

Birding Ecotours



NAMIBIA, BOTSWANA AND VICTORIA FALLS SET DEPARTURE TRIP REPORT

02-19 NOVEMBER 2022

By Dominic Rollinson



*Our visit to a **Southern Carmine Bee-eater** colony was one of the many highlights of the tour.*

Overview

This 18-day birding and wildlife safari covered a vast distance and variety of habitats, from the coastal Namib Desert at Walvis Bay, in Namibia, to the subtropics of Victoria Falls, in Zimbabwe and Zambia. Due to the diversity of habitats visited on this tour, we usually record a high list of birds, and this tour was no different, with an impressive 438 bird species recorded. Of course, it was not only about the quantity of species seen but also the quality, with a great many Namibian near-endemics and regional specials encountered. This tour is generally an enjoyable one for guides and clients alike, with good infrastructure geared towards eco-tourism and high-quality accommodation (with delicious and varied meals) and easy access to areas with high diversities and abundances of birds and other wildlife.

Some of the crowd-favorites on this tour included **Pel's Fishing Owl**, **Schalow's Turaco**, **Secretarybird**, **Southern Carmine Bee-eater**, **Southern Ground Hornbill**, **Three-banded Courser** and **Kori Bustard**. Some of the near-endemics and regional specials included **Hartlaub's Spurfowl**, **Slaty Egret**, **Ludwig's Bustard**, **Rüppell's Korhaan**, **Blue Crane**, **Burchell's Courser**, **Bradfield's Swift**, **Damara Red-billed** and **Monteiro's Hornbills**, **Pygmy Falcon**, **Rüppell's Parrot**, **Souza's Shrike**, **Dune Stark's**, **Gray's** and **Benguela Long-billed Larks**, **Rufous-eared Warbler**, **Sharp-tailed Starling** and many others.



*A small group of **Southern Ground Hornbills** were seen in the Zambezi Region of Namibia.*

We also saw many charismatic and fascinating wildlife such as **Lion**, **African Elephant**, **Black Rhinoceros**, **African Buffalo**, **Hippopotamus**, **Sable Antelope**, **Roan Antelope**, **Spotted Hyena**, **Spotted-necked Otter**, **Cape Fox**, **Giraffe**, and (Hartmann's) **Mountain Zebra**.

Detailed Report

Day 1, 2nd November 2022. Arrival and Walvis Bay birding

Most of the clients had arrived during the previous couple of days and so after breakfast we headed out to get a start on our bird list and spent time birding the lagoon and salt works. At the Walvis Bay lagoon, we saw huge numbers of both **Greater** and **Lesser Flamingos** and worked our way through the shorebirds on offer and found **Curlew** and **Terek Sandpipers**, **Little Stint**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Sanderling**, **Grey**, **Common Ringed** and **White-fronted Plovers**, **Common Greenshank** and **Bar-tailed Godwit**. We then made our way south of town to the salt works where we found many **Chestnut-banded Plovers** as well as **Black-winged Stilt**, **Pied Avocet**, **Marsh Sandpiper**, **Eurasian Whimbrel**, **Cape Teal** and a few **Cape Gannets** flying along the coast. We were very pleased to find our target bird in the form of **Damara Tern**, which showed well for us. Throughout the morning we also found **Caspian**, **Greater Crested**, **Sandwich** and **Common Terns**.



Chestnut-banded Plovers were numerous in Walvis Bay.

We then headed back to Walvis Bay where we enjoyed a sit-down lunch and then made the obligatory stop at the local sewage works. The sewage works were very productive and we added many new fresh water birds. Some of the highlights included **Little** and **Black-necked Grebes**, **South African Shelduck**, **Blue-billed Teal**, **Common Moorhen**, **Red-knobbed Coot**, **Three-banded Plover**, **Blacksmith Lapwing**, **Grey** and **Black-headed Herons**, **Whiskered Tern**, **African Reed Warbler** and **Southern Masked Weaver**.

After the sewage works, we popped into the nearby shopping mall to exchange and draw money and to buy a couple of things before Dom headed out to the airport to collect Bob and Gail. We ended the day with a lovely meal as we overlooked the lagoon, which was packed with flamingos and other water birds.

Day 2, 3rd November 2022. Walvis Bay boat cruise and birding

We were up before dawn for our first full day of Namibian birding and headed inland into the Namib Desert to the red dunes of Rooibank. We searched for Namibia's only endemic bird species, **Dune Lark**, which we found without too much difficulty. They provided us with stellar views as they went about feeding in the low dunes. The general birding was good and we also managed to find **Bokmakierie**, **Ashy Tit** (heard only), **Pale Chanting Goshawk** (the first of many, soon to be known as 'PCGs'), **Namaqua Dove**, **Diederik Cuckoo**, **Pririt Batis**, **Little Swift**, **Southern Fiscal**, **Black-chested Prinia** and **Southern Masked Weaver**. A quick scan of the lagoon mudflats on our way back added **Bar-tailed Godwit**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Sanderling**, **Common Greenshank** and **Caspian Tern**.

After an enjoyable breakfast, we made our way to the small craft harbor and took a boat cruise around Walvis Bay lagoon. While waiting for our boat, we had a single **House Crow** fly over us. These invasive corvids are seen occasionally around Walvis Bay and are likely ship-assisted birds which hopefully won't establish a population here. The boat cruise itself was (as always) an enjoyable few hours out on the water and we managed good views of **Black-necked Grebe**, **White-chinned Petrel**, **Sooty Shearwater**, **Cape Gannet**, **Crowned**, **Cape** and **White-breasted Cormorants** and **Great White Pelicans**, literally eating fish out of our hands. The massive tern roost included **Greater Crested**, **Sandwich**, **Common** and **Black Terns** and it was good fun to work through the different species as they flew overhead.



*We had good looks at **White-chinned Petrels** on our Walvis Bay boat cruise.*

After our boat cruise we headed north, beyond the pretty town of Swakopmund and into the white, open plains of the Namib Desert. We easily found many **Gray's Larks**, some of which were very confiding. Up next were the 5-Mile Salt Works, which were full of birds and we found **Cape Teal**, **Grey**, **Common Ringed** and **White-fronted Plovers**, **Eurasian Whimbrel**, **Bar-tailed Godwit** and a few **Damara Terns**. The massive numbers of **Cape Cormorants** here were something to behold!



Gray's Larks were seen well in the desert plains north of Swakopmund.

To finish off the day's birding, we headed further into the Namib Desert and enjoyed spending some time with the bizarre *Welwitschia mirabilis* plants, estimated to live up to 1,500 years old and only grow two leaves their entire lives. These fascinating plants obtain most of their moisture from desert fog, although it is thought that they also tap into underground water supplies because they mostly grow along dry watercourses. On our drive out here, we enjoyed looks at the almost pure-white form of **Tractrac Chat**. We ended the day with another tasty meal, overlooking the bird-filled lagoon.

Day 3, 4th November 2022. Walvis Bay to Erongo Mountains, Spitzkoppe birding en route

It was another pre-dawn start this morning as we wanted to get deep into the Namib Desert before it heated up too drastically. As we made our way through the desert the shout of 'bustard' came from Christiane and had us turning around and enjoying good looks at **Ludwig's Bustard**, a bird which is often very tricky to find, owing to its nomadic habits. Not long thereafter, we turned the vehicle around again, this time for a pair of the Namib-endemic **Rüppell's Korhaan** and our first of many **Stark's Larks**.

Once we turned north on the dirt road towards Spitzkoppe, the birding got even better which made the going very slow (a good thing) and resulted in sightings of **Black-winged Kite**, **Northern Black Korhaan**, **Namaqua Sandgrouse**, **White-backed Mousebird**, **Cape Penduline Tit**, **Spike-heeled** and **Sabota Larks**, **Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark**, **African Red-eyed Bulbul**, and **Karoo Chat**. We then spent the next couple of hours birding around the impressive Spitzkoppe massive in the hopes of finding Herero Chat. Despite a few hours of searching, and even employing the services of local bird guides, we could not find this Namibian near-endemic and had to eventually accept defeat. We did however find some other good birds during our search, including the likes of **Rosy-faced Lovebird**, **White-tailed Shrike**, **Ashy Tit** (seen today!), **Carp's Tit**, **Yellow-bellied Eremomela**, **Layard's** and **Chestnut-vented Warblers**, **Pale-winged Starling**, **Short-toed Rock Thrush** and **Yellow Canary**.

After having finally given up on finding Herero Chat we headed west to the Erongo Mountains where the habitat changed slowly, with the desert scrub being replaced by taller trees and impressive rock formations. As the habitat changed, the bird life changed too and we steadily added **Grey Go-away-bird**, **Long-billed Crombec**, **Chat Flycatcher** and **Green-winged Pytilia**. After checking into our beautiful lodge, we had some downtime in the extreme heat of the mid-afternoon, before meeting later in the afternoon for a walk along the edge of some impressive granite koppies. The birding was slow to begin with but did steadily pick up, and we managed to add **Pearl-spotted Owlet**, **Common Scimitarbill** and the large and distinctive **Monteiro's Hornbill**.



Monteiro's Hornbills were common in the Erongo Mountains.

We enjoyed dinner as we overlooked a small floodlit waterhole where dozens of **Double-banded Sandgrouse** flew over and were also entertained by many calling **Freckled Nightjars** and had fantastic views as they gave their 'bow-wow' call.

Day 4, 5th November 2022. Erongo Mountains and Uis birding

This morning we did another walk through some koppies and bushveld and it was much more productive this time around. Some of the highlights of our morning's walk included **Rüppell's Parrot**, **Gabar Goshawk**, **Brubru**, **White-tailed Shrike**, **Grey-backed Camaroptera**, **Cape Bunting**, amazing views of **Rockrunner**. We heard the distant call of **Hartlaub's Spurfowl** but it would remain unseen (for now). A mammalian highlight was a brief **Kaokoland Slender Mongoose**.

After perhaps the best breakfast of the trip, some of the group decided to relax around the lodge. The others took the long drive out towards Uis, where we found our target, **Benguela Long-billed Lark**, relatively easily and enjoyed prolonged views. While birding the desert plains we also saw the trip's only **African Hawk-Eagle**. The drive also yielded our first **Kori Bustards** and **Double-banded Coursers**!

Once it had cooled down a bit we took a drive out into the Erongo Conservancy, which proved rather productive and we managed to see **Red-crested Korhaan**, **Double-banded Sandgrouse**, **Swallow-tailed Bee-eater**, **Southern Red-billed** and **Southern Yellow-billed Hornbills**, **Acacia Pied Barbet**, **Wattled Starling**, **Kalahari Scrub Robin**, **Marico Flycatcher** and **Red-headed Finch**. Along the drive we also saw many new and exciting mammals such as **Giraffe**, **Gemsbok** (southern Oryx), **Springbok**, **Steenbok**, **Klipspringer** and **Kirk's Dik-dik**.



*This female **Double-banded Sandgrouse** was rather confiding.*

After another enjoyable dinner (with complimentary **Double-banded Sandgrouse** and **Freckled Nightjars** on show) we did a night drive through the conservancy. Night drives are often hit-or-miss, although this time around we added **Spotted Thick-knee** as well as some interesting mammals such as **Scrub Hare**, **Springhare** and (Hartmann's) **Mountain Zebra**.

Day 5, 6th November 2022. Erongo Mountains to Etosha National Park

With **Hartlaub's Spurfowl** still on the target list we did yet another walk from the lodge and within ten minutes we had scope views of the spurfowl as a pair called high up from the top of a koppie. Other highlights of the morning walk included a few **Black-faced Waxbills** and a confiding **Barred Wren-Warbler**. We then decided to head back for an earlier breakfast and take our time driving out through the conservancy.

After another delicious breakfast we packed the vehicle and set out north towards Etosha National Park. Still in the conservancy, we enjoyed some very productive birding. Some of the highlights of the drive included **Red-billed Spurfowl**, **Black-chested Snake Eagle**, **Tawny Eagle**, **Purple Roller**, **Wattled Starling**, **Southern Pied Babbler**, **Marico Sunbird**, **Black-throated Canary** and the near-endemic **Damara Red-billed Hornbill**. Once through the conservancy, while refueling the vehicle, we noticed a low group of swifts containing **Little**, **White-rumped** and most importantly, the tricky **Bradfield's Swift**.



Purple Rollers were surprisingly widespread on this tour.

We made it into Etosha National Park in the early afternoon and, after checking into our accommodation at Okaukuejo Rest Camp, we decided to have a couple of hours of downtime during the extreme heat. Later that afternoon we headed out for a drive and made our way north of the camp, along the western edge of the bone-dry pan. Sightings were slow to start with but soon picked up, and we added **Common Ostrich**, **Northern Black Korhaan**, **Crowned Lapwing**, **Greater Kestrel**, **Cape Crow**, **Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark**, **Desert Cisticola**, **Rufous-eared Warbler**, **Sociable Weaver** (complete with massive colonial nests) and our first **African Pipit**. As is the norm in Etosha, there were large numbers of animals around, with some of the more interesting sightings including **Banded** and **Yellow Mongooses**, **Spotted Hyena**,

Plains Zebra, Common Wildebeest (Gnu) and Giraffe. A quick nocturnal visit to Okaukuejo's floodlit waterhole after dinner gave us fantastic views of **Black Rhinoceroses** as they came down to drink and bathe and our first **Rufous-cheeked Nightjars** as they hawked insects in the floodlights.

Day 6, 7th November 2022. Central Etosha; birds and large game

We were out of the camp gate just after sunrise this morning and headed east of Okaukuejo, where we birded the open plains and some of the mopane woodlands. Highlights of the morning's drive included **Bateleur, Tawny, Martial and Booted Eagles**, the massive **Kori Bustard, Spotted Thick-knee, Double-banded Courser**, the Critically Endangered **White-backed Vulture, Cape Penduline Tit, Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark, Ant-eating Chat, Great Sparrow** and the bizarre **Secretarybird**. The avian highlight of the morning drive was probably a large group of **Burchell's Coursers** which showed well and kept edging closer and closer to the vehicle. We had some great mammal sightings on this drive too, including the likes of **Black-backed Jackal, Cape Fox, Kudu, Impala**, many **African Elephants** and fantastic close-up views of two female **Lions** walking right past our vehicle.



*A small group of **Burchell's Coursers** was seen well in Etosha National Park.*

In the afternoon we decided to try the areas northwest of camp, which resulted in some more interesting birds. We stopped to enjoy a young **Pale Chanting Goshawk** at point-blank range, before we added a distant **White-headed Vulture** (another Critically Endangered vulture), soon followed by **European Bee-eater, African Grey Hornbill** and **Pink-billed Lark**. While driving amongst large acacia trees with many active **Sociable Weaver** nests, we were lucky enough to

find a distant **Pygmy Falcon** – a tricky bird in Etosha. We also had another (distant) sighting of a **Black Rhinoceros** – Etosha is surely the best place to see this charismatic and rare species.

Okaukuejo's floodlit waterhole again had **Black Rhinoceros** as well as a few **African Elephants** and more **Rufous-cheeked Nightjars**.

Day 7, 8th November 2022. Central Etosha; birds and large game

Today we moved east across the park to Etosha's easternmost camp, Namutoni, where we were based for the next two nights. The morning got off to a great start when we saw a large male **Lion** as it quickly walked past us at a waterhole. A little further down the road, another large male **Lion** was seen right next to the road and gave us incredible, prolonged views and even gave some impressive roars! A stop at another waterhole further east had some good waterbird activity which included **Red-billed** and **Cape Teals**, **Little Grebe**, **Squacco Heron**, **Black-winged Stilt**, **Wood Sandpiper**, **Little Stint** and **White-fronted** and **Kittlitz's Plovers**. The drive also produced our first (Red) **Hartebeest** of the trip.



This male **Lion** gave us incredible views!

We then made it to Halali Rest Camp for lunch and had a good walk around, as we had several birds to target here. One of our two main targets, **Violet Wood Hoopoe**, proved straightforward and we soon saw a feeding flock, however **Bare-cheeked Babbler** proved tricky. We eventually all had good views as a small group fed in the shade during the midday heat. Other interesting birds seen around Halali included **African Cuckoo**, **Western Barn Owl**, **Acacia Pied Barbet**, **White-crested Helmetshrike**, **Southern White-crowned Shrike**, **Red-billed Buffalo Weaver**,

Violet-eared Waxbill and **Southern White-faced Owl** (chick and an adult seen). We enjoyed watching cheeky **Smith's Bush Squirrels** as they searched the camp for any left-over lunches.



*This adult **Southern White-faced Owl** was seen close to its nest which had a small chick in it.*

After checking into our accommodation at Namutoni Rest Camp, we took some time off to escape from the heat before enjoying a late afternoon drive. Our drive started well when Christiane showed us the **Red-necked Falcon** she had seen during her afternoon swim. Some of our better sightings on the drive included **Groundscraper Thrush**, **Burchell's Starling**, **Capped Wheatear** and the cute **Blue Waxbill**.

As we sat outside and enjoyed our dinner that evening, we were serenaded by **Pearl-spotted Owlets** and **Fork-tailed Drongos** – a lovely way to finish the day!

Day 8, 9th November 2022. Eastern Etosha

The day started with us making our way north to the grasslands of the Andoni Plains where we hoped to add a few more key species. On our way north we stopped at a waterhole which had a single **Greater Painted-snipe** with **Emerald-spotted Wood Dove**, **Fawn-colored Lark**, **Rattling Cisticola**, **White-browed Scrub Robin**, **Black-crowned Tchagra**, **Crimson-breasted Shrike** and **Shaft-tailed Whydah** seen in the surrounding bushveld. **Blue Cranes** did not prove difficult, and we saw a couple of dozen birds, some with color bands on their long legs. A stop at a nearby waterhole added **South African Shelduck**, **African Spoonbill** and **Marabou Stork** as well as repeat views of **Chestnut-banded** and **Kittlitz's Plovers** and **Cape Teal**. Driving through the grasslands resulted in some great views of **Lappet-faced Vulture** as well as **Eastern Clapper Lark** (at last!) and brief views of a **Common Buttonquail** for Hilary and Dom.

After a quiet afternoon drive (although we had good views of **Buffy Pipit**) and an early dinner, we enjoyed a fantastically productive night drive. The evening started magically when we spotted a **Three-banded Courser** which showed exceptionally well for us. We then spent an enjoyable 30 minutes waiting at a waterhole as we listened to **African Elephants** wallowing in the shallows and enjoyed the impressive night sky. Another waterhole had a drinking **Black Rhinoceros** as well as a showy **Spotted Eagle-Owl**. The drive ended with us hearing a **Verreaux's Eagle-Owl** calling close to camp, and after ending the drive we headed to the waterhole where we managed distant views of this giant owl!



Three-banded Courser in Etosha National Park was an unexpected bonus!

Day 9, 10th November 2022. Etosha National Park to Zambezi Region

Today was to be a significant move eastward as we made our way to the edge of the Zambezi Region (formerly Caprivi Strip) where open desert plains were replaced with tall woodlands and lush riparian vegetation. As we left the park, we saw **African Paradise Flycatcher**, **Black-backed Puffback** and **Red-headed Weaver**. The drive immediately east of the park soon added the first of many **Lilac-breasted Rollers**. Our lunch stop at Roy's Camp quickly added our target bird, **Black-faced Babbler**, as well as our first **White-bellied Sunbird**, **Orange-breasted Bushshrike** and **Wahlberg's Eagle**.

We then arrived at our pretty lodge on the edge of the Okavango River and took a late afternoon walk around camp, which added lots of new birds, many here at their western limit. Some of our highlights included **African Openbill**, **African Wattled Lapwing**, **White-browed Coucal**, **Black-collared Barbet**, **Swamp Boubou**, **Yellow-bellied Greenbul**, **Arrow-marked** and **Hartlaub's Babbler**, **Kurrichane Thrush** and **Holub's Golden Weaver**.

We enjoyed dinner that evening with the sounds of **Fiery-necked** and **Square-tailed Nightjars** calling from the edge of the river, with brief views of **Square-tailed** as it flew over the deck.

Day 10, 11th November 2022. East through the Zambezi Region

The early morning was spent birding around camp where we were hoping to connect with the long-staying Ross's Turaco which gave us the run-around – we always seemed to be a few minutes late with other birders and staff having just seen the bird before we arrived. We did however have other good birds around camp including **Striated Heron**, **Senegal Coucal**, **Woodland Kingfisher**, **Terrestrial Brownbul**, **Ashy Flycatcher** and **Amethyst Sunbird**.

We made our way through the bustling town of Rundu before popping into the local sewage works (our second sewage works of the trip – a birding tour wouldn't be complete without a visit to the poop ponds) which was a little on the disappointing side as the floodplain was bone dry. We did however manage to see **Glossy Ibis**, **Brown Snake Eagle**, **Collared Pratincole**, **Little Bee-eater**, **Mosque Swallow**, **Lesser Swamp Warbler** and a small group of **Temminck's Coursers**.



This vagrant Northern Carmine Bee-eater was another surprise sighting.

After eventually giving up on the turaco, we pressed on eastwards through the Zambezi Region and arrived at a lodge after lunchtime, where we were to enjoy a boat trip to a Southern Carmine Bee-eater breeding colony. The **Southern Carmine Bee-eaters**, of course, obliged and we were also treated to its rarer cousin from the north in the form of a vagrant **Northern Carmine Bee-eater** which was trying its best to shack-up with one of the residents. Whilst enjoying the bee-eaters we also saw other interesting species such as **Osprey**, **African Jacana**, **Rock Pratincole**,

Whiskered Tern, Coppery-tailed Coucal, Levillant's, Jacobin and Black Cuckoos, Grey-headed Kingfisher, Magpie Shrike and Yellow-billed Oxpecker. A non-avian highlight included good, but brief, looks at a **Spotted-necked Otter**.

After what had been a busy and birdy day, we decided to relax on the deck at Mahangu Safari Lodge, overlooking the Okavango River, with a drink in hand and enjoy the many birds and animals which working their way up and down the river. Some of the better birds seen during this relaxed birding session included **Great and Intermediate Egrets, African Darter, African Skimmer, Mourning Collared Dove, Meyer's Parrot** and the only **Bradfield's Hornbill** of the trip!



Souza's Shrike occur in low densities in Namibia's Zambezi Region.

Day 11, 12th November 2022. Birding the Mahango area

We had another pre-dawn start, heading about an hour's drive from Mahangu to bird some dry woodlands west of Divundu town. This morning we were armed with local birding expert Christoph, who knew the whereabouts of many of our targets and so we started walking the woodlands in search of our quarry. The rare **Souza's Shrike** proved relatively easy today and we soon found a calling bird which showed well from the top of a tree. However, despite our best efforts, we could not find Rufous-bellied Tit (a theme which would persist throughout the trip). We did however have many other top-quality birds in the surrounding woodlands though including the likes of **Brown-backed Honeybird, White-breasted Cuckooshrike, Icterine Warbler, Green-capped Eremomela, Tinkling Cisticola, Neddicky (Piping Cisticola), Klaas's Cuckoo, African Golden Oriole, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Southern Yellow White-eye and Pale Flycatcher**. Unfortunately, the calling **Coqui Francolins** would remain unseen. Christoph then took us to a nearby site where both **Sharp-tailed Starlings** and **Arnott's**

Chats were breeding in the same dead tree! On our drive back we encountered large storm clouds with impressive numbers of **Eurasian Hobbies** and **Red-footed Falcons** moving along with the rainstorm as well as a single **African Hobby** – always a tough bird to find!



The tricky-to-find Sharp-tailed Starling showed incredibly well on this trip.

After lunch and some downtime back at our lodge (with a **White-backed Night Heron** seen around camp), we headed out for a late-afternoon drive to Mahangu Game Reserve. This proved to be a wonderful afternoon and yielded some of the best birding and wildlife viewing of the entire trip. Some of the many avian highlights here included **Swainson's Spurfowl**, **Goliath Heron**, **Shikra**, **Little Sparrowhawk**, **Wattled Crane**, **Long-toed Lapwing**, **Great Spotted Cuckoo**, **Blue-cheeked Bee-eater**, **Red-backed** and **Lesser Grey Shrikes**, **Dusky Lark**, **Burnt-necked Eremomela** and **Meve's Starling**. Of course, a visit to this impressive game reserve is not all about the birds and we also encountered **Southern Lechwe**, **Roan Antelope**, **Sable Antelope**, **African Buffalo**, **Vervet Monkey**, **Slender Mongoose** and both **Leopard** and **Speke's Hinged Tortoises**. The day was capped off with a roughly three-meter-long **Southern African Rock Python** lying across the road. What a great day it was!

Later that evening, after another lovely dinner, we headed out for a quick night drive where we saw **Square-tailed Nightjar** and the tiny **African Scops Owl**.

Day 12, 13th November 2022. Mahangu to Botswana

This morning we birded the overgrazed grasslands outside our lodge which again proved incredibly productive, with several new birds encountered. Highlights of this short walk included **Luapula Cisticola**, **Plain-backed Pipit**, **Lesser Jacana**, **African Sacred Ibis**, **Caspian Plover**,

Quailfinch, Grey-rumped Swallow, Brown and Red-billed Firefinches and better views of **African Hobby**. After our morning walk, we enjoyed a relaxed breakfast cruise on the Okavango River on which we mostly saw the regular riverine bird species but had a very enjoyable time.



Luapula Cisticola in the Okavango floodplain.

We again drove through Mahangu Game Reserve on the way to the Botswana border which, due to the intense heat of the late morning, was much quieter than yesterday afternoon, with the only new additions being **Crested Barbet**, **Broad-billed Roller** and **Green Wood Hoopoe**. The border crossing was quick and easy and before we knew it, we were into Botswana and soon arrived at our lodge to take it easy for a couple of hours. In the late afternoon, we took a stroll around the lodge grounds, with some of the group getting brief (and mostly unsatisfactory) glimpses of the elusive **Pel's Fishing Owl** and excellent views of **Narina Trogon**.

Day 13, 14th November 2022. Okavango Panhandle boat cruise and birding

There was much excitement this morning as we boarded our small boat which would take us up and down the river, with Pel's Fishing Owl being our main priority for the morning. As we moved up the river we had lovely views of **African Skimmer**, **Whiskered Tern**, **Coppery-tailed Coucal**, **White-fronted Bee-eater**, **Common Cuckoo**, **Greater Swamp Warbler**, **Chirping Cisticola**, **Southern Brown-throated**, **Village** and **Thick-billed Weavers** and **Fan-tailed Widowbird**. We checked all the regular haunts for Pel's Fishing Owl but drew a blank and just as we were beginning to lose heart, our boat guide phoned a friend who had told him of a spot he had seen the owls recently. We then pressed on to this camp and it didn't take long until some of the group again got brief views of this enigmatic owl before it flushed. Eventually,

with lots of stealthy stalking, we all managed great views of **Pel's Fishing Owl** and breathed a collective sigh of relief.



*This juvenile **African Skimmer** was busy learning to fly.*

After lunch and some downtime, we headed out for our second boat cruise of the day and this time we made our way downstream to a floodplain where Slaty Egret normally feeds. As we made our way towards the floodplain, we got to experience the barbel run: with dropping water levels, bait fish were forced out of the reeds and into the main channel where barbel (a type of catfish) congregated to predate on the small fish. Herons and egrets also took advantage of the surplus of food and we had large numbers of fishing **Squacco**, **Goliath**, **Purple**, **Black Herons** and **Great**, **Little** and **Intermediate Egrets** all enjoying the feeding frenzy. We had an impressive feeding flock of **Common Swifts** overhead which provided us with close-up views. Upon arrival at the floodplain, it did not take long to locate **Slaty Egret** and we all had good, prolonged scope views. Other good birds here included **Collared Pratincole**, **Lesser Jacana**, **African Snipe**, **Hamerkop** and **African Swamphen**. On the return trip back to our lodge, we had brief looks at **African Pygmy Goose**, **Allen's Gallinule** and **Little Bittern** and enjoyed another beautiful African sunset.

Day 14, 15th November 2022. Transfer to eastern Zambezi Region

We had a quick walk around the lodge grounds before breakfast, which added **African Barred Owlet** and **Crested Francolin**, and were then soon on our way back north towards Namibia. The border crossing was again a casual affair and we then made our way east through the Zambezi Region towards Katima Mulilo. The long drive went smoothly with the odd stop for **Southern Ground Hornbill**, **Booted Eagle** and **Dark Chanting Goshawk**. Our lunch stop was at a site

known for Rufous-bellied Tit, however the birds would not play along and we had to settle for **Chinspot Batis**, **Golden-breasted Bunting** and **Yellow-throated Bush Sparrow**.

We arrived at our lodge in Katima Mulilo, on the banks of the mighty Zambezi River, and soon thereafter boarded a boat to look for a few specials. As we were boarding our boat, we had a huge flock (1000+) of **Black-winged Pratincoles** fly overhead which was quite something to see! It did not take long to locate **African Finfoot** and **Half-collared Kingfisher** with **White-crowned Lapwing** proving relatively easy too. We also enjoyed views of **Giant** and **Brown-hooded Kingfishers**, **Schalow's Turaco** and **Trumpeter Hornbill**, as the sun set over the Zambezi River.



*Katima Mulilo is a good area to find the scarce **Half-collared Kingfisher**.*

Day 15, 16th November 2022. Katima Mulilo birding

We headed out early before breakfast and it did not take long for us to find **Yellow-throated Leaflove** (which was only discovered as a Namibian breeding bird in the last few years) along with **Tropical Boubou** while unfortunately the calling **Eastern Nicator** would not show itself.

After breakfast, we birded the woodlands near our lodge which yielded **Lizard Buzzard**, **Retz's** and **White-crested Helmetshrikes**, **Grey-headed Bushshrike**, **Green Wood Hoopoe**, **Schalow's Turaco** and **Lesser Honeyguide**. The nearby wetlands proved equally productive and here we managed many exciting birds such as **Rufous-bellied Heron**, **Dwarf Bittern** (brief views), **White-backed Duck**, **Lesser Jacana**, **African Pygmy Goose**, **Blue-billed Teal** and **Long-toed Lapwing**. After lunch we had an interesting encounter with a **Black Mamba**. We watched it as it unsuccessfully hunted squirrels and birds in a nearby tree, but when it got too close to one of the cabins, Curt decided to catch it and release it further away from the lodge!

In the late afternoon we drove on a road through some beautiful broad-leafed woodland which was very enjoyable and here we added **Racket-tailed Roller**, **Striped Kingfisher**, **Northern Grey-headed Sparrow**, **Long-tailed Paradise Whydah**, **Bennett's Woodpecker**, **Southern Black Flycatcher**, **Purple-banded Sunbird**, **Red-headed Weaver**, **Black-throated Canary** and **Meyer's Parrot**.



Racket-tailed Rollers put on a show for us around Katima Mulilo.

After dinner we went out with Curt to try and find Pennant-winged Nightjar, but unfortunately the area the nightjars normally frequented was flooded and Curt suspected the birds must have found a new area to display in. We thus had to settle for good views of **Fiery-necked Nightjar**.

Day 16, 17th November 2022. Katima Mulilo to Livingstone

For our morning's birding, we decided to head back to the same road as the previous afternoon, however it proved much quieter this morning with **African Harrier-Hawk**, **Brown-backed Honeybird** and **Copper Sunbird** being our best finds.

This was mostly a travel day and so after breakfast we packed the vehicle and started making our way east towards Livingstone, in Zambia. After chatting to locals, it was decided that the quickest route into Zambia was through Botswana and so we crossed the Namibia-Botswana border, without any hassles, and then made our way through the famous Chobe National Park which was very quiet for us. The Botswana-Zambia border crossing was not as easily negotiated and after a couple of hours of Dom running from counter to counter and paying all the different taxes imaginable, we were on our way to Livingstone.

We made it to our beautiful camp on the edge of the Zambezi River in the late afternoon and enjoyed a walk around the beautiful and lush lodge grounds. With the shift further eastwards, we easily found several new species including **Olive Woodpecker**, **Bearded Scrub Robin**, **Red-faced Cisticola**, **Red-throated Twinspot** and a calling **Orange-winged Pytilia** which would not show itself.

Day 17, 18th November 2022. Victoria Falls and Livingstone birding

Today was the final full day of the trip and we had the exciting prospect of visiting Victoria Falls, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Our only new bird of the morning's walk was **African Goshawk**, although we had even better views of a pair of the gorgeous **Red-throated Twinspot**.



The beautiful Red-throated Twinspot (female).

On the drive to the border crossing, we added a single **Western Banded Snake Eagle** and the border crossing into Zimbabwe was thankfully relatively straightforward (a breeze compared to yesterday's crossing) and we were soon enjoying the mighty falls and the cooling mist. We spent a good couple of hours enjoying the falls from all the different viewpoints and even managed **Hooded Vulture**, **White-crowned Lapwing**, **Red-winged Starling** and a calling **African Emerald Cuckoo** which would not show itself, despite our best efforts.

After easily getting back into Zambia and back to our lodge we decided to take it easy for the afternoon, with some of the group opting for a relaxed boat trip along the Zambezi and others preferring to start packing bags or wandering around camp. The boat trip yielded some good birds such as **Knob-billed Duck**, **Pink-backed Pelican**, **Hooded Vulture**, **Rock Pratincole** and **African Skimmer** – a relaxing way to end our highly successful and fun birding tour.



Impressive views of Victoria Falls, from the Zimbabwean side.

Day 18, 19th November 2022. Livingstone birding and departure

For our final morning of birding, we headed into a nearby patch of miombo forest to see if we could find any last-minute ticks for the trip. The morning started well with a couple of **Stierling's Wren-Warblers** showing almost immediately, as well as a few **White-winged Widowbirds**. As we moved deeper into the miombo we managed to find good numbers of **Collared Flycatchers** and eventually we found a male **Miombo Rock Thrush** which showed well for us.

We headed back to our lodge for a final breakfast and said our goodbyes as some of us caught lunchtime flights out of Livingstone, with others catching late-afternoon flights. This ended a highly enjoyable and successful 18 days across Namibia, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe with many good laughs and lots of lifers for all.

Bird List - Following IOC (12.2)

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

The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following BirdLife International: CE = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, NT = Near Threatened. The Namibian endemic is 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>
White-backed Duck	<i>Thalassornis leuconotus</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>
Blue-billed 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 & Allies (Phasianidae)	
Crested Francolin	<i>Ortygornis sephaena</i>
Coqui Francolin (H)	<i>Campocolinus coqui</i>
Hartlaub's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis hartlaubi</i>
Red-billed Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis adspersus</i>
Swainson's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>
Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)	
Rufous-cheeked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus rufigena</i>
Fiery-necked Nightjar	<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>
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
Bradfield's Swift	<i>Apus bradfieldi</i>
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>
Turacos (Musophagidae)	
Grey Go-away-bird	<i>Crinifer concolor</i>
Schalow's Turaco	<i>Tauraco schalowi</i>
Bustards (Otididae)	
Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>
Ludwig's Bustard – EN	<i>Neotis ludwigii</i>
Rüppell's Korhaan	<i>Eupodotis rueppellii</i>
Red-crested Korhaan	<i>Lophotis ruficrista</i>
Northern Black Korhaan	<i>Afrotis afraoides</i>
Cuckoos (Cuculidae)	
Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>
Coppery-tailed Coucal	<i>Centropus cupreicaudus</i>
White-browed Coucal	<i>Centropus superciliosus</i>
Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>
Levaillant's Cuckoo	<i>Clamator levaillantii</i>
Jacobin Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>
Diederik Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>
Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>
African Emerald Cuckoo (H)	<i>Chrysococcyx cupreus</i>
Black Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus clamosus</i>
Red-chested Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>
African Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus gularis</i>
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
Sandgrouse (Pteroclididae)	
Namaqua Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles namaqua</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>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Finfoots (Heliornithidae)	
African Finfoot	<i>Podica senegalensis</i>
Rails, Crakes & Coots (Rallidae)	
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>
Allen's Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio alleni</i>
African Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>
Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>
Cranes (Gruidae)	
Wattled Crane - VU	<i>Grus carunculata</i>
Blue Crane - VU	<i>Grus paradisea</i>
Grebes (Podicipedidae)	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
Flamingos (Phoenicopteridae)	
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>
Buttonquail (Turnicidae)	
Common Buttonquail	<i>Turnix sylvaticus</i>
Stone-curlews, Thick-knees (Burhinidae)	
Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>
Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>
Oystercatchers (Haematopodidae)	
African Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus moquini</i>
Stilts, Avocets (Recurvirostridae)	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
Plovers (Charadriidae)	
Long-toed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus crassirostris</i>
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>
White-crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus albiceps</i>
Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>
African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>
Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>
White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>
Chestnut-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius pallidus</i>
Caspian Plover	<i>Charadrius asiaticus</i>
Painted-snipes (Rostratulidae)	
Greater Painted-snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>
Jacanas (Jacanidae)	
Lesser Jacana	<i>Microparra capensis</i>
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>
Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopacidae)	
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
African Snipe	<i>Gallinago nigripennis</i>
Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</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)	
Burchell's Courser	<i>Cursorius rufus</i>
Temminck's Courser	<i>Cursorius temminckii</i>
Double-banded Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus africanus</i>
Three-banded Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus cinctus</i>
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>
Black-winged Pratincole	<i>Glareola nordmanni</i>
Rock Pratincole	<i>Glareola nuchalis</i>
Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)	
African Skimmer	<i>Rynchops flavirostris</i>
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>
Hartlaub's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus hartlaubii</i>
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
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>
Petrels, Shearwaters, Diving Petrels (Procellariidae)	
White-chinned Petrel - VU	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>
Storks (Ciconiidae)	
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>
African Openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>
Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>
Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>
Gannets, Boobies (Sulidae)	
Cape Gannet - EN	<i>Morus capensis</i>
Anhingas, Darters (Anhingidae)	
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>
Cormorants, Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)	
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>
Crowned Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo coronatus</i>
Cape Cormorant - EN	<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>
White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</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>
Dwarf Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sturmii</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>

Common Name	Scientific Name
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>
Slaty Egret - VU	<i>Egretta vinaceigula</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Hamerkop (Scopidae)	
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
Pelicans (Pelecanidae)	
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>
Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>
Secretarybird (Sagittariidae)	
Secretarybird - EN	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>
Ospreys (Pandionidae)	
Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Kites, Hawks, Eagles (Accipitridae)	
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>
Hooded Vulture - CR	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>
White-backed Vulture - CR	<i>Gyps africanus</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>
Western Banded Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinerascens</i>
Bateleur - EN	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>
Martial Eagle - EN	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>
Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus wahlbergi</i>
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
Tawny Eagle - VU	<i>Aquila rapax</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>
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
Little Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter minullus</i>
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>
African Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
Barn Owls (Tytonidae)	
Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>
Owls (Strigidae)	
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>
African Barred Owlet	<i>Glaucidium capense</i>
African Scops Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>
Southern White-faced Owl	<i>Ptilopsis granti</i>
Spotted Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>
Pel's Fishing Owl	<i>Scotopelia peli</i>
African Wood Owl	<i>Strix woodfordii</i>
Mousebirds (Coliidae)	
White-backed Mousebird	<i>Colius colius</i>
Red-faced Mousebird	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>
Trogon (Trogonidae)	
Narina Trogon	<i>Apaloderma narina</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>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Bradfield's Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros bradfieldi</i>
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>
Trumpeter Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes bucinator</i>
Rollers (Coraciidae)	
Purple Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>
Racket-tailed Roller	<i>Coracias spatulatus</i>
Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>
Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>
Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)	
Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>
Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>
Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>
Half-collared Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo semitorquata</i>
Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
Bee-eaters (Meropidae)	
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>
Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>
White-fronted Bee-eater	<i>Merops bullockoides</i>
Blue-checked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
Northern Carmine Bee-eater	<i>Merops nubicus</i>
Southern Carmine Bee-eater	<i>Merops nubicoides</i>
African Barbets (Lybiidae)	
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>
Acacia Pied Barbet	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>
Black-collared Barbet	<i>Lybius torquatus</i>
Crested Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>
Honeyguides (Indicatoridae)	
Brown-backed Honeybird	<i>Prodotiscus regulus</i>
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>
Woodpeckers (Picidae)	
Bennett's Woodpecker	<i>Campethera bennettii</i>
Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicops fuscescens</i>
Olive Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicops griseocephalus</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
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>
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
African Hobby	<i>Falco cuvierii</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
African & New World Parrots (Psittacidae)	
Meyer's Parrot	<i>Poicephalus meyeri</i>
Rüppell's Parrot	<i>Poicephalus rueppellii</i>
Old World Parrots (Psittaculidae)	
Rosy-faced Lovebird	<i>Agapornis roseicollis</i>
Wattle-eyes, Batises (Platysteiridae)	
Chinspot Batis	<i>Batis molitor</i>
Pirit Batis	<i>Batis pririt</i>
White-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanioturdus torquatus</i>
Bushshrikes (Malaconotidae)	
Grey-headed Bushshrike	<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 (H)	<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 & Allies (Vangidae)	
White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>
Retz's Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops retzii</i>
Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae)	
White-breasted Cuckooshrike	<i>Ceblepyris pectoralis</i>
Black Cuckooshrike	<i>Campephaga flava</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Shrikes (Laniidae)	
Magpie Shrike	<i>Urolestes melanoleucus</i>
Southern White-crowned Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus anguitimens</i>
Souza's Shrike	<i>Lanius souzae</i>
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>
Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>
Figbirds, Orioles, Turnagra (Oriolidae)	
African Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus auratus</i>
Drongos (Dicuridae)	
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
Monarchs (Monarchidae)	
African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>
Crows, Jays (Corvidae)	
House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
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	<i>Melaniparus cinerascens</i>
Penduline Tits (Remizidae)	
Cape Penduline Tit	<i>Anthoscopus minutus</i>
Nicator (Nicatoridae)	
Eastern Nicator (H)	<i>Nicator gularis</i>
Larks (Alaudidae)	
Spike-heeled Lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>
Gray's Lark	<i>Ammomanopsis grayi</i>
Benguela Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda benguelensis</i>
Dusky Lark	<i>Pinarocorys nigricans</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>Mirafra fasciolata</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Rufous-naped Lark	<i>Mirafra africana</i>
Stark's Lark	<i>Spizocorys starki</i>
Pink-billed Lark	<i>Spizocorys conirostris</i>
Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>
Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)	
Yellow-throated Leaflove	<i>Atimastillas flavicollis</i>
Yellow-bellied Greenbul	<i>Chlorocichla flaviventris</i>
Terrestrial Brownbul	<i>Phyllastrephus terrestris</i>
African Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>
Dark-capped Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus tricolor</i>
Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)	
Banded Martin	<i>Neophedina cincta</i>
Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>
Grey-rumped Swallow	<i>Pseudhirundo griseopyga</i>
Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
Red-breasted Swallow	<i>Cecropis semirufa</i>
Mosque Swallow	<i>Cecropis senegalensis</i>
Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>
Greater Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis cucullata</i>
Crombecs, African Warblers (Macrosphenidae)	
Rockrunner	<i>Achaetops pycnopygius</i>
Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>
Leaf Warblers & Allies (Phylloscopidae)	
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
Reed Warblers & Allies (Acrocephalidae)	
Greater Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus rufescens</i>
Lesser Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>
African Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>
Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>
Grassbirds & Allies (Locustellidae)	
Little Rush Warbler (H)	<i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>
Cisticolas & Allies (Cisticolidae)	
Red-faced Cisticola	<i>Cisticola erythrops</i>
Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Tinkling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola rufilatus</i>
Luapula Cisticola	<i>Cisticola luapula</i>
Chirping Cisticola	<i>Cisticola pipiens</i>
Neddicky	<i>Cisticola fulvicapilla</i>
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Desert Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aridulus</i>
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>
Black-chested Prinia	<i>Prinia flavicans</i>
Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>
Rufous-eared Warbler	<i>Malcorus pectoralis</i>
Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>
Stierling's Wren-Warbler	<i>Calamonastes stierlingi</i>
Barred Wren-Warbler	<i>Calamonastes fasciolatus</i>
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>
Green-capped Eremomela	<i>Eremomela scotops</i>
Burnt-necked Eremomela	<i>Eremomela usticollis</i>
Sylviid Babblers (Sylviidae)	
Layard's Warbler	<i>Curruca layardi</i>
Chestnut-vented Warbler	<i>Curruca subcoerulea</i>
White-eyes (Zosteropidae)	
Orange River White-eye	<i>Zosterops pallidus</i>
Southern Yellow White-eye	<i>Zosterops anderssoni</i>
Laughingthrushes & Allies (Leiothrichidae)	
Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>
Bare-checked Babbler	<i>Turdoides gymnogenys</i>
Southern Pied Babbler	<i>Turdoides bicolor</i>
Hartlaub's Babbler	<i>Turdoides hartlaubii</i>
Black-faced Babbler	<i>Turdoides melanops</i>
Starlings, Rhabdornis (Sturnidae)	
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>
Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>
Meves's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis mevesii</i>
Burchell's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis australis</i>
Sharp-tailed Starling	<i>Lamprotornis acuticaudus</i>
Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>
Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>
Pale-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus naboroupp</i>
Oxpeckers (Buphagidae)	

Common Name	Scientific Name
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>
Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorynchus</i>
Thrushes (Turdidae)	
Groundscraper Thrush	<i>Turdus litsitsirupa</i>
Kurrihane 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>
Grey Tit-Flycatcher (H)	<i>Myioparus plumbeus</i>
Southern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pammelaina</i>
Pale Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pallidus</i>
Chat Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis infuscatus</i>
Marico Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis mariquensis</i>
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
Ashy Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa caerulescens</i>
White-browed Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha heuglini</i>
Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>
Short-toed Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola brevipes</i>
Miombo Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola angolensis</i>
Karoo Chat	<i>Emarginata schlegelii</i>
Ant-eating Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>
Mountain Wheatear	<i>Myrmecocichla monticola</i>
Arnot's Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla arnotti</i>
Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>
Familiar Chat	<i>Oenanthe familiaris</i>
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>
Purple-banded Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris bifasciatus</i>
White-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris talatala</i>
Dusky Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris fuscus</i>
Copper Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris cupreus</i>
Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches (Passeridae)	
Yellow-throated Bush Sparrow	<i>Gymnoris superciliaris</i>
Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>
Great Sparrow	<i>Passer motitensis</i>
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</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>
Lesser Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus intermedius</i>
Southern Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>
Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>
Southern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>
Fan-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes axillaris</i>
White-winged Widowbird	<i>Euplectes albonotatus</i>
Waxbills, Munias & Allies (Estrildidae)	
Black-faced Waxbill	<i>Brunhilda erythronotos</i>
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
Quailfinch	<i>Ortygospiza atricollis</i>
Red-headed Finch	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>
Violet-eared Waxbill	<i>Granatina granatina</i>
Blue Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>
Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>
Orange-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia afra</i>
Red-throated Twinspot	<i>Hypargos niveoguttatus</i>
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>
Brown Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta nitidula</i>
Indigobirds, Whydahs (Viduidae)	
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>
Shaft-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua regia</i>
Long-tailed Paradise Whydah	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>
Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)	
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>
African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>
Buffy Pipit	<i>Anthus vaalensis</i>

Common Name	Scientific Name
Plain-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus leucophrys</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	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>
Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>
Total seen	432
Total heard only	6
Total recorded	438

Mammal List

Common name	Scientific name
Dogs, Wolves, Foxes (Canidae)	
Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>
Cape Fox	<i>Vulpes chama</i>
Cats (Felidae)	
Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>
Mongoose (Herpestidae)	
Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>
Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>
Common Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>
Kaokoveld Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes flavescens</i>
Hyaenas, Aardwolf (Hyaenidae)	
Spotted Hyaena	<i>Crocota crocuta</i>
Eared Seals (Otariidae)	
Cape Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>
Mustelids (Mustelidae)	
Spotted-necked Otter	<i>Lutra maculicollis</i>
Bovids (Bovidae)	
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>
(Red) Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus caama</i>
Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>
Common Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>
Roan Antelope	<i>Hippotragus equinus</i>
Sable Antelope	<i>Hippotragus niger</i>
Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>
Southern Lechwe	<i>Kobus leche</i>
Kirk's Dik-dik	<i>Madoqua kirkii</i>
Gemsbok (Southern Oryx)	<i>Oryx gazella</i>
Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>
Klipspringer	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>
African Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>
Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>
Giraffes, Okapis (Giraffidae)	
Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>
Hippopotamuses (Hippopotamidae)	
Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>
Hogs, Pigs (Suidae)	
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>
Hyraxes (Procaviidae)	
Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>
Rabbits, Hares (Leporidae)	
Cape Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>
Springhares (Pedetidae)	
Springhare	<i>Pedetes capensis</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>
Oceanic Dolphins (Delphinidae)	
Common Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>
Elephants (Elephantidae)	
African Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>
Dassie Rat (Petromuridae)	

Common name	Scientific name
Dassie Rat	<i>Petromus typicus</i>
Fruit bats (Pteropodidae)	
Gambian Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Epomophorus gambianus</i>
Squirrels, Chipmunks, Marmots, Prairie Dogs (Sciuridae)	
Smith's Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>
South African Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus inauris</i>
Total seen	42

Reptile List

Common Name	Scientific Name
Land Tortoises (Testudinidae)	
Leopard Tortoise	<i>Geochelone pardalis</i>
Speke's Hinged Tortoise	<i>Kinixys spekii</i>
Marsh Terrapin (Pelomedusidae)	
Marsh Terrapin	<i>Pelomedusa subrufa</i>
Pythons (Pythonidae)	
Southern African Rock Python	<i>Python natalensis</i>
Typical Snakes (Colubridae)	
Black Mamba	<i>Dendroaspis polylepis</i>
Mozambique Spitting Cobra	<i>Naja mossambica</i>
Skinks (Scincidae)	
Variegated Skink	<i>Trachylepis variegata</i>
Monitors (Varanidae)	
Nile Monitor	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>
Agamas (Agamidae)	
Namib Rock Agama	<i>Agama planiceps</i>
Etosha Agama	<i>Agama etoshae</i>
Crocodiles (Crocodylidae)	
Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>
Total seen	11