

Zambia's South Luangwa National Park - Nkonzi Bush Camp

Naturetrek Tour Report

12 - 21 October 2017



African Elephant by Andy Smith



Leopard by Lisa Houghton-Smith



Wild Dog by Lisa Houghton-Smith



Hollywood Pride by Andy Smith

Report compiled by Rob Mileto
Images courtesy of Lisa Houghton-Smith and Andy Smith



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Tour participants: Rob Mileto (Tour Leader), Gavin Opie (Local Leader) and eight Naturetrek clients Efram, Godfrey, Moses, Oswald and the rest of the camp team

Day 1

Thursday 12th October

The intrepid travellers met up at Heathrow and boarded the double-decker Emirates Airbus on an uneventful flight to Dubai.

Day 2

Friday 13th October

In Dubai, we navigated our way between terminals and were soon aboard another uneventful flight to Lusaka (and being plied with lunch at breakfast time). We arrived in Lusaka in the early afternoon and were efficiently guided by a local agent to the underwhelming domestic check in (via immigration and baggage reclaim). Here we had to wait for the South African President to be formally welcomed and greeted before we were allowed to board our bijou propeller aircraft for the one-hour hop to Mfuwe.

By the time we arrived, the sun was setting so, once we had reached the the South Luangwa National Park entrance, we had an impromptu night drive! We soon picked up hippos in the beam of the spotlights, but since they feel vulnerable out of water and so slightly stressed by being spotted, we did not dwell on them. The African Buffalo and Elephant we subsequently found were a good deal more relaxed about us watching them. We pulled into camp at around 7.30pm and had just enough time for quick briefing and face wash before a lovely pasta dinner by the light of the myriad stars, a few candles and solar lamps. After such a long day of travelling, and with an early morning start due, it was an early and peaceful night for most, although a few did wake to the sound of the nearby Spotted Hyenas!

Day 3

Saturday 14th October

The wake-up call was at 5.15am and soon we were all enjoying a simple light breakfast in the dry riverbed next to the tiny camp of only four tents. By just gone 6am we were ready to board our open 4x4s and head off into the bush. Initially the birdlife was the most apparent, with Ring-necked Dove greeting the sun with their “work harder” call so reminiscent of Africa. Flitting between bushes, the other commonplace birds of the area included White-browed Sparrow Weavers, Meves's Starling and Grey Go-away-bird. More unusual species also punctuated the early morning, including a Martial Eagle and Bohm's Spinetail (for some) and a rather magnificent Saddle-billed Stork. A Red-headed Weaver in the first stage of nest building was a particular treat for one van. Our first daylight mammal was Impala, closely followed by a dinky little Sharpe's Grysbok and then a small flood of others including Puku, Waterbuck, Reedbuck, Bushbuck, Greater Kudu, Warthog and Smith's Bush Squirrel.

As we slowly wound our way near the dry river bed and some small remaining pools, we caught sight of some vultures (Hooded and White-backed), but it was unclear what they were doing in that place in reasonably large numbers, so we pressed on enjoying birds like Little and White-fronted Bee-eater, Meyer's Parrots, Lillian's Lovebird and ponderous Southern Ground Hornbills.

One van visited the hippo pools and, unsurprisingly, saw hippos... along with Yellow-billed Stork, a Water Thick-knee, Lilac-breasted Rollers, White-crowned Lapwing and, nearby, a hefty Giant Kingfisher.

Shortly after we had seen our first Plains Zebra, we met up with the second van and had tea/coffee and yummy cake in the shade of a large tree and in view of a fresh Impala carcass, still free of carrion eaters. The footprints confirmed it had succumbed to African Wild Dogs – ooooh so very close! We must have missed them by minutes!

It was getting very hot, so we headed for the camp, only to be distracted by three large shapes under a small bush – Lions! They were staring intently into the distance, but initially, there was nothing obvious to see. However, soon after, a lioness came walking into view carrying in her mouth an unfortunate Warthog piglet – hardly a snack for the big cat! She walked nonchalantly past her three pride mates and off into the long grass. This allowed us a closer approach with no risk of disturbing any action. We were soon just a few metres away from two lionesses and a sub-adult male. They made it clear they were not in any hurry to do anything exciting except yawn, so we headed off back to camp, had lovely showers, ate some delicious pizza for lunch and caught up with the checklist.

In the late afternoon, four went on a drive and four went on a walk, although we first both went to see the Lions. They had moved to a more shady spot near a small pool and were busy doing what Lions do best – lying around doing very little. The walkers then tried to drive to their preferred walking spot, but were stymied by an aggressive female Elephant who apparently charges with the merest of excuses and so had to be given a wide berth. Eventually, they had a stroll across and along the riverbed and saw a magnificent Eland, along with lots of spoor and droppings. It's a whole different and feral experience walking in the bush from driving in it, even in a fully open 4x4.

The driving group saw many of the same birds and mammals from the day before, but added (amongst other things) Blue Wildebeest, Double-banded Sandgrouse, Bearded Woodpecker, Blacksmith Lapwing and the gorgeous Green-winged Ptyillia to the list of species spotted.

Both groups enjoyed sundowners at sunset, before heading back in the dark on a night drive. Between us, we saw and unidentifiable Nightjar, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, Large-spotted Genets, African Civet and, rather bizarrely, a Nile Crocodile in the woodland and far from water. Presumably, its pool home had dried out and it was seeking alternative accommodation.

Dinner was (as became usual) under stars and Gavin was able to show us Scorpio and Sagittarius, and the Milky Way was plain for all to see.

Day 4

Sunday 15th October

Lions (probably the same pride that we had seen) woke most at around 5am, so we were escorted from our tents to breakfast, and off at 6am. We were soon seeing the usual Impala, zebra, waterbuck, Puku and other grazers and various birds like Bateleur, Collared Sunbird, Cardinal Woodpecker and Brown-hooded Kingfisher. However, we were on a bit of a mission to reach the Luangwa River, or more specifically, a Southern Carmine Bee-eater nesting colony on it for morning tea.

When the first van got there, they drank in these cerise-and-turquoise beauties that numbered in the many dozens, along with Jameson's Firefinch, White-crowned Lapwing, Striated Heron, African Fish Eagle, Three-banded Plover, Nile Crocodile and a fly past by a couple of African Skimmers along with our first Giraffe on the far bank. However, they did not drink in any tea or coffee, as this was on the other, tardy van! Eventually, it transpired that they had found five Lions on a recent kill (apparently, they had taken over the kill from hyaenas that had actually made it). The victim was a baby Elephant, which is a rare sight, since Elephants are normally formidably defensive of their young. We tried to find them, but ended up on a bit of a wild goose chase, so we decided to meet up for tea and cake (which were lovely) at the bee-eater point and seek more detailed directions.

This done, we found the rather gruesome sight of two sub-adult Lions crunching on the carcass with two, slightly smaller ones nearby (probably awaiting their turn) and the fifth at some distance looking thin and dejected.

We motored back to the camp fairly sharpish, as it was getting very hot very quickly now. We did though stop to take in some treats that included White-headed Vulture, Three-banded Courser, Eland and some nice close Elephants.

Lunch was yummy pasta and, after a suitable siesta, it was time for checklist, tea, and heading off into the wilds for a switch of the previous day – the walkers drove and the 'drivers' walked.

The drivers saw a Black-headed Oriole and an African Hawk-Eagle, both of which were new for the trip. The walkers saw Bennett's Woodpecker, which was also new. However, all of these somewhat paled into insignificance, since both parties saw something far more exciting. It all started rather innocuously with some Impala hoofing it down a strip of open grassland at speed. However, this is not something Impala are wont to do without good reason. The reason in this case was a pack of African Wild Dogs that were tearing after them! Each party saw them from opposite sides of the river and, whilst they did speed by in just a few moments, it was a real treat nonetheless.

After sundowners we headed back to camp with a lamp as usual. The walkers saw genet and a Square-tailed Nightjar (probably); the drivers were a good deal luckier. At a small pool in the river bed, the torch picked up a Leopard busy drinking. At first it was spooked by the bright light, but as soon as we placed a red filter on, it became much more relaxed and returned to the pool to lap (which we could even hear!), offering excellent photographic opportunities (if a touch tinged red). Thirst slaked, it climbed up the river bank and headed off into the bush – all quite stunning. The fun times were not over: as the drivers approached camp, the spotlight picked up three Cape Porcupines which bristled with annoyance at being disturbed and headed off, though not before they had given us a fine view.

Day 5

Monday 16th October

After our usual early morning start, the walkers headed out from the camp for a three-hour stroll in a loop around our base. As is typical of foot safaris, the mammals are a good deal more wary and skittish than if you are in a 4x4. Consequently, Impala and Common Waterbuck were seen, but at some distance. In addition, as previously, a detour was made around 'psycho' Elephant for good measure. Birds are less concerned about two-

legged rather than four-wheeled creatures, and a lovely Martial Eagle was seen at a drinking spot, along with Southern Black Tit which was new, and there were lots of old 'favourites'.

The drivers headed for the area around the Luangwa River. Here the animals congregate to be near water, and they are also much more habituated to vehicles and so pretty much ignore them. Hence, we were able to get quite up-close-and-personal to Elephant and a Giraffe – so close, in fact, that you could watch the cud it was chewing pass down its oesophagus, followed shortly after by a fresh one coming up! We also tried hard to see a Leopard that had just killed a Baboon, but it had secreted itself in a dense bush and all that could really be seen were a few random spots in the gloom and the occasional swish of a tail.

We retired to the river bank for tea and chocolate cake, before heading off back via some cute baboons with young babies and the Leopard; the latter was now perhaps even more hidden, although the pair of Red-throated Twinspot we saw whilst waiting for the Leopard was a bit of a bonus.

We slowly made our way back to camp via a lagoon which sported a couple of new birds in the shape of African Openbill and Glossy Ibis. Nearby, a host of vultures were descending to feast upon a freshly dead buffalo and there were all four occurring species in the mêlée – Lappet-faced, White-backed, White-headed and Hooded.

It was quiche for lunch, followed by the checklist, and then a siesta the heat of the day before the late-afternoon activities. The group that had walked set off in the 4x4 to see if the hiding Leopard had come out. The group that had driven took a short drive to a walk. We wandered about the bush near the dry river and, as usual, it was mainly small things that entertained us – like the foam-nest frogs that we found inside a fallen Red-billed Buffalo Weaver nest!

The driving party found the said Leopard in a less invisible position. Into the bargain, during their night drive back to camp, they spotted a second Leopard and also had a close encounter with a pair of Spotted Hyena. These were initially seen in the spotlight at some distance, but they kept approaching until they reached the van and then one crossed to the other side of it ... meaning the spotlight could only light up one sniffing hyena at a time, which was a somewhat unnerving experience!

The walking party had a much less eventful night drive back, with the star performer being a very obliging genet which didn't seem at all bothered about being lit. We also saw a few Four-toed Sengi (Elephant shrews), which is always a treat.

Day 6

Tuesday 17th October

Hyenas gave most people a far-too-early unofficial wake up call, but safe in our tents, we dozed back to sleep until the official wake up call at 5.15am. Today was to be the same as yesterday, only with the members of each party swapping.

The walkers strolled around the nearby bush, appreciating the delights of porcupine poo... and mongoose poo (a Slender Mongoose was also seen, but not necessarily the culprit of the droppings) ... along with a small handful of lovely birds that included Greater Honeyguide, Black-headed Oriole and a smart melanistic Gabar Goshawk.

The drivers stopped for some choice birds like African Green Pigeon, White-crowned Helmet Shrikes, Southern Black Flycatcher and Yellow-bellied Greenbul, as well as some lovely Elephant, but otherwise made a bee-line for the Luangwa river area and yet another Leopard! This one was a few metres up a tree on top of a large branch, munching away on some unknown beast. It afforded reasonable views, but with lots of intervening twigs, so after a quick look, we went in search of Giraffe (which some had yet to see) and duly found two, right on the river bank. Satisfied with this, it was tea time and many birds were on offer from the shady spot where we had parked. This included a couple of elegant Grey Crowned Cranes, Kittlitz's Plover, Marsh Sandpiper, Malachite Kingfisher and Collared Pratincole.

Tea and cake over, we headed back via the vulture stops as yesterday (but lacking the Lappet-faced and the White-headed today) and the lagoon (lacking the Glossy Ibis today).

After another yummy lunch and a siesta, there was, again, a driving group and a walking group. Both first went to the nearby pool in the hope of setting Rob's camera trap. However, that plan was soon abandoned when at least four Lions were spotted there! Also present (but partly ignored!) were Holub's Golden Weaver and our first Red-eyed Dove. The walkers headed for a "dambo" - a seasonally flooded grassy area and had a lovely stroll as the sun set, although not much wildlife was seen other than an empty mantis egg case. The drivers headed for the Luangwa and saw some choice creatures including "Ginger" the leucistic (partial loss of pigmentation in an animal resulting in white, pale, or patchy coloration of the skin and hair etc) Lion, some buffalo and new for the bird list, a Black-bellied Bustard.

Both parties had productive night drives home, with the walkers seeing Lions and Spotted Hyaena (who later visited us in camp!) along with Scrub Hare and African Civet. The driving group stumbled across some Wild Dogs which is always a pleasure. They also spent some time watching a Black-necked Spitting Cobra – from a safe distance, given it can 'spit' venom accurately over seven metres!

Day 7

Wednesday 18th October

As we left the camp, both the walking and the driving party were treated to excellent views of a Tawny Eagle. The walkers then had the rather unnerving experience of coming across some Lion on their walk – whilst they are wary of people on foot, to surprise one or more of them is not to be recommended! As exciting was coming across yet more Wild Dogs! A group of 12 including six pups were lounging around in the dry river bed, bellies full and so uncharacteristically inactive for dogs! This made the Eland also seen pale in to insignificance somewhat!

Those that drove also came across a Lion. This young male is well known to the local guides (as "Garlic"), and he and his leucistic brother ("Ginger") are very relaxed around vehicles. Garlic certainly proved the point by resolutely staying flat on his side and asleep, even though we approached to within three metres!

Soon after, we heard that dogs were around nearby, so off we headed ... and soon found them, a small pack of five, running towards where we had come from. We turned the vehicle and found ourselves driving in the middle of them! Two dogs were lolling ahead, two at our side and one behind – a weird but hugely satisfying experience! Eventually, they paused, made their way off the road and into the bush, and disappeared – what a treat.

Amongst the birds, it was lovely to see Grey Crowned Crane, Red-necked Spurfowl, African Harrier-Hawk and the gorgeous Grey-headed Bushshrike. By the river side, with morning tea, there were also African Skimmers.

Although we had seen many, Wild Dogs are actually a rare sight in Africa, and so we agreed that the afternoon's activity would be to try to re-find the pack that had been seen by the walkers in the morning. Since they were not where they had been, it took a little doing, but eventually there they were, about 100 metres further along the riverbed and still lounging around. Occasionally one pup would get up and launch a half-hearted play attack on another pup before flopping back down on the sand. As the sun set and the second vehicle arrived (they had been watching a Lion...), the pack roused itself and headed off at a smart trot into the bush. We followed them for a while, the adults often stopping to let the pups catch up. Hence, on several occasions, we found ourselves in the middle of the pack and surrounded by dogs sniffing, scratching and defecating – it was joyous!

Between us, the night drive back to camp afforded excellent views of Southern White-faced Owl, Cape Porcupine, Large-spotted Genet and an African Civet.

Day 8

Thursday 19th October

Today we packed a picnic lunch and some picnic chairs and had an all-day safari! As we drove towards the Luangwa River, there were a couple of new small raptors to add to our list, in the form of a pair of Little Sparrowhawk (a male and a very demanding chick) and a smart Lizard Buzzard.

Once near the river, we chanced upon a very large herd of African Buffalo – our first large group of these impressive, muscular, herbivorous beasts. The lack of rain and subsequent lack of grass was making life very tough for them, but even so, they looked as mean as they always do!

Nearby, a couple of Spotted Hyaena were looking for a place to sleep, a Nile Monitor was climbing a tree and a hippo, rather bizarrely, was sheltering under a bush. This all added to the morning's entertainment. In addition, a dinky little Red-billed Firefinch was a new bird for the trip.

Morning tea was taken in a shady spot and in the company of African Openbill and Jacana.

We had already a couple of Lions by the river ... and now, as lunchtime approached, a whole pride (the "Hollywood" pride) had inconsiderately taken up residence under the tree that was supposed to be our lunch stop! Unbelievably, there was a Leopard under the second spot we had in mind for lunch! We finally plumped for the third and, thankfully, creature-free spot under large shady trees as the picnic-lunch site. It was a self-service buffet lunch followed by a lovely siesta serenaded by the sounds of the wild, like Crested Barbet and the ubiquitous Ring-necked Dove – surely the sound of Africa?

By 3pm it was getting cool enough to consider continuing our safari, but not before we had headed over to the river side and watched a large herd of Elephant crossing, and also seen the Holub's Golden Weavers in the trees above.

It was an afternoon of many Giraffe sightings, many happy to be approached. There were also some flat-out and fast-asleep hyena and even some Wild Dogs, although these were, by comparison, quite far off and tricky to spot.

The night drive back to camp afforded excellent views of Egyptian (White-tailed) Mongooses (or should that be Mongeese?), Cape Porcupines, Thick-tailed Greater Galago (Bushbaby) and a grand finale of a Leopard at the hide near the camp... or perhaps for some it was the elusive Honey Badger?!

A very welcome shower greeted our return to camp after a long but very satisfying day.

Day 9

Saturday 20th October

This was the sad day that we had to leave Nkonzi Camp. After a late breakfast, we said words of thanks and goodbye to the lovely and friendly camp staff and headed off one last time to the Luangwa River. En route, it was lovely to see our ponderous old friends, the Southern Ground Hornbills, at close quarters and there was that last chance to capture the classic Lilac-breasted Roller photo.

We enjoyed our last morning tea by the languid river, watching White-fronted Bee-eaters effortlessly picking off insects, and then passed by the ever-drier lagoon, this time with a freshly dead hippo that had succumbed to the harsh rigours of the end of the dry season. Many, many vultures were already making sure that it did not go to waste. However, that there were no mammalian predators or scavengers was testament to the super-abundance of easy prey at this taxing time of the year for the herbivores.

As the temperatures rose, we headed for the Crocodile Valley Lodge and its cold drinks. Here, we said goodbye and thanks to Efram, our stalwart driver /guide for the trip. There was plenty of time to polish off the trip list and for a swim and/or a shower before a lovely lunch (which only one Vervet Monkey tried to crash!). Clean, changed and replete, we headed for Mfuwe airport at around 3pm. There was only one short stop on the way – an officious and very young policeman asked our driver Moses for his driving licence, which Moses had left at camp. It could all have got very messy had Moses not known the young officer's boss, who was around the corner and let Moses off with a smile and a warning! At the airport there were more goodbyes, this time for Moses and Gavin, and shortly after, we were aboard and away on the short hop to Lusaka. Emigration, security and checking in proved painless, and there was even a little café in departures to enjoy a drink in whilst we waited to be called. From here, there was annoyingly more security in what was little more than a glorified shed! Thence, it was a walk in the evening air to board our Emirates flight to Dubai.

Day 10

Sunday 21st October

We arrived at Dubai, and thence Heathrow, pretty much on time, bade each other fond farewells and made our ways home, full of memories of the 156 bird and 35 mammal species seen on our holiday in that lovely place that is South Luangwa.

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Species Lists

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	October							
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>				3	✓		✓	✓
2	Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>				5	✓	✓		
3	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>		2	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>		40	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Red-necked Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis afer</i>					1	2	✓	
6	Swainson's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>		10	✓			✓	✓	✓
7	Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>		2	5					✓
8	African Openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>				1	1		✓	✓
9	Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>		1	2	2	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>		3	3				✓	✓
11	African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>			3		✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>		9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>				1		1		
14	African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>			1	4				
15	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>			1	2				1
16	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>						1	1	
17	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>					9		✓	
18	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			1		1	✓	✓	
19	Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>				4	1	✓	✓	✓
20	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				2	✓	✓		✓
21	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>					1			
22	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>		2	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
23	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>			15					✓
24	African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>								1
25	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>			1					
26	African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>			1		1	2		
27	Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>		4	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	
28	White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>		3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
29	White-headed Vulture	<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>			1	1				

	Common name	Scientific name	October							
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
30	Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>				5	✓	✓		
31	Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>		1		1			✓	
32	Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>		3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
33	Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>		1	1	2	✓		✓	
34	Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus wahlbergi</i>		1	1			✓		
35	Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>		2				✓	✓	✓
36	African Hawk-Eagle	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>			1	1			1	
37	Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>			1		2			
38	Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>							1	
39	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>				1	1	2		
40	Little Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter minullus</i>							2	
41	Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>		2	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
42	African Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>			4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
43	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo vulpinus</i>							1	
44	Black-bellied Bustard	<i>Lissotis melanogaster</i>					1			
45	Grey Crowned Crane	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>					2	5	✓	✓
46	Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>		7	1			✓	✓	
47	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>					1	2		
48	Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>		2			1			
49	White-crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus albiceps</i>		2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
50	Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>		2						
51	Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>					6			
52	Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>			1			1	1	
53	African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>				17	✓		✓	
54	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>					1	1		
55	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		2		2	✓	✓	✓	✓
56	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		2	1	5	4			
57	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		2		✓	✓			
58	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>					11			
59	Three-banded Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus cinctus</i>			2					
60	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>					1			
61	African Skimmer	<i>Rynchops flavirostris</i>			2			2		

	Common name	Scientific name	October							
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
62	Double-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles bicinctus</i>		6	9	✓				
63	Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>							6	
64	Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>					4			
65	Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>		50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
66	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>						1	10	
67	Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>		13	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
68	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>			1				4	
69	African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>		4			1			
70	Purple-crested Turaco	<i>Tauraco porphyreolophus</i>				2				
71	Grey Go-away-bird	<i>Corythaixoides concolor</i>		6	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
72	Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>			1					1
73	White-browed Coucal	<i>Centropus superciliosus</i>			2		1	1	1	
74	Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>					H			
75	African Scops Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	
76	Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>		1				1	1	
77	Southern White-faced Owl	<i>Ptilopsis granti</i>						1	1	
78	Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatus</i>		1						
79	African Barred Owlet	<i>Glaucidium capense</i>						H		
80	Fiery-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus pectoralis</i>						1		
81	Square-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus fossii</i>			?	H				
82	Böhm's Spinetail	<i>Neafrapus boehmi</i>		3	4					
83	African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	3	18		✓	✓	✓	✓	
84	Red-faced Mousebird	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>				5				
85	Racket-tailed Roller	<i>Coracias spatulatus</i>					1			
86	Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>		14	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
87	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>		2						
88	Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>		2	1	1	✓	✓	✓	✓
89	Brown-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>			1					
90	Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>			1					
91	Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>					1			
92	Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>		1					1	
93	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>			7			1	2	

	Common name	Scientific name	October							
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
94	Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>		2	1	✓	✓	✓		
95	Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>		16	✓	✓	✓	✓		
96	White-fronted Bee-eater	<i>Merops bullockoides</i>		8	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
97	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		H	H					
98	Southern Carmine Bee-eater	<i>Merops nubicoides</i>		1	80	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
99	African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>		1				1	1	
100	Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>				6			6	
101	Southern Ground Hornbill	<i>Bucorvus leadbeateri</i>		4	12	5	✓	✓	✓	✓
102	Southern Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus rufirostris</i>		4	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
103	Crowned Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros alboterminatus</i>		1			2			
104	African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>		3	✓		✓			
105	Trumpeter Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes bucinator</i>		1						4
106	Crested Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>							H	
107	Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>		H			1			
108	Bennett's Woodpecker	<i>Campethera bennettii</i>			1					
109	Bearded Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus namaquus</i>		1			1			
110	Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>			2		1			
111	Brown-necked Parrot	<i>Poicephalus fuscicollis</i>				1				
112	Meyer's Parrot	<i>Poicephalus meyeri</i>		4	3	3				✓
113	Lilian's Lovebird	<i>Agapornis lilianae</i>		26	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
114	White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>			10	5	6			
115	Retz's Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops retzii</i>					7			
116	Grey-headed Bushshrike	<i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i>						2		
117	Orange-breasted Bushshrike	<i>Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus</i>		H						
118	Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>			2		1	1		
119	Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>				1	1			
120	Tropical Boubou	<i>Laniarius major</i>		H	1		2			
121	Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>					1			
122	Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>			1	1	1			
123	Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>		14	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
124	African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>		1		1				
125	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>								1

	Common name	Scientific name	October							
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
126	Southern Black Tit	<i>Melaniparus niger</i>				1	1			
127	Dark-capped Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus tricolor</i>		4			✓		✓	
128	Yellow-bellied Greenbul	<i>Chlorocichla flaviventris</i>					2			
129	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		11		✓			✓	
130	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>			1		1	1		
131	Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>			H		1			
132	Bar-throated Apalis	<i>Apalis thoracica</i>					2			
133	Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>		4	H		2	4		
134	Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>							7	
135	Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>		10	2					
136	Meves's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis mevesii</i>		19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
137	Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>		4					✓	
138	Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>		3		3	✓		✓	✓
139	Southern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pammelaina</i>					2	1		
140	White-browed Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha heuglini</i>				1				
141	Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>			1					
142	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>						1		
143	White-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris talatala</i>		1	1		1	1		
144	White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>		46	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
145	Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>		9	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	
146	Red-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>		1	19			✓	✓	
147	Holub's Golden Weaver	<i>Ploceus xanthops</i>					4		✓	
148	Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>		1			✓	✓		
149	Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>		20	100s	✓	✓	✓	✓	
150	Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>		2	4	✓			✓	
151	Red-throated Twinspot	<i>Hypargos niveoguttatus</i>				2		1		
152	Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>						4		
153	Jameson's Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rhodopareia</i>			6					
154	Blue Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>		5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
155	African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>			1	1		1		
156	Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>		3						

Oxpeckers by Andy Smith

	Common name	Scientific name	October							
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

Mammals

1	Four-toed Sengi	<i>Petrodromus tetradactylus</i>		1		3		✓	✓	
2	African Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	3		14	12	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Southern Lesser Galago	<i>Galago moholi</i>					1			
4	Thick-tailed Greater Galago	<i>Otolemur crassicaudatus</i>							1	
5	Vervet Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>		6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Yellow Baboon	<i>Papio cynocephalus</i>		12	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>		2	5	2	✓	✓	✓	
8	Cape Porcupine	<i>Hystrix africaeaustralis</i>			3					
9	Smith's Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>		9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>		5	6		✓	✓	✓	✓
11	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>			1	2	✓		✓	
12	Egyptian Mongoose	<i>Herpestes ichneumon</i>				1				
13	Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>				1	2			
14	White-tailed Mongoose	<i>Ichneumia albicauda</i>							2	
15	Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>		2					16	
16	Spotted Hyena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>				3	6	2	4	
17	African Civet	<i>Civettictis civetta</i>		1			1			
18	Central African Large-spotted Genet	<i>Genetta maculata</i>	1	3	4	2	1		5	
19	African Wild Dog	<i>Lycaon pictus</i>			6		6	21	14	
20	Honey Badger	<i>Mellivora capensis</i>							1	
21	Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>		40	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22	Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>		14	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
23	Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24	Blue Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>		2	2	3				
25	Southern Reedbuck	<i>Redunca arundinum</i>		2	4	2	✓	✓		
26	Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>		100s	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
27	Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>		49	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28	Puku	<i>Kobus vardonii</i>		30	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
29	Sharpe's Grysbok	<i>Raphicerus sharpei</i>	1	1	✓	✓	✓		✓	
30	Common Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>		1						

	Common name	Scientific name	October							
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
31	African Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer caffer</i>	1			2			100s	
32	Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>		2	1			✓	✓	✓
33	Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>		13	14	✓			✓	✓
34	Common Eland	<i>Tragelaphus oryx</i>		1	2	2		2		
35	Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>			19	1	✓		✓	✓

Reptiles & Amphibians

African Flap-necked Chameleon, *Chamaeleo dilepis*

Black-necked Spitting Cobra, *Naja nigricollis*

Nile Crocodile, *Crocodylus niloticus*

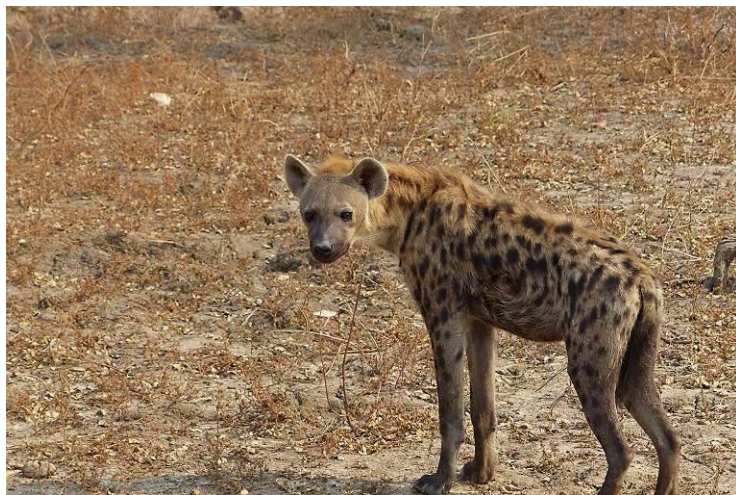
Grey Foam-nest Tree Frog, *Chiromantis xerampelina*

Nile Monitor, *Varanus niloticus*

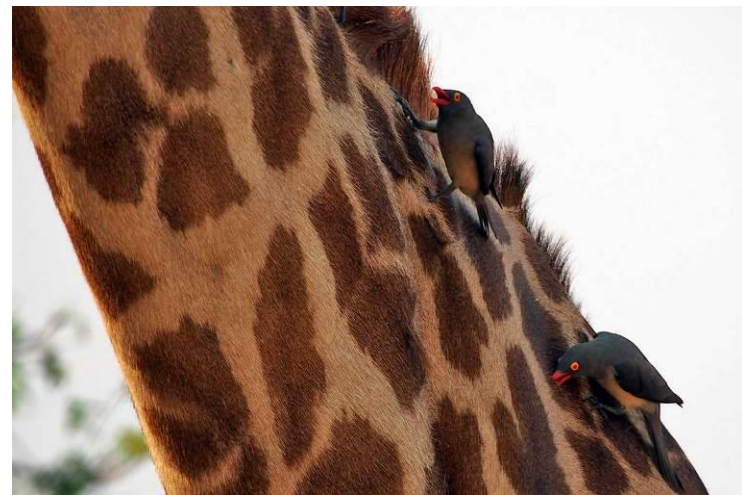
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Spotted Hyena by Lisa Houghton-Smith



Oxpeckers by Andy Smith