



NAMIBIA AND VICTORIA FALLS: CUSTOM TOUR TRIP REPORT

9-28 SEPTEMBER 2018

By Jason Boyce



*Etosha National Park delivered this stunning young **Leopard**.*

Overview

Namibia has become an incredible birding and general ecotourism destination in the last five-odd years. This was a private tour across this brilliant country, set up for Roland and Nini from the 9th to the 28th of September 2018, starting in the glorious Victoria Falls and Livingstone. We would traverse the Caprivi strip and visit the Okavango Panhandle in Botswana and then make our way to the ‘great white place’ that is Etosha National Park. We would then travel north to the Kunene region, visit the vast Zebra Mountains, and then work our way south, exploring the Namib Escarpment. The Kunene region as well as the escarpment regions hold the large majority of the specialties that we would encounter; species such as **Rockrunner**, **Hartlaub’s Spurfowl**, **Angolan Cave Chat**, **Cinderella Waxbill**, and **Herero Chat** were all in attendance! The tour would then visit the incredible Sossusvlei near Sesriem, a great number of giant, red sand dunes, as well as Deadvlei, where dead trees dot a large dry pan surrounded by some of the biggest dunes. A special place to visit! Last we would head to Walvis Bay, where we enjoyed birding around this famous lagoon. We also took a boat cruise in the lagoon, targeting pelagic mammals and birds. All in all, this was a trip to remember, and I know that both Roland and Nini enjoyed this tour tremendously.

Detailed Report

Day 1, 9th September. Arrival in Zambia and Victoria Falls

Roland and Nini had flown into Livingstone the day before and settled into birding-holiday mode by relaxing and taking a few boat cruises along the mighty Zambezi. The world-renowned Victoria Falls were more than worth spending a morning there, and Roland and Nini had done this on their own the day before. The water levels in September are still fairly high, and so the falls looked absolutely spectacular.

We made sure to start our bird list around the lodge grounds and encountered species such as **Collared Palm Thrush**, **White-fronted Bee-eater**, **Red-faced Cisticola**, and **Ashy Flycatcher**. A boat cruise was another brilliant way to get acquainted with different birds and mammals along the Zambezi. The Zambezi National Park, to the south of the river in Zimbabwe, holds some amazing mammals, and from the boat sightings of **African Elephant**, **Chacma Baboon**, **Giraffe**, **Blue Wildebeest**, **African Buffalo**, and even carnivores are not uncommon. Then we had dinner together and chatted about what to expect over the next 18 days.



A common but beautiful White-fronted Bee-eater

Day 2, 10th September. Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park

And so the southern African birding adventure of the year began! Excitement was tangible; it was the first proper African birding trip for Roland and Nini and one that I was very happy to be leading. We were joined this morning by another Birding Ecotours tour leader, Dominic Rollinson, who had just finished leading a Namibian birding tour; it's always great to have an extra pair of eyes while birding.

The Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park often provides some fantastic sightings, and this morning was one of those times. We started with numerous **Collared Palm Thrushes** as well as both **Blue Waxbill** and **Bronze Mannikin** at the edges of the road. Out of nowhere shouts of "raptor" came from around the vehicle, and, sure enough, a sub-adult **Bat Hawk** was cruising alongside us, a great species to lay our eyes on. We also picked up some other specials here, first **Southern Ground Hornbill** and a little later a pair of **African Finfoots**. The ground hornbill is listed as a Vulnerable (IUCN) species and well liked among poachers across Africa for the muti (traditional medicine) trade. Seeing this giant of a hornbill out in the wild is always special. The finfoots, fairly uncharacteristically, were spending time in the middle of the Zambezi River out of their preferred cover along the banks. This species is always a cracker to get. Photos were being taken thick and fast of all that the park had to offer. Other species we encountered were **Cardinal** and **Bennett's Woodpeckers**, **Brown-hooded Kingfisher**, **White-fronted Bee-eater**, **Meves's Starling**, **Marabou Stork**, and **White-backed** and **Hooded Vultures** as well as **Little Egret**. We also picked up a pair of **Red-winged Starlings** as we passed through the town of Livingstone, a bird that doesn't occur much to the west of Livingstone.



Southern Ground Hornbill: Up close and personal you will be able to see their long eyelashes.

We spent some of the afternoon birding the park once again, checking out a few different areas. We found a really nice large herd of **African Buffalo** and, sure enough, the birders that we are managed to pick out a few **Red-billed Oxpeckers** working for ticks and different insects on the buffalos. We soon also picked out both **Swainson's** and **Natal Spurfwols** as well as a fly-by **African Openbill**. The area has so much more to explore, but we knew the time had come to head on, so we planned our last bit of birding in the area and decided to head to Namibia after breakfast the next day.

Day 3, 11th September. Livingstone to Caprivi Houseboats, Katima Mulilo

Birding the nearby miombo-type woodland to start the day turned out to be really productive. We hadn't been out of the car for more than a single minute and had come across a pair of stunning **Racket-tailed Rollers**. Not only did they pose beautifully for us but also gave a short display by flying vertically upwards five to ten meters and then dropping down by closing their wings and letting gravity do the work. We got a few pictures of them and then moved on into the thicker patches of woodland. The next highlight was a **Miombo Rock Thrush** singing its heart out atop a larger dead tree. **Green-capped Eremomela**, **Pale Flycatcher**, and **Golden-breasted Bunting** were all in attendance, while a surprise fly-over **Yellow-throated Sandgrouse** was arguably the bird of the morning, even though we didn't get very good visuals.

We drove back to the lodge for an awesome brunch and then checked out and started making our way west. The drive across to Namibia produced quite a decent number of interesting birds that we managed to point our lenses at; **Lesser Striped Swallow**, **Red-breasted Swallow**, **Grey Goshawk**, **Long-crested Eagle**, and **Dark Chanting Goshawk** all showed nicely. A true highlight was a group of five **Southern Ground Hornbills** alongside the road. They hung around for a while, scouring the roadside for any morsel that they could gather. We spent a bit of time watching their doings – what fascinating birds!

We arrived in Namibia after a fairly quick border crossing by African border-crossing standards. After checking in at our accommodation we jumped onto a boat and had the time of our lives on the Zambezi River. We headed downstream into what is called ‘finfoot alley’; it’s no surprise that it lived up to its name. It wasn’t long before we spotted one, two, three, and four **Africa Finfoots!** Over the next twenty minutes we found species such as **Squacco Heron**, **Intermediate Egret**, **African Fish Eagle**, **Schalow’s Turaco**, **Black-crowned Night Heron**, and **Brown-hooded Kingfisher**. Just as the sun was setting on another fantastic day we parked ourselves against a small sand bank in the middle of the Zambezi and watched a dozen **African Skimmers** cruise around us, constantly chattering to each other.



*In Afrikaans this species is called the “watertrapper”, which means “water stepper”. In English we call it the **African Finfoot**.*

Other species that we managed to record on this very productive boat cruise were the fascinating **Hamerkop** (a monotypic family), **African Jacana**, **Black Crake**, **Emerald-spotted Wood Dove**, **Southern Carmine Bee-eater**, and **Thick-billed Weaver**.

Day 4, 12th September. Katima Mulilo to Divundu

We enjoyed some birding around the lodge in the early morning. Flybys were plentiful as birds moved from their roosts to feeding grounds; three **Purple Herons**, two **Rufous-bellied Herons**, and a single **Little Sparrowhawk** all came cruising by. **Brown-throated Martin** and **Grey-rumped Swallow** were also in attendance. The grounds held the likes of **Tropical Boubou**, **Terrestrial Brownbul**, **Schalow’s Turaco**, and **Copper** and **Collared Sunbirds**. Then a short walk outside the lodge grounds was amazing for close views of **Orange-breasted Bushshrike**, **White-browed Robin-Chat**, and some noisy **Crested Francolins**. The birds just kept coming; next we saw **African Hoopoe** and soon a couple of raptors, namely an immature **African Harrier-Hawk** and **Bateleur**.

We visited a couple of small pans in the area east of Katima Mulilo. These produced sightings of both **Lilac-breasted** and **Purple Rollers**, **Southern Carmine Bee-eater**, **Fork-tailed Drongo**, **African Openbill**, and **Red-billed** and **Hottentot Teals**, as well as **Common Moorhen**. We began our drive west to Divundu, where we would spend just a single night before getting to Mahango Game Reserve (one of my personal favorite reserves in the country) early and then onward to Shakawe, Botswana. On the way we encountered a good number of raptors, **African Fish Eagle**, **Lizard Buzzard**, **Yellow-billed Kite**, and **Brown Snake Eagle**. We also picked up a family of **Hartlaub's Babblers** nearby.



*It is certainly strange but truly amazing how some species are just so colorful, just take this **Lilac-breasted Roller**, for instance!*

Quite often you will find that we as tour leaders and birding guides play down sightings that are actually fairly amazing, normally because we will have seen that species before. Our last sighting of today, however, I will not play down, it was phenomenal! We were leisurely sitting on the deck of the restaurant enjoying a drink as night fell, when we caught some movement over a small section of the stream in front of us. I picked up my binoculars and, sure enough, a **White-backed Night Heron** had landed on a rock by a small rapid and proceeded to fish, right in front of us. Wow, this was awesome! We were not able to get pictures, but just witnessing this was superb.

Day 5, 13th September. Popa Falls, Mahango Game Reserve, and into Botswana

Mahango Game Reserve is one cracking spot, always birdy and always enjoyable; it's certainly a hidden gem. Good proof of this came early as we encountered a couple of **Roan Antelopes**, a tricky mammal to connect with. Soon after that we encountered **Sable Antelope** as well; it was absolutely incredible to see both these rare species of antelope within half an hour of being in the park. Other highlights in the first hour included four **Wattled Cranes**, **White-headed Vulture**, **Knob-billed Duck**, **Red-billed Teal**, **African Spoonbill**, **Glossy Ibis**, **Rufous-bellied Heron**, **Crimson-breasted Shrike**, **Saddle-billed Stork**, **Western Ostrich** with young, and a party of

Hartlaub's Babblers. More mammals included troops of **Chacma Baboons** and **Vervet Monkeys**, **Common Warthog**, **Impala**, **Red Hartebeest**, **Southern Lechwe**, and **Tsessebe**. Another really great sighting here is that of the "giant Baobab"; a huge individual of this species, *Adansonia digitata*, is growing alongside a small lookout spot and is a great attraction.

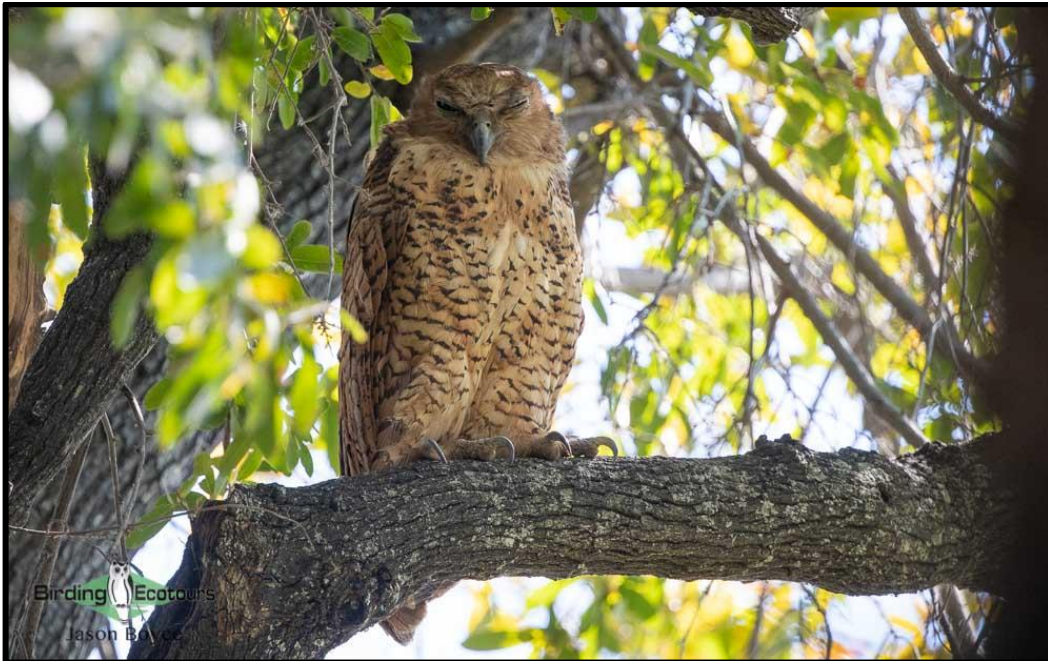
Day 6, 14th September. A full day in the Okavango Panhandle

Two nights in the Shakawe area meant that today would be an exciting day for us; we could spend as much time as we wanted in the Okavango Panhandle. A boat trip in the morning was brilliant and provided us with countless photo opportunities. We started with **Malachite** and **Giant Kingfishers** as well as **Southern Carmine**, **Little**, and the extremely colorful **White-fronted Bee-eaters**. The numbers of herons and egrets around at this time of year because of the barbel run (a type of catfish) is incredible. Good numbers of **Goliath**, **Purple**, **Squacco**, and **Black Herons** as well as **Great**, **Little**, and **Intermediate Egrets** were all in a bit of a feeding frenzy.



Southern Carmine Bee-eater

Further upstream we were fortunate to bump into a pair of **African Pygmy Geese** as well as three **Coppery-tailed Coucals**. Our main target for the morning was a little elusive, but after some searching along one of the river banks we picked up a stunning **Pel's Fishing Owl** roosting in one of the large Jackalberry trees (*Diospyros mespiliformis*). At this time of year the **African Skimmer** is breeding, and both nests with eggs as well as young were evident, with many adult birds around. Even further along we came to a few more open, floodplain-type sections where grasslands were flooded; here we found a few **Collared Pratincoles** and four **Pink-backed Pelicans** fishing in the shallow flooded pools, and a single immature **African Marsh Harrier** greeted us with a flyby. Other flybys today included **Hadada** and **Glossy Ibises**, **African Spoonbill**, **Knob-billed** and **White-faced Whistling Ducks**, **Yellow-billed Stork**, and both **Black-winged** and **Yellow-billed Kites**. A day with well over one hundred species, a day with thousands of photographs, and most certainly a day never to forget!



*We have been incredibly successful with this species in Namibia and Botswana for the last five years. **Pel's Fishing Owl** is still one of the most magical avian sights in the Southern African subregion.*

Day 7, 15th September. From Botswana back into Namibia

We spent some time birding around the lodge in the morning along the banks of the panhandle as well as in the acacia woodlands towards the main road. Accessing different habitats really produces good species diversity. This morning was great, and we added quite a few new birds to our tour list and photographed a few that we had already seen. Good numbers of shrikes were around, **Brown-crowned Tchagra**, **Magpie Shrike**, and **Southern White-crowned Shrike**. One of the highlights of our stroll was finding and photographing an **African Barred Owlet** really well. We heard the bird calling a little distance away and proceeded to track it down. As we got close there were a good number of other species around, obviously not too happy with its presence; **Dark-capped** and **Red-eyed Bulbuls**, **White-bellied Sunbird**, **Southern Black Tit**, **Marico Flycatcher**, **Cape Starling**, and even a few **Red-billed Oxpeckers** were making a nuisance of themselves.

The sun was out in force this morning, and it started to get hot really early, so we retreated to grab a nice cool fruit juice and enjoy breakfast before our trip back into Namibia. On the way we found a nice little water pipe leak that attracted good numbers of birds, **Southern Pied Babbler**, **Greater Blue-eared** and **Wattled Starlings**, **Blue Waxbill**, **Black-throated Canary**, and **Emerald-spotted Wood Dove**. A **Pale Chanting Goshawk** looked really handsome sitting up high on a telephone pole just before the border crossing. We didn't stop too often on the way Roy's Camp south-west of Rundu, though; we decided to make our way to the camp, rest up a little, and then do some birding in the afternoon. We put in a good search for the resident **Black-faced Babbler** but came up short. We only managed to find **Little Sparrowhawk**, **Crested Francolin**, and **Yellow-billed Hornbill**.

Day 8, 16th September. Birding around Roy's Camp, travel to Tandala Ridge Lodge

After some birding in the general area of our overnight stop at Roy's Camp, where we got some good visuals and photographs of **Black-faced Babbler**, **Little Sparrowhawk**, **Pearl-spotted Owlet**, **Red-billed Buffalo Weaver**, **Green-winged Pytilia**, **Green Woodhoopoe**, and a surprise **Red-headed Weaver**, we traveled to southern Etosha. We would be staying outside the park and would make our way in each day. Today it was rather hot and definitely a quieter day bird-wise, since we were mainly traveling. Tomorrow would be the first of three full days in the park; it's safe to say that we were all excited.

Things came alive that evening once it cooled down. We took a short walk and heard the calls of a tricky Namibia bird, **Orange River Francolin**. We moved closer and, sure enough, could watch two individuals move over the rocky habitat (atypical for this species), where we got some pictures. Other species that we enjoyed this evening were **Double-banded Sandgrouse** and a pair of **Black Rhinoceroses** that came to drink at a small waterhole. **Cape Porcupine** visited us on both nights we were there, one now fairly tame, happy to come close to eat a carrot that is put out for it. The local **Lesser Galagos** were out as well, as were both **African Scops Owl** and **Western Barn Owl**.



*We hadn't been expecting to see the **Orange River Francolin** so well.*

Day 9, 17th September. Etosha National Park: the Okaukuejo area

We managed to get into the park early this morning, and a beautiful sunrise seemed to signify the start of an amazing three days in Etosha National Park, the "great white place". The golden early-morning light was stunning, and we managed to see both **Kori Bustard** and the majestic **Red-necked Falcon** in fantastic light.



*One of my personal favorite sightings of the trip was this **Red-necked Falcon**.*

From the Andersson gate we cruised the roads around the area called Gemsbokvlakte. Here we scanned the open, sometimes grassy plains and encountered **Helmeted Guineafowl**, **Tawny Eagle**, **Gabar Goshawk**, **Spotted Thick-knee**, **Crowned Lapwing**, **Namaqua Sandgrouse**, **Namaqua Dove**, **Swallow-tailed Bee-eater**, both **Pied** and **Cape Crows**, **Black-chested Prinia**, and **Chat Flycatcher**.

We had wonderful sightings of **African Elephant** at the Okaukuejo waterhole this afternoon and spent time watching these majestic creatures drinking, splashing, and playing in the water. This, of course, was great for photography; Roland and Nini really had a field day taking pictures of these gentle giants. After lunch we headed north, where we were lucky enough to enjoy our first **Lion** sighting of the trip. A couple of cars ahead notified us that there may be some action, and, sure enough, there were four **Lions** hanging out under a tree to the left side of the dirt road. While watching them we spotted two **Spotted Eagle-Owls** in a tree even closer to the car.

In the late afternoon we left Etosha and made our way to Tandala Ridge Lodge, where we were staying. We had a beautiful sunset that night, and just before dark we were lucky to see the *damarensis* endemic subspecies of **Kirk's Dik-dik** on the side of the road, and soon after this a **Marsh Owl** was seen in the road. What a great end to the day!

Day 10, 18th September. Etosha National Park: Andersson Gate to King Nehale Gate

With the prospect of spending the whole day in this great national park we made sure to be packed and ready to go well before sunrise. Only a hundred or so meters down the road we came across **Double-banded Sandgrouse** in the road. We entered the park once again at the Andersson Gate and made the most of the early-morning light. We made sure to get some really good shots of **Kori Bustard**, a handsome **Secretarybird**, **Pale Chanting Goshawk**, and a stunning **Tawny Eagle**. The scenery today was remarkable; when one traverses the whole of the eastern sector of the park one really does see the change in habitat, from the gravel plains of Gemsbokvlakte to the mopani woodlands in the Halali area and finally to the incredible grasslands of the Andoni Plains.

We enjoyed some birding and a buffet lunch around Halali. Birds included **Southern White-crowned Shrike**, **Southern Red-billed Hornbill**, **Fork-tailed Drongo**, **Purple Roller**, and **Brubru**. Lunch included, well, starters, mains, and dessert – I highly recommend the dessert! Mammal-wise we really did do well in the park. Today we encountered another small group of male **Lions**, massive herds of **Blue Wildebeest**, **Plains Zebra**, **Black-faced Impala**, **Springbok**, **Greater Kudu**, and the signature desert antelope, **Gemsbok**. It was an incredible end to the day with fantastic **African Elephant** sightings as well as witnessing three **Black-backed Jackals** take down a **Springbok**. The jackals were starting to eat the back end of the Springbok before it had stopped breathing – a reminder of how brutal nature can be.



*The park is full of animals; here is an artistic take on a **Plains Zebra**.*

Day 11, 19th September. Etosha National Park: Andoni and Namutoni areas

We passed through the grasslands of the Andoni Plains once again this morning, and they delivered a pair of **Bat-eared Foxes**. We also found **Ant-eating Chat** and **Eastern Clapper Lark** hanging around. **Swallow-tailed Bee-eater** is always a pretty special bird to encounter, a beautiful mix of rich green, blue, and yellow. **Violet-eared Waxbill** was another stunner – a species that exhibits sexual dimorphism; the male has darker shades of purple and maroon, whereas the female is a beautiful light indigo or purple.

We drove to one of the nearby lodges to enjoy a rest and a relaxed lunch during the heat of the day. Afterwards we headed over to the Klein Namutoni waterhole and Dik-dik Drive; here we thoroughly enjoyed sitting by the waterhole, watching and waiting. **Kittlitz's** and **Chestnut-banded Plovers** were both hanging around, while **Common Sandpiper** was seen flying across the edge of the pan. A male **Bateleur** landed on the far side of the waterhole for a drink – a magnificent species! The waterhole also provided the likes of **Little Grebe**, **Black-winged Stilt**, **Common Greenshank**, and **Egyptian Goose**.

We had an absolutely amazing time watching a young **Leopard** in the afternoon near the Klein Namutoni waterhole. We noticed a good number of cars parked in an area, so we headed that way to see what was going on. A beautiful young **Leopard** was lying in a tree, panting away in the heat. We were lucky enough that the **Leopard** finally came down from the tree and gave us some amazing views. Then we headed around the Dik-dik Drive and didn't see much, besides, you guessed it, **Kirk's Dik-dik** (the subspecies here is also known as Damara Dik-dik). Finally before we exited the park a male **Lion** came out into the golden light on the Andoni Plains. **Blue Cranes** were also still feeding on the plains, what a bird! All in a good day's work, they say. We retreated for a good meal and prepared ourselves for the trip up to the Kunene region the next day.



*The **Blue Cranes** of the Andoni Plains are an isolated population.*

Day 12, 20th September – Travel to Kunene River Lodge

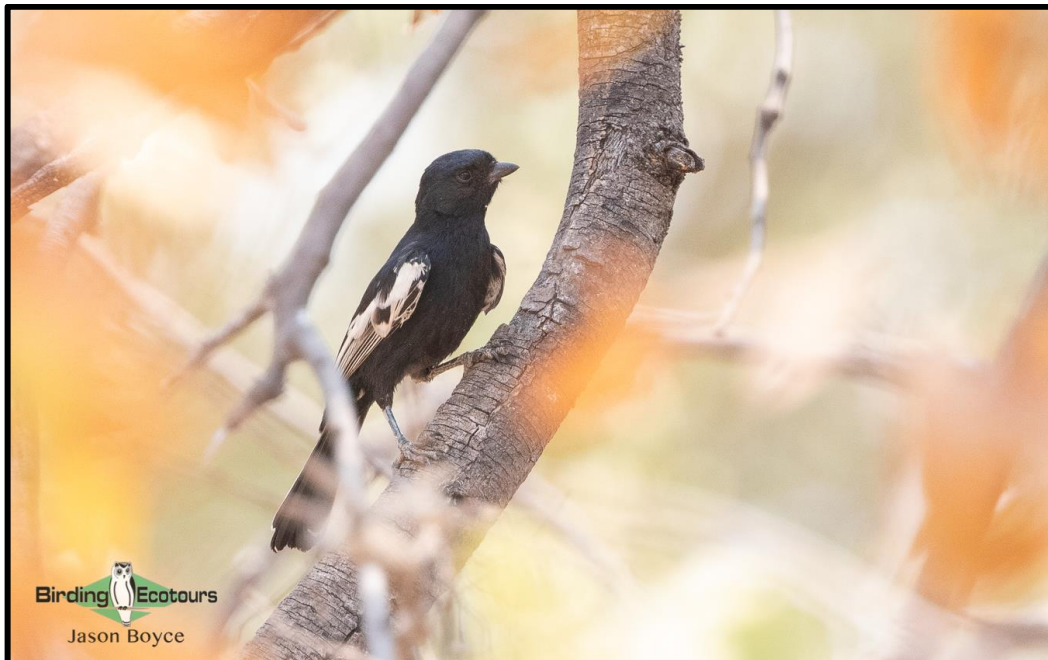
We left from the town of Omuthiya on a day that would be basically a travel day and headed north-west to the Kunene region. The landscapes, sights, and scenes changed constantly while we traveled closer to the Angola border. We stopped at some roadside wetlands, where we found **Common Ringed Plover**, **Ruff**, **Black-winged Stilt**, **Wood Sandpiper**, **Kittlitz's Plover**, and **Yellow-billed Oxpecker**, the latter hanging around on some of the local donkeys. Some of the townships and settlements were interesting to see; the Himba people have called the Kunene regions within both Namibia and southern Angola home for a long time, and for the next day or two we were able to see these people and their homes as we traveled through their settlements.

We arrived in good time and opted to get checked in and enjoy a rest and a drink. We did some birding when the temperatures cooled down, and the lodge grounds held **Meves's Starling**, **Swamp Boubou**, **Holub's Golden Weaver**, **Green Wood Hoopoe**, **Red-necked Spurfowl**, and the near-endemic **Rufous-tailed Palm Thrush**. A couple of **Striped Tree Squirrels** were also entertaining, as always.

Day 13, 21st September – Birding the Zebra Mountains

We had a very early start but a beautiful morning in the fascinating landscape of the Zebra Mountains. We left the lodge early and arrived at the base of a rocky hillside, where the **Angolan Cave Chat** was already singing away. We scrambled up the hill and waited and then managed a quick visual, but unfortunately that was the only sighting we had of this tricky Robin-Chat-like bird. There are decent numbers of these birds up in the Zebra Mountains, but the conditions are a little treacherous. The bird obviously also occurs in Angola, as the name suggests, where we picked up a good number in and around Lubango on a recent scouting venture. However, it was a great morning for **Cinderella Waxbill**, and we had several sightings of this smart-looking waxbill. Watching them come to drink at the small ‘wells’ within the drainage lines was good fun. We also managed to record **Carp’s Tit**, **Augur Buzzard**, **Bare-cheeked Babbler**, **Red-faced Mousebird**, **Groundscraper Thrush**, **Violet-eared Waxbill**, and three species of **Buntings**, namely **Lark-like**, **Golden-breasted**, and **Cinnamon-breasted**.

In the afternoon we enjoyed a well-earned rest and decided to head out much later. The late-afternoon birding session was really fun, though; we found another **Red-necked Spurfowl**, picked up the gorgeous **Pearl-spotted Owlet**, and then also added **Rufous-tailed Palm Thrush**, **Yellow-bellied Greenbul**, **African Hoopoe**, **Acacia Pied Barbet**, the near-endemic **White-tailed Shrike**, and **African Green Pigeon**.



*An artistic take on a **Carp’s Tit** near the Zebra Mountains*

Day 14, 22nd September. Travel from the Kunene region to Kamanjab, Damaraland

We explored a river bed this morning, where we encountered good numbers of **Three-banded Plover**, **Meves’s Starling**, and **White-browed Sparrow-Weaver**. A surprise sighting of a male **Greater Painted-snipe** was welcome. A couple of **Carp’s Tits** and a **Southern Grey-headed Sparrow** performed well at the top of the hill, where we enjoyed amazing views of the brilliant but fairly desolate rocky landscape.

We checked out and started to drive toward Kamanjab. The drive south was long and didn't produce much, so we rather drove right through and then did a little bit of exploring in the Damaraland area that afternoon. We took a walk and also a short drive and found a few **Wattled Starlings**, **Red-billed Quelea**, and a few non-breeding **Shaft-tailed Whydahs**. Finally **Rüppell's Parrot** showed up, and we also managed some shots of a persistent **Barred Wren-Warbler**.

Day 15, 23 September. Travel to Uis and the Erongo region

The morning started with a few species en route from Kamanjab to Uis. We managed pictures of **Damara Red-billed** and **Monteiro's Hornbills**, **Southern Pied Babbler**, **Pearl-breasted Swallow**, and a brilliant **Rockrunner** calling from the boulders in the morning light. **Hartlaub's Spurfowl** was also not too far off calling, but, alas, it was not very accessible. Later that morning we encountered **Mountain Wheatear**, **Karoo Chat**, **Sabota Lark**, and the near-endemic **Benguela Long-billed Lark**, as well as a pair of **Rüppell's Korhaans**. **Yellow** and **White-throated Canaries** came zipping by a few times, while a family of **White-backed Mousebirds** was seen feeding in some of the largest bushes in the acacia woodland sections. A pair of **African Hawk-Eagles** was a real treat as they soared overhead for us to get some nice pictures. After hearing it a couple of times we finally got sightings of **Pale-winged Starling**; we did have to wait until Spitzkoppe for nice pictures, though. A real highlight was seeing over one hundred **Double-banded Sandgrouse** coming to drink at a waterhole right alongside the lodge. The sandgrouse do come in quite late, and views of them are aided by the spotlights set up on the waterhole. Last, but certainly not least for the day, was **Freckled Nightjar** giving its "pow wow" call on the rocky hillside near the lodge.



Sometimes tricky to find, this Southern Pied Babbler was very curious.

Day 16, 24 September. The magnificent Spitzkoppe and surroundings

We traveled to the famous Spitzkoppe early this morning, where we enjoyed our packed breakfast. The sights in the area are pretty great, vast gravel plains and some beautiful rock formations jutting

out from the flat landscape. The first few species we encountered were **Karoo Chat**, **Pale-winged Starling**, and **Dusky Sunbird**, and we also heard the calls of **Acacia Pied Barbet** and **Chestnut-vented Warbler**. We worked our way around the gigantic rock formations that jut out of the ground, scouring the nearby bushes and small trees for the sought-after **Herero Chat**. We did eventually manage to find a pair after picking up on their faint, musical call. This had been one of our main targets here and a really good near-endemic species to pick up.

We continued birding the area and headed toward the coast, where we found both the sought-after **Gray's Lark** and **Tractrac Chat**, two very small, pale species that spend time on the rocky coastal plains. We also enjoyed seeing a small group of **Rüppell's Korhaans** and later finding a **Karoo Long-billed Lark** as well. We headed north from here and arrived at some of the more wooded areas around the Omaruru River. I wanted to take a walk from here, Roland and Nini obliged, and we set off below some tall trees in a dry riverbed. I heard a faint call of what could only have been **Violet Wood Hoopoe**, and we tracked the call down and bumped into a party of six to ten wood hoopoes. **Rüppell's Parrot** and a few **Rosy-faced Lovebirds** were hanging around nearby as well. Not too long after that we also managed to see **Southern Pied Babblers** (a very noisy bunch!) and a single **Bearded Woodpecker**.



Rüppell's Korhaan is normally easy to find on the open gravel plains.

Freckled Nightjars and **Double-banded Sandgrouse** once again came buzzing by; we enjoyed the sightings just as much as on the previous night.

Day 17, 25 September. Travel day to Solitaire

Today we enjoyed the scenes and sights as we traversed a fairly large area of the Namib, traveling south to Solitaire. The escarpment offered some amazing birding, and we were ready to see the open plains and dunes of the Sossusvlei area. We took the main road to the coast, first entering Swakopmund, where we enjoyed lunch overlooking the ocean, and then to Walvis Bay. We would be visiting Walvis Bay after Sossusvlei; therefore we managed to pull ourselves through this

birding hotspot and headed back inland once again. The drive is really enjoyable and the scenery as usual, was spectacular.

Day 18, 26 September. Incredible Sossusvlei

This was a day with limited numbers of birds and mammals, but the beautiful red dunes of Sossusvlei were more than enough to keep us amazed for the day! We arrived at the gate of Sossusvlei National Park fairly early and made our way to the furthest point in Sossusvlei (4x4 vehicle necessary). Here we trekked on foot over the dunes into the iconic Deadvlei and spent time marveling at the seemingly magical landscape. The sun casted shadows over the dunes and created beautiful scenes. Of course no photo can really capture this beauty, but we did our best anyway.

Birds we encountered were **Yellow-bellied Eremomela**, **Cape Crow**, and **Rock Kestrel**. Unfortunately Dune Lark was nowhere to be found today, probably owing to the incredibly high temperatures we started to experience already by 9 a.m.



Some of the sights of Deadvlei within Sossusvlei National Park

Day 19, 27 September. Travel to Walvis Bay

A stunning breakfast in the quietness of a Solitaire farm was followed by a game drive to search for Pygmy Falcon and Ludwig's Bustard. Somehow we missed the bustard, both on the farm itself and on the perfect-looking, grassy plains on the way back to Walvis Bay. We did, however, enjoy two sightings of the diminutive **Pygmy Falcon**, a species that is small but powerful. We watched a pair sitting near its nest site, which is part of a Sociable Weaver nest. The **Sociable Weavers** were active at a number of nests in the area. **Pygmy Falcons** use old sections of the nest for themselves, but they do offer some protection to the **Sociable Weavers** in return. Other species that we encountered that morning were the striking **Cape Bunting** as well as a few **Hartmann's Mountain Zebras** moving around on the rocky mountain behind the guest house. **Cape** and **Lappet-faced Vultures** also put in a show, cruising over our vehicle a couple of times.

We traveled back to Walvis Bay via a site for the endemic Dune Lark. Rooibank is a well-known site for this lark, one of the closest locations to Walvis Bay to see this species. We arrived and went for a walk over the dunes, during which we picked up **Dusky Sunbird**, a number of **African Palm Swifts**, **Ashy Tit**, and a few **Cape Sparrows** before we found a pair of **Dune Larks**. The larks were very aware of our presence but not too perturbed; they carried on feeding by working their way slowly across the ground, picking up any morsel.

We arrived safely in Walvis Bay and made our way to Anchors (a local favorite restaurant), where the calamari and seafood platters were thoroughly enjoyed!



The well-known site for Dune Lark produced once again.

Day 20, 28 September. Walvis Bay

Our long-awaited stay in Walvis Bay came at the right time; weeks of blistering heat were cooled off by the onshore breeze from the Atlantic Ocean. The overcast, cool conditions of Walvis Bay were welcome when we started birding right away after arriving. The lagoon area is full of great birding spots, not the least of which is the promenade right alongside the residential areas. A walk along here can produce many flamingos, terns, gulls, shorebirds, and the odd pelican!

Our boat cruise into the bay left at 9:00 a.m., so we had arrived early and birded around the mini-waterfront for some time. **Hartlaub's** and **Kelp Gulls** were in evidence as well as **Common** and **Sandwich Terns**. **Cape Wagtails** were walking along the docks, and four or five **Great White Pelicans** were soon to be the stars of the show for the next half hour. The pelicans are well accustomed to the routine of the tourist charters and can collect a few fishy morsels on the boat. Sure enough, after our cruise had left the pelicans came very quickly, landing on the boat and walking around as if they owned it. Once we had reached the edge of a long sand spit that juts out from the bay we started to pick up one or two interesting bird species. **Cape Gannet** was the first to show; we had a few birds drifting by. Not long after that a **Parasitic Jaeger** also was seen. Tern species included **Caspian**, **Damara**, and a single **Black Tern**. We thoroughly enjoyed the mammalian sights too, **Cape Fur Seal** as well as **Black-backed Jackal** were seen on the sand spit,

while both **Common Bottlenose Dolphins** and a brief **Heaviside's Dolphin** were also very enjoyable.

We enjoyed lunch and then headed out along the lagoon for shorebirds, our last proper birding session before we had to go our separate ways. The lagoon held our most important target, **Chestnut-banded Plover**, in really good numbers. Other **Plovers** included **Common Ringed** and **White-fronted**. Species in the sandpiper family included **Whimbrel**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Sanderling**, **Little Stint**, **Marsh Sandpiper**, and **Ruff**.

Well, so our tour had come to an end, and after our last pictures of both **Greater** and **Lesser Flamingos** we retreated for another good meal and then said our goodbyes.



*It was fun trying to pick out some of the less common terns; in this case a non-breeding-plumage **Black Tern** came cruising by.*

Bird List - Following IOC (9.1)

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. Namibia endemics are bolded.

Common name	Scientific name
Ostriches (Struthionidae)	
Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>
Ducks, Geese, 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>
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)	
Orange River Francolin	<i>Scleroptila gutturalis</i>
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>
Grebes (Podicipedidae)	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Flamingos (Phoenicopteridae)	

Common name	Scientific name
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
Lesser Flamingo - NT	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>
Storks (Ciconiidae)	
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>
African Openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</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>
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Hamerkop (Scopidae)	
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
Pelicans (Pelecanidae)	
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>
Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>

Common name	Scientific name
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>
Kites, Hawks, Eagles (Accipitridae)	
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>
Hooded Vulture - CR	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>
White-backed Vulture - CR	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
Cape Vulture - EN	<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>
White-headed Vulture - CR	<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>
Lappet-faced Vulture - EN	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>
Black-chested Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>
Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>
Bateleur - NT	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>
Bat Hawk	<i>Macheiramphus alcinus</i>
Martial Eagle - VU	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</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>
Dark Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>
African Goshawk	<i>Accipiter tachiro</i>
Little Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter minullus</i>
African Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>
African Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>
Augur Buzzard	<i>Buteo augur</i>
Bustards (Otididae)	
Kori Bustard - NT	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>
Rüppell's Korhaan	<i>Eupodotis rueppelii</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)	
Black Crake	<i>Amaurornis flavirostra</i>
African Swamphe	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
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>
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>

Common name	Scientific name
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)	
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>
Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopacidae)	
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</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>
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>

Common name	Scientific name
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>
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>
Skuas (Stercorariidae)	
Parasitic Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>
Sandgrouse (Pteroclididae)	
Namaqua Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles namaqua</i>
Yellow-throated Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles gutturalis</i>
Double-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles bicinctus</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>
Cuckoos (Cuculidae)	
Coppery-tailed Coucal	<i>Centropus cupreicaudus</i>
White-browed Coucal	<i>Centropus superciliosus</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Barn Owls (Tytonidae)	
Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>
Owls (Strigidae)	
African Scops Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>
Spotted Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo africanus</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>
Marsh Owl	<i>Asio capensis</i>
Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)	
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>
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</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>
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)	
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>
Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>
Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
Bee-eaters (Meropidae)	
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>
Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>
White-fronted Bee-eater	<i>Merops bullockoides</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>
Ground Hornbills (Bucorvidae)	
Southern Ground Hornbill - VU	<i>Bucorvus leadbeateri</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>
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>
African Barbets (Lybiidae)	
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird (H)	<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>
Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>
Woodpeckers (Picidae)	

Common name	Scientific name
Bennett's Woodpecker	<i>Campethera bennettii</i>
Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>
Bearded Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus namaquus</i>
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>
Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)	
Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>
Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicolus</i>
Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>
Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</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>
Pririt Batis	<i>Batis pririt</i>
White-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanioturdus torquatus</i>
Bushshrikes (Malaconotidae)	
Grey-headed Bushshrike (H)	<i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i>
Orange-breasted Bushshrike	<i>Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus</i>
Bokmakierie	<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>

Common name	Scientific name
Retz's Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops retzii</i>
Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae)	
Black Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga flava</i>
Shrikes (Laniidae)	
Magpie Shrike	<i>Urolestes melanoleucus</i>
Southern White-crowned Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus anguitimens</i>
Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>
Figbirds, Orioles & Turnagra (Oriolidae)	
Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>
Drongos (Dicuridae)	
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</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>
Ashy Tit (H)	<i>Melaniparus cinerascens</i>
Larks (Alaudidae)	
Spike-heeled Lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>
Gray's Lark	<i>Ammomanopsis grayi</i>
Karoo Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda subcoronata</i>
Benguela Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda benguelensis</i>
Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix leucotis</i>
Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix verticalis</i>
Sabota Lark	<i>Calendulauda sabota</i>
Fawn-colored Lark	<i>Calendulauda africanoides</i>
Dune Lark	<i>Calendulauda erythrochlamys</i>
Eastern Clapper Lark	<i>Mirafraga fasciolata</i>
Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>

Common name	Scientific name
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>
Banded Martin	<i>Riparia cincta</i>
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
Pearl-breasted Swallow	<i>Hirundo dimidiata</i>
Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>
Greater Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis cucullata</i>
Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>
Red-breasted Swallow	<i>Cecropis semirufa</i>
Mosque Swallow	<i>Cecropis senegalensis</i>
Crombecs, African Warblers (Macrosphenidae)	
Rockrunner	<i>Achaetops pycnopygius</i>
Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>
Reed Warblers and Allies (Acrocephalidae)	
Greater Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus rufescens</i>
Lesser Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>
Grassbirds and Allies (Locustellidae)	
Little Rush Warbler	<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>
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Desert Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aridulus</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>
Black-chested Prinia	<i>Prinia flavicans</i>
Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>
Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</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>
White-eyes (Zosteropidae)	
Orange River White-eye	<i>Zosterops pallidus</i>
African Yellow White-eye	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>
Starlings, Rhabdornis (Sturnidae)	
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
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 (H)	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>
Pale-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus naboroupp</i>
Oxpeckers (Buphagidae)	
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>

Common name	Scientific name
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>
Ashy Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa caeruleascens</i>
Angolan Cave Chat	<i>Cossypha ansorgei</i>
White-browed Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha heuglini</i>
Collared Palm Thrush	<i>Cichladusa arquata</i>
Short-toed Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola brevipes</i>
Miombo Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola angolensis</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>
Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>
Familiar Chat	<i>Oenanthe familiaris</i>
Herero Chat	<i>Namibornis herero</i>
Sunbirds (Nectariniidae)	
Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>
Amethyst Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra amethystina</i>
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>
Marico Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>
White-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris talatala</i>
Dusky Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris fuscus</i>
Copper Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris cupreus</i>

Common name	Scientific name
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>
Southern Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>
Chestnut Weaver	<i>Ploceus rubiginosus</i>
Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</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>
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>
Bronze Mannikin (H)	<i>Lonchura cucullata</i>
Indigobirds, Whydahs (Viduidae)	
Shaft-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua regia</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Long-tailed Paradise Whydah	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>
Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)	
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>
African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>
Finches, Euphonias (Fringillidae)	
Black-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Crithagra mozambica</i>
Yellow Canary	<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>
White-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra albogularis</i>
Buntings (Emberizidae)	
Lark-like Bunting	<i>Emberiza impetuani</i>
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>
Cape Bunting (H)	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>
Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>
Total seen	358
Total heard only	8
Total recorded	366

Mammal List

Common name	Scientific name
Dogs, Wolves, Foxes (Canidae)	
Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>
Bat-eared Fox	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>
Cats (Felidae)	
Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>
Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>
Mongoose (Herpestidae)	
Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>
Hyaenas, Aardwolf (Hyaenidae)	
Spotted Hyaena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>
Eared Seals (Otariidae)	
Cape Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus pusillus</i>
Bovids (Bovidae)	
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>
Red Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus caama</i>
Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>
Blue Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus taurinus</i>
Roan Antelope	<i>Hippotragus equinus</i>
Sable Antelope	<i>Hippotragus niger</i>
Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>
Red Lechwe	<i>Kobus leche leche</i>
Damara Dik-dik	<i>Madoqua kirkii damarensis</i>
Gemsbok	<i>Oryx gazella</i>
Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>
African Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>
Common Eland	<i>Tragelaphus oryx</i>
Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>
Sitatunga	<i>Tragelaphus spekii</i>
Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>
Dolphins (Delphinidae)	
Common Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>
Heaviside's Dolphin	<i>Cephalorhynchus heavisidii</i>
Giraffes, Okapis (Giraffidae)	
Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>
Hippopotamuses (Hippopotamidae)	
Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>
Hogs, Pigs (Suidae)	

Common name	Scientific name
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>
Hyraxes (Procaviidae)	
Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>
Rabbits, Hares (Leporidae)	
Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>
Elephant Shrews (Macroscelididae)	
Bushveld Sengi	<i>Elephantulus intufi</i>
Old world Porcupines (Hystricidae)	
Cape Porcupine	<i>Hystrix africaeaustralis</i>
Horses, Asses, Zebras (Equidae)	
Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>
Hartmann's Mountain Zebra	<i>Equus zebra hartmannae</i>
Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae)	
Black Rhinoceros	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>
Old World Monkeys (Cercopithecidae)	
Vervet Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>
Bushbabies, Galagos (Galagidae)	
Southern Lesser Galago	<i>Galago moholi</i>
Elephants (Elephantidae)	
African Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>
Squirrels, Chipmunks, Marmots, Prairie Dogs (Sciuridae)	
Congo Rope Squirrel	<i>Funisciurus congicus</i>
Smith's Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>
South African Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus inauris</i>
Total seen	43