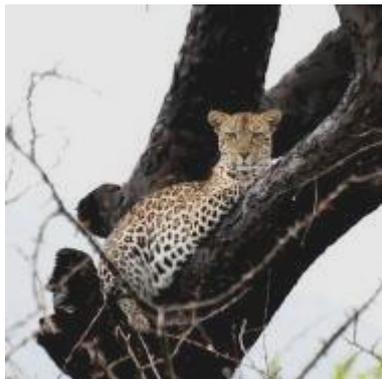


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Kruger National Park
18th – 31st October 2012

Participants

John and Ann Titchmarsh
John and Jan Croft
Val Codling
Andrew and Gill Goodhart

Chris Whitfield and
Lee Noble
Rob and Pam May
David and Steph Bennett

Leaders

Geoff Crane and Mike Raymaker

Report by Geoff Crane

The photos in this report were all taken during the holiday, those edged blue by Rob and Pam, edged green by John and Jan, edged tan by David and Steph and edged red by Andrew and Gill.

Many more can be seen on David Bennett's SkyDrive, <http://sdrv.ms/TruiVc>.

The cover is a montage of some of the group's pictures – from the top, left to right:

Southern Ground Hornbill, Kudu, Chacma Baboons; Leopard, Lion, Giraffes;

Burchell's Zebras, Southern Masked Weaver, Goliath Heron.

Below – the group and leaders.



As with all Honeyguide holidays, £40 of the price per person was put towards a conservation project in the host country. In this case, £650 (including gift aid) from the Honeyguide Wildlife Trust Ltd. was donated to the SABAP2 project (<http://sabap2.adu.org.za/index.php>). This is updating the first Southern African Bird Atlas Project which ran from 1987-1991 and culminated in the publication in 1997 of two volumes on the distribution and relative abundance of southern African birds. Our contribution will be used to atlas areas that no-one has yet been to. There's a note of thanks from BirdLife South Africa on <http://www.honeyguide.co.uk/wildlife-holidays/kruger-cons.html>. In addition, Geoff Crane has donated R4000 (= c £280) on behalf of Crane's Cape Tours & Travel and Honeyguide to MammalMap (<http://mammalmap.adu.org.za/>) which is seeking to map mammals, throughout Africa, much as SABAP2 is doing for birds in South Africa.

These donations bring the total given through Honeyguide in Africa to £3,550, and the total of all conservations contributions made through Honeyguide since 1991 to £83,202 as at December 2012.

Daily Diary

Day 1. Thursday 18th October 2012

The two flights from the UK arrived at the same time and we were away from Jo'Burg and the airport in good time. An uneventful drive, with a lunch stop at Nelspruit, saw us at the Park by 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

Once in the National Park we immediately started to see mammals. A large Crocodile greeted us as we crossed the aptly named Crocodile River. Impala, Steenbok, White Rhinoceros, Giraffe and a huge herd of Cape Buffalo were seen in the 10 kilometres to the camp. Mid-afternoon is not the best time for birdwatching and the temperature was hot, with a high humidity, so we only saw a few birds: Southern White-crowned Shrike, Rattling Cisticola, Lilac-breasted Roller and Lesser-striped Swallow were seen. As we arrived at the camp gates we saw a rare sight for the Park – a Speke's Hinged Tortoise, which took refuge under our vehicle! While I attended to the accommodation paperwork at reception, the group was kept entertained by Malachite Kingfisher, Water Thick-knee, African Jacana, Egyptian Goose and a few Marsh Terrapins. These were seen at the dam in front of the camp's viewing deck.

The group freshened up in their cottages before heading to the restaurant for an early dinner, to the accompaniment of the Berg-en-dal Camp symphony orchestra – a thousand frogs calling from the dam in front of the restaurant! After dinner we saw a Bibron's Gecko feasting on moths under the lights.

Day 2. Friday 19th October 2012

We awoke to an overcast day, which after the heat of yesterday afternoon was welcome. Our early morning walk started at the main waterhole of the camp at 06:00 and followed the perimeter of the camp. We made very slow progress due to the fact that every bird was a 'new' bird. Lesser-striped Swallow, Water Thick-knee, African Jacana, Cattle Egret, Egyptian Goose, Natal Francolin, Scarlet-chested Sunbird, Cape Glossy Starling, African Green-Pigeon, Lilac-breasted Roller, Red-eyed and Laughing Dove, Cape Turtle-Dove, Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove, African Hoopoe, Green Woodhoopoe, Levillant's and Jacobin Cuckoo, Brown-hooded Kingfisher, African Pied Wagtail, Grey-headed Bush-Shrike, Kurrichane Thrush, Red-billed Hornbill, Black-collared Barbet, Grey Turaco, Purple-crested Turaco, Dark-capped Bulbul, Fork-tailed Drongo, Arrow-marked Babbler, Violet-backed Starling, Spectacled Weaver, Tawny-flanked Prinia, Neddicky, White-faced Duck, Green-backed Heron, Black Crake, Hadedah Ibis, Helmeted Guineafowl, Reed Cormorant, Blacksmith Lapwing... That's over 40 bird species before breakfast! We also saw Hippopotamus, Nile Crocodile and Marsh Terrapin in the main dam, Bushbuck next to the fence, with Tree Squirrel and Vervet Monkey in the camp. We only managed a third of the walk as breakfast was calling. On the way to breakfast we saw a few more bird species: Black-backed Puffback, Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill, Greater Blue-eared Starling and Blue Waxbill. Barberton Daisies and Star Jasmine were flowering very nicely throughout the camp and through the surrounding veld.



Greater Blue-eared Starling, Grey-headed Bush Shrike and Lilac-breasted Roller.

We had breakfast alfresco and then set off for our first game drive of the trip. We hadn't even got out the gates before we saw a Dwarf Mongoose. We took a drive to the Matjulu waterhole. Black-headed Oriole, White-fronted Bee-eater, Red-billed Oxpecker, Golden-tailed Woodpecker, Hamerkop, Greater Honeyguide, White-bellied Sunbird, Red-breasted Swallow, Marabou Stork, Little Egret, Wahlberg's Eagle, Burchell's Starling to name a few of the new birds seen.

On the mammal front we saw Impala, Common Duiker, three White Rhinos having a mud bath, Chacma Baboons, Warthog, Dwarf Mongoose and Leopard. The Leopard was using one of the vehicles as a cover to stalk a herd of Impala so some full frame shots were scored! The other vehicle in the meantime had to settle with a Leopard Tortoise! There were plenty of butterflies about and we managed to identify Orange Tip, African Clouded Yellow and what looked like a Cabbage White! A picnic lunch back at the camp on my stoop was followed by some 'down time'. Some of the group sat by the waterhole, whilst watching the antics of the resident Hippo. Others went for a short walk, while others caught up on a few Zzzzz's.

We went out again on a game drive at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The sky was getting very dark, with large clouds threatening rain. We saw a few Giraffe, plenty of Impalas and a few Burchell's Zebra. Just off the main road on the S114 (Crocodile River road) we found another Leopard up a tree. The whole group had great views of it and we had to leave it to the night as we had to get back to camp.

Day 3. Saturday 20th October 2012

We left at 6AM in the rain. It soon stopped raining and we started to see new birds and would you believe it.... another Leopard up a tree! Three Leopards in three game drives must be a record? Due to the heavy rain during the night most of the side roads were closed, so we had to stay on the H3 road. Just before our breakfast destination we came across five Spotted Hyenas, four pups and a babysitter. It looked like they had a den in the culvert that went under the road.



Spotted Hyena pups and 'babysitter'.

We had a good breakfast at the Afsaal picnic spot, where we saw Southern Masked Weavers building their nests and Yellow-billed Hornbills watching out for unattended plates. En route back to Camp we took the Steilberg road. From the top of the Steilberg we had great views over the koppies and plains of the Berg-en-dal area. First we saw broken branches on the road and then piles of Elephant dung, so it wasn't long before we spotted a lone young male Elephant. It didn't hang around long before high-tailing it down the valley and into thick bush. A quick look in at the Matjulu waterhole rewarded us with a few new birds: Yellow-throated Longclaw, Little Bee-Eater, Southern Grey-headed Sparrow and Red-billed Quelea. Then back to camp for a picnic lunch again on my stoop. Peter Lawson from the SABAP2 project joined us for lunch, and while he explained the project to the group, Mike and I prepared lunch. During lunch Peter pointed out a Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, which was a nice bird to see in the Park.

At 4 o'clock we started off on a birding walk but we had not gone more than half an hour when it started to rain. We still managed to have good views of several birds, some of which were: White-bellied and Scarlet-breasted Sunbirds, Violet-backed Starling, Cape Glossy Starling and Purple-crested Turaco.

Day 4. Sunday 21st October 2012

We woke to there being no electricity in the camp ... no electricity means no diesel! We had to leave the Park so as to drive to a petrol station in the town of Malelane. We then decided to scrub plan 'A' and work on plan 'B' – which was to drive on the main road outside the Park and re-enter the Park through the Crocodile Bridge Gate. Most of the dirt roads that we wanted to drive on in our plan 'A' were closed due to the heavy rain that fell on Friday night, so plan B was a good alternative.

We had breakfast alfresco at the Crocodile Bridge camp followed by a slow drive on the Gomondwane Loop road to the Ntandanyathi bird hide and then on to Lower Sabie. We saw Purple Heron, African Openbill Stork, Saddle-billed Stork, African Spoonbill, White-backed and Lappet-faced Vultures, Steppe Eagle, Green and Wood Sandpiper, Black-winged Stilt, Tambourine Dove, Diderick Cuckoo, African Grey Hornbill, Sabota Lark, White-throated Swallow, African Pipit, Thick-billed Weaver, House Sparrow, White-winged Widowbird, Yellow-fronted Canary and a Brown-throated Weaver building a nest by the causeway over the Crocodile River.

We had a late lunch on the deck overlooking the Lower Sabie River Dam. The rest of the afternoon was spent relaxing in the camp. We had a White-browed Robin-Chat putting on a great show in front of the cottages and a White-browed Scrub-Robin calling from the scrub near the entrance to the camp.

Day 5. Monday 22nd October 2012

Our first sighting of the day was two male Lions lying in the middle of the road right outside the camp. This was a reward for our early start this morning (05:30hrs – the early bird gets the worm or in this case the Lion!) We took a small detour so as to cross the Lower Sabie Dam wall. Here we saw several birds including a few new birds for our trip list. Great views of a Goliath Heron, Common Sandpiper and a Green Sandpiper, Pearl-breasted Swallow, Giant Kingfisher, White-crowned Lapwing, Black-winged Stilt and a few Three-banded Plovers. At the end of the dam wall we did a U-turn and returned back across the river and on towards the Nhlanguzani Dam via the S28 road. A small herd of Waterbucks were seen just before the dam and an amorous White Rhino was doing its



Giant Kingfishers.

bit for Rhino conservation! At the end of the road we were hoping to find a large body of water teeming with birdlife, but the Nhlanguzani Dam wall had been breached and there was not a drop of water in the dam. We turned tail and headed back to camp for breakfast. Red-capped Lark, Wattled Starling, White-browed Scrub Robin and White-browed Robin Chat were seen.

After breakfast we set off north on the Mondozi Road and then on to the Muntshu Loop, coming back down on the H10 to the N'wagovila Hill viewpoint for our picnic lunch. We saw 11 different mammal species on this route, with three magnificent male Kudus as a new species for us. Kori Bustard, African Ostrich, Secretarybird and Spotted Thick-knee were some new birds seen. At the viewpoint we saw a Blood Lily flowering as well as some magnificent Transvaal Candelabra Trees. At 3 pm the sun was out and it was nice and hot, so we headed back to camp for some rest and relaxation.

Day 6. Tuesday 23rd October 2012

I was expecting to have great mammal and bird sightings this morning on the H4-1 road from Lower Sabie to Skukuza... but the road was uncharacteristically quiet. The fact that there had been a lot of rainfall over the past few weeks meant that the mammals were not dependent on the Sabir River for water. All said and done, we still saw 13 different mammal species and 91 bird species. We also saw a yellow flowering epiphyte orchid called a Snout Tree Orchid, high up in a tall tree.



African Fish Eagles and Hamerkop.

Up until now we had been having a wee bit of meal disruption due to a restaurant staff strike in the Park, so we opted for a picnic lunch on the stoop of my cottage. After lunch we spent a couple of hours in the afternoon at the Lake Panic bird hide. Goliath, Grey, Green-backed and Squacco Herons were seen as well as African Jacana, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Little Egret, Hamerkop, Grey-headed Gull, Malachite and Pied Kingfishers, and a couple of Bushbucks with their young.

Day 7. Wednesday 24th October 2012

We have used the saying before.... 'the early bird gets the worm or in this case the Spotted Hyena!' Our 05:30hrs start gave us a great view of a Spotted Hyena following the trail of its sisters.

This morning we were heading for an area of granite koppies, with the hope of finding Klipspringer, Rock Hyrax and Sharpe's Gryspok.... We 'dipped' on all three counts, but we did see some new birds and mammals: African Harrier Hawk, Mocking Cliff Chat and Square-tailed Drongo and a couple of Side-striped Jackals. It is very seldom that one sees these shy Jackals in the Park. We stopped at the memorial to Steven Hamilton, high on a koppie overlooking the wilderness of the Kruger below.

We stopped at one granite koppie which was hosting five different mammal species: a troop of Chacma Baboons on the top, a small herd of grazing Impala, a big Kudu bull browsing the leaves of a large-leaved rock fig at its base, a Slender Mongoose doing the rounds and a Tree Squirrel watching the world go by. We found a Lioness on the hunt, which we followed for about thirty minutes. She was using the vehicle as cover and to mask her scent. She made a few tentative attempts at catching an Impala, but the Impalas were always well aware of her presence and shot off in the opposite direction. We had seen 22 mammal species by the end of the day.

Day 8. Thursday 25th October 2012

We left camp early in the morning with the idea of having breakfast at the Tshokwane picnic area and then a late lunch at Satara Camp. Our first mammal of the day was an Elephant right outside Skukusa Camp. By breakfast we had seen 14 mammal species and by lunch we had seen 21 species! Impala, Steenbok, Common Duiker, Kudu, Klipspringer, Bushbuck, Waterbuck, Blue Wildebeest, Giraffe, Dwarf Mongoose, Slender Mongoose, Tree Squirrel, Hippopotamus, Cape Buffalo, Burchell's Zebra, Warthog, Leopard, Chacma Baboon, Vervet Monkey and last but not least African Wild Dog. After lunch we added a few more mammal species ... a Gambian Epauletted Fruit-bat in the tree outside the restaurant, an African Wild Cat catching Swallows by one of the cottages and a Brown Hyena following the fence line of the camp.

Our Wild Dog sighting was over a forty five minute period as we followed the pack of 11 dogs down the road. They were actively hunting, and as soon as a Kudu was flushed from the bushes, off they went in pursuit. Our Leopard sighting was also an extended viewing, which was great. The old male Leopard was hunting along the road verge until he gave up and settled down in the shade of a Natal mahogany tree. Just after we left the Leopard we came across a large herd of Cape Buffaloes wallowing at a waterhole.



African Wild Dogs on the hunt.

We watched a family of Southern Ground Hornbills as the male dug up a large frog or toad and tried to feed it to one of the chicks. After the large chick had played around with the meal for a while, the male came over and swallowed the morsel!

New bird sightings for the day were: Little Grebe, a good view of a Saddle-billed Stork, European Bee-eater, African Morning Dove, Collared Sunbird, Knob-billed Duck, and African Scops Owl in the camp. After lunch we spent what was left of the afternoon in the camp relaxing.

Day 9. Friday 26th October 2012

We had an early start this morning with the hope of finding Cheetah. We headed east on the N'wanetsi River road, driving slowly and looking hard. We saw plenty of plains game and there were some very showy pink 'Ground Lilies' flowering and the veld was covered in geophytes that were about to flower. We found a few early flowering individuals and they have the enviable common name of 'Nelson's Slime Lily'. At the end of the road we decided to opt for plan 'B' which was to drive north on the Gudzani road. We passed Elephants, Impala, Blue Wildebeest, Giraffe, Cape Buffalo, Burchell's Zebra, Chacma Baboon, Vervet Monkey, Bushbuck, Steenbok, Waterbuck and a family of Banded Mongoose. We took the dirt road back towards camp and here we found our Cheetahs. The three Cheetahs were feeding on a 'kill' and the vultures were waiting patiently in the surrounding trees for the leftovers. We saw some great birds on this morning drive, perhaps the Southern Ground Hornbills were the highlight? Or maybe the Red-crested Korhaan?



White-backed Vulture, Yellow-billed Hornbill and Red-crested Korhaan.

After breakfast we went for a birdwatching walk around the camp and some of the birds that we saw were; Chinspot Batis, Burchell's Starling, African Hoopoe, Grey Turaco, Grey-headed Sparrow and their overseas friends the common English Sparrow, Red-billed Buffalo Weaver, Dark-capped Bulbul, White-breasted and Scarlet-chested Sunbird, Little Swift, Natal Francolin, Yellow-billed Kite, Bateleur, Diderik Cuckoo, Golden-tailed Woodpecker, Crested Barbet and Lesser-masked Weaver.

We spent the afternoon at leisure as the group was scheduled to go on a night drive this evening. A little bit of late afternoon excitement was two Vervet Monkeys chasing an African Wild Cat through the gardens in front of our cottages and a large bull Elephant walking around the perimeter fence.

The group went on a night drive this evening seeing Lion, Scrub Hare, three Lesser Bushbabys, Large-spotted Genet, a Nightjar and the usual plains game.

Day 10. Saturday 27th October 2012

We had breakfast in the camp restaurant and then went out for the morning. We went to the Nsemani Waterhole and then up to the Timbavati picnic site. At the Nsemani Waterhole we watched some Hippos establishing their territories – who can open their jaws the widest? We watched a herd of Elephants, which were across the dry Timbavati riverbed from the picnic site. On this drive we saw a White Rhino and some plains game.

The Ratelpan Hide looked out across a pool of the Timbavati River. Here we saw a Goliath Heron, Greenshank, Wood Sandpiper, Three-banded Sandpiper, Green-backed Heron, African Fish Eagle, African Spoonbill, Great White Egret, African Darter, Blacksmith Lapwing and a few Crocodiles and Hippos.

We took the Ntomen road back to the main road and down to Satara Camp for our picnic lunch on my stoop. After lunch we drove to the N'wanetsi viewpoint and back to Satara Camp via the dirt roads of Gudzani and N'wanetsi River roads. On the mammal front we saw a sleeping Lion, some large bull Elephants, a family herd of Waterbuck, plenty of Impala, Chacma Baboons, Slender Mongoose, Burchell's Zebra, Blue Wildebeest, Kudu and a lone Bushbuck ram. We watched a Black-bellied Korhaan displaying, and at the viewpoint we saw some Indian Myners, which is quite an unusual sighting for this area of the Park. A Pearl-spotted Owlet was spotted on the way back to the camp.

Day 11. Sunday 28th October 2012

We went for an early morning game drive north of the Satara Camp and our first mammal species was a Spotted Hyena followed by our usual plethora of mammals and bird species. Each mammal seemed to give us better views than before and the camera shutter buttons were working overtime!

Just before we turned around to head back to camp and breakfast, a beautiful Leopard came out from behind some bushes. This was now our fifth leopard sighting of the trip! The Leopard walked parallel to the road for about 600 metres and then climbed a dead Tambuti tree, where it settled down for a rest.

A few of the group had gone on an early morning walk with a game ranger – and gun! They saw plenty of game including Lion and Klipspringer. Trumpeter Hornbill and Lesser Honeyguide were also seen.

After breakfast we headed up to Olifants Camp for lunch. Just before the Ngotso Dam we came across a natural waterhole which was teeming with game – Common Reedbuck, Burchell's Zebra, Giraffe, Blue Wildebeest, Impala, Chacma Baboons, and a White Rhinoceros and her calf. Just before Olifants Camp a Sharpe's Grysbok was seen as well as some big bull Elephants.



Baobab tree *Adansonia digitata* and Fireball lilies *Scadoxus multiflorus*.

We sat and soaked up the magnificent view from the restaurant deck at Olifants Camp, watching the river below.

We drove back to camp in the heat of the day, arriving back at Satara Camp in the late afternoon – in time for afternoon tea!

Day 12. Monday 29th October 2012

We had a leisurely start to the day with breakfast in the camp before loading the vehicles with our luggage for our last game drive in the Park. The 42 kilometres from Satara Camp to the exit gate at Orpan produced 15 different mammal species, on average a different species of mammal every three kilometres!

Once out of the Park it started to rain and unfortunately the views of the Blyde River Canyon and the Three Rondavels were covered in low cloud. We had better views of the canyon from further down the road where we stopped for photographs and some botanizing.

We stopped for lunch in the town of Grasskop and then headed for Mount Sheba. Cape Grassbird, Buffy Pipit, Familiar Chat, Cape Robin-Chat, Cape White-eye, Cape Francolin, White-necked Raven and Amethyst Sunbird were seen on the way to the lodge and in the lodge gardens.

We also saw an Oribi, which was nice as this is a rare and hard to see antelope, and we heard Samango Monkeys in the forest.

Day 13. Tuesday 30th October 2012

We started the day with a short birdwatching walk around the grounds of the lodge. Olive Bush-shrike, Rock Martin, Horus Swift, Greater Double-collard Sunbird, Cape White-eye, Cape Robin-chat, Familiar Chat, Red-winged Starling, Speckled Pigeon, Karoo Prinia and Amethyst Sunbird were seen, as well as a troop of Samango Monkeys.

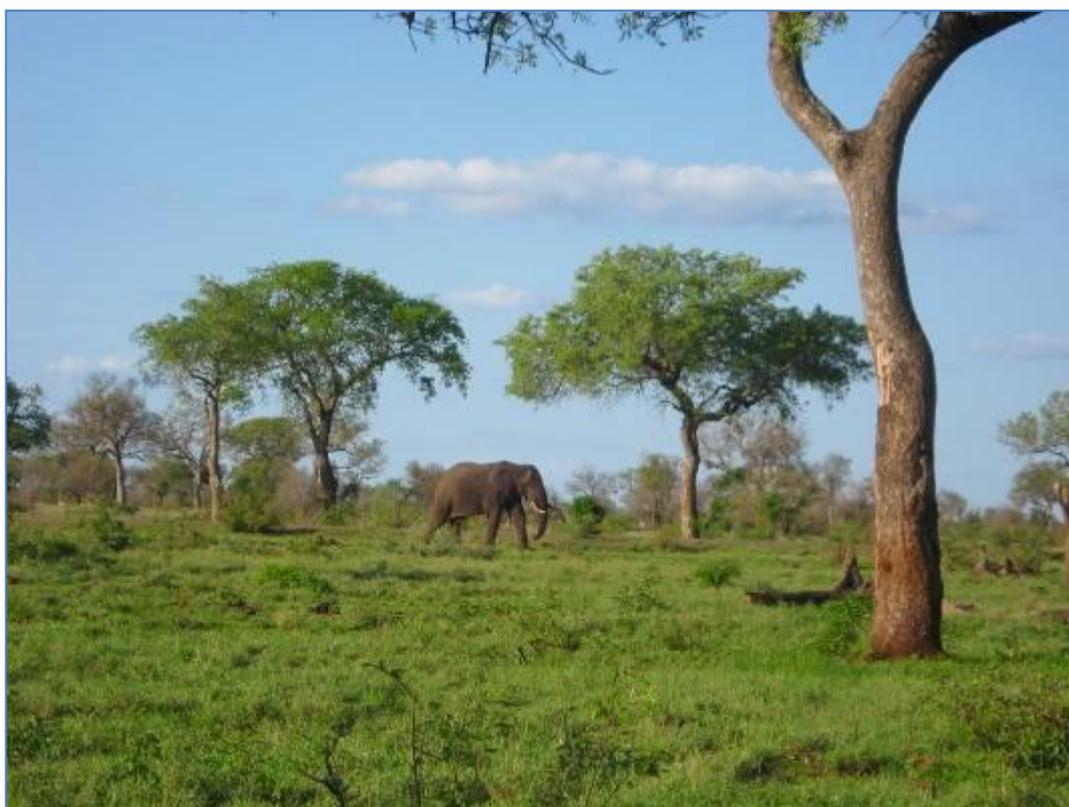
We had what can only be described as a 'royal' breakfast and then we set off on our walk to the waterfalls. This 6km walk should have been called the 'ferns and fungus' walk as there was no end to the variety and diversity of both. We had small fluorescent orange mushrooms, metallic blue fungus, stag-horn fungus, turkey tail fungus, hairy white mushrooms and a slimy looking blob of a fungus! The ferns were different around every corner. The birds were being a bit shy. We saw Cape Batis, Sombre Greenbul, Cape White-eye, and some beautiful butterflies: Emperor Swallowtail, Citrus Swallowtail, White-banded Swallowtail, Garden Commodore and African Monarch, as well as a Giant Snail and a red and black Milkweed Locust.

We had our lunch back at the lodge and then had the option of another walk to the Sheba lookout. We saw a large troop of Samango Monkeys and a few new birds: Cape Grassbird, African Stonechat, Malachite Sunbird and Southern Double-collard Sunbird. We found some great flowers but our botanising was cut short by a large storm that was rolling in. As we got back to the lodge the thunder and lightning started, with plenty of rain throughout the night.

Day 14. Wednesday 31st October 2012

We awoke to a brilliant blue sky and another great, leisurely breakfast. We loaded the two vehicles and drove up to the start of the lookout walk. We botanised and birdwatched while some of the group walked through to the lookout point.

On the way out of the Mount Sheba Reserve we saw some Oribi and a Common Duiker as well as a few wild/feral horses. We drove through to Dullstroom for our lunch at Harry's Pancakes and then went through to an area of wetlands, trout ponds and mountain grassland. Yellow-billed Duck, Red-knobbed Coot, White-throated Swallow, Buff-streaked Chat, Bokmakierrie, African Stonechat, Grey Heron, African Spoonbill, Yellow-rumped Widow, Fiscal Shrike and a couple of Grey Rheboks were seen. From Dullstroom we drove through to J'Burg's International Airport for the group's flight home.



A view from Satara Camp.

SPECIES LISTS

BIRDS

Common Ostrich	Crested Francolin	Red-faced Mousebird
Little Grebe	Natal Spurfowl	Pied Kingfisher
White-breasted Cormorant	Swainson's Spurfowl	Giant Kingfisher
Reed Cormorant	Cape Francolin	Malachite Kingfisher
African Darter	Helmeted Guineafowl	Brown-hooded Kingfisher
Grey Heron	African Finfoot	Eurasian Bee-eater
Goliath Heron	Black Crake	White-fronted Bee-eater
Purple Heron	Red-knobbed Coot	Little Bee-eater
Great Egret	Kori Bustard	Lilac-breasted Roller
Little Egret	Red-crested Korhaan	Purple Roller
Yellow-billed Egret	African Jacana	African Hoopoe
Cattle Egret	Black-bellied Korhaan	Green Wood-Hoopoe
Squacco Heron	Kittlitz's Plover	Trumpeter Hornbill
Green-backed Heron	Three-banded Plover	African Grey Hornbill
Black-crowned Night Heron	Crowned Lapwing	Red-billed Hornbill
Hamerkop	Blacksmith Lapwing	Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill
White Stork	White-crowned Lapwing	Southern Ground Hornbill
Black Stork	Wattled Lapwing	Black-collared Barbet
Woolly-necked Stork	Common Sandpiper	Acacia Pied Barbet
African Openbill	Green Sandpiper	Crested Barbet
Saddle-billed Stork	Wood Sandpiper	Greater Honeyguide
Marabou Stork	Greenshank	Lesser Honeyguide
Yellow-billed Stork	Little Stint	Bennett's Woodpecker
African Sacred Ibis	Black-winged Stilt	Golden-tailed Woodpecker
Hadeda Ibis	Water Thick-knee	Flappet Lark
African Spoonbill	Grey-headed Gull	Red-capped Lark
White-faced Duck	Double-banded Sandgrouse	Sabota Lark
Egyptian Goose	Rock Dove	Dusky Lark
Yellow-billed Duck	Speckled Pigeon	Barn Swallow
Comb Duck	Red-eyed Dove	White-throated Swallow
Spur-winged Goose	Laughing Dove	Pearl-breasted Swallow
Secretarybird	African Mourning Dove	Red-breasted Swallow
Hooded Vulture	Cape Turtle-Dove	Greater Striped Swallow
White-backed Vulture	Namaqua Dove	Lesser Striped Swallow
Lappet-faced Vulture	Emerald-spotted Wood-dove	Rock Martin
White-headed Vulture	Tambourine Dove	Brown-throated Martin
Black Kite	African Green-pigeon	Fork-tailed Drongo
Yellow-billed Kite	Brown-headed Parrot	Square-tailed Drongo
Black-shouldered Kite	Purple-crested Turaco	Black-headed Oriole
Tawny Eagle	Grey Go-away-bird	White-necked Raven
Steppe Eagle	Levaillant's Cuckoo	Pied Crow
Wahlberg's Eagle	Red-chested Cuckoo (H)	Southern Black Tit
Ayres's Eagle	Jacobin Cuckoo	Arrow-marked Babbler
Martial Eagle	Klaas's Cuckoo	Dark-capped Bulbul
Brown Snake Eagle	Diderick Cuckoo	Sombre Greenbul
Black-breasted Snake Eagle	Burchell's Coucal	Kurrichane Thrush
Bateleur	African Scops Owl	Ground-scraper Thrush
African Fish Eagle	Pearl-spotted Owllet	Mountain Wheatear
Steppe Buzzard	Verreaux's Eagle-owl	Familiar Chat
Jackal Buzzard	Eurasian Swift	Mocking Cliff-chat
Little Sparrowhawk	African Black Swift	African Stonechat
Shikra	White-rumped Swift	White-throated Robin-chat
Peregrine Falcon	Horus Swift	White-browed Robin-chat
Lanner Falcon	Little Swift	Cape Robin-chat
Harrier-Hawk	Alpine Swift	White-browed Scrub-robin
Rock Kestrel	Speckled Mousebird	Bar-throated Apalis

Long-billed Crombec	Orange-breasted Bush-shrike	Southern Grey-headed Sparrow
Cape Grassbird	Grey-headed Bush-shrike	Thick-billed Weaver
Zitting Cisticola	Indian Myna	Spectacled Weaver
Rattling Cisticola	White-crowned Shrike	Village Weaver
Neddicky	Wattled Starling	Brown-throated Weaver
Tawny-flanked Prinia	Violet-backed Starling	Southern Masked-weaver
Spotted Flycatcher	Burchell's Starling	Lesser Masked-weaver
Dusky Flycatcher	Cape Glossy Starling	Yellow-rumped Widow
Pale Flycatcher	Greater Blue-eared Starling	Red-billed Quelea
African Paradise-flycatcher	Black-bellied Starling	Red Bishop
Chinspot Batis	Red-winged Starling	White-winged Widowbird
Cape Batis	Red-billed Oxpecker	Melba Finch
African Pied Wagtail	Yellow-billed Oxpecker	African Firefinch
Cape Wagtail	Lesser Double-collard Sunbird	Jameson's Firefinch
African Pipit	G/Double-collared Sunbird	Yellow-rumped Tinker
Buffy Pipit	Malachite Sunbird	Blue Waxbill
Yellow-throated Longclaw	White-bellied Sunbird	Common Waxbill
Common Fiscal	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	Pin-tailed Whydah
Magpie Shrike	Amethyst Sunbird	Lemon Canary
Southern Boubou	Collard Sunbird	Yellow-fronted Canary
Black-backed Puffback	Cape White-eye	Cape Canary
Gorgeous Bush-shrike	Red-billed Buffalo-weaver	Golden-breasted Bunting
Bokmakierie	House Sparrow	
Black-crowned Tchagra	Cape Sparrow	

TOTAL = 238

SOME OTHER SPECIES SEEN



Tree Agama *Acanthocerus atricollis*, Dung Beetle (crucial to the Park's ecosystem), and Milkweed Locust *Phymateus morbillosus*

MAMMALS

African Wild Cat	One was seen on a few occasions within the camp at Satara.
Banded Mongoose	Family groups were seen on a few occasions.
Black-backed Jackal	Seen once at a kill and once hawking flying ants.
Blue Wildebeest	Seen just about every day, sometimes with Zebras.
Burchell's Zebra	Some large herds were seen, also mixed with other mammals.
Bushbuck	Small family groups were seen just about every day.
Cape Buffalo	Old individuals and herds were seen just about every day.
Chacma Baboon	Troops of baboons were seen just about every day.
Cheetah	Three individuals on a kill near Satara Camp.
Common Duiker	Seen on several days.
Dwarf Mongoose	Seen on several days, sometimes in the Camp.
Eland	Seen on the first two days near Berg-en-dal Camp.
Elephant	Old individual bulls and family herds were seen just about every day.
Gambian Epauletted Fruit-Bat	Seen in the tree by the reception at Satara Camp.
Giraffe	Old individuals and herds were seen just about every day.
Gray Reebok	Seen on the grassy hills in the Mount Sheba Nature Reserve.
Hippopotamus	Individual and family herds were seen wherever there was water.
Impala	Seen every day while we were in the Kruger Park.
Klipspringer	Seen a few times on the rocky koppies.
Kudu	Several times throughout the Park. One particularly impressive male.
Large Spotted Genet	Seen on the night drive from Satara Camp.
Leopard	Five sightings with two of the Leopards next to the vehicles.
Lesser Bushbaby	Three or four were seen on the night drive from Satara Camp.
Lion	Several sightings, some very close to the vehicle.
Mauritian Free-tailed Bat	At Berg-en-dal Camp – roosting in the bat boxes.
Oribi	Seen on the grassy hills in the Mount Sheba Nature Reserve.
Red Duiker	A fleeting glimpse at Mount Sheba Lodge
Reedbuck	One small family group seen just north of Satara Camp.
Samango Monkey	A family troop was seen in the forests near Mount Sheba Lodge.
Scrub Hare	Seen on the night drive from Satara Camp.
Sharpe's Grysbok	One individual seen next to the road near Olifants Camp.
Side-striped Jackal	Seen a couple of times. Once at Shirimantanga Hill.
Slender Mongoose	Several times throughout the Park.
Spotted Hyena	Seen on five days. Also seen circling a few of the camps!
Steenbok	Several times throughout the Park.
Tree Squirrel	Seen in all the camps.
Vervet Monkey	Seen just about every day, even in one of the vehicles!
Waterbuck	Seen several times, always near water.
Warthog	Several times throughout the Park.
White Rhinoceros	Common around Berg-en-dal Camp and the south of the Park.

FLOWERS

Common name	Family	Genus and species
Livingston's blue commelina	COMMELINACEAE	<i>Commelina livingstonii</i>
Yellow commelina	COMMELINACEAE	<i>Commelina africana</i>
Indian hemp	MALVACEAE	<i>Hibiscus cannabinus</i>
Roadside pimpernel	TURNERACEAE	<i>Tricliceras longipedunculatum</i>
Barberton daisy	ASTERACEAE	<i>Gerbera jamesonii</i>
Grass bell (mauve iris)	IRIDACEAE	<i>Dierama medium</i>
Poison apple	SOLONACEAE	<i>Solanum panduriforme</i>
Wild foxglove	PEDALIACEAE	<i>Ceratotheca triloba</i>
Common heliotrope	BORAGINACEAE	<i>Heliotropium steucheri</i>
Mouse whiskers – yellow	CAPPARACEAE	<i>Cleome angustifolia</i> subsp. <i>petersiana</i>
Tree orchid	ORCHIDACEAE	<i>Bulbophyllum sandersonii</i>
Poison bulb	AMARYLLIDACEAE	<i>Nerine</i> sp
Blood lily	AMARYLLIDACEAE	<i>Scadoxus puniceus</i>
Slime lily	HYACINTHACEAE	<i>Albuca nelsonii</i>
Spotted squill	HYACINTHACEAE	<i>Ledebouria revoluta</i>
Morning glory	CONVOLVULACEAE	<i>Ipomoea antherstonei</i>
Fireball lily	AMARYLLIDACEAE	<i>Scadoxus multiflorus</i>
White lily	LILIACEAE	<i>Lilium formosanum</i>
Black eyed Susan	ACANTHACEAE	<i>Thunbergia alata</i>
Yellow pea	FABACEAE	<i>Melolobium wilmsii</i>
Yellow sedge	CYPERACEAE	<i>Cyperus obtusiflorus</i>
Pelargonium	GERANIACEAE	<i>Pelargonium lateripes</i>
Blue clump	RUBIACEAE	<i>Pentanisia augustifolia</i>

TREES

Common name	Family	Genus and species
Fever tree	FABACEAE	<i>Acacia xanthophloea</i>
Umbrella thorn	FABACEAE	<i>Acacia tortillis</i>
Black monkey orange	LOGANIACEAE	<i>Strychnos madagascariensis</i>
Large-leaved rock fig	MORACEAE	<i>Ficus abutilifolia</i>
Common tree euphorbia	EUPHORBIACEAE	<i>Euphorbia ingens</i>
Candelabra tree	EUPHORBIACEAE	<i>Euphorbia cooperi</i>
Sausage tree	BIGNONIACEAE	<i>Kigelia africana</i>
Weeping boer bean	CAESALPINEACEAE	<i>Schotia brachypetala</i>
Transvaal gardenia		<i>Gardenia volkensii</i>
Bush willows	COMBRETACEAE	<i>Combretum</i> sp
Apple leaf	FABACEAE	<i>Lonchocarpus cappressa</i>
Sickle bush	FABACEAE	<i>Dichrostachys cinerea</i>
White raisin	TILIACEAE	<i>Grewia bicolor</i>
Tamboti	EUPHORBIACEAE	<i>Spirostachys africana</i>
Sycamore fig	MORACEAE	<i>Ficus sycamorus</i>
Baobab	BOMBACACEAE	<i>Adansonia digitata</i>
Mauve Chinese hats		<i>Karomia speciosa</i>
Natal mahogany	MELIACEAE	<i>Trichilia emetica</i>
Pride of the Cape	CEASALPINIACEAE	<i>Bauhinia galpinii</i>
Snuff-box tree		<i>Ocnoba spinosa</i>
Marula	ANACARDIACEAE	<i>Sclerocarya birrea</i>
Cape honeysuckle	BIGNONIACEAE	<i>Tecoma capensis</i>
Mopani	FABACEAE	<i>Colophospermum mopane</i>
Hedge euphorbia	EUPHORBIACEAE	<i>Euphorbia tirucalli</i>
Impala lily	APOCYNACEAE	<i>Adenium multiflorum</i>
Russet bushwillow	COMBRETACEAE	<i>Combretum hereroense</i>