



INTRODUCTION

My wife and I flew from Heathrow to Johannesburg with Virgin Atlantic it was rather uneventful flight both ways.

Immigration took two hours to clear

We hired a car from Thrifty / Dollar who had the wrong vehicle ready and tried to fob me off with a low ground clearance car but eventually we got what we wanted a pick up truck but it took ages – Thrifty were rubbish, unhelpful and I won't be using them again.

Kruger accommodation was booked in advance as were all the night drives on the SANParks website.

All other accommodation was booked independently in advance.

Temperatures were very high for the first week or so then we had a few days of cooler temperatures and some rain at times heavy then temperatures returned to the high 30's once again for the last 5 or so days.

Although the trip was largely wildlife focussed we had some touristy things to do as well.

The photos are hyperlinked to larger versions.

Many thanks to both Mike Richardson and Stephen Patemore for their help in planning this trip and for their help with so identification.

Also thanks to those on www.mammalwatching.com for their help.

DIARY

3RD NOVEMBER 2016

After finally getting through immigration and the long delay getting our piece of junk hire car (pick up truck) we headed off and after a quick stop for refreshments we headed to Wonderfontein Pans recommended as a good birdwatching site and I was not disappointed the pans held a good array of ducks, waders and other wetland birds. Highlights were white backed duck, Maccoa duck, southern pochard, reed cormorant, spur winged goose. A family of **Yellow Mongoose** were the first mammals of the trip. With the significant delay at the airport we had to bypass the spectacular Blyde River Canyon which was disappointing.

The journey went through some impressive scenery and we spotted a couple of **Bontebok / Bleesbok** en route but little else until we got to near Grietjie Nature reserve where we started to encounter troops of **Chcama baboons**, korhaans and even a couple of **rabbits** of unknown origin.

We arrived at Inyanga Safari Lodge just as dark fell and we settled into our rather luxurious bungalow accommodation. We were the only visitors to the camp so the staff were very attendant. The three course meal was excellent and washed down with a refreshing beer. A **porcupine** was at the waterhole as we dined, it was still very hot and once we finished our beer we headed into the reserve for a night drive. We found a couple of **elephants** and an **African civet** and a scops owl but not much else and we returned to camp. Heading for bed we found a massive beetle.



WHITE BACKED DUCK



SOUTHERN POCHARD



YELLOW BILLED DUCK



BEEBLE



JACOBIAN CUCKOO, YELLOW PANSY, KIRBY'S DROPWING, VILLAGE WEAVER

4TH NOVEMBER 2016

We were woken by a knocking at the window, but nothing was there and half an hour later it happened again, this time the culprit was present a red billed hornbill attacking his reflection. Even at this early hour it was hot and I wandered round the camp birding. Some nice birds including Lesser striped swallows, red headed weavers, black backed puffback and a Mocking Cliff Chat to name a few. Over a leisurely (and very nice) cooked breakfast we had a couple of rainbow skinks entertain us and a few butterflies on the flowers. We headed off having a drive round some of the reserve finding giraffe, waterbuck and kudu on the way. We refuelled and headed into Kruger where we quickly found **impala**, **giraffe** and many of the common game species. Birding was good and we had some nice bateleurs and a few vultures. We stopped at the Mooiplaas picnic site for a break which was excellent, several **epauletted bats** and good numbers of **freetailed bats** including one youngster on the floor which I returned to the roof. **Elephants** were in the river from the viewpoint and **Bush squirrels** were everywhere and plenty of birds about as well. It was incredibly hot so we stopped in at Mopani camp for some cold refreshments before continuing our journey to Punda Maria Camp arriving just before the curfew our progress slowed by about 300 buffalo blocking the road at one point which proved quite tricky to pass.

We had something to eat in the restaurant which was good and the staff were actually quite good. We had to sit outside in the stifling heat, as it was full inside but the benefit was a **greater bushbaby** patrolling the picnic area but I had no camera and he was gone by the time I got one. We joined the night drive which only had us as customers which was good. The guide was actually very good and after I had spotted the 10th Genet he acknowledged my ability as well. We had a couple of **Lions**, 10+ **genets** including one **large spotted**, **springhares** everywhere, **scrub hares** a chameleon, **African civet**, a couple of **Sharp's grysbok** and several **steenbok**. I stopped at the waterhole before bed where **elephants** and **buffalo** were drinking and I found a few frogs in the swimming pool on the walk back to the bungalow which was stiflingly hot as the air con was not working.



BLACKSMITH PLOVER



AFRICAN ELEPHANT



EPAULETTED BAT SP



AFRICAN BUFFALO



AFRICAN CIVET



COMMON HOUSE GECKO

5TH NOVEMBER 2016

We were up fairly early we headed north via some of the unpaved back roads picking up a small group of **dwarf mongooses** before arriving at Klopperfontein waterhole which was alive with animals including a couple of **black backed jackals**. Birding was good with a good selection of small birds rock bunting, blue waxbill lots of red billed quelea and some nice bee-eaters. We headed to the Pafuri picnic site which had a few people cooking breakfast with attendant **green vervet monkeys**. There were plenty of birds including a nice fish eagle some pied kingfishers and in the trickle of a river a few warthog and some elephants and a nice water monitor lizard. We moved on to Crooks corner where the river separating South Africa from Zimbabwe and Mozambique was a mere trickle although we did find some large pools further down containing a few **hippos**. Plenty of Nyala in the area and we also had a nice **Suni**. We wound our way south popping back in at Klopperfontein waterhole where a couple leaving informed us of a couple of **lions** under a nearby tree. We made our way to Shingwedzi camp for some cold drinks and ice creams the temperature now touching 40°C. We continued our way South spotting a couple of **Eland** and a **Roan** on our way to Mopani our base for the next couple of days.

We settled in and I was sorting out stuff in the porch and was hit in the head by something, it was an **Angolan freetailed bat** and it was now on the ground but it was fine and crawled up the wall and flew off. After some food we joined the night drive which there were 4 people including us on the vehicle, we were joined by a family who were insistent on getting 8 people in the remaining 6 spaces and arguments ensued with the guide and management over the phone. Eventually things were sorted and some people went away and we headed off. The guide was new and was actually pretty hopeless and we stopped for all sorts of common stuff. I had an argument with the guide who called hyenas and I corrected her with **black backed jackal** but she was adamant they were hyenas until I invited her to borrow my 10x50 binoculars to confirm and she backed down realising I had a significant optical advantage. I located a **white tailed mongoose**, **wildcat** and a **zorilla** but apart from the **wildcat** she was so slow in manoeuvring the vehicle no one else saw them. Back at our bungalow the light outside had attracted hundreds of moths and a couple of ladybirds.



DWARF MONGOOSE



FREETAILED BATS



NILE CROCODILE



COMMON ZEBRA



LITTLE GREEN BEE-EATER



CRESTED FRANCOLIN

6TH NOVEMBER 2016

We were up very early and the previous evening **freetailed bat** came back into roost in our porch, just missing my head as it returned and I got a few more photos as it settled in for the day. We joined our guides for the dawn bush walk and we were the only ones on the walk, so had a 1:1 guide ratio. We drove a short distance stopping for a **lioness** crossing the road right in front of us before arriving at our destination. This was a dry river bed which still had a few pools of water scattered along its length. We wandered down the riverbed and some areas around in and about in very hot conditions for a few hours. We saw plenty of good birds and the guides we had were excellent and told us lots about the plants and insects we encountered. They were also good birders and we quickly totted up 50 or so species during our walk including goliath heron, white backed night heron, violet backed starling, magpie shrike, lots of small birds sunbirds, yellow bellied eremomela, queleas, willow warbler, tchagras, mousebirds and a good selection of raptors. We headed back to camp had a quick drink before we took a drive out for a few hours encountering a few ostriches, tawny eagles and several **giraffes** amongst the commoner species **zebra, wildebeest, impala** and the like. But the heat made it hard work and it was generally quiet.

Early afternoon we headed back to Mopani for a cold drink and snack and to relax for a while from the wetlands lookout. The wetlands had plenty of **elephants** and a whole array of storks, egrets, herons and other waterbirds. A few gulls were present but it was now that I realised my bird guide, SASOL Birds of Southern Africa 2nd Edition did not contain pages 201-216 which had the gulls and terns and some waders I took some record shots to aid the ID. Suitably relaxed and refreshed we joined the sunset drive. We were again the only customers and one of the morning's guides was the guide for this trip as well. We had a good drive round spotting plenty of things and we stopped briefly to talk to some rangers, their tip off prompted us to head to a waterhole where two **white rhinos** were just leaving and we had some nice views of them before they vanished into the bush. The other side of the waterhole we found a couple of **lions** resting in what was still incredibly hot conditions and couple of **hyenas** were cooling off in the waterhole. As darkness fell we spotlighted all the way back to camp but nothing new was spotted. After something to eat we had an early night.



WHITE RHINO



AFRICAN LION



KURRIEHANE THRUSH



TSESSEBE



RED BILLED HORNBILL



SPIDER HUNTING WASP

7TH NOVEMBER 2016

Another early start and we spent the day driving to Satara, we found the first **Southern reedbuck** of the trip and a family of **Eland** before visiting the Pioneer and Shipandani bird hides here we had African darters, jacana some crocodiles and a few **hippos**. The day was quiet bird wise but mammal wise we had all the common species but also located a couple of **spotted hyenas** feeding on a waterbuck carcass. We stopped at Oliphants camp for welcome refreshments as the temperatures soared again to the high 30's. The camp was on a spectacular lookout and we had amazing views across the river valley. The camp had a few sunbirds chasing each other in the trees. The sightings board had leopards and cheetah so we looked for these sightings along our route to Satara without success but did find a young **white rhino**. We arrived at Satara and had a look for the Scops owl resident near reception but it had gone AWOL for the last few days and we did not see it at all during our stay and the resident wildcat evaded us as well. Some **black backed jackals** caused some excitement outside the gate. We had the night off so had a leisurely meal overlooking the waterhole, there were dozens of small **bats** helpfully identified (by a knowledgeable person who had seen them who we met at Crocodile bridge) as **twilight bats**.



GREATER KUDU



RED BILLED OXPECKER



WATERBUCK

AFRICAN JACANA





CHEETAH

8TH NOVEMBER 2016

We were up early and today our mission would be finding leopard and cheetah, we took the S100 which was full of **lions** and we encountered several groups on our journey. A kori bustard was an excellent find as was a 2 belted sandgrouse and a gabar goshawk was also spotted. Two **impala** ran across the road in front of us at full speed we waited but no **cheetah** followed them across the road which was because it had stopped 200 yards short of the road. We watched the **cheetah** for quite a while before heading back to camp for refreshments. Suitably refreshed we headed up to Ratelpan Bird hide but the route was blocked by a large herd of **elephants** so we turned round and drove a few other roads. Heading back to Satara we encountered the first real traffic jam of the trip, a **leopard** had an impala in a tree very nice, the young **white rhino** was in the same area as the previous evening and as time was getting on and we had to head back to camp. We got something to eat and then joined the night drive. The night drive was poor; we followed another vehicle full of rowdy drunks so there was very little for us to see apart from **lions** and **hyenas**, although the **lions** were extremely close and were very photogenic it was generally a waste of time.



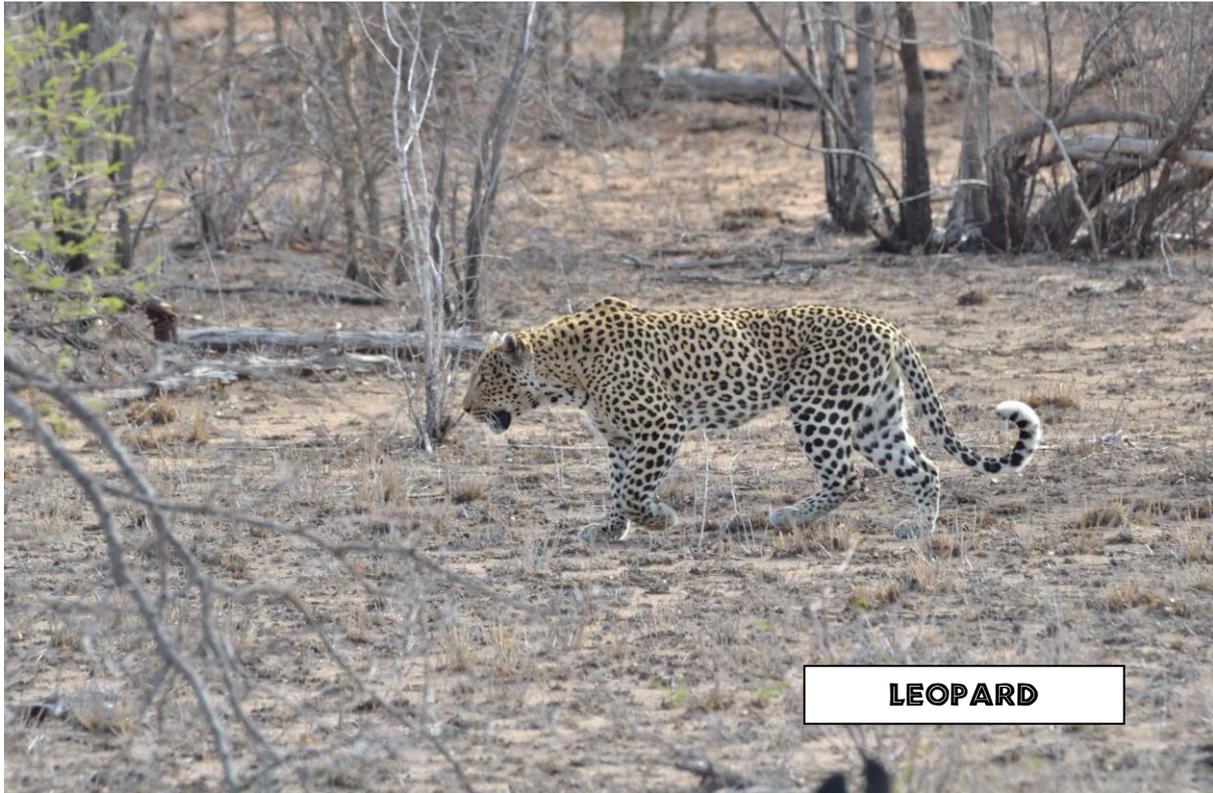
RED CRESTED KORHAAN



AFRICAN ELEPHANT



AFRICAN LION



LEOPARD

9TH NOVEMBER 2016

We were up early again and had a family of **banded mongooses** in the camp, we then headed to the Ratelpan bird hide which we never reached the previous evening, bumping into another kori bustard on the way. The bird hide was quiet but we did have a brown headed parrot, a shikra and some kingfishers. We carried on and stopped just past the bird hide for a **honey badger** in the dry river bed, the only one of the trip. We stopped for some nice snake eagles and our first **klipspringers** of the trip encountered on the way. to Oliphants camp for breakfast. The late morning and early afternoon were incredible hot and not very productive, we only found the common species of mammal and very few birds, but late afternoon it cooled down a little and activity increased. The highlight was a **leopard** under a tree showing very well, as we watched something attracted its attention, a **steenbok** feeding by the road and the **leopard** headed off to stalk it but the **steenbok** was wise to it and headed off into the bush. We headed back to camp for dinner and the night drive which was much better than the previous night's trip; highlights were a nice **small spotted genet** and a **wildcat**.



KLIPSPRINGER



SMALL SPOTTED GENET



BANDED MONGOOSE

10TH NOVEMBER 2016

We had a slightly later start to allow the rain to stop the **banded mongooses** were active round camp and we searched one last time for the scops owl but still no sign. It was much cooler and wildlife activity was a bit higher a cracking secretary bird was the bird highlight of the day although a little green bee-eater was also very nice. We had a couple of **slender mongoose** sightings and dozens of **lions** in several groups including some cubs and a few scattered **hyenas**. The rain had brought out loads of leopard tortoises drinking from puddles in the road and birds were particularly active along the way and we made several stops to see them. And everywhere we went Shongololo were everywhere.

We worked our way to Skukuza encountering yet more **lions** and stopped at the camp for lunch and to get some cash as this is the only cashpoint in the park that accepts foreign cards. On leaving the camp we found a **terrapin** in the road and had to coax it towards the stream and the river provided a nice selection of waterbirds, including black crane and hammerkop. We stopped at Lower Sabie camp for cold drinks and found a nice agama lizard and a few birds during our stop. We headed off once more stopping at a traffic jam for a massive python which mostly hidden below some bushes and difficult to see. Some dung beetles entertained during a drink stop at a small wetland as did a selection of waders, storks herons and crocodiles trying to catch some small waders without success.

We continued our journey south were about to turn off at a junction a little north of Crocodile bridge when we encountered a road block and police asked us who we were what we were doing etc. and checked our ID and looked in our vehicle. They were happy we were clearly tourists they let us carry on. We headed to the river where we met a family of **hyenas** and had good views of them close to the car. **Hippos** in the river and a few birds were spotted, but time was against us so we headed for camp, the road block police recognised us and waved us through and we made it to Crocodile bridge just before the curfew. As we booked in there were large **bats** everywhere round reception and in the trees around at least a hundred mostly **epalutted sp** (some perched up) but possibly other species as well. We joined the night drive which quite good we had a **small spotted genet**, **African civet**, 2 **wildcats** 3 **porcupines** 2 **white rhinos** and 12 **hyenas**.



MARABOU STORKS



NILE CROCODILE



SECRETARYBIRD



BUSHBUCK



HAMMERKOP



YELLOW BILLED STORK

11TH NOVEMBER 2016

With more rain overnight tortoises were out again and we headed off to Pretoriouskop our destination for the day. We took a winding route on unpaved roads and encountered lots of wildlife due to the cooler conditions. We had 4 white rhinos during the morning drive and we stopped at Afsaal picnic site for refreshments. There were loads of **vervet monkeys** fighting and one cheeky one tried to steal stuff from our table I found a **tomb bat** in a crack but it was impossible to photograph. We headed off encountering more **white rhinos** along the way. A black collared barbet was nice, we checked in at Pretoriouskop and headed straight out to drive round some of the loops in search of sable, this is the best area for them. But we did not find any but found loads of **dwarf mongooses** in several groups. After a quick meal it was out on the nightdrive and somehow the seat I had chosen to get a spot lamp did not get one and two idiots up the front got one instead, my first lamp miss of the trip. However all was not lost the chap in front of me had his own and he was an excellent spotter and knew his identification as well. He spotted the brown backed tree frogs, and the marsh owl. He spotted several nightjars and identified them as well fiery necked and square tailed but the best sighting was a **side-striped jackal**. We also had 3 **white rhino** and a few **lions** and a family of **hyena**.



YELLOW BREASTED APALIS



WATER THICKNEE



SPOTTED HYENA



WHITE RHINO

12TH NOVEMBER 2016

We had missed wild dogs so far so today we focussed on them following up on recent sightings took us back to Skukuza but with no luck but we did see 2 **white rhino**. We had some lunch at Skukuza and followed up on some more sightings again without any luck only a slender mongoose. But we located a **southern reedbuck** and 3 more **white rhino's** and loads of **African land snails** on the roads. We stopped at a picnic site for some refreshments, the place was overrun with **baboons** and the shop gave sticks out to keep them away. A tame **bushbuck** fed in the picnic area and was very photogenic, but as the light faded we headed back to camp for a braai and an early night a few **dwarf mongooses** on the way back of note.

13TH NOVEMBER 2016

Our last day in Kruger and we were up early and headed off for one last look for wild dogs, we were unsuccessful but did catch up with a few **white rhinos** and a martial eagle. After a couple of hours we had to leave and headed out through Phabeni gate, which was bordered by a large township which was rather run down. We headed down to Swaziland and eventually work out the border system and proceeded through quite quickly. The weather was deteriorating and there was quite a bit of rain as we arrived at Mykhala reserve. Here we parked our car in a compound and were taken into the reserve on an open topped safari vehicle, in somewhat less than ideal wildlife watching conditions although the ponchos supplied helped a bit. We went straight into the reserve on a game drive, despite the rain protection we got a bit wet but it was worth it as we located a group of **white rhino** one of the females in the group must have been in season or near as in addition to the male accompanying her a male **black rhino** was following a bit behind (apparently this is quite common) the **white rhino** male occasionally dropped back to dissuade the **black rhino** from his advances, we saw plenty of other stuff as well including some great **hippos**. We headed back to camp at dusk and settled into our accommodation which was very nice, it was open to the elements on all sides and allowed good view of the wildlife in camp which was mainly **nyala**. We had a great meal followed by traditional dancing and plenty of beer. We went to bed relatively early but were woken up by a massive thunder and lightning storm during the night.



**WHITE CROWNED
HELMET SHRIKE**



**GIANT AFRICAN LAND
SNAIL**



HIPPOPOTAMUS



**WHITE FACED
WHISTLING DUCK**



GIRAFFE



BLACK RHINO

14TH NOVEMBER 2016

We woke to a rather damp morning after last night's storm and assembled for the morning drive, fortunately it had stopped raining but it was a grey and murky day but we had a good selection of sightings lots of **giraffe** and **nyala**, **buffalo**, **wildebeest** and a couple of **white rhino's**. We headed back to camp for breakfast and then headed back to the car and we headed south out of Swaziland to iSimangaliso wetland park there was hardly anyone about and we drove round finding a nice section of birds and a couple of **red duikers**. The open areas held good numbers of **zebra**, **waterbuck**, **southern reedbuck**, **buffalo** etc. Time was moving on and we headed to St Lucia and our accommodation. We had booked a night tour looking for turtles but I was unimpressed with the tour company they were 45 minutes late picking us up, the driver drove like a mad man probably because they were so late and we had an open sided vehicle in torrential rain. The weather did not help the sightings and we got a bit damp, those on the outside more do. We had no turtles and only a few nocturnal sightings, but when being dropped off back at our accommodation we saw a **porcupine** and a **bush pig**.



SWAZILAND FLAG



YELLOW BILLED KITE



RED DUIKER

15TH NOVEMBER 2016

We were up early and headed off for a day in Kwazulu Natal to see some of the iconic battlefield sites from the Zulu war. The weather was much better but the journey was very eventful, we witnessed an overturned minibus, drove 40 miles on a terrible unpaved road in the mountains in thick fog before eventually arriving at Rorke's Drift and Isandlwana which were very interesting to visit. There was some amazing scenery on the way and we had a good selection of birds including some cracking pin tailed whydahs. And at Isandlwana even picked up a new mammal for the trip a vlei rat. We stayed just outside Ladysmith overnight.

16TH NOVEMBER 2016

It was a beautiful morning and I birded the hotel grounds before breakfast which contained common species. We then set off for the long but spectacular drive across to Marrick Safari, near Kimberley. We had plenty of birds on the way including some nice displaying widowbirds. The only mammal of note was a **sable** but we were not sure of its provenance. We drove through a couple of wild storms with thunder lightning and marble sized hail, but Kimberley was dry although a little cooler than expected. We had a late lunch, did some shopping before finally driving the last few miles to Marrick.

We arrived mid-afternoon and settled in to our bungalow, I took a walk round getting my bearings and finding several new birds along the way. I set a couple of traps near the bungalow and then we joined the night drive, which was a group of British birders who were not staying at Marrick. They were not very welcoming and most showed little or no interest in the animals spotted and I guess most of the birds seen they had seen before as they largely ignored them as well, it was quite cold and they complained endlessly about that fact. Still we had some nice sightings two **zorilla**, a **bushveld gerbil**, **Highveld gerbils**, 3 **bat eared foxes** a **wildcat** and two **porcupines**, and bird wise rufous cheeked nightjar and spike heeled larks. Back at the bungalow there were a few bats flying round a **pipistrelle** sp and also a **freetailed bat** sp most likely cape and Egyptian respectively. The light outside the bungalow attracted an array of moths and some sausage flies.



PIN TAILED WHYDAH



**SOUTHERN PALE
CHANTING GOSHAWK**



ZORILLA



**SOUTH AFRICAN
GROUND SQUIRREL**



SMALL SPOTTED GENET

17TH NOVEMBER 2016

We were up early checked the traps a **highveld gerbil** the only capture and we then headed for Mokala. On the way we saw a group of **Meerkats** and a leopard tortoise. We found the entrance track to Mokala which is about 12km long and we drove down it spotting a few ungulates in the park, we stopped for a group of **red hartebeest** and a truck full of armed rangers arrives enquiring what we were upto, our English accents and explaining that we were heading to the park but stopped to see the Hartebeest, (our pickup truck probably giving them concern not the average tourist hire vehicle) they were happy with our explanation and we entered the park through the South entrance. We immediately headed North and quickly began spotting **Gemsbok**, **springbok** and more **hartebeest**. We drove round for a couple of hours locating a few **roan**, **sable**, **blesbok** and a **mountain reedbuck**. The bird hide was over a waterhole and had a good selection of birds a green winged pytilia the highlight and **warthog**, **baboon**, **kudu** and **springbok** all came down to drink.

It was incredibly hot so we headed for the camp to get some refreshments before driving round the far north of the park where we finally found **black wildebeest** and good numbers of **Eland**, more **sable** and **roan**, and the **zebras** being backcrossed to look like Quagga. We headed out of the park on the north access road and bumped into a couple of **yellow mongooses** on the way. A supermarket stop for ice cream and cold drinks was welcome relief from the heat and we headed back to Marrick for the evening meal. I headed out into the park to set some traps and bumped into Fiona Reid's group who told me about a family of spotted eagle owls a short distance away. We all met for dinner joined by Phil Telfer and his family whilst having drinks we watched **Cape Serotines** emerging from the bar roof where they were roosting. The weather for the night driver was much better than the previous evening as was the company and we quickly had our first target a distant **aardvark**. The night drive was excellent and we had a family of **black footed cats**, **hedgehog**, **large eared mouse**, **wildcat**, 4 **bat eared foxes**, double banded courser and an African bullfrog, but the highlight was an **aardwolf** and **aardvark** together really close in



AFRICAN BULLFROG



SPOTTED EAGLE OWL



SABLE



SPRINGBOK



OSTRICH



RED HARTEBEEST

18TH NOVEMBER 2016

Everyone joined me opening the traps but I only had one capture a **tiny pygmy mouse**, and yes as its name suggests was really small. We had a wander round spotting a few birds including some cracking Swallow tailed bee-eaters and a leopard tortoise before taking a late breakfast. We spent the whole day at Marrick, first we had a drive round the reserve spotting plenty of **Yellow mongooses**, lots of **ground squirrels** a few ostrich and a few nice birds before we found my target blue cranes and also a Ludwig bustard of note. There were plenty of ungulates but all are introduced as game so I didn't count them but the **black springbok** was very nice to see. We had a leisurely lunch at our bungalow watching the birds such as cape sparrows and doves come down to some food I put out a **striped grass mouse** decided he wanted a free feed as well and showed very well off and on. I birded the camp area for a while before we took another drive round the park this time finding several groups of **meerkats** and more **yellow mongooses** and a crèche of baby ostrich. We headed back to the bungalow and I went to set the traps and disturbed a **Smith's red rock rabbit** in the process. After dinner we headed out for our last night drive of the trip and it was not quite as good as the previous night but we still had some good sightings, another **aardvark**, 3 **hedgehogs**, 5 **bat eared foxes**, a **zorilla** and two **black footed cats**.

19TH NOVEMBER 2016

Our last day and we checked the traps first thing and once again had a **tiny pygmy mouse**, and Phil had a **hairy footed gerbil** in one of his traps. We had one last look round before settling our bill and heading off. We had a couple of stops on the way back to Johannesburg. First was the famous Big Hole in Kimberley which had several white rumped swifts and a rock kestrel. We then stopped at Kamfers Dam to see the Lesser Flamingo's which were the other side of the large expanse of water, but a black winged kite was good addition to the trip list. Our last stop was Warrenton for otters, but none were to be seen. However the birding was very good pin tailed whydah the highlight amongst a large number of small birds. With time moving on we headed for the airport, the weather turned from glorious sunshine to torrential rain and hail for 3 hours of the drive and we had an uneventful flight home.



**SOUTH AFRICAN
HEDGEHOG**



YELLOW MONGOOSE



BLACK FOOTED CAT



BAT EARED FOX



BLACK WILDEBEEST



**FOUR STRIPED GRASS
MOUSE**

NOTES

South Africa felt quite safe but we were careful where we went, what we did and where we parked etc., but most people were friendly and we had no trouble anywhere. Distances are long and some roads in in poor condition so our travelling times were sometimes longer than expected.

Having a high clearance vehicle was a real bonus as some of the roads we travelled on we would have struggled with a normal car, and it also gave a good vantage point for viewing wildlife. Roads were relatively quiet and we stopped almost everywhere to see wildlife apart from the major truck roads and other road users did not seem annoyed by us doing this. Littering is a problem and it was commonplace for people to throw litter out of their car windows and no one seemed bothered by this.

Food and drink was generally good, the service in the Kruger Camps was very mixed from being excellent to dire and was generally better outside the park.

Kruger is well geared up for tourists the shops have enough to keep you going but only the cashpoint at Skukuza allows foreign card holders to withdraw cash. But you can pay with foreign cards without problem.

Keep an eye on your fuel in Kruger as although there are petrol stations in most camps the distance between them can be significant.



CHECKLISTS

HERPS 18

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Leopard Tortoise | Water Monitor | Southern Tree Agama |
| Southern Rock Agama | Rainbow Skink | South African Python |
| Common Flap Necked Chameleon | Striped Skink | Variable Skink |
| Common House Gecko | Southern Foam Nest Frog | African Bullfrog |
| Rock Monitor | Frog sp | Nile Crocodile |
| Brown Backed Treefrog | Serrated Hinged Terrapin | Terrapin |



LEOPARD TORTOISE

BIRDS 282

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Abdim's Stork | Feral Pigeon | Red Headed Weaver |
| African Cuckoo | Fiery Necked Nightjar | Red Knobbed Coot |
| African Darter | Fiscal Flycatcher | Red Winged Starling |
| African Fish Eagle | Fork tailed Drongo | Reed Cormorant |
| African Golden Oriole | Gabar Goshawk | Ringed Plover |
| African Goshawk | Giant Kingfisher | Rock Bunting |
| African green pigeon | Glossy Ibis | Ruff |
| African Grey Hornbill | Go-Away Bird | Rufous cheeked nightjar |
| African Hoopoe | Golden Bishop | Sabota Lark |
| African Jacana | Golden Breasted Bunting | Sacred Ibis |
| African Mourning Dove | Golden tailed Woodpecker | Saddle Billed Stork |
| African Paradise Flycatcher | Goliath Heron | Sand Martin |
| African Pied Wagtail | Great White Egret | Sanderling |
| African Pipit | Greater Striped Swallow | Scaly Feathered Finch |
| African Pygmy Kingfisher | Greater Blue eared Starling | Scarlet Chested Sunbird |
| African Scops Owl | Greater Flamingo | Secretary bird |
| African Spoonbill | Green Backed Camaroptera | Senegal Lapwing |
| Amethyst Sunbird | Green Backed Heron | Sentinel Rock Thrush |
| Amur Falcon | Green Winged Pytilla | Shrika |
| Ant Eating Chat | Green Wood hoopoe | Sociable Weaver |
| Arrow Marked babbler | Greenshank | Southern black tit |
| Avocet | Grey headed Bushshrike | Southern Ground hornbill |
| Bar Throated Apalis | Grey headed gull | Southern Masked Weaver |
| Barn Owl | Grey Headed Sparrow | Southern Pochard |
| Barn Swallow | Grey Heron | Southern Red Bishop |



HELMETED GUINEA FOWL

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Bateleur | Groundscraper Thrush | Speckled Mousebird |
| Black backed puffback | Hadeaba Ibis | Speckled Pigeon |
| Black Bellied korhaan | Hammerkop | Spectacled Weaver |
| Black Bellied Starling | Helmeted Guineafowl | Spike Heeled Lark |
| Black Chested Prinia | Hobby | Spotted Eagle Owl |
| Black Collared Barbet | Horus Swift | Spotted Flycatcher |
| Black Crake | Hottentot Teal | Spotted thicknee |
| Black crowned night heron | House Martin | Spur Winged Goose |
| Black Crowned Tchagra | House Sparrow | Squacco Heron |
| African Black Duck | Jacobin Cuckoo | Square Tailed Drongo |
| Black Faced Waxbill | Kalahari Scrub robin | Steppe Buzzard |
| Black Flycatcher | Kittlitz's Plover | Swanison's Francolin |
| Black Headed Heron | Kori Bustard | Swee Waxbill |
| Black Headed Oriole | Kurrichane thrush | Tawny Eagle |
| Ashy Flycatcher | Lappet faced Vulture | Tawny Flanked Prinia |
| Black Kite | Laughing Dove | Temminck's Courser |
| Black stork | Lesser Flamingo | Three Banded Plover |
| African Black swift | Lesser Honeyguide | Trumpeter Hornbill |
| Black throated Canary | Lesser Kestrel | Village Weaver |
| Black Winged Kite | Lesser Moorhen | Violet Backed Starling |
| Black Winged Stilt | Lesser Striped Swallow | Wahlberg's Eagle |
| Blacksmith Plover | Lilac breasted roller | Water thick knee |
| Blue cheeked bee-eater | Little Egret | Wattled Lapwing |
| Blue Crane | Little grebe | Whiskered tern |
| Blue Waxbill | Little green bee-eater | White Backed Duck |



CRIMSON BREASTED BUSH SHRIKE



SOUTHERN GROUND HORNBILL

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Booted Eagle | Little Stint | White Backed Night Heron |
| Brown Crowned tchagra | Little Swift | White Bellied Sunbird |
| Brown headed Parrot | Ludwig's Bustard | White Breasted cormorant |
| Brown Hooded Kingfisher | Long Billed Crombec | White Browed Sparrow Weaver |
| Brown Snake Eagle | Long Tailed Paradise Whydah | White crested Helmet Shrike |
| Brown Throated Martin | Long tailed Widowbird | White Crowned Lapwing |
| Brubru | Maccoa Duck | White Crowned Robinchat |
| Cape Batis | Magpie Shrike | White faced Whistling Duck |
| Cape Cormorant | Malachite Kingfisher | White Fronted Bee-eater |
| Cape Glossy Starling | Marabou Stork | White Rumped Swift |
| Cape Robin Chat | Marico Flycatcher | White Stork |
| Cape Sparrow | Marico Sunbird | Willow Warbler |
| Cape Turtle Dove | Marsh Owl | Wire tailed Swallow |
| Cape Vulture | Marsh Sandpiper | Wood Sandpiper |
| Cape Wagtail | Martial Eagle | Woolly Necked Stork |
| Capped Wheatear | Mocking Cliffchat | Yellow bellied Eremomela |
| Cape White eye | Moorhen | Yellow Bellied Greenbul |
| Cardinal Woodpecker | Mountain Wheatear | Yellow Billed Duck |
| Cattle egret | Mozambique Nightjar | Yellow Billed Egret |
| Chestnut Backed Sparrowlark | Namaqua Dove | Yellow Bellied Greenbul |
| Chestnut vented tit babbler | Natal Francolin | Yellow Billed Hornbill |
| Chinspot Batis | Northern Black Korhaan | Yellow Billed Kite |
| Cinnamon Breasted Bunting | Open Billed Stork | Yellow Billed Oxpecker |
| Common Fiscal | Orange breasted bush shrike | Yellow Billed Stork |
| Common Myna | Osprey | Yellow breasted Apalis |

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| Common Sandpiper | Ostrich | Yellow canary |
| Common Scimitarbill | Pale Chanting Goshawk | Yellow Fronted canary |
| Common Swift | Pallid Harrier | Yellow Spotted Nicator |
| Common Waxbill | Palm Swift | Yellow Throated Sparrow |
| Crested Barbet | Pearl Spotted Owlet | Rock Kestrel |
| Crested Francolin | Pied Crow | African harrier Hawk |
| Crested Guineafowl | Pied Kingfisher | White Backed Vulture |
| Crimson Breasted Shrike | Pied Starling | White Fronted canary |
| Crowned Lapwing | Pin tailed Whydah | Stark's Lark |
| Cut Throat Finch | Purple Heron | Red headed Finch |
| Dark Capped Bulbul | Purple Roller | Lesser Spotted Eagle |
| Dark Chanting Goshawk | Red Billed Buffalo Weaver | White throated canary |
| Double banded Courser | Red Billed Firefinch | Red backed Shrike |
| Double Banded Sandgrouse | Red Billed Hornbill | Lesser Masked Weaver |
| Eastern Nicator | Red Billed Oxpecker | Burchell's Starling |
| Egyptian Goose | Red Billed Quelea | |
| Emerald Dove | Red Billed Teal | |
| European Nightjar | Red Crested Korhaan | |
| European Roller | Red Eyed Bulbul | |
| European Bee-eater | Red Eyed Dove | |
| Fairy Flycatcher | Red Faced Mousebird | |

BATELEUR



OTHERS 15



SHONGOLOLO

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Golden Orb Spider | African Land Snail | Shongololo |
| Violet Dropwing | Sausage Fly | Spider Hunting Wasp |
| Banded Groundling | Dung Beetle | African Monarch |
| Yellow Pansy | Kirby's Dropwing | Window Acraea |
| Cicada | Grammodes stolidia | African Common White |

Plus loads more not identified



WINDOW ACRAEA

ANNOTATED MAMMAL LIST

| | | |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Chacma Baboon | Common in Kruger and Mokala |
|  A photograph of a Chacma Baboon sitting on a large, porous, reddish-brown rock. The baboon has thick, brownish-grey fur and a prominent, dark, protruding snout. It is looking towards the left of the frame. The background consists of bare, brown tree branches against a pale, overcast sky. | | |
| 2 | Green Vervet Monkey | Common in most areas |
|  A photograph of a Green Vervet Monkey sitting on a large, reddish-brown rock. The monkey has light grey or white fur with a dark face and a black mask-like pattern around its eyes. It is looking towards the right of the frame. The background is a blurred, hilly landscape with sparse, dry vegetation and some green leaves. | | |

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| 3 | Greater Galago | One seen in Punda Maria Camp |
| 4 | Lesser Galago | One on Crocodile Bridge Night Drive |
| 5 | Cape Serotine | A small roost in the roof of the bar at Marrick were very likely to be this species (Fiona Reid ID) |
| 6 | Cape Pipistrelle | Lots of small bats at Marrick were this species |
| 7 | Twilight Bats | Lots of small bats around the restaurant at Satara are thought to be these species |
| 8 | Wahlberg's Epauletted Fruit Bat | A few roosting at Moopani Picnic site are this or the next species. Large numbers at Crocodile bridge. |
| 9 | Peter's Epauletted Fruit Bat | See above |



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| 10 | Angolan Free Tailed bat | Mooplas picnic site and several river bridges probably held this species mixed with Little (seen in cracks), accommodation at Mopani held this species |
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| 11 | Little Free Tailed bat | Mooplas picnic site had a small roost of this species mixed with Angolan |
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| 12 | Mauritanian Tomb Bat | A couple roosting at Afsaal picnic site |
| 13 | Egyptian Freetailed Bat | Seen flying at Marrick were likely this species |
| 14 | Cape Hare | Several seen at Marrick |



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| 15 | Scrub Hare | Common on most night drives and also seen several times during the day. |
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| 16 | Smiths Red Rock Hare | One flushed while setting small mammal traps at Marrick |
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| 17 | South African Ground Squirrel | Very common at Marrick and Mokala and surrounds |
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18

Smith's Bush Squirrel

Common in Kruger



19

South African Porcupine

One seen at the waterholes at Inyana Safari
3 seen on Night drive from Crocodile Bridge
1 on Night Drive at iSamangaliso
6 seen over 3 night drives at Marrick



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| 20 | Hairy Footed Gerbil | One trapped at Marrick, one spotted on 3 rd marrick Nightdrive |
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| 21 | Highveld Gerbil | Seen on 2 nd and 3rd Marrick night drives, one trapped at Marrick |
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| 22 | Bushveld Gerbil | Seen on 1st Marrick night drive |
| 23 | Tiny Pygmy Mouse | Trapped on two occasions at Marrick |



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| 24 | Large Eared Mouse | Seen well on md and 3 rd night drives at Marrick |
| 25 | Four Striped Grass Mouse | One coming to food at Marrick |



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| 26 | Vlei Rat sp (probably Angoni) | One seen at Isandlwana was likely this species |
| 27 | Springhare | Common in Northern Kruger around Punta Maria and at Marrick |



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| 28 | South African hedgehog | 1 seen on 2 nd Marrick night drive and 3 seen on 3 rd Marrick night drive |
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29

Black Backed Jackal

A pair were present near the Satara waterhole on all 3 days, one seen at Uitspan, one on S90 north of Satara, 2 on Mopani night drive



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| 30 | Side Striped Jackal | One seen well on Pretorioskop night drive |
| 31 | Bat Eared Fox | Seen on all three Marrick night drives |



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| 32 | Zorilla | 1 seen on Mopani night drive, 2 seen on 1 st Marrick night drive and one seen briefly on 3 rd Marrick night drive |
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33

Honey Badger

One in dry riverbed just north of Ratelpan bird hide



34

Meerkat

Family seen between Marrick and Mokala and common at Marrick



35

Dwarf Mongoose

Several small groups seen in Kruger



36

Slender Mongoose

Scattered individuals seen in Kruger



37

Banded Mongoose

A family seen in Satara camp on a couple of occasions



38

Yellow Mongoose

Family seen at Wonderfontein Pans
One near Mokala
A dozen individuals seen at Marrick



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| 39 | White tailed Mongoose | One seen on Mopani night drive |
| 40 | Spotted Hyena | Common in Kruger seen most days |



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| 41 | Aardwolf | One seen on second Marrick night drive feeding with aardvark |
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| 42 | Small Spotted Genet | Lots seen on Punda Maria night drive, individuals seen elsewhere in Kruger and at Marrick |
|  | | |
| 43 | Large Spotted Genet | At least one of the dozen seen on Punda Maria night drive was identified as this species |
| 44 | African Civet | One seen on Inyanya night drive, and individuals seen on Crocodile bridge and Punda Maria night drives |



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| 45 | African Wildcat | 1 seen on Mopani night drive, 2 seen on Crocodile bridge night drive and seen on 2 nd and 3 rd Marrick night drives |
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| 46 | Black Footed Cat | Family adult and two kittens seen on 2 nd Marrick night drive and one seen on 3 rd Marrick night drive |
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47

Leopard

One seen with a kill in a tree on S90 / H1-4

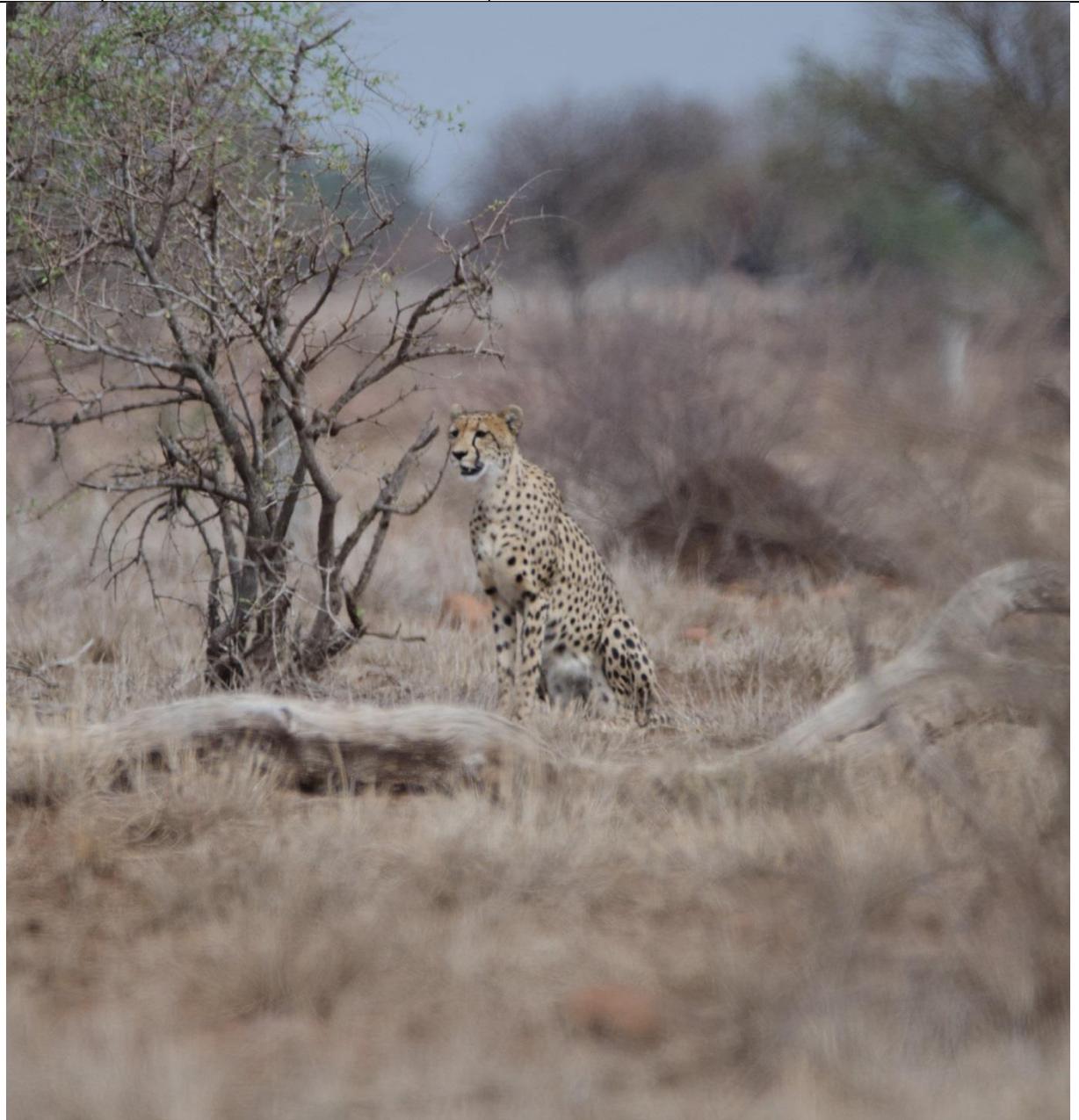
One seen resting then hunting a Steenbok on S36



48

Cheetah

One hunting impala near the S90



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| 49 | Lion | Common around Satara and Skukusa, 4 on Punda Mari Night drive, 1 near Mopani camp, 3 at seen at Klopperfontein and 2 at Malopenyana waterhole |
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| 50 | Aardvark | Two seen on second Marrick night drive and one on the third |
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51

African Elephant

Common in Kruger



52

Common Zebra

Common in Kruger, Mokala, Mkhaya and iSamangaliso



53

Black Rhinoceros

One seen at Mkhaya



54

White Rhinoceros

Common in Kruger south of Mopani and common in Mkhaya



55

Hippopotamus

Suffering with the drought, but seen around any water in Kruger and Mkhaya



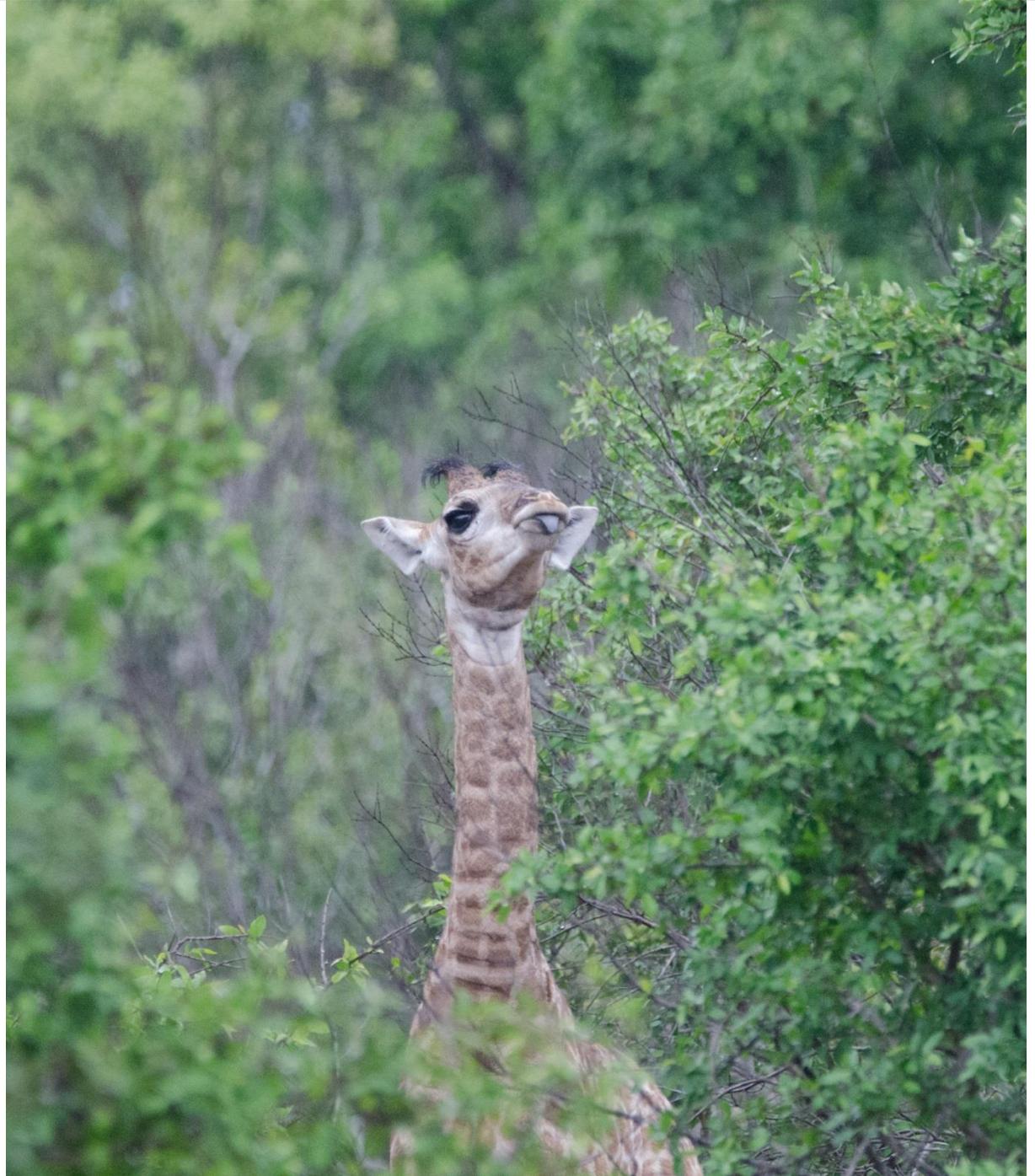
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| 56 | Bushpig | 1 seen on iSamangaliso night drive |
| 57 | Common Warthog | Common in Kruger, Mokala, iSamangaliso and Mkhaya a family lived in our kitchen at Satara Camp |



58

Giraffe

Common in Kruger, Mokala, iSamangaliso and Mkhaya



59

African Buffalo

Common in Kruger, Mokala, iSamangaliso and Mkhaya



60

Bushbuck

Not very common but seen most days in Kruger particularly in picnic sites



61

Nyala

Common only in Kruger north of Punda Maria and common in Mkhaya



62

Greater kudu

Seen most days at Kruger, iSamangaliso, Mokala and Mkhaya



63

Eland

A pair and a family group seen in the Mopani area, a few small herds in North Mokala



64

Common Duiker

Seen most days at Kruger, iSamangaliso and Mkhaya and on Marrick night drives



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| 65 | Red Duiker | Several seen in iSamangaliso |
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| 66 | Suni | One in the far north of Kruger |
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| 67 | Sharpe's Grysbok | Scattered individuals in North Kruger several seen on Punda Maria night drive |
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| 68 | Steenbok | Seen most days at Kruger, Mokala, iSamangaliso and Mkhaya |
|----|----------|---|



69

Klipspringer

Two at Nwamanzi viewpoint near Oliphants, one seen near Mopani and a couple seen in Mokala



70

Waterbuck

Common in Kruger, Mokala, iSamangaliso and Mkhaya



71

Springbok

Common at Mokala



72

Impala

Common in Kruger, iSamangaliso and Mkhaya



73

Red Hartebeest

Common at Mokala



74

Tsessebe

Scattered small groups in Kruger and Mokala



75

Blue Wildebeest

Common in Kruger, iSamangaliso, Mokala and Mkhaya



76

Black Wildebeest

Common at Mokala



77

Roan

One in Kruger north of Mopani, several at Mokala



78

Sable

Several at Mokala



79

Gemsbok

Common at Mokala



80

Southern Reedbuck

Small number in North Kruger with singles in south Kruger, common in iSamangaliso



81

Grey Rhebok

One seen in Mokala



82

Bleesbok

A few seen at Mokala



83

European Rabbit

A few seen between and Dullstroom and Grietjie

flickr