

## Cat List – Michael Johnson

### Three species as at the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2023

Hardly any cats, which is not surprising given where and how I have done my mammal watching to date. Seeing a leopard on my second last day in Uganda is the highlight as they had become something of a nemesis species for me. I knew we were within about 20 metres of leopards in both Botswana and Sri Lanka, but they remained hidden in vegetation. I am pretty sure I had eyeshine from one in Sri Lanka, while our failure to see one earlier in the trip in Uganda was made hashier by being shown a photo of one observed by some Canadian birders we met in Queen Elizabeth National Park. Come to think about it, if that Sri Lanka eyeshine was a leopard I was probably lucky to catch it in the glare of my light, as it would have been far too close to be safe.

Some may wince at the inclusion of domestic cats. In Australia feral domestic cats are not a few stray moggies seen in the local park. They have evolved over 150 to 200 generations into a truly wild, aggressive, and efficient hunter often the size of a bobcat or even larger, and are found everywhere, including wilderness where humans do not live.

#### *Felidae*

*Felis catus*

*Panthera leo*

*Panthera pardus*

#### Cats

Domestic cat (feral)

Lion

Leopard

VU

VU