



## NAMIBIA PRIVATE BIRDING TRIP REPORT

15 - 27 April 2025

By Joshua Olszewski



*Fortunately for us, the stunning **Crimson-breasted Shrike** is quite common in Namibia!*

## Overview

From dune fields to desert plains, rocky woodlands and a vast coastline, the heart of Namibia has an impressive array of habitats, which in turn leads to a notable diversity of bird species and other wildlife occurring across the region. On this 13-day private tour we explored the natural diversity and beauty of central Namibia.

Starting off our tour on the coast at Walvis Bay, we spent much of our time birding the expansive saltworks and lagoons near the town, as well as the neighboring dunes of the Namib Desert. Such sought after specials as **Damara Tern**, **Chestnut-banded Plover** and **Gray's** and **Dune Larks** were seen alongside myriads of flamingos, pelicans and other shorebirds. The wooded habitats throughout the rest of the trip delivered most of the central Namibian near-endemics like **Herero Chat**, **Monteiro's** and **Damara Red-billed Hornbills**, **White-tailed Shrike**, **Rüppell's Parrot**, **Rüppell's Korhaan**, **Bare-cheeked Babbler**, **Carp's Tit**, **Hartlaub's Spurfowl** and **Rockrunner**. A plethora of other exciting birds were seen, including colorful species like **Crimson-breasted Shrike**, **Violet-eared** and **Black-faced Waxbill**, **Lilac-breasted** and **Purple Roller**, **Rosy-faced Lovebird**, **Swallow-tailed Bee-eater**, **Bokmakierie** and various weavers and starlings. Ground dwellers were also prevalent such as **Kori Bustard**, **Northern Black** and **Red-crested Korhaan**, **Double-banded** and **Namaqua Sandgrouse**, **Red-billed** and **Swainson's Spurfowl**, **Double-banded** and **Bronze-winged Courser**, and eleven lark species.

We encountered good numbers of raptors, particularly in the big reserves. Some of these included **Lappet-faced** and **White-backed Vulture**, **Tawny**, **Martial**, **Booted** and **Verreaux's Eagle**, **African Hawk-Eagle**, **Shikra**, **Gabar Goshawk** and **Pale Chanting Goshawk**. These parks abound with mammals, of which we saw **Lion**, **Leopard**, both **Black** and **White Rhinoceros**, **Southern Giraffe**, **African Savanna Elephant**, several antelope species and the enigmatic **Ground Pangolin**.



*Monteiro's Hornbill was one of four hornbill species seen on this tour.*

### Detailed Report

#### **Day 1, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Dune Lark in the morning, salt pans in the afternoon**

Our first morning of the tour saw us heading south of Walvis Bay toward the small farming settlement of Rooibank. Set along a wide, dry watercourse bordering the red dune fields in the south, this scenic locality was our first port of call for some quality Namibian birding. The main target in these dunes is the near-endemic **Dune Lark**, of which we found a few responsive pairs that showed very well. These larks have tawny orange upperparts that perfectly match the color of the dune sand, which was great to observe up close as they potted around the grass tufts atop the dunes.

Apart from these and flying groups of **Grey-backed Sparrow-Larks**, we didn't see much else close to the dunes. However, the scrubby Acacia woodland growing in the riverbed itself was fairly productive. Species such as **Black-chested Prinia**, **Acacia Pied Barbet**, **Common Scimitarbill**, **Ring-necked**, **Laughing** and **Namaqua Dove**, **White-backed Mousebird**, **Cape Sparrow**, **Southern Fiscal**, **Common Waxbill** and **Bokmakierie** were all in evidence, while **Speckled Pigeon** and **Cape Sparrow** frequented the buildings and farmhouses. Aerial feeders were also common here and included **Little** and **White-rumped Swift**, **Large Rock Martin**, and **Barn** and **Greater Striped Swallows**. A soaring **Booted Eagle** was a nice final touch.



***Dune Lark** was Namibia's only endemic bird before it recently became lumped with Barlow's Lark.*

When we returned to Walvis Bay we made a brief stop for lunch before returning to our lodge, where **Orange River White-eyes**, **Cape Sparrows** and **Red-faced Mousebirds** were flitting through the garden while **Great White Pelicans** flew overhead. We then relaxed for the rest of the afternoon, before venturing out to the nearby saltworks in the early evening.

The shoreline of the Walvis Bay Lagoon, along with the network of saltpans surrounding it, is home to masses of shorebirds during the summer months. Although it was now autumn, we still found large groups of **Little Stint**, **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Sanderling**, **Common Ringed Plover** and **Grey Plover**, with the odd **Ruff** and **Ruddy Turnstone**. Residents like **Black-winged Stilt** and **White-fronted** and **Chestnut-banded Plovers** were also seen, along with flocks of **Greater Flamingos** and larids like **Kelp Gull**, **Hartlaub's Gull**, **Caspian Tern** and the tiny **Damara Tern**. With a final **Grey Heron** in the bag, we made our way back to our lodge, taking note of the **Cape Wagtails** feeding on the lawns along the promenade. We then headed out for a great meal overlooking the bay, excited for the next two weeks of birding ahead of us!

## Day 2, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Saltworks birding in Walvis Bay and Swakopmund

We decided to revisit the saltworks south of Walvis Bay this morning, now without the afternoon sun to obscure our visuals over the pans. We were treated to improved views of many of the same species from yesterday. **White-fronted** and **Common Ringed Plover**, **Little Stint**, **Curlew Sandpiper**, and **Sanderling** were still the most abundant, and we managed to find greater numbers of **Ruff**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Grey Plover** and **Chestnut-banded Plover**. **Greater Crested**, **Caspian** and **Damara Terns** were all common, while a few **Sandwich Terns** and a single **White-winged Tern** also made an appearance.

Further into the saltworks we came upon a pan that hosted thousands of **Greater** and **Lesser Flamingos** and a few **Cape Teals**, while **White-breasted** and **Cape Cormorants** were seen perched on submerged poles or swimming in large feeding frenzies. **Black-necked Grebe**, **Little Egret**, **Bar-tailed Godwit** and **Eurasian Whimbrel** were new additions to the trip list, and a couple of close **Great White Pelicans** on our way back were appreciated. We also enjoyed two **Afro-Australian Fur Seals** porpoising along the beach near our lodge.



*Namibia's coastal dunes are the breeding stronghold for the tiny **Damara Tern**!*



Having lunch back at the lodge, we were entertained by the resident **Orange River White-eyes** and **Red-faced Mousebirds**, before heading out again later in the afternoon. Driving north towards Swakopmund, the scenery along the road was quite spectacular, with the massive dunes on the right contrasted by the ocean on the left. We stopped along this road to view a massive wooden platform, just past the breakers, that was covered by thousands of **Cape Cormorants**, accompanied by smaller numbers of **African Oystercatcher**, **Great White Pelican** and **Kelp** and **Hartlaub's Gull**. Moving on from here, we reached Swakopmund and enjoyed meandering around the picturesque town. We also got our first **Blacksmith Lapwings** of the trip, foraging on the lawns alongside the esplanade. We then headed back to Walvis Bay, taking in dunes that were now saturated with golden evening light. We then finished off with dinner at the Protea Hotel, with **House Crow**, **Speckled Pigeon**, **Common Waxbill** and **Cape Sparrow** as our last birds for the day.

#### Day 4, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Boat trip to Pelican Point, Mile 4 saltworks

We had a later start this morning due to the boat only leaving at 9:00, so we enjoyed a leisurely breakfast being distracted by feisty **Familiar Chats**. During the boat trip we saw the usual gulls and terns and the ubiquitous **Afro-Australian Fur Seals** frolicking in the bay. Two of these seals even decided to jump into our boat, having become accustomed to taking food from the deck hands', well, hands! A **Great White Pelican** had also been tamed in the same way, and it, too, joined us on the boat during the journey across the bay. Everyone on board obviously relished the opportunity to be so intimate with these large coastal creatures!

Reaching Pelican Point on the other side of the bay, the bird activity picked up and we soon found hundreds of **Sanderlings** foraging along the shoreline of the peninsula, together with a few **Ruddy Turnstones** and roosting **African Oystercatchers**. **Common Terns** were constantly streaming out to sea, while a few **Damara** and **White-winged Terns** preferred patrolling the surf for food. A pair of **Parasitic Jaegers** flying high to the north was the most unusual find. All of this was in addition to the multiple colonies of **Afro-Australian Fur Seal** that were scattered along the peninsula. We stopped for lunch alongside the point where we could enjoy the noisy antics of the seals, as they loafed on the sand and played in the waves.

After we had returned from the boat trip, we returned to the lodge for a midday break. After this, we paid a late afternoon visit to Mile 4 Saltworks, just north of Swakopmund. Although we once again didn't see any new species, the sheer number of **Cape Cormorants** here was a definite tour highlight. Their numbers were well into the 10 000s, possibly reaching 20 000 individuals, that were flying in and roosting on a vast wooden platform set up specifically to harvest their guano. We also enjoyed a large roost of a hundred or so **Ruddy Turnstones**, as well as a large tern roost consisting mostly of **Greater Crested** and **Sandwich Terns**. There were also plenty of **White-fronted** and **Chestnut-banded Plovers** around, with adults of the latter being accompanied by tiny, fluffy chicks. We then returned to Walvis Bay for our last night on Namibia's coast, ready to venture into the Erongo Mountains tomorrow.

#### Day 5, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Swakopmund birding, transfer to Erongo Mountains

After one last breakfast at our guesthouse in Walvis Bay, we left the town and headed north to Swakopmund once again. We spent the good part of the morning roaming around the sandy flats adjacent to the saltworks we had visited yesterday, which eventually yielded a group of **Gray's Larks**, our main target here. These larks are endemic to the coastal flats of central Namibia and southern Angola, with their milky coloration matching that of the sandy plains

around Swakopmund. Here we also found a pair of equally pale **Tractrac Chats** alongside **Cape Sparrows** and a few pairs of **Chestnut-banded Plovers** with chicks.

We then stopped for lunch on the beach in Swakopmund, enjoying the calm setting and the thousands of **Cape Cormorants** streaming northward over the waves. After this, we made a detour down the C28 highway heading inland. The desolate landscape here was mostly devoid of life, but did deliver another **Gray's Lark** and a few **Red-capped Larks**. Another notable mention seen along this road was *Welwitschia mirabilis*; a bizarre desert plant endemic to the plains of the Namib. With that, we turned heel and started on the long drive northeast towards the Erongo Mountains. As we went, the plains alongside the road quickly became carpeted with seeding grasses, a sign of recent rainfall. This in turn delivered loose groups of **Stark's Larks**, **Grey-backed Sparrow-Larks** and **Lark-like Buntings** that were feeding here and displaying above the grasslands. These aggregations spread out for tens of kilometers along the road, swiftly outnumbering the usually common **Red-capped Larks**. We also added **Large Rock Martin**, our first **Pale-winged Starlings** and a single **Booted Eagle** along this first stretch of the drive.



*Pale-winged Starling was the most common bird around our lodge in the Erongos.*

Once we turned off the tarred road, the terrain slowly transformed from exposed plains to low Acacia savanna. With the change in habitat, new species began appearing at a steady rate. Some of these included **Pied Crow**, **Pale Chanting Goshawk**, **Wattled Starling**, **Lanner Falcon**, **Namaqua Dove**, the handsome **Northern Black Korhaan**, **Chestnut Weaver**, **Southern Masked Weaver**, **White-browed Sparrow-Weaver**, **Marico Flycatcher**, **Common Quail** (heard) and **Desert Cisticola**. The aforementioned larks remained ubiquitous, while **Sabota Lark** and (closer to the mountains) **Monotonous Lark** also came to the fore. The sheer abundance of the latter was yet another indicator that the region had experienced good rains recently.

With the imposing Erongo Mountains fast approaching, tree cover began to increase and developed into fully-fledged woodland around the foothills. Armies of **Armored Ground**

**Crickets** marched over the roads and were feasted upon by a few **Rock Kestrels**. The final stretch before our lodge delivered a few **Double-banded Sandgrouse** sitting on the road, as well as **Red-billed Buffalo Weaver**, **Barred Wren-Warbler** (heard), **Grey Go-away-bird** and the impressive **Monteiro's Hornbill**.

Arriving at the lodge itself was quite an experience, with the golden evening lighting illuminating the spectacular rocky mountains surrounding the lodge. The birdlife was equally impressive, with two **Great Spotted Cuckoos** perched in the parking lot as we arrived! The premises was littered with **Pale-winged Starlings** and **Speckled Pigeons**, while a colony of **Lesser Masked Weavers** had taken up residence in the palm trees around the swimming pool. After taking note of a few bird species we settled into our chalets, before enjoying a fantastic first dinner at the lodge.



*We were treated to a cooperative **Rüppell's Korhaan** near Spitzkoppe.*

### **Day 6, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Ai-Aiba Lodge and surrounds**

We stepped out before breakfast this morning and took a walk along one of the trails on the lodge grounds. Meandering along the base of one of the rocky hills nearby, we soon got to grips with a number of classic Namibian bush birds. These included **Yellow-bellied Eremomela**, **Long-billed Crombec**, **Pirit Batis**, **Cinnamon-breasted Bunting**, **African Red-eyed Bulbul**, **Southern Grey-headed Sparrow**, the stunning **Crimson-breasted Shrike** and near-endemic **White-tailed Shrike**. These were followed by **Marico Sunbird**, **Great Sparrow**, **Mountain Chat** and **Violet-backed Starling** while enjoying our breakfast back at the lodge. The regular swarms of **Speckled Pigeons** and **Pale-winged Starlings** were still feeding outside the restaurant, along with the resident **Monteiro's Hornbill** that seemed to relish the innumerable ground crickets.

During the heat of the day, we simply spent time relaxing and enjoying the lodge birding, with a distant **Klaas's Cuckoo** providing some variety to the soundscape. Later in the afternoon, we took a drive towards Omaruru, which yielded **Rosy-faced Lovebird**, **Lilac-breasted Roller**, **Damara Red-billed Hornbill**, **Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill**, **Fork-tailed Drongo**,



**Eurasian Hoopoe** and a magnificent perched **Tawny Eagle**. One lone **Double-banded Sandgrouse** back at the lodge was a nice finisher.

### Day 7, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Erongos to Spitzkoppe

This morning we had an earlier breakfast and set out for Spitzkoppe, but not before getting distracted by a showy **Pearl-spotted Owlet** near the lodge parking! After some overflying **Red-headed Finches**, we left the lodge and headed south. The woodland and savanna birding was vibrant in the early morning, and we saw many familiar species we had seen two days ago, with notable additions being a **Verreaux's Eagle**, **Alpine Swift**, **Mountain** and **Ant-eating Chat**, **Fawn-coloured Lark**, **Chestnut-vented Warbler**, **Scaly-feathered Weaver**, **White-throated Canary**, **Red-billed Buffalo Weaver**, **Namaqua Sandgrouse**, **Double-banded Courser**, **Dusky Sunbird**, **Karoo Chat** and two cooperative korhaan species: **Red-crested** and **Rüppell's Korhaan**. Finally getting perched views of the colorful **Rosy-faced Lovebird** was also a highlight.

We arrived at the spectacular mountains of Spitzkoppe around lunchtime, making sure to take in the breathtaking scene of these huge granite inselbergs towering over the surrounding plains. After lunch we visited one or two spots around the mountain, which delivered the scarce **Herero Chat**, another near-endemic, singing its rich, bubbling song just above our heads! Seeing male **Chestnut Weavers** in full breeding plumage was also noteworthy.

After Spitzkoppe, we made a beeline straight back to the lodge, picking up another **Fawn-colored Lark** out of the ever-present **Sabota** and **Monotonous Larks**. We also managed to spot a pair of **Stark's Larks** feeding a fledgling on the roadside. Before reaching our lodge, we were treated to great views of **Brubru**, **Common Scimitarbill** and a distant **Black-chested Snake Eagle**. In the evening we enjoyed our last dinner at Ai-Aiba while a **Freckled Nightjar** hawked insects around the outdoor lampposts.



*Spitzkoppe is the most reliable spot for the scarce **Herero Chat**.*



**Day 8, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2025. Erongos to Ongava**

We enjoyed a later start this morning, only setting off after we had finished breakfast around mid-morning. We then bid farewell to Ai-Aiba and started on the long journey towards Etosha. Initially heading east, we made a few birding stops along the 40-kilometer dirt track between Ai-Aiba and Omaruru, which added some tantalizing specials. A rocky roadside gorge early on delivered distant scope views of the tricky **Hartlaub's Spurfowl**, as well as closer views of the bizarre **Rockrunner**. Other stops along this road delivered **Red-billed Spurfowl**, **Bearded Woodpecker**, **Acacia Pied Barbet**, **Kalahari Scrub Robin**, **Brown Snake Eagle**, a group of dazzling **Violet-eared Waxbills** and some pugnacious **Carp's Tits** (another near-endemic). We decided to stop in Omaruru for lunch, where we spotted swifts swirling around the alien palm trees growing along the streets. Most of these were **African Palm Swift**, but we managed to pick out a few **Bradfield's Swifts** from among them.

We continued north, along the dirt track towards Outjo, without making too many birding stops. However, we still managed to bag a few goodies along this stretch of road, namely **Swallow-tailed Bee-eater**, **Black-throated Canary**, **Red-billed Quelea**, another **Tawny Eagle**, the first of many **Pale Chanting Goshawks**, a handsome male **Shaft-tailed Whydah** and, most surprisingly, a **Dwarf Bittern**, perched atop an Acacia tree and miles away from any respectable waterbody! Once we were north of Outjo, the Acacia trees thinned out and gave way to mixed, broad-leaved savanna. The terrain became noticeably open and flat, with **Crowned Lapwings** regularly seen sitting on the road surface. After a long day of driving, we arrived at our lovely accommodation in Ongava Game Reserve, just outside Etosha. We arrived just in time for dinner, but not before getting a pair of **Groundscraper Thrushes** along the driveway down to the lodge.



*The handsome **Great Sparrow** is quite common across Namibia's thornveld.*

**Day 9, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025. Morning drive in Etosha, afternoon drive around Ongava**

We awoke this morning to a distant pair of **Hartlaub's Spurfowl** duetting from a nearby koppie, as well as **Pearl-spotted Owlet** and **Carp's Tit** calling around the lodge grounds. We made sure not to linger though, as we aimed to drive through Ongava and get to the Etosha gate in good time. The birding in Ongava itself was quite excellent, even though we didn't have much time to spend here. The grassy plain just outside the lodge hosted displaying **Zitting** and **Desert Cisticolas**, as well as a few **Common Ostriches** striding alongside **Hartebeest** and **Plains Zebra**. Further along, we lucked into a group of cooperative **Rüppell's Parrots** feeding close to the roadside. We had missed these near-endemic parrots around Omaruru, so it was a great relief to see them so well here. **Lilac-breasted Roller**, **Double-banded Sandgrouse**, a passing **Shikra** and various hornbill species were all enjoyed en route to the gate.



*The vivid **Swallow-tailed Bee-eater** was regularly seen sallying from roadside trees.*

After relishing an adorable pair of **Damara Dik-dik**, we exited Ongava and entered into Etosha. The mopane savanna swiftly became interspersed with glades of grassland and white sand flats. These open areas played host to large numbers of game, particularly **Springbok** and **Plains Zebra**, with smaller numbers of **Blue Wildebeest** in accompaniment. **Desert Cisticola**, **Red-capped Lark** and **African Pipit** displayed above such areas, while **Common Ostrich**, **Crowned Lapwing** and the raucous **Northern Black Korhaan** were seen walking along the roadside. The dashing **Capped Wheatear** and **Namaqua Dove** were also typical plains species along the road to Okaukuejo Camp, while we also picked up our first **Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Larks** along this stretch.

We arrived at the camp around mid-morning and decided to enjoy our picnic breakfast, overlooking the nearby waterhole. Breeding **Blacksmith Lapwings** and **Egyptian Geese** had taken up residence around its margins, while a young **Yellow-billed Kite** was seen snatching crabs from the shallows. Two **Shikras** were also hanging around, closely monitoring the small birds coming to drink. The camp also got us great views of **Red-billed Spurfowl**, **African**

**Hoopoe, Red-headed Finch, Chestnut-vented Warbler, Barred Wren-Warbler, Dusky Sunbird and Wattled Starling.**

Once we'd had our breakfast, we ventured into the park and headed north along the pan's western edge. The grassy plains along this road were lark central, with the numerous **Grey-backed Sparrow-Larks** being punctuated by smaller numbers of **Sabota, Stark's, Pink-billed, Spike-heeled** and **Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark**. **Double-banded Coursers**, much paler here than the ones we saw in the Erongos, were also quite common, alongside other terrestrial species like **Cape Crow, Crowned Lapwing, Capped Wheatear** and **Northern Black Korhaan**. We were also treated to plentiful **White-backed Vultures** while in the park, with one soaring kettle containing 40 or so individuals, with a single **Bateleur**. A couple of perched vultures further on also delivered a massive **Lappet-faced Vulture**. Small groups of **Sociable Weavers** were in evidence, most being accompanied by fledglings. These were occasionally joined by **Red-headed Finches** and **Yellow Canaries** as they roamed around in search of water.



*An iconic but modest bird: the ever-gregarious **Sociable Weaver**.*

Returning to our lodge for lunch, we relaxed during the heat of the day, with the waterhole in front of the dining room providing entertainment. Flocks of **Cinnamon-breasted Bunting, Chestnut Weaver** and **Southern Grey-headed Sparrow** were nearly constant, while a **Gabar Goshawk** came to investigate the activity later on. The star of the show was a male **African Savanna Elephant** who actually came to drink from the swimming pool! We also went out on a safari drive with the reserve rangers in the early evening, which got us great views of the usual game, along with **Southern Giraffe** and a family of **White Rhinoceros** at twilight. Notable birds seen during the drive included **African Grey Hornbill, Double-banded Sandgrouse, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, Wattled Starling** and, at dusk, two **Spotted Thick-**



**knees** standing in the road. We then returned to the lodge for a lovely dinner, while an **African Scops Owl** sang somewhere in the distance.

### Day 10, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025. Etosha and Ongava

I awoke this morning to a **Southern White-faced Owl** calling right outside my chalet, while last night's **African Scops Owl** continued to sing in the distance, now joined by a **Western Barn Owl**. By daylight we were once again heading east through the reserve, towards the Etosha gate, but with a few notable distractions to delay our progress. First of which was a group of **White Rhinoceros** close to the road near the lodge, providing much better views than the group from yesterday. Next was a **Purple Roller**, followed by more great views of previously seen species like **Shikra**, **Pale Chanting Goshawk**, **Great Sparrow**, **Black-throated Canary** and **Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark**.

Once we had entered Etosha again we had some distant views of **African Savanna Elephant**, before reaching Okaukuejo. Thereafter, we headed east along the main Etosha road which connects the three main camps. In spite of the traffic and dust, we enjoyed improved views of many species we'd seen yesterday. **Double-banded Coursers** were ubiquitous along this road (at least 30 were seen), and point blank views of a **Pink-billed Lark** on the road verge were also notable. The robust **Chat Flycatcher** also showed well amidst the prevalent **Marico Flycatchers**. A male **Black Rhinoceros** was also a definite highlight among the regular mammals, which included **Gemsbok**, **Springbok**, **Plains Zebra**, **Blue Wildebeest**, **Impala** (of the near-endemic "Black-faced" subspecies) and **South African Ground Squirrel**.



*The stately **Pale Chanting Goshawk**, a regular sight along roadside telephone poles in Namibia.*

Returning to our lodge for lunch and the regular afternoon siesta, we had a lot to keep us occupied during the heat of the day. A **Congo Rope Squirrel** foraged in a tree above our table, while hundreds of **Chestnut Weavers** and **Cinnamon-breasted Buntings** continued to drink

from the nearby waterhole. Later on, a noisy group of **Bare-cheeked Babblers** moved through the camp, while a distant **Martial Eagle** soared past. Other great sightings around the lodge included a male **Short-toed Rock Thrush**, a displaying **Long-tailed Paradise Whydah**, **Red-headed Finches**, more feisty **Carp's Tits**, a flyby **Rüppell's Parrot** and yet another **Shikra**.

Heading out once again on the evening drive, we immediately came upon a group of **African Grey Hornbills** gorging themselves on ground crickets strewn over the road (alongside **Purple** and **Lilac-breasted Rollers**). Our ranger took us swiftly to a site where others had recently seen two male **Lions**, and we were promptly rewarded with stunning views of one of these magnificent cats loafing next to the road. We also managed to catch up with the second one, who was on the move, seeing **Swallow-tailed Bee-eater**, **Long-tailed Paradise** and **Shaft-tailed Whydah** and **Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark** in the process. At dusk, large numbers of **Double-banded Sandgrouse** were found sitting on the road and flying to their regular watering points. Just before the lodge, we found a few **Bronze-winged Coursers** (not an easy nocturnal bird to see in this region), along with the same **Spotted Thick-knees** from last night.

### Day 11, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Ongava to Okonjima

With an early start, we enjoyed our last breakfast at Ongava and bid farewell to the resident **Rock Hyraxes**, before packing up and heading out on the road again. Seeing two male **Short-toed Rock Thrushes** bickering in the parking area was a great send-off. Once we were out of Ongava, we turned south and started on the three-hour drive to Okonjima. A brief stop to refuel at the Etosha Trading Post got us great views of **Great Sparrow** and **Violet-eared Waxbill**, while **Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Larks** and the occasional **Shikra** provided entertaining flybys. Swift flocks above the towns of Outjo and Otjiwarongo delivered **Bradfield's** and **Alpine Swifts** among the regular **Little** and **African Palm Swifts**. **Pied Crow**, **White-rumped Swift**, **Purple Roller**, **Pale Chanting Goshawk** and **Damara Red-billed Hornbill** were also regular roadside birds.

As we continued southward the mixed, broad-leaved woodland was soon replaced by mature Acacia savanna with a slight Kalahari flavor. With this change in habitat came new birds, like the impressive **Burchell's Starling**, which we found at the turnoff to Okonjima. At the reserve gate, we lucked into a young **Great Spotted Cuckoo** and a male **Yellow-crowned Bishop** before entering. Driving through the reserve en route to camp, we stopped once or twice to bird the roadside scrub, which turned out to be bustling with activity.

In one fell swoop we bagged **Brown-crowned Tchagra**, **Scaly-feathered Finch**, **Shaft-tailed Whydah**, **Black-faced**, **Violet-eared** and **Blue Waxbill**, **Green-winged Pytilia**, **Crimson-breasted Shrike**, **Pririt Batis**, **Acacia Pied Barbet**, **Common Scimitarbill**, **Brubru**, **Chestnut-vented Warbler**, **Kalahari Scrub Robin** and, surprisingly, two **Levaillant's Cuckoos** in a single foraging flock! They seemed to be mobbing a **Pearl-spotted Owlet**, who flew off soon after being discovered. A **Tawny Eagle** soaring overhead was also notable.

At our lodge itself, the bird activity continued to impress, with **Groundscraper Thrush**, **Burnt-necked Eremomela**, **Barred Wren-Warbler**, **Ashy Tit**, **African Red-eyed Bulbul** and a trio of **Pearl-spotted Owlets** all making themselves known. After a hearty lunch we decided to take the rest of the afternoon off and relax until dinner, looking forward to the two days of safari drives we had in store.

### Day 12, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Morning birding and Pangolin tracking at Okonjima

This morning, we ventured out on our first morning safari drive into Okonjima Nature Reserve. Luckily for us, we were the only pax on the vehicle and our ranger was quite knowledgeable on the reserve's birds. We spent four hours roaming around and indulging in the abundant birdlife found on the property. The vast tracts of Acaciaveld delivered most of the species we'd seen yesterday, with notables and additions like **Kalahari Scrub Robin**, **Ashy Tit**, **Long-billed Crombec**, **Grey-backed Camaroptera**, **Diederik Cuckoo**, **Rattling Cisticola**, **Golden-breasted Bunting**, **Southern Pied Babbler**, **Cardinal Woodpecker** and **Burnt-necked Eremomela**.

One of the rocky hills near the lodge delivered more **White-tailed Shrikes** and another **Rockrunner**, while the open plains stretching north were home to good numbers of **Buffy Pipit**, **Sabota Lark**, **Red-crested Korhaan**, **Desert Cisticola** and a few **Monotonous Larks**. We unexpectedly flushed a **Common Buttonquail** from the roadside, and two **Kori Bustards** striding through the tall grass were a highlight for the guests.



*The playful **Bare-cheeked Babbler** is a charismatic Namibian near-endemic.*

Before heading back to camp for brunch our ranger took us to a small dam that had recently filled up thanks to the persistent rains. Surprisingly, the marshy fringes of the dam were home to at least seven **Lesser Moorhen**, a tropical rain nomad that is not at all regular in this region. Other waterbirds seen at the dam included **Common Moorhen**, **Red-knobbed Coot**, **Little Grebe**, **Egyptian** and **Spur-winged Goose** and the handsome **Red-billed Teal**.

After this, we returned to the lodge for brunch and the usual midday siesta, noting **Cardinal Woodpecker**, **Burnt-necked Eremomela**, **African Paradise Flycatcher**, **Green-winged Pytilia** and **Groundscraper Thrush** in the lodge gardens. The late afternoon saw us heading out on a short drive of our own, down the reserve entrance road. A **Swainson's Spurfowl** crowing from atop a roadside snag was a breath of fresh air from the ubiquitous **Red-billed Spurfowl**: their raucous calls a quintessential part of Namibia's soundscape.



We also lucked into a few **Pearl-breasted Swallows** and a pair of **Red-breasted Swallows** on the drive back (the latter a regional rarity), as well as two agitated pairs of **Hartlaub's Spurfowl** on the same outcrop we had visited in the morning! We finished off the day with a fantastic stint of pangolin tracking after dinner, where our ranger and local conservationists gave us an incredible experience with a radio-tagged **Ground Pangolin**. Having this strange creature inches from my feet as it burrowed for termites is an experience I won't soon forget! As the final cherry on the cake, a family group of **Bat-eared Foxes** running in the road, on our way back to camp, marked the perfect end to another great day on tour.



*The attractive **Double-banded Courser** was frequently seen at the roadside in Etosha.*

### **Day 13, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Morning birding and Leopard tracking at Okonjima**

We started off today with another birding safari drive with our ranger. Roaming through the reserve again, we were treated to many previously seen species, as well as a several mammal species like **Steenbok**, **Damara Dik-dik**, **Greater Kudu**, **Sable**, **Springbok**, **Impala**, **Common Warthog**, **Southern Giraffe**, **Plains Zebra** and **Mountain Zebra** (the near-endemic "Hartmann's" subspecies). A perched pair of **African Hawk-Eagles** was an exciting find, while we only got brief views of a **White-browed Scrub Robin** closer to the mountains. We were a bit perplexed to find a **Whiskered Tern** patrolling the grasslands, nowhere near any standing water (presumably migrating northwards). A **Wood Sandpiper** occupied a small dam, while we found **Cape Penduline Tits**, a **Yellow Canary** and two **Fawn-colored Larks** among the regulars as we returned to camp.

After brunch and the usual afternoon break, we ventured out in the late afternoon on a **Leopard** tracking safari. Like the pangolins here, the Leopards in Okonjima are radio-tagged as part of a conservation initiative, and we were fortunate enough to locate one of these stunning predators lounging under a tree in the evening light. A male **Waterbuck** seemed perturbed by his presence and kept a close eye on him while we were there.

Although the **Leopard** was the star of the show, we did also spot two notable birds, namely a singing **Emerald-spotted Wood Dove** and a **Jacobin Cuckoo**. After sundowners, we also stumbled upon another **Kori Bustard** and a **Gabar Goshawk** that was raiding **White-browed Sparrow-Weaver** nests. We arrived back at the lodge for our last dinner, reflecting on the incredible two weeks of birding we'd just had.



*We had several good looks at **Kori Bustard** on this Namibia tour.*

#### **Day 14, 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Transfer to Windhoek airport**

Our final morning was a leisurely one, and we enjoyed one final sit-down breakfast before packing up and heading south to Windhoek. The most notable sightings we had today were another sighting of **Great Spotted Cuckoo** and, presumably, the same pair of **African Hawk-Eagles** from yesterday, soaring above the hill next to our lodge. We arrived at the airport in Windhoek around midday, where the tour concluded and we went our separate ways.

Many thanks to Bob and Joanne, as well as the guides and rangers for making this a truly unforgettable tour!

**Bird List - Following IOC (Version 15.1/February 2025)**

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

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

Common name	Scientific name
<b>Ostriches (Struthionidae)</b>	
Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>
<b>Ducks, Geese, Swans (Anatidae)</b>	
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>
South African Shelduck	<i>Tadorna cana</i>
Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>
Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>
<b>Guineafowl (Numididae)</b>	
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
<b>Pheasants &amp; Allies (Phasianidae)</b>	
Common Quail (H)	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>
Hartlaub's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis hartlaubi</i>
Red-billed Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis adspersus</i>
Swainson's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>
<b>Nightjars (Caprimulgidae)</b>	
Freckled Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus tristigma</i>
<b>Swifts (Apodidae)</b>	
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>
Bradfield's Swift	<i>Apus bradfieldi</i>
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>
<b>Bustards (Otididae)</b>	
Rüppell's Korhaan	<i>Heterotetrax rueppelii</i>
Red-crested Korhaan	<i>Lophotis ruficrista</i>
Northern Black Korhaan	<i>Afrotis afraoides</i>
<b>Cuckoos (Cuculidae)</b>	
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>



Common name	Scientific name
Klaas's Cuckoo (H)	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>
<b>Sandgrouse (Pteroclididae)</b>	
Namaqua Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles namaqua</i>
Double-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles bicinctus</i>
<b>Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)</b>	
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</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>
<b>Rails, Crakes &amp; Coots (Rallidae)</b>	
Lesser Moorhen	<i>Paragallinula angulata</i>
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>
<b>Grebes (Podicipedidae)</b>	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
<b>Flamingos (Phoenicopteridae)</b>	
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>
<b>Stone-curlews, Thick-knees (Burhinidae)</b>	
Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>
<b>Oystercatchers (Haematopodidae)</b>	
African Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus moquini</i>
<b>Stilts, Avocets (Recurvirostridae)</b>	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
<b>Plovers (Charadriidae)</b>	
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>
Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>
Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Anarhynchus pecuarius</i>
Chestnut-banded Plover	<i>Anarhynchus pallidus</i>
White-fronted Plover	<i>Anarhynchus marginatus</i>
<b>Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopacidae)</b>	
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
<b>Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)</b>	
Damara Tern	<i>Sternula balaenarum</i>
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>
Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>
Hartlaub's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus hartlaubii</i>
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>
<b>Cormorants, Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)</b>	
Crowned Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo coronatus</i>
Cape Cormorant - EN	<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>
White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>
<b>Hérons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)</b>	
Dwarf Bittern	<i>Botaurus sturmii</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
<b>Pelicans (Pelecanidae)</b>	
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>
<b>Kites, Hawks, Eagles (Accipitridae)</b>	
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
Lappet-faced Vulture - EN	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>
White-backed Vulture - CR	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
Bateleur - EN	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>
Black-chested Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>
Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>
Martial Eagle - EN	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
Tawny Eagle - VU	<i>Aquila rapax</i>
African Hawk-Eagle	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>
Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>
Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>
Shikra	<i>Tachyspiza badia</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>
<b>Barn Owls (Tytonidae)</b>	
Western Barn Owl (H)	<i>Tyto alba</i>
<b>Owls (Strigidae)</b>	
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatus</i>
African Scops Owl (H)	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>
Southern White-faced Owl	<i>Ptilopsis granti</i>
<b>Mousebirds (Coliidae)</b>	
White-backed Mousebird	<i>Colius colius</i>
Red-faced Mousebird	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>
<b>Hoopoes (Upupidae)</b>	
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
<b>Wood Hoopoes (Phoeniculidae)</b>	
Common Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>
<b>Hornbills (Bucerotidae)</b>	
Damara Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus damarensis</i>
Monteiro's Hornbill	<i>Tockus monteiri</i>
Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>
<b>Rollers (Coraciidae)</b>	
Purple Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>
Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>
<b>Bee-eaters (Meropidae)</b>	
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>
<b>African Barbets (Lybiidae)</b>	
Acacia Pied Barbet	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>
<b>Woodpeckers (Picidae)</b>	
Bearded Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus namaquus</i>
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>
<b>Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)</b>	
Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicolus</i>
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>
<b>African &amp; New World Parrots (Psittacidae)</b>	
Rüppell's Parrot	<i>Poicephalus rueppellii</i>



Common name	Scientific name
<b>Old World Parrots (Psittaculidae)</b>	
Rosy-faced Lovebird	<i>Agapornis roseicollis</i>
<b>Wattle-eyes, Batises (Platysteiridae)</b>	
Pirit Batis	<i>Batis pririt</i>
<b>Bushshrikes (Malaconotidae)</b>	
Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>
Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>
Crimson-breasted Shrike	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>
<b>Drongos (Dicruridae)</b>	
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
<b>Monarchs (Monarchidae)</b>	
African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>
<b>Shrikes (Laniidae)</b>	
Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>
<b>Crows, Jays (Corvidae)</b>	
House Crow (I)	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>
<b>Tits, Chickadees (Paridae)</b>	
Carp's Tit	<i>Melaniparus carpi</i>
Ashy Tit	<i>Melaniparus cinerascens</i>
<b>Penduline Tits (Remizidae)</b>	
Cape Penduline Tit	<i>Anthoscopus minutus</i>
<b>Larks (Alaudidae)</b>	
Spike-heeled Lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>
Gray's Lark	<i>Ammomanopsis grayi</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>
Monotonous Lark	<i>Mirafra passerina</i>
Stark's Lark	<i>Spizocorys starki</i>
Pink-billed Lark	<i>Spizocorys conirostris</i>
<b>Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)</b>	
African Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>

Common name	Scientific name
<b>Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)</b>	
Large Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>
Pearl-breasted Swallow	<i>Hirundo dimidiata</i>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Greater Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis cucullata</i>
Red-breasted Swallow	<i>Cecropis semirufa</i>
<b>Crombecs, African Warblers (Macrosphenidae)</b>	
Rockrunner	<i>Achaetops pycnopygius</i>
Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>
<b>Reed Warblers &amp; Allies (Acrocephalidae)</b>	
Lesser Swamp Warbler (H)	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
<b>Grassbirds &amp; Allies (Locustellidae)</b>	
Little Rush Warbler	<i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>
<b>Cisticolas &amp; Allies (Cisticolidae)</b>	
Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Desert Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aridula</i>
Black-chested Prinia	<i>Prinia flavicans</i>
Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>
Barred Wren-Warbler	<i>Calamonastes fasciolatus</i>
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>
Burnt-necked Eremomela	<i>Eremomela usticollis</i>
<b>Sylviid Babblers (Sylviidae)</b>	
Chestnut-vented Warbler	<i>Curruca subcoerulea</i>
<b>White-eyes (Zosteropidae)</b>	
Orange River White-eye	<i>Zosterops pallidus</i>
<b>Laughingthrushes &amp; Allies (Leiothrichidae)</b>	
Bare-cheeked Babbler	<i>Turdoides gymnogenys</i>
Southern Pied Babbler	<i>Turdoides bicolor</i>
<b>Starlings, Rhabdornises (Sturnidae)</b>	
Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>
Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>
Burchell's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis australis</i>
Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>
Pale-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus nabouroup</i>
<b>Thrushes (Turdidae)</b>	
Groundscraper Thrush	<i>Turdus litsitsirupa</i>

Common name	Scientific name
<b>Chats, Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)</b>	
Kalahari Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas paena</i>
White-browed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>
Chat Flycatcher	<i>Agricola infuscatus</i>
Herero Chat	<i>Namibornis herero</i>
Marico Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis mariquensis</i>
Short-toed Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola brevipes</i>
Karoo Chat	<i>Emarginata schlegelii</i>
Tractrac Chat	<i>Emarginata tractrac</i>
Ant-eating Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>
Mountain Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla monticola</i>
Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>
Familiar Chat	<i>Oenanthe familiaris</i>
<b>Sunbirds (Nectariniidae)</b>	
Marico Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>
Dusky Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris fuscus</i>
<b>Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches (Passeridae)</b>	
Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>
Great Sparrow	<i>Passer motitensis</i>
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
<b>Weavers, Widowbirds (Ploceidae)</b>	
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>
Lesser Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus intermedius</i>
Southern Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>
Chestnut Weaver	<i>Ploceus rubiginosus</i>
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>
Yellow-crowned Bishop	<i>Euplectes afer</i>
<b>Waxbills, Munias &amp; Allies (Estrildidae)</b>	
Black-faced Waxbill	<i>Brunhilda erythronotos</i>
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</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>
<b>Indigobirds, Whydahs (Viduidae)</b>	
Shaft-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua regia</i>
Long-tailed Paradise Whydah	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>



Common name	Scientific name
<b>Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)</b>	
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>
African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>
Buffy Pipit	<i>Anthus vaalensis</i>
<b>Finches, Euphonias (Fringillidae)</b>	
Black-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>
Yellow Canary	<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>
White-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra albogularis</i>
<b>Buntings (Emberizidae)</b>	
Lark-like Bunting	<i>Emberiza impetuanii</i>
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>
Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>
Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>

<b>Species Seen</b>	<b>212</b>
Species heard only	5
Total species recorded	217

### **Mammal List – Following Mammalwatching.com (November 2024)**

The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following IUCN Red List: VU = Vulnerable.

Common name	Scientific name
<b>Elephants (Elephantidae)</b>	
African Savanna Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>
<b>Hyraxes (Procaviidae)</b>	
Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>
<b>Old World Monkeys (Cercopithecidae)</b>	
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>
<b>Rabbits and Hares (Leporidae)</b>	
Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>
<b>Squirrels and Relatives (Sciuridae)</b>	
Congo Rope Squirrel	<i>Funisciurus congicus</i>
South African Ground Squirrel	<i>Geosciurus inauris</i>

Common name	Scientific name
<b>Pangolins (Manidae)</b>	
Ground Pangolin	<i>Smutsia temminckii</i>
<b>Eared Seals (Otariidae)</b>	
Afro-Australian Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>
<b>Canids (Canidae)</b>	
Black-backed Jackal	<i>Lupulella mesomelas</i>
Bat-eared Fox	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>
<b>Felids (Felidae)</b>	
Lion – VU	<i>Panthera leo</i>
Leopard - VU	<i>Panthera pardus</i>
<b>Mongoose and Fossa (Herpestidae)</b>	
Angolan Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes pulver</i>
<b>Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae)</b>	
White Rhinoceros	<i>Ceratotherium flavescens</i>
Black Rhinoceros	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>
<b>Equines (Equidae)</b>	
Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>
Mountain Zebra	<i>Equus zebra</i>
<b>Bovids (Bovidae)</b>	
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>
Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>
Blue Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>
Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>
Damara Dik-dik	<i>Madoqua damarensis</i>
Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>
Bush Duiker	<i>Sylvicapria grimmia</i>
Sable Antelope	<i>Hippotragus niger</i>
Gemsbok	<i>Oryx gazella</i>
Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>
Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>
<b>Giraffes and Okapi (Giraffidae)</b>	
Southern Giraffe	<i>Giraffa giraffa</i>

Common name	Scientific name
<b>Suids (Suidae)</b>	
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>

<b>Total species seen:</b>	<b>30</b>
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