

Lawson's Birding Tours

Limpopo Birding Tour

25th February - 11th March 2007

Trip Report



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Tour Summary

Tour Participants:

Eric and Margaret Barnes
Malcolm and Anne White
Jo and Shirley Ann Johnson

Photo acknowledgements:

Peter Lawson

Total Distance Travelled:

2 150 kilometres

Temperature Range:

14°C - 37°C

Total Birds Seen:

309

Total Birds Heard:

9

Total Mammals Seen:

33

Birds of the Trip:

Cape Parrot, Bat Hawk, Mottled Spinetail, Caspian Plover

Trip Report Compiled By:

Peter Lawson

Note:

The species mentioned in the report are only some of the species seen at each locality. Please refer to detailed checklists at end of the report for all species seen on this specific tour.

Trip Breakdown

Day 1: Sunday, 25th February 2007 ~ The Ranch

Route: Johannesburg to The Ranch, south of Polokwane. Deviation off N1 at Pienaars River and along Zaagkuilsdrift road.

Weather: Sunny and hot. Windy in the afternoon

Temperature range: 22°C – 34°C

Day 2: Monday, 26th February 2007 ~ Kurisa Moya

Route: The Ranch to Polokwane Game Reserve on R71, then to Kurisa Moya near Houtbosdorp.

Weather: Windy and overcast

Temperature range: 22°C max.

Day 3: Tuesday, 27th February 2007 ~ Kurisa Moya

Route: To Magoebaskloof and Woodbush Drive and return to Kurisa Moya

Weather: Overcast and misty early, clearing later, warm and sunny

Temperature range: 15°C - 22°C

Day 4: Wednesday, 28th February 2007 ~ Khaya Guest House

Route: Kurisa Moya to Makhado via Soekmekaar and on R524 to Khaya Guest House

Weather: Warm to hot.

Temperature range: 17°C - 29°C

Day 5: Thursday, 1st March 2007 ~ Khaya Guest House

Route: Roodewal Nature Reserve and Muirhead Dams in Makhado district.

Weather: Fine and warm to hot

Temperature range: 18°C - 30°C

Day 6: Friday, 2nd March 2007 ~ Khaya Guest House

Route: Muirhead Dams in morning and Roodewal Nature Reserve in afternoon

Weather: Cool early morning. Warm to hot and pleasant rest of the day

Temperature range: 18°C - 27°C

Day 7: Saturday, 3rd March 2007 ~ Popallin

Route: Makhado north on N1, then east past Tshipise to Popallin Ranch.

To Sagoli Big Tree late afternoon.

Weather: Cool at first but hot most of the day

Temperature range: 18°C - 33°C

Day 8: Sunday, 4th March 2007 ~ Popallin

Route: Popallin area with boat ride and open – vehicle drive to Limpopo River.

Weather: Sunny and hot

Temperature range: 21°C - 33°C

Day 9: Monday, 5th March 2007 ~ Mapungubwe

Route: Popallin via Tshipise and Musina to Mapungubwe National Park and then on the Denstaat road to the Limpopo Forest Camp

Weather: Sunny and very hot

Temperature range: 23°C - 37°C

Day 10: Tuesday, 6th March 2007 ~ Mapungubwe

Route: Forest Camp via Mapungubwe main entrance to Limpopo board walk. Afternoon drive in the western section of the National Park.

Weather: Sunny and very hot

Temperature range: 23°C - 37°C

Day 11: Wednesday, 7th March 2007 ~ Last Post

Route: Mapungubwe via Alldays to Makhado and then south east to Last Post Nature Reserve

Weather: Partially overcast and a bit cooler, but very windy at times. Rain threatened but did not materialise.

Temperature range: 18°C - 25°C

Day 12: Thursday, 8th March 2007 ~ Last Post

Route: All day Last Post Nature Reserve. Open vehicle drive in afternoon in the reserve.

Weather: Overcast and windy most of day, but clearing later and then sunny and hot.

Temperature range: 18°C - 30°C

Day 12: Friday, 9th March 2007 ~ Dinoyane

Route: Last Post to Polokwane Bird Sanctuary, down the N1 to Naboomspruit and on to Dinoyane at Boekenhout

Weather: Cool early morning but hot later and mostly cloudless

Temperature range: 15°C - 32°C

Day 13: Saturday, 10th March 2007 ~ Dinoyane

Route: To Nylsvley Nature Reserve and district

Weather: Cool early morning but hot later with clear skies and no wind.

Temperature range: 14°C - 32°C

Day 14: Sunday, 11th March 2007 ~ Departure

Route: Boekenhout on gravel road to Kranskop toll, south on N1 to Pretoria and R21 to OR Tambo Airport

Weather: Cool at first, but otherwise fine and warm

Temperature range: 15°C - 28°C

Trip Report

Day 1: Sunday, 25th February 2007 ~ The Ranch

I picked up Jo and Shirley in Melville and drove to the Johannesburg Airport to meet the rest of the group. We departed from the airport at 10h00 and headed north. Roadside birds at speed included Common Mynah, Cattle Egret, Black-headed Heron, Steppe Buzzard and plenty Amur Falcons. We detoured at Pienaars River and onto the Zaagkuilsdrift road. The weather was hot and birds were scarce but we did see lots of Lesser Grey Shrikes and a couple of Red-backs, plenty of Rattling Cisticolas, Grey Go-away-Bird, Scaly-feathered Finch, a lovely pair of Black-faced Waxbills, Lilac-breasted Roller and a single Northern Black Korhaan hidden in the shade of a small bush, expertly spotted by Jo.

At the Kranskop toll station we stopped for lunch and ate our toasted sandwiches whilst watching Kurrichane Thrushes and Spotted Flycatchers. It was then on to The Ranch Hotel, 20km south of Polokwane, where we checked into our spacious rooms and rested for an hour or so.

In the late afternoon we went for a walk along the side of the runway on a track through thornveld where we found more birds. These included a single White Stork and a pair of Lappet-faced Vultures flying overhead, dozens of Sacred Ibis at a roost in a tree, a flock of Helmeted Guineafowl, White-bellied Sunbird, Southern Masked Weaver, Blue Waxbill and Black-throated Canary plus a few more.

We returned to the hotel for a welcome cold beer under a palm tree where some Lesser Masked Weavers were visiting some of their nests. We watched hundreds of House Sparrows and some Cape Sparrows noisily coming into a tree to roost for the night. There were Karoo Thrushes and a pair of Groundscraper Thrushes on the lawn, together with Cape Wagtails and alien Common Mynahs. Our first mammals of the trip were Blesbok, Kudu and Common Duiker at The Ranch.

Bird of the Day: Black-faced Waxbill

Daily Total: 71

Trip Total: 71

Day 2: Monday, 26th February 2007 ~ Kurisa Moya

We left The Ranch at 06h30 and headed north on the N1 for a short distance before turning off on the R71. Before leaving the hotel property we stopped to look at a large group of Heronines flying low next to the road. Amongst the numerous Barn Swallows, there were Grey-rumped Swallows and some Lesser Striped Swallows. A single Cut-throat Finch was feeding on the side of the road. We deviated to Polokwane Game Reserve with Short-clawed Lark our target bird. The grass was longer than usual and it was very windy, which made conditions difficult to find the lark. We did get it though after some time and a false alarm when a Rufous-naped Lark flew off the road in front of us and disappeared in the long grass. We initially thought it was our target bird. We had a scope view of the very localised lark as it sat singing at the top of a small Acacia. Also in this fine reserve we saw Crimson-breasted Shrikes, Ashy Tit, Burnt-necked Eremomela, Marico Flycatcher, Crested Barbet, four Common Ostrich with long necks above tall grass, a Booted Eagle in flight, Kalahari Scrub-Robin, Chinspot Batis, Village Indigobird, Barred Wren-Warbler and others. Mammals in the reserve included Red Hartebeest, a single Springbok, Warthogs, Slender Mongoose, Black-backed Jackal and Scrub Hare.

We continued to Kurisa Moya, settled into The Farmhouse and went for a walk in the forest. It was very windy and quite chilly – not ideal conditions for forest birding. We did find a few birds though and these included a Green Twinspot that not everyone saw, Olive Bush-Shrike, some glimpses of Knysna Turaco and really good sightings of a feeding group of Yellow-streaked Greenbul and a Black-headed Oriole, plus Cape Batis and Amethyst Sunbird.

We returned to The Farmhouse where Eric did a stalwart job of braaing for us in very windy conditions (this was probably quite normal for someone from the Cape Peninsula). The ladies cooked vegetables in the oven and the meal was delicious. Wine purchased en route complimented it.

Bird of the Day: Short-clawed Lark

Daily Total: 74

Trip Total: 101

Day 3: Tuesday, 27th February 2007 ~ Kurisa Moya

David Letsoala met us at 05h30 and we drove to Magoebaskloof and down a very bumpy Woodbush Drive. It was misty and the rain during the night had stopped. Our first stop was at the upper end of the drive on the forest verge and here we experienced David's incredible hearing and exceptionally keen eyesight. The first birds were a pair of Grey Cuckooshrikes that showed well in spite of the mist. We had a brief sighting of a Forest Buzzard that was perched close by and then took off to disappear in the mist. Then a Scaly-throated Honeyguide flew past us and into some leafy trees. David somehow located it and we all had scope views. As we returned to the car a few Forest Canaries were heard by David and then located, goodness knows how. Barratt's Warbler was heard but we did not get onto this difficult warbler until later in the morning.

We drove through the forest, seeing Olive Thrush and hearing other birds. Then we heard Cape Parrots flying in our direction. We drove a bit further, stopped, got out and there they were perched up on a dead tree in clear view. Ten birds in all – an incredible sight for a major target bird and a lifer for everyone.

Other birds seen on this drive, where frequent stops were made and we walked up and down the road in this magnificent forest, were African Olive Pigeon, Klaas's Cuckoo, Olive Woodpecker, Square-tailed Drongo, Terrestrial Brownbul, Yellow-throated Woodland-Warbler, Green-backed Cameroptera, Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher and Black-backed Puffback. We left the forest and drove to a stake-out for the rare Bat Hawk. David located one of the pair immediately and we all had scope views. On the return drive we stopped for a fine Long-crested Eagle, perched on a pole next to the road. We saw another one a bit further on. Closer to base we stopped for Dusky Indigobird on telephone wires.

Back at The Farmhouse we had lunch and a deserved rest before a late afternoon forest walk, hopefully to find the elusive Black-fronted Bush-Shrike we had only heard so far. Unfortunately it was to remain as a "H" on the list. We did have a good sighting of a bird party though, which included Square-tailed Drongo and Grey Cuckooshrike.

Another fine braai plus wine ended a good day.

Bird of the Day: Cape Parrot

Daily Total: 35

Trip Total: 122

Day 4: Wednesday, 28th February 2007 – Khaya Guest House

We left Kurisa Moya after an enormous breakfast prepared by Lisa, but not before Jo caught a tiny Green-backed Cameroptera in his mistnet. We took the gravel road to Mokeetsi with many stops as birding was excellent. Highlights on our journey were a Great Spotted Cuckoo, our first White-fronted Bee-eaters, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird that responded when its monotonous call was whistled, many singing Rufous-naped Larks, a collection of Cisticolas which included Rattling, Red-faced, Lazy, Neddicky and Croaking. Then there was our first Fiscal Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Longclaw, Black-crowned Tchagra, Yellow Bishop, Cinnamon-breasted Buntings and a fine Long-tailed Paradise Whydah. Near Mokeetsi a dam at the side of the road gave us our first African Jacanas, Malachite Kingfisher and Reed Cormorant. When we finally reached the N1 there were European and Lilac-breasted Rollers on transmission lines and as we approached Makhado there were six Abdim's Storks next to the road where compost is manufactured commercially. The usual Amur Falcons were also along the road at intervals.

We drove north through Makhado at first to have lunch in the garden of The Inn on Louis Trichardt. The food and service was excellent and the garden was full of butterflies, which included Green-banded Swallowtails, Garden Inspectors and African Clouded Yellows amongst others. We also found and photographed a large colourful caterpillar of the Cabbage-tree Emperor Moth. Striped Skinks amused us as they chased grasshoppers around the beautiful garden. An African Goshawk obligingly flew into a tree for us to see.

We returned to Makhado and took the R524, east and then turned off at the farming area, Weltevreden,

and to Khaya Guest House in a lush and shaded garden. Erina was our hostess and made sure she knew everyone's names before we were shown our rooms.

A rest was called for and in the late afternoon we walked around the grounds and along the farm road passing through the property. New birds were some fly-by Tambourine Dove and a fruiting Sycamore Fig full of African Green Pigeons. Purple-crested Turacos were everywhere as food was plentiful. Olive Woodpeckers gave us another good sighting and a brief glimpse of White-throated Robin-Chat caused some excitement (we had a better look at it next day). Spectacled Weavers, Streaky-headed Seed-eaters and Bronze Mannikins were also new for the list.

Erina prepared a most delicious dinner for us which included roast beef, ox tongue and fresh vegetables. She is a marvelous cook. After dinner an African Wood-Owl called outside and we eventually located it by torch light as it sat looking down at us with enormous eyes. A good end to a fine day.

Birds of the Day: Great Spotted Cuckoo / African Wood-Owl

Daily Total: 67

Trip Total: 152

Day 5: Thursday 1st March 2007 – Khaya Guest House

We met after 06h00 for coffee and delicious home-made rusks and then drove to the nearby Roodewal Nature Reserve. It was refreshing to be able to drive through farms without fences and security gates as in many parts of South Africa.

We took a path through the forest to where a pair of African Crowned Eagles have a nest in a stand of enormous and very old Pine Trees. At least that is where the nest used to be, but with a bit of a shock we saw that the trees had been harvested and two small patches had been left for the eagle and a pair of Black Sparrowhawks that had nested there for many years. The Sparrowhawks were not present, but surprisingly one of the eagle pair was perched on the nest. Its mate joined it later and we had stunning views of them.

The area previously occupied by the Pines was now grassland and the change in habitat had brought in many new birds to the area. There were Zitting Cisticolas, Yellow and Yellow-Crowned Bishops, Red-collared Widowbirds, Croaking Cisticola, Golden Weavers, African Stone Chats and a flock of Red-billed Quelea. Sweet Waxbills, Common Waxbill and African Firefinch as well. It was truly amazing to see the transformation. Forest birds were not easy as usual but we did see a Red-chested Cuckoo, Southern Boubou, Yellow-bellied Greenbul, African Olive Pigeons and some others. Great excitement was caused when a young African Python came out of the scrub straight towards Anne. She reacted by doing the high jump and letting out a stifled lady-like scream that was more like a whisper. The snake came along our path and shot off into the forest again.

Back to Khaya for brunch ~ another fantastic meal and we were introduced to Marula fruits as well. We then had a lengthy break and in the late afternoon drove to Muirhead Dams. We searched in vain for Blue-spotted Wood-Dove as this is the only place in South Africa to see it. On three occasions small doves flew off rapidly without giving us a good view. It was hot and there was not much bird activity. New for the list were a few waterbirds such as Black Crake, Little Grebe and African Darter. African Jacanas were present and so was Malachite Kingfisher. Others included Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove, Tambourine Dove, Black Saw-wing and African Pied Wagtail. We ended the day with another super dinner prepared by Erina. Her food is something to die for!

Bird of the Day: African Crowned Eagle

Daily Total: 53

Trip Total: 171

Day 6: Friday, 2nd March 2007 – Khaya Guest House

We assembled before 06h00 for tea and coffee and then drove to Muirhead Dams for a second attempt at Blue-spotted Wood-Dove. Successful this time with a bird feeding on the ground in front of the packing sheds, but not before a couple of false alarms with Emerald-spotted Wood Doves. Birds were active this morning and we had some superb birding. There were White-faced Ducks, Reed Cormorants, African Darter, Malachite Kingfisher, African Jacana, Little Grebe, Black Crakes, African Pied Wagtail and a pair of Giant Kingfishers on the dam. An enormous fig tree (nicknamed

the Magic Tree) was full of birds, which included White-fronted Bee-eaters, Southern Black Flycatcher, Brown-hooded Kingfisher, Purple-crested Turaco, African Paradise Flycatcher and Yellow-fronted Canaries. Nearby there were Brimstone Canaries and Streaky-headed Seed-eaters, whilst in the grass below the tree some lovely Red-backed Mannikins were feeding. In sedges at the edge of the dam there was Levaillant's Cisticola and we called out Little Rush Warbler. A pair of Black Saw-wing flew over the dam, and an African Goshawk was doing its "clit-clit" call whilst circling above us. We dragged ourselves away eventually and returned to Khaya for brunch, once again superbly prepared by Erina. A rest period was then followed by a late afternoon drive to Roodewal Nature Reserve and a walk through the scrub forest. Birds were not as active as on the previous morning. A stunning view of an African Pygmy Kingfisher was good though, and we all got onto it. Yellow-bellied Greenbul was seen for the second time and so was Terrestrial Brownbul. There were lots of Cape Batis in the scrub forest and Yellow-crowned Bishop was seen once again in the adjoining grassland.

On the drive home we were stopped by a nervous woman, who had been collecting firewood, to tell us there was a snake in the road. We stopped and got out to see the cutest little python that could only be a couple of days old. It defended itself gallantly with vicious strikes when we picked it up to remove it safely to the side of the road, much to the horror of the woman and her child.

Bird of the Day: Blue-spotted Wood-Dove
Daily Total: 58
Trip Total: 183

Day 7: Saturday, 3rd March 2007 – Popallin

Breakfast was at 07h00 and then we departed for Popallin, with a stop in Makhado at first to replenish liquor supplies plus petrol. It was hot as we drove north and we saw our first enormous Baobab trees. There were European and Lilac-breasted Rollers on the electric wires and at one stage we did a U-turn for, believe it or not, a Black-shouldered Kite. It was our first one of the trip though. Then a more exciting find was a Striped Kingfisher on the wires and numbers of Woodland Kingfishers and many lovely Southern Carmine Bee-eaters. Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill was also new for us as well as Green-winged Pytilia and Crimson-breasted Shrike was seen for the second time. A stop for "elevenses" produced a calling Olive-tree Warbler that we eventually managed to see. Then close to our destination a Dark Chanting Goshawk obligingly sat on a pole for us to admire.

We checked into our spacious rooms in the lush grounds of Popallin and lunch of delicious sandwiches before our rest period produced Goliath Heron on the river. Also Water Thick-knees and a flock of Retz's Helmet Shrikes by Malcolm and Anne. Red-billed Firefinch was on the trail through the lush woodland but by now it was too hot for serious birding and Collared Sunbird was the last new bird before we gave up until later.

At 16h00 George from the lodge accompanied us as our guide to the Big Tree to see Mottled Spinetails. Without him it is doubtful we would have got there as we drove through rural areas on rough tracks with many turns through African villages. On the way we had a fine Lanner Falcon perched on a pole next to the road.

The 3 000 year old baobab is reputed to be the oldest and largest in the world, sadly people have carved their names all over the massive trunk, and a so-called self-appointed tour guide appears to encourage this as well as getting people to climb into the huge hole in the trunk that is used by the Spinetails.

Whilst waiting for the birds to appear, which they do at dusk, we called up a calling Common White-throat. A Gabar Goshawk flew into the big tree and so did a flock of Violet-backed Starlings. Then the Spinetails started to appear and fly above and past us, showing their white rumps. We moved to the opposite side of the tree to view a true miracle of nature. In a steady stream hundreds of Mottled Spinetails flew at break-neck speed into the dark hole without even slowing down. Wonderful to see and we could only marvel at the sight and what would seem to be impossible to achieve.

On the way home in the dark a couple of Fiery-necked Nightjars were in the track in front of us and one very obligingly came even closer to catch insects in our headlights. Later we had a Spotted Eagle-Owl perched next to us. I drove right past it at first and the rear seat passengers yelled their heads off,

but luckily for me it was still there when I backed up.

Dinner was al fresco on the deck accompanied by a full moon. A fitting end to a fantastic day.

Bird of the Day: Mottled Spinetail
Daily Total: 52
Trip Total: 204

Day 8: Sunday, 4th March 2007 – Popallin

We met at 06h00 and George took us on a boat ride on the Nwanedi River. Birds were everywhere and we had a most enjoyable couple of hours. There were Goliath Herons, Green-backed Herons, Little Egrets, Little Bittern, White-fronted and Little Bee-eaters, Purple Heron and some enormous crocodiles. We also had an African Hawk-Harrier hunting on a tree trunk and a surprise was an Osprey that flew over. There were Black Crakes, African Jacana and Water Thick-knees on the shore, plus some waders that included Common and Wood Sandpipers and Common Greenshank. Some Wire-tailed Swallows flew up the river and African Palm-Swifts were flying around a tall Llala Palm. There was also Burchell's Coucal, Tropical Boubou, Diderick Cuckoo and Pied and Malachite Kingfishers were common, whilst a pair of Giant Kingfishers gave us a good show as they perched on a dead tree close by. There were warblers in the reeds and African Reed Warbler and Lesser Swamp Warbler both obligingly gave us a good show and so did Red-faced Cisticola, whilst flocks of Wattled Starlings flew over the river. As we returned to base three Broad-billed Rollers showed well as they sat on overhanging branches.

After breakfast on the deck we went for a walk on a trail through lush riverine forest. By now it was already pretty hot which resulted in birds being very quiet. However, we did see Red-billed Firefinches, White-browed Robin-Chat, Tambourine Dove, Meve's Starling, African Green Pigeon and a few others.

A welcome rest period followed and later a drive to the Limpopo River with George in an open Landrover. It was pretty rough going but George handled the vehicle expertly. Some new birds were added to the list and these included African Hawk-Eagle, Saddle-billed Stork, Kittlitz's Plover, Double-banded Sandgrouse, Black Cuckooshrike, but unfortunately no Pel's Fishing Owl in spite of searching all big trees along the route. On the return drive a Square-tailed Nightjar obligingly posed in the track for us. Dinner was al fresco on the terrace again.

Bird of the Day: African Hawk-Eagle
Daily Total: 93
Trip Total: 237

Day 9: Monday, 5th March 2007 – Mapungubwe

We left after breakfast and drove to Musina to replenish supplies as we would be self-catering again. We then continued to the main entrance of Mapungubwe National Park for check-in before continuing to our fine tented accommodation in the western section of the National Park. A Meyer's Parrot in a large baobab tree at the entrance was a good bird to get. A pair of Lesser Kestrels on the way were also new and so was Brown Snake-Eagle, Purple Roller and surprisingly our only Namaqua Dove of the trip. It was very hot on the latter part of our drive and the habitat of very short grass and stunted Acacia bushes had dozens of Temminck's Coursers and Crowned Lapwings in the shade of almost every bush.

We settled into our spacious tented accommodation and after a rest period drove to a hide next to a water-hole that was very green with algae and had sticky thick mud surrounding it. On the way we saw some more Temminck's Coursers, some Red-capped Larks and a pair of Chestnut-banded Sparrowlarks. The waterhole had scores of nervous Impala, Waterbuck, Bushbuck, Burchell's Zebra and Giraffe. Inside the hide was a tiny Pipistrelle Bat that allowed me to pick it up and remove spider webs from its wings and feet. A juvenile African Fish Eagle sat in the shade of a tree on the opposite side. There were Red-billed Oxpeckers on the giraffe.

We returned to our camp to prepare our braai and sip wine before an early retirement.

Birds of the Day: Meyer's Parrot and Temminck's Courser
Daily Total: 78

Trip Total: 252

Day 10: Tuesday, 6th March 2007 – Mapungubwe

We left early and drove to the reserve main gate and then through the reserve to the board walk. This fine board walk, elevated in tall riverine trees, gives a different birding perspective. It was good this morning and we saw Bennett's Woodpecker, Bearded Woodpecker, Ashy Flycatcher, Brown-backed Honeybird, Brown-crowned Tchagra, Red-headed Weaver and a number of others we had seen previously. A Grey Tit-Flycatcher was giving its soft plaintiff call, but it was out of sight and would not show itself with playback. A large flock of Retz's Helmet-Shrikes joined by a smaller number of White-crested Helmet-Shrikes were lovely to see at eye-level from our elevated position. The hide over the Limpopo gave us Southern Carmine Bee-eater and Pied Kingfisher perched together on a tree in front of us. The river was not flowing and pools of water were distant, but they did hold Black-winged Stilt, Wood Sandpiper, Common Greenshank and very distant Yellow-billed Stork. Elsewhere on our drive we found a handsome Dusky Lark and a couple of Fawn-coloured Larks, at the very edge of their range. We stopped at a picnic site for "elevenses" and a fine pair of Verreaux's Eagles circled above us and landed on a rock ledge at one stage. We also saw Rock Kestrel for only the second time on the trip and Familiar Chat for the only time. There were lots of Lesser Grey and Red-backed Shrikes and Red-billed Oxpeckers were on some giraffe.

We returned to camp for lunch and in the heat of the day we were surprised to find bird activity shortly before reaching our accommodation. There was a bird party moving through and amongst others it included Cardinal Woodpecker and Common Scimitarbill. A nice find was a flock of Southern Pied Babblers (the only ones of the trip). The customary rest period followed after lunch and much of our time was spent watching an elephant herd having fun in a waterhole at the edge of our camp, and making a lot of noise about it too. Later we drove on a circular route, designed for 4x4 vehicles but easy for our Combi. The track ran parallel to the Limpopo for some distance and the fence had been completely destroyed by elephants, of which there were many. Some with young crossed in front of us and at one stage we drove past a cow with a small calf and she voiced her opinion with a loud trumpet and did a little mock charge, telling us to get out of her patch. It was amusing to note that all passengers in our vehicle looked out of the opposite side of the car and refused to look at her, even though she was quite cute. We drove most of the circular route faster than we would have liked, not because of the elephants but because a storm was brewing and we did not trust the road under those conditions. We did have a Kori Bustard in the track though. It trotted in front of us for a while and then opened its wings and easily flew over the trees at the side of the track, in spite of its enormous bulk. Another good bird along the river was an African Cuckoo but it did not sit around for a good view.

As we moved away from the river the habitat changed to sparse thornveld savanna. We stopped to view some Red-capped Larks and numerous Temminck's Coursers and noted a large number of Caspian Plovers moving across the plain. They continued to pass by for some time. It was difficult to count them as they were spread out and kept moving, but there must have been a hundred or more. Amazing! What a fine end to a pleasant day. The storm did not materialise but the wind continued into the night.

Bird of the Day: Caspian Plover

Daily Total: 82

Trip Total: 271

Day 11: Wednesday, 7th March 2007 – Last Post

We left Mapungubwe after breakfast and numerous Temminck's Coursers were on the plains again. We wasted little time as we needed to get to Alldays to have a window winder repaired, but we did call up a Pearl-spotted Owlet in the camp before breakfast. We did make a few U-turns for birds though and one of these was for a Shikra obligingly perched on a telephone pole. Most unusual for this small accipiter. Other good raptors on our drive were Wahlberg's Eagle, Brown Snake-Eagle, Tawny Eagle and a juvenile Dark Chanting Goshawk. As usual there were dozens of Amur Falcons as well, plus Yellow-billed Kites and Black-shouldered Kites and Steppe Buzzards of course.

Our intention was to drive through LangJan Nature Reserve on our way but for some unexplained reason we were refused entry by the official in charge. No reason was given. Red-faced Mousebird at the entrance was new for us.

We stopped at the tunnel before Makhado to look for Short-toed Rock-Thrush but it was not at this known stake out this time. We did see a Dark-capped Yellow Warbler though. Lunch was once again at Inn on Louis Trichardt and the butternut soup was excellent. A White-necked Raven was spotted by Jo nearby.

Some shopping was done in Makhado for our final bit of self-catering and we then had the window winder repaired for the second time before continuing to Last Post Nature Reserve. The gravel road to the reserve is long but usually has excellent birding. This time though the strong, gusty wind kept most birds out of sight. We did see some Jameson's Firefinches though, together with Blue Waxbills and a lovely pair of Green-winged Pytilias. Cinnamon-breasted Buntings were on the road and there were many Emerald-spotted Wood-Doves. Finally we reached Camp Mocking Chat where we were staying for two nights and true to its name, we were met by a very tame family of Mocking Cliff-Chats, that even came into our rooms at times. The wind continued through the night but our accommodation was superb and the stunning view made the steep steps worthwhile.

Bird of the Day: Shikra
Daily Total: 76
Trip Total: 279

Day 12: Thursday, 8th March 2007 – Last Post

We had an early morning walk on steep tracks through dense woodland, but birding conditions were poor with a strong wind blowing. This kept birds sheltered in dense cover and they refused to venture out for us. We did see some though and these included Black Cuckooshrike, Southern Black Tit, Chinspot Batis, a fleeting glimpse of Orange-breasted Bush-Shrike and others, but nothing new for the list.

In the afternoon Barend took us on an open vehicle drive on the property, but once again conditions were not right. At a small dam there was a Malachite Kingfisher and a Black-crowned Night Heron. We also saw Yellow-breasted Apalis, Jameson's Firefinch, Violet-backed Starling and had a good view of a little African Wren-Warbler. Eurasian Golden Oriole was new for us and a nice find, although it did not sit around for long.

The stars were showing well from the deck this evening and Eric pointed out a number of prominent beauties.

Bird of the Day: African Wren-Warbler
Daily Total: 41
Trip Total: 283

Day 13: Friday, 9th March 2007 – Dinoyane

We drove straight to Polokwane Bird Sanctuary (alias the sewage works), but before getting there we had six Secretarybirds in a single field. We also had an excellent stop next to a cattle drinking trough, where there were Jameson's Firefinches, Blue and Common Waxbills, Cinnamon-breasted and some fine Golden-breasted Buntings side by side and some lovely Green-winged Pytilias. At the sanctuary we were greeted by a pair of calling African Fish Eagles as we enjoyed "elevenses" with homemade rusks. Another good bird that turned up at this stage was an Ovambo Sparrowhawk that later gave us a scope view as well. As we started our walk around the large settling ponds a Lesser Honeyguide was inspecting nesting boxes in some Acacia trees. An Acacia Pied Barbet was attempting to chase it off. A little way down the track a flock of lovely little Black-faced Waxbills were feeding in bushes and tall weeds nearby. There were hundreds of Willow Warblers in just about every tree, probably on migration. In an open field there were Red-billed Quelea and some White-winged Widowbirds and a White Stork flew over. A Chestnut-vented Titbabbler shouted at us from a thicket. A little further and a fine Long-crested Eagle sat on a pole for us to admire, whilst its mate flew overhead to show its diagnostic wing pattern. Some tiny Orange-breasted Waxbills were in tall reeds and we eventually managed to see them, but in flight only. Waterbirds were not plentiful as the ponds were a bit full but we did see African Jacana, White-breasted Cormorant, African Darter, Yellow-billed Duck and Little Grebe. There was also Grey, Black-headed and Green-backed Herons plus dozens of Sacred Ibis. Also Spur-winged Geese and a pair of Hamerkop, plus a few waders and two close up Diderick Cuckoos as we returned to the car.

(E) = Endemic to South Africa, (NE) = Near Endemic to South Africa

	COMMON NAME	Abundance Scale	Total Days Seen	SCIENTIFIC NAME
1	Common Ostrich	2	3	Struthio camelus
8	Little Grebe	1	3	Tachybaptus ruficollis
55	White-breasted Cormorant	3	2	Phalacrocorax lucidus
58	Reed Cormorant	1	5	Phalacrocorax africanus
60	African Darter	1	3	Anhinga rufa
62	Grey Heron	1	4	Ardea cinerea
63	Black-headed Heron	2	8	Ardea melanocephala
64	Goliath Heron	2	3	Ardea goliath
65	Purple Heron	1	1	Ardea purpurea
67	Little Egret	1	1	Egretta garzetta
71	Cattle Egret	3	9	Bubulcus ibis
74	Green-backed Heron	2	3	Butorides striatus
76	Black-crowned Night-Heron	1	1	Nycticorax nycticorax
78	Little Bittern	2	2	Ixobrychus minutus
81	Hamerkop	1	7	Scopus umbretta
83	White Stork	1	3	Ciconia ciconia
84	Black Stork	1	1	Ciconia nigra
85	Abdim's Stork	3	2	Ciconia abdimii
88	Saddle-billed Stork	1	1	Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis
90	Yellow-billed Stork	1	1	Mycteria ibis
91	African Sacred Ibis	4	4	Threskiornis aethiopicus
94	Hadedda Ibis	2	7	Bostrychia hagedash
99	White-faced Duck	3	1	Dendrocygna viduata
102	Egyptian Goose	2	3	Alopochen aegyptiacus
104	Yellow-billed Duck	1	1	Anas undulata
116	Spur-winged Goose	3	2	Plectropterus gambensis
118	Secretarybird	2	1	Sagittarius serpentarius
124	Lappet-faced Vulture	1	1	Torgos tracheliotus
126b	Yellow-billed Kite	2	6	Milvus aegyptius
127	Black-shouldered Kite	1	4	Elanus caeruleus
129	Bat Hawk	1	1	Macheiramphus alcinus
131	Verreaux's Eagle	1	1	Aquila verreauxii
132	Tawny Eagle	1	1	Aquila rapax
135	Wahlberg's Eagle	1	3	Aquila wahlbergi
136	Booted Eagle	1	1	Hieraaetus pennatus
137	African Hawk-Eagle	1	1	Hieraaetus fasciatus
139	Long-crested Eagle	1	2	Lophaetus occipitalis
141	African Crowned Eagle	1	1	Stephanoaetus coronatus
142	Brown Snake-Eagle	1	3	Circaetus cinereus
143	Black-chested Snake-Eagle	1	1	Circaetus gallicus
148	African Fish Eagle	1	2	Haliaeetus vocifer
149	Steppe Buzzard	3	15	Buteo buteo
156	Ovambo Sparrowhawk	1	1	Accipiter ovampensis
159	Shikra	1	1	Accipiter badius
160	African Goshawk	1	3	Accipiter tachiro
161	Gabar Goshawk	1	1	Micronisus gabar
163	Dark Chanting Goshawk	1	2	Melierax metabates

	COMMON NAME	Abundance Scale	Total Days Seen	SCIENTIFIC NAME
169	African Harrier-Hawk	1	2	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>
170	Osprey	1	1	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
172	Lanner Falcon	1	1	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>
180	Amur Falcon	4	12	<i>Falco amurensis</i>
181	Rock Kestrel	2	2	<i>Falco rupicolis</i>
183	Lesser Kestrel	1	2	<i>Falco naumanni</i>
189	Crested Francolin	3	6	<i>Peliperdix sephaena</i>
196	Natal Francolin (NE)	3	9	<i>Ptemistes natalensis</i>
199	Swainson's Spurfowl (NE)	3	6	<i>Ptemistes swainsonii</i>
203	Helmeted Guineafowl	4	9	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
205	Kurrichane Buttonquail	1	1	<i>Tumix sylvatica</i>
213	Black Crake	2	6	<i>Amaurornis flavirostris</i>
226	Common Moorhen	1	1	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
230	Kori Bustard	1	1	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>
237	Red-crested Korhaan	1	1	<i>Eupodotis ruficrista</i>
239b	Northern Black Korhaan (E)	1	2	<i>Eupodotis afroides</i>
240	African Jacana	2	5	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>
248	Kittlitz's Plover	1	1	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>
249	Three-banded Plover	2	1	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>
252	Caspian Plover	3	1	<i>Charadrius asiaticus</i>
255	Crowned Lapwing	3	5	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>
258	Blacksmith Lapwing	3	9	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>
260	African Wattled Lapwing	2	3	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>
264	Common Sandpiper	1	2	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
266	Wood Sandpiper	2	4	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
270	Common Greenshank	2	4	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
295	Black-winged Stilt	1	2	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
298	Water Thick-Knee	2	3	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>
300	Temminck's Courser	4	3	<i>Cursorius temminckii</i>
347	Double-banded Sandgrouse (NE)	1	1	<i>Pterocles bicinctus</i>
348	Rock Dove	1	2	<i>Columba livia</i>
349	Speckled Pigeon	1	4	<i>Columba guinea</i>
350	African Olive-Pigeon	3	3	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>
352	Red-eyed Dove	3	12	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>
354	Cape Turtle-Dove	3	12	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>
355	Laughing Dove	3	10	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>
356	Namaqua Dove	1	1	<i>Oena capensis</i>
357	Blue-spotted Wood-Dove	1	1	<i>Turtur afer</i>
358	Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove	3	7	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>
359	Tambourine Dove	1	4	<i>Turtur tympanistria</i>
361	African Green-Pigeon	2	3	<i>Treron calva</i>
362	Cape Parrot (E)	3	1	<i>Poicephalus robustus</i>
364	Meyer's Parrot	1	1	<i>Poicephalus myeri</i>
370a	Knysna Turaco (E)	1	1	<i>Tauraco corythaix</i>
371	Purple-crested Turaco	3	4	<i>Tauraco porphyreobphus</i>
373	Grey Go-away-bird	3	10	<i>Corythaixoides concolor</i>
375	African Cuckoo	1	1	<i>Cuculus gularis</i>
377	Red-chested Cuckoo	1	1	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>
380	Great Spotted Cuckoo	1	1	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>

	COMMON NAME	Abundance Scale	Total Days Seen	SCIENTIFIC NAME
385	Klaas's Cuckoo	1	1	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>
386	Diderick Cuckoo	1	3	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>
391a	Burchell's Coucal (NE)	1	3	<i>Centropus burchellii</i>
394	African Wood-Owl	1	1	<i>Strix woodfordii</i>
398	Pearl-spotted Owlet	1	1	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>
401	Spotted Eagle-Owl	1	1	<i>Bubo africanus</i>
405	Fiery-necked Nightjar	1	1	<i>Caprimulgus pectoralis</i>
409	Square-tailed Nightjar	1	1	<i>Caprimulgus fossii</i>
415	White-rumped Swift	2	4	<i>Apus caffer</i>
416	Horus Swift	1	1	<i>Apus horus</i>
417	Little Swift	3	4	<i>Apus affinis</i>
421	African Palm Swift	3	7	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>
422	Mottled Spinetail	3	1	<i>Telacanthra ussheri</i>
424	Speckled Mousebird	3	8	<i>Colius striatus</i>
426	Red-faced Mousebird	3	3	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>
428	Pied Kingfisher	2	3	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
429	Giant Kingfisher	2	2	<i>Ceryle maxima</i>
431	Malachite Kingfisher	2	6	<i>Alcedo cristata</i>
432	African Pygmy Kingfisher	1	1	<i>Ispidina picta</i>
433	Woodland Kingfisher	3	9	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>
435	Brown-hooded Kingfisher	2	13	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>
436	Grey-headed Kingfisher	1	1	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>
437	Striped Kingfisher	1	1	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>
438	European Bee-eater	4	9	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
441	Southern Carmine Bee-eater	3	4	<i>Merops nubicoides</i>
443	White-fronted Bee-eater	3	4	<i>Merops bullockoides</i>
444	Little Bee-eater	1	1	<i>Merops pusillus</i>
446	European Roller	3	5	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>
447	Lilac-breasted Roller	3	9	<i>Coracias caudata</i>
449	Purple Roller	1	1	<i>Coracias naevia</i>
450	Broad-billed Roller	1	2	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>
451	African Hoopoe	1	2	<i>Upupa africana</i>
452	Green Wood-Hoopoe	3	3	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>
454	Common Scimitarbill	1	1	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>
457	African Grey Hornbill	2	7	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>
458	Red-billed Hornbill	3	8	<i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>
459	Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	2	6	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>
464	Black-collared Barbet	1	5	<i>Lybius torquatus</i>
465	Acacia Pied Barbet (NE)	1	1	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>
470	Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	1	2	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>
473	Crested Barbet	1	5	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>
475	Scaly-throated Honeyguide	1	1	<i>Indicator variegatus</i>
476	Lesser Honeyguide	1	2	<i>Indicator minor</i>
478	Brown-backed Honeybird	1	1	<i>Prodotiscus regulus</i>
481	Bennett's Woodpecker	1	2	<i>Campethera bennettii</i>
483	Golden-tailed Woodpecker	1	1	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>
486	Cardinal Woodpecker	1	3	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>
487	Bearded Woodpecker	1	1	<i>Dendropicos namaquus</i>
488	Olive Woodpecker	2	2	<i>Dendropicos griseacephalus</i>

	COMMON NAME	Abundance Scale	Total Days Seen	SCIENTIFIC NAME
494	Rufous-naped Lark	2	4	Mirafrā africana
497	Fawn-coloured Lark	1	1	Mirafrā africanoides
498	Sabota Lark (NE)	2	3	Mirafrā sabota
501	Short-clawed Lark (E)	1	1	Certhilauda chuana
505	Dusky Lark	1	1	Pinarocorys nigricans
507	Red-capped Lark	3	2	Calandrella cinerea
515	Chestnut-backed Sparrowlark	1	1	Eremopterix leucotis
518	Barn Swallow	4	13	Hirundo rustica
520	White-throated Swallow	1	1	Hirundo albigularis
522	Wire-tailed Swallow	1	3	Hirundo smithii
524	Red-breasted Swallow	2	1	Hirundo semirufa
526	Greater Striped Swallow (E)	2	4	Hirundo cucullata
527	Lesser Striped Swallow	3	10	Hirundo abyssinica
529	Rock Martin	3	6	Hirundo fuligula
530	Common House Martin	2	1	Delichon urbica
531	Grey-rumped Swallow	3	1	Pseudhirundo griseopyga
533	Brown-throated Martin	1	2	Riparia paludicola
536	Black Saw-wing	1	2	Psaldoprocne holomelas
538	Black Cuckooshrike	1	2	Campephaga flava
540	Grey Cuckooshrike	1	1	Coracina caesia
541	Fork-tailed Drongo	2	10	Dicurus adsimilis
542	Square-tailed Drongo	2	1	Dicurus ludwigii
543	Eurasian Golden Oriole	1	1	Oriolus oriolus
545	Black-headed Oriole	1	4	Oriolus larvatus
548	Pied Crow	1	1	Corvus albus
550	White-necked Raven	1	1	Corvus albicollis
552	Ashy Tit (E)	1	1	Parus cinerascens
554	Southern Black Tit	2	5	Parus niger
560	Arrow-marked Babbler	2	3	Turdoides jardineii
563	Southern Pied Babbler (NE)	2	1	Turdoides bicolor
568	Dark-capped Bulbul	4	13	Pycnonotus barbatus
569	Terrestrial Brownbul	2	3	Phyllastrephus terrestris
570	Yellow-streaked Greenbul	3	2	Phyllastrephus flavostriatus
572	Sombre Greenbul	1	3	Andropadus importunus
574	Yellow-bellied Greenbul	1	2	Chlorocichla flaviventris
575	Eastern Nicator		1H	Nicator gularis
576	Kurrichane Thrush	2	4	Turdus libonyana
577a	Olive Thrush	1	1	Turdus olivaceus
577b	Karoo Thrush (E)	2	2	Turdus smithi
580	Groundscraper Thrush	1	4	Turdus litsitsirupa
583	Short-toed Rock-Thrush (NE)		1H	Monticola brevipes
589	Familiar Chat	2	1	Cercomela familiaris
593	Mocking Cliff-Chat	2	3	Thamnotalpa cinnamomeiventris
596	African Stonechat	3	5	Saxicola torquata
598	Chorister Robin-Chat (E)		1H	Cossypha dichroa
599	White-browed Robin-Chat	1	1	Cossypha heuglini
601	Cape Robin-Chat	1	1	Cossypha caffra
602	White-throated Robin-Chat (E)	1	5	Cossypha humeralis
613	White-browed Scrub-Robin		6H	Erythropygia leucophrys

	COMMON NAME	Abundance Scale	Total Days Seen	SCIENTIFIC NAME
615	Kalahari Scrub-Robin (NE)	1	1	Erythropygia paena
620	Common Whitethroat	1	1	Sylvia communis
621	Chestnut-vented Tit-babbler (NE)	1	1	Parisoma subcaeruleum
626	Olive-tree Warbler	1	2	Hippolais olivetorum
631	African Reed-Warbler	1	1	Acrocephalus baeticatus
633	Marsh-Warbler		4H	Acrocephalus palustris
635	Lesser Swamp-Warbler	1	1	Acrocephalus gracillirostris
637	Dark-capped Yellow Warbler	1	1	Chloropeta natalensis
638	Little Rush-Warbler	1	1	Bradypterus baboecala
639	Barratt's Warbler (E)	1	1	Bradypterus barratti
643	Willow Warbler	4	12	Phylloscopus trochilus
644	Yellow-throated Woodland-Warbler	1	1	Phylloscopus ruficapillus
645	Bar-throated Apalis	1	4	Apalis thoracica
648	Yellow-breasted Apalis	1	3	Apalis flavida
651	Long-billed Crombec	1	4	Sylvietta rufescens
656	Burnt-necked Eremomela	1	4	Eremomela usticollis
657a	Green-backed Camaroptera	1	3	Camaroptera brachyura
657b	Grey-backed Camaroptera	1	4	Camaroptera brevicaudata
658	African Wren-Warbler (NE)	1	2	Calamonastes fasciolata
661	Cape Grassbird (E)	1	1	Sphenoeacus afer
664	Zitting Cisticola	1	2	Cisticola juncidis
672	Rattling Cisticola	3	9	Cisticola chiniana
674	Red-faced Cisticola	2	4	Cisticola erythrops
677	Levaillant's Cisticola	1	1	Cisticola tinniens
678	Croaking Cisticola	2	2	Cisticola natalensis
679	Lazy Cisticola	1	1	Cisticola aberrans
681	Neddicky	2	3	Cisticola fulvicapillus
683	Tawny-flanked Prinia	2	9	Prinia subflava
685	Black-chested Prinia (NE)	1	1	Prinia flavicans
689	Spotted Flycatcher	3	11	Muscicapa striata
691	Ashy Flycatcher	1	1	Muscicapa caerulescens
693	Grey Tit-Flycatcher	1	2	Myioparus plumbeus
694	Southern Black Flycatcher	1	3	Melaenornis pammelaina
695	Marico Flycatcher (NE)	2	4	Melaenornis mariquensis
698	Fiscal Flycatcher (E)	1	1	Sigelus silens
700	Cape Batis (E)	2	4	Batis capensis
701	Chin-spot Batis	1	4	Batis molitor
708	Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher	1	1	Trochocercus cyanomelas
710	African Paradise Flycatcher	1	11	Terpsiphone viridis
711	African Pied Wagtail	2	6	Motacilla aguimp
713	Cape Wagtail	2	5	Motacilla capensis
716	African Pipit	1	1	Anthus cinnamomeus
727	Cape Longclaw (E)		1H	Macronyx capensis
728	Yellow-throated Longclaw	1	1	Macronyx croceus
731	Lesser Grey Shrike	3	8	Lanius minor
732	Common Fiscal	2	8	Lanius collaris
733	Red-backed Shrike	3	11	Lanius collurio
735	Magpie Shrike	2	5	Lanius souzae
736	Southern Boubou (E)	2	8	Laniarius ferrugineus

	COMMON NAME	Abundance Scale	Total Days Seen	SCIENTIFIC NAME
737	Tropical Boubou	1	1	Laniarius aethiopicus
739	Crimson-breasted Shrike (NE)	1	2	Laniarius atrococcineus
740	Black-backed Puffback	1	5	Dryoscopus cubla
741	Brubru	1	1	Nilaus afer
743	Brown-crowned Tchagra	1	1	Tchagra australis
744	Black-crowned Tchagra	1	1	Tchagra senegala
747	Gorgeous Bush-Shrike		1H	Telophorus quadricolor
748	Orange-breasted Bush-Shrike	1	2	Telophorus sulfureopectus
749	Black-fronted Bush-Shrike		1H	Telophorus nigrifrons
750	Olive Bush-Shrike	1	2	Telophorus olivaceus
751	Grey-headed Bush-Shrike	1	1	Malaconotus blanchoti
753	White-crested Helmet-Shrike	3	3	Prionops plumatus
754	Retz's Helmet-Shrike	2	3	Prionops retzii
756	Southern White-crowned Shrike (NE)	2	4	Eurocephalus anguitimens
758	Common Myna	2	3	Acridotheres tristis
760	Wattled Starling	3	3	Creatophora cinerea
761	Violet-backed Starling	3	3	Cinnyricinclus leucogaster
762	Burchell's Starling (NE)	2	1	Lamprotornis australis
763	Meves's Starling (NE)	3	4	Lamprotornis mevesii
764	Cape Glossy Starling	3	7	Lamprotornis nitens
769	Red-winged Starling	2	2	Onychognathus morio
772	Red-billed Oxpecker	1	2	Buphagus erythrorhynchus
779	Marico Sunbird	1	3	Nectarinia mariquensis
783	Southern Double-collared Sunbird (E)		1H	Nectarinia chalybea
785	Greater Double-collared Sunbird (E)	1	3	Nectarinia afa
787	White-bellied Sunbird	1	2	Nectarinia talatala
791	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	1	2	Nectarinia senegalensis
792	Amethyst Sunbird	1	2	Nectarinia amethystina
793	Collared Sunbird	1	2	Anthreptes collaris
796	Cape White-eye (E)	4	11	Zosterops pallidus
798	Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver	3	3	Bubabomis niger
799	White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	3	5	Plocepasser mahali
801	House Sparrow	4	7	Passer domesticus
803	Cape Sparrow (NE)	3	2	Passer melanurus
804	Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	3	11	Passer diffusus
806	Scaly-feathered Finch (NE)	3	5	Sporopipes squamifrons
810	Spectacled Weaver	1	2	Ploceus ocularis
811	Village Weaver	2	1	Ploceus cucullatus
814	Southern Masked-Weaver	3	10	Ploceus velatus
815	Lesser Masked-Weaver	2	4	Ploceus intermedius
816	Golden Weaver	1	2	Ploceus xanthops
819	Red-headed Weaver	1	2	Anaplectes rubriceps
821	Red-billed Quelea	4	6	Quelea quelea
824	Southern Red Bishop	3	4	Euplectes orix
826	Yellow-crowned Bishop	1	2	Euplectes afer
827	Yellow Bishop	2	3	Euplectes capensis
829	White-winged Widowbird	1	5	Euplectes albonotatus
831	Red-collared Widowbird	3	1	Euplectes ardens
832	Long-tailed Widowbird	3	1	Euplectes progne

	COMMON NAME	Abundance Scale	Total Days Seen	SCIENTIFIC NAME
834	Green-winged Pytilia	1	3	Pytilia melba
835	Green Twinspot	1	1	Mandingoa nitidula
840	African Firefinch	2	2	Lagonosticta rubricata
841	Jameson's Firefinch	2	5	Lagonosticta rhodopareia
842	Red-billed Firefinch	2	3	Lagonosticta senegala
844	Blue Waxbill	3	11	Uraeginthus angolensis
845	Violet-eared Waxbill (NE)	1	1	Uraeginthus granatinus
846	Common Waxbill	2	8	Estrilda astrild
847	Black-faced Waxbill	2	2	Estrilda erythronotos
850	Sweet Waxbill (E)	2	1	Estrilda melanotis
852	African Quailfinch	1	1	Ortygospiza atricollis
854	Orange-breasted Waxbill	1	1	Sporaeginthus subflavus
855	Cut-throat Finch	1	3	Amadina fasciata
857	Bronze Mannikin	2	3	Spermestes cucullatus
858	Red-backed Mannikin	1	1	Spermestes nigriceps
860	Pin-tailed Whydah	1	7	Vidua macroura
862	Long-tailed Paradise-Whydah	2	3	Vidua paradisaea
864	Dusky Indigobird	1	2	Vidua funerea
867	Village Indigobird	1	4	Vidua chalybeata
869	Yellow-fronted Canary	3	9	Serinus mozambicus
870	Black-throated Canary	1	3	Serinus atrogularis
873	Forest Canary (E)	1	1	Serinus scotops
877	Brimstone Canary	2	1	Serinus sulphuratus
881	Streaky-headed Seed-Eater	1	1	Serinus gularis
884	Golden-breasted Bunting	1	2	Emberiza flaviventris
886	Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	2	7	Emberiza tahapisi

Mammals Seen

COMMON NAME	Total days Seen	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Baboon, Chacma	5	Papio ursinus
Bat, Banana	1	Pipistrellus nanus
Blesbok	2	Damaliscus dorcas
Bushbuck	5	Tragelaphus scriptus
Canerat, Greater	1	Thryonomys swinderianus
Dassie, Rock (Yellow-spotted)	1	Heterohyrax brucei
Duiker, Common	8	Sylvicapra grimmia
Elephant, African	2	Loxodonta africana
Giraffe, Southern	2	Giraffa camelopardalis
Hare, Scrub	2	Lepus saxatilis
Hartebeest, Red	1	Alcelaphus buselaphus
Impala	6	Aepyceros melampus
Jackal, Black-backed	4	Canis mesomelas
Kudu, Greater	8	Tragelaphus strepsiceros
Meerkat (Suricate)	1	Suricata suricatta
Mongoose, Banded	1	Mungos mungo
Mongoose, Dwarf	1	Helogale parvula
Mongoose, Slender	3	Galerella sanguinea
Monkey, Samango	1	Cercopithecus mitis
Monkey, Vervet	9	Cercopithecus aethiops
Mouse, Single-striped	1	Lemniscomys rosalia
Nyala	6	Tragelaphus angasii
Reedbuck, Common	2	Redunca arundinum
Roan Antelope	2	Hippotragus equinus
Shrew, Elephant (Four-toed)	1	Petrodromus tetradactylus
Springbok	1	Antidorcas marsupialis
Squirrel, Tree	8	Paraxerus cepapi
Steenbok	1	Raphicerus campestris
Tsessebe	3	Damaliscus lunatus
Warthog	10	Phacochoerus aethiopicus
Waterbuck, Common	5	Kobus ellipsiprymnus
Wildebeest, Blue	4	Connochaetes taurinus
Zebra, Burchell's	4	Equus burchelli

Reptiles Seen

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Leopard Tortoise	Geochelone pardalis
Nile Crocodile	Crocodylus niloticus
Water Monitor	Varanus niloticus
Southern African Python	Python natalensis
Striped Skink	Mabuya striata
Rainbow Skink	Mabuya quinquetaeniata
Northern Crag Lizard	Pseudocordylus transvaalsensis
Methuen's Dwarf Gecko	Lygodactylus methueni