

Wildwings

WILDWINGS SOUTH AFRICA TOUR

MAMMALS & BIRDS

5th-15th SEPTEMBER
2018

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African Wild Dogs (Mervyn Griffin)

INTRODUCTION

After the success of the first three Wildwings' mammal tours to South Africa we set off on the 2018 tour with high hopes and once again we were not to be disappointed despite extremely inclement unseasonal weather at Marrick where night time temperatures fell to below zero on two nights. This was particularly surprising given that it was 32C when we arrived in Kimberley on the 5th. The cold night time temperatures meant that South African Hedgehogs had not emerged from hibernation and small rodents were non-existent.

We managed to see a record 58 species of mammal although only Kevin managed to see all 58 species. We also saw an additional four introduced ungulates at Marrick that are outside their natural range, i.e. **Sable, Roan, Bontebok** and **Nyala**. Species not seen on the three previous tours included a superb **Caracal** and for some people **Small Grey** and **Marsh Mongooses**. The highlights included:

- A superb **Caracal** in Suikerbosrand.
- Another fantastic encounter with a group of five **African Wild Dogs** which chased off two **Brown Hyaenas**.
- No fewer than nine different **Brown Hyaenas** while the normally much commoner **Spotted Hyaena** was surprisingly elusive this year.
- A female **Leopard** walking along the river bank near our lodge in Madikwe on the last afternoon.
- Even better views of **Aardwolf** than in 2017 with four being seen in total at Marrick and Madikwe.
- Two **Aardvarks** at Marrick with another being stalked briefly by two **Lionesses** in Madikwe.
- Excellent views of a **Black-footed Cat** at Marrick.
- Four **Cheetahs** including two on a recently killed kudu.
- Both **Cape Clawless** and **Spotted-necked Otters** at Warrenton.
- **Black Rhino** and over 30 **White Rhinos** at Madikwe.
- An obliging group of at least 10 **Common Dwarf Mongooses**.

On the bird front we saw 213 species, three less than in 2017, with highlights including Harlequin Quail, Common Buttonquail, three species of bustard, Double-banded Courser, Double-banded Sandgrouse, Marsh Owl and Pearl-spotted Owlet.

I would like to thank all the group for their good company throughout the trip and Anita, Fiona and Mervyn for the photographs that accompany this report. In particular thanks to the local guides and drivers, particularly Johnny, Jan and Benson, who supported us during a great trip. Their efforts were really appreciated by everyone.

Richard Webb
18 September 2018

DAILY SUMMARIES

5th September

Most of the group arrived in Johannesburg around 0730 and after a long stopover we eventually set out on our short domestic flight to Kimberley at 1330 where we were greeted by 32°C temperatures and a Northern Black Korhaan alongside the runway. The high temperatures were sadly not to last.

On arrival in Kimberley we quickly transferred to the Marrick Game Farm where after checking into our rooms we set out on a short pre-dinner game drive where we were able to enjoy **Bat-eared Fox, Black-backed Jackal, Yellow Mongoose, Black Wildebeest, Red Hartebeest** and introduced **Sable** along with some good birds including Spotted Eagle Owl, Double-banded Courser and Spike-heeled Lark.



Aardvark (Anita Lloyd)

After dinner we were back out for our first night drive and were soon enjoying an **Aardvark**, one of the key targets at Marrick. The wind direction was in our favour and we were able to enjoy prolonged views of the Aardvark getting particularly good views as it walked towards us and also seeing it alongside a **Black-backed Jackal**. Later in the evening we were able to enjoy even closer views of a second individual which 'exploded' out of a termite mound just in front of the vehicle before diving down a burrow where it burrowed vigorously throwing up a cloud of dust.

Continuing onwards we had nice views of several **Bat-eared Foxes**, two **Small-spotted Genets** one of which showed particularly well as it climbed a tree, at least two **Cape Porcupines** and an **Aardwolf** which showed well but briefly in exactly the same area as we had seen one on two previous tours. Other mammals seen included the abundant **Spring Hare, Scrub** and **Cape Hares**, and **Common Duiker**. Unusually we also saw at least five **Yellow Mongooses** on the night drive. We normally only see them during the day.

By the time we returned to the lodge a cold front had arrived and temperatures had started to drop rapidly.

6th September

As normal the morning game drive was relatively quiet for mammals particularly as it was still quite cold but we did see more **Black Wildebeest, Red Hartebeest, Blesbok** and introduced **South African Giraffe, Plains Zebra** and **Bontebok** along with several **South African Ground Squirrels**.

Birding was more productive particularly at one of the water pumps where recent windy conditions had created a larger wet area than normal and this area attracted a variety of birds coming down to drink. Species seen included Red-faced Mousebird, African Hoopoe, Acacia Pied Barbet, Cape Wagtail, Crimson-breasted Shrike, Chestnut-vented Tit-Babbler, Green-winged Pytilia and some stunning Violet-eared Waxbills. As we headed back to the lodge we also found a nice Black-faced Waxbill.

After breakfast we took a walk around the lodge where birds seen included Red-headed Finches and our only Karoo Scrub Robin of the trip. While some of the group returned to their rooms prior to lunch others continued birding and a couple were rewarded with views of the only **Small Grey Mongoose** of the trip.

Later in the afternoon we set out on a drive to an area of the farm where Johnny had discovered sengis a few months before. On the drive out we enjoyed our first **Rock Hyraxes** and **Mountain Reedbuck** along with the introduced **Nyala**. On arrival at the kjoopies it was cold and windy and the first kjoopie visited appeared sengi-less until Richard had a frustratingly brief view of a **Western Rock Sengi** dashing across the rocks. We were unfortunately unable to relocate it although a nice herd of introduced **Roan** nearby were a nice distraction.

Before leaving we fortunately decided to check another nearby kjoopie, and got lucky when Brenda found a **Western Rock Sengi** sheltering from the wind in a crevice. It proved elusive at first but eventually everyone was able to enjoy good views of this much sought after species. Very happy with this unexpected success we headed back to the lodge finding our only Short-toed Rock Thrush of the trip on route.



Western Rock Sengi (Anita Lloyd)

Sadly after dinner back at the lodge the day's activities came to an abrupt end as a thunderstorm hit Marick washing out any plans for a spotlighting session.

7th September

Having lost the previous night's spotlighting session to the weather Johnny agreed to an early pre-dawn spotlighting session instead and we met up at 0400 to find that the vehicle not only had a flat tyre, which Johnny quickly changed, but that the cabin was covered in a layer of ice. So much for September being much warmer than July although to be fair the cold conditions were exceptional with photos of Elephants and Giraffes walking around in snow in the Eastern Cape appearing on social media.

Fortunately although extremely cold we quickly found our main target and were able to enjoy good views of our only **Black-footed Cat** of the trip. Pleased that we had got up early and been rewarded we carried on spotlighting and found a couple of **Black-backed Jackals, Cape** and **Scrub Hares**, and a Barn Owl looking out of its nest box home, but the cold conditions were extremely challenging and with a couple of the group starting to shiver, we headed back to the lodge to thaw out.



Spring Hare (Anita Lloyd)



White-throated Swallows (Anita Lloyd)

After hot drinks and cereal back at the lodge we headed out with packed breakfasts and lunches for a day along the Vaal River at Warrenton about 70 kilometres north of Kimberley.

We had barely started walking across the old bridge when a shout of otters from Anita alerted us to a group of three **Cape Clawless Otters** swimming up river and we were all delighted to be able to enjoy nice views of this often elusive species. A couple of the group had a further view 30 minutes or so later.

We spent the next couple of hours on the causeway where we enjoyed a selection of good birds including African Spoonbill, South African Shelduck, African Jacana, Three-banded Plover, Whiskered Tern, Pied and Malachite Kingfishers, a variety of swifts and hirundines including large numbers of White-throated and South African Cliff Swallows and Little Swifts, and both Lesser Swamp and Little Rush Warblers.

After a couple of hours we decided to take a walk along the western bank of the river and head north-east along the river. Struggling to find a route along the bank we were on the verge of turning back when a route was found and this proved extremely fortuitous when five of the group were able to enjoy the second species of otter of the morning, a **Spotted-necked Otter**, feeding among water hyacinths for a couple of minutes, although unfortunately a couple of the group plus Richard arrived too late to see it. Warrenton has historically been a reliable site for Cape Clawless Otters but in the past couple of years sightings of Spotted-necked Otters have become more frequent and it was nice to have been able to find both species of otter at the same location in under three hours.

After enjoying the otters we spent the remainder of the morning birding with a nice but brief Little Bittern appreciated by those who saw it, before having our picnic lunch. While having lunch Kevin started chatting to a local teacher who suggested that there was another weir about 5 kilometres upstream so after lunch we set off to try to find it. We were unable to find the weir but did have a brief stop at another bridge over the Vaal River but the area was disturbed by workmen and fishermen and we saw nothing of note.

We headed back towards Kimberley and a sign at a quick toilet stop on route was sufficient to encourage the male members of the group to part with their two rands to use the facilities.

We made a further brief stop at Kamfersdam on route to see the thousands of Lesser Flamingoes and smaller numbers of Greater Flamingoes albeit from a distance. We also saw several Cape Vultures.



A salutory warning (Mervyn Griffin)

After dinner back at the lodge we were back on the truck for our final night drive but it remained extremely cold and it was relatively slow going and with some people struggling with the cold we truncated the drive slightly earlier than normal. We did however see our first **African Wildcats** of the trip, an adult and an immature on a termite mound, two more **Bat-eared Foxes** and more **Cape Porcupines**. Undoubtedly the cold conditions contributed to our failure to find the hoped-for South African Hedgehogs, Smith's Rock Rabbits, Zorillas and small rodents that all remained elusive.

8th September

Some of the group spent time birding around the lodge prior to breakfast before we are transferred to Kimberley Airport for our flight back to Johannesburg. As normal we had a quick lunch on route to Heidelberg where we checked in to our new lodge set in nice grounds.

While Richard, Fiona and Anita went out to get lunch supplies for the next two days, the remainder of the group birded around the grounds of the lodge, with **Slender Mongoose** the highlight for some, and **Rock Hyrax** the highlight for others, while others watched the England v India test match in the comfort of their rooms.

Late in the afternoon we set out for a short excursion to Eendracht Road on the edge of Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve. On alighting from the vehicle Kevin walked slightly down the road and flushed what he subsequently identified as the first **Marsh Mongoose** seen on a Wildwings' South Africa Mammals Tour, but although Mervyn saw what was probably the same animal dashing across the road a few minutes later, it eluded the rest of the group.

Our main target was Marsh Owl but they proved somewhat elusive in the very windy conditions and we only had brief, distant views of one bird as it was getting dark. The windy conditions made birding difficult but we did see Northern Black Korhaan, Capped Wheatear and Long-tailed Widowbird, and also found a distant group of 12 **Plains Zebras** and a solitary **Black-backed Jackal**.

We returned to the lodge before having dinner at a nearby Capuccinos restaurant. Kevin decided to stay behind at the guesthouse to stakeout the bait he had put out to attract mammals. Unfortunately he drew a blank.

9th September

After an excellent breakfast we headed out to Marievale but had to turn back after 100 metres when Richard realised that he'd left his binoculars in the room, the second person to do so in two days. The plan was to try to see more otters but both species proved elusive in the cool windy conditions. We did however have good views of a couple of **Yellow Mongoose** and a couple of people had a brief view of a **Slender Mongoose**.



Yellow Mongoose (Anita Lloyd)



Squacco Heron (Anita Lloyd)

The numbers of birds were also down presumably due to the weather, a view shared by local birders that Kevin spoke to. However we still saw a good variety of species including including African Spoonbill, Intermediate (Yellow-billed) Egret, Black-headed, Goliath, Purple, Squacco and Black-crowned Night Herons although we failed to find the Slaty Egret that had been seen earlier in the morning. Wildfowl included Southern Pochard, Cape Shoveler and both Hottentot and Red-billed Teal while waders included Three-banded, Blacksmith and Crowned Plovers, African Wattled Lapwing, African

Snipe, Ruff, Little Stint, Marsh Sandpiper and Pied Avocet. We also had good views of African Marsh Harrier, Swainson's Spurfowl, African Swampphen, Black Crake and Whiskered Tern while as in 2017 Richard also saw an African Rail briefly. Passerines included Lesser Swamp, African Reed and Little Rush Warblers.

By mid-afternoon our enthusiasm for looking for otters was waning so we decided to head back to Eendracht Road. After a magical mystery tour caused by a lack of signposting we eventually arrived there at 1730 and with the wind having dropped were soon rewarded when Anita spotted the first of three Marsh Owls that we were able to enjoy. One particularly obliging bird flew along the road and right past our minibus. We also had nice views of Spotted Thicknee and distant views of our first two **Steenboks** of the trip.

After heading back to the lodge we went back out for dinner this time electing to eat at the Spur Steakhouse where the food was good, but the service remarkably slow, much to Mervyn's chagrin. Kevin again chose to remain at the lodge for another sadly fruitless stakeout for small mammals.

10th September

We awoke to find unexpected frost in the lodge grounds. Having reversed the itinerary to avoid the weekend crowds at Suikerbosrand it was pleasing to find nobody queuing at the gate and in fact apart from a couple of cars in the visitor centre carpark we only saw one other car during our full day on the tourist route and this resulted in mammals being closer to the road than is often the case.

We quickly saw three **Yellow Mongooses** along the entrance road before stopping at the visitor centre to have a short birding walk. There were fewer birds than normal but we still picked up a nice selection of species including Red-throated Wryneck, Crested Barbet, Mountain Wheatear, Neddicky and Cape Bunting.

Most of our time was spent on the 66-kilometre 'game drive' and at our first stop Anita quickly showed her spotting prowess again picking up a group of about 20 **Meerkats** along one of the firebreaks in the park. Unfortunately they quickly disappeared over a ridge and a walk to try to relocate them was unsuccessful although we did find Grey-winged Francolin and Cape Rock Thrush during the walk.

Our next stop turned up a nice selection of ungulates on the opposite hillside including **Black Wildebeest, Blesbok** and **Plains Zebra**. Continuing along the route we also encountered **Red Hartebeest** and **Eland**. We eventually reached the plains area of the park where we were able to enjoy large numbers of **Black Wildebeest, Blesbok, Plains Zebra** and **Chacma Baboon** with smaller numbers of **Eland** and **South African Springbok**.



Plains Zebra (Anita Lloyd)



Red Hartebeest (Mervyn Griffin)

Continuing onwards Mervyn suddenly shouted '**Caracal**', and Jan quickly reversed just in time for us all to see a large male Caracal sitting by the side of the road before it suddenly took off and tore up the hillside. A totally unexpected bonus and without doubt one of the highlights of the trip. Anita may well have found the clawless otters, Marsh Owl and Meerkats but Mervyn had trumped all three in one move.



Caracal (Anita Lloyd)

Totally elated we continued on to our lunch stop but not before we had enjoyed even closer views of a nice group of **Black Wildebeest** and a group of **Zambezi (Greater) Kudu**.

The picnic lunch tasted even better than usual after such a successful morning and some post-lunch birding around the picnic site produced our first Mocking Cliff Chat and Bar-throated Apalis of the trip along with a selection of commoner species.

The remainder of the drive was relatively quiet by comparison to the morning but we saw more of the ungulates that we had seen in the morning plus a solitary **Common Duiker** as we neared the exit. Birds included a couple of Eastern Long-billed Larks and another Cape Rock Thrush.

We returned to the lodge slightly earlier than the previous two days and **Rock Hyrax** and both **Slender** and **Yellow Mongoose** were seen in the lodge grounds before we headed out for dinner at Cappuccinos again. Kevin remained behind again for one final stakeout but sadly once again did not receive any reward for his efforts.

11th September

After breakfast we set out for the long northward drive to Madikwe Game Reserve on the Botswana border seeing our first hornbills, rollers and Magpie Shrike on route. We made good progress in the relatively light traffic and arrived at the western gate by 1245. We made our way quickly across the park with Richard seeing a **Slender Mongoose** dash across the road while a group of **South African Ground Squirrels** using their tails as parasols to protect themselves from the sun were enjoyed by everyone.

We arrived at Madikwe Safari Lodge shortly after 1330, had a welcome drink and registered before checking into our rooms. Kevin was delighted to find he had been allocated the 'honeymoon suite' as it overlooks the 'lodge waterhole' (an area of the river frequented by lots of mammals in the middle of the day and at night).



South African Ground Squirrel (Anita Lloyd)

After lunch, and shortly afterwards high tea, we headed out with our enthusiastic ranger Benson for the first of eight game drives in the park but not before some of the group encountered our first **Vervet Monkeys** and **Cape Bushbucks** of the trip. The drive started with an **African Savanna Hare** sheltering under a bush and we soon encountered our first herd of **African (Bush) Elephants** including tiny young at one of the waterholes.



African Bush Elephants (Anita Lloyd)

Other species seen included our first countable **South African Giraffes** and some nice **Zambezi (Greater) Kudu** before we found ourselves enjoying a pride of seven **Lions** dozing in the shade.



Lions (Anita Lloyd / Fiona McHugh / Anita Lloyd)

After enjoying the Lions and our first sundowner Kevin managed to find a **Tree Squirrel** as we went back out on the road for a pre-dinner spotlighting session where we picked up our first **Brown Hyaena** of the trip shortly before it got dark. Amazingly this was the first of at least nine individuals seen on the trip. As darkness fell Benson turned the spotlight on and quickly found two **Lionesses** which we were surprised to discover were stalking an **Aardvark** although sadly only two or three people saw the Aardvark before it disappeared. The two lionesses were then joined by a large male, while nearby we found the second **Brown Hyaena** of the evening! Not a bad five minutes at all.

The drive back to the lodge continued to produce the goodies with a brief **African Wildcat** for some, good views of an **Aardwolf**, brief views of the only **Common Large-spotted Genet** of the trip, the first **White Rhino** of the trip, a couple of **Spring Hares** and large numbers of **African Savanna Hare**, the latter species being very common this year on three of the four evening drives.

We finally got back to the lodge for dinner. We had been out for under 4 hours but as in 2017 the quality of the mammal watching on our first drive had been outstanding.

12th September

We were up at 0500 for a 0530 departure to head to the south of the park to look for Wild Dogs and Cheetahs but the mammal watching had started before we even made it to coffee. We had heard **Spotted Hyaenas** several times during the night and Kevin had seen three crossing the river at 0400 in the morning. Better still as he reached the restaurant for coffee he had disturbed a **Brown Hyaena** foraging nearby while Mervyn had seen an unidentified **genet** near his chalet. Not a bad start to the day.

We headed out into the park and on reaching the main track had nice views of an **African Wildcat** which showed much better than the one the night before. We then headed off for the southern boundary of the park and shortly after first light found another **Brown Hyaena** along the track along the boundary fence. We continued following the boundary track following the tracks of wild dogs and suddenly turned to see three **African Wild Dogs** on the track behind us. We turned the vehicle to approach the dogs and were able to enjoy close views of them enjoying the first rays of sunshine before they moved off into the bush and joined another individual. Suddenly we spotted the **Brown Hyaena** again and the next moment the dogs were after it chasing it off up the nearby hillside. After a few minutes the dogs returned with a fifth individual having now joined the group but within a couple of minutes a second **Brown Hyaena** appeared and the dogs soon set off in pursuit of this individual as well. This time they did not return. It had only been light for 45 minutes or so and we had already seen five **African Wild Dogs** and two **Brown Hyaenas**. What a great start to the day!



African Wild Dogs (Anita Lloyd/Fiona McHugh)

The next hour or so was spent looking for two male Cheetahs seen nearby the previous day but despite Benson's best efforts, including trying to track them on foot as we enjoyed tea and coffee, we drew a blank and we eventually set off back towards the lodge planning to return later in the day. The drive back to the lodge produced a selection of species including several **White Rhinos**.

After breakfast back at the lodge we spent the middle of the day in the lodge grounds but the normal feeding flock of birds proved elusive this year. However **Ellipsen Waterbuck**, **Common Warthogs**, **Plains Zebra** and **Southern African Giraffe** all visited the river near Kevin's chalet. Cape Marsh Terrapin and Water Monitor were also seen near the lodge.

Ellipsen Waterbuck and leaping Common Impala (Fiona McHugh)



Warthogs at the lodge river crossing (Fiona McHugh)

After lunch and high tea, there really are too many meals at Madikwe, the afternoon found us heading back out for the long drive to the southern boundary of the park again and it proved to be an excellent move as the two **Cheetahs** were relocated shortly before we reached the area. We were able to enjoy fabulous views of the two males taking it in turns to feed on a young kudu, with one of the males being particularly interested in the dead kudu's ear!

The kill was located close to a largely dry waterhole which was literally covered with dozens of Natal, Swainson's and probably Crested Francolins, and Ring-necked Doves, while an **African (Bush) Elephant** also wandered down for a drink.

After enjoying the Cheetahs we had a short stop for a sundowner with a Pearl-spotted Owlet for company, before heading back towards the lodge. The spotlighting was less successful than the night before but we still managed to find our only **African (Savanna) Buffalo**s of the trip, a group of four males, more **White Rhino** and lots of **African Savanna Hares** again. As we approached the lodge we picked up the eyeshine from a **Southern Lesser Galago** but were unable to relocate it when we alighted from the vehicle and further attempts to relocate it after dinner proved fruitless.

Kevin had another sighting of presumably the same **Brown Hyena** as earlier in the day at the river crossing during the night.



Cheetah (Anita Lloyd, top left and bottom / Fiona McHugh top right)

13th September

After the excitement of the previous two days we had a slightly later start setting out at 0600 and the morning drive was relatively quiet although we did enjoy close views of two **Transvaal Klipspringers** in the appropriately named Klipspringer Valley. Unusually they were on the valley floor rather than on the rocky slopes and appeared quite small out of context leading some to initially think that they were dik-diks. The adjacent slopes held both **Rock Hyraxes** and **Tree Squirrels**.

Heading back to the main track we found our only Sentinel Rock Thrush of the trip and had several more **White Rhino** on the drive back to the lodge. Just before reaching the lodge we found two uncountable radio-collared **Cheetahs** on the other side of the fence on a neighbouring property. Unfortunately for the Cheetahs the group of **Common Impala** that they were salivating over were on our side of the fence. As we approached the lodge a large **African (Bush) Elephant** in must approach the river crossing and two young **Ellipsen Waterbuck** sheltered among the bushes.



Transvaal Klipspringer (Mervyn Griffin and Fiona McHugh)

During the short gaps between breakfast, lunch and high tea we either rested or birded the lodge grounds and Nile Crocodile, Water Monitor and several Striped Skinks were all encountered while the river crossing was visited by a procession of ungulates.



South African Giraffe (Fiona McHugh)

While the morning drive had been relatively quiet the afternoon/evening session most definitely wasn't. We headed out towards the north-west of the park to look for Western Tsessebe and quickly encountered **Black-backed Jackal** and another eight **White Rhinos**, including a male showing particular interest in a group of three females. We spent time vainly searching the grasslands for the ever-elusive tsessebe only finding our first **Gemsbok** in Madikwe. Stopping for the daily sundowner Kevin heading off for a comfort stop flushed the first of a number of Harlequin Quails in the area. These are the first that we have seen on this tour.

We had barely got back on the vehicle when a call on the radio had Benson putting his foot on the accelerator and we were soon enjoying views of another two male **Cheetahs** lazing near a waterhole. What was particularly pleasing was that the radio-collar that one of these individuals had been wearing during previous tours had now been removed improving the experience of watching them immensely.

Although we hadn't seen the main target the Cheetahs were ample compensation and we were soon on our way for the long drive back towards the lodge. While the light was still good we found yet another **Brown Hyaena** with one or possibly two **Black-backed Jackals** in tow and shortly after dark found the seventh **Brown Hyaena** of the trip. Next up was brief but good views of an extremely fast-moving **Aardwolf** followed by frustrating views of what was probably a **Small-spotted Genet** playing hard to get but as we approached the lodge we had much better views of a showy **Small-spotted Genet** sitting in a tree giving us good views of its lines of small spots. We also had a nice Spotted Eagle Owl.

Back at the lodge we had an added bonus after dinner when Richard found a very showy **Southern Lesser Galago** in a tree next to his chalet and fortunately it stayed around long enough for everyone to see it. A fine end to an excellent afternoon and evening.



**Benson searching for Western Tsessebe
(Fiona McHugh)**



Southern Lesser Galago (Mervyn Griffin)

Kevin once again saw the **Brown Hyaena** crossing the river near his chalet.

14th September

Our final full day in Madikwe started early with an 0530 departure as we were heading out to the western reaches of the park to look for Western Tsessebe. On the drive out we encountered a further six **White Rhinos** including a group of four before having superb views of two sub-adult **Brown Hyenas**, our 8th and 9th of the trip, in nice early morning light.



Brown Hyenas (Fiona McHugh)

We spent a couple of hours in the plains in the extreme west of the park but despite a considerable amount of effort were unable to locate any tsessebe although a small group of **Red Hartebeest** did create momentary excitement. However it was still a very enjoyable morning due to the large numbers of **Plains Zebra** and **Blue Wildebeest** in the area. We also had at least three **Gemsbok**, 18+ **Zambezi (Greater) Kudu** and five **Eland** demonstrating the richness of the western part of the park for ungulates. The drive back to the lodge for breakfast produced another two female **White Rhinos** with calves.



Blue Wildebeest, Gemsbok & Plains Zebra (Fiona McHugh)

Breakfast itself was enlivened by with one particularly audacious **Vervet Monkey** grabbing a croissant off of Richard's plate while he was away from the table even though some of the group were only feet away from his plate.

The plans for the afternoon drive were abruptly changed when one of the lodge staff found a female **Leopard** drinking at the edge of the river opposite Kevin's chalet, much to Kevin's frustration as he was not there at the time. A quick dash to

the chalet proved fruitless as the Leopard had disappeared so we jumped aboard the vehicle and headed out to cross the river to see if we could relocate it near some abandoned buildings. We couldn't relocate her but 14 **Ellipsen Waterbuck** and an impressive Nile Crocodile were nice to see. After 20 minutes or so we headed out on the drive only to receive a call a few minutes later to say that the Leopard had been relocated feet from where we had driven. We dashed back to the river in time to see her emerge from the vegetation and walk away from us along the edge of the river until she disappeared around a bend. We returned to camp to try to re-find her but were unable to do so so headed back out for the final afternoon drive.

A stop for a couple of 'squirrels' actually turned into a stop for a nice group of 10 **Common Dwarf Mongooses** after they were correctly reidentified by Mervyn, and we enjoyed watching these for some time. Two very obliging Common Buttonquail on the track were an unexpected bonus and groups of five and two **White Rhinos** kept the mammal interest alive but the target for the afternoon remained the elusive Black Rhino. Fortunately Benson never knows when to give up and just as it was starting to get dark he finally spotted a **Black Rhino** on the edge of some bushes. Sadly one or two of the group could not pick it up in the fading light but those that did had brief but good views as it moved off into the bushes. Even then Benson was not satisfied and we set off on an exciting cross-country rally through thick bush trying to relocate it but despite Benson's best efforts we couldn't find it again.

We had a belated sundowner before heading back towards the lodge only to find the most obliging **Aardwolf** of the trip, and probably of the four tours to date, posing for us on the way back. We arrived back at the lodge thoroughly delighted with our final afternoon/evening drive.



Aardwolf (Anita Lloyd)

15th September

As on previous tours we had an early start on our final morning setting out at 0500 for a final game drive, having turned down Benson's offer of a 0330 start!. **Spotted Hyaenas** were very vocal around the camp and Kevin saw groups of six and four cross the river near his chalet during the night.

The drive itself was pretty quiet but we did see four **White Rhinos** including three which we had seen earlier in the week along with some particularly jumpy Blue Wildebeest near some fresh Lion tracks.



White Rhinos (Anita Lloyd / Fiona McHugh)

After showering, packing and having breakfast we said goodbye to Benson and the other lodge staff. A waterhole full of **Plains Zebra** along with a handful of **African (Bush) Elephants** was a nice finale as we headed to the gate.

Once out of the park we made good progress and after a stop for a quick lunch at a Wimpy at Sun City Village, and a change of driver shortly afterwards, we eventually arrived back at the airport after another highly successful trip.



Madikwe Sunset (Anita Lloyd)

MAMMALS

Nomenclature largely follows the six-volume **Mammals of Africa** except for bovids where it follows the recently published **Bovids of the World** which in turn follows the taxonomy of the **Handbook of Mammals of the World**. In addition **African Wildcat** has recently been split by the IUCN Cat Specialist Group.

The list excludes the four introduced ungulates at Marrick which are outside their natural range:

Nyala *Tragelaphus angasii*, **Sable** *Hippotragus niger*, **Roan** *Hippotragus equinus* and **Bontebok** *Damaliscus pygargus*

1	Western Rock Sengi <i>Elephantulus rupestris</i>	One sheltering from the elements on a kjoie at Marrick with another seen briefly by Richard on an adjacent kjoie.
2	Chacma Baboon <i>Papio ursinus</i>	Common at Suikerbosrand, small numbers on three days in Madikwe and a small number in Pilanesburg National Park, seen from the main road on the drive back to Johannesburg from Madikwe.
3	Vervet <i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>	Small numbers seen daily around the lodge, particularly around the restaurant, on most days at Madikwe.
4	Southern Lesser Galago <i>Galago moholi</i>	Eyeshine from one close to the reception at Madikwe on the first night was slightly disappointing but everyone was able to enjoy a showy individual near Richard's chalet the following night.
5	Cape Hare <i>Lepus capensis</i>	Seen on all three night drives at Marick with a maximum of 10+ on the pre-dawn drive on the 7th.
6	African Savanna Hare <i>Lepus microtis</i>	Exceptional numbers at Madikwe this year with 25+ on three of the four night drives.
7	Scrub Hare <i>Lepus saxatilis</i>	Up to five each day at Marrick.
8	South African Ground Squirrel <i>Xerus inauris</i>	Up to c.20 each day at Marrick and common in Madikwe this year.
9	Tree Squirrel <i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>	A much better year for this species at Madikwe with Kevin seeing one on the 11 th , two being seen on the 12 th and an exceptional eight being seen on the 13 th .
10	Spring Hare <i>Pedetes capensis</i>	Abundant at Marrick and up to three on three of the evening drives in Madikwe.
11	Cape Porcupine <i>Hystrix africaeaustralis</i>	Two on the first night drive at Marrick and another three on the final drive there.
12	Bat-eared Fox <i>Otocyon megalotis</i>	Counts of five, five and three on the three days at Marrick.
13	Black-backed Jackal <i>Canis mesomelas</i>	Three at Marrick on the 5th and three on the 7th. One at Eendracht Road on the 8th and a total of seven seen on four of the days at Madikwe.
14	African Wild Dog <i>Lycaon pictus</i>	Another great encounter with five young members of a pack of 14 at Madikwe shortly after dawn on the 12 th . Better still was being able to see their reaction to nearby Brown Hyaenas , the five dogs chasing off one hyaena and then returning to chase off the other.
15	Cape Clawless Otter <i>Aonyx capensis</i>	Three spotted by Anita minutes after our arrival at Warrenton gave everyone good views but sadly disappeared quickly although one was seen again briefly half an hour or so later.

16	Spotted-necked Otter <i>Lutra maculicollis</i>	One seen for a couple of minutes by five of the group at Warrenton a couple of hours after our encounter with Cape Clawless Otters . The animal was clearly seen and behaved very differently to the clawless otters feeding among the water hyacinths of a slower-flowing stretch of the river rather than fishing in the open waters.
17	Small Grey Mongoose <i>Herpestes pulverulentus</i>	One seen by Kevin and Fiona near the lodge at Marrick on the 6 th .
18	Marsh Mongoose <i>Atilax paludinosus</i>	One seen briefly by Kevin along Eendracht Road was probably also seen by Mervyn a few minutes later as it shot across the road. A first for the tour.
19	Slender Mongoose <i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>	One at Marrick on the 7 th , one in the grounds of Heidelberg Kloof Lodge on the 8 th , 9 th and 10 th , one briefly at Marievale on the 9 th and another crossing the road as we drove to the lodge in Madikwe on the 10 th .
20	Common Dwarf Mongoose <i>Helogale parvula</i>	A nice group of 10 watched for some time on our last afternoon in Madikwe.
21	Yellow Mongoose <i>Cynictis penicillata</i>	7+ at Marrick on the 5 th and one there on the 6 th , two at Marievale on the 9 th , with one at Heidelberg Kloof Lodge and 5+ at Suikerbosrand on the 10 th .
22	Meerkat <i>Suricata suricatta</i>	A group of c.20 seen distantly in Suikerbosrand and the habituated group around the lodge at Marrick as usual.
23	Small-spotted Genet <i>Genetta genetta</i>	Two at Marrick on the 5 th with one showing well as it climbed a tree and one showing well in a tree at Madikwe on the 13 th with a second probable being seen on the same drive.
24	Common Large-spotted Genet <i>Genetta maculata</i>	A genet at Madikwe on the 11 th appeared to be this species seemingly having a black-tipped tail and larger darker spotting than the other genets seen.
25	Spotted Hyaena <i>Crocuta crocuta</i>	Astonishingly only seen by Kevin this year and only during the middle of the night when small groups crossed the river near his chalet. Three were seen at 0400 on the 12 th and groups of six and four on the night of the 12 th /13 th . Heard by other members of the group on the same nights.
26	Brown Hyaena <i>Hyaena brunnea</i>	In complete contrast to its normally commoner relative Brown Hyaenas were incredibly common at Madikwe this year with a minimum of nine different individuals being seen. On the 11 th one was seen at dusk with another seen while spotlighting an hour or so later. On the 12 th Kevin had one by the restaurant just before 0500 as he headed to the restaurant for the early morning drive. What was assumed to be the same individual crossed the river near his chalet on two other nights. On the same day two seen near the southern boundary of the park were individually chased up into the hills by five African Wild Dogs . On the 13 th two separate individuals were seen as we headed back the lodge at dusk. Finally on the 14 th two, probably sub-adult animals were seen 30 minutes after dawn as we drove towards the western gate.
27	Aardwolf <i>Proteles cristata</i>	One seen relatively briefly at Marrick on the 5 th . Good views of one in Madikwe on the 11 th , brief views of another on the 13 th and superb views of the fourth of the trip as we drove back to the lodge on the 14 th .
28	African Wildcat <i>Felis lybica</i>	An adult and a juvenile were briefly seen at Marrick on the 7 th , an even briefer sighting of one at Madikwe on the 11 th and another showing much better prior to dawn on the 12 th .
29	Black-footed Cat <i>Felis nigripes</i>	Only one seen at Madikwe this year but seen very well prior to dawn on the 7 th . The loss of one night drive to heavy rain and the extremely cold conditions on the subsequent drives certainly didn't help as there was a distinct lack of rodent activity at Marrick while we were there.

30	Cheetah <i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>	Two males on the remains of a young kudu near the southern boundary of Madikwe on the 12 th with two different males lazing by a waterhole in the north-west of the park the following evening. Also two radio-collared 'rescued' animals outside the reserve on a neighbouring property were seen admiring the Common Impala on the Madikwe side of the fence.
31	Caracal <i>Caracal caracal</i>	One spotted by Mervyn close to the road in Suikerbosrand stayed there long enough for the minibus to reverse and for all of us to get good views before it bolted up the hillside. Judging from its appearance it seemed to be a large male. One of the highlights of the trip and a first for the Wildwings' South Africa tour.
32	Lion <i>Panthera leo</i>	In Madikwe a pride of seven late on the first afternoon and two lionesses with a large male in tow briefly stalking an Aardvark later in the evening.
33	Leopard <i>Panthera pardus</i>	A female seen walking along the river bank near the lodge in Madikwe on the final afternoon had first been seen from close to Kevin's chalet.
34	Aardvark <i>Orycteropus afer</i>	Excellent views of one on the first night drive at Marrick and even closer views of another which exploded out of a termite mound later the same evening and immediately disappeared down a burrow where we were able to watch it digging furiously. Another being briefly stalked by two lionesses at Madikwe was unfortunately only visible to two or three of the group.
35	African (Bush) Elephant <i>Loxodonta africana</i>	Seen in small numbers on all eight drives at Madikwe.
36	Rock Hyrax <i>Procavia capensis</i>	Three at Marrick on the 6 th . 1-2 daily in the grounds of Heidelberg Kloof Lodge and 4+ in Klipspringer valley at Madikwe on the 13 th . Not seen at all in 2017
37	Plains Zebra <i>Equus quagga</i>	Common at Suikerbosrand (including small numbers at Eendracht Road) and Madikwe, particularly in the west of the park, with reintroduced animals also seen at Marrick.
38	White Rhinoceros <i>Ceratotherium simum</i>	Another good year at Madikwe with one on the 11 th , four on the 12 th , eight on the 13 th , 17 on the 14 th including one group of six, and four on the 15 th , with very little duplication of individuals. A minimum of 31 individuals.
39	Black Rhinoceros <i>Diceros bicornis</i>	One seen briefly but well by most of the group at dusk on our final afternoon in Madikwe thanks to Benson's refusal to accept defeat. Benson's off-track rallying to try to re-find was also an experience.
40	Common Warthog <i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>	Three at Marrick on the 3 rd and up to 10 daily in Madikwe.
41	South African Giraffe <i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>	Up to 20 per day seen at Madikwe with four introduced animals at Marrick on the 6 th .
42	African (Savanna) Buffalo <i>Syncerus caffer</i>	Just one group of four bulls at Madikwe on the 12 th with a recently introduced group also being seen at Madikwe.
43	Zambezi (Greater) Kudu <i>Tragelaphus zambeziensis</i>	Nine at Marrick over the three days there, four in Suikerbosrand and seen daily in Madikwe with a maximum count of at least 18 on the 14 th .
44	Eland <i>Taurotragus oryx</i>	Three in Marrick on the 6 th , 30+ in Suikerbosrand on the 10 th , five in Marrick on the 14 th and two seen by Richard in a private game reserve near Pretoria on the drive back to Johannesburg from Madikwe.
45	Cape Bushbuck <i>Tragelaphus sylvaticus</i>	Up to five in and around the lodge at Madikwe every day.
46	Gemsbok <i>Oryx gazella</i>	A better year than in 2017 with a total of at least eight at Marrick over the three days, one at Madikwe on the 13 th with at least three on the 14 th .

47	Ellipsen Waterbuck <i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>	At Madikwe two on the 12 th and 13 th and at least 14 including young animals around the river crossing near the lodge on the 14 th while we looked for the Leopard . One seen by Richard in Pilanesburg National Park, seen from the main road on the drive back to Johannesburg from Madikwe.
48	Mountain Reedbuck <i>Redunca fulvorufula</i>	Two at Marrick.
49	Black Wildebeest <i>Connochaetes gnou</i>	Large numbers encountered in Suikerbosrand both in the hills and on the plains areas, with another 50+ including introduced animals at Marrick.
50	Blue Wildebeest <i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>	Small numbers seen every day at Marrick with the largest numbers in the western parts of the park on the 14 th . Introduced animals outside their natural range were also seen at Marrick.
52	Blesbok <i>Damaliscus pygargus</i>	Eight at Marrick and common in Suikerbosrand.
52	Red Hartebeest <i>Alcelaphus caama</i>	Common in Suikerbosrand on the 9 th and three in the west of Madikwe on the 14 th . Reintroduced animals at Marrick.
53	Common Impala <i>Aepyceros melampus</i>	Common at Madikwe with small numbers in Marrick.
54	Kalahari Springbok <i>Antidorcas hofmeyri</i>	Only a single in Madikwe this year.
55	South African Springbok <i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>	Small numbers Suikerbosrand and reintroduced animals each day in and around Marrick.
56	Transvaal Klipspringer <i>Oreotragus transvaalensis</i>	Two in Klipspringer Valley in Madikwe on the 13 th .
57	Steenbok <i>Raphicerus campestris</i>	Two distantly at Eendracht Road on the 9 th and up to eight per day at Madikwe. None at Marrick this year.
58	Common Duiker <i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>	Two at Marrick on the 5 th and 2+ on the 7 th . Singles in Suikerbosrand on the 10 th and in Madikwe on the 11 th .



Eland (Fiona McHugh)

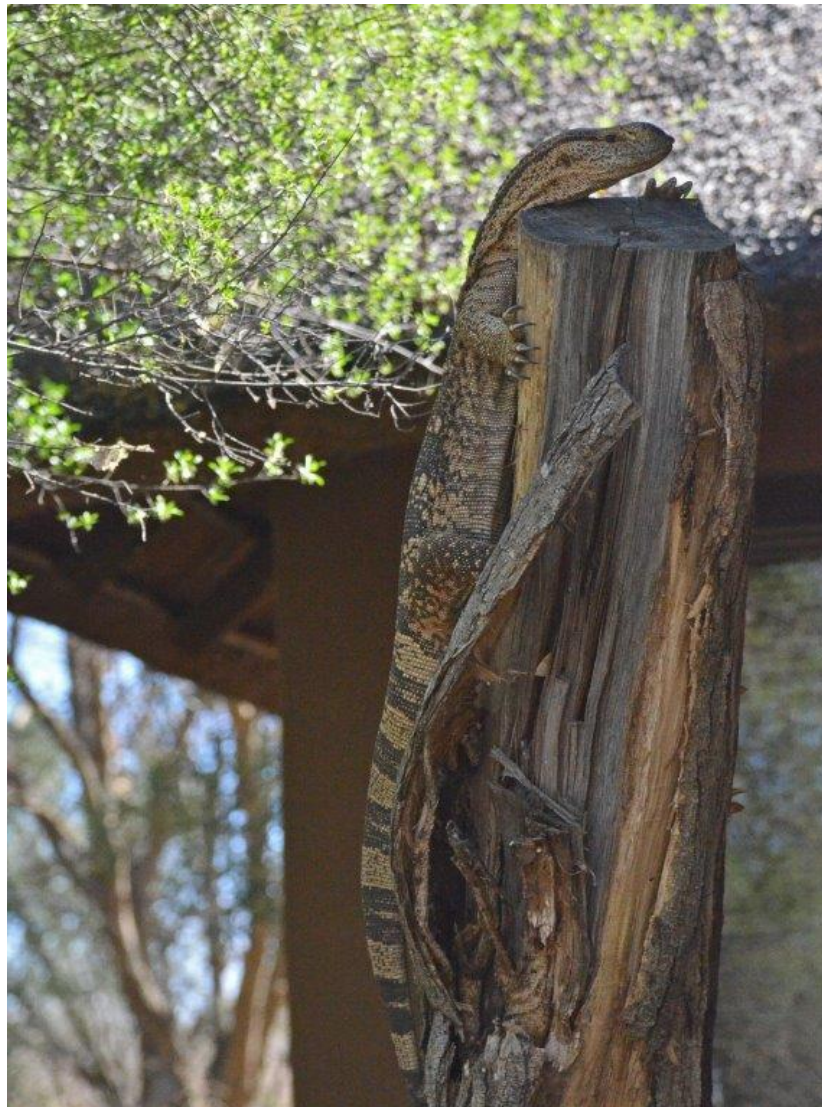


Steenbok (Fiona McHugh)

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

Thin on the ground this year

		Kimberley	Suikerbosrand & Marievale	Madikwe
Striped Skink	<i>Trachylepis striata complex</i>			X
Water Monitor	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>			X
Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>			X
Cape Marsh Terrapin	<i>Pelomedusa galeata</i>			X



Water Monitor (Anita Lloyd)

BIRDS



Spotted Thick-knee (Mervyn Griffin)



Double-banded Sandgrouse (Fiona McHugh)

Notes:

- Kimberley – includes Marrick and Warrenton.
- Heidelberg includes Eendracht Road, Suikerbosrand, Marievale and Heidelberg Kloof Lodge.
- Madikwe includes species seen on route to and from the reserve.
- L – Leader only. H – heard only.

		Kimberley	Suikerbosrand & Marievale	Madikwe
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	X	X	X
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	X	?	
Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>	X	?	
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>	X	X	X
White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>	X	X	X
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>	X		
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>	X	X	X
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	X	X	X
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	X	X	X
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		X	
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	X		X
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>		X	X
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>		X	
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		X	
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>			X
Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	X	X	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	X	X	
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	X		
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		X	

		Kimberley	Suikerbosrand & Marievale	Madikwe
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>			X
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>		X	
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	X	X	X
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>	X	X	
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	X	X	X
South African Shelduck	<i>Tadorna cana</i>	X	X	X
Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>	X	X	
African Black Duck	<i>Anas sparsa</i>	X		
Cape Shoveler	<i>Anas smithii</i>		X	
Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>	X	X	
Hottentot Teal	<i>Anas hottentota</i>		X	
Southern Pochard	<i>Netta erythrophthalma</i>		X	
Cape Vulture	<i>Gyps caprotheres</i>	X		
African Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>	X		X
Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus wahlbergi</i>			?
Black-chested Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>	X		
Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>			X
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvis aegyptius</i>			X
African Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>		X	
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	X	X	X
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>			X
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>			X
Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>	X		X
Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatys</i>	X		
Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicolus</i>		X	
Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>	X		
Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>	X	X	X
Helmeted Guinea fowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>		X	X
Grey-winged Francolin	<i>Scleroptila afra</i>		X	
Crested Francolin	<i>Dendroperdix sephaena</i>			X
Natal Spur fowl	<i>Pternistis natalensis</i>			X
Swainson's Spur fowl	<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>		X	X
Harlequin Quail	<i>Coturnix delegorguei</i>			X
Common Buttonquail	<i>Turnix sylvatica</i>			X
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	X	X	
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>	X	X	X
African Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>		X	
African Rail	<i>Rallus caerulescens</i>		L	
Black Crake	<i>Amaurornis flavirostra</i>		X	X
Secretarybird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>		X	
Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>	X		X
Red-crested Korhaan	<i>Lophotis ruficrista</i>			X

		Kimberley	Suikerbosrand & Marievale	Madikwe
Northern Black Korhaan	<i>Afrotis afraoides</i>	X	X	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	X	X	
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		X	
Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>	X	X	X
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>	X		
Double-banded Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus africanus</i>	X		
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>	X	X	X
Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>	X	X	X
African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>		X	X
Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>	X	X	X
African Snipe	<i>Gallinago nigripennis</i>		X	
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>		X	
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		X	X
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	X		
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>		X	
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>		X	X
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>	X	X	
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	X	X	
Double-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles bicinctus</i>			X
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	X	X	X
Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	X	X	X
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur chalcophilos</i>			X
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	X	X	X
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>	X	X	X
African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>			L
Burchell's Coucal	<i>Centropus burchelli</i>			X
Grey Go-away-bird	<i>Corythaixoides concolor</i>			X
Marsh Owl	<i>Asio capensis</i>		X	
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>			X
Spotted Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>	X		X
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	X		
Rufous-cheeked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus rufigena</i>			X
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	X		
Horus Swift	<i>Apus horus</i>	X	X	
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>			X
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	X	X	X
Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>		X	
White-backed Mousebird	<i>Colius colius</i>	X	X	
Red-faced Mousebird	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>	X		X
Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>	X	X	X
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	X	X	X
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo cristata</i>	X		X

		Kimberley	Suikerbosrand & Marievale	Madikwe
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>			X
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>	X		X
Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>			X
Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>			X
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>			X
Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>			X
Southern Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus rufirostris</i>			X
African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>	X	X	X
Crested Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>		X	X
Acacia Pied Barbet	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>	X		X
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>	L		
Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>	X		X
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>	X		
Bearded Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos namaquus</i>			X
Red-throated Wryneck	<i>Jynx ruficollis</i>		X	
Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>		X	
Spike-heeled Lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>	X		
Sabota Lark	<i>Calendulauda sabota</i>	X		X
Eastern Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda semitorquata</i>		X	
White-throated Swallow	<i>Hirundo albigularis</i>	X		
Greater Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis cucullata</i>	X		X
South African Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon spilodera</i>	X		
Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	X	X	
Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>	X		X
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	X		X
Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>			X
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	X	X	X
Southern Black Tit	<i>Melaniparus niger</i>			X
Ashy Tit	<i>Melaniparus cinerascens</i>	X		
Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>			X
Southern Pied Babbler	<i>Turdoides bicolor</i>			X
African Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus capensis</i>	X	X	X
Karoo Thrush	<i>Turdus smithi</i>	X		
Kurrichane Thrush	<i>Turdus libonyana</i>			X
Groundscraper Thrush	<i>Turdus litsitsirupa</i>	X		X
Cape Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola rupestris</i>		X	
Short-toed Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola brevipes</i>	X		
Sentinal Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola exploratory</i>			X
Mocking Cliff Chat	<i>Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris</i>		X	X
Familiar Chat	<i>Oenanthe familiaris</i>	X	X	X
Ant-eating Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>	X	X	
Mountain Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe monticola</i>		X	

		Kimberley	Suikerbosrand & Marievale	Madikwe
Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>		X	
African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>		X	X
White-browed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>			X
Kalahari Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas paena</i>	X		X
Karoo Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas coryphoeus</i>	X		
Cape Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha caffra</i>	X	X	
White-throated Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha humeralis</i>			X
Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>			X
Chestnut-vented Warbler	<i>Sylvia subcaerulea</i>	X	X	
Little Rush Warbler	<i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>	X		
Lesser Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>	X	X	
African Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>		X	
Desert Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aridulus</i>		X	X
Neddicky	<i>Cisticola fulvicapilla</i>		X	
Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>			X
Wailing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola lais</i>		L	
Levaillant's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola tinniens</i>		X	
Grey-backed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola subruficapilla</i>	X		
Black-chested Prinia	<i>Prinia flavicans</i>	X	X	X
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>			X
Bar-throated Apalis	<i>Apalis thoracica</i>		X	
Fiscal Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis silens</i>	X	X	
Marico Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis mariquensis</i>	X		X
Fairy Flycatcher	<i>Stenostira scita</i>	X		
Chinspot Batis	<i>Batis molitor</i>			X
Pirit Batis	<i>Batis pririt</i>	X		
Cape White-eye	<i>Smithornis capensis</i>	X	X	
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>	X	X	
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>	X	X	X
Cape Longclaw	<i>Macronyx capensis</i>		X	
African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>	X	X	X
Magpie Shrike	<i>Corvinella melanoleuca</i>			X
Southern White-crowned Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus anguitimens</i>			X
Common Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>	X	X	X
Crimson-breasted Shrike	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>	X		X
Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>	X		
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>			X
Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>	X		X
Meves's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis mevesii</i>			X
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	X	X	X
Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>	X		X
Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>			X

		Kimberley	Suikerbosrand & Marievale	Madikwe
Marico Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>	X		X
White-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris talatala</i>	X		X
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	X	X	
Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>	X	X	
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>	X	X	X
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>	X	X	X
Red-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>			X
Scaly-feathered Weaver	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>	X		X
Thick-billed Weaver	<i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>		X	
Cape Weaver	<i>Ploceus capensis</i>		X	
Southern Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>	X	X	X
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>			X
Long-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes progne</i>		X	
Red-headed Finch	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>	X		
Blue Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>			X
Violet-eared Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus granatinus</i>	X		X
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>		X	
Black-faced Waxbill	<i>Estrilda erythronotos</i>	X		
Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>	X	X	X
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>			X
Streaky-headed Seedeater	<i>Crithagra gularis</i>		X	
Yellow Canary	<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>	X	X	
Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>		X	
Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>	X		



Red-crested Korhaan and Spotted Eagle-Owl (Anita Lloyd)