



**Butterfly Safari in South Africa**  
24th April - 4th May 2022  
Led by Steve Woodhall & Callan Cohen



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# Butterfly Safari of South Africa

## 24 April – 4 May 2022

### Led by Steve Woodhall and Callan Cohen

After several postponements caused by a certain virus, it was very exciting to hear that at long last we would get our tour off the ground. Callan's team, as usual, handled all the arrangements, which meant (for me) the first wee small hours start to a butterfly trip since 2019...

Our guests had come in from across the globe and arrival times were spread across many hours – from the previous day to almost lunchtime. Slowly but surely, we all got together and we all said hello to one another and had a good chat. Some people had target butterflies and for many, it was their first time in Africa – and I am always mindful of Richard Mullin's words:

"The only man I envy is the man who has not yet been to Africa – for he has so much to look forward to."

I've lived here 42 years and have seen the good and the bad side of the place. But as Hemingway said: "I never knew of a morning in Africa when I woke up that I was not happy." I feel the same way when I am out in the wild. I think old Hem was always here on some kind of safari, so it's my job to make sure that our guests feel the same way.

#### Day 1 – 24 April, airport to Klein Kariba via the Zaagkuilsdrift road.

After collecting our vehicles – Callan the minivan, me a Hyundai, off we went up the Great North Road.

The team was Callan and me as co-leaders, with guests Kazuko and Tadashi from Japan, Cecilia of Sweden, Bob and Rosalind ('Roz' or 'Rosa' for short), Nigel, Chris and Sheila from the UK, plus Tom and Kristine from the USA.

First stop was the 'Petroport' on the N1 just north of Pretoria and the Magaliesberg range, where Africa ceases to look like Birmingham and more like... Africa. And there were African butterflies to see! A Plain Tiger floated past, the African subspecies of a widespread Asian butterfly. It looks like a small version of the famous Monarch of the USA, and for a long time was erroneously called the African Monarch. There have been a lot of name changes, to both common and scientific names, in the past five years.



After lunch, off we went to our first stop – the road to Zaagkuilsdrift, a spot Callan and I had found to be very productive on earlier trips. 'Zaagkuilsdrift' is an Afrikaans word roughly meaning 'soggy puddles ford'. Very descriptive! The weather at this stage was a bit cloudy and threatened rain, but hey! We were in Africa and there were lifers to be seen. After a dramatic rainbow, the clouds moved away. Our climate

has been all over the place recently. The anticipated masses of flowering Narrow-leaved Vernonia, whose nectar is beloved of butterflies, had all flowered early and set seed. There were some flowers out, and of course mud puddles in the gravel road. As it got warmer, we began to see butterflies.

Round-winged Orange Tips and Angled Grass Yellows were on the wing, with the occasional Banded Gold Tip or Red Tip whizzing through, not obliging to stop and pose, which was rather rude of them! There were quite a few Painted Ladies around, and someone shouted 'Leopard!'

which produced some mirth when it was realised that there's a butterfly called an African Leopard...



Blotched Leopard © Steve Woodhall

There were some thorn-trees growing along the roadside, most of the genus *Vachellia* that used to be *Acacia*, a thorny topic amongst botanists. And every so often a Buffalo Thorn, *Ziziphus mucronata*, host plant to many of our Pie and Pierrot butterflies in the Lycaenidae family. We started to see lycaenids. Four species of the ubiquitous 'Zebra Blues' of the genus *Leptotes* are impossible to tell apart from their wing markings. The only way to tell them apart is to kill them and dissect their genitalia for comparison. From years of doing this, collectors know that by far the

commonest is the 'Common Zebra Blue', *Leptotes pirithous*, which spreads as far as England where it rejoices in the name of 'Lang's Short-tailed Blue'. These four species don't even have the decency to have a special larval host plant each. *Plumbago* (leadworts) are popular garden plants all over the world and the Zebra Blues are associated with these. The butterflies also readily use a vast range of legumes – vetches, indigoes, rattle pods etc. The underside markings are of no help either. Being vaguely Zebra-like one would expect their pattern to be of specific significance as it is with the equine Zebra – but there's a lot of random variation. To add to the confusion, as they age, they change from charcoal grey and bright white to a sort of dull wishy washy grey and dirty white. They are very common, often forming 95% of the mud-puddle clubs that small blues are fond of – so it's easier to miss the occasional less abundant species sitting among them. Having said all this, they are handsome little butterflies with bright blue uppersides, so it was a pleasure to watch and photograph them.

We managed to see some other small lycaenids too. One of which, the strikingly marked Black Pie, was reasonably common because its caterpillar host plant, the aforementioned Buffalo Thorn, also known as the 'wait a bit' tree because of its hooked double thorns, was in the area. We saw the Rayed Blue, another one that uses legumes as larval host, with its striking diagonal white stripe on the underside. There were a few Topaz Babul Blues, mainly females hanging around their 'Acacia' host plants. Grass Jewel Blues were on the puddles, with lots of other little lycaenids. But thunderclouds were gathering, and we had to get to our first stop at the southern end of the Waterberg mountains, before nightfall. Dinner was at an excellent restaurant, with great fish dishes, after checking in. Everyone was tired out, so we just about got the day list done.



Grass Jewel © Steve Woodhall

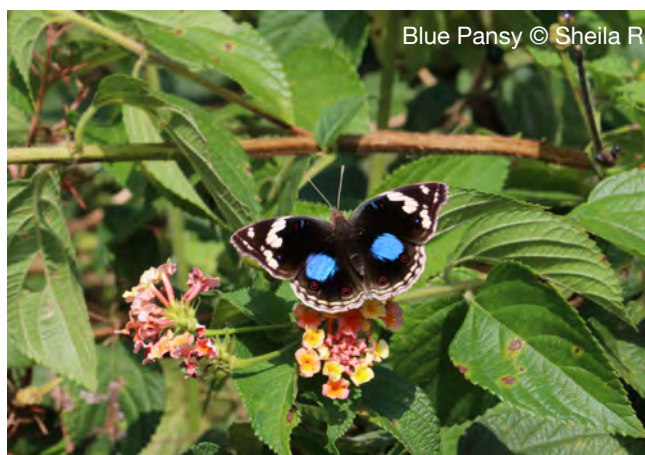
## Day 2 – 25 April, edge of the Waterberg

The next morning, we were up with the lark (or to be more accurate, the noisy Hadedda Ibis) and decided to take a walk down to the restaurant for breakfast. The 'Green easy trail' wasn't *that* easy, but it was full of distractions, lepidopteran, avian and floral. More Angled Grass Yellows. Lots of small blues of the same sort we'd seen yesterday, as well as our first Sailors of the trip (Spotted), Dark and Brown Dodgers (Skippers), and Pioneer Caper Whites. We had to keep an eye out for the vicious Tree Nettles (*Pouzolzia tenax*) that infest this sort of bush; it's too easy to walk into one at eye level, and that can be a nasty experience. They are also host plants for several species of the local Heliconiinae, and I was hoping to see the Pale-yellow Telchinia, a Waterberg special. All we found were some larvae, which are an attractive mid-brown colour with branched spines on rings of cream around the body. One highlight was a perfect female Diverse Albatross, form *malatha*, which floated slowly past Cecilia and me, showing off her distinctive upperside. I have never

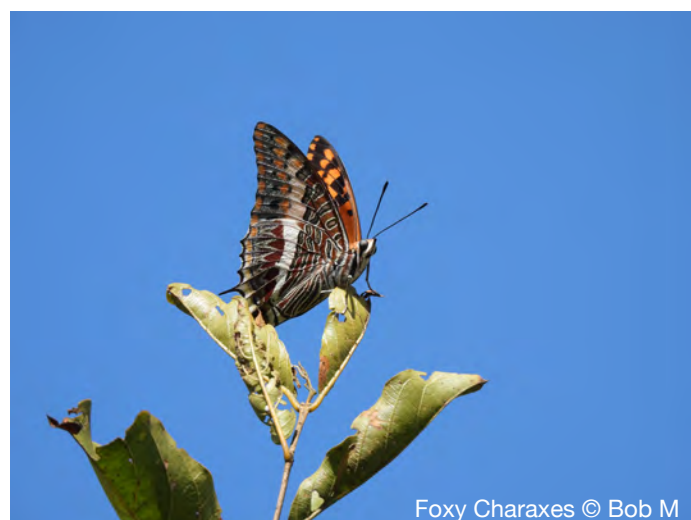


photographed that form live, so it was a pity she didn't sit nicely and pose for us. We were the only ones to see this species, so we had to show everyone the mounted specimen on my app over breakfast, which was later than we'd planned. We also found a Water Watchman (Skipper) where the trail ended near a river.

We decided to get to a nearby hilltop site. The first Yellow Pansy of the trip got everyone going. Especially Chris, who had a special love for Pansies. That combination of brilliant yellow, black, and iridescent blue is so attractive. I hung a boozy banana bait trap in a tree overhanging the ridge in the hope of attracting *Charaxes* and other fruit feeders. Lots of butterflies kept turning up and interrupting us! Grass Jewel Blues on their *Indigofera* vetch host plant. The first Spotted Jokers of the tour, Yellow AND Dark Blue Pansies, which got Chris and Sheila going every time. Eastern Dotted Borders, whose larval host plants are the hemiparasitic showy mistletoes used by the *Iolais* sapphires (a good sign) and in the shade of the numerous clumps of trees, Bush Browns. I thought I saw the comparatively rare Grizzled Bush Brown, a dry country specialist, but couldn't get a good enough view to be sure. We did see the Marsh Patroller, and as we approached the summit, a tiny buff butterfly down in the grass. Our first Poritiine lycaenid of the trip, the Yellow Zulu, *Alaena amazoula*. This caused a lot of excitement; they are unique to Africa and are very cute, delicately marked little butterflies.



Blue Pansy © Sheila R



Foxy Charaxes © Bob M

And then we hit the hilltop. Butterflies around the world use prominent landforms, big trees etc as lekking sites where males vie for prime perches and chase away rivals, waiting for the females to come up later in the day and mate with the 'top dog'. A 'working' African hilltop at midday can be an enchanting place, with all sorts of butterflies perching, displaying, and 'dogfighting' among or above the trees. Within minutes we saw a Foxy and a Van Son's *Charaxes* perching high up, disputing airspace with a stunning Straight-line Sapphire male. There were Purple-brown Hairstreaks, the striking snow-white and orange Twin Dotted Border, and Green-veined

*Charaxes* as well. Dark Blue Pansies frantically whizzed around, attacking *Charaxes* many times their size. I've been up many hilltops all over Africa, in all sorts of biomes. The thrill of seeing all those little shapes buzzing around never really fades. Taking people along to see it for the first time in their lives gives me goosebumps because the look on their faces reflects the awe, that I felt the first time I saw it.

Just after we saw the Green-veined, I noticed black clouds had crept up, and there was a rumble of thunder and a distant flash of lightning. We had just got back to camp when the heavens opened. The Gaelic singer Enya once wrote a song called 'Storms in Africa' and those who've been in one, and heard her sing it, must know she must have got caught in one once! Kristine kindly held her umbrella over my gear, and Canons are made of tough stuff so only a few surface droplets got through.

As is often the case with African highveld thunderstorms, it was all over by 3pm and the glorious smell of petrichor filled the air as the rain passed. A fitting coda to what I hope was a memorable day for all.

### Day 3 – 26 April, Nylsvley

Nylsvley is roughly on the route leading eastwards to the escarpment, where we had several options depending on the fickle rainforest weather. Its butterfly fauna is somewhat like Zaagkuilsdrift's, with the possibility of more savanna specials because the area has been transformed to a lesser extent by farming.

We left after breakfast and stopped off in Modimolle where Callan collected a book from Dr Warwick Tarboton, the renowned ornithologist and more recently, Odonata (dragonfly/damselfly) expert and author who has lived in the Waterberg for decades and is now concentrating on the overall biodiversity of the area. Unfortunately, he couldn't join us, but he gave us some good advice on spots to visit at Nylsvley.

This area proved to be the richest, species-wise, of the trip so far. We saw Citrus Swallowtails for the first time. We soon found Little Acraea – one of the specialities of the area. We saw quite a few of them, in very good condition. The Grass Yellows we were seeing were the savanna-grassland Broad-bordered ones. We saw the Guineafowl butterfly there, and two of the most beautiful Pierids turned up – the Lemon Traveller, and Scarlet Tip. A female Lemon Traveller sat still long enough for many of us to get photos. She was visibly freshly emerged and reluctant to fly. Small Elfin and Striped Sandman were new Skipper records, and at the lookout point we found our first



Lemon Traveller © Steve Woodhall

Aphnaeine lycaenid, Bush Scarlet, a male which posed like a trooper. Callan spotted another Poritiine – Bushveld Plain Buff. It was a female, laying eggs on the tree lichen the larvae use as food. This was a very good observation, and it was recorded on camera by at least one of the guests, Tad, as well as Callan.



African Fish Eagle © Bob M

In the late afternoon, once the butterflies had slowed down, the Vogelfontein area proved very good for birds. Close views of many species included Yellow-billed Stork, African Fish Eagle, Common Squacco Heron, African Purple Swamphen and more.

### Day 4 – 27 April, Munnik area

We left the Waterberg very early and got some kilometres under our wheels before stopping for breakfast at another big petrol station near Zebediela. We'd had to make a weather call. The Wolkberg, Afrikaans for 'Misty Mountains', which have many forests on their eastern side, were socked in, so we opted for the rain shadow and headed north. Callan had worked out a new route that avoided the traffic around Polokwane, so we approached Munnik from the west instead of the south.

Munnik itself is a fly speck on the map – a railway station in the middle of nowhere that is now part of a big tomato farming enterprise. I hadn't been there for four years and was amazed at the level of bush encroachment on what used to be mainly grassland with forest patches. A lovely fresh Macomo Ranger was on the low growing plants where we stopped. There were lots of flowering plants including the very productive *Vernonia colorata*. Most of the good sightings were nectaring on these or sucking mud puddles along the road. Of note was a gorgeous fresh female Straight-line Sapphire posing wings-open, sucking on nectar low down enough for good upperside views, which is a rare treat. Several photos were taken.



Straight-line Sapphire © Bob M



We saw the only Vine-leaf Vagrant of the trip along that road. Some woodland butterflies appeared, like Sulphur Ant-heap White and Brown Pansy. This has always been a good spot for Black-tipped Acraea, and a very fresh female was found nectaring on tiny flowers growing next to the road.



It was interesting to observe the Painted Ladies here. This butterfly has multiple host plants in Africa, several of which were growing along the road. Such as *Malva parviflora* and *Berkheya discolor*. There was a mix of dew-fresh newly emerged adults, and those that looked like they'd flown a very long distance. Much research has been done on the multigenerational migrations of Painted Ladies and it is known that they regularly cross the Sahara, Mediterranean and Europe to reach as far as northern Scandinavia and even Iceland, travelling for up to 12000km. This is because they have been proven using modern stable isotope analysis techniques to take advantage of host plant bursts driven by rains in the Sahel. This in turn drives the pulses of migrations between the tropics and the boreal areas. The huge numbers of larvae and pupae that appear after rains in the Sahel are suspected to be a driver of insectivorous bird migrations.

Less has been published about the behaviour of the southern hemisphere populations. The presence of Painted Ladies on both sides of the Equator might be explained by the movement of the 'thermal equator' with the seasons. The drier areas of South Africa have much in common with the Sahel. Could it be that worn individuals like the one photographed at Munnik, which looks like it has really flown from northern Europe, mix their genes with populations native to the semi-arid south? I have sent these photos to Gerard Talevera, who is conducting a lot of research in this area.



Activity around some exotic *Tithonia rotundifolia* orange sunflowers growing next to a rail worker's cottage drew our attention. Citrus Swallowtails were nectaring on them, and this created much excitement.

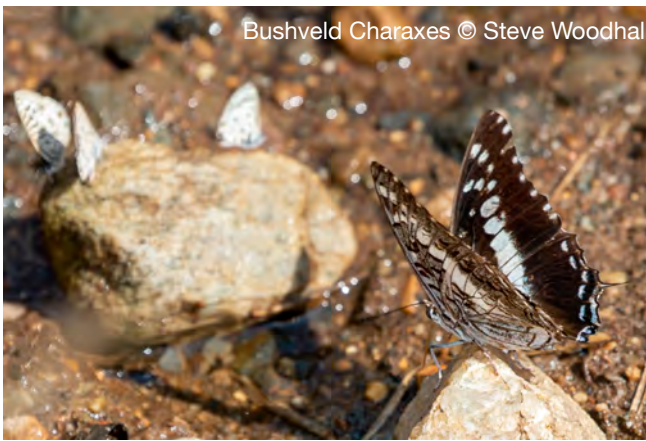
### Day 5 – 28 April, Lekgalameetse Day 1

The forests at Lekgalameetse are incredibly diverse. There is dry savanna woodland, riverine forest ranging from low trees to massive gallery giants, changing to montane forests and high-altitude grasslands as the altitude increases.

Our first day here took us into a broad valley that has several stream crossings. We hung a couple of fruit baited traps at the group camp and set off on the track. As we got into the first heavily wooded areas, we started to see real forest species for the first time. We saw Danainae that weren't Plain Tigers for the first time – especially the large and conspicuous Friars. They were the most numerous members of the subfamily that we saw. Laymen are usually a 'trash butterfly' with a lot of similar mimics that cause confusion (and fun -) but the larger (and usually solitary rather than gregarious) Chief outnumbered them. The big orange Blotched Leopards were everywhere, as is often the case here, but they liked to sit high, so not many photos were taken. The False Chiefs were also common, tending to sit lower and allow themselves to be photographed.

We started seeing Swallowtails, including the Afromontane species like the White-banded, and the



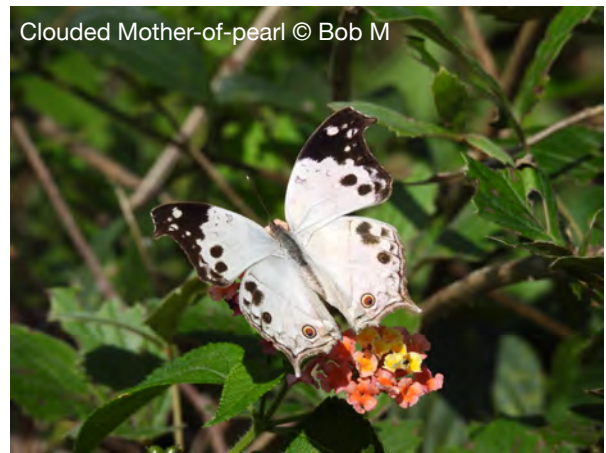


Bushveld Charaxes © Steve Woodhall

massive Emperor Swallowtails. These never gave anyone a chance of an easy photo; they were patrolling the streamlines but not mud-puddling like they often do. Tad managed to shoot one in flight! There were lots of Southern Mocker Swallowtails including some nice males nectaring. Our first Narrow Green-banded Swallowtails, also unwilling to settle, got some yells of ‘oh look at that big blue thing?!?’ and we had good sightings of Bushveld Charaxes on the mud, as well as the stunning Pearl Charaxes. That flame orange and pearl white against the green forest must be one of Africa’s most iconic

sights. We saw the first Brown and Soldier Pansies of the trip as well as both Common and Clouded Mother-of-Pearls bursting out of their hiding spots among the huge leaves of the Forest Fever Trees, *Anthocleista grandiflora*. Shouts of surprise and joy rang through the forest. Peoples’ first experience of this kind of forest is a wonderful thing to witness – “not being sure if the ‘something’ that just flew across the river was a bird, a bat, or a butterfly”, and to further quote Redmond O’Hanlon – “When, for a short space, you are returned to childhood.”

By this point the different personalities were starting to emerge. Cecilia’s determination to get a different angle on a photo, never mind the contortions necessary or wet boots and muddy clothing. Tom quietly walking on and coming back with something special. And Tad quietly waving me over and showing me the only Silverline we saw on the trip – Natal Silverline, a female on the *Lantana*. I know that the genus *Cigaritis* is especially popular in Japan, and the delight on his face was a picture.



Clouded Mother-of-pearl © Bob M



Banded Hopper © Steve Woodhall

There were lots of Hesperids around, including the Buff-tipped Skipper and several Hoppers including the rare Banded Hopper, one of Lekgalameetse’s specials. Many little LBJs, were around as well. Some of these worried me, so I contacted the experts. It turns out that the populations of Flower-girl Hopper in the Wolkberg foothills have been misidentified in the past – they have a different host plant. All those Hoppers we saw that weren’t White-tail or Banded were Honey Hoppers. They can be very confusing because like all butterflies they have more than one layer of wing scales. On

small, fast-flying species these wear off, and the pattern may change because the upper layer can have different colours to the lower ones. In the case of Honey Hoppers, the pale band across the hindwing underside becomes a series of smudged spots as the scales wear off. This can make them look like Flower-girls, or even Robust Hoppers on large, heavy bodied males.

All the Swifts we saw that day were Long-horned, I can confirm. No Twin or Variable Swifts.

The area has plenty of moribund trees covered in lichen, one of which we knew from past experience harboured a colony of Bushveld Plain Buffs. The area was a little more overgrown than on our previous visit, but there they were. Mud puddles and the numerous flowers were attracting many small ‘Blues’. Several of these were ‘firsts’ including the ‘Bush Bronze’, which has a blue upperside but is called a ‘Bronze’, because it’s in the same genus as the widespread Geranium Bronzes. Another reason why African butterfly common names make me grumpy, but let’s not go there... other new Blues included the spectacular Hintza Pierrot and the sombre little Grey Smoky



Blue. A surprise was the large number of Pale Babul Blues, each of which had to be inspected because the recognition cues are so close to the Black-bordered and Natal Babul Blues. The sheer numbers of Common Zebra Blues etc., makes it likely that we missed a few of the less common species. Pale Babul Blues are a bit special – and are usually the least common of their genus. It was a treat to see them in numbers.

We decided to cross the second river after lunch and see how much further we could get before having to turn back. Callan ran back and came up in the minivan, carrying food. I slipped and one foot went underwater, but my Veldskoek, waterproofed with crosslinked silicone, kept my foot dry. We had a good long walk along that road. Callan made a find, though. He was on the lookout for Buffs in more of the leafless trees when he spotted a tiny Lycaenid and grabbed a photo. I could just about make it out as it whizzed to and fro among the branches – but couldn't get my bins onto it. But Callan's camera back showed it to be a Brilliant Gem. These are rare in the area (Zululand is the best place for them – that link again).

Back at the camp, the fruit baited traps had attracted a few Charaxes, so I was able to try the 'butterfly whisperer' trick I learned from Dr Pingchung Lee of the Hong Kong Lepsoc on their momentous Zululand visit back in 2014. I



was able to persuade a Green-veined Charaxes to suck banana bait from my finger, then transfer her to a bit of bait smeared onto the bark of a tree. OK, it's a bit like photographing birds on a feeder... but it's the only way to get decent photos of these high-flying canopy dwellers unless one is lucky enough to find them on faeces or fallen fruit. Or on a tree leaking fermenting sap from a borer beetle hole... which looks just like a judiciously placed bit of bait smeared onto the bark of a tree! It isn't a cruel practice – Charaxes are long lived (several months) and a day's free feed on the bait is not a big fraction of their lives, as

some believe. It's more like a fair exchange for great photos because they get a free feed of their natural food. Getting sozzled on fermenting fruit is normal Nymphalid behaviour, as can attest anyone who has been in a European orchard in autumn and seen Red Admirals flying 'under the influence'. Ethanol is food to them, not just an intoxicant, and they need it to give them the energy for their fast flight. Bait dumped on the floor can work in hot humid equatorial forests, but it desiccates too quickly to be much use in the drier conditions of Southern Africa.

## Day 6 – 29 April, Lekgalameetse, Day 2.

The main forest road is tarred until it meets the grasslands of The Downs and traverses the dangerous Orrie Baragwanath Pass over the top of the Wolkberg. Like the bush track we'd explored the previous day, it's so rich in experiences that it can take all day to move just a couple of hundred metres! It follows the main river, a tributary of the Olifants, which can provide some unusual sightings. There are damp sandy patches everywhere and lots of Forest Fever Trees among whose huge leaves one can suddenly disturb a crowd of Mothers-of-Pearl or Diadems. For me, this place is as close to heaven as one can get in South Africa and can be as good as any central African forest or Andean river. And of course, there is the fabled waterfall where the author of the first field guide to South Africa's butterflies, David Swanepoel, used to camp rough, braving the lions and other dangerous game that was common in those early 20<sup>th</sup> century days. It's still one of the best spots in the reserve, despite the road having been tarred and what was a muddy ford with lots of butterflies having been bridged over. Lots of Swallowtails were around including the Emperors, which again were reluctant to settle. The glorious Bush Beauties were skulking around in the shadows.





Boisduval's False Acraea © Bob M

In several places the road runs high enough above the river for the forest canopy to be easily accessed. This is where we saw the eye-catching 'Tutti-frutti' Boisduval's False Acraea, probably South Africa's biggest, flashiest forest butterfly. It mimics the Acara Acraea but is about four times as large and appears to be a brighter red and orange as a result. The males are extremely pugnacious and like to perch on high leaves, sallying forth to chase away other butterflies and offering great photo opportunities if you can get on their level, as you can here. The False Chief, which is a 'catch all' mimic that looks generically like several of the *Amauris* Danaines like Laymen

and Chiefs, were everywhere. Occasionally the rare, orange-marked form *heliogenes* would show up, but unlike the commoner black-and-white or cream ones, didn't settle for a picture.

The damp sand had clouds of Grass Yellows with other butterflies sitting among them. The waterfall is one of the best places for the Dry-leaf Commodore, with a large male posing nicely for photos.

Commodores had been unusually rare on this trip. Tom had done his usual thing of quietly sloping off alone and found a Garden Inspector on a rocky outcrop at the side of the road. This is usually very common there, as is its more colourful relative the Gaudy Commodore, but for some reason they were absent. Forest Pierids like the Forest Caper White, and a few Diverse Albatross were present.



Dry-leaf Commodore © Bob M

Cambridge Vagrants were numerous here and caused a lot of excitement. I got lucky when one of the few females we saw flew into a bunch of dead leaves to hide right in front of me. I called the nearby guests over for a photo and I think some of them got a shot, but true to form for this butterfly, she decided to depart the scene at speed. The males were perching high and not being very cooperative, making for poor photo angles.

Eventually we tore ourselves away from the waterfall and drove up to where a high bridge crosses a tributary, and the canopy is easily visible. It was in this area that one of the guests managed a photo of the Orange-spotted Hopper – which is never a common sight in South Africa. The sides of the valley are very steep here and there are a lot of baboons that feed on fruit – and their droppings are at the roadside. They were very attractive to Charaxes – we found several 'poo clubs' that were great fun to photograph. The photographers were as much fun to observe as the butterflies were – Cecilia entertained us by lying full length flat on the road with her macro lens centimetres from a large baboon turd with a Charaxes on it. Her contortions trying to get a 'butterfly's eye view' of this meant that she was also surrounded by interested photographers...



Charaxes on Baboon Scat © Steve Woodhall

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Eventually it was time to go and look at the traps we'd set further down in the forest. On the way up we noticed that one of them had attracted a nice male Forest-king Charaxes. I foolishly decided to leave him in the roof of the trap to rest and cool off (and hence be more willing to pose for photos) whilst we went further up. On the way down we'd found he had left the party. We never seem to have much luck with this species on Greenwings trips...

A friend had advised us to keep an eye out for the rare Clubbed Three-ring, a Satyrine I had never seen alive. Murphy's Law – Three-rings were scarce on this trip. At the bottom of the forest, we saw a Three-ring skulking around the low grasses, and of course the more it played hard to get, the more we thought it might be the rare one. But eventually I managed a shot with its antennae in view – yellow tips not black, and almost clubless. The good old African Three-ring, an LBJ of note but not the rarity we'd hoped for. Tom, a Satyrophile, was happy to see this species though.



African Three-ring © Steve Woodhall

At this stage, we were getting ready to go when I noticed a lot of pied butterflies interacting at the edge of the canopy. At first, I thought they were Novices, the only one of the genus *Amauris* we'd not seen so far, that are known for gregarious behaviour. But they turned out to be Friars having an orgy! The males had their hair pencils extruded from their abdomens, scattering pheromones as they mobbed a female. Callan's ultra-fast Olympus allowed him to get sharp shots of these, something that I have only managed to get blurred images of with Laymen near my home. These were publication quality – well done to Callan!

### Day 7 – 30 April, Lekgalameetse, Day 3.



Callan and the Chameleon © Bob M

This time, on the way in, Callan spotted a Flap-necked Chameleon crossing the road. This gave some great photo opportunities – they tolerate handling well, don't bite, and move very slowly. Many of them get squashed on the roads so relocating it in the bushes was an act of kindness.

We'd opted to take a road that runs through the low foothills of the reserve and has different, slightly more arid-adapted vegetation to the mountainous parts. There are forested rivers crossing the dirt road and lots of opportunities for mud-puddling. We teamed up with Vaughan Jessnitz, a local wildlife guide trainer I've known since he was a young lad

and has been butterfly-mad from an early age like me. He knows Lekgalameetse very well and a lot of the 'special' spots. I had done a trip here one May some years earlier and found some supposedly scarce species swarming, so I was hopeful here!

We left the cars at a bridge over one of the bigger streams, put up a couple of traps, and immediately found a mating pair of Spotted Buffs. These butterflies valued their privacy and flew up into a leafy tree where they were a challenge to photograph. A female Eastern Scarlet put in an appearance. Then the team followed the road at a variety of paces. I had to go back to the car to change a battery and took a bit too long over it, partly because Cambridge Vagrants suddenly appeared low down on the flowers, and I'd figured out that the malfunction on the 70D was restricting me to shutter priority auto.

One male came down right in front of me and for once the autofocus worked, so I got a lovely shot of him. The flowers were mainly Lantana; it has really overgrown this part of the reserve.



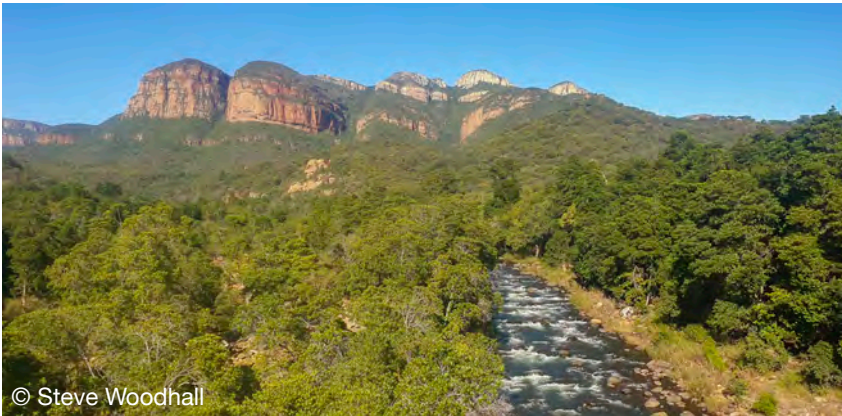
Spotted Buff pair © Sheila R



The go-to butterfly nectar plant in this area is *Baccharoides adoensis*, which doesn't have an English common name. There was hardly any to be seen.

Most of the guests went with Callan and Vaughan and reached a point where there were sufficient *Baccharoides* in bloom. They found the only Swordtail of the trip (a Large Striped) and managed to find a Veined Skipper and watched it almost get taken by a flower mantis, as well as an Apricot Playboy, which was great. With a couple of other more leisurely people I sauntered along the road, looking at little blues on the damp sand and marvelling at the number of male Bushveld Charaxes that were sitting on the sand and from time to time chasing one another. It was by far the commonest Charaxes around. Common Diadems were also around – the striking males with their fugitive blue iridescence, as well as the females that mimic Plain Tigers. Most of the blues on the sand were species we'd already seen, but there was one male Steel-blue Ciliate Blue who kept opening his wings to show his shiny deep blue upperside. We couldn't stay too long – the area near the gate was still busy – so we said our goodbyes to Vaughan and set off for our next destination – aiming to get there before dark. We were rewarded by the setting sun lighting up the huge cliffs of the Blyde River Canyon (Mariepskop is part of that) bright pink. A lot of scenery shots were taken.

### Day 8 – 1 May, Mariepskop



© Steve Woodhall

Mariepskop is a huge, tepui-like flat topped mountain that forms the eastern wall of the Blyde River Canyon, frowning over the Swadini resort and throwing its forests into shadow. It was for years a favourite of lepidopterists because it is home to several specialist butterflies, and it was these that we hoped to see on May Day. There's a road right to the top, to the old distant early

warning radar systems that the old government used to point at Mozambique in case the Russians invaded (now fallen into disrepair).

It's quite a long drive to the start of the Mariepskop road so an early start was needed. The dirt road leading in was a challenge in places and some mud puddles distracted us to look at tips and blues. The lower slopes of Mariepskop had many years ago been covered in exotic timber plantations, so one only gets into the real Afromontane Forest about halfway up. The old air force quarters, that we Lepsoc members used to cadge beds in, have been abandoned, and are now hard to find and quite dangerous. This is where we always used to find the Sulphur Dotted Borders, one of the aforementioned 'specials', so I was anxious that its host plant, Hairy Mistletoe, might have been lost. I shouldn't have worried; it was growing in abundance. Despite the blue skies it was unusually cold for May and butterflies were scarce. We'd almost given up when the first Sulphur Dotted Borders appeared, flying a bit too high for easy photography – but people managed. Except my 70D's autofocus chose this point to really go on the fritz. All my shots were fuzzy so I decided to concentrate on using bins and leave the photography to people who had working gear!

The top of Mariepskop is covered in karoo-type vegetation found thousands of metres lower down when in the Cape provinces. Despite it being around 12°C, some hardy Gaudy Commodores were flying at the summit, which pleased the people who had hoped to see this beauty. There



Gaudy Commodore © Bob M

were a few Charaxes were including a female Forest King – which typically refused to pose for a photo! White-banded Swallowtails were seen, as well as Bush Beauties and even a Grizzled Bush Brown at the bottom.

The incredible views from the summit plateau made up somewhat for the lack of butterflies. Cecilia, a landscape photographer, was in her element.

Ultimately you can't win 'em all, and the unseasonably cold weather won on this day. We decided to take it easy the next day and stay at the bottom in the warmer forests.

### **Day 9 – 2 May, Waterfall and campsite trails in Swadini resort**

Swadini's Waterfall trail is the first African forest trail I ever walked, some 40 years earlier with my parents and wife at Easter 1982 when they first came to visit us. I still remember the awe I felt when we came out into a sunny clearing to find a big flock of Cambridge Vagrants. At the time I'd had no idea one found huge pale blue Pierids like this in Africa and thought I'd walked into some sort of scientific experiment!

It really is a delight of a trail and, like the rest of Swadini resort, has been well maintained. As with most mountain streams there had obviously been flash floods in the past, but there were easy paths along the (almost dry) riverbed and a well-designed new bridge made of twisted bark where one turns off to go to the waterfall. We had a few 'firsts' here including Small Ant-heap White, Pointed Caper White and the lovely Golden Piper – and a single Clear-spotted Acraea, a very colourful species. It also proved to be the only place we saw a Tree Nymph – the normally very common Boisduval's, as well as a Variable Diadem that sat high in a tree trying to look like a Layman, the model for this mimic.

It was when we reached the Waterfall that the real fun started. Rosa simply dived in, fully clothed, phone in pocket, and gleefully splashed around with a huge grin on her face. Cecilia followed not long after. The rest of us admired the scene, an intimate little waterfall with a neat little plunge pool at the bottom. And all around were butterflies. Both Common and Clouded Mother-of-Pearls were posing nicely, and there must have been about 20 or so in one sunny clearing. This was a very nice easy trail that allowed us to concentrate on the butterflies!



Common Mother-of-pearl © Sheila R

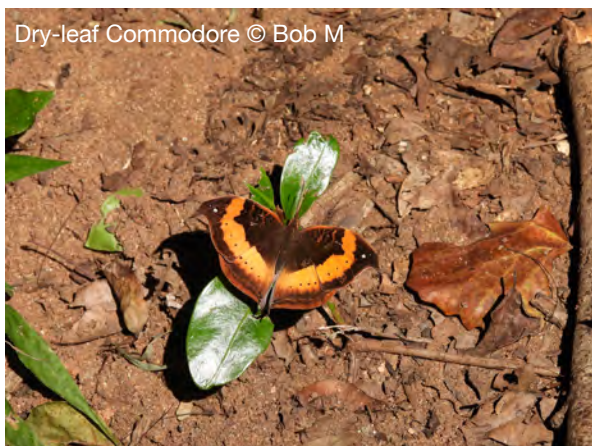
### **Day 10 – 3 May, Kampersrus ridge, then into Kruger Park to Satara via Orpen**

This was the day of transition into the Kruger National Park, so Callan had arranged to visit the hills above Kampersrus School. Where there was an 'easy' (ha!) walk to a small dam and a nearby hilltop. As soon as we parked the vehicles we found a large hedge of the viciously thorny creeper, Flame Thorn (*Senegalia* – was *Acacia ataxacantha*). It was covered in nectaring Small Ant-heap Whites, mostly the plain white winter form males, but with a generous sprinkling of the beautiful female form *rubrobasalis*. And among them, a fiery red, orange, and black male Acara Acraea, the model for the much bigger Boisduval's False Acraea.

Behind the field was a grassy meadow dotted with small bushes, around which were whirling small dark butterflies. I was hoping it might be a hatch of Brilliant Gems, but no. Our visitors were treated to the sight of many Southern Pied Woollylegs, of the Lycaenid subfamily Miletinae. The little black males were whizzing around dogfighting one another; every so often one of the charcoal-and-white females would appear. These are usually hard to spot, since they tend to sit tight amongst packs of aphids, membracids etc (sap sucking insects), sharing their sweet excretions with ants. They lay eggs amongst these, and the predatory larvae feed on the sap suckers. A friend who lives nearby had watched a larva pounce on a membracid (they have long 'true' legs that can move much more quickly than those of a 'normal' caterpillar!) and it stopped moving and allowed itself to be eaten without a struggle. That says 'venom' to me, but that's for a youngster to do a Ph.D on! I was



photographing a larva being attended by ants in a friend's garden down here in Durban, and caught it being fed mouth-to-mouth by the ants. That was a new discovery, but not a surprise since we know that many *Miletines* (and some other *Lycaenids*) have the same feeding behaviour. In essence, these are true parasites – like little cuckoos!



The Woollylegs kept everyone entranced for a long time, and we had a bit of a climb to do. This was up a stream flowing down from part of the Mariepskop massif, with some thick riverine forest in places; a good place to look for butterflies. On the way up, we found another Dry-leaf Commadore. We had good sightings of the Veined Arab, a Pierid we hadn't seen elsewhere. Arabs are rather different to other *Colotis* species that have coloured tips to their forewings. Their wings have dark streaks and either dark spots on a pale ground, or the other way around. Veined Arab is particularly attractive, having white upperside wing bases and the outer areas salmon-pink to

orange or even golden yellow. To begin with they were flying up and down the path at high speed, then we noticed they were stopping to feed at Yellow *Justicia* flowers buried in the grass. So, quite easy to clear a bit of grass away from the *Justicia*, prefocus on a flower, and wait...

Near the top of the trail was a small dam with a lot of reeds around the edges. Large fish (or maybe frogs) were jumping in the water causing loud 'plops'. There was a mud puddle club of Small Ant-heap White males where something was attracting them. There were a few of the very attractive *Portia* Widow dragonflies around, with their glistening black wing patches, like wet coal.



Callan and some of the fitter guests elected to walk two hundred metres further to the top of the spur of Mariepskop above the dam. He came down to say there were some interesting *Charaxes* up there. So up we went, except Nigel who wisely decided to start making his way down slowly. And yes, there were *Charaxes* there; Bushveld, White-barred, Green-veined and Pearl, plus a couple of small black ones we couldn't see well enough to identify – males of the black ones are difficult, but we didn't see any females. We started walking slowly down, to find that Nigel had succeeded in shooting some Veined Arabs that were less wary with fewer people around.

Then, it was time to set off for Orpen Gate and the drive through the Kruger National Park, and Satara Camp. It was a bit late in the day for butterflies, but we saw quite a few megafauna – the guests transferred to Andrew's open 4x4 viewing vehicle; Callan and I driving the bus and the



Hyundai to Satara to make sure all was OK and work out where everyone would be sleeping. As I drove through the gate there was a series of thunderous roars from just outside the car, and the sounds of lions having a disagreement. They were very close – I found out later, just on the other side of the bushes alongside the entrance. But I couldn't see them, and I was focused on getting to my Rondavel and sorting out my stuff.

Andy had found the pussycats – it was the famous Timbavati pride of White Lions. Including the leader, the charismatic (and loud!) Casper. I'd seen white

lions once in the Park before, over 30 years ago, but lionesses only and they never roar! It must have been an incredible experience for our guests.

The Kruger Park restaurants are getting better all the time and we had a good steakhouse supper. We tried to get an early night because we had to get packed, breakfasted and on the road to Skukuza the next day, with two of the best butterfly spots in the Park on the agenda.

### Day 11 – 4 May, Satara to Skukuza

The problem with Satara is that it's one of the best butterfly spots in the park – and its birds aren't too shabby either. The lawn in the middle of the camp has an enclosure with several Pierid host plants growing in it, and after breakfast we spotted something we hadn't yet seen – a Purple-tip at last, the Bushveld species, *Colotis ione*. It got mobbed! Fantastic that the guests got to see an iconic African Pierid – Orange-tips are found all over the old world, but only Africa and Madagascar have the Purple-tips! And it was a fresh male.

Which made it difficult to get away on time... and as I was planning to leave just after Andy and the guests, I spotted a mixed bird party in the bush next to that lawn. And in it was my first ever sighting of a Grey-headed Bush Shrike, *Malaconotus blanchoti*, that's called the Spookvoël in Afrikaans, meaning 'ghost bird'. I often hear their spooky calls in my garden even, and all over the nature reserves I've been to, and have seen the odd silhouette, but never actually seen one until today. And it posed out in the sunlight!



Grey-headed Bush Shrike © Steve Woodhall

Callan and I slowly made our way down to Tshokwane Picnic Site with its excellent snack bar. I got there first, and it was a bit cool to begin with – perfect for spotting roosting Pierids. I saw what looked like a female African Migrant fast asleep, but in my Vortex close-up bins I realised it was an Autumn-leaf Vagrant, a very special insect. When Callan arrived, she was still there, and he spotted something else we hadn't seen – Bushveld Orange-tip, a beautiful female. Of course, when the guests arrived, after a morning in the viewing car some comfort breaks were needed, then lunch to be ordered... When we went to look for the Autumn-leaf Vagrant he was wide awake and flew away very quickly – and there was no sign of the Bushveld Orange-tip either.

The weather then turned slightly cold whilst we ate our lunch, then we were ready to go to a nearby hilltop. But then, out came the sun. Everyone saw the Autumn-leaf Vagrants, there was more than one.

We arrived around 14:00 and the hilltop wasn't very active. Then Callan spotted a beautiful female Pearl-spotted Charaxes nectaring on a Cape Honeysuckle flower. This was unusual – Charaxes seldom nectar on flowers, but Cape Honeysuckle seems to be an exception; I've often seen White-barred Charaxes on this plant's flowers. She sat there for long enough for many of the group to get a photo. The lack of butterflies was disappointing, but that Pearl-spotted was a first for the trip. Several White Rhinoceros were seen far below in the grasslands, as well as Elephant. The high ridge above the vast plains below is reminiscent of Ngorongoro Crater in Tanzania, so it was a fitting last place to visit before setting off for Skukuza and the last night of the trip.

Someone said to me, these holidays look like taking a long time when they are in the future but go by like a flash when you are actually here. Over dinner, we were looking at peoples' photos, and we found a Natal Babul Blue had been added to the list.

We had a great dinner with lots of reminiscences. It's a pity we had to leave early the next morning, necessitating another early night.

### Day 12 – 5 May, back to ORTIA

Not much in the way of butterflies today because we were tight on time and people had flights to catch, so there was little chance to stop.





<b>Butterflies</b>			24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
			April	April	April	April	April	April	April	April	May	May	May
Imago sightings are marked with a ✓, caterpillars are marked with a ☆			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8	day 9	day 10	day 11
16	Round-winged Orange Tip	<i>Colotis euipe</i>	✓									✓	
17	Bushveld Purple Tip	<i>Colotis ione</i>											✓
18	Bushveld Orange Tip	<i>Colotis pallene</i>											✓
19	Veined Arab	<i>Colotis vesta</i>										✓	✓
20	Sulphur Ant-heap White	<i>Dixeia spilleri</i>				✓	✓						
21	Small Ant-heap White	<i>Dixeia pigea</i>									✓	✓	
22	Vine-leaf Vagrant	<i>Eronia cleodora</i>				✓							
25	African Wood White	<i>Leptosia alcesta</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
26	Eastern Dotted Border	<i>Mylothris agathina</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
27	Twin Dotted Border	<i>Mylothris rueppellii haemus</i>		✓		✓	✓						
28	Sulphur Dotted Border	<i>Mylothris trimenia</i>								✓			
29	Cambridge Vagrant	<i>Nepheronia thalassina</i>						✓	✓		✓		
30	Zebra White	<i>Pinacopteryx eriphia</i>	✓		✓	✓							✓
31	Banded Gold Tip	<i>Teracolus eris</i>	✓								✓		
32	Lemon Traveller	<i>Teracolus subfasciatus</i>			✓								
23	Broad-bordered Grass Yellow	<i>Terias brigitta</i>			✓	✓		✓					
24	Angled Grass Yellow	<i>Terias desjardinsii</i>	✓	✓									
33	Uniform Grass Yellow	<i>Terias floricola</i>					✓						
34	African Grass Yellow	<i>Terias hecabe solifera</i>					✓	✓					
<b>Family Nymphalidae</b>													
35	Acara Acraea	<i>Acraea acara</i>										✓	
36	Dark Wanderer	<i>Acraea aganice</i>						✓	✓			✓	
37	Clear-spotted Acraea	<i>Acraea aglaonice</i>									✓		
38	Little Acraea	<i>Acraea axina</i>			✓								
39	Black-tipped Acraea	<i>Acraea caldarena</i>				✓							
40	Black-based Acraea	<i>Acraea natalica</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓			
41	Layman	<i>Amauris albimaculata</i>					✓	✓					
42	Chief	<i>Amauris echeria</i>					✓	✓		✓		✓	
43	Friar	<i>Amauris niavius</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
44	Squinting Bush Brown	<i>Bicyclus anynana</i>					✓				✓		



<b>Butterflies</b>			24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
			April	April	April	April	April	April	April	April	May	May	May
Imago sightings are marked with a ✓, caterpillars are marked with a ☆			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8	day 9	day 10	day 11
45	Grizzled Bush Brown	<i>Bicyclus ena</i>		✓						✓			
46	Black-haired Bush Brown	<i>Bicyclus safitza</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
47	Marsh Patroller	<i>Brakefieldia perspicua</i>		✓					✓	✓			
48	Spotted Joker	<i>Byblia ilithyia</i>		✓									
49	Rainforest Dull Brown	<i>Cassionympha cassius</i>					✓	✓		✓			
50	Bushveld Charaxes	<i>Charaxes achaemenes</i>					✓	✓	✓			✓	
51	White-barred Charaxes	<i>Charaxes brutus</i>						✓	✓		✓	✓	
52	Green-veined Charaxes	<i>Charaxes candiope</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
53	Satyr Charaxes	<i>Charaxes ethalion</i>					✓	✓	✓				
54	Pearl-spotted Charaxes	<i>Charaxes jahlusa</i>											✓
55	Foxy Charaxes	<i>Charaxes saturnus</i>		✓	✓								✓
56	Van Son's Charaxes	<i>Charaxes vansoni</i>		✓	✓								
57	Pearl Charaxes	<i>Charaxes varanes</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
58	Forest King Charaxes	<i>Charaxes xiphares</i>						✓	✓	✓			
59	Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
60	Golden Piper	<i>Eurytela dryope</i>									✓	✓	
61	Pied Piper	<i>Eurytela hiarbas</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
62	Guineafowl	<i>Hamanumida daedalus</i>			✓			✓	✓				✓
63	Variable Diadem	<i>Hypolimnias anhedon</i>									✓	✓	
64	Common Diadem	<i>Hypolimnias misippus</i>							✓		✓		
65	Yellow Pansy	<i>Junonia hierta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
66	Brown Pansy	<i>Junonia natalica</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
67	Dark Blue Pansy	<i>Junonia oenone</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
68	Soldier Pansy	<i>Junonia elgiva</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
69	Blotched Leopard	<i>Lachnoptera ayresii</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓		
70	Common Evening Brown	<i>Melanitis leda</i>					✓				✓	✓	
71	Common Barred Sailer	<i>Neptis laeta</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
72	Spotted Sailer	<i>Neptis saclava</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓		✓		
73	Bush Beauty	<i>Paralethe dendrophilus</i>						✓		✓			
74	African Leopard	<i>Phalanta phalantha aethiopica</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓						

<b>Butterflies</b>			24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
			April	April	April	April	April	April	April	April	May	May	May
Imago sightings are marked with a ✓, caterpillars are marked with a ☆			day	day	day	day	day	day	day	day	day	day	day
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
75	Garden Inspector	<i>Precis archesia</i>						✓					
76	Gaudy Commodore	<i>Precis octavis</i>								✓			
77	Dry-leaf Commodore	<i>Precis tugela</i>						✓				✓	
78	Clouded Mother-of-pearl	<i>Protogoniomorpha nebulosa</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
79	Common Mother-of-pearl	<i>Protogoniomorpha parhassus</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓		
80	Boisduval's False Acraea	<i>Pseudacraea boisduvalii trimeni</i>						✓	✓		✓	✓	
81	False Wanderer	<i>Pseudacraea eurytus</i>									✓		
82	False Chief	<i>Pseudacraea lucretia</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
83	Boisduval's Tree Nymph	<i>Sevenia boisduvali</i>									✓		
84	Pale-yellow Telchinia	<i>Telchinia burni</i>		☆									
85	Yellow-banded Telchinia	<i>Telchinia cabira</i>					✓		✓				
86	Dusky Telchinia	<i>Telchinia esebria</i>					✓		✓			✓	
87	Dancing Telchinia	<i>Telchinia serena</i>				✓	✓		✓				
88	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
89	African Three-ring	<i>Ypthima asterope</i>						✓					
<b>Family Lycaenidae</b>													
90	Rayed Blue	<i>Actizera lucida</i>	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓		
91	Yellow Zulu	<i>Alaena amazoula</i>		✓	✓								
92	Black-striped Ciliate Blue	<i>Anthene amarah</i>	✓			✓	✓						
93	Steel-blue Ciliate Blue	<i>Anthene definita</i>				✓	✓		✓				
94	Bush Scarlet	<i>Axiocerses amanga</i>			✓								
95	Eastern Scarlet	<i>Axiocerses tjoane</i>							✓				✓
96	Topaz Babul Blue	<i>Azonus jesous</i>	✓										
97	Pale Babul Blue	<i>Azonus mirza</i>					✓		✓				
	Black-bordered Babul Blue	<i>Azonus moriqua</i>					✓						
98	Natal Babul Blue	<i>Azonus natalensis</i>											✓
99	Bush Bronze	<i>Cacyreus lingeus</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓		
100	Common Geranium Bronze	<i>Cacyreus marshalli</i>				✓							



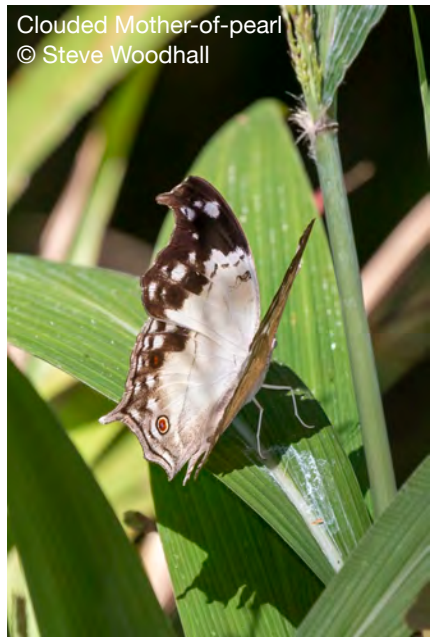
<b>Butterflies</b>			24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
			April	April	April	April	April	April	April	April	May	May	May
Imago sightings are marked with a ✓, caterpillars are marked with a ☆			day	day	day	day	day	day	day	day	day	day	day
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
101	Grass Jewel Blue	<i>Chilades trochylus</i>	✓	✓									
102	Brilliant Gem	<i>Chloroselas pseudozeritis</i>					✓						
103	Natal Silverline	<i>Cigaritis natalensis</i>					✓						
104	Bushveld Plain Buff	<i>Cnodontes penningtoni</i>			✓		✓						
105	Brown Playboy	<i>Deudorix antalus</i>		✓	✓							✓	
106	Apricot Playboy	<i>Deudorix dinochares</i>							✓				
107	White-tipped Ash Blue	<i>Eicochrysops hippocrates</i>						✓			✓		
108	Grey Smoky Blue	<i>Euchrysops malathana</i>					✓		✓		✓		
109	Purple-brown Hairstreak	<i>Hypolycaena philippus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
110	Straight-line Sapphire	<i>Iolaus silarus</i>		✓		✓							
111	Southern Pied Woollylegs	<i>Lachnocnema laches</i>										✓	
	Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>							✓				
112	Plain Black-eye	<i>Leptomyrina henningi</i>			✓								
113	Common Zebra (Lang's Short-tailed) Blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
114	Spotted Buff	<i>Pentila tropicalis</i>							✓				
115	Black Pie	<i>Tuxentius melaena</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
116	Hintza Pierrot	<i>Zintha hintza</i>					✓		✓				
117	African Grass Blue	<i>Zizeeria knysna</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
118	Tiny Grass Blue	<i>Zizula hylax</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
	<b>Family Hesperiiidae</b>												
119	Veined Skipper	<i>Abantis venosa</i>							✓				
120	Macken's Dart	<i>Acleros mackenii</i>							✓				
121	Brown Dodger	<i>Afrogegenes letterstedti</i>		✓				✓	✓	✓			
122	Large Flat	<i>Apallaga mokeezi</i>						✓					
123	Long-horned Swift	<i>Borbo fatuellus</i>					✓	✓	✓				
124	Striped Policeman	<i>Coeliades forestan</i>					✓	✓	✓				
125	Two-pip Policeman	<i>Coeliades pisistratus</i>					✓						
126	Rufous-winged Flat	<i>Eagris nottoana</i>					✓				✓		
127	Forest Sandman	<i>Ernsta dromus</i>					✓						

<b>Butterflies</b>			24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
			April	April	April	April	April	April	April	April	May	May	May
Imago sightings are marked with a ✓, caterpillars are marked with a ☆			day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4	day 5	day 6	day 7	day 8	day 9	day 10	day 11
128	Dark Dodger	<i>Gegenes pumilio gambica</i>		✓	✓								
129	Green-marbled Skipper	<i>Gomalia elma</i>				✓					✓		
130	Macomo Ranger	<i>Kedestes macomo</i>				✓							
131	Buff-tipped Skipper	<i>Netrobalane canopus</i>					✓		✓				
132	Gold-spotted Sylph	<i>Metisella metis</i>					✓	✓		✓			
133	Water Watchman	<i>Parnara monasi</i>		✓			✓						
134	Morant's Orange	<i>Parosmodes morantii</i>							✓				
135	White-branded Swift	<i>Pelopidas thorax</i>							✓				
136	White-tail Hopper	<i>Platylesches galesa</i>					✓	✓	✓				
137	Honey Hopper	<i>Platylesches moritili</i>					✓		✓				
138	Banded Hopper	<i>Platylesches picanini</i>					✓						
139	Forest Elfin	<i>Sarangesa motozi</i>					✓	✓	✓				
140	Small Elfin	<i>Sarangesa phidyle</i>			✓								
141	Forest Sandman	<i>Spialia dromus</i>						✓	✓				
142	Striped Sandman	<i>Spialia ferax</i>			✓								
143	Mountain Sandman	<i>Spialia spio</i>					✓						
144	Clouded Flat	<i>Tagiades flesus</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓		
145	Twin Swift	<i>Torbenlarsenia gemella</i>							✓				
146	Orange-spotted Hopper	<i>Zenonia zeno</i>						✓					

African Caper White © Steve Woodhall



Macken's Dart © Steve Woodhall



Clouded Mother-of-pearl © Steve Woodhall



# Photo Gallery

© Sheila R



© Steve Woodhall



Elephant © Bob M



Cape Buffalo © Bob M



Cambridge Vagrant © Steve Woodhall



© Steve Woodhall



Chief © Bob M



Common Mother-of-pearl © Steve Woodhall





© Bob M



Boisduval's False Acraea © Steve Woodhall



African Grass Yellow © Steve Woodhall



Black-bordered Babul Blue © Steve Woodhall



Elephants © Bob M



African Wood White © Steve Woodhall



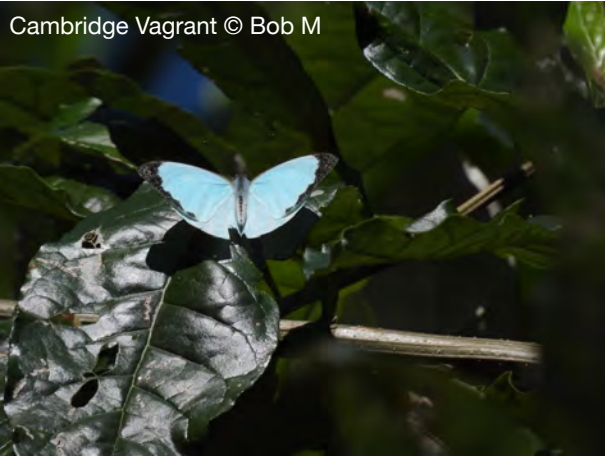
Bush Bronze © Steve Woodhall



African Migrant © Steve Woodhall



Cambridge Vagrant © Bob M



Eastern Dotted Border © Sheila R



Common Barred Sailer © Steve Woodhall



Blue Pansy © Bob M



Dry-leaf Commodore © Steve Woodhall



Chief © Steve Woodhall



Forest Caper White © Steve Woodhall



Eastern Scarlet © Sheila R







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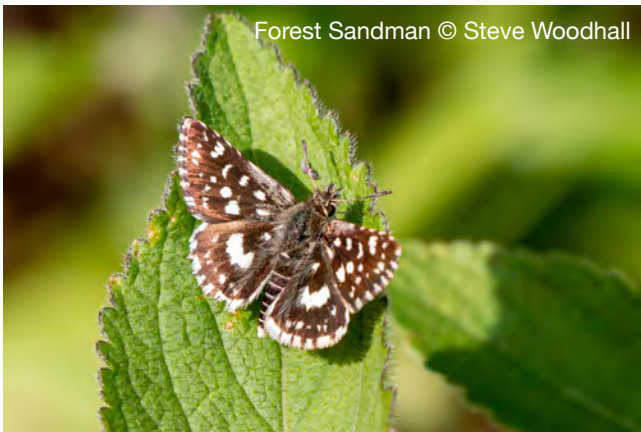
Dry-leaf Commodore © Steve Woodhall



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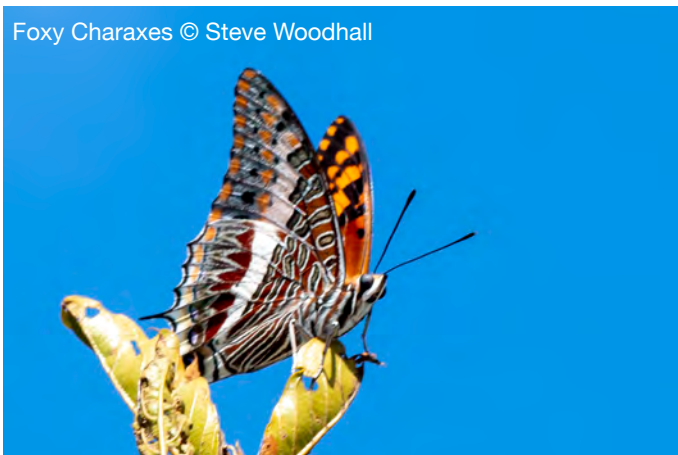
Forest Elfin © Steve Woodhall



Forest Sandman © Steve Woodhall



Gaudy Commodore © Sheila R



Foxy Charaxes © Steve Woodhall



Greater Kudu © Bob M

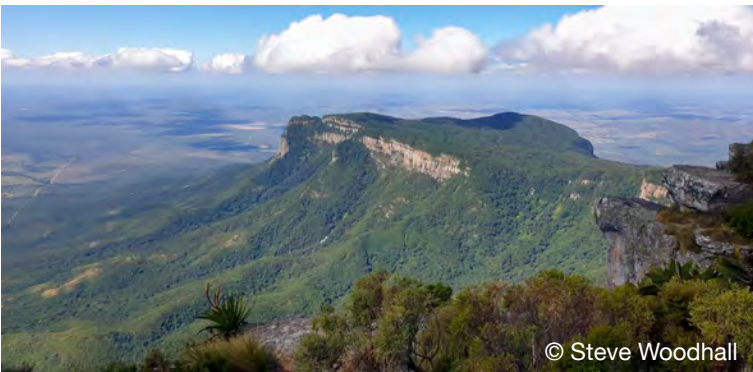


Grey Smoky Blue © Steve Woodhall



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Hippos © Bob M



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Honey Hopper © Steve Woodhall



Klipspringer © Bob M



Long-tailed Blue © Steve Woodhall





*Pingasa abyssinaria*  
© Steve Woodhall



*Vernonia colorata*  
© Steve Woodhall



Southern Giraffe © Steve Woodhall

Macomo Ranger © Steve Woodhall



*Pedistylis galpinii* © Steve Woodhall



Natal Silverline © Steve Woodhall



Mountain Sandman © Steve Woodhall



Puddling Terias spp © Steve Woodhall



Rufous-winged Flat © Steve Woodhall





Pedistylis galpinii © Steve Woodhall



Southern Mocker Swallowtail © Steve Woodhall



Savanna Vine Snake © Bob M



Soldier Pansy © Steve Woodhall



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Spotted Buff pair © Steve Woodhall



Yellow Zulu © Sheila R



Spotted Joker © Bob M





Southern Red-billed Hornbill © Bob M



White-tail Hopper © Steve Woodhall



Uniform Grass Yellow © Steve Woodhall



Van Son's Charaxes © Steve Woodhall



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Variable Skink © Steve Woodhall

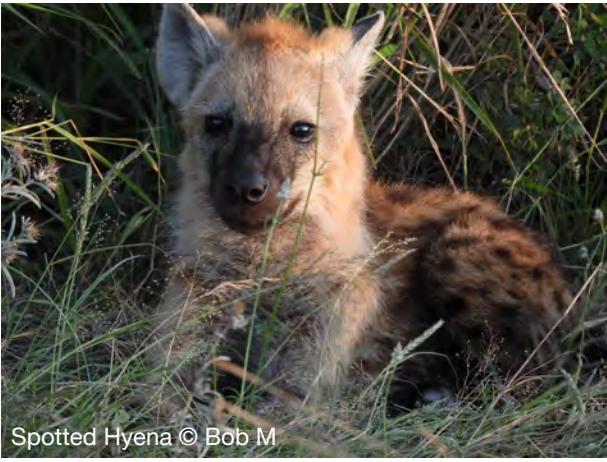


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Spotted Hyena © Bob M



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