

Zimbabwe / Mozambique by Henry Davel

December two thousand and nine, with a chirpy Grahame Snow,
We six had a wonderful time on his bird and game show.
So from Oliver Tambo to Beira, on his African Pitta Safari,
Rio Savanne Gorongosa to Caia, all as dry as the warm Kalahari.

To gutsy Grahame, my mentor, and birding dad,
Through dust and rain, forever, a helping hand,
You helped me come of age, a grand dad birder now of twenty one,
To reach a lifer page, of eight hundred and one plus extra one.

The Orange Winged Pytilia, was feeding at the coast,
And the Green Headed Oriole, was a lifer for most.
Sloshing through water and clay, to see the African Snipe,
We also saw the Blue Quail, flying up high in a flight.

The East Coast Akalat was small, and difficult to see.
Some heard the Alethe's call, some saw a Creeper up a tree.
We all saw the Pitta, while in a dense forest trip,
In the thick of Caudata, on a leaf covered strip.

Rolf Wiesler is a happy snapping photographer,
Wife Karin is a quaky flapping choreographer.
She devised a system of lifer classification,
That was to us all, a total mystification.

She'll give a bird a double score, if she sees it once or more.
She scored a lifer three, if its in a tree.
She'll give a bird a seven, if it flies to heaven,
And a grand total of eight, if there's a flock on the lake.

Hilary Harrison snuffed out a Southern Banded Snake Eagle,
Quicker than her pedigree hound, could snuff a North Stripe Eared Beagle.
She longed for her Bull Terrier, when she missed Rolf's fluff tail like a drip,
But became all the more merrier, when she reached sixty nine lifers for the trip.

Rolf thought in a bush, was a raptor on a loo,
But taking a douche, was a Barred Longtail Cuckoo.
A Honey Buzzard was a scoop, below the clouds so high.
Eleonora's falcon swooped, like lightning from the sky.

Annamarie wanted to sing, when she saw a Thick Billed Cuckoo,
Then she started to laugh and swing, when we saw a Little Cuckoo.
This was not a krip, confirmed by Sinclair,
The bird of the trip, for all to declare.

So a wonderful December, with a combi and Snow,
With new friends to remember, and mega lifers to show.
I've reached my goal and my aim, with ten lifers, my gain,
With me wife and through Grahame, I'll start all over again.