



SOUTH AFRICA KwaZulu-Natal Birding Safari Private Tour

July 6-14, 2019

Tour leader: Josh Engel

Click on links for: [Photo Gallery](#) | [Trip webpage](#)

This itinerary was a specially designed to take the best birding in KwaZulu-Natal Province(KZN) while also incorporating a world-class South African safari. KZN has incredible birding and incredible wildlife reserves, so we were in for a treat. The birding was outstanding—we found the vast majority of the top birds of the region among a trip list of nearly 300 species—birds like **Pink-throated Twinspot, Lemon-breasted Seedeater, Neergard's Sunbird, Southern Banded Snake Eagle, Woodward's Batis, Brown Scrub-Robin, Delegorgue's Pigeon, Spotted Ground Thrush, Orange Ground Thrush, Cape Parrot, Green Barbet, Drakensberg Rockjumper, Drakensberg Siskin, and Gurney's Sugarbird.** The animals were incredible, too. We saw both **Leopard** and **Cheetah** feeding on **Nyala** kills, many **Lions, Giraffes, Elephants, and Hippos,** and several **White Rhinos.** Plus we saw some great smaller mammals, like **White-tailed Mongoose, Large-spotted Genet, Sloggett's Rat, Samango Monkey, and Blue Duiker.** We stayed in beautiful hotels, ate great food, and had an all-around wonderful time in the perfect weather of the South African winter.

Top 5 birds and mammals as voted by the group

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Neergaard's Sunbird | 1 (tie). Cheetah |
| 2. Half-collared Kingfisher | 1 (tie). Elephant |
| 3 (tie). Southern Banded (Fasciated) Snake-Eagle | 3. Leopard |
| 3 (tie). Secretarybird | 4. Lion |
| 3 (tie). Spotted Ground-Thrush | 5 (tie). Giraffe/Blue Duiker |



The beautiful and rare Neergaard's Sunbird was voted Bird of the Trip. Photo by Josh Engel.

Day 1, July 6. Johannesburg to Phinda via Durban.

Having met up in Johannesburg the previous night, we had time for a brief bit of birding after breakfast (finding **Fiscal Flycatcher**, **Red-headed Finch**, and a few others) before heading back to the airport for our short flight to Durban. We hit the road from Durban, arriving to the beautiful Phinda Forest Lodge in the late afternoon.

Not wasting any time, we immediately set off on a wildlife drive. There were quite a few mixed flocks active in the sand forest and we were able to find the local endemic **Pink-throated Twinspot** along with a flock of **Gray (Black-tailed) Waxbill**. We were happy to find a perched **Bateleur** as well. We also found our first of many common species, including **Southern Black-Tit**, **Black-backed Puffback**, **Red-faced Mousebird**, **Square-tailed Drongo**, **Forest Weaver**, and **Golden-tailed Woodpecker**. Out in the open grasslands the birds changed, and here we found **Yellow-throated Longclaw** and, best of all, a **Marsh Owl**.

Mammals were a big reason we were at Phinda and we enjoyed our first **Nyala**, **Red Duiker**, and other common mammals. Just as the sun was setting, we started hearing a Lion roaring. Heading in that direction, we found two brother **Lions** resting 50 meters apart, both right next to the road. It was pretty incredible hearing a roaring **Lion** from that close distance. Another Phinda vehicle drove into the bush to go around us and promptly punctured a tire. So we had to put our vehicle between the **Lion** on them and keep an eye on the lion, now in the dark, as they changed their tire! It was all quite a lot of excitement for our first day.



One of two brothers we encountered on our fist afternoon. Photo by Josh Engel.

Day 2, July 7. Phinda Reserve.

We had a full day to enjoy the northern part of Phinda and its beautiful old sand forest. Birds were quiet in the cool of the early morning, but as soon as the sun came up and temps increased, birds got very active. As we were driving along in the sand forest our tracker heard a

Neergard's Sunbird, a sand forest endemic and never an easy bird to find. We waited around and before two long there were two males displaying to each other! We were very happy with our excellent views of one of the real specialty birds of the region. The birding was generally good. We found **Bearded Scrub-Robin**, **Gorgeous Bush-Shrike**, **Crowned** and **Trumpeter Hornbills**, more **Pink-throated Twinspots** and **Gray Waxbills**, and another local endemic, **Rudd's Apalis**. A beautiful **White Rhinoceros** was another great find. Returning back to the lodge, we were very pleased to find a flock of **Crested Guineafowl** right off the deck while we ate breakfast. A little while later, a flock of **Red-backed Manakins** dropped in the reeds at the small waterhole next to the restaurant.

After a mid-day rest back at the lodge, our afternoon drive was slightly delayed by a bird emergency—Morgan and Phil had found a **Narina Trogon** on the way from their room! The bird was kind enough to hang around for everyone to get great views. We finally set out again in the afternoon, heading for the more open grasslands in the far north of the reserve. We found some nice grassland birds like **Zitting Cisticola**, **Black-winged Kite**, **Wattled Lapwing**, **Little Bee-eater**, and **Black-crowned Tchagra**. We had great views of a **Black-bellied Bustard**, including in flight where it showed off its beautiful black-and-white wings. A **Gray-rumped Swallow** flying around a waterhole was also excellent. We eventually came across a big flock of **Yellow-fronted Canaries** and with some careful searching we found several **Lemon-breasted Seedeater** among them, a bird that's almost exclusively found in sandy grassland with lala palms in a small area of southern Africa. And our late afternoon was again punctuated by an excellent **Lion** sighting, one of the same males that we had seen yesterday.



Narina Trogon outside our lodge in Phinda. Photo by Josh Engel.

Day 3, July 8. Phinda Reserve.

We had a final morning in the north to see what we could find. We set out with a plan which was almost immediately interrupted when a report came over the radio of fresh **Cheetah** tracks. Our plans changed, and we headed off in their direction. There were several vehicles searching, but nobody had found them when we arrived, but just a short while later the call came again that trackers on foot had found them. We took our vehicle off-road until there they were, a mother and two one-year old cubs, not bothered at all by the commotion they were causing. We had fantastic views of them until they decided it was time to sharpen their claws against a tree and move on into the thick bush and out of view.

The birds were good this morning, too. We found many **African Green Pigeons** sitting in bare treetops, had nice views of **African Goshawk**, found both **Gray-headed** and **Orange-breasted Bushshrikes**, and had fantastic views of a **Red-capped Robin-Chat**. Our breakfast was set up for us out in the bush under the shade of a grove of trees.



Cheetah in the bush. Photo by Josh Engel.

After breakfast we headed back to the lodge, packed up, and set off for the southern part of Phinda Reserve. Along the way we spotted **Giraffe**, **Warthog**, and our first **Burchell's Zebra**. We stopped to scan a small pond along the way and got lucky when both **Red-fronted** and **Yellow-rumped Tinkerbirds** flew down to the edge to take a drink of water.

We checked in to the new lodge, took a break, then headed out for the evening. Very soon thereafter we were looking at four bull **Elephants**, and not long after that we were looking at

two female **Lions**! Of course there were plenty of birds along the way as well, including our first **Southern Black Flycatcher**, **Black Sawwing**, and a flock of **White-winged Widowbirds**. We spent some time in the late evening tracking a Leopard after spotting fresh scat and tracks, but we never did find the cat. On the way back to the lodge after dark, we had great views of a **White-tailed Mongoose** and a **Large-spotted Genet**.

Day 4, July 9. Phinda Reserve.

We were up and out early and heading over the Lebombo Mountains to the far south of the reserve. The morning got off to a great start when we spotted a male **Lion** lying in some thick scrub. A little while later we spotted a beautiful **Purple-spotted Turaco** sitting up, the first we had seen having heard several over the last couple of days. As we dropped down over the mountains, a fever tree-lined dry watercourse came into view and we stopped to see a **Martial Eagle** sitting on a nest in one of the trees. Later we would also see a **Tawny Eagle** on a nest high in a fever tree. It was very birdy along the river. Here we saw birds like **Striped Kingfisher**, **Dusky-brown Flycatcher**, **Burnt-necked Eremomela**, **African Paradise-Flycatcher**, and **Yellow-throated Petronia**. We also found a very cooperative **Rudd's Apalis** that sat still for great views and photos.



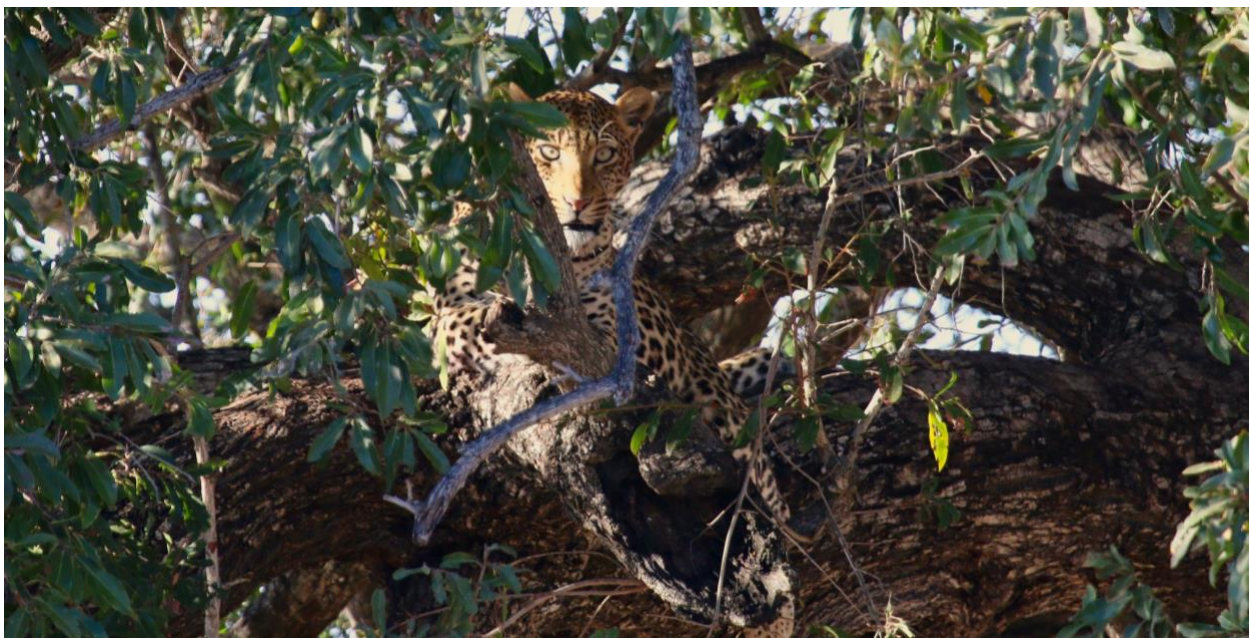
Crested Guineafowl. Photo by Josh Engel.

We stopped for coffee overlooking a large waterhole, where there were a few **Knob-billed Ducks** mixed in with many **White-faced Whistling-Ducks**, lots of **Water Thick-knees**, and some **African Spoonbills** (and plenty of **hippos**). We carried on into the adjacent scrubby grasslands,

where we found our first **Brown-crowned Tchagra**, **Sabota Lark**, **Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill**, and the classic safari bird, **Lilac-breasted Roller**. Estrildid finches were abundant—we eventually picked out **Jameson's**, **African**, and **Red-billed Firefinches** and several **Green-winged Pytilia**. A couple of **African Quailfinches** flushed from the roadside. Better yet, a small flock of **Orange-breasted (Zebra) Waxbills** flew past and landed in the thick grass. We were lucky when they popped up and we had great views at what appeared to be a family group—juveniles with an adult female and adult male. Raptors were also starting to get active, and we saw soaring **Black-chested Snake-Eagle** and **White-backed Vulture**.

Just as we got back the lodge, a **White-throated Robin-Chat** flew in front of the vehicle and we were able to get out and get great views. Meanwhile, a **Mocking Cliff-Chat** sat on the highest possible point it could find—a communications tower over the lodge.

We had a nice mid-day rest, then set out again, but not before getting good views of **Purple-banded Sunbird** at the lodge. A target bird for the afternoon was **Southern Banded Snake-Eagle**. We were very lucky and found one quickly perched on a distant tree, but we were disappointed that it was gone after we maneuvered for closer views. We pulled up next to a nearby waterhole and were amazed to see the snake-eagle sitting on the shore having a drink! We then followed another drainage line back towards the lodge. It was very active and among the birds was a flock of **White-eared Barbets**. Then a call came through the radio that a **Leopard** had been spotted and we rushed off. We arrived to find a female **Leopard** sitting low in a vine-covered tree eating a **Nyala**! We were so close that we could hear her crunching on bones! As if that wasn't enough, as we sat watching the **Leopard**, two male **Elephants** came down for a drink and spent some time sparring with each other. We eventually made our way to a sundowner overlooking a broad floodplain where a herd of **Elephants** was calmly feeding.



This leopard had dragged a Nyala into the tree. Photo by Morgan Tingley.

Day 5, July 10. Phinda to Eshowe.

We had a final short morning in Phinda to see what we could find. We headed out to look for a Madagascar Pond-Heron that had been reported recently, but it wasn't home. We did find our first **Pale Flycatcher** and **Bushveld Pipit** and saw **Pink-throated Twinspot** one last time.

Waterholes along the way were productive, too, and we saw **African Jacana**, **Little Grebe**, **Great Egret**, and other waterbirds. We also made it a clean sweep on **Lions**—daily sightings for five straight days—when we watched two females bring five adorable cubs down to a water hole for a drink. We added our first **Greater Kudu** and **Waterbuck** of the trip and were surprised to see a hippo a long way from water.

Just as we returned to the lodge, we learned about **Cheetahs** on a kill very nearby—right in front of the staff accommodations! We drove off the road until we found the two male cheetahs finishing off a **Nyala** they had killed earlier in the morning. It was an almost unbelievable way to end out time in Phinda.

We said our goodbyes at Phinda and headed south to the coast to spend the afternoon birding in the coastal town of St. Lucia. The forests next to the town were incredibly active, even in the middle of the day. We tried tracking down calling **Livingston's Turaco**, but only got brief views. But while we were searching we saw **Collared** and **Olive Sunbird**, lots of **White-eared Barbets**, **Rudd's Apalis**, **Scaly-throated Honeyguide**, **Klaas's Cuckoo**, and an incredibly tame **Red-capped Robin-Chat**. We moved into the forest to look for some of the area's top birds. We got lucky when a **Brown Scrub-Robin**, endemic to eastern South Africa and southern Mozambique, hopped out onto the trail in front of us. A **Green Malkoha** was less cooperative, showing us bits and pieces as it moved through canopy vine tangles. Having chased around calling **Livingston's Turaco** with limited success a little earlier in the afternoon, it was very satisfying to bump into a pair that showed very well. Woodward's Batis continued to elude us, so we took a break for lunch.

Lunch was at a riverside restaurant with a great view of the St. Lucia River Estuary and its many birds. Waterbirds were abundant, including both **Lesser** and **Greater Flamingo**, **Pied Avocet**, **Pink-backed Pelican**, **African Swamphen**, various **terns**, and **White-fronted**, **Kittlitz's**, and even the locally rare **Chestnut-banded Plover**.

We only had a few minutes before we had to leave town, so we made one last stop at a campground near the town to try for **Woodward's Batis**. It took a little while, but eventually we heard one calling. We tracked it down and with some patience eventually got good views for everyone. It was a great way to end our birding day before making our way to Eshowe for the night.

Day 6, July 11. Ongoye, Mtunzini, Dlinza.

We set out early for the wonderful hill forest at Ongoye. A **Black Goshawk** was perched on the road on the way in and **Samango Monkeys** greeted our arrival to the forest. Ongoye is most

famous among birders for its isolated population of the localized **Green Barbet**, so that was our primary target. We heard one calling along the road and before too long had located it. It was very cooperative and we got excellent scope views. We hiked into the forest, getting nice views of **Chorister Robin-Chat**. We spent some time chasing around calling **Yellow-streaked Greenbuls**, but they would never show for us. We left the forest to check out the grasslands and the beautiful views over the forest. Bright red ififa lilies were popping up in the recently burned grasslands, where a **Long-billed Pipit** (soon to be split at Nicholson's Pipit) was foraging.



White-eared Barbet is common in coastal forests of KwaZulu-Natal. Photo by Josh Engel.

We headed down from the hills to the coast, to Umlalazi Nature Reserve. We wandered through the mangroves, looking for Mangrove Kingfisher and Black-throated Wattle-eye, but couldn't find either one. We did find **Green Twinspots** feeding on a lawn giving us tremendous views, while a **Southern Boubou** skulked through the adjacent tangles, the first one we had seen after hearing many. We took a break for lunch at a restaurant that offered beautiful view over the coast and from which we saw **Great White Pelican** and **Goliath Heron**. We tried again after lunch for the kingfisher and wattle-eye, but again were skunked. We did have nice views of **Long-crested Eagle** while we searched.

It was time to return inland. We stopped in at the hotel before heading to the nearby Dlinza Forest. We parked and started walking the trails, searching for the endangered **Spotted Ground Thrush**. We walked quietly and eventually heard scratching in the leaf litter—there it was! With a bit of patience and effort we had excellent views of this rare thrush foraging on the ground. Very happy with our effort, we continued on. We found several **Trumpeter Hornbills** in a treetop and watched one giving its child-like cry. When we got back, we learned that the people who had stayed back at the hotel for the afternoon had seen *eight* **Purple-crested Turacos** in a single tree on the hotel grounds.

Day 7, July 12. Eshowe to Himeville.

We started out early with a return to Dlinza Forest, where we headed straight for the canopy tower. Our main mission was to find **Delegorgue's Pigeon**, and in no time at all Morgan had spotted a female sitting out in the morning sunlight on an exposed branch. It was a beautiful morning to be on the tower. Several **Southern Bald Ibis** flew past and a pair of **Gray Cuckooshrikes** showed up in the treetops, and as we climbed down, we spotted **Purple-crested Turaco** and **Red-fronted Tinkerbird** right next to the tower.

We moved on to the forest hide, to wait and see what came to the seed and birdbath. We were hoping for **Lemon Dove** and it didn't take too long for a pair to show up, feeding and drinking just a few feet in front of us. A **Green Twinspot** joined them as well. As we left the forest, a **Southern Bald Ibis** was feeding a lawn, giving us great views.

We packed up and left the hotel. We stopped and picked up a picnic lunch and continued on to Benvie Garden, set at the edge of Afromontane forest. It's known as a great place to see the rare **Orange Ground-Thrush** and it didn't disappoint—we had fantastic views of this normally shy bird. Seed-eating birds were abundant and we saw flocks of **Bronzed** and **Red-backed Manakins**, **Cape** and **Village Weavers**, **Forest Canaries**, and more **Green Twinspots**. A **Crowned Eagle** called overhead, alarming some **Samango Monkeys** in the trees.

As we made our way west towards the Drakensberg, we stopped in the Karkloof area, famous for its cranes, and it came through in a big way. We located a flock of 20 **Wattled Cranes** with a single **Gray Crowned Crane**. The sun set as we neared our hotel and in the dusk light we spotted a **Spotted Eagle-Owl** on a roadside pole.



Orange Ground Thrush is a shy resident of mist-belt forests. Photo by Josh Engel.

Day 8, July 13. Sani Pass day trip.

The Sani Pass is a spectacular part of the Drakensberg Mountains and with great birding to boot. Our local guides picked us up at sunrise and set out to get above the thin fog layer. We saw a pair of **South African Shelducks** on the way to our first stop, low in the valley, where we easily found **Red-throated Wryneck** and **Drakensberg Prinia**. We then stopped to eat our picnic breakfast, in the company of **Swee Waxbill**, **Cape Weaver**, and **Olive Woodpecker**. We continued up the pass. We saw occasional **Buff-streaked Chat**, **Ground Woodpecker**, **Cape Rock Thrush**, and **Wailing Cisticola** along the road, and stopped to find **Karoo Prinia**. **Gurney's Sugarbird** sat on top of a flowering tree fuchsia. As we got to the top, we very quickly found the two Southern Drakensberg endemics—**Drakensberg Rockjumper** and **Drakensberg Siskin**. Many **Sloggett's Rats**, another Drakensberg endemic, were scurrying around, while **Sentinel Rock Thrushes** sat like sentinels on the nearby buildings.

We crossed into Lesotho and continued up the newly paved road to see what we could find. We got out at a particular spot to see what was around, and it turned out a whole lot was around—**Southern Gray Tit**, **Yellow Canary**, **Sickle-winged Chat**, and **Ground Woodpecker**. Our next stop was at roadside viewpoint near a **Lammergeier** nest. One bird may have been on the nest, but it wasn't visible from the road, so we decided to eat lunch and wait it out. Not much was happening, so we piled into the cars to head back to South Africa. Just then, a **Lammergeier** appeared over the nesting cliff. We rushed out of the vehicles and watched in awe as the huge vulture flew around the nest, not landing, until a **Lanner Falcon** started chasing it, eventually succeeding in chasing the vulture away. Just then, two **Cape Vultures** appeared over the same cliff, one of them even landing on the cliff face. Then we spotted some very close **Ground Woodpeckers**, showing off their red bellied in the sunlight. Then a brown bird flew in and landed on a rock in front of us—an **African Rock Pipit**! And we weren't done yet, when one of our local guides called in a pair of **Karoo Scrub Robins**, which seem to be becoming established across Lesotho.



Ground Woodpeckers love the rocky grasslands of Sani Pass. Photo by Josh Engel.

We started making our way to South Africa when a **Pale Chanting Goshawk**—another rarity for Lesotho—flew across the road and landed on a rock. It was another great stroke of winter birding luck. We finally made our way back down the pass, stopping to re-enter South Africa at the border post, where there were single **Eland**, **Gray Rhebok**, and **Mountain Reedbuck** in the surrounding grasslands. We continued down, reaching the bottom with daylight remaining, so we went back to look for **Half-collared Kingfisher** at a spot that was fogged in when we went by in the morning. A field adjacent to the river was full of **Gray Crowned Cranes**, but the excitement increased when a small blue-and-orange kingfisher showed up. It turned out to be a **Malachite Kingfisher**, but while we were watching in a **Half-collared** came in and gave the **Malachite** a chase! The **Half-collared** ended up perched in a bare tree with its blue back positively glowing in the evening light.



Fairy Flycatchers move into the Sani Valley in winter. Photo by Josh Engel.

Reenergized by good birds after the long and bumpy drive down the Sani Valley, we decided to carry on. We stopped in a nearby grassland and scanned—**Levaillant's Cisticola**, **Southern Bald Ibis**, **Southern Reedbuck**—**Secretarybird**! One of the group's most wanted birds, and there it was sitting in top of a small tree, looking like it was intending to roost there. We still had one more stop, at a pond where **Wattled Cranes** had a nest. The birds were right where they were supposed to be, giving us much closer views than we had yesterday, and as an added bonus, there were **Blue Cranes** in a field past the pond, giving us a three crane day. Not done yet, we found our first **Southern Anteater Chat** and our overdue first **Helmeted Guinea fowl** as we returned to the hotel. Phew, what a day.

Day 9, July 14. Himeville to Durban. Departure.

We had another early departure, this time with a particular target bird in mind—the endangered, endemic **Cape Parrot**. We got to the spot where they are regularly seen in the early morning and had to wait all of three minutes for them to show up. That was easy! We took a coffee break and returned to the forest for a walk. A **Lesser Honeyguide** greeted our return as we walked into the forest. **Yellow-throated Woodland Warblers** flitted through the

forest canopy, but overall it was a bit quiet. Eventually Phil said, "Is that a turaco?" Yes it was, and we got great views of a pair of **Knysna Turacos**. Returning to the forest edge, we had nice views of **Olive Woodpecker** and **Greater Double-collared Sunbird**.

We started making our way to Durban, stopping in at a rural café for coffee and a snack. The garden usually has some nice birds, and today it didn't disappoint, nabbing us our first **Cape Batis** of the trip. We still had time for one more stop, which we made at Umhlanga Lagoon, not far from the airport. We immediately heard some warblers singing from the reeds. The **Little Rush Warbler** only showed briefly, but **Lesser Swamp-Warbler** was much more cooperative. A short while later a **Dark-capped Yellow Warbler** popped out of the reeds, followed by a **Rufous-winged Cisticola**. We also walked through the coastal forest, getting views of **Gray Waxbill** and **Olive Sunbird**, along with **Blue Duiker**. Just as we ran out of time and had to head back, I heard **Gray Sunbird** singing. We had just enough time to see the one last new bird for the trip before it was finally time to head to the airport and say our goodbyes. It was a supremely satisfying trip!

BIRD LIST. 296 species. Taxonomy follows the Clements/eBird Checklist, 2019 update. Former or alternate English names are in parentheses. (H) = heard only; (L) = tour leader only. The global IUCN red list status is listed for threatened and near-threatened species: CR=Critically Endangered, EN=Endangered, VU=Vulnerable, NT=Near-threatened.

White-faced Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>
South African Shelduck	<i>Tadorna cana</i>
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>
African Black Duck	<i>Anas sparsa</i>
Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>
Red-billed Duck	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
Crested Guineafowl	<i>Guttera pucherani</i>
Crested Francolin	<i>Dendroperdix sephaena</i>
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
Lesser Flamingo (NT)	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>
Rameron (African Olive) Pigeon	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>
Delegorgue's (Eastern Bronze-naped) Pigeon	<i>Columba delegorguei</i>
Lemon Dove	<i>Columba larvata</i>
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>

Ring-necked (Cape Turtle) Dove
Laughing Dove
Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove
African Green-Pigeon
Black-bellied Bustard
Livingstone's Turaco
Knysna Turaco
Purple-crested Turaco
Gray Go-away-bird
White-browed (Burchell's) Coucal
Green Malkoha
Klaas's Cuckoo
Fiery-necked Nightjar
Little Swift
African Palm-Swift
Eurasian Moorhen
Red-knobbed Coot
African Swamphen
Black Crake
Gray Crowned-Crane (EN)
Blue Crane (VU)
Wattled Crane (VU)
Water Thick-knee
Spotted Thick-knee
Black-winged Stilt
Pied Avocet
Blacksmith Lapwing
Crowned Lapwing
Wattled Lapwing
Kittlitz's Plover
Three-banded Plover
White-fronted Plover
Chestnut-banded Plover (NT)
African Jacana
Gray-hooded Gull
Kelp Gull
Caspian Tern
Great Crested Tern
Woolly-necked Stork
Yellow-billed Stork

Streptopelia capicola
Streptopelia senegalensis
Turtur chalcospilos
Treron calvus
Lissotis melanogaster
Tauraco livingstonii
Tauraco corythaix
Tauraco porphyreolophus
Corythaixoides concolor
Centropus superciliosus
Ceuthmochares australis
Chrysococcyx klaas
Caprimulgus pectoralis
Apus affinis
Cypsiurus parvus
Gallinula chloropus
Fulica cristata
Porphyrio madagascariensis
Zapornia flavirostra
Balearica regulorum
Anthropoides paradiseus
Bugeranus carunculatus
Burhinus vermiculatus
Burhinus capensis
Himantopus himantopus
Recurvirostra avosetta
Vanellus armatus
Vanellus coronatus
Vanellus senegallus
Charadrius pecuarius
Charadrius tricollaris
Charadrius marginatus
Charadrius pallidus
Actophilornis africanus
Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus
Larus dominicanus
Hydroprogne caspia
Thalasseus bergii
Ciconia episcopus
Mycteria ibis

African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>
Long-tailed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>
Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
Gray Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>
Southern Bald Ibis (VU)	<i>Geronticus calvus</i>
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>
Secretarybird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>
Black-winged (Black-shouldered) Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>
Palm-nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>
Bearded Vulture (Lammergeier) (NT)	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>
White-backed Vulture (CR)	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
Cape Griffon (Vulture) (EN)	<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>
Bateleur (NT)	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>
Black-breasted Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>
Fasciated (Southern Banded) Snake-Eagle (NT)	<i>Circaetus fasciolatus</i>
Crowned Eagle (H)	<i>Stephanoaetus coronatus</i>
Martial Eagle (NT)	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>
Tawny Eagle (VU)	<i>Aquila rapax</i>
Pale Chanting-Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>
African Marsh-Harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>
African Goshawk	<i>Accipiter tachiro</i>
Little Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter minullus</i>
Black Goshawk (Sparrowhawk)	<i>Accipiter melanoleucus</i>
African Fish-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>
Jackal Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>
Spotted Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>

Marsh Owl
Speckled Mousebird
Red-faced Mousebird
Narina Trogon
Eurasian (African) Hoopoe
Green Woodhoopoe
Common Scimitarbill
Crowned Hornbill
Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill
Trumpeter Hornbill
Half-collared Kingfisher
Malachite Kingfisher
Brown-hooded Kingfisher
Striped Kingfisher
Giant Kingfisher
Pied Kingfisher
Little Bee-eater
Lilac-breasted Roller
Crested Barbet
White-eared Barbet
Green (Woodward's) Barbet
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird
Red-fronted Tinkerbird
(Acacia) Pied Barbet
Black-collared Barbet
Lesser Honeyguide
Scaly-throated Honeyguide
Greater Honeyguide (H)
Rufous-necked (Red-throated) Wryneck
Cardinal Woodpecker
Bearded Woodpecker
Olive Woodpecker
Ground Woodpecker (NT)
Golden-tailed Woodpecker
Rock Kestrel
Lanner Falcon
Cape (Brown-necked) Parrot (VU)
Cape Batis
Woodward's Batis
Chinspot Batis

Asio capensis
Colius striatus
Urocolius indicus
Apaloderma narina
Upupa epops
Phoeniculus purpureus
Rhinopomastus cyanomelas
Lophoceros alboterminatus
Tockus leucomelas
Bycanistes bucinator
Alcedo semitorquata
Corythornis cristatus
Halcyon albiventris
Halcyon chelicuti
Megaceryle maxima
Ceryle rudis
Merops pusillus
Coracias caudatus
Trachyphonus vaillantii
Stactolaema leucotis
Stactolaema olivacea
Pogoniulus bilineatus
Pogoniulus pusillus
Tricholaema leucomelas
Lybius torquatus
Indicator minor
Indicator variegatus
Indicator indicator
Jynx ruficollis
Chloropicus fuscescens
Chloropicus namaquus
Chloropicus griseocephalus
Geocolaptes olivaceus
Campethera abingoni
Falco rupicolus
Falco biarmicus
Poicephalus robustus
Batis capensis
Batis fratrurn
Batis molitor

White Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>
Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>
Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>
Southern Boubou	<i>Laniarius ferrugineus</i>
Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>
Sulphur-breasted (Orange-breasted) Bushshrike	<i>Telophorus sulfureopectus</i>
Olive Bushshrike	<i>Telophorus olivaceus</i>
Four-colored (Gorgeous) Bushshrike	<i>Telophorus viridis</i>
Gray-headed Bushshrike	<i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i>
Gray Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina caesia</i>
Black Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga flava</i>
Southern (Common) Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>
African Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>
Square-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus ludwigii</i>
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
African (Blue-mantled) Crested-Flycatcher (H)	<i>Trochocercus cyanomelas</i>
African Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>
Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>
White-necked Raven	<i>Corvus albicollis</i>
Drakensberg Rockjumper (NT)	<i>Chaetops aurantius</i>
Eastern Nicator	<i>Nicator gularis</i>
Sabota Lark	<i>Calendulauda sabota</i>
Rufous-naped Lark	<i>Mirafra africana</i>
Large-billed Lark	<i>Galerida magnirostris</i>
Plain (Brown-throated) Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>
Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>
Black Sawwing	<i>Psalidoprocne pristoptera</i>
Gray-rumped Swallow	<i>Pseudhirundo griseopyga</i>
Fairy Flycatcher	<i>Stenostira scita</i>
Southern Black-Tit	<i>Melaniparus niger</i>
(Southern) Gray Tit	<i>Melaniparus afer</i>
Sombre Greenbul	<i>Andropadus importunus</i>
Yellow-bellied Greenbul	<i>Chlorocichla flaviventris</i>
Terrestrial Brownbul	<i>Phyllastrephus terrestris</i>
Yellow-streaked Greenbul	<i>Phyllastrephus flavostriatus</i>

Common (Dark-capped) Bulbul
Cape (Long-billed) Crombec
Cape Grassbird
Yellow-throated Woodland-Warbler
African (Dark-capped) Yellow-Warbler
Lesser Swamp Warbler
Little Rush-Warbler
Burnt-neck Eremomela
Green-backed Camaroptera
Bar-throated Apalis
Yellow-breasted Apalis
Rudd's Apalis
Tawny-flanked Prinia
Karoo Prinia
Drakensberg Prinia
Red-faced Cisticola (H)
Rattling Cisticola
Wailing Cisticola
Rufous-winged (Winding) Cisticola
Levaillant's Cisticola
Zitting Cisticola
Cape White-eye
Gurney's Sugarbird (NT)
Dusky-brown (African Dusky) Flycatcher
Pale Flycatcher
Gray Tit-Flycatcher
Ashy Flycatcher
Fiscal Flycatcher
Southern Black-Flycatcher
Karoo Scrub-Robin
Brown Scrub-Robin
Bearded Scrub-Robin
Red-backed (White-browed) Scrub-Robin
Cape Robin-Chat
White-throated Robin-Chat
Red-capped Robin-Chat
Chorister Robin-Chat
Sentinel Rock-Thrush (NT)
Cape Rock-Thrush
African Stonechat

Pycnonotus barbatus
Sylvietta rufescens
Sphenoeacus afer
Phylloscopus ruficapilla
Iduna natalensis
Acrocephalus gracilirostris
Bradypterus baboecala
Eremomela usticollis
Camaroptera brachyura
Apalis thoracica
Apalis flavida
Apalis ruddi
Prinia subflava
Prinia maculosa
Prinia hypoxantha
Cisticola erythrops
Cisticola chiniana
Cisticola lais
Cisticola galactotes
Cisticola tinniens
Cisticola juncidis
Zosterops virens
Promerops gurneyi
Muscicapa adusta
Agricola pallidus
Fraseria plumbea
Fraseria caerulescens
Melaenornis silens
Melaenornis pammelaina
Cercotrichas coryphoeus
Cercotrichas signata
Cercotrichas quadrivirgata
Cercotrichas leucophrys
Cossypha caffra
Cossypha humeralis
Cossypha natalensis
Cossypha dichroa
Monticola explorator
Monticola rupestris
Saxicola torquatus

Buff-streaked Bushchat (Chat)
Southern Anteater-Chat
Mocking Cliff-Chat
Sicklewing Chat
Familiar Chat
Mountain Wheatear
Spotted Ground-Thrush (EN)
Orange Ground-Thrush
Kurrichane Thrush
Olive Thrush
Common Myna
Red-winged Starling
Black-bellied Starling
African Pied Starling
Cape (Glossy) Starling
Red-billed Oxpecker
Collared Sunbird
Olive Sunbird
Mouse-colored (Gray) Sunbird
Amethyst Sunbird
Scarlet-chested Sunbird
Neergaard's Sunbird (NT)
Greater Double-collared Sunbird
Purple-banded Sunbird
White-breasted (White-bellied) Sunbird
Cape Wagtail
African Pied Wagtail
African Pipit
Long-billed (Nicholson's) Pipit
Yellow-tufted (African Rock) Pipit (NT)
Bush (Bushveld) Pipit
Orange-throated (Cape) Longclaw
Yellow-throated Longclaw
Yellow-fronted Canary
Forest Canary
Black-throated Canary
Lemon-breasted Seedeater
Yellow Canary
Streaky-headed Seedeater
Drakensberg Siskin

Saxicola bifasciatus
Myrmecocichla formicivora
Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris
Cercomela sinuata
Cercomela familiaris
Oenanthe monticola
Geokichla guttata
Geokichla gurneyi
Turdus libonyana
Turdus olivaceus
Acridotheres tristis
Onychognathus morio
Notopholia corrusca
Lamprotornis bicolor
Lamprotornis nitens
Buphagus erythrorhynchus
Hedydipna collaris
Cyanomitra olivacea
Cyanomitra veroxii
Chalcomitra amethystina
Chalcomitra senegalensis
Cinnyris neergaardi
Cinnyris afer
Cinnyris bifasciatus
Cinnyris talatala
Motacilla capensis
Motacilla aguimp
Anthus cinnamomeus
Anthus similis
Anthus crenatus
Anthus caffer
Macronyx capensis
Macronyx croceus
Crithagra mozambica
Crithagra scotops
Crithagra atrogularis
Crithagra citrinipectus
Crithagra flaviventris
Crithagra gularis
Crithagra symonsi

Golden-breasted Bunting
Cape Bunting
House Sparrow
Cape Sparrow
Southern Gray-headed Sparrow
Yellow-throated Petronia
Spectacled Weaver
Cape Weaver
African Golden-Weaver
Southern Brown-throated Weaver
Lesser Masked-Weaver
Southern Masked-Weaver
Village Weaver
Forest (Dark-backed) Weaver
Red-billed Quelea
Southern Red Bishop
Yellow Bishop
White-winged Widowbird
Fan-tailed Widowbird
Long-tailed Widowbird
Grosbeak (Thick-billed) Weaver
Swee Waxbill
Green-backed (Green) Twinspot
Black-tailed (Gray) Waxbill
Common Waxbill
Southern Cordonbleu (Blue Waxbill)
Pink-throated Twinspot
Green-winged Pytilia
Red-billed Firefinch
African Firefinch
Jameson's Firefinch
Red-headed Finch
Zebra (Orange-breasted) Waxbill
African Quailfinch
Bronze Mannikin
Black-and-white (Red-backed) Mannikin

Emberiza flaviventris
Emberiza capensis
Passer domesticus
Passer melanurus
Passer diffusus
Gymnornis superciliaris
Ploceus ocularis
Ploceus capensis
Ploceus subaureus
Ploceus xanthopterus
Ploceus intermedius
Ploceus velatus
Ploceus cucullatus
Ploceus bicolor
Quelea quelea
Euplectes orix
Euplectes capensis
Euplectes albonotatus
Euplectes axillaris
Euplectes progne
Amblyospiza albifrons
Coccyzygia melanotis
Mandingoa nitidula
Estrilda perreini
Estrilda astrild
Uraeginthus angolensis
Hypargos margaritatus
Pytilia melba
Lagonosticta senegala
Lagonosticta rubricata
Lagonosticta rhodopareia
Amadina erythrocephala
Sporaeginthus subflavus
Ortygospiza fuscocrissa
Spermestes cucullata
Spermestes bicolor

MAMMAL LIST. Combined list for main tour and extension. 37 species. As there is no standardized list of English mammal names, the names used here are ones in common usage (with alternate names are in parentheses). (H) = heard only; (L) = tour leader only. The global IUCN red list status is listed for threatened and near-threatened species: CR=Critically Endangered, EN=Endangered, VU=Vulnerable, NT=Near-threatened.

Sloggett's Rat	<i>Otomys sloggetti</i>
Tree Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>
Red Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus palliatus</i>
Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>
Vervet Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus aethiops</i>
Samango (Sykes') Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus albogularis</i>
Thick-tailed Galago (Bushbaby) (H)	<i>Otolemur crassicaudatus</i>
Spotted Hyena (H)	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>
Large-spotted Genet	<i>Genetta tigrina</i>
Cheetah	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>
Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>
Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>
Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>
Cape Gray Mongoose	<i>Galerella pulverulenta</i>
White-tailed Mongoose	<i>Ichneumia albicauda</i>
Cape Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>
(African) Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>
Giraffe	<i>Camelopardus giraffa</i>
Burchell's Zebra	<i>Equus burchellii</i>
Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibious</i>
White Rhino	<i>Ceratotherium simus</i>
Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>
African (Cape) Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>
Eland	<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>
Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>
Nyala	<i>Tragelaphus angasii</i>
Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>
Common Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>
Mountain Reedbuck	<i>Redunca fulvorufula</i>
Southern Reedbuck	<i>Redunca arundinum</i>
Blue Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>
Gray Rhebok	<i>Pelea capreolus</i>
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>

Common (Gray) Duiker

Red Duiker

Blue Duiker

Sylvicapra grimmia

Cephalophus natalensis

Philantomba monticola



We were amazed and pleased to see a Southern Banded Snake Eagle taking a drink. Photo by Josh Engel.



Cheetah brothers took down a Nyala right near the lodge on our last morning in Phinda. Photo by Josh Engel.