

Trip report Eastern South Africa 2010-10-29 -- 11-12

Self-Drive tour arranged by Birding Africa (<http://www.birdingafrica.com>).

Participants: Joakim, Elisabeth, Adrian (14) and Nova (9) Djerf from Östhammar, Sweden.

This was our third trip to southern Africa having earlier visited South Africa (Pilanesberg and Cape Town area) in 2007 and Namibia/Botswana in 2009. We had our first "real" African experience in 2006 when we stayed two weeks in Tanzania, mostly visiting the classical National Parks.

This trip started Thursday October 28 when we departed Arlanda airport, Stockholm at 18:05. After intermediate landings in Munich and O.R. Tambo (Johannesburg) Airports we arrived King Shaka Airport, Durban at 11:15 the following day.

From previous experience we have learned that the family need to relax and unwind after a long haul flight. For this reason our first destination, Hella-Hella and the Highover Wildlife Sanctuary, was not very far from King Shaka airport - only about 2 hours drive.

2010-10-29 08:30 - 10:30 OR Tambo Airport

The first species we encountered in SA were some **Cape Sparrows**, **Common Mynas** and **Speckled Pigeons** from the terminal buildings in OR Tambo Airport.

2010-10-29 13:00 - 15:00 King Shaka Airport, Durban - Hella-Hella

We didn't see very much this distance, had to keep our eyes on the road and the traffic. They drive on the left hand side of the road in SA and it takes some time to get used to this. We did see some **Cattle Egrets**, **Yellow-billed Kites**, **Helmeted Guineafowls**, **Common Fiscals** and a single **Speckled Mousebird** crossing the road in front of us.

2010-10-29 15:00 - 2010-10-31 11:30 Highover Wildlife Sanctuary



male Blue Swallow

Highover was really fantastic and also offered very good accommodation - we stayed in the Lodge. We were so very well looked after by the owners Dave and Margie Edwards. They were extremely nice and served us with lunch, snacks, diner, wine, advice, game drive and much more!

Bird wise the area was also fantastic! Of course the **Blue Swallows** (we saw 1 male and 3 females) are the main attraction in Hella-Hella Pass, but we also managed to see a lot of other nice species and also a lot of antelopes in the 2 h game drive with Dave.

Around our Lodge were **Cuckoos** galore (**Red-chested-**, **Black-**, **Diderick-**, **Klaas's-** and **African Emerald-**) and **Narina Trogons** were calling from all directions! Very good to spend some relaxed time the first days and get used to the calls of the more common species.

Other good birds and animals in Hella-Hella area:

African Black Duck, Verreaux's Eagle, Jackal Buzzard, Forest Buzzard, African Harrier-Hawk, Lanner Falcon, Red-winged Francolin, Black-rumped Buttonquail, Black-winged Lapwing, Knysna Turaco, Trumpeter Hornbill, Crowned Hornbill, Lazy Cisticola, African Paradise Flycatcher (very common), Grey-headed Bush-Shrike, Amethyst-, Eastern Olive-, Collared- and White-bellied Sunbirds, Dark-backed Weaver and African Firefinch.

Blesbok, Eland, Blue Wildebeest, Springbuck and Impala.

2010-10-31 11:30 - 13:30 Hella-Hella - Creighton

The short drive to our next destination Creighton will mostly be remembered for all the beautiful **Widowbirds** of several species we encountered en route. Many of the males were in full breeding plumage and the display flight of the **Long-tailed Widowbird** is remarkable!

More nice species:

Southern Bald Ibis, Long-crested Eagle, African Olive Pigeon, Dark-capped Yellow-Warbler, Southern Red Bishop, Long-tailed-, Red-collared- and Fan-tailed Widowbirds, Pin-tailed Whydah, Brimstone-, Yellow-fronted- and Cape Canaries.



male Long-tailed Widowbird

2010-10-31 13:30 - 18:30 Button Birding - Smithfield Guest House, Creighton

Very good accommodation and we were very well taken care of by Malcolm and Gail Gemmel and their family. Malcolm has great knowledge and is also a very good bird guide (and a very nice and funny guy too, we had many laughs!). A short walk around his property in the early afternoon resulted in not less than three displaying **Red-chested Flufftails**! Just outside our bedroom the first **Buff-spotted** ditto for the season started calling in the early evening - just before dinner time!

Other notable species:

Black Sparrowhawk, Grey Crowned Crane, Green Wood-Hoopoe, Red-throated Wryneck, Drakensberg Prinia, Black-crowned Tchagra and White-winged Widowbird.

Marsh Mongoose.

2010-11-01 05:15 - 17:30 Sani Pass expedition

Displaying **Fiery-necked Nightjar** disturbed our night sleep and woke us up at 04:15... No problem, we had the alarm clock set for 04:30 anyway.

It's about one hour drive to Underberg/Himeville - these villages are kind of the starting point when you go up the pass. Shortly after Himeville we stopped near a small lake and watched some nice

water birds including **African Rail** and **African Snipe** along with good numbers of **Little Grebes**, **Cormorants**, **Hérons**, **Egrets**, **Ducks** and **Waders**.

The Sani Pass tour was a great success! The weather gods were on our side all the time and we had almost perfect conditions. We got all the special birds (and the cute **Sloggett's Ice Rat**) and also a lot of "bonus species"!



Mountain Pipit

On the way back to Creighton Malcolm took us to a bridge over a small stream where we had splendid views of some 30 **African Cliff Swallows**.

Many nice species this very special day:

Lammergeier, **Verreaux's Eagle**, **Grey-winged Francolin**, **Ground-** and **Olive Woodpecker**, **Large-billed Lark**, **Bush Blackcap**, **Cape-** and

Sentinel Rock-Thrush, **Drakensberg Rock-jumper**, **Sickle-winged Chat**, **Buff-streaked**

Chat, **Barratt's Warbler**, **Cape Grassbird**, **Fairy Flycatcher**, **Layard's Tit-Babbler**, **Wailing Cisticola**, **Drakensberg Prinia**, **Karoo Prinia**, **Mountain Pipit**, **Gurney's Sugarbird**, **Malachite Sunbird**, **Drakensberg Siskin** and **Cinnamon-breasted Bunting**.

2010-11-02 05:00 - 08:30 Creighton area

Early this morning Malcolm took us to a small forest patch where the **Cape Parrots** (9 of them) came flying in to feed. One ringed bird caused some special excitement. This male **Cape Parrot** was ringed many years ago (in 2001) and Malcolm was very happy to relocate this individual!

This morning we also saw:

Cape Vulture, **Red-necked Spurfowl**, **Knysna Turaco**, **Grey Cuckoo-Shrike**, **Bush Blackcap**, **Barratt's Warbler**, **Wailing Cisticola**, **Long-billed Pipit**, **African Firefinch**, **Sweet Waxbill** and **Forest Canary**.



Cape Parrot

2010-11-02 10:00 - 15:30 Creighton - Mtunzini

Except for our third **Long-crested Eagle** for the trip this distance was not very exciting bird wise. But when we reached the N3, some 20 km to the south of Pietermaritzburg, we were stuck in a major car queue for a couple of hours. The temperature outside was 39°C and we were very happy for the working air condition in the car. The reason for this delay turned out to be a multiple collision with more than 50 cars involved, some 39 trucks and several deaths.

2010-11-02 15:30 - 18:30 Umlalazi Nature Reserve, Mtunzini

We arrived a little later than expected and the outside temperature was still close to 40°C. We checked in, did a quick recon in the immediate area and then went to the South Beach. The sea ran quite high but our kids jumped in the water without hesitation! A couple of **Swift Terns** flew by and on the way back to our chalet (log cabin no 4) we encountered two **Zebras** and our first **Red Duiker (Natal Duiker)**. The accommodation was very good and the chalet was well-equipped.

2010-11-03 06:00 - 15:30 Mtunzini, Ongoye, Dlinza and Amatikulu NR



Palm-nut Vulture

Our guide for the day was Sakhamuzi Mhlongo ("Saki") who we picked up at the Umlalazi gate at 06:00. We commenced our birding day in Mtunzini. Saki quickly located the compulsory Mtunzini special species the **Palm-nut Vulture** - we saw one bird perched atop a *Raphia* Palm.



Green Barbet

Next stop was Ongoye Forest. The target species here was the **Green Barbet**. We soon heard the "chop-chop" call from the bird, but it took a while to get a decent visual. My daughter's memory of the Ongoye visit is the whole family following Saki, running up and down the same jungle hill several times!

Other nice species in Ongoye were:

Green Malkoha, Narina Trogon, Scaly-throated Honeyguide, White-eared Barbet, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, Square-tailed Drongo, Yellow-streaked Greenbul, Brown Scrub-Robin, Black-bellied Starling and Grey Sunbird.

Blue Duiker, Ongoye Red Bush Squirrel and Samango Monkey.

About 30 minutes drive to Eshowe and the Dlinza Forest with its famous Canopy Walkway. We began around "Bishop's Seat" looking for **Spotted Ground-Thrush**. That species took a while to locate but in the mean time we could enjoy both **Chorister Robin-Chat** and the other special species of the site the **Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon**. In due time Saki also located the **Spotted Ground-Thrush** and we had splendid views but unfortunately it was too dark on "the floor" to get some decent photos.



Narina Trogon

We then tried the Canopy Walkway. It was nice views from the tower but we didn't see many birds. It was close to midday and the temperature was rising very fast. Of course the activity is much higher early in the morning - the Thrush quest simply cost too much time.

We left Dlinza Forest and went into Eshowe for some lunch and after some nice burgers we quickly regained our strength!

About 45 minutes drive to our last destination for the day - the Amatikulu Nature Reserve. This site/Forest was the nicest for the day and a happy surprise. Saki had previously asked us if we were interested in **Swamp Nightjar** and of course we were. But Amatikulu NR was so much more. Immediately after we entered the reserve we spotted a soaring **African Crowned Eagle**. The **Swamp Nightjar** was cooperative and we got good views with minimal disturbance. We then followed a path in the forest looking for **Black-throated Wattle-eye**. That species didn't want to show at first but instead we got the **Green Twinspot**! On the way back to the car the **Wattle-eye** took pity and showed very well. From the parking place we could scan the estuary and saw some water birds like **Pink-backed Pelican**, **Goliath Heron** and **Yellow-billed Duck**.

More good Amatikulu species:



Green Malkoha

Green Malkoha, White-fronted Bee-eater, Scaly-throated Honeyguide, Lesser Honeyguide, Red-capped Robin-Chat, Zitting Cisticola and Croaking Cisticola.

From Amatikulu it was only a short drive back to Mtunzini.

We think Saki is very good guide and also a very nice person. He was in a good mood all the time and tried really hard to show us what we wanted to see. He always took Novas hand when needed when we were climbing the hillsides looking for the **Green Barbet** and he quickly identified every call and

told us what species we heard.

After this full birding day we immediately headed for the beach and some more swimming for the kids. A **Caspian tern**, some **Swift Terns** and probably also a **Lesser Crested Tern** flew by this time.

We had dinner at the same place as yesterday - The Fat Cat.

2010-11-03 05:15 - 09:00 Umlalazi NR

This day I decided to manage the early morning birding myself and let the rest of the family have a late morning. I began at the Umlalazi Lagoon trying for African Finfoot but failed. I did see other nice birds including two **Black-throated Wattle-eyes**, the species we worked so hard for the day before... I then continued past the reedbeds near the entrance gate and got good views of e.g. **Rufous-winged Cisticola**. From the South Beach car park I took the Siyayi Dune Forrest Trail and followed it southwards. When I reached the southern "3-path-junction" which was signposted in at least two directions I must have made some strange mistake because I ended up in the Mtunzini Chalet area instead of returning to South Beach as I had planned. Instead of having a very long walk back in the heat I was lucky and got a lift from the manager of Mtunzini Chalets - Garth. He also told me the map

I had for the area (a paper we got from the reception) was not very accurate and he was not surprised that I went astray.



Rufous-winged Cisticola



Rufous-winged Cisticola

More morning species:

Woolly-necked Stork, Buff-spotted Flufftail, Lemon Dove, Purple-crested Turaco, Green Malkoha, Narina Trogon, Crowned- and Trumpeter Hornbill, Scaly-throated Honeyguide and Bronze Mannikin.

2010-11-03 12:30 - 2010-11-06 11:00 Hluhluwe GR

After an uneventful and not very long drive, mostly along the N2 motorway, we reached the Hluhluwe Game Reserve. We approached from the northern Memorial Gate and continued inside the reserve to Hilltop Camp where we were to spend the two upcoming nights.

We enjoyed our stay in the reserve very much! About everything was very nice here - birds, animals, accommodation, restaurant and fortunately also the weather! We did all game drives on our own and it was convenient to return to Hilltop Camp for breakfast, for light lunch at the restaurant and to spend some time pool side in the hottest hours. It was also easy to find the way around - good roads and well signposted. Memories from Hluhluwe includes the "singing" **African Crowned Eagle** soaring above the swimming pool and also the thousands of migrating **Barn Swallows** crossing the road in front of us in a never-ending, billowing stream.

More Hluhluwe highlights:

African White-backed Vulture, Tawny Eagle, Wahlberg's Eagle, Crested Guineafowl, Black-bellied Bustard, Jacobin Cuckoo, African Emerald Cuckoo, Red-breasted-, Wire-tailed- and Grey-rumped Swallow, Rudd's Apalis, Black-crowned- and Brown-crowned Tchagra.

Chacma Baboon, Vervet Monkey, Samango Monkey, African Elephant, Burchell's Zebra,



African Crowned Eagle

White Rhinoceros, Common Warthog, Giraffe, African Buffalo, Nyala, Waterbuck, Impala, Blue Wildebeest, Nile Crocodile and Dung Beetle.

2010-11-06 12:00 - 2010-11-07 10:00 St Lucia - iSimangaliso Wetland Park (Eastern Shore GR) - iGwalagwala Trail

Relocation to the small village of St Lucia - only a short drive from Hluhluwe GR. We were to spend only one night here before moving on to Mkhuze GR, so we didn't have very much time. We checked in at iGwalagwala Guesthouse - a very nice place and good accommodation. Our hosts here (Bruce and ??? Tait) were very nice people who generously shared information and gave good advice.

We spent the afternoon in St Lucia watching crocs, hippos and birds from the Ski Boat Club decks and also visited the Crocodile centre.

For the evening we had pre-booked a Turtle Tour with Thompsons Tours - hoping to encounter some of these "leviathans of the deep" or "ancient mariners of the sea" - the **Leatherback-** and **Loggerhead Turtles** returning to their birthplace to lay their eggs. The evening started with heavy raining, but we went out anyway and had a surprisingly good night game drive on the way to Cape Vidal. We saw a hunting **Leopard** and a lot of other nice animals! The "real" Turtle Tour starts in Cape Vidal, driving north from here on the pristine beach. The rain now ceased but instead the wind unfortunately started to blow very hard... Strong wind means sand in the eyes for the turtles and they will hardly come out of the water, the guide told us. We endured and drove on the beach for some 23 km to Leven Point looking for tracks of the turtles. Far to the north we stopped and got out of the car and continued on foot in complete darkness for about half an hour - an interesting experience! On the way back to Cape Vidal the wind was even stronger - no turtles. We did see some turtle tracks from the night before and got the full story about the species, egg laying etc. Interesting, but of course very disappointing to miss the main attraction. The night game drive back to St Lucia from Cape Vidal was fortunately very good with e.g. (**Setaro's?**) **Dwarf Chameleon, File Snake, Thick-tailed Bush Baby (Greater Galago), Common Genet** and much more, so we were kind of compensated for the lack of turtles. Our guide was actually extremely good in spotting and identifying animals nighttime!

Early morning (05:15 - 08:00) the next day we walked the iGwalagwala Trail and saw many good species very well e.g. the **Brown Scrub-Robin** and **Livingstone's Turaco**, both were quite common along this short trail.

Other noteworthy species in St Lucia area:



Brown Scrub-Robin along the iGwalagwala Trail



Eastern Nicator

Cape Gannet, Yellow-billed Stork, Water Thick-knee, African Green Pigeon, Narina Trogon, Olive Woodpecker, Eastern Nicator, Rudd's Apalis, Woodward's Batis, Spectacled Weaver and Thick-billed Weaver.

Burchell's Zebra, Hippopotamus, African Buffalo, Bushbuck, Greater Kudu, Grey Duiker (Bush Duiker), Red Duiker, Rhebok, Waterbuck, Tsessebe and Blue Wildebeest.



Livingstone's Turaco

2010-11-07 13:30 - 2010-11-10 09:30 Mkhuze GR

We left St Lucia after a nice breakfast and drove towards Mkhuze. We had stocked food and water in the Spar shop in St Lucia, knowing there are no shops or restaurants in Mkhuze (except for the Coffee Shop "Rhino Dino", which we didn't want to rely solely on).

Our general impression, at the time of our visit, was that the Mkhuze GR was not very well managed nor maintained. The staff we met were not unfriendly, but not very helpful either. We e.g. couldn't hire a bird guide, not because the lack of such guides, but because the staff didn't know how to charge us for this service... The guided Fig Forrest Walk was open (with an accompanying ranger) but had a lower age limit of 14, so the family couldn't go. Almost all the hides in the reserve were closed due to some reason. Road works were going on between Mantuma and the kuBube/kuMasinga (Sand Forest road), but this work was not well performed and these tracks were now very difficult to drive even with our Nissan X-trail with good ground clearance (and after some rain it was of course even worse). I think a sign board informing about the road conditions had been most welcomed by all visitors. Not nice at all if you get stuck out here for the whole night - nobody would notice if we were missing, I think.

Animal- and bird wise the reserve was good but maybe also slightly disappointing. We did find a **Leopard** ourselves while it was slowly crossing the road just in front of our car early evening and we also saw some new really nice bird species (like **Neergaard's Sunbird** and **Pink-throated**



Violet-backed Starling alarming for a green snake...

Twinspot), but on our visit the reserve didn't really feel like the "Mecca of southern African birders".



The cause of the alarm - a young male Boomslang (*Dispholidus typus*)

Adding to this, Mkhuze was the only place on the whole trip where the weather gods was not on our side - although we had decent weather during the morning game drives, we had some really heavy raining in the afternoons and evenings.



Retz's Helmet-Shrike

In spite of what's written above, we don't regret at all visiting the Mkhuze GR!



Bearded Scrub-Robin (a very wet one)

Small selection of Mkhuze species:



Bushveld Pipit

Pink-backed Pelican, Black Heron, Wahlberg's Eagle, Crested Francolin, Crested Guinea fowl, Black-bellied Bustard, Caspian Tern, African Pygmy-Kingfisher, Lilac-breasted Roller, Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill, Crested Barbet, Southern Black Tit, White-throated Robin-Chat,

Bearded Scrub-Robin, Stierling's Wren-Warbler,

Spotted Flycatcher, Bushveld Pipit, Red-backed Shrike, Gorgeous Bush-Shrike, Retz's Helmet-



Wahlbergs's Eagle (with prey in its talons)



Leopard in Mkhuze

Shrike, Violet-backed Starling, Red-billed Oxpecker and Purple-banded Sunbird.

Leopard Tortoise and Nile Monitor.



Leopard Tortoise

2010-11-10 09:30 - 14:30 Drive to Wakkerstroom

Quite a longish drive with lots of stops because of the many road works going on. Also some really intense raining made us drive even slower. But we finally reached Wakkerstroom and could check in at our last accommodation for the trip - the Toad Hall. Very good accommodation and a very nice host Lucy Woolmore who, together with her mother, took care of us and arranged very nice breakfasts and dinners.

2010-11-10 15:00 -17:00 Wakkerstroom Vlei

Even if everything was very wet after the rains we decided to check the surroundings. We drove around the Vlei and visited a few bird hides before it started to rain again. We were a little concerned about the weather, many good species at stake for tomorrow...

Some of the Vlei birds:

Southern Bald Ibis, Southern Pochard, Yellow-billed Duck, African Rail, Whiskered Tern, Brown-throated Martin, Lesser Swamp-Warbler and Levallant's Cisticola.

2010-11-11 06:00 -18:00 Wakkerstroom "Grand Tour"

In the morning the weather fortunately was nice again!

A very successful full day birding with local bird guide Lucky Ngwenya. We saw all the specials and also some extras. Lucky knew his sites very well and showed us what we wanted to see.



Pale-crowned Cisticola



Eastern Clapper Lark

Wakkerstroom specials:

Denham's Bustard, Blue Korhaan, Barrow's Korhaan, Eastern Clapper Lark, Eastern



Denham's Bustard

Long-billed Lark, Rudd's lark, Botha's Lark, Pink-billed Lark, Wing-snapping Cisticola, Pale-crowned Cisticola, Yellow-breasted Pipit and African Quailfinch.

Mountain Reedbuck, Blesbok, Yellow Mongoose and Suricate (Meerkat).



The critically endangered Rudd's Lark



Pink-billed Lark



Yellow-breasted Pipit



Yellow-breasted Pipit

2010-11-12 13:30 - 16:30 Grass Owl site, Johannesburg

Before catching our flight home to Sweden, we had one last bird issue to deal with. We had dated with Selwyn Rautenbach a little bit outside Johannesburg. He was supposed to show us the African Grass Owl at a special site quite close to OR Tambo Airport. Selwyn is very nice and also a very



Marsh Owl

energetic guy! He really wanted to show us everything, but unfortunately we had very little time. We dipped on the Grass Owl but we did see six Marsh Owls very well - and also some other nice species. Selwyn told us it was only the second time ever he didn't see the Grass Owl when trying at this site. Well, we have to come back some other time!

When we later arrived to the airport we got the information that our flight was delayed till 07:00 the next day... We had to spend the night in an airport hotel. No problem other than the inconvenience etc. and the fact that we could have spent much more time searching the Grass Owl with Selwyn!

The trip home then went on problem free and we arrived home some 17 hours after we departed Johannesburg.

We saw a total of **335** bird species, **35** mammals and a handful of reptiles.

2011-02-21

Joakim Djerf
Östhammar
Sweden

Contact:

djerf.joakim@gmail.com

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

More pictures from our trip will be put on our web site in due time: <http://www.djerf.photo>

Species list (birds):

Site abbreviations:

OR	OR Tambo International Airport
D	Durban
HH	Hella Hella
HH-C	Hella Hella to Creighton
C	Creighton
C-SP	Creighton to Sani Pass (and back again)
SP	Sani Pass
L	Lesotho
C-M	Creighton to Mtunzini
M	Mtunzini
ODA	Mtunzini - Ongoye - Dlinza - Amatikulu - Mtunzini
OF	Ongoye Forest
DF	Dlinza Forest
A	Amatikulu NR
HL	Hluhluwe GR
SL	St Lucia
MK	Mkhuze GR
M-W	Mkhuze to Wakkerstroom
W	Wakkerstroom
J	Johannesburg

Species	Site(s)	Comment
Little Grebe	C-SP, W	
Cape Gannet	SL	
White-breasted Cormorant	C-SP, MK, W, J	
Reed Cormorant	C-SP, A, SL, MK, W	
African Darter	C-SP, MK	
Pink-backed Pelican	A, MK	
Goliath Heron	A, MK	
Purple Heron	M-W	1
Grey Heron	C-SP, C, A, HL, SL, MK, W, J	
Black-headed Heron	C-SP, C, A, MK, W, J	
Yellow-billed Egret	C-SP, A, MK, W, J	
Great Egret	C-SP, MK	
Little Egret	A, MK	
Cattle Egret	D, HH-C, C-SP, SL, MK, W, J	
Squacco Heron	MK	
Black Heron	MK	
Yellow-billed Stork	SL	
Woolly-necked Stork	ODA, M, MK	
African Spoonbill	C-SP, SL, W, J	
Hamerkop	HH, ODA, M, HL, SL, W	
Hadedda Ibis	HH, HH-C, C, C-SP, ODA, M, HL, SL, MK, W, J	"Flying vuvuzela"
Southern Bald Ibis	HH-C, C-SP, C, W	
African Sacred Ibis	C-SP, ODA, W, J	

Species	Site(s)	Comment
Spur-winged Goose	HH-C, C-SP, MK, M-W, W, J	
Egyptian Goose	HH, HH-C, C, C-SP, ODA, M, HL, SL, MK, W, J	
South African Shelduck	C-SP	
Southern Pochard	C-SP, W	
Yellow-billed Duck	C-SP, A, W, J	
African Black Duck	HH	1 pair Mkomazi river
Cape Shoveler	C-SP, W	
Cape Vulture	C	2
White-backed Vulture	HL, MK	
Lammergeier	SP, L	6
Palm-nut Vulture	M	1
African Fish-Eagle	C-SP, MK	
Brown Snake-Eagle	HL	
Black-chested Snake-Eagle	ODA	
Tawny Eagle	HL	
Verreaux's Eagle	HH, SP	1 pair + 1 pair
African Crowned Eagle	A, HL	
Long-crested Eagle	HH-C, C-SP, C-M	
Jackal Buzzard	HH, HH-C, C, C-SP, SP, L, W	
Wahlberg's Eagle	HL, MK	
Forest Buzzard	HH	
Steppe Buzzard	HH-C, C, ODA, HL	
African Harrier-Hawk	HH, C, C-SP, ODA, HL, M-W	
Yellow-billed Kite	D, HH-C, C, C-SP, ODA, M, HL, SL, MK, W	
Black-shouldered Kite	HH-C, C, C-SP, ODA, HL, W, J	
Black Sparrowhawk	C	
Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk	C-SP	
Lanner Falcon	HH, SP, C	
Rock Kestrel	HH, SP	
Swainson's Spurfowl	W, J	
Red-necked Spurfowl	C	
Natal Francolin	HL	
Grey-winged Francolin	SP, W	
Red-winged Francolin	HH	
Crested Francolin	HL, MK	
Helmeted Guineafowl	D, HH-C, C, C-SP, W, J	
Crested Guineafowl	SL, MK	"Bob Marley chicken"
Common Ostrich	HH	
Common Quail	HH, HH-C, C, A, W	
Black-rumped Buttonquail	HH	1
Red-knobbed Coot	C-SP, W	
Common Moorhen	C-SP, MK, W	
African Purple Swamphen	MK	
Black Crake	M	
African Jacana	MK	
African Rail	C-SP, W	
Red-chested Flufftail	C	3 calling
Buff-spotted Flufftail	C, M	1 calling + 1 calling
Grey Crowned Crane	C, C-SP, ODA, W	2 at ODA = good rec.

Species	Site(s)	Comment
Blue Crane	W	
Denham's Bustard	W	6
Blue Korhaan	W	9
Barrow's Korhaan	W	3
Black-bellied Bustard	HL, MK	
Black-winged Stilt	C-SP	
Pied Avocet	J	
Common Ringed Plover	SL	
Three-banded Plover	C, C-SP	
Kittlitz's Plover	SL	
White-fronted Plover	SL	
Crowned Lapwing	W, J	
Black-winged Lapwing	HH	2
African Wattled Lapwing	W	
Blacksmith Plover	C, C-SP, SL, J	
Ruff	SL	
Curlew Sandpiper	SL	
Sanderling	SL	
Little Stint	SL	
Common Sandpiper	SL	
Wood Sandpiper	C-SP, SL	
Common Greenshank	C-SP	
Marsh Sandpiper	C-SP	1
Bar-tailed Godwit	SL	
Common Whimbrel	SL	
African Snipe	C-SP	
Water Thick-knee	SL, MK	
Caspian Tern	M, MK	
Grey-headed Gull	M, SL, J	
Swift Tern	M, SL	
Common Tern	SL	
Whiskered Tern	C-SP, MK, W	
Speckled Pigeon	D, HH-C, C, C-SP, SP, L, ODA, HL, W, J	
African Olive-Pigeon	HH-C	
Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon	DF	1
Lemon Dove	M	5
Rock Dove	OR, J	
Red-eyed Dove	HH, HH-C, C, C-SP, ODA, HL, SL, MK, W	
Cape Turtle-Dove	HH, HH-C, C-SP, ODA, HL, MK, W	
Laughing Dove	C, C-SP, ODA	
African Green-Pigeon	SL, MK	
Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove	HL, MK	
Tambourine Dove	HH, M, HL, SL, MK	
Namaqua Dove	J	
Cape Parrot	C	9
Knysna Turaco	HH, C	
Livingstone's Turaco	SL	
Purple-crested Turaco	ODA, M, HL, SL, MK	
Red-chested Cuckoo	HH, HH-C, C-SP, C, ODA, HL, MK	

Species	Site(s)	Comment
Black Cuckoo	HH, HL, MK	
Jacobin Cuckoo	HL	2
Diderick Cuckoo	HH, C-SP, M, SL, MK, J	
Klaas's Cuckoo	HH, C-SP, M, HL, SL, MK	
African Emerald Cuckoo	HH, HL, SL, MK	
Burchell's Coucal	ODA, M, HL, MK	
Green Malkoha	ODA, M	
Marsh Owl	J	6
Fiery-necked Nightjar	C	
Swamp Nightjar	A	1 male
Alpine Swift	HH, SP	
African Black Swift	HH, HH-C, SP, HL, W	
Little Swift	ODA, HL, SL, MK	
White-rumped Swift	C-SP, MK, W	
African Palm-Swift	ODA, SL	
Narina Trogon	HH, ODA, M, SL	
Speckled Mousebird	HH, C-SP, C, MK	
Pied Kingfisher	HH, M, MK	
Malachite Kingfisher	C-SP	
African Pygmy-Kingfisher	MK	1
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	HH, HL, SL, MK	
European Bee-eater	HL, MK	
White-fronted Bee-eater	A	2
Little Bee-eater	MK	
Lilac-breasted Roller	MK	
Trumpeter Hornbill	HH, M, HL, SL, MK	
Crowned Hornbill	HH, M, HL, MK	
Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	MK	
Green Wood-Hoopoe	C, MK	
Common Scimitarbill	HL, MK	
African Hoopoe	HL, W	
Scaly-throated Honeyguide	OF, A, M, SL	
Lesser Honeyguide	HL	
Green Barbet	OF	3
Black-collared Barbet	HH, M	
White-eared Barbet	OF, M, SL	
Crested Barbet	MK	
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird	ODA, M, HL, SL	
Red-fronted Tinkerbird	HH, MK	
Ground Woodpecker	SP, L	
Red-throated Wryneck	C	
Olive Woodpecker	SP, C, SL	
Cardinal Woodpecker	HH, HL, MK	
Golden-tailed Woodpecker	ODA, MK	
Eastern Clapper Lark	W	3
Sabota Lark	MK	
Large-billed Lark	L	
Rufous-naped Lark	HH, ODA, HL, W, J	
Red-capped Lark	L, W	

Species	Site(s)	Comment
Eastern Long-billed Lark	W	3
Rudd's Lark	W	1
Botha's Lark	W	2
Pink-billed Lark	W	2
Spike-heeled Lark	W	
Red-breasted Swallow	HL	
South African Cliff-Swallow	C-SP, W	
Greater Striped Swallow	C-SP, L, HL, W	
Lesser Striped Swallow	HH, C-SP, ODA, HL, MK	
Barn Swallow	HH, C, C-SP, ODA, HL, MK, W	
Wire-tailed Swallow	HL	
White-throated Swallow	HH-C, C-SP, W	
Black Saw-wing	HH, C, ODA, HL	
Blue Swallow	HH	1 male + 3 females
Common House-Martin	HL	
Grey-rumped Swallow	HL	1
Banded Martin	HH-C, W	
Brown-throated Martin	W	
Rock Martin	HH, SP	
Fork-tailed Drongo	HH, HH-C, C, C-SP, ODA, HL, SL, MK	
Square-tailed Drongo	ODA, M, HL, SL	
Grey Cuckooshrike	C	
Black-headed Oriole	HH, C, ODA, HL, MK	
White-necked Raven	SP, L, HL	
Pied Crow	C-SP, ODA	
Cape Crow	HH-C, C, C-SP, ODA, W	
Southern Black Tit	HH, MK	
Dark-capped Bulbul	HH, HH-C, C, C-SP, ODA, M, HL, SL, MK, W	
Terrestrial Brownbul	HH, C, ODA, M, SL	
Bush Blackcap	SP, C	
Sombre Greenbul	HH, ODA, M, HL, SL, MK	
Yellow-streaked Greenbul	DF, OF	
Yellow-bellied Greenbul	M, SL, MK	
Eastern Nicator	SL	
Olive Thrush	HH, ODA	
Kurrichane Thrush	HH, MK	
Groundscraper Thrush	W	
Spotted Ground-Thrush	DF	2
Cape Rock-Thrush	SP	
Sentinel Rock-Thrush	L, W	
Drakensberg Rock-jumper	SP	
Familiar Chat	SP	
Sickle-winged Chat	L	
Mountain Wheatear	W	
African Stonechat	HH, HH-C, C C-SP, SP, L, ODA, W, J	Lesotho race different
Buff-streaked Chat	SP	
Anteater Chat	W	
Chorister Robin-Chat	DF	2
Red-capped Robin-Chat	HH-C, A, M, HL, SL	

Species	Site(s)	Comment
Cape Robin-Chat	SP, W	
White-throated Robin-Chat	MK	
Brown Scrub-Robin	OF, DF, SL	
Bearded Scrub-Robin	MK	
White-browed Scrub-Robin	HL	
Willow Warbler	HL, MK	
Barratt's Warbler	SP, C	
Lesser Swamp-Warbler	W	
Dark-capped Yellow Warbler	HH-C	
Cape Grassbird	SP, W	
Stierling's Wren-Warbler	MK	
Green-backed Camaroptera	HH, ODA, M, HL, SL, MK	
Fairy Flycatcher	L	
Layard's Tit-Babbler	L	
Yellow-breasted Apalis	MK	
Rudd's Apalis	HL, SL	
Bar-throated Apalis	HH, HL	
Zitting Cisticola	A, W, J	
Desert Cisticola	J	
Cloud Cisticola	W	
Wing-snapping Cisticola	W	3
Pale-crowned Cisticola	W	2
Wailing Cisticola	SP, C	
Croaking Cisticola	A	
Rattling Cisticola	HL, MK	
Lazy Cisticola	HH	
Rufous-winged Cisticola	M	
Levaillant's Cisticola	HH-C, C, W, J	
Drakensberg Prinia	C, SP	
Karoo Prinia	L	
Tawny-flanked Prinia	ODA, M, HL, MK	
Spotted Flycatcher	MK	
Southern Black Flycatcher	HH, HL, SL	
African Paradise-Flycatcher	HH, C	
Cape White-eye	HH, C, C-SP, ODA, M, HL, SL	
Cape Batis	HH, C, ODA	
Woodwards' Batis	SL	
Chinspot Batis	HL, MK	
Black-throated Wattle-eye	A, M	1 + 2
Cape Wagtail	L, W	
African Pied Wagtail	HH, M, SL, MK	
Long-billed Pipit	C, W	
Mountain Pipit	L	2
African Pipit	C, W, J	
Bushveld Pipit	MK	
Yellow-breasted Pipit	W	1
Yellow-throated Longclaw	ODA, HL	
Cape Longclaw	C, W	
Red-backed Shrike	MK	

Species	Site(s)	Comment
Common Fiscal	D, HH-C, C, C-SP, ODA, HL, M-W, W	
Southern Boubou	HH, C, C-SP, ODA, M, HL, SL, MK	
Black-crowned Tchagra	C, HL	
Brown-crowned Tchagra	HL	
Grey-headed Bush-Shrike	HH	
Bokmakierie	SP	
Gorgeous Bush-Shrike	M, HL, MK	
Orange-breasted Bush-Shrike	HL, MK	
Retz's Helmet-Shrike	MK	3 together
Black-backed Puffback	HH, ODA, M, HL, SL, MK	
Cape Glossy Starling	HH, HL, SL, MK	
Violet-backed Starling	HH, MK	
Black-bellied Starling	ODA, M, HL, SL, MK	
Red-winged Starling	HH, HH-C, C-SP, SP, C, HL, W	
Common Myna	OR, ODA, SL, MK, W, J	
Common Starling	W	
Wattled Starling	MK	
Pied Starling	C-SP, W	
Red-billed Oxpecker	HL, MK	
Gurney's Sugarbird	SP	
Malachite Sunbird	SP, W	
Amethyst Sunbird	HH, C	
Grey Sunbird	ODA, M, HL	
Eastern Olive Sunbird	HH, ODA, M, HL, SL, MK	
Collared Sunbird	HH, ODA, M, HL, SL, MK	
White-bellied Sunbird	HH, MK	
Marico Sunbird	HL, SL	
Neergaard's Sunbird	MK	
Purple-banded Sunbird	MK	
House Sparrow	M, W, J	
Cape Sparrow	OR, C, C-SP, SP, L, W	
Yellow-throated Petronia	HL, MK	
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	MK	
Thick-billed Weaver	SL	
Dark-backed Weaver	HH, ODA, HL	
Village Weaver	HH, C, C-SP, ODA	
Southern Masked Weaver	MK, W, J	
Lesser Masked Weaver	MK	
Spectacled Weaver	SL	
Cape Weaver	HH-C	
Yellow Weaver	HH, MK	
Red-billed Quelea	HH-C, C-SP, HL, MK, W	
Southern Red Bishop	HH-C, C, M, W, J	
Yellow-crowned Bishop	J	
Long-tailed Widowbird	HH-C, C-SP, W, J	
Red-collared Widowbird	HH-C, C, HL, W, J	
White-winged Widowbird	C	
Fan-tailed Widowbird	HH, HH-C, C, C-SP, ODA, W	
Yellow Bishop	HH, SP	

Species	Site(s)	Comment
Pin-tailed Whydah	HH-C, SP, C, HL, W, J	
African Firefinch	HH, C	
Swee Waxbill	C	
Common Waxbill	HH-C, C-SP, HL, W	
Blue Waxbill	MK	
Bronze Mannikin	M	1
Red-headed Finch	J	2
African Quailfinch	W, J	
Pink-throated Twinspot	MK	6
Green Twinspot	A	1
Brimstone Canary	HH-C, SP, SL	
Yellow-fronted Canary	HH-C, ODA, SL, MK, W	
Forest Canary	C	
Cape Canary	HH-C, SP, W	
Drakensberg Siskin	SP, L	
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	SP	
Golden-breasted Bunting	HL, MK	
Cape Bunting	SP, W	

Species list (mammals and reptiles):

Species	Site(s)	Comment
Chacma Baboon	HL	
Vervet Monkey	M, HL, MK	
Samango Monkey	OF, HL	
Thick-tailed Bush Baby (Greater Galago)	SL	3
Ongoye Red Bush Squirrel	OF	1
Sloggett's Ice Rat	L	≈30
Black-backed Jackal	MK	1
Suricate (Meerkat)	W	1
Yellow Mongoose	W	1
Marsh Mongoose	C	1
Common Genet	SL	1
Leopard	SL, MK	1 + 1
Rock Hyraxes	SP	
African Elephant	HL, MK	
Burchell's Zebra	M, HL, SL, MK	
White Rhinoceros	HL, MK	
Hippopotamus	SL, MK	
Common Warthog	HL, MK	
Giraffe	HL, MK	
African Buffalo	HL, SL	
Bushbuck	SL	
Nyala	HL, MK	
Greater Kudu	SL	
Eland	HH	
Grey Duiker (Bush Duiker)	SL	
Blue Duiker	DF	
Red Duiker (Natal Duiker)	M, SL	
Rhebok	SL	
Mountain Reedbuck	W	
Waterbuck	HL, SL	
Springbuck	HH	
Impala	HH, ODA, HL, MK	
Blesbok	HH, W	
Tsessebe	SL	
Blue Wildebeest (Brindled Gnu)	HH, HL, SL, MK	
Nile Crocodile	HL, SL, MK	
Leopard Tortoise	HL, MK	
Boomslang	MK	1
File Snake	SL	1
(Setaro's?) Dwarf Chameleon	SL	1
Nile Monitor	MK	1
Marsh Terrapin	MK	
Other Lizzards sp.	L, HL, MK	