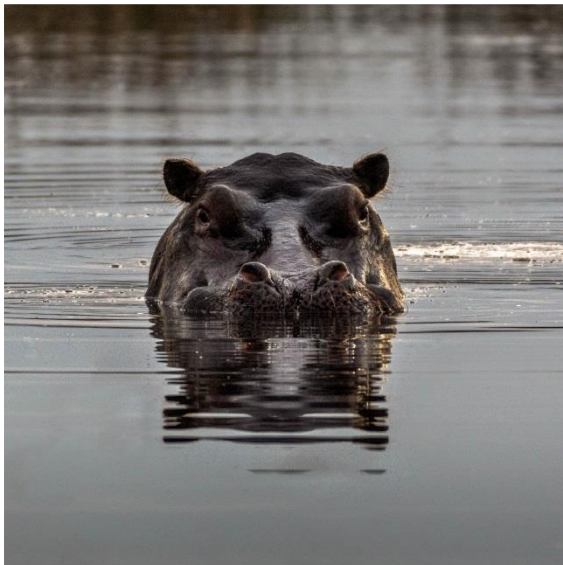


## Tour Report

# Botswana – Best of Botswana

4-14 August 2019

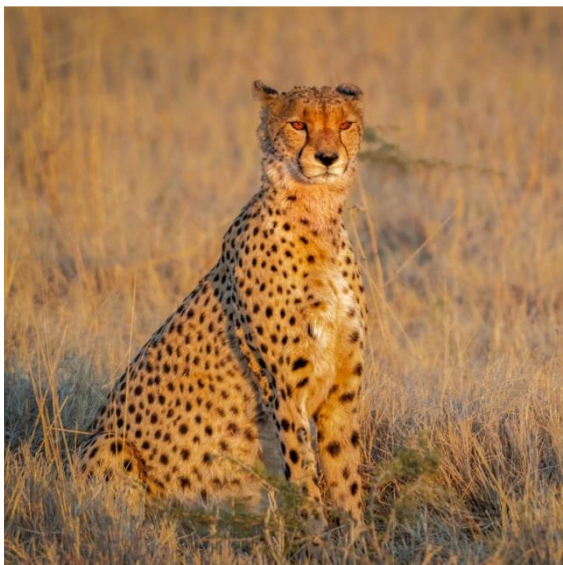
Hippo



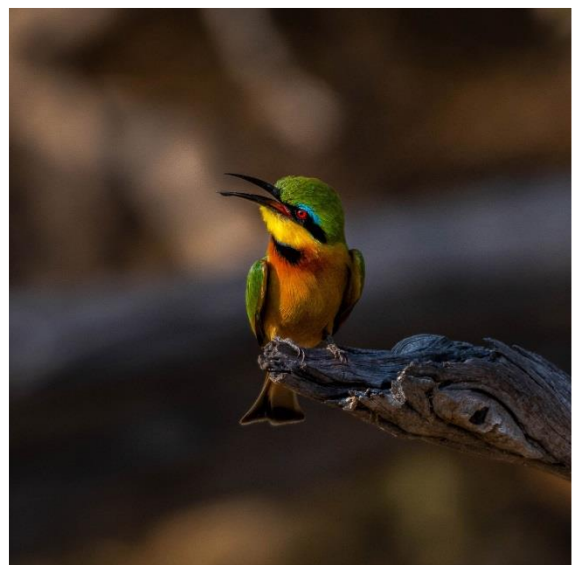
Lion



Cheetah



Little bee-eater



Images by Lee Dixon & Pete Underhay

Tour Leader: Nick Acheson

### **Day 1: Sunday 4 August 2019**

Having taken various flights to reach Johannesburg Airport, early this morning it was here that we assembled as a group. Johannesburg is a strange airport, in that the majority of gifts on sale in the shops seem to be made of dead springbok and plains zebras. We were hopeful that Botswana would show greater pride in its living wildlife.

After a further 90 minutes of flight we touched down in Maun where we were met by our incomparably brilliant guides Disho and Sugar. Here, most of us waited in the shade of our first mopane tree while one group member – whose luggage, thanks to a BA delay, would be arriving the following day – made some essential purchases.

From here we made the journey of several hours to our first camp in Moremi Game Reserve, seeing our first steinbuck and sable antelope as we went. On account of the short delay, we arrived after dark, to a typically warm and efficient welcome from camp staff: Moussa, T Man, Jimmy, KG and Pat. Very soon we had sent our bags to our tents and were relaxing around the camp fire, drinking wine and the first of the gin and tonics that would be the last night – in spite of restocking – see the camp drunk dry.

### **Day 2: Monday 5 August 2019**

Diligently following Disho's orders, at 5:29 and 60 seconds we were up, washing our hands and faces in the warm water brought to our tents by Jimmy, and readying ourselves for the exciting safari ahead. Breakfast – featuring Moussa's celebrated porridge – was swiftly taken around the camp fire, and talk was had of the spotted hyenas, hippos and pearl-spotted owlets heard in the night. We then set off with the dawn to meet the fabulous wildlife of the Okavango Delta.

First up was the large bachelor herd of lechwe which inhabited the open grassland right behind our camp. Though common here, these are extremely handsome and photogenic antelopes. Some of us were also lucky enough to see a side-striped jackal trotting home to its den from the night's exertions as we watched the lechwe. A little further on we had our first encounter – of hundreds – with African elephants, glowing in the amber light of early morning.

The only large carnivores this morning were a mother spotted hyena and her well grown pup, which quickly disappeared into marshside vegetation. There were of course birds all along our route – as there would be all day, every day, throughout our safari – including lilac-breasted roller, Burchell's starlings by the thousand, fork-tailed drongos, noisy blacksmith lapwings, innumerable southern red-billed and southern yellow-billed hornbills and literal hordes of red-billed spurfowl.

Our whole afternoon was taken up by the first two leopards of the twelve which would hijack our entire tour and hold us to rosette-dappled ransom with their antics. For some of you these two were your first ever leopards, and for many they were the best among the



many exceptional leopards we eventually saw. We were watching a young bull elephant who had made a dummy charge at us after spooking (at the leopards, we later realised), when Disho spotted a female leopard he knew well on a termite mound nearby. We could see she was calling and Disho assumed it was to the full-sized cub which had been with her for the past couple of years. We approached and she sat calmly on her termite mound, in the lovely evening light, still calling, and apparently arranging herself to be maximally photogenic.



We were amazed and delighted when what emerged from the long grass in response to her calling was not the full-grown cub of Disho's acquaintance but rather a cub of just a few months. The next 90 minutes were pure delight as, in perfect evening light, mother and cub played together, the cub hunting the white tuft on the end of his dam's tail and clambering over termite mounds and logs. We were, to say the least, enthralled.

### **Day 3: Tuesday 6 August 2019**

Today there were plains zebras, there were impalas, there were wildebeest, there were southern giraffes, there were lechwe, there were tsessebe and all the wonderful herbivores of Moremi. The stars of the day, however, were four male lions. Three of them, an adult and two youngsters, formed a coalition and we watched them at length as they lay around and the adult roared. The fourth, despite being greatly outnumbered, had apparently routed them. We followed this magnificent pale-maned animal through the bush until he emerged in a wide savannah full of zebras, giraffes and impala (plus our first stately wattled cranes). These animals seemed less impressed by his arrival than we were.



We made our coffee break by a wetland which was visibly expanding as the rainwater which fell in the Angolan highlands last wet season inched its way across the parched delta. Here there were plenty of greater kudu, a Nile monitor and a group of African elephants, one of which decided to mock charge us. Driving away from here we heard red-billed spurfowl alarm-calling in a forest island and encountered our third leopard, a large male.



And so another wonderful day in Moremi – peopled by helmeted guineafowl, hippos, warthogs, southern reedbuck, Meve’s starlings and arrow-marked babblers – continued delighting us until we sipped beers and gin in the dying light.

#### **Day 4: Wednesday 7 August 2019**

Early morning found us out looking for the African wild dogs (which since their pups left the dens had been very hard to track down) at Third Bridge, Moremi. This afforded us wonderful photographic opportunities, not least with a feeding African skimmer and with a Goliath heron perfectly reflected in the water of the pan, but there were no dogs.

Today’s most thrilling large carnivore was a well-known male leopard, with a heavily scarred face, which occupies the mopane woodland between Moremi and Khwai. Disho picked up his very fresh tracks as we left Moremi and turned around to find that 100 metres further back Sugar was already watching him. We spent an hour with this amazing cat, quickly realising that his furtive behaviour was because he was hunting two warthogs which were sleeping in the shade of a bush nearby. To our amazement and delight he used our vehicles as cover, passing under the tail of one of them as he stalked the pigs. He got to within just metres, displaying astonishing stealth, and we all held our breath, but a passing supply truck on the road nearby woke the larger warthog which picked up the leopard’s presence. The hunt was over and the leopard lost his lunch. We however did not lose ours and enjoyed our first of Moussa’s wonderful picnics.

Driving into Khwai Concession in the afternoon we met many elephants, including the large tuskers for which it is famous. We reached our camp, by a beautiful wetland busy African openbill storks and pied kingfishers, in the last light of the evening.

#### **Day 5: Thursday 8 August 2019**

This morning’s standout highlight was the pride of lionesses we watched attempting to hunt waterbuck along the far bank of the Khwai River. We first saw them exploding from riverine woodland into a herd of buffalo, but this hunt was fruitless. They then disappeared only to re-emerge from the woodland half an hour later, as we had our coffee break. As with the leopard the day before, it was quite clear from their body language that their attention was locked onto prey, in this case a group of waterbuck much further along the riverbank. With astonishing grace and focus the lionesses stalked the waterbuck, each tiptoeing past the last, but their efforts were again in vain and the antelope scattered. We later heard that they had brought down an impala.



We however had left the scene as a leopardess was hunting warthogs nearby. She too failed in her hunt but we did see her walk into a patch of bush in which a honey badger was grubbing. The honey badger made a hasty and panicked retreat, belying the ferocious reputation of its species.

The afternoon began with a brief encounter with a second leopard (which some had seen up a tree before lunch) but the photographic highlight was a giraffe seen in front of the setting sun. After dark – Khwai being a privately managed concession where night drives are permitted – we went out in search of nocturnal wildlife. Between us we saw a common genet, a South African galago, a South African porcupine and many hyperactive spring hares.



## **Day 6: Friday 9 August 2019**

Early this morning we met two lionesses, their bloodied faces showing that they had made a kill and feasted during the night. They were calling, and clearly restless, as they looked for the rest of their pride. We had wonderful photographic opportunities with them as they strolled past giving voice. Less photogenic were the rest of the pride whom we encountered late in the morning, females and cubs piled together in the shade of some scrub.

The afternoon's highlight, in this absurdly cat-laden place, was a female leopard. We had been told that she was lying flat in the open, so we sped to the location. On arrival we found that the last vehicle watching her had just left. It fell to us to re-find the leopard lying in the open in the grass. So we looked, and we looked, and we looked some more, and we drove around in circles looking, but we could find no leopard. Assuming she had left we too made to leave, until another vehicle pulled up, causing the leopard – who had been lying in the grass, right next to us, in the open, the whole time – to lift her head.

We spent the rest of the afternoon with the cat, who had clearly given birth to cubs in very recent days, and intercepted her as she came down to the river to drink in heavenly evening light, her pink tongue lapping as she did so. Turning to go back to camp we again watched giraffes silhouetted against the setting sun, ending another fabulous day in the Okavango Delta.

After dark half of us took another night drive, seeing a South African porcupine, a South African galago and a superb African civet.

## **Day 7: Saturday 10 August 2019**

Today we made the long move to Savuti, in Chobe National Park, leaving the great herds of lechwe and the retiring southern reedbuck of the delta behind. Probably the most thrilling encounter of the morning was with the pride of lions we saw coming off the Mababe Depression. As we scanned for wildebeest, kori bustards, common ostriches and distant giraffes, we picked up this group of females and young coming in a line towards us in the distance. We positioned ourselves in the road just where they would cross and were thrilled when they did so, the lead female revealing as she approached that she was satellite-collared. The lions went to rest by the road in the shade of a termite mound, just before other vehicles arrived to admire them.

A little further on, also in the shade of a termite mound, we encountered an unusually diurnal and exceptionally confiding African wildcat, which was a new species for many of you. We stopped for lunch by a dry waterhole (complete with welcome from a pearl-spotted owlet) where Disho produced a map and explained our route through the Okavango Delta and on to Chobe.

Reaching Savuti we were immediately on big cat alert again. A leopard had killed an impala right by the road and carried it into a dead tree, to keep it safe from hyenas and lions, hooking it over a bare branch by its horns. The male leopard responsible – or so we thought – was at the base of the tree, panting in the dust. Knowing the leopard would go back up

the tree to eat in the dying light of the day, we made the short journey to the park gate to do the necessary paperwork for our drives over the following days. Along the way we passed a spectacular baobab, the first of numerous we would see here. In the late afternoon our brilliant drivers took us back to the tree and positioned us exactly where we would see the sun set behind the leopard. On cue the leopard scaled the tree and continued the job of devouring the hapless impala. Once the leopard had eaten, and hundreds of exceptional backlit photos had been taken against the setting sun, we made our way to our final camp. But not before we saw a second leopard, one of the male's two sisters who live in the area (and who, we surmised, had probably made the kill but lost it to her more powerful brother).



As ever we were met at camp by efficiently pitched tents, hot water delivered by Jimmy with a huge smile, and a delicious dinner (with ample wine, beer and gin) prepared by Moussa, KG and Pat and served with customary charm by T Man.

### **Day 8: Sunday 11 August 2019**

For a fortnight there had been no records of the two male cheetahs which occupy the Savuti Marsh. Undeterred, this morning Disho and Sugar got us up early (earlier even than our customary 5:29 and 60 seconds) and took us into the grassland of the marsh (which has not flooded in several years). Scanning the marsh Sugar picked up the two cheetahs, with which we spent an enchanted hour as they strolled between termite mounds and isolated trees, marking their territory, in perfect morning light. For some of you this was the single most memorable moment of our safari. We spent the rest of the morning exploring the pans of Savuti Marsh, to which water is delivered by solar pumps for animals to drink. As a result, in this parched landscape, they are always alive with drinking animals, from flocks of ring-



necked (Cape turtle) doves (one of which we saw killed by a tawny eagle) and beautiful Burchell's sandgrouse, up to families and boisterous bachelor groups of African elephants.

Heading back to camp for lunch we saw the marsh pride of lions (or many of their number) dozing by the roadside. We again visited them in the afternoon, witnessing several small cubs playing in the setting sunlight and pestering their father who was trying to rest.

### **Day 9: Monday 12 August 2019**

Setting out before first light this morning we met females and cubs from the marsh pride, their faces stained with the blood from a fresh kill. We little knew at this point what a lion-filled and fascinating day it would prove to be. Nearby we encountered a young, teen male, roaring to the rest of the pride, accompanied by two almost full-grown males with manes just beginning to sprout. Again we did not yet know the significance of what was happening.

It transpired – as we pieced the story together – that the marsh pride had killed a buffalo (which lay untouched all day in the middle of the road, swelling in the sun) but had been chased away from it (hence the females and cubs we saw before dawn) by the males of the northern pride. These two males we encountered a little later, panting in the day's heat. One of them appeared to have been badly injured in the fight, but it later emerged that he had been walking with a dislocated hip for some time.

Our tour was so richly blessed with leopard and lion action that this report reads as though we only saw big cats. Nothing could be further from the truth! Wherever we went in Moremi, in Khwai and in Savuti there were birds, there were herbivores and there were small carnivores. Doves – ring-necked, red-eyed and emerald-spotted wood-doves – were everywhere we looked, and there were countless little bee-eaters, magpie shrikes, southern white-crowned shrikes, southern ground-hornbills, Bradfield's, southern red-billed and southern yellow-billed hornbills, bateleurs, African fish eagles and Cape glossy starlings along our route. As for herbivores, inevitably where there are large numbers of big cats there must be very large concentrations of antelopes and other grazers and browsers. Our way was marked by herds of impala, of wildebeest, tsessebe, plains zebra, African buffalo and waterbuck. Scarcer antelopes were represented by steinbuck, roan and sable antelopes and greater kudu. As for small carnivores, we met yellow, dwarf, banded and slender mongooses, black-backed jackals and bat-eared foxes, and several – not so small – honey badgers.

### **Day 10: Tuesday 13 August 2019**

Far be it from us to leave Savuti without blundering into a final haul of big cats. First among them was one of the sisters of the male leopard we had seen with the impala two days beforehand. She strode along the dirt road ahead of us at first light. She then sat on a termite mound – most artistically – and, like almost every one of the twelve leopards we had seen, allowed herself to be admired and photographed from very close by.

A little further on, we passed the buffalo which had been the focus of the standoff on the previous day. Devouring it was the healthy (non-limping) male from the northern pride, so

clearly the marsh pride had been comprehensively routed. There were still more lions on our route as, reaching a water hole, we saw a female followed by a line of six very small cubs. The female came down to drink at the pool, reflected exquisitely in the early light, but the cubs would not, perhaps because they were still only drinking milk, but also perhaps on account of the presence of three battle-scarred and increasingly nervous bull buffalos.



Once we left Savuti, we returned – with heavy hearts – to the unaccustomed luxury of tarmac roads. Our journey continued smoothly until we had almost reached Kasani, at which point Sugar’s vehicle chose to pack up, on account of a fuel pump problem. However we were close enough for Disho and Sugar to ferry us efficiently to our lodge in Kasani using Disho’s vehicle.

Late in the afternoon, as the sun went down, we took a boat ride along the Chobe River from Kasani. This was a wildlife-laden way to end our safari. Having learned that we would very much like to see otters and puku, our boat-driver-guide took us initially away from Chobe National Park to an area of emergent rocks where we saw half-collared kingfisher, water thick-knee, long-tailed cormorants and a family of spot-necked otters.

In the opposite direction, inside the park, we were again surrounded by lechwe (which we had missed for a few days while in Savuti) and by hippos and Nile crocodiles. A yellow-billed stork fishing in the shallows (in spanking breeding plumage) was absurdly confiding and we had wonderful encounters with African fish eagles, brown-hooded kingfishers, a white-headed lapwing and African elephants. Just as the light of the day was thinking of failing we found the tour’s 42<sup>nd</sup> and last mammal species: an extremely calm male puku feeding on an island in the lovely light of sunset. A blissful end to an astonishingly rich and interesting safari.

## **Day 11: Wednesday 14 August 2019**

Today we took a flight from Kasani International Airport to Johannesburg and from here caught our flights back to the UK.

Thank you all for ten spectacular days of wildlife-watching in Botswana. It was your enthusiasm for the wildlife, for photography and for Botswana's wilderness which really made it special. However none of it would have been possible without Disho and his unrivalled crew. Our boundless thanks go to Disho and Sugar for guiding us and running the show; to Moussa, KG and Pat for running the camp and kitchen and preparing amazingly diverse and delicious food; to T Man for impeccable service in the dining tent, for free-flowing alcohol, and for his broad smiles and constant good humour; and to Jimmy for his flawless attention to us in our tents, at our wash-stands and in our camp showers. Together – both Botswanan and British – you made for an exceptional safari. Thank you



## Species observed

### Birds (using taxonomy and nomenclature from Sasol Birds of Southern Africa)

reed (long-tailed) cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>
African darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>
African spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>
African sacred ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>
hadeda ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>
glossy ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
Goliath heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>
purple heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
great egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
intermediate egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>
little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
slaty egret	<i>Egretta vinaceigula</i>
squacco heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
striated heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>
yellow-billed stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>
saddle-billed stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>
marabou stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumeniferus</i>
African openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>
hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
white-faced whistling-duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
African pygmy goose	<i>Nettapus auritus</i>
spur-winged goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>
Egyptian goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>
yellow-billed duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>
red-billed teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>
Cape teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>
Hottentot teal	<i>Anas hottentota</i>
white-backed vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
lappet-faced vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>
hooded vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>
African fish eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vociferus</i>
bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>
martial eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>
tawny eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>
African hawk eagle	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>
brown snake-eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>
yellow-billed kite	<i>Milvus parasitus</i>
African marsh harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>
black-shouldered kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
dark chanting goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>
gabbar goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>
African harrier-hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>

Dickinson's kestrel	<i>Falco dickinsoni</i>
greater kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>
common ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>
helmeted guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
crested francolin	<i>Dendroperdix sephaena</i>
red-billed spurfowl	<i>Pternistis adspersus</i>
Swainson's spurfowl	<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>
black crane	<i>Amaurornis flavirostra</i>
wattled crane	<i>Bugeranus carunculatus</i>
secretarybird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>
kori bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>
red-crested korhaan	<i>Lophotis ruficrista</i>
northern black korhaan	<i>Afrotis afraoides</i>
black-winged stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
African jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>
spotted thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>
water thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>
blacksmith lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>
white-crowned lapwing	<i>Vanellus albiceps</i>
long-toed lapwing	<i>Vanellus crassirostris</i>
crowned lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>
Kittlitz's plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>
three-banded plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>
common greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
wood sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
common sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>
grey-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>
African skimmer	<i>Rhynchops flavirostris</i>
whiskered tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
white-winged tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>
double-banded sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles bicinctus</i>
Burchell's sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles burchelli</i>
African mourning dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>
red-eyed dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>
Cape turtle (ring-necked) dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>
laughing dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>
African green pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>
emerald-spotted wood dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>
Namaqua dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>
Meyer's parrot	<i>Poicephalus meyeri</i>
grey go-away-bird	<i>Corythaixoides concolor</i>
coppery-tailed coucal	<i>Centropus cupreicaudus</i>
Senegal coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>
southern white-faced owl	<i>Ptilopsis granti</i>
pearl-spotted owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>

Verreaux's eagle-owl  
African palm swift  
red-faced mousebird  
pied kingfisher  
half-collared kingfisher  
malachite kingfisher  
brown-hooded kingfisher  
striped kingfisher  
white-fronted bee-eater  
swallow-tailed bee-eater  
little bee-eater  
lilac-breasted roller  
southern ground-hornbill  
trumpeter hornbill  
African grey hornbill  
southern yellow-billed hornbill  
Bradfield's hornbill  
southern red-billed hornbill  
green wood-hoopoe  
African hoopoe  
lesser honeyguide  
Bennett's woodpecker  
lesser striped swallow  
grey-rumped swallow  
banded martin  
fork-tailed drongo  
pied crow  
southern black tit  
arrow-marked babbler  
Hartlaub's babbler  
southern pied babbler  
terrestrial brownbul  
African red-eyed bulbul  
dark-capped bulbul  
kurrichane thrush  
Arnot's chat  
African stonechat  
white-browed scrub robin  
long-billed crombec  
desert cisticola  
rattling cisticola  
Luapula cisticola  
grey-backed camaroptera  
yellow-breasted apalis  
marico flycatcher  
chinspot batis

*Bubo lacteus*  
*Cypsiurus parvus*  
*Urocolius indicus*  
*Ceryle rudis*  
*Alcedo semitorquatus*  
*Alcedo cristata*  
*Halcyon albiventris*  
*Halcyon chelicuti*  
*Merops bullockoides*  
*Merops hirundineus*  
*Merops pusillus*  
*Coracias caudatus*  
*Bucorvus leadbeateri*  
*Bycanistes bucinator*  
*Tockus nasutus*  
*Tockus leucomelas*  
*Tockus bradfieldi*  
*Tockus rufirostris*  
*Phoeniculus purpureus*  
*Upupa africana*  
*Indicator minor*  
*Campethera bennettii*  
*Cecropis abyssinica*  
*Pseudohirundo griseopyga*  
*Riparia cincta*  
*Dicrurus adsimilis*  
*Corvus albus*  
*Parus niger*  
*Turdoides jardineii*  
*Turdoides hartlaubii*  
*Turdoides bicolor*  
*Phyllastrephus terrestris*  
*Pycnonotus nigricans*  
*Pycnonotus tricolor*  
*Turdus libonyanus*  
*Campicoloides bifasciata*  
*Saxicola torquatus*  
*Cercotrichas leucophrys*  
*Sylvietta rufescens*  
*Cisticola aridulus*  
*Cisticola chiniana*  
*Cisticola luapula*  
*Camaroptera brevicaudata*  
*Apalis flavida*  
*Bradornis mariquensis*  
*Batis molitor*

Cape wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>
African pied wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>
African pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>
magpie shrike	<i>Corvinella melanoleuca</i>
southern white-crowned shrike	<i>Eurocephalus anguitimens</i>
white-crested helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>
brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>
black-backed puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>
swamp boubou	<i>Laniarius bicolor</i>
crimson-breasted shrike	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>
brown-crowned tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>
Cape glossy starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>
greater blue-eared starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>
Meve's starling	<i>Lamprotornis mevesii</i>
Burchell's starling	<i>Lamprotornis australis</i>
yellow-billed oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>
red-billed oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>
white-bellied sunbird	<i>Cinnyris talatala</i>
southern grey-headed sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>
white-browed sparrow-weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>
red-billed buffalo weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>
southern masked weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>
red-billed quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>
scaly-feathered finch	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>
blue waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>
common waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
black-faced waxbill	<i>Estrilda erythronotos</i>
red-billed firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>
black-throated canary	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>

**Mammals (using taxonomy and nomenclature from The Kingdon Field Guide)**

chacma baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>
vervet monkey	<i>Cercopithecus pygerythrus</i>
South African galago (bushbaby)	<i>Galago moholi</i>
Peter's epauletted fruit bat	<i>Epomophorus gambianus</i>
scrub hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>
Smith's bush squirrel	<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>
spring hare	<i>Pedetes capensis</i>
South African porcupine	<i>Hystrix africae australis</i>
side-striped jackal	<i>Canis adustus</i>
black-backed jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>
bat-eared fox	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>
honey badger	<i>Mellivora capensis</i>
spot-necked otter	<i>Lutra maculicollis</i>
slender mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguinea</i>

dwarf mongoose	<i>Helogale parvula</i>
yellow mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>
banded mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>
spotted hyena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>
common (small-spotted) genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>
African civet	<i>Civettictis civetta</i>
African wildcat	<i>Felis sylvestris</i>
leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>
lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>
cheetah	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>
African elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>
common (plains) zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>
hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>
common warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>
giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>
African buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>
bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>
greater kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>
steinbuck	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>
southern reedbuck	<i>Redunca arundinum</i>
puku	<i>Kobus vardoni</i>
lechwe	<i>Kobus leche</i>
waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>
impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>
tsessebe	<i>Damaliscus lunatus</i>
wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>
roan antelope	<i>Hippotragus equinus</i>
sable antelope	<i>Hippotragus niger</i>

### **Reptiles**

Nile monitor	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>
rock monitor	<i>Varanus albigularis</i>
Nile crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>