Schneider Private
Eastern South Africa
16th October to 1st November 2017 (17 days)
Trip Report

Male Leopard (The ‘Porcupine Killer’) by Heinz Ortmann

Trip report compiled by Tour Leader: Heinz Ortmann
Tour Summary

This tour through the eastern parts of South Africa began at King Shaka International Airport near Durban, where I was to meet the group arriving from Germany. Once everyone had arrived, we began the short journey northwards to our destination of Eshowe. The mostly completely transformed habitat en route allowed us limited opportunities in terms of birds, with Blacksmith Lapwing, Black-headed Heron, Red-eyed Dove and a lovely Long-crested Eagle the only notable species seen during the drive. It was late afternoon already by the time we arrived at our wonderful accommodation on the outskirts of Eshowe. Low-hanging cloud and rain meant that our birding for that afternoon was rather short and without much reward. Spectacled Weaver, White-eared Barbet, Bronze Mannikin and Black-bellied Starlings were the obvious highlights. In the forest we could hear many other species, including African Goshawk, Olive Woodpecker, Purple-crested Turaco and Chorister Robin-Chat to name a few. It was hoped that during the course of the next day and a half that we would manage to find many of these forest specials, as well as many others that hopefully were in store for us.

The following day saw us explore the Eshowe region, more specifically the forests known as Dlinza and Ngoye, searching for a number of forest specials and range-restricted species. The cool, at times miserable, weather made birding quite difficult, but we nevertheless managed to find a decent number of the more sought-after species that occur in these forests. In the Dlinza Forest, we were fortunate enough to get great views of the endangered Spotted Ground Thrush as the major highlight of our time exploring this interesting area. Meanwhile, at Ngoye, it was a great bonus to find several Green Barbets, occurring only at this single site in Southern Africa, whilst the weather became less and less desirable for birding. Along with these two main targets, we were also able to find a number of other specials that included Purple-crested Turaco, Red-chested Cuckoo, African Goshawk, Trumpeter Hornbill, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, Olive Bushshrike, Dark-backed Weaver, Square-tailed Drongo, Cape Batis, African Paradise Flycatcher, Olive Thrush, Chorister Robin-Chat, and Olive, Grey and Southern Double-collared Sunbirds, amongst others. Mammals are few and far between in this habitat, but we did manage to find the diminutive Blue Duiker in the Dlinza Forest. Overhead there were sightings of Yellow-billed Kite, African Fish Eagle and the localised Palm-nut Vulture, as well as several flocks of African Palm and Little Swifts. Along the forest edge and in more open woodland areas, we enjoyed Southern Black Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Greenbul, Southern...
Black Tit, Brown-hooded Kingfisher, Lesser Striped Swallow, Southern Fiscal, Cape White-eye, the bizarre-looking African Hoopoe, African Pied Wagtail and buzzing Southern Red Bishops as a wonderful blend of variety for our first day of birding. Some ponds near Mtunzini yielded several White-breasted Cormorants and our first Striated Heron before more afternoon rain set in and we had to return to our accommodation for the remainder of the day.

Our next day saw the journey through Zululand take us through the forests of Dlinza and Ngoye again, before driving via Mtunzini to the coastal town of St Lucia – which would be our base for the next three nights. The Eshowe forests again produced a number of great birds, which included the brilliant Narina Trogon, Olive Woodpecker, Southern Boubou, Red-fronted Tinkerbird, Woolly-necked Stork, African Harrier-Hawk and Crowned Eagle, amongst a number of previously seen species. We again came across the diminutive and endearing Blue Duikers at Dlinza; and in the grassland at the edge of Ngoye Forest the guests became acquainted with some of the ‘Little Brown Jobs’ or LBJs in the form of Zitting and Croaking Cisticolas, as well as Rufous-naped Larks. The drive to St Lucia was mostly uneventful in terms of birds. During a short stop at the bridge crossing the estuary before reaching the town, we enjoyed great views of Eastern Golden and Southern Brown-throated Weavers displaying noisily at their nests, whilst also managing to find the skulking Lesser Swamp Warbler in the reedbeds along the shoreline. In the water there were several Hippos present, and we also managed to find a rather large Nile Monitor Lizard before continuing on to the town of St Lucia.

We arrived at our accommodation, checked in and decided to do some birding on the nearby forest trails on the edge of town, as well as visiting the estuary in the late afternoon. The forest trails are wide and visibility good, allowing good rewarding birding when the weather conditions are right. During our first visit to this area, we enjoyed a number of wonderful birds that included Collared and Purple-banded Sunbirds, Black Sparrowhawk, attractive Livingstone’s and Purple-crested Turacos, Black-collared Barbet, Golden-tailed and Cardinal Woodpeckers, Eastern Nicator, noisy Green-backed Camaroptera, Black Saw-wing, lovely Grey Waxbill, Bar-throated, Yellow-breasted and Rudd’s Apalises, Yellow-fronted Canary and Black-backed Puffback, to name a few of the highlights. At the estuary and surrounding waterbody, we encountered many new species for the trip. Larger birds present included Pink-backed Pelican, Grey and Purple Herons, bizarre Hamerkop, and Yellow-billed Stork. Shorebirds present in the area were not huge in numbers, but included a number of different species, such as Collared Pratincole,
Black-winged Stilt, Pied Avocet, Common Ringed and White-fronted Plovers, Marsh and Curlew Sandpipers, Ruff, Little Stint, Ruddy Turnstone and Common Greenshank. Anatids were few and far between with the widespread and common Egyptian Goose and Yellow-billed Duck the only species found in the area whilst we were there. A small tern roost in the estuary also held Grey-headed Gull in and amongst the many Greater Crested, Caspian and Little Terns present. Large numbers of Brown-throated Martins was another attraction, as they flew low over the estuarine waters. A day of birding anywhere in South Africa usually also provides a number of encounters with different mammal species, and this day around St Lucia was no different. On the forest trails, we managed to find Natal Red Duiker, Red Bush Squirrel, Vervet Monkeys, Bushbuck and Banded Mongoose in what was a surprisingly good mammal day as well. Having had a superb day, we returned to the guesthouse and enjoyed a lovely dinner in town that evening whilst looking forward to the next day’s adventures.

The first full day exploring the St Lucia area began with another stint of birding along the forest trails before re-visitng the estuary and finally heading to the eastern shores and Cape Vidal for what proved to be another successful day. Along the forest trails, we were keen to attempt to locate a number of species that we had not yet found the day before. It turned out to be a fantastic morning, with a number of fantastic and rewarding sightings of several specials. Crested Guineafowl, Tambourine Dove, African Green Pigeon, Crowned Hornbill, Sombre Greenbul, Terrestrial Brownbul, Ashy Flycatcher, Red-capped Robin-Chat, Olive Bushshrike, Green Twinspot and Woodward’s Batis were all added to the growing trip list by mid-morning! At the estuary, we encountered African Darter, African Spoonbill, Bar-tailed Godwit, Common Sandpiper, Sanderling and Common Tern as new additions for the trip, whilst there were many species seen on the previous day also present that morning.

Having enjoyed a fabulous morning’s birding around town, we then made our way into the eastern shores section of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park and headed to the coastal point known as Cape Vidal. The drive to Cape Vidal and later again back to St Lucia passes through some lovely open grassland areas, where we enjoyed great views of a number of large mammals, including African Elephant, White Rhinoceros, Burchell’s Zebra, Common Warthog, Common Wildebeest, African Buffalo, Southern Reedbuck and Common Waterbuck. In the forest areas near Cape Vidal, we were also fortunate enough to find the localised Blue Monkey that occurs here. At the ocean viewpoint, we had the added bonus of not only finding an interesting seabird species in the form

![Ruddy Turnstone by Daniel Danckwerts](image)

![Sombre Greenbul by Adam Riley](image)
of a White-chinned Petrel, but were further spoilt by good views of a few Humpback Whales! The birding in the park was also good, with Black Stork, Senegal and African Wattled Lapwings, African Jacana, Brown and Southern Banded Snake Eagles, Black Crake, Common House Martin, Red-breasted Swallow, Fan-tailed Widowbird, Lesser Masked Weaver, Cape Wagtail, African Pipit and the ubiquitous Rattling Cisticola all seen well. We returned to St Lucia in the early evening having had another enjoyable day in the Zululand bush.

The following day would be spent exploring South Africa’s oldest game reserve, the iconic Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park. This reserve is most well-known for harbouring and saving the last remaining White Rhinoceros of the southern subspecies in the mid-20th century. Whilst exploring the park, we were fortunate enough to see more than 20 White Rhino in what is one of the last remaining strongholds for the species. Other great mammal sightings included a number of African Elephant, good sized troops of Chacma Baboon and the first views of the graceful Impala and stunning Nyala antelope, amongst others.

The birding is quite different to the St Lucia and Mkuze areas that are not far away, and we had a fantastic day enjoying many new birds and having great views of many species throughout the day. Raptors are usually a feature of the large reserves and parks in South Africa, and we were fortunate in finding a few species, such as Bateleur, Black-winged Kite, Common Buzzard and White-backed Vulture. Crowned Lapwing, Red-collared and White-winged Widowbirds, and Yellow-throated Longclaw were just some of the species that we came across in the more open grassland areas. With most of the habitat consisting of a range of woodland, it was no surprise that the majority of new birds seen on the day were species that prefer the more wooded areas. Shrikes, in particular, were a prominent group throughout the day, with all of Black-crowned and Brown-crowned Tchagras, Orange-breasted, Grey-headed and Gorgeous Bushshrikes seen exceptionally well. The latter species is well-known for its loud call that carries far, but the bird itself is usually extremely challenging to see well. We were, however, fortunate to have two good sightings of this stunning bird during the course of the day. A rocky river gorge produced one of the birding highlights of the day, with the discovery of a Southern Bald Ibis at the nest! Emerald-spotted Wood Dove, Tawny-flanked Prinia, Purple-crested Turaco, White-bellied Sunbird, Thick-billed Weaver, Blue Waxbill, African Firefinch and Black-headed Oriole were some of the other highlights at that spot. Other
highlights were Crested Francolin, White-rumped Swift, Red-faced Mousebird, Striped Kingfisher, Little Bee-eater, Acacia Pied Barbet, Kurtrichane Thrush, Burnt-neck Eremomela, Long-billed Crombec, Mocking Cliff Chat, Chinspot Batis, Cape and Violet-backed Starlings, Red-billed Oxpecker and Yellow-throated Petronia, to name a few. That evening back in St Lucia, we managed to get good looks at African Wood Owl before heading back to our guesthouse for a well-deserved night of rest.

We had a final morning of birding the St Lucia area the following morning. Pied Kingfisher, Goliath Heron, Little Egret, African Swamphen and Rufous-winged Cisticola were found at the estuary, and in the forest we were treated to more views of Crested Guineafowl and Woodward’s Batis, whilst also finding Brown Scrub Robin, Greater Honeyguide, Black-throated Wattle-eye and Green Malkoha. Along the way to our accommodation in the Mkuze area, we found Long-crested Eagle and European Bee-eaters. The lunch stop offered views of Crested Barbet and Scarlet-chested Sunbird but not much else as we continued northwards and into an area is known as False Bay. Here we had the good fortune of finding the range-restricted Neergaard’s Sunbird, as well as enjoying fantastic views of African Yellow White-eye. Having located the sunbird and with bird activity rather low, we made our way to the last birding stop of the day in an area locally known as Mpmpe Pan. The open grassland and small puddles held Wood Sandpiper and Kittlitz’s Plovers and in the surrounding area we found Brown-hooded Kingfisher, Diederik Cuckoo and the attractive White-fronted Bee-eater. It did not take us long to locate the main target bird for the area, the much sought-after Lemon-breasted Canary. We had fantastic sightings of the lovely little canaries before having to leave and make our way to the lodge nearby, where we were to be based for the next two nights. Through the course of the day, there were a few non-avian highlights that included watching two adult (Southern) Giraffe ‘necking’ and seeing a few of the larger Nile Crocodiles in the St Lucia estuary. Overall, it had been another wonderful day and we were all quite looking forward to the next day exploring the famous birding hotspot of Mkuze Game Reserve.

Our day in Mkuze Game Reserve was nothing short of fantastic. There was a wonderful variety of different birds and mammals on display and we thoroughly enjoyed all of this. Mkuze is known as one of the top birding spots in South Africa, and we had a number of specials that we were after and hoping to be lucky enough to find. The weather played its part for the most part, as we were able to
stay well into the afternoon before returning to the lodge. Any visit to Mkuze for a birder would be incomplete without a plethora of different water-associated species being found. Reed Cormorant, African Sacred and Glossy Ibises, Great and Intermediate Egrets, Squacco Heron, White-faced Whistling Duck, Spur-winged Goose, African Jacana, Whiskered and White-winged Terns, and Malachite Kingfisher were some of the species encountered near or in the water. Raptors were a constant presence, with some fantastic finds that included at least four African Cuckoo-Hawks, African Goshawk, Lizard Buzzard, Western Osprey, and Tawny, Martial and Wahlberg’s Eagles along with a few previously seen species. Overhead there were mixed flocks of larger swifts, with Alpine and African Black Swift prominent.

In Mkuze, we also had both Helmeted and Crested Guineafowl during the day. Woodland species dominate away from the pans and waterbodies, with more widespread species including Grey Go-away-bird, Striped Kingfisher, dazzling Lilac-breasted Roller, Black Cuckoo-shrike, Green Wood Hoopoe, Common Scimitarbill, Acacia Pied Barbet, White-browed Scrub Robin, Golden-breasted Bunting, Orange-breasted Bushshrike, Southern Masked Weaver, Red-billed Quelea, Green-winged Pytilia and Sabota Lark all seen exceptionally well. Regional specials and more localised species also seen in the woodland included Grey Penduline Tit, Pale Flycatcher, Grey Tit-Flycatcher, White Helmetshrike, Village and Dusky Indigobirds, Bearded Scrub Robin, Cinnamon-breasted Bunting, Long-tailed Paradise Whydah and the cracking Pink-throated Twinspot! Slender Mongoose, Natal Red Duiker, Nyala and Leopard Tortoise were some of the non-birding highlights of the day. The main talking point, arguably for the entire day, was finding an adult female Cheetah that had been darted and operated on by the reserve vet. Unfortunately, we missed most of the process and returned a few hours later to still see her struggling to get up as the medicine slowly wore off. Thankfully, she was ok and reunited with her two cubs later that day. Although distressing to watch the animal struggle to get up, it was a very necessary operation and procedure that guaranteed her long-term health and gave the two cubs a much better chance at surviving as well. Yet again, we had been spoilt by a variety of experiences and superb sightings throughout the day in another of South Africa’s very special protected areas! That evening back at the lodge, we enjoyed a wonderful dinner and had the privilege of finding one of the resident Thick-tailed Greater Galagos as it made its way through the area in search of some scrumptious insects. A fitting end to another amazing day!
The next day dawned with the reality that our time in the Zululand region and its many attractions was fast coming to an end, as we had a long journey to the highland grasslands of Wakkerstroom ahead of us that day. The first order of the day was a final bit of birding in the lodge grounds before breakfast. Eastern Nicator, Yellow-bellied and Sombre Greenbul, Terrestrial Brownbul, White-throated Robin-Chat, Bluemantled Crested Flycatcher, Gorgeous Bushshrike and Red-billed Firefinch being some of the star attractions seen early that morning. Whilst packing our things into the vehicle at our lodge, we had further sightings of Natal Red Duiker and one of the guests was lucky enough to have a brief view of the shy and tiny Suni antelope near her chalet! Not far from the lodge, we were again treated to views of a small group of Banded Mongoose marauding their way through the unique sand forest habitat found in the area. Nearing Wakkerstroom, we made a quick roadside stop in some grassland and rocky hillside. A number of regional specials were found, including the strange Ground Woodpecker, a lovely male Cape Rock Thrush, attractive Buff-streaked Chat and a great bonus in finding a pair of Red-winged Francolins as well! The grasslands beyond this point held as many as four different Secretarybirds before we arrived in the quaint little town of Wakkerstroom for lunch. Whilst enjoying lunch, we had our first interactions with Pied Starlings and a pair of nesting Speckled Pigeon.

After lunch and having checked in at our wonderful accommodation, we made our way to some beautiful grassland in an area known as Wakkerstroom Mountain. The two big specials that were encountered here was the much sought-after Yellow-breasted Pipit and the localised Eastern Long-billed Lark. African Stonechat, Cape Crow, Pin-tailed Whydah, Southern Bald Ibis, Banded Martin, Cape Longclaw, Red-capped Lark, Quailfinch and Ant-eating Chat were amongst the other highlights whilst exploring these beautiful grasslands. Mammals that were encountered included the endemic Black Wildebeest, Springbok, Blesbok and the endearing Yellow Mongoose. Our final birding stop for the day was the large wetland on the edge of town. Hirundines were prominent at the wetland, with all of South African Cliff Swallow, attractive White-throated Swallow and the large Greater Striped Swallow seen well. It was a highlights fest at the wetland, with Little Grebe, Little Bittern, Hottentot Teal, Grey Crowned Crane, African Rail, Common Moorhen, Red-knobbed Coot, African Snipe, Whiskered Tern, Cape Weaver and Common Waxbill all picked up whilst birding around the wetland. The overall
highlight was arguably the sighting of a Spotted-necked Otter enjoying a late afternoon swim. This is an exceptional mammal and always a special one to find. We returned to the guesthouse having had a wonderful travel day and continued to enjoy the Malachite Sunbirds present in the flowering trees in the garden. What a day indeed!

Our Wakkerstroom adventure continued the next morning with a full day to explore this wonderful region. These grasslands host some of South Africa’s most endangered and localised lark species amongst others. We encountered at least six species of lark on this day, namely Eastern Clapper, Botha’s, Rudd’s, Spike-heeled, Red-capped and Rufous-naped, to make it a successful day of larking! Another group well-represented on the day was the cisticolas, with all of Wailing, Wing-snapping, Cloud and Levaillant’s seen well and heard on many occasions at different locations. Raptors were prominent, with the attractive Jackal Buzzard, further sightings of Secretarybird, Lanner Falcon and the comical-looking Long-crested Eagle providing great moments throughout the course of the day. One of the major highlights of the day was the many sightings of the curious and endearing Meerkats or Suricates that call these grasslands home. It was a strange day in a way, as we came across around 50 of these interesting creatures over the course of the day exploring the region. Another fantastic mammal to find was the critically endangered Oribi antelope that we had superb views of during the early afternoon. Critically threatened due to habitat loss and hunting by dogs, these antelope are very rarely seen in the Wakkerstroom region, suggesting that we were incredibly fortunate to have a memorable sighting of this species! Yellow and Slender Mongoose, Blesbok, Black Wildebeest, Rock Hyrax, Common Duiker and Steenbok all added a good mammal flavour to this beautiful and memorable day.

Larger birds were another feature of the day, with Grey Crowned and Blue Cranes, Black Stork, Blue Korhaan, and White-bellied and Denham’s Bustards some of the species found. We even had brilliant sightings of both Grey-winged and Red-winged Francolins to go with numerous good views of the much commoner and bolder Swainson’s Spurfowl also found in the region. In the gardens of the guesthouse, we were treated to many stunning Amethyst and Malachite Sunbirds, confiding Cape Robin-Chat, Black-collared Barbet, duetting Bokmakierie, Cape Sparrow and Streaky-headed Seedeater as the standout species to be seen. Waterbodies and wetlands visited and scanned through the day produced Maccoa Duck, Red-billed Teal, Great Crested Grebe, South African Shelduck, Southern Pochard, Cape Shoveler, African Wattled Lapwing, dainty Three-banded Plover...
and further good sightings of the sought-after African Snipe all provided us with more great memories and wonderful sightings. Ground Woodpecker, Long-billed Pipit, Drakensberg Prinia, African Yellow Warbler, Mountain and Capped Wheatears, Fan-tailed and Long-tailed Widowbirds, and Cape and Black-throated Canaries were all welcome additions to what was fast becoming an impressive trip list. That evening after dinner, we even briefly had a scrub hare before it dashed away from the road and to the relative shelter of some roadside thicket. Yet again, it had been an action-packed and thoroughly enjoyable day, with everyone enjoying a well-deserved night’s rest before heading on to Kruger National Park the next day.

Our journey the following day would take us to the world-renowned Kruger National Park. First off, we popped by the wetland at the edge of town before breakfast. Before heading to the wetland, we managed to locate the rather odd Red-throated Wryneck, a sometimes difficult to find species that was new to all of the participants and showed particularly well, much to everyone’s delight. Of course, having been to the wetland before, it was going to be tricky to find any new species for the trip. This did not deter us at all, as we enjoyed species such as Grey Crowned Crane, African Snipe and Swainson’s Spurfowl that had been previously seen. New birds included Squacco Heron, African Marsh Harrier and the delightful Malachite Kingfisher, as well as a few species of warbler that included Little Rush Warbler, African Reed Warbler and the much larger Lesser Swamp Warbler. It had been another very rewarding visit to this lovely spot. Our entry into Kruger National Park in the late afternoon was held up by a rather unfortunate local protest that completely blocked the road and our passage into the park by at least two hours. Fortunately, we were able to find species such as Burchell’s Starling, Natal Spurfowl, Wahlberg’s Eagle, Water Thick-knee, European Bee-eater, Magpie Shrike, Southern Red-billed Hornbill and White Helmetshrike before dark. The delay had meant that most of the drive in the park had to be done after dark and without much stopping. A single Marsh Owl sitting in the road not far from our camp was a welcome delay for us, and thankfully was seen by everyone before flying off the road. As is the case with most national parks, Kruger offers an incredible variety of possible mammal species to anyone visiting this iconic conservation area. Our drive into the park was no different; and although we could not stop for most of the things seen, we were still able to see Smith’s Bush Squirrel, a pride of ten Lions, African Elephant, Giraffe, Greater Kudu, Burchell’s Zebra and Spotted Hyaena before arriving very late at our camp, where we would be based for the next four nights.
The first full day of exploring Kruger National Park is always a special occasion, with a large number of new birds; and for this group, in particular, the first chance to become acquainted with a number of different large mammal species. Larger birds are a prominent feature of the south-central region of the park that we explored on this first day, with great sightings of Common Ostrich, Yellow-billed, Black and Saddle-billed Storks, Red-crested Korhaan, Black-bellied Bustard and Southern Ground Hornbill the highlights. Raptors present, and seen well, included the massive Lappet-faced Vulture, African Harrier-Hawk, and Tawny, Wahlberg’s and Martial Eagles as the standout species. Red-breasted Swallows flew and glided over the grasslands and we even flushed a few Common Buttonquails at the roadside edge, whilst later in the afternoon both Double-banded Sandgrouse and the attractive Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark were star attractions. Other birding highlights included Collared Pratincole, Mourning Collared and Namaqua Doves, Brown-headed Parrot, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Purple Roller, Common Scimitarbill, Southern Yellow-Billed and African Grey Hornbills, Sabota Lark, Lesser Striped Swallow, Chinspot Batis, Wattled Starling and Red-billed Oxpecker, to name a few. As with any day in Kruger, there were many special moments focussed on mammals as well. During the course of the day, we had sightings of Spotted Hyaena, Lion, Cheetah, Black-backed Jackal and Bushbuck as special and unusual species. The sighting of an adult female Cheetah with her five almost fully-grown cubs was incredibly special, to put it mildly. Although they were quite distant, at over 200m away, it is rare to have a Cheetah manage to get that many cubs to that age in the park. This has to do with the high density of other large predators and as a result, the majority of Cheetah cubs fall foul of predators well before reaching a year in age. In terms of reptiles, we had seen a few large Nile Crocodiles as well as finding the aquatic Helmeted Turtle.

On the second day exploring Kruger National Park, we decided on heading as far north as we could, reaching the camps of Olifants and Letaba. Situated on the Olifants and Letaba Rivers respectively, these are two of the most scenic camps in the park and always well-worth a visit. Letaba camp, in particular, holds the added attraction of the Elephant Museum, which has the tusks and displays some fascinating information around the ‘Magnificent 7’ Great Tuskers, and has been updated to contain information around all of the current

African Elephant (Kruger National Park) by Heinz Ortmann

Saddle-billed Stork male (Kruger National Park) by Heinz Ortmann
Big Tuskers in the park! Again, the larger birds were a prominent feature of the day, with Goliath Heron, Marabou, Yellow-billed and Saddle-billed Storks, as well as smaller species such as Little Egret and Striated Heron also featuring. Raptors once again showed well, with Hooded, Egyptian, White-backed, Lappet-faced and White-headed Vultures joined by the stunning Bateleur, Brown Snake Eagle, Martial and Tawny Eagles all prominent. Secretarybird, the enormous Kori Bustard and further great views of Red-crested Korhaan further emphasised the theme of larger birds through the day. The attractive White-crowned Lapwing, White-fronted Bee-eater, the enormous Giant Kingfisher, Wire-tailed Swallow and the scarce inland race of White-fronted Plover were further attractions along the river courses.

Birding in the camps allowed good views of Crested Barbet, Red-chested Cuckoo, African Green Pigeon, Groundscraper Thrush, Mocking Cliff Chat, Marico Sunbird and White-browed Robin-Chat, amongst others. In the woodland areas the highlights included noisy Arrow-marked Babbler, Bearded Woodpecker, Southern Black Tit, Yellow-billed Oxpecker, Brubru and Cinnamon-breasted Bunting, to name a few. There were several great mammal sightings, including the stunning Nyala antelope, more Spotted Hyaena and even a set of Lion cubs atop a rocky outcrop. Arguably the best sighting happened when we stopped to observe an adult male Common Ostrich. He seemed extremely focused on something in the tall grass and was walking intently toward a specific spot in the grass. Suddenly, a Serval cat exploded from the grass with the Ostrich in hot pursuit! The Serval quickly disappeared and we had just witnessed one of the rarest mammals in the park. Just wow! That evening, we attempted a night drive which was unfortunately badly impacted by a heavy downpour, our driver seemingly purposefully heading toward where the rain was falling! Nevertheless, there were a few highlights, with several Marsh Owls and a few Western Barn Owls also seen well. On the mammal side, there was a good sighting of African Civet but very little else, which was unsurprising considering the weather conditions. We returned to the camp cold and rather wet and enjoyed a hot shower and restful night before our final full day in the park.

We decided to spend the final full day in Kruger further south in the park, in the attempt of finding new birds and hopefully more good mammal sightings. One of the more interesting sightings was that of...
some Knob-billed Ducks at a small dam. Although seen regularly in Kruger, this is a species that pops in and moves on rather quickly, never staying in one area for more than a few days. The standout raptors were again the attractive Bateleur and the impressively large Martial Eagle. Other large birds that again showed well included the beautiful Saddle-billed Stork, and Kori and Black-bellied Bustards as the highlights. Other highlights through the course of the day included Burchell’s Coucal, Greater Honeyguide, Yellow-throated Longclaw, Marico Sunbird, Orange-breasted Bushshrike, Red-billed Buffalo Weaver, Green-winged Pytilia, Blue Waxbill, Jameson’s Firefinch, Quailfinch and Golden-breasted Bunting. It was another day where the mammal sightings were simply phenomenal. We enjoyed an unbeatable sighting of a male Leopard, had the privilege of observing Black-backed Jackal with pups, as well as Spotted Hyaena with cubs all in close proximity to the road! Slender and Common Dwarf Mongoose and a lone Wild Cat that evening back in camp were all special sightings. A large Leopard Tortoise provided us with a reptilian highlight in what was another action-packed day in this amazing park.

Our journey continued the following day, with a drive from Kruger National Park to our accommodation near Magoebaskloof in what would be a rather big change in habitat and potential new birds and mammals. On the way, we made a short detour to attempt to locate the ultra-localised and rare Taita Falcon. Thankfully, we were able to still enjoy a 50km drive within Kruger before leaving this fantastic area. Red-crested Korhaan, Black-bellied Bustard, African Harrier-Hawk, Brown-crowned Tchagra and two stunning male Lions were the treats we had on the way before having to bid farewell to this iconic place. It was not far outside of Kruger that we noticed many vultures descending rapidly near to the road in one of the private conservancies bordering the national park. It seemed that an African Buffalo had been killed, probably by Lions, and the vultures had seen the carcass and descended en masse. It was difficult to estimate, but there were more than likely over 100 vultures present at or near the carcass at one point. The vast majority were White-backed Vultures, with good numbers of the much smaller Hooded Vulture also to be seen. Surprisingly, in the twenty to thirty minutes that we observed the scene, there were no White-headed or Lappet-faced Vultures that came to the carcass. They were also never present in the skies above, which I thought rather strange. We were,
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however, spoilt with up to six of the much larger Cape Vultures coming in to the carcass. It is quite rare seeing these vultures on the ground, with most sightings of birds in flight, and it was here that we could easily recognise the difference in size between them and the more numerous White-backed Vultures. It is not often that one gets an opportunity such as this to explain in detail some of the more subtle differences between the birds.

On the way to the Taita Falcon site, we were treated to good views of a lovely adult Black-chested Snake Eagle, the attractive Red-headed Weaver, White-necked Ravens, as well as finding a pair of Rock Kestrels. A few Alpine Swifts whizzed past high overhead before we made it to the area looking for the falcon. Of interest in terms of mammals was the Yellow-spotted Hyrax that are found on the cliffs along the road, and we managed to find a few of these small rodents before we finally found the pair of Taita Falcons! It is always special seeing these small parrot-like falcons, and we were fortunate to get good views before having to continue on our way to Magoebaskloof. We arrived in the late afternoon at our wonderful accommodation at the edge of the beautiful forest of Magoebaskloof. Having checked in, we decided to make use of the remaining daylight hours by birding in the lush gardens around the guesthouse. Along the forest edge, we encountered the mega-skulking Barratt’s Warbler, songster-supreme Chorister Robin-Chat, noisy Yellow-streaked Greenbul, stunning Knysna Turaco, the always busy Bar-throated Apalis and Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler. Olive Thrush, Cape Batis, African Yellow Warbler, African Dusky Flycatcher, Cape Robin-Chat, Yellow Bishop, Olive Woodpecker, Jackal Buzzard, Southern Double-collared Sunbird, Forest Canary and the delightful Swee Waxbill were all seen well before dusk. The birding around the guesthouse was simply brilliant and also not too strenuous after a long day in the car.

It was great to have an entire day to explore the Magoebaskloof area. Our day included walking the forest trail near the guesthouse, driving and birding along the famous forest drive in the Woodbush forest reserve, as well as visiting the nearby Debegeeni Falls. We were again treated to many species seen on the previous afternoon, including Chorister and Cape Robin-Chats, Cape Batis, Swee Waxbill, Knysna Turaco, Barratt’s Warbler and Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler. The morning produced some great raptor sightings, top of which was finding both Long-crested and Crowned Eagles. The latter species was seen flying high over the forest in search of any unsuspecting Blue Monkey. We had a number of good sightings of this monkey species throughout our time in Magoebaskloof. Along the forest edge there were a number of new
birds, such as Cape Grassbird, Bronze Mannikin, Pin-tailed Whydah, Black Saw-wing and Drakensberg Prinia. Some of the participants were fortunate to briefly see two Brown-backed Honeybirds chasing each other around in the garden at the forest edge. At Debegeeni Falls, we managed our best views of the attractive White-starred Robin and also found a rather confiding Giant Kingfisher as a nice bonus. Other forest specials found during the day included a number of sought-after species such as Brown Scrub Robin, Black-fronted Bushshrike, Orange Ground Thrush and Grey Cuckooshrike, and more widespread species such as the attractive African Olive Pigeon. The undoubted highlight, however, was finding and watching around 20 Cape Parrots at their roost in the late afternoon to early evening. This endangered and endemic species is a rather special parrot, and considering that there may be as few as 600 of these birds remaining in the wild, it made it an even more special occasion. Having enjoyed the birds and with the light fading fast, we returned to our lovely accommodation for a restful evening and dinner at a local restaurant.

The second to last day of this wonderful trip saw us moving from Magoebaskloof to the bushveld town of Modimolle (previously known as Nylstroom) via Polokwane Game Reserve and with a brief stop in the late afternoon at Nylsvley Nature Reserve. We enjoyed some early morning birding at our guesthouse before a late breakfast and departure from the lush forest of Magoebaskloof. The small dam below the guesthouse had a Purple Heron, a few Woolly-necked Storks flew by overhead, we again briefly saw a Brown-backed Honeybird in the garden, and had great views of Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher, Olive Bushshrike and Grey Cuckooshrike amongst others along the forest trail.

The drive to Polokwane Game Reserve took around two hours, as we entered the reserve and began exploring the Kalahari thornveld habitat that typifies this area. Common Ostrich were a fairly regular sight in the reserve, and amongst the Common Wildebeest and Burchell’s Zebra that we came across there were also a few new antelope species such as Hartebeest and Tsessebe that we managed to find during the short few hours we had exploring this stunning little reserve. Rather surprisingly, the only noteworthy raptors encountered were Black-chested Snake Eagle and Rock Kestrel, but there were many arid west and Kalahari specials that we did indeed manage to find. Highlights were Marico Flycatcher, Shaft-tailed Whydah, Ashy Tit, Cape Penduline Tit, Crimson-breasted Shrike, Scaly-feathered Weaver,
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver and Black-faced Waxbill, to name a few. Other more widespread and not technically arid west specials included Brubru, Chestnut-vented Warbler, Burnt-necked Eremomela, Lesser Honeyguide and Neddicky. The most special bird that we came across whilst there was the localised endemic Short-clawed Lark.

This small reserve is well-known amongst birders as one of the best spots to locate this species, and we were indeed happy to find a pair of these large larks which showed well, allowing everyone to see them. The brief late afternoon stop at the edge of the floodplain of Nylsvley Nature Reserve yielded very little in terms of birds, but did allow us an opportunity to see Roan antelope. *A rare species in South Africa, this large antelope is doing quite well in the reserve, and it was great to find a big group of them grazing on the floodplain.*

We carried on and arrived in the late afternoon at the accommodation for the final night of the tour. There were still birds to be seen, with both Groundscraper and Kurrichane Thrushes prominent on the lawns, and a Grey-headed Bushshrike seen well at the edge of the woodland near our guesthouse. Later that evening, upon returning from dinner in town, we added Spotted Thick-knee to the list before heading off to bed and preparing for the last day.

Unfortunately, these trips do have to come to an end, and we began the final day with some relaxed birding around the guesthouse. We managed to get better looks at the Spotted Thick-knees we had found the previous evening, and were also able to locate the last species of thrush for the trip, the Karoo Thrush – a split from Olive Thrush not so long ago. The last birthing spot for the tour was the now famous Zaagkuildrift road north of Pretoria. Here we were hoping to add a few more species to the trip list whilst also making the most of the last bit of time to do some birthing before everyone had to catch their international flights back home. Although the area is predominantly good for birthing, there were a few mammals that we found along the way, including the ever-present Vervet Monkeys, Greater Kudu, a surprising sighting of a Bushbuck and the final views of the elegant Impala. A small farm dam had impressive numbers of Knob-billed Duck present, as well as a pair of Grey Crowned Cranes as an added bonus. We managed to reconnect with a number of species that had been seen in Polokwane, including Chestnut-vented Warbler, Marico Flycatcher and Scaly-feathered...
Weaver, amongst others. There were several highlights that morning, such as Gabar Goshawk, Northern Black Korhaan, Southern Pied Babbler, Black-chested Prinia, African Firefinch and Desert Cisticola. With our time running out, we made our way to Pretoria and the Austin Roberts Bird Sanctuary for lunch. Here the only highlight in terms of new birds was finding the impressive Thick-billed Weaver whilst we enjoyed a fantastic lunch. From there we drove to OR Tambo International Airport, where we ended a very successful trip for everyone involved!

**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 (406 species in total)

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Gill, F and D Donsker (Eds). 2017. IOC World Bird List (v 7.2).

**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*

Seen well in Kruger NP and Polokwane GR.

#### Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl Anatidae

**White-faced Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna viduata*

These attractive ducks were found in good numbers in Mkuze GR and Kruger NP.

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

A huge anatid seen in Mkuze GR, Wakkerstroom, Kruger NP and Zaagkuildrift.

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

Several of these interesting ducks were seen in Kruger NP and later again along the Zaagkuildrift road.

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

A common sight on tour, recorded on 14 days.

**South African Shelduck** *Tadorna cana*

A beautiful bird that was seen in the Wakkerstroom region.

**Maccoa Duck** *Oxyura maccoa*

This duck was present in small numbers at a waterbody near Wakkerstroom.

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

An under-rated species seen well in St Lucia, Wakkerstroom and Zaagkuildrift.

**Cape Shoveler** *Anas smithii*

Found in good numbers in Wakkerstroom.

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

Recorded in Wakkerstroom, Kruger NP and Zaagkuildrift.

**Hottentot Teal** *Anas hottentota*

This attractive duck was seen in Wakkerstroom.

**Southern Pochard** *Netta erythrophtalma brunnea*

Another species of anatid encountered during our time in the Wakkerstroom area.
Guineafowl *Numididae*

**Helmeted Guineafowl**  *Numida meleagris*
A regular sight in woodland and open areas on 10 different days.

**Crested Guineafowl**  *Guttera pucherani edouardi*
A coastal and sand forest specialist seen well in St Lucia and Mkuzi.

Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies *Phasianidae*

**Grey-winged Francolin**  *Scleroptila afra*
This attractive francolin was found in the Wakkerstroom area.

**Red-winged Francolin**  *Scleroptila levaillantii levaillantii*
Seen well on two occasions in Wakkerstroom.

**Crested Francolin**  *Dendroperdix sephaena sephaena*
Encountered on 8 different days with most sightings from Kruger NP.

**Natal Spurfowl**  *Pternistis natalensis natalensis*
A large francolin seen in Kruger NP and Magoebaskloof.

**Swainson's Spurfowl**  *Pternistis swainsonii swainsonii*
Regular in Kruger NP, Polokwane GR and Zaagkuildrift.

**(H) Red-necked Spurfowl**  *Pternistis afer*
Heard only in the Magoebaskloof area.

Shearwaters and Petrels *Procellariidae*

**White-chinned Petrel**  *Procellaria aequinoctialis*
Two birds were seen from shore at Cape Vidal.

Grebes *Podicipedidae*

**Little Grebe**  *Tachybaptus ruficollis capensis*
We found this species in the Wakkerstroom area.

**Great Crested Grebe**  *Podiceps cristatus*
A good find in the Wakkerstroom region.

Storks *Ciconiidae*

**Yellow-billed Stork**  *Mycteria ibis*
Rather surprisingly we found this stork on 7 different days with good numbers in Mkuze GR and Kruger NP.

**Black Stork**  *Ciconia nigra*
One of the scarcer stork species seen in iSimangaliso WP, Wakkerstroom and Kruger NP.

**Woolly-necked Stork**  (VU)  *Ciconia episcopus microscelis*
This species was seen well in Eshowe, St Lucia and near Magoebaskloof.

**Saddle-billed Stork**  *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*
A stunning bird that was encountered on three different days in Kruger NP.

**Marabou Stork**  *Leptoptilos crumenifer*
Recorded on two different days in the southern parts of Kruger NP.

Ibis and Spoonbills *Threskiornithidae*

**African Sacred Ibis**  *Threskiornis aethiopicus*
Encountered on 6 days with most sightings in the Mkuze and Wakkerstroom areas.

**Southern Bald Ibis**  (VU)  *Geronticus calvus*
An attractive ibis that we had the pleasure of seeing in Hluhluwe iMfolozi and in the grasslands around
Wakkerstroom.

**Hadada Ibis**
Bostrychia hagedash hagedash

A constant presence on tour, seen on 16 days.

**Glossy Ibis**
Plegadis falcinellus

We found this ibis species in Mkuze GR, Wakkerstroom and Kruger NP.

**African Spoonbill**
Platalea alba

Another oddity that was seen in St Lucia, Mkuze GR, Wakkerstroom, Kruger NP and Zaagkuildrift.

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**Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns Ardeidae**

**Little Bittern**
Ixobrychus minutus payesii

A superb find in the wetland near Wakkerstroom.

**Striated Heron**
Butorides striata atricapilla

A small heron seen well in Kruger NP and Mtunzini.

**Squacco Heron**
Ardeola ralloides

Seen well in Mkuze GR and Wakkerstroom.

**Western Cattle Egret**
Bubulcus ibis

Encountered frequently on 11 days.

**Grey Heron**
Ardea cinerea cinerea

A common sight at waterbodies throughout the tour, recorded on 11 days.

**Black-headed Heron**
Ardea melanoleuca

Usually away from the water we encountered this heron on 6 different days.

**Goliath Heron**
Ardea goliath

A stunningly large heron seen well in St Lucia and Kruger NP.

**Great Egret**
Ardea alba melanorhynchos

This large egret was found in Mkuze GR, Kruger NP and Zaagkuildrift.

**Intermediate Egret**
Ardea intermedia brachyrhyncha

Unusually only seen in the Wakkerstroom area on this trip.

**Purple Heron**
Ardea purpurea

We had several good sightings of this species in St Lucia, Wakkerstroom and later again at our accommodation in Magoebaskloof.

**Little Egret**
Egretta garzetta garzetta

Singletons were found in St Lucia, Kruger NP and Zaagkuildrift.

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**Hamerkop Scopidae**
Scopus umbretta umbretta

This bizarre bird was seen at Mtunzini, Hluhluwe iMfolozi and Kruger NP.

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**Pelicans Pelecanidae**

**Pink-backed Pelican**
Pelecanus rufescens

These large birds were present in the St Lucia area and at Nsumo Pan in Mkuze GR.

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**Cormorants and Shags Phalacrocoracidae**

**Reed Cormorant**
Microcarbo africanus africanus

A large cormorant that was encountered near Durban, in the St Lucia area, Mkuze and Wakkerstroom.

**White-breasted Cormorant**
Phalacrocorax lucidus

A small freshwater associated species seen in Mkuze GR, Wakkerstroom, Kruger NP and the Zaagkuildrift area.
**Anhingas Anhingidae**

**African Darter**  
Anhinga rufa rufa  
This strange-looking bird was found in St Lucia and the Mkuze GR.

**Secretary-bird Sagittariidae**

**Secretarybird (VU)**  
Sagittarius serpentarius  
This regal bird was seen fantastically well in Wakkerstroom and Kruger NP.

**Ospreys Pandionidae**

**Western Osprey**  
Pandion haliaetus  
Two birds seen well in Mkuze GR.

**Hawks, Eagles, and Kites Accipitridae**

**Black-winged Kite**  
Elanus caeruleus caeruleus  
A common sight in open country with sightings on 9 different days.

**Palm-nut Vulture**  
Gypohierax angolensis  
This strange vulture was seen well on 2 different occasions in Mtunzini with a third sighting near St Lucia.

**Egyptian Vulture**  
Neophron percnopterus  
One of the highlights of the trip was locating an immature bird in Kruger NP.

**African Cuckoo-Hawk**  
Aviceda cuculoides verreauxii  
We had three of these interesting raptors during our day exploring Mkuze GR.

**Hooded Vulture (EN)**  
Necrosyrtes monachus  
A small vulture recorded on several occasions in Kruger NP.

**White-backed Vulture (NT)**  
Gyps africanus  
The vulture species seen most often with sightings from Hluhluwe iMfolozi, Mkuze GR and Kruger NP.

**Cape Vulture (VU)**  
Gyps coprotheres  
A simply fantastic sight, seeing at least five of these large vultures standing tall amongst several other species at a carcass on the boundary of Kruger NP.

**White-headed Vulture (VU)**  
Trigonoceps occipitalis  
An attractive and scarce vulture species recorded once in Kruger NP.

**Lappet-faced Vulture (VU)**  
Torgos tracheliotos tracheliotos  
This large bird was seen a few times in Kruger NP.

**Black-chested Snake Eagle**  
Circaetus pectoralis  
First seen near the Taita Falcon site we later had a second sighting in Polokwane GR.

**Brown Snake Eagle**  
Circaetus cinereus  
Recorded on 6 days with most of the sightings being in Kruger NP.

**Southern Banded Snake Eagle (NT)**  
Circaetus fasciolatus  
We had to search long and hard to finally find one of these localized and threatened birds along the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia.

**Bateleur (NT)**  
Terathopius ecaudatus  
Always a stunning bird to see, we were fortunate to encounter this beautiful raptor in Hluhluwe iMfolozi, Mkuze GR and Kruger NP.

**Crowned Eagle (NT)**  
Stephanoaetus coronatus  
We had two sightings of this massive eagle at Ngoye and Magoebaskloof.

**Martial Eagle (NT)**  
Polemaetus bellicosus  
On this trip we were incredibly privileged to see this stunning bird in Mkuze GR and on three different days during our stay in Kruger NP.
Long-crested Eagle  
* Lophaetus occipitalis  
Always an attraction we found this small eagle between Durban and Eshowe, near St Lucia, Wakkerstroom and Magoebackloof.

Wahlberg's Eagle  
* Hieraaetus wahlbergi  
A summer breeding migrant to Southern Africa that was seen well in Mkuze GR and Kruger NP.

Tawny Eagle  
* Aquila rapax rapax  
This large brown eagle was encountered in Mkuze GR and Kruger NP.

Lizard Buzzard  
* Kaupifalco monogrammicus  
This small raptor was a bonus to find in Mkuze GR.

African Goshawk  
* Accipiter tachiro tachiro  
We had great views of this accipiter in Eshowe, St Lucia and the Mkuze area.

Gabar Goshawk  
* Micronisus gabar  
Seen on the last day along Zaagkuildrift.

Black Sparrowhawk  
* Accipiter melanoleucus melanoleucus  
A female was briefly seen in flight in St Lucia.

African Marsh Harrier  
* Circus ranivorus  
We eventually managed to find one of these birds in the Wakkerstroom area.

Yellow-billed Kite  
* Milvus aegyptius parasitus  
Arguably the most regularly encountered raptor on the tour with sightings on 13 days.

African Fish Eagle  
* Haliaeetus vocifer  
Encountered frequently with birds seen on 10 different days from Mtunzini to Zaagkuildrift.

African Harrier-Hawk  
* Polyboroides typus  
Seen well in St Lucia, Kruger NP and Magoebackloof.

Jackal Buzzard  
* Buteo rufofuscus  
Recorded in the Wakkerstroom and Magoebackloof areas.

Common Buzzard  
* Buteo buteo  
A common sight at scattered localities on 8 different days.

Bustards *Otidae*

Kori Bustard (NT)  
* Ardeotis kori kori  
A total of 5 of these impressively large birds were seen during our time in Kruger NP.

White-bellied Bustard  
* Eupodotis senegalensis barrowii  
A pair was seen well near Wakkerstroom.

Blue Korhaan (NT)  
* Eupodotis caerulescens  
An attractive endemic that was seen well in Wakkerstroom.

Red-crested Korhaan  
* Lophotis ruficrarta  
A total of 5 birds seen in Kruger NP with birds heard in Polokwane GR later in the trip.

Northern Black Korhaan  
* Afrotis afraoides afraoides  
We had good views of a male along Zaagkuildrift road.

Black-bellied Bustard  
* Lissotis melanogaster notophila  
A total of 7 birds seen over 3 days during our stay in Kruger NP.

Denham’s Bustard  
* Neotis denhami  
We had distant views of a single bird near Wakkerstroom.

Flufftails *Sarothruridae*

(H) Buff-spotted Flufftail  
* Sarothrura elegans elegans  
Heard only in St Lucia.

(H) Red-chested Flufftail  
* Sarothrura rufa rufa  

Heard only in Wakkerstroom.

**Rails, Gallinules, and Coots Rallidae**

**African Rail**  
*Rallus caeruleus*
This shy and skulking bird was seen well in Wakkerstroom.

**Black Crake**  
*Amaurornis flavirostra*
Good views of this rather bold rallid were had in St Lucia, Wakkerstroom and Kruger NP.

**African Swamphen**  
*Porphyrio madagascariensis*
Seen well in St Lucia, Mkuze GR and Wakkerstroom.

**Common Moorhen**  
*Gallinula chloropus meridionalis*
Common at the wetland in Wakkerstroom with further sightings along Zaagkuildrift.

**Red-knobbed Coot**  
*Fulica cristata*
Abundant at the wetland in Wakkerstroom, later seen again along the Zaagkuildrift road.

**Cranes Gruidae**

**Grey Crowned Crane (VU)**  
*Balearica regulorum regulorum*
A fantastic bird that was seen on 3 days in the Wakkerstroom region and again later along Zaagkuildrift.

**Blue Crane (VU)**  
*Grus paradisea*
We had good views of at least 8 of these graceful birds in Wakkerstroom.

**Buttonquails Turnicidae**

**Common Buttonquail**  
*Turnix sylvaticus lepurana*
A single bird was seen briefly in Kruger NP.

**Thick-knees Burhinidae**

**Water Thick-knee**  
*Burhinus vermiculatus vermiculatus*
A regular sight along watercourses in Kruger NP.

**Spotted Thick-knee**  
*Burhinus capensis*
Seen well at our accommodation near Modimolle.

**Stilts and Avocets Recurvirostridae**

**Black-winged Stilt**  
*Himantopus himantopus*
Recorded on 9 different days, sightings in Wakkerstroom and Kruger NP amongst others.

**Pied Avocet**  
*Recurvirostra avosetta*
An attractive bird that was seen well in the St Lucia area.

**Plovers and Lapwings Charadriidae**

**Blacksmith Lapwing**  
*Vanellus armatus*
A common sight on this trip, seen on 12 days.

**White-crowned Lapwing**  
*Vanellus albiceps*
Found in the central part of Kruger NP.

**Senegal Lapwing**  
*Vanellus lugubris*
A group of 5 of these birds was seen in iSimangaliso WP.

**Crowned Lapwing**  
*Vanellus coronatus*
Another frequently encountered lapwing that was seen on 9 days.

**African Wattled Lapwing**  
*Vanellus senegallus lateralis*
An attractive large lapwing seen in St Lucia and Wakkerstroom.

**Common Ringed Plover**  
*Charadrius hiaticula tundrae*
Seen in St Lucia on 3 different days.

**Kittlitz's Plover**  
*Charadrius pecuarius*  
This small plover was seen well at Mpmpe Pan.

**Three-banded Plover**  
*Charadrius tricollaris tricollaris*  
Seen in Wakkerstroom, Kruger NP and along Zaagkuildrift road.

**White-fronted Plover**  
*Charadrius marginatus*  
We found this lovely plover in St Lucia and Kruger NP.

**African Jacana**  
*Actophilornis africanus*  
The ‘lilly-trotter’ was found in St Lucia, Mkuze GR, Kruger NP, Nylsvlei and Zaagkuildrift.

**Sandpipers and Allies Scolopacidae**

**African Snipe**  
*Gallinago nigripennis nigripennis*  
We had great views of this species whilst in the Wakkerstroom area.

**Marsh Sandpiper**  
*Tringa stagnatilis*  
Seen well in St Lucia.

**Common Greenshank**  
*Tringa nebularia*  
Singletons recorded in St Lucia and Kruger NP.

**Wood Sandpiper**  
*Tringa glareola*  
Seen on 6 days in St Lucia, Wakkerstroom, Kruger NP and Zaagkuildrift.

**Common Sandpiper**  
*Actitis hypoleucos*  
Recorded in St Lucia and Kruger NP.

**Ruff**  
*Calidris pugnax*  
Another shorebird species that was found in St Lucia and Kruger NP.

**Curlew Sandpiper**  
*Calidris ferruginea*  
Seen well on several occasions in the St Lucia area.

**Little Stint**  
*Calidris minuta*  
A small shorebird found in the St Lucia area on this trip.

**Sanderling**  
*Calidris alba*  
A singleton was found in St Lucia.

**Bar-tailed Godwit**  
*Limosa lapponica*  
Two birds seen well in St Lucia.

**Ruddy Turnstone**  
*Arenaria interpres*  
As with the previous species, we found two of these shorebirds in St Lucia.

**Pratincoles and Coursers Glareolidae**

**Collared Pratincole**  
*Glareola pratincola fueleborni*  
Seen well in St Lucia and Kruger NP.

**Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers Laridae**

**Grey-headed Gull**  
*Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus piocephalus*  
Seen well on 3 different days in St Lucia.

**Caspian Tern**  
*Hydroprogne caspia*  
This large tern was encountered in St Lucia.

**Greater Crested Tern**  
*Thalasseus bergii bergii*  
The most common tern species in the roost at St Lucia.

**Common Tern**  
*Sterna hirundo hirundo*  

A single bird was picked up amongst the other terns at St Lucia.

**Little Tern** *Sterna albifrons*

At least a dozen of these tiny terns were on display at St Lucia in the roost.

**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybridus*

Seen in Mkuze GR, Wakkerstroom and Zaagkuildrift.

**White-winged Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*

In association with the previous species in Mkuze GR.

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**Sandgrouse** *Pteroclididae*

**Double-banded Sandgrouse** *Pterocles bicinctus*

We had the good fortune of seeing at least five of these lovely birds in central Kruger NP.

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**Pigeons and Doves** *Columbidae*

**Rock Dove** *Columba livia*

An introduced species seen in some urban areas.

**Speckled Pigeon** *Columba guinea phaeonota*

A common sight in Wakkerstroom and Modimolle.

**African Olive Pigeon** *Columba arquatrix*

Seen well in Magoebaskloof.

**(H) Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon** *Columba delegorguei*

Heard only in the Dlinza forest.

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

This dove was seen in camps and picnic sites in Kruger NP.

**Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata*

Commonly encountered throughout the trip on 12 different days.

**Ring-necked Dove** *Streptopelia capicola*

Another widespread and common dove seen on 11 different days

**Laughing Dove** *Spilopelia senegalensis senegalensis*

Also seen at various locations on 12 different days.

**Emerald-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur chalcospilos*

Recorded in Hluhluwe iMfolozi, Mkuze area, Kruger NP and Zaagkuildrift.

**Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistria*

Seen well along a forest trail in St Lucia.

**Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis capensis*

Preferring drier areas we found this small dove in Kruger NP and along Zaagkuildrift.

**African Green Pigeon** *Treron calvus delalandii*

An attractive parrot-like pigeon seen in St Lucia and Kruger NP.

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**Turacos** *Musophagidae*

**Livingstone's Turaco** *Tauraco livingstonii reichenowi*

A noisy inhabitant of coastal forest in the St Lucia area.

**Knysna Turaco** *Tauraco corythaix*

Seen well in Magoebaskloof.

**Purple-crested Turaco** *Tauraco porphyreolophus porphyreolophus*

Another noisy and attractive turaco that was seen well in Eshowe, St Lucia and Hluhluwe iMfolozi.

**Grey Go-away-bird** *Corythaixoides concolor*

Seen well in Mkuze GR, Kruger NP, Polokwane GR and Zaagkuildrift.
Cuckoos *Cuculidae*

**Burchell's Coucal** *Centropus burchelli burchelli*
Seen in Eshowe area, St Lucia, Hluhluwe iMfolozi, Mkuze GR and Kruger NP.

**Green Malkoha** *Ceuthmochares australis*
We had a good sighting of this species on the western shores of Lake St Lucia.

**(H) Klaas's Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx klaas*
Unfortunately heard only in Kruger NP.

**Diederik Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx caprius*
Seen well in St Lucia, heard at our accommodation in Modimolle.

**(H) African Emerald Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx cupreus*
Heard in Eshowe and Magoebaskloof.

**Red-chested Cuckoo** *Cuculus solitarius*
Seen well in the Eshowe area, Hluhluwe iMfolozi and Kruger NP. Heard only at several other locations.

**(H) Black Cuckoo** *Cuculus clamosus*
Another species that proved frustrating with us only managing to hear it in Eshowe, Nylsvlei and Zaagkuildrift.

Owls *Strigidae*

**Western Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*
Seen well on one occasion in Kruger NP.

**African Wood Owl** *Strix woodfordii woodfordii*
A pair of these forest owls was seen well in St Lucia.

**Pearl-spotted Owlet** *Glaucidium perlatum licua*
A singleton was found in Kruger NP.

**Marsh Owl** *Asio capensis capensis*
We had amazing sightings of this owl in the central area of Kruger NP on two evenings.

Swifts *Apodidae*

**African Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus*
A common sight on 10 different days from our accommodation in Eshowe to Zaagkuildrift on the final morning of the trip.

**Alpine Swift** *Tachymarptis melba*
This large swift was seen in Mkuze GR and near Tzaneen.

**African Black Swift** *Apus barbatus barbatus*
Seen in association with the previous species in Mkuze GR.

**Little Swift** *Apus affinis*
A rather common sight on 14 different days of the tour.

**White-rumped Swift** *Apus caffer*
Seen on 9 different days, most often in Kruger NP.

Mousebirds *Coliidae*

**Speckled Mousebird** *Colius striatus*
A frequently seen bird in Eshowe, St Lucia, Mkuze area, Wakkerstroom, Magoebaskloof and Modimolle.

**Red-faced Mousebird** *Urocolius indicus*
Preferring woodland areas we found this mousebird species in Hluhluwe iMfolozi, Mkuze GR, Kruger NP, Polokwane GR, Modimolle area and Zaagkuildrift.
**Trogons Trogonidae**

**Narina Trogon**  
*Apaloderma narina narina*  
Heard in several locations but seen well in Dlinza and Ngoye Forests near Eshowe.

**Rollers Coraciidae**

**Purple Roller**  
*Coracias naevius mosambicus*  
We found this roller on three different days in Kruger NP.

**Lilac-breasted Roller**  
*Coracias caudatus caudatus*  
Seen on 8 different days with the majority of sightings in Kruger NP.

**Kingfishers Alcedinidae**

**Brown-hooded Kingfisher**  
*Halcyon albiventris*  
Seen in Eshowe, St Lucia, Mpmpe Pan, Mkuze area, Kruger NP and Zaagkuildrift.

**Striped Kingfisher**  
*Halcyon chelicuti chelicuti*  
This small woodland species was encountered in Hluhluwe iMfolozi, Mkuze GR and Polokwane GR.

**Malachite Kingfisher**  
*Corythornis cristatus cristatus*  
We found this species in Mkuze GR, Wakkerstroom and Zaagkuildrift.

**Giant Kingfisher**  
*Megaceryle maxima maxima*  
This huge kingfisher was seen well in Kruger NP and Magoebskloof.

**Pied Kingfisher**  
*Ceryle rudis rudis*  
A water-associated species found in St Lucia, Wakkerstroom, Kruger NP and Zaagkuildrift.

**Bee-eaters Meropidae**

**Little Bee-eater**  
*Merops pusillus*  
We had at least 6 of these small bee-eaters in Hluhluwe iMfolozi.

**White-fronted Bee-eater**  
*Merops bullockoides*  
Encountered at Mpmpe Pan and in Kruger NP.

**European Bee-eater**  
*Merops apiaster*  
Seen on 9 different days, most frequently in Kruger NP.

**Hoopoes Upupidae**

**African Hoopoe**  
*Upupa africana*  
This interesting bird was seen throughout the trip on 12 different days.

**Woodhoopoes and Scimitar-bills Phoeniculidae**

**Green Wood Hoopoe**  
*Phoeniculus purpureus*  
These noisy birds were prominent in Mkuze GR, Kruger NP, Polokwane GR and Zaagkuildrift.

**Common Scimitarbill**  
*Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*  
Seen in Mkuze GR and Kruger NP.

**Ground Hornbills Bucorvidae**

**Southern Ground Hornbill (VU)**  
*Bucorvus leadbeateri*  
We were fortunate to have two great sightings totalling 9 birds in Kruger NP.

**Hornbills Bucerotidae**

**Southern Red-billed Hornbill**  
*Tockus rufirostris*  
A common sight in Kruger NP and Zaagkuildrift.

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

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Rockjumper Birding Tours  
View more tours to South Africa
Regularly found in Kruger NP, Polokwane GR and Zaagkuildrift.

**Crowned Hornbill**  *Lophoceros alboterminatus*
Seen well in St Lucia, Hluhluwe iMfolozi and Mkuze GR.

**African Grey Hornbill**  *Lophoceros nasutus ephirinus*
Another species of hornbill that was found in good numbers in Kruger NP and Zaagkuildrift.

**Trumpeter Hornbill**  *Bycanistes bucinator*
A vocal and prominent species in the forests of Eshowe, St Lucia, Hluhluwe iMfolozi and Mkuze GR.

**African Barbets Lybiidae**

**White-eared Barbet**  *Stactolaema leucotis leucotis*
A coastal species that was recorded in Eshowe, St Lucia and Mkuze.

**Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird**  *Pogoniulus bilineatus bilineatus*
Seen well in Eshowe, St Lucia and Mkuze areas.

**Red-fronted Tinkerbird**  *Pogoniulus pusillus pusillus*
Two birds seen well in Dlinza Forest near Eshowe, heard only in the Mkuze area.

**Green Barbet**  *Stactolaema olivacea*
We had good views of a single bird in Ngoye Forest near Eshowe.

**Acacia Pied Barbet**  *Tricholaema leucomelas*
We saw this barbet in Hluhluwe iMfolozi, Mkuze GR and Polokwane GR.

**Black-collared Barbet**  *Lybius torquatus torquatus*
First seen in Eshowe with subsequent sightings in Wakkerstroom and Modimolle.

**Crested Barbet**  *Trachyphonus vaillantii vaillantii*
This attractive barbet was seen well near Hluhluwe, Kruger NP, Polokwane GR, Modimolle and Zaagkuildrift.

**Honeyguides Indicatoridae**

**Brown-backed Honeybird**  *Prodotiscus regulus regulus*
We had the good fortune of seeing this species on two occasions near our accommodation in Magoebaskloof.

**Lesser Honeyguide**  *Indicator minor minor*
Seen well at Magoebaskloof.

**(H) Scaly-throated Honeyguide**  *Indicator variegatus*
Heard only in Dlinza Forest and Magoebaskloof.

**Greater Honeyguide**  *Indicator indicator*
Singletons seen in St Lucia and Kruger NP.

**Woodpeckers Picidae**

**Red-throated Wryneck**  *Jynx ruficollis ruficollis*
This strange bird was seen well on our final morning in Wakkerstroom.

**Golden-tailed Woodpecker**  *Campethera abingoni*
Seen well in St Lucia, Hluhluwe iMfolozi, Kruger NP and Polokwane GR.

**Ground Woodpecker**  *Geocolaptes olivaceus*
We had two fantastic sightings totalling 7 birds in the Wakkerstroom area.

**Bearded Woodpecker**  *Chloropicus namaquus*
Two birds were seen well in Kruger NP.

**Cardinal Woodpecker**  *Dendropicos fusciscens*
The smallest of the region’s woodpeckers was seen well in St Lucia, Mkuze GR and Kruger NP.

**Olive Woodpecker**  *Dendropicos griseocephalus griseocephalus*
A forest dweller that was encountered in Dlinza and Ngoye Forests near Eshowe and later in the trip on a few occasions in the forests of Magoebaskloof.

**Falcons and Caracaras** *Falconidae*

**Lanner Falcon** *Falco biarmicus biarmicus*
A pair of these falcons was seen in Wakkerstroom.

**Taita Falcon** *Falco fasciinucha*
One of the top birds of the trip, we were extremely lucky to watch two birds near Ohrigstad.

**Rock Kestrel** *Falco rupicolus*
Seen at the Taita Falcon site and Polokwane GR.

**African & New World Parrots** *Psittacidae*

**Cape Parrot** *Poicephalus robustus*
Seen exceptionally well in the Magoebaskloof area.

**Brown-headed Parrot** *Poicephalus cryptoxanthus cryptoxanthus*
This small parrot was encountered in Kruger NP.

**Wattle-eyes and Batises** *Platysteiridae*

**Cape Batis** *Batis capensis*
The forest batis in South Africa, seen in Dlinza and Ngoye Forests and later in Magoebaskloof.

**Woodward's Batis** *Batis fratrum*
A very attractive batis that we were fortunate to see twice in St Lucia.

**Chinspot Batis** *Batis molitor*
The woodland batis seen in Hluhluwe iMfolozi, Mkuze GR, Kruger NP, Polokwane GR and Zaagkuildrift.

**Black-throated Wattle-eye** *Platysteira peltata peltata*
A female was found by one of the eagle-eyed participants in St Lucia.

**Helmetshrikes and Allies** *Prionopidae*

**White-crested Helmetshrike** *Prionops plumatus*
These interesting shrikes were seen in small flocks in Mkuze GR and Kruger NP.

**Bushshrikes and Allies** *Malaconotidae*

**Grey-headed Bushshrike** *Malaconotus blanchoti*
This large bushshrike was seen extremely well in Hluhluwe iMfolozi and later in Kruger NP.

**Olive Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus olivaceus*
We had decent views in the Dlinza Forest and St Lucia before having cracking views of an adult during our final morning at Magoebaskloof.

**Orange-breasted Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus similis*
A rather bold bushshrike that we encountered in Hluhluwe iMfolozi, Mkuze GR and Kruger NP.

**Gorgeous Bushshrike** *Telophorus viridis quadricolor*
Seen surprisingly well in Hluhluwe iMfolozi and the Mkuze area.

**Black-fronted Bushshrike** *Telophorus nigrifrons*
We needed a lot of patience before finally being rewarded with views of a bird in Magoebaskloof.

**Bokmakierie** *Telophorus zeylonus*
Three of these interesting shrikes were seen well in Wakkerstroom.

**Brown-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra australis*
We had great views of this tchagra in Hluhluwe iMfolozi and Kruger NP.
Black-crowned Tchagra  
*Tchagra senegalus*
A singleton was picked up in Hluhluwe iMfolozi.

Black-backed Puffback  
*Dryoscopus cubla*
Seen well in Eshowe, St Lucia, Hluhluwe iMfolozi, Mkuze GR and Kruger NP.

Southern Boubou  
*Laniarius ferrugineus*
Seen well in St Lucia, heard at several other sites.

Crimson-breasted Shrike  
*Laniarius atroccoccineus*
A singleton was observed and seen well in Polokwane GR.

Brubru  
*Nilaus afer*
This widespread species was seen well in Kruger NP and Polokwane GR.

**Cuckoo-shrikes**  
*Campephagidae*

Grey Cuckoo-shrike  
*Coracina caesia caesia*
Heard in Dlinza Forest, seen well on two occasions in Magoebaskloof.

Black Cuckoo-shrike  
*Campephaga flava*
We had good views of three birds in Mkuze GR.

**Shrikes**  
*Laniidae*

Magpie Shrike  
*Urolesites melanoleucus*
A beautiful shrike that was seen often in Kruger NP with further sightings in Polokwane GR and Zaagkuildrift.

Southern Fiscal  
*Lanius collaris*
Seen on 11 different days, completely absent from Kruger NP.

**Old World Orioles**  
*Oriolidae*

Black-headed Oriole  
*Oriolus larvatus larvatus*
An attractive bird that was found in Hluhluwe iMfolozi, Wakkerstroom and Kruger NP.

**Drongos**  
*Dicruridae*

Square-tailed Drongo  
*Dicrurus ludwigii ludwigii*
A noisy and common inhabitant of forest in Eshowe, St Lucia, Mkuze and Magoebaskloof.

Fork-tailed Drongo  
*Dicrurus adsimilis*
One of the most widespread and regularly encountered birds on the trip, seen on 14 days.

**Monarch Flycatchers**  
*Monarchidae*

Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher  
*Trochocercus cyanomelas*
A restless species that we found at our accommodation in the Mkuze area and again in Magoebaskloof.

African Paradise Flycatcher  
*Terpsiphone viridis*
A regular sight on the trip with sightings on 6 different days from Eshowe to Zaagkuildrift.

**Crows, Jays, and Magpies**  
*Corvidae*

Cape Crow  
*Corvus capensis capensis*
A regular sight in the grasslands around Wakkerstroom.

Pied Crow  
*Corvus albus*
The most common corvid on the trip, seen on 10 different days.

White-necked Raven  
*Corvus albicollis*
Seen only in the mountainous areas west of Kruger en route to Magoebaskloof.
**Chickadees and Tits Paridae**

**Southern Black Tit**  
*Melaniparus niger*  
This tit was seen in Eshowe, Hluhluwe iMfolozi and Kruger NP.

**Ashy Tit**  
*Melaniparus cinerascens*  
Another arid species that we saw well in Polokwane GR.

**Penduline-Tits Remizidae**

**Grey Penduline Tit**  
*Anthoscopus caroli hellmayri*  
A singleton was seen well in Mkuze GR.

**Cape Penduline Tit**  
*Anthoscopus minutus*  
Two of these absolutely tiny birds were seen in Polokwane GR.

**Nicators Nicatoridae**

**Eastern Nicator**  
*Nicator gularis*  
Sometimes a difficult bird to see well, we were lucky to have decent sightings in St Lucia and at our accommodation near Mkuze. As usual, this species was more often heard than seen on this trip.

**Larks Alaudidae**

**Spike-heeled Lark**  
*Chersomanes albofasciata*  
Small groups of these vocal short-tailed larks were found during our day exploring Wakkerstroom and surrounds.

**Eastern Long-billed Lark**  
*Certhilauda semitorquata*  
A large rusty lark that was seen well on the Wakkerstroom Mountain.

**Short-clawed Lark**  
*Certhilauda chuana*  
It took some effort but we finally managed to locate a pair of these larks in Polokwane GR.

**Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark**  
*Eremopterix leucotis smithi*  
These attractive birds were a feature in central Kruger NP.

**Sabota Lark**  
*Calendulauda sabota*  
Good sightings of this lark were had in Mkuze GR, Kruger NP and Polokwane GR.

**Eastern Clapper Lark**  
*Mirafras fasciolata fasciolata*  
Another species that was seen well during our stay in Wakkerstroom.

**Rufous-naped Lark**  
*Mirafras africana*  
A large lark seen mostly in grassland in Ngoye, Mpempe Pan, Hluhluwe iMfolozi, Wakkerstroom and Polokwane GR.

**Botha's Lark (EN)**  
*Spizocorys fringillaris*  
We had good views of a single bird near Wakkerstroom.

**Rudd's Lark (CR)**  
*Heteromirafras ruddi*  
Another threatened and endemic lark species that was seen well near Wakkerstroom.

**Red-capped Lark**  
*Calandrella cinerea cinerea*  
Common in the Wakkerstroom grasslands.

**Bulbuls Pycnonotidae**

**Dark-capped Bulbul**  
*Pycnonotus tricolor layardi*  
Arguably the most common bird species on the trip, seen on all days.

**Sombre Greenbul**  
*Andropadus importunus*  
Seen well in St Lucia and Magoebackloof whilst heard at several other locations.

**Yellow-bellied Greenbul**  
*Chlorocichla flaviventris*  
This greenbul was common in the Zululand forests.
Yellow-streaked Greenbul  
*Phyllastrephus flavostriatus*
Heard at Ngoye Forest, seen well in Magoebaskloof later in the trip.

Terrestrial Brownbul  
*Phyllastrephus terrestris*
We enjoyed good views of these rather drab birds in St Lucia and near our accommodation in Mkuze.

**Swallows Hirundinidae**

Black Saw-wing  
*Psalidoprocne pristoptera*
Encountered at forest edge in St Lucia and Magoebaskloof.

Banded Martin  
*Riparia cincta*
These large martins were a constant presence in the grasslands around Wakkerstroom and later along Zaagkuildrift.

Brown-throated Martin  
*Riparia paludicola paludicola*
Seen in St Lucia and Zaagkuildrift.

Barn Swallow  
*Hirundo rustica rustica*
The most abundant hirundine on the trip, seen on 13 days.

White-throated Swallow  
*Hirundo albicularis*
We had great views of this swallow in Wakkerstroom, Magoebaskloof and Zaagkuildrift.

Wire-tailed Swallow  
*Hirundo smithii smithii*
Surprisingly only seen on one day in Kruger NP on this trip.

Common House Martin  
*Delichon urbicum*
Found in mixed flocks of swallows and martins on the eastern shores of the iSimangaliso WP and Kruger NP.

Greater Striped Swallow  
*Cecropis cucullata*
A striking large swallow seen well in Wakkerstroom, Polokwane GR and Zaagkuildrift.

Lesser Striped Swallow  
*Cecropis abyssinica unitatis*
Encountered regularly throughout the tour, these attractive swallows were seen on 13 different days.

Red-breasted Swallow  
*Cecropis semirufa semirufa*
A stunning large swallow found in grassland in the St Lucia area, Hluhluwe iMfolozi, Mpempe Pan, Mkuze GR, Kruger NP, Polokwane GR and Zaagkuildrift.

South African Cliff Swallow  
*Petrochelidon spilodera*
Seen well and in large numbers in the grasslands around Wakkerstroom.

**Crombecs, African warblers Macrosphenidae**

Cape Grassbird  
*Sphenoeacus afer*
A large warbler with a beautiful song that was seen well in Magoebaskloof.

Long-billed Crombec  
*Sylvietta rufescens*
Found in association with mixed flocks in Hluhluwe iMfolozi, Polokwane GR and Zaagkuildrift.

**Leaf-Warblers Phylloscopidae**

Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler  
*Phylloscopus ruficapilla*
Another forest inhabitant that was seen particularly well in Magoebaskloof.

**Reed-Warblers and Allies Acrocephalidae**

Lesser Swamp Warbler  
*Acrocephalus gracilirostris*
We found this species in St Lucia and Wakkerstroom.

African Reed Warbler  
*Acrocephalus baeticatus*
A noisy inhabitant of reedbeds in the Wakkerstroom wetland.

African Yellow Warbler  
*Iduna natalensis natalensis*
Seen well in Wakkerstroom and at our accommodation in Magoebaskloof.

**Grassbirds and Allies Locustellidae**

**Little Rush Warbler** *Bradypterus baboechara*
This warbler was seen well in the Wakkerstroom wetland.

**Barratt's Warbler** *Bradypterus barratti*
We had great views of this skulker in Magoebaskloof.

**Cisticolas and Allies Cisticolidae**

**Rattling Cisticola** *Cisticola chiniana*
The common bushveld cisticola, seen on 10 days.

**Wailing Cisticola** *Cisticola lais*
Seen well in the grasslands around Wakkerstroom.

**Rufous-winged Cisticola** *Cisticola galactotes galactotes*
We had good views of a single bird in St Lucia.

**Levaillant's Cisticola** *Cisticola tinniens*
A noisy inhabitant of wetland and damp grassland in the Wakkerstroom area.

**Croaking Cisticola** *Cisticola natalensis natalensis*
This large cisticola was seen well in grassland at Ngoye, near Cape Vidal and in Hluhluwe iMfolozi.

**Neddicky**
Found in Polokwane GR on this trip.

**Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis terrestris*
Seen well at Ngoye, Kruger NP and Zaagkuildrift.

**Desert Cisticola** *Cisticola aridulus*
We managed to find this small cisticola whilst birding the Zaagkuildrift area.

**Cloud Cisticola** *Cisticola textrix*
Another of the small cisticola species that we had good views of in Wakkerstroom.

**Wing-snapping Cisticola** *Cisticola ayresii ayresii*
Common in places in the Wakkerstroom area.

**Tawny-flanked Prinia** *Prinia subflava*
Seen well in Hluhluwe iMfolozi and Zaagkuildrift.

**Black-chested Prinia** *Prinia flavicans*
This Kalahari species was found along Zaagkuildrift.

**Drakensberg Prinia** *Prinia hypoxantha*
Seen well in Wakkerstroom and Magoebaskloof.

**Bar-throated Apalis** *Apalis thoracica*
Found in Dlinza Forest and Magoebaskloof on this tour.

**Rudd's Apalis** *Apalis ruddy fumosa*
An east coast endemic that was seen well in St Lucia and Mkuze.

**Yellow-breasted Apalis** *Apalis flavida*
Seen well in St Lucia, Hluhluwe iMfolozi and Mkuze areas.

**Green-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brachyura*
A noisy little bird that was seen well in St Lucia, Mkuze and Magoebaskloof.

**Burnt-necked Eremomela** *Eremomela usteicollis usteicollis*
Seen well in Hluhluwe iMfolozi and Polokwane GRs.
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Laughingthrushes *Leiothrichidae*

**Arrow-marked Babbler** Turdoides jardineii jardineii
A noisy woodland species encountered in Kruger NP, Polokwane GR and Zaagkuildrift.

**Southern Pied Babbler** Turdoides bicolor
We were fortunate to find a pair of these babblers along Zaagkuildrift.

Old World Warblers *Sylviidae*

**Chestnut-vented Warbler** Sylvia subcoerulea
Seen well in Polokwane GR and Zaagkuildrift.

Yuhinas, White-eyes, and Allies *Zosteropidae*

**Cape White-eye** Zosterops virens
Common in Eshowe’s forests, Hluhluwe iMfolozi, Wakkerstroom, Magoeaskloof and Zaagkuildrift.

**African Yellow White-eye** Zosterops senegalensis
A good find in the western shores of iSimangaliso WP and in St Lucia.

Starlings *Sturnidae*

**Common Myna** Acridotheres tristis tristis
An introduced invasive that was unfortunately seen quite regularly on the trip, mostly in urban areas.

**Wattled Starling** Creatophora cinerea
Seen in good numbers in Kruger NP.

**Black-bellied Starling** Notopholia corrusca corrusca
A small glossy starling seen in Eshowe, St Lucia and Mkuze areas.

**Cape Starling** Lamprotornis nitens
Seen on 11 days with most sightings in Kruger NP.

**Greater Blue-eared Starling** Lamprotornis chalybaeus nordmanni
Rather surprisingly only seen on two days in Kruger NP.

**Burchell’s Starling** Lamprotornis australis
This large starling was seen frequently in Kruger NP, Polokwane GR and Zaagkuildrift.

**Violet-backed Starling** Cinyricinclus leucogaster
A summer breeding migrant that we saw well in Hluhluwe iMfolozi and Mkuze GR.

**Pied Starling** Lamprotornis bicolor
This endemic was found in the Wakkerstroom grasslands in good numbers.

**Red-winged Starling** Onychognathus morio morio
Seen on 10 different days.

Oxpeckers *Buphagidae*

**Yellow-billed Oxpecker** Buphagus africanus africanus
We managed to find this species as we travelled further north in Kruger NP.

**Red-billed Oxpecker** Buphagus erythrorynchus
Found in association with large mammals in Hluhluwe iMfolozi, Mkuze GR and Kruger NP.

Thrushes and Allies *Turdidae*

**Orange Ground Thrush** Geokichla gurneyi
A single bird was seen well in forest in Magoeaskloof.

**Spotted Ground Thrush** Geokichla guttata guttata
We managed to find one of these threatened thrushes in Dlinza Forest.

**Groundscraper Thrush** Turdus litsitsirupa litsitsirupa

Rockjumper Birding Tours

View more tours to South Africa
Seen well in Kruger NP and Modimolle.

**Kurrikiane Thrush**  
*Turdus libonyana*  
First seen in Hluhluwe imfolozi with sightings later at our accommodation in Modimolle.

**Olive Thrush**  
*Turdus olivaceus*  
A forest bird seen well at Dlinza and Magoeaskloof.

**Karoo Thrush**  
*Turdus smithi*  
These thrushes were present at our accommodation in Modimolle.

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**Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae**

**Bearded Scrub Robin**  
*Cercotrichas quadrivirgata quadrivirgata*  
Seen well in Mkuze GR and at our accommodation near Mkuze.

**White-browed Scrub Robin**  
*Cercotrichas leucophrys leucophrys*  
This usually common species was seen only in Mkuze GR and Polokwane GR.

**Brown Scrub Robin**  
*Cercotrichas signata*  
A singleton was seen along a forest trail in St Lucia and later we had further success with two more birds in Magoeaskloof.

**Grey Tit-Flycatcher**  
*Myioparus plumbeus*  
We found this active flycatcher in Mkuze GR.

**Southern Black Flycatcher**  
*Melaenornis pammelaina*  
Good views were had in Eshowe, Mkuze GR and Kruger NP.

**Pale Flycatcher**  
*Melaenornis pallidus*  
A pair of these flycatchers was seen well in Mkuze GR.

**Marico Flycatcher**  
*Melaenornis mariquensis*  
Seen well in Polokwane GR and Zaagkuildrift.

**Ashy Flycatcher**  
*Muscicapa caerulescens*  
A pair was seen well in St Lucia.

**African Dusky Flycatcher**  
*Muscicapa adusta*  
This cute little bird was a constant presence in Magoeaskloof.

**Cape Robin-Chat**  
*Cossypha caffra*  
An endearing bird that was seen well in Wakkerstroom and Magoeaskloof.

**White-throated Robin-Chat**  
*Cossypha humeralis*  
A single bird was seen at our accommodation in the Mkuze area.

**White-browed Robin-Chat**  
*Cossypha heuglini*  
A pair of these delightful robin-chats was seen exceptionally well in Kruger NP.

**Red-capped Robin-Chat**  
*Cossypha natalensis*  
Encountered in St Lucia, Hluhluwe imfolozi, Mkuze area.

**Chorister Robin-Chat**  
*Cossypha dichroa*  
This beautiful bird was seen well in Eshowe and Magoeaskloof.

**White-starred Robin**  
*Pogonocichla stellata*  
A tricky species, we found two birds during our time in Magoeaskloof.

**Cape Rock Thrush**  
*Monticola rupestris*  
A male was seen well near Wakkerstroom.

**Sentinel Rock Thrush**  
*Monticola explorator*  
A pair of these lovely birds was seen near Wakkerstroom.

**African Stonechat**  
*Saxicola torquatus*  
A common sight in Wakkerstroom and Magoeaskloof.

**Buff-streaked Chat**  
*Campicoloides bifasciatus*  
This attractive chat was seen well near Wakkerstroom.
Mocking Cliff Chat  
*Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*
A good find in Hluhluwe iMfolozi, Kruger NP and near Ohrigstad.

Ant-eating Chat  
*Myrmecocichla formicivora*
The ‘helicopter bird’ was a regular sight in the grasslands around Wakkerstroom.

Mountain Wheatear  
*Myrmecocichla monticola monticola*
We eventually found this species on the Wakkerstroom mountain.

Capped Wheatear  
*Oenanthe pileata*
Another bird seen well during our time exploring the vast open spaces of Wakkerstroom.

### Sunbirds and Spiderhunters *Nectariniidae*

**Collared Sunbird**  
*Hedydipna collaris*
A regular sight in Dlinza, Ngoye, St Lucia, Hluhluwe iMfolozi and the Mkuze area.

**Olive Sunbird**  
*Cyanomitra olivacea*
Seen well in Eshowe and St Lucia.

**Grey Sunbird**  
*Cyanomitra veroxii*
Another forest sunbird that was encountered in Eshowe and St Lucia.

**Amethyst Sunbird**  
*Chalcomitra amethystina amethystina*
A large all-dark sunbird that we saw in good numbers at flowering trees in Wakkerstroom and Magoebaskloof.

**Scarlet-chested Sunbird**  
*Chalcomitra senegalensis gutturalis*
Preferring more woodland habitat this large sunbird was seen well in the Mkuze area.

**Malachite Sunbird**  
*Nectarinia famosa famosa*
A regular sight in the garden of our accommodation in Wakkerstroom.

**Southern Double-collared Sunbird**  
*Cinnyris chalybeus*
A delightful bird that was first seen in the Dlinza Forest with subsequent sightings in Magoebaskloof.

**Neergaard’s Sunbird**  
*Cinnyris neergaardi*
A range-restricted east coast endemic that was seen exceptionally well in the western shores of iSimangaliso WP.

**Marico Sunbird**  
*Cinnyris mariquensis mariquensis*
Another beautiful sunbird seen well in Kruger NP, Polokwane GR and Zaagkuildrift.

**Purple-banded Sunbird**  
*Cinnyris bifasciatus microrhynchus*
A regular sight in St Lucia and the Mkuze area.

**White-bellied Sunbird**  
*Cinnyris talatala*
Seen in Hluhluwe iMfolozi, Mkuze area, Kruger NP and Zaagkuildrift.

### Old World Sparrows *Passeridae*

**White-browed Sparrow-Weaver**  
*Plocepasser mahali mahali*
A common sight in Polokwane GR and Zaagkuildrift.

**House Sparrow**  
*Passer domesticus*
An introduced species seen on 11 days mostly in urban areas.

**Cape Sparrow**  
*Passer melanurus*
An attractive sparrow that we had great looks at in the Wakkerstroom area.

**Southern Grey-headed Sparrow**  
*Passer diffusus*
Encountered on 10 different days with the majority of sightings in Kruger NP.

**Yellow-throated Petronia**  
*Gymnoris superciliaris*
These strange birds were seen in Hluhluwe iMfolozi and Mkuze GRs.
**Weavers and Allies Ploceidae**

**Red-billed Buffalo Weaver** *Bubalornis niger niger*
These large weavers were seen in Kruger NP and Zaagkuildrift.

**Scaly-feathered Weaver** *Sporopipes squamifrons*
A small bird found in flocks in Polokwane GR and Zaagkuildrift.

**Thick-billed Weaver** *Amblyospiza albitrons*
Encountered in Hluhluwe iMfolozi and Pretoria.

**Spectacled Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis ocularis*
Seen well in the garden of our accommodation in Eshowe and at Ngoye Forest.

**Cape Weaver**
We had good views of this weaver in Wakkerstroom.

**Eastern Golden Weaver** *Ploceus subaureus subaureus*
A common sight in the reedbeds and adjacent riverine areas of the St Lucia Estuary.

**Southern Brown-throated Weaver** *Ploceus xanthopterus marleyi*
This localized weaver was seen well in St Lucia.

**Lesser Masked Weaver** *Ploceus intermedius cabanisii*
A neat weaver seen in Hluhluwe and Hluhluwe iMfolozi.

**Southern Masked Weaver** *Ploceus velatus*
Seen well in Mkuze GR, Wakkerstroom, Kruger NP, Polokwane GR, Modimolle and Zaagkuildrift.

**Village Weaver** *Ploceus cucullatus*
A large masked weaver that we found in St Lucia, Hluhluwe iMfolozi, Mkuze area, Wakkerstroom and near Magoebaskloof.

**Dark-backed Weaver** *Ploceus bicolor*
A forest bird seen well in Ngoye and Dlinza Forest as well as St Lucia and our accommodation near Mkuze.

**Red-headed Weaver** *Anaplectes rubriceps rubriceps*
A lovely male was found as we made our way from Kruger NP to Magoebaskloof.

**Red-billed Quelea** *Quelea quelea lathamii*
Common in Mkuze GR, Wakkerstroom and Kruger NP.

**Southern Red Bishop** *Euplectes orix*
Seen well in Eshowe, Wakkerstroom and Modimolle.

**Yellow Bishop** *Euplectes capensis*
Several of these bishops were seen at our accommodation in Magoebaskloof.

**Fan-tailed Widowbird** *Euplectes axillaris axillaris*
Found along the eastern shores of iSimangaliso WP and in the grasslands of Wakkerstroom.

**White-winged Widowbird** *Euplectes albonotatus albonotatus*
A non-breeding male in amongst queleas and bishops was seen in Hluhluwe iMfolozi.

**Red-collared Widowbird** *Euplectes ardens*
A breeding male was seen in Hluhluwe iMfolozi.

**Long-tailed Widowbird** *Euplectes progne progne*
These impressive birds were seen in the grasslands around Wakkerstroom.

**Waxbills and Allies Estrildidae**

**Green-winged Pytilia** *Pytilia melba melba*
A delightful little bird that was seen well in Mkuze GR, Kruger NP, Polokwane GR and Zaagkuildrift.

**Green Twinspot** *Mandingoa nitidula nitidula*
We had fantastic views of a male in St Lucia.

**Pink-throated Twinspot** *Hypargos margaritatus*
Unfortunately, not the best views but most participants got good looks at 3 different birds in Mkuze GR.

**Red-billed Firefinch**  
*Lagonosticta senegala rendalli*

Seen at our accommodation near Mkuze and in Kruger NP.

**African Firefinch**  
*Lagonosticta rubricata rubricata*

These finches were briefly seen in Hluhluwe iMfolozi and Zaagkuildrift.

**Jameson's Firefinch**  
*Lagonosticta rhodopareia jamesoni*

A great find of three of these birds feeding in association with the following species in Kruger NP.

**Blue Waxbill**  
*Uraeginthus angolensis*

Seen in Hluhluwe iMfolozi, Mkuze GR, Kruger NP, Polokwane GR, Modimolle and Zaagkuildrift.

**Swee Waxbill**  
*Coccopygia melanotis*

These lovely little birds were a prize sighting in the gardens of the accommodation in Magoebaskloof.

**Grey Waxbill**  
*Estrilda perreini incana*

We had two great sightings of this stunning waxbill in St Lucua.

**Common Waxbill**  
*Estrilda astrild*

Great views of this species were had in Wakkerstroom and Kruger NP.

**Black-faced Waxbill**  
*Estrilda erythronotos erythronotos*

This species was eventually seen well during our late morning exploring Polokwane GR.

**Quailfinch**  
*Ortygospiza atricollis digressa*

Two birds seen at Mpempe Pan were bettered by at least 10 seen in Kruger NP.

**Bronze Mannikin**  
*Lonchura cucullata scutata*

Seen well in Eshowe, St Lucia and Magoebaskloof.

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**Indigobirds Viduidae**

**Village Indigobird**  
*Vidua chalybeata amauropteryx*

A single non-breeding male was seen in Mkuze GR.

**Dusky Indigobird**  
*Vidua funerea funerea*

Two males were found in Mkuze GR.

**Pin-tailed Whydah**  
*Vidua macroura*

Seen well in Wakkerstroom and Magoebaskloof.

**Long-tailed Paradise Whydah**  
*Vidua paradisaea*

A great find in Mkuze GR.

**Shaft-tailed Whydah**  
*Vidua regia*

We had a lovely male in Polokwane GR.

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**Wagtails and Pipits Motacillidae**

**Cape Wagtail**  
*Motacilla capensis capensis*

Seen well in St Lucia, Wakkerstroom, Magoebaskloof and Zaagkuildrift.

**African Pied Wagtail**  
*Motacilla aguimp*

An attractive bird that we saw on 10 days throughout the tour.

**Cape Longclaw**  
*Macronyx capensis*

Seen in Wakkerstroom and Nylsvlei.

**Yellow-throated Longclaw**  
*Macronyx croceus vulturnus*

This longclaw was found in pairs in Hluhluwe iMfolozi and Kruger NP.

**African Pipit**  
*Anthus cinnamomeus*

Seen in St Lucia, Mpempe Pan, Wakkerstroom and Kruger NP.

**Long-billed Pipit**  
*Anthus similis*

A single bird was seen well in Wakkerstroom.

**Yellow-breasted Pipit (VU)**  
*Anthus chloris*
We found two of these range-restricted pipits in the Wakkerstroom area.

**Finches, Euphonias Fringillidae**

**Forest Canary**  *Crithagra scotops*
This canary provided us with great views in Magoebaskloof.

**Lemon-breasted Canary**  *Crithagra citriniceps*
We had more than 20 of these fantastic birds during our short visit to Mpempe Pan.

**Yellow-fronted Canary**  *Crithagra mozambica*
Seen on at least 9 different days with the best sightings in Kruger NP.

**Black-throated Canary**  *Crithagra atrogularis*
Two of these canaries were seen in Wakkerstroom.

**Streaky-headed Seedeeater**  *Crithagra gularis*
Some of the group saw this species at our accommodation in Wakkerstroom.

**Cape Canary**  *Serinus canicollis*
Seen in Wakkerstroom and Magoebaskloof.

**Buntings, Sparrows and Allies Emberizidae**

**Cinnamon-breasted Bunting**  *Emberiza tahapisi*
This bunting was seen well in Mkuze GR and Kruger NP.

**Golden-breasted Bunting**  *Emberiza flaviventris*
A rather attractive bird that we encountered in Mkuze GR, Kruger NP and Polokwane GR.

**Mammals (51 species in total)**

**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

**Elephants Elephantidae**

**African Elephant**  *Loxodonta africana*
These graceful large mammals were seen in iSimanagaliso WP, Hluhluwe iMfolozi and Kruger NP.

**Galagos Galagidae**

**Thick-tailed Greater Galago**  *Otolemur crassicaudatus crassicaudatus*
We had a great sighting of two of these animals at our accommodation near Mkuze. Heard also in St Lucia and Kruger NP.

**Old World monkeys Cercopithecidae**

**Blue Monkey**  *Cercopithecus mitis*
This forest monkey was seen in Ngoye, Hluhluwe iMfolozi and Magoebaskloof.

**Vervet**  *Chlorocebus pygerythrus*
A common sight, seen on 12 different days.

**Chacma Baboon**  *Papio ursinus ursinus*
Seen in Hluhluwe iMfolozi, Mkuze GR, Kruger NP and Polokwane GR.

**Rabbits, Hares Leporidae**

**Scrub Hare**  *Lepus saxatilis*
Found in Wakkerstroom and Kruger NP.

**Squirrels Sciuridae**

**Smith's Bush Squirrel**  
*Paraxerus cepapi*  
*Smith's Bush Squirrel*  
*Paraxerus cepapi*  
Seen on every day during our time in Kruger NP.

**Red Bush Squirrel**  
*Paraxerus palliatus*  
*Red Bush Squirrel*  
*Paraxerus palliatus*  
This squirrel was seen well in Ngoye Forest.

**Cats Felidae**

**Wild Cat**  
*Felis silvestris*  
*Wild Cat*  
*Felis silvestris*  
We had the good fortune of seeing two of these cats in our camp in Kruger NP.

**Serval**  
*Leptailurus serval*  
*Serval*  
*Leptailurus serval*  
One of the sightings of the trip was seeing one of these cats getting chased by a very irritated male Common Ostrich in Kruger NP.

**Lion**  
*Panthera leo leo*  
*Lion*  
*Panthera leo leo*  
We had some great Lion sightings totalling 15 individuals including cubs and two large males to end off our last morning in Kruger NP.

**Leopard**  
*Panthera pardus pardus*  
*Leopard*  
*Panthera pardus pardus*  
Our Leopard sighting was simply fantastic as we observed a beautiful young male from less than ten metres away!

**Cheetah**  
*Acinonyx jubatus*  
*Cheetah*  
*Acinonyx jubatus*  
We had two very different sightings of Cheetah on this trip. The first was that of a heavily sedated female in Mkuze GR. We had just missed the darting and subsequent operation (she has since made a full recovery). In Kruger NP the sighting may have been 200m away but we had the privilege of watching a mother and her 5 almost fully grown cubs! A truly special moment indeed.

**Mongooses Herpestidae**

**Yellow Mongoose**  
*Cynictis penicillata*  
*Yellow Mongoose*  
*Cynictis penicillata*  
Seen well on several occasions in the Wakkerstroom grasslands.

**Common Dwarf Mongoose**  
*Helogale parvula*  
**Common Dwarf Mongoose**  
*Helogale parvula*  
These minute little guys were seen in Kruger NP.

**Slender Mongoose**  
*Herpestes sanguineus*  
**Slender Mongoose**  
*Herpestes sanguineus*  
Singletons seen briefly in Mkuze GR, Wakkerstroom and Kruger NP.

**Banded Mongoose**  
*Mungos mungo*  
**Banded Mongoose**  
*Mungos mungo*  
Seen well in St Lucia, iSimangaliso WP and the Mkuze area.

**Meerkat**  
*Suricata suricatta*  
**Meerkat**  
*Suricata suricatta*  
These endearing creatures were seen well during our full day exploring the grasslands of Wakkerstroom.

**Hyaenas, Aardwolf Hyaenidae**

**Spotted Hyaena**  
*Crocuta crocuta*  
**Spotted Hyaena**  
*Crocuta crocuta*  
These interesting animals were seen on every day during our time in Kruger NP. We were very much spoilt with the number of hyaenas that we saw as well as the quality of sightings that we had.

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

**Black-backed Jackal**  
*Canis mesomelas*  
**Black-backed Jackal**  
*Canis mesomelas*  
We enjoyed some wonderful sightings of these animals in Kruger NP.
Weasels, Skunks, Otters *Mustelidae*

**Spotted-necked Otter**  *Hydrictis maculicollis*
We could not believe our luck when we found two of these otters in the wetland at Wakkerstroom. Certainly one of the top mammals for the trip.

**Genets and Civets Viverridae**

**African Civet**  *Civettictis civetta*
An interesting nocturnal animal seen on our night drive in Kruger NP.

**Hyraxes Procaviidae**

**Rock Hyrax**  *Procavia capensis*
A singleton was seen in Wakkerstroom.

**Bush (Yellow-spotted) Hyrax**  *Heterohyrax brucei*
A few of this hyrax were seen at the Taita Falcon site.

**Zebras, Horse, Asses Equidae**

**Plains Zebra**  *Equus quagga*
Seen on 10 different days, most numerous in Kruger NP.

**Rhinoceroses Rhinocerotidae**

**White Rhinoceros**  *Ceratotherium simum simum*
First seen in iSimangaliso WP we later had more than 20 in the one day exploring Hluhluwe iMfolozi.

**Pigs Suidae**

**Common Warthog**  *Phacochoerus africanus sundevallii*
Another frequently seen mammal, recorded on 8 days, most often in Kruger NP.

**Rorquals Balaenopteridae**

**Humpback Whale**  *Megaptera novaeangliae*
We were fortunate to see at least three of these amazing animals from the shore at Cape Vidal.

**Hippopotamuses Hippopotamidae**

**Hippopotamus**  *Hippopotamus amphibius capensis*
Seen on 9 days, mostly in St Lucia, Mkzue GR and Kruger NP.

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

**Impala**  *Aepyceros melampus melampus*
A common sight on 11 different days, abundant in Kruger NP.

**Springbok**  *Antidorcas marsupialis*
Seen only in Wakkerstroom.

**Natal Red Duiker**  *Cephalophus natalensis*
Seen frequently in the Zululand forests of St Lucia and Mk, Hluhluwe and Mkuze.

**Blue Duiker**  *Cephalophus monticola*
We had several sightings totalling 5 individuals in Dlinza Forest.

**Black Wildebeest**  *Connochaetes gnou*
This endemic mammal was seen in a private conservancy just outside Wakkerstroom.

**Common Wildebeest**  *Connochaetes taurinus*
Seen on 8 different days, mostly in central Kruger NP.
**Red Hartebeest**  
*Alcephalus buselanus caama*  
This beautiful antelope was seen in Polokwane GR.

**Tsessebe**  
*Damaliscus lunatus*  
Another antelope species seen during our time in Polokwane GR.

**Blesbok**  
*Damaliscus pygargus*  
Seen in various areas in the Wakkerstroom grasslands.

**Oribi**  
*Ourebia ourebi*  
A massive surprise was seeing three of these critically threatened antelope in the grasslands around Wakkerstroom.

**Waterbuck**  
*Kobus ellipsiprymnus ellipsiprymnus*  
This large antelope was seen on 6 days, mostly in Kruger NP.

**Steenbok**  
*Raphicerus campestris campestris*  
This cute antelope was seen in Wakkerstroom and Kruger NP.

**Southern Reedbuck**  
*Redunca arundinum*  
A single animal was seen iSimnagaliso WP.

**Steenbok**  
*Sylvicapra grimmia*  
This cute antelope was seen in Wakkerstroom and Kruger NP.

**Common Duiker**  
*Neotragus moschatus*  
One of the guests was fortunate enough to see this shy antelope at our accommodation near Mkuze.

**African Buffalo**  
*Syncerus caffer caffer*  
This member of the Big 5 was seen near St Lucia, iSimangaliso WP and Kruger NP.

**Nyala**  
*Tragelaphus angasii*  
This beautiful antelope was seen in Hluhluwe iMfolozi, Mkuze area, Kruger NP and Polokwane GR.

**Bushbuck**  
*Tragelaphus scriptus*  
Seen well in St Lucia, Kruger NP and Zaagkuildrift.

**Greater Kudu**  
*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*  
This graceful and elegant large antelope was seen on 9 different days, most sightings were in Kruger NP.

**Roan Antelope**  
*Hippotragus equinus*  
We had a good sighting of these antelope in Nylsvle NR.

**Giraffe, Okapi Giraffidae**

**Giraffe**  
*Giraffa camelopardalis giraffa*  
These graceful animals were seen on 9 days, most frequently in Kruger NP.

**Old World Fruit Bats Pteropodidae**

**Wahlberg's Epauletted Fruit Bat**  
*Epomophorus wahlbergi*  
These bats were seen in one of the camps in the south of Kruger NP.

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**Reptiles (9 species in total)**

**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

**Tortoises Testudinidae**

**Leopard Tortoise**  
*Stigmochelys pardalis*
We had sightings of two of these lovely tortoises in Mkuze GR.

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

*Pelomedusa subrufa nigra*

These interesting creatures were found in Kruger NP and Mkuze GR.

**Helmeted Turtle**

**Agamas** *Agamidae*

*Pelomedusa subrufa nigra*

Seen in Kruger NP.

**Southern Tree Agama**

*Helodermatinae*

**Geckos** *Gekkonidae*

*Hemidactylus mabouia*

Found around our accommodation in St Lucia.

*Cape Dwarf Gecko*  

*Lygodactylus capensis*

A tiny gecko that was seen in Mkuze GR.

**House Gecko**

**Skinks** *Scincidae*

*Trachylepis quinquetaeniata*

A common sight in a few places in Kruger NP.

**African Five-lined Skink**

*Trachylepis striata striata*

The most widespread skink in South Africa, seen in Mkuze GR, St Lucia and Kruger NP.

**African Striped Skink**

**Monitor Lizards** *Varanidae*

*Varanus niloticus*

Seen in St Lucia.

**Nile Monitor**

**Crocodiles and relatives** *Crocodylidae*

*Varanus niloticus cowiei*

We had sightings in Mkuze GR, St Lucia and Kruger NP.

**Nile Crocodile**

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