

Republic of South Africa (including Lesotho and Swaziland)

20th November - 11th December 2016

Independent tour in Southern Africa



Hela-hela



Drakensberg (Sani Pass)



Kruger National Park (Olifants River)

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Introduction This journey was a three weeks independent birds and mammals tour in Southern Africa, including three countries: Republic of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland. Actually, we were for a short time in the latter ones, however we tasted these two small countries. They differed greatly from Republic of South Africa. Gergő and Ferenc are birdwatchers, Kinga is botanist, while Zsuzsanna is an "omnivorous" tourist. However, neither of us is interested mammals firstly, one of the main target was to spot a lot of large mammals (of course, the big five too). Beside these groups we tried to concentrate butterflies, amphibians and reptiles too, but it was not easy. Independent tour in Southern Africa is very difficult because of the numerous places, therefore we had to drive a lot (actually, Ferenc was the driver, so thank you Feri ☺). We visited 16 birdwatching places and we drove about 5000 kilometres. We started to plan the tour before six month the tour, and it was necessary, especially in terms of booking the accommodations. We had enough time to prepare almost everthing for the trip, however as usual we had a breakdown on the first day ☺. Apart from this we had no major problem during the trip. We did not disappoint none of the visited places and people was very friendly. Usually birding was easy, however there were some tricky birds. The most difficult thing was birding from the car...it was very annoying. Birding inside the afromontane forest (Marutswa, Magoebaskloof) was difficult too, there was no enough light to spot the bird species and they were moving either in the canopy or inside the dense undergrowth. The target bird species could be very tricky, and sometimes you could suffer for them. We saw almost all the Southern African endemics, nevertheless there were some missing species, such as blue korhaan or pink-throated twinspot. This was our first African tour (except Morocco and Western Sahara in 2012), so the beautiful landscape with lots of mammals was amazing for all of us. All in all during the entire trip we observed 443 birds, 54 mammals, 16 reptiles and 33 butterflies. Total cost of the trip was approximately 2.100€/person.

Airplane ticket and visa We bought the tickets via www.skyscanner.hu. There is no direct flights from Budapest to Johannesburg, but there are some options to go there. We chose Qatar Airways with Doha transfer. During the journey we had about eight hours for the transfer, there and back. The cost of return airplane ticket was 527€/person. The two journey last about twelve hours there and back with relatively good food and drink. Visa is not necessary Republic of South Africa and Swaziland. Foreigners who wish to visit South Africa must have passports valid for thirty more days after the intended return date from South Africa. The passport must

contain at least two unused pages labeled Visa. The situation of Swaziland is the same, the only difference that we had to pay RS50/car when we entered the country. In contrast to these visa is necessary to Lesotho. However, in Hungary getting a visa is not the easiest thing for us, as the passports have to be sent to Italy, to Rome by mail where we can acquire a visa. So, we chose the easiest way... The only way you can get into Lesotho without a visa is to pay the officials at the Lesotho Border Post a fee of RS200/person in your group. We had luck, actually we did not have to pay anything, maybe the officer thought we had a visa. But it does not matter, we just did it ☺.

Vaccination There are some recommended vaccinations to South Africa: hepatitis A and B, DPT and vaccination against typhus. Malaria exists in Kruger National Park and Santa Lucia therefore we took Malaron. Afterwards, we think it is not necessary to take Malaron, we met very few mosquitoes.

Money The currency of Republic of South Africa is South Africa Rand (ZAR, RS). 1€ was about RS14. We took cash (euro) and we changed money at the airport, however in larger cities and almost every petrol stations there are ATMs.

Electricity Plugs encountered were type C, D, M and N, so the easiest was if you buy an adapter in any shop at the airport or in any roadside shop. Read more at the [Worldstandards website](#).

Transport We rent a car from Europcar company (www.europcar.com) and paid 536€ for 20 days, airport pick-up and drop-off. At the airport we got the car, a new Renault Clio with automatic gear. It was too small for four persons with luggages. The roads are in very good condition, gravel and tar road too. Except on the highway the maximum speed is 90km/h, however inside the Kruger National Park the speed limit is 50 km/h on tar roads and 40 km/h on gravel roads. You have to pay for the highways, but it is quite cheap. We had two problems during the entire journey: 1. the police fined us for speeding in Lesotho, it was about RS200; 2. we had a breakdown on the first day near Wakkerstroom and we could manage hardly the situation. The roads are not so busy, except larger cities such as Johannesburg or Durban, and the centers of the smaller towns. You have to drive on the left side of the road, but it is not problem. However, a lot of trip reports and persons told us it is strictly forbidden to drive in the evening or at night, we almost drove in these periods. Not because we wanted to do this, but the situation formed in this way. There are so many petrol stations beside the roads, however where it is scarce, a table shows how far will be the next one.

Weather and birding season We were in Southern Africa in early spring when the weather was hot and sunny with ca. 35-40C°. We met some short heavy rain periods, usually in the evening or at night. In Lesotho, at night there is a huge storm, but the following day there was not left any trace. In higher region, such as Lesotho or Wakkerstroom the temperature was cooler with ca. 20-25C°. It is not necessary to take thick jacket, a raincoat is perfect. Sun cream is very useful in every part of the region, particularly during the pelagic tour. The sun rise about 4.30am and set about 6pm. Best birdwatching time of Southern Africa is between November and March, so especially in spring. We think we could have gone there a month later, because the rain arrived later than we expected. Because of the drought some birds were missing, but the advantage of the drought was that we could see the mammals more easily, a lot of birds and mammals assembled near rivers and waterholes. Some of the target bird species are quite hard, particularly night birds (owls and nightjars), and those ones which move inside the bushes (such as black-fronted- and gorgeous bushshrike). If you use tape recorder you will see these species more easily (however we did not use it because we did not prefer this method).

Trip reports

1. Hornbuckle J. 1997.02.03.-03.05. Eastern South Africa and Zimbabwe birding trip report
2. Hunter 2000.10.08.-21. Kabuli-Natal & Transvaal, South Africa
3. Burch S. 2012.04. Birding trip report: South Africa (north east & south west)
4. Matheve H., Heylen W., Vercammen J., De Coninck I. 2012.11.14.-12.14. South Africa
5. Gordijn R. & Rijkes H. 2013.11.29.-12.22. South Africa
6. Wedderburn B. 2014.08.-11. South Africa
7. Adcock A. & Petrova A. 2014.11.03.-12.03. South Africa 'Ladies love a Bustard' Kruger National Park with Dullstroom, Mount Sheba Nature Reserve, Magoebaskloof, Saddleback Pass, Peddlar's Bush and Wakkerstroom
8. Meijer I. & Meijer D. 2014.12.18.-01.07. Report of a mammal- and (not a hardcore) bird watching trip to South Africa
9. Cser Sz. 2014.12.27-2015.01.16. South Africa
10. Aebisher N., Klein F., McManus M., Sanderson C. 2015.01.13.-26. South Africa - Kruger, Lesotho and Zululand
11. Yufera I. 2015.10.04.-11.01. South Africa - Mega birding tour II & Kruger Extension II
12. Engel J. 2015.10.04.-20. South Africa: Fairest Cape to Kruger
13. Robbins G. 2015.11.28.-12.16. Eastern South Africa IX & Cape Extension IX

Books

1. Chittenden H. (ed., 2015): Roberts bird guide. Trustees of the John Voelcker Bird Book Fund, Cape Town, 456p.
2. Cohen C., Spottiswoode C., Rossouw J. (2006): Southern African Birdfinder: Where to find 1400 bird species in southern Africa and Madagascar. New Holland Publishers, 456p.
3. Kingdon J. (2012): The Kingdon field guide African mammals. Bloomsbury Publishing, London, 478p.
4. Manning J. (2009): Field guide to wild flowers of South Africa. Random House Struik, 488p.
5. Sinclair I., Hockey P.A.R., Tarboton W., Ryan P.G. (2011): The larger illustrated guide to birds of Southern Africa. Random House Struik, 464p.
6. Woodhall S. (2005): Field guide to butterflies of South Africa. Struik Nature, Cape Town, 440p.

Useful links

1. Southern African Birding - Birding resources for Southern Africa
<http://wiki.sabirding.co.za/>
2. BirdLife <http://datazone.birdlife.org/country/south-africa>

Map RKH Südafrika, Reise, 1:1 400 000

Accommodation

Place	Name of accommodation	Nights	Price/night/person €	Wifi	Comments
Wakkerstroom	Stroom-af (link)	2	11	No	Recommend. We had a private house with three or more rooms and a billiard table ☺. Garden is good for birds.
Underberg	Sani Lodge Backpackers (link)	2	21	Yes	Recommend, however there was no hot water. We told the staff but they did nothing special. Food was not so good. Despite these inconveniences the surrounding area is beautiful and the garden too, with a lot of birds and flowers.
Durban	South Africa Umhlanga (link)	2	16	Yes	Highly recommend. Airbnb perfect

					accommodation in a safe section of the town, near the coast. The apartment is on the ground floor of a secure complex set in spacious gardens, with some birds, butterflies and lizards.
Santa Lucia	St Lucia Palms (link)	1	12	No	Recommend, but nothing special.
Mkuze	Mantuma Camp (link)	3	22	No	Recommend. Highly recommend in the heart of the Game Reserve. First day there was no electricity for a while, but the staff managed quickly. Beautiful place, good views from the terrace, good food on the restaurant.
Kruger National Park	Berg-en-Dal Restcamp (link)	1	37	No	Highly recommend. We were in a family cottage. Room was spacious and comfortable with air conditioner.
	Satara Restcamp (link)	2		No	Recommend. We were in two bungalows. Room was spacious and comfortable with air conditioner. The kitchen with fridge was outside the building, but it was not problem.
	Shingwedzi Restcamp (link)	1		No	Recommend. We were in a family cottage. Room was spacious and comfortable with air conditioner.
	Punda Maria Restcamp (link)	2		No	Recommend. We were in two rooms in a long building. Average accommodation with small rooms.
Magoebaskloof	Magoebaskloof Getaway (link)	3	19	Yes	The best accommodation of the trip. Beautiful place, nice owner, good view from the balcon to a small lake with blue swallows ☺. Room was spacious and comfortable with big bathroom.

Food

Nothing special, we ate European food with average European price.

Guides

In Wakkerstroom, we met a local guide near the communal land (yellow-breasted pipit's field), who guided a foreign group. We talked him, we asked him how much is a half-day tour (RS400). We asked him to guide us the following day for Botha's lark and two bustard species (Denham's bustard and white-bellied bustard). Next day we started the Botha's lark because the weather was very foggy. When we saw the bird, we decided to go to Fickland Pan to spot the Rudd's lark, because it would have been little chance to find the two bustard species. It was a good decision because we saw the lark and its nest with some chicks.

In advance, we booked a full-day Sani Pass Birding tour with Stuart McLean. Actually, you need a 4WD vehicle to use the Sani Pass road, so it was the easiest way to tour this road. The webpage: www.birdsandbeyond.co.za. It cost RS2500. This was our best day during the trip, Stuart is a very helpfull, well-educated guide. He knows not only the birds but also the reptiles and the plants. For example, he showed a lot of interesting plants for Kinga. Stuart showed us all of the target species, plus karoo scrub robin, which was a really bonus for the trip. We highly recommend him and the full-day trip.

Itinerary

- 20th Nov.: Departure from Budapest Airport.
- 21st Nov.: Arrival at OR Tambo International Airport + travel to Wakkerstroom (4 hrs). Birding during some roadside stops and Amersfoort road. Night in Wakkerstroom.
- 22nd Nov.: Birding in and out of the settlement, Utrecht road, Volksrust road, Wakkerstroom Wetland, communal land, Fickland Pan and Amersfoort road. Night in Wakkerstroom.
- 23rd Nov.: Birding in Botha's lark field, Fickland Pan and Amersfoort road + travel to Underberg (6 hrs). Night at Sani Lodge Backpackers.
- 24th Nov.: Birding at Sani Pass, including Lesotho. Night at Sani Lodge Backpackers.
- 25th Nov.: Birding in Marutswa forest + travel to Hela-hela (2 hrs). Birding in Hela-hela + travel to Durban (3 hrs). Night in Durban.
- 26th Nov.: Pelagic tour. Night in Durban.

- 27th Nov.: Birding around Rocky Bay (Scottburgh) + travel to Eshowe (2 hrs). Birding in Dlinza forest + travel to Mtunzini (1 hr). Birding near Raffia Palm Monument + travel to Santa Lucia (1 hr). Night in Santa Lucia.
- 28th Nov.: Birding around camp site, Cape Vidal Road and Cape Vidal Dune Forest (Isimangaliso Wetland Park) + travel to Mkuze (2 hrs). Night at Mantuma Camp.
- 29th Nov.: Birding in Mkuze Game Reserve (including Fig Forest). Night at Mantuma Camp.
- 30th Nov.: Birding in Mkuze Game Reserve. Night at Mantuma Camp.
- 1st Dec.: Birding during some roadside stops (including Swaziland) + travel to Berg-en-Dal (6 hrs). Birding around Berg-en-Dal. Night at Berg-en-Dal Rest Camp.
- 2nd Dec.: Birding between Berg-en-Dal and Satara + travel to Satara (4 hrs). Night at Satara Rest Camp.
- 3rd Dec.: Birding around Satara. Night at Satara Rest Camp.
- 4th Dec.: Birding between Satara and Shingwedzi + travel to Shingwedzi (4 hrs). Night at Shidgwedzi Rest Camp.
- 5th Dec.: Birding between Shingwedzi and Punda Maria (including Pafuri) + travel to Punda Maria (2 hrs). Night at Punda Maria.
- 6th Dec.: Birding around Punda Maria (including Pafuri). Night at Punda Maria.
- 7th Dec.: Birding between Punda Maria and Phalaborwa Gate + travel to Magoebaskloof (4 hrs). Night in Magoebaskloof.
- 8th Dec.: Birding around Magoebaskloof Getaway, in Woodbush Forest Reserve and at bat hawk site. Night in Magoebaskloof.
- 9th Dec.: Birding in Woodbush Forest Reserve, around Magoebaskloof Getaway + travel to Polokwane (1 hr). Birding at Polokwane Nature Reserve. Night in Magoebaskloof.
- 10th Dec.: Travel to Pienaarsrivier (3 hrs). Birding in Zaagkuiltdrift road + travel to the airport (2 hrs). Departure from OR Tambo International Airport.
- 11th Dec.: Arrival at Budapest Airport.

Some important information about visited sites

The abovementioned trip reports, books and webpages described well all the visited sites, so we concentrate other useful information.

Wakkerstroom

Two full days are essential here, especially if you have no local guide. We birded in fields of grassland, arable lands and wetlands (especially Wakkerstroom Wetland) but not in the forests. The temperature was quite cool, however we had lucky about the weather (once there was a short heavy rain but it was not so long). Most of the target species is easy if you have enough time, but there are some species which could be tricky. Fickland Pan is the best place for Rudd's lark, however when we were here firstly, we didn't find the lark. Secondly a local guide showed the bird and the nest too. If you search the lark the best tactic if you look for the song. Very small species and very hard to spot it. Both occasions we paid RS40 with a child ☺. Botha's lark changes its location from year to year. We think it is impossible to find it if you have not a local guide. We saw three individuals quite far from Wakkerstroom, and the area will be built next year. The old traditional nesting places are no longer good anymore. If you familiarise yourself with the yellow-breasted pipit's call you can find it easily near the communal field because in spring it calls very frequently, usually it sings on the air. We did not meet so many wetlands during our journey in South Africa, maybe the Wakkerstroom Wetland was the best. Unfortunately we had no enough time to explore the area so we missed some important species, such as African grass owl or red-chested flufftail. Other good wetlands was near the Fickland Pan, we saw almost all the duck species in this region, and both flamingos. Of course, we missed some target species (i.e. ground woodpecker, blue koorhan) in the Wakkerstroom region, but some of them were observed other places.

Sani Pass (Lesotho)

Special habitats, special bird species. We booked a full-day tour with Stuart (see the details above). If we had not book a guide, probably we would not have observed some of the target species. Especially, african rock pipit and Barrat's warbler are extremely difficult, the latter one was seen just myself (Gergő). So, you need a good guide, you need Stuart ☺ Also, you definitely need a 4WD vehicle, please do not try to drive a normal car, it will not be working, the road condition is very poor with a lot of potholes. The crossing of the Lesotho border was easy for us, however it was luck. You will need your passports as you enter Lesotho. What passports are you all carrying as some countries need a visa. This can not be arranged at Sani Pass. Theoretically, Hungarian visitors need visa, however we had not. So, we walked to the border building and showed our passport to an officer, who got us stamps in our passport and we can go. We did not understand the situation, however we did not think much ☺.

Marutswa forest (Bulwer)

There is no good web pages about this area, maybe this one is the best: http://www.savenues.com/game-reserves/kzn_marutswa-forest.htm. The area is close to the village of Bulwer, right on the road R617 on your way to Underberg. The entrance is about here: 29°48'57.31S, 29°46'52.54E, no entry fee. The species composition is the same as Nxumeni Forest. If you get there at last light it is good for the cape parrots as they come in to the big dead trees at the edge of the forest, however the sunrise is a good time too. This is a typical afro-montane forest with trails and boardwalks, however be careful, the latter ones are extremely slippery. Birding is very difficult because of the dense forest, so where you can find a glade, that is a good opportunity for birding. Other good spots are the view points which are quite high, you can watch the birds from the canopy level.

Hela-hela

Beautiful river valley and mistbelt forests. The main target species is the endangered blue swallow which breeds on the pristine upland grassland overlooking the valley. We found easily the entrance gate however after that we have a lot of problems. The road system is not obvious, so we could not find the route to the upland where the blue swallow lives. We tried to ask for help from a boy at the reception however he did not speak in English (just a little bit). In spite of this he phoned his father who came to the reception and explained us that the upper areas were covered mists, so it did not make any sense to try the swallow. Therefore we said goodbye to the site.

Durban pelagics

We had a fantastic pelagic tour with Niall and his team. You can find every important information this webpage: <http://www.niall.co.za/pelagic/KZNpelagictrips.htm>. However, November is not the best month for seabirds, we saw 9 species, including 3 albatrosses, 2 petrels, flesh-footed shearwater, Wilson's storm petrel, pomarine jaeger and great crested tern. We saw an atlantic yellow-nosed albatross, which was the first observation in this region. The staff was very experienced and helpful. We highly recommended this trip for any visiting birders or locals.

Dlinza forest (Eshowe)

Good forest with a canopy boardwalk, however it is very important to arrive in early morning. Unfortunately we arrived about noon and we did not see so many specials, maybe just the spotted ground thrush. Half day is essential here.

Mtunzini

In contrast the SAB and several trip reports, we did not find easily the site. We found the beginning of the walking trail in an edge of a forest. We went along this trail and found a good observation place where there were no many raffia palms. Firstly, we saw one palm-nut vulture at the distance, secondly, at sunset we saw two individuals which possible went to the roosting place. Forest birding was very difficult because of the dense forest and we did not see any special birds. Maybe early morning is better.

Isimangaliso Wetland Park (Santa Lucia)

This place was a big disappointment for us. Wetlands are scarce, maybe because of the dryer period? So many routes were closed (we did not know the reasons), and when we entranced the gate the officers had not said this... But the entry fee was horrible... We had a bizzare experience in the Iphiva trail (the campsite no exist longer). We were walking the trail when we saw some quaggas and blue wildebeest. When the blue wildebeest had got on pick up our smell they attacked us. It was a very awesome situation, we run to the hill and we had a luck, they stopped.

Mkuze Game Reserve

One of the top birding site in the Republic of South Africa. Three days are essential here. When we were there some of the hides were closed, including Kumasinga hide. Do not miss the Fig Forest tour, you can book at the reception. However it was scarry, it was a good tour with aerial boardwalk. We took part two night drives which were great experiences for us (for example, we saw two cheetahs which captured two impalas. Nsumo Pan has a three hides and a lot of hippos ☺). Be careful, they could be dangerous.

Swaziland

Between Mkuze and Berg-en-Dal we travelled through this country. At the border we had to pay 50RS for the car. Get into and out Swaziland is quite easy and quick. The country was quite different than in the Republic of South Africa, people is poorer and the countryside is more barren than in the RAS. We observed two lifers ☺.

Kruger National Park

Without doubt this is the best locality for birds and mammals in the Republic of South Africa, in spite of the high cost. Wilderness areas, varied habitats, easy road access, comfortable amenities and rich flora and fauna. Roads are in very good condition, it is not necessary a 4WH vehicle. The best option if you buy a wild card, especially if you plan to stay minimum 6 nights in the

park. You can buy via internet or at any entrance gate. Birding in general. Good areas: picnic sites, camp sites and roads. The most embarrassing thing was birding from the car. Night drives are good opportunity to observe nightjars and owls (and mammals, of course). We had some good ones but not in Satara, that was horrible with a van with a lot of people who were not interested in animals...just shouted. Guides are not experts for birds but there are some groups which they knows such as owls and nightjars. If you want to observe the special owls species you have to ask receptionists in every camp sites (Satara: southern white-faced scops owl, Shingwedzi: pearl-spotted owlet, Tsendze Rustic Camping Site: african barred owlet, etc.). If you want to see wild dog, do not turn the main road off near Berg-en-Dal!

Magoebaskloof

Beautiful pristine afro-montane forest. One full day is essential here. Actually, it is better if you have a 4WD vehicle because the roads are in very poor condition. Target species are difficult, the forest is very dense with a lot of branches, lianas, etc. A tape recorder could be useful however it is not ethical. Try to spot the blue swallow near the Magoebaskloof Getaway, and do not miss the bat hawk site (see below).

Polokwane Nature Reserve

One full day is essential here. Very good area where you can walk, you can get off from the car. But be careful, blue wildbeests are everywhere (and they are not very pleasant animals). There are some walking trails in the nature reserve but we had not enough time to try it. The small forest patches are particularly rewarding for birds. The open grassland areas are the home of the target short-clawed lark, it is very easy to find it (just listen the singing birds).

Zaagkuiltdrift road (Pienaarsrivier - Kgomo-kgomo)

One full day is essential here, unfortunately we had not enough time to roam it, just the first five kilometers. Very good area with grasslands and acacia woodland. Birding from the car can be a rewarding experience and with regular stops to get out of the car, short walk, etc. Northern black koorhan is very easy, but the southern pied babbler could be difficult.

Other

Some roadside stops.

Visited sites

1. Wakkerstroom

2. Sani Pass (Lesotho)
3. Marutswa forest (Bulwer)
4. Hela-hela
5. Durban pelagics
6. Dlinza forest (Eshowe)
7. Mtunzini
8. Isimangaliso Wetland Park (Santa Lucia)
9. Mkuze Game Reserve
10. Swaziland
11. Kruger National Park
12. Magoebaskloof
13. Polokwane Nature Reserve
14. Zaagkuiltdrift road (Pienaarsrivier - Kgomo-kgomo)
15. Other

Birds (by Chittenden 2007, 2015 and IOC 6.4, E - endemic, NE - near endemic, H - heard)

1. Common ostrich (*Struthio camelus*) 11,13
2. Grey-winged francolin (*Scleroptila afra*) E 2
 *24th November Sani Pass (Lesotho). One individual was seen in the distance, while more individuals were heard. It was very tricky bird, we heard so many times at close range, however we did not see them (except one). It prefers schrublands in Lesotho, it could hide very easily.
3. Red-winged francolin (*Scleroptila levaillantii*) 2
 *25th November Sani Pass (Lesotho). Very common around the Sani Lodge, however it is very difficult to detect it. So many birds were heard, finally two individuals were feeding in a grassland mown stripe.
4. Coqui francolin (*Peliperdix coqui*) 13
5. Natal spurfowl (*Pternistis natalensis*) NE 11
6. Crested francolin (*Dendroperdix sephaena*) 9,11
7. Swainson's spurfowl (*Pternistis swainsonii*) 1,9,11,13,14
8. Helmeted guineafowl (*Numida meleagris*) 1,8,9,11,13,14,15
9. Crested guineafowl (*Guttera pucherani*) 8,11
10. Common quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) 1
11. Common buttonquail (*Turnix sylvaticus*) 1
 *23rd November Wakkerstroom. One bird was flushed at very close range (about 2 meters) while we were searching Rudd's lark. It was a very lucky meeting this elusive species!
12. White-faced whistling duck (*Dendrocygna viduata*) 2,8,9,10,11

13. Maccoa duck (*Oxyura maccoa*) 1
14. Cape teal (*Anas capensis*) 1
15. Yellow-billed duck (*Anas undulata*) 1,2,8,9,10,11,15
16. Red-billed teal (*Anas erythrorhyncha*) 1,8,9
17. Hottentot teal (*Anas hottentota*) 1
18. Egyptian goose (*Alopechen aegyptiaca*) 1,2,3,6,8,9,10,11,13,14,15
19. South african shelduck (*Tadorna cana*) E 1,3
 - *22nd November Wakkerstroom. One pair in the Wakkerstroom Wetland.
 - *25th November Sani Lodge-Marutswa forest. Surprisingly we saw a pair in an arable field with Egyptian geese.
20. Spur-winged goose (*Plectropterus gambensis*) 1,2,3,8,9,11,15
21. Comb duck (*Sarkidiornis melanotos*) 9
22. African black duck (*Anas sparsa*) 1,10,11
23. Southern pochard (*Netta erythrophthalma*) 1
24. Cape shoveler (*Anas smithii*) 1
25. Scaly-throated honeyguide (*Indicator variegatus*) 3,8,9
26. Brown-backed honeybird (*Prodotiscus regulus*) 2
27. Golden-tailed woodpecker (*Campethera abingoni*) 9,11,13
28. Red-throated wryneck (*Jynx ruficollis*) 1,2
 - *22nd and 23rd November Wakkerstroom. We saw an individual towards the quarry, it sat on a roadside table. Following day a bird was calling inside the village, near the Wakkerstroom Wetland. Listen to its characteristic voice.
 - *25th November Sani Lodge. Two birds were calling in early morning near the lodge.
29. Ground woodpecker (*Geocolaptes olivaceus*) E 2
 - *24th November Sani Pass. Quite common in the higher stony region, once we saw four individuals side by side, maybe it was a family. Our guide, Stuart showed us some nest holes too.
30. Bearded woodpecker (*Chloropicus namaquus*) 9,11
31. Cardinal woodpecker (*Dendropicos fuscescens*) 2,9,11
32. Olive woodpecker (*Dendropicos griseocephalus*) 2,6,12
33. White-eared barbet (*Stactolaema leucotis*) 6,8,9,15
34. Black-collared barbet (*Lybius torquatus*) 6,11,15
35. Crested barbet (*Trachyphonus vaillantii*) 11
36. Yellow-rumped tinkerbird (*Pogoniulus bilineatus*) 6,9
37. Southern red-billed hornbill (*Tockus rufirostris*) 11,13
38. Southern yellow-billed hornbill (*Tockus leucomelas*) NE 8,9,11,13
39. Crowned hornbill (*Lophoceros alboterminatus*) 3,11

40. African grey hornbill (*Lophoceros nasutus*) 11
41. Trumpeter hornbill (*Bycanistes bucinator*) 6,9,11
42. Southern ground hornbill (*Bucorvus leadbeateri*) 3,11
43. African hoopoe (*Upupa africana*) 9,11
44. Green wood hoopoe (*Phoeniculus purpureus*) 9,11
45. Common scimitarbill (*Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*) 9,13
46. European roller (*Coracias garrulus*) 9,11
47. Lilac-breasted roller (*Coracias caudatus*) 11
48. Broad-billed roller (*Eurystomus glaucurus*) 9,11
49. Purple roller (*Coracias naevius*) 11
50. Half-collared kingfisher (*Alcedo semitorquata*) 4,9,11
51. Malachite kingfisher (*Corythornis cristatus*) 11
52. Grey-headed kingfisher (*Halcyon leucocephala*) 1
 - *6th December Kruger NP (Punda Maria). We saw one individual during a sunset drive near the Mahonie Loop.
 - Not a common bird.
53. Woodland kingfisher (*Halcyon senegalensis*) 9,11
54. Striped kingfisher (*Halcyon chelicuti*) 9,11
55. Brown-hooded kingfisher (*Halcyon albiventris*) 8,15
56. Giant kingfisher (*Megaceryle maxima*) 11,12
57. Pied kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*) 11
58. White-fronted bee-eater (*Merops bullockoides*) 11
59. Little bee-eater (*Merops pusillus*) 8,9,11
60. Blue-cheeked bee-eater (*Merops persicus*) 9,11
61. European bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*) 9,11
62. Red-faced mousebird (*Urocolius indicus*) 9,11,15
63. Speckled mousebird (*Colius striatus*) 2,4,8,9,11
64. Jacobin cuckoo (*Clamator jacobinus*) 11,13
65. Levillant's cuckoo (*Clamator levillantii*) 9,11
66. Red-chested cuckoo (*Cuculus solitarius*) 2,9,15
67. African cuckoo (*Cuculus gularis*) 11
68. Black cuckoo (*Cuculus clamosus*) 3
69. African emerald cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx cupreus*) 12
 - *8th December Magoebaskloof. One female was seen in the Forest Drive A. It's not a common bird and it could be very tricky to spot it, we saw just some seconds.
70. Diederik cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx caprius*) 2,4,9,11,13,14
71. Burchell's coucal (*Centropus burchellii*) NE 11

*5th and 6th December Kruger NP (Punda Maria). We saw several birds. You could locate its characteristic call, usually they sit on a bush.

72. Cape parrot (*Poicephalus robustus*) E 12

*9th December Magoebaskloof. We saw five roosting birds here: -23.8685, 29.9942. Thanks for the coordinate Niall Perrins!

73. Brown-headed parrot (*Poicephalus cryptoxanthus*) 11

74. Alpine swift (*Tachymarptis melba*) 12

75. Common swift (*Apus apus*) 11

76. African black swift (*Apus barbatus*) 12

77. African palm swift (*Cypsiurus parvus*) 2,6,7,8,11,12,13,15

78. Little swift (*Apus affinis*) 1,8,9,11,13,14,15

79. White-rumped swift (*Apus caffer*) 1,8,9,11,13,15

80. Knysna turaco (*Tauraco corythaix*) E 3

*25th November Marutswa forest. Despite its huge size, it is a quite skulking bird, usually it moves in the canopy. We saw two individuals inside the forest.

81. Grey go-away-bird (*Corythaixoides concolor*) 11,13,14

82. Purple-crested turaco (*Tauraco porphyreolophus*) 9,10,11

83. African scops owl (*Otus senegalensis*) 9,11H

84. Pearl-spotted owlet (*Glaucidium perlatum*) 11

*4th December Kruger NP (Shingwedzi). One bird was seen very closely on a tree branch. It was very easy to spot the bird, we think it could be very easy to locate other rest camps too.

*6th December Kruger NP (Punda Maria). One bird was heard in the distance from the pennant-winged nighthawk spot.

85. Spotted eagle-owl (*Bubo africanus*) 1,9

*21st November Wakkerstroom. This was our first day in South Africa, and when we went to our accommodation in Wakkerstroom we got a tyre breakdown. We knew that we would not be able to get there in the daylight, so we had to drive in the darkness. And this was lucky because we saw one individual, it was catching a snake on the road! This was one of the best amazing moments in the tour!

*28th November Mkuze GR. During our night drive we saw one bird close to the camp site.

86. African wood owl (*Strix woodfordii*) 9,12H

*28th November Mkuze GR. During our night drive we saw a bird in one second, when it was flushed from a branch. However it was a poor view, this was the only wood-owl in the tour.

*9th December Magoebaskloof. One individual was heard inside the pine forest.

87. Fiery-necked nightjar (*Caprimulgus pectoralis*) 9

*28th November Mkuze GR. Two birds were seen during our night drive. The first was flying, while the second rested on a branch.

88. Square-tailed nightjar (*Caprimulgus fossii*) 11

*4th December Kruger NP (Shingwedzi). One bird was heard from the camp site, in the distance.

*5th December Kruger NP (Punda Maria). We saw five individuals during the night drive, usually they rested on the roads.

89. Pennant-winged nightjar (*Caprimulgus vexillarius*) 11

*6th December Kruger NP (Punda Maria). During the sunset drive one female was seen in its territory near the Mahonie Loop. Its favorite habitat is Miombo woodland with lots of rocks, scrubs and trees.

90. European nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*) 9

91. Speckled pigeon (*Columba guinea*) 1,2,15

92. African olive pigeon (*Columba arquatrix*) 3,12

93. Lemon dove (*Columba larvata*) 6

94. African green pigeon (*Treron calvus*) 9,11,12

95. Laughing dove (*Spilopelia senegalensis*) 1,9,10,11,13,14,15

96. Mourning collared dove (*Streptopelia decipiens*) 11

97. Ring-necked dove (*Streptopelia capicola*) 1,8,9,11

98. Red-eyed dove (*Streptopelia semitorquata*) 2,6,8,9,11

99. Emerald-spotted wood-dove (*Turtur chalcospilos*) 9,11

100. Tambourine dove (*Turtur tympanistria*) 12

101. Namaqua dove (*Oena capensis*) 9

102. Kori bustard (*Ardeotis kori*) 11

*3rd December Kruger NP (Satara). One pair was seen along the road S40. Actually, during ten minutes we saw three bustard species in this road: red-crested korhaan, kori- and black-bellied bustard.

*4th December Kruger NP (Satara). One displaying male was seen along the road H1-4, close to Satara.

103. Red-crested korhaan (*Lophotis ruficrista*) NE 11

104. Black-bellied bustard (*Lissotis melanogaster*) 9,11

105. Northern black korhaan (*Afrotis afraoides*) E 14

*10th December Zaagkuiltdrift road (Pienaarsrivier - Kgomo-kgomo). Eight birds were seen along the road in the first two kilometers, when the habitat looks perfect with tall grass. Three birds were displaying and calling intensively in the light rain, while four birds were flying (one individual was calling, but we did not see it).

106. Grey crowned crane (*Balearica regulorum*) 1,2,15

107. Blue crane (*Grus paradisea*) E 1,15

108. Black crane (*Amaurornis flavirostra*) 1,11

109. African swamphen (*Porphyrio madagascariensis*) 1

110. Common moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) 1,11,13

111. Red-knobbed coot (*Fulica cristata*) 1,15

112. Double-banded sandgrouse (*Pterocles bicinctus*) NE 11

*5th December Kruger NP (Shingwedzi). Seven birds were rested on the main road between Shingwedzi and Punda Maria. It was a surprising meeting with this elusive species.

*6th December Kruger NP (Punda Maria). Probably a pair flew in front of us near the Mahonie Loop when we were trying to spot the pennant-winged nightjar.

113. African snipe (*Gallinago nigripennis*) 11,15
114. Bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) 5
115. Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) 5
116. Marsh sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*) 1,5,8,11,15
117. Common greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) 8,11
118. Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) 8,11
119. Wood sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) 11
120. Green sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*) 8,9,11
121. Common sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) 1,11
122. Curlew sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) 1
123. Ruddy turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) 5
124. Little stint (*Calidris minuta*) 9,11
125. Black-winged stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) 1,9,11
126. African jacana (*Actophilornis africanus*) 8,9,11
127. Water thick-knee (*Burhinus vermiculatus*) 9,11
128. Spotted thick-knee (*Burhinus capensis*) 1,9,11
129. Grey plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) 5,8
130. Three-banded plover (*Charadrius tricollaris*) 1,9,11
131. White-fronted plover (*Charadrius marginatus*) 11

*5th December Kruger NP (Pafuri). Three birds were feeding along the Limpopo river at the Crooks Corner.

132. Blacksmith lapwing (*Vanellus armatus*) 1,9,11,15
133. White-crowned lapwing (*Vanellus albiceps*) 8,11
134. African wattled lapwing (*Vanellus senegallus*) 1,2
135. Senegal lapwing (*Vanellus lugubris*) 9
136. Crowned lapwing (*Vanellus coronatus*) 1,8,9,11,15
137. Bronze-winged courser (*Rhinoptilus chalcopterus*) 11

*2nd December Kruger NP (Berg-en-Dal). One bird was flying with four Temminck's courser.

138. Temminck's courser (*Cursorius temminckii*) 1,11
139. Collared pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*) 11
140. Pomarine jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) 5
141. Kelp gull (*Larus dominicanus*) 5
142. Grey-headed gull (*Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*) 5,8,10
143. Caspian tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) 5
144. Lesser crested tern (*Thalasseus bengalensis*) 5

145. Greater crested tern (*Thalasseus bergii*) 5
146. Common tern (*Sterna hirundo*) 5
147. Whiskered tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*) 1
148. White-winged tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*) 10
149. European honey buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*) 9
150. Bat hawk (*Macheiramphus alcinus*) 12

*8th and 9th December Magoebaskloof. Firstly, according to the Birdfinder book we tried the traditional site where we met a local person. He explained a new site in the Agatha Forest Reserve (New Agatha Plantation) where bat hawk regular, and we tried it. Eventually we found a nest in a pine forest. Both occasion the bird left the nest in almost dark. So, if you want to see the bird, just search a good observation point before the dark and wait. Best place was beside the pine forest.

151. Black-winged kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) 1,11,15
152. Black kite (*Milvus migrans*) 9
153. Yellow-billed kite (*Milvus aegyptius*) 3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,13,15
154. Western osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) 1,5,9
155. African fish eagle (*Haliaeetus vocifer*) 9,11
156. Palm-nut vulture (*Gypohierax angolensis*) 7

*27th November Mtunzini. Two birds were observed in the Raffia Palm Monument, they were flying. The best tactic if you search a good observation point from where you could see the whole area.

157. Bearded vulture (*Gypaetus barbatus*) 2
158. Hooded vulture (*Necrosyrtes monachus*) 11

*4th December Kruger NP (Letaba). Surprisingly we saw this species just one time. Above the Letaba Rest Camp we saw three individuals, one of them landed near the Letaba river with some white-backed vultures.

159. White-backed vulture (*Gyps africanus*) 9,10,11
160. Cape vulture (*Gyps coprotheres*) 2

*24th November Sani Pass. Quite common bird here, we saw about ten individuals.

*25th November Hela-hela. We saw one individual, it was flying.

161. Lappet-faced vulture (*Torgos tracheliotos*) 11
162. White-headed vulture (*Trionoceps occipitalis*) 11

*7th December Kruger NP (Letaba). Similarly the hooded vulture, we saw just one time. On our last day of the Kruger, we saw one flying individual with a lot of white-backed vultures and some lappet-faced vultures, near the Olifants bridge.

163. Black-chested snake eagle (*Circaetus pectoralis*) 11
164. Brown snake eagle (*Circaetus cinereus*) 11
165. Bateleur (*Terathopius ecaudatus*) 9,10,11
166. African marsh harrier (*Circus ranivorus*) 1
167. Montagu's harrier (*Circus pygargus*) 1

168. Rufous-breasted sparrowhawk (*Accipiter rufiventris*) 3
169. African goshawk (*Accipiter tachiro*) 1,9,11
170. Ovambo sparrowhawk (*Accipiter ovampensis*) 11
171. Jackal buzzard (*Buteo rufofuscus*) E 1,2,5
172. Forest buzzard (*Buteo trizonatus*) E 12
173. Common buzzard (*Buteo buteo vulpinus*) 1,6,8,11,15
174. Steppe eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*) 11
175. African harrier-hawk (*Polyboroides typus*) 10,11
176. Tawny eagle (*Aquila rapax*) 7,11
177. Lesser spotted eagle (*Clanga pomarina*) 9,11
178. African hawk-eagle (*Aquila spilogaster*) 8,11
179. Ayres's hawk-eagle (*Hieraaetus ayresii*) 11

*6th December Kruger NP (Pafuri). One bird was soaring above the Luvuvhu bridge.

180. Booted eagle (*Hieraaetus pennatus*) 11
181. Wahlberg's eagle (*Hieraaetus wahlbergi*) 9,11
182. Martial eagle (*Polemaetus bellicosus*) 11
183. Long-crested eagle (*Lophaetus occipitalis*) 1,2,4
184. Secretarybird (*Sagittarius serpentarius*) 1,11
185. Rock kestrel (*Falco rupicolus*) 2
186. Greater kestrel (*Falco rupicoloides*) 1,13
187. Red-footed falcon (*Falco vespertinus*) 11
188. Amur falcon (*Falco amurensis*) 9,11,13
189. Eurasian hobby (*Falco subbuteo*) 8,11
190. Lanner falcon (*Falco biarmicus*) 1,2,3
191. African darter (*Anhinga rufa*) 11
192. Reed cormorant (*Microcarbo africanus*) 1,5,8,9,11,15
193. White-breasted cormorant (*Phalacrocorax lucidus*) 5,15
194. Little grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) 1,9,11
195. Great crested grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) 2
196. Little egret (*Egretta garzetta*) 5,8,9,11
197. Intermediate egret (*Ardea intermedia*) 8,11
198. Great egret (*Ardea alba*) 8,9
199. Squacco heron (*Ardeola ralloides*) 1,8,9,11
200. Western cattle egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) 1,8,9,10,11,14,15
201. Grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*) 1,8,9,11,13,15

202. Black-headed heron (*Ardea melanocephala*) 1,2,15
203. Goliath heron (*Ardea goliath*) 9,11
204. Purple heron (*Ardea purpurea*) 9
205. Striated heron (*Butorides striata*) 5,9,11
206. Black-crowned night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) 1
207. White-backed night heron (*Gorsachius leuconotus*) 11
 *2nd December Kruger NP (Berg-en-Dal). Early morning we saw one immature on the restcamp beside the dam, it was resting on a tree.
208. Little bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*) 1
209. Hamerkop (*Scopus umbretta*) 11,15
210. Glossy ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) 1,9,14
211. Hadada ibis (*Bostrychia hagedash*) 1,2,3,4,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15
212. Southern bald ibis (*Geronticus calvus*) 1
 *22nd November Wakkerstroom. We saw 2 + 9 birds on the main road between Wakkerstroom and Volksrust. They were feeding on a short grassland.
213. African sacred ibis (*Threskiornis aethiopicus*) 1,15
214. African spoonbill (*Platalea alba*) 1,9,11
215. Greater flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) 1
216. Lesser flamingo (*Phoeniconaias minor*) 1
217. Pink-backed pelican (*Pelecanus rufescens*) 9
 *30th November Mkuze GR. Three birds appeared on the lake then they left the water towards east.
218. African openbill (*Anastomus lamelligerus*) 9,11
219. Yellow-billed stork (*Mycteria ibis*) 11
220. Woolly-necked stork (*Ciconia episcopus*) 6,8
221. White stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) 15
222. Saddle-billed stork (*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*) 8,11
223. Marabou stork (*Leptoptilos crumenifer*) 10,11
224. Wilson's storm petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*) 5
 *26th November Durban pelagic. Four individuals were feeding relatively close to the boat, however they continuously moved away from the boat.
225. Shy albatross (*Thalassarche cauta*) 5
 *26th November Durban pelagic. One individual appeared close to the boat.
226. Indian yellow-nosed albatross (*Thalassarche carteri*) 5
227. Atlantic yellow-nosed albatross (*Thalassarche chlororhynchus*) 5
 *26th November Durban pelagic. First observation for this region and for this pelagic tour! What a sighting! We saw the bird about 10-15 minutes, it was very close to the boat.
228. Great-winged petrel (*Pterodroma macroptera*) 5

229. White-chinned petrel (*Procellaria aequinoctialis*) 5
230. Flesh-footed shearwater (*Ardenna carneipes*) 5
 *26th November Durban pelagic. One individual was seen close to the boat.
231. African broadbill (*Smithornis capensis*) 9H
 *29th November Mkuze GR. Before darkness we heard several times near the Kumasinga hides (which is not exist longer, just the car park). The bird was deep in the forest and we did not locate it.
232. African golden oriole (*Oriolus auratus*) 11
233. Black-headed oriole (*Oriolus larvatus*) 4,9,11
234. Blue-mantled crested flycatcher (*Trochocercus cyanomelas*) 12
235. African paradise flycatcher (*Terpsiphone viridis*) 4,6,13
236. Square-tailed drongo (*Dicrurus ludwigii*) 12
237. Fork-tailed drongo (*Dicrurus adsimilis*) 2,4,6,8,9,11,13,15
238. Brubru (*Nilaus afer*) 9,11,13
239. Black-backed puffback (*Dryoscopus cubla*) 3,8,9,11,13,14
240. Black-crowned tchagra (*Tchagra senegalus*) 11
241. Brown-crowned tchagra (*Tchagra australis*) 9,11
242. Tropical boubou (*Laniarius major*) 11
243. Southern boubou (*Laniarius ferrugineus*) E 2
244. Bokmakierie (*Telophorus zeylonus*) NE 2,9
245. Orange-breasted bushshrike (*Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*) 11
246. Olive bushshrike (*Chlorophoneus olivaceus*) NE 12
 *8th December Magoebaskloof. One individual was singing inside a bush at the beginning of the Forest Drive A, while it was moving towards the canopy. Very elusive bird, not easy to see it.
247. Retz's helmetshrike (*Prionops retzii*) 9
248. White-crested helmetshrike (*Prionops plumatus*) 9
249. Cape batis (*Batis capensis*) NE 3
 *25th November Marutswa forest. We saw 2+2 birds in a flock with cape white-eyes. They moved very low.
250. Chinspot batis (*Batis molitor*) 9,11,13
251. Black-throated wattle-eye (*Platysteira peltata*) 11
252. Cape crow (*Corvus capensis*) 1,2
253. Pied crow (*Corvus albus*) 4,8,13,15
254. White-necked raven (*Corvus albicollis*) 2
255. Red-backed shrike (*Lanius collurio*) 8,9,11,13,15
256. Lesser grey shrike (*Lanius minor*) 11,14
257. Magpie shrike (*Urolestes melanoleucus*) 11,14
258. Southern fiscal (*Lanius collaris*) 1,13

259. Southern white-crowned shrike (*Eurocephalus anguitimens*) NE 11
 *1st December Kruger NP (Berg-en-Dal). Quite common in this region, but just here, we did not see any other places.
260. Black cuckooshrike (*Campephaga flava*) 11
261. Drakensberg rockjumper (*Chaetops aurantius*) E 2
 *24th November Sani Pass. Quite common in the higher region, for example we saw a feeding pair near the pub.
262. Grey penduline tit (*Anthoscopus caroli*) 11
263. Grey tit (*Melaniparus afer*) E 2
 *24th November Sani Pass. One bird was appeared in Lesotho highlands, it prefers shrubland with rocky mountain slopes.
264. Southern black tit (*Melaniparus niger*) 3,4,8,9,11,13
265. Ashy tit (*Melaniparus cinerascens*) NE 13
 *9th December Polokwane NR. One bird was appeared near the main road, beside a waterhole.
266. Sand martin (*Riparia riparia*) 8
267. Brown-throated martin (*Riparia paludicola*) 2,4,11
268. Banded martin (*Riparia cincta*) 1
269. Grey-rumped swallow (*Pseudhirundo griseopyga*) 11
270. Barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) 1,3,8,9,11,13,14,15
271. White-throated swallow (*Hirundo albigularis*) 1,15
272. Wire-tailed swallow (*Hirundo smithii*) 9,11
273. Pearl-breasted swallow (*Hirundo dimidiata*) 11
274. Greater striped swallow (*Cecropis cucullata*) 1,2,11
275. Blue swallow (*Hirundo atrocaerulea*) 12
 *8th and 9th December Magoebaskloof. One pair was appeared in front of our accommodation (Magoebaskloof Getaway), they drank from the water. On the second day a female was appeared again. Very rare bird and it was an amazing sighthing, both of them, we did not expect it.
276. Lesser striped swallow (*Cecropis abyssinica*) 3,9,11
277. Red-breasted swallow (*Cecropis semirufa*) 8,9,11
278. Mosque swallow (*Cecropis senegalensis*) 11
 *5th and 6th December Kruger NP (Punda Maria). Both day we saw one and two birds (at the Crooks Corner and near the Mahonie Loop).
279. South african cliff swallow (*Petrochelidon spilodera*) E 1,10,11
280. Rock martin (*Ptyonoprogne fuligula*) 2
281. Common house martin (*Delichon urbicum*) 4,8,11
282. Black saw-wing (*Psalidoprocne pristoptera*) 2,4
283. Dark-capped bulbul (*Pycnonotus tricolor*) 1,2,4,5,6,7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15

284. Eastern nicator (*Nicator gularis*) 11
 *6th and 7th December Kruger NP (Punda Maria). Very elusive and tricky bird. We saw one individual inside the rest camp, near the restaurant and reception.
285. Terrestrial brownbul (*Phyllastrephus terrestris*) 11,12
286. Sombre greenbul (*Andropadus importunus*) 2,3,9,11
287. Yellow-bellied greenbul (*Chlorocichla flaviventris*) 9,11
288. Yellow-streaked greenbul (*Phyllastrephus flavostriatus*) 12
289. Fairy flycatcher (*Stenostira scita*) E 2
 *24th November Sani Pass. It was very hard to spot it, eventually we saw one individual in Lesotho highland, in a shrubland with rocks.
290. Cape grassbird (*Sphenoeacus afer*) E 2
291. Long-billed crombec (*Sylvietta rufescens*) 11
292. Yellow-bellied eremomela (*Eremomela icteropygialis*) 11
293. Burnt-necked eremomela (*Eremomela usticollis*) 11
294. Barratt's warbler (*Bradypterus barratti*) E 2
 *24th November Sani Pass. Very short view in a shrub halfway to Sani Pass peak. Very elusive and tricky bird, not easy to spot it.
295. Lesser swamp warbler (*Acrocephalus gracilirostris*) 1
296. Olive-tree warbler (*Hippolais olivetorum*) 11
297. African yellow warbler (*Iduna natalensis*) 2
298. Yellow-throated woodland warbler (*Phylloscopus ruficapilla*) 3,12
299. Willow warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*) 2,11
300. Bush blackcap (*Lioptilus nigricapillus*) E 2
 *24th November Sani Pass. One bird was seen very close at the beginning of the Sani Pass.
301. Layard's warbler (*Sylvia layardi*) E 2
 *24th November Sani Pass. One individual was sitting on the nest, while two individuals were moving with a fairy flycatcher. Both occasion were in the Lesotho side.
302. Chestnut-vented warbler (*Sylvia subcoerulea*) NE 13
303. Southern pied babbler (*Turdoides bicolor*) E 14
 *10th December Zaagkuiltdrift road. Five individuals were feeding in a short grassland under some Acacia trees at the beginning of the road (6-7 kilometers).
304. Arrow-marked babbler (*Turdoides jardineii*) 11,13
305. African yellow white-eye (*Zosterops senegalensis*) 9
306. Cape white-eye (*Zosterops virens*) E 2,3,4,6
307. Red-faced cisticola (*Cisticola erythrops*) 8
308. Croaking cisticola (*Cisticola natalensis*) 8
309. Wailing cisticola (*Cisticola lais*) 2,8

- 310. Rattling cisticola (*Cisticola chiniana*) 8,11
- 311. Levaillant's cisticola (*Cisticola tinniens*) 1,2,3
- 312. Cloud cisticola (*Cisticola textrix*) NE 1
- 313. Zitting cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*) 11
- 314. Desert cisticola (*Cisticola aridulus*) 14
- 315. Wing-snapping cisticola (*Cisticola ayresii*) 1
- 316. Tawny-flanked prinia (*Prinia subflava*) 4,9,11,12,13,14,15
- 317. Karoo prinia (*Prinia maculosa*) E 2
- 318. Drakensberg prinia (*Prinia hypoxantha*) E 2
- 319. Yellow-breasted apalis (*Apalis flavida*) 11
- 320. Rudd's apalis (*Apalis ruddi*) E 9

*30th November Mkuze GR. One bird was seen near the Kumasinga hides (which is not exist longer, just the car park).

- 321. Green-backed camaroptera (*Camaroptera brachyura*) 3,6,9
- 322. Grey-backed camaroptera (*Camaroptera brevicaudata*) 11
- 323. Monotonous lark (*Mirafra passerina*) NE 11
- 324. Rufous-naped lark (*Mirafra africana*) 9,13
- 325. Flappet lark (*Mirafra rufocinnamomea*) 9
- 326. Sabota lark (*Calendulauda sabota*) NE 9,11
- 327. Eastern long-billed lark (*Certhilauda semitorquata*) E 1
- 328. Short-clawed lark (*Certhilauda chuana*) E 13

*9th December Polokwane NR. Two singing individuals were seen in a short grassland, both of them were sitting shrubs.

- 329. Spike-heeled lark (*Chersomanes albofasciata*) NE 1
- 330. Red-capped lark (*Calandrella cinerea*) 1
- 331. Rudd's lark (*Heteromirafra ruddi*) E 1

*23rd November Wakkerstroom. We saw one individual in the Fickland Pan with a guide's help. We found the nest with some chicks too.

- 332. Botha's lark (*Spizocorys fringillaris*) E 1

*23rd November Wakkerstroom. A local guide showed us three individuals in a short grassland. The area was quite far from Wakkerstrom (1,5 hours), in the edge of a small village. The area will be built next year.

- 333. Large-billed lark (*Galerida magnirostris*) E 2

*24th November Sani Pass. One individual was seen in Lesotho side.

- 334. Cape rock thrush (*Monticola rupestris*) E 1,2
- 335. Sentinel rock thrush (*Monticola explorator*) E 1,2
- 336. Spotted ground thrush (*Geokichla guttata*) 3,6

337. Kurrichane thrush (*Turdus libonyana*) 11
338. Groundscraper thrush (*Turdus litsitsirupa*) 9,11,13
339. Olive thrush (*Turdus olivaceus*) 1,2,3,6
340. Pale flycatcher (*Melaenornis pallidus*) 9
341. Marico flycatcher (*Melaenornis mariquensis*) NE 13
342. Southern black flycatcher (*Melaenornis pammelaina*) 8,9,15
343. Fiscal flycatcher (*Melaenornis silens*) E 1
344. Spotted flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*) 9,11
345. African dusky flycatcher (*Muscicapa adusta*) 2
346. Ashy flycatcher (*Muscicapa caerulescens*) 9,11
347. Grey-tit flycatcher (*Myioparus plumbeus*) 11
348. White-starred robin (*Pogonocichla stellata*) 12
349. Cape robin-chat (*Cossypha caffra*) 1,2,12
350. White-throated robin-chat (*Cossypha humeralis*) E 11
 *6th December Kruger NP (Pafuri). One pair was observed at the Crooks Corner, they were moving inside the bushes.
351. Red-capped robin-chat (*Cossypha natalensis*) 9
352. White-browed robin-chat (*Cossypha heuglini*) 9,11
353. Chorister robin-chat (*Cossypha dichroa*) E 3,6,12
354. Bearded scrub robin (*Cercotrichas quadrivirgata*) 8,11
355. White-browed scrub robin (*Cercotrichas leucophrys*) 9,11,13
356. Kalahari scrub robin (*Cercotrichas paena*) E 14
 *10th December Zaagkuiltdrift road. One individual was seen in a bush.
357. Karoo scrub robin (*Cercotrichas coryphoeus*) E 2
 *24th November Sani Pass. Extra for the tour. We did not expect this species. Our guide, Stuart showed us a bird in Lesotho.
358. African stonechat (*Saxicola torquatus*) 1,2,3,4,11
359. Sickle-winged chat (*Emarginata sinuata*) E 2
360. Familiar chat (*Oenanthe familiaris*) 2
361. Buff-streaked chat (*Campicoloides bifasciatus*) E 1,2
362. Mountain wheatear (*Myrmecocichla monticola*) NE 1
363. Mocking cliff chat (*Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*) 11
364. Ant-eating chat (*Myrmecocichla formicivora*) E 1,2
365. Red-winged starling (*Onychognathus morio*) 2,6,7,8,9,11,15
366. Cape starling (*Lamprotornis nitens*) 11,15
367. Black-bellied starling (*Notopholia corrusca*) 4,8,9,10,11,15

368. Meves's starling (*Lamprotornis mevesii*) 11
369. Greater blue-eared starling (*Lamprotornis chalybaeus*) 11
370. Burchell's starling (*Lamprotornis australis*) NE 8,9,11
371. Violet-backed starling (*Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*) 8,9,11,13,15
372. Pied starling (*Lamprotornis bicolor*) E 1
373. Yellow-billed oxpecker (*Buphagus africanus*) 11
374. Red-billed oxpecker (*Buphagus erythrorhynchus*) 8,9,11
375. Wattled starling (*Creatophora cinerea*) 9,11,14
376. Malachite sunbird (*Nectarinia famosa*) 1,2
377. Grey sunbird (*Cyanomitra veroxii*) 8
378. Olive sunbird (*Cyanomitra olivacea*) 6,8
379. Scarlet-chested sunbird (*Chalcomitra senegalensis*) 8,11
380. Collared sunbird (*Hedydipna collaris*) 6,8,11,12
381. Southern double-collared sunbird (*Cinnyris chalybeus*) E 3,12
382. Neergaard's sunbird (*Cinnyris neergaardi*) E 8,9
383. Greater double-collared sunbird (*Cinnyris afer*) E 2
384. White-bellied sunbird (*Cinnyris talatala*) 9,11,13
385. Gurney's sugarbird (*Promerops gurneyi*) E 2
386. Marico sunbird (*Cinnyris mariquensis*) 11
387. Purple-banded sunbird (*Cinnyris bifasciatus*) 9
388. Red-billed buffalo weaver (*Bubalornis niger*) 11
389. White-browed sparrow-weaver (*Plocepasser mahali*) 13
390. Red-headed weaver (*Anaplectes rubriceps*) 11
391. Lesser masked weaver (*Ploceus intermedius*) 9,10,11
392. Spectacled weaver (*Ploceus ocularis*) 15
393. Southern masked weaver (*Ploceus velatus*) 1,11
394. Village weaver (*Ploceus cucullatus*) 1,6
395. Cape weaver (*Ploceus capensis*) E 1,2
396. Golden weaver (*Ploceus xanthops*) 4,11,15
397. Dark-backed weaver (*Ploceus bicolor*) 3,4,9,11
398. Red-billed quelea (*Quelea quelea*) 1,11,14,15
399. Yellow-crowned bishop (*Euplectes afer*) 1,15
400. Southern red bishop (*Euplectes orix*) 1,8,10,11,15
401. Yellow bishop (*Euplectes capensis*) 1,2
402. Long-tailed widowbird (*Euplectes progne*) 1,2,15

- 403. Fan-tailed widowbird (*Euplectes axillaris*) 1,10,15
- 404. Red-collared widowbird (*Euplectes ardens*) 2
- 405. White-winged widowbird (*Euplectes albonotatus*) 13
- 406. Thick-billed weaver (*Amblyospiza albifrons*) 12
- 407. Swee waxbill (*Coccopygia melanotis*) 12

*8th December Magoebaskloof. One feeding male was observed beside a pine woodland in a bushy area.

- 408. Green-winged pytilia (*Pytilia melba*) 9,11
- 409. Black-faced waxbill (*Estrilda erythronotos*) 13
- 410. Common waxbill (*Estrilda astrild*) 3,4,9,11,12
- 411. Blue waxbill (*Uraeginthus angolensis*) 9,11,13,14
- 412. Red-billed firefinch (*Lagonosticta senegala*) 11,13
- 413. African firefinch (*Lagonosticta rubricata*) 2
- 414. Jameson's firefinch (*Lagonosticta rhodopareia*) 11
- 415. Bronze mannikin (*Lonchura cucullata*) 13,15
- 416. Red-backed mannikin (*Lonchura nigriceps*) 6
- 417. Dusky indigobird (*Vidua funerea*) 1
- 418. Long-tailed paradise-whydah (*Vidua paradisaea*) 11,13
- 419. Pin-tailed whydah (*Vidua macroura*) 1
- 420. House sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) 1,8,9,10,11,13,15
- 421. Cape sparrow (*Passer melanurus*) NE 1,2,3,11,15
- 422. Southern grey-headed sparrow (*Passer diffusus*) 1,2,8,9,10,11,13,15
- 423. Yellow-throated petronia (*Gymnoris superciliaris*) 2,9,11
- 424. African pied wagtail (*Motacilla aguimp*) 4,11,12
- 425. Cape wagtail (*Motacilla capensis*) 1,2,3,6,11,15
- 426. Mountain wagtail (*Motacilla clara*) 12
- 427. Yellow-throated longclaw (*Macronyx croceus*) 7,11,13
- 428. Cape longclaw (*Macronyx capensis*) E 1,11
- 429. Yellow-breasted pipit (*Anthus chloris*) E 1

*22nd November Wakkerstroom. One displaying individual was observed near the communal land, from the road. A local guide helped us, he guided a group and we asked them where can we find the pipit. Fortunately he showed us. It is very hard to spot the bird, because the territory changes from year to year.

- 430. African pipit (*Anthus cinnamomeus*) 1,2,9,11,13,15
- 431. Mountain pipit (*Anthus hoeschi*) E 2

*24th November Sani Pass. About three individuals were seen in Lesotho.

- 432. African rock pipit (*Anthus crenatus*) E 2

*24th November Sani Pass. The most difficult endemic this day. We saw just one bird, it was singing at the top of a rock and displaying. Not easy to find it, so thank Stuart for this tricky bird!

- 433. Long-billed pipit (*Anthus similis*) 2
 - 434. Cape canary (*Serinus canicollis*) E 1,3
 - 435. Yellow-fronted canary (*Crithagra mozambica*) 8,9,10,11,15
 - 436. Forest canary (*Crithagra scotops*) E 3
 - 437. Yellow canary (*Crithagra flaviventris*) NE 2
 - 438. Brimstone canary (*Crithagra sulphurata*) 2
 - 439. Streaky-headed seedetar (*Crithagra gularis*) 2,9,11
 - 440. Drakensberg siskin (*Crithagra symonsi*) E 2
 - 441. Cinnamon-breasted bunting (*Emberiza tahapisi*) 11
 - 442. Cape bunting (*Emberiza capensis*) NE 2
 - 443. Golden-breasted bunting (*Emberiza flaviventris*) 2,9,11
- + Common myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) 1,10,11,15

Mammals (by Kingdon 1997, 2012 and [Wilson & Reeder](#))

- 1. Chacma baboon (*Papio ursinus*) 2,9,11
- 2. Vervet monkey (*Chlorocebus pygerithrus*) 4,15
- 3. Sykes' monkey (*Cercopithecus albogularis*) 8,12

*9th December Magoebaskloof. Two animals were seen near the main road (Forest Drive A). The second animal was at the entrance of the waterfall, local people was feeding it.

- 4. Brown greater galago (*Otolemur crassicaudatus*) 9
- 5. Moholi Bushbaby (*Galago moholi*) 11
- 6. Scrub hare (*Lepus saxatilis*) 1,9,11
- 7. Smith's bush squirrel (*Paraxerus cepapi*) 11
- 8. South African spring hare (*Pedetes capensis*) 11
- 9. Cape porcupine (*Hystrix africaeaustralis*) 9,11
- 10. Brants's Whistling Rat (*Parotomys brantsii*) 2

*24th November Sani Pass. We saw about 10 individuals at the Lesotho borderline.

- 11. Xeric four-striped grass rat (*Rhombodomys pumilio*) 2
- 12. Black-backed jackal (*Canis mesomelas*) 11
- 13. Honey badger (*Mellivora capensis*) 11

*4th December Kruger NP (Satara). Perfect early morning with leopard and honey badger! One animal was seen along the road H1-4, close to Satara. It was walking on the grassland, sometimes it stopped and digged the ground. With back-light ☺

14. Slender mongoose (*Galerella sanguinea*) 1,4,11
15. Common dwarf mongoose (*Helogale parvula*) 9,11
16. Yellow mongoose (*Cynictis penicillata*) 2
17. Meerkat (*Suricata suricatta*) 2
18. Banded mongoose (*Mungos mungo*) 11
19. Marsh mongoose (*Atilax paludinosus*) 2
20. White-tailed mongoose (*Ichneumia albicauda*) 9,11
21. Spotted hyena (*Crocuta crocuta*) 9,11
22. Common genet (*Genetta genetta*) 9,11,12
23. Cape genet (*Genetta tigrina*) 11
24. Wild cat (*Felis sylvestris cafra*) 11
25. Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) 11
 - *4th December Kruger NP (Satara). One animal was seen along the road H1-4, close to Satara. It crossed the road in front of us with beautiful back-light!
 - *6th December Kruger NP (Punda Maria). During the night drive we saw an animal, it crossed the road in front of us. Unfortunately we did not take a good photo for it.
26. Lion (*Panthera leo*) 11
27. Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) 9
 - *28th November Mkuze GR. Maybe the best moment of the tour. During the night drive two animals (brothers) were seen near the airport field. They sneaked at night, near an impala group. Ten minutes later we heard the voice of predation. Both animals got an impala, and we saw it! The guide said us this was the first time that both animals prised.
28. Rock hyrax (*Procavia capensis*) 2
29. African bush elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) 9,11
30. Quagga (*Equus quagga*) 8,9,11,13
31. White rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum*) 11
32. Common hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*) 8,9,11
33. Common wart-hog (*Phacochoerus africanus*) 8,9,10,11,15
34. Giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*) 9,11,13
35. African buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*) 8,11
36. Bushbuck (*Tragelaphus scriptus*) 4,8,11
37. Nyala (*Tragelaphus angasii*) 9,11,13
38. Greater kudu (*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*) 8,9,11
39. Common eland (*Taurotragus oryx*)
 - *5th December Kruger NP (Punda Maria). During our night drive we saw three individuals near the Mahonie Loop. Very huge animal!
40. Bush duiker (*Sylvicapra grimmia*) 1,9,11

41. Blue duiker (*Philantomba monticola*) 6
42. Red duiker (*Cephalophus natalensis*) 9
43. Sharpe's grysbok (*Raphicerus sharpei*) 11
 *5th December Kruger NP (Punda Maria). One individual was seen inside the forest near Dzundzwini (not far from the road S58, actually this is a dead end road).
44. Steenbok (*Raphicerus campestris*) 11
45. Klipspringer (*Oreotragus oreotragus*) 11
 *4th December Kruger NP (Mopani). One individual was seen at the top of a rock near Mopani. Very funny animal ☺.
46. Vaal rhebok (*Pelea capreolus*) 2
47. Southern reedbuck (*Redunca arundinum*) 2
48. Waterbuck (*Kobus ellipsiprymnus*) 8,9,11
49. Impala (*Aepyceros melampus*) 8,9,11,13,15
50. Blesbok (*Damaliscus pygargus philipsi*) 1,13
51. Common tsessebe (*Damaliscus lunatus*) 11,13
52. Blue wildebeest (*Connochaetes taurinus*) 8,9,11,13
53. Gemsbok (*Oryx gazella*) 15
54. Bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) 15

Reptiles (by www.reptile-database.org, E - endemic)

1. Flapneck Chameleon (*Chamaeleo dilepis*) 11
2. House gecko (*Hemidactylus mabouia*) 6,8,15
3. Black-necked agama (*Acanthocercus atricollis*) 15
4. Drakensberg crag lizard (*Pseudocordylus subviridis*) E 2
 *24th November Sani Pass. Two individuals were seen in two different places. The weather was not so hot, so this was not favourable for them, in contrast we could see them.
5. Rainbow skink (*Trachylepis margaritifera*) 11
6. African Striped Mabuya (*Trachylepis striata*) 11
7. Yellow-throated plated lizard (*Gerrhosaurus flavigularis*) 11
8. Nile monitor (*Varanus niloticus*) 11
9. White-throated monitor (*Varanus albigularis*) 11
10. Leopard tortoise (*Stigmochelys pardalis*) 9,11
11. Serrated turtle (*Pelusios sinuatus*) 9,11
12. Nile crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*) 8,9,11
13. Spotted bush snake (*Philothamnus semivariegatus*) 13

*9th December Polokwane NR. One individual was seen on a bird hide. It was a scary moment because when I stepped in, I saw a gecko and this species. The snake was creeping near the window.

14. Natal green snake (*Philothamnus natalensis*) 6

*27th November Dlinza forest (Eshowe). One animal was seen on the main building, it hide behind a cupboard.

15. Brown house snake (*Boaedon capensis*) 11

*5th December Kruger NP (Punda Maria). One individual was seen during our night drive near the Mahonie Loop.

16. Black mamba (*Dendroaspis polylepis*) 11

*2nd December Kruger NP (Berg-en-Dal). We saw a huge animal (cc. 2,5 metres) in front of our car on the S27 road (near the Hippo Pool. It was creeping to the grass, once it lifted its head.

Butterflies (by Woodhall 2005)

1. Acara acraea (*Acraea acara*) 11
2. African common white (*Belenois creona*) 9
3. African leopard (*Phalanta phalanta*) 8
4. African veined white (*Belenois gidica*) 3
5. Babault's blue (*Leptotes babaulti*) 6
6. Blue pansy (*Junonia orithya*) 15
7. Brown pansy (*Junonia natalica*) 8
8. Brown-veined white (*Belrnois aurota*) 9
9. Chief (*Amauris echeria*) 8
10. Citrus swallowtail (*Papilio demodocus*) 11,12,15
11. Common orange tip (*Colotis evenina*) 9
12. Dusky acraea (*Hyalites esebria*) 6
13. Emperor swallowtail (*Papilio ophidicephalus*) 12
14. Evening brown (*Melanitis leda*) 8
15. Forest white (*Belenois zochalia*) 3,4
16. Friar (*Amauris niavius*) 8
17. Garden acraea (*Acraea horta*) 2
18. Gold spotted sylph (*Metisella metis*) 12
19. Green-banded swallowtail (*Papilio nireus*) 12,15
20. Grizzled bush brown (*Bicyclus ena*) 12
21. Light red acraea (*Acraea nohara*) 11
22. Lilac tip (*Colotis celimene*) 10
23. Long-tailed admiral (*Antanartia schaeneia*) 12

24. Natal acraea (*Acraea natalica*) 8,12
25. Novice (*Amauris ochlea*) 8,15
26. Rainforest acraea (*Acraea boopis*) 12
27. Satyr emperor (*Charaxes ethalion*) 8
28. Soldier pansy (*Junonia terea*) 6,8
29. Spotted joker (*Byblia ilithyia*) 11
30. Yellow pansy (*Junonia hierta*) 11
31. Veined orange (*Colotis vesta*) 9
32. Wandering donkey acraea (*Acraea neobule*) 9
33. Window acraea (*Acraea oncaea*) 8

Other interesting animals

1. Baboon spider (*Pelinobius muticus*) 11
2. Drakensberg creeping scorpion (*Opisthacanthus validus*) 4
 *25th November Hela-hela. We saw one individual under a big stone. Non-venomous species.
3. Drakensberg river frog (*Amietia dracomontana*) E 2
 *24th November Sani Pass. One individual was seen in Lesotho. This species lives only Lesotho, above 2000 metres asl.
4. Giant African snail (*Achatina fulica*) 3,11
5. Golden orb-web spider (*Nephilengys cruentata*) 6
6. Painted reed frog (*Hyperolius marmoratus*) 12
7. Transvaal Thick-tailed scorpion (*Parabuthus transvaalicus*) 11
 *4th December Kruger NP (Shingwedzi). Two individuals were seen at night inside the camp. Surprisingly, the were moving quite fast. Very dangerous scorpion.
8. Wall crab spider (*Selenopidea*) 11