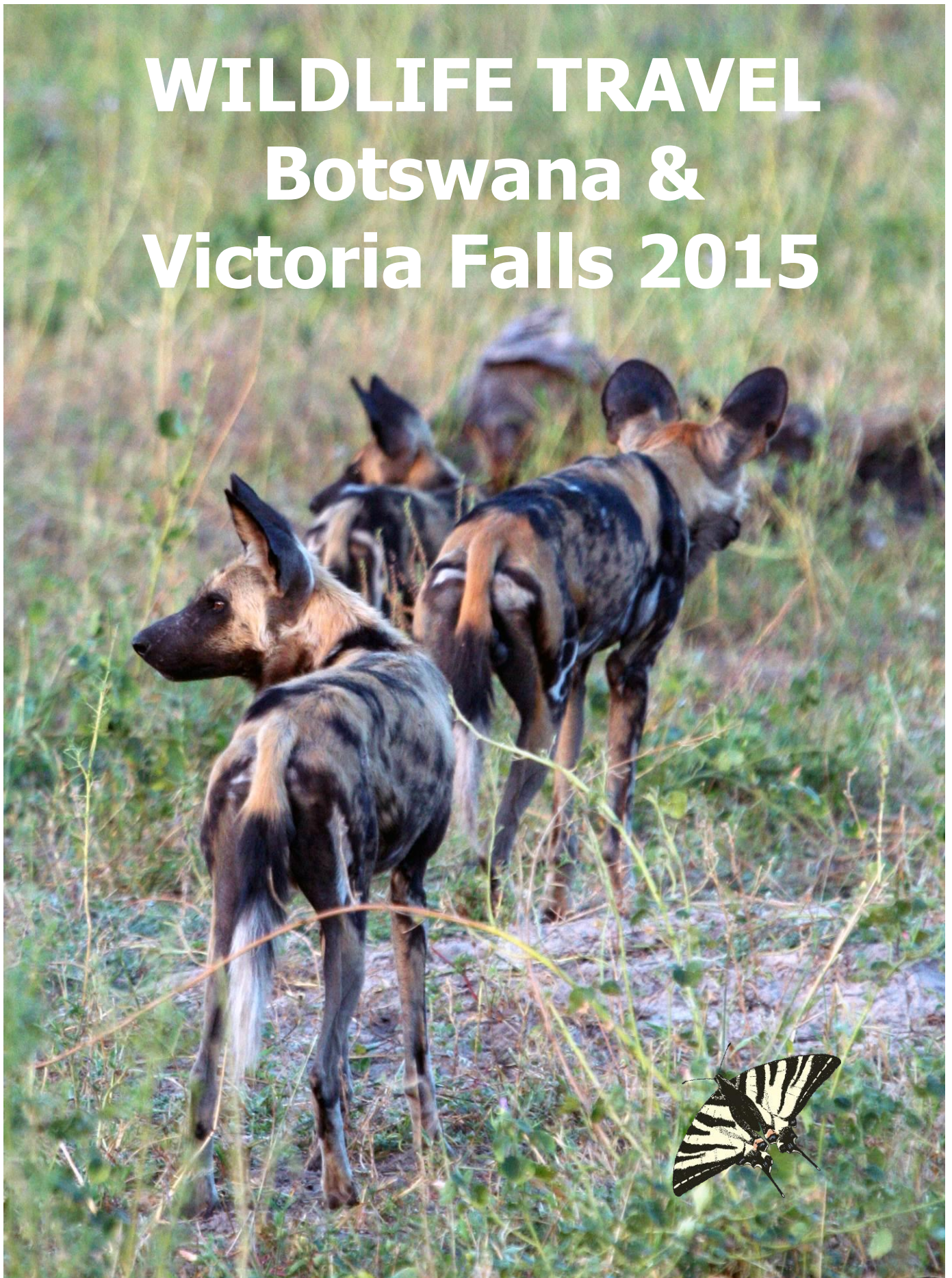


WILDLIFE TRAVEL

Botswana & Victoria Falls 2015



**Botswana and Victoria Falls
species list and trip report, 20th to 31st March 2015**

-	20 th March	London to Johannesburg
1	21 st March	Johannesburg to Livingstone.
2	22 nd March	Victoria Falls. Zambezi River cruise. Mosi oa Tunga National Park.
3	23 rd March	Livingstone to Muchenje Lodge. Chobe National Park
4	24 th March	Chobe National Park: all day safari, including Chobe River trip
5	25 th March	Muchenje to Sango Lodge, northern Okavango Delta. Afternoon game drive.
6	26 th March	Sango Lodge. Morning and afternoon game drives, after dinner night drive
7	27 th March	Sango Lodge. Morning game drive, afternoon mokoro excursion.
8	28 th March	Sango Lodge. Afternoon transfer to Pom Pom Camp
9	29 th March	Pom Pom Camp
10	30 th March	Pom Pom Camp to Maun, on to Johannesburg for our flights home
-	31 st March	arrive UK

A gallery of some of Philip's photos from the holiday can be seen on Wildlife Travel's Flickr site, at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/wildlifetravel/sets/72157651261730508/>

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Day One: 21st March. Johannesburg to Livingstone. Zambezi River

An uneventful, if not particularly restful overnight flight took us to Johannesburg, from where we boarded our plane onwards to Livingstone, on the banks of the Zambezi River in Zambia. As we flew in, the pilot ensured those sitting on both sides of the plane got a view of the main attraction in town, the Victoria Falls, Mosi ao Tunga, 'the smoke that thunders'.

At the airport we were met by our hosts for the next couple of nights, Linda and Alli, together with Frank the driver and whisked off to the lovely Bushbuck River House just in time for afternoon tea with a slice of 'Albert's famous carrot cake'.

We spent the afternoon relaxing and exploring the garden, where a family of noisy Green Wood-hoopoes, various kingfishers and both Southern Red-billed and Trumpeter Hornbills kept us entertained. Dinnertime, and another dish of world renown, 'Albert's famous chocolate mousse'.

Day Two: 22nd March. Victoria Falls and Mosi oa Tunga National Park

A full day started at dawn for some of us, with a pre-breakfast walk along the driveway: African Golden Oriole and Scarlet-chested Sunbird gave a splash of colour, a pair of Grey Go-away Birds and plenty of Dark-capped Bulbuls provided the soundtrack and large numbers of House Martins, Barn Swallows and a couple of Red-backed Shrikes gave the link with home. As we were heading back for dinner, a male Bush Duiker appeared at the trackside.

After breakfast we headed back to Livingstone, and the Falls. The famous 'smoke that thunders' should perhaps be renamed 'the smoke that thunders and gets you very wet'...

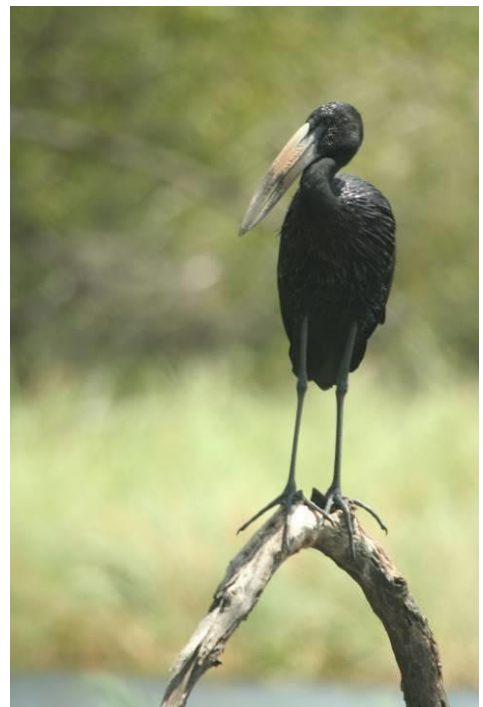
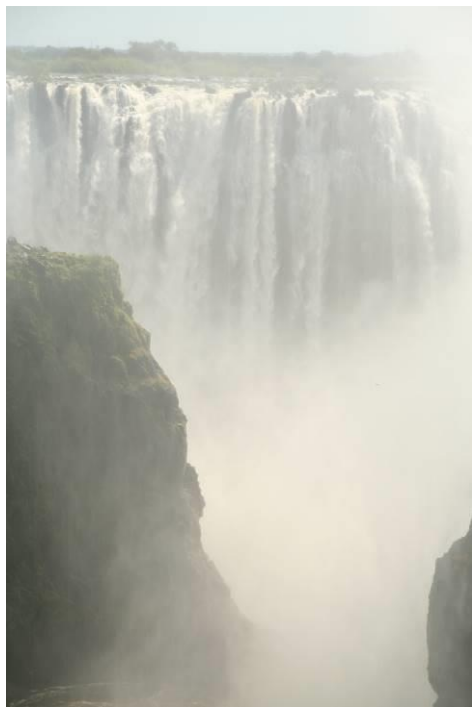
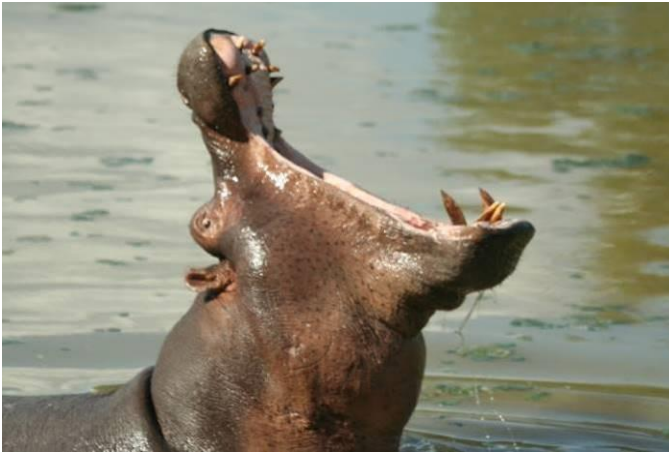
With our fill of waterfalls, and photographs of the 2km wide cataract (and, of course, the rainbows!) taken from as many angles as was feasible and then more, our next stop was just upstream where we boarded our boat for a lunch time river safari. Our boat men took us upstream, around the islands and small channels of the Zambezi, where we found White-crowned Lapwing and Water Thick-knee on the islands, a nesting colony of White-fronted Bee-eaters posing very photogenically, and a handful of water birds: African Openbill, Black Egret, Green-backed Heron and African Darter amongst them. Our first Hippos were a small pod who seemed quite shy, ducking under the water, but some more nonchalant animals were around the corner, wallowing at the edge of the river, resting their heads on each other's back. Amongst them was a tiny youngster.

Heading further upriver, we had our first encounter of the trip with Elephants, a small group of young adults digging at the banks, splashing about in the shallow water and flapping their ears and throwing mud over each other.

After our leisurely journey upstream, it was a slightly more hurried ride back downstream to find our island picnic spot, and then back onto the mainland to meet up with our guides for the rest of the afternoon.

The afternoon was spent on a game drive through the national park: the second smallest of Zambia's national parks, Mosi oa Tunga isn't home to the great herds of game that exist elsewhere, but we did enjoy our first sightings of African Buffalo, Impala, Giraffe and Warthog, along with three handsome Puku and 'Richard' the lonely (and, as it turns out, female) Hippo who put on quite a show in her small muddy pool, yawning on cue and then rolling over onto her back to reveal big pink belly, waving all four pink-soled feet in the air!

LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBEZI & MOSI OA TUNGA NATIONAL PARK



Top row, l to r: 'Richard' the hippo; White-fronted Bee-eater
Middle row, l to r: Victoria Falls; the Falls from the plane; African Openbill
Bottom row, l to r: Victoria Falls; Southern White Rhinos

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However, perhaps the highlight of the Park, and one of the highlights of the trip I'm sure, came when we were led across to the other side of the Park, away from the river. Here we parked the vehicles and, following the instructions from the anti-poaching guards, walked slowly in single file up a slope through the bush... until, all of sudden, right in front of us, two enormous grey shapes appeared: a female White Rhinoceros and a smaller, well-grown calf grazing quietly amongst the thorny scrub.

Our guide explained that this was an orphaned youngster, christened 'Sylvia' after the Zambian minister for tourism! (I'm not sure if that was meant as a compliment...) together with 'Sipo', the older female who had adopted her. With just eight individuals in the park, and two breeding adults lost in recent years to avoidable accidents, the position of White Rhinos here is still very precarious, but there is obviously a will to protect them.

Nine tired Wildlife Travellers made their way back to Bushbuck River House after a packed first day, but hopefully a good one.

Day Three: 23rd March. Across the border to Botswana. Chobe National Park

After another early morning walk around the property, with a pair of Grey-headed Parrots and a noisy couple of Long-billed Crombecs the highlights, and a quick look at the roosting Peters's Epauletted Fruit-Bats in the garden trees, it was soon time to say goodbye to Bushbuck River House, and indeed to Zambia, and head to the border. Frank saw us safely through the border arrangements and onto the small boat, which whisked us and our luggage across the Zambezi, past the point where Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana touch. At the other side we were shuttled, via the airport, along impressively flat and empty tarmac to our home for the next couple of nights, Muchenje Lodge, overlooking the Chobe river, with Namibia on the other side.

Even before we had time to find our (splendid) rooms there were new things to see, as a Slender Mongoose slunk past the swimming pool!

After lunch, we climbed aboard our safari vehicles and headed into Chobe National Park in the safe hands of Lips and Stanley, to see what the afternoon would bring...

And what it brought was Elephants. Lots, and lots, and LOTS of Elephants! As the shadows lengthened, we went down to the banks of the Chobe river for our sundowner, and enjoyed a well-deserved G&T while watching the setting sun, with at least a hundred Elephants and a large herd of African Buffalo spread out in all directions.

After dinner, we headed out for a night drive around the lodge. Unfortunately night drives aren't allowed in the Park, but we still found plenty to see, with a wonderful Bat-eared Fox along the roadside, followed by close encounters with a dazzled Elephant and a beautiful Sable Antelope.

Day Four: 24th March. Chobe National Park

For most of us the day started before sunrise, with an early wake up call, coffee and toast preparing us for our early morning drive. Having passed through the entry gate, with Lips dealing with all the paperwork, we were heading along the main road when a shape appeared at the roadside and leisurely crossed in front of us: a beautiful male Leopard! Rather nonchalantly, he paused to look over his shoulder, gave us the once over, marked his territory and promptly disappeared into the long grass. An amazing start to the day!

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With cats now very much on the agenda, we followed up on the sightings of some other early risers by going on a wild cat chase. After one false start, with our first targets having dissolved into a small patch of bushes, we headed further into the park and finally found a pride of Lions, albeit rather tired ones: a family of at least seven were settling down in the shade to sleep the day away.

Dwarfed by the 'king of the jungle', but certainly more entertaining were a large 'troop' of Banded Mongooses who came scuttling through the bush, stopping every now and again to peer round, meerkat-style, before disappearing up the slope.

After a picnic breakfast, we headed downriver to the bustling metropolis (!) of Kasane, where we met up with Pat and Trish and boarded our little boat for a memorable few hours on the Chobe River.

Birds along the riverbank included a profusion of bee-eaters: White-fronted, Little Green and lots and lots of Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters feeding from the tree tops. We also found plenty of kingfishers: Pied Kingfishers, often in pairs; a pair of Woodland Kingfishers; a single brief sighting of Grey-headed Kingfisher and, around the other side of the reedy island, a Malachite Kingfisher posing for photos.

The usual assortment of Egrets and Herons included a massive Goliath Heron; waders included numerous Water Thick-knees and a couple of lovely Long-toed Lapwings, along with plenty of migrant Wood and Common Sandpipers and we were joined by a pair of very friendly Wire-tailed Swallow which sat on the front of the boat.

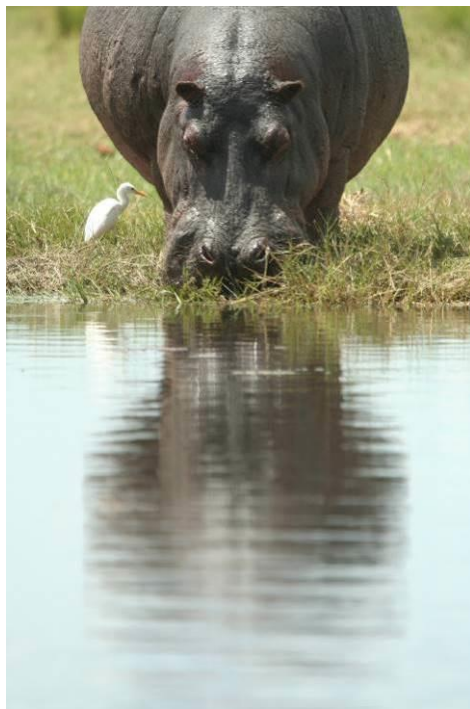
But it was the bigger game which made the trip, starting with the crocodiles... a couple of smallish individuals on the river bank started us off, followed by a couple of proper full-sized animals out amongst the reeds... and then we noticed the Buffalo! A dead Buffalo in the water was absolutely surrounded by Nile Crocodiles of every size, all of whom had one thing in common: they were very, very fat! At least 20 individuals were resting in the area, having gorged themselves on Buffalo, with two or three still feeding, with the buffalo's flanks moving in a rather ghoulish manner as the reptiles got right inside to tear off their dinner... the perfect sighting to prepare us for lunch!

Elsewhere on the reedy island, a Hippo grazed out in the open, with others wallowing and burping nearby. A small group of Red Lechwe wandered past. And a small group of Elephants swam across the river in front of us to reach the lush grazing on the island, as we grazed ourselves on pizza slices and chicken drumsticks.

The afternoon drive back gave us yet more opportunities to spend time with the elephants, as well as plenty of the now-usual-suspects: Warthog and Impala, Buffalo and Kudu, Vervet Monkeys and Chacma Baboons, plenty of Giraffes doing 'that giraffe thing' of bending down to drink (and to feed on the salt-rich soils) with their contingent of Red-billed Oxpeckers coming along for the ride. Two small groups of Puku were nice to see, along with the occasional Red Lechwe out across the river. Back to the Lions, and the family were still in exactly the same position: fast asleep and tucked away almost-invisibly in the shade of a small bush, having napped the entire day away.

**Botswana and Victoria Falls
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CHOBE NATIONAL PARK



Top row, l to r: Banded Mongoose; Pied Kingfisher
Middle row, l to r: Hippopotamus; Woodland Kingfisher; Nile Crocodile
Bottom row, l to r: African Elephants playing in the Chobe River; Giraffe and African Elephants

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For some of us, the day still wasn't finished! After dinner, with some very good birthday cake and celebratory champagne, some of us took another night drive, and enjoyed jealousy-inducing views of a Honey Badger, as well as White-tailed Mongoose and a Genet, an impressive end to an impressive day!

Day Five: 25th March. Muchenje to Sango Lodge

Another early start had us out and in the park for dawn, back on the trail of yesterday's Lions. A cloud of dust over a rise turned into a panicked herd of Buffalo, and out on the floodplain, across the river, two female Lions could be seen, faces smeared with blood, as they ate a Buffalo calf they had obviously only just killed. We spent quite some time watching the pair of them, as well as a quartet of Southern Ground Hornbills who stalked past us, chatting away to each other with soft, low booming call.

After breakfast back at the lodge, we bid farewell to Joy and Robert and set off to Kasane airstrip for our next leg of the journey.

Our flight took us westwards, with superb views from the plane of the savannah landscape beneath us, mile after mile of hot dry bush interspersed with wetter and lush areas, the occasional water hole home to pods of Hippos and the occasional group of Elephants, before landing at Kwai River.

At the tiny airstrip we were met by Tony, our guide for the next few days, who soon had us back at Sango Lodge, where we were greeted by a traditional welcome song from the staff.

Over lunch, we learned that a pack of African Wild Dogs had been seen in the morning, backed up by some superb photos of them asleep... so there was only one possible destination for the afternoon game drive. Driving to the far side of the concession along the access track, we soon arrived at the designated area and began to search.

Spiralling vultures and a couple of Bateleur coming into land were an indication of a recent kill. But instead of dogs, what we found was a freshly dead Impala stashed amongst some dead branches, the work of a Leopard. Alas, no amount of scanning of the nearby trees and bushes revealed any spotty face, so a plan was made to return in a while to see if the Leopard had returned. And then, news came that the Dogs had been re-sighted, and were on the move. As, immediately after, were we.

Some swift driving later, and we found some panicking Impala... and suddenly, there they were. Six jaunty shapes moving through the long grass, the appropriately named Painted Dogs: five adults and one big eared pup, trotting along the path quite purposefully. A sudden burst of speed, and they were chasing the Impala, the pack splitting up, with an adult peeling off at each side to try and corral their prey. Unsuccessful this time, but an impressive thing to watch.

Regrouping, they ambled about the paths for a while, with us in tow, before their shoulders dropped and ears went back again. This time, they had caught sight of a Spotted Hyaena some way ahead, and all six of them were suddenly running hell for leather towards the now-fleeing larger predator. They all disappeared into the bushes, from where a lot of yelping could be heard.

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Sauntering back out, obviously quite pleased with themselves at having seen off a competitor... and there was a second Hyaena, this one clearly oblivious to the nearby Dogs. Without any head start, this second animal was soon surrounded and soundly beaten up by the pack, in a cloud of dust and yapping, snapping teeth. Even the pup was getting stuck in. By the time they'd finished, the Dogs wandered off again, back to the path, leaving a dazed and bruised Hyaena with a couple of bleeding wounds on his haunches to limp off in the opposite direction.

Our first game drive, and already the main target species for Sango Lodge safely under the belt, and on the memory cards! Back at the Impala, the Leopard still hadn't returned, and the sun was rapidly setting, so we headed back for home.

Despite our spotlight being on the blink, the night drive back to camp nevertheless revealed some good sightings: at a Hyaena den, two curious youngsters came out to try and steal our hubcaps; a big Verreaux's Eagle Owl was briefly seen sat on top of a bush, before flying off; Double-banded Sandgrouse could be heard flying in to drink from the river, with some very scenic Elephants nearby; and a big South African Porcupine shuffled across the road in front of us, only Tony's second sighting in a year.

Day Six: 26th March. Sango Lodge: Kwai Concession and Moremi Game Reserve

After an early breakfast, we headed back out to yesterday's Leopard kill. Overnight, the dead Impala had disappeared, perhaps stolen by Hyaenas, and despite plenty of searching we couldn't find any sign of the Leopard.

Instead we had to make do with 'the usual' Elephants, Giraffe and Hippos, and a good variety of birds: Martial, Wahlberg's and Brown Serpent Eagles, a shy Jacobin Cuckoo, Woodland Kingfisher and a Common Buttonquail that believed, apparently quite rightly, that staying still equalled being invisible.

In the afternoon we crossed the river and ventured into the Moremi Game Reserve. An impressive reserve, but at least in the areas we visited, with a distinct lack of game... the only game we found were a handful of Impala and the occasional Elephant. We did find a small group of Dwarf Mongooses to keep us entertained, along with a single Slender Mongoose nearby.

With just 19 and a half minutes left on our allotted time in the game reserve, we were enjoying our well-earned sundowners when we heard the distant roaring of a Lion... and then a reply from much, much closer at hand. Tony estimated we had two spare minutes before we needed to be headed back to the gate. Never have nine people downed gin and tonic and jumped back on a safari vehicle so quickly, and within 90 seconds we had amazingly found the big male Lion, a male with a half-mane. And 90 seconds later, he paced through the bushes... and was gone again.

We made it to the gate at 1 minute past closing time, and made our way home for dinner.

An after-dinner night drive brought us sightings of Spotted Hyaena, Side-striped Jackal, a big hunting Verreaux's Eagle Owl and a wonderful little Springhare, like a strange cross between a rabbit and a wallaby.

SANGO LODGE: KWAI RIVER AND MOREMI GAME RESERVE



Top row, l to r: African Wild Dog and Leopard
Middle row, l to r: Plains Zebra; Southern Reedbuck; travelling by mokoro
Bottom row, l to r: Red Lechwe; African Wild Dog

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Day Seven. 27th March. Kwai Concession

Exploring some new areas today, we visited the floodplain meadows, where a large herd of Red Lechwe were grazing, Collared Pratincoles were gathered and a family group of three Wattled Cranes stalked sedately through the grass.

Back at the hyaena den from the other night, the adolescent Spotted Hyaena was snoozing the day away, while our morning coffee stop at a water lily-covered wetland revealed Black Crake and a passing flock of Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters, along with the now-usual collection of Hippos and Crocodiles. Nearby, another new antelope came in the form of a pair of Southern Reedbuck, both sat low down in the reeds, doing their best to remain unseen.

Heading back to camp, Tony spotted some dog tracks, and before long we had found another pack of Wild Dogs, resting in the shade of some bushes right next to our path. We initially counted 8, making this definitely a different pack to our previous sighting, but we later discovered that there were in fact 16 animals here!

Several giga-bytes of photography later, and lunch beckoned...

Our afternoon excursion was a sedate trip by mokoro, the traditional local punts (although now made of more resilient fibreglass), which our boatmen expertly piloted along the channel, avoiding the local Hippos and discovering Painted Reed Frogs along the way.

Back on dry land, and we had an appointment to keep. 'Our' dog pack had moved on as the temperature fell, but we eventually caught up with them again as dusk fell, our near the airfield where the whole pack moved out from some dense bushes and into the long grass, where they did plenty of group socialising, strengthening the pack bonds before settling down for the night. As the light from Tony's mobile phone faded, with flashes of lightning lighting up the sky beyond, yet another happy group returned to camp...

Day Eight. 28th March. Moremi Game Reserve and Pom Pom Camp

After a night of rain, it was time for one last (damp) early morning drive from Sango Camp, and we opted to head back into Moremi: a good choice, as it turned out.

Initially rather game-free, we found a handful of Impala and Waterbuck in the drier areas. In an open area just by the river, we stopped to enjoy some of the typical specialities of the floodplains: a family party of Wattled Cranes, some noisy Long-toed Lapwings chasing back and forth, and a large herd of Red Lechwe spread out in front of us. As a few Black-winged Pratincoles dropped in by the lapwings, we noticed that some of the Lechwe seemed to be intently staring in one direction... and there across the other side of the river, suddenly a female Leopard appeared, walking slowly into the long grass, her ears and the white tip to her tail bobbing up above the grass.

She slowly made her way along the bank, disappearing from our view for chunks of time, but clearly still visible to some of the Lechwe, who kept her under surveillance for the whole time. She made one half-hearted lunge for some prey, but the element of surprise was not with her, and she eventually moved back into the long grass and away into the concession on the other bank. A pretty fantastic way to say goodbye to Sango!

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After an early lunch, it was time to bid our farewells and head back over to the airstrip for our flight across the Delta: a 30 minute flight piloted ably by, according to Kate, a 12 year old, heading low over the wonderful landscape, passing Elephants, Giraffe, Zebra, Impala and several groups of Red Lechwe along the way.

From the air it was clear that the famous 'wetlands' were mostly anything but, thanks to this year's drought.

And so to our final stop of the trip, the wonderfully named Pom Pom Camp, where we were greeted by the now-familiar ululating and singing from the staff, plied with refreshing grenadine and lemonade and shown to our rooms, overlooking a lagoon complete with Hippo, Bushbuck and Goliath Heron.

Now well used to the safari routine, our afternoon siesta was followed by our game drive: the landscape was noticeably different, with wide expanses of open, short grassland, areas of what-would-be marshland, islands of palm trees and noticeably fewer areas of mopane.

At a water hole, a variety of new water birds included Avocet, Little Stint, Ruff, Kittlitz's Plover and three very elegant Yellow-billed Storks, next to some magnificent (albeit incredibly ugly) Marabou.

Red Lechwe and Impala were both well represented, but other antelopes included our first group of Blue Wildebeest, with the alpha male busy stamping and headbutting the ground...; a couple of Southern Reedbuck slipped across the road, and we found a pair of the handsome Tsessebe, reputed to be Africa's fastest antelope.

Heading to a suitable sun-downer spot, our driver noticed some very fresh Wild Dog tracks on the path, a surprise for this part of the Delta, and just as the gin was flowing he spotted one of the dogs running across a nearby area of grassland! Alas, we couldn't track them down again...

Day Nine. 29th March. Pom Pom Camp

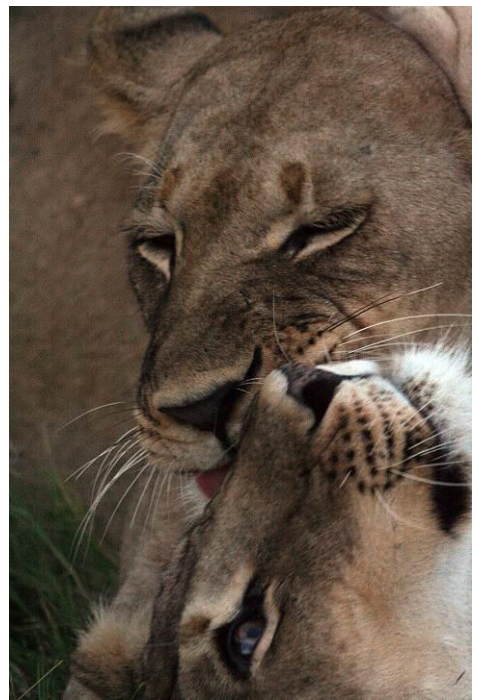
After a wake-up call accompanied by fresh coffee and Woodland Kingfishers, it was back on board the truck for another morning drive.

After the usual mix of Impala and Red Lechwe, with a scattering of Blue Wildebeest, Tsessebe and Southern Reedbuck, we soon bumped into a pair of female Lions resting on the path, posing nicely for 'queen of the jungle' profile shots. One was more restless than the other, and had her eyes on the nearby Impala, slinking away into the long grass before apparently giving it up as a bad lot and sinking back down again. We returned to them later in the morning, to find both females sleeping the day away deep within a bush.

Happy with our lion lot, it was time to send most of us off for another journey by mokoro into the (unfortunately much depleted, following the lack of rains) delta wetlands, while the landlubbers amongst us disappeared into the trees, where we found African Green Pigeon, Meyer's Parrot and finally a pair of wonderful Pel's Fishing Owls roosting high up in the trees. Both eventually gave us excellent views as they peered down at us... the last of our major wish list, happily ticked off.

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POM POM CAMP



Top row, l to r: Lions on the prowl
Middle row, l to r: Pel's Fishing Owl; Lions at rest
Bottom row, l to r: Blue Wildebeest and Tsessebe

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After siesta, we returned to the scene of previous glories, first of all ensuring that everyone got to enjoy the owls, both of whom were still present in their favoured roosting trees along with a bonus sighting of an African Barred Owlet, and then back to the two female Lions, who had moved out into the open again and put on quite a display with plenty of mutual grooming, although, as before, it seemed to be the neck-collared female who did most of the work, with the larger paler female laying back and enjoying it!.

Bats and nightjars flicked overhead as we enjoyed our last sundowners of the trip, with night falling over the Okavango Delta grasslands.

Day 10. 30th March. Pom Pom Camp, and on to Maun and beyond...

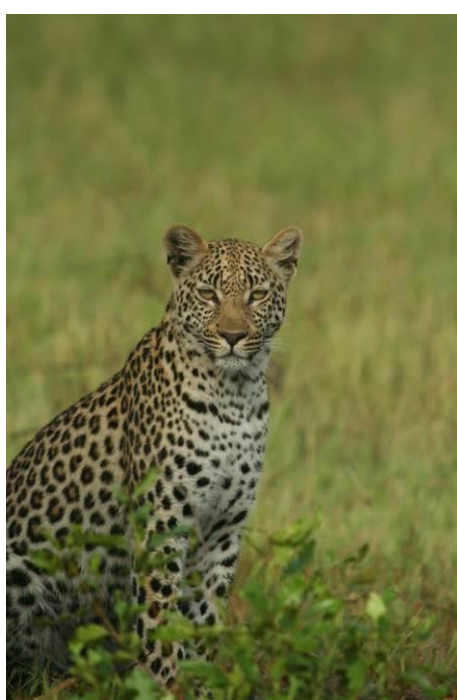
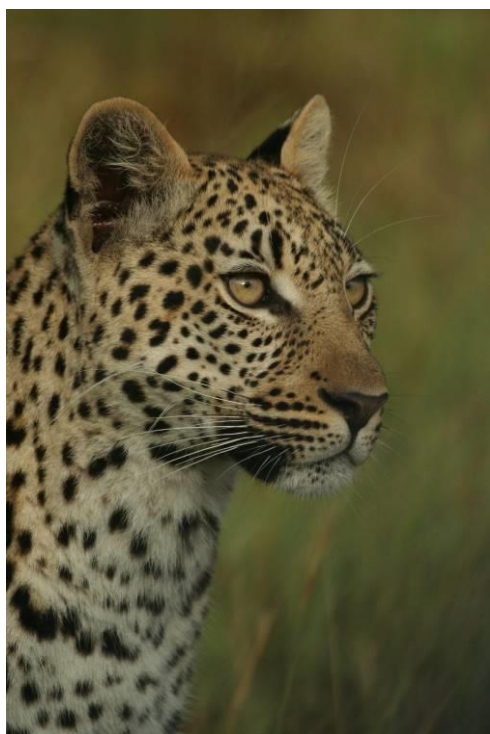
One last morning... and what a morning. Our final game drive of the trip first took us to a couple of Side-striped Jackals on the airstrip, then to a family of four Spotted Hyaenas, squabbling over some hippo skin. And from there, as we skirted a small stand of trees, suddenly the shout of 'Leopard'. And there, slung along a low branch of the nearest tree, was a beautiful young Leopard, all spots and charisma.

Quite the star of the hour, she proceeded to put on as fine a show as was possible, posing for photos from every possible angle, first up the tree, then down on the floor, then she actually sauntered right up to our vehicle and did a cat walk alongside us before heading back up another nearby tree to show off her other side.

A quite amazing finale to what, in retrospect, has been a quite amazing trip. Botswana is renowned for offering intimate encounters with amazing wildlife, and we have enjoyed more than our fair share, with some of the continent's most charismatic animals posing at almost too-close-to-focus range, from Livingstone's Rhinos to the Hippos and Elephants of Chobe, some amazing encounters with Sango's Wild Dogs and finally Pel's Fishing Owl, Lions and our third and by far the friendliest Leopard of the trip at Pom Pom. It's hard to think of any way the trip could have been bettered... even if I did miss that Honey Badger.

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POM POM CAMP



**Botswana and Victoria Falls
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	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st
MAMMALS														
Order Primates (Apes & Monkeys)														
	Vervet Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus pygerythrus</i>			X		X				X	X	X	
	Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X			X		
Order Megachiroptera (Fruitbats)														
	Peters's Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Epomophorus crypturus</i>				X								
Order Rodentia (Rodents)														
	Smith's Bush Squirrel (= Tree Squirrel)	<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Pouched Mouse	<i>Saccostomus campestris</i>							X		X			
	Springhare	<i>Pedetes capensis</i>							X					
	South African Porcupine	<i>Hystrix africaeaustralis</i>						X						
Order Carnivora (Carnivores)														
	Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>					X							
	Side-striped Jackal	<i>Canis adustus</i>				X			X		X		X	
	African Wild Dog	<i>Lycaon pictus</i>						X		X				
	Bat-eared Fox	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>				X								
	Ratel (Honey Badger)	<i>Mellivora capensis</i>					X							
	Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>					X	X						
	Dwarf Mongoose	<i>Helogale parvula</i>							X					
	Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes saguinea</i>				X			X					
	White-tailed Mongoose	<i>Ichneumia albicauda</i>					X							
	Common Genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>					X							
	Spotted Hyaena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>						X	X	X			X	
	Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>					X		X			X		
	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>					X				X		X	
Order Elephantia (Elephants)														
	African Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Order Perissodactyla (Odd-toed Ungulates)														
	Common Zebra	<i>Equus quagga antiquorum</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
	Southern White Rhinoceros	<i>Ceratotherium simum simum</i>			X									
Order Artiodactyla (Even-toed Ungulates)														
	Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibious</i>			X		X	X	X	X	X	X		
	Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis angolensis</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	African Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>			X	X	X	X			X			
	Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>					X				X			
	Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>			X	X	X		X	X	X			
	Red Lechwe	<i>Kobus leche</i>					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Puku	<i>Kobus vardonii</i>			X		X							
	Southern Reedbuck	<i>Redunca arundinarum</i>								X	X	X	X	
	Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Tsessebe	<i>Damaliscus lunatus lunatus</i>							X	X	X	X		
	Sable Antelope	<i>Hippotragus niger</i>				X								
	Blue Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>									X	X	X	
	Bush Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>			X									

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BIRDS														
Family Struthionidae (Ostrich)														
	Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>						X	X					
Family Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants)														
	Reed Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>		X	X	X	X	X		X	X			
Family Anhingidae (Darters)														
	African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>			X		X	X	X	X	X	X		
Family Pelecanidae (Pelicans)														
	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>										X		
Family Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)														
	Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>			X	X	X				X	X	X	
	Hadedda Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>			X	X						X		
	African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>									X	X	X	
	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>					X		X		X	X		
Family Ardeidae (Heron)														
	Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>				X	X	X			X	X		
	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			X	X	X	X			X	X	X	
	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X				
	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>				X	X			X	X			
	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X		X			
	Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>				X	X	X	X					
	Rufous-bellied Heron	<i>Ardeola rufiventris</i>								X				
	Green-backed Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>		X	X		X					X		
	Dwarf Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sturmii</i>								X				
Family Ciconiidae (Storks)														
	Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>									X		X	
	Abdim's Stork	<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>		X										
	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>										X		
	Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumeniferus</i>				X	X				X	X	X	
	African Openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>			X		X	X		X	X	X	X	
	Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>			X						X	X	X	
Family Scopidae (Hamerkop)														
	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Anatidae (Ducks, Geese and Swans)														
	White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>				X	X	X		X	X	X	X	
	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Comb Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>				X	X			X				
	Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>				X	X			X	X	X		
	Hottentot Teal	<i>Anas hottentota</i>								X				
	Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>										X		
	African Pygmy Goose	<i>Nettapus auritus</i>					X							
Family Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles and Vultures)														
	White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
	Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>		X		X			X					
	Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
	African Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>			X		X		X					
	African Hawk Eagle	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>					X		X	X				
	Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X			

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	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>									X			
	Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Aquila wahlbergi</i>		X	X				X	X				
	Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>							X		X			
	Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptiacus</i>					X	X						
	Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>			X									
	Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>								X				
	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>								X				
	Little Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter minullus</i>		X			X							
	African Goshawk	<i>Accipiter tachiro</i>					X							
	African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>		X					X	X				
	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>						X						
	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>								X		X	X	
Family Falconidae (Falcons)														
	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumannii</i>				X								
	Amur Falcon	<i>Falco amurensis</i>				X	X							
	Hobby	<i>Falco Subbuteo</i>					X							
	Dickinson's Kestrel	<i>Falco dickinsoni</i>									X	X		
Family Numidae (Guineafowl)														
	Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Family Phasianidae (Pheasants and Partridges)														
	Crested Francolin	<i>Dendroperdix sephaena</i>				X	X	X	X					
	Red-billed Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis adspersus</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Swainson's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Turnicidae (Buttonquails)														
	Common Buttonquail	<i>Turnix sylvaticus</i>							X	X	X			
Family Rallidae (Rails and Crakes)														
	Black Crake	<i>Amauornis flavirostra</i>								X	X			
	African Crake	<i>Crecopsis egregia</i>										X		
Family Gruidae (Cranes)														
	Wattled Crane	<i>Bugeranus carunculatus</i>								X	X		X	
	Grey Crowned Crane							X						
Family Otidae (Bustards)														
	Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>					X	X						
	Red-crested Korhaan	<i>Lophotis ruficrista</i>						X						
	Black-bellied Bustard	<i>Lissotis melanogaster</i>									X			
Family Jacanidae (Jacanas)														
	African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)														
	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>			X			X	X	X	X	X		
	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>									X			
Family Burhinidae (Thick-knees)														
	Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>			X	X	X			X	X		X	
Family Charadriidae (Plovers)														
	Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	White-crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus albiceps</i>		X	X	X	X							
	Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>								X		X	X	
	Long-toed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus crassirostris</i>					X			X	X			
	Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>									X		X	
	Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>			X						X	X	X	
Family Glareolidae (Pratincoles)														
	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>							X	X		X	X	
	Black-winged Pratincole	<i>Glareola nordmanni</i>					X				X			

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Family Scolopacidae (Sandpipers)														
	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>					X				X			
	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>									X		X	
	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>											X	
	Marsh Sandpiper					X								
	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>			X	X	X	X		X	X	X		
	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		X	X	X	X	X		X	X			
Family Laridae (Gulls)														
	Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>		X										
Family Sternidae (Terns)														
	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>			X		X							
	White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>					X							
Family Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)														
	African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>										X	X	
	Cape Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
	Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>		X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>			X	X	X		X	X	X	X		
	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oenanthe capensis</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Pteroclididae (Sandgrouse)														
	Double-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles bicinctus</i>						X	X		X			
	Burchell's Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles burchelli</i>							X					
Family Psittacidae (Parrots)														
	Meyer's Parrot	<i>Poicephalus meyeri</i>				X			X	X	X	X	X	
	Grey-headed Parrot	<i>Poicephalus fuscicollis</i>				X								
Family Musophagidae (Turacos)														
	Grey Go-away-bird	<i>Corythaixoides concolor</i>			X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Cuculidae (Cuckoos)														
	Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>			X		X		X	X	X	X	X	
	White-browed Coucal					X		X				X	X	
Family Strigidae (Owls)														
	African Barred Owllet	<i>Glaucidium capense</i>									X	X		
	Verreaux's Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>						X	X					
	Pel's Fishing Owl	<i>Scotopelia peli</i>										X		
Family Caprimulgidae (Nightjars)														
	Mozambique Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus fossii</i>				X		X	X		X	X		
Family Apodidae (Swifts)														
	African Black Swift	<i>Apus barbatus</i>			X									
	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>			X									
	African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>		X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	
Family Coliidae (Mousebirds)														
	Red-faced Mousebird	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>			X	X								
Family Alcedinidae (River Kingfishers)														
	Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo cristata</i>					X							
	Half-collared Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo semitorquata</i>		X										
Family Cerylidae (Water Kingfishers)														
	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maximus</i>		X										
Family Halcyonidae (Tree Kingfishers)														
	Brown-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>			X									
	Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>									X	X	X	
	Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>					X		X	X				

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Family Meropidae (Bee-eaters)														
	White-fronted Bee-eater	<i>Merops bullockoides</i>		X	X	X	X							
	Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>					X	X	X	X	X	X		
	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>				X	X	X			X	X		
	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X			
	Southern Carmine Bee-eater	<i>Merops nubicoides</i>				X	X	X						
	Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>								X		X		
Family Coraciidae (Rollers)														
	Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	European Roller	<i>Coracias coracias</i>						X						
Family Bucorvidae (Ground-hornbills)														
	Southern Ground-hornbill	<i>Bucorvus leadbeateri</i>						X	X	X	X			
Family Bucerotidae (Hornbills)														
	Trumpeter Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes bucinator</i>		X										
	Southern Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>						X		X	X	X		
	African Grey Hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Pheniculidae (Wood-hoopoes)														
	Green Wood-hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>		X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	
	Common Sicklebill	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>			X									
Family Lybiidae (African Barbets)														
	Black-collared Barbet	<i>Lybius torquatus</i>				X						X		
	Crested Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>										X	X	
Family Indicatoridae (Honeyguides)														
	Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>									X			
Family Picidae (Woodpeckers)														
	Bearded Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos namaquus</i>							X					
	Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>		X				X		X				
Family Alaudidae (Larks)														
	Chestnut-backed Sparrow-lark	<i>Eremopterix leucotis</i>			X	X							X	
Family Hirundinidae (Swallows and Martins)														
	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X			X	
	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>							X					
	Grey-rumped Swallow	<i>Pseudhirundo griseopyga</i>			X									
	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>			X	X		X			X		X	
	Banded Martin	<i>Riparia cincta</i>					X							
	Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>			X									
Family Dicruridae (Drongos)														
	Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Campephagidae (Cuckoo-shrikes)														
	Black Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Campephaga flava</i>										X		
Family Oriolidae (Orioles)														
	African Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus auratus</i>			X		X		X	X		X	X	
Family Malaconotidae (Bushshrikes)														
	Tropical Boubou	<i>Laniarius aethiopicus</i>			X	X	X							
	Swamp Boubou	<i>Laniarius bicolor</i>										X		
	Orange-breasted Bush-shrike	<i>Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus</i>							X	X				
	Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>						X				X	X	
	Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>		X	X		X	X						
Family Prionopidae (Helmetsrikes)														
	White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>					X							
	Retz's Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>			X									

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Family Platysteiridae (Batises)														
	Chin-spot Batis	<i>Batis molitor</i>			X						X	X		
Family Corvidae (Crows)														
	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>		X	X	X								
Family Paridae (Tits)														
	Southern Black Tit	<i>Parus niger</i>		X		X					X	X	X	
Family Pycnonotidae (Bulbuls)														
	Dark-capped Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus tricolor</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
	Yellow-bellied Greenbul	<i>Chlorocichla flaviventris</i>			X		X							
Family Turdidae (Thrushes & Chats)														
	Collared Palm-thrush	<i>Cichladusa arquata</i>			X									
	African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>					X							
	White-browed Scrub-robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>				X		X						
Family Macrosphenidae (African Warblers)														
	Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta whytii</i>				X							X	
Family Cisticolidae (Cisticolas and Prinias)														
	Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>		X		X		X		X	X	X	X	
	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>					H				X		X	
	Chirping Cisticola	<i>Cisticola pipiens</i>									X	X		
	Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>					H	X	X	X	X			
	Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flava</i>									X			
	Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>					X	X						
Family Phylloscopidae (Leaf Warblers)														
	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>					X							
Family Buphagidae (Oxpeckers)														
	Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>					X			X				
Family Muscicapidae (Flycatchers)														
	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		X	X		X	X	X	X			X	
Family Timaliidae (Babblers and White-eyes)														
	Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>			X			X				X	X	
	Hartlaub's Babbler	<i>Turdoides hartlaubii</i>							X	X	X	X		
Family Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)														
	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flavissima</i>					X					X		
	African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X					
	African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>					X	X			X	X	X	
Family Laniidae (Shrikes)														
	Magpie Shrike	<i>Corvinella melanoleuca</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurii</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Lesser Grey Shrike						X	X	X	X	X		X	
Family Sturnidae (Starlings)														
	Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>		X										
	Cape Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>				X	X	X						
	Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>										X		
	Burchell's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis australis</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
	Meves's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis mevesii</i>			X			X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Nectarinidae (Sunbirds)														
	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>		X	X									
Family Ploceidae (Weavers)														
	White-browed Sparrow-weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>			X	X								
	Red-billed Buffalo-weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>			X						X			
	Southern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>					X							
	Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>			X	X	X	X						

**Botswana and Victoria Falls
species list and trip report, 20th to 31st March 2015**

	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	31 st
	Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>			X									
Family Estrildidae (Waxbills)														
	Blue Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X		X			
	Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>										X		
	Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>			X			X		X				
	Jameson's Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rhodopareia</i>		X										
	Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>			X									
Family Passeridae (Sparrows)														
	Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			X									
Family Viduidae (Whydahs and Indigobirds)														
	Shaft-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua regia</i>		X	X	X	X		X					
	Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>		X										
	Long-tailed Paradise Whydah	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>		X	X	X	X		X					

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS				
	Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodilus niloticus</i>	Seen on the Zambezi and Chobe river cruises and in the wetlands around Sango and Pom Pom	
	Wahlberg's Striped Skink	<i>Trachylepis wahlbergii</i>	The small lizard on walls at all the lodges	
	Chobe Dwarf Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus chobiensis</i>	The gecko on the wall before our Zambezi river trip	
	Water Monitor	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>	Several on the banks of the Chobe river	
	Olive Grass Snake	<i>Psammophis mossambicus</i>	One dead on the road at Pom Pom	
	Angolan (=Painted) Reed Frog	<i>Hyperolius parallelus</i>	The cream-coloured little frog on the reed stems, from the mokoros, Sango.	
	Long Reed Frog	<i>Hyperolius nasutus</i>	The tiny pale frog that hitched a ride on our cool box at Pom Pom, 29 th .	
	Southern Foam-nest Frog	<i>Chiromantis xerampelina</i>	The frog on the light above Philip's door, Bushbuck River House	
	Garman's Toad	<i>Amietophrynus garmani</i>	The toad by the lounge at Bushbuck River House, just before we left	
	Leopard Tortoise	<i>Stigmochelys pardalis</i>	Singles by the trackside in Chobe and near Sango.	
	Speke's Hinged Tortoise	<i>Kinixys spekii</i>	One picked up at Bushbuck River House on our last morning	