

Botswana's Kalahari Desert

Naturetrek Tour Report

8th – 17th March 2022



Spotted Eagle Owl



Bat-eared Fox



Cheetahs



Safari!

Tour report by Alasdair Mackie and Sally Wearing, images by David and Andrew Huntbatch



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Tour participants: Partner Kadisa (Safari guide and driver), with seven Naturetrek clients

Summary

The group enjoyed a memorable week-long trip to the Central Kalahari Game Reserve led by Partner and supported by his local team. The greenery bore witness to the recent rains, with many plant species, particularly yellow and purple-flowered, in bloom.

Birdlife at the Thalamakane Lodge, en route and in the Reserve was, at times, spectacular with a large number and variety of raptors, including migratory species such as Amur Falcon and Montagu's Harrier seen. Bee-eaters, Rollers and Shrikes, including the Crimson-breasted, were common. Male Shaft-tailed Whydahs in breeding plumage filled the air along with Scaly-feathered Finches, Ant-eating Chats and the Flycatchers, Marico and Chat. Identification skills were tested with mixed flocks of pipits and larks. A single White-headed Vulture seen at a kill reminded us of the increasing rarity of this species; Lappet-faced and White-backed were common by comparison. Kori Bustard, Ostrich and Secretary Birds appeared to own the plains. Two Abdim's and a single White Stork, the latter said to be uncommon, were observed in the Reserve and en route respectively. In total, over 150 bird species were seen during the seven days.

Good numbers of Steenbok, Springbok and Gemsbok were seen in the Reserve with Blue Wildebeest in smaller numbers. Giraffe sightings were mostly confined to Deception Valley. Less commonly seen were Red Hartebeest, Greater Kudu and Warthog, all in or near the scrub vegetation. Three Elephant were an unexpected bonus on our return journey between the park boundary and the Veterinary Control Station.

Lion and African Wildcat were each recorded on three days; a fourth Wildcat was picked up on a 'Trail Cam' on the final morning. A brief sighting of an elusive Leopard was more than compensated for by superb views of three Cheetahs resting undisturbed in the shade. A single Caracal was spotted by Partner, though most of the party saw only the rump, if at all! Jackal and Bat-eared Fox were guaranteed daily sightings.

Of reptiles, we were fortunate to see both Cape Cobra and Black Mamba; the latter almost certainly attempting to retrieve its paralysed prey. Wahlberg's Striated Skink proved a colourful addition to the reptile list.

Camp life was comfortable in large Meru-style tents with 'safari style' en-suite facilities. The two camps in Letiahau Valley and Deception Valley were noticeably different. The former felt less visited and, being further south, allowed exploration of more remote sections of the Park; that in Deception Valley offered a more familiar setting amidst the thorn trees. At each, one marvelled at the catering with fire-baked bread and the predominantly meat-based lunches and dinners. Cloud-free skies, in particular at Letiahau, guaranteed a stunning backdrop to the 'al fresco' dining and tempted more than one guest to set their alarm for a night-time view (and photograph) of the Milky Way.

The return journey to Maun was memorable not just for the sighting of elephant but also for the monsoon rain that saw us relocate the luggage from the top of the vehicle to inside and take shelter under capes. The party then divided, with four returning to the UK and three extending their trip with a visit to the Victoria Falls area.

Day 1

Tuesday 8th March

The party boarded the overnight Virgin Atlantic flight from London Heathrow to Johannesburg to connect to the onward Airlink flight to Maun in Botswana.

Day 2

Wednesday 9th March

Heavy rain greeted our arrival into Johannesburg airport. A lunchtime flight to a sunnier Maun touched down mid-afternoon and the party met as a group for the first time. Partner, our driver and guide, greeted us at the airport along with our transport to the Lodge. Southern Carmine Bee-eater seemed the avian equivalent of a guard of honour as they graced the telegraph wires on route. The first night was spent in the comfortable Thalamakane River Lodge on the banks of the river, augmented by recent rains.

There was ample time to search the lodge grounds, the river and surrounding vegetation for birds before darkness descended. Some 40 species were identified in and around the lodge including African Darter, Hamerkop, Goliath Heron, African Spoonbill, various Egret species, Senegal Coucal, Fish Eagle, Pied Kingfisher, Golden Weaver, Arrow-marked Babbler, Red-billed Oxpecker and Burchell's Starling. In addition, various Palearctic migrant waders were seen feeding by the water's edge. The distinctive sound of the Woodland Kingfisher rang out as it moved through the trees in the Lodge grounds. As dusk descended, bats hawked along the river as the group enjoyed an excellent meal in the riverside restaurant.

Day 3

Thursday 10th March

Those who took advantage of the early morning light added African Skimmer to the list with a flight of 12 birds heading up-river. Black Crake and Black-headed Heron were also noted. Ducks seen again included Hottentot Teal and Knob-billed Duck [also known as Comb].

After a filling breakfast, Partner arrived with the Landcruiser and with bags loaded onto the roof we set off on the journey to the Central Kalahari Game Reserve [CKGR] stopping first to pick up lunch and a few necessary items. Rain threatened.

Once again, wire-perched Southern Carmine Bee-eaters along with Meves's Starling acted as colourful spectators. Smaller birds went unidentified as we headed south-east out of Maun on the Rakops/Francistown road. A White Stork on route was an unexpected sight. We soon reached the Veterinary Boundary Fence and dipped our boots and shoes in disinfectant at the Control Centre: a long-standing precaution against Foot and Mouth Disease. Turning right at this junction we journeyed for several hours alongside the Veterinary Fence and then Reserve Boundary on a single sand track, eventually reaching Matswere Gate without seeing a single vehicle.

On route, Hibiscus garlanded the fence and flowers aplenty adorned the sandy soil as the rainy season revealed its hidden treasures. African Monarch butterflies appeared to fill the air. Birdlife too abounded with Little Bee-eaters the pick as they flitted from wire to post. Red-backed Shrike, Masked Weaver, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, Spotted Flycatcher, Red-billed Quelea and Scaly- feathered Finch added variety.

Formalities attended to at the Entrance Gate, we lunched on the reserve side of the gate and enjoyed good views of Common Myna, Fork-tailed Drongo, Southern White-crowned Shrike, and Southern Grey Sparrow.

Anticipation mounted as we headed towards Deception Valley and beyond. Progress however was slow due to the legacy of recent heavy rains. An immature Bateleur Eagle at one point took full advantage by taking a bath in one of numerous road pools. Both Lilac-breasted and European Rollers were frequently encountered. Raptors started to become increasingly noticeable with Pale Chanting Goshawk [frequent], Steppe Buzzard, Tawny Eagle, Dark-chested Snake Eagle, Lanner Falcon, Red-necked Falcon, Yellow-billed Kite, Black-shouldered Kite, Montagu's Harrier and Greater Kestrel all recorded by time of our arrival in camp.

As our first camp had been relocated from Passarge to Letiahau, we had a longer drive but this took us further south into less visited territory. The land in CKGR is a patchwork of acacia scrub, fossilized river valleys and pans and, in parts, taller wooded glades composed largely of umbrella thorn trees. Each habitat has its own flora and fauna. Steenbok were relatively common amidst the scrub but almost never encountered on the grassland where Springbok, Gemsbok [Southern Oryx] and, to a lesser degree, Blue Wildebeest held court. All three latter species were seen as we passed through Deception Valley on route to Letiahau Valley. Up to a dozen of the predominantly termite-feeding Bat-eared Fox were encountered on day three in the Park, along with good numbers of Black-backed Jackal. Both species would be seen most days.

Cape Ground Squirrel was abundant and often close to the track thus offering excellent photographic opportunities. Sightings of Slender Mongoose, Yellow Mongoose and the first of three African Wildcat [four counting the 'Trail Cam' footage] were, however, fleeting and not seen by all.

Additional birds first seen on day three included Red-billed Spurfowl, Helmeted Guineafowl, Ostrich, Secretary Bird, Kori Bustard, Northern Black Korhaan, Crowned Lapwing, Double-banded Courser; seen mostly on the road or amidst the plain's grasses. Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill, African Stonechat, Ant-eating Chat and Crimson-breasted Shrike - the latter something of a CKGR specialty - tended to be found nearer camp or in mixed scrub vegetation.

The light was fading as we reached our first camp in the Letiahau Valley. Due to heavy rain the day before, camp was still under construction on our arrival but we were soon enjoying a restorative beer followed by dinner, accompanied by engaging Praying Mantises. Sleep came easy despite the sounds of a distant territorial Lion.

Day 4

Friday 11th March

Awakened at 05:00, breakfast at 05:30 and on the road by 06:00. This became the routine for the week. Dawn broke quickly with the early hours cool though not cold and the light soon conducive to photography.

We headed south-east from camp and had no difficulty encountering the common plain's animals. The light enhanced the colour of the Gemsbok and the richness of the grassland. CKGR is an area notable for raptors and most species seen the day before were again encountered with the addition of Shikra and two Vulture species, Lappet-faced and White-backed, the latter the commonest in the Reserve.

After several hours driving we drew up under the shade of a small Umbrella Thorn glade for coffee. We were not alone. A mouse in the agonal stages of life was breathing its last. Initially puzzled as to the cause, Partner soon identified the probable culprit. A young Black Mamba eager to reclaim its victim slithered out of a nearby thorn tree towards the mouse as the party backed off. Obviously wary of our presence we eased back to the vehicle and retreated. Mouse and mamba had disappeared one hour later.

After lunch back at the camp, the star attraction of the day was the trio of Cheetah lounging under Acacia bushes at the edge of a smallish pan. Presumably siblings, they proved very obliging and remained undisturbed by our presence. A quality photo opportunity. Later in the day we chanced upon an old Gemsbok kill, the remains being picked over by vultures, including a single White-headed, an increasingly rare vulture of the African landscape; it proved the only one seen on the trip.

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-lark, Flappet, Eastern Clapper, Sabota, and Red-capped Larks along with Yellow Canary, Lesser Grey Shrike, Chat and Marico Flycatchers, African and Buffy Pipits were all new bird species for the day.

The afternoon game drive ended with a glorious sunset enhanced by obliging Ostrich taking their curtain calls. Then it was back to the camp to sit round the fire with a drink before a tasty dinner.

Day 5

Saturday 12th March

Reveille was augmented by the bark of a nearby Leopard. The first drive of the day would take us to Piper's Pan, the furthest south-west we travelled in the Reserve. Partner had heard word of Lion and duly tracked down three: two males and a female. Sheltering from the sun under low thorn bushes, two of the three afforded ample photographic opportunities.

Two Red Hartebeest and a small group of Greater Kudu were a pleasure to find as neither proved common. The morning's route took us past open grassland where Montagu's Harriers drifted in the breeze and also an area where Amur Falcon were concentrated as for a short period they seemed on every sizeable bush. Other new raptors included Little Sparrowhawk and Lesser Kestrel.

Other new bird species for the day included Capped Wheatear, Orange River Francolin, an uncommon Abdim's Stork, Green-winged Pytilia, Fawn-coloured Lark, Violet-eared Waxbill and Long-tailed Shrike.

After lunch, we headed east, and one of the group soon spotted a large yellow snake travelling at speed on the left side of the vehicle. Interrupting its route, the snake, a Cape Cobra, reared up menacingly – hood deployed – before rapidly disappearing. A few managed a more-than passable shot. Rarely seen, this snake, like the Black Mamba, has a deserved reputation and can certainly move at speed. The sunset today was augmented by Gemsboks and followed by a Spotted Eagle sitting quietly in a tree by the side of the road.

Day 6

Sunday 13th March

Today saw us move camp to Deception Valley for the final three nights of our stay. To allow for the camp to be dismantled, transported and re-assembled, we journeyed for the best part of the day, stopping en route for lunch.

The morning drive took us past two overnight kills. The first on San Pan was a Gemsbok presumably killed by Lions though none were seen in the vicinity. A dozen or more Black-backed Jackals were feasting and the Vultures waiting their turn. Lappet-faced and White-backed together with Yellow-billed Kite, Tawny Eagle and Pied Crow were all circling. On the adjacent Phokoje Pan, a male Springbok had been killed some time earlier as by the time of our arrival only the skull and long bones remained.

New bird species for the day included Yellow-bellied Eremomela at one of our rest stops, Red-faced Mousebird and Spotted Thick-knee, whilst Warthog, Scrub Hare and Southern Giraffe were added to the mammal list. A second African Wildcat again provided brief views.

A picnic lunch was held under a grove of acacia trees. Four Temminck's Coursers, Acacia Pied Barbet, an unidentified Sunbird and Wahlberg's Striated Skink guarding its territory in a nearby termite mound were colourful additions to the species list.

The afternoon saw us encounter another trio of Lions; again, two males and a female. This time we had the privilege of watching two mating, while the other male rested nearby.

It was almost dusk by the time we arrived at the more wooded camp in the Deception Valley. As we approached camp, an unidentified Nightjar on the track caught our attention. The party enjoyed drinks by the fire under the watchful eye of a colony of White-browed Sparrow Weaver followed once again by an excellent dinner, this time of traditional Botswanan food.

Day 7

Monday 14th March

Different camp; same routine. Reveille at 05:00 with hot water, breakfast then on the road by 06:00.

A few of the group had a strong interest in flowers whilst the others appreciated the structure and colour of the shrubs, grasses and flowering plants. The Hibiscus mentioned earlier was in profusion as far as the Matswere gate though less so afterwards. The commonest trees/shrubs identified in the Reserve were Umbrella, Camel and Trumpet thorn. The latter is widespread and at this time of year has most attractive white trumpet-shaped flowers.

Many of the smaller vascular plants doubtless went unidentified but those we did give name to and photographed include Eland's Pea, Yellow Mouse Whiskers, Tsamma Melon, Small Devil's Thorn, Variegated [Zebra] Aloe, Cat's Tail, Ash Vetch and Wandering Jew. Fruits included the aforementioned Tsamma Melon, Poison Apple and Bitter Wild Cucumber.

The morning's drive took us in search of Wild Dog [unsuccessful] though a Leopard was spotted amidst thick acacia thorn and, although good views proved elusive, all did see it, if only briefly.

By way of compensation, we came across a group of animated Grey and Southern Yellow-billed Hornbills, presumably due to the presence of a predator. Partner tried to track it down and a few of the group had a fleeting glimpse of something disappearing into the bushes. Then the rain came, and, although well-protected by ponchos, the group returned to camp early for lunch.

The weather soon improved so the afternoon drive was brought forward, and we headed east to Deception Pan, the only natural waterhole in the region, which, despite the rains, was dry though not safe to cross. Here an engaging group of Giraffe, including two young sparring males, were located, again affording excellent photographic opportunities.

One new bird was a Scimitar-billed Wood-hoopoe, with second records of Spotted Thick-knee and Red-crested Korhaan. The afternoon drive took us through more mature woodland, with a brief view of a Common Button Quail giving the impression of a small haggis propelled by short stiff wings.

The Wild Dog had been seen in the vicinity of an artificial waterhole a few days prior to our search. This very attractive site held a Black-winged Stilt, Three-banded Plover and a pair of Blacksmith Lapwing. A Chestnut-vented Tit-babbler was also seen in the surrounding bush. This waterhole appeared a potential honey trap for wildlife; the sort of place that would repay an extended watch.

Day 8

Tuesday 15th March

The last full day in CKGR. PCR day. An early start was needed to meet the Nurse undertaking the 'Covid' swabs at the Matswere gate. Insufficient time for much dedicated wildlife watching though time enough to stop for Lion. A large male was on the move and was not to be missed. After which we had just time enough to make the rendezvous or so we thought. Not the time nor the place to have the only puncture of the trip. A stone or perhaps a thorn branch had punctured the off-side rear tyre. Thankfully with spares on hand and with a sturdy jack, Partner had the wheel replaced in about 15 minutes. We still had the Lion to overtake as it made its way rhythmically forward. Just as it did so an animal appeared on the bend in the road. Seen in full only by Partner, a Caracal hastily disappeared into the bush; all the rest of us saw at most was the tail-end. Steppe Buzzards were common on the route and an African Hoopoe perched adjacent to the road remained long enough to be photographed.

As it happened, the Helicopter bringing in the Nurse was delayed allowing us time to travel along the boundary fence and obtain superb views of a family of Tawny Eagles.

All swabbed and recorded we headed back to camp for lunch. The final afternoon involved a gentle game drive. Good views were had of Bat-eared Fox though the star of the day proved to be a photogenic Spotted Eagle Owl sighted by Partner deep in a bush. Fortunately, it emerged for the cameras.

Back at the camp we shared our last evening together, saying goodbye and thanks to the excellent crew of seven who had looked after us so well.

Day 9

Wednesday 16th March

A day spent retracing our route back to Maun to catch the midday flight to Johannesburg. If anything, birds were more in evidence than on our trip out. Little, Swallow-tailed and European Bee-eaters appeared in some profusion. A stunning pale morph Tawny Eagle graced a fence yards from the vehicle before flying off. A Black Cuckoo was first heard then seen when we stopped for coffee.

Fresh elephant dung on the track raised the possibility of one final mammal. We had seen a dead animal in the bush on the way in but had not anticipated seeing this species so far south of its main range in Botswana. Much to our delight, and for one of the group in particular, we shortly came across three on the track. Fortunately, no confrontation occurred as the trio moved off into the bush away from the Reserve Boundary.

By now the sky was looking ominous and with distant lightning the heavens opened as we reached the Veterinary Control Station. A hasty re-arrangement of luggage took place. Capes strategically placed helped mitigate the worst of the rain. Crossing the Boteti river shortly before Maun we added Wattled Crane, Reed Cormorant and Squacco Heron to the bird list.

Formalities at Maun airport addressed, four of the party headed home via Johannesburg whilst three participants extended their stay with a short visit to Livingstone and Victoria Falls. The latter returned to the Thamalakane River Lodge for the night and added Saddle-billed Stork and African Jacana to the bird list, taking it to 154 species along with 22 mammals.

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Species lists

Birds

	Common name	Scientific name	March 2022							
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1	Reed Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>								✓
2	African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>	✓	✓						✓
3	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	✓							
4	Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>	✓							
5	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>							✓	
6	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓							✓
7	Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>		✓						
8	Great Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	✓							✓
9	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓	✓						✓
10	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓						✓
11	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>								✓
12	Abdim's Stork	<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>				✓		✓	✓	
13	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		✓						
14	Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>	✓							
15	Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>								✓
16	African Openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>	✓							✓
17	African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>	✓	✓						✓
18	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	✓							✓
19	Hadedda Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	✓	✓						✓
20	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	✓							✓
21	Comb Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	✓	✓						✓
22	White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	✓							✓
23	Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>		✓						✓
24	Hottentot Teal	<i>Anas hottentota</i>	✓	✓						✓
25	Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>			✓	✓		✓		
26	White-headed Vulture	<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>			✓					
27	African White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
28	African Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>	✓	✓						
29	Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
30	Black-chested Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
31	Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
32	Steppe Buzzard	<i>Buteo vulpinus</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓
33	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
34	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
35	Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
36	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		✓					?	
37	Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
38	Gabar Goshawk	<i>Melierax gabar</i>		✓			✓		✓	✓
39	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>			✓		✓			
40	Little Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter minullus</i>				✓	✓			
41	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>		✓				✓	✓	✓
42	Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>		✓						
43	Amur Falcon	<i>Falco amurensis</i>				✓	✓			
44	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>				✓	✓			
45	Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>		✓		✓	✓			
46	Red-billed Spurfowl	<i>Pternistes adspersus</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	March 2022							
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
47	Orange River Francolin	<i>Scleroptila levaillantoides</i>				✓				
48	Crested Francolin	<i>Peliperdix sephaena</i>								✓
49	Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
50	Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
51	Common Button Quail	<i>Turnix sylvatica</i>						✓		
52	Black Crake	<i>Amauornis flavirostris</i>		✓						✓
53	African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>								✓
54	Wattled Crane	<i>Grus carunculatus</i>								✓
55	Secretary Bird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
56	Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
57	Red-crested Korhaan	<i>Eupodotis ruficrista</i>				✓		✓		✓
58	Northern Black Korhaan	<i>Eupodotis afraoides</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
59	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	✓				✓	✓		✓
60	Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>	✓					✓		
61	Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
62	Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>	✓	✓				✓		✓
63	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	✓							✓
64	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		✓						
65	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	✓	✓						✓
66	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	✓	✓						✓
67	Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>					✓	✓		
68	Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>	✓	✓						✓
69	Double-banded Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus africanus</i>		✓						
70	Temminck's Courser	<i>Cursorius temminckii</i>					✓			
71	African Skimmer	<i>Rhynchops flavirostris</i>		✓						
72	Burchell's Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles burchelli</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
73	African Mourning Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>		✓						
74	Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	✓	✓						✓
75	Cape Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
76	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
77	African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calva</i>	✓							
78	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
79	Grey Lourie	<i>Corythaixoides concolor</i>		✓						✓
80	Black Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus clamosus</i>								✓
81	Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>	✓							
82	Spotted Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>				✓			✓	
83	Nightjar Sp.	<i>Caprimulgus</i> Sp.			✓		✓	✓		
84	Red-faced Mousebird	<i>Colius indicus</i>					✓		✓	✓
85	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	✓	✓						✓
86	Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>	✓	✓						✓
87	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	✓	✓		✓			✓	
88	Southern Carmine Bee-eater	<i>Merops nubicoides</i>	✓	✓						✓
89	Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
90	Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>		✓						✓
91	Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudata</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
92	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	
93	African Grey Hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>						✓		
94	Sthn Yellow-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
95	Scimitarbill Woodhoopoe	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>						✓		
96	African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>			✓	✓		✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	March 2022							
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
97	Crested Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>	✓							
98	Acacia Pied Barbet	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>					✓	✓		
99	Flappet Lark	<i>Mirafrja rufocinnamomea</i>			✓		✓			
100	Eastern Clapper Lark	<i>Mirafrja fasciolata</i>			✓	✓	✓			
101	Sabota Lark	<i>Mirafrja sabota</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
102	Fawn-coloured Lark	<i>Mirafrja africanoides</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
103	Rufous-naped Lark	<i>Mirafrja africana</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		
104	Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>			✓	✓	✓			
105	Chestnut-backed Sparrow Lark	<i>Eremopterix leucotis</i>			✓	✓		✓		
106	Grey-backed Sparrow Lark	<i>Eremopterix verticalis</i>		✓	✓					
107	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓		✓	✓			✓
108	Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
109	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
110	Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
111	Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>	✓	✓						✓
112	Southern Pied Babbler	<i>Turdoides bicolor</i>								✓
113	African Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓
114	Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
115	African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>		✓						
116	Ant-eating Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
117	Kalahari Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas paena</i>			✓				✓	✓
118	Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>					✓			
119	Chestnut-vented Titbabbler	<i>Parisoma subcaeruleum</i>					✓	✓		
120	Desert Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aridula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
121	Black-chested Prinia	<i>Prinia flavicans</i>				✓	✓		✓	
122	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		✓						
123	Chat Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis infuscatus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
124	Marico Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis mariquensis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
125	Chin-spot Batis	<i>Batis molitor</i>							✓	
126	African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>		✓						
127	African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
128	Buffy Pipit	<i>Anthus vaalensis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
129	Crimson-breasted Shrike	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
130	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Corvinella melanoleuca</i>				✓				
131	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
132	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
133	Swamp Boubou	<i>Laniarius bicolor</i>	✓	✓						✓
134	Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>					✓		✓	
135	Sthn White-crowned Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus anguitimens</i>		✓				✓	✓	
136	Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
137	Burchell's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis australis</i>	✓	✓						✓
138	Meve's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis mevesii</i>		✓						✓
139	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	✓					✓	✓
140	Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>	✓							
141	Great Sparrow	<i>Passer motitensis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
142	Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>			✓					
143	Sthn Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
144	White-browed Sparrow Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
145	Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
146	Golden Weaver	<i>Ploceus xanthops</i>	✓							✓

	Common name	Scientific name	March 2022							
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
147	Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
148	Shaft-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua regia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
149	Paradise Whydah	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>		✓						
150	Violet-eared Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus granatinus</i>				✓	✓	✓		
151	Red-headed Finch	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>		✓			✓		✓	
152	Scaly-feathered Finch	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
153	Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>				✓				
154	Yellow Canary	<i>Serinus flaviventris</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Other vertebrates

	Common name	Scientific name	March 2022							
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1	Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus aethiopicus</i>					✓			✓
2	Southern Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>					✓	✓	✓	
3	Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>				✓		?		
5	Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Gemsbok (Southern Oryx)	<i>Oryx gazella</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Blue Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
8	Red Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus caama</i>				✓	✓			
9	African Bush Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>								✓
10	Cape Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus inauris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11	Southern Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>					✓	✓	✓	
12	Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
14	Yellow mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>		✓						
15	Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>				✓	✓		✓	
16	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>						✓		
17	Cheetah	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>			✓					
18	Caracal	<i>Caracal caracal</i>						✓		
19	African Wildcat	<i>Felis lybica</i>		✓			✓		✓	
20	Bat Species		✓							
21	Bat-eared Fox	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
22	Mouse Species				✓				✓	
	Reptiles									
	Common name	Scientific name								
1	Black mamba	<i>Dendraspis polylepis</i>			✓					
2	Cape Cobra	<i>Naja nivea</i>				✓				
3	Leopard tortoise	<i>Stigmochelys pardalis</i>			✓					
4	Wahlberg's striated skink	<i>Trachylepis striata ssp. Wahlbergii</i>					✓		✓	