

COMPLETE NAMIBIA SET DEPARTURE BIRDING TRIP REPORT

02-20 NOVEMBER 2023

By Dominic Rollinson



This pair of Monteiro's Hornbills posed beautifully for us in the Erongo Mountains.



Overview

This Complete Namibia birding itinerary was designed to run during Covid-times, when travel limitations were in place and border crossings were even more of an inconvenience than normal. After running this tour successfully in 2021, we decided that it would be worthwhile to keep this tour running as an alternative to our Namibia, Okavango and Victoria Falls birding tour. After arriving in Namibia, this tour does not leave the country and takes you from the coastal Namib Desert, all the way east to the lush Zambezi Region (formerly the Caprivi Strip) on the banks of the mighty Zambezi River. Although this is a birding tour, we also aim for some fantastic encounters with other wildlife, with these non-birding highlights including our safari drive in Etosha National Park and leopard- and pangolin-tracking in Okonjima Nature Reserve.

This Namibia birding tour is designed to target most of Namibia's near-endemic birds (shared with Angola or South Africa) and to seek out several other most-wanted and iconic African bird species. During our time in central and northern Namibia we focused on these Namibian near-endemics, while during our time in the Zambezi Region we focused our efforts on more widespread (but range-restricted in Namibia) subtropical species, including a few tough miombo specials.



Rüppell's Korhaan, a striking Namibian near-endemic.

Some of the trip's many avian highlight species included Hartlaub's Spurfowl, Cape Gannet, Secretarybird, Western Banded Snake Eagle, Ayres's Hawk-Eagle, Ludwig's Bustard, Rüppell's Korhaan, Wattled Crane, Burchell's Courser, African Skimmer, Burchell's Sandgrouse, Racket-tailed Roller, Violet Wood Hoopoe, Damara Red-billed, Bradfield's and



Monteiro's Hornbills, Pygmy Falcon, Rüppell's Parrot, Herero Chat, Rockrunner, White-tailed Shrike, Souza's Shrike, many near-endemic lark species, Bare-cheeked Babbler, Sharp-tailed Starling, Arnot's Chat, Copper Sunbird and Brown Firefinch, amongst many others.

As on any wildlife trip to Namibia, mammals featured strongly on this tour and we enjoyed sightings of Temminck's Ground Pangolin, Black Mongoose, Spotted Hyena, Lion, Leopard, (Hartmann's) Mountain Zebra, African Elephant, Black and White Rhinoceroses, African Buffalo, Roan Antelope, Southern Oryx and Kirk's Dik-dik.



This large male **Lion** was seen well in Etosha National Park.

Detailed Report

Day 1, 2nd November 2023. Windhoek birding

With all the guests having arrived in Windhoek during the previous few days, we decided to get a good start to our Namibia birding tour and took an early morning walk around the bushveld surrounding our lodge. The birding started well when we managed to get good views of Rockrunner, a bird that can prove tricky to find, as well as Red-billed Spurfowl, Barred Wren-Warbler, Short-toed Rock Thrush, Black-faced and Violet-eared Waxbills, Green-winged Pytilia and Lark-like Bunting.

After an enjoyable breakfast we took a drive to the nearby Avis Dam, where we scanned the shoreline for a vagrant Great Snipe, which had been seen recently, but was unfortunately not around for us. While scanning the shoreline and looking through the waterfowl we found **South**



African Shelduck, Blue-billed and Cape Teals, Cape Shoveler, Mallard (a tricky bird in Namibia), Maccoa Duck, Red-knobbed Coot, Kittlitz's Plover and Common and Wood Sandpipers. In the surrounding bush we found White-backed Mousebird, Common Scimitarbill, Monteiro's Hornbill, Acacia Pied Barbet, Rosy-faced Lovebird, Cape Penduline Tit, Groundscraper Thrush, Kalahari Scrub Robin, Short-toed Rock Thrush, Marico Flycatcher and Great Sparrow. A flock of aerial feeders overhead produced Alpine, Bradfield's, Little, African Palm and White-rumped Swifts.



Short-toed Rock Thrushes (such as this male) were abundant across the dry areas of Namibia.

After lunch back at our lodge we took a drive to Gammams Water Care Works, on the other side of Windhoek, which proved very productive with around 65 species seen here for the afternoon. Some of the higher-quality birds seen here included Blue-billed Teal, Namaqua Dove, Black Stork (a long distance away, perched on a pylon), Little Bittern (missed by most unfortunately), Striated and Squacco Herons, Red-faced Mousebird, Damara Red-billed Hornbill, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, Cardinal Woodpecker, Black-chested Prinia, Common Reed Warbler, Pearl-breasted and White-throated Swallows, Marico Sunbird, Red-billed Firefinch, Buffy Pipit and Yellow Canary. We also had our first looks at large and impressive Chacma Baboons this afternoon. We ended the day relishing a drink on the lodge's deck as we enjoyed the sunset and did our first evening checklist session.



Day 2, 3rd November 2023. Windhoek to Sossusvlei area

We had another early morning walk around the lodge's surrounding bushveld which produced a similar mix to the previous morning, ate breakfast and then packed the van for the drive west to the Sossusvlei area. Not too far west of Windhoek we had improved views of **Pearl-breasted Swallow** and our first vultures of the trip, **White-backed Vulture**, which was soon followed by the large **Lappet-faced Vulture**. Not so long afterwards we started noticing the massive communal nest of **Sociable Weavers** and it did not take too long until we found a nest with a pair of **Pygmy Falcons** nearby. These tiny falcons nest in the Sociable Weavers nests and help themselves to a weaver meal or two – seems a little unfair!

We stopped on top of the Spreegtshoogte Pass and enjoyed the views of the distant plains far below (I heard and briefly saw a **Nicholson's Pipit** fly by, but unfortunately nobody else saw it). We then slowly zig-zagged our way down to the plains for our lunch stop. We found a nice shady tree and were relieved and excited to find that a pair of **Herero Chats** (well spotted by Ron) had the same idea as us and enjoyed prolonged views of this tricky Namibian near-endemic. The birding at our lunch stop was very productive and we further added **Mountain Wheatear**, **Pale-winged Starling**, **Layard's Warbler**, **Yellow-bellied Eremomela**, **Pririt Batis**, **Rock Kestrel** and had our first of many **Northern Black Korhaans** nearby.



Herero Chat, thankfully, did not put up much of a fight on this trip.

Soon after lunch the scenery began to change and, before we knew it, we were into the desolate plains of the Namib Desert. It did not take long to find our first **Rüppell's Korhaan**, soon followed by **Greater Kestrel** and **Karoo Chat**.



We checked into our accommodation within the Namib-Naukluft National Park in the early afternoon and enjoyed a few **Scaly-feathered Weavers** and **Pale-winged Starlings** near our accommodation. We then headed out to the picturesque Elim Dune, where we searched for Dune Lark (likely to soon be lumped with Barlow's Lark, meaning Namibia will lose its only endemic bird species). Sadly, despite concerted effort, we could not find this desert dweller. We did, however, enjoy watching the many **Wedge-snouted Desert Lizards** as they scurried across the red dunes. There was unfortunately not much else of interest in the area, however, we added **White-throated Canary** and a very showy trio of **Rüppell's Korhaans** nearby.



Rüppell's Korhaan, a striking Namibian near-endemic.

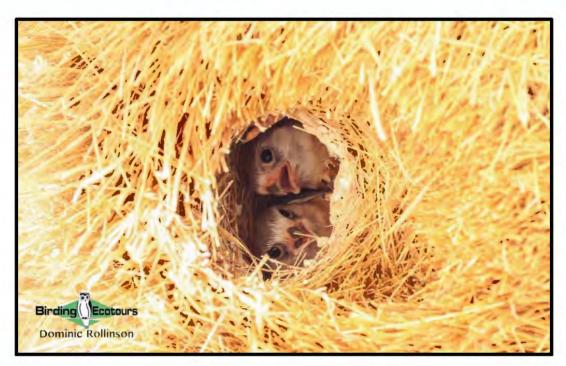
Day 3, 4th November 2023. Sossusvlei birding and sightseeing

This morning we took breakfast packs with us and managed a pre-dawn departure, as we wanted to get to the famous Sossusvlei area before the masses descended and before it heated up too much. On the way to Deadvlei (part pf the Sossusvlei area), we had our first views of **Common Ostrich**, the largest bird on the planet. We then partook in a good walk out to Deadvlei, where we enjoyed the impressive views of this now cut-off (dead) wetland, complete with the long-dead skeletons of camel thorn trees, making for dramatic views, all with a backdrop of massive red dunes. Once we had admired the impressive scene, we headed back to the vehicle and drove back to our accommodation for lunch. En route back to our lodge, we managed to find a **Ludwig's Bustard**



(well spotted Pat) and a couple **Lappet-faced Vultures** which were all sheltering from the intense late-morning heat.

We decided to take some time off during the early- and mid-afternoon heat (Pat and Giselle enjoyed the swimming pool, a routine they kept up for the remainder of the tour!) and then headed out in the late afternoon. We bought some ice creams and took a wander around Sesriem camp, where we were lucky enough to stumble upon two **Pygmy Falcons** (chicks, I presume) looking down at us from a chamber within a **Sociable Weaver** nest. We played around with different angles from which to photograph the birds and decided the easiest was to lie down directly under the nest and shoot upwards – an amusing scene for sure!



The pair of Pygmy Falcons seen in a Sociable Weaver nest in Sesriem.

After a little while around Sesriem, we took a drive out into the red dunes towards Sossusvlei and at last struck gold when Ron found a single **Dune Lark** and, eventually, we all managed to get views of a skulking individual. We continued to scan the plains that afternoon for Burchell's Coursers but, despite spending a lot of time searching, we could not find any of these desert wanderers.

Day 4, 5th November 2023. Sossusvlei birding and transfer to Walvis Bay

This morning we took one last drive through the Namib Desert towards Sossusvlei in the hopes of finding Burchell's Courser. The coursers again evaded us, nevertheless, we did improve our views



of **Ludwig's Bustard** and managed a few more **Rüppell's Korhaans**, which are always a pleasure to see.



Stark's Larks were numerous across the desert areas of Namibia.

After breakfast it was time to hit the long (and very bumpy) road to Walvis Bay. Soon after leaving the Sesriem area, we found a **Karoo Long-billed Lark** at its usual stakeout and saw another pair of **Pygmy Falcons** nearby. Not far up the road we found a small group of **Stark's Lark**, a species which would prove numerous throughout central and northern Namibia on this trip. It was then time to endure the horrible corrugations east of Walvis Bay. After being shaken around for a while, it was a pleasure to join the compacted salt roads as we got closer to the coast and it was in this area that we found a trio of **Gray's Lark**, another Namibian near-endemic.

After checking into our accommodation in Walvis Bay (right on the esplanade), we birded the lagoon and then the salt works, just south of town. With such a change in habitat, the new birds came thick and fast, with some of the highlights including African Oystercatcher, Chestnutbanded, Grey, Common Ringed and White-fronted Plovers, Ruddy Turnstone, Pied Avocet, Bar-tailed Godwit, Hartlaub's Gull, the diminutive Damara Tern and thousands of Greater and Lesser Flamingos.

Day 5: 6th November 2023. Walvis Bay boat cruise and birding

Before breakfast we again birded the esplanade and salt pans, which produced more of the same sightings as the previous afternoon. We also added **Common Greenshank**, **Marsh Sandpiper**,



Ruff, **Sanderling** and had better views of **Caspian Tern**. In the lodge's garden we managed our first views of **Orange River White-eye**.

We then headed towards the Walvis Bay small craft harbor, from which we were doing a boat-based tour of Walvis Bay (the large bay itself). Once we had left the dock, it did not take long before we had **Great White Pelicans** landing on our boat looking for fishy snacks, which were then soon followed by **Afro-Australian Fur Seals** which too were looking for handouts. The calm conditions allowed us to cruise comfortably around the bay and we enjoyed good sightings of a multitude of exciting coastal and marine birds. Some of the highlights of the roughly three-hourlong boat cruise included **South African Shelduck**, **Black-necked Grebe**, **Wilson's Storm Petrel**, an unidentified giant petrel (unfortunately we did not get close enough to confirm the species identification), **White-chinned Petrel**, **Sooty Shearwater**, **Cape Gannet**, **Crowned** and **Cape Cormorants** and thousands of terns, including **Common**, **Black**, **Greater Crested**, **Sandwich** and **White-winged Terns**. **Common Bottle-nosed Dolphins** entertained us for a while and then, to finish our boat cruise, we enjoyed fresh oysters and some other tasty snacks.

Once back on dry land, we headed north of Walvis Bay and had a quick look around the picturesque town of Swakopmund, where we had closer looks at **Cape** and **Crowned Cormorants** (unfortunately no Bank Cormorants were around) and the pretty gardens along the coastal road had good numbers of **Orange River White-eyes** and a few **White-backed Mousebirds**.



The ghostly white Namib Desert form of **Tractrac Chat**.

The barren Namib Desert was up next, and we made a special trip out to observe the unique *Welwitschia mirabilis* plant, which is thought to live to 2,000 years old! This plant species has



both male and female plants and acquires water from underground water and desert fog. We alerted Dave (the entomologist in the group) to some interesting and brightly colored bugs crawling about the Welwitschias and, after a quick look online, Dave let us know that they were *Probergrothius angolensis* (also known as Welwitschia bugs). In the area we also found the ghostly white Namib subspecies of **Tractrac Chat**.

Day 6, 7th November 2023. Transfer to Erongo Mountain, with Spitzkoppe en route

Armed with breakfast packs, we left our accommodation shortly before sunrise and made our way out into the Namib Desert. Before leaving Walvis Bay, we stopped at the guano platform just north of town to see if we could pick out any Bank Cormorants Unfortunately, the cormorants were still not around, nevertheless, we did add a few vocal **Damara Terns** which were heading off into the desert, presumably towards their breeding grounds.

The drive through the Namib Desert to Spitzkoppe (the Matterhorn of Africa) was relatively quiet, but the birding picked up soon after turning off the main road. The scattered bushveld held **Swallow-tailed Bee-eater**, **Acacia Pied Barbet**, **Sabota Lark**, and **Dusky Sunbird**, and birding around the base of the mountain further added **Layard's** and **Chestnut-vented Warblers**, **Mountain Wheatear** and **White-throated Canary**. It was a relief to not have to target the tricky Herero Chat (as we had already seen it near Spreegtshoogte Pass) and could simply enjoy the general birding and the impressive views.



The cute and strikingly patterned **White-tailed Shrike** was seen in the Erongo Mountains.



The drive northwest to the Erongo Mountains was rather quiet, and when we arrived at our lovely lodge, we enjoyed a sit-down lunch during the extreme heat of the day. While eating our lunch we made acquaintance with some of the area's special birds, in the form of **White-tailed Shrike**, **Monteiro's Hornbill**, **Red-billed Spurfowl** and **Green-winged Pytilia**.

We then took it easy for a little while, before going for a drive in the late afternoon, where we birded a dry river bed which held **Southern Pied Babbler**, **Pririt Batis**, **Pearl-spotted Owlet**, **Common Scimitarbill** and **Grey-backed Camaroptera**. An obliging pair of **Double-banded Sandgrouse** posed for photos nearby too.

Once it had cooled further, we took a little walk from our lodge and birded the bushes around the base of the granite outcrops. The birding was more productive here and we soon found **Rosy-faced Lovebird**, **White-tailed Shrike**, **Crimson-breasted Shrike**, **Carp's Tit**, **Yellow-bellied Eremomela**, **Marico Sunbird**, **Black-throated Canary** and **Cape Bunting**. We had hoped to find Hartlaub's Spurfowl on this walk but, unfortunately, they did not make a peep for us to try track them down.



The colorful **Rosy-faced Lovebird** was an early tour highlight.

Later that evening we enjoyed a wonderful meal, complete with distractions in the form of dozens of **Double-banded Sandgrouse** coming into drink and a few **Freckled Nightjars** calling and flitting about catching flying insects.



Day 7, 8th November 2023. Erongo Mountains birding

Hartlaub's Spurfowl was high on the agenda for this morning's birding ventures, however, despite looking high and low around all its regular haunts, we drew a blank. The other birding was very productive and highlights included **Monteiro's Hornbill**, **White-tailed Shrike**, **Pririt Batis**, **Great Sparrow** and **Long-billed Crombec**.



Monteiro's Hornbill are always obliging and photogenic in the Erongo Mountains.

After a lovely breakfast and before it heated up too much, we took another walk around in the hopes of finding the spurfowl, but were still unsuccessful. Again, the birding was good, and we saw **African Hawk-Eagle**, **Gabar Goshawk**, **Carp's Tit**, **Short-toed Rock Thrush** and **White-browed Scrub Robin**. We all enjoyed seeing the brightly colored male **Namibian Rock Agamas** scurrying around the boulders near the lodge.

With the heat now intense, we decided to take it easy until the early afternoon. We headed out for an air-conditioned drive (in the van) to a dry river bed in the hopes of finding the near-endemic **Rüppell's Parrot**. Along the drive we had nice views of **Bearded Woodpecker**, **Monteiro's Hornbill** and **Crimson-breasted Shrike**. Birding in the dry river bed was mostly quiet, until we heard the screeches of a single **Rüppell's Parrot**, which proved tricky to find but we eventually all had good scope views. Some nearby bird calls led us across the dry river, where we found a small bird party, including **Common Scimitarbill**, **African Grey** and **Southern Yellow-billed Hornbills**, **Bearded Woodpecker**, **White-tailed Shrike**, **Southern Pied Babbler**, **Black-backed Puffback**, **Crimson-breasted Shrike** and **Groundscraper Thrush**.



We then headed back to our lodge (adding the massive **Kori Bustard**, well spotted by Gerd, en route) and again had another go at finding Hartlaub's Spurfowl, which sadly still did not play ball for us. The big highlight of the day, however, came when we were sat doing our daily checklist in the early evening and noticed that the **Rock Hyrax** were making excited alarm calls. We walked out and, before we knew it, we saw a female **Leopard** dragging her hyrax prey up the boulders and out of sight. What a way to end the day!

Day 8, 9th November 2023. Transfer to Etosha National Park

This morning, we yet again set out to find **Hartlaub's Spurfowl** which, of course, proved tricky. After much perseverance (and some help from some other birders at the lodge) we managed to find a pair of spurfowl feeding quietly in the leaf litter and had some great views. We then enjoyed another delicious breakfast, packed the van and started making our way north towards Etosha National Park. A noteworthy mammal was a couple of sightings of the range-restricted **Black Mongoose**.

The drive was again mostly uneventful, although a few roadside stops produced sightings of **Pale** Chanting Goshawk, Purple Roller, Tawny Eagle, White-backed and Lappet-faced Vultures, Rüppell's Parrot (a catchup bird for Danny) and more Monteiro's Hornbills.

We made our way into Etosha National Park in the early afternoon heat, checked into our accommodation in Okaukuejo Camp and then took it easy until it cooled down a bit. While sorting out accommodation we bumped into a few nice birds, including **African Hoopoe**, **Ashy Tit**, **Redheaded Finch** and a vocal **African Cuckoo**.



This vocal **African Cuckoo** was very obliging in Etosha National Park.



A bit later in the afternoon we headed out for a drive north of camp and birded the open plains on the edge of the dry pan. Interesting birds on our drive included **Spotted Thick-knee**, **Double-banded Courser**, **Greater Kestrel**, **Red-necked Falcon**, **Cape Crow**, **Spike-heeled** and **Red-capped Larks** and **Ant-eating Chat**. We saw a few exciting animals on this drive too, including **Gemsbok** (Southern Oryx), **Giraffe**, **Steenbok** and a small pride of **Lion**, sheltering from the harsh sun.

Later that evening, while watching the floodlit waterhole, we saw a few **Black Rhinoceros** and **African Elephant** coming down to drink and bathe. Unfortunately, the regular Rufous-cheeked Nightjars were not around tonight.

Day 9, 10th November 2023. Etosha National Park birding and wildlife viewing

We were excited to board our open-top safari vehicle for a drive around Etosha this morning, and it proved to be a fun-filled morning out. Some of the birding highlights included Northern Black Korhaan (many), Kori Bustard, Double-banded Courser, Crowned Lapwing, Tawny Eagle, Lappet-faced Vulture, Greater Kestrel, Stark's and Pink-billed Larks, Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark, Chat and Marico Flycatchers, Rufous-eared Warbler, Desert Cisticola and Capped Wheatear. A large male Lion stole the show, giving us prolonged, close-up views. Other animals of interest included Common Wildebeest and Steenbok.



Etosha National Park must be one of the best places around to see **Double-banded Courser**.



We enjoyed a sit-down lunch at Okaukuejo and, while waiting for lunch, managed to add Southern White-crowned Shrike and Southern Masked Weavers nearby. After lunch and a break from the heat, we headed out for an afternoon drive, this time south of camp, where we birded the open plains and visited a few waterholes. We enjoyed good views of Namaqua Sandgrouse (surprising that it had taken so long to find this species), Wahlberg's Eagle, Tawny Eagle, Stark's Lark, European Bee-eater and Yellow Canary. The highlight of the afternoon was undoubtedly the small group of Burchell's Coursers that we managed to see. Unfortunately, the coursers were seen at quite a distance and some of the group missed the birds when they ran over a rise and out of sight, and despite us making a concerted effort to find them again.

A quick look at the waterhole when we got back to camp produced a few nice water birds, such as **Little Grebe**, **Wood Sandpiper**, **Common Greenshank**, **Ruff** and **Black-headed Heron.** Unfortunately, a nocturnal visit after dinner still did not deliver any Rufous-cheeked Nightjars (the extremely windy conditions certainly did not help our cause).



Rufous-eared Warblers occur in low densities throughout the plains of Etosha National Park.

Day 10, 11th November 2023. Etosha National Park birding and wildlife viewing

We had the whole day to make our way east through the park but had a lot of birds and other wildlife to look for en route and thus got moving early (you might notice a theme developing here). Soon after leaving camp, we bumped into a showy **Red-crested Korhaan** which obliged for us, and we then managed to improve our views of **Rufous-eared Warbler** and **Desert Cisticola** soon after. While we were waiting for the above warbler to show, we saw a few displaying **Eastern Clapper Larks** as they rose vertically out of the low vegetation, clapping their wings loudly



together before parachuting back down again. Other new birds along the initial stretch of the drive included **Rufous-naped Lark**, **Common Swift** and **Red-breasted Swallow**. **Spotted Hyena** and (Red) **Hartebeest** were other notable sightings on this morning's drive.

In the late morning, we made it to Halali Camp where we had a good walk around and looked for our two main targets: **Violet Wood Hoopoe** and **Bare-cheeked Babbler**. Both the wood hoopoe and babbler proved straightforward and we found them without too much effort. As always, the camp was very birdy and other species we found included **Shikra**, **Southern White-crowned Shrike**, **Southern Red-billed Hornbill** (as well as Damara x Southern Red-billed hybrids), **Red-headed Weaver** and **Cape Starling**.



Bare-cheeked Babbler is very reliable in Etosha's Halali Camp.

Carrying on east, we saw more of the same birds from the previous two days, and eventually found a **Secretarybird**, which we watched as it went about hunting in the open plains. We arrived at Namutoni for our lunch and had a short wander around camp, where we added **Willow Warbler**, **Burchell's Starling** and **White-bellied Sunbird**.

After a long day driving through the park, we made it into our beautiful lodge on the eastern border of the park and, after some time off, took a walk around the lush lodge grounds where we soon found Crested Francolin, Grey Go-away-bird, African Palm Swift, Golden-tailed Woodpecker, Yellow-breasted Apalis, Red-billed Buffalo Weaver and our main target, Blackfaced Babbler.





Black-faced Babbler was one of the five babbler species seen on this Namibia tour.

Day 11, 12th November 2023. Transfer to Rundu

Another walk around the lodge grounds this morning proved very productive, as we continued to find new birds in the form of Emerald-spotted Wood Dove, Black Cuckoo, Little Sparrowhawk, White-crested Helmetshrike and African Paradise Flycatcher. We noticed a commotion coming from a large group of birds and, on closer inspection, found a medium-sized African Rock Python coiled up in a tree, presumably trying to raid birds' nests, but the local birds were onto this one!

We then packed up and made our way towards Rundu, a long drive east. Soon after leaving, we came across massive flocks of **Common Swifts**. We'll never know the exact number of birds seen; Ken (an admitted under-estimator) went with 1,000 birds, while I (an admitted over-estimator) thought around 10,000, in the end we decided on 5,000 for the eBird list! As we made our way further and further east, the habitat gradually became lusher and the open plains were replaced with tall woodlands, which meant we started seeing a few new bird species. New birds included **Purple** and **Lilac-breasted Rollers**, **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird**, **Black Cuckooshrike**, **Southern Black Flycatcher** and **Scarlet-chested Sunbird**.

In the early afternoon we made it to our lodge, a little west of Rundu, and situated right on the banks of the Okavango River. We didn't waste any time before heading out for a walk around camp which, together with some relaxed birding around camp throughout the afternoon, produced African Pygmy Goose, Collared Pratincole, Emerald-spotted Wood Dove, Grey Go-away-bird, Senegal Coucal, Levaillant's and Jacobin Cuckoos, Western Barn Owl (at its day roost), Little Bee-eater, Black-collared Barbet, Greater Honeyguide, Swamp Boubou, Orange-breasted Bushshrike, Terrestrial Brownbul, Yellow-bellied Greenbul, Hartlaub's and



Arrow-marked Babblers and **Holub's Golden Weaver**, with the vagrant **Ross's Turaco** (which has been here a few years now) being the top sighting of the afternoon. That evening we heard **Square-tailed Nightjars** singing as we enjoyed our dinner but, unfortunately, we could not see any of them, for now.

Day 12, 13th November 2023. Transfer to Katima Mulilo

We had a long drive ahead of us today, but nevertheless still had the morning to bird around our lodge on the edge of the Okavango River, which proved productive. Highlights of the morning's birding included White-browed Coucal, Collared Pratincole, African Openbill, African Cuckoo-Hawk (only seen by some of the group), African Goshawk, Eurasian Hobby, Meyer's Parrot, Eurasian Golden Oriole, Red-headed Weaver and a surprise group of Chestnut Weavers, which seemed a little out of range this far east.



Although not the most striking of birds, non-breeding **Chestnut Weavers** were exciting to see around Rundu.

After breakfast we packed the van and started the long drive east through the Zambezi Region. We made a couple of birding stops here and there, en route to Katima Mulilo, which did not result in too much of interest but did add our first **Yellow-throated Bush Sparrows** of the trip. We eventually made it into our lodge in Katima Mulilo in the late afternoon, and we were soon out again on a relaxing boat cruise down the Zambezi River. This was the perfect way to end the day after a long day in the vehicle, and the new birds soon started rolling in. The primary target on this boat cruise was **African Finfoot**, which did not take much effort to find, with other highlights



including Water Thick-knee, White-crowned Lapwing, African Skimmer, roosting White-backed Night Herons, Striated Heron, a roosting Eurasian Nightjar, Giant and Brown-hooded Kingfishers, many Southern Carmine Bee-eaters, Tropical Boubou and Wire-tailed Swallow. Some of the group also managed brief looks at Cape Clawless Otter, while we all saw a few Nile Crocodiles along the river.

We then enjoyed our dinner (with great looks at **African Wood Owl** as a quick distraction), however, the day was not yet done, and we headed out for some night birding, which proved to be some of the most productive birding of the trip. For a long while, we only heard various owl and nightjar species but then, eventually, they started to show themselves. We saw **African Barred Owlet**, **Western Barn Owl**, **African Scops Owl** and **Southern White-faced Owl** along with **Square-tailed**, **Fiery-necked** and a magnificent male **Pennant-winged Nightjar**. We got back to our accommodation later that night tired but exhilarated, after a wonderful evening and day's birding.



This superb male **Pennant-winged Nightjar** was one of the many highlights of our nocturnal birding around Katima Mulilo.

Day 13, 14th November 2023. Katima Mulilo birding

We started the morning with a walk from our lodge and birded along the river and the lush riverside woodlands, which produced African Green Pigeon, Schalow's Turaco, Coppery-tailed Coucal, African Emerald Cuckoo (heard only), African Skimmer, Green Wood Hoopoe, Broad-billed Roller, Crested Barbet, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Olive Woodpecker, Black-crowned Tchagra, Grey-headed Bushshrike, Purple-banded Sunbird and Southern Brown-throated



Weaver. We then ventured out to some nearby woodlands, where we targeted Yellow-throated Leaflove, which was only discovered breeding in Namibia in the last decade. The leafloves were located quickly, and we enjoyed prolonged views of a preening bird. Other quality birds seen here included Western Banded Snake Eagle, Trumpeter Hornbill, Tropical Boubou and Holub's Golden Weaver.



Yellow-throated Leaflove was one of our main targets around Katima Mulilo.

After a late sit-down breakfast (distracted by **Red-billed** and **Brown Firefinches** and **Bronze Mannikin** on the bird table) we again birded some nearby woodlands, which further produced **Brubru**, **White-crested Helmetshrike**, **Little Bee-eater**, **Marico Sunbird** and **Cinnamon-breasted Bunting**. We then enjoyed some time off, from the late morning until early afternoon, with a leisurely lunch in between.

In the mid-afternoon we took a drive southeast towards the Botswana border post and birded the Chobe floodplain, which produced some fine new birds for the trip. As we birded the open wetland areas, we soon found Collared Pratincole, Whiskered Tern, Yellow-billed Stork, Hamerkop, Squacco Heron, Great and Intermediate Egrets, Goliath Heron, Glossy Ibis and an assortment of waders including Marsh, Common and Wood Sandpipers, Ruff, Common Greenshank and Little Stint. The heavily grazed grasslands produced Black-bellied Bustard, Coppery-tailed Coucal, Grey-rumped Swallow, Sand Martin, Red-billed and Yellow-billed Oxpeckers, Plain-backed Pipit and brief looks at Rosy-throated Longclaw, which did not behave as we had hoped. The neighboring woodlands further added the likes of Gabar Goshawk, Southern Carmine Bee-eater, Lilac-breasted Roller, Bearded Woodpecker, Meyer's Parrot, Lesser Grey Shrike, Burnt-necked Eremomela and Greater Blue-eared Starling.



We had planned to do a night boat cruise along the Zambezi River to look for the elusive and rare Pel's Fishing Owl this evening but, unfortunately, a massive thunderstorm rolled in and, for safety reasons, we had to abort the trip.

Day 14, 15th November 2023. Transfer to Mahango area

We were still missing a few broad-leafed woodland species and so this morning we headed to a patch of such woodland and had but 40 minutes of very enjoyable birding. We started the morning with a showy **Grey-headed Kingfisher** before the distinctive cries of **Racket-tailed Roller** were heard nearby, which resulted in lovely views of this scarce species. Other good birds seen here included **Red-chested Cuckoo**, **African Grey Hornbill**, **African Golden Oriole**, **Chinspot Batis**, **White-crested** and **Retz's Helmetshrikes** and **Red-headed Weaver**.



Racket-tailed Roller was seen in tall broad-leafed woodland near Katima Mulilo.

Next, we birded some open woodland closer to camp, where we found **Little Sparrowhawk**, **Green Wood Hoopoe**, **Crested Barbet**, **Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird**, **Grey-headed Bushshrike**, four roosting **Square-tailed Nightjars**, and then struck gold with a lovely male **Copper Sunbird**.

Our final spot of pre-breakfast birding took us to a nearby wetland which is normally full of birds, and today was no different. Highlights of this area included **Knob-billed Duck**, **African Pygmy Goose** (much improved views than before), **Long-toed Lapwing**, **Lesser Jacana**, **Rufous-bellied Heron**, **African Marsh Harrier** and **Fan-tailed Widowbird**.



After a busy morning's birding, we enjoyed a sit-down breakfast, packed the van and started making our way back west through the Zambezi Region. We tried a patch of riverine forest, which has been known to occasionally hold roosting Pel's Fishing Owls, but, unfortunately, it was not to be and we had to accept defeat with this large ginger owl! As we left Katima Mulilo we did, however, find a pair of obliging **Northern Grey-headed Sparrows**, new for the trip.



The dainty Lesser Jacana showed well in the wetlands near Katima Mulilo.

The drive westward was uneventful, however, we did add Marabou and Saddle-billed Storks, Brown Snake Eagle and Meve's Starling. We arrived at our lovely lodge, on the banks of the Okavango River, in the late afternoon and decided to have the rest of the afternoon at leisure. Most of us gathered on the deck overlooking the river and enjoyed a drink, as a huge thunderstorm rolled by. We, of course, had our optics nearby and throughout the afternoon, saw Knob-billed Duck, Spur-winged Goose, White-browed Coucal, African Wattled Lapwing, Rock Pratincole, White-fronted Bee-eater and Lesser Masked Weaver. Kristian spotted a Malachite Kingfisher, which we all missed – amazingly this turned out to be the only sighting of this species of the whole trip!

Day 15, 16th November 2023. Mahango birding

This morning was a particularly early start as we headed about 45 miles (70 kilometers) west of Divundu to bird some dry broad-leafed woodlands for a few very special birds. At our first stop we were met by a local villager (Kosmos) who excitedly showed us his resident **Sharp-tailed Starlings**, which showed well for us. Next up, Kosmos took us across a field where, after a bit of



a search, we found a breeding pair of **Arnot's Chats**. We heard the harsh cry of a **Souza's Shrike** very nearby but, annoyingly, could not find this rare shrike, despite a good search of the area. Other exciting birds seen in the area included **Black Cuckoo**, **Collared Pratincole**, **Dark Chanting Goshawk**, **Eurasian Hobby**, **Purple Roller**, **Bearded Woodpecker**, **Meyer's Parrot**, **Black-headed Oriole**, **Mosque Swallow**, **Southern Black Flycatcher** and **Long-tailed Paradise Whydah**.

We then tried another patch of woodland, which again proved productive and (while dodging rain squalls) we steadily ticked off new birds such as **Brown-backed Honeybird**, **Green-capped Eremomela**, **Tinkling Cisticola**, **Southern Yellow White-eye** and an obliging pair of **Souza's Shrikes**, which showed well for us.



Souza's Shrike in the woodlands near Divundu.

We made a couple stops on the way back, which added Rock Pratincole, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, Red-billed Quelea, White-winged Widowbird, Shaft-tailed Whydah and Black-throated Canary to the morning's already impressive bird list. After an enjoyable morning's birding we headed back to our accommodation (adding Lesser Spotted Eagle, Wahlberg's Eagle, Common Buzzard and an immature Ayres's Hawk-Eagle en route), where we had a pleasant lunch and then some time off. Mourning Collared Doves were seen wandering around camp after we had finished our lunch.

Later that afternoon we headed out to Mahangu Game Reserve, which is right on the Botswanan border, and offers some fine birding and game viewing. Today was no different as we saw some great birds such as Swainson's Spurfowl, Coppery-tailed Coucal, Wattled Crane, Long-toed



Lapwing, Woolly-necked Stork, Marabou Stork, Common Scimitarbill, Woodland Kingfisher, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, Bennett's Woodpecker, Crimson-breasted Shrike, Fawn-colored Lark, Banded Martin, Black-faced Babbler and Violet-eared Waxbill. An interesting find was a group of around a dozen Stark's Larks which were very out of range this far east! As always, the floodplain was littered with animals, including Common Warthog, Hippopotamus, Southern Lechwe, Plains Zebra, Giraffe, African Buffalo and Kudu, with a herd of Roan Antelope seen in the woodlands on our way out of the reserve.

Day 16, 17th November 2023. Mahango birding, and transfer to Grootfontein

This morning, we had an exciting boat cruise down the Okavango River, which met expectations and proved to be a highly enjoyable couple of hours out on the water. Our first stop was a nearby Southern Carmine Bee-eater colony, where we enjoyed point-blank views of the bee-eaters as they returned to their nest holes. A bonus here was views of a single vagrant Northern Carmine Bee-eater which has now returned for its second season here. Other noteworthy species seen during our boat cruise included Knob-billed Duck, Mourning Collared Dove, Coppery-tailed and White-browed Coucals, Black Crake, Sanderling (seemingly a little out of range here), African Skimmer, Whiskered Tern, Grey-headed Kingfisher, Village Weaver and Yellow-crowned Bishop.



Southern (left) and **Northern Carmine Bee-eaters** at the breeding colony along the Okavango River.



After breakfast we packed up and started making our way back west. We decided to have another stop in the same woodlands a little west of Divundu to see if we could find the hoped-for Rufous-bellied Tit, but sadly again drew a blank here. The birding was good and we found **Tinkling Cisticola**, **Neddicky**, **Icterine Warbler**, **Southern Yellow White-eye**, **Pale Flycatcher**, **Yellow-fronted Canary** and I had brief views of **White-breasted Cuckooshrike** which, unfortunately, nobody else got onto properly.



African Skimmers were seen along the major rivers on this Namibia birding tour.

Later that afternoon we made it to our lovely lodge just outside of Grootfontein, where we enjoyed a very birdy walk around in the late afternoon. Some of the highlights included **Red-billed Spurfowl**, **Red-crested Korhaan**, **Spotted Thick-knee**, **Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill**, **Acacia Pied Barbet**, **Brubru**, **Burnt-necked Eremomela**, **Red-billed Buffalo Weaver** and **Red-beaded Finch**

Day 17, 18th November 2023. Transfer to Okonjima Nature Reserve

Before breakfast this morning we had another walk around the game farm which proved a little on the quiet side, however, we did manage to find Red-crested Korhaan, Namaqua Dove, Gabar Goshawk, Common Scimitarbill, Cardinal Woodpecker, Cape Penduline Tit, Green-winged Pytilia and more small groups of Stark's Larks. After breakfast and on our way out, we finally got lucky with views of Bradfield's Hornbill, with African Grey, Southern Red-billed and Southern Yellow-billed Hornbills also seen in the immediate area.



From Grootfontein area we made our way south, with a couple birding stops en route, which produced Lesser Striped Swallow, Zitting and Desert Cisticolas, Rufous-naped Lark, Brown Snake Eagle and African Pipit.

For our lunch break we stopped at Otjiwarongo Sewage Works, which was full of birds. It had been a while since our last visit to a sewage works and so naturally everybody was excited to see what was around! Highlights here included **Blue-billed** and **Red-billed Teals**, **Little Grebe**, **Alpine**, **Little** and **African Palm Swifts**, **Red-knobbed Coot**, **African Swamphen**, **Black-crowned Night Heron**, **Common Reed Warbler**, and I managed brief views of **Sedge Warbler**, which was unfortunately missed by the group.

We eventually arrived at Okonjima Nature Reserve in the mid-afternoon (finding White Rhino on the drive in). We met later in the afternoon to enjoy a relaxed drink as we watched the sun go down over the waterhole. There were, of course, many birds around here and we managed to find Namaqua and Double-banded Sandgrouses, Tawny Eagle, Gabar Goshawk, African Hoopoe, Crimson-breasted Shrike, Marico Flycatcher and Marico Sunbird. Animals were also abundant, coming down for a drink at the waterhole, and included Black-backed Jackal, (Hartmann's) Mountain Zebra, Common Warthog, Gemsbok, Impala, Springbok and Kirk's (Damara) Dik-dik.



The attractive **Gemsbok** struck quite a pose in Okonjima Nature Reserve.

After a wonderful dinner, we found out that the fun was not yet over, as a radio-tagged **Temminck's Ground Pangolin** had been found nearby. We loaded up into the vehicle and made our way over (seeing **Scrub Hare** en route) and arrived at the spot, where we watched the pangolin



as it quietly fed in the undergrowth. These gentle creatures are under serious threat due to the illegal (and senseless) trade in their scales. We all felt privileged to watch this bizarre animal go about its business as we learnt about their interesting biology from our informative guide. While we enjoyed the pangolin, **Rufous-cheeked Nightjars** called all around us, with thunder rumbling in the distance, making it a very atmospheric experience. What a way to end another fun day in Namibia!

Day 18, 19th November 2023. Okonjima Nature Reserve birding and wildlife viewing

Today was our final full day of the tour and we headed out again on an open-top game drive, this time tracking radio-tagged Leopards. It did not take long to pick up a signal and before we knew it, we had found a big male **Leopard** casually walking along the road in front of us. The **Leopard** was seemingly unperturbed by our presence and went about walking the roads on the hunt for any unsuspecting prey.



We enjoyed spending time with this **Leopard** in Okonjima Nature Reserve.

We spent a few productive hours on our drive and racked up an impressive bird list for the morning, including Namaqua Sandgrouse, Red-crested Korhaan, Black-chested Snake Eagle, Tawny Eagle, Damara Red-billed Hornbill, White-tailed Shrike, Pririt Batis, Brown-crowned Tchagra, Rockrunner, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Barred Wren-Warbler, Icterine Warbler (improved views from yesterday's brief sighting), Southern Pied Babbler, Chestnut Weaver and Shaft-tailed Whydah.



After a hearty sit-down breakfast, we took a quick drive out along the entrance road. It was a little quiet but did produce sightings of **Black-chested Snake Eagle**, **Kori Bustard**, **Crowned Lapwing**, **Monteiro's Hornbill**, **Chestnut Weaver** and **Lark-like Bunting**. Non-avian highlights included (Hartmann's) **Mountain Zebra**, **Giraffe**, **Kudu** and **Kirk's** (Damara) **Dik-dik**.

In the afternoon we birded on foot around a koppie (small conical hill) which was very birdy and provided improved views of several species which we had seen previously on the trip. In a couple of hours birding here we notched up White-tailed Shrike, Pririt Batis, Carp's and Ashy Tits, Long-billed Crombec, Rockrunner, Barred Wren-Warbler and Violet-eared Waxbill. We were surprised when a Freckled Nightjar suddenly started calling in the broad daylight, but we unfortunately could not find the bird in question.



Carp's Tit, another Namibian near-endemic which was seen in north-central Namibia.

A walk around camp in the early evening added **Tawny Eagle**, **Spotted Eagle-Owl** and (at last) a few **Burchell's Sandgrouse**, coming down to drink as we did our checklist. We enjoyed our final African sunset before another enjoyable evening meal.

Day 19, 20th November 2023. Transfer to Windhoek and departure

A few of us met up in the early morning for a final walk around camp, which did not produce too much of interest, however, we did manage to find **Rüppell's Parrot**, **Crimson-breasted Shrike**, **Ashy Tit**, **Barred Wren-Warbler** and **Pearl-breasted Swallow**.



After breakfast we loaded up the van one last time and made our way south to Windhoek Airport, where we said goodbye to a few of our group, before heading out for our final bit of birding around Avis Dam, just outside of Windhoek. We were hoping to find Orange River Francolin, which had thus far eluded us, however it was not to be, and we had to settle for more looks at **South African Shelduck**, **Maccoa Duck**, **Brubru** and **Black-faced Waxbill**.

I then dropped off the remainder of our group at their accommodation just outside of Windhoek, concluding a highly enjoyable 19 days in Namibia. I would like to thank everybody for making it such a successful trip, with some great bird and animal sightings. A special thank you to Ken for his diligent eBirding, which made my life a whole lot easier – I'm not sure you realise how much time you saved me each evening! I look forward to hopefully traveling with you all again in the not-too-distant future.



Southern White-faced Owl was one of several owl species seen on this tour.



Bird List - Following IOC (13.2)

Birds 'heard only' are marked with (H) after the common name, birds seen by the guide only are marked with a (L) after the common name, all other species were seen both by clients and guide.

The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following BirdLife International. CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Ostriches (Struthionidae)	
Common Ostrich	Struthio camelus
Ducks, Geese, Swans (Anatidae)	•
White-faced Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna viduata
Spur-winged Goose	Plectropterus gambensis
Knob-billed Duck	Sarkidiornis melanotos
Egyptian Goose	Alopochen aegyptiaca
South African Shelduck	Tadorna cana
African Pygmy Goose	Nettapus auritus
Blue-billed Teal	Spatula hottentota
Cape Shoveler	Spatula smithii
Yellow-billed Duck	Anas undulata
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos
Cape Teal	Anas capensis
Red-billed Teal	Anas erythrorhyncha
Maccoa Duck - EN	Oxyura maccoa
Guineafowl (Numididae)	1 27 . 1 . 1
Helmeted Guineafowl	Numida meleagris
Pheasants & Allies (Phasianidae)
Crested Francolin	Ortygornis sephaena
Hartlaub's Spurfowl	Pternistis hartlaubi
Red-billed Spurfowl	Pternistis adspersus
Swainson's Spurfowl	Pternistis swainsonii
V. 1.1.	
Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)	
European Nightjar	Caprimulgus europaeus
Rufous-cheeked Nightjar (H)	Caprimulgus rufigena
Fiery-necked Nightjar	Caprimulgus pectoralis
Freckled Nightjar	Caprimulgus tristigma
Square-tailed Nightjar	Caprimulgus fossii
Pennant-winged Nightjar	Caprimulgus vexillarius



Common Name	Scientific Name
Swifts (Apodidae)	
African Palm Swift	Cypsiurus parvus
Alpine Swift	Tachymarptis melba
Common Swift	Apus apus
Bradfield's Swift	Apus bradfieldi
Little Swift	Apus affinis
White-rumped Swift	Apus caffer
Turacos (Musophagidae)	
Grey Go-away-bird	Crinifer concolor
Ross's Turaco	Tauraco rossae
Schalow's Turaco	Tauraco schalowi
Bustards (Otididae)	
Kori Bustard	Ardeotis kori
Ludwig's Bustard - EN	Neotis ludwigii
Denham's Bustard	Neotis denhami
Rüppell's Korhaan	Heterotetrax rueppelii
Red-crested Korhaan	Lophotis ruficrista
Northern Black Korhaan	Afrotis afraoides
Black-bellied Bustard	Lissotis melanogaster
Cuckoos (Cuculidae)	
Senegal Coucal	Centropus senegalensis
Coppery-tailed Coucal	Centropus cupreicaudus
White-browed Coucal	Centropus superciliosus
Levaillant's Cuckoo	Clamator levaillantii
Jacobin Cuckoo	Clamator jacobinus
Diederik Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx caprius
Klaas's Cuckoo (H)	Chrysococcyx klaas
African Emerald Cuckoo (H)	Chrysococcyx cupreus
Black Cuckoo	Cuculus clamosus
Red-chested Cuckoo	Cuculus solitarius
African Cuckoo	Cuculus gularis
Sandgrouse (Pteroclidae)	
Namaqua Sandgrouse	Pterocles namaqua
Double-banded Sandgrouse	Pterocles bicinctus
Burchell's Sandgrouse	Pterocles burchelli
Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)	
Rock Dove	Columba livia
Speckled Pigeon	Columba guinea
Mourning Collared Dove	Streptopelia decipiens



Common Name	Scientific Name
Red-eyed Dove	Streptopelia semitorquata
Ring-necked Dove	Streptopelia capicola
Laughing Dove	Spilopelia senegalensis
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	Turtur chalcospilos
Namaqua Dove	Oena capensis
African Green Pigeon	Treron calvus
Finfoots (Heliornithidae)	
African Finfoot	Podica senegalensis
Rails, Crakes & Coots (Rallidae	<u>e</u>)
Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus
Red-knobbed Coot	Fulica cristata
African Swamphen	Porphyrio madagascariensis
Black Crake	Zapornia flavirostra
Cranes (Gruidae)	•
Wattled Crane - VU	Grus carunculata
Blue Crane - VU	Grus paradisea
Grebes (Podicipedidae)	
Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis
Black-necked Grebe	Podiceps nigricollis
Flamingos (Phoenicopteridae)	
Greater Flamingo	Phoenicopterus roseus
Lesser Flamingo	Phoeniconaias minor
Stone-curlews, Thick-knees (Bu	rrhinidae)
Water Thick-knee	Burhinus vermiculatus
Spotted Thick-knee	Burhinus capensis
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Oystercatchers (Haematopodid	•
African Oystercatcher	Haematopus moquini
Stilts, Avocets (Recurvirostrida	
Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus
Pied Avocet	Recurvirostra avosetta
Plovers (Charadriidae)	
Long-toed Lapwing	Vanellus crassirostris
Blacksmith Lapwing	Vanellus armatus
White-crowned Lapwing	Vanellus albiceps
Crowned Lapwing	Vanellus coronatus











Common Name	Scientific Name
Bee-eaters (Meropidae)	
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	Merops hirundineus
Little Bee-eater	Merops pusillus
White-fronted Bee-eater	Merops bullockoides
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	Merops persicus
European Bee-eater	Merops apiaster
Northern Carmine Bee-eater	Merops nubicus
Southern Carmine Bee-eater	Merops nubicoides
African Barbets (Lybiidae)	
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	Pogoniulus chrysoconus
Acacia Pied Barbet	Tricholaema leucomelas
Black-collared Barbet	Lybius torquatus
Crested Barbet	Trachyphonus vaillantii
	V1
Honeyguides (Indicatoridae)	
Brown-backed Honeybird	Prodotiscus regulus
Lesser Honeyguide	Indicator minor
Greater Honeyguide	Indicator indicator
Woodneskang (Disides)	
Woodpeckers (Picidae) Bennett's Woodpecker	Campethera bennettii
Golden-tailed Woodpecker	Campethera abingoni
Bearded Woodpecker	Chloropicus namaquus
Cardinal Woodpecker	Dendropicos fuscescens
Olive Woodpecker	Dendropicos griseocephalus
Onve woodpeeker	Denuropicos griseocephaias
Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)	
Pygmy Falcon	Polihierax semitorquatus
Rock Kestrel	Falco rupicolus
Greater Kestrel	Falco rupicoloides
Red-necked Falcon	Falco chicquera
Eurasian Hobby	Falco subbuteo
African & New World Parrots (Psit	 tacidae)
Meyer's Parrot	Poicephalus meyeri
Rüppell's Parrot	Poicephalus rueppellii
Old World Parrots (Psittaculidae)	
Rosy-faced Lovebird	Agapornis roseicollis
Wattle-eyes, Batises (Platysteiridae))
Chinspot Batis	Batis molitor
Pririt Batis	Batis pririt
	F





Scientific Name
Melaniparus niger
Melaniparus carpi
Melaniparus cinerascens
Anthoscopus minutus
Anthoscopus minutus
<u> </u>
Chersomanes albofasciata
Ammomanopsis grayi
Certhilauda subcoronata
Eremopterix verticalis
Calendulauda sabota
Calendulauda africanoides
Calendulauda erythrochlamys
Mirafra fasciolata
Mirafra africana
Spizocorys starki
Spizocorys conirostris
Calandrella cinerea
Atimastillas flavicollis
Chlorocichla flaviventris
Phyllastrephus terrestris
Pycnonotus nigricans
Pycnonotus tricolor
Neophedina cincta
Riparia riparia
Pseudhirundo griseopyga
Ptyonoprogne fuligula
Hirundo dimidiata
Hirundo albigularis
Hirundo smithii
Hirundo rustica
Cecropis semirufa
Cecropis senegalensis
Cecropis abyssinica
Cecropis cucullata



Common Name	Scientific Name
Crombecs, African Warblers (Mac	procenhanidaa)
Rockrunner	Achaetops pycnopygius
Long-billed Crombec	Sylvietta rufescens
Long-billed Croffibec	Sylvietia rujescens
Leaf Warblers (Phylloscopidae)	
Willow Warbler	Phylloscopus trochilus
Dood Workland & Allies (Asmoonly	
Reed Warblers & Allies (Acroceph	
Lesser Swamp Warbler	Acrocephalus gracilirostris
Sedge Warbler (L)	Acrocephalus schoenobaenus
Common Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus scirpaceus
Icterine Warbler	Hippolais icterina
Cisticolas & Allies (Cisticolidae)	1
Rattling Cisticola	Cisticola chiniana
Tinkling Cisticola	Cisticola rufilatus
Neddicky	Cisticola fulvicapilla
Zitting Cisticola	Cisticola juncidis
Desert Cisticola	Cisticola aridulus
Tawny-flanked Prinia	Prinia subflava
Black-chested Prinia	Prinia flavicans
Yellow-breasted Apalis	Apalis flavida
Rufous-eared Warbler	Malcorus pectoralis
Grey-backed Camaroptera	Camaroptera brevicaudata
Barred Wren-Warbler	Calamonastes fasciolatus
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	Eremomela icteropygialis
Green-capped Eremomela	Eremomela scotops
Burnt-necked Eremomela	Eremomela usticollis
Sylviid Babblers (Sylviidae)	
Layard's Warbler	Curruca layardi
Chestnut-vented Warbler	Curruca subcoerulea
White-eyes (Zosteropidae)	
Orange River White-eye	Zosterops pallidus
Southern Yellow White-eye	Zosterops anderssoni
Soundin Tellow Willie Cyc	Zesterops andersson
Laughingthrushes & Allies (Leioth	nrichidae)
Arrow-marked Babbler	Turdoides jardineii
Bare-cheeked Babbler	Turdoides gymnogenys
Southern Pied Babbler	Turdoides bicolor
Hartlaub's Babbler	Turdoides hartlaubii
Black-faced Babbler	Turdoides melanops



Common Name	Scientific Name
Starlings, Rhabdornises (Sturnidae	
Common Myna	Acridotheres tristis
Wattled Starling	Creatophora cinerea
Cape Starling	Lamprotornis nitens
Greater Blue-eared Starling	Lamprotornis chalybaeus
Meves's Starling	Lamprotornis mevesii
Burchell's Starling	Lamprotornis australis
Sharp-tailed Starling	Lamprotornis acuticaudus
Violet-backed Starling	Cinnyricinclus leucogaster
Pale-winged Starling	Onychognathus nabouroup
Oxpeckers (Buphagidae)	
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	Buphagus africanus
Red-billed Oxpecker	Buphagus erythrorynchus
r	T and an a second
Thrushes (Turdidae)	
Groundscraper Thrush	Turdus litsitsirupa
Kurrichane Thrush	Turdus libonyana
Chats, Old World Flycatchers (Mu	scicanidae)
Kalahari Scrub Robin	Cercotrichas paena
White-browed Scrub Robin	Cercotrichas leucophrys
Pale Flycatcher	Agricola pallidus
Chat Flycatcher	Agricola infuscatus
Ashy Flycatcher	Fraseria caerulescens
Southern Black Flycatcher	Melaenornis pammelaina
Herero Chat	Namibornis herero
Marico Flycatcher	Bradornis mariquensis
Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata
White-browed Robin-Chat	Cossypha heuglini
Short-toed Rock Thrush	Monticola brevipes
African Stonechat	Saxicola torquatus
Karoo Chat	Emarginata schlegelii
Tractrac Chat	Emarginata tractrac
Ant-eating Chat	Myrmecocichla formicivora
Mountain Wheatear	Myrmecocichla monticola
Arnot's Chat	Myrmecocichla arnotti
Capped Wheatear	Oenanthe pileata
Familiar Chat	Oenanthe familiaris
Tummu Chui	Condition familiar to
Sunbirds (Nectariniidae)	1
Collared Sunbird	Hedydipna collaris
Amethyst Sunbird	Chalcomitra amethystina





Common Name	Scientific Name
Indigobirds, Whydahs (Viduidae)	l _
Pin-tailed Whydah	Vidua macroura
Shaft-tailed Whydah	Vidua regia
Long-tailed Paradise Whydah	Vidua paradisaea
Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)	
Cape Wagtail	Motacilla capensis
African Pied Wagtail	Motacilla aguimp
Rosy-throated Longclaw	Macronyx ameliae
African Pipit	Anthus cinnamomeus
Nicholson's Pipit (L)	Anthus nicholsoni
Buffy Pipit	Anthus vaalensis
Plain-backed Pipit	Anthus leucophrys
Finches, Euphonias (Fringillidae)	
Black-throated Canary	Crithagra atrogularis
Yellow-fronted Canary	Crithagra mozambica
Yellow Canary	Crithagra flaviventris
White-throated Canary	Crithagra albogularis
Buntings (Emberizidae)	
Lark-like Bunting	Emberiza impetuani
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	Emberiza tahapisi
Cape Bunting	Emberiza capensis
Golden-breasted Bunting	Emberiza flaviventris

Species Seen	409
Species heard only	5
Leader only	4
Total species recorded	418

Mammal List

Common Name	Scientific Name
Hyraxes (Procaviidae)	•
Rock Hyrax	Procavia capensis
Elephants (Elephantidae)	
African Elephant - EN	Loxodonta africana



Common Name	Scientific Name
Hares and Rabbits (Leporidae)	
Cape Hare	Lepus capensis
Scrub Hare	Lepus saxatilis
	*
Squirrels (Sciuridae)	•
South African Ground Squirrel	Geosciurus inauris
Smith's Bush Squirrel	Paraxerus cepapi
Old World Monkeys (Cercopithecic	
Chacma Baboon	Papio ursinus
Vervet	Chlorocebus pygerythrus
V 61 V 61	Chioroccous pygeryminus
Pangolins (Manidae)	
Temminck's Ground Pangolin - VU	Smutsia temminckii
Felids (Felidae)	•
Lion - VU	Panthera leo
Leopard - VU	Panthera pardus
Hyaenas (Hyaenidae)	
Spotted Hyaena	Crocuta crocuta
Mongooses (Herpestidae)	
Banded Mongoose	Mungos mungo
Canids (Canidae)	•
Black-backed Jackal	Lupulella mesomelas
Eared Seals (Otariidae)	
Afro-Australian Fur Seal	Arctocephalus pusillus
Mustalida (Mustalidaa)	
Mustelids (Mustelidae) African Clawless Otter	Lutra canonsis
Afficali Clawless Ottel	Lutra capensis
Equines (Equidae)	
Plains Zebra	Equus quagga
Mountain Zebra - VU	Equus zebra
	-1
Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae)	1
White Rhinoceros	Ceratotherium simum
Black Rhinoceros - CR	Diceros bicornis
Suids (Suidae)	•
Common Warthog	Phacochoerus africanus



Common Name	Scientific Name
11.	
Hippopotamuses (Hippopotamid	
Hippopotamus - VU	Hippopotamus amphibius
Bovids (Bovidae)	
African Buffalo	Syncerus caffer
Greater Kudu	Tragelaphus strepsiceros
Impala	Aepyceros melampus
Steenbok	Raphicerus campestris
Springbok	Antidorcas marsupialis
Damara Dik-dik	Madoqua damarensis
Southern Lechwe	Kobus leche
Roan Antelope	Hippotragus equinus
Gemsbok	Oryx gazella
Hartebeest	Alcelaphus buselaphus
Common Wildebeest	Connochaetes taurinus
Common Duiker	Sylvicapra grimmia
Klipspringer	Oreotragus oreotragus
Giraffes and Okapi (Giraffidae)	
Southern Giraffe	Giraffa giraffa
Oceanic Dolphins (Delphinidae)	
Common Bottlenose Dolphin	Tursiops truncatus

Species Seen	37

Reptile and Amphibian List

Common Name	Scientific Name
Crocodiles (Crocodylidae)	
Nile Crocodile	Crocodylus niloticus
Dragons (Agamidae)	
Namib Rock Agama	Agama planiceps
Ground Agama	Agama aculeata
Plated Lizards (Gerrhosaurida	(e)
Black-lined Plated Lizard	Gerrhosaurus nigrolineatus



Wall Lizards (Lacertidae)	
Wedge-snouted Desert Lizard	Meroles cuneirostris
Bushveld Lizard	Heliobolus lugubris
Skinks (Scincidae)	
Variegated Skink	Trachylepis variegata
Monitor Lizards (Varanidae)	
Nile Monitor	Varanus niloticus
Pythons (Pythonidae)	
Southern African Python	Python natalensis
Tortoises (Testudinidae)	
Leopard Tortoise	Stigmochelys pardalis
True Toads (Bufonidae)	
Western Olive Toad	Sclerophrys poweri
Species seen:	11

