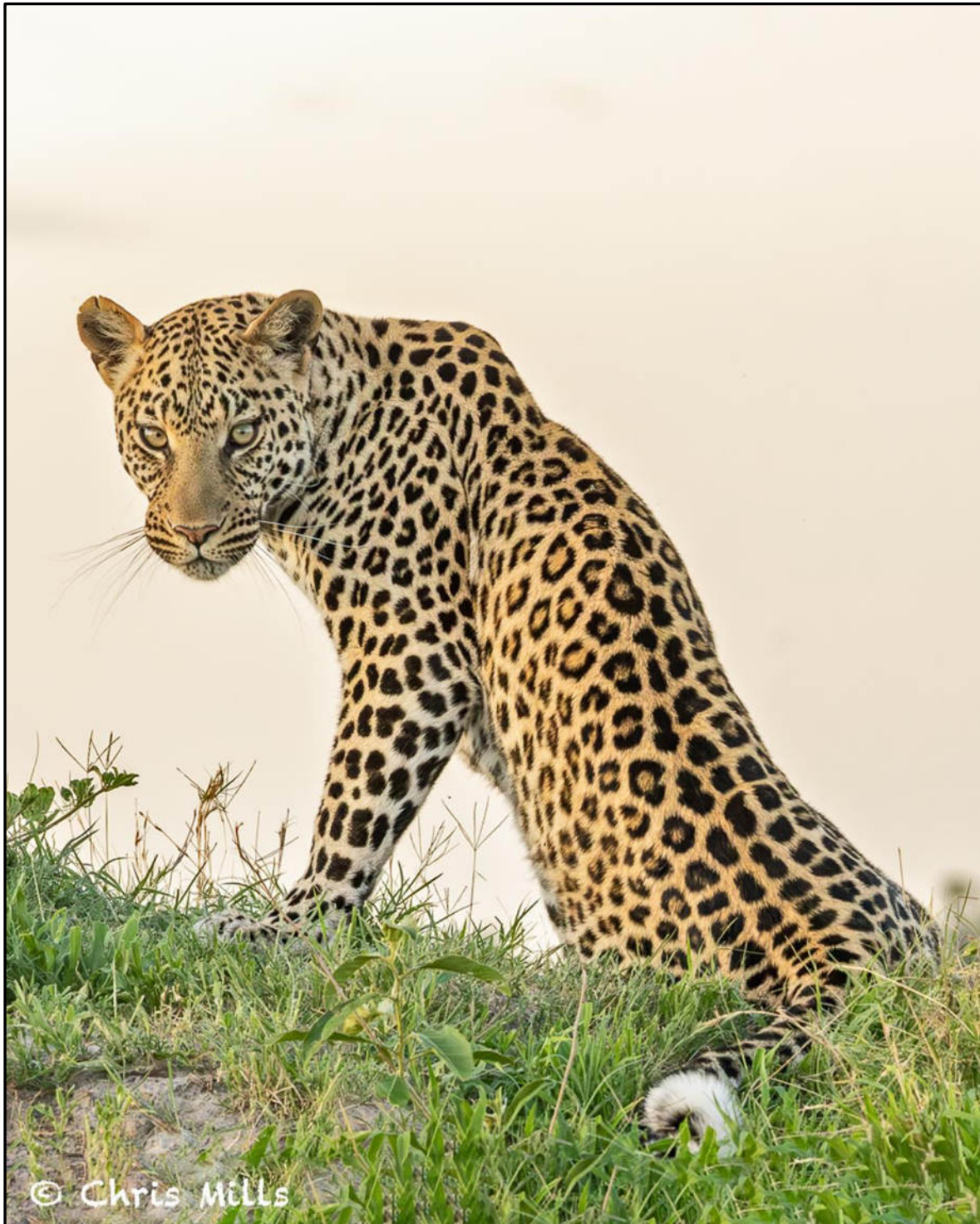




BOTSWANA AND ZIMBABWE

NOVEMBER 20TH TO DECEMBER 8TH 2025



Days One & Two – Thursday November 20th & Friday November 21st

Chris met up with the group at Heathrow airport, on Thursday afternoon.

The overnight flight from Heathrow T5 to Johannesburg was uneventful and despite departing slightly late arrived slightly earlier than scheduled.

We passed through immigration collected our baggage, and then headed back into departures for our domestic internal flight up to Maun.

The Maun flight wasn't too busy and after a couple of hours we landed in Maun, where we were met by our friendly shuttle bus driver. We then headed to Maun Lodge and arrived early afternoon. Check-in at the lodge was straight forward and our chalets were very comfortable.

We took a break for an hour and then at just after 3pm we started birding around the lodge grounds, and then along the river parallel to the Hotel grounds. **Arrow-marked Babbler, Dark-capped Bulbul, Burchell's Starling, Common Mynah** also stunning **Holub's Golden Waeaver** and **White-browed Robin-chat** greeted us around the Hotel. One of the main target species was soon in the bag, as we noted several **Tropical Boubou**.

We then had a nice walk along the river and marsh, though none of us had quite adjusted to the heat and humidity and a couple of hours birding was ideal with some really nice birds noted! Highlights were flocks of **White-faced Whistling Duck** and **Spur-winged Geese**, plus **3 Knob-billed Duck, 2 Water Thick-knee, some lovely Blacksmith Lapwing with juveniles, Africana Jacana, 2 Little Heron, Purple Heron, African Hoopoe, Grey Hornbill, Little Sparrowhawk, Little Bee-eater, Magpie-Shrike, Little Bee-eater** and a distant **Broad-billed Roller**. Wow...what a great introduction!

After a rest, the whole group headed for the evening meal, a nice selection of food and local drinks before retiring to bed early to prepare for the internal flight tomorrow morning from Maun to Shakawe.

Overnight at Maun Hotel.

Saturday 22nd November – Maun flight to Shakawe. Shakawe to Xaro Lodge

We were awoken at sunrise to a chorus of **Coucals, Babbler Swamp Boubou, Doves** and **African Hoopoe** before breakfast! There was little time to take any of those in, but as we headed out of the Hotel we just squeaked in a nice quick view of a **Levaillant's Cuckoo**!

We arrived a little early for our Maun flight to Shakawe and took advantage of The Duck café opposite where they served up hot croissants and lovely tea and coffee!

We were then assisted by a very helpful Mackair representative, before taking the hour's flight over to Shakawe. It was fascinating in the small 10-seater plane looking down at the vast habitat below us and watching the landscape turning green as we approached the 'pan handle' in NW Botswana.

We were greeted by Thomas from Xaro Lodge at the small airstrip, he was to be our local guide for the next couple of days. We transferred to a minibus and took the short drive to the River Okavango. We were soon watching **Yellow-billed Kites**, some stunning **Carmine Bee-eaters** perched on nearby wires, and we also managed a stop for a **Mosque Swallow**, plus a much closer **Broad-billed Roller** than the previous evening!

We soon boarded our river transport and headed down the Cubango River, a lovely way to travel and see some more great birds, highlights were **African Skimmer, Kittlitz's Plover, Collared Pratincole, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater**, the stunning tiny **Malachite Kingfisher, Hamerkop**, and **African Pied wagtails**.

After the lovely boat excursion, we moored up at Xaro lodge, a stunning forested riverine island, with beautiful timber chalets to compliment the riverside setting. The Camp's manager - Scott gave us a warm welcome and an introductory talk before showing us to our superb chalets.

The lodge staff cooked us up some very tasty snacks for lunch, after which we continued birding from the various viewpoints in the area around the camp, whilst it was mid-afternoon and activity is typically lower we still noted some nice birds – **Grey Go-away-bird, Reed Cormorant Glossy Ibis Purple Heron, Common Hoopoe, Malachite Kingfisher, Woodland Kingfisher, Crested & Black-collared Barbet, Golden-tailed Woodpecker**, the stunning **Violet-backed Starling and Kurrichane Thrush**. Whilst the overhanging branches by the bar demanded constant attention as **White-fronted Bee-eater, Little Bee-eater, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater and Broad-billed Rollers** showed off their colours and agility.

Cake and tea/coffee arrived at 2.30-3pm, which set us up nicely for a relaxed afternoon period, after a lot of travel, before heading out for a guided walk with Thomas at 4.30pm. Thomas told us we would try for the Pel's Fishing Owl, obviously a must wanted species for any birder! After a bit of searching the first views were a little unfortunate, as it flew almost instantly out of view, we then headed around the other side, now with the light behind us. Fortunately, this time we located it in view and eventually everyone could see the upper half of the magnificent **Pel's Fishing Owl** as I stared back at us.

There were plenty other birds as well with our first **Dideric Cuckoo, African Barred Owlet, Green Woodhoopoe, Meves's Starling** and **Brown Firefinch**. Stand out birds were **Lesser Honeyguide, 2 Meyer's Parrots** and the other Boubou – **Swamp Boubou**.

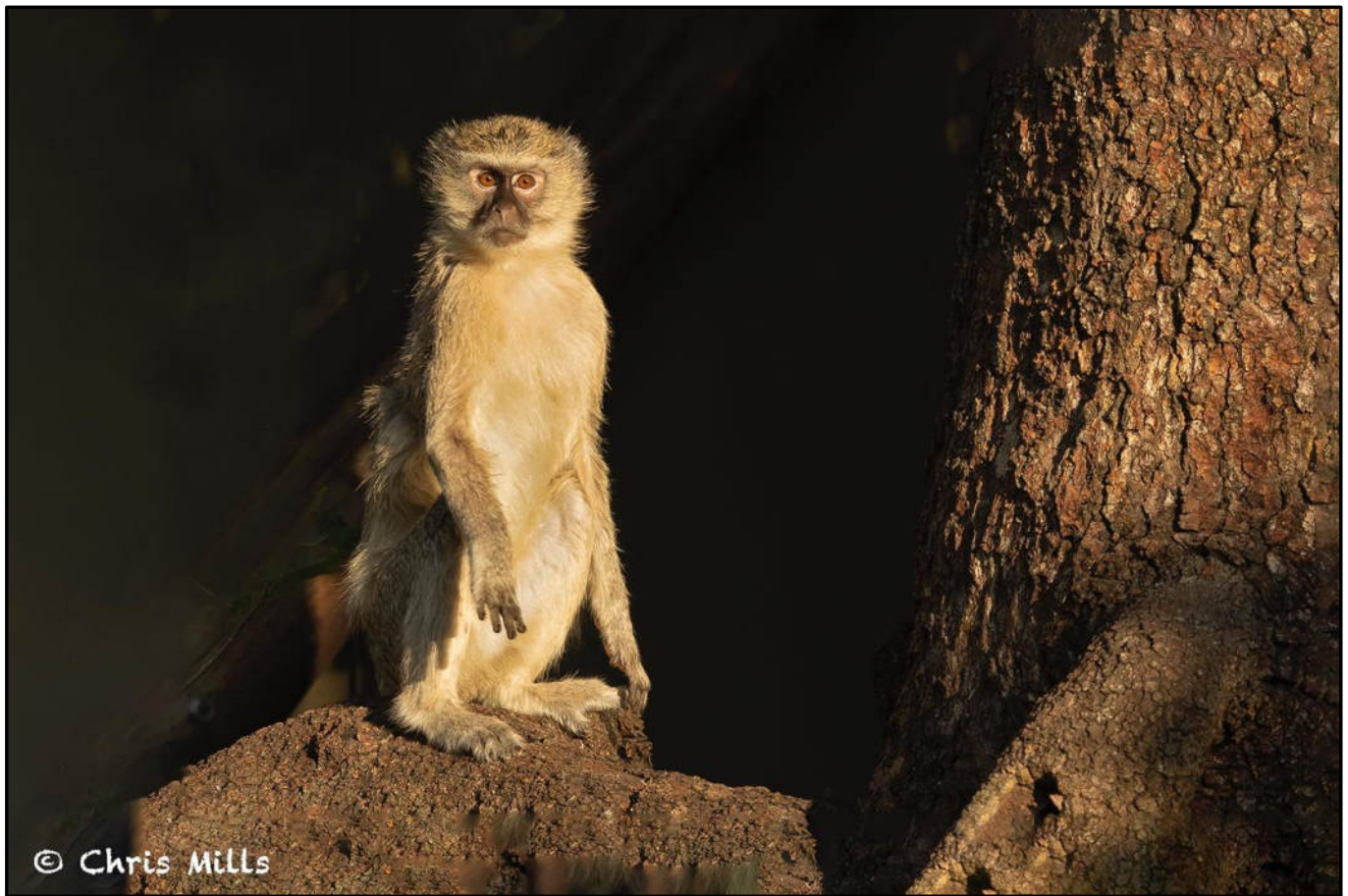
We returned to our lodges at 6.30pm, showered and then made our way to a beautiful sunset dinner looking out over the river. Xaro Lodge was a stunning place with stunning wildlife.

Overnight at Xaro Lodge, Shakawe.





White-browed Robin Chat & Swamp Boubou



Vervet Monkey & Square-tailed Nightjar

Sunday 23rd November – Xaro Lodge, Shakawe, Okavango Delta

We met Thomas in the dining area for coffee at 6.00am and then he led us on a walk through the grounds of the lodge. The sounds of **Hippo's** overnight and the piles of elephant dung reminded us that potentially dangerous animals weren't faraway and we walked together in a quiet tight line. The highlight this morning was Thomas locating a **Square-tailed Nightjar**, which flew but fortunately landed in view and we were able to take a good look and get some nice pictures. Other new birds added were **Coppery-tailed Coucal**, **African Golden oriole**, **Yellow-bellied Greenbul**, **Yellow-billed Oxpecker** and **Southern Masked Weaver**.

We then headed back for a hearty breakfast around 7.45, before boarding the boat again to head down river at 8.30am. The boat trip this morning was busy with birds! We had barely departed before we were watching the amazing looking **White-backed Night Heron**, plus **Black Crake**, the now usual myriads of **Kingfishers** and **Bee-eaters**, also adding **Pied Kingfisher**.

The muddy bank edges along the river gave us fine, close up views of **Squacco Heron**, **Water Thick-knee**, **Black-winged Stilt**, **Blacksmith Lapwing**, **Wattled Lapwing**, **African Jacana**, **Common Sandpiper**, **African Skimmer**, **African Darter**, **Reed Cormorant** and **Hadada Ibis**. We also had our first views of several **Nile Crocodiles**, though to be fair the views later in the trip involved much bigger beasts!

Whilst **Little Bittern** and **Goliath Heron** were seen albeit a little more distantly, we needn't have worried! We had great views of the majestic **African Fish-Eagle**, whilst the reedbed birds required more patience and we heard or had fleeting glimpses of **Tawny-flanked Prinia**, **Lesser Swamp Warbler** and **Greater Swamp Warbler**.

Aerial activity also offered up flocks of **Banded Martin** and small groups of **Wire-tailed Swallow** plus, a fly-by **Pin-tailed Whydah**.

We arrived back just before midday, we had another lovely lunch and then as the heat of the day took hold there was some time for rest and a bit of birding around the camp or a dip in the swimming pool!

At 3.30pm we met back up with Thomas and headed out again in the boat this time heading upstream for the first time. The initial part of the journey was quieter for birds, though we did get our first proper views of some superb **Hippo's** as they popped up out of the water to take a look at us! We then reached some side channels and large areas of wet grassland and here there was a good number of birds. New and notable bird included **Long-toed Lapwing**, a single **Greater Painted-Snipe**, **Wood Sandpiper**, several **Whiskered Tern**, flocks of **African Openbill** and **Yellow-billed Stork**, **African Fish-Eagle**. A distant feeding group of **10 Black Heron**, **Chirping Cisticola**, **Lesser Striped Swallow**, **Southern Brown-throated Weaver** & **White-winged Widowbird**.

We returned for another lovely dinner amidst a beautiful sunset and watched the day slip away eating a lovely three course dinner washed down with a few beers & G&Ts.

Overnight at Xaro Lodge, Shakawe.



Nile Crocodile & African Skimmer

Monday 24th November – Xaro Lodge, Xakanaxa Moremi Game Reserve.

We met Thomas in the dining area for coffee/tea and biscuits at 6.00am and he led us on our last morning walk at Xaro. We were the privileged again this morning to see the **Pel's Fishing Owl** again, getting a good clear view of the whole bird this time.

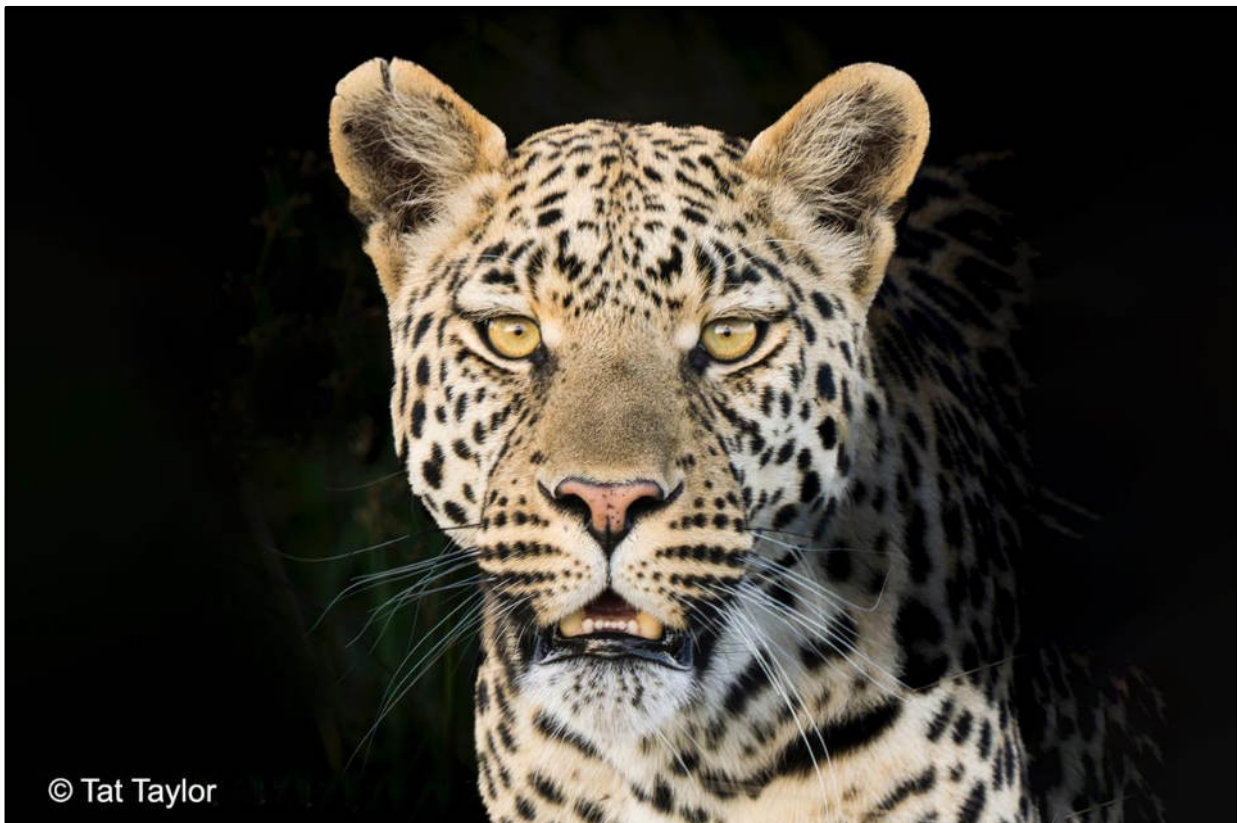
Another good haul of birds, with 44 species in just under two hours, new birds included **2 Common Swift**, a **Red-chested Cuckoo**, a superb **Dwarf Bittern**, **Eurasian Hobby**, **African Paradise Flycatcher** and an **Ashy Flycatcher** that took several minutes and pictures to identify! After breakfast we all packed and after lunch, took the boat back to the road, seeing more of the birds we had become familiar with over the last two days, plus **2 Wattled Lapwing**.

We then transferred to the small local air strip, where the local wildlife was removed from the runway! Our first **Crowned Lapwing** and **Lilac-breasted roller** also graced the airfield. We then boarded a small plane for the afternoon flight of around 50 minutes to Xakanaxa. At the other end we were met by Bait – our safari guide for the next 12 days of mobile safari in tented camping. Everything was transferred into the impressive Toyota 4x4 Ironman safari vehicles, we then set off through the Moremi Game Reserve heading for tonight's tented camp. The emphasis had shifted a little bit now, as animals loomed literally larger than life with our first **African Elephants!** Herds of **Impala** and several groups of the beautiful **Red Lechwe**.

The pools along the grassland edges offered up lots of waders and waterbirds with **Long-toed Lapwing** **Common Sandpiper** **Wood Sandpiper** **Common Greenshank** **Ruff Collared Pratincole** **Yellow-billed Stork** **African Sacred Ibis** **African Spoonbill** **Black Heron** **Squacco Heron** and **Great White Egret**. Plus, new birds with **White-crested Helmet-shrike**, **Cape Starling**, **Coppery-tailed Coucal** and a lovely, perched **Brown Snake-Eagle**.

The final light of the day offered up **Black-backed Jackal** shortly followed by a stunning **Leopard** perched atop a Termite mound that stole the show completely! The pictures replace the words here! At the camp, we were greeted by loud cheers from our wonderful team Life, Squat and KayKay who had arrived ahead of us and set tents, campfire and drinks all ready. We had dinner and retired to our respective tents, listening to the night sounds of the bush.

Overnight Moremi Game Reserve, mobile tented camp.



© Tat Taylor

Leopard – a stunning portrait!

Tuesday 25th November – Moremi Game Reserve/Mboma camp & Mboma East safari

We were awoken by a friendly voice at 5.00am - "Good morning!" - and fresh hot water for a wash. Breakfast was taken in the open dining tent at 5.30am and we departed camp with Bait in the safari vehicle at 6am, this became pretty much our daily routine for the next 10 days.

We were soon exploring the nearby bush and pools, a tremendous 5 hours slid by really quickly with animals and birds appearing every few minutes. Our first **Giraffes**, five of them appeared, also a group of **10+ Elephant**, a superb male **Lion** who still looked like he'd rather doze than be woken! Then we came across the much more imperious looking **Hyena's**, brutal looking mammals. Birds were numerous and a great variety, with an amazing 89 species recorded this morning, our first **Ostrich** appeared, you can never quite believe how big these birds are! We saw our first **Hottentot Teal** and **Crested Francolin**, and now **Red-billed Spurfowl** were a permanent fixture, lots of them! **Swainson's Spurfowl** was an addition, perhaps more sought after were the superb looking **Double-banded Sandgrouse** and **Wattled Crane** both seen very well, stunning birds.

The pools offered up lots of familiar waders including several delicate **Marsh Sandpiper** and Egrets, Storks and herons were aplenty with **African Woolly-necked Stork**, **African Sacred Ibis**, **Black-crowned Night Heron**, **Black Heron** and **Yellow-billed Egret**.

Whilst Vulture numbers have declined across Africa we still saw small groups of **Hooded Vulture**, **White-backed Vulture** and several of the distinctive shaped **Bateleur**.

The scrubby woodland gave us numerous **Southern Red-billed Hornbill** and smaller number of **Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill**. We also had our first views of **Swallow-tailed Bee-eater** and **Striped Kingfisher**, whilst **Lilac-breasted Roller** were numerous.

Shrikes were starting to appear in numbers as well with **Red-backed Shrike**, **Lesser Grey Shrike** being more familiar but with **White-crowned Shrike** and the stunning **Crimson-breasted Gonolek** also seen. We added another Woodpecker with a **Cardinal Woodpecker** in camp and other new birds were **Rufous-chested Swallow**, **Yellow-billed Oxpecker**, **Wattled Starling** and **Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver**.

We also encountered a lovely group of Waxbills with **Black-faced Waxbill**, **Violet-eared Waxbill** and **Blue Waxbill** all present. Whilst **Southern Grey-headed Sparrow** and **African Pipit** had become ubiquitous.

We then headed back to the camp for middle of the day showers, provided with hot water from the campfire, though at 30c some of us chose to take it tepid a little later! We then took lunch and, in the afternoon, heat took time to write up notes and take a break!

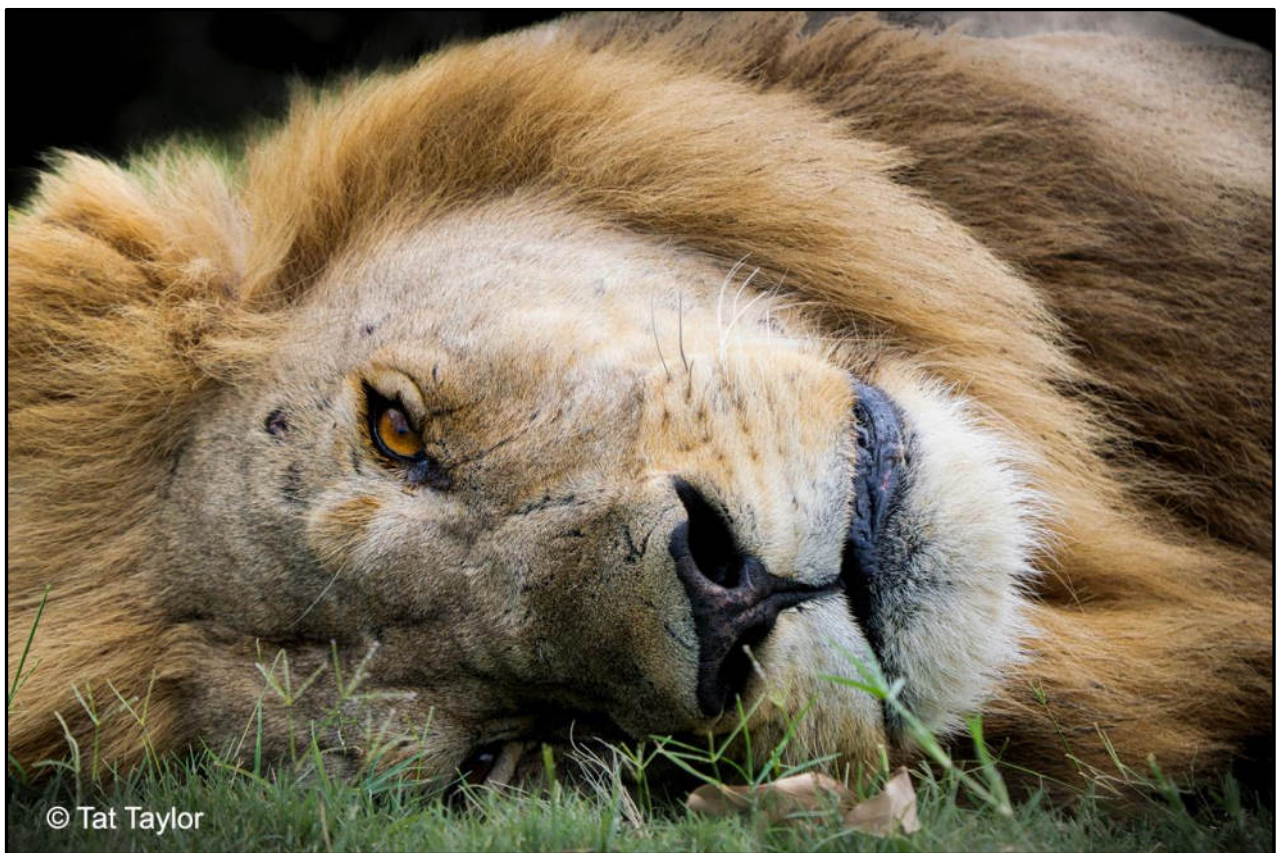
After afternoon tea and cake, we were all set to head back out at 4pm, birds were a little quieter though we had lovely views of **Kori Bustard** the world's heaviest flying bird! Plus added **Spotted Thick-knee**, **Pink-backed Pelican** and close views of a pair of lovely **Wattled Cranes**.

Animals figured well as the light faded with several **Giraffe**, **Zebra** plus larger groups of **Impala** and **Red Lechwe**, also **Hyena**, plus a big group of **40+ Wildebeest**, **Tree Squirrel**, **2 Black-backed Jackal**, more **Elephant**, several **Warthog**, nice views of **Hippo** and our first **Water Mongoose** and **Striped Skink**.

Overnight Moremi Game Reserve, mobile tented camp.



Crimson-breasted Shrike & Wattled Crane



Spotted Hyena & Lion

Wednesday 26th November – Moremi Game Reserve/Mboma Camp area

Today was the same routine with a wake-up call at 5am, followed by tea/coffee by camp fire, breakfast at 5.30am and then we headed back out into the park around 6am.

The birding was really busy, and we recorded an amazing morning's total of 97 species! Three of us heard **Swamp Nightjar** calling distantly just before dawn and a **Bennett's Woodpecker** was in the camp before departure, just as we left the camp we came across several of our first **Southern Black Tits**. We then covered several pools, which were busy with lots of waders and wildfowl, including our first **Three-banded Plover**, **Saddle-billed Storks**, **Helmeted Guineafowl**, a flyover **Osprey** was also new for the trip and our best views of **Black Crake**. The grassland areas also offered up the first **Red-crested Bustard**.

Bait came prepared with Tea/coffee and some delightful freshly cooked biscuits for a 9am break. Today he chose a beautiful open area next to pools where after a little searching we eventually had reasonable views of **African Swamphen** with a youngster, whilst a group of **Common Waxbills** eventually gave themselves up, alongside an **African Stonechat**.

Late morning found us in a wooded glade, after some time, everyone eventually managed to get on to an elusive **Chin-spot Batis**, whilst nearby scrub gave us a stunning singing **White-browed Scrub-robin**, plus **Lesser Grey** and **Red-backed Shrikes** were starting become a regular sight, though not quite as common as the numerous **White-browed Sparrow Weavers** with their messy colonial nests.

We eventually got good views of the Kestrel sp. we had been repeatedly seeing and as expected this adult proved to be a smart male **Lesser Kestrel**. Other new raptors for our list came in the form of **Wahlberg's** and **Tawny Eagle**.

We also saw our first **Steenbock**, a diminutive antelope with large ears, this was posing nicely. We also encountered further mammals this morning with **Black backed Jackal**, **Impala**, **Spotted Hyena**, **Black-backed Jackal**, **Giraffe**, **Wildebeest**, **Zebra** and **Warthogs**. A great morning was rounded off by two memorable moments, the sight of a couple of self drive tourists wandering around on foot near a river bridge after Bait had just pointed out Lion pug-marks – Bait advised them to get back in their vehicle! Then an unlikely spot under the thatched roof of the entrance building to the park where **2 Barn Owls** were roosting!

We headed back for lunch and showers, then took the customary break in the heat of the afternoon. We took afternoon tea at 3.30pm and then headed back out for the late afternoon and evening session. This session was to be remembered for the amazing if slightly ridiculous display of the **Red-crested Bustard**, which catapults itself into the air and then parachutes back down, giving it a local name of "the suicide bird"! It was extraordinary behaviour to watch and we literally a few metres away.

Overnight Moremi Game Reserve, mobile tented camp.

Thursday 27th November – Travel day Moremi to Mababe Private Reserve

The usual friendly voice woke us up at 5.00am, though the local fauna had an alarm call of its own with Hippos, Lions and Hyaenas sounding earlier, the rain had thankfully stopped and the skies were clear. Today was long travel day but with a Mokoro boat trip in the middle of the day.

After breakfast, the whole camp was taken down, our luggage loaded onto the roof of the safari vehicle, and we were away at 6.15am. The nearby pools had been thoroughly topped up after the heavy nights rain, and there were plenty waders and wildfowl as we departed the area, new birds were a **Jacobin's Cuckoo** and an **African Cuckoo** – which gave an almost slowed down version call of our European and very similar looking!

We slowly drove out of the Moremi Reserve, what I hadn't banked on was the impact of the overnight rains, the roads were full of deep puddles. Fortunately, Bait an expert driver in our 4x4 Ironman Toyota found a way through, though we witnessed 1-2 other vehicles who were so lucky! It was a steady and slow journey, but Bait found time to navigate us firstly to some isolated woodland pools heaving with several hundred **Egrets, Ibis, Spoonbills** and **Heron**s, including our first **Slaty Egret** and **Black-headed Heron**.

Then next up Bait got some news of Lions and he navigated us into the bush and soon we watching a lovely family group of **Lions 2 males**, and a **Lioness** with **4 cubs** resting in the bush. We also came across our first **Common Tsessebe** and **Kudu** and a roadside stop also gave us a lovely singing **Golden-breasted Bunting**. A quick stop at the gate entrance to Mababe produced **White-bellied Sunbird** and **Red-headed Weaver**.

Eventually we reached our next destination which was a novel opportunity to take a **mokoro** canoe, traditionally this would have been a dugout canoe, ours were fiberglass! Though this didn't lessen the experience. We took three boats and the expert local "polers" stood and navigated us with long poles silently gliding along the river. An **Amur Falcon** dashed by all too quickly, one that we all hoped to see much better at some point!

It was a lovely serene and peaceful experience, I was pleased to see that we were taking the boat in the opposite direction to the **Hippos**! They got us nice and close to several Kingfishers including a lovely **Grey-headed Kingfisher**, though we did eventually have to cut it slightly short as some heavy showers arrived again!

We arrived at our next tented camp early afternoon and had lunch. The camp was beautiful, with the tents overlooking the river. Fortunately, the rain had gone, and it was now clear skies, hot and sunny. We had just all settled into the camp, when a superb large bull **Elephant** came through. He was grazing on the lush grass and took no notice of us just 110-15 metres away. He eventually went down to the waters edge to drink and another elephant greeted him from the other side of the river, he eventually disappeared off behind the camp – an amazing experience.

We headed out along the river where there were lovely views of **Malachite** and **Pied kingfisher**, nearby pools held a lovely flock of **60+ Black-winged Pratincole** interspersed with **Collared Pratincoles**, also new birds for the trio out in the grassland areas, were our first **Bradfield's Hornbill**, **Piping Cisticola** along with the distinctive **Southern Pied-Babbler** and **Yellow-throated Sparrow**.

Another great 3 course meal was presented this evening, how Life the Chef kept producing such wonderful dishes freshly cooked out in the midst of the game reserves was a mystery to us all!

Overnight Mababe Private Reserve



Lilac-breasted roller & Red Lechwe



Tawny Eagle & Burchell's Zebra



Blue Wildebeest & Black Heron



Saddle-billed Stork & Collared Pratincole

Friday 28th November – Mababe Private Reserve

Our normal routine continued with the alarm sounding at 5am and after coffee/tea and breakfast we were off and away on our jeep safari. Though we weren't too far into the safari, when the temp gauge on the bombproof 4x4 jeep hit the red zone! Bait stopped the vehicle and after peering under the bonnet for a few minutes surmised that a jammed stick from yesterday's adventures through the big muddy pools had somehow got into the fan area at the back of the radiator and had now caused a burst in the radiator filament.

Fortunately, after a few calls, he was assured it would be okay to fill the radiator with water and keep topping it up, which was good news as we were also now watching a close by **Elephant!** We decided that it was sensible to stay closer to the camp, so we were able to explore the bush and river areas close to the camp, which still produced 62 species of birds! There was some nice groups of Impala close to the camp and a group of **Waterbuck** also several **Slender Mongoose**.

We searched along the river for Lesser Jacana, but no success, but plenty of **African Jacana**, plus **Malachite, Pied and Woodland Kingfisher** came in quick succession. We also worked through the ID of woodpeckers, seeing **Bearded, Bennetts and Golden-tailed Woodpecker**. Plus it was a good morning for hirundines, with **Barn, White-throated, Greater and Lesser Striped Swallow**.

As the morning warmed, we also spotted a new raptor for the trip, a more familiar species a pale phase **Booted Eagle**, also **4 White-backed Vulture, 5 Bateleur, 4 Tawny Eagle and a Wahlberg's Eagle** and a dashing **Shikra** - a nice haul of raptors. We were also now regularly seeing **European Bee-eaters** with a good flock overhead this morning and also **2 Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters**.

The jeep had survived the morning's safari and we reached the camp a little earlier for lunch, as the organisation and fitting of a new radiator was underway. Such was the efficiency of the Safari team and despite seemingly being many hours away from any large towns, a new radiator had arrived and was fitted before we even headed back out for our afternoon safari at 3.30pm!

Over lunch and the break a **Black Cuckoo** was calling and eventually 2-3 of us manage to get views as it perched on top of a tree before moving off.

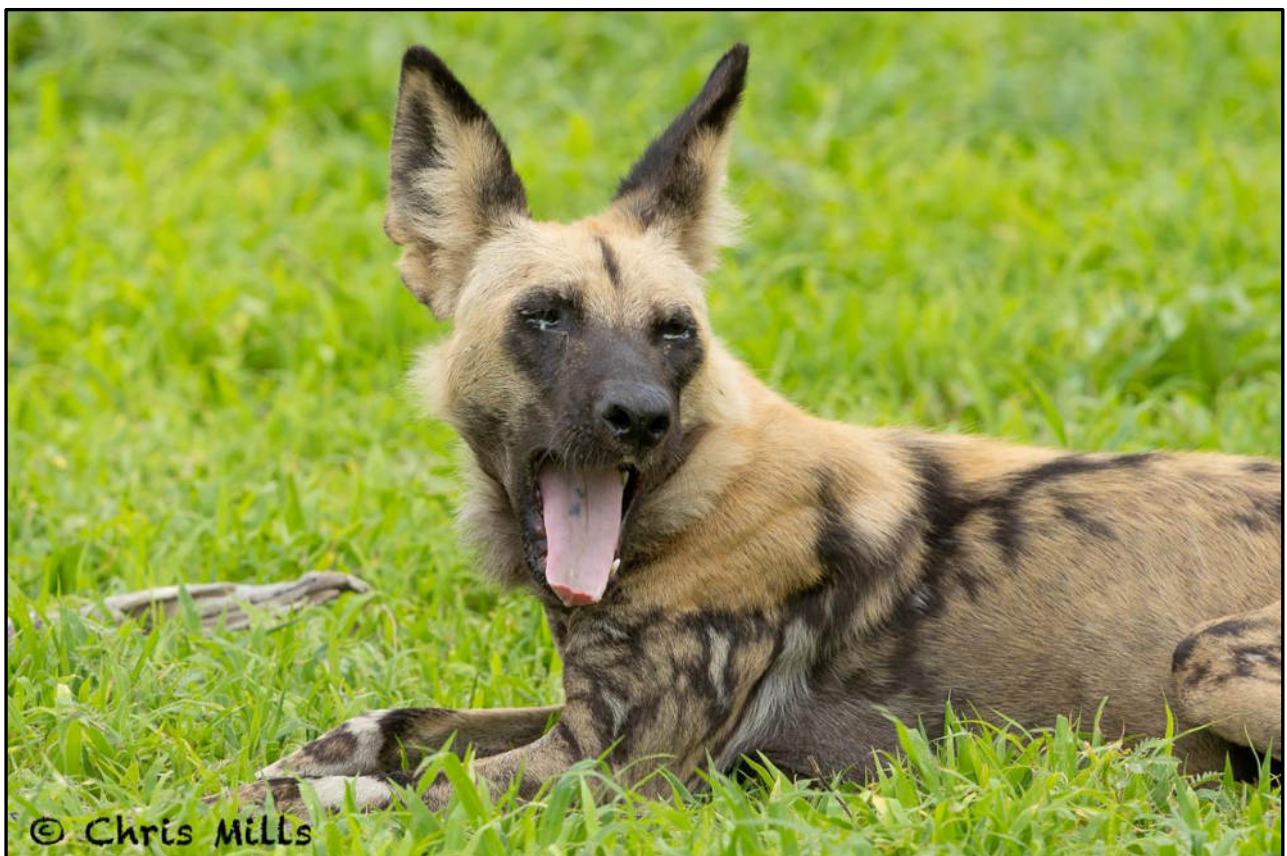
The afternoon session saw us add **Southern Ground Hornbill**, a superb and massive Hornbill. I'm sure it's fair to say that the birds on this safari were well overshadowed by, for me the mammal of the trip – **African Wild Dogs**, we watched on as a pack of nineteen gave fantastic close views.

Initially, resting and relaxed they started to interact as the alpha male arrived, greeting all the members of the pack.

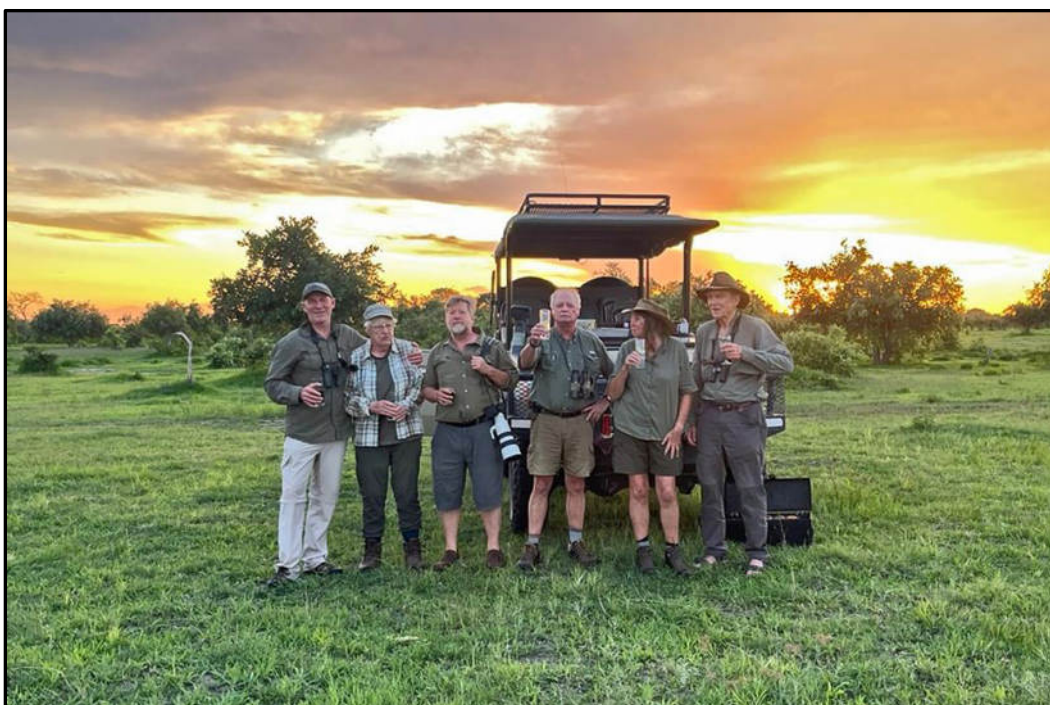
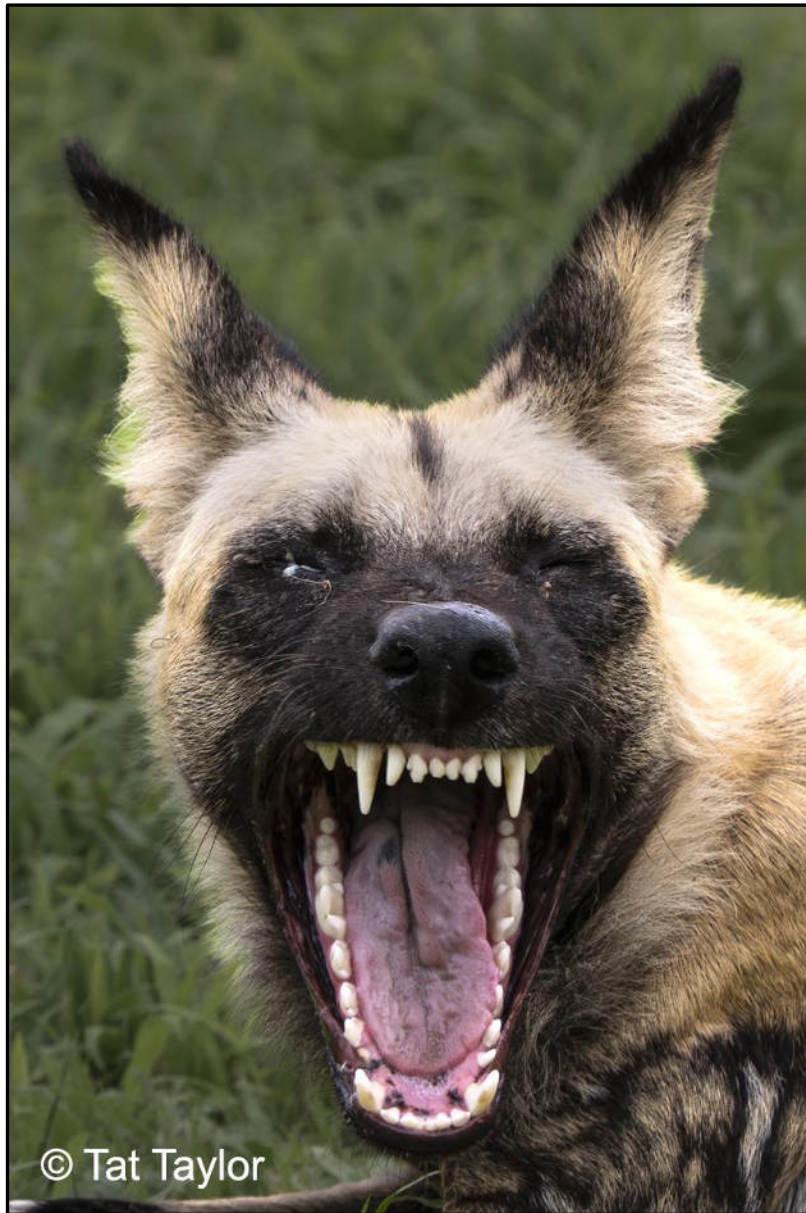
The enjoyment didn't end there as today we were set for sundowners followed by a night drive! We passed several **Burchell's Zebra** plus a small group of **Giraffe**, then found a lovely spot overlooking a pool as the sun dropped and we enjoyed a few glasses of a favourite tipple.

The night drive back using a spotting torch didn't give us anything too unexpected though we stopped for the glaring face of a **Spotted Hyena** and a super **Barred Owlet** perched out on a branch. Whilst we stopped to enjoy the amazing winding sound of the **Bubbling Kassinia frog!**

Overnight Mababe Private Reserve



Hippopotamus & African Wild Dog



African Wild Dog & Sundowners



Burchell's Starling & African Barred Owlet

Saturday 29th November – Mababe Private Reserve

Today was a slight change in routine, though the 5am alarm call and breakfast remained the same! The main difference was we drove the jeep a short distance and then we were all set for a walking safari! This was allowed in this area, as we were within a private reserve, with special dispensations. Bait and Chris set out the guidelines clearly and Bait was armed with a high-powered rifle just in the event we got too close to any of the more dangerous wildlife!

Once safely parked (complete with new radiator!) we headed out on foot, silently moving in single file. Bait had chosen an area with good visibility (for obvious reasons!) but with scattered bushes. I guess what was quite surprising was it almost seemed more difficult to find birds on foot than in the jeep! Though we did all thoroughly enjoy stretching our legs after mainly being sat in the jeep for the last few days. After around an hour and half we had seen a few familiar birds, plus added **Common Buzzard** and **Senegal Coucal** a new bird for the trip. It was nice to have seen the **Impala** and **Burchell's Zebra** on foot as well! Bait had already told us that the most feared animals to come across were Buffalo, so when I spotted a group of **3 Buffalo** amongst the bushes around 800m ahead of us, Bait took quick action reversing us immediately out of view and away from the potential danger. I'm sure we all had a bit of adrenaline coursing through our veins, fortunately they hadn't seen us and the threat dissolved, as fast as it had been seen.

Once back at the jeep we were able to enjoy our regular mid-morning tea/coffee and biscuits, before heading back along the river system with the intention of trying again to find Lesser Jacana.

The drive through the grassland gave us more fine views of **3 Red-crested Bustard**, the skies were busy with **10 Woolly-necked Storks**, **White-backed Vultures**, **Bateleurs**, **Brown Snake-Eagle**, **Wahlberg's Eagle**, **Tawny Eagle**, **Gabar Goshawk** and **African Fish-Eagle** and, we were still discovering new birds for the trip as **Marabou Storks** also soared overhead then a **Black-chested Snake Eagle**.

As we headed through the savannah we also came across a perched **Purple Roller** and **3 Green-winged Pytilia** both new additions. Along the river we had the usual mixture of **waterbirds** and **Kingfishers**, but we couldn't dig out a Lesser Jacana, but a lovely group of **Waterbuck**. We headed back as usual around 11.15am and took lunch and rested whilst still admiring **3 Bull Elephants** very close to the camp!

After afternoon tea at 3.30pm we headed back out with another opportunity of a sundowner and night drive ahead of us! During the late afternoon we came across our first **Red-billed Duck** and an **African Harrier-hawk**. Then as the sun started to drop we were able to enjoy a fantastic gathering of **Swallows** of at least 3 species, with **500+ hirundines** hunting insects low over the grassland and pools. But twilight belonged to the non-avian highlights, with a superb large herd of **Buffalo** in the river plain, plus great views of **Hippo**, **Warthog**, **Black-backed Jackal**, several **Waterbuck**, a large group of **Impala**, plus smaller numbers of **Red Lechwe** and several **Crocodile** along the river edge.

After a few drinks, the sun slid below the horizon, and we started our night drive back to the camp.

Driving along the track a bird flew through the lights and back...a Nightjar! Fortunately, after a couple of flights it landed on the sandy track ahead of us and we were able to spot it in the circumference of Bait's spotting light, without full glare. This enabled a few hurriedly taken pictures, which without sound enabled the identification! The bird was as expected (based on habitat) a **Fiery-necked Nightjar**.

We continued through the grassland and stopped several times with Bait spot-lighted **Spring Hares**, these unusual looking creatures are actually rodents and endemic to Africa. They look most like Gerboa but a about the size of a rabbit, with a short round head, large eyes, and very long, narrow upright ears. Like jerboas, it has short forelegs but long, powerful hind legs and feet used for jumping. As well as the **Bubbling Cassina frogs**, we also came across a **Giant Bull Frog**.

Overnight Mababe Private Reserve

Sunday 30th November – Travel day Mababe to Savuti, Chobe

Today was a travel day, with birds and wildlife encountered as we headed North towards Savuti on the Western edge of Chobe NP. As we left our camp we had only travelled a matter of a few hundred metres when we came across a Lioness & 1 year old cub! We spent a little time watching them before heading on our way.

As the habitat changed slightly it became greener with more grassland, we passed some **Giraffes and Warthogs**. Then we started to encounter quite a few new birds with **Namaqua Doves** appearing, a soaring eagle with pale underwing coverts proved to be a young **Steppe Eagle**, the vanguard of this winter migrant. Next, we came across a few Vultures perched in a dead tree, several looked huge and indeed were huge! With the bare red skin and massive beaks these were **Lappet-faced vulture** and then soaring we noted **White-headed Vulture**, with the big white patches on their belly and inner secondaries. A soaring buzzard with a plain reddish tail, looked good for **Steppe Buzzard**, another new species depending on whose nomenclature you follow! Another new raptor and most distinctive was a cracking male **Pallid Harrier** that swept past us. The grasslands also offered up new passerines with singing **Fawn-coloured Lark**, the smartly marked **Scaly Weaver**, plus **Shaft-tailed Whydah**, a stripy non-breeding **Village indigobird** and then a bird we were to see continually – **Red-billed Quelea**, often considered the most abundant bird in the world!

Early afternoon Bait found an area of shade for us take a break and rest for a while, though there were wonderful distractions with **Red-billed Hornbill** and **Lilac-breasted Rollers** just above our heads. Then **Elephants**, groups of **Zebra**, **Impala** and **Warthog** grazing in view from the lunch stop under the trees in the shade.

We then headed onwards to Savuti Chobe NP, we stopped briefly at the gate and then entered Chobe NP a huge area of 11,700 sq/km. As we journeyed onwards we stopped for several groups of **Wildebeest** plus a **Steenbok**. Bustards were becoming more numerous here and we started seeing several of all three species - **Northern Black Korhaan**, **Red-crested and Black-bellied Bustard**, with a male of the latter species performing a remarkable display, that looked almost like something from the ministry of stupid walk! The landscape was changing now as well with a more undulating landscape complete with rocky outcrops and huge ancient looking baobab trees! We were now also seeing groups of **Carmine** and **European Bee-eaters**. Though a little distant the standout bird for me was a **Temminck's Courser**, these elegant, long-legged waders occupying a niche habitat of short grassland and semi-desert.

The day rounded off with a couple of non-avian highlights with a distant **Bat-eared Fox** group, then a **Dwarf Mongoose** and a **Leopard Tortoise**!

After a long day of travel we reached camp at around 6.30pm and was greeted as was now usual by a fanfare of whistles, and whoops from the legendary camp team who had set all the tents, prepared the campfire, showers and dinner was just a short time away, amazing!

Overnight Savuti region, Chobe NP



Lion & Spotted Hyena



Elephant & Black-bellied Bustard



Carmine Bee-eater, Lion & Kori Bustard

Monday 1st December – Savuti region, Chobe NP

We were up as per our usual routine at 5am, breakfast and then departed 6am. After our encounter with the heavy day of rain a few days ago, Bait was surprised and bit disappointed to discover the watering holes here were quite low, due to the lack of rain. So, the pools were lower than anticipated, however where there were water birds were arriving as were game. We were now close to, and able to see the Magwikhwe Sand Ridge and the Savuti dried riverbed an ancient shoreline of a vast super-lake this a legendary and dynamic geological feature is famous for its unpredictable, cyclical flowing and drying pattern, last flooding in 2010-2014.

We arrived mid-morning at one larger set of pools and was amazed to see a huge flock of **Pratincoles**, hundreds of them! After studying them it was apparent that the majority were **Black-winged Pratincoles** though there were also **Collared Pratincoles** in amongst the flock. Also attracted to these same pools were a nice group of **Burchell's Sandgrouse**. A good group of waders were also attracted with **Black-winged Stilt**, **Three-banded Plover**, **Blacksmith Lapwing**, **Crowned Lapwing**, **Kittlitz's Plover**, **Common Marsh and Wood Sandpiper**, **Common Greenshank**, **Ruff** and new for the trip a couple of **Little Stint**.

We then headed into the nearby grassland areas where we also added several new birds with our only **Secretarybird** of the trip, plus **Marico Flycatcher**, **Kalahari Scrub-robin**, **Quailfinch** and **Rosy-throated Longclaw** all of these being the only ones of the trip!

The pools and the grassland proved attractive game and we had some **Wildebeest**, plus our first **Eland** with 6 moving quickly through the vegetation, several **Giraffe** plus **Tsessebe**. There were also several **Zebra** and **Elephants** and Bait explained how these animals complete an amazing migration to reach the greener areas after the rains, some Zebra travelling 400km.

Late morning several jeeps had pulled in and were clearly watching something under the nearby bushes, Bait spoke to our driver and we circled round and were soon watching a pride of **Lions**, with 2 male, 2 female and **5 Lion cubs**, all sat snoozing in the shade!

Another great morning with 74 species of birds and lots of mammal activity, we headed back to camp for lunch and the break.

We headed back out again around 4pm, and had our best views of **Diedrik Cuckoo**, also, good views of a perched **African Hawk-Eagle**, several **Swallow-tailed Bee-eater**, plus new birds for the trip seen were **European Roller** and **Red-billed Firefinch**. Other birds of note were **Greater Honeyguide**, **Red-headed Weaver**, **Southern Masked-Weaver** and only our second **Golden-breasted Bunting**.

The abiding memory of today was just before dusk, as an incredible thunderstorm took hold, with a deafening crack of lightning right by the jeep, followed by a tremendous downpour! We all survived, slightly damp as Bait drove rapidly back to the camp, where dinner was safely served under canvass as the rain continued through the evening.

Overnight Savuti region, Chobe NP

Tuesday 2nd December – Savuti region, Chobe NP

After the incredible storm and rain that had lingered long into the night, I was pleased to awake to silence suggesting that the heavy rain had stopped, peering out of the tent at just before 5am, there were stars and it was clear the rain had gone! After batting a big puddle of water from the roof of my tent, I met up with everyone for breakfast. I think Bait and the safari team were relieved too!

We headed out at 6am and even as we reached the first areas of pools, we had visited yesterday it was amazing to see how much the pools had filled up and even the vegetation already seemed to be turning greener!

There seemed to be more animals, and we were soon watching **60+ Zebra** and **60+ Eland** including **12 Eland young**. The pools were very busy with waders and wildfowl, and we encountered our first **Abdim's Stork** which in flight looked very similar to a **Black Stork**! There was lots of **Barn Swallows**, presumably arriving migrants, several Common Swifts and amongst these were several **Sand** and **House Martin**, new birds for the trip, also a pleasure to think how these birds have travelled all the way from Europe!

The grassland seemed to offer up a **Kori Bustard** every next turn we took, and we were now seeing numerous **Lesser Kestrel** with around twenty hunting over the grassland. Another raptor came past rapidly hunting this time a **Eurasian Hobby** presumably the flocks of hirundine an attraction!?

Our mid-morning tea break and stop proved useful as this offered up a Yellow Wagtail, a female type but probably **Blue-headed wagtail 'flava'**.

Shrikes were also now at their most numerous, with Red-backed shrike commonest, but also **Lesser Grey, White-crowned, Magpie Shrike and Black-backed Puffback**. A small puddle in the grassland proved very attractive to a group of waxbills, with several **Blue Waxbill, Green-winged Pytilia** and 2 stunning **Violet-eared Waxbills**. It had been a great morning and we headed back for lunch and a break. As it was a travel day tomorrow, we all got our cases and gear ready for the morning.

In the afternoon we headed back towards the Savuti sand ridge and watering holes where we had aborted slightly early the night before due to the storm! There was now many more flooded pools and lots of birds, possibly the most noticeable increase seem to be **Marabou Stork**, there was hundreds in the air and hundreds on the ground, they definitely look at their best soaring in the skies! We added two new birds to the trip, both Cuckoo's! The first one we heard calling and it sounded familiar, but I couldn't quite recall it. Then it flew into view and it made sense a **Great Spotted Cuckoo**, the second one was a **Klaas's Cuckoo** – a beautiful emerald green above and pale white below.

Around the pools and grassland we also had **5 Kudu, 25+ Zebra, a Black back Jackal, and several Impala & Wildebeest**. We also came across **6 Wild dogs**, sitting quietly under the bushes, we waited to see if they were going to hunt but they didn't seem to interested and we eventually left them in peace to sleep. We then slowly headed back and as we neared camp we also came across **3 Dwarf Mongoose** last off.

Back at camp we had dinner and headed off to dinner reasonably early as we had a big travel day ahead of us tomorrow!

Overnight Savuti region, Chobe NP



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Okavango Sunset & Buffalo

Wednesday 3rd December – Savuti Chobe NP to Chobi enclave to Elephant Camp Lodge

We were up at 5 as usual. Today was a travel day though, as we were upping camp and moving north again. The Safari team had the tents and kitchen half dismantled as we left and all seemed to be going according to plan!

We were soon watching the local wildlife again, as a big herd of **50+ Cape Buffalo** appeared, and still hundreds of **Marabou Stork** filled the skies and grassland. Then we latched on to our third **Wild Dog** group of the trip, a big group and close by a group of **Impala**....we waited and watched. Suddenly, the alpha male Wild Dog started running, and the pack all started moving, steadily. We moved to, though it was hard to know where to position ourselves, the **Wild Dogs** did! We saw one of the **Wild dogs** racing across the ground, literally flat-out sprint, incredible pace! We raced after the pack and eventually after Bait had taken a few false turns, he found them under the bushes with their prize, a sizeable **Impala** was being devoured at a pace, each dog seemingly getting a piece of food.

We had spent a good 2 hours enjoying the sensational action, but now we needed to get moving as we had a long journey ahead of us to reach the Northern part of Chobe NP bordering Namibia. As mentioned earlier, it seemed like everything was going according to plan, though as we headed up the track, we realised something must be badly wrong as just ahead of us was the Safari. Team with their 4x4 limping along. It became apparent that they had a problem, and we stopped by the roadside whilst Bait made a few Satellite phone calls to get help and make alternative accommodation arrangements for the evening, as it looked like our tents weren't for once going to be in place by nightfall! Bait assured us that accommodation at a lodge would be secured by evening and hopefully the lads would have their vehicle sorted in the next few hours.

The roadside had been fruitful though, with our only **Martial Eagle** of the trip flying over, plus 2 **African Hawk-Eagles!** Another roadside stops also gave us new birds, with a **Flappet Lark** and **Cinnamon-breasted Bunting**. Late morning we reached the Ghoha park gate into Chobe enclave, where we were able to explore the surrounding trees, and instantly scored with **Marico** and **Scarlet-breasted Sunbird**.

We stopped off for lunch in the forest, around 1pm but aborted the picnic spot fairly swiftly after hearing Elephants in the forest nearby!

The afternoon drive was fairly quiet as we made our way along some muddy and deep pools along the track, though we did manage to add **Red-faced Mousebird** and **Black-throated Canary**, new birds for the trip. It was good to not have too many distractions as we eventually hit our first tarmac road in what seemed an eternity ago! As we now moved steadily, we stopped for a bird sat on the roadside wires, it seemed unlikely (given it's name!) but it was a **Ground-scraper Thrush** that was out of its usual habitat!

We reached our accommodation for the night and were ushered into a superbly plush lodge and shown to our equally salubrious rooms at the Elephant Camp Lodge, with superb view overlooking the river delta and floodplain.

We had a nice evening and retired to our luxury lodges for the night, ready for breakfast at 5.30am. We had news that the Safari vehicle was fixed and we could head to camp by late morning.

Overnight Elephant Camp Lodge



African Wild Dog, Lions with Buffalo kill

Thursday 4th December – Chobe NP Ngoma area

We departed the lodge just after 6.15am and entered the park around 6.30am. Once through the gate, we soon latched on to a **Kurrichane Thrush** a bird we had last seen back at Xaro Lodge and we also had joy with a cracking group of **9 White-crested Helmet shrike** and by far the best views of this during the trip.

This area of Chobe NP is fantastic with such a wide variety of bush, grassland and extensive deep and shallow water areas, bird and wildlife activity was diverse and numerous. The shallow areas are teeming with birds, and offered up lots of **Egrets, Herons, Storks, Spoonbills and waders**.

The deeper areas also provided new birds, with a group of **15 Fulvous Whistling Duck**, plus several **Southern Pochard** and **Little Grebe**. Scanning the distant marsh paid dividends when we checked out the raptor perched with the scope it turned out to be a **Lanner Falcon** pulling apart prey!

More checking of the waders in the shallow pools also proved fruitful as we picked out 3 African Snipe, and over the water were both **Whiskered** and **White-winged Black Terns**, really nice to see them side by side, allowing a full appreciation of the size difference! Also along the water's edge was a nice group of **20+ Elephants** going to drink, and nearby Impala and Zebra were grazing. We eventually headed back into the grassland and savannah, and noted **Greater Blue-eared Starling**, plus **White-browed Coucal** and into the wooded areas we also added Amethyst Sunbird, which along with White-bellied was quite regular here. It had been a lovely morning, and we had recorded 82 species of birds and even at this point in the trip 8 new species.

We arrived at the campo and were pleased to see and be reunited with our wonderful safari crew, who had had a very long day yesterday with the 4x4 issues! We had lunch, it was now very hot again and possibly slightly more humid, so it was good to take our usual break in the afternoon and then head back out at 4pm. We hadn't travelled far out of the camp in the afternoon when we stopped for activity in the bushes, with a group of **Common Scimitarbill** passing through, a **Yellow-bellied Greenbul** and nearby a group of **3 Black Flycatcher!**

We then reached the river and the main waterbody, there was a mass of **40+ Elephants** all heading to the water to drink, with Hippos also along the edges, a great sight and then on the other side of the river **250+ Buffalo!** We discovered soon why possibly the Buffalo were massed in the distance, a **Lion** had taken down a **Buffalo** and was feeding on it by the side of the track, we headed over and joined a couple of other jeeps, as we manoeuvred we realised there was in fact a whole pride of **Lions** with 5 others under the bushes, eventually taking turns to feed on the Buffalo.

We eventually left the lions and other jeeps to head back into the bush, it wasn't too long as the sun started to set that we came across **2 Jackal** who were half-heartedly hunting a large group of **100+ Impala** that had a lot of youngsters, though none of them chose to be too naïve and there was to be no more kills today!

We had yet another lovely, wonderful dinner washed down with beers and wine, but the wildlife wasn't quite finished for the day as a **Honey Badger** sauntered through our camp! Bait did warn me to make sure everyone's tents are fully zipped up, as they like to explore for food! This was our last night in camp and we said a big thank you to the safari team who had taken and provided such good care throughout the mobile tented camping

Overnight Chobe NP mobile Camp

Friday 5th December – Chobe NP Ngoma area

Our last day on safari today, but the same old routine up at 5am, wash breakfast and leaving by 6am. We waved our final farewells as we left camp to Life, Squat & Kaykay, whilst Bait drove us back along the Chobe River and we went back to take another look at the **Lions** by the **Buffalo** kill. They were all fully gorged and there was now a **100+ White-backed Vultures** and some Hooded hanging around. One of the **Lion cubs** amused as he kept chasing off a lone **White-backed Vulture**, that would wait and then try and sneak back in!

We headed off soon and were amused at all the jeeps racing down to see the Lion pride, especially shortly after when we discovered another pride of **6 Lions** sitting around that everyone had just driven past! The final birds of note before heading on to the main road to head for our boat cruise were raptors a **Eurasian Hobby** and a **Gabar Goshawk**.

We soon arrived at Kasane and were introduced to our boat and guide/skipper for the next 3 hours. The boat trip took out along the Chobe River and right up to the edge of the Namibian border, exploring the main channel and then some of the smaller inlets. It was a wonderful way to spend our last few hours of birding in Botswana, with wonderfully close encounters with **Crocodiles**, **Hippo's** and views of more **Elephant's**, **Buffalos** many wetland birds and good opportunities at eye level for photography. Great views almost immediately of **White-backed Night-heron**, **Woodland** and **Brown Hooded Kingfishers**. As we headed along the main channel we were escorted by several **Wire-tailed Swallows** seemingly taken advantage and feeding on insects the boat was disturbing.

Along the banks we now saw by far the biggest **Crocodiles** of the trip, 4m in length! We were up close and personal, though the Croc's seemed way less impressed with us than us with them, not blinking as we approached within a few metres!

Birds were plenty and we had lots more Pratincoles, Kingfishers plus waders and nice again to have close **2 White-winged Black** and **2 Whiskered Tern** flying by side by side. There was close **African Fish eagles**, plus **Black**, **Slaty**, **Goliath**, **Purple**, **Squacco Heron** and **Black-crowned Night Heron**, also 2 more new birds to add with a singing **Luapula Cisticola** and a lovely, **White-crowned Lapwing**.

The 3 hour boat cruise whizzed by and we arrived back at the Kasane pontoon and Lodge, where we were able to take an early lunch. After lunch we said our final farewell to Bait, he had been a fantastic guy and guide!

We then transferred to a minibus and were soon at the Botswana border leaving the country. We then crossed into Zimbabwe with no issues and a friendly helpful immigration officer. We were then soon greeted immediately on the Zimbabwe side and taken on a hours drive to Shongwe Lookout Lodge, it was fairly quiet in the heat of the day, we passed **Yellow-billed Kites** a **Common Buzzard** and a troop of **Baboons** en-route.

We arrived at the Chongwe Lookout and the accommodation was wonderful. We went for lunch in the outdoor dining area by the pool and spent the mid afternoon at leisure, catching up on messages, sleep, proper showers and toilets after our camping experience! Late afternoon we all met up and climbed a viewing tower in the accommodation grounds, to admire the view and have a quick look for birds. A bit of pishing soon produced **2 Black-backed Puffbacks** and a super male **Scarlet-chested Sunbird** and a lovely **Marico Sunbird**.

Eventually several **Red-winged Starlings** appeared plus a pair of **Trumpeter Hornbills** flew over and landed in some nearby trees, two more new birds for the trip list!

The day was rounded off with a nice evening meal and we all headed off for a very comfortable night's sleep in the air-conditioned rooms with King-size beds!

Overnight Chongwe Lookout



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Nile Crocodile & African Monitor Lizard



Lion Cubs

Saturday 6th December – Zambezi NP and Victoria Falls

Breakfast was still set for 5.30am and we departed with our local guide Charles aboard a jeep at 6am. He headed us off towards Zambeze NP stopping along the way for birds, after a little wait in a favoured spot a singing **Collared Palm-Thrush** showed really well, then followed by a singing **Bearded Scrub-robin** which took a little longer to show. Alongside the road a **Natal Spurfowl** was also seen. We next stopped off at a lookout point and managed our first **Rock Pratincoles**, though they were into the light so not the best views, whilst an **Osprey** was hunting further up the river. We reached the gate of Zambezi park entered and stopped by the river, and was pleased to gain much better scope views of the **Rock Pratincoles**.

What came next was a real surprise and Charles the guide was also really pleased to show us a pack of **16 African Wild dogs** resting by the track, apparently a scarce site in this park and we had them to ourselves for a good 20 minutes, before another jeep approached and was very pleased to see them too! There was also other mammals to be seen with **25+ Elephant, Baboon, Hippo, Vervet monkey, Zebra, Waterbuck and Banded Mongoose**.

We then took a stop in a clearing next to the mighty river for a tea/coffee and home-made muffins that Charles the guide had brought with him. From here there were more **Rock Pratincoles**, plus **Egrets, Herons, Plovers and waders**. The river edge and nearby forest offered up many of the beautiful birds that had become a daily occurrence, with **Violet-backed Starlings, Bee-eaters, Kingfishers and Blue Waxbills**, we did also manage to add **Cut-throat** as well, a new waxbill species for the trip, whilst **2 Black Cuckoo-shrikes** and a **Red-faced Cisticola** were also new and a very vocal **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird** was heard but wasn't seen.

By 10.30am it was getting very hot and we slowly headed back out of the park, we were back at the accommodation around 11am and took a light lunch around early afternoon.

We were collected again around 3.30pm in the afternoon and took the short drive to Victoria Falls. As we entered the forest just beyond the entrance gates, we had frustrating and brief views of **2 Schalow's Turaco**, just enough to be sure of the identification with a large bird flashing deep red wings and a green body, unfortunately they disappeared quickly and despite searching we couldn't relocate them!

We were fortunate though that during the last 10 days there had been some significant rain and so the falls were in full flow. Nothing could have prepared us for the sight of this amazing set of waterfalls! The sound, the view, the spray, and the rainbows just make for an amazing sensory overload, just incredible. We wandered along the various viewpoints just taking in the spectacular sight of awe-inspiring beauty and grandeur on the Zambezi River, that forms a natural border between Zambia and Zimbabwe. The birding was quiet and really overshadowed this afternoon by this amazing spectacle!

Our final night in Zimbabwe and Africa, we enjoyed a nice meal and a few drinks, before heading off for a good night's sleep in preparation for a long day of travel, tomorrow.

Overnight Chongwe Lookout.



Sunday 7th & Monday 8th December

Breakfast on Sunday was followed by a relaxed couple of hours to pack and prepare us for our journey home, then we were off to Victoria Falls Airport for our flight to Johannesburg. At Johannesburg we all took the opportunity to have a bite to eat and relax before our return flight back to Heathrow, UK. All went according to plan and we eventually landed in Heathrow slightly ahead of schedule at 5.30am on Monday 8th December.

Systematic list of birds recorded

	Common Name	Scientific Name
1	Common Ostrich	Struthio camelus
2	White-faced Whistling-Duck	Dendrocygna viduata
3	Fulvous Whistling-Duck	Dendrocygna bicolor
4	White-backed Duck	Thalassornis leuconotus
5	Knob-billed Duck	Sarkidiornis melanotos
6	Egyptian Goose	Alopochen aegyptiaca
7	Spur-winged Goose	Plectropterus gambensis
8	Blue-billed Teal	Spatula hottentota
9	Red-billed Duck	Anas erythrorhyncha
10	Southern Pochard	Netta erythrophthalma
11	Helmeted Guineafowl	Numida meleagris
12	Crested Francolin	Ortygornis sephaena
13	Red-billed Spurfowl	Pternistis adspersus
14	Natal Spurfowl	Pternistis natalensis
15	Swainson's Spurfowl	Pternistis swainsonii
16	Feral Pigeon	Columba livia
17	Speckled Pigeon	Columba guinea
18	Mourning Collared Dove	Streptopelia decipiens
19	Red-eyed Dove	Streptopelia semitorquata
20	Ring-necked Dove	Streptopelia capicola
21	Laughing Dove	Spilopelia senegalensis
22	Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove	Turtur chalcospilos
23	Namaqua Dove	Oena capensis
24	African Green-Pigeon	Treron calvus
25	Double-banded Sandgrouse	Pterocles bicinctus
26	Burchell's Sandgrouse	Pterocles burchelli
27	Kori Bustard	Ardeotis kori
28	Red-crested Bustard	Lophotis ruficrista
29	Northern Black Korhaan	Afrotis afraoides
30	Black-bellied Bustard	Lissotis melanogaster
31	Grey Go-away-bird	Crinifer concolor
32	Schalow's Turaco	Tauraco schalowi
33	Senegal Coucal	Centropus senegalensis
34	Coppery-tailed Coucal	Centropus cupreicaudus
35	White-browed Coucal	Centropus superciliosus
36	Great Spotted Cuckoo	Clamator glandarius
37	Levaillant's Cuckoo	Clamator levaillantii
38	Pied Cuckoo	Clamator jacobinus
39	Dideric Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx caprius
40	Klaas's Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx klaas

41	Black Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus clamosus</i>
42	Red-chested Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>
43	African Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus gularis</i>
44	Fiery-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus pectoralis</i>
45	Swamp Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus natalensis</i>
46	Square-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus fossii</i>
47	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
48	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
49	African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>
50	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
51	African Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>
52	Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>
53	Wattled Crane	<i>Grus carunculatus</i>
54	Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>
55	Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>
56	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
57	Three-banded Plover	<i>Thinornis tricoloris</i>
58	Long-toed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus crassirostris</i>
59	Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>
60	White-crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus albiceps</i>
61	Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>
62	Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>
63	Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Anarhynchus pecuarius</i>
64	Greater Painted-Snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>
65	African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>
66	African Snipe	<i>Gallinago nigripennis</i>
67	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
68	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
69	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
70	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
71	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>
72	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
73	Temminck's Courser	<i>Cursorius temminckii</i>
74	Rock Pratincole	<i>Glareola nuchalis</i>
75	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>
76	Black-winged Pratincole	<i>Glareola nordmanni</i>
77	African Skimmer	<i>Rynchops flavirostris</i>
78	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
79	White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>
80	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
81	African Openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>
82	Abdim's Stork	<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>
83	African Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia microscelis</i>

84	Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>
85	Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>
86	Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>
87	African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>
88	Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>
89	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
90	African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>
91	Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>
92	African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>
93	Dwarf Bittern	<i>Botaurus sturmii</i>
94	Little Bittern	<i>Botaurus minutus</i>
95	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
96	Slaty Egret	<i>Egretta vinaceigula</i>
97	Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>
98	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
99	White-backed Night Heron	<i>Calherodius leuconotus</i>
100	Little Heron	<i>Butorides atricapilla</i>
101	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
102	Western Cattle-Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>
103	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
104	Yellow-billed Egret	<i>Ardea brachyrhyncha</i>
105	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
106	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
107	Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>
108	Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>
109	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
110	Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>
111	Secretarybird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>
112	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
113	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
114	African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>
115	White-headed Vulture	<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>
116	Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>
117	Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>
118	White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
119	Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>
120	Black-chested Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>
121	Brown Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>
122	Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>
123	Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus wahlbergi</i>
124	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
125	Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>
126	Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>

127	African Hawk-Eagle	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>
128	Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>
129	Little Sparrowhawk	<i>Tachyspiza minulla</i>
130	Shikra	<i>Tachyspiza badia</i>
131	African Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>
132	Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>
133	Black Kite (Yellow-billed)	<i>Milvus migrans aegyptius/parasitus</i>
134	African Fish-Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga vocifer</i>
135	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
136	Steppe Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo vulpinus/menetriesi</i>
137	Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>
138	Pel's Fishing-Owl	<i>Scotopelia peli</i>
139	Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>
140	African Barred Owlet	<i>Glaucidium capense</i>
141	Red-faced Mousebird	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>
142	Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
143	Green Woodhoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>
144	Common Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>
145	Southern Ground-Hornbill	<i>Bucorvus leadbeateri</i>
146	Bradfield's Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros bradfieldi</i>
147	African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>
148	Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>
149	Southern Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus rufirostris</i>
150	Trumpeter Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes bucinator</i>
151	White-fronted Bee-eater	<i>Merops bullockoides</i>
152	Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>
153	Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>
154	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>
155	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
156	Southern Carmine Bee-eater	<i>Merops nubicoides</i>
157	Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>
158	Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>
159	Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>
160	Brown-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>
161	Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>
162	Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>
163	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
164	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>
165	Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>
166	Purple Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>
167	Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>
168	Crested Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>
169	Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>

170	Black-collared Barbet	Lybius torquatus
171	Lesser Honeyguide	Indicator minor
172	Greater Honeyguide	Indicator indicator
173	Bearded Woodpecker	Chloropicus namaquus
174	Cardinal Woodpecker	Dendropicos fuscescens
175	Bennett's Woodpecker	Campethera bennettii
176	Golden-tailed Woodpecker	Campethera abingoni
177	Lesser Kestrel	Falco naumanni
178	Amur Falcon	Falco amurensis
179	Eurasian Hobby	Falco subbuteo
180	Lanner Falcon	Falco biarmicus
181	Meyer's Parrot	Poicephalus meyeri
182	Black Cuckooshrike	Campephaga flava
183	Eurasian Golden Oriole	Oriolus oriolus
184	African Golden Oriole	Oriolus auratus
185	Chinspot Batis	Batis molitor
186	White-crested Helmetshrike	Prionops plumatus
187	Black-backed Puffback	Dryoscopus cubla
188	Tropical Boubou	Laniarius major
189	Gabon Boubou	Laniarius bicolor
190	Crimson-breasted Gonolek	Laniarius atrococcineus
191	Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike	Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus
192	Fork-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus adsimilis
193	African Paradise-Flycatcher	Terpsiphone viridis
194	Magpie Shrike	Urolestes melanoleucus
195	Red-backed Shrike	Lanius collurio
196	Lesser Grey Shrike	Lanius minor
197	White-crowned Shrike	Eurocephalus anguitimens
198	Pied Crow	Corvus albus
199	Southern Black-Tit	Melaniparus niger
200	Fawn-coloured Lark	Calendulauda africanoides
201	Flappet Lark	Amirafra rufocinnamomea
202	Rufous-naped Lark	Corypha africana
203	Long-billed Crombec	Sylvietta rufescens
204	Grey-backed Camaroptera	Camaroptera brachyura
205	Tawny-flanked Prinia	Prinia subflava
206	Red-faced Cisticola	Cisticola erythrops
207	Rattling Cisticola	Cisticola chiniana
208	Luapula Cisticola	Cisticola luapula
209	Chirping Cisticola	Cisticola pipiens
210	Piping Cisticola	Cisticola fulvicapilla
211	Zitting Cisticola	Cisticola juncidis
212	Lesser Swamp Warbler	Acrocephalus gracilirostris
213	Greater Swamp Warbler	Acrocephalus rufescens

214	Banded Martin	<i>Neophedina cincta</i>
215	Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>
216	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
217	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
218	White-throated Swallow	<i>Hirundo albigularis</i>
219	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
220	Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
221	Greater Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis cucullata</i>
222	Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>
223	Rufous-chested Swallow	<i>Cecropis semirufa</i>
224	Mosque Swallow	<i>Cecropis senegalensis</i>
225	Yellow-bellied Greenbul	<i>Chlorocichla flaviventris</i>
226	Dark-capped Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus tricolor</i>
227	African Eyed-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>
228	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
229	Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>
230	Southern Pied-Babbler	<i>Turdoides bicolor</i>
231	Hartlaub's Babbler	<i>Turdoides hartlaubii</i>
232	Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythroryncha</i>
233	Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>
234	Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>
235	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
236	Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>
237	Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>
238	Burchell's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis australis</i>
239	Meves's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis mevesii</i>
240	Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>
241	Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>
242	Groundscraper Thrush	<i>Turdus litsitsirupa</i>
243	Kurrichane Thrush	<i>Turdus libonyana</i>
244	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
245	Marico Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis mariquensis</i>
246	Ashy Flycatcher	<i>Fraseria caerulescens</i>
247	Southern Black-Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pammelaina</i>
248	Bearded Scrub Robin	<i>Tychaedon quadrvirgata</i>
249	Kalahari Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas paena</i>
250	White-browed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>
251	White-browed Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha heuglini</i>
252	Collared Palm-Thrush	<i>Cichladusa arquata</i>
253	African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>
254	Arnot's Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla arnotti</i>
255	Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>
256	Amethyst Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra amethystina</i>

257	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>
258	Marico Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>
259	White-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris talatala</i>
260	Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>
261	Scaly Weaver	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>
262	White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>
263	Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>
264	Holub's Golden-Weaver	<i>Ploceus xanthops</i>
265	Southern Brown-throated Weaver	<i>Ploceus xanthopterus</i>
266	Southern Masked-Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>
267	Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>
268	Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>
269	White-winged Widowbird	<i>Euplectes albonotatus</i>
270	Fan-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes axillaris</i>
271	Black-faced Waxbill	<i>Brunhilda erythronotos</i>
272	Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
273	Quailfinch	<i>Ortygospiza atricollis</i>
274	Cut-throat	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>
275	Violet-eared Waxbill	<i>Granatina granatina</i>
276	Southern Cordonbleu	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>
277	Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>
278	Orange-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia afra</i>
279	Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>
280	Brown Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta nitidula</i>
281	Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>
282	Eastern Paradise-Whydah	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>
283	Shaft-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua regia</i>
284	Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>
285	Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>
286	Yellow-throated Bush Sparrow	<i>Gymnoris superciliaris</i>
287	Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>
288	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
289	African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>
290	African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>
291	Rosy-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx ameliae</i>
292	Black-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>
293	Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>
294	Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>

	Mammals recorded	
1	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>
2	Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>
3	Spotted Hyena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>
4	Black-backed Jackal	<i>Lupulella mesomelas</i>
5	African Wild Dog	<i>Lycaon pictus</i>
6	African Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>
7	Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>
8	Southern Giraffe	<i>Giraffa giraffa</i>
9	Vervet Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>
10	Chacma Babbon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>
11	Burchell's Zebra	<i>Equus quagga burchellii</i>
12	African Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>
13	Blue Wildebeeste	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>
14	Tsessebe	<i>Damaliscus lunatus</i>
15	Common Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>
16	Steenbock	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>
17	Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>
18	Eland	<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>
19	Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>
20	Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>
21	Chobe Bush buck	<i>Tragelaphus sylvaticus</i>
22	Southern Reedbuck	<i>Redunca arundinum</i>
23	Red Lechwe	<i>Kobus leche</i>
24	Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus)</i>
25	Bat-eared Fox	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>
26	Honey Badger	<i>Mellivora capensis</i>
27	Large Grey Mongoose	<i>Herpestes ichneumon</i>
28	Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>
29	Water Mongoose	<i>Atilax paludinosus</i>
30	Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>
31	Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>
32	Dwarf Mongoose	<i>Helogale parvula</i>
33	Spring Hare	<i>Pedetes capensis</i>
34	Peter's Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Epomophorus crypturus</i>
35	Tree Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>

	Reptiles recorded	
1	Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>
2	Nile Monitor	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>
3	Wahlberg's Striped Skink	<i>Trachylepis wahlbergii</i>
4	Leopard Tortoise	<i>Stigmochelys pardalis</i>
5	African Helmeted Turtle (Marsh Terrapin)	<i>Pelomedusa subrufa</i>

	Others	
1	African bullfrog	<i>Pyxicephalus adspersus</i>
2	Bubbling Kassina frog	<i>Kassina senegalensis</i>
3	Southern Banded Groundling (dragonfly)	<i>Brachythemis leucosticta</i>

A full gallery of Images is available to view from this tour at <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjCEJ9i>