his marking posts after a spout of rain.
Mongooses Herpestidae

Yellow Mongoose Cynictis penicillata
(1) 20 Wakkerstroom 27.7.

Slender Mongoose Herpestes sanguineus
(2) 1 Kruger NP 24.7 and 1 Kruger NP 26.7.

Banded Mongoose Mungos mungo
(2) 20 St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 30.7 and 35 St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 31.7.

Meerkat Suricata suricatta
(1) 30 Wakkerstroom 27.7.

Hyaenas, Aardwolf Hyaenidae

Spotted Hyaena Crocuta crocuta
(2) 6 Kruger NP 24.7 and 10 Kruger NP 25.7.

Wolves, Coyote, Foxes, Jackals Canidae

Black-backed Jackal Canis mesomelas
(2) 1 Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7 and 3 Kruger NP 24.7.

Weasels, Skunks, Otters Mustelidae

Spotted-necked Otter Lutra maculicollis
(1) 3 Sani Pass Road 3.8.

Honey Badger Mellivora capensis
(1) 2 Kruger NP 26.7.
We were lucky as we were the ones who found a singleton running in the road in front of us.

Zebras, Horse, Asses Equidae

Plains Zebra Equus quagga
Observed 12 days in total.

Rhinoceroses Rhinocerotidae

White Rhinoceros Ceratotherium simum simum
(4) 1 Kruger NP 25.7, 9 Kruger NP 26.7, 4 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 30.7 and 2 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7.

Black Rhinoceros Diceros bicornis
(1) 1 Mkuze GR 29.7.
A very rare and exceptional sighting of a big bull.

Pigs Suidae

Common Warthog Phacochoerus africanus sundevallii
Observed 1 day in total.

Hippopotamuses Hippopotamidae
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Observations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hippopotamus</td>
<td><em>Hippopotamus amphibius capensis</em></td>
<td>Observed 3 days in total.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cattle, Antelopes, Sheep, Goats Bovidae</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impala</td>
<td><em>Aepyceros melampus melampus</em></td>
<td>Observed 2 days in total.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springbok</td>
<td><em>Antidorcas marsupialis</em></td>
<td>(2) Wakkerstroom 27.7 and Wakkerstroom 28.7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natal Red Duiker</td>
<td><em>Cephalophus natalensis</em></td>
<td>(4) Umkhumbi Lodge 28.7, Mkuze GR 29.7, St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 30.7 and St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 31.7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Wildebeest</td>
<td><em>Connochaetes gnou</em></td>
<td>(2) Wakkerstroom 27.7 and Wakkerstroom 28.7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Wildebeest</td>
<td><em>Connochaetes taurinus</em></td>
<td>Observed 1 day in total.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blesbok</td>
<td><em>Damaliscus pygargus</em></td>
<td>(4) Zaagkuildrift Road 22.7 and observed Wakkerstroom 26-28.7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterbuck</td>
<td><em>Kobus ellipsiprymnus ellipsiprymnus</em></td>
<td>(3) Kruger NP 24.7, Kruger NP 25.7 and iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 30.7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Klipspringer</td>
<td><em>Oreotragus oreotragus</em></td>
<td>(1) 1 Kruger NP 24.7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey Rhebok</td>
<td><em>Pelea capreolus</em></td>
<td>(1) 15 Sani Pass Road 3.8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steenbok</td>
<td><em>Raphicerus campestris campestris</em></td>
<td>(3) Up to 20 Kruger NP 24-26.7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Reedbuck</td>
<td><em>Redunca arundinum</em></td>
<td>(3) 4 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 30.7, 10 Karkloof 2.8 and 2 Sani Pass Road 3.8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Reedbuck</td>
<td><em>Redunca fulvorufula fulvorufula</em></td>
<td>(1) 10 Sani Pass Road 3.8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Duiker</td>
<td><em>Sylvicapra grimmia</em></td>
<td>Observed 2 days in total.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Buffalo</td>
<td><em>Syncerus caffer caffer</em></td>
<td>Observed 2 days in total.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyala</td>
<td><em>Tragelaphus angasii</em></td>
<td>Observed 2 days in total.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Eland</td>
<td><em>Tragelaphus oryx</em></td>
<td>(1) 12 Sani Pass Road 3.8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bushbuck</td>
<td><em>Tragelaphus scriptus</em></td>
<td>Observed 3 days in total.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Kudu</td>
<td><em>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</em></td>
<td>Observed 1 day in total.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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**Giraffe, Okapi Giraffidae**

*Giraffe*  
*Giraffa camelopardalis giraffa*  
Observed 1 day in total.

**Old World Fruit Bats Pteropodidae**

*Wahlberg’s Epauletted Fruit Bat*  
*Epomophorus wahlbergi*  
(1) 6 Kruger NP 26.7.  
A colony of roosting birds were seen well.

**Reptiles (9 in total: 9 seen)**

_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_

**Afro-American Sideneck Turtles Pelomedusidae**

*Helmeted Turtle*  
*Pelomedusa subrufa nigra*  
(4) Kruger NP 24.7, Kruger NP 25.7, Mkuze GR 29.7 and iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7.

**Agamas Agamidae**

*Southern Tree Agama*  
*Acanthocercus atricollis atricollis*  
(2) Kruger NP 25.7 and Dlinza Forest NR 1.8.  
*Southern Rock Agama*  
*Agama atra atra*  
(1) Sani Pass Road 3.8.

**Chameleons Chamaeleonidae**

*Flap-neck Chameleon*  
*Chamaeleo dilepis*  
(1) iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 30.7.  
Seen well on our night drive.

**Geckos Gekkonidae**

*House Gecko*  
*Hemidactylus mabouia*  
Observed 3 days in total.

**Spinytail Lizards Cordylidae**

*Highveld Crag Lizard*  
*Cordylus melanotus*  
(1) 2 Sani Pass Road 3.8.  
Recently split into the Drakensberg Crag Lizard.

**Skinks Scincidae**

*African Five-lined Skink*  
*Trachylepis quinquetaeniata*  
(2) 1 Kruger NP 23.7 and 10 Kruger NP 25.7.  
*African Striped Skink*  
*Trachylepis striata striata*
Crocodiles and relatives *Crocodylidae*

Nile Crocodile
*Crocodylus niloticus cowiei*
Observed 1 day in total.

**Amphibians (9 in total: 1 seen, 8 heard)**

**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

**True toads *Bufonidae***

Olive Toad
*Amietophrynus garmani*
(1) 1 heard Kruger NP 24.7.

Guttural Toad
*Amietophrynus gutturalis*
(1) 1 heard iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 30.7.

**Shovelnose frogs *Hemisotidae***

Spotted Shovelnosed Frog
*Hemisus guttatus*
(1) 1 heard iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 31.7.

**Sedge frogs or bush frogs *Hyperoliidae***

Painted Reed Frog
*Hyperolius marmoratus*
(2) 1 heard Mkuze GR 29.7 and 4 iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 30.7.

Water Lily Frog
*Hyperolius pusillus*
(1) 1 heard iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 30.7.

Bubbling Kassina
*Kassina senegalensis*
(1) 1 heard iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 30.7.

Forest Tree Frog
*Leptopelis natalensis*
(1) 1 heard St. Lucia, iGwalaGwala Trail 30.7.

**Narrow-mouthed frogs *Microhylidae***

Mozambique Rain Frog
*Breviceps mossambicus*
(1) 1 heard iSimangaliso WP - Cape Vidal 30.7.

**True frogs *Ranidae***

Common River Frog
*Amietia angolensis*
(1) 1 heard Kruger NP 25.7.

(2) Kruger NP 23.7 and 1 Kruger NP 25.7.