

WILDLIFE TRAVEL

Kalahari 2025



Kalahari 2025: trip report and species lists

#	DATE	LOCATIONS AND NOTES
1	10 th August	Depart UK.
2	11 th August	Arrive Johannesburg, transfer to Bloemfontein, travel to Karoo Gariep Nature Reserve.
3	12 th August	Karoo Gariep Nature Reserve.
4	13 th August	Karoo Gariep Nature Reserve.
5	14 th August	Transfer to Marrick Safari with stop in Orania.
6	15 th August	Marrick Safari.
7	16 th August	Transfer to Augrabies Falls National Park.
8	17 th August	Augrabies Falls National Park.
9	18 th August	Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.
10	19 th August	Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.
11	20 th August	Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.
12	21 st August	Transfer to Johannesburg, Elandsvlei Wetland, depart Johannesburg.

Leaders

Laurie Jackson Sussex

Local Guide

Tertius Gous South Africa
Selwyn Rautenbuch South Africa

Front: Klipspringer and Pale-winged Starling (Alison Playle).

A gallery of photos from the trip is on our Flickr pages.

Day One: 10th August. Depart UK.

We departed London Heathrow this evening southward-bound for Johannesburg, South Africa's largest city, in the Highveld province of Gauteng.

Day Two: 11th August. Arrive Johannesburg, transfer to Bloemfontein, travel to Karoo Gariep Nature Reserve.

We landed in a bright and warm Johannesburg morning, and after dealing with the entry formalities located our internal flight for a short hop to Bloemfontein in central South Africa, the capital of the Free State province.

Emerging again into the sunshine, this time in the company of our Birding Africa guide Tertius, we set out south-west, spotting our first Southern Crag Martins (Large Rock Martins) scything the sky, with Black-winged Kites scattered on roadside bushes and posts. Our journey introduced us to some of what would become our most familiar species during our time in South Africa: large Pied Crows, adept at convincing us they could just be a raptor, striking Southern Fiscals, scanning for a meal, and Southern Anteater-chats dropping to the ground from their fencepost perches with a white flash of their wings. The nests of Southern Masked-Weavers adorned shrubs and trees and we spotted our first herds of Springbok in the roadside vegetation.

The habitat was dominated by Nama Karoo, a dry and open grassy shrubland that forms the transition between the southern coast's heathlands and the Kalahari Dry Thorn Savanna we would enter later in our trip. The ground was dotted with termite mounds and there were moments of excitement as the occasional Meerkat was seen keeping watch as we passed, along with troops of Vervet Monkeys and Chacma Baboons.

The first of a confusion of lark species was recorded here: the Red-capped Lark with its namesake rufous cap, along with strutting White-quilled Bustard (Northern Black Korhaan), which would be an almost-constant companion.

A stop for a leg stretch gave us our first proper look at a Greater Kestrel along with a pair of Red-winged Starlings and a lone Wattled Starling picking up scraps with the sparrows.

Finally with the light fading fast, we found ourselves turning into the long drive to Karoo Gariep Nature Reserve. The Reserve was created by our host PC Ferreira, who transformed the site more than two decades ago from conventional cattle- and sheep-farming to a mixed sustainable farming, conservation and ecotourism business.

A pair of White-necked Ravens flew by, their short tails looking unbalanced against their heavy bills, and we spotted our first pair of Steenbok, the hair in their large ears creating a leaf-like pattern. Almost at the lodge, we were stopped again by a pair of statuesque Blue Cranes. It seemed the mate selection period had already begun as the pair began to 'dance' and call to one another in the half-light.

Reaching the lodge, there was time to check into our rooms and enjoy our first dinner together including a starter of 'venison', which we discovered loosely referred to the meat of any 'game' species. It was then time to wrap up warmly as the temperature plummeted, ready to board PC's

safari vehicle for our first nighttime outing in search of the 'Shy Five': Aardvark, Aardwolf, Cape Porcupine, Bat-eared Fox and, depending who you ask, Pangolin, Black-footed Cat or Meerkat.

Searching the inky shrubland with spotlights, we were soon watching agile Scrub Hares and endearing Springhares, colonial species that kangarooed into the night, their long black-tipped tails in counterbalance. A Spotted Eagle Owl (the smallest of the eagle owls), paused on a post, and we also found our first Double-banded Courser and a group of Blue Bustard.

Our lights picked out several Cape Porcupines, whose strategy was to freeze, perhaps in the hope we would overlook them as a spiny rock or termite mound, along with the magnificent sight of an Aardvark following its snout through the night as it searched the earth, seemingly oblivious to our presence. With their powerful claws and legs, Aardvarks create opportunities for other species as they dig burrows and break into termite mounds and ant nests. The outing also brought us our first Cape Fox, before we turned back for home in search of some warmth.

Day Three: 12th August. Karoo Gariep Nature Reserve.

Our morning started early, with time for a coffee and a rusk before we set back out into the bush to familiarise ourselves with the reserve's daytime residents. A bushy-tailed pair of Yellow Mongoose paused between shrubs before dashing on, just ahead of a great sighting of a small group of Meerkats sunning themselves warily in the first morning rays.

Around us the Blue Cranes were waking up, with further displays of bugling and jumping in small groups, and Eastern Clapper Larks were performing their own whistling, clapping, parachuting shows from rocks. We spotted Sickle-winged Chats and Red-capped Larks among the shrubs, as flocks of Cape Sparrows and Southern Red Bishops pulsed along the fence lines, and a Ludwig's Bustard flew by.

We stopped in a small dry pan for coffee (with optional Amarula) and muffins, with a White-throated Canary singing nearby. Heading back for brunch, one of the reserve's waterbodies gave us Blacksmith Lapwing and Kittlitz's Plover, Black-winged Stilt, Cape Teal and Capped Wheatear.

After some downtime we set off for a different part of the reserve to explore some of the wetland areas, spotting Grey-backed Cisticola, a nest-building Rufous-eared Warbler, Yellow-bellied Eremomela and Karoo Scrub Robin along the way. A group of five Blue Bustard were resplendent in the sunlight, and a pair of Karoo Bustard (Korhaan) were in full frog-croaking display at each other. Our luck was in as we found a pair of tiny Southern (Cape) Penduline Tits flitting between a group of shrubs.

We passed the reserve's Cape Buffalo herd, a large bull giving us a stern look from across the water, before pulling up alongside a wetland area with an African Rail calling enthusiastically from deep cover. An African Fish-Eagle powered overhead, and Levillant's Cisticola, Namaqua Warbler and African Stonechat were among the many small birds flitting around, but the stars of the stop were the handful of African Snipe displaying in circles around us, culminating in a dive into the vegetation, as they 'drummed' their outer tail feathers.

Our final stop, just in time for our sundowners was alongside the Seekoei River, where a Rock Hyrax (Dassie) watched our arrival, and Cape Clawless Otter prints in the soft mud hinted at another vibrant nocturnal scene. The reserve's solitary remaining Hippo was close but elusive.

After dinner we were wrapped up warm again and back out to explore another area of the reserve under cover of night, visiting the areas where PC had recently encountered some of the more exciting 'teeth and claws' including Caracal and Black-footed Cat.

In the end, it wasn't our night for felines, but we enjoyed close encounters with half a dozen Cape Porcupines, including a couple of youngsters, a Cape Hare leaping over the beam of our headlights, and the endearing Aardwolf, a small, loping hyena, which specialises in eating insects, especially termites. Our night also included an amazing four species of bustard: Karoo, Ludwig's, Blue and White-quilled, before it was time to get back to base for a well-deserved rest.

Day Four: 13th August. Karoo Gariep Nature Reserve.

Our day again started with an early coffee, before we boarded the safari truck for a short hop west along the highway to an area of montane grassland on a rock-strewn kopje. The smell of thyme filled the air and the displaying Eastern Clapper Larks were again out in force.

As we climbed, groups of Rock Hyrax were busy with their morning, leaping effortlessly over the boulder field and in the distance a small party of Mountain Reedbuck watched our ascent. Amongst the spindly trees here we found a vocal pair of Fairy Flycatchers, which although mobile did permit us some good views of their pink-flushed bellies and bandit masks.

Passing a group of Eland, we reached the plateau and took a walk through the grassland where Two-leaved Cape Tulip *Moraea miniata* and Pale Tulip *Moraea pallida* splashed colour. Within no time at all, PC had spotted an Eastern Rock Sengi sunbathing among the large flat rocks. After an extended photoshoot, we climbed higher still, and Tertius' sharp ear picked out Layard's Warbler, more Fairy Flycatchers, and Yellow-tufted (African Rock) Pipit, the latter remaining stubbornly out of sight.

Retracing our steps a basking Meadow White butterfly contrasted nicely with the rich red earth and the large, oblong leaves of candelabra lilies *Brunsvigia* sp. were strewn around. PC showed us the remains of hunter-gatherers' tools that he picked out from among the dolerite boulders, as we enjoyed a welcome coffee in the bush.

Making our return journey, we passed a basking Karoo Girdled Lizard and another gathering of Blue Cranes, before deciding to check one more boulder-strewn kopje. Our luck was in here, a Mountain Chat was flitting around, and with a little persistence we also found a pair of Yellow-tufted Pipits, firstly high up the slope, but eventually coming lower so we could have a better look.

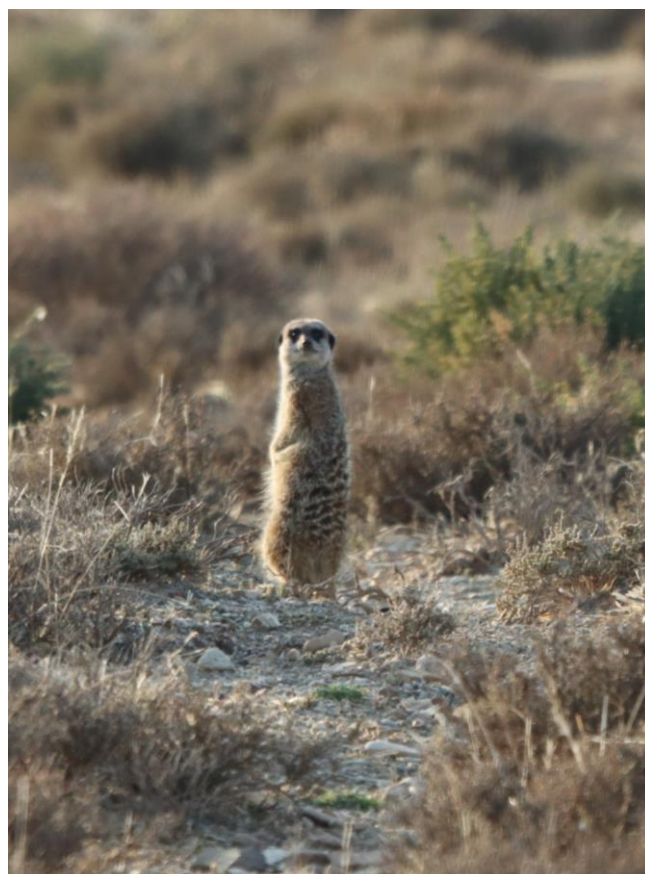
After a swift escape from some soft mud, we were back on the highway passing the familiar Pied Crows and Yellow Mongoose, with White-necked Ravens, Desert Cisticola and Yellow-bellied Eremomela along the track as we headed back for a welcome brunch, which had most definitely transitioned into lunch.

Kalahari 2025: trip report and species lists

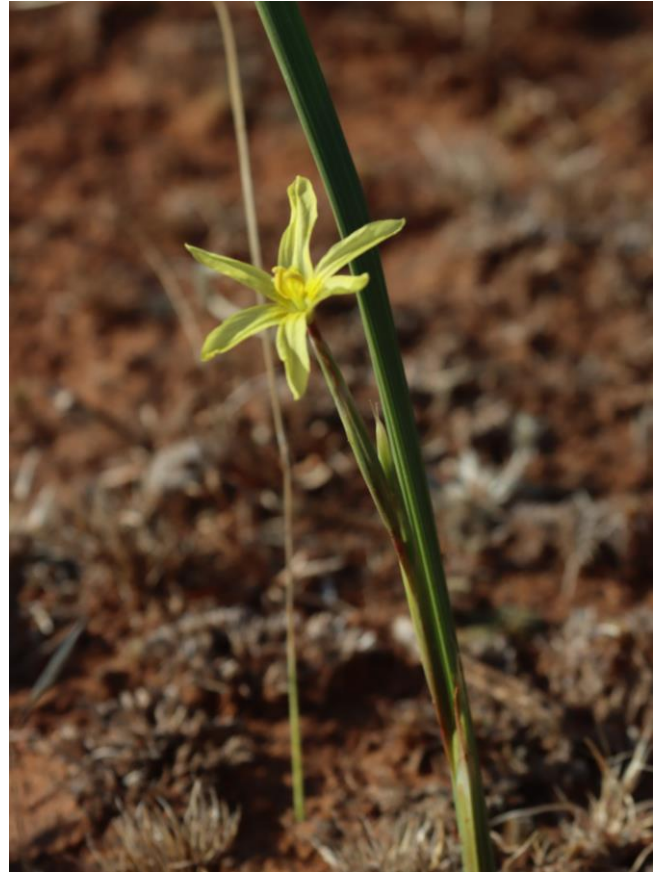
There was time for a look around the lodge this afternoon, and the large lake formed by a dam on the river had plentiful water following good rains the previous summer. The previous day's enormous gathering of Red-knobbed Coots had dispersed to the far side of the lake, joined there by African Darters drying their wings, African Sacred Ibis and a snoozing African Spoonbill. In the trees around the buildings were plentiful Southern Masked-Weavers and chattering African Pied Starlings, and Southern Grey-headed Sparrows could be picked out amongst the Cape Sparrows. A colourful Bokmakierie joined us briefly by the water, and a Southern Fiscal was perch-hunting from a tree.

Our dinner this evening was a typical South African brai by the water with local meat from the reserve and delicious *roosterkoek* (fresh bread) cooked over the fire. Around us the African Pipits, Little Stints and Kittlitz's Plovers were finishing their foraging for the day, ahead of another glorious sunset.

There was time for one last night drive through Karoo Gariep, with the Milky Way smeared overhead in a sky crammed full of stars. Cape Porcupines were again well-represented and another Aardwolf slunk away into the night. Back at base a Fiscal Flycatcher, which bears a resemblance to its namesake shrike, was illuminated in a tree at the main entrance, and the soft 'whoops' of Spotted Eagle Owls floated through the night.



Above: Aardvark; Meerkat.



Top to bottom: Two-leaved Cape Tulip *Moraea miniata*; Pale Tulip *Moraea pallida*; African Meadow White; Fine Felicia *Felicia filifolia*.



Top to bottom: Blue Crane; Aardwolf.

Day Five: 14th August. Transfer to Marrick Safari with stop in Orania.

It was time to continue our journey this morning, but PC had one last mammal for us, alerting us to a favourite basking spot for Four-striped Field Mouse near the main lodge. Breakfast eaten and bags loaded, there was time to thank the team at Karoo Gariep before we headed north.

We stopped for lunch alongside the Orange River, which flows from Lesotho west through South Africa and Namibia to the Atlantic Ocean, in the town of Orania. A Greater Flamingo flew up the river while we were waiting, and there were plenty of Black-fronted (African Red-eyed) Bulbuls, Yellow Canaries and Orange River White-eyes around the restaurant to keep us entertained. After lunch we took a walk down to the river, spotting Namaqua Warbler, a red-capped Cardinal Woodpecker and an ever-so-slightly drab Black-throated Canary, before it was time to get back on the road.

Our drive took us to Marrick Private Game Reserve in the heart of the Northern Cape province, bringing us into the Kalahari Basin. After checking into our rooms, we had an early dinner ahead of a night drive at this new site.

The evening's encounters included plenty of familiar faces: Springhares bringing a smile as ever, and an amazing seven or eight Aardwolf, along with a duet of hissing Barn Owls and a roosting Gabar Goshawk, with an impressive storm playing out nearby.

Day Six: 15th August. Marrick Safari.

As was now our custom, our day started with an early coffee, before we headed out on to the reserve, the buildings not out of sight before we spotted an African Hoopoe and a Common Scimitarbill in the trees.

Megafauna were very much in evidence and we racked up Eland, Impala, Waterbuck, Roan, Sable, Common Duiker and Black Wildebeest amongst others of the, predominantly re/introduced bovids. We stopped at a waterhole to stretch ourselves, with good views here of Pririt Batis, Ashy Tit, Chestnut-vented Warbler and Paradise-whydah.

After breakfast back at the lodge we took a local walk around the grounds, finding a pair of striking Crimson-breasted Gonoleks, Golden-tailed Woodpecker and a chunky Crested Barbet, whilst the crowd-pleasing Cape Robin-Chat continued to evade cameras.

Out on the reserve we admired the colours and song of a Fawn-coloured Lark before, eventually, getting a good look at a tail-flicking Kalahari Scrub Robin. A group of Little Swifts spiralling overhead had absorbed a couple of larger African Palm Swifts and Bradfield's Swifts in their midst.

Back out on the vehicles we had a short drive before dinner to visit an area of the reserve with a set of boulder-covered hills, passing a herd of Impala enroute. In the glow of the lowering sun we climbed, occasionally catching movement from the corners of eyes, before we finally found what we were looking for: an Eastern Rock Sengi, sunning itself before retiring, its fur gently blowing in the breeze, its proboscis occasionally twitching.

Kalahari 2025: trip report and species lists

After dinner we set out for a night drive, again finding several Aardwolf prowling the night, a quartet of Bat-eared Foxes and an African Wild Cat, which flushed a vocal White-quilled Bustard as it moved away, and a single Blue Crane flew calling from a waterhole as we arrived.



Top to bottom: Black-fronted Bulbul; Cape Robin-chat; Roan.



Top to bottom: Barn Owl; Crimson-breasted Gonolek; Eastern Rock Sengi.

Day Seven: 16th August. Transfer to Augrabies Falls National Park.

Today was a travel day, taking us almost due west to Augrabies Falls National Park, covering an area of 82,000 ha alongside the Orange River, which takes a 60m tumble close to where our next accommodation was situated.

Our travels took us over the Vaal River, the largest tributary of the Orange River, through an increasingly arid landscape dotted with the cheerful red-flowered Sand Aloe *Aloe hereroensis*.

We stopped for lunch at The Hedgehog close to Upington, where there was plenty to find as we waited for our food, including Crested Barbet, a vocal Dusky Sunbird and a pair of Common Waxbills, and the striking purple flowers of Thorn Karoo violet *Aptosimum spinescens*.

As we continued east the towering nests of Sociable Weavers became more frequent, partially engulfing telegraph poles. We spotted both Yellow Mongoose and Slender Mongoose along the roadside, the latter a darker brown with a black-tipped tail, compared to the vibrant coat and white-tip of the Yellow.

After passing vineyards, pecan plantations and crops along the Orange River, rocky outcrops began springing up and we spotted our first Quiver Trees *Aloidendron dichotomum*: these beautiful, tall succulents have been used traditionally to form the quivers for hunters' arrows.

We were then soon arriving at Augrabies Falls National Park, where we found a double-act of Orange River White-eyes and Black-fronted Bulbuls gathering to pick the squashed insects from the grills and numberplates of newly-arrived vehicles.

After dinner there was an opportunity to see the Falls illuminated under another spectacular South African sky.

Day Eight: 17th August. Augrabies Falls National Park.

There was a cloud of uncertainty this morning as we set off for our exploration of the National Park, having been advised the previous evening that the 'rivers' were full after recent rains. Tertius valiantly waded into the waters to check the crossing, which thankfully was safely manageable for our vehicle.

In these arid lands, Lark-like Buntings were abundant, along with groups of Pale-winged Starlings and tiny Namaqua Doves, and an early-arriving Booted Eagle soared overhead. On a rocky outcrop we spotted a trio of Klipspringer picking their way confidently over the unforgiving terrain. They paused for some time, allowing a Pale-winged Starling to solicit its parasite-removal services, before all went their separate ways.

A Mountain Chat and Karoo Long-billed Lark were added to the list before we got as far as we could without four-wheel drive. The end of our road, gave us the chance to explore on foot, finding industrious Southern Harvester Termites, tiny Plain Sand Lizards and formidable-looking Armoured Bush-crickets. Rock Hyrax watched us coolly from rock pillars, and on one we also spotted Southern Rock Agama, before we found a coppery Western Rock Skink basking nearby. There were

Kalahari 2025: trip report and species lists

interesting plants here too, including the bristly White Nectarcup *Codon royenii* and the apparently out-of-favour, Horrid African Thistle *Berkheya spinosissima*.

Retracing our steps, we found a colourful male Southern Rock Agama leaping between rocks, a pair of Karoo Long-billed Larks calling to one another as they foraged on the ground, a troop of Chacma Baboons, and a Nile Water Monitor nonchalantly resting at the 'river'.

After lunch, we took a walk towards the falls themselves. Pale-winged Starlings called to each other across the rock pavements, and after spotting a pair of the endemic Augrabies Flat Lizards during our lunch, we found the area around the falls to be 'infested', giving us plenty of opportunity to photograph the colourful males, and their more-muted companions.

In a rock crevice we came across the adorable sight of a dozen or so Rock Hyrax babies (a huddle!), which for many of us stole the show that afternoon. From various viewpoints over the water we spotted a range of birds including both Grey Heron and Black-headed Heron, African Pied Wagtail, Alpine Swift and a passing Black Stork.

Making our way back to our rooms in the building heat, the scrubby areas gave us Black-chested Prinias, Common Waxbills, yet more Orange River White-eyes, and a very showy Pied Barbet.



Above: Thorn Karooviolet *Aptosimum spinescens*; Quiver Tree *Aloidendron dichotomum*.



Top to bottom: checking the water levels; White Nectarcup *Codon royenii*; Western Rock Skink.



Top to bottom: Karoo Long-billed Larks; a Hyrax huddle.

Day Nine: 18th August. Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

We were back to our travels today, as we continued for our final location of the holiday, just outside Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. The park was officially opened in 2002 and was the first transfrontier conservation area in Africa, jointly managed by South Africa and Botswana.

Passing back through Upington, where clouds of trilling Little Swifts swirled over the streets, we were soon turning north, stopping along the way for a pizza amid the first sweeping dunes of Kalahari red. The 'lark contingent' here included Stark's Lark, accompanying groups of Grey-backed Sparrow-Larks, and Citron Melons *Citrullus amarus* were strewn over the verges.

Arriving at our lodge in the afternoon, we were greeted by an Emu (!), before we visited our rooms. There was time before dinner for our first visit to familiarise ourselves with the nearby Transfrontier Park, taking the road from our gate at Twee Rivieren towards Nossob. The Kalahari dry thorn savanna here, referred to as the Kalahari Desert is a semi-arid savanna characterised by its dry climate and thorny shrubs and trees.

South African Ground Squirrels were characterful as ever as they foraged in the open, seemingly oblivious to any potential for attack. Springbok too were plentiful with small bachelor herds grazing close to the road. Back near the entrance Cape Starling, Black-fronted Bulbul and Cape Sparrow were jostling for feeding rights on the aloe flowers, a Yellow Mongoose prowled the car park, and Southern Crag Martins zoomed around the welcome building.

After dinner, we joined one of the park's night drives. By now we were familiar with many of the nocturnal residents, however a snoozing Black-backed Jackal, South African Small-spotted Genet, which flushed a Spotted Eagle Owl as it retreated, and a roost of three Southern White-faced Owls were welcome additions to our sightings, with a touch of drama added with a half-hearted attempt by a Spotted Eagle Owl to infiltrate a Sociable Weaver nest. We saw both Cape Fox and plentiful Bat-eared Foxes, which gave amazing bursts of speed when needed.

Day Ten 19th August. Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

Our first full day in the park took us back to the Nossob road, as we weaved in and out of Botswana. Black-winged Kites lined the tree tops, and the small nests of Scaly Weaver joined the large, untidy nests of White-browed Sparrow-Weaver amongst the trees.

One Black-backed Jackal had become two, with one napping in the morning sun whilst its partner was digging furiously into the earth, pausing occasionally for a good scratch and sniff. Fork-tailed Drongos waited expectantly, and small groups of Red-headed Finches were hopping in trees.

Groups of Blue Wildebeest, Springbok and Gemsbok had calves in their midst, and we found nests of both Martial Eagle and Tawny Eagle, with sizeable chicks inside. At one point we found ourselves in the middle of a heated rivalry between Gemsbok as one male pursued another in a sweeping circle around our vehicles, clouds of dust rising in their wake.

Checking the waterholes eventually paid off as we found a group of nervy Burchell's Sandgrouse coming to drink. A herd of Blue Wildebeest nearby were busy relaxing in the growing heat. Stalking through the long grass, was an African Wild Cat, which for a moment distracted us from two

Secretarybirds striding through the grass near the road, giving us wonderful views of these quirky birds of prey.

We also got a close look at the enormous Kori Bustard, and the even-bigger Common Ostrich, and the day was turning into a good one for raptors, as a Black-chested Snake-Eagle soared overhead shortly before we spotted a juvenile Jackal Buzzard perched in a tree and a Lanner Falcon flying away from its perch.

After a break at Melkvlei picnic site, we continued over the dunes for lunch at the Museum picnic site, where a Cape Crow was diligently gathering up scraps left by previous visitors and burying them in the stony ground. A Familiar Chat perched on the small museum and a Kalahari Tree Skink was loitering in a nearby well.

Starting our return journey we passed a Southern Giraffe negotiating itself into a suitable drinking position, Blue Wildebeest on the move, fidgety baby South African Ground Squirrels, a Black-shouldered Kite dismantling a Four-striped Field-mouse, and a Gabar Goshawk dismantling a smaller bird, before it was swiped by the larger female, waiting nearby.

After dinner it was time for our final night drive of the holiday, and among sightings of Bat-eared Foxes, Spotted Eagle Owls, Spotted Thick-knee and Springhares, we got to see two fantastic sets of behaviour. A South African Small-spotted Genet came bounding through the grassland and deftly climbed a tree close by, no doubt looking for something to eat, whilst shortly after we witnessed a not-entirely-friendly interaction; all arched backs and flattened ears; between two African Wild Cats, before one skulked off into the night.

Day Eleven 20th August. Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

For our last full day in South Africa we were back to Kgalagadi early to drive in the direction of Mata-Mata. The day was of course filled with plentiful sightings: a lively squabble between three Marico Shrikes and a locust fighting a losing battle with a Fiscal Shrike were among the 'mini-dramas'.

We had a brief sighting of Purple Roller, Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters were out in force today, and we had close views of Red Hartebeest, with a lone Greater Kudu wandering a ridge. A Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill was foraging on the ground, as were several Four-striped Field-mice, which we paused to watch.

We stopped for lunch at the Kamqua picnic site, where a marauding gang of (carnivorous) Sociable Weavers were hunting down any leftovers they could, alongside the Cape Starlings and Ring-necked Doves, and there were brief appearances from Lark-like Buntings and Kalahari Tree Skinks.

As we drove back past dozing herds, we found perhaps one of our best sightings of the trip, as a small family group of six Meerkats, including two pups in tow, popped up at the side of the road, keeping a sharp eye on us as they moved between their burrows and the vegetation.

We gave ourselves the evening off today, to pack ready for our return journey in the morning, as well as the opportunity to enjoy the night sky.

Day Twelve 21st August. Transfer to Johannesburg, Elandsvlei Wetland, depart Johannesburg.

With an early start, the Magellanic Clouds (two dwarf galaxies visible in the Southern Hemisphere) were waiting for us as we made our way to breakfast. A power cut fortunately did not curtail our coffee, and with the breaking sun, and the chorus of White-browed Sparrow-larks beginning, we were on the road, back through the undulating vegetated dunes towards Uptington.

It was a short hop from there to Johannesburg where we met up with Selwyn for a final few hours of wildlife watching in South Africa. We were soon at the Elandsvlei wetland to enjoy a whole new suite of species including Maccoa Duck, Knob-billed Duck, African Jacana, Swainson's Spurfowl, Black Goshawk (Sparrowhawk) and the colourful Cape Longclaw. The lapwings were mobbing a Black-backed Jackal whilst the obligatory clouds of Red-billed Quelea moved through the vegetation.

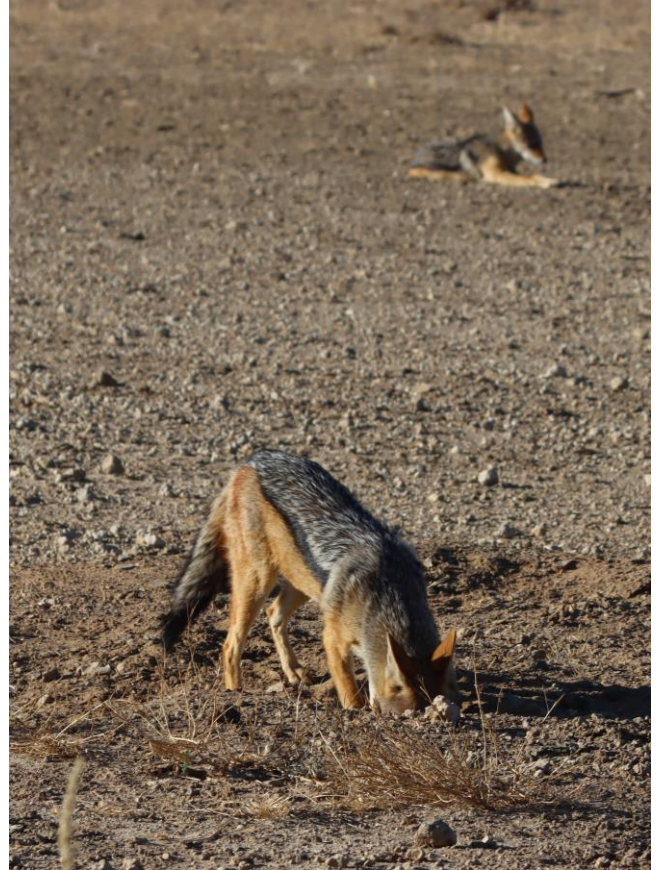
In an area of marsh we had fantastic views of a pair of Marsh Owl, with Yellow-billed Egrets tiptoeing in the background. It was then time to make our way back to a busy Johannesburg airport, with plenty of time as we queued to remember all that we had seen during our time in South Africa.

Thank you to our travellers for joining us on our first visit to this part of South Africa, and to our friends at Birding Africa.

Laurie Jackson, Wildlife Travel, August 2025.



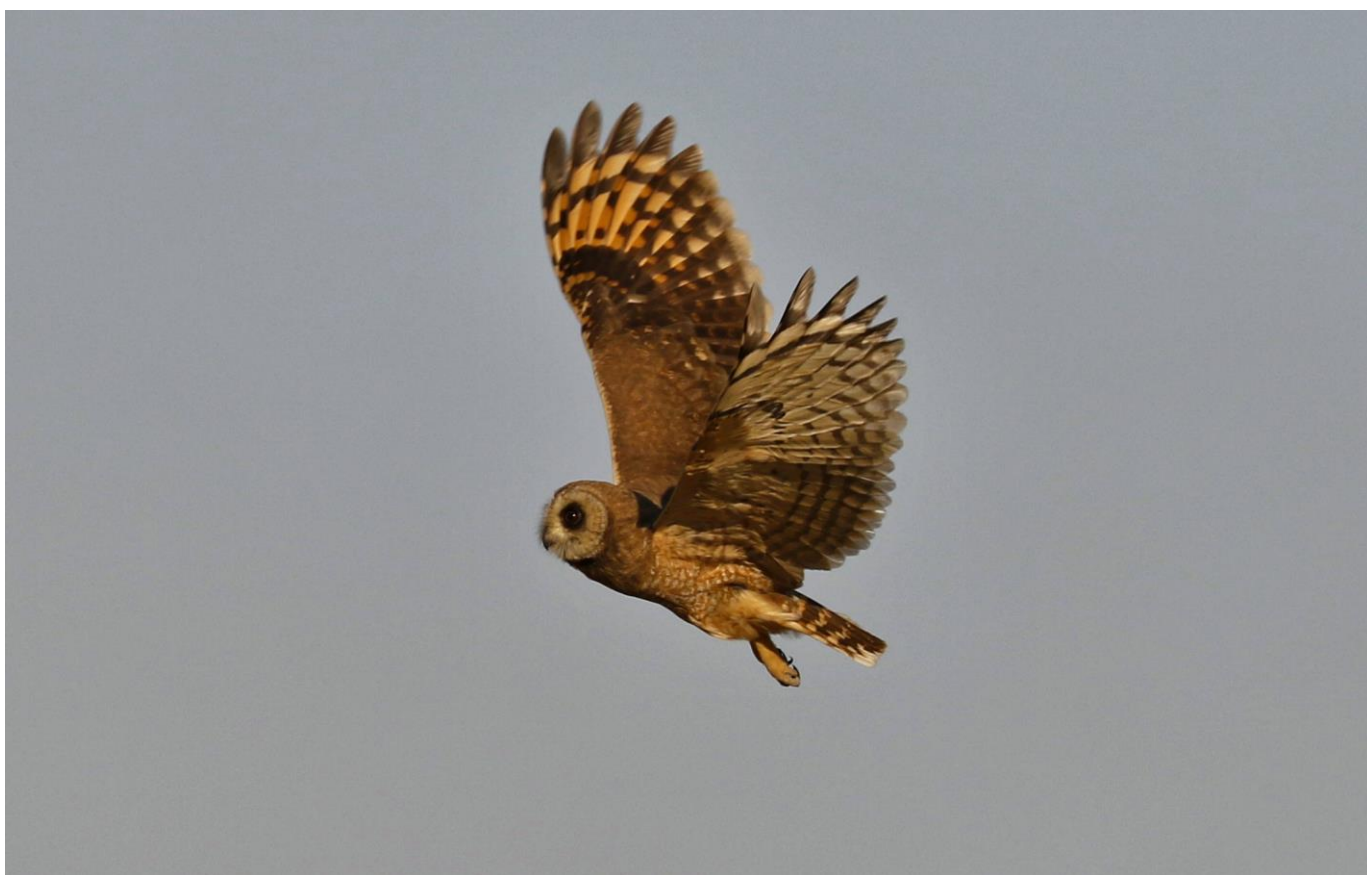
Above: South African Ground Squirrel; Springbok.



Top to bottom: Southern White-faced Owl; Black-backed Jackal; Gemsbok.



Top to bottom: Secretarybird; African Wild Cat; Springhare.



Top to bottom: Marsh Owl (Alison Playle).

KALAHARI 2025: some highlights

MAMMALS

This checklist follows the taxonomy published in the *Illustrated Checklist of the Mammals of the World* (Lynx publications, 2020)

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st
Family Macroscelididae (Sengis)												
Eastern Rock Sengi	<i>Elephantulus myurus</i>			◆		◆						
Family Orycteropodidae (Aardvark)												
Aardvark	<i>Orycteropus afer</i>	◆			◆							
Family Procaviidae (Hyraxes)												
Rock Hyrax (Dassie)	<i>Procavia capensis</i>		◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆			
Family Cercopithecidae (Old World Monkeys)												
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>	◆					◆	◆				
Vervet Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>	◆			◆		◆	◆				
Family Leporidae (Hares and Rabbits)												
Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆				◆		
Cape Hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i>		◆		◆							
Family Pedetidae (Springhares)												
Southern African Springhare	<i>Pedetes capensis</i>	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆			◆	◆		
Family Muridae (Mice, Rats and Gerbils)												
Four-striped Grass Mouse	<i>Rhabdomys pumilio</i>				◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	
Brandt's Whistling Rat	<i>Parotomys brantsii</i>									◆		
African Pygmy Mouse	<i>Mus minutoides</i>									◆		
Family Hystricidae (Old World Porcupines)												
Cape Porcupine	<i>Hystrix africaeaustralis</i>	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆						
Family Bathyergidae (African Mole-rats)												
Common Mole-rat	<i>Cryptomys hottentotus</i>					S						
Family Sciuridae (Squirrels)												
South African Ground Squirrel	<i>Geosciurus inauris</i>	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	
Family Giraffidae (Giraffes and Okapi)												
Southern Giraffe	<i>Giraffa giraffa</i>					◆		◆		◆	◆	
Family Bovidae (Hollow-horned Ruminants)												
Cape Buffalo	<i>Cyncerus caffer</i>		◆									
Greater Kudu	<i>Strepsiceros strepsiceros</i>										◆	
Common Eland	<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>			◆		◆						
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>					◆						
Steenbok	<i>Raphiceros campestris</i>	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆
Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Mountain Reedbuck	<i>Redunca fulvorufula</i>			◆		◆						
Common Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>					◆						

Kalahari 2025: trip report and species lists

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st
Roan Antelope	<i>Hippotragus equinus</i>					◆						
Sable Antelope	<i>Hippotragus niger</i>		◆	◆		◆						
Gemsbok (Southern Oryx)	<i>Oryx gazella</i>					◆			◆	◆	◆	
Red Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus caama</i>					◆				◆	◆	
Blesbok	<i>Damaliscus phillipsi</i>		◆	◆	◆	◆						◆
Black Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes gnou</i>					◆						
Blue Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>								◆	◆	◆	
Bush (Common) Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>					◆						
Klipspringer	<i>Oreotragus oretragus</i>							◆				
Family Hippopotamidae (Hippos)												
Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>		◆									
Family Suridae (Pigs)												
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>			◆	◆	◆					◆	
Family Equidae (Horses)												
Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>					◆						
Family Felidae (Cats)												
African Wildcat	<i>Felis lybica</i>					◆			◆	◆		
Family Viverridae (Civets, Genets and Oyans)												
South African Small-spotted (Feline) Genet	<i>Genetta felina</i>								◆	◆		
Family Herpestidae (Mongooses)												
Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆		◆	◆	◆	◆
Common Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>						◆	◆				
Cape (Small) Grey Mongoose	<i>Herpestes pulverulentus</i>							◆				
Meerkat	<i>Suricata suricatta</i>	◆	◆		◆					◆	◆	
Family Hyaenidae (Hyenas)												
Aardwolf	<i>Proteles cristata</i>		◆	◆	◆	◆						
Family Canidae (Dogs)												
Bat-eared Fox	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>		◆		◆	◆			◆	◆		D
Cape Fox	<i>Vulpes chama</i>	◆	◆						◆	◆	◆	
Black-backed Jackal	<i>Lupulella mesomelas</i>								◆	◆	◆	◆
Family Mustelidae (Weasels and relatives)												
African Clawless Otter	<i>Aonyx capensis</i>		S									

HERPTILES

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st
E Augrabies (Broadley's) Flat Lizard	<i>Platysaurus broadleyi</i>							◆				
Nile Water Monitor	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>							◆				
Karoo Girdled Lizard	<i>Karusasaurus polyzonus</i>			◆								
Karoo Sand Snake	<i>Psammophis notostictus</i>					◆						
Plain Sand Lizard	<i>Pedioplanis inornata</i>							◆				
Western Rock Skink	<i>Trachylepis sulcata</i>							◆				
Southern Rock Agama	<i>Agama atra</i>							◆				
e Kalahari Tree Skink	<i>Trachylepis spilogaster</i>										◆	
e Namaqua Sand Lizard	<i>Pedioplanis namaquensis</i>							◆				
e Western Three-striped Skink	<i>Trachylepis occidentalis</i>										◆	

Kalahari 2025: trip report and species lists

E: endemic to South Africa; e: endemic/near-endemic to southern Africa; H: heard only; S: signs

BIRDS

This checklist follows the taxonomy published in the **HBW and BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World**, as updated by www.birdsoftheworld.org

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st
Family Struthionidae (Ostriches)												
Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>	◆			◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	
Family Anatidae (Ducks, Geese and Waterfowl)												
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆			◆
e South African Shelduck	<i>Tadorna cana</i>	◆	◆	◆	◆							
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>		◆									◆
e Cape Shoveler	<i>Spatula smithii</i>											◆
Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>											◆
Knob-billed Duck	<i>Anser melanotos</i>											◆
Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>		◆									◆
Southern Pochard	<i>Netta erythrophthalma</i>											◆
Maccoa Duck	<i>Oxyura maccoa</i>											◆
Family Numididae (Guineafowl)												
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	◆										◆
Family Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse and allies)												
e Cape Spurfowl (Francolin)	<i>Pternistis capensis</i>								◆			
Swainson's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>											◆
Family Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)												
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	◆							◆			◆
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆			◆
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆					◆
Ring-necked (Cape Turtle) Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆			◆	◆	◆
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>							◆	◆			◆
Family Pteroclididae (Sandgrouse)												
e Burchell's Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles burchelli</i>									◆	◆	◆
Family Otidae (Bustards)												
Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>					◆				◆	◆	
e Ludwig's Bustard	<i>Neotis ludwigii</i>		◆									
e Blue Bustard (Korhaan)	<i>Eupodotis caerulescens</i>	◆	◆	◆								
e Karoo Bustard (Korhaan)	<i>Heterotetrax vigorsii</i>		◆									
e White-quilled Bustard (Northern Black Korhaan)	<i>Afrotis afraoides</i>	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆

Kalahari 2025: trip report and species lists

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Family Apodidae (Swifts)												
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>							◆				
e Bradfield's Swift	<i>Apus bradfieldi</i>					◆						
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>				◆	◆	◆	◆	◆			◆
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>					◆	◆	◆	◆			
Family Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules and Coots)												
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		◆					◆				◆
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>	◆	◆	◆	◆							◆
African Swampphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>											H
Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>		H									
Family Gruidae (Cranes)												
e Blue Crane	<i>Anthropoides paradiseus</i>	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆						
Family Burhinidae (Thick-knees)												
Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>					◆				◆	◆	◆
Family Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)												
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		◆	◆	◆							
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>				◆							
Family Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)												
Three-banded Plover	<i>Thinornis tricollaris</i>		◆	◆	◆	◆						◆
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆					◆
Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>	◆	◆						◆	◆	◆	◆
Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>											◆
Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Anarhynchus pecuarius</i>		◆	◆								
Family Jacanidae (Jacanas)												
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>											◆
Family Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and allies)												
African Snipe	<i>Gallinago nigripennis</i>		◆									
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		◆									
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>			◆								
Family Glareolidae (Pratincoles and Coursers)												
Double-banded Courser	<i>Smutornis africanus</i>	◆	◆	◆								
Family Laridae (Gulls, Terns and Skimmers)												
Grey-hooded Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>											◆
Family Phoenicopteridae (Flamingoes)												
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>				◆							
Family Glareolidae (Pratincoles and Coursers)												
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>											◆
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>											◆
Family Ciconiidae (Storks)												
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>							◆				
Family Anhingidae (Darters)												

Kalahari 2025: trip report and species lists

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>		◆	◆	◆							
Family Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)												
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>	◆	◆	◆								◆
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>			◆	◆		◆	◆				
Family Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)												
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	◆	◆	◆	◆							
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆			◆
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>			◆								
Family Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets and Bitterns)												
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea ibis</i>	◆			◆		◆					◆
Yellow-billed Egret	<i>Ardea brachyrhyncha</i>											◆
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>							◆				
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>	◆						◆				◆
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>		◆	◆								◆
Family Scopidae (Hamerkop)												
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	◆			◆			◆				
Family Sagittariidae (Secretarybird)												
Secretarybird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>									◆	◆	
Family Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles and Kites)												
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	◆							◆	◆	◆	◆
White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>					◆			◆			◆
Black-chested Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>									◆		
Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>									◆	◆	
Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>						◆			◆	◆	
Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>				◆							
Booted Eagle								◆				
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>				◆	◆			◆	◆		
e Pale Chanting-Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>	◆	◆		◆				◆	◆	◆	◆
Black Goshawk (Sparrowhawk)	<i>Astur melanoleucus</i>											◆
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus migrans parasitus</i>										◆	
African Fish-Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga vocifer</i>		◆									
e Jackal Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>									◆		
Family Tytonidae (Barn Owls)												
Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>				◆	◆			◆			
Family Strigidae (Owls)												
Southern White-faced Owl	<i>Ptilopsis granti</i>								◆	◆		
Spotted Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>	◆	◆	H		◆			◆	◆	◆	
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatus</i>									H	H	
Marsh Owl	<i>Asio capensis</i>											◆
Family Coliidae (Mousebirds)												
Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>											◆

Kalahari 2025: trip report and species lists

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e White-backed Mousebird	<i>Colius colius</i>						◆					
Red-faced Mousebird	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>				◆							
Family Upupidae (Hoopoes)												
African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops africana</i>		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆		
Family Phoeniculidae (Woodhoopoes)												
Common Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>					◆				◆	◆	
Family Bucerotidae (Hornbills)												
e Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>										◆	◆
Family Meropidae (Bee-eaters)												
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>						◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Family Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)												
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>		◆									
Family Coraciidae (Rollers)												
Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>								◆			
Purple Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>										◆	
Family Lybiidae (African Barbets)												
Crested Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>					◆	◆					
e (Acacia) Pied Barbet	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>		◆		◆		◆	◆			◆	
Family Picidae (Woodpeckers)												
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicus fuscescens</i>				◆					◆		
Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>					◆						
Family Falconidae (Falcons)												
Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>										◆	
Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicolus</i>				◆							
Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆					◆
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>									◆		
Family Platysteiridae (Wattle-eyes and Batises)												
e Pririt Batis	<i>Batis pririt</i>					◆	◆			◆		
Family Malaconotidae (Bushshrikes and allies)												
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>					◆						
e Crimson-breasted Gonolek (Shrike)	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>					◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	
e Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>		◆	◆	◆			◆	H		H	
Family Dicruridae (Drongos)												
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>					◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	
Family Laniidae (Shrikes)												
Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Family Corvidae (Crows, Jays and Magpies)												
Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>									◆	◆	
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆			◆
White-necked Raven	<i>Corvus albicollis</i>	◆		◆								

Kalahari 2025: trip report and species lists

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Family Stenostiridae (Fairy Flycatchers)												
e Fairy Flycatcher	<i>Stenostira scita</i>			◆								
Family Paridae (Tits, Chickadees and Titmice)												
e Ashy Tit	<i>Melaniparus cinerascens</i>					◆						
Family Remizidae (Penduline Tits)												
e Southern (Cape) Penduline Tit	<i>Anthoscopus minutus</i>		◆									
Family Alaudidae (Larks)												
e Spike-heeled Lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>		◆	◆	◆	◆				◆		
e Karoo Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda subcoronata</i>							◆				
e Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix verticalis</i>								◆			◆
e Sabota Lark	<i>Calendulauda sabota</i>			◆							◆	
e Fawn-coloured Lark	<i>Calendulauda africanoides</i>					◆						
e Eastern Clapper Lark	<i>Corypha fasciolata</i>		◆	◆	◆							
Stark's Lark	<i>Spizocorys starki</i>								◆			◆
e Large-billed Lark	<i>Galerida magnirostris</i>		◆	◆								
Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>		◆	◆								◆
Family Macrosphenidae (African Warblers)												
Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>					H						
Family Cisticolidae (Cisticolas and allies)												
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>		H	◆								
e Namaqua Warbler	<i>Phragmacia substriata</i>		◆		◆	◆		H				
e Black-chested Prinia	<i>Prinia flavicans</i>							◆	◆	◆	◆	
e Rufous-eared Warbler	<i>Malcorus pectoralis</i>		◆	◆						◆		
e Grey-backed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola subruficapilla</i>		◆									
Levaillant's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola tinniens</i>		◆									
Piping Cisticola	<i>Cisticola fulvicapilla</i>					◆						
Desert Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aridulus</i>			◆		◆						
Cloud Cisticola	<i>Cisticola textrix</i>		◆									
Family Acrocephalidae (Reed Warblers and allies)												
African Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i> <i>baeticatus</i>							◆				
Lesser Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>		◆				◆					
Family Hirundinidae (Swallows and Martins)												
Plain (Brown-throated) Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>				◆							◆
Southern Crag Martin (Large Rock Martin)	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
White-throated Swallow	<i>Hirundo albigularis</i>			◆								◆
South African (Cliff) Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon spilodera</i>		◆									
Family Pycnonotidae (Bulbuls)												
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>											◆
e Black-fronted (African Red-eyed) Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>		◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	

Kalahari 2025: trip report and species lists

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st
Family Sylviidae (Sylviid Warblers and allies)												
e Layard's Warbler (Tit-babbler)	<i>Curruca layardi</i>			◆								
e Chestnut-vented Warbler (Tit-babbler)	<i>Curruca subcoerulea</i>				◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	
Family Zosteropidae (White-eyes, Yuhinas and allies)												
e Orange River White-eye	<i>Zosterops pallidus</i>			◆	◆		◆	◆	◆			
Family Sturnidae (Starlings)												
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	◆										
Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>	◆	◆		◆						◆	
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>											◆
e Pale-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus nabouroup</i>							◆	◆			
Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>	◆										
e African Pied Starling	<i>Lamprotornis bicolor</i>	◆	◆	◆	◆							
Cape (Glossy) Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆
Family Turdidae (Thrushes and allies)												
e Karoo Thrush	<i>Turdus smithi</i>		◆	◆	◆							
Family Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)												
e Marico Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis mariquensis</i>								◆	◆	◆	
e Chat Flycatcher	<i>Agricola infuscatus</i>					◆					◆	
e Fiscal Flycatcher	<i>Sigelus silens</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆					
e Karoo Scrub Robin	<i>Tychaemon coryphoeus</i>		◆		◆							
e Kalahari Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas paena</i>					◆	◆			◆	◆	
Cape Robin-chat	<i>Dessonornis caffer</i>		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆			
Short-toed Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola brevipes</i>					◆						
African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	◆	◆		◆							◆
e Sickie-winged Chat	<i>Emarginata sinuata</i>		◆	◆								
e Southern Anteater-Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆			◆
e Mountain Chat (Wheatear)	<i>Myrmecocichla monticola</i>			◆				◆				
Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>		◆									
Familiar Chat	<i>Oenanthe familiaris</i>				◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Family Nectariniidae (Sunbirds)												
e Dusky Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris fuscus</i>						◆	◆				
Family Ploceidae (Weavers and allies)												
e Scaly (Scaly-feathered) Weaver	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>					◆			◆	◆	◆	
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>				◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆
e Sociable Weaver	<i>Philetairus socius</i>						◆		◆	◆	◆	◆
Southern Masked-weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>			◆	◆				◆	◆		◆
Southern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>	◆	◆	◆	◆							◆
Yellow-crowned Bishop	<i>Euplectes afer</i>											◆

Kalahari 2025: trip report and species lists

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st
Family Estrildidae (Waxbills and allies)												
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>				◆		◆	◆				
e Red-headed Finch	<i>Amacina erythrocephala</i>					◆			◆	◆	◆	
Violet-eared Waxbill	<i>Granatina granatina</i>					◆						
Family Viduidae (Indigobirds)												
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>				◆							
Eastern Paradise-whydah						◆						
Family Passeridae (Old World Sparrow)												
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	◆			◆			◆	◆			
e Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>			◆	◆	◆		◆				
Family Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)												
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>		◆	◆	◆	◆				◆		◆
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>							◆				
African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>		◆									◆
Buffy Pipit	<i>Anthus vaalensis</i>					◆						
e Yellow-tufted (African Rock) Pipit	<i>Anthus crenatus</i>			◆								
e Orange-throated (Cape) Longclaw	<i>Macronyx capensis</i>											◆
Family Fringillidae (Finches)												
Black-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>				◆						◆	◆
e Yellow Canary	<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>				◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	
e White-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra albogularis</i>		◆	◆								
Family Emberizidae (Buntings)												
e Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>							◆				
e Lark-like Bunting	<i>Emberiza impetواني</i>							◆			◆	

INVERTEBRATES

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st
<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>	Plain Tiger											◆
<i>Pontia helice</i>	African Meadow White			◆								
<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Painted Lady			◆		◆						
<i>Colotis evenina</i>	Common Orange Tip							◆				
<i>Aphomia sociella</i>	Bee Moth		◆									
<i>Nomophila noctuella</i>	Rush Veneer		◆									
<i>Acanthovalva inconspicaria</i>	Speckle Orange		◆	◆								
<i>Paralacydes vocula</i>	Zebra Ermine			◆								
<i>Orthonama obstipata</i>	Gem Moth			◆								
<i>Spodoptera exigua</i>	Small Mottled Willow			◆	◆							
<i>Drepanogynis bifasciata</i>	Sargasso Emerald				◆	◆						
<i>Nomophila noctuella</i>	Rush Veneer			◆								
<i>Agrosis segetum</i>	Turnip Moth						◆					
<i>Tathorhynchus exsiccate</i>	Alfalfa Looper Moth						◆					
<i>Idaea subsericeata</i>	Satin Wave						◆					
<i>Microhodotermes viator</i>	Southern Harvester Termite							◆				
<i>Camponotus fulvopilosus</i>	Karoo Balbyter Ant							◆				
<i>Polistes africanus</i>	a paper wasp				◆							
<i>Delta emarginatum</i>	Black Mud Wasp							◆				
<i>Julodis cirrose</i>	Brush Jewel Beetle							D				
<i>Stenocara gracilipes</i>	Racingstripe Darkling Beetle							◆				
<i>Acanthopplus discoidalis</i>	Armoured Bush-cricket							◆				
<i>Schistocerca gregaria</i>	Desert Locust							◆				
<i>Anacridium moestum</i>	Tree Locust							◆				
<i>Scintharista saucia</i>	Rock Grasshopper							◆				
<i>Empusa binotata</i>	Spotty Conehead Mantid									◆		
<i>Selenops radiatus</i>	a flat spider				◆							
<i>Zophosis</i> sp.	a frantic surface beetle		◆									

PLANTS

<i>Aloe hereroensis</i>	Sand Aloe	Drive to Augrabies and Kgalagadi
<i>Aloidendron dichotomum</i>	Quiver Tree	Augrabies and surrounding area
<i>Aptosimum spinescens</i>	Thorn Karooviolet	The Hedgehog
<i>Arctotis arctotoides</i>	Gold African Daisy	Marrick
<i>Argemone ochroleuca</i>	Mexican Poppy	Marrick
<i>Berkheya spinosissima</i>	Horrid African Thistle	Augrabies Falls National Park
<i>Boscia foetida</i>	Stink Shepherdstree	Augrabies Falls National Park

Kalahari 2025: trip report and species lists

<i>Brunsvigia</i> sp.	a candelabra lily	The large broad leaves flat on the ground in New Holme
<i>Citrullus amarus</i>	Citron Melon	The melons strewn over the roads in the Kalahari
<i>Codon royenii</i>	White Nectarcup	Augrabies Falls National Park
<i>Cucumis metuliferus</i>	African Horned Cucumber	The spiky cucumber used for food and water, Kgalagadi
<i>Datura stramonium</i>	Jimsonweed	Widespread invasive non-native species
<i>Felicia filifolia</i>	Fine-leaved Felicia	The purple-flowered daisy in New Holme
<i>Helichrysum argyrosphaerum</i>	Wild Everlasting	Marrick
<i>Jamesbrittenia megadenia</i>	a jaybee	Augrabies Falls National Park
<i>Lapeirousia</i> sp.	a cabong	White-flowered bulb at New Holme
<i>Moraea miniata</i>	Two-flowered Cape Tulip	The orange-flowered bulb on the kopje at New Holme
<i>Moraea pallida</i>	Pale Tulip	
<i>Pentzia incana</i>	Common Karoo Bush	Small yellow-flowered shrub, lacking ray florets
<i>Searsia lancea</i>	Karee	Small tree with long, narrow leaves and small, yellow flowers
<i>Sisyndite spartea</i>	Desert Broom	Augrabies Falls National Park
<i>Stipagrostis uniplumis</i>	Silky Bushman Grass	Feathery, tussock-forming grass
<i>Tamarix usneoides</i>	Wild Tamarisk	In the Nama Karoo
<i>Tapinanthus oleifolius</i>	Namnambush	Augrabies Falls National Park
<i>Tribulus</i> sp.	a devilthorn	Low yellow flowers, Augrabies Falls National Park,
<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	Devil Thorn/Puncture Vine	The spiky seeds in the bottom of your shoes
<i>Vachellia eriloba</i>	Camel Thorn	The acacia with half-moon seed pods
<i>Vachellia karoo</i>	Sweet Thorn	The acacia with long greyish thorns

thank you for travelling with us

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