

Zambia's South Luangwa National Park

Naturetrek Tour Report

18 - 24 February 2013



African Wild (Hunting) Dog



African Elephant



Three-banded Plover



Leopard

Report & images compiled by Barry Oxley



Naturetrek Cheriton Mill Cheriton Alresford Hampshire SO24 0NG England

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

F: +44 (0)1962 736426

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour Leader: Barry Oxley

Participants: Jacqui Green
Ray Green
Colin Strudwick
Carol Hopperton
Les Blundell
Patrick Crowley
Peggy Crowley

Day 1

Monday 18th February

We departed from Heathrow and arrived more or less on time at Lusaka airport. We scurried to get our connecting internal flight to Mfuwe but discovered however that our 12 seater prop plane was unlikely to leave without us, as apart from one other passenger, we were the sole passengers. Flying over pristine Miombo (*Brachystegia*) forest for much of the 350k journey reminded us that there are still parts of the world not yet changed by the relentless expansion of the human race.

We were met by Martin at Mfuwe airport who loaded up our baggage for our first experience on a safari vehicle. Passing through the extended village of Mfuwe we were impressed by the well maintained road and clean streets. Exiting the village we drove through fields and scrubland, encountering birds familiar to this habitat. Bright red and black Bishops were displaying atop grass stems, ruffling their feathers in a flamboyant manner and buzzing impatiently. Yellow-billed Kites caused some excitement as they quartered the roadside for carrion while vultures soared overhead, taking advantage of the thermals in the afternoon heat. White Storks foraged for frogs in the fields and an assortment of herons and egrets patrolled any wet areas looking for lunch...Africa we have arrived!

Leaving the tarmac we traversed the track to Kafunta Lodge, a track we were to become familiar with over the coming days. We were welcomed by Alison, our hostess, and Josephat our guide, and after a briefing and light refreshments we were shown to our comfortable chalets overlooking a marsh which was frequently flooded by the adjacent Luangwa River. Unpacking was difficult as we were distracted by the numerous bird calls coming from the marsh, opening the doors to our verandas revealed a wealth of wildlife with jacanas, wildfowl, waders, kingfishers and marsh-loving Puku's vying for attention.

After a brief rest we boarded our safari vehicle for our first official evening excursion. Bateleurs, Snake Eagles and Shikras were ticked off while some of the more common birds such as White-browed Sparrow-weavers, Dark-capped Bulbul and White-fronted Bee-eaters were admired before arriving at the South Luangwa National Park. Impala were plentiful as were Elephants and Giraffe and our cameras were doing overtime before the light began to fade and we stopped for a sun-downer.

Lamping on our return journey produced Three-banded Coursers and Square-tailed Nightjars, plus Scrub Hares and an Elephant Shrew lurking at the edge of the bridge to the National Park. Arriving back about 8.00 p.m. we devoured our delicious evening meal and collapsed into bed ready for tomorrow's challenges.

Day 2

Tuesday 19th February

We were awoken refreshed by our night guards at 5.30a.m and had breakfast at 6.00m. Our guards had patrolled the chalets all night – hippos and the odd elephant often choose to browse on the juicy mown grass around the chalets and sometimes lions take short cuts through the complex - not a place for sleep walking we thought!

Our morning drive took us via the edge of the marsh and through mopane woodland before joining the tarmac road to the N.P. Josephat explained the Mopane trees (*Colophospermum mopane* – a legume) were shaped by elephants, the tall ones being out of reach and the shorter ones browsed. The resultant continuous munching produced a rather cultivated appearance below the taller pristine trees, reminding us of topiary back home. Hornbills favoured this area together with numerous other birds and we stopped to listen to the distinctive monotonous call of a Crested Barbet, finally getting a distant view. Swallow-tailed and Little Bee-eaters were admired and we also encountered European Bee-eaters and Golden Orioles gathering for their return journey to Europe. White Storks were thermaling ready for departure, and Barn Swallows were gorging on insects, fattening up for there long migration. We stopped at a rather magnificent Baobab, scarred by years of attention from Elephants, which contained a rather smelly colony of Slit-faced Bats.

Returning to the lodge we disturbed an aptly named Brown Snake-eagle at the side of the road which had caught a Black-necked Spitting Cobra, not perhaps top of our lunch menu! Later we checked in at the N.P. then drove across the bridge laughing at the antics of the baboons, and trying to identify the swooping hirundines. Further in Ground Hornbills scuttled among the bushes and Josephat took us to a known nest site of this species, where an adult bird perched at the entrance to a large hole in a tree.

We caught up with our rapidly expanding checklists before leaving for our afternoon and evening drive, here amazing Long-tailed Paradise Whydahs launched themselves into the sky showing off their pendulous tails. White-winged Widow-birds also fluttered above grassy areas hoping to impress a lady. Great-spotted Cuckoos were being chased by other birds in the woodland, which reminded us of Spain, where this species should by now be arriving on territory. Lamping produced two Hyenas, a Sharps Grysbok and good views of a Large-spotted Genet before arriving back to another delicious meal and bed.

Day 3

Wednesday 20th February

We were now conditioned to the morning routine with a light breakfast and out early before it got too hot. The mopane woodland and roadside scrub areas encountered before entering the park produced yet more birds, with cuckoos very much on the agenda today. With both African and Black cuckoos showing well and, later in the park a smart black and white Jacobins. Both Tchagra species also surrendered on the way to the park as we sorted out a diminutive Rattling Cisticola from the slightly more prominent Tawny-flanked Prinia...what sort of a bird holiday would it be without a couple of LBJ's to ponder over we thought?! Patrick however upped the anti by spotting a Pearl-spotted Owlet being mobbed in a tree by the road, giving us all good views. He had managed to drag his eyes from the heavens (spotting BOP's) to find this little gem, easily heard but not so easily seen.

Entering the N.P. Josephat pointed out two African Crakes lurking near a stump before pointing out yet another overwintering Spotted Flycatcher, no wonder ours back home had declined - they were all here we thought! However we had already discovered there was no lack of flies which we guessed would explain their comparative abundance. A herd of over fifteen Cape Buffalo were feeding not far from the track as we sorted Red-necked from Swainson's Spurfowl, gregarious Grey Go-away Birds and Arrow-marked Babblers were present in small flocks, busily going about their business, and here an immature White-browed Coucal appeared by the side of the vehicle to enquire about our presence. Clearly this bird was a diva as it hung around for ages as we all took close up pictures.

Lion was on the agenda for the afternoon drive, we had heard distant roars and the park communication system had hinted a pride was present at a distant part of the park. However, before our arrival they had vanished into the undergrowth, so rather disconsolately we returned to our more regular area, and it was here Josephat found us a small pack of Wild Dogs (6) as a consolation. There were more than 7 or 8 safari vehicles circling the pack looking for better positions, which re-enforced our decision to come out of season. This small pack was being monitored by a satellite tracking device, and clearly was quite used to safari vehicles, allowing us to observe and photograph them without fear of disturbance. The rapid decline of these magical animals through disease and interbreeding with domestic dogs etc. left us with a feeling of great privilege in being allowed a brief glimpse into their lives. We all agreed Wild Dogs were worth missing Lions for, although we could have handled both!

After viewing Tawny Eagles and a Red-footed Falcon we sipped our sun-downers before contentedly climbing aboard our trusty steed for some lamping on the way back to the lodge. A Greater Bushbaby, Water Dikkops and Fiery-necked and Pennant-winged Nightjars were spotted as we made for home, dinner and bed.

Day 4

Thursday 21st February

The weather to date had produced clouds and a few thunder claps, these were to materialise into a storm later on today, however we were away early as usual, stopping on the roads to the park and finding Josephat's first Thrush Nightingale singing vigorously at the edge of a bush, for all the world to see. This species is a real skulker in Europe and so we assumed he was practising ready for his imminent trip north. It was a thrill to see this species in its winter home. Red-backed Shrikes were common along this road also and we were becoming accustomed to the "regulars" now, and refrained from shouting "stop" at every sighting, much to the relief of our ever patient Josephat no doubt.

Diderick Cuckoos were chasing and being chased about as we neared the park, and it was here that Josephat heard a distant Verreaux's Eagle Owl calling. All eyes were concentrated in the direction of the calls before Carol's eagle eyes spotted the Eagle Owl atop a distant tree, sadly we had a back view which denied us a view of its lovely pink eye lids. We discovered why the Bleating Warbler (Grey-backed Camaroptera) was so called today. It was well named, as we had endured this puzzling "bleating" call in past days wondering what it could be but being common not paying too much attention, however it was another of those rather unassuming little jobs which produced a "we know what you are" comment from then on. We were now becoming aware of the source of many of the sounds of Africa, with the common birds and animal noises announcing the proximity of their owners.

Meves (Long-tailed) Starlings were common but less common were the Greater Blue-eared Starling however good views of Violet-backed (Plum-coloured) Starling brought gasps of delight, their unusual violet-plum backs proving quite spectacular. The females were stripy and nowhere near as showy as the males. While negotiating the tracks Josephat pointed out the Impala were barking loudly and made for the marshy area the sounds were coming from. He informed us the barking indicated a Leopard was in the area and sure enough found a female stalking haughtily through a herd of Impala. Her tale up indicated she was not in hunting mode but the Impala nevertheless watched her every move, with the bucks following her out of their territory. We were excited to see the interaction between predator and prey, a scene no doubt enacted every day in the park.

Today we had opted for a visit to the SLCS (South Luangwa Conservation Society) an NGO formed to assist and support ZAWA and the local people in wildlife protection and rehabilitation. Here we gained a fascinating insight into the problems with poaching and human encroachment in the National Park, and the risks experienced by the rangers. As an RSPB group we were able to identify with the inherent problems not that different to those back home, although we did not need to put our lives at risk on a daily basis as the rangers had to. Our lodge fees subscribed to this excellent organisation, and we bolstered this with a further donation. www.slcszambia.org

This evening our lamping was curtailed by a storm, which turned into torrential rain. Ponchos were produced and we made for home with heads down amid pointless efforts to try and keep dry. After an exciting drive along the very slippery track to the lodge we congratulated Josephat on his skill in getting us there and made for our cabins to dry out. The storm had caused a power cut and so we dined and retired to bed by candlelight to be lulled to sleep by the beating rain.

Day 5

Friday 22nd February

The power had not been restored overnight and we were expecting to be confined to barracks, with roads under water etc. Not so however...Josephat nonchalantly informed us the rain was not a problem as the tracks were well drained and that we were leaving as per schedule. Breakfast was produced via an open fire with "smoke flavoured" coffee which was voted a new flavour for Costa back home. Our 4x4 coped admirably with the slippery tracks and Josephat laughingly pointed out the previous evenings' slithery tyre marks. The storm had cleared the air somewhat and although still overcast in the morning the birds and animals seemed frisky and vocal, and today proved to be the day of the shrikes. Tropical Boubous were seemingly everywhere and shy Orange-breasted and Grey-headed Bush-shrikes showed themselves as did small flocks of Retz's and White-crested Helmet Shrikes.

Returning from our morning foray Les announced lunch via the drums, not bad for first attempt we thought - but hinted he should not give up his day job! After the daily checklist was finished we headed along a new track to visit the Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust, www.chipembele.org again we were glad of our 4 wheel drive as we negotiated some interestingly bumpy terrain, all easily negotiated by Josephat. Birding along the way, we added Red-billed Quelea to our list, this species is reputed to be the commonest bird in Africa and can be seen in flocks of millions, however we found two only, presumably on breeding territory. Arriving at the centre we were met by Steve who gave us a conducted tour of the premises and explained the aims and objectives of the school.

He was soon joined by his wife Anna and we soon discovered they were retired Thames Valley police officers, Anna coming from Downley near High Wycombe. The centre was opened 15 years ago and was an independent NGO and received numerous awards, we were impressed by the dedication and enthusiasm of this couple and envied the isolation and beauty of their home. We consumed our sundowners at the edge of the river watching a picture perfect sunset, a Pel's Fishing Owl called at the far side of the river but decided not to fly across for a viewing.

Day 6

Saturday 23rd February

Our early drive was quiet as the temperature was cool by Zambian standards, overcast and a mere 23 degrees C. Driving into the National Park we made for the area where we had seen the Wild Dogs. We clocked 13 raptors today including a probable Dickinson's Kestrel, this bird was scoped, and a distant hazy image and chose not to reappear for a better view. Our drive also produced a large flock of Grey-crowned Cranes (60). These gregarious and beautiful birds are sedentary and breed all the year round given suitable conditions, and so we experienced both displaying and breeding birds. A small family group composed of both parents and 3 chicks were a delight and busily plucked insects etc. from the tall grasses by the side of the track as we watched. We had good looks at the colonies of weavers busily constructing their nests; most colonies were constructed on branches hanging over water, to deter predators. At one colony a Malachite Kingfisher perched watching for an unsuspecting fish to pass by. The Impala here were festooned with Oxpeckers and being near to the track allowed us good views of the two species combing the pelts for ticks and insects. Yellow-billed Oxpeckers are less common and so it was a great opportunity to get some photos, and we were impressed at the tolerance of the Impala as the birds entered ears, nostrils and other less mentionable orifices in the search for their prey.

Lamping today produced a sated Leopard lolling in a tree digesting an unfortunate baboon. It was surrounded by safari vehicles and so we chose to leave it in peace and returned to the lodge for dinner and bed.

Day 7

Sunday 24th February

Soon after leaving the lodge this morning we scoped two Lanner Falcons perched in a dead tree, these were soon followed by a juvenile African Harrier Hawk (*Gymnogone*), African Goshawk and a melanistic Gabar Goshawk. We were glad of Josephat's expert eye in identifying these tricky species. A coffee stop by a favoured shade tree produced Black Crake and Allen's Gallinule while being carefully watched by a submerged hippo. While bouncing along we came to a sudden halt, Josephat had spied a Leopard asleep under the shade of a tree, he manoeuvred into position for us to view a young male at close quarters. This particular Leopard was known by our guide who had watched him mature from a cub, he was totally unfazed by us being very used to the vehicles and chatter of people. He decided to roll over for a better view of us and exposed his tummy like a pet tabby cat would, but no-one volunteered to give it a scratch!

We reluctantly left the N.P. for the last time as lunch was waiting. After our last meal at Kafunta we gathered to be taken to the airport. Josephat had however not finished birding yet as he pointed out a magnificent Martial Eagle which he had laid on to give us a final fly past. Our holiday had ended with a bang, main-course a friendly Leopard and a Martial Eagle for pudding...Zambia had pulled out all the stops!

We said our goodbyes to Alison and all the staff who had looked after us so well and were driven to the airport by Josephat. Although our plane to Lusaka was an hour late, our taxi was waiting at the other end and took us to the Protea Hotel which was out of town. After a late evening meal we said our goodbyes to Carol, Les, Patrick and Peggy who were leaving early for home before retiring to air-conditioned luxury.

To conclude - I thank all participants for your friendship, enthusiasm and laughter during our week in Zambia. It was a great trip, and particularly good having like-minded RSPB members to share the conservation issues being dealt with in the South Luangwa N.P. Perhaps our being there and being sympathetic to their problems has given encouragement and support, albeit in a modest way, to this important and beautiful part of Zambia. Thank you also on behalf of the SLCS and Chipembele for your generous donations and to Naturetrek for theirs to the RSPB.

Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek e-mailing list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers. Visit www.naturetrek.co.uk to sign up.

Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

Setting up a personal profile at www.facebook.com is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!

Victoria Falls extension

Day 8

Monday 25th February

With half the group on their way home, those of us remaining indulged in the luxury of a leisurely breakfast before our onward journey to Livingstone. We had allowed plenty of time for getting to the airport and during our flight the plane flew over cultivated land all the way to Livingstone, where we were met by Faan, proprietor of the Taita Falcon Lodge. Loading up we were soon away, stopping for a brief visit at a lookout over the upper Zambezi River before it launches over the falls. After we left the tarmac we hit a track not dissimilar to those encountered around Kafunta Lodge, although this one was longer. Passing through a village of rondavels we eventually arrived at the idyllic lodge and were welcomed by Anne-Marie, Faan's wife. After being shown our cabins we had a late lunch, rested and then went for a short walk finding Familiar Chat, Red-winged Starling and Cinnamon-breasted Bunting. The birds were hard to see in the open but leafy woodland which was full of bird song and calls. After another delicious meal we retired gratefully to bed, looking forward to our last few days in Zambia.

Day 9

Tuesday 26th February

Our breakfast was taken overlooking the deep Batoka Gorge. Here Rock Martins zoomed past together with various other hirundines and swifts, it was difficult to sit still long enough to eat, especially when a Verreaux's (Black) Eagle and Steppe Buzzard appeared. We were away about 7a.m stopping at the local sewage farm (where else?) to view water birds. Here we caught up with a fine Augar Buzzard which flew over and gave us good views, and also some Long-toed Lapwings which were feeding among the very vigorous water hyacinths. Faan patiently waited while we explored this man made habitat and eventually we moved off to Victoria Falls for the touristy bit. He recommended hiring ponchos to protect us from the spray and after watching other tourists returning drenched realised the need. We were at the top of the falls and after exploring the edge ventured into the spume and were drenched in seconds. We opted not to complete the full walk as we would have been walking blind because of the spray, so declared "Been there done that" and skulked back to dry out. The adjacent craft market tested our negotiation skills, and we contributed to the local economy before retuning to Taita Falcon Lodge for lunch. A further walk through the woodland was taken, looking at plants and the now familiar birds before dinner at 7.30pm and bed.

Day 10

Wednesday 27th February

We chose to cram a lot into our last full day and started with a walk around the lodge with a guide from the village. Our target was the "crocodile pool" which followed the line of a gulley draining down to the Zambezi River. Golden-breasted Bunting and Jameson's Firefinch were identified here and we sat and admired the lovely view before returning to breakfast. Lunch was taken, during which Ray found a Klipspringer perched precariously on the side of the gorge, before leaving. Stopping at the village well, we laughed at the local children vigorously pumping away and enjoying our attention.

We were booked in for a safari drive through the Mosi-Oa-Tunya N.P., (“The smoke that thunders”), the smallest N.P. in Zambia at 6,600 hectares. Charles our guide was good with the birds and pointed out our first and only Black-collared Barbet, also Golden-tailed Woodpecker, Collared Palm-thrush and Scarlet-chested and Amethyst Sunbirds. We wondered why we had not seen many sunbirds and realised it was because of the lack of flowers, presumably they arrive later with the flowering of the vegetation and trees. We had a sunset cruise to follow our safari and boarded our small catamaran for a trip upstream, looking at the islands formed by the wide river, these were havens for the wildlife. Black Heron, Reed Cormorant, African Darter and Pygmy Goose were more additions to our lists, and we sailed along with Wire-tailed Swallows swooping around the boat, as we sipped sundowners. A fitting end to our holiday we thought as we made our way back to our lodge for our evening meal.

Day 11

Thursday 28th February

A leisurely breakfast this morning as we finalised our packing, settled our bar bills and said our goodbyes to Anne-Marie and the staff who had looked after us so well, before reluctantly leaving the magical Taita Falcon Lodge for Livingstone Airport. The now familiar bumpy track was negotiated with ease by Faan, who admitted knowing every hump and hollow. Arriving at Livingstone airport we checked in for our BA flight to Heathrow, via Johannesburg, said our goodbyes to Faan and were on our way via a Jumbo overnighter to the UK.

Species List

Birds (c=common, fc=fairly common, vc=very common, h=heard). **Species in bold seen on extension only.**

	Common name	Scientific name	February							Victoria Falls ext.
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25 - 28
1	Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	2	1	3		30	5		
2	Red-necked Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis afer</i>	2		2	2		2		1
3	Swainson's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>		4	2	2	2	6	1	
4	White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>	c		c	c	c	c	c	c
5	Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>		fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc
6	Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	3		2	4	3			8
7	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
8	African Pygmy Goose	<i>Nettapus auritus</i>								3
9	Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>	1	1			5			1
10	African Openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	2
11	Abdim's Stork	<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>			20					
12	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>			1	3	2		3	
13	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	10	100		20		200		
14	Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>		1		3	1	2		
15	Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>		1	3		2	2		1
16	African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
17	Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>		4		4	3	2	3	2
18	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>								1
19	African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>	6	8	6	8	6	6	4	
20	Dwarf Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sturmii</i>						1		
21	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>								2
22	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>		1				1	1	3
23	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
24	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	2
25	Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	4
26	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>								1
27	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	
28	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>				1				
29	Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>								1

	Common name	Scientific name	February							Victoria Falls ext.
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25 - 28
30	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>								1
31	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	2	2	3	1	3	2	3	
32	Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>								10
33	African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>								3
34	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>			1					
35	Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>	1		1					
36	African Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>	3		2	3	1	1	2	
37	Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	12
38	White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	
39	White-headed Vulture	<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>	2		2			1		
40	Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>				1		1		4
41	Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>	1					1		1
42	Western Banded Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinerascens</i>	2	1	2	1	1	1		
43	Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>	2	4	3	4	4	6	1	1
44	African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>			2		2		1	2
45	Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>							1	
46	African Goshawk	<i>Accipiter tachiro</i>							1	
47	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	1		1	1	3	1	1	1
48	Ovambo Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter ovampensis</i>				1				
49	Augar Buzzard	<i>Buteo augar</i>								1
50	Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>					1	1		
51	Steppe Buzzard	<i>Buteo vulpinus</i>								1
52	Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>			2			1		
53	Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>								2
54	Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus wahlbergi</i>				2		1	1	
55	Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>							1	
56	African Hawk-eagle	<i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i>		1						
57	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>			1					
58	Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicolus</i>								1
59	Dickinson's Kestrel	<i>Falco dickinsoni</i>						?		
60	Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>		1						
61	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>			1					

	Common name	Scientific name	February							Victoria Falls ext.
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25 - 28
62	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>					1	1		
63	African Hobby	<i>Falco cuvierii</i>						1		
64	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>				1			2	
65	African Crane	<i>Crex egregia</i>	1		2					
66	Black Crane	<i>Amaurornis flavirostra</i>					2		2	2
67	African Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>								1
68	Allen's Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio alleni</i>	2				2		2	3
69	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		1						
70	Grey Crowned Crane	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>	9	1	2	1	2	60		
71	Water Thick-Knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>	3	3	20	8		1		2
72	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		2			1	1		
73	Long-toed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus crassirostris</i>								8
74	Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	2
75	White-crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus albiceps</i>	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	
76	Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>			6	4				
77	African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	
78	Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	
79	African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>	3	4	2	4	3	3	4	4
80	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>								1
81	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		h	1	h	1			
82	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	1					2		
83	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	3	4	2	3	2	3	2	
84	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		2		1	1	1		
85	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	20	1	5	4	5			
86	Three-banded Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus cinctus</i>	4		1	2	3	1		
87	Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>								200c
88	Double-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles bicinctus</i>				1			2	
89	Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>			2		2	5		
90	Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
91	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>		1						
92	Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>		2	3	3	2	4	3	c
93	African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>		1	5		2	1	10	

	Common name	Scientific name	February							Victoria Falls ext.
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25 - 28
94	Lilian's Lovebird	<i>Agapornis lilianae</i>					2	2		
95	Grey-headed Parrot	<i>Poicephalus suahelicus</i>			1					
96	Meyer's Parrot	<i>Poicephalus meyeri</i>					3			
97	Grey Go-away-Bird	<i>Corythaixoides concolor</i>			6	4	4	2		
98	White-browed Coucal	<i>Centropus superciliosus</i>			1	3	2	2		
99	Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>		4			2			
100	Levaillant's Cuckoo	<i>Clamator levaillantii</i>							1	
101	Jacobin Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>		1	1		2	1		
102	Diederick Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>				2	2		3	
103	Black Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus clamosus</i>		1	1					
104	Red-chested Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>	1			h				
105	African Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus gularis</i>			1					
106	African Scops Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>	h			h	h			
107	Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>				1				
108	Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>		h	1					
109	Fiery-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus pectoralis</i>			1					
110	Square-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus fossii</i>	2	1	1	1	3	3		
111	Pennant-winged Nightjar	<i>Macrodipteryx vexillarius</i>			1					
112	African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
113	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>								6
114	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	c	c	c		c	c	c	6
115	Horus Swift	<i>Apus horus</i>					2			
116	White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	
117	Red-faced Mousebird	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>				1	2	6	2	
118	Racket-tailed Roller	<i>Coracias spatulatus</i>		1						
119	Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>	6	3	3	2	2	3	3	2
120	Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>		1	1	2	1			
121	Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>			1	3	1	1		
122	Brown-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>	1		1		1	2	1	
123	Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>			h					1
124	Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>	1	2	2	1	2	2		
125	Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	

	Common name	Scientific name	February							Victoria Falls ext.
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25 - 28
126	Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>	1				1		1	2
127	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	3	2	4	3	1	1	3	3
128	Swallow-tailed Bee-Eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>		6		3	3			
129	Little Bee-Eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc
130	White-fronted Bee-Eater	<i>Merops bullockoides</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
131	European Bee-Eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc
132	African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>			2	1				
133	Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>		h			3		2	
134	Common Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>	2	2				1		1
135	Crowned Hornbill	<i>Tockus alboterminatus</i>			1	1		1		
136	African Grey Hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc
137	Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc
138	Trumpeter Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes bucinator</i>					2			1
139	Southern Ground Hornbill	<i>Bucorvus leadbeateri</i>	5	1	2	3	2	3		
140	Black-collared Barbet	<i>Lybius torquatus</i>								1
141	Crested Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>		1	1		h			2
142	Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>			1					
143	Bennett's Woodpecker	<i>Campethera bennettii</i>		2					1	
144	Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>								1
145	Bearded Woodpecker	<i>Thripias namaquus</i>		1	1					
146	Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>					1			
147	Chin-spot Batis	<i>Batis molitor</i>		1						
148	White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>	10				5			10
149	Retz's Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops retzii</i>		15	6	4	6		3	
150	Grey-headed Bushshrike	<i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i>			2		1			
151	Orange-breasted Bush Shrike	<i>Telophorus sulfureopectus</i>	1	h			1			
152	Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>			2					
153	Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>			1					
154	Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>	1	2	2	3	1	1	1	1
155	Tropical Boubou	<i>Laniarius major</i>		1	2	1	4	2	2	
156	Black Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga flava</i>	1	2			1	1		
157	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	

	Common name	Scientific name	February							Victoria Falls ext.	
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25 - 28	
158	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		3							
159	African Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus auratus</i>			2	1	2	3	2		
160	Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	1	
161	African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>							1		
162	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	1						5	10	
163	Southern Black Tit	<i>Parus niger</i>	2	1			1	2	3		
164	Eastern Nicator	<i>Nicator gularis</i>					1				
165	Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	
166	Yellow-bellied Greenbul	<i>Chlorocichla flaviventris</i>		3	1	1	2	1	2		1
167	Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>		2				3			
168	Banded Martin	<i>Riparia cincta</i>							1		
169	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	
170	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc		fc
171	Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>									c
172	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>							1		
173	Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>			2	2		3	2		
174	Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>		1		1					
175	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	1		1	1	2		h		
176	African Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>									1
177	Red-faced Cisticola	<i>Cisticola erythrops</i>					1	2			
178	Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>	1	1	1	1	2	1	1		
179	Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
180	Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>			2	1	h	h	h		
181	Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>		2	6	2	4	2	3		
182	Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>		fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc		
183	Miombo Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis elisabeth</i>									
184	Meves's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis mevesii</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
185	Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>									6
186	Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>		7		6					1
187	Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>	3					2			
188	Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>	3			3	4	5	2		
189	Groundscraper Thrush	<i>Psophocichla litsitsirupa</i>									

	Common name	Scientific name	February							Victoria Falls ext.
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25 - 28
190	Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>				1				
191	White-browed Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha heuglini</i>		1			h	1		
192	Collared Palm Thrush	<i>Cichladusa arquata</i>			1				h	1
193	Familiar Chat	<i>Cercomela familiaris</i>								1
194	Arnot's Chat	<i>Pentholaea arnoti</i>				4				
195	Southern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pammelaina</i>		1	1	1	2	1	1	
196	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
197	Ashy Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa caerulescens</i>			1					
198	Grey Tit-Flycatcher	<i>Myioparus plumbeus</i>		1						
199	Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>							1	
200	Olive Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra olivacea</i>								
201	Amethyst Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra amethystina</i>								1
202	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>					1			1
203	White-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris talatala</i>				1				
204	Variable Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>		1	1	1	1			
205	White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>	vc	v	v	v	v	vc	vc	c
206	Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
207	Yellow-throated Petronia	<i>Gymnoris supercilii</i>		1		1				
208	Red-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>		fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	
209	Holub's Golden Weaver	<i>Ploceus xanthops</i>			1	2				
210	Lesser Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus intermedius</i>					4		5	
211	Southern Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c		
212	Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>				2	5	6	4	
213	Southern Brown-throated Weaver	<i>Ploceus xanthopterus</i>			1					
214	Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>					2			300
215	Black-winged Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes hordeaceus</i>				1				
216	Southern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>	10		2		3	3	3	2
217	White-winged Widowbird	<i>Euplectes albonotatus</i>		4			2	2	2	
218	Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>		3	2		2	3		
219	Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>			3		1	2		2
220	Jameson's Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rhodopareia</i>								2
221	Blue Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc		fc

	Common name	Scientific name	February							Victoria Falls ext.	
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25 - 28	
222	Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>				3					
223	Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	fc	2	
224	Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>					1				1
225	Long-tailed Paradise Whydah	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>		1	1	1	1	1	2		
226	African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>	2	2		2	2			2	
227	African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>	3	2							
228	Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>	2	2		1	1	2	1		
229	Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>		1	2						4
230	Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>									1

Mammals

1	Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus aethiopicus</i>		1	4		2	8	4	
2	Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
3	Thornicroft's Giraffe	<i>Giraffe cam. Thornicrofti</i>	10	4	6	4	4	5		10
4	Southern Giraffe	<i>Giraffe cam. Angolensis</i>								6
5	Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>			6					
6	Common Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>		1		2		3		
7	Puku	<i>Kobus vardoni</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	
8	Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>	vc	c						
9	Cape Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer caffer</i>	1		15		40	5	4	
10	Burchell's Zebra	<i>Equus quagga crawshayi</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
11	African Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
12	Tree Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus sp.</i>	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	1
13	Southern Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>	1	2		2		1		
14	African Wild (Hunting) Dog	<i>Lycaon pictus</i>			6					
15	Large spotted Genet	<i>Genetta tigrina</i>	1	1	3	1				
16	Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>						1		
17	Spotted Hyena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>		2				2		
18	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>				2			1	
19	Greater Bushbaby	<i>Otolemur crassicaudatus</i>			1					
20	Yellow Baboon	<i>Papio cynocephalus</i>	vc							

	Common name	Scientific name	February							Victoria Falls ext.
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25 - 28
21	Vervet Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus aethiops</i>	c	c	c	c	c	c	c	c
22	Elephant Shrew sp.	<i>Rhynchocyon sp.</i>	1							
23	Klipspringer	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>								1
24	Slit-faced Bat	<i>Nycteris sp.</i>			50c					
25	Sharpe's Grysbok	<i>Raphicerus sharpei</i>		1						

Reptiles (identified by Josephat et al)

Common Barking Gecko Side-stripe Sand Snake Matabelel Ants (Column) Bibrons Gecko Plated Lizard
 Water Monitor Savannah Monitor Black-necked Spitting Cobra (being eaten by a Bateleur)

Butterflies

African Monarch Natal Acrea Yellow Pansy

Trees at Kafunta Lodge

Wild Mango, *Codyla africana* False Marula, *Lannea schweinfurthii* Four-leaved Bush Willow, *Combretum adenogonium*
 Knobthorn, *Acacia nigrescens* Knobthorn, *Acacia nilotica* Sandpaper Baobab, *Ehretia amoena*
 Wooly Caper Bush, *Capparis tomentosa* Wing Pod, *Xeroderris stuhlmanni* Pod Mahogany (Kafunta key pods), *Azelia quanzensis*
 Flame combretum, *Combretum paniculatum*

Trees of the N.P.

Sausage Tree, *Kiggeria africana* Baobab, *Adansonia digitata* Mopane, *Colophospermum mopane*
 Yellow Cassia, *Cassia siamea* Shrub with white bracts, *Combretum obvatum* Runner-bean Tree, *Cassia abbreviata*
 Chestnut Tree, Monkey Orange, *Strychnos cocculoides*