

# South Africa – Just Cats!

Naturetrek Tour Report

2nd – 13th October 2023

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Cheetah by Mike Williams



Leopard “Tiyani” by Mike Williams



Lion with Tortoise by Vivian Hinton



African Scops Owl by Mike Williams

Tour report compiled by Casper Badenhorst

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Naturetrek

Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: [info@naturetrek.co.uk](mailto:info@naturetrek.co.uk)

W: [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk)

Tour Participants: Casper Badenhorst (Guide), with six Naturetrek clients

## Summary

The Just Cats! - 2023 tour may have started off with a flight delay and an understaffed airport but once we got going things started to look up. The Blyde Canyon drive delivered on quality birds and our first two days in Kruger were filled with sighting after sighting of plains game, birds, Elephants, Hippos and Crocodiles. On the second sunset drive the cats started showing up and by the time we arrived in Sabi Sands it started raining cats.

We had good food and great local guides. The constant change of scenery and the vast African savannah made a long-lasting impression. All in all, a great “All Cats” and “lots of other small and large creatures” trip with memories to last a lifetime.

## Day 1

**Monday 2nd October**

The tour started with an overnight flight from London Heathrow Airport to Johannesburg.

## Day 2

**Tuesday 3rd October**

### Blyde River Canyon

The group's flight arrived an hour late in Johannesburg and it took two hours to clear customs with only two booths open to check passports. To complicate things luggage was removed from the carousels and piled up because people were stuck at customs while new flights and more luggage were arriving. Things could only improve from this point onwards!

We were able to head on out of the airport by 10h30. We grabbed a takeaway lunch and coffee at Mugg and Bean at the Alzu gas station before continuing through the towns of Belfast, Dullstroom, Lydenburg and Orighstad. We arrived at the Blyde River Canyon Forever Resort at 15:30. Scenery enroute was truly beautiful and we managed to spot several bird species including four Grey-crowned Cranes and Southern Bald Ibis in flight.

After checking in to our lovely chalets, we took a quick stroll up to one of the viewpoints to admire the canyon below. Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Greater Double-collared Sunbird and White-bellied Sunbird showed well. The weather was beautiful, and the views impressive!

By 18h00 we set off to the Kadisi Restaurant for dinner which was a buffet. After a lovely meal we discussed the overall trip schedule and the arrangements for the next morning.

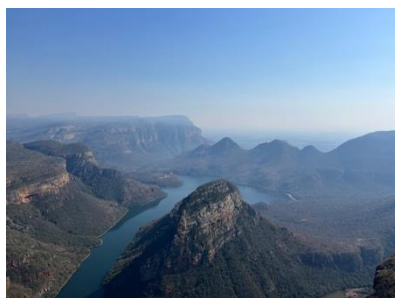


Image provided by  
Helen Allaker



Image provided by  
Michael Williams

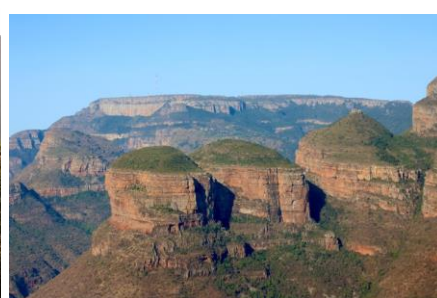


Image provided by  
Michael Williams

## Day 3

Wednesday 4th October

### Three Rondavels & Lower Sabie, Kruger National Park

At 06h00 we started our birding walk, first around our accommodation and then down at the restaurant. A troop of baboons strolled leisurely past us to everyone's surprise. Striped Pipit, Mocking Cliff Chat, Sweet Waxbill and Cape Rock-thrush were some of the highlights spotted. After breakfast we set off to The Three Rondavel site where panoramic 180-degree views of the Blyde River Canyon awaited us. The weather was perfect. We even spotted a Hippo and a Crocodile in the Blyde river below.

From the canyon we drove towards Graskop and made a stop at the beautiful Berlin Falls. Along the road we had spectacular views of Southern Bald Ibis. A Jackal Buzzard was perched in a tree next to the road and a very obliging Buff-streaked Chat showed well.

We reached Phabeni Gate of the Kruger National Park at 11h00 where we transferred from the minibus to an open safari vehicle. The drive from the gate to our lunch stop in Skukuza Camp was a treat with plenty of plains game and birds. We parked in the shade of a tree at a dam and sat and watched six Elephant bulls swimming and playing in the water while nearby a large pod of Hippo huddled together. Southern Ground Hornbill was seen a bit further along the way. With so many sightings we only reached Skukuza camp by 14h00 and decided to get takeaway sandwiches and drinks not to waste any time and then continued our drive to Lower Sabie Camp. By now the temperature had reached 36°C. More animals were seen grazing among the trees and on the banks of the Sabie river. Several herds of Elephants were seen as well as Giraffe and Kudu. Near Lower Sabie we stopped and watched a single Lioness laying in the grass grooming herself. At Sunset Dam a pod of Hippo, several wader species, Water Thick-knee and Yellow-billed Stork were seen. After checking in at Lower Sabie reception we located our rooms and had time to freshen up before dinner at the camp restaurant. The lists of birds and mammals were substantial, and it took us a while to do. On our walk back to our accommodation we spotted an African Scops Owl.

Cat sightings for the day: 1





Lower Sabie Camp, restaurant deck  
overlooking the Sabie river  
Image provided by Vivien Hinton



Lioness  
Image provided by Casper Badenhorst

## Day 4

Thursday 5th October

### Lower Sabie, Kruger Park

At around 05h30 we met for a cup of coffee and rusks. A Barred Owlet perched in a tree nearby and distracted us for a few minutes before we set off on our morning drive. We followed the S82 gravel road which proved to be very productive. A Verreaux's Eagle Owl were perched in a nearby tree and several birds gathered to proclaim their disdain by calling and hopping around it. Game viewing was good with Zebras, Giraffes, Impalas, Kudus and Elephants seen several times. We stopped after spotting large numbers of White-backed Vultures perched in several dry trees when a Honey Badger suddenly appeared in the grass. He gave a few seconds for a good look at it before darting off in the opposite direction.

We returned to the camp on the Crocodile Bridge/Lower Sabie road and a magnificent Martial Eagle was seen perched close by the road. We stopped briefly on the low-water bridge and watched Crocodiles basking on the sand banks. A Goliath Heron, Black Crake and Hamerkop showed well.

After a hearty breakfast we set off again in the direction of Skukuza Camp. All our efforts peeling our eyes unfortunately didn't produce any cat sightings. A Stierling's Wren-warbler, a wandering Hippo and a close Elephant and Giraffe encounter made the drive enjoyable. Back at Sunset Dam we watched three Hippos playing in the shallows near us which kept us entertained for a while and an African Hoopoe came and perched near enough to the vehicle for some of us to get good pictures.

The group took the opportunity to join other park guests on a three hour night drive organised by the Kruger Park authorities. This is the only way to see the nocturnal wildlife of the park, as private night drives are not allowed for safety/security reasons. We saw Hyena, Genet and another Verreaux's Eagle Owl, but unfortunately no other large predators.

Cat sightings for the day: 0

## Day 5

Friday 6th October

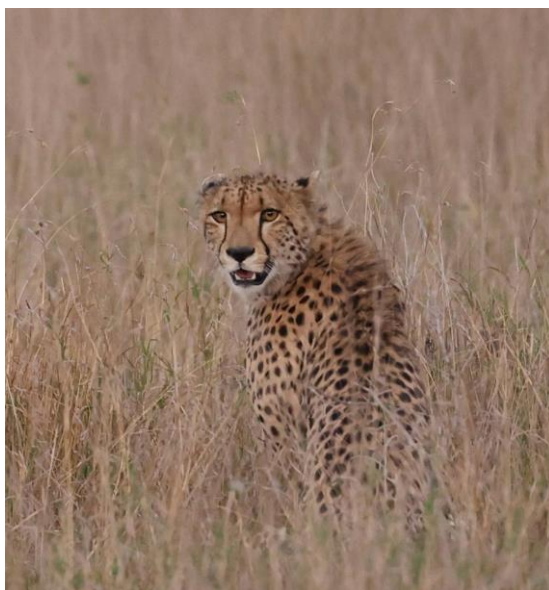
### Satara, Kruger Park

Seeing that the temperature was going to rise to 37C today we packed and headed out straight after our 05h30 coffee towards Satara Camp. It was a beautiful morning and we encountered Elephant, Waterbuck, Reedbuck, Common Duiker and several herds of Zebra and Blue Wildebeest. A single Southern Ground Hornbill was seen flying slowly across the plains with the Lebombo mountains as backdrop, a very atmospheric sighting. Shortly afterwards a pair of Secretary Birds were spotted. We stopped at the Nkumbe view site that overlooks the vast savannah, a spectacular scene of wild Africa.



Nkumbe View  
Image provided by Vivien Hinton

Our breakfast-brunch at Tshokwane picnic site was a welcome break. We had delicious croissants, muesli and yoghurt and coffee. On our way to Satara six Lions, two males and four females, were seen resting in the shade from the midday heat. At Sweni waterhole another pair of Secretary Birds and a Lapped-faced Vulture showed well.



Cheetah  
Image provided by Mike Williams

Arriving at Satara we got news that Lions were spotted at Nsemani Dam not far from camp. We drove to the dam just in time to see a male white Lion standing up from where he was resting. He walked over to two females and laid down next to them. We waited for another ten minutes but it didn't look like they were going to move which was understandable with the pressing heat. We returned to camp and had ourselves a siesta from two to four o'clock. The group joined another Kruger sunset drive at 16h30 – more successful this time! Shortly out of camp a pair of Lions were spotted close to the vehicle. A bit further on near to where the white Lion male was spotted earlier in the day a Cheetah was seen and it walked next to the vehicle. The white Lion was spotted again and an African Wildcat was picked up in the spotlight. All in all a very productive day.

Cat sightings for the day: 5 (3 x lions, 1 cheetah, 1 wildcat)

## Day 6

Saturday 7th October

### Satara, Kruger Park

At daybreak we were having our regular coffee with rusks. The famous S100 "lion" road disappointed with cats but general wildlife and birdlife sightings compensated. A single Lioness was seen by another vehicle near to Nsemani Dam but we couldn't locate it. We decided to return later in the day and returned to camp for breakfast. On the way back to camp we heard about a Cheetah sighting and fortunately did manage to see the Cheetah standing on a fallen tree to elevate himself in order to look over the savannah in search of prey.

Our second drive took us north of Satara where we twice saw family groups of Southern Ground Hornbill. Around twenty vultures were having a bath at a water trough which brought our vulture species count to four. Between Timbavati picnic site and Ratelpan hide we encountered a Spotted Hyena, a large troop of baboons and a tower of Giraffes. On our second attempt at the earlier Lioness sighting, we did manage to spot her getting up and stretching before she flopped down again to continue sleeping as Lions do in the midday heat. Temperatures reached 38°C today and after a long drive we retired to our rondawels for a bit of a rest before dinner.

After completing our bird and mammal list over dinner we drove back to our accommodation and as we parked the vehicle between our rondawels we caught in our headlights a Honey Badger trotting past.

Cat sightings for the day: 2 (lion, cheetah)

## Day 7

Sunday 8th October

### Elephant Plains; Sabi Sands

On our last day in Kruger, and we woke up to cloudy and windy weather. The temperature dropped overnight and where yesterday it was 38°C today was only to reach 25°C. On our way to Orpen Gate a Kori Bustard flew across the road in front of us. We saw general plains game and three female Nyala's.

At Orpen Gate we switched from using an open safari vehicle to a minibus for the transfer to Sabi Sands. The road was shocking but we managed to reach our lodge by 13h30 in time for 14h00 lunch. By late



afternoon it was more cloudy with low light conditions when we started our first drive at 16h00. Except for encountering Buffalo, Giraffe and Kudu our guide found us six Lions after dark - an adult female and five young Lions. Apparently some of the young Lions lost their mom in a snare in the neighbouring reserve and this female which had a cub adopted the four orphaned cubs. She did a good job raising them and protecting them from male Lions from a nearby pride. One of the young females was carrying a Leopard Tortoise shell around. We followed the lions into the bush but eventually the bush became so thick that we lost them. We returned to camp by 19h00 without finding a Leopard yet.



Young males of Ntalamati breakaway pride  
Image provided by Mike Williams

Cat sightings for the day: 1 (lion)

## Day 8

Monday 9th October

### Elephant Plains; Sabi Sands

We woke up to cold, cloudy weather and a slight drizzle. The drizzle stopped soon and after a cup of coffee in the dining room we set off on our first morning drive in the Sabi Sands. After rambling around for an hour, we got news of a Leopard sighting and our guide rushed over in the directions coming across on the two-way radio. Lots of bundu bashing later a female Leopard walked out of the bush onto the track. It was Tiyani. She walked through a dry riverbed and then proceeded up a termite mound where she sat to search for possible prey. This gave us an incredible opportunity and ample time to take pictures and just watch this beautiful cat.



Tiyani  
Image provided by Mike Williams

After breakfast it was time for a bush walk and our guide pointed out and shared interesting facts about the bush and the animals, birds and insects.

Lunch was scrumptious again and we had an hour to spare before the afternoon drive. Our first stop was at the lodge's waterhole where a herd of Elephant surrounded the vehicle as they passed around us to reach the water.

We returned to the area where Tiyani was seen in the morning and soon located her again where we left her in the morning but this time it looks like she had made a kill somewhere and was a bit lethargic. We thought of letting her rest but just as we set off, we spotted a male Leopard, TP, on a nearby termite mound. Tiyani didn't notice him at first but when she did, she snarled at him and he ran at her with a growl and she ran off into the bush. TP walked around in circles trying to find Tiyani's kill and we eventually left him in search of our next sighting. A White Rhino was grazing in an open patch of grass. We watched the Rhino for a minute or two when news came through of a male Lion transecting the Sabi Sands in the direction of Manyeleti Reserve and our guide drove us to the northern part of the reserve just in time to find him. As we settled down and with the sun setting behind us, he started roaring – an awe-inspiring experience! The volume of the roar made the vehicle vibrate.

The sundowners went down well and brought yet another exciting drive to an end. Dinner was a peaceful affair in the lodge boma area with tables set around a wood fire. The peace was shattered when a giant Sabre-toothed Ground Beetle that crept up a leg, was flicked off and landed on a napkin on someone's lap.

Cat sightings for the day: 3 (2 Leopard, Lion)

## Day 9

**Tuesday 10th October**

### Nkorho; Sabi Sands

Another cloudy day today with mist hanging over the bushveld. We drove to a Hyena den in a giant termite mound where three Hyenas were sleeping near the entrance. Our guide learned about some Lions that were seen further north and we found the male, S8, with a female and four of the grown cubs we spotted on the first evening. This pride is known as the Thalamati breakaway pride.

Our tracker was on foot trying to locate a Leopard female and cub but was unsuccessful and we stopped for coffee. On the way back to the lodge we passed by where Tiyani had treed her kill that morning, a Bushbuck. On further inspection we saw that the Bushbuck was pregnant and Tiyani had removed her unborn foetus and it was hanging next to her on the same branch. We drove quickly back to the lodge for breakfast so we could be in time for a bush walk but it started drizzling and the walk was called off.

At 11h00 we were transferred to Nkorho Lodge, a 40-minute drive. We saw Rhino, Buffalo, Giraffe and Elephant en route. After check-in we had time to relax before lunch. A large herd of Elephant came to drink at the lodge waterhole.

It took about an hour of driving and searching before our guides found the Mkhuhuma pride. Eight of the ten members were present and resting spread out in the grass. We left them for some time to go and have our sunset drinks and returned just as they got more active. First the oldest female got up and started walking off. She gave a soft call and immediately the other females got up and followed her. The three males slacked behind. Our guide



drove ahead of the pride and we waited as they came walking towards us in order to get some head-on pictures. After spending another twenty minutes with the pride it was time to return to the lodge via the Kruger Park and Sabi Sand border line.



Chameleon photography  
Image provided by Helen Allaker



Flap-necked Chameleon (backlit)  
Image provided by Tony Allaker



Mkhuhuma pride, male lion  
Image provided by Tony Allaker

Dinner was in the boma tonight and we enjoyed braai-ed (barbequed) lamb, sausage and chicken with a local dish called papert and garlic bread followed by marbled cake for dessert.

Cat sightings for the day: 2 (Lion)

## Day 10

Wednesday 11th October

Nkorho; Sabi Sands

We awoke to yet another beautiful morning, met for coffee on the deck, and then headed out on a game drive. Our guide drove to the area we saw the pride yesterday, but they had moved during the night. As we drove away, we suddenly spotted them next to the road. Three males and one female of the Mkhuhuma pride. After watching them for a while we heard over the two-way radio that a female Leopard was seen near Gowrie Gate.

Laluka, the daughter of Tiyani was walking up and down the fence and towards the gate looking for a spot to get out of the reserve. She flushed a Scrub Hare and gave chase for a bit but the hare got away. We thought she might just want to explore a new area as she was young and nomadic as Leopards are at this age. Finally, she changed direction and headed into a completely new area down the road from the gate where she hasn't been seen before. She tried to stalk Impala, but they spotted her and started snorting to alert others. We followed Laluka for almost an hour until she walked into an area for which Nkorho Lodge didn't have transecting rights. What an experience to watch her for such a long time.



Blue-eyed Laluka  
Image provided by Mike Williams

On the way to our coffee spot, we passed by the sleeping Lions again and stopped to look at them and do some more photography. After coffee, muffins, and rusks we had a last drive before returning to the lodge for late breakfast. A large herd of Elephants visited the lodge waterhole.

It was still overcast when we departed for our afternoon drive. All the animals were out. We got Buffalo, Zebra, Blue Wildebeest, Giraffe, Kudu and Nyala. Our guide spotted two male Lions sleeping under a bush, the Black Dam males. They were around six years old and getting into their prime. Up to the present they have been unable to accomplish much in taking over or establishing a pride, but the hope is that they will join the Mkuhumba pride and turn it into a larger pride.

Not long after driving off we spotted a Leopard on a termite mound. It was Maribye! He hasn't been seen for more than a month and the guides and trackers were fearing he was dead. On our way home we passed the spot where the male Lions were sleeping but they were gone. We did see a Common Genet and a White-tailed Mongoose.

To end the drive another surprise was to see yet another Leopard, a grown cub of Shidulu, a female leopard. Shidulu had many litters over the years, but this was the only cub she had successfully raise to this age.

Cat sightings for the day: 5 (2 Lion & 3 Leopard)

## Day 11

Thursday 12th October

### Departure

On our last game drive for the trip, it was quiet at first. Our guide heard there was a Giraffe kill on the adjacent reserve but we were at the back of the viewing queue so we drove around to see what else we could find. Another Leopard on a termite mound! Kuchaba is known for using termite mounds as viewpoints and she did just that. She walked off and soon enough ascended a second termite mound, had a look around and then walked further to yet another termite mound. Our vehicle was positioned at the base of the mound, and we looked up into her face, a beautiful view.



Leaving Kuchaba we rushed to the Giraffe kill where ten of the Mkhuhuma pride was feeding. Most of the young Giraffe was already consumed and the Lions were laying panting heavily with bulging stomachs. We watched as four Lions proceeded to still try and get a few scraps from the carcass and there was some snarling and growling.

What an incredible way to end our trip!

Our transfer collected us at 11h00 for the transfer to Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport. Casper was dropped off along the way to catch a lift to Hoedspruit. The group had a connecting flight to Johannesburg at 16h00 and an early evening departure back to the UK.



The Mkhuhuma pride on a giraffe kill

## Day 12

Friday 13th October

The overnight flight landed in the morning at London Heathrow Airport, where another Naturetrek adventure came to an end.

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Secretary bird  
Image provided by Tony Allaker



Honey Badger  
Image provided by Helen Allaker



## Species lists

### Mammals

N=Near-endemic I=Introduced		October 2023									
Common name	Scientific name	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
African Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cheetah	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>				✓	✓					
African Wildcat	<i>Felis lybica</i>				✓						
Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>			✓							
Spotted Hyaena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Common Dwarf Mongoose	<i>Helogale parvula</i>					✓					✓
Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>				✓	✓	✓				
White-tailed Mongoose	<i>Ichneumia albicauda</i>									✓	
Side-striped Jackal	<i>Lupulella adustus</i>										✓
Honey Badger	<i>Mellivora capensis</i>			✓							
Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
White Rhinoceros	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>							✓	✓		
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Southern Giraffe	<i>Giraffa giraffa</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Blesbok - E	<i>Damaliscus pygargus</i>	✓									
Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>				✓	✓	✓				✓
Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Southern Reedbuck	<i>Redunca arundinum</i>				✓						
Common Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
African Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>		✓	✓	✓				✓		
Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Nyala	<i>Tragelaphus angasii</i>				✓		✓			✓	✓
Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Peter's Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Epomophorus crypturus</i>			✓	✓	✓					
Vervet	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Cape Scrub Hare - N	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>			✓			✓	✓			
Cape Pouched Rat	<i>Saccostomus campestris</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		

## Birds

N=Near-endemic I=Introduced		October 2023									
Common name	Scientific name	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>	✓					✓				
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>				✓						
Fulvous Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>										✓
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓
Crested Francolin	<i>Ortygornis sephaena</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Natal Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis natalensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
Swainson's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓				
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>			✓							
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>				✓						
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Grey Go-away-bird	<i>Crinifer concolor</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
Purple-crested Turaco	<i>Gallirex porphyreolophus</i>		✓						✓		
Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>						✓				
Red-crested Korhaan	<i>Lophotis ruficrista</i>				✓						
Burchell's Coucal	<i>Centropus burchellii</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>							✓			
African Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus gularis</i>								✓		
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	✓									
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>					✓					
Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>			✓	✓	✓					✓
Grey Crowned Crane	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>	✓									
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	✓									
Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>		✓					✓	✓		✓
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		✓	✓			✓				
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
White-crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus albiceps</i>				✓						
Senegal Lapwing	<i>Vanellus lugubris</i>										✓
Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>										✓
African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>				✓				✓		
Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>		✓	✓	✓						
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>			✓		✓					✓
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>		✓								
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		✓								
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		✓	✓	✓						
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>			✓							
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>	✓									
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>		✓	✓	✓						
Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>		✓			✓	✓		✓		

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Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>			✓	✓	✓					
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>		✓								
Southern Bald Ibis	<i>Geronticus calvus</i>	✓	✓								
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	✓		✓		✓					
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>		✓								
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>			✓			✓				
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓		✓		✓					
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓				
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>			✓							
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			✓							
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		✓								
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓			
Secretarybird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>				✓						
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	✓			✓						
White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Cape Vulture	<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>					✓					
White-headed Vulture	<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>					✓					
Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>				✓	✓					
Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>			✓							
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>	✓									
Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus wahlbergi</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>		✓		✓						
African Hawk-Eagle	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>				✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>								✓		
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
African Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Jackal Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>		✓								
African Scops Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>				✓				✓		
African Barred Owlet	<i>Glaucidium capense</i>				✓						
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>			✓	✓						
Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>			✓							
African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	
Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>					✓	✓				
Common Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</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>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>		✓					✓			

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African Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>							✓			
Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>		✓					✓	✓		
White-fronted Bee-eater	<i>Merops bullockoides</i>			✓							
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>	✓									
Black-collared Barbet	<i>Lybius torquatus</i>		✓	✓							
Crested Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>			✓							
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>			✓		✓					
Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>							✓			
Bearded Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus namaquus</i>			✓							
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>		✓								
Brown-headed Parrot	<i>Poicephalus cryptoxanthus</i>				✓						
Cape Batis	<i>Batis capensis</i>	✓									
Chinspot Batis	<i>Batis molitor</i>		✓								
Grey-headed Bushshrike	<i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i>					✓					
Orange-breasted Bushshrike	<i>Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus</i>			✓							
Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>			✓		✓					
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>				✓						
Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>	✓			✓		✓				
White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>							✓	✓		
Magpie Shrike	<i>Urolestes melanoleucus</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓			
Southern White-crowned Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus anguitimens</i>					✓	✓				
Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>		✓								
Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>							✓	✓		
Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>	✓									
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>						✓	✓			✓
White-necked Raven	<i>Corvus albicollis</i>	✓									
Southern Black Tit	<i>Melaniparus niger</i>						✓	✓			
Sabota Lark	<i>Calendulauda sabota</i>		✓		✓						
Rufous-naped Lark	<i>Mirafraga africana</i>				✓						
Grey-backed Sparrow Lark	<i>Eremopterix verticalis</i>					✓					
Sombre Greenbul	<i>Andropadus importunus</i>		✓					✓			
Yellow-bellied Greenbul	<i>Chlorocichla flaviventris</i>							✓			
Dark-capped Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus tricolor</i>	✓	✓		✓			✓			
Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>	✓	✓								
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>			✓							✓
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>				✓						
Red-breasted Swallow	<i>Cecropis semirufa</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>		✓		✓	✓			✓		
Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>							✓			
Lazy Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aberrans</i>		✓								
Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>				✓	✓					
Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>					✓					



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Stierling's Wren-Warbler	<i>Calamonastes stierlingi</i>			✓							
Cape White-eye	<i>Zosterops</i>		✓								
Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Common Myna - I	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>		✓						✓		
Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>		✓			✓					
Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>		✓								
Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Burchell's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis australis</i>		✓		✓	✓				✓	
Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>		✓								
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>			✓		✓	✓				
Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>		✓	✓		✓					✓
Olive Thrush	<i>Turdus olivaceus</i>	✓									
Kurrichane Thrush	<i>Turdus libonyana</i>	✓									
Ashy Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa caerulescens</i>						✓				
White-throated Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha humeralis</i>	✓									
Cape Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola rupestris</i>		✓								
Buff-streaked Chat - N	<i>Campicoloides bifasciatus</i>		✓								
Mocking Cliff Chat	<i>Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris</i>		✓								
Familiar Chat	<i>Oenanthe familiaris</i>	✓	✓								
Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedychia collaris</i>			✓							
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>		✓								
Greater Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris afer</i>	✓									
White-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris talatala</i>	✓	✓					✓			
Yellow-throated Bush Sparrow	<i>Gymnoris superciliaris</i>		✓								
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>		✓		✓			✓			
House Sparrow - I	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓							✓		✓
Red-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>			✓					✓		
Lesser Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus intermedius</i>		✓				✓		✓		✓
Southern Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>	✓	✓								
Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>								✓		✓
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>			✓							
Long-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes progne</i>	✓									
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>				✓						
Blue Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>				✓	✓	✓				
Swee Waxbill	<i>Coccyzygia melanotis</i>		✓								
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>			✓							
Jameson's Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rhodopareia</i>				✓						
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>		✓								
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>		✓	✓	✓						
Yellow-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx croceus</i>				✓	✓					
Striped Pipit	<i>Anthus lineiventris</i>		✓								
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>	✓					✓				

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Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>				✓						

## Reptiles

N=Near-endemic I=Introduced		October 2023									
Common name	Scientific name	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Leopard Tortoise	<i>Stigmochelys pardalis</i>						✓				
Flap-necked Chameleon	<i>Chamaeleo dilepis</i>							✓	✓		
Southern Rock Agama	<i>Agama atra</i>		✓								
Cape Dwarf Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus capensis</i>		✓								
African Striped Skink	<i>Trachylepis striata</i>		✓	✓							✓
Nile Monitor	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>			✓							✓
Mozambique Spitting Cobra	<i>Naja mossambica</i>		✓								
Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>		✓	✓		✓					
Freshwater Terrapin	<i>Emydidae sp</i>					✓					