

Wildwings

WILDWINGS SOUTH AFRICA TOUR

MAMMALS AND BIRDS
20TH – 30TH JULY 2016

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Black-footed Cat

INTRODUCTION

After the success of previous Wildwings' mammal tours to Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Estonia and India this was the first of two tours to South Africa in 2016. Focusing on some of Africa's most enigmatic species the tour was a great success seeing 54 species of mammal (plus four 'uncountable' introductions). Highlights included no fewer than seven sightings of Black-footed Cat including one at point blank range, six Aardvarks, two Aardwolves, a superb pack of 11 Wild Dogs and an equally superb Brown Hyaena, Zorilla, both African Clawless and Spotted-necked Otters and a surprisingly attractive Smith's Red Rock Rabbit. The 'supporting cast' included two Cheetahs stalking kudu, several Lions on kills and multiple Cape Porcupines.

Note: all photographs in this report are by Mark or Fran Sullivan.

Richard Webb

CHECKLIST

Nomenclature largely follows the six-volume **Mammals of Africa** except for bovids where it follows the recently published **Bovids of the World** which in turn follows the taxonomy of the **Handbook of Mammals of the World**.

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|----|---|---|
| - | Western Rock Sengi
<i>Elephantulus rupestris</i> | A possible seen by Michael while searching rocky hillsides at Marrick. |
| 1 | Chacma Baboon
<i>Papio ursinus</i> | Four groups seen in Suikerbosrand. Seen on route to Madikwe and in Madikwe on the 27 th and 28 th . |
| 2 | Vervet
<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i> | Three sightings on route to Madikwe and seen daily in the grounds of Madikwe River Lodge. |
| 3 | Southern Lesser Galago
<i>Galago moholi</i> | Seen in Madikwe on 26 th (1-2), 27 th (1) and 29 th (1), all but one of the sightings being in the grounds of the lodge. |
| 4 | Cape Hare
<i>Lepus capensis</i> | Marrick: seen while spotlighting on the 20 th (5), 21 st (8) and 22 nd (4). |
| 5 | Scrub Hare
<i>Lepus saxatilis</i> | Marrick: Seen while spotlighting on the 20 th (1), 21 st (1, plus another during the day) and 22 nd (3). |
| 6 | African Savanna Hare
<i>Lepus microtis</i> | Madikwe: Seen while spotlighting on the 26 th (4), 27 th (16), 28 th (8) and 29 th (15+). |
| 7 | Smith's Red Rock Hare
<i>Pronolagus rupestris</i> | Great views of this difficult to see species while spotlighting at Marrick on the 22 nd . A surprisingly striking animal. |
| 8 | South African Ground Squirrel <i>Xerus inauris</i> | Marrick: 6+ on the 20 th and 10+ on the 21 st . Madikwe: Four on the 27 th and two on the 28 th . |
| 9 | Tree Squirrel
<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i> | Madikwe: one on the 27 th , one on the 28 th and three on the 29 th . |
| 10 | Spring Hare
<i>Pedetes capensis</i> | Abundant at Marrick and up to three in Madikwe on 26 th , 27 th and 29 th . |
| 11 | Cape Porcupine
<i>Hystrix africaeaustralis</i> | Seven at Marrick on both the 21 st and 22 nd including family parties on both nights. |
| 12 | Bushveld Gerbil
<i>Gerbilliscus leucogaster</i> | One at Marrick on the 21 st . |
| 13 | Cape Fox
<i>Vulpes chama</i> | A probable briefly at Marrick on the 21 st . |
| 14 | Bat-eared Fox
<i>Otocyon megalotis</i> | Marrick: Eleven on the 20 th including three during the day, and three on both the 21 st and 22 nd . |
| 15 | Black-backed Jackal
<i>Canis mesomelas</i> | One at Marrick on the 22 nd and on route to Suikerbosrand on 24 th . In Madikwe one on the 26 th , six on the 27 th (including five around a lion kill), four on the 28 th and one on the 29 th . |
| 16 | African Wild Dog
<i>Lycaon pictus</i> | A fabulous encounter with eleven in Madikwe on the 26 th . They had killed a kudu earlier in the day. |
| 17 | African Clawless Otter
<i>Aonyx capensis</i> | One seen distantly early in the morning at Warrenton and much closer views of the same or a second individual a couple of hours later. |
| 18 | Spotted-necked Otter
<i>Lutra maculicollis</i> | Three seen early on our visit to Marievale presented a few identification challenges but examination of Fran's video confirmed their identification. |
| 19 | Zorilla (Striped Polecat)
<i>Ictonyx striatus</i> | An unexpected bonus with one seen briefly at the end of our first night drive at Marrick. |

20	Banded Mongoose <i>Mungos mungo</i>	A brief encounter with a small group in Madikwe on the 27 th .
21	Slender Mongoose <i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>	One seen by Ewan at Kimberley Airport and one crossed the track in front of our vehicle as we left Madikwe.
22	Common Dwarf Mongoose <i>Helogale parvula</i>	Two possibly three seen briefly in Madikwe on the 28 th .
23	Yellow Mongoose <i>Cynictis penicillata</i>	Marrick: Two on the 20 th and three on the 21 st . Two on route from Kimberley to Warrenton on the 22 nd and 2+ in Suikerbosrand on the 24 th .
24	Meerkat <i>Suricata suricatta</i>	At least three spotted by Mark during a roadside stop at Kamfers Dam plus two tame individuals around the lodge at Marrick.
25	Small-spotted Genet <i>Genetta genetta</i>	Singles on night drives at Marrick on the 22 nd and Madikwe on the 29 th . Ewan also obtained a camera trap photo of one at Madikwe River Lodge on the 27 th .
26	Spotted Hyaena <i>Crocuta crocuta</i>	In Madikwe five on the 26 th , seven on the 27 th , one on the 28 th and heard on the 29 th .
27	Brown Hyaena <i>Hyaena brunnea</i>	A fabulous encounter with one in Madikwe on the 28 th .
28	Aardwolf <i>Proteles cristata</i>	A distant individual at Marrick on the 20 th and closer views in Madikwe on the 26 th .
29	(African) Wildcat <i>Felis silvestris lybica</i>	At Marrick relatively distant views on one on the 20 th and 2+ on the 21 st . Good views of another in Madikwe on the 29 th .
30	Black-footed Cat <i>Felis nigripes</i>	Mind-blowing close range views of one at Marrick on the 20 th for over 20 minutes. Three seen more distantly on both the 21 st and 22 nd . We did not try to approach these given out views on the first night drive.
31	Cheetah <i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>	Two seen well in Madikwe on the 28 th were watched at close range as they lazily stalked a group of kudu.
32	Lion <i>Panthera leo</i>	Great encounters in Madikwe. On the 26 th a pair, two males at an old kill and two lionesses at a very fresh kill. The latter were also seen on the 27 th and 28 th and the pair were also seen on the 28 th . Heard on the 29 th .
33	Aardvark <i>Orycteropus afer</i>	A great run of sightings. Two singles at Marrick on both the 20 th and 21 st and more surprisingly two singles in Madikwe on the 28 th . Much appreciated by everyone.
34	African (Bush) Elephant <i>Loxodonta africana</i>	Common in Madikwe.
35	Plains Zebra <i>Equus quagga</i>	Small numbers at Marrick (reintroduced) and common in Suikerbosrand and Madikwe.
36	White Rhinoceros <i>Ceratotherium simum</i>	Madikwe: Adult plus calf on the 27 th , four plus a calf on the 28 th and no fewer than 12 on the 29 th . Sadly no sign of any Blacks despite extensive searching for them.
37	Common Warthog <i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>	Five at Marrick on the 20 th , one on route to Warrenton on the 22 nd , and up to five daily at Madikwe.
38	Giraffe <i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>	Five reintroductions at Marrick on the 21 st and up to 10 daily in Madikwe.
39	African (Savanna) Buffalo <i>Syncerus caffer</i>	40+ in Madikwe on the 28 th .
40	Zambezi (Greater) Kudu <i>Tragelaphus zambeziensis</i>	15 at Marrick on the 21 st , one in Suikerbosrand on the 25 th and up to 10 daily in Madikwe.
41	Eland <i>Taurotragus oryx</i>	Four in Madikwe on the 29 th .

-	Nyala <i>Tragelaphus angasii</i>	Up to four (recent introductions outside their natural range) at Marrick on 21 st and 22 nd .
42	Cape Bushbuck <i>Tragelaphus sylvaticus</i>	Up to five daily in the camp at Madikwe River Lodge, two of which were tame individuals.
-	Roan Antelope <i>Hippotragus equinus</i>	c.15 (recent introductions outside their natural range) at Marrick on 21 st .
-	Sable Antelope <i>Hippotragus niger</i>	c.15 (recent introductions outside their natural range) at Marrick on 21 st .
43	Gemsbok <i>Oryx gazella</i>	Marrick: Up to 25 on the 20 th and 21 st .
44	Ellipsen Waterbuck <i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>	Madikwe: One on the 27 th , two on the 28 th and three on the 29 th . All in and around the camp.
45	Black Wildebeest <i>Connochaetes gnou</i>	Marrick: Two on the 21 st and 20+ on the 22 nd . Several distant groups were not identified to species. Common at Suikerbosrand on the 24 th .
46	Blue Wildebeest <i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>	Common in Madikwe. 20+ (introductions outside their natural range) at Marrick.
47	Blesbok <i>Damaliscus pygargus</i>	Common in Suikerbosrand on the 24 th . A recently introduced Bontebok was seen at Marrick on the 21 st .
48	Red Hartebeest <i>Alcelaphus caama</i>	Common at Marrick, c.10 near Kamfers Dam on the 22 nd and three in Suikerbosrand on the 24 th .
49	Common Impala <i>Aepyceros melampus</i>	Common Madikwe.
50	Kalahari Springbok <i>Antidorcas hofmeyri</i>	Common Madikwe.
51	South African Springbok <i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>	Common Marrick, Kamfers Dam and Suikerbosrand. Two nice Black Springboks at Marrick.
52	Transvaal Klipspringer <i>Oreotragus transvaalensis</i>	Pairs in Marrick on the 28 th and 29 th .
53	Steenbok <i>Raphicerus campestris</i>	Marrick: Two on the 21 st and one on the 22 nd . Madikwe: One on the 26 th , eight on the 27 th , nine on the 28 th and 10 on the 29 th .
54	Common Duiker <i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>	Marrick: Two on the 20 th and singles on the 21 st and 22 nd . One on route to Warrenton on the 22 nd .



Aardvark



Black-footed Cat



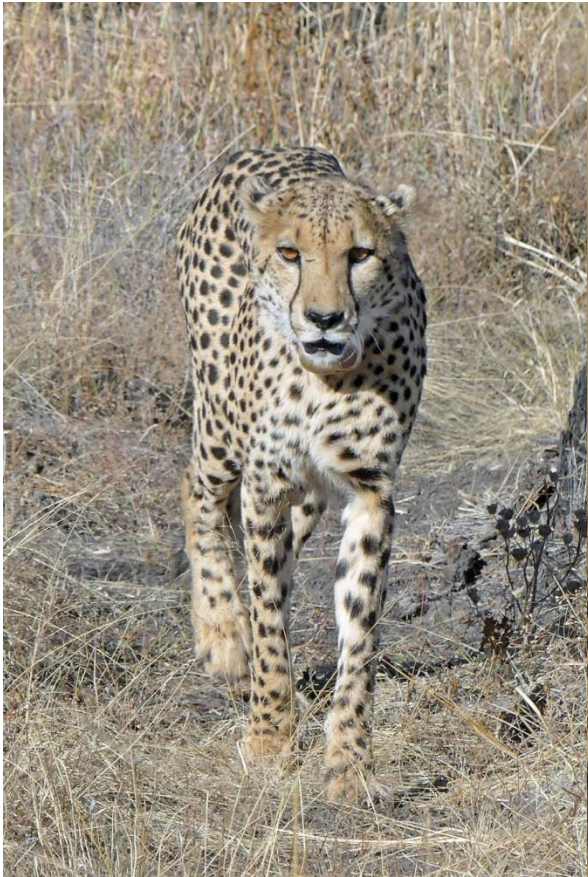
Smith's Red Rock Rabbit



African Wild Dogs



Brown Hyena



Cheetah