

Botswana's Desert & Delta (Mammals)

Naturetrek Tour Report

6th – 20th September 2025



Lion



Leopard



Southern Giraffe



African Wild Dog

Tour report by Leanne Wiedemann and David Wilkinson
Photos by David Wilkinson



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Tour participants: Partner Kadisa and Arnold Sinvula (leaders) with 14 Naturetrek clients

Main tour

Day 1

Saturday 6th September

We left Heathrow for the eleven-hour overnight flight to Johannesburg, South Africa.

Day 2

Sunday 7th September

On arrival, we navigated our way through the airport, to transfer to our international AirLink flight to Maun, Botswana. In Maun, we were met by Partner and Arnold (the owners of African Big5 Safaris), who proved to be our excellent guides and drivers, and they loaded the luggage on the roof of the vehicles that would serve as our transport to the bush camps, and for our daily game drives. The first drive of almost six hours to Khwai Concession (just north of Moremi Game Reserve, and southwest of Chobe National Park) was an exciting introduction to Botswana. We stopped often, and viewed our first animals, including Steenbok, a large herd of Elephants crossing the road, Giraffe, Zebra, Impala and others, and getting sightings of birds perched on the powerline towers and flying overhead.

Eventually, it was clear we needed to speed up, and after an “African Massage” of bumps and rattles, we arrived at camp after dark, in good time to see a total eclipse of the Moon. On the advice of previous reports, many of us wore neck gaiters to keep the dust out during the drive. These were helpful, especially cooling neck gaiters or scarves, during the hottest part of the day, during the drives, and in the leisure time in early afternoon. Charging was readily available in the Khwai camp (solar and generator), and also in the vehicles during the game drives from both camps. Although diverse types of plugs and sockets are used in Botswana, we only encountered the South African type.

We were introduced to bush camp life, and our tents were assigned and rules were established: especially no walking from the dining area to tents in the dark unescorted, to avoid unexpected encounters with the local fauna. This first camp was a permanent one established by Partner and Arnold next to an area of water, with Hippos in residence, which were very vocal in the night. We met our chefs, had a great dinner, and retired to our tents, each complete with private “en suite long drop” toilet, and bucket showers beyond the zipper in the back of each tent. We spent three nights based in the Khwai area camp, and four in the Xini area of Moremi Game Reserve.

Most days began with a 5.30am wake-up, breakfast at 6.00am, and departure before 6.30am. After the morning game drive, we would return to camp for lunch, and complete the checklist for the previous afternoon and that morning's drive. Then we would have some time at leisure to watch the local birds and animals, including Bush Squirrel, small lizards, and occasionally Hippo. It was a good time to reorganize and get things ready for the next morning, as we would be up before dawn. High tea followed at 3.30pm, and the afternoon game drives at 4.00pm. In Khwai, these lasted past dark, while in Moremi National Park, they ended by 7.00pm: in National Parks, to combat poaching, night game drives are not allowed. Dinner (always excellent, and announced as “gentlemen first, but ladies before!”) was at about 7.30 or 8.00pm, and we afterwards we were escorted to our tents for the night.

Day 3

Monday 8th September

Our routine was established with the 5.30am wake up “good morning” from one of the camp staff, and delivery of warm water in basins outside our tent. After breakfast, we were off before 6.30am, piled into two vehicles for our morning game drive with the beautiful sunrise. The days start cool, but heat up rapidly. Animals and birds were more active in the cool of the early morning. We viewed many Elephants, Warthogs, Hippos, Zebras, Banded Mongooses, Giraffes, various types of antelope, and a pride of Lions feeding on a Cape Buffalo. We also saw water birds, Tawny Eagles, African Fish Eagles, Southern Yellow- and Southern Red-billed Hornbills, the beautiful Lilac-breasted Rollers, as well as the ubiquitous Helmeted Guineafowl, and Red-billed and Swainson's Spurfbwls running in front of the jeeps. Mid-morning, we had a short break for coffee and tea near a pond, where we saw more animals, before returning to camp for lunch and an opportunity to take a bucket shower.

We met again in the dining area for tea and coffee and snacks at 3.30pm, and were off again at 4.00pm for the afternoon game drive. That evening, we managed to see some of the resident African Wild Dogs out hunting, and visited a Spotted Hyena communal den. During our return trip, we followed a pair of male Lions walking in the dark up the road. We were told that they were brothers, and had been mating with some of the lionesses from the nearby pride, which we had seen feeding earlier in the day on the buffalo. We observed these males lounging under trees during the heat of the day, or walking on the road, over the next few days. Some of us caught sight of a Southern African Springhare hopping across the road just before we reached the camp.

Day 4

Tuesday 9th September

The next morning, nine members of our group elected to go for a tranquil ride in *mokoros*, poled gently through the water, while the other five went on a game drive. Those of us in the *mokoros* viewed flowers, a Black Heron fishing, wings outstretched to create shade, a miniature Painted Frog, and a Hippo skeleton up-close. We learned some bushman uses for plants, such as the root of the day water-lily dug up and cooked as a starch, and the root of the toothbrush bush or Blue Bush, chewed to clean teeth. Some interesting uses for Elephant dung tea were also shared, during our coffee break (ugh). We saw many animals on the short game drive before and after the *mokoro* ride. The other five, with Arnold, saw some new birds, including Red-crested Korhaan, Meyer's Parrot and Caspian Plover. After sightings of the large pack of Wild Dogs on the other side of the river, they discovered a Leopard, which was a target for the rest of us on our afternoon drive.

During the afternoon drive, we rediscovered the Leopard, and after we had watched it resting in the shade for a while, it lazily strolled to a fallen tree, where it retrieved a Warthog it had killed and stashed earlier, and began feeding. We also rediscovered the brother Lions, saw Vervet Monkeys, and revisited the Spotted Hyena den. A beautiful Pearl-spotted Owlet was spotted in the dark on the way back, and posed for photographs.

Day 5

Wednesday 10th September

This was the transfer day to the mobile primitive camp in the Xini area of Moremi. We drove through the Khwai village, where numerous children were walking to school, and entered Moremi Park through the Khwai gate. (Note: for Khwai Concession and Moremi National Park, buy a Moremi Park map book (Tinkers.co.za) at Maun airport, if possible. You can buy one at the gates of Moremi for \$30, but it is less expensive at the airport shops. The general maps of Botswana are not really detailed enough.)

We continued to spot Elephants, Zebras, Hippos in pools, Giraffes and more, and stopped to watch a beautiful pair of Cheetahs resting near a waterhole, obviously well-fed. We then continued on our game drive further into the park, stopping for lunch and to watch a few Hippo youngsters playing in the pool. We continued to enjoy sightings of Elephants, Warthogs, Zebras, Kudus, Southern Lechwes and so on, and had a close view of a Bennett's Woodpecker.

As we continued further into the park, due to a slight miscalculation, one of our jeeps went a bit astray and got stuck in the middle of a water crossing. After the second jeep almost got stuck trying to tow it out, the passengers in the stuck jeep waded back to shore. It was decided to bring most of our party to the camp early. Things were still being set up, causing a bit of a stir! The rest of the party chatted and had some refreshments while we waited. Arnold and Partner's son, Junior, drove two vehicles back to the scene, and Junior brought back the remaining members of our group. Eventually the vehicle was extracted, and a mechanic drove a borrowed jeep on the five-hour drive from Maun, so we could continue our game drives the next morning, while he worked on removing water from the fuel tank and other vehicle parts! Partner and Arnold, wet and tired, returned to camp for a shower as we began dinner, and filled us in on the progress. What an adventure!



Pearl-spotted Owlet



Lilac-breasted Roller

Day 6

Thursday 11th September

We were up again at 5.30am, breakfasted at 6.00am, and were off, Partner driving the borrowed jeep. We found a group of Lions with several cubs, resting, herds of Zebras and Elephants, and antelopes including Southern Lechwe and Tsessebe; the latter is among the fastest animals in Africa. A group of Vervet Monkeys was spotted, and a pair of Pink-backed Pelicans swooped in to a lake where a Pied Kingfisher obligingly perched on a post. At lunch, we caught up on our checklists for the previous two and a half days.

We reconvened for high tea, and were off again for the afternoon drive. We saw White-backed, White-headed and Hooded Vultures. Sadly, we found an injured young Lion, its wounds likely caused by a fight with an older male. We spotted a Black-backed Jackal with a bone, which we thought might be from a recent kill by the pride that we had seen earlier in the day. We found a male Lion resting, but didn't find the rest of the pride. In the late afternoon, we found the den of a Black-backed Jackal, and were entertained by the young ones running around.

Day 7

Friday 12th September

In the morning, we set out for the area of Moremi known as 'Blackpool', to see if we could find more Cheetahs. What we found instead was a large pack of Wild Dogs, which had trapped two Leopards up in trees, a male and female! Leopards target Wild Dog pups, so the pack targets the Leopards in turn. This pack had fourteen pups and numbered about forty, which made them more than capable of taking on the Leopards. However, as we watched, the male Leopard came down and diverted some of the pack. He managed to climb another tree and later evaded them. Eventually, the pack lost interest and moved on, allowing both the Leopards to escape. We continued our drive and found Wildebeest, a tree full of vultures, Warthogs, towers of Giraffes, Zebras, Impalas, Chacma Baboons, Kudus, a huge herd of Cape Buffalos, Hippos, Jackals, Lions feeding on a Zebra, herds of Elephant, African Fish Eagles, Marabou Storks, Kori Bustards (the heaviest flying bird), Ostriches and other birds. The wildlife was just astonishing, but we still had no Cheetah (frown). We were a bit late back to camp for lunch, but it was worth it.

In the heat of the afternoon drive, there were fewer animals, and we had a short talk from Partner about the Okavango Delta and river system. Then we saw an Elephant fully submerging into a lake, Giraffes drinking, and a Barn Owl. At the end of the day, we returned to the den of the Black-backed Jackal with her four pups, which we watched romp in a field, and enjoyed another great sunset!



Cheetah



Little Bee-eater

Day 8

Saturday 13th September

There was a 5.00am wake up for an earlier start to search for Cheetah in the Blackpool area. There was a beautiful sunrise, and we saw a group of the endangered Southern Ground Hornbills. Amazingly, we encountered again the large pack of Wild Dogs, crossing the road on a hunt. We also had a great view of Honey Badgers, as always running away quickly, but captured on some people's cameras. We watched a pride of Lions, very focused on a small group of Zebra near a watering hole. Then a small family group of Elephants headed to the water, which resulted in a Lion/Elephant confrontation. The Lions yielded, the Elephants won. Later, one of us managed to capture a picture of a "Zebra Crossing"! There were many Giraffes (hence, we called it "Giraffe Morning"), and another large herd of Cape Buffalos. However, there was still no Cheetah (frown).

In our last afternoon drive, we were targeting the Bodumatau Lagoon area of Moremi, but due to high water we were unable to reach that destination, so we returned to the eastern section of Xini. We watched a resting pair of Lions, Kudu, Giraffe and Elephants. A Leopard was spotted climbing a tree for a brief rest and survey of the area,

and then came down and disappeared in the brush. Among the many birds, we saw Senegal Coucal and a group of “tuxedoed” Marabou Storks, all in a line. We also saw the Wild Dog pups again, with their adult “sitters”, scrambling over scraps of skin. Additionally, we saw a Steenbok in the grass, and a Black-backed Jackal catching a mouse or other small animal.

In the evening, after dinner (ladies first, but gentleman before, for the final night!), one of our party thanked our guides and the staff in Setswana, “Ke a leboga” (pronounced ke-alle-buha with the ‘g’ sound more as ‘ch’ as in the Scottish “loch”). They remarked on our guides, who could spot an animal or a bird while navigating the roads, and provided us all with “African massages” on the bumpy roads; Esther, who sang the invitation to dinner most nights; her staff, who provided gourmet bush meals for lunch and dinner, bread rolls, cakes and meats, all cooked without the benefit of a modern kitchen; and Junior and the entire camp crew who provided amazing care, including hot water for washing and showering. The whole experience had started well, and only got better and exceeded all our expectations. Our guides had had great patience, for example when some would call out “it’s a bird”! And not least, our exciting water adventure thrown in. We gave them all three cheers!



Plains Zebra



Meyer's Parrot

Day 9

Sunday 14th September

Our morning drive to Maun Airport left at about 7.00am. Shortly after leaving the camp, we saw a Goliath Heron in the nearby lake, with a large catfish in its bill. We saw the Wild Dog pack again, which blocked the road for a while. Hyenas, Impalas, Kudus, Squirrels, the little Steenboks, Zebras, Elephants, Giraffes, and birds including Hooded Vultures, Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters and a Violet-backed Starling: all were seen, as if saying goodbye. There was a sanitation stop on the way out of the park, where the jeeps went through a wallow, and we walked through a (sort of) wet mat to avoid carrying any diseases from the Park. We had a last chance to buy the Moremi Game Reserve Tourist Map as a souvenir of our visit.

Partner dropped four of us off at a hotel around noon, before he and Arnold took the rest to Maun airport for the flight to Jo'burg, and then on to Heathrow. We certainly enjoyed the flush toilets and shower at the hotel. The rest of our party were probably a bit jealous, as we prepared for our extension trip of four nights at Nogatsaa Pans Lodge, in the Chobe National Park.

Nogatsaa Pans Lodge extension

Day 1

Sunday 14th September

We had lunch and dinner at the Cresta Maun Hotel, showered, organised and then repacked for the next adventure. One of us explored the birds in the garden of the hotel and had close views of a Hartlaub's Babbler. The staff and restaurant were very good.

Day 2

Monday 15th September

In the morning, we had a great buffet breakfast at the hotel, and we were off again. We were shuttled to the airport at 7.30am, in good time for our fifty-five-minute flight from Maun to Kasane. Upon arrival, the driver from Flame of Africa collected us and our luggage, and predicted a three-and-a-half-hour drive. Half an hour into the very bumpy ride, we wished that we had packed lighter and flown to Nogatsaa Pans Lodge! We had fleeting views of Zebra, Elephant, Roan Antelope, Steenbok, a flying Kori Bustard, two Cape Buffalos with oxpeckers on their backs, and a beautiful Lilac-breasted Roller. In the end, we arrived by 12.30pm, after only a two-hour drive: classic expectation management!

The staff of the lodge serenaded us with a warm welcome on arrival, and this was just the beginning of their repertoire! We were met by the manager of the Lodge and facilities, Francois, who provided a tour of the Lodge, explained the rules, and over the next days continued to ensure that our stay was comfortable and interesting. As in the bush camps, no walking unaccompanied to and from our tents (night and day) was allowed, and no exiting the tents after dark. We were given an excellent lunch and then driven to our luxury tents: they were very different from the bush camps of the previous eight days! 'Glamping' at its finest! We unpacked, and some of us took a swim.

The lodge was next to a large waterhole, fed by bore holes, and in the afternoon, either from the lodge or our tent decks, we watched African Buffalo, Kudu, Roan Antelope, Giraffe and hundreds of Elephants, all coming to the water, to wade and drink. The resident Hippo family occasionally surfaced as well. We were told there were Lions near some of the vacant tents, a bit trapped by the Buffalo herd. We got to meet members of the Lion pride later!

We met our guide Vincent, and embarked on our first afternoon game drive after the 4.00pm high tea. Some of the animals in this area are more skittish than those we had met in Khwai and Moremi, as there were fewer vehicles here. But we first drove over to tents 11 and 12 to meet the pride of Lions that had taken up residence in the shade and on the tent deck. No guests were occupying those tents at the time, but they would be needed in the days to come, and we weren't sure how the Lions would be encouraged to move on! We were very glad our tents were numbers 1 and 2, and on the opposite side of the Lodge.

Vincent gave us a wealth of information about the flora and fauna of the area. We learned that the Southern Ground Hornbills search under Elephant dung, looking for termites and beetles. We also learned that the female hornbill seals herself into a nesting cavity in a tree, leaving only a small opening for her mate to deliver food for her and the nestlings. She also uses her feathers to line the nest, and thus cannot fly for a time, so he had learned as boy, "If you kill one Hornbill, you kill the whole family". Also, intriguingly, Steenbok dig a hole for their

droppings (dung middens), to hide their presence from predators. Vincent also showed us the seeds and pods from the Lucky Bean tree (*Mopbete* in Setswana) which had been used to decorate our beds on arrival.

After sightings of Buffalos, a yellow flowering plant we are *still* trying to name, birds and other local wildlife, we ended the drive on the other side of the waterhole from the lodge, to watch the sunset with sundowner drinks of our choice. It was the perfect end to the first afternoon drive in Chobe National Park.

At dinner, the chefs and staff again welcomed us with a song, “Amarula”, referencing the popular cream liqueur made from the local *marula* fruit. This was selected as an option for later drinks! On our first night there were only six guests, and twenty staff to cater to us: we were very pampered. During the night, we could hear Lions, Hyenas, Hippos and other strange sounds all around the tents. One couple heard loud clanks, which we were later told were Buffalos banging their horns on the metal railings. We did not ignore the rules about staying in the tent!

Day 3

Tuesday 16th September

After breakfast at 7.00am, we left on our morning game drive. As our jeep approached one of the male Lions, whose name we later learned was appropriately “Bad Boy”, he decided we were encroaching on a female he was courting, and charged our vehicle. Vincent adeptly turned us around at speed, and we decided to explore in a different direction that morning. Birds were everywhere, including Blue Waxbills, the various starlings (such as Meve’s and Burchell’s), Village Weavers and Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Larks.

We headed to an area where the local Lion pride was reported to be feeding on a dead Elephant. The area was full of vultures, and we found the Lions with their cubs, who looked well-fed. Because of the high density of Elephants in the area, natural deaths among them are common here at this dry time of year. The Lions, other predators, and scavengers will feed on them, but it is tough to penetrate through the thick skin. During our stay, there were at least four Elephant carcasses, including one on a nearby road. The carcasses may be tested, by government employees, with the help of the lodge staff, to see whether they can determine cause of death. The one on the road was later burned, as the stench was horrible, and the predators and scavengers simply could not deal with multiple Elephant carcasses at one time.

We saw Steenbok, Roan Antelope, and a Chacma Baboon in a treetop, and near the lodge waterhole there were Yellow-billed Kite, Collared Pratincole, African Harrier-Hawk and a Grey-headed Gull. Also, everywhere we went we could hear the ubiquitous Ring-necked Doves calling (according to one of us) “Botswana”; but others think it is really saying “drink lager”, or “work harder”.

In the afternoon, we saw Jameson’s Firefinch next to the lodge, and during the drive we went to a grassy area hoping to find Kori Bustard. Instead, we spotted smaller birds which proved to be Yellow-throated Sandgrouse. The sundowner drinks were at a waterhole, where we saw Buffalos, Warthogs and Double-banded Sandgrouse. On the way back to the lodge, Vincent spotted a Fiery-necked Nightjar which perched very close to us on the road while we took photos. A Verreaux’s Eagle Owl perched on a tree between the lodge and waterhole.

As the couple we had shared the lodge with were departing the next morning, we all enjoyed the staff performing traditional and original songs and dances, to bid them goodbye. The couple described it as better than an expensive ticket to the “Lion King”. The staff had also prepared a cake to celebrate one of our party’s birthday, which she

shared with all the staff and other guests. As we returned to our tent that night, Hippos were grazing and lounging out in front of our tents, and their grunts lulled us to sleep.

Day 4

Wednesday 17th September

In the morning, we looked for birds in the bushes next to the lodge, and were treated to views of Southern Black Tit, and Marico and Scarlet-chested Sunbirds, while a pair of Great White Pelicans landed on the waterhole. On the morning drive, we saw Spotted Hyena, Black-backed Jackal, Steenbok, Impala, Lions, Buffalos, Giraffes, Marabou Stork, White-backed and Hooded Vultures, and Crowned Lapwing. In addition, we caught a fleeting glimpse of Sable Antelopes, which we hadn't seen before. Vincent suspected that they were heading for a nearby waterhole, so we drove there and sure enough, they appeared and we were able to admire these beautiful animals. Other highlights of the drive included a White-crested Helmetshrike on its nest, with four nestlings, Hartlaub's Babbler and Black-winged Kite. Our guide, Vincent, loved that he had a group interested in birds, and not just large mammals, which was rare for him!

After lunch, we waited for the Elephant invasion, but it was late this afternoon. We viewed, Giraffes, Impalas, Buffalos and Roan Antelopes, and finally the Elephants came! On the afternoon drive, we focused on some birds bathing in a pool of water under the water towers, which in addition to the usual starlings and doves included Buffy Pipits. Later, we saw a Swallow-tailed Bee-eater and many raptors (African Hawk-Eagle, Little Sparrowhawk, Steppe Eagle and Black-winged Kite), and mammals including Steenbok and Greater Kudu.

Our drive ended with sundowner drinks in a hide overlooking another waterhole at the nearby Nogastaa Pans Campground. There were Elephants, including a baby suckling from its mother, and several Buffalos. A Dickinson's Kestrel flew in for a drink. We also noticed many vultures in the trees nearby, and the faint smell of dead Elephant. Vincent would report it to ensure it doesn't affect the self-driving visitors who use the camp.

We returned to the lodge to find that several groups of new residents had arrived, and that staff had managed to encourage the Lions to vacate the tent area. We did not share our pictures of the day before with the new guests!

Day 5

Thursday 18th September

In the morning, we were up early for bird viewing from our tent deck, and then near the lodge buildings. During the morning drive, a large Rock Monitor posed for photographs next to the road. We saw Black-backed Jackals, Giraffes, Kudu, Steenbok, and a lioness with two cubs at a waterhole. The birds including a group of Crested Francolins, a vulture on its nest, Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters, Black-winged Kite, and many Southern Yellow-billed Hornbills ('flying bananas') looking for insects near piles of dung. We had our coffee break at the nearby airstrip.

On the drive back, we had lovely views of a male Red-headed Weaver building a nest. A female inspected the nest, moved a few twigs, and overall seemed to approve. Back at the lodge, we observed Kudus, Impalas grazing, Southern Ground Hornbills and a group of Roan Antelope drinking at the waterhole. One of us watched an African Harrier-Hawk next to the water, being mobbed by a Blacksmith Lapwing. Some call this lodge an 'armchair safari', for good reason.

During the afternoon drive, we spotted an African Hawk-Eagle, Giraffes walking and browsing, Southern Ground Hornbills hunting insects, Double-banded Sandgrouse, Red-crested Korhaan, a Black-chested Snake Eagle and a Martial Eagle. Our last sundowner drink was picture perfect, with an Elephant framed between the setting sun and its reflection in the waterhole.

Our own goodbye performance from the staff was very enjoyable, this time around the fire pit, and with a much larger audience of guests.



Day 6

Friday 19th September

After early birding around the lodge, we breakfasted and headed back to the Kasane Airport: we had been serenaded by the staff again as we left. The ride back was slightly less bumpy, or maybe we were just more used to it! We would shout, “Elephant” or “Steenbok”, as we drove along. We caught our flight from Kasane to Jo’burg, and then onto Heathrow airport, with wonderful memories to last a lifetime!

Day 7

Saturday 20th September

We arrived safely home in the UK.

Conclusion

Our stay at Nogatsaa Pans Lodge was a memorable capstone to our Botswana safari: it was quieter than Moremi or Khwai, and teeming with wildlife and brimming with authenticity. The remote location, dedicated staff, luxurious comfort and close wildlife encounters made it an unforgettable experience. It is highly recommended for travelers seeking a blend of isolation, excellent birding, and large mammal viewing without the crowds of northern Chobe.

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Species lists

Mammals

Common name	Scientific name	September 2025												
		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
African Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vervet	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>					✓	✓							
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
Smith's Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Southern African Spring Hare	<i>Pedetes capensis</i>		✓											
Cheetah	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>				✓									
Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>			✓			✓							
Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>				✓	✓								
Common Dwarf Mongoose	<i>Helogale parvula</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			
Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>		✓					✓	✓				✓	
Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>		✓			✓	✓		✓					
Spotted Hyaena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>		✓		✓				✓	✓		✓		
Black-backed Jackal	<i>Lupulella mesomelas</i>					✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
Bat-eared Fox	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>						✓							
African Wild Dog	<i>Lycaon pictus</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓					
Honey Badger	<i>Mellivora capensis</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓						
Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Southern Giraffe	<i>Giraffa giraffa</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Roan Antelope	<i>Hippotragus equinus</i>			✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sable Antelope	<i>Hippotragus niger</i>											✓		
Blue Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			
Tsessebe	<i>Damaliscus lunatus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓						
Common Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓									
Southern Lechwe	<i>Kobus leche</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					

Common name	Scientific name	September 2025												
		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
Southern Reedbuck	<i>Redunca arundinum</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓						
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cape Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Birds

Common name	Scientific name	September 2025												
		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>						✓							
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓						
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Blue-billed Teal	<i>Spatula hottentota</i>							✓						
Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Crested Francolin	<i>Ortygornis sephaena</i>							✓					✓	
Harlequin Quail	<i>Coturnix delegorguei</i>					✓								
Red-billed Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis adspersus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Swainson's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fiery-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus pectoralis</i>										✓			
Square-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus fossii</i>							✓						
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>						✓		✓					
Grey Go-away-bird	<i>Crinifer concolor</i>			✓		✓		✓			✓			
Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>					✓	✓							
Red-crested Korhaan	<i>Lophotis ruficrista</i>			✓						✓			✓	
Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>		✓					✓			✓	✓		
Coppery-tailed Coucal	<i>Centropus cupreicaudus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓								
Yellow-throated Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles gutturalis</i>										✓			
Double-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles bicinctus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓		✓	

Common name	Scientific name	September 2025												
		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>				✓									
Wattled Crane	<i>Grus carunculata</i>			✓	✓									
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>					✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Buttonquail	<i>Turnix sylvaticus</i>							✓						
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>				✓	✓	✓							
Long-toed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus crassirostris</i>		✓											
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		
African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>		✓											
Caspian Plover	<i>Anarhynchus asiaticus</i>			✓										
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>							✓						
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>										✓			
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>											✓		
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>						✓							
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>										✓			
Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>	✓	✓		✓									
Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓						
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓						
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓					
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓						
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>							✓						
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>		✓		✓			✓						
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>			✓						✓				

Common name	Scientific name	September 2025												
		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>				✓									
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Yellow-billed Egret	<i>Ardea brachyrhyncha</i>				✓			✓						
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>							✓	✓					
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓						✓	
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>				✓	✓					✓	✓		
Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>					✓		✓						
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>											✓	✓	
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>				✓						✓	✓	✓	
White-headed Vulture	<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>				✓	✓								
Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>						✓		✓					
White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	
Black-chested Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>										✓		✓	
Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>		✓											
Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>												✓	
Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>											✓		
Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
African Hawk-Eagle	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>		✓									✓		
Dark Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>	✓												
Little Sparrowhawk	<i>Tachyspiza minulla</i>											✓		
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>						✓							
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
African Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga vocifer</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>						✓							
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>			✓										
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Ketupa lactea</i>					✓					✓			
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		✓		✓									

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Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓								✓	
Southern Ground Hornbill	<i>Bucorvus leadbeateri</i>					✓	✓	✓			✓			
Southern Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus rufirostris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓									
Purple Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>	✓			✓								✓	
Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	
Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓							✓	
Southern Carmine Bee-eater	<i>Merops nubicoides</i>												✓	
Bennett's Woodpecker	<i>Campethera bennettii</i>				✓	✓								
Bearded Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus namaquus</i>			✓	✓									
Dickinson's Kestrel	<i>Falco dickinsoni</i>											✓		
Meyer's Parrot	<i>Poicephalus meyeri</i>			✓										
Orange-breasted Bushshrike	<i>Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus</i>					✓								
Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>					✓								
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>					✓								
Swamp Boubou	<i>Laniarius bicolor</i>				✓									
Crimson-breasted Shrike	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>						✓	✓						
White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>		✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	
Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>				✓									
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Southern White-crowned Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus anguitimens</i>	✓	✓			✓								
Magpie Shrike	<i>Lanius melanoleucus</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓					
Southern Black Tit	<i>Melaniparus niger</i>				✓								✓	
Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix leucotis</i>										✓	✓		
African Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>		✓										✓	
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>		✓				✓				✓	✓	✓	
Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>		✓	✓	✓									
Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>												✓	
Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>						✓							

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Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>		✓									✓		
Barred Wren-Warbler	<i>Calamonastes fasciolatus</i>													✓
Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>				✓	✓	✓							
Southern Pied Babbler	<i>Turdoides bicolor</i>	✓												
Hartlaub's Babbler	<i>Turdoides hartlaubii</i>									✓		✓	✓	
Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>				✓	✓	✓							
Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>				✓	✓								
Meves's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis mevesii</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Burchell's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis australis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>								✓					
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>	✓			✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓		
Groundscraper Thrush	<i>Turdus litsitsirupa</i>		✓											
Kalahari Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas paena</i>		✓											
White-browed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>												✓	
Marico Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis mariquensis</i>						✓							
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>											✓	✓	
Marico Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓
Yellow-throated Bush Sparrow	<i>Gymnoris supercilialis</i>		✓			✓								
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
Red-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓						
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Scaly-feathered Weaver	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>							✓						
Southern Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>						✓							
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>										✓			
Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>				✓								✓	
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	
Blue Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>		✓		✓						✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>													✓
Jameson's Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rhodopareia</i>										✓			
Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>				✓									
Shaft-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua regia</i>						✓					✓		

		September 2025												
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Long-tailed Paradise Whydah	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>		✓											
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>		✓											
Buffy Pipit	<i>Anthus vaalensis</i>											✓		
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>		✓											
Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>		✓											