



NAMIBIA, OKAVANGO AND VICTORIA FALLS: SET DEPARTURE TRIP REPORT

2 - 19 NOVEMBER 2018

By Jason Boyce



*An unusual species to record on this tour: **Red-throated Twinspot** seen in Zambia near Livingstone (photo Peter Hilton)*

Overview

This was a Namibia, Botswana, and Zambia birding adventure to remember. Starting in the iconic and well-known Walvis Bay we would thereafter traverse the diversity of Namibia: the escarpment, then north to the Kunene River, through Etosha National Park, and finally into the Caprivi Strip. The Okavango Panhandle in Botswana offers an amazing delta habitat filled with all kinds of waterfowl and aquatic species of birds, mammals, reptiles, butterflies, and so much more. We thoroughly enjoyed our couple of days in Botswana, and this leg of the trip, with so much time spent on boats, was certainly a highlight for some of our wonderful group. Lastly we traversed the Caprivi Strip and then found ourselves in Zambia, where we spent time around Livingstone as well as Victoria Falls.

We ended the tour with an impressive tally of 410 species of birds and an additional 10 species that were heard only. We also picked up 48 mammal species for the trip. The tour connected with some really exciting birds, some of the Namibian specials included **Damara** and **Black Terns**, **Chestnut-banded Plover**, **Dune**, **Gray's**, and **Benguela Long-billed Larks**, **Rockrunner**, **Herero Chat**, **Cinderella Waxbill**, **Secretarybird**, **Black-faced Babbler**, **Bradfield's Hornbill**, and **Rufous-bellied Tit**. Botswana produced **African Hobby**, two **Slaty Egrets**, **African Pygmy Goose**, and **Pel's Fishing Owl**. The eastern Caprivi and Zambia yielded **Rock Pratincole**, **Livingstone's Turaco**, **African Finfoot**, **Collared Palm Thrush**, **Arnot's Chat**, and the stunning **Red-throated Twinspot**.

Detailed Report

Day 1, 2nd November 2018. Walvis Bay: an introduction to Namibian Birding

Walvis Bay is an amazing place to go birding; a massive lagoon and salt works surround an industrial town and provide great habitat for thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl. This is a true birders' paradise and a great place to start our birding tour. We started things with breakfast overlooking the Lagoon – **Greater Flamingo**, **Bar-tailed Godwit**, and **Pied Avocet** all visible from the promenade across the road. A little further south toward the Walvis Bay salt works we picked up good numbers of all the common shorebirds; these included **White-fronted Plover** and the prized **Chestnut-banded Plover**, **Curlew** and **Marsh Sandpipers**, **Sanderling**, **Little Stint**, **Whimbrel**, **Common Greenshank**, and **Ruddy Turnstone**, as well as **Black-winged Stilt**. Gulls were also well represented with the large *Larus*-type **Kelp Gull** and both **Hartlaub's** and **Grey-headed Gulls** showing well. **Cape Teal** was the only representative of the duck family. We also picked up four species of tern in the morning; these were **Greater Crested**, **Caspian**, **Sandwich**, and **Common Terns**. We ended the morning with a nice pod of **Common Bottlenose Dolphins** and a couple of **Cape Fur Seals** that were enjoying themselves in the lagoon.

Our afternoon session proved to be rather difficult birding, and the activity was slow before picking up later in the afternoon. We headed to the gravel plains inland from Walvis Bay, where we spent a good amount of time searching for Gray's Lark with no luck. We did, however, pick up a couple of chat species, a pair of **Familiar Chats** at the airport and then the pale **Tractrac Chat** a few times on the gravel plains. We also birded the Rooibank area, where we did manage to find the sought-after **Dune Lark**. We saw no less than four of them, some singing from the ground and others in fantastic display flight. Some of the other species that we picked up at the Dune Lark

sight included **Southern Fiscal**, **Pale-winged Starling**, **Chestnut-vented Warbler**, and a flyby of a pair of **Ludwig's Bustards** (definitely the surprise of the afternoon).

Day 2, 3rd November 2018. Walvis Bay Lagoon birding and boat trip

The whole group was booked on a Walvis Bay Lagoon cruise. The trip is really good for Dolphin species such as Bottlenose and Heaviside's Dolphins – unfortunately today we only recorded **Common Bottlenose Dolphin** and missed the rarer Heaviside's Dolphin. But we did record a few excellent bird species in the form of **African Penguin**, **Cape Gannet**, **Sooty Shearwater**, **Parasitic Jaeger**, and both **Black** and **Damara Terns**. The seal colony on Pelican Point is seriously impressive and holds up to 60 000 **Cape Fur Seals** during the breeding season. We were also visited by two separate **Cape Fur Seals** on the boat, which enjoyed being on the Catamaran as much as we did and certainly enjoyed the raw fish they were being fed, as much as we enjoyed a few oysters and sparkling wine! After a successful morning out in the bay we headed south to the salt works lagoon roads for some shorebirds and were certainly rewarded; we saw excellent numbers of **Chestnut-banded** and **White-fronted Plovers**, both **Whimbrel** and **Eurasian Curlew**, and thousands of **Curlew Sandpipers**. **Common Ringed Plover** was found in low numbers, and a few **Ruddy Turnstones** and **Sanderlings** were also around.



*The diminutive west coast **Damara Tern***

Then we headed to Swakopmund and the Mile 4 Saltworks, where we finally picked up a small group of **Gray's Lark**. We had put in some effort for this species and thoroughly enjoyed watching the group glean whatever they could off the small succulent-type bushes growing in the deserted gravel planes. We also picked up a pair of **Tractrac Chats**. We checked out the Swakopmund water treatment plant, where we added **Little Grebe**, **Red-knobbed Coot**, **Common Moorhen**, **Wood Sandpiper**, **Three-banded** and **Kittlitz's Plover**, and **African Reed Warbler**. We stopped at the giant platform that can be seen from shore between Swakopmund and Walvis Bay, and here

we added **African Oystercatcher** and **Crowned Cormorant** between hundreds of cormorants, pelicans, gulls, and flamingos. This was a very enjoyable and successful day's birding.



*One of the species that gave our group the runaround before we finally managed to find a group of about six birds, **Gray's Lark** (photo Peter Hilton)*

Day 3, 4th November 2018. Spitzkoppe and the Namib escarpment

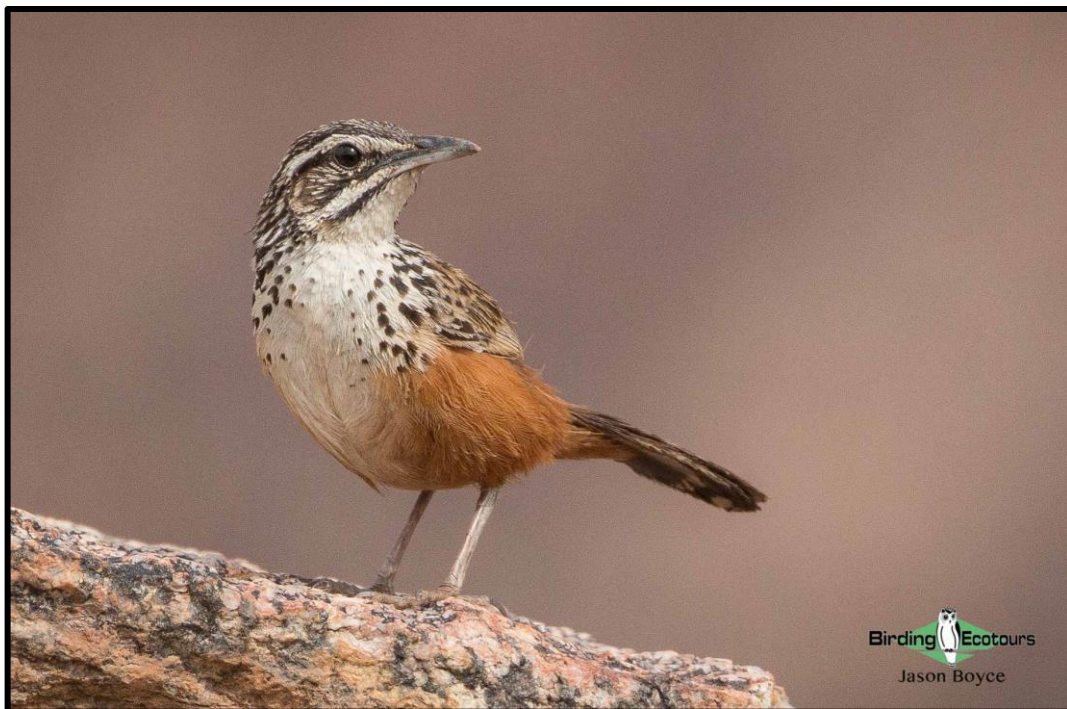
It was a really good day today; things went according to plan and the birds cooperated! We added a really good number of new species to the trip list today. **Rüppell's Korhaan** and **Chat Flycatcher** were two of the additions early today – a pair of korhaans were spotted on the gravel plains as we made our way to the famous Spitzkoppe. At Spitzkoppe itself we really had a great couple of hours: **Herero Chat** showed easily incredibly well, while a pair of **Verreaux's Eagle** gave us incredible flybys. **Layard's Warbler**, **Dusky Sunbird**, **Black-chested Prinia**, **White-tailed Shrike**, **Monteiro's Hornbill**, and **Great Sparrow** all came to the party, some of them very curious and singing just meters from us. Things were really starting to heat up (literally as well as figuratively) in the mammal department; we had brilliant looks at **Black Mongoose** a couple of times and at **South African Ground Squirrel** as well as small families of **Klipspringer** moving around effortlessly on the large granite outcrops. The central-Kalahari specials **Crimson-breasted Shrike** and **Marico Flycatcher** were both spotted as we traveled north toward our accommodation within the Erongo Mountain Nature Conservancy.

We stopped a couple times at a few local spots, targeting **Violet Wood Hoopoe** among others and were very successful. First there was a **Tawny Eagle** catching a few thermals and then a pair of **Karoo Chat** showed alongside the road. After arriving at our stakeout **Burchell's Starling**, **Southern Pied Babbler**, and **Southern White-crowned Shrike** were among the first species to give us some nice views. **Rüppell's Parrot** and **Rosy-faced Lovebird** were around in large acacia trees. **Violet Wood Hoopoe** was also in attendance – a large group of about eight birds. We also added **Bennett's** and **Bearded Woodpeckers**, **Groundscraper Thrush**, **Red-billed Buffalo Weaver**, and **African Grey Hornbill**. We ended the day brilliantly with **Black-chested Snake**

Eagle, and at dinner **Double-banded Sandgrouse** came in to drink at the waterhole while a few very vocal **Freckled Nightjars** showed well after dinner.

Day 4, 5th November, 2018. The Namib escarpment

The Erongo Mountain Nature Conservancy is absolutely beautiful and holds some really great escarpment specials. On the way to Erongo Wilderness Lodge for some birding and lunch we enjoyed picking up a small family of **Black-faced Waxbills** as well as a few groups of **Red-billed Spurfowls**. **Hartlaub's Spurfowl** was heard calling, and finally we managed to get them into the scope on the rocky hillside. A pair of **Carps Tits** came by and showed very well at close range. Both **Ashy Tit** and **Green-winged Pytilia** were very active in the thicker thorny scrub and offered us a few good glimpses. The Erongo concession and specifically the area around Erongo Wilderness Lodge can be excellent for escarpment species among others. During the first ten minutes we found **Red-headed Finch**, **Violet-eared Waxbill**, and a brilliant **Barred Wren-Warbler**. A mammal highlight was seeing the intriguing **Dassie Rat**. But certainly our biggest target species here was **Rockrunner** – a legendary species and one that showed pretty well after some time of searching. The group enjoyed its bubbly call as much as seeing the bird! **Cape Bunting** was another good bird for us to pick up here. Our afternoon included a pretty substantial drive and of course some birding where possible. En route we found **Benguela Long-billed Lark**, **Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark**, **Stark's Lark**, a small group of **Namaqua Sandgrouse**, **Rüppell's Korhaan**, and **Northern Black Korhaan**. Late in the afternoon after a long drive we ended things with our first sighting of **Purple Roller**, the largest roller in the subregion and certainly one that the group had been hoping to find.



*The legendary **Rockrunner** often poses really nicely.*

Day 5, 6th November 2018. Travel to the Kunene region

Today we all enjoyed another good day in Africa. I frequently have guests tell me that they didn't

really want to come to Africa again but always end up coming back and have the time of their lives. This trip was no different, it was turning out to be one of the best Namibia tours ever. Today we traveled from Kamanjab to the Kunene region of Namibia, which is fairly long drive, and much of the day was travel. We spent some time birding the mopane and dry acacia woodlands around Kamanjab. These produced **Pearl-spotted Owlet**, **Long-billed Crombec**, **Crimson-breasted Shrike**, **Barred Wren-Warbler**, **Willow Warbler**, **Pirit Batis**, **Red-billed Quelea**, **Monteiro's Hornbill**, **Carp's Tit**, and a surprise **Rockrunner**. A roadside spot on the way north had some swift-and-swallow flocks; here we picked up four species of swift, **Alpine**, **Bradfield's**, **Little**, and **White-rumped Swifts**. A single **Brown Snake Eagle** as well as a single **African Hawk-Eagle** were both seriously impressive and showed very nicely.

Once we arrived at the banks of the Kunene River the resident **Rufous-tailed Palm Thrush** really wanted to be seen and showed incredibly well for an extended period of time. Other birds along the Kunene River were; **Meves's Starling**, **Red-necked Spurfowl**, **Yellow-bellied Greenbul**, and **Holub's Golden Weaver**. A **European Honey Buzzard** was also a pretty good sighting, a species that is considered a scarcity in Southern Africa but seems to have become a little more common in recent years.



*One of the most striking members of the African babbler family, **Bare-cheeked Babbler** (photo Peter Hilton)*

Day 6, 7th November 2018. A full day in the Kunene region

Unfortunately we were not able to do the Angolan Cave Chat trip to the Zebra Mountains – however, we did spend the morning going for the sought-after Cinderella Waxbill with great success. We headed up one of the river beds to an old waterfall site and on the way had an amazing interaction with a large group of **Bare-cheeked Babblers**. A bit further on a single **Augur Buzzard** gave us all great views as it came soaring down the river bed. The pretty **Cinderella Waxbill** didn't show for a good hour or so, and the group was a little worried we would miss them. But a little patience paid off eventually as a small group of four birds came in and hung around for

a good while. We had great looks at a brilliant and range-restricted species. The afternoon was really hot, and most birds were finding some shade; we did, however, find **Cardinal Woodpecker**, calls of **Grey-headed Kingfisher** echoed across the river from Angola, **Rosy-faced Lovebird** showed nicely, and **Olive Bee-eaters** were surprisingly active. A brilliant sundowner boat cruise along the river was enjoyable with **Golden-tailed Woodpecker**, **Common Greenshank**, **Little Egret**, and **Water Thick-knee** all in attendance. After the boat ride we also decided to find some shade and eventually headed back to the lodge for another hearty meal overlooking Angola. Then we started our preparations for the magnificent Etosha National Park.



Our “princesses”, the Cinderella Waxbills, finally showed after waiting a good couple of hours at the site (photo Peter Hilton).

Day 7, 8th November 2018. Etosha National Park

Today would mainly be a travel day where we would make our way from Kunene River Lodge to eastern Etosha, entering at King Nehale Gate. After some time stocking up with water and necessary supplies and finding a moment to have a quick lunch we found ourselves in the Andoni Plains of Etosha. Just before entering the park we birded a small water overflow area, where we picked up **Wahlberg’s Eagle**, **Banded Martin**, **Red-capped Lark**, **Pied Avocet**, **Little Grebe**, **Desert Cisticola**, **Ruff**, almost literally hundreds of **Chestnut-banded Plovers**, and a few other aquatic species. The afternoon in the park was spent getting to grips with some of the more common Etosha birds and animals. We did have an amazing sighting of thirteen **Blue Cranes** near the Andoni waterhole. The cranes are resident here and make up a small isolated population within Namibia. We arrived at our lodge, settled in, and then enjoyed a few birds and mammals here, including **Yellow-breasted Apalis**, **African Paradise Flycatcher**, **Southern Red-billed Hornbill**, **Grey Go-away-bird**, and **Banded Mongoose**.

Day 8, 9th November 2018. Eastern Etosha National Park

For a full day’s birding and mammal viewing in Etosha we began with a very early breakfast and

set off into Etosha National Park, entering at the eastern gate. Our first few mammal encounters for the day were **Black-faced Impala**, **Giraffe**, and **Springbok**. Our first bird sightings of the day were raptor species; we encountered (rather coincidentally) both **Martial Eagle** and **Black-chested Snake Eagle** within 100m of one another, and both perched on tall trees on the right side of the road.

We headed back north for the Andoni Plains, where we had an awesome, close encounter with a male **Lion**! We almost drove past this amazing animal, but luckily some of the group spotted it out the right side of the vehicle, only about fifteen meters from us. The highlights in the Andoni grasslands and surrounding thorny woodlands were **Kori Bustard**, **Red-crested Korhaan**, **Northern Black Korhaan**, **Tawny Eagle**, **Pale Chanting Goshawk**, **Red-necked Falcon**, **European Bee-eater**, **Eastern Clapper Lark**, **Pink-billed Lark**, **Ant-eating Chat**, **Marabou Stork**. and another great sighting of **Blue Cranes**.



*This large male **Lion** gave great views in Etosha National Park.*

A couple of special sighting for the group as we were traveling back to our lunch spot were first a pair of **Double-banded Coursers** seen right alongside the road calling away beautifully with their

very upright posture and heads pointed heavenward – what a sighting of a typical Etosha species! Soon after we encountered our first **Secretarybird** – a bucket list bird, of course! We enjoyed a game drive that afternoon in an open safari vehicle with a local Namibia bird- and mammal guide. Good numbers of **Kori Bustards** showed once again, and we also picked up a male and a female **Lion** and added **Lesser Grey Shrike** to our trip list. We ended our drive heading to the Klein Namutoni waterhole, where a leopard had been seen. As we arrived we saw the young **Leopard** walking among the scrub about twenty meters off the road. This amazing animal had unfortunately been barking up the wrong tree and had gotten itself injured by a porcupine, and many of the quills were still lodged in its face and body. It left us wondering if it could survive in the long run and was a reminder for how cruel nature can be.

Day 9, 10th November 2018. Etosha National Park, Namutoni to Okaukuejo

It was great to spend another full day in the park, traversing the whole eastern section from Namutoni to Okaukuejo. The day was filled with more great mammal and bird sighting. Good numbers of **Kori Bustards**, **Secretarybird**, **Tawny Eagle**, **Double-banded Courser**, **Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark**, a single **Black-winged Kite**, and many others were seen. We continued to pick up some special and more uncommon species too; **Temminck's Courser** was a cracker, a single bird at first and then later in the day we found a pair at a separate site.

Halali camp birding is always really enjoyable, and today was not different. The large mature trees provide some shade in the heat, and many species take cover here by midday. We found **Violet Wood Hoopoe**, **Monteiro's Hornbill**, **Damara Red-billed Hornbill**, **Southern White-crowned Shrike**, and **Yellow-breasted Apalis**. We continued west and birded some of the grassland sections on the pan's edge. Here we found **Greater Kestrel**, **Lanner Falcon**, another small group of **Blue Cranes**, **Desert** and **Zitting Cisticolas**, and **Spike-heeled Lark**. We also picked up both **Tawny** and **Martial Eagles** at the Rietfontein waterhole. Here we also saw some great mammals: A small pride of **Lions** were resting under the mopane trees behind us, while a single **Black Rhinoceros** arrived to have a quick drink of water and a **Black-backed Jackal** also ran by.



*One of the most incredible mammals on the African continent must be **Black Rhinoceros**, and Etosha is certainly one of the best places to see it*

Day 10, 11th November 2018. Birding the Gemsbokvlakte and Okaukuejo waterholes

On our final morning in the park we had another open safari vehicle to ourselves. It was a beautiful cool morning in Etosha, which was a welcome change from the last couple of days. One of the main camps in Etosha National Park is Okaukuejo, which has a perfectly-located waterhole to watch animals and birds coming to drink. We spent some time here in the afternoon and had some nice visuals of **Sociable Weaver**, **Acacia Pied Barbet**, **Black-headed Heron**, **Namaqua Dove**, **African Cuckoo**, and **Greater Striped Swallow**. The waterhole obviously boasts a good assortment of mammals too, so we enjoyed watching a large herd of **African Elephants**, **Springbok**, **Black-faced Impala**, **Plains Zebra**, **Giraffe**, **Gemsbok**, and **Black-backed Jackal**. Seeing a **Bushveld Elephant Shrew** at close range was a real novel sight too!



*A typical sight at an Etosha waterhole. We had many brilliant sightings of **African Elephant** during our time in Etosha (photo Peter Hilton).*

One of the most exciting sightings during this afternoon was that of a cracking male **Pallid Harrier** – a Palearctic migrant that makes its way into the Southern African region by November most years. **Rufous-eared Warbler** was a real little gem of a bird to see; we managed to track down a pair of birds in the low scrubby areas to the east of Okaukuejo and had some nice looks at them calling away from the top of small bushes. On the drive back to the lodge there were huge numbers of **Common Swifts** moving all over the place ahead of what looked like a great electrical storm; this was quite a sight indeed! **White-crested Helmetshrike** showed nicely to some members of the group from the lodge in the late afternoon, while the evening provided **Rufous-cheeked Nightjar** and **African Scops Owls** calling, but unfortunately, try as we might, we did not get visuals.

Day 11, 12th November 2018. Travel day, Etosha to Roy's Camp

The grounds of Etosha Safari lodge did offer us an interesting array of species before breakfast

followed by a long drive east. We certainly enjoyed **Short-toed Rock Thrush**, **Pearl-spotted Owlet**, **Brubru**, **Golden-tailed Woodpecker**, **Bare-cheeked Babbler**, **Violet-eared Waxbill**, and good numbers of **Red-billed Quelea**. What was mostly a travel day really did end incredibly well for us. We had about two hours of daylight left after arrival at Roy's Camp and within the first few seconds we spotted our biggest highlight for the afternoon: **Black-faced Babbler**. There were also a few **Red-billed Buffalo Weavers** hanging around with the babblers. After a long day in the car we spend some time with a drink, sharing some history knowledge and telling a few stories.

Day 12, 13th November 2018. Into Botswana

We left Roy's Camp early in the morning in order to spend some time birding at some of the woodland patches around Rundu as well as the water treatment plant to the east of Rundu. The woodland patches south of Rundu are slowly being destroyed by the local communities for firewood, charcoal, furniture, and the craft- and drum-making industry. These woodland patches can still be productive; however, we only managed to pick up **Spotted Flycatcher**, **Common Scimitarbill**, **African Yellow White-eye**, and **Scarlet-chested Sunbird**. The water treatment plant (more like sewage ponds) were absolutely brilliant, though! A great few hours really produced the goods for us. As we arrived we found a **Lilac-breasted Roller** and **Magpie Shrike** sitting on power lines, the edges of the ponds held **Senegal Coucal**, **Swamp Boubou**, **Mourning Collared Dove**, **Lesser Swamp Warbler**, **Squacco Heron**, and **African Swamphen**. We then moved to the north of the ponds, where some flooded grasslands run into a large reedbed, and here we truly picked up some crackers for the trip! **African Rail** (a true highlight) and **Lesser Moorhen** were both around, the latter showing incredibly well. Other species in attendance here were **Collared Pratincole**, **Whiskered Tern**, **Blue-cheeked Bee-eater**, and both **Greater Painted-snipe** and **African Snipe**. The ponds themselves held both **African** and **Lesser Jacanas** and **Red-billed**, **Cape**, and **Hottentot Teals** as well as **African Darter** and **Reed Cormorant**.

Later in the morning we birded some of the broad-leafed woodlands that we passed through while on the way to Divundu. Here we picked up the likes of **African Paradise Flycatcher**, **Amethyst Sunbird**, **Bradfield's Hornbill**, **Meyer's Parrot**, and **Lizard Buzzard** all near our lunch spot, and a little further east we did really well to find **Pale Flycatcher** and the uncommon **Rufous-bellied Tit**. We had already had an amazing day when we headed into Botswana – the Okavango Delta leg of our trip had begun. The border post is a breeze here, and then we started the short drive to Shakawe. On the way we picked up our first **Southern Carmine Bee-eaters** and **Cut-throat Finches**. The finches are tricky to find nowadays, and these were the only ones saw on the entire trip. A whole host of new common birds were in abundance here in Botswana, and many would continue to show well for the rest of the eastern leg of the trip; some of these were **Dark-capped Bulbul**, **Red-eyed Dove**, **Orange-breasted Bushshrike**, **Willow Warbler**, **Hartlaub's Babbler**, **Violet-backed Starling**, and **White-browed Robin-Chat**.



*A true northern-Namibian special: **Rufous-bellied Tit** (photo Peter Hilton)*

Day 13, 14th November 2018. Full day along the Okavango Panhandle, Botswana

Unanimously, today was one of the best days of our whole tour; personally I am still quite amazed at the sightings that we enjoyed today! We started things in the morning before breakfast with some birding around the lodge, and here we found **White-fronted** and **Little Bee-eaters**, **Orange-breasted Bushshrike**, **Rufous-bellied Heron** (a flyby), **Chirping Cisticola**, **Little Bittern**, **Tawny-flanked Prinia**, and **African Stonechat**. We found a few really productive spots with some flooded grassland, at which we picked up various waterfowl and shorebirds, including **African Wattled** and **Long-toed Lapwings**, **Kittlitz's Plover**, **Ruff**, **African Snipe**, and **Common** and **Marsh Sandpipers**, as well as **Western Yellow Wagtail**. An adult **African Marsh Harrier** drifted over our boat as we were traveling past large pods of **Hippopotamuses** and the occasional three-to-four-meter-long **Nile Crocodile** sunning itself on the bank.

Later in the day we had incredible sightings of both African Pygmy Goose and the iconic Pel's Fishing Owl. A pair of **African Pygmy Geese** was in one of the eastern channels of the panhandle in a typical water-lily-covered setting. Here there was another small section of flooded grassland, where we encountered **Intermediate Egret**, **African Snipe**, **Whiskered Tern**, **Brown-throated**

Martin, and a few **Black Herons**. We had worked hard the whole day in order to find a roosting **Pel's Fishing Owl**, and finally, our luck turned. We walked along a patch of woodland alongside the channel, and our brilliant local guide and skipper came back saying that he had spotted one. We spent a good twenty minutes observing this beauty in the setting sunlight.



*Surely one of the greatest species to connect with in our subregion, the magnificent **Pel's Fishing Owl** (phot: Peter Hilton)*

My personal favorite sighting of this leg of the trip, however, was an aerobatic display by an **African Hobby**, a bird that is not that easy to come by in Southern Africa, which spent time hunting **Barn Swallows** over the panhandle near the town of Shakawe. What a brilliant sighting!

Day 14, 15th November 2018. Transfer back into the Caprivi Strip of Namibia

A beautiful African sunrise greeted us as we met to start the day with a walk along the panhandle. **African Barred Owlet** showed particularly well this morning after we picked up the call and 'hunted' it down. After a really good, relaxed breakfast we checked out and started our short journey. We reluctantly exited Botswana and drove back into the Caprivi strip of Namibia, where we spent the afternoon exploring the fantastic Mahango Game Park, part of the large Bwabwata

National Park. Highlights here were certainly too many to list, but they included **Bradfield's Hornbill**, **Wattled Crane** (four birds), a pair of **Saddle-billed Storks**, **African Spoonbill**, **White-headed Vulture**, **Tawny Eagle**, **Bateleur**, **Brubru**, **Coppery-tailed Coucal**, **Hartlaub's Babbler**, **Burnt-necked Eremomela**, and a pair of **Plain-backed Pipits**. The mammal sightings in Mahango Game Park are normally brilliant – today was certainly proof of that when we accumulated a rather large list of mammals while in the park, most of which are listed here: **Roan** and **Sable Antelopes**, **Impala**, **Greater Kudu**, **Southern Reedbuck**, **Red Lechwe**, **African Elephant**, and **Common Warthog**. **Common Ostriches** with youngsters gave enjoyable sightings, while the interesting **Swainson's Spurfowl** provided a good show as well. Our last sightings of the day were two mammal species: We finally had some really nice, close-up looks at **African Buffalo**, and after that we found a small herd of **Tsessebe** before we had to make our way out of the park and to our lodge for the night.

Day 15, 16th November 2018. Traversing the Caprivi Strip

We kicked off our day today with a short walk from the grounds of our lodge. The banks of the Kavango River certainly delivered some nice sightings, **Great Egret**, **African Wattled** and **White-crowned Lapwings**, **Rock** and **Collared Pratincoles**, and **Black Crake**. We walked to one of the dry floodplains near the lodge, where we picked up **Lilac-breasted Roller**, **Zitting Cisticola**, **Magpie Shrike**, and **White-browed Scrub Robin**. Then we started our drive toward Zambia and Victoria Falls. We were staying in Katima Mulilo, Namibia, tonight, which is situated on the border with Zambia on the Zambezi River. We arrived at our lodge and immediately found **Swamp Boubou**, **Schalow's Turaco**, and a roosting **African Wood Owl**. Our lodge had organized an afternoon boat trip for us, which certainly didn't disappoint. Our first incredible sight from the boat was a pair of **Greater Painted-snipes**, a species in the shorebird group but one that does not usually wade out in the open such as sandpipers and stilts.



Greater Painted-snipe, one of only three members in its family (photo Peter Hilton)

We enjoyed prolonged views of both a male and a female, allowing us to scrutinize the differences between the two. Another interesting bird was a young **Western Banded Snake Eagle** soon afterwards. After the snipe and the snake eagle we were ready to head back to the lodge, but the best was yet to come. First both a male and a female **African Finfoot** came out from the confines of the wooded overhangs, and both weren't really very shy and allowed us to drift ever closer. And then we found a pair of **Half-collared Kingfishers**, a bird that is not too easy to see in Namibia and one that also seems to stay in the cover of the overhanging branches.

Day 16, 17th November 2018. Into Zambia and onward to Livingstone

Our mornings birding today was one of the best mornings that we had on the tour. We really did well to pick up a good number of new species for the tour. Our first were near the lodge, **Terrestrial Brownbul** and **Brown-throated Martin**. We also had a flyby **Rufous-bellied Heron**, which only some members of the group saw before it flew out of sight. We headed south to a few of the remnant broad-leafed and mopani patches of woodland, where we found species such as **Yellow-throated Petronia**, **Southern Black Flycatcher**, **Crested Barbet**, **Black-crowned Tchagra**, and **Striped Kingfisher**. We had a few highlights here, and one of the main ones was getting nice sightings of male and female **Arnot's Chat**. We saw this pair just as an **African Golden Oriole** called from the top of a tree near us. Our walk was highly successful this morning, and we continued to walk and check a few different areas. We picked up **Purple-banded Sunbird** on call and then had visuals. A bit further along we checked a known roost site for **Rufous-cheeked Nightjar** and were successful in seeing a single bird.

After crossing the border into Zambia and a beautiful drive along the Zambezi we finally arrived at our lodge in Zambia just in time to join a boat cruise on the Zambezi. The bird life from the lodge grounds and the banks of the river was amazing, and we found **Violet-backed Starling**, **Trumpeter Hornbill**, **Grey-headed Kingfisher**, **Broad-billed Roller**, **Striated Heron**, and **Pied Kingfisher** with ease. A sunset birding cruise on the Zambezi is a really special outing, and the birding is not too bad either!

Day 17, 18th November 2018. Birding around Livingstone and Victoria Falls

So far the birding on this leg of the tour had exceeded expectations, and more was most certainly still to come. We started today with a walk around the grounds of the lodge, where we picked up **Shikra**, **Red-faced Cisticola**, **Natal Spurfowl**, **Collared Palm Thrush**, **Blue Waxbill**, and one of the stars of the morning, **Red-throated Twinspot**. Other species to really show nicely were **Schalow's Turaco**, **Lesser Honeyguide**, **Red-winged Starling**, and **Bearded Scrub Robin**. After the walk we enjoyed a really great breakfast, packed our things and headed toward Livingstone and Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park. We spent some time in the park and found a few interesting things, not the least of them was a cracking male **Bateleur** flying low over us. The national park runs along the northern banks of the Zambezi and has sections of nice open savanna and other sections of thick riverine woodland. We encountered herds of **African Buffalo** in the savanna sections and a few dapper-looking male **Bushbucks** in the riverine woodland. Other species we enjoyed this morning were **African Openbill**, **Marabou Stork**, **Hooded Vulture**, **Gabar Goshawk**, and **Black Cuckooshrike**. Then we headed to the world-famous Victoria Falls, some of us from the Zambian side and others from the Zimbabwean side. The water levels are low in November, but the falls were still incredibly impressive from either side. We spent time just taking it all in, the views, the sound, the breeze, and of course a few birds too: **Red-winged**

Starling and **Common Buzzard** were both new to the trip. After we had enjoyed this wonderful spectacle long enough we had a late lunch and afterwards went back to the lodge.

This tour is one in which we really try to fit in as many boat cruises as possible; there is something very special about spending time on the water. We had reached that time of the trip where, sadly enough, we went on our last boat cruise. We once again had cracking, close-up visuals of **Rock Pratincole** and also encountered **White-browed Coucal**, **Trumpeter Hornbill**, **Brown-hooded Kingfisher**, a single **Sand Martin**, and later in the afternoon a **Common Cuckoo**.



*A really great sighting of **Rock Pratincole** – a few birds were sitting on the rocks in the middle of the Zambezi River (photo Peter Hilton).*

Day 18, 19th November 2018. Departure

Our final morning saw some of the group head in their own direction, while others joined a last birding session in the miombo-type woodland that is situated west of Livingstone. We had a good morning, adding some new birds to our trip list. A pair of **Racket-tailed Rollers** really put on a great show for us, calling and giving their display flight. We also managed to find a couple of **White-breasted Cuckooshrikes**, many **Willow Warblers**, **Retz's Helmetshrike**, and a single **Stierling's Wren-Warbler**. We walked around a little more in search of Miombo Rock Thrush but weren't having any luck in the first hour. We did find a good bird in the form of **Collared Flycatcher** – a species not too uncommon in Zambian woodlands in the summer – and thereafter a brilliant little party of **Green-capped Eremomelas**. The call of the **Miombo Rock Thrush** is incredibly distinctive, and just when we were going to leave I heard a bird calling. We tracked it down and found the female first and then a lovely male bird – a super way for us to end a great tour!

Bird List - Following IOC (8.2)

Birds 'heard only' are marked with (H) after the common name, all other species were seen.

The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following BirdLife International: CE = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, NT = Near Threatened. Region endemics are bolded.

Common name	Scientific name
Ostriches (Struthionidae)	
Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>
Ducks, Geese and Swans (Anatidae)	
White-faced Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>
Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>
South African Shelduck	<i>Tadorna cana</i>
African Pygmy Goose	<i>Nettapus auritus</i>
Hottentot Teal	<i>Spatula hottentota</i>
Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>
Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>
Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>
Guineafowl (Numididae)	
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
Pheasants and Allies (Phasianidae)	
Crested Francolin	<i>Dendroperdix sephaena</i>
Hartlaub's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis hartlaubi</i>
Red-billed Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis adspersus</i>
Natal Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis natalensis</i>
Red-necked Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis afer</i>
Swainson's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>
Penguins (Spheniscidae)	
African Penguin - EN	<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Petrels, Shearwaters, Diving Petrels (Procellariidae)	
Sooty Shearwater - NT	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>
Grebes (Podicipedidae)	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Flamingos (Phoenicopteridae)	
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopus roseus</i>
Lesser Flamingo - NT	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>
Storks (Ciconiidae)	
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>
African Openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>
Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>
Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>
Ibises, Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)	
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>
Hérons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)	
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>
White-backed Night Heron	<i>Gorsachius leuconotus</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Rufous-bellied Heron	<i>Ardeola rufiventris</i>
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>
Slaty Egret - VU	<i>Egretta vinaceigula</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Hamerkop (Scopidae)	
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
Pelicans (Pelecanidae)	
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>
Gannets, Boobies (Sulidae)	
Cape Gannet - EN	<i>Morus capensis</i>
Cormorants, Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)	
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>
Crowned Cormorant - NT	<i>Microcarbo coronatus</i>
White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>
Cape Cormorant - EN	<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>
Anhingas, Darters (Anhingidae)	
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>
Secretarybird (Sagittariidae)	
Secretarybird - VU	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>
Ospreys (Pandionidae)	
Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Kites, Hawks, Eagles (Accipitridae)	
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>
Hooded Vulture - CE	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>
White-backed Vulture - CE	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
White-headed Vulture - CE	<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>
Lappet-faced Vulture - EN	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>
Black-chested Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>
Western Banded Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinerascens</i>
Bateleur - NT	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>
Martial Eagle - VU	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>
Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus wahlbergi</i>
Tawny Eagle - VU	<i>Aquila rapax</i>
Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>
African Hawk-Eagle	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>
Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>
Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>
African Goshawk (H)	<i>Accipiter tachiro</i>
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
Little Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter minullus</i>
African Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>
Pallid Harrier - NT	<i>Circus macrourus</i>
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>
African Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
Augur Buzzard	<i>Buteo augur</i>
Bustards (Otididae)	
Kori Bustard - NT	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>
Ludwig's Bustard - EN	<i>Neotis ludwigii</i>
Rüppell's Korhaan	<i>Eupodotis rueppellii</i>
Red-crested Korhaan	<i>Lophotis ruficrista</i>
Northern Black Korhaan	<i>Afrotis afraoides</i>
Finfoots (Heliornithidae)	
African Finfoot	<i>Podica senegalensis</i>
Rails, Crakes and Coots (Rallidae)	
African Rail	<i>Rallus caerulescens</i>
Black Crake	<i>Amaurornis flavirostra</i>
African Swampfen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Lesser Moorhen	<i>Paragallinula angulata</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>
Cranes (Gruidae)	
Wattled Crane - VU	<i>Grus carunculata</i>
Blue Crane - VU	<i>Grus paradisea</i>
Stone-curlews, Thick-knees (Burhinidae)	
Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>
Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>
Oystercatchers (Haematopodidae)	
African Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus moquini</i>
Stilts, Avocets (Recurvirostridae)	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
Plovers (Charadriidae)	
Long-toed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus crassirostris</i>
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>
White-crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus albiceps</i>
Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>
African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>
Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>
White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>
Chestnut-banded Plover - NT	<i>Charadrius pallidus</i>
Painted-snipes (Rostratulidae)	
Greater Painted-snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>
Jacanas (Jacanidae)	
Lesser Jacana	<i>Microparra capensis</i>
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopacidae)	
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Eurasian Curlew - NT	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
Bar-tailed Godwit - NT	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>
Curlew Sandpiper - NT	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
African Snipe	<i>Gallinago nigripennis</i>
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Couriers, Pratincoles (Glareolidae)	
Temminck's Courser	<i>Cursorius temminckii</i>
Double-banded Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus africanus</i>
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>
Rock Pratincole	<i>Glareola nuchalis</i>
Gulls, Terns and Skimmers (Laridae)	
African Skimmer - NT	<i>Rynchops flavirostris</i>
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>
Hartlaub's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus hartlaubii</i>
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>
Damara Tern - VU	<i>Sternula balaenarum</i>
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>
Skuas (Stercorariidae)	
Parasitic Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Sandgrouse (Pteroclididae)	
Namaqua Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles namaqua</i>
Double-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles bicinctus</i>
Burchell's Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles burchelli</i>
Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)	
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>
Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>
Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>
African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>
Turacos (Musophagidae)	
Schalow's Turaco	<i>Tauraco schalowi</i>
Grey Go-away-bird	<i>Corythaixoides concolor</i>
Livingstone's Turaco	<i>Tauraco livingstonii</i>
Cuckoos (Cuculidae)	
Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>
Coppery-tailed Coucal	<i>Centropus cupreicaudus</i>
White-browed Coucal	<i>Centropus superciliosus</i>
Black Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus clamosus</i>
Red-chested Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>
African Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus gularis</i>
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
Owls (Strigidae)	
African Scops Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>
Pel's Fishing Owl	<i>Scotopelia peli</i>
African Wood Owl	<i>Strix woodfordii</i>
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>
African Barred Owlet	<i>Glaucidium capense</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)	
Rufous-cheeked Nightjar (H)	<i>Caprimulgus rufigena</i>
Fiery-necked Nightjar (H)	<i>Caprimulgus pectoralis</i>
Freckled Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus tristigma</i>
Square-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus fossii</i>
Swifts (Apodidae)	
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
Bradfield's Swift	<i>Apus bradfieldi</i>
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
Horus Swift	<i>Apus horus</i>
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>
Mousebirds (Coliidae)	
White-backed Mousebird	<i>Colius colius</i>
Red-faced Mousebird	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>
Rollers (Coraciidae)	
Purple Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>
Racket-tailed Roller	<i>Coracias spatulatus</i>
Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>
Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)	
Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>
Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>
Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>
Half-collared Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo semitorquata</i>
Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
Bee-eaters (Meropidae)	

Common name	Scientific name
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>
Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>
White-fronted Bee-eater	<i>Merops bullockoides</i>
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>
Olive Bee-eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
Southern Carmine Bee-eater	<i>Merops nubicoides</i>
Hoopoes (Upupidae)	
African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>
Wood Hoopoes (Phoeniculidae)	
Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>
Violet Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus damarensis</i>
Common Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>
Hornbills (Bucerotidae)	
Damara Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus damarensis</i>
Southern Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus rufirostris</i>
Monteiro's Hornbill	<i>Tockus monteiri</i>
Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>
Bradfield's Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros bradfieldi</i>
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>
Trumpeter Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes bucinator</i>
African Barbets (Lybiidae)	
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>
Acacia Pied Barbet	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>
Black-collared Barbet	<i>Lybius torquatus</i>
Crested Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>
Honeyguides (Indicatoridae)	
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>
Woodpeckers (Picidae)	
Bennett's Woodpecker	<i>Campethera bennettii</i>
Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Bearded Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus namaquus</i>
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>
Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)	
Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicolus</i>
Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>
Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>
African Hobby	<i>Falco cuvierii</i>
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>
African & New World Parrots (Psittacidae)	
Meyer's Parrot	<i>Poicephalus meyeri</i>
Rüppell's Parrot	<i>Poicephalus rueppellii</i>
Old World Parrots (Psittaculidae)	
Rosy-faced Lovebird	<i>Agapornis roseicollis</i>
Wattle-eyes, Batises (Platysteiridae)	
Chinspot Batis	<i>Batis molitor</i>
Pirit Batis	<i>Batis pririt</i>
White-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanioturdus torquatus</i>
Bushshrikes (Malaconotidae)	
Orange-breasted Bushshrike	<i>Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus</i>
Bokmakierie (H)	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>
Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>
Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>
Tropical Boubou	<i>Laniarius major</i>
Swamp Boubou	<i>Laniarius bicolor</i>
Crimson-breasted Shrike	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>
Vangas and Allies (Vangidae)	
White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>
Retz's Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops retzii</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae)	
White-breasted Cuckooshrike	<i>Cebilepyris pectoralis</i>
Black Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga flava</i>
Shrikes (Laniidae)	
Magpie Shrike	<i>Urolestes melanoleucus</i>
Southern White-crowned Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus anguitimens</i>
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>
Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>
Figbirds, Orioles & Turnagra (Oriolidae)	
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>
African Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus auratus</i>
Black-headed Oriole (H)	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>
Drongos (Dicruridae)	
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
Monarchs (Monarchidae)	
African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>
Crows, Jays (Corvidae)	
Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>
Tits, Chickadees (Paridae)	
Southern Black Tit	<i>Melaniparus niger</i>
Carp's Tit	<i>Melaniparus carpi</i>
Rufous-bellied Tit	<i>Melaniparus rufiventris</i>
Ashy Tit	<i>Melaniparus cinerascens</i>
Larks (Alaudidae)	
Spike-heeled Lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>
Gray's Lark	<i>Ammomanopsis grayi</i>
Karoo Long-billed Lark (H)	<i>Certhilauda subcoronata</i>
Benguela Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda benguelensis</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix leucotis</i>
Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix verticalis</i>
Sabota Lark	<i>Calendulauda sabota</i>
Dune Lark	<i>Calendulauda erythrochlamys</i>
Eastern Clapper Lark	<i>Mirafraga fasciolata</i>
Stark's Lark	<i>Spizocorys starki</i>
Pink-billed Lark	<i>Spizocorys conirostris</i>
Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>
Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)	
African Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>
Dark-capped Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus tricolor</i>
Yellow-bellied Greenbul	<i>Chlorocichla flaviventris</i>
Terrestrial Brownbul	<i>Phyllastrephus terrestris</i>
Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)	
Grey-rumped Swallow	<i>Pseudhirundo griseopyga</i>
Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Banded Martin	<i>Riparia cincta</i>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
White-throated Swallow	<i>Hirundo albigularis</i>
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
Pearl-breasted Swallow	<i>Hirundo dimidiata</i>
Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
Greater Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis cucullata</i>
Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>
Red-breasted Swallow	<i>Cecropis semirufa</i>
Crombecs, African Warblers (Macrosphenidae)	
Rockrunner	<i>Achaetops pycnopygius</i>
Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>
Leaf Warblers and Allies (Phylloscopidae)	
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Reed Warblers and Allies (Acrocephalidae)	
Greater Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus rufescens</i>
Lesser Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>
African Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>
Grassbirds and Allies (Locustellidae)	
Little Rush Warbler (H)	<i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>
Cisticolas and Allies (Cisticolidae)	
Red-faced Cisticola (H)	<i>Cisticola erythrops</i>
Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>
Luapula Cisticola	<i>Cisticola luapula</i>
Chirping Cisticola	<i>Cisticola pipiens</i>
Neddicky (H)	<i>Cisticola fulvicapilla</i>
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Desert Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aridulus</i>
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>
Black-chested Prinia	<i>Prinia flavicans</i>
Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flava</i>
Rufous-eared Warbler	<i>Malcorus pectoralis</i>
Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>
Stierling's Wren-Warbler	<i>Calamonastes stierlingi</i>
Barred Wren-Warbler	<i>Calamonastes fasciolatus</i>
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>
Green-capped Eremomela	<i>Eremomela scotops</i>
Burnt-necked Eremomela	<i>Eremomela usticollis</i>
Laughingthrushes and Allies (Leiothrichidae)	
Black-faced Babbler	<i>Turdoides melanops</i>
Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>
Hartlaub's Babbler	<i>Turdoides hartlaubii</i>
Southern Pied Babbler	<i>Turdoides bicolor</i>
Bare-cheeked Babbler	<i>Turdoides gymnogenys</i>
Sylviid Babblers (Sylviidae)	
Chestnut-vented Warbler	<i>Sylvia subcoerulea</i>
Layard's Warbler	<i>Sylvia layardi</i>

Common name	Scientific name
White-eyes (Zosteropidae)	
Orange River White-eye	<i>Zosterops pallidus</i>
African Yellow White-eye	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>
Starlings, Rhabdornis (Sturnidae)	
Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>
Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>
Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>
Meves's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis mevesii</i>
Burchell's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis australis</i>
Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>
Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>
Pale-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus nabouroup</i>
Oxpeckers (Buphagidae)	
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>
Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>
Thrushes (Turdidae)	
Groundscraper Thrush	<i>Turdus litsitsirupa</i>
Kurrichane Thrush	<i>Turdus libonyana</i>
Chats, Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)	
Bearded Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas quadrivirgata</i>
Kalahari Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas paena</i>
White-browed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>
Southern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pammelaina</i>
Pale Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pallidus</i>
Chat Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis infuscatus</i>
Marico Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis mariquensis</i>
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
Ashy Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa caerulescens</i>
White-browed Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha heuglini</i>
Collared Palm Thrush	<i>Cichladusa arquata</i>
Rufous-tailed Palm Thrush	<i>Cichladusa ruficauda</i>
Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Short-toed Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola brevipes</i>
Miombo Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola angolensis</i>
African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>
Karoo Chat	<i>Emarginata schlegelii</i>
Tractrac Chat	<i>Emarginata tractrac</i>
Ant-eating Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>
Mountain Wheatear	<i>Myrmecocichla monticola</i>
Arnot's Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla arnotti</i>
Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>
Familiar Chat	<i>Oenanthe familiaris</i>
Herero Chat	<i>Namibornis herero</i>
Sunbirds (Nectariniidae)	
Collared Sunbird (H)	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>
Amethyst Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra amethystina</i>
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>
Marico Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>
Purple-banded Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris bifasciatus</i>
White-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris talatala</i>
Dusky Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris fuscus</i>
Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches (Passeridae)	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Great Sparrow	<i>Passer motitensis</i>
Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>
Yellow-throated Petronia	<i>Gymnoris superciliaris</i>
Weavers, Widowbirds (Ploceidae)	
Red-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>
Sociable Weaver	<i>Philetairus socius</i>
Scaly-feathered Weaver	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>
Thick-billed Weaver	<i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>
Spectacled Weaver	<i>Ploceus ocularis</i>
Holub's Golden Weaver	<i>Ploceus xanthops</i>
Southern Brown-throated Weaver	<i>Ploceus xanthopterus</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Southern Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>
Yellow-crowned Bishop	<i>Euplectes afer</i>
Fan-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes axillaris</i>
Waxbills, Munias and Allies (Estrildidae)	
Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>
Red-headed Finch	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>
Cut-throat Finch	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>
Red-throated Twinspot	<i>Hypargos niveoguttatus</i>
Brown Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta nitidula</i>
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>
Jameson's Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rhodopareia</i>
Blue Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>
Violet-eared Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus granatinus</i>
Cinderella Waxbill	<i>Estrilda thomensis</i>
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
Black-faced Waxbill	<i>Estrilda erythronotos</i>
Indigobirds, Whydahs (Viduidae)	
Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>
Shaft-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua regia</i>
Long-tailed Paradise Whydah	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>
Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)	
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>
African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>
Buffy Pipit	<i>Anthus vaalensis</i>
Plain-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>
Finches, Euphonias (Fringillidae)	
Black-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Yellow Canary	<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>
White-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra albogularis</i>
Buntings (Emberizidae)	
Lark-like Bunting	<i>Emberiza impetواني</i>
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>
Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>
Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>
Total seen	410
Total heard only	10
Total recorded	420

Mammal List

Common Name	Scientific Name
Old World Fruit Bats (Pteropodidae)	
Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Epomophorus gambianus</i>
Elephant Shrews (Macroscelididae)	
Bushveld Sengi	<i>Elephantulus intufi</i>
Dassie Rat (Petromuridae)	
Dassie Rat	<i>Petromus typicus</i>
Squirrels (Sciuridae)	
South African Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus inauris</i>
Congo Rope Squirrel	<i>Funisciurus congicus</i>
Smith's Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>
Hyraxes (Procaviidae)	
Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>
Rabbits, Hares (Leporidae)	
Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>
Old World Porcupines (Hystricidae)	

Common Name	Scientific Name
Cape Porcupine	<i>Hystrix africaeaustralis</i>
Old World Monkeys (Cercopithecidae)	
Vervet Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus pygerythrus</i>
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>
Cats (Felidae)	
Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>
Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>
Dogs and Allies (Canidae)	
Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>
Hyaenas (Hyaenidae)	
Spotted Hyaena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>
Badgers, Weasels, Otters (Mustelidae)	
African Clawless Otter	<i>Aonyx capensis</i>
Honey Badger	<i>Mellivora capensis</i>
Mongoose (Herpestidae)	
Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>
Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>
Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>
Black Mongoose	<i>Herpestes flavescens</i>
Civets, Genets (Viverridae)	
Common Genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>
Hippopotamuses (Hippopotamidae)	
Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>
Elephants (Elephantidae)	
African Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>
Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae)	
Black Rhinoceros	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Horses, Asses, Zebras (Equidae)	
Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>
Pigs (Suidae)	
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>
Bovids (Bovidae)	
African Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>
Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>
Roan Antelope	<i>Hippotragus equinus</i>
Sable Antelope	<i>Hippotragus niger</i>
Blue Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus taurinus</i>
Red Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus caama</i>
Tsessebe	<i>Damaliscus lunatus lunatus</i>
Southern Reedbuck	<i>Redunca arundinum</i>
Damara Dik-dik	<i>Madoqua kirkii damarensis</i>
Common Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>
Klipspringer	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>
Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>
Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>
Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>
Red Lechwe	<i>Kobus leche leche</i>
Gemsbok	<i>Oryx gazella</i>
Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>
Giraffe, Okapi (Giraffidae)	
Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>
Eared Seals (Otariidae)	
Cape Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus pusillus</i>
Oceanic Dolphins (Delphinidae)	
Common Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>
Total seen	48

