

## NAMIBIA 2013

### ITINERARY

- Oct 27 Wessel and Imie drove us to train station Ede-Wageningen. Train to Arnhem, ICU to Frankfurt, and a direct flight to Windhoek (SW286 Air Namibia).
- Oct 28 Arrived at Windhoek approx. 06.30, immigration produced a first stamp of the tour, ATM, and car pick-up (Toyota Carolla, Budget Car). We paid an extra car insurance for entering Botswana. The car navigation was picked up "on route" near the Hilton Hotel in Winhoek. After buying our groceries at the "Superspar", we drove to a very quiet Daan Viljoen where we arrived at 14.00. We pitched up our new Hilleberg tent, and walked a 3 km long "Wag'n Bietjie Trail". We encountered our first mammals of the tour, including Mountain Zebra and Giraffe. At night, a herd of Blue Wildebeests apparently enjoyed walking close to our tent.



- Oct 29 Walked the "Rooibostrail" (9 km) next morning after a good night sleep, from about 06.15-10.45. The altitude is approximately 1,800 m and temperature 30-35 °C. Many animals, our first Gemsbok and Eland. In a small pond at the end of the trail we saw our first waterbirds, including the only South African Shelduck of the tour. Afternoon drive to the Erongo Mountains, one of the characteristic granite boulder "islands" in Namibia, about 13 km from Omaruhu. While driving, we saw a good selection of raptors, including two species of vulture, Martial Eagle and Black-chested Snake-Eagle. Good views of of both African Hawk-Eagle and Augur Buzzard at the Erongo Moutains. Because there was a local festival, we had some problems in finding a camp site in Omaruhu. First camp site on sand. Four German Shepards guarding the premises.
- Oct 30 An early trip to the Erongo Mountains, where we arrived at 06.00. We saw a good selection of birds, but failed to find locals such as Rockrunner and Hartlaub's Francolin. Throughout our tour, we had difficulties in finding Namibian endemics, which, at least in part, may have been due to the fact that our visit was at the very end of the dry season. Nevertheless, we had superb views of a pair of flying



adult Verreaux's Eagle, Monteiro's Hornbill, Rosy-faced Lovebird, Yellow-breasted Alethe, Acacia Pied-Barbet, Spike-heeled Lark, Short-toad Rock-Thrush, etc.



At 09.00 we drove to Etosha, where we arrived at the Andersson's Gate around 14.00. Warm, about 35 °C. We pitched up our tent at the Okaukuejo Rest Camp, and enjoyed our "diner" (bread and a can of tuna) at the famous "Okaukuejo waterhole", meanwhile enjoying good sights of our first Lions (and Ruff).





Oct 31 Early morning (05.00-07.30) we visited the Okaukuejo waterhole. Flocks of Double-banded Sandgrouse, Solitary Sandpiper, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, Kori Bustard, Chestnut-backed Sparrow and Red-capped Lark, ec. Morning drive to the most Western waterhole of Etosha, the (artificial) "Ozonjuitji m'Bari waterhole". Mainly a savannah-dominated landscape with several mopani forest patches. During our drive we saw our first non-feral Ostriches ever, several Lark species, Namaqua Sandgrouse, female Red-crested Korhaan, etc. At the waterhole there were hundreds of mammals and birds present, most at very close range, including Blue Wildebeest, Burchell's Zebra, Springbok, Gemsbok, Giraffe, Ostrich, etc. At 13.00 we returned to the Okaukuejo Rest Camp, and visited the waterhole at which African Elephant, Black-faced Impala, Kudu, Burchell's Zebra etc. were present. Nice but warm weather (30-35 °C). Afternoon visit to Gemsbokvlakte and Olifantsbad. Especially the evening - night visit to the Okaukuejo waterhole was succesful. Beautiful views of three Black Rhinoceros, including one that enjoyed swimming, and a family of 6 male African Elephant, including two males that were playing and educating their sons.



Nov 1 Started at 04.30, spend again some time at the waterhole. At 07.00 we drove to the Halali Rest Camp, where we arrived at noon. During this drive, we visited various waterholes (Sueda, Salvadora, Rietfontein). Especially the mammals were spectacular this morning: great and very close views of a pair of White Rhinoceros, a close encounter with an African Wild Cat, and also great views of a Caracal. The waterhole at the Halali Rest Camp produced the first Violet-eared Waxwings. During the afternoon break I cooked diner (canned beans and stir-fried vegies), and took my first shower of the trip.



Warm and (again) windy. Returned 16.15 to Rietfontein. The first (drinking) Bataleur of the trip, an immature Steppe Eagle, a perched and later hunting Lannerfalcon, White-fronted Plover, various waders, and great views of a Leopard. Driving back to Halali a Secretarybird, Greater Kestrel and two Black Rhinoceros were seen. The final stop of the day was the waterhole at the campground, where a family of African Elephant was present, including 3 immatures.

- Nov 2 Early breakfast at the waterhole, where again a family of African Elephant was present. A stroll at the campground produced White-bellied Sunbird, several Hornbill species, Southern White-crowned Shrike, Banded Mongoose, and Tree Squirrel. We drove to Nuamses, which is North of Halali and at the edge of the Etosha Pan. Along the poor road to Nuamses we encountered a Leopard Tortoise, and at the Helio Waterhole two Spotted Hyena were present. We then drove along the edge of the Etosha Pan to Namutoni (approx. 14.00) via Okerfontein and Kalkheuvell.



At 16.00 we drove little stretches of various roads. The temperature was about 36 °C. At the end of the day there was a remarkable bird activity, including four species of Bustards, Double-banded Courser, superb views of a light-phase Whalberg's Eagle, a Marabou (Stork), Damara Dik-Dik, and, at only about 500 m from the Namutoni Rest Camp entrance, a Black Rhinoceros and Temminck's Courser.

- Nov 3 An early walk to the local but not very spectacular waterhole at the Namutoni Rest Camp produced a male Golden Oriole and a Shikra. A drive around the Fisher's Pan, which was extremely dry and barren, delivered only a few species, such as Namaqua Dove and Ant-eating Chat. At and near the Chudop waterhole many animals were present, including Eland, Spotted Hyena, White-headed Vulture, our first Red-headed Finch, immature Tawny Eagle, and a hunting Marial Eagle. The best bird present was a female Yellow-throated Sandgrouse. Then a long drive from Rundo to Divundu, which is located at the beginning of the Caprivi Strip. Fortunately, we were just in time (Sunday) to visit the Superspar at Grootfontein to buy some essential groceries and drinks.

The landscape changed when driving to Divundu: more green, more trees, less dust, and numerous small villages of rondavels constructed of wood, clay, and papyrus, some equipped with a small solar collector. Because our low rental car had insufficient clearance to cope with the sand (river sand dunes) roads at Popa Falls, we were unable to reach a campground or lodge. After dusk we returned by car –very carefully- to Divundu, where we first obtained fuel (one problem less, ensures maximum flexibility...), and tried to find a local guesthouse. The latter turned out to be a “mission impossible”.



Finally, we asked at a local garage / former Shell gasoline station whether we could sleep in a very well maintained little building opposite the former gasoline station. This building had a nice roof of papyrus or reeds, but lacked a door. We obtained permission to sleep in the local church, and made a generous contribution to the “local church management”. After bread and tuna it was still very warm (35 °C), , and despite the use of repellent, we enjoyed the presence of mosquitos. Outside, people, noise and music. At about 24.00, we pitched up the tent within the church, thus solving the mosquito problem. We enjoyed a few hours of sleep.



Nov 4 Woke at 05.00, and during breakfast saw Blue Waxbill, Mosque Swallow, Hoopoe, European Swift, Lilac-breasted Roller, etc. Left at 07.15 for the Mahango Game Reserve, and completed some paperwork before entering. The Reserve was excellent, and we saw many new birds and mammals, including Wattled Crane, African Paradise Flycatcher, and both Roan- and Sable Antelope. Also several flowering Baobabs. Left at 14.00 to cross the Namibian – Botswana border. After completing some paperwork and stamps, we drove towards Shakawe Lodge. We pitched up our tent at the neighbouring campground with a view on the papyrus swamp across the Ovango River. Close views of Giant Kingfisher, Southern Brown-throated Weaver and African Golden-Weaver. Pasta for diner, writing in the lodge, organized a boat for the next day.

Nov 5 During the night, the burning of the papyrus moved slowly towards the Ovango River.



The noise was deafening and the burning looked really frightening. Fires are thought to be caused by local fishermen, trying to keep the swamps open. We left at 07.00 with our local guide, Richard. In the first part of the tour we went downstream. Apart from Nile Crocodile and Hippopotamus, we saw truly good birds, including a pair of Pel's Fishing Owl in broad daylight, Slaty Heron, Black Heron and Rufous-bellied Heron. Excellent and close views of resting African Skimmer, which were joined by flocks of Burchell's Sandgrouse on sandy islands in the Ovango-River. We returned at lunchtime, prepared some crackers, tuna and coffee, meanwhile watching Swamp Boubou, Brown Firefinch, Spectacled Weaver, and Crested Barbet. Because we were expecting a thunderstorm, Richard first guided us to a tree behind the lodge where a third Pel's Fishing Owl might be present. We dipped on the owl but instead saw African Wood-Owl and African Yellow White-Eye. At 16.00 we went upstream, and had good views of several other much wanted species, including Lesser Jacana, African Pygmy Goose, and Coppery-tailed Coucal. We returned at 18.15 and enjoyed diner in the restaurant of the lodge. A great day.

- Nov 6 We rose quickly at 05.00 because a thunderstorm was coming. We managed to get the tent and other stuff inside the car just before the rain started pouring down. After breakfast we crossed the Botswana - Namibia border, and again visited the Mahango Game Reserve. New birds included (distant) Yellow-billed Stork, White-browed and Senegal Coucal, Swainson's and Crested Francolin. We also passed a close herd of African Buffalo. In the afternoon we drove to Roy's Camp, which is approximately 60 km North of Grootfontein. Close views of Black-faced Babbler near our tent.
- Nov 7 During breakfast at Roy's Camp, we saw again the Black-faced Babblers, Village Weaver, Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver, Puffback, Crimson Broubrou, etc. We arrived at Grootfontein at 07.30, where we obtained gasoline for car and stove, bought groceries, and enjoyed both a mug of coffee and a local cat in the Spar. Thereafter, we left for the Waterberg Plateau, which reminded us of Arnhemland.



A relatively boring drive over dirt roads, best birds being Karoo Chat and Southern Pied Babbler. We arrived at the campground approx. 14.00. In the afternoon we walked the "Fig Tree Walk". We had close views of Banded Mongoose, and, even better, we saw a group of Black Mongoose (or "Shadowhunter"), a recently described species solely restricted to the granite boulders in Namibia. Furthermore, we saw tree-climbing Rock Hyrax, many Rosy-faced Lovebirds, and the best bird of the day, two Rüppel's Parrot in the tree next to our tent.



- Nov 8 We rose at 04.00 and started climbing the Waterberg plateau at 05.30. Hardly any birds, but great views from the plateau.



- When we returned to the tent at 09.00, a beautiful male Ovambo Hawk was perched in the "Rüppel's Parrot tree". Later, we also saw a flock of four Violet Wood-Hoopoe. A male baboon grappled a bag of "rusks" from the trunk of our car. We decided to return to Etosha for 1-2 days. Between the Waterberg Plateau and Otjiwarango we saw quite some good roadside birds, including African Hawk Eagle, Pale Chanting Goshawk, African Cuckoo, Karoo Scrub Robin, Kalahari Scrub Robin, etc., and a Slender Mongoose crossing the road. We drove via the entrance near Okaukuejo to Halali, where we saw a family of African Elephant and a single Black Rhinoceros at the waterhole. Still dry and warm, 34 °C.
- Nov 9 At the Halali Rest Camp we saw a Honey Badger (Ratel) at dawn. While driving to Okaukuejo, we had close views of three Burchell's Coursers. We spent quite some time in the morning at a waterhole where we watched the logistics of drinking herds of both Zebra and Wildebeest. Very warm, 35-37 °C. We enjoyed a good lunch (and shade) at the restaurant at Okaukuejo, and then drove to two resting male lions. Along the roadside, many larks –various species- were resting in the shade of stones. At 15.30, we again visited several waterholes. At Okondeka we saw Ludwig's Bustard and Chestnut-banded Plover. While driving back to Okaukuejo, we saw 5 Lion, 9 Double-banded Courser, 8 Northern Black Korhaan, etc. At the waterhole of Okaukuejo, we had four more Lion, one Black Rhinoceros, etc. Because our tent, pitched at site 8, was not only popular by Black-backed Jackal but apparently also blocked the pedestrian short-cut to the ablution block, we removed our tent to a less popular spot.
- Nov 10 Left at 06.30 for the Okondeka waterhole. Apart from Lion (2), Double-banded Courser and Ludwig's Bustard, there were huge flocks (likely thousands) of Double-banded Sandgrouse. Blackbacked Jackal were still enjoying a Giraffe's mortal remains. When we returned the Okaukuejo, the temperature had returned to 35-37 °C. At the Okaukuejo waterhole, huge numbers of Springbok (500-1,000), Gemsbok (> 100), etc. were present. Also saw a male Little Sparrowhawk, two Common (Greater) Scimitarbill, etc. In the afternoon, we returned to the campsite at the River Guest House at Omaruhu, where we arrived at 16.00. A very nice, quiet and clean campground when compared to the Rest Camps of Etosha. A late afternoon visit to the Erongo Mountains was not productive.

- No 11 Again an early morning visit to the Erongo Mountains. Again no endemics such as the Hartlaub's Francolin. Later, we heard that at 07.00 the francolins can be seen while being fed near the swimming pool of the restaurant / lodge... Drive to Swakopmund. Briefly visited the local saltworks, where various species of waders, flocks of Greater and Lesser Flamingo, etc. were present.



Best bird was Damara Tern, of which we had good views. We bought groceries at the Superspar in Sossusvlei, and had sandwiches at the beach. Temperature 18-19 °C, quite a change! Pitched our tent at Buck's Campground (Henvies Bay). A unique campground, where each site has the luxury of its own ablution block. A weird landscape: desert meets the ocean.

- Nov 12 Visited the Cape Fur Seal colony at Cape Cross. Beautiful desert scenery while driving to the cape. Best bird was a Damara Tern flying to an inland breeding site. Because the seal colony opens at 10.00, we were too early and made a stroll at the beach, where we had good views of Trac-trac Chat and Kirlitz Plover, and many dead –mainly immature- seals. We obtained a permit to enter the colony, and had our coffee at the seal colony: noisy and a strong (trassi) smell.





Birds included Turnstone and Red (Grey) Phalarope. We tried to find Gray's Lark at the coastal gravel plains near Swakopmund on the way back, but dipped. Drove to Walvisbaai, where we arrived at 15.30. Much to our surprise we found an excellent place to stay, the "Rushuis", beautiful chalets and cheaper than a campsite at Etosha. Strong wind, 18-20 °C.

Nov 13 Left for Rooibank at 06.00. Visited the dry river bank at Rooibank, searching for Dune Lark. Probably seen, together with two male Chestnut-backed Sparrow-lark, drinking from a leaky waterpipe. Also a very vocal Bokmakerie, Black-headed Heron, Chestnut-vented Tit-babbler, and Black-chested Prinia.



Despite the true desert scenery, we saw a herd of Springbok and a group of Surricate. Dipped again on Gray's Lark. Visited Swakopmund, where the river enters the ocean. At least three Bank Cormorant (endangered) in a mixed flock with Crowned and Cape Cormorant, Common Waxbill, a beach washed dark-phase Southern Giant Petrel, two Skua species, African Oystercatcher, African Reed-warbler, Red-cnobbled Coot, Common Moorhen, etc.



Made a walk along some old German buildings, visited the Spar, and then drove back to Walvisbaai. Again a strong wind, about 20 °C.

Nov 14 A walk along the famous Walvisbaai esplanade from 06.30 to 08.00. Great White Pelican (60+), Parasitic Jaeger, Terek Sandpiper, etc. Left for Solitaire, altidue 900-1,000 m. During this travel day the temperature increased from 18 °C (Walvisbaai) to > 30 °C.



Most parts of the unpaved road were in a poor condition. Despite that the total distance to be covered was only 200-250 km, we did not arrive at Solitaire before 16.00.



Nov 15 Rose at 04.30, many mammals (Springbok, Steenbok, Gemsbok) while driving to Sesriem, where we arrive at 08.00. Best bird was a close pair of Rüppels Korhaan (which seemed to be sleeping before our car stopped). Beautiful drive and scenery in the Sossusvlei.





A dry river valley, flat, circumvented by the highest red sand dunes in the world. Also good for both birds and mammals, including Bat-eared Fox, Secretary bird, Burchell's Courser, Ludwig Bustard (very common, at least 22), Dark-chanting Goshawk, Lesser Kestrel, etc. Strong wind, about 27 °C. While returning to Solitaire, we saw Mountain Zebra and Dark-chanting Goshawk.

- No 16 Left at 06.15 for Windhoek via the Spreetshoogtepas (1,840 m). Best bird of the day was a pair of Pygmy Falcon. Although a "locally common resident" according to the Birds of Southern Africa (4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Sasol), this is not my perception. We dipped on the Herero's Chat, but saw Bokmakerie, a pair of Verreaux's Eagle, and Mountain Wheatear (common).



The road was steep, 23% at some stretches. The Spreetshoogtepas was not followed by a descend, but is one of the roads that leads to the (1,800 meter) "altiplano". Near the pas we saw Klipspringer. Overnight stay at "Melrose", about 40-45 km from Windhoek. When it was almost dark, a little and noisy flock of francolins made their appearance, likely Orange River Francolin.

Nov 17 We didn't sleep well. There was a little cat that enjoyed our presence very much. At night, we locked the cat twice into one of the ablution blocks to get some sleep.



A cold start of the day, quite a change. Cleaned the gasoline stove and used cola to rinse the fuel bottle. The cat accompanied us when we made a 3 km walk. The walk produced Greater Striped Swallow, African Barred Owlet, Violet-eared Waxbill, Lilac-breasted Roller, Mountain Zebra, Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill, Maurico Flycatcher, Long-billed Pipit, etc. Surprisingly, I saw both a male Cardinal Woodpecker and a female Bearded Woodpecker in the same tree close to our tent, the only woodpeckers of the entire tour. In Windhoek we had some problems in finding the local sewage works. When asking for directions, I saw the only Black-faced Canaries of the tour. The sewage works were duckless, but White-throated Swallow, the local speciality, was easily found. We drove to the Avis dam, where we packed our luggage for the return flight at a shabby parking lot. While driving back to the airport, we noticed that the trees and scrubs had turned green despite the apparent lack of rain.



## BIRDS

### STRUTHIONIDAE

**Ostrich** *Struthio camelus* – Seen on most days, common in Etosha and Sossusvlei.



### ANATIDAE

**White-face Whisling Duck** *Dendrocygna viduata* – Common in Mahango Game Reserve (Namibia) and in Botswana (Nov 4-6).

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca* – Seen throughout the tour.

**South African Shelduck** *Tadorna cana* – A single bird at Daan Viljoen (Oct 28).

**Spur-winged Goose** *Plectropterus gambensis* – Common at the Mahango Game Reserve (Namibia) and at Shakawa (Botswana) on Nov 4-6.

**African Pygmy-Goose** *Nettapus auritus* – Great views of at least 20 birds at the Okavango delta (Nov 5). The birds are well camouflaged, because their chestnut flanks match the leaves of water lilies.

**Cape Shoveler** *Anas smithii* – Two birds at Etosha (Nov 2).

**Red-billed Duck** *Anas erythrorhynchos* – Common throughout the tour, but absent in the Okavango delta.

### NUMIDIDAE

**Helmeted Guineafowl** *Numida meleagris* – Common, seen in good numbers throughout the tour except in Botswana.

### PHASIANIDAE

**Crested Francolin** *Fringillidae sephaena* – A pair at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 6).

**Orange River Francolin** *Fringillidae levaillantoides* – At least 8 birds at Melrose near Grootfontein (Nov 16).

**Red-billed Francolin** *Fringillidae adspersus* – Very common, seen on most days but not in Botswana.

**Swainson's Francolin** *Fringillidae swainsonii* – Good views of a single bird at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 6).

#### PODICIPEDIDAE

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* – Low numbers seen at Daan Viljoen (Oct 29), a single bird at Etosha (Nov 2), and 5 at Walvisbaai (Nov 13).

**Eared Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis* – Seen at Etosha on Nov 1 (3 birds) and Nov 9 (a single bird).

#### PHOENICOPTERIDAE

**Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus roseus* – Good numbers, up to 1,000 or more per day, in the Walvisbaai area (No 11-14).

**Lesser Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus minor* – As previous species, but lower numbers, estimated at up to 500 or more daily.



#### CICONIIDAE

**African Openbill** *Anastomus lamelligerus* – Three birds at Etosha (Nov 5).

**Woolly-necked Stork** *Ciconia episcopus* – A very distant bird at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4).

**Saddle-billed Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis* – As previous species.

**Marabou Stork** *Leptoptilos crumenifer* – A single bird near Namutoni Rest Camp (Etosha, Nov 2). Another 3 birds at the Okavango River (Botswana, Nov 5).

**Yellow-billed Stork** *Mycteria ibis* – Two distant birds at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 6).

#### SULIDAE

**Australasian Gannet** *Morus serrator* – Seen at Swakopmund (Nov 11 and Nov 12).



PROCELLARIIDAE

**Southern Giant-Petrel** *Macronectus giganteus* – A dark phase, likely immature, beach-washed bird at Swakopmund (Nov 13).



PHALACROCORACIDAE

**White-breasted Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax lucidus* – Common in the Swakopmund – Walvisbaai area (Nov 11-13).

**Cape Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax capensis* (CITES: near-threatened) – As previous species.

**Bank Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax neglectus* (CITES: endangered) - Great views of at least 3 birds in a mixed group with Cape and Crowned Cormorant, Swakopmund (Nov 13). Picture below, front right.



**Long-tailed Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax africanus* – A typical sweet water cormorant, at least 150 birds at the Okavango River (Nov 5).

**Crowned Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax coronatus* (CITES: near-threatened) – Low numbers, e.g. 3 birds at Walvisbaai (Nov 11).

#### ANHINGIDAE

**African Darter** *Anhinga rufa* – A single bird at Daan Viljoen (Oct 29), most common in Botswana (Okavango delta, 150+ birds on Nov 5).

#### PELECANIDAE

**Great White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus* – Common at Walvisbaai, highest number (60+) on Nov 14.



#### SCOPIDAE

**Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta* – Only seen in Botswana, 10+ birds in the Okavango delta (Nov 5).

#### ARDEIDAE

**Gray Heron** *Ardea cinerea* – Seen in low numbers throughout the tour in Namibia, most common in the Okavango delta (Nov 4-6).

**Black-headed Heron** *Ardea melanocephala* – A single bird along the dry river at Rooibank (Nov 12).

**Goliath Heron** *Ardea goliath* – Seen at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4), most common -10+ birds- at the Okavango delta (Nov 5).

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea* – A single bird at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 6).

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba* – Seen at the Mahango Game Reserve and at the Okavango delta (Nov 4-6).

**Intermediate Egret** *Mesophoyx intermedia* – Over 10 birds seen at the Okavango delta (Nov 5).

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* – As previous species, also seen at Walvisbaai (Nov 14).

**Slaty Egret** *Egretta vinaceigula* – A single perched bird well seen at the Okavango delta (Nov 5). A highly restricted range species (CITES: vulnerable).

**Black Heron** *Egretta ardesiaca* – Three single birds, well seen, at the Okavango delta (Nov 5).

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* – Mainly seen during the first part of the tour, most common at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4) and at the Okavango delta (Nov 5).



**Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides* – Seen in low numbers at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4 and 6), most common at the Okavango delta (Nov 5).

**Rufous-bellied Heron** *Ardeola rufiventris* – A single bird well seen at the Okavango delta (Nov 5).



**Striated Heron** *Butorides striata* - Four birds seen at the Okavango delta (Nov 5).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* – A colony of about 20 birds at the Okavango delta (Nov 5).

#### THRESKIORNITHIDAE

**Hadada Ibis** *Bostrychia hagedash* – Three birds at the Okavango delta (Nov 5).

**African Spoonbill** *Platalea alba* – A single bird at Daan Viljoen (Oct 29), and at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4 and Nov 6).

#### SAGITTARIIDAE

**Secretary-Bird** *Sagittarius serpentarius* – Single birds at Etosha (Nov 1 and Nov 8), a total of 3 birds at Sossusvlei (Nov 15).



#### ACCIPITRIDAE

**Black-shouldered Kite** *Elanus caeruleus* – Seen at the pastures inside the papyrus swamps of the Okavango delta (Nov 5), also while traveling in Namibia (Nov 6 and Nov 17).

**African Harrier-Hawk** *Polyboroides typus* – Single birds at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4), a single bird at the Okavango delta (Nov 5), and 2 birds at Etosha (Nov 8).

**European Honey-buzzard** *Pernis apivorus* – A single roadside bird near Otjiwarongo (Nov 8).

**White-headed Vulture** *Trigonoceps occipitalis* – A single bird at Etosha (Nov 3), three more birds on Nov 4.

**Lappet-faced Vulture** *Torgos tracheliotus* – A single bird at Daan Viljoen (Oct 29), more common at Etosha and Sossusvlei.

**White-backed Vulture** *Gyps africanus* – Common at Daan Viljoen (Oct 29), most common vulture seen at Etosha.

**Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus* – A total of 4 birds seen at Etosha (Nov 1-3).

**Black-breasted Snake-Eagle** *Circaetus pectoralis* – A total of 4 birds seen, first bird at Daan Viljoen (Oct 29).

**Brown Snake-Eagle** *Circaetus cinereus* – A total of 3 birds seen at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4 and 6).

**Martial Eagle** *Polemaetus bellicosus* – A total of 4 single birds, best seen at Etosha on Oct 31 and Nov 3.

**Long-crested Eagle** *Lophaetus occipitalis* – A single bird while traveling from Daan Viljoen to Omaruhu (Oct 29).

**Wahlberg's Eagle** *Hieraaetus wahlbergi* – Excellent views of a light-phase adult bird near Namutoni Rest Camp (Nov 2).

**Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus* – A single bird seen when crossing the Namibia – Botswana border on Nov 4.

**Tawny Eagle** *Aquila rapax* – Seen low numbers daily at Etosha, and at Sossusvlei.

**Steppe Eagle** *Aquila nipalensis* – Less common as previous species. A total of 3 birds that could be identified at Etosha (Oct 30 and Nov 2).

**Verreaux's Eagle** *Aquila verreauxii* – Great views of two adult birds at the Erongo Mountains (Oct 30). Also two adult birds while driving over the Spreetshoogte Pass (Nov 16).

**African Hawk-Eagle** *Aquila spilogaster* – Great views of single birds at the Erongo Mountains (Oct 29-30).

**Dark Chanting-Goshawk** *Melierax metabates* – Single birds seen when traveling from Etosha to Grootfontein (Nov 3-4), two more birds at Sossusvlei (Nov 15).





**Pale Chanting-Goshawk** *Melierax canorus* – Common in Namibia, first bird seen while traveling from Windhoek to Daan Viljoen (Oct 29), seen on most days during the tour.

**Gabar Goshawk** *Micronisus gabar* – A single bird seen at the Windhoek Hosea Kutako International Airport (Oct 28).

**African Marsh-Harrier** *Circus ranivorus* – Two single birds at the Okavango delta (Nov 5).

**Shikra** *Accipiter badius* – A single male, well seen, at the Namutoni Rest Camp (Nov 3).

**Little Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter minullus* – A total of 3 single birds, first seen at the Erongo Mountains (Oct 29).

**Ovampo Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter ovampensis* – A nice surprise, a male perched in a tree next to our tent at the Halali Rest Camp (Nov 8).

**Yellow-billed Kite** *Milvus parasitus* – At least 10 birds while traveling to the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4).

**African Fish-Eagle** *Haliaeetus vocifer* – Seen at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4 and 6), most common (50+) at the Okavanga delta (Nov 5).

**Augur Buzzard** *Buteo augur* – Great views of a single adult bird at the Erongo Mountains (Oct 29).

#### OTIDIDAE

**Kori Bustard** *Ardeotis kori* – Daily seen in good numbers at Etosha.



**Ludwig's Bustard** *Neotis ludwigii* – Seen in Etosha (Nov 9-10), most common (at least 22 birds) at Sossusvlei (Nov 15).



**Rueppell's Bustard** *Eupodotis rueppellii* – Great views of two pairs while traveling from Solitaire to Sesriem (Nov 15).



**Red-crested Bustard** *Eupodotis ruficrista* – Only females seen on 3 days at Etosha (Oct 31 – Nov 2).



**White-quilled (Northern Black) Bustard** *Eupodotis afraoides* – Together with Kori Bustard the most common Bustard seen at Etosha. Great views of males and females.





**Black-bellied Bustard** *Lissotis melanogaster* – A male (Oct 31) and two females (Nov 2) at Etosha.

RALLIDAE

**Black Crane** *Amaurornis flavirostra* – At least 3 single birds at the Okavango delta (Nov 5).

**Purple Swampphen** *Porphyrio porphyrio* – Two birds at the Okavango delta (Nov 5).

**Eurasian Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* – Seen at Daan Viljoen (Oct 29) and at Swakopmund (Nov 13).

**Red-knobbed Coot** *Fulica cristata* – Two birds seen at Swakopmund (Nov 13).

GRUIDAE

**Wattled Crane** *Bugeranus carunculatus* – Distant (scope) views of a pair at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4 and 6).



BURHINIDAE

**Water Thick-knee** *Burhinus vermiculatus* – Seen at Etosha (Nov 2), most common (8 birds) and very close views at the Okavango delta (Nov 5).



**Spotted Thick-knee** *Burhinus capensis* – Two single birds resting in the shade at Etosha (Nov 10).

## RECURVIROSTRIDAE

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus* – Seen on various inland lakes / waterholes, also a pair at Swakopmund (Nov 13).

**Pied Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta* – Common in the Walvisbaai – Swakopmund area (Nov 12-17).

## HAEMATOPODIDAE

**African Oystercatcher** *Haematopus moquini* – Two birds at Swakopmund (Nov 13), a single (distant) bird at Walvisbaai (Nov 14).

## CHARACRIIDAE

**Black-bellied Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola* – Common in the Walvisbaai – Swakopmund area (Nov 11-14).

**American Golden-Plover** *Pluvialis dominica* – A single distant bird, most likely this species, at Walvisbaai (Nov 14).

**Long-toed Lapwing** *Vanellus crassirostris* – Several birds at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4). Also close views of 6 birds at the Okavango delta (Nov 5).

**Blacksmith Plover** *Vanellus armatus* – Common, seen almost daily in Namibia, highest numbers at the Okavango delta (500+ on Nov 5).

**Crowned Lapwing** *Vanellus coronatus* – Seen on 5 days at Etosha.

**Wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus senegallus* – A single bird at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 6).

**Kittlitz's Plover** *Charadrius pecuarius* – Common in the Walvisbaai – Swakopmund area (Nov 11-14).

**Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula* – As previous species (Nov 12-14).

**Three-banded Plover** *Charadrius tricollaris* – Seen on 6 days in Namibia, first birds at Daan Viljoen (Oct 29).

**White-fronted Plover** *Charadrius marginatus* – A single bird at Etosha (Nov 1), common in the Walvisbaai – Swakopmund area (Nov 11-14).

**Chestnut-banded Plover** *Charadrius pallidus* (CITES: near-threatened) – Seen near the Okondeka waterhole at Etosha on Nov 9 and 10, 150+ birds at the Swakopmund saltworks (Nov 12) and 150+ birds at Walvisbaai (Nov 14).

## JACANIDAE

**Lesser Jacana** *Microparra capensis* – Close views of this tiny Jacana at the Okavango delta (Nov 5).

**African Jacana** *Actophilornis africanus* – Seen at various waterholes in Etosha and at the Mahango Game Reserve. Most common (100+ birds) at the Okavango delta (Nov 5).

## SCOLOPACIDAE

**Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus* – Good views of a single bird at Walvisbaai (Nov 14).

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* – Single birds at the Okaukuejo waterhole (Oct 31 and Nov 1). Also a single bird on Nov 13.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus* – Single birds seen on 5 days in Namibia, also a single bird at the Okavango delta (Nov 5).



**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* – At least 50 birds at the Okavanga delta (Nov 5), common at Walvisbaai (Nov 12-14).

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis* – Several birds at various waterholes in Etosha on Nov 1, 3 and 5.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola* – A single bird at Daan Viljoen (Oct 29), also seen in Etosha (Nov 1) and most common (10+ birds) at the Okavanga delta (Nov 5).

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* – Seen in low numbers in Walvisbaai (Nov 12-14).

**Eurasian Curlew** *Numenius arquata* – A distant bird, likely this species, at Walvisbaai (Nov 11).

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica* – Seen daily at Walvisbaai, 20-50 birds per day (Nov 12-14).

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* – At least 20 birds at the Cape Cross seal colony (Nov 12), also seen at Walvisbaai on Nov 13-14.

**Red Knot** *Calidris canutus* – A single bird, likely this species, at Walvisbaai (Nov 12).

**Ruff** *Calidris pugnax* – Seen on various days in Namibia, most common (200+ birds) at the Okavango delta (Nov 5).

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea* – One of the most common waders at the Swakopmund – Walvisbaai area. Over 1,000 birds daily from Nov 11-14.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba* – Common in the Walvisbaai area (Nov 12-14).

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta* – Seen on 2 days in Etosha, common at the Swakopmund – Walvisbaai area (Nov 11-14).

**Red Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius* – Two birds at Swakopmund (Nov 11), a little flock of 12 birds at Cape Cross (Nov 12).

#### GLAREOLIDAE

**Burchell's Courser** *Cursorius rufus* – One of the highlights. Three birds seen near Okaukuejo (Nov 9), another 9 birds at Sossusvlei (Nov 15).



**Temminck's Courser** *Cursorius temminckii* – Two or three birds seen, together with a Black Rhinoceros, near the entrance of the Namutoni Rest Camp (Nov 2).

**Double-banded Courser** *Smutsornis africanus* – The most easily seen Courser (20 birds), seen on 4 days in Etosha (Oct 31, Nov 2, 9 and 10). Superbly camouflaged. As with previous species and Bustards, seem to be most active early morning and late afternoon.



**Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola* – Three distant birds seen at Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4), close views of 8 birds at the Okavango delta (Nov 5).



LARIDAE

**Gray-hooded Gull** *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus* – Seen almost daily (Nov 11, 12 and 14) at the Swakopmund – Walvisbaai area, maximum of 6 birds/day.

**Kelp Gull** *Larus dominicanus* – Seen in the Swakopmund – Walvisbaai area on Nov 11 and Nov 12.





**Hartlaub's Gull** *Chroicocephalus hartlaubii* – Much more numerous than the previous species (100-200+ birds per day) in the Swakopmund – Walvisbaai area (Nov 11-14).



**Damara Tern** *Sternula balaenarum* (CITES: near-threatened). A little group of 8 perched birds at the Swakopmund saltworks (Nov 11), single birds on Nov 12 and Nov 12. The bird on Nov 12 was remarkable: seen flying over the desert, perhaps to an inland breeding area.

**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia* – Rather common at Walvisbaai, highest day count over 50 birds in mixed flocks with other Tern species (Nov 12).



**White-winged Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus* – At least 15 birds at the Okavango delta (Nov 5).

**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida* – Four birds at the Okavango delta (Nov 5).

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo* – Common at the Swakopmund – Walvisbaai area (Nov 11-14).

**Great Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bergii* – As previous species, but much less common, up to 10+ birds/day.

**Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis* – Common at the Swakopmund – Walvisbaai area, over 200 birds/day.

**African Skimmer** *Rynchops flavirostris* – Superb views of at least 80 and likely over 100 birds at the Okavango delta, including 3 immatures (Nov 5). For me one the most remarkable and unexpected events of the tour were the “drinking flocks” of Burchell’s Sandgrouse that joined the resting African Skimmers. At the end of the day, the Skimmers seem to become active and start feeding.



STERCORARIIDAE

**Pomarine Jaeger** *Stercorarius pomarinus* – A single bird at Swakopmund (Nov 13).

**Parasitic Jaeger** *Stercorarius parasiticus* – Low numbers seen daily at Walvisbaai (Nov 12-14).

PTEROCLIDAE

**Namaqua Sandgrouse** *Pterocles namaqua* – Seen in Etosha (Oct 31-Nov 2), with over 10 birds per day.

**Yellow-throated Sandgrouse** *Pterocles gutturalis* – An unexpected female at Etosha (Nov 3).

**Double-banded Sandgrouse** *Pterocles bicinctus* – Common in Etosha, especially at e.g. the Okaukuejo waterhole, where flocks come drinking. Very common, estimated at 1,000+ birds (and probably many more), at the Okondeka waterhole (Nov 10).





**Burchell's Sandgrouse** *Pterocles burchelli* – A flock of 15 birds, likely this species, at Etosha (Nov 3). Great views of over 60 birds at the Okavango delta (Nov 5).

#### COLUMBIDAE

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia* – A single bird at Windhoek (Oct 28) was the only Rock Pigeon of the tour that was seen.

**Speckled Pigeon** *Columba guinea* – Seen in low numbers on 6 days in Namibia throughout the tour.

**Mourning Collared-Dove** *Streptopelia decipiens* – A single bird at Shakawe lodge (Nov 5).

**Ring-necked Dove** *Streptopelia capicola* – One of the most common birds of the tour but not seen in Botswana.

**Laughing Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis* – As previous species, but also seen in Botswana (Nov 5).

**Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove** *Turtur chalcospilos* – Seen on 4 days, first bird seen was a single bird at the waterhole of the Halali Rest Camp (Nov 1).

**Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis* – Seen in low numbers on 8 days, including the Okavango delta (Nov 5).

#### MUSOPHAGIDAE

**Gray Go-away-bird** *Corythaixoides concolor* – Common, seen on most days in Namibia as well as in Botswana (Nov 5).



#### CUCULIDAE

**Pied Cuckoo** *Clamator jacobinus* – Good views of a single bird at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4).

**African Cuckoo** *Cuculus gularis* – A single bird while traveling to the Waterberg Plateau (Nov 8).

**Coppery-tailed Coucal** *Centropus cupreicaudus* – Good views of a single bird at the Okavango delta (Nov 5).

**Senegal Coucal** *Centropus senegalensis* – A single bird at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 6).

**White-browed Coucal** *Centropus superciliosus* – As previous species.

#### STRIGIDAE

**Verreaux's Eagle-Owl** *Bubo lacteus* – A resident pair near the Okaukuejo waterhole (Etosha, Oct 29-30, Nov 8).

**Pel's Fishing-Owl** *Scotopelia peli* – Great daylight views of two giants perched in a tree. For me one of the highlights of the tour (Okavango delta, Nov 5).



**Pearl-spotted Owlet** *Glaucidium perlatum* – Heard at the River Guest House (Omoruru, Nov 10).

**African Barred Owlet** *Glaucidium capense* – A single bird well seen at Melrose Guest Farm near Grootfontein (Nov 17).

**African Wood-Owl** *Strix woodfordii* – Good daylight views of a single bird at Shakawe lodge (Nov 5).

#### CAPRIMULGIDAE

**Rufous-cheeked Nightjar** *Caprimulgus rufigena* – Common at the Okaukuejo waterhole (Etosha).

#### APODIDAE

**Alpine Swift** *Apus melba* – Three birds at Daan Viljoen (Oct 28).

**Common Swift** *Apus apus* – Most common at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4 and 6).

**Bradfield's Swift** *Apus bradfieldi* – Distant and poor views of 10+ birds from the Waterberg Rest Camp (Nov 7).

**Little Swift** *Apus affinis* – Seen on 5 days, particularly at the start and end of the trip near Windhoek.

**African Palm-Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus* – Seen on 5 days, again most common at the start and end of the tour.

#### COLIIDAE

**White-backed Mousebird** *Colius colius* – Seen at and near Camping Solitiare (Nov 15-16).

**Red-faced Mousebird** *Urocolius indicus* – Seen on various days, including the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4) and near Shakawe Lodge (Nov 5). Also unidentified flocks seen on various days.

#### ALCEDINIDAE

**Half-collared Kingfisher** *Alcedo semitorquata* – Brief views of a single bird at the Okavanga delta (Nov 5).

**Malachite Kingfisher** *Corythornis cristatus* – At least 6 birds at the Okavanga delta (Nov 5).

**Woodland Kingfisher** *Halcyon senegalensis* – Two birds at the Okavanga delta (Nov 5), a single bird Nov 6.



**Giant Kingfisher** *Megaceryle maximus* – A single bird at the Shakawe Lodge camp site (Nov 4), a total of four birds at the Okavanga delta (Nov 5).



**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis* – Common at the Okavanga delta, more than 20 birds on Nov 5.

MEROPIDAE

**White-fronted Bee-eater** *Merops bullockoides* – Common at Shakawe and the Okavanga delta (Nov 4-5).



**Little Bee-eater** *Merops pusillus* – Seen on 5 days, including the Shakawe / Okavanga area (Nov 5), most common at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4).

**Swallow-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops hirundineus* – Seen on 7 days, first single bird at Daan Viljoen (Oct 28).

**European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster* – Common throughout the tour, although absent at the Shakawe / Okavanga area.

**Southern Carmine Bee-eater** *Merops nubicoides* – Seen in the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4 and 6), and excellent views of a cliff breeding colony near Shakawe (Nov 5).



CORACIIDAE

**Lilac-breasted Roller** *Coracias caudatus* – Seen on four days, most common at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4 and 6).



**Rufous-crowned Roller** *Coracias naevius* – Seen (almost) daily at Etosha during our first visit (Oct 30–Nov 3).

**Broad-billed Roller** *Eurystomus glaucurus* – Two birds at Shakawe lodge (Nov 5).

UPUPIDAE

**Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upupa epops* – Seen on 6 days, most common in the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4), also two birds seen at the Okavanga delta (Nov 5).

PHOENICULIDAE

**Violet Woodhoopoe** *Phoeniculus damarensis* – First seen at the Halali Rest Camp (Nov 1). Also a little flock of 4 birds at Waterberg (Nov 8).



**Common Scimitar-bill** *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas* – Seen on 3 days, including two birds at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4).

#### BUCEROTIDAE

**Monteiro's Hornbill** *Tockus monteiri* – Seen on 3 days, first birds at the Erongo Mountains (Oct 30).

**Southern Red-billed Hornbill** *Tockus rufirostris* – Seen on 3 days in Etosha, including several birds at the Halali Rest Camp (Nov 1).

**Damara Red-billed Hornbill** *Tockus damarensis* – Seen on 3 days, including 3 birds at the Halali Rest Camp (Nov 2). The best way to identify this species from previous species is the colour of the iris.

**Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill** *Tockus leucomelas* – Seen on 7 days, including several single birds and pairs at Etosha (e.g. on Nov 30).

**Bradfield's Hornbill** *Tockus bradfieldi* – Great views of a single bird, also seen at a breeding hole in a tree, at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 6). Another 4 birds, all singles, when traveling from Waterberg to Etosha (Nov 8).



**African Gray Hornbill** *Tockus nasutus* – Seen on 4 days, first seen at Daan Viljoen (Oct 28-29).



#### LYBIIDAE

**Crested Barbet** *Trachyphonus vaillantii* – A single bird at the Shakawe Lodge camp site (Nov 5).

**(Acacia) Pied Barbet** *Tricholaema leucomelas* – A single bird at the Erongo Mountains (Oct 30).

**Black-collared Barbet** *Lybius torquatus* – Heard on Nov 4-6 (Mahango Game Reserve, Skakawe).

#### INDICATORIDAE

**Lesser Honeyguide** *Indicator minor* - A single bird near Waterberg (Nov 7).

#### PICIDAE

**Cardinal Woodpecker** *Dendropicos fuscescens* – A male at Melrose Guest Farm near Windhoek (Nov 16).

**Bearded Woodpecker** *Dendropicos namaquus* – A single female at Melrose Guest Farm near Windhoek (Nov 16).

#### FALCONIDAE

**Pygmy Falcon** *Polihierax semitorquatus* – Great views of a pair at Solitaire (Nov16). Likely a third bird later that day.

**Lesser Kestrel** *Falco naumanni* – Two birds near Otjiwarango (Nov 8), good views of 5 birds at Sossusvlei (Nov 15). A male on Nov 16.

**Greater Kestrel** *Falco rupicoloides* – Superb views of a perched bird while traveling from Okaukuejo to Halai (Nov 1). Seen on 4 days, 1-2 birds per day.



**Rock Kestrel** *Falco rupicolus* – Seen almost daily, for example in the Erongo Mountains (Oct 29).

**Lanner Falcon** *Falco biarmicus* – Single birds seen near waterholes on 3 days at Etosha.



PSITTACIDAE

**Rosy-faced Lovebird** *Agapornis roseicollis* – Common and widespread, first seen in the Erongo Mountains (Oct 29).



**Meijer's Parrot** *Poicephalus meyeri* – Heard at Shakawe Lodge (Nov 5).

**Rueppell's Parrot** *Poicephalus rueppellii* – Great views of two perched birds in a tree on our campsite at Waterberg (Nov 6).



PLATYSTEIRIDAE

**White-tailed Shrike** *Lanioturdus torquatus* – Two distant birds in the Erongo Mountains (Oct 30).

**Pirit Batis** *Batis pririt* – Single birds seen at Daan Viljoen and in the Erongo Mountains (Oct 29-30).

## VANGIDAE

**White Helmetshrike** *Prionops plumatus* – A small flock while driving from the Mahango Game Reserve to Divundu (Nov 6).

**Retz's Helmetshrike** *Prionops retzii* – A small flock flying over at Waterberg (Nov 8).

## MALACONOTIDAE

**Brubru** *Nilaus afer* – Seen at Daan Viljoen and a single bird at Etosha (Oct 30).

**Black-backed Puffback** *Dryoscopus cubla* – Two birds at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 6), a single bird on Nov 7.

**Black-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra senegalus* – A single roadside bird at Etosha (Nov 8).

**Brown-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra australis* – A single bird at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 6).

**Gabon (Swamp) Boubou** *Laniarius bicolor* – Seen in the North, near Shakawa lodge (Nov 5) as well as in the Mahango Game Reserve Namibia (Nov 4, 6).

**Crimson-breasted Gonolek** *Laniarius atrococcineus* – Seen in Etosha, first at Okaukuejo Rest Camp (Oct 30), and the Mahango Game Reserve.



**Bokmakierie** *Telophorus zeylonus* – A single bird at Rooibank (Nov 13), three birds at Melrose Guest Farm near Windhoek (Oct 16).

## LANIIDAE

**Lesser Gray Shrike** *Lanius minor* – Seen at Etosha (Oct 31) and excellent views of several birds at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4 and 6).

**Southern (Collared) Fiscal** *Lanius collaris* – Seen on 6 days, first in Etosha (Oct 31).

**Magpie Shrike** *Corvinella melanoleuca* – Most seen at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4) and when traveling to Windhoek (Nov 16).

**White-crowned Shrike** *Eurocephalus anguitimens* – Seen at Halali rest camp (Etosha) on Nov 1 and 2, and at Roy's Camp near Grootfontein (Nov 6-7).



#### ORIOLIDAE

**Eurasian Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus* – Great views of a male during a morning stroll at Namutoni rest camp (Etosha) on Nov 3, a single bird on Nov 5 and heard on Nov 6.

#### DICRURIDAE

**Fork-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus adsimilis* – Common, seen (almost) daily, also in Botswana (Nov 4).

#### MONARCHIDAE

**African Paradise-Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone viridis* – Great views of a male and female in a mixed flock at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4), a male on Nov 6 and a female on Nov 8.

#### CORVIDAE

**Cape Crow** *Corvus capensis* – Seen on various days, e.g. in Etosha (Oct 31 – Nov 1).

**Pied Crow** *Corvus albus* – Seen throughout the tour, common, also seen in Botswana (Nov 4).



#### ALAUDIDAE

**Rufous-naped Lark** *Mirafra africana* – A single bird near Divundu (Nov 4).

**Sabota Lark** *Calendulauda sabota* – Seen on 3 days at Etosha (Oct 31, Nov 9-10).

**Barlow's Lark** *Calendulauda barlowi* – Two birds at Daan Viljoen (Oct 29).

**Dune Lark** *Calendulauda erythrochlamys* – Two birds in a small “mixed lark flock” at a leaking water pipe at Rooibank (Nov 13).

**Spike-heeled Lark** *Chersomanes albofasciata* – Seen at Etosha, most common on Nov 10 (30+).

**Karoo Long-billed Lark** *Certhilauda subcoronata* – Single birds at Etosha (Oct 31 and Nov 8), 3 birds when traveling to Solitaire (Nov 15).

**Benguela Lark** *Certhilauda benguelensis* – Also single birds at Etosha (Oct 31 and Nov 3), also 3 birds when traveling to Solitaire (Nov 15).

**Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark** *Eremopterix leucotis* – Common at Etosha, e.g. at the Okaukuejo waterhole on Oct 30 (100+) and 31 (500+).

**Gray-backed Sparrow-Lark** *Eremopterix verticalis* – Much less common than previous species, e.g. 2 birds in the large flock of Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark on Oct 31.

**Red-capped Lark** *Calandrella cinerea* – Common and widely distributed at Etosha, e.g. 20+ on Oct 31. Avoiding the sun by sitting in the shade of large stones during the hottest part of the day.

**Stark's Lark** *Spizocorys starki* – Single birds at Etosha (Oct 31, Nov 10), and a single bird at Sossusvlei (Nov 15).

**Pink-billed Lark** *Spizocorys conirostris* – Five birds at the Okaukuejo waterhole (Oct 31).

#### HIRUNDINIDAE

**Banded Martin** *Riparia cincta* – Two birds at Etosha on Nov 2 and 10, most common (10+) at the Okavango River (Nov 5).

**Rock Martin** *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* – Common, seen on most days throughout the tour in Namibia as well as Botswana (Nov 5).

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* – Common throughout the tour in Namibia as well as Botswana (Nov 5).

**White-throated Swallow** *Hirundo albigularis* – A total of 3 or 4 birds at the Windhoek sewage works (Nov 17).

**Greater Striped-Swallow** *Cecropis cucullata* – Seen on 4 days, including 10+ birds at Daan Viljoen (Oct 28).

**Lesser Striped-Swallow** *Cecropis abyssinica* – A single bird at Etosha (Nov 8).

**Red-chested Swallow** *Cecropis semirufa* – Low numbers on 4 days, first seen at Etosha (Nov 2).

**Mosque Swallow** *Cecropis senegalensis* – Great views of 3 birds during breakfast at Divundu (Nov 4).

**Common House-Martin** *Delichon urbicum* – A single bird at Etosha on Oct 31.

**Gray-rumped Swallow** *Pseudhirundo griseopyga* – Six birds at the Okavango River, Botswana (Nov 5).

#### PARIDAE

**Southern Black-Tit** *Melaniparus niger* – A single bird at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4). Also a few birds on Nov 7, perhaps this species.

**Carp's Tit** *Melaniparus carpi* – Seen at Daan Viljoen (Oct 29) and the Erongo Mountains (Oct 30).

#### PYCNOTIDAE

**Yellow-bellied Greenbul** *Chlorocichla flaviventris* – A single bird in a mixed flock at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4).

**Common (African Red-eyed) Bulbul** *Pycnonotus barbatus* – Common at Daan Viljoen (Oct 29), Erongo Mountains (Oct 30), and Etosha (Nov 1-3).

**Dark-capped Bulbul** *Pycnonotus nigricans* – Three birds at the Mahango Game Reserved (Nov 4).

#### MACROSPHENIDAE

**Cape Crombec** *Sylvietta rufescens* – Well seen on 3 days, first bird in Etosha (Oct 30).



#### PHYLLOSCOPIDAE

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus* – Seen and heard on 5 days.

#### ACROCEPHALIDAE

**Icterine Warbler** *Hippolais icterina* – Two birds at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4).

**African Reed-Warbler** *Acrocephalus baeticatus* – A single bird at Swakopmund (Nov 13), also a single bird on Nov 13.

**Greater Swamp-Warbler** *Acrocephalus rufescens* – Two birds along the Okavango River (Nov 5).

#### CISTICOLIDAE

**Red-faced Cisticola** *Cisticola erythrops* – Two birds at Etosha (Nov 2).

**Rattling Cisticola** *Cisticola chiniana* – A single bird heard at the Okavango River (Nov 5).

**Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis* – A single bird, likely this species, near Windhoek (Nov 17).

**Tawny-flanked Prinia** *Prinia subflava* – Two birds at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4) and at the Okavango River (Nov 5).

**Black-chested Prinia** *Prinia flavicans* – Two birds in Etosha (Oct 30). Also a single bird on Oct 31.

**Yellow-bellied Eremomela** *Eremomela icteropygialis* – Two birds at the Erongo Mountains on both Oct 29 and 30.

**Greencap Eremomela** *Eremomela scotops* – A single bird at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4).

**Yellow-rumped Eremomela** *Eremomela gregalis* – A single bird in Etosha (Oct 31).

**Burnt-neck Eremomela** *Eremomela usticollis* – Single birds at Daan Viljoen on Oct 29, and at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4).

#### SYLVIDAE

**Rufous-vented Warbler** *Sylvia subcaerulea* – Rather common, seen on 5 days, first birds at the Erongo Mountains (Oct 29).

#### ZOSTEROPIDAE

**African Yellow White-eye** *Zosterops senegalensis* – Good views of a single bird at Shakawe Lodge (Nov 5).

#### LEIOTHRICHIDAE

**Hartlaub's Babbler** *Turdoides hartlaubii* – Six birds at the campground near Shakawe Lodge (Nov 5).

**Black-faced Babbler** *Turdoides melanops* – A family of 3 birds at Roy's Rest Camp near Grootfontein (Nov 6-7).

**Southern Pied-Babbler** *Turdoides bicolor* – A roadside flock of 4 birds when traveling to Waterberg (Nov 7).

**Arrow-marked Babbler** *Turdoides jardineii* – Common at the Mahango Game Reserve and at Shakawe Lodge (Nov 4 and 5).

#### MUSCICAPIDAE

**Chat Flycatcher** *Bradornis infuscatus* – Seen from Nov 14-16 in the Solitaire – Winhoek area.

**Mariqua (Marico) Flycatcher** *Bradornis mariquensis* – Seen on 3 days, including 2 birds at Windhoek (Nov 17).

**Southern Black-Flycatcher** *Melaenornis pammelaina* – A single bird at the Erongo Mountains (Oct 29).

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata* – Seen on 4 days, including 4 birds at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4).

**Karoo Scrub-Robin** *Cercotrichas coryphaeus* – At least 6 birds in Etosha (Nov 8).

**Kalahari Scrub-Robin** *Cercotrichas paena* – Seen on 3 days, first seen at the Erongo Mountains, but more common in Etosha (Nov 8).

**Red-backed (White-browed) Scrub-Robin** *Cercotrichas leucophrys* – As previous species.

**White-browed Robin-Chat** *Cossypha heuglini* – Single birds at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4) and at the Okavanga River (Nov 5).

**Short-toed Rock-Thrush** *Monticola brevipes* – Singles seen on various days, e.g. a single bird at the Erongo Mountains (Oct 30).

**Southern Anteater-Chat** *Myrmecocichla formicivora* – Seen on 5 days, 3 birds at Daan Viljoen (Oct 28).



**Karoo Chat** *Cercomela schlegelii* – Seen on 3 days in Etosha, two birds at Oct 31. Probably underrecorded.

**Tractrac Chat** *Cercomela tractrac* – At least 4 birds when traveling to Solitaire (Nov 14).





**Familiar Chat** *Cercomela familiaris* – Seen on 6 days, the most common Chat.

**Mountain Wheatear** *Oenanthe monticola* – A male at Daan Viljoen (Oct 29), most common in the Solitaire – Winhoek area (Oct 14-16).

#### TURDIDAE

**Groundscraper Thrush** *Psophocichla litsitsirupa* – Seen in low numbers almost daily.

#### STURNIDAE

**Cape Glossy-Starling** *Lamprotornis nitens* - Common, seen almost daily throughout the tour.

**Meves's Glossy-Starling** *Lamprotornis mevesii* – Seen at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4 and 6).



**Burchell's Glossy-Starling** *Lamprotornis australis* – As previous species, also single birds on Oct 30 – 31.

**Pale-winged Starling** *Onychognathus nabouroup* – First seen at the Erongo Mountains (Oct 30), common during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the tour.

#### BUPHAGIDAE

**Red-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus erythrorhynchus* – Single birds seen in Namibia (Mahango Game Reserve, Nov 4 and 6) and Botswana (Okavango River, Nov 5).

**Yellow-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus africanus* – Four birds in Botswana (Nov 4).

#### NECTARINIIDAE

**Amethyst Sunbird** *Chalcomitra amethystina* – Two females in Etosha (Nov 3).

**Mariqua (Marico) Sunbird** *Cinnyris mariquensis* – Low numbers on 4 days, first seen (female) at the Erongo Mountains (Oct 29).

**White-breasted Sunbird** *Cinnyris talatala* – Seen on 3 days, a male in Etosha (Nov 2). Also seen on Nov 7-8.

**Dusky Sunbird** *Cinnyris fuscus* – Seen on 4 days, most common -20+/day- on Oct 30-31 (Erongo Mountains – Etosha).

#### MOTACILLIDAE

**Cape Wagtail** *Motacilla capensis* – Daily seen in the Windhoek – Walvisbaai area.

**African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp* – Seen at Shakawe (Botswana, Nov 4-5).

**African Pipit** *Anthus cinnamomeus* – Seen on 3 days at Etosha (Nov 2, 8 and 9).

**Long-billed Pipit** *Anthus similis* – A single bird at Etosha (Nov 1).

**Buffy Pipit** *Anthus vaalensis* – Two birds seen at the Erongo Mountains (Oct 29).

#### EMBERIZIDAE

**Lark-like Bunting** *Emberiza impetuari* – Seen at Etosha on 3 days (Nov 2, 3 and 9).

**Cinnamon-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza tahapisi* – Single birds at Etosha (Oct 31 – Nov 1).

**Cape Bunting** *Emberiza capensis* – Seen at the Erongo Mountains (Oct 29-30).

#### FRINGILLIDAE

**Black-throated Canary** *Serinus atrogularis* – A flock of 30 birds at Windhoek (Nov 17).

**Yellow Canary** *Serinus flaviventris* – Common, seen on various days, first at the Erongo Mountains on Oct 30.

**White-throated Canary** *Serinus albogularis* – A little flock of 4 birds at Etosha (Nov 9).

#### PASSERIDAE

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* – Common at the Windhoek and Walvisbaai area.

**Great (Rufous) Sparrow** *Passer motitensis* – Seen on 8 days, first at the Erongo Mountains (Nov 29).

**Cape Sparrow** *Passer melanurus* – Common along the coast, first seen at Henties Bay (Nov 11).

**Southern Gray-headed Sparrow** *Passer diffusus* – Common throughout the tour, first seen at or near the Erongo Mountains (Oct 29).

**Yellow-throated Petronia** *Petronia superciliaris* – A single bird at the Erongo Mountains (Oct 29).

#### PLOCEIDAE

**Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver** *Bubalornis niger* – A single pair at Roy's Rest Camp (Nov 6).

**White-browed Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser mahali* – Common throughout the tour.

**Social Weaver** *Philetairus socius* – Most common at Etosha, for example 50% birds at Oct 30.



**Spectacled Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis* – First seen at Shakawe (Botswana, Nov 5), also 2 birds at Swakopmund (Nov 13).



**Holub's Golden-Weaver** *Ploceus xanthops* – Two birds at Shakawe (Nov 5).

**Southern Brown-throated Weaver** *Ploceus xanthopterus* – Seen at Shakawe (Nov 4-5).

**Southern Masked-Weaver** *Ploceus velatus* – Common at the start and end of the tour, up to 50+ per day (near Solitaire, Nov 15).

**Village Weaver** *Ploceus cucullatus* – A male at Roy's Rest Camp (Nov 6), thereafter on several days.

**Red-billed Quelea** *Quelea quelea* – Common at Namutoni Rest Camp in Etosha (Nov 2-3).

#### ESTRILDIDAE

**Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild* – Despite its name, only seen at 2 days in the Walvisbaai – Solitaire area (Nov 13-14).

**Black-cheeked Waxbill** *Estrilda erythroneura* – A little flock of 3 birds at Daan Viljoen (Oct 29).

**Blue-breasted Cordonbleu** *Uraeginthus angolensis* – Seen at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4 and 6).

**Violet-eared Waxbill** *Granatina granatina* – Most common at the Halali Rest Camp waterhole (Nov 1 and 2).

**Green-winged Pytilia** *Pytilia melba* – A single bird on Nov 4, good views of a pair at Waterberg (Nov 8).

**Brown Firefinch** *Lagonosticta nitidula* – Great views of a single bird at Shakawe (Botswana, Nov 5).

**Jameson's Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rhodopareia* – Also a single bird, seen well, at the Mahango Game Reserve (Nov 4).

**Red-headed Finch** *Amadina erythrocephala* – A single bird at a waterhole in Etosha (Nov 3), also a flock of 30+ birds in Etosha on Nov 9.

## MAMMALS

**Commerson's Leaf-nosed Bat** *Hipposideros commersoni* – Common at the Okaukuejo waterhole (Etosha).

**(Cape) Ground Squirrel** *Xerus inauris* – Seen on various days at Etosha.

**Striped (Kuhl's) Tree Squirrel** *Funisciurus congicus* – Seen on 2 days at Etosha.

**Tree (Smith's Bush) Squirrel** *Paraxerus cepapi* – As previous species.

**Springhare** *Pedetes capensis* – A (fresh) corpse when traveling to Waterberg.

**Scrub Hare** *Lepus saxatilis* – Seen at Roy's Rest Camp.

**Rock Dassie (Rock Hyrax)** *Procavia capensis* – Seen on various days, most common at Waterberg. The favourite food of Verreaux's Eagle.



**African Elephant** *Loxodonta africana* – Common at Estoha, families at waterholes etc. Up to more than 30 animals/day. Elephants in Etosha are the largest in Africa, but due to nutrient (calcium?) lack, their tusks are brittle and most animals have severely damaged tusks. Great to see behaviour, for example an immature male trying to scare a Black Rhinoceros, and getting annoyed of being unable to reproduce father's behaviour (trunk over tusk).







**Mountain Zebra** *Equus zebra* – A characteristic species, living in hills and lacking the shadowstripes of next species. Low numbers at various locations, including Daan Viljoen.

**Burchell's Zebra** *Equus burchelli* – Large herds at Etosha, daily up to 500-1,000 animals (or more) traveling to and from waterholes. Easily forms mixed herds with other plain species.





**Black Rhinoceros** *Diceros bicornis* – A total of at least 10 individuals at Etosha, usually near waterholes (3-4 animals) but also feeding of apparently unedible Acacia or lookalike. Seems to like water, at least two seen bathing.



**White Rhinoceros** *Ceratotherium simum* – Superb views of a pair at very close range at Etosha. Much larger as previous species, characteristic differences in upper lip and ears.



**Hippopotamus** *Hippopotamus amphibius* – Distant views, common at the Mahango Game Reserve.

**Warthog** *Phacochoerus aethiopicus* – Seen in good numbers throughout the tour.

**Giraffe** *Giraffe camelopardalis* – Common at Daan Viljoen, Etosha, sometimes more than 50 animals per day. Their enormous size impressed us most when walking at Daan Viljoen.



**Blue Wildebeest** *Connochaes taurinus* – Common throughout the tour. A small herd kept us awake at Daan Viljoen while running close to our tent. Most common at Etosha.





**Red Hartebeest (Hartebeeste)** *Alcelaphus buselaphus* – Seen in much lower numbers as previous species.



**Klipspringer** *Oreotragus oreotragus* – Great views of a little group of 4 animals at the Spreetshoogte Pass.

**Damara Dik-Dik** *Madoqua kirkii* – Seen on 6 days, often very tame.



**Steenbok (Steinbok)** *Rephicerus campestris* – Seen in low numbers throughout the tour.



**Impala** *Aepyceros melampus* – Most common at Etosha (1000+/day).



**Black-faced Impala** *Aepyceros (melampus) petersi* – Although considered a race of previous species, this animal is not only markedly different in appearance but also in behaviour. Much less common as previous species.



**Roan (Roan Antelope)** *Hippotragus equinus* – A large and very characteristic Antelope. Seen at the Mahango Game Reserve.





**Sable (Sable Antelope)** *Hippotragus niger* – A beautiful and very large Antelope. Also seen at the Mahango Game Reserve.



**Gemsbok (Oryx)** *Oryx gazella* – Also a very large Antelope. Most common at Etosha, highest day count over 100 animals.



**African Buffalo** *Syncerus caffer* – Seen at close range at the Mahango Game Reserve.

**(Greater) Kudu** *Tragelaphus strepsiceros* – Relatively common.





**Bushbuck** *Tragelaphus scriptus* – A female, likely this species, at the Mahango Game Reserve.

**Eland** *Taurotragus oryx* – Seen on 2 days, Daan Viljoen and Estosha. Uncommon.



**Red Lechwe** *Kobus leche* – Common at the Mahango Game Reserve.

**Spotted Hyena** *Crocuta crocuta* – A total of 10 seen at Etosha. Social, little groups of 2-3, preening.



**Leopard** *Panthera pardus* – A single at Etosha.



**Lion** *Panthera leo* - A total number of 17 Lions seen at Estosha, highest day count 11. Can be extremely difficult to see, even when drinking water at the waterholes.





**African Wild Cat** *Felis lybica* – Great views of a single animal at one of the waterholes along the Etosha Pan.

**Caracal** *Felis caracal* – Also great views, seen a little later than previous species, walking in Mopani forest.

**Bat-eared Fox** *Otocyon megalotis* – Distant views of two at Sossusvlei.

**Black-backed Jackal** *Canis mesomelas* – Common at Etosha, including one visiting our camp site and drinking water close to our tent.





**Honey Badger (Ratel)** *Mellivora capensis* – Nice views at the Halali Rest Camp.



**Suricate (Meerkat)** *Suricata suricata* – A distant family near Rooybank.

**Yellow Mongoose** *Cynictis penicillata* – A single when traveling to Etosha.



**Slender Mongoose** *Galerella sanguinea* – A single when traveling to Henties Bay.

**Black Mongoose (Shadow Hunter)** *Galerella nigrata* – Great and very close views of a family of 8 at Waterberg. This animal has been described only recently, and is endemic for the granite outcrops of Namibia. Fortunately, despite its name, “Shadow Hunter”, also active at daylight.





**Banded Mongoose** *Mungos mungo* – Common at the Waterberg rest camp.



**Chacma Baboon** *Papio ursinus* – As previous species. One stole a package of “rusks” from the open trunk of our car.

**Vervet Monkey** *Cercopithecus aethiops* – Seen in low numbers at the Mahango Game Reserve.

**Cape Fur Seal** *Arctocephalus pusillus* – Seen on various days, visited a colony at Cape Cross. Noisy and smelly.



## REPTILES

**Nile crocodile** *Crocodylus niloticus* – Seen at the Mahango Game Reserve (May 4 and 6) and most common at the Ovango River (May 5, Botswana).



**Leopard Tortoise** - *Stigmochelys pardalis* – Close views at Etosha.



**Namibian Rock Agama** - *Agama planiceps* – Seen at Daan Viljoen.