

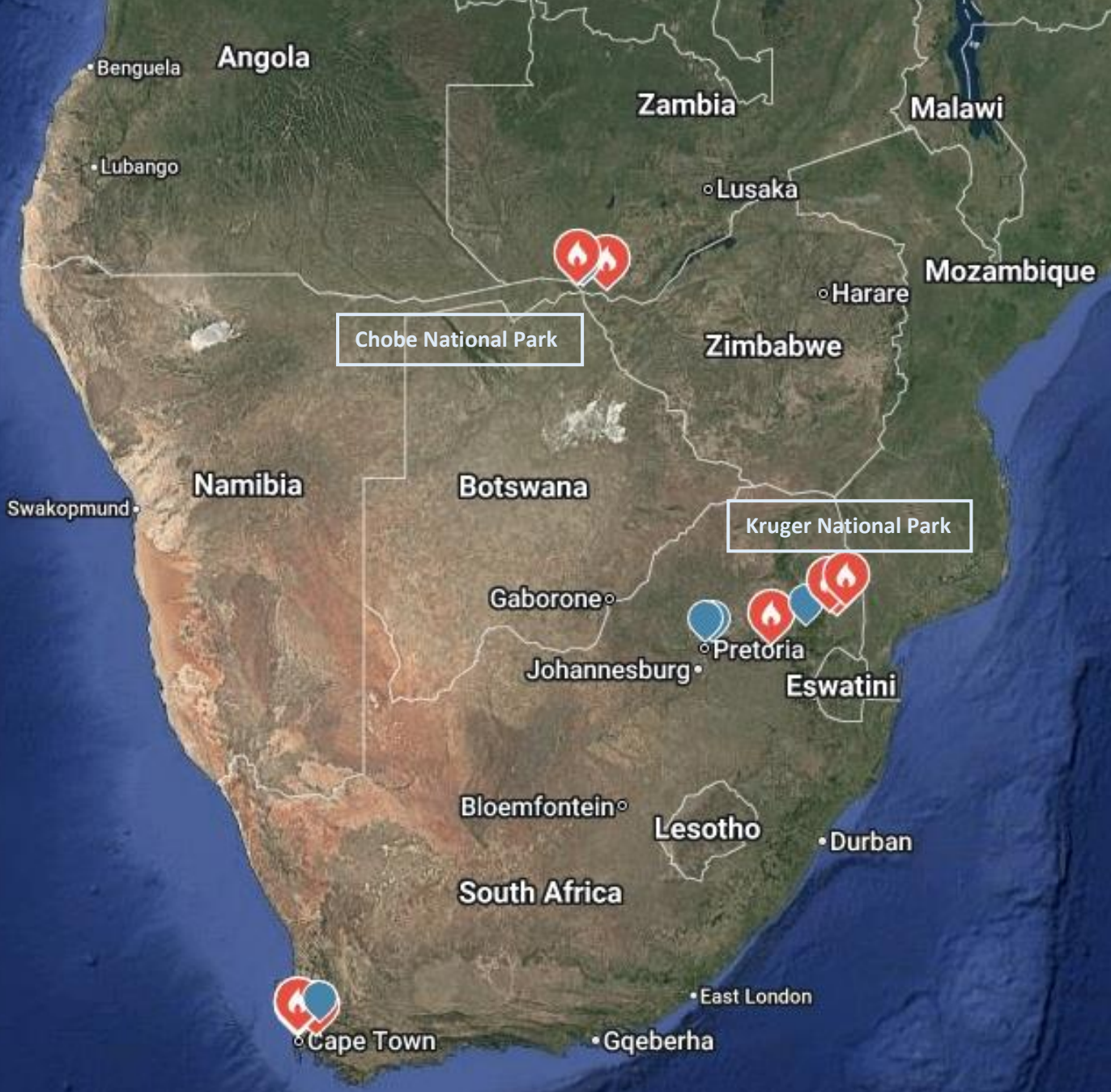
A Birding Trip to

Southern Africa

South Africa, Zimbabwe & Botswana



28th February to 10th March, 2026



Saturday 28 th February	Johannesburg to Kruger	Alzu rest stop Schoemanskloof rest stop, Mpumalanga Nkambeni Safari Camp
Sunday 1 st March	Kruger National Park	Voortrekker Rd Nkambeni Safari Camp
Monday 2 nd March	Kruger National Park	Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd
Tuesday 3 rd March	Kruger to Johannesburg	Schoemanskloof rest stop, Mpumalanga
Wednesday 4 th March	Cape Town	V&A Waterfront Table Mountain
Thursday 5 th March	Stellenbosch, Franzhoek, & Paal wine areas	
Friday 6 th March	Cape Town area	Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden
Sunday 8 th March	Victoria Falls Rain Forest	
Monday 9 th March	Chobe National Park	Chobe National Park

BIRDseen

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Southern Africa

28th February to 10th March, 2026

After having done safaris in Africa before we were looking for a bit of a mop up to include Kruger National Park in South Africa and the possible addition of a visit to Victoria Falls, which had been a bit of a bucket list item adding to the wildlife focus. We found what we wanted with a company called Exoticca (exoticca.com) who not only covered the Kruger and Victoria Falls aspects, but also three days in Cape Town and the useful teaser of a one-day visit to Chobe National Park from the Victoria Falls segment of the trip. The time of year we chose, which was at the start of March, coincided with the end of the rainy season and also the beginning of their Autumn. Worryingly, when we were in the run up to the trip, there seemed to be massive flooding including both in Kruger National Park, Chobe and Victoria Falls. By the time we arrived, there was not a great deal of evidence of this apart from scattered pools around roads tracks etc. We did have a little rain around Victoria Falls which couldn't be separated from the mist off the falling waters and temperatures throughout the trip ranged from lower 20's°C to mid/upper 30's°C, the latter in Kruger on our first safari day.





Since this was a packaged group trip there was the usual focus on the mammals, which is quite understandable, but also makes bird observations lean towards the larger more obvious species since it isn't usual protocol to keep stopping for numerous little brown jobs. My impression of Kruger is that from a wildlife/mammal point of view a much larger variation in numbers of species can be seen in the Kenya and Tanzania national parks, but it did provide a different experience including the lack of copious tourist buses surrounding certain species. Also, one of the benefits from my opinion of the South African safaris is that open jeeps are the norm compared to the vans often used in East Africa which utilise an open roof for viewing. That being said the jeeps do contain a maximum of 10 people which if full can lead to one or two folk having poorer views.



Tips and need to know

Weather

As mentioned above, the hotter rainy season tends to be from December to early April in both Kruger and Chobe, leading to a chance of rain at any time. In theory this should be short and sharp, but we did experience prolonged rain one afternoon and night. Ironically we didn't notice any particular issue with biting insects such as mosquitoes, although anti-malarial tablets are still necessary.

Currency

A bit of a mish mash in Botswana, where up to four currencies are accepted - \$US, Euros, South African Rands, and the local currency in that order of favour. In South Africa it is the Rand, and the beneficial conversion rate leads to very reasonable prices of food and services there (as is the same in Zimbabwe and Botswana). Credit cards are also accepted widely and are even cashless in many places.



Visas



For UK residents, no visa is required for a stay of up to 90 days in South Africa. The Zimbabwe and Botswana situation is a lot more complex. At the very least, a single entry visa is required on entering Zimbabwe. If any trips are planned from there, including even walking on the Zambian side of Victoria Falls, or visiting Chobe in Botswana, a KAZA Univisa is advised. Both are available online and (preferably) as security is passed in the airport arrivals hall. It is at this point that you could check you have paid the \$US50 for the KAZA, which allows multiple entries to both Zambia and Botswana for 30 days (no overnight stay in Botswana allowed). Strangely for British visitors the single-entry visa costs \$US5 more than the more useful KAZA visa.

Electrical sockets



The more common plug sockets in both South Africa and Zimbabwe are the rather larger pinned Type M variety, with some UK sockets also in accommodations in both countries.

February 28th

Johannesburg to Kruger NP by transfer bus



The journey to Kruger national park was a little protracted, starting with two flights from Manchester changing at Addis Ababa and finally arriving in Johannesburg the next day. A night spent in a hotel near the airport was then followed by a transfer journey on a bus full of fellow tourists to Kruger which all in all took most of the day, considering various long hold ups due to road works and comfort breaks on the journey. That being said, of the two rest stops we took it included one, the first one, where there was the welcome surprise at the rear of a view over the open land including indigenous South African wildlife. Whilst at first sight this seemed what would be a typical South African wildlife vista, it was much more of a large area probably fenced off for the subsequent managed and maintained variety of mammals. This didn't detract from the taster menu of rhino, zebra, impala and other antelope wandering below what is ostensibly a motorway stop with a view. However, a small pool just in front of us on the viewing platform did obviously encourage attendance of various fully wild birds. Obvious ones were small groups of Blacksmith Lapwings and Grey-headed Gulls, with a few Egyptian Geese thrown in for good measure. With the obvious longer observations that were required the Swallows overhead could be picked out as Greater-striped with Barn Swallows on the ground further to the right, and the inclusion of a few White-rumped Swifts a little later on. A Cape Wagtail was tumbling around in front of us. Also, on occasion a breeding plumaged Southern Red Bishop kept appearing and disappearing around the pond edges.



Greater Striped Swallow

Nkambeni Safari Camp



We eventually arrived at Nkambeni Safari Camp late afternoon, just before 4:00 PM. Following the usual time intensive rituals of luggage/room keys/settling in etc, a little wander around the grounds proved quite fruitful. The camping style accommodation is set within the natural environment with an electric fence around to keep out any intruding wildlife. However, we did in fact see our first African Savanna Elephant through gaps in the bush just outside of the fence. Perhaps even more appealing were at least 2 male Pin-tailed Whydahs (*right*) in full breeding plumage attending to a group of females, displaying for quite some time around the boundary fence.

This had followed a Golden-tailed Woodpecker and Cape Starlings (*below centre*) also in attendance, as well as Fork-tailed Drongo and Southern Black Flycatcher which preceded two thrushes which had been on the wanted list for some time. A Groundscraper Thrush (*below left*) perched right out of the open in front of the bar area, then a Kurrichane Thrush appeared (*below right*), a little more hidden in comparison as I returned to the accommodation before the evening meal.





Kruger National Park

Camp Gate & Entry Gate Timetable

OPEN

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV
04:30	5:30	5:30	5:00	5:00	5:00	5:00	5:30	5:30	4:30	

CLOSE

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV
16:30	16:30	16:30	16:00	16:00	17:00	16:30	16:00	16:00	16:30	16:30

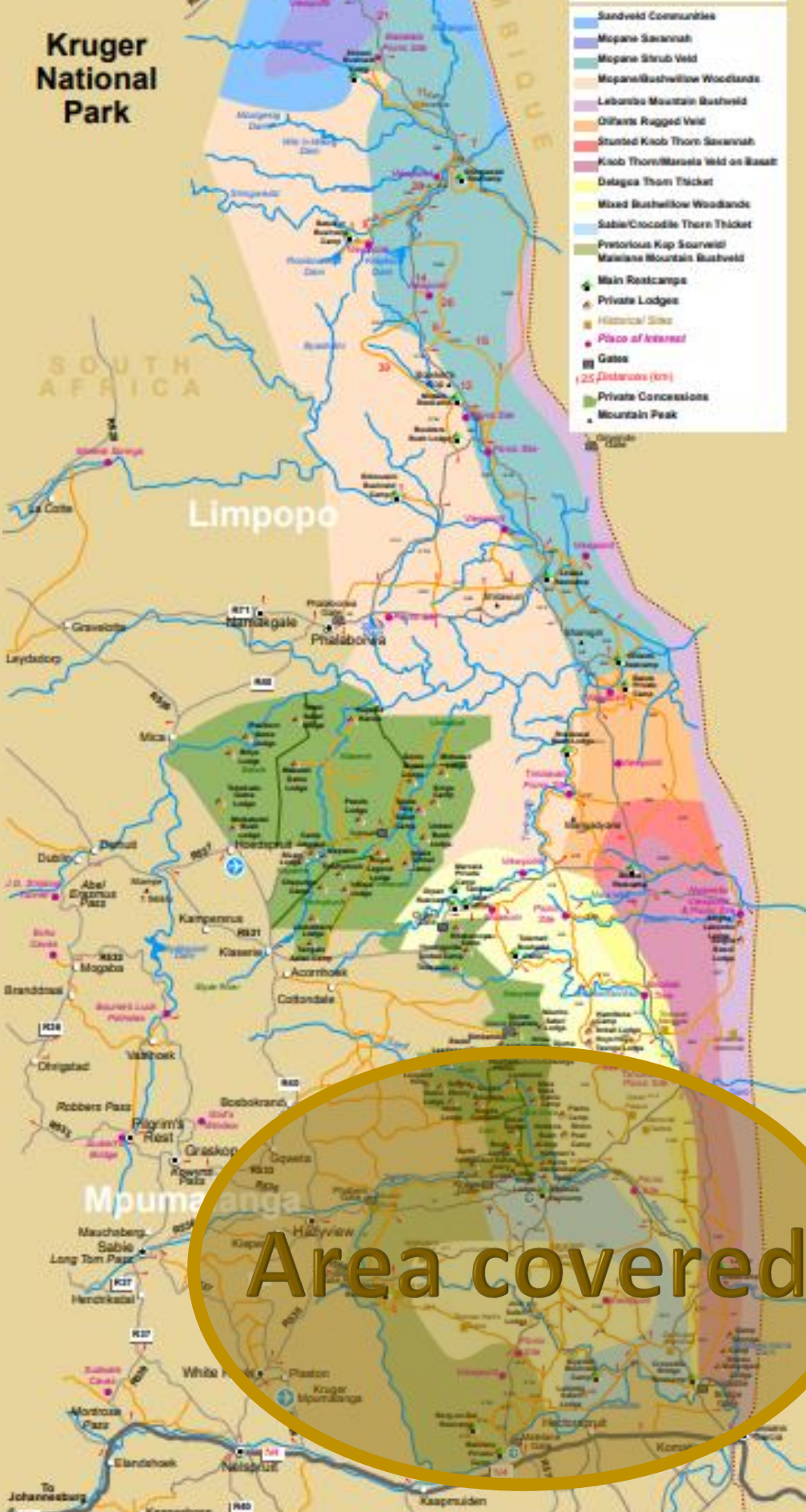
ENTRY GATES OPEN - JAN 1-10 NOV DEC 1-31

PARK REGULATIONS

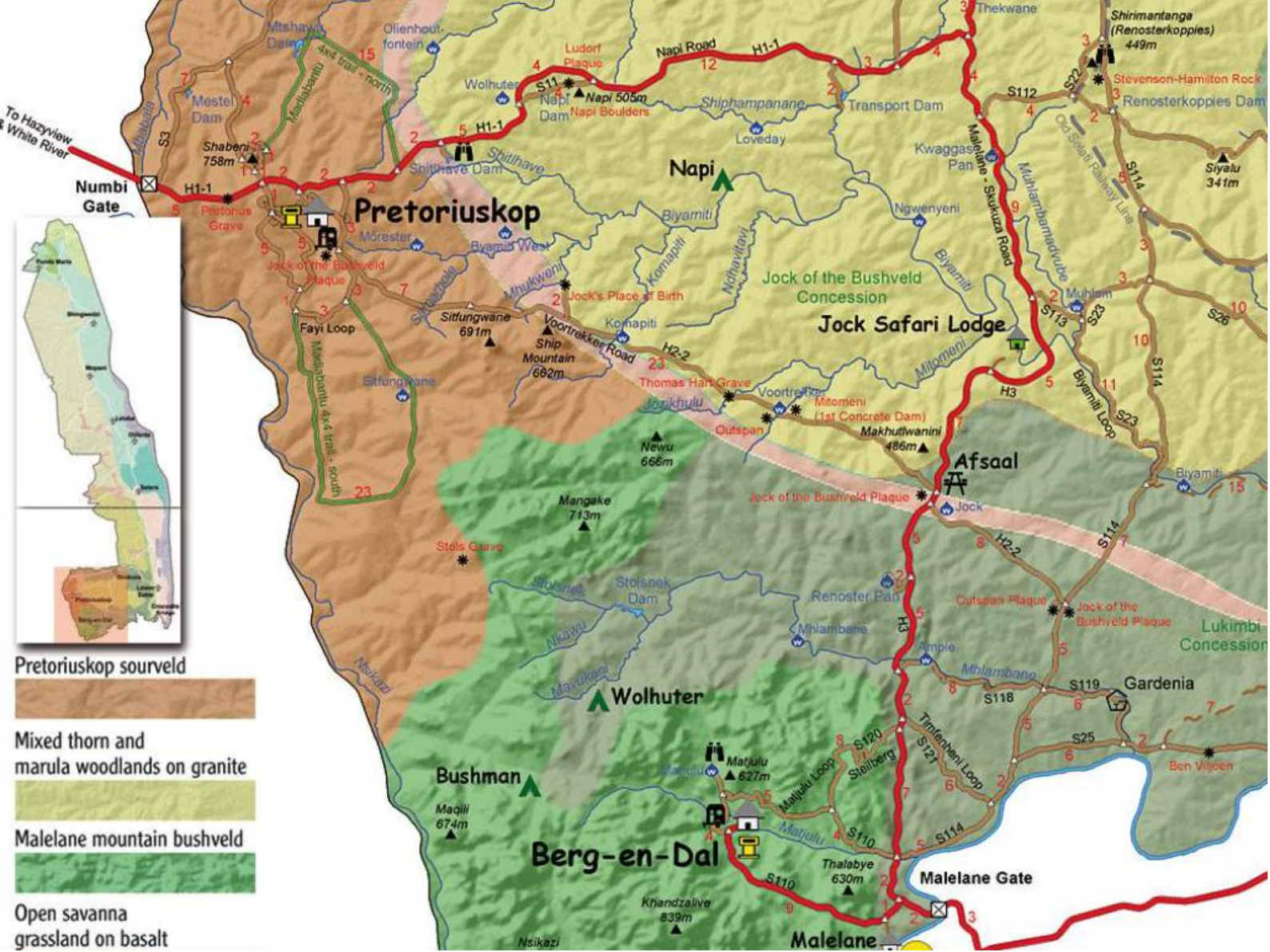
Speed Limit: 70km/h (45 mph) - Observe all 20 km/h signs
 Only water for an extended stay
 Stay on road and do not feed animals

CAMP REGULATIONS

There may be no entry from 21:30 to 05:00 for entry relating to bushwalking & cycling for hunting or other activities as permitted
 Speed limit within camp areas is 10 km/h
 No pets allowed & fire arms must be declared



Area covered



March 1st

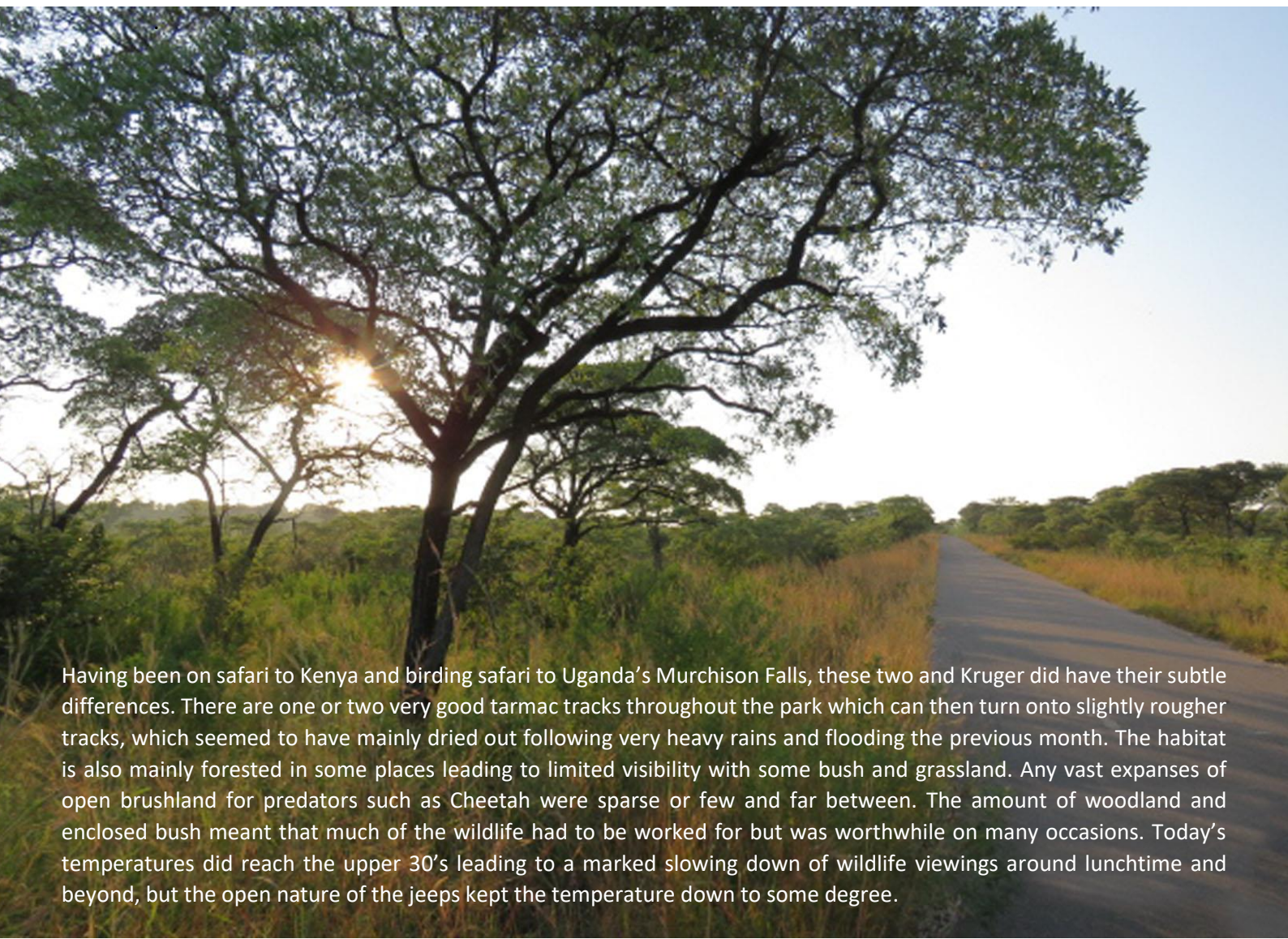
Kruger National Park (South West)

Area map above





Today was to be the first of two days safari in Kruger National Park. Timings of 5:00am for breakfast leaving in the jeeps at 6:00 was fairly standard for this type of activity, making the most of the early light and activity for the wildlife. Since we were on an organised group tour and probably fitting in with park policy anyway, each of the open top jeeps took up to 10 people. It also meant that this was to be a general wildlife safari and not a birding safari, so as usual in this situation it was best not to try to ask the driver to stop for every half decent bird on the route, which meant that the obvious targets were the raptors with the odd other larger bird that would be of interest to the group, and any others would have to be watched on the fly. Our accommodation was close to the Numbi Gate, which we passed through to investigate the South-western portion of the park.



Having been on safari to Kenya and birding safari to Uganda's Murchison Falls, these two and Kruger did have their subtle differences. There are one or two very good tarmac tracks throughout the park which can then turn onto slightly rougher tracks, which seemed to have mainly dried out following very heavy rains and flooding the previous month. The habitat is also mainly forested in some places leading to limited visibility with some bush and grassland. Any vast expanses of open brushland for predators such as Cheetah were sparse or few and far between. The amount of woodland and enclosed bush meant that much of the wildlife had to be worked for but was worthwhile on many occasions. Today's temperatures did reach the upper 30's leading to a marked slowing down of wildlife viewings around lunchtime and beyond, but the open nature of the jeeps kept the temperature down to some degree.



Much of the bird life was seen from a moving jeep, apart from one or two species which were of obvious interest to the group, so we chanced upon a Brown Snake-Eagle (*below*) perched parallel to us in the open, and what was called out by the group as a chicken on the road was a Bateleur picking up carrion. Most obvious birds as we drove included countless European Rollers, Fork-tailed Drongos and Southern Black Flycatchers. Particular highlights were the African Crake which was flushed from alongside the road giving good but brief flight views, a kettle of vultures which included Lappet-faced and a few White-backed (most of the flying group could not be identified specifically due to poor views), both types of Oxpeckers (*Red-billed on Impala above*), Yellow-billed being seemingly confined to a small herd of Buffalo, and a few Lilac-breasted Rollers picked up amongst the more regular European Rollers.





Hamerkop

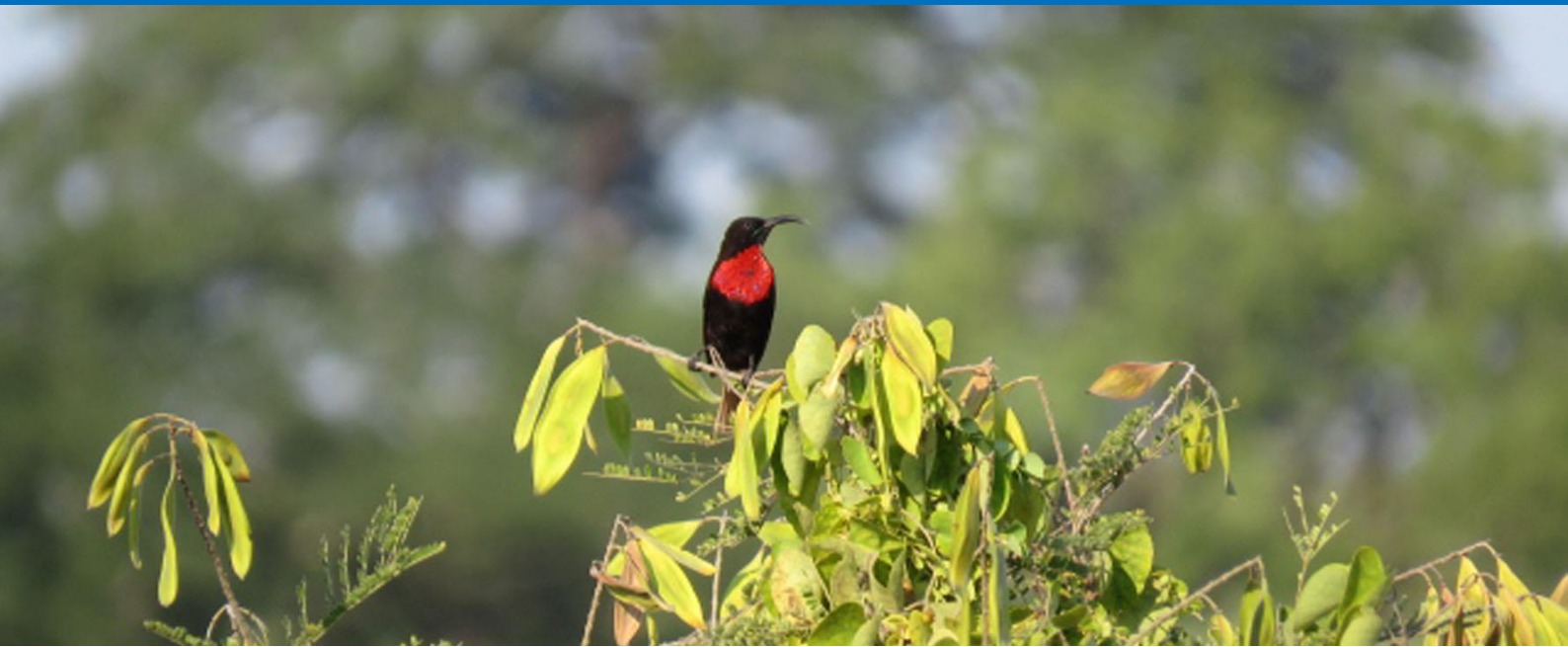


Blacksmith Lapwing

Mammals on the other hand showed relatively frequently and included early Spotted Hyena on the roadside, with Elephant and Southern Giraffe nearby in the enclosed bush. Impala promised to be and became the most common mammal seen with large herds regularly throughout. Just before lunch perhaps the highlight was a pair of Klipspringer (*below left*) predictably on large rocks below a hill. Big cats had been requested by the group but unfortunately were too shy to be seen. Giraffe became fairly regularly seen also but extra work had to be done to pick out Greater Kudu (*below right*) and Waterbuck, which were the last of the mammals to be seen.



Nkambeni Safari Camp



After a spot of time in the air-conditioned room, a one hour walk around the grounds was again relished around the accommodation. While some of the species were the same as the previous evening, there were some new additions both for the location and the trip. This was kicked off by singing Scarlet-chested Sunbird (*above*) follow by some Grey Go-away-birds (*below*) near to the reception, and more male Pin-tailed Whydahs, these with yet more females attracting their attention, one of these groups also hosting a single Little Bee-eater. Somewhat of a surprise was a small herd of Impala and single Waterbuck grazing outside the perimeter fence only a stone's throw from the swimming pool of the accommodation.



Pretoriuskop sourveld



Mixed thorn and marula woodlands on granite



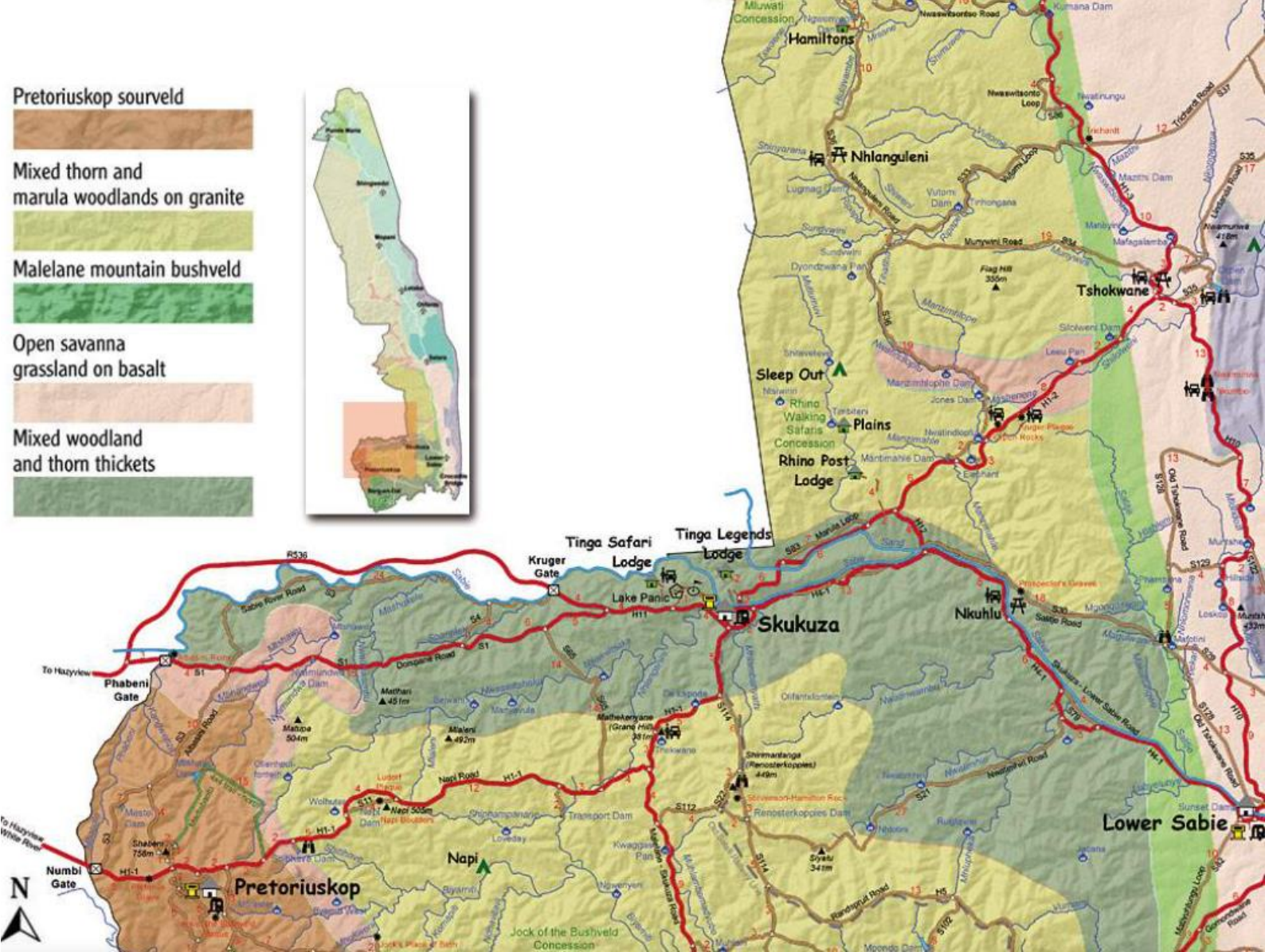
Malelane mountain bushveld



Open savanna grassland on basalt



Mixed woodland and thorn thickets



March 2nd

Kruger NP (Skukuza and surrounds)

Area map above



The safari of the previous day was standard as part of the trip itinerary, meaning that all took part in it. Today's was an optional safari which was taken up by 21 other people on the trip. Because of this the area covered was different to yesterday to improve the chances of seeing a different mix of species. Even the weather was different- well down from yesterday's high temperatures and much cloudier, topping at the high 20's°C for most of the early part of the day. There was a visible difference in the regularity of both mammals and birds compared to the previous day. Even the habitats were somewhat different with a few stops at open pools or many crosses over fairly dry rivers, with one stretch of the river Sabi followed ostensibly looking for some reported lions.

The visits to the different open waters provided a mix of species although surprisingly only White-faced Whistling Duck and Egyptian Goose were the wildfowl representatives. Most supported Hippos and the odd Crocodile as well as the usual Elephant in addition to singles of Malachite Kingfisher, African Darter and White-crowned Lapwing. There was also an increase in good views of various birds of prey with perched Dark Chanting Goshawk, Brown Snake-Eagle and Tawny Eagle supported by fly past of Little Sparrowhawk, and the surprise of perched Lanner Falcon as we left the accommodation first thing.



A Martial Eagle was picked out in the distance perched within a tree and even at this distance stood out in respect to size. At the mid-morning rest stop which was an area supporting coffee, toilets etc, there was the surprise of a tree brandishing Southern Carmine Bee-eaters. Further singles were seen broadside as we left. Storks were also much better represented today with a gliding Saddle-billed followed by two separate pairs of Woolly-necked. A group of seven Black Storks had alighted in the centre of one of the mud exposed riverbeds.

As yesterday Impala were the predominant mammals seen but we did regularly come across groups of Elephant, one herd of which gave off an impressive sight on the opposite side of the river with a count of at least 40 individuals. Giraffe were as magnificent as usual, and more so, as all of the individuals seen were very close to the road. The addition of small antelopes commenced with today's titbit the furtive Steenbok right next to the road and our vehicle. It stopped long enough for good views before springing off into the undergrowth. Some of the group have been hoping for one of the big cats and occasionals were reported, but we failed to connect during both days. Larger antelope were again represented by both Kudu and Waterbuck, both of which were even more obliging providing the decent views we had yesterday.



Southern Carmine Bee-eater



Martial Eagle

Dark Chanting Goshawk



Black Stork



Hipopotamus



Blue Wildebeest & Plains Zebra



Southern Giraffe

March 4th

Cape Town Waterfront



Away from the wildness of safaris for a few days (notwithstanding some of the people passed in the city centre!), the focus was switched to the metropolis that is Cape Town, and in the case of today, an amble from the hotel to the waterfront for the morning. About halfway along aforementioned wander, the walk diverted into a 'more scenic' route, being alongside a more sedate arm of the marina in front of expensive flats, and it did offer a couple of relaxing Crowned Cormorants.



A diversion due to a closed bridge also revealed a pontoon assemblage for local Afro-Australian Fur Seals, which basked and argued to their own satisfaction. Sitting with a coffee watching the tourists go by, it was obvious that the majority of the gulls in residence were Hartlaub's Gulls, with the odd Kelp Gull and single Greater Crested Tern in the mix. Apart from the obvious Red-winged Starlings, the only other species of note were singles of Southern Double-collared Sunbird and Cape Robin Chat in sparse trees alongside the shopping area.



Crowned Cormorant

Hartlaub's Gull

Table Mountain

The traditional cable car up to the plateau of Table Mountain naturally had to be done and was included in the cost of the trip anyway. We picked a good day, in that most of the time was spent in blue skies and clear views of the vistas both below and along the rocky escarpment. After exiting the cable car, the most numerous and obvious birds were the Red-winged Starlings, hanging around for morsels from the inattentive visitors. Small numbers of Rock Hyrax (Dassies to the locals) hung around just below the wall of the toilet blocks. It was only when the well-marked path around the circumference of the escarpment was walked that a few different species were chanced upon. Southern Crag Martins were the most obvious, constantly quartering the area in small numbers. A Familiar Chat lived up to its name by standing proud on a large rock not fazed by our presence, and the second of two Rock Kestrels landed on the adjoining rocky outcrop to devour its meal.





Red-winged Starling

6th March

Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens



Cape Spurfowl

The visit today was relatively brief and was certainly more of a pleasant walk than a birding outing. The weather was thankfully a lot cooler than on previous days, particularly at Kruger, yet the gardens were still busy, with full car parks and plenty of people milling around. We headed straight for the canopy walkway, a new addition since the last time we were here some years ago. It is only around 100m long, so more of a luxury than a serious canopy experience, and predictably busy, but a couple of Southern Double-collared Sunbirds and a brace of Sombre Greenbuls were recompense. This forced our hand to climb further up to the rear of the gardens, which held the fynbos and protea areas. Apart from the many Alpine Swifts overhead, the only addition of note was a single Cape Spurfowl pottering around the feet of a quartet of tourists. Wildlife at its best! Only other birds were a sextet of Helmeted Guineafowl ambling along one of the main paths before us.



Southern Double-collared Sunbird

9th March

Chobe National Park



The last day of the trip was initially scheduled as a rest day or for an extra payment a full day safari to neighbouring Botswana's Chobe National Park. Obviously a no brainer - we plumped for the latter. This was predictably an excellent decision since it was possibly the best day of the trip with both experience and birds & mammals at a premium. We were picked up from the hotel at 7:00 AM which seemed to be a little late for this type of outing, then taking an hour to reach the Zimbabwe/Botswana border. Crossing was a little complex and interesting. Thankfully we had paid the \$50 for a KAZA Univisa which allowed exit and entry to the three neighbouring countries. Yet our passport seemed to be checked innumerable times. We had left our transfer bus from the hotel in Zimbabwe and boarded 2 open sided jeeps to make the 20 minutes journey along metalled roads to the National Park. We then spent three hours or so driving around the reasonable dirt tracks mainly looking for the larger mammals and in particular, due to the requests of the group, Lions. As it turned out the latter were found eventually hidden in the depths of the undergrowth sleeping as they do through the day, giving restricted but defined views. It was a little disappointing that the drivers here used the jeeps to try to usher the cats from their slumber, and this was mentioned as a point of principle to the driver.



*Broad-tailed
Paradise Whydah*



*Long-tailed
Paradise Whydah*



Bennett's Woodpecker

Overall, however, the safari during the morning was a great success showing the great numbers of Elephant that Botswana is well known for and adding such as Hippopotamus and the occasional Giraffe with legions of Impala. From a birding point of view the variety of species was more than subtly different from that seen in Kruger National Park. In particular stopping for a very large bull elephant was accompanied by a few large bare trees which hosted two different species of Paradise Whydah alongside Carmine Bee-eater and Lilac-breasted Roller, and a Bennett's Woodpecker climbing on an adjacent tree. Plenty of new species for the trip showed themselves through the morning including two different species of Spurfowl, Red-billed first followed by Swainson's. One of the major differences between this park and our previous safaris was the presence of large bodies of water and reeds which offered such delicacies as African Fish Eagle as well as various herons and egrets.



Swainson's Spurfowl



Fork-tailed Drongo



Black Heron



Lilac-breasted Roller

Chobe River Cruise



The afternoon was a total contrast to the morning drive with a 2-hour cruise along the Chobe river. The minor worry of this being shared with a multitude of tourists was dispelled when we boarded a much smaller boat for our own group. We chugged merrily along the river for the two hours checking out another habitat different from those seen before. Initially this was on the broad expanse of the river with little titbits seen on the shores and also overhead. Apart from the numerous Reed Cormorants which sallied to and fro along the river, the most obvious birds were Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters which seemed to be feasting on a host of insects over the water, accompanied by slightly lower numbers of Pied Kingfishers. Perhaps the biggest surprise was that one of the two chaps operating the boat was a keen birder and when I heard a *Cisticola* calling in the reeds he immediately identified it as Luapula. I have to admit I wasn't even aware of its existence but listening to the call and the description had to admit he was right. As we progressed we took in more of the inner island surrounded by the river and saw more and more interesting birds. Pick of the bunch must have been the at least 300 Collared Pratincoles resting on the ground accompanied by Red Bishops, Long-toed Lapwings and a further host of egrets and herons, as well as a few Water Thick Knees along the shore.



Collared Pratincole



White-crowned Lapwing



African Jacana

Pied Kingfisher



Water Thick-Knee



This should have been the end to an excellent day, but when we had left the park and were approaching the reverse crossing of the border checkpoint a trio of Southern Ground Hornbills flew across the road in front of us in plain sight of the transfer bus. Yet this still wasn't the end of an excellent day leaving one of my bucket list experiences to the journey from the crossing itself to our hotel, almost at the finish of the trip. About half the distance between the two locations and after a couple of Elephants in the road a trio of African Wild Dogs were easily spotted again at the roadside with not another vehicle in sight. Bearing in mind the difficulty in seeing these wonderful beasts this was indeed a particularly lucky encounter, and we stopped to watch and ogle them until they disappeared into the undergrowth again.



LIST OF SPECIES

BIRDS

White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
2 Mar 4 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>
28 Feb 4 Alzu Rest Stop	
2 Mar 4 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
6 Mar 3 Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden	
9 Mar 5 Chobe National Park; 15 Chobe River--boat trip (Botswana)	
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
2 Mar 6 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
6 Mar 6 Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden	
9 Mar 18 Chobe National Park	
Cape Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis capensis</i>
6 Mar 1 Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden	
Red-billed Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis adspersus</i>
9 Mar 1 Chobe National Park	
Natal Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis natalensis</i>
2 Mar 2 singles Kruger Park (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
Swainson's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>
9 Mar 1 Chobe National Park	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
1 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd)	
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
1 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd)	
Grey Go-away-bird	<i>Crinifer concolor</i>
1 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd); 5 Kruger NP (Nkambeni Safari Camp)	
2 Mar 2 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>
28 Feb 1 Kruger NP (Nkambeni Safari Camp)	
1 Mar 3 Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd)	
9 Mar 1 Chobe National Park	
Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>
28 Feb 1 Kruger NP (Nkambeni Safari Camp)	
9 Mar ~20 Chobe National Park	
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>
28 Feb 8 Alzu Rest Stop	
4 Mar 1 Table Mountain	
African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>
1 Mar 2 Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd)	
African Crake	<i>Crecopsis egregia</i>
1 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd)	
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
5 Mar 1 Paarl	

Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>
2 Mar ~30 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
9 Mar 1 Chobe River boat trip (Botswana)	
Three-banded Plover	<i>Thinornis tricolor</i>
1 Mar 2 Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd)	
2 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
Long-toed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus crassirostris</i>
9 Mar 1 Chobe River boat trip (Botswana)	
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>
28 Feb 8 Alzu Rest Stop	
1 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd); 1 Kruger NP (Nkambeni Safari Camp)	
2 Mar 4 Kruger Park (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
9 Mar 24 Chobe National Park; 8 Chobe River boat trip (Botswana)	
White-crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus albiceps</i>
2 Mar 1 Kruger Park (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
9 Mar 6 Chobe River boat trip (Botswana)	
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>
9 Mar 4 Chobe National Park; 6 Chobe River boat trip (Botswana)	
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
2 Mar 1 Kruger Park (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
9 Mar 1 Chobe River boat trip (Botswana)	
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincole</i>
9 Mar ~300 Chobe River boat trip (Botswana)	
Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>
4 Mar 1 flew around Cape Town - V&A Waterfront	
Hartlaub's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus hartlaubii</i>
4 Mar ~20 Cape Town - V&A Waterfront	
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>
28 Feb 20 Alzu Rest Stop	
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>
4 Mar 3 Cape Town - V&A Waterfront	
African Openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>
9 Mar 1 Chobe River boat trip (Botswana)	
Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>
2 Mar 1 circling over Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
2 Mar Group of 7 on river sand bank in Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
African Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia microscelis</i>
2 Mar 2 pairs Kruger Park (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>
2 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
9 Mar 5 Chobe River boat trip (Botswana)	
Crowned Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo coronatus</i>
4 Mar 4 Cape Town - V&A Waterfront	
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>
9 Mar ~50 Chobe River boat trip (Botswana)	
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
9 Mar 1 Chobe National Park; 4 Chobe River boat trip (Botswana)	

Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>
2 Mar 5 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
3 Mar 12 Pretoria	
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>
9 Mar 2 Chobe National Park; 3 Chobe River boat trip (Botswana)	
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbrette</i>
1 Mar 7 Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd)	
2 Mar 3 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>
9 Mar 2 Chobe National Park; 4 Chobe River boat trip (Botswana)	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
9 Mar 1 Chobe National Park	
Little Heron	<i>Butorides atricapilla</i>
2 Mar 1 Kruger Park (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
9 Mar 1 Chobe River boat trip (Botswana)	
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
9 Mar 1 Chobe National Park	
Yellow-billed Egret	<i>Ardea brachyrhyncha</i>
9 Mar 2 Chobe River boat trip (Botswana)	
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>
5 Mar 1 Blaauwklippen Wine Estate (restricted access)	
9 Mar 5 Chobe National Park; 4 Chobe River boat trip (Botswana)	
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
1 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd)	
Fiery-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus pectoralis</i>
28 Feb At least 2 churring late evening Kruger NP (Nkambeni Safari Camp)	
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>
28 Feb 1 Kruger NP (Nkambeni Safari Camp)	
1 Mar 3 Kruger NP 9(Voortrekker Rd)	
3 Mar 4 Schoemanskloof rest stop	
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>
6 Mar ~50 Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden	
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>
28 Feb 4 Alzu Rest Stop	
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
28 Feb ~20 Kruger NP (Nkambeni Safari Camp)	
1 Mar ~10 Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd)	
2 Mar ~20 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
9 Mar ~30 Chobe National Park	
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
3 Mar 1 hovering over main road from Kruger NP to Pretoria (N4, Gauteng)	
Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>
1 Mar 2 in small kettle of Vultures Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd)	
White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
1 Mar 5 in small kettle of Vultures Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd)	
2 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>
1 Mar 1 landed on road for carrion Kruger NP (Vortrekker Rd)	

Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>
1 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd)	
2 Mar 2 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>
2 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
2 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>
1 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd)	
2 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
Dark Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>
1 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd)	
2 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
Little Sparrowhawk	<i>Tachypiza minulla</i>
2 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans aegyptius</i>
2 Mar 1 Kruger Park (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
9 Mar 4 Chobe National Park	
African Fish Eagle	<i>Icthyophaga vocifer</i>
2 Mar 1 Kruger Park (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
9 Mar 3 Chobe National Park; 2 Chobe River boat trip (Botswana)	
Common (Steppe) Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo vulpinus</i>
9 Mar 1 Chobe National Park	
Southern Ground Hornbill	<i>Bucorvus leadbeateri</i>
9 Mar 3 Kazungala Border Post (Botswana)	
Southern Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus rufirostris</i>
1 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd)	
9 Mar 2 Chobe National Park	
Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>
1 Mar 2 Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd)	
2 Mar 4 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
9 Mar 3 Chobe National Park	
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>
1 Mar 12 Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd)	
2 Mar 4 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>
1 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Nkambeni Safari Camp)	
9 Mar 2 Chobe National Park	
Southern Carmine Bee-eater	<i>Merops nubicoides</i>
2 Mar 5 Kruger Park (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
9 Mar 2 Chobe National Park	
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
1 Mar 2 Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd)	
2 Mar 3 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>
9 Mar 5 Chobe National Park; 10 Chobe River boat trip (Botswana)	
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>
2 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
9 Mar 1 Chobe River boat trip (Botswana)	

Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
2 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
9 Mar 14 Chobe River boat trip (Botswana)	
Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>
2 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
Bennett's Woodpecker	<i>Campethera bennettii</i>
9 Mar 2 Chobe National Park	
Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>
1 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Nkambeni Safari Camp)	
Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicolus</i>
4 Mar 2 Table Mountain	
Amur Falcon	<i>Falco amurensis</i>
9 Mar 2 Chobe National Park	
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
9 Mar 1 Chobe National Park	
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>
2 Mar 1 Kruger NP (just after leaving Nkambeni Safari Camp)	
Retz's Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops retzii</i>
8 Mar 1 Victoria Falls Rain Forest	
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
28 Feb 1 Kruger NP (Nkambeni Safari Camp)	
1 Mar 12 Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd)	
2 Mar 8 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
9 Mar 5 Chobe National Park	
Magpie Shrike	<i>Urolestes melanoleucus</i>
2 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Flew in front of jeep Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>
3 Mar 1 Schoemanskloof rest stop	
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>
4 Mar 2 Table Mountain	
9 Mar 4 Chobe National Park	
Southern Black Tit	<i>Melaniparus niger</i>
1 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd)	
Karoo Prinia	<i>Prinia maculosa</i>
6 Mar 1 Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden	
Luapula Cisticola	<i>Cisticola luapula</i>
9 Mar 1 singing in reeds Chobe River boat trip (Botswana)	
Large Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>
4 Mar 3 Table Mountain	
6 Mar 3 Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden	
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
9 Mar 2 around boat Chobe River boat trip (Botswana)	
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
28 Feb ~20 Alzu Rest Stop	
9 Mar 4 Chobe River--boat trip (Botswana)	
Greater Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis cucullata</i>
28 Feb 10 Alzu Rest Stop	
Sombre Greenbul	<i>Andropadus importunus</i>
6 Mar 2 Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden	

Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>
28 Feb 1 Kruger NP (Nkambeni Safari Camp)	
3 Mar 1 Schoemanskloof rest stop	
8 Mar 3 Victoria Falls Rain Forest	
9 Mar 2 Chobe National Park	
Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythroryncha</i>
1 Mar 5 Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd)	
2 Mar 5 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
9 Mar 4 Chobe National Park	
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>
1 Mar 12 usually in association with Buffalo Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd)	
2 Mar 5 usually in association with Buffalo Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
3 Mar 15 Pretoria	
Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>
28 Feb ~20 Schoemanskloof rest stop	
3 Mar 6 Schoemanskloof rest stop	
4 Mar 6 Cape Town V&A Waterfront; ~20 Table Mountain	
Meves's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis mevesii</i>
9 Mar 3 Kazungala Border Post (Botswana)	
Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>
2 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Skukuza rest stop). Many more unidentified in passing flocks	
Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>
28 Feb 4 Kruger NP (Nkambeni Safari Camp)	
1 Mar 10 Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd)	
2 Mar 5 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
Groundscraper Thrush	<i>Turdus litsitsirupa</i>
28 Feb 1 Kruger NP (Nkambeni Safari Camp)	
1 Mar 2 Kruger NP (Nkambeni Safari Camp)	
Kurrichane Thrush	<i>Turdus libonyana</i>
28 Feb 1 Kruger NP (Nkambeni Safari Camp)	
1 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Nkambeni Safari Camp)	
Southern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pammelaina</i>
28 Feb 1 Kruger NP (Nkambeni Safari Camp)	
1 Mar 2 Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd); 2 Kruger NP (Nkambeni Safari Camp)	
Cape Robin-Chat	<i>Dessonornis caffer</i>
4 Mar 1 Cape Town V&A Waterfront	
5 Mar Blaauwklippen Wine Estate	
Familiar Chat	<i>Oenanthe familiaris</i>
4 Mar 1 Table Mountain	
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>
1 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Nkambeni Safari Camp)	
Southern Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris chalybeus</i>
4 Mar 1 Cape Town V&A Waterfront	
6 Mar 2 Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden	
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>
9 Mar 2 Kazungala Border Post (Botswana)	
Red-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>
2 Mar 6 at large communal nest next to lake Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
Cape Weaver	<i>Ploceus capensis</i>
5 Mar 1 attending nest next to lake, Paarl	

Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>
9 Mar ~40 in tight flock on bush, Chobe National Park	
Southern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>
28 Feb 1 male Alzu Rest Stop	
9 Mar 3 males in reeds Chobe River boat trip (Botswana)	
Long-tailed Paradise Whydah	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>
2 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
Broad-tailed Paradise Whydah	<i>Vidua obtusa</i>
2 Mar 2 with Long-tailed above and 2 females Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>
28 Feb 5 Kruger NP, including 2 males (Nkambeni Safari Camp)	
1 Mar 6 Kruger NP, including 2 males (Nkambeni Safari Camp)	
Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>
2 Mar 1 male Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
Dusky Indigobird	<i>Vidua funerea</i>
28 Feb 1 male Kruger NP (Nkambeni Safari Camp)	
Blue Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>
8 Mar 1 Victoria Falls Rain Forest	
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>
28 Feb 2 Kruger NP (Nkambeni Safari Camp)	
9 Mar 2 Chobe National Park	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
28 Feb 6 Alzu Rest Stop	
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>
28 Feb 1 Alzu Rest Stop; 3 Schoemanskloof rest stop	
5 Mar 2 Blaauwklippen Wine Estate	
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>
2 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
3 Mar 2 Schoemanskloof rest stop	
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>
3 Mar 1 Schoemanskloof rest stop	

MAMMALS

African Savanna Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>
28 Feb 1 Kruger NP outside of camp fence (Nkambeni Safari Camp)	
1 Mar 34 Kruger NP (Nkambeni Safari Camp)	
2 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
9 Mar 120 Chobe National Park	
Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>
4 Mar 4 Table Mountain	
Vervet Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>
2 Mar 3 Kruger NP (Skukuza to Lower Sabie)	
8 Mar 10 Victoria Falls Rain Forest	
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>
1 Mar 2 Kruger NP (Stevenson-Hamilton Memorial)	
2 Mar 15 Kruger NP (Skukuza to Lower Sabie)	
8 Mar 25 Victoria Falls Rain Forest	

Smith's Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>
2 Mar 1 on tree alongside road, Kruger NP (Mestel Dam)	
Afro-Australian Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>
4 Mar ~30 Cape Town V&A Waterfront	
African Wild Dog	<i>Lycaon pictus</i>
9 Mar 3 Botswana border to Victoria Falls	
Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>
9 Mar 1 in dense bush and undergrowth, Chobe National Park	
Common Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>
2 Mar 1 Kruger NP, crossing road (Nyamundwa Dam)	
Spotted Hyena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>
1 Mar 2, 1 at side of road shortly after Numbi Gate Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd)	
2 Mar 3 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>
1 Mar ~35 Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd)	
2 Mar ~150 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>
1 Mar ~250 Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd); 8 outside of Nkambeni Safari Camp fence	
2 Mar ~400 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
9 Mar ~400 Chobe National Park	
Blue Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>
1 Mar 3 Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd)	
2 Mar ~50 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>
2 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Paul Kruger Gate)	
Klipspringer	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>
1 Mar 3 Kruger NP (Afsaal)	
Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>
1 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd); 2 outside of Nkambeni Safari Camp fence	
2 Mar 2 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
Cape Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>
1 Mar ~50 Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd)	
2 Mar 7 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
9 Mar 7 Chobe National Park	
Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>
1 Mar 4 Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd)	
2 Mar 6 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
9 Mar 2 Chobe National Park	
Southern Giraffe	<i>Giraffa giraffa</i>
1 Mar 10 Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd)	
2 Mar 20 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
9 Mar 9 Chobe National Park	
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>
2 Mar 12 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
9 Mar 2 Chobe National Park	
Common Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>
1 Mar 1 Kruger NP (Voortrekker Rd)	
2 Mar 12+9 Kruger NP (Skukuza - Pretoriuskop Rd)	
9 Mar 15 Chobe National Park	