

# Namibia Mammal Report: 15 November to 2 December 2017

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Aardwolf (*Proteles cristatus*)

## Introduction

Having previously enjoyed several successful mammal watching trips to South Africa, our time in Namibia was focused on seeing a selection of localised species that are difficult or impossible to find elsewhere. I was particularly interested in documenting small rodents, shrews and sengis, many of which we live trapped and later photographed.

Unlike the majority of wildlife focused trips to Namibia, we did not spend much time in Etosha. This was partly because there was no accommodation available inside the park when we organised our visit. Staying on a couple of farms outside Etosha did allow us much greater freedom for trapping, walking around at night and so on, but meant we were unable to experience the park early morning and late afternoon when the most exciting mammals are active.

Despite missing out on several key targets we recorded just over 60 mammal species in 17 days.

## Travel details

We flew from London Heathrow to Johannesburg with Virgin Atlantic, and then onto Windhoek using South African Airways. Our hire car, a Toyota Fortuner 4x4, came from Budget. As other reports state, a 4WD is not essential in most of the country, however I did drive several off-road tracks along the coast and in the Caprivi Strip where a 2WD would have certainly struggled.

## Swakopmund: 15 to 18 November 2017

It was mid afternoon when we eventually left Windhoek. We drove straight to Swakopmund and arrived early evening in almost zero visibility. It turned out a series of sandstorms, caused by unseasonably high winds, would stay with us for the majority of our time on the coast. Fortunately the winds tended to die down after sunset and didn't really pick up again until late morning. This gave us a reasonable window in which to look for mammals.

## Rossmund Lodge Golf Estate / Swakopmund

Rossmund Lodge (recommended) provided an ideal base in which to explore the surrounding area. Located on the edge of town and in close proximity to the Swakop River bed, the well-watered golf course proved to be a magnet for the local wildlife. A herd of habituated **Kalahari Springbok** were easily seen throughout the day, while several **South African Four-striped Grass Mice** were spotted around the restaurant early morning. A number of genetic studies suggest that *Rhabdomys pumilio* is in fact a species complex consisting of up to five separate species. According to the proposed changes in taxonomy, the species found in Swakopmund would be the **West-central South African Four-striped Grass Mouse** (*R. bechuanae*).

I was hoping to see Littledale's Whistling Rats which also occur in the area. Unfortunately a local bird guide who had promised to give us directions to a nearby colony failed to deliver at the last minute. Undeterred I checked the dry riverbed under the main Swakop road bridge (just south of town) where they have been seen in the past, along with several other areas without success. I suspect the high winds didn't help.

My other main rodent target was the endemic Setzer's Hairy-footed Gerbil which inhabits the featureless gravel plains inland of the coastal dune strip. Sarah and I spent several hours each night driving the quiet roads that cross this seemingly inhospitable habitat, but for some reason we only saw gerbils on the relatively busy D1984 (between Swakopmund and Walvis Bay). In total we saw five **Setzer's Hairy-footed Gerbils**, including one that froze in the spotlight for several minutes allowing for the salient identification features to be noted. The only other mammals we saw at night were several **Black-backed Jackals** that frequented the Dune 7 picnic area (22°58'11.6"S 14°35'49.0"E). I suspect this might also be a good place to look for Brown Hyena.

## Walvis Bay

Another nice coastal town, Walvis Bay is located 35 minutes south of Swakopmund. The main purpose of our visit here was to take a boat trip in search of Heaviside's Dolphin. There is a selection of 'dolphin watching' trips departing from the marina every morning, but from what I could gather none are dedicated solely to the purpose of cetacean watching. At best they are sightseeing trips which invariably include oysters and alcohol along with the chance of spotting seals and dolphins. We picked *Mola Mola* (mola-namibia.com) as they seemed the most clued up on the local wildlife and booked our trip the day before. Heaviside's Dolphins are pretty common in Walvis Bay and I was told by several people that we would be unlucky not to see them. Dusky Dolphins are also occasionally spotted.

While waiting to leave from the jetty we watched several **Cape Fur Seals** swimming around the boats. As soon as we departed our guide started his routine of attracting tame pelicans and gulls with fish, talking about the oyster fisheries etc. so it took a while before we found some dolphins. My heart sank when I saw they were **Atlantic Bottlenose** despite the fact they showed rather well. Of course everyone else on board was highly satisfied with their dolphin sighting and so the boat captain turned his attention to the thousands of **Cape Fur Seals** hauled out along Pelican Point. As the boat headed back to the marina it was extremely frustrating knowing that the Heaviside's were just a little further out at sea (a fact confirmed to me later). I'm pretty certain that if we hadn't bumped into the Bottlenose Dolphins the boat would have gone further afield in search of the other species, but as the rest of the paying customers tucked into their buffet of oysters and champagne, I'm sure that they couldn't care less which dolphin species they saw!

Apparently Heaviside's Dolphins are rarely seen from land in Walvis Bay, unless you make the long 4x4 drive to the end of Pelican Point. Initially this seemed like a good option, but by lunchtime the wind had picked up again, causing sand storms and rough seas. Not ideal conditions for cetacean watching.

## Hobatere Lodge: 18 to 20 November 2017

### Hobatere Lodge (hobatere-lodge.com)

Located in the heart of the Hobatere Concession, on the western edge of Etosha National Park, Hobatere Lodge is a good place to spend a couple of nights. Home to a healthy population of **Hartmann's Mountain Zebra**, other game includes **Springbok**, **Kudu**, **Gemsbok** and **Giraffe**. We also saw a couple of **Elephants** and a pride of **Lions**, both of which move freely in and out of the concession through gaps in the perimeter fence (caused by elephant damage). Cheetah and Leopard are also seen with some regularity, although not by us.

**Congo Rope Squirrels** were easy to spot around the lodge during the day, while **Egyptian Slit-faced Bats** used the canopy above the poolside viewing platform as a night roost.



Egyptian Slit-faced Bat (*Nycteris thebaica*)

An organised night drive started off slowly despite perfect conditions. After an hour or so we had only seen **Lions** and **Black-backed Jackals**. Eventually things picked up with a pair of **Springhares** and two **Aardwolf** sightings. The highlight of the evening was a mother Aardwolf with four tiny cubs.



Aardwolf (*Proteles cristatus*)

On our last morning a flat tyre ended my plans for a dawn visit to the Hobatere Campsite in search of Black Mongoose and Jameson's Red Rock Rabbit. However, all was not lost as we saw a solitary **Damara Ground Squirrel** below a rocky outcrop while leaving the concession. This species is difficult to separate from the more common South African Ground Squirrel, but the fact it was alone in a rocky area helped somewhat with its credentials. Moreover, in 2008 Jon Hall was told by the previous owners of Hobatere Lodge (Namibian naturalists Steve and Louise Braine) that Damara Ground Squirrels are the species known to occur on that part of the property.

## Etosha National Park – Galton Gate

Hobatere Lodge is a good base from which to explore the western section of Etosha National Park, accessed through Galton Gate.

This part of the park receives relatively few visitors partly because wildlife viewing can be difficult in the dense Mopani woodland. In several hours we saw a single **Black-faced Impala** along with **Kudu, Red Hartebeest, Gemsbok, Springbok, Steenbok, Hartmann's Mountain Zebra, Plains Zebra, Warthog, Elephant, Chacma Baboon, Giraffe, Black-backed Jackal** and **South African Ground Squirrel**.

## Tandala Ridge: 20 to 25 November, 2017

Tandala Ridge ([tandalaridge.com](http://tandalaridge.com)) is a game farm situated to the south of Etosha, approximately 95km south-east Okaukuejo. Covering 14,000 acres of Mopani woodland and rocky hills, the area is home to an impressive range of wildlife, including some very interesting mammals.

The farm is owned by retired Alaskan biologists, Tim and Laurel Osbourne, who were excellent hosts with a sound knowledge of the local natural history. Since buying Tandala Ridge in 1999, the Osbournes have reintroduced a selection of native ungulates including **Gemsbok, Kudu, Eland, Red Hartebeest, Blue Wildebeest** and **Plains Zebra**. Smaller game such as **Warthog, Steenbok, Common Duiker** and **Damara Dik-dik** can also be found on the property.

The accommodation chalets sit along a rocky ridge and dinner is served overlooking a waterhole. At dusk tame **Cape Porcupines** visit the kitchen for scraps and can be handfed with patience.



Cape Porcupine (*Hystrix africaeaustralis*)

A more skittish **Southern Lesser Galago** also showed up most evenings at a specially constructed feeding station, along with a couple of **Egyptian Slit-faced Bats** that night-roosted under the chalet porch.

I was hoping to see one of the Stone Dormice that often reside in the thatched roofs of the various buildings, although Lauren had not seen them for several months. Other small mammals proved easier to see, including a healthy population of **Namaqua Rock Mice** that made trapping other rodent species somewhat of a challenge. After a couple of nights I felt like the Pied Piper of Hamelin as I set my Shermans surrounded by hungry mice. As soon as I walked away I could hear the trap doors snapping shut. I contemplated setting my traps in the grassland, well away from the rocks, but I really wanted to catch a dormouse or a *Petromyscus* rock mouse. My persistence was rewarded and I managed to capture at least four mice which, according to all the range maps, can only be **Shortridge's Pygmy Rock Mouse**. Currently, however, *Petromyscus* taxonomy is in need of revision and Tim mentioned that the pygmy rock mice at Tandala are probably an undescribed species.



Shortridge's Pygmy Rock Mouse (*Petromyscus shortridgei*)

Tim and I spent most mornings and late afternoons hiking around the property in search of wildlife. Sometimes we combined these visits with various other activities such as game tracking or light farm chores. No two days were the same and Tim was eager to show me as much nature as possible, including a 3.8 metre African Rock Python and some fascinating stromatolite fossils.

Of course mammals were our main focus and we enjoyed mixed success with an assortment of target species. Decent views of **Bushveld Sengi** were achieved after searching areas of Trumpet-thorn (*Catophractes alexandri*) for evidence of runs. Surprisingly **Damara Dik-dik** proved much harder to see despite the fact they're usually common on the farm. Most resident pairs had become more elusive since the rains and it took a couple of days before I eventually saw one.

**Kaokoveld Rock Dassies** (*Procavia capensis welwitschii*) were easy to find on various rocky outcrops around the farm. Previously considered a distinct species from *P. capensis*, apparently ongoing genetic work suggests that the Kaokoveld Dassie may indeed be a separate species after all.

Unfortunately we didn't manage to find the Black Mongoose that Tim has seen several times and even captured on trail cam. We also failed to see the Jameson's Red Rock Rabbits although we found old latrines. With hindsight I wish I had spent even more time searching for these species at Tandala, as opportunities to see them later in the trip were not as good as I had anticipated.

One afternoon we visited a small cave located high up an escarpment of particularly sharp rocks. Previously it was home to a population of Dent's Horseshoe Bats although several years had passed since anyone had last checked. Once I had squeezed through the tiny opening and dropped into the chamber below I could only see a dozen or so **Egyptian Slit-faced Bats**.

We didn't do much night driving for various reasons but I'm sure that in the right conditions spotlighting from a vehicle would be productive. Aardvark sign was evident in a number of areas, while Tim has seen Aardwolf, Bat-eared Fox and Caracal many times over the years. The property is also home to some of the larger predators including Spotted Hyena which can often be heard calling at night. Other species pass through regularly. While checking the memory card from Tim's trail cam I was pleasantly surprised to see both Cheetah and Leopard had visited the farm waterhole over the previous week.

### **Etosha National Park – Andersson Gate**

Etosha is an easy 50 minute drive from Tandala Ridge but with so much to keep us occupied on the farm we only made the journey once. As expected we found this part of the park popular with tourists and the game was easy to spot in the open habitat. **Black-faced Impala** were far more numerous than in the west, while other sightings included **Kudu, Red Hartebeest, Gemsbok, Springbok, Steenbok, Plains Zebra, Warthog, Elephant, Giraffe** and **Black-backed Jackal**. The highlight was a **Spotted Hyena** that was seen mid-morning heading to its den in a culvert under the road.

### **Divundu (Caprivi Strip): 25 to 28 November, 2017**

#### **Mobola Lodge** ([mobola-lodge.com](http://mobola-lodge.com))

Mobola Lodge is located on the banks of the Okavango River and is almost completely surrounded by traditional villages. The lush grounds are a haven for wildlife and the lodge itself proved to be a nice place to base ourselves while visiting the nearby Mahango Game Reserve.

Every morning we enjoyed breakfast on our veranda watching colourful Forest Kingfishers and African Paradise Flycatchers. **Smith's Bush Squirrels** were common throughout the grounds, while a tame **Common Duiker** appeared to feed outside our accommodation every evening. The herps were also plentiful and included three species of frog, various geckos and a beautiful Puff Adder that lived in a small patch of vegetation next to our barbeque.

However, it was the small mammals that were of most interest, and the lodge owner kindly gave me permission to trap wherever I pleased.

While spotlighting around the lodge grounds I came across an **Acacia Rat** that appeared to be living in the thatched roof of our cottage.



*Acacia Rat (Thallomys paedulcus)*

I also found good numbers of *Aethomys* mice which, according to various distribution maps, could only be **Red Veld Rats**. I managed to capture several in my traps and was able to examine them carefully in the hand. All the measurements seemed to fit *A. chrysophilus*, apart from the relative hind foot length that on average was shorter than the literature suggests.

Over a couple of nights I set some traps in an area of reed bed alongside the river. This required an element of caution due to the large number of Nile Crocodiles that inhabit the Okavango. Only a week earlier, the owner's Alsatian had been attacked by a croc in the exact same area. However, the small risk was worth it as I captured both **Swamp Musk Shrews** and **Natal Multimammate Mice**. Interestingly, the location and habitat should also be good for Shortridge's Multimammate Mouse, which is slightly larger and significantly darker in colour than *M. natalensis*.



Natal Multimammate Mouse (*Mastomys natalensis*)

Otters, presumably both Clawless and Spotted-necked, are often seen on the river. We took a sunset boat trip that coincided with thunder showers and saw only **Hippopotamus** and a Nile Crocodile.

### **Mahango Game Reserve**

Part of the Bwabwata National Park, this small but excellent reserve can be accessed from the C48 (the road leading to the Botswana border). Before entering the reserve a permit must be purchased from the office, which on our visit contained the most impolite and unhelpful staff I've ever come across.

The reserve has two loop roads, both accessed from the C48, which cuts through the centre of the park. The eastern loop transects a variety of habitats and is drivable in a 2WD. Over two visits we spent the majority of our time exploring this section seeing good numbers of **Impala**, **Southern Reedbuck** and **Red Lechwe**. Unsurprisingly the latter two species congregated on the floodplain, together with a herd of distant **Africa Savanna Buffalo** and the occasional **Hippo**.

Also fairly numerous on the eastern loop were **Kudu**, **Plains Zebra** and **Common Warthog**, along with smaller numbers of **Chobe Bushbuck**, **Blue Wildebeest**, **Tsessebe**, **Giraffe**, **African Elephant** and **Chacma Baboon**. I was particularly hoping to see **Malbrouck's Monkey**, but it wasn't until the second day that we finally found a couple of family groups in the woodland east of the Giant Baobab.



Malbrouck's Monkey (*Chlorocebus cynosures*)

Also reasonably difficult to find were both Roan and Sable Antelope, with only a single **Sable** seen in a dense thicket by the end of our first day.

On our second visit we drove the western loop, which is only suitable for 4WD vehicles due to areas of deep sand, especially in the southern part. The habitat in this area of the park is mostly dry woodland and game sightings proved less frequent. However, this appeared to be the section of the reserve that **Roan** and **Sable** favour, and we enjoyed numerous sightings of both species.



Roan Antelope (*Hippotragus equines*)

A waterhole in the northern part of the circuit was particularly good for Roan, and at the time of our visit had also attracted a large family of African Elephants. A young **Slender Mongoose** was also seen in this area.

Unfortunately the park closes at dusk so it's not possible to look for the many interesting nocturnal mammals that occur in the area. The habitat outside the reserve is severely degraded and densely populated. Presumably any wild animal that wanders out of the protected areas ends up as bush meat. Furthermore, driving at night in the Caprivi Strip can be hazardous due to the large numbers of livestock and people on the road.

### **Ochange Namibia Lodge: 28 to 30 November, 2017**

We stayed a couple of nights at this nice lodge mainly to break up the drive to Omaruru and to spend a little time relaxing. Located inside the Otavi Conservancy, just east of the B1 and approximately 25 kms north of Otavi, the farm is home to some interesting mammals including Black Mongoose and Jameson's Red Rock Rabbit. Speaking to the friendly owners over dinner it soon became apparent that both these species are rarely seen on the farm and the majority of the 'black mongoose' on the property are in fact black morph Dwarf Mongoose.

Interestingly Serval has been seen a number of times over the last few years, most recently a dead individual found drowned in a water tank. Other large predators seen on the farm with some regularity include Cheetah, Leopard, Caracal and Brown Hyena.

Much more easy to observe in a short visit are various re-introduced antelope including **Eland**, **Black-faced Impala** and **Gemsbok**, together with non-native game such as Waterbuck and Black Wildebeest. Around the accommodation **Smith's Bush Squirrel** is common, and we saw both **Steenbok** and **Damara Dik-dik** from the entrance track. A post dinner night drive produced **Common Warthog**, three **Southern Lesser Galagos** and our only confirmed **Savanna Hare** of the trip.

I purposely set my traps away from the rocky areas to avoid Namaqua Rock Mice, choosing a flat, sandy area near the perimeter fence. The next morning they contained two **Bushveld Gerbils** and a couple of fantastic **Desert Pygmy Mice**.



Desert Pygmy Mouse (*Mus indutus*)

I also captured two *Aethomys* mice which I didn't try to identify further due to time constraints and the fact I had already seen both potential species already on this trip.

## **Omururu: 30 November to 2 December, 2017**

### **Roidina Safari Lodge** (roidinanaturefarm.com)

The Roidina Safari Lodge is located 15 minutes north of Omururu, and it was here that Sarah and I spent our last two nights of the trip. On our penultimate day we were joined by Jon Hall who was in Namibia on a work trip.

Although very nice in terms of food and accommodation, the Roidina didn't seem geared up for serious mammal watchers. Permission to trap and spotlight along the entrance road was eventually granted from a bemused manager who was clearly more used to guests retiring to bed after dinner.

The restaurant overlooked a waterhole that attracted a steady flow of introduced game including Gemsbok, Kudu and non-native Waterbuck. A large group of **Dwarf Mongoose** stopped by early one afternoon and at night we saw **Black-backed Jackal** and a distant **Small Spotted Genet**.

The long entrance track to the lodge was good for small ungulates and here we enjoyed our best views of **Steenbok** and **Damara Dik-dik** late afternoon.



Damara Dik-dik (*Madoqua damarensis*)

A brief spotlighting session along the road after dinner produced another dik-dik, a couple of Common Duiker and several Cape Hares.

While setting traps on the property I had brief views of a **Bushveld Sengi** in an area of Trumpet-thorn (*Catophractes alexandri*). Overnight Jon and I captured several **Bushveld Gerbils**.



Bushveld Gerbil (*Gerbilliscus leucogaster*)

### **Erongo Conservancy**

A quick afternoon drive through the Erongo Conservancy produced Common Warthog and Chacma Baboon, but it wasn't really possible to explore the grounds of the Erongo Wilderness Lodge as we hadn't booked accommodation there. We did call in for lunch but as we were not made to feel especially welcome, we headed back to town and dined at the Omaruru Souvenirs and Kaffeestube instead (highly recommended).

### **North-west of Omururu**

In 2016 Richard Webb discovered a rocky outcrop approximately 20 km to the north-west of Omururu where he found some of the same mammal species that occur around the Erongo Wilderness Lodge.

Jon and I visited this highly productive area late afternoon and within a couple of minutes we had seen our first **Dassie Rat**.



Dassie Rat (*Petromes typicus*)

A short time later a **Western Rock Sengi** ran past my foot, closely followed by a second individual that we observed sitting on a rock. We went on to see several more Dassie Rats and at least one other sengi, together with a **Rock Hyrax** and some nice multi-coloured Namibian Rock Agamas. Jon also saw a Slender Mongoose, despite the habitat looking promising for Black Mongoose.

A line of Sherman traps set overnight captured a small number of Namaqua Rock Mice.

Also of note were a couple of **Banded Mongoose** that Sarah and I saw early morning crossing the road between Omururu and the rocky outcrop. According to various distribution maps, this species does not occur in the Erongo region.

## Species list

Taxonomy follows *Handbook of the Mammals of the World*

1.	<b>Western Rock Sengi</b> <i>Elephantulus rupestris</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least three seen late afternoon on rocky outcrop 20kms NW of Omaruru</li> </ul>
2.	<b>Bushveld Sengi</b> <i>Elephantulus myurus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One seen well at Tandala Ridge</li> <li>Brief view on entrance track of Roidina Safari Lodge</li> </ul>
3.	<b>Swamp Musk Shrew</b> <i>Crocidura mariquensis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two trapped in reed bed along Okavango River at Mobola Lodge</li> </ul>

4.	<b>Egyptian Slit-faced Bat</b> <i>Nycteris thebaica</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two night roosting under canopy at Hobatere Lodge</li> <li>• At least 12 roosting in cave at Tandala Ridge</li> <li>• Two night roosting outside accommodation chalet at Tandala Ridge</li> </ul>
5.	<b>Chacma Baboon</b> <i>Papio ursinus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very common and seen at the majority of places visited (with the exception of the coastal desert)</li> <li>• Often seen along the roadside in many parts of the country</li> </ul>
6.	<b>Malbrouck's Monkey</b> <i>Chlorocebus cynosures</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two small groups seen in Mahango</li> </ul>
7.	<b>Southern Lesser Galago</b> <i>Galago moholi</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least one visited the feeding station at Tandala Ridge most nights</li> <li>• Three seen on night drive at Ohange Namibia Lodge</li> </ul>
8.	<b>Cape Hare</b> <i>Lepus capensis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple observations while spotlighting the entrance track to Roidina Safari Lodge</li> <li>• According to the majority of distribution maps a <i>Lepus</i> hare seen late afternoon at Tandala Ridge was also this species</li> </ul>
9.	<b>Savanna Hare</b> <i>Lepus microtis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A single animal seen on night drive at Ohange Namibia Lodge</li> </ul>
10.	<b>Southern African Ground Squirrel</b> <i>Xerus inauris</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pleasingly common at many locations including Tandala Ridge, Etosha and the Erongo area</li> </ul>
11.	<b>Damara Ground Squirrel</b> <i>Xerus princeps</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One seen near rocky outcrop from entrance track to Hobatere Lodge</li> </ul>
12.	<b>Congo Rope Squirrel</b> <i>Funisciurus congicus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common around the grounds of Hobatere Lodge</li> <li>• One seen near to cave at Tandala Ridge</li> </ul>
13.	<b>Smith's Bush Squirrel</b> <i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several seen in grounds of Mobola Lodge</li> <li>• One seen on consecutive days around permit office at Mahango</li> <li>• Relatively common around chalets at Ohange Namibia Lodge</li> </ul>

14.	<b>Southern African Springhare</b> <i>Pedetes capensis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A pair seen on night drive at Hobatere Lodge</li> </ul>
15.	<b>Cape Porcupine</b> <i>Hystrix africaeaustralis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two tame individuals visited Tandala Ridge every evening for food scraps</li> </ul>
16.	<b>Dassie Rat</b> <i>Petromes typicus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least four of these fantastic rodents were seen late afternoon on rocky outcrop 20kms NW of Omaruru</li> </ul>
17.	<b>Setzer's Hairy-footed Gerbil</b> <i>Gerbillurus setzeri</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Five individuals seen over two nights while driving the D1984 between Swakopmund and Walvis Bay</li> </ul>
18.	<b>Bushveld Gerbil</b> <i>Gerbilliscus leucogaster</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two captured in sandy scrub at Ohange Namibia Lodge</li> <li>• Four captured along entrance track of Roidina Safari Lodge</li> </ul>
19.	<b>Namaqua Rock Mouse</b> <i>Micaelamys namaquensis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abundant in rocky areas of Tandala Ridge and very easily trapped</li> <li>• At least five trapped in rocky area 20kms NW of Omaruru</li> </ul>
20.	<b>Red Veld Rat</b> <i>Aethomys chrysophilus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of <i>Aethomys</i> were observed at night around the grounds of Mobola Lodge and tentatively identified as this species as it's the only member of the genus to occur in the Caprivi Strip. Measurements from several trapped individuals seemed to confirm this although it's worth noting that relative hind foot lengths were shorter than those cited in the literature</li> </ul>
-	<b>Rock Mouse sp.</b> <i>Aethomys sp.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two <i>Aethomys</i> captured at Ohange Namibia Lodge were not identified to species. Both <i>A. namaquensis</i> and <i>A. chrysophilus</i> occur in the area</li> </ul>
21.	<b>West-central South African Four-striped Grass Mouse</b> <i>Rhabdomys bechuanae</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several seen around the grounds of Rossmund Lodge, Swakopmund, early morning</li> <li>• Brief sighting of individual at roadside between Tandala Ridge and Outjo early morning</li> </ul>
22.	<b>Desert Pygmy Mouse</b> <i>Mus indutus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two of these tiny mice captured in sandy scrub at Ohange Namibia Lodge</li> </ul>
23.	<b>Acacia Rat</b> <i>Thallomys paedulus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great views over two consecutive nights of one living in thatch of our accommodation at Mobola Lodge</li> </ul>
24.	<b>Natal Multimammate Mouse</b> <i>Mastomys natalensis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A couple trapped along riverbank at Mobola Lodge</li> </ul>

25.	<b>Shortridge's Pygmy Rock Mouse</b> <i>Petromyscus shortridgei</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least four <i>Petromyscus</i> mice were captured in a rocky outcrop at Tandala Ridge. According to distribution maps only <i>P. shortridgei</i> is present in the area so identification should be straight forward. However, the taxonomy of the genus is under review and it's likely the Rock Mice at Tandala Ridge represent an undescribed species.</li> </ul>
26.	<b>Black-backed Jackal</b> <i>Canis mesomelas</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very common, especially at night, and seen at every location apart from the Caprivi Strip</li> </ul>
27.	<b>Banded Mongoose</b> <i>Mungos mungo</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two seen crossing the road NW of Omaruru. This area is slightly out of range according to IUCN distribution map</li> </ul>
28.	<b>Slender Mongoose</b> <i>Galerella sanguinea</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One seen crossing the C39 NE of Outjo early morning</li> <li>Great views of young animal early afternoon on 4WD loop road at Mahango</li> </ul>
29.	<b>Dwarf Mongoose</b> <i>Helogale parvula</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large group observed at waterhole of Roidina Safari Lodge early afternoon</li> </ul>
30.	<b>Small Spotted Genet</b> <i>Genetta genetta</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very brief views of this species at waterhole of Roidina Safari Lodge late evening</li> </ul>
31.	<b>Spotted Hyena</b> <i>Crocuta crocuta</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One seen late morning in Etosha near to Nebrown. The animal seemed to be denning in a culvert under the road</li> <li>Heard at Tandala Ridge on our last night</li> </ul>
32.	<b>Aardwolf</b> <i>Proteles cristatus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outstanding views of a female with four cubs on Hobatere night drive</li> <li>A second adult seen on same drive 15 minutes later</li> </ul>
33.	<b>Lion</b> <i>Panthera leo</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three members of local pride seen on Hobatere night drive. The same individuals moved closer to the lodge the next evening and could be observed from the restaurant</li> </ul>
34.	<b>African Bush Elephant</b> <i>Loxodonta africana</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Singles seen in Hobatere and on both visits to Etosha</li> <li>Good numbers at Mahango on our second visit including 16 around the 4WD track waterhole</li> </ul>
35.	<b>Rock Dassie (Hyrax)</b> <i>Procavia capensis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A couple seen on rocky outcrop 20kms NW of Omaruru late afternoon</li> </ul>

-	<b>Kaokoveld Rock Dassie</b> <i>Procavia capensis welwitschii</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Double figures observed early morning on rocky outcrop at Tandala Ridge</li> </ul>
36.	<b>Hartmann's Mountain Zebra</b> <i>Equus zebra hartmannae</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small group seen on entrance track to Hobatere Lodge on two occasions.</li> <li>• Good numbers seen around Renostervlei, near to Galton Gate, Etosha</li> <li>• Several individuals have entered Tandala Ridge from a neighbouring farm where they were initially reintroduced</li> </ul>
37.	<b>Plains Zebra</b> <i>Equus quagga</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common in Etosha</li> <li>• Several small groups in Mahango</li> <li>• Introduced into Tandala Ridge</li> </ul>
38.	<b>Black Rhinoceros</b> <i>Diceros bicornis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three seen in greater Etosha area</li> </ul>
39.	<b>Hippopotamus</b> <i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single figures at Mahango</li> <li>• One seen on boat trip from Mobola Lodge</li> </ul>
40.	<b>Common Warthog</b> <i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very common and seen at the majority of places visited (with the exception of the coastal desert)</li> <li>• Often seen along the roadside in many parts of the country</li> </ul>
41.	<b>Giraffe</b> <i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A couple recorded at Hobatere</li> <li>• Common in Etosha</li> <li>• Small group seen in Mahango</li> </ul>
42.	<b>African Savanna Buffalo</b> <i>Syncerus caffer</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small numbers at Mahango on both visits</li> </ul>
43.	<b>Common Eland</b> <i>Taurotragus oryx</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relatively common at Tandala Ridge, Ohange Namibia Lodge and Roidina Safari Lodge where they are native but reintroduced</li> </ul>
44.	<b>Greater Kudu</b> <i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relatively common in Hobatere, Etosha and Mahango</li> <li>• Reintroduced to Tandala Ridge and Ohange Namibia Lodge</li> </ul>
45.	<b>Chobe Bushbuck</b> <i>Tragelaphus ornatus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single in Mahango was feeding alongside a troop of Chacma Baboons</li> </ul>

46.	<b>Roan Antelope</b> <i>Hippotragus equinus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single figures from 4WD track in Mahango including small group around waterhole</li> </ul>
47.	<b>Sable Antelope</b> <i>Hippotragus niger</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lone male from 2WD track in Mahango. A second individual from 4WD track closely followed by a family group</li> </ul>
48.	<b>Gemsbok</b> <i>Oryx gazella</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common in Etosha</li> <li>• Reintroduced to Tandala Ridge, Ohange Namibia Lodge and Roidina Safari Lodge</li> </ul>
-	<b>Ellipsen Waterbuck</b> <i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common at Ohange Namibia Lodge and Roidina Safari Lodge where they are not native</li> </ul>
49.	<b>Red Lechwe</b> <i>Kobus leche</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common in Mahango</li> <li>• Several seen at Ohange Namibia Lodge where they are not native</li> </ul>
50.	<b>Southern Reedbuck</b> <i>Redunca arundinum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common in Mahango</li> </ul>
-	<b>Black Wildebeest</b> <i>Connochaetes gnou</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several seen at Ohange Namibia Lodge where they are not native</li> </ul>
51.	<b>Blue Wildebeest</b> <i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relatively common in Etosha</li> <li>• Single figures in Mahango</li> </ul>
52.	<b>Red Hartebeest</b> <i>Alcelaphus caama</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relatively common in Etosha</li> </ul>
53.	<b>Tsessebe</b> <i>Damaliscus lunatus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two in Mahango</li> </ul>
54.	<b>Common Impala</b> <i>Aepyceros melampus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common in Mahango</li> </ul>
55.	<b>Black-faced Impala</b> <i>Aepyceros petersi</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good numbers seen in Etosha although scarce in western section (Galton Gate)</li> <li>• Introduced to Ohange Namibia Lodge</li> </ul>

56.	<b>Kalahari Springbok</b> <i>Antidorcas hofmeyri</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Semi-tame population easy to see around golf course at Rossmund Lodge, Swakopmund</li> <li>• Common in Hobatere and Etosha</li> <li>• Often seen at roadside outside the parks in several areas</li> <li>• Reintroduced to Tandala Ridge and Ohange Namibia Lodge</li> </ul>
57.	<b>Damara Dik-dik</b> <i>Madoqua damarensis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One seen well at Tandala Ridge late afternoon</li> <li>• Poor views of pair along entrance track at Ohange Namibia Lodge</li> <li>• Several seen well along entrance road at Roidina Safari Lodge (various times of the day and night)</li> </ul>
58.	<b>Steenbok</b> <i>Raphicerus campestris</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reasonably common and seen at the majority of places visited (with the exception of the coastal desert)</li> <li>• Often seen along the roadside in many parts of the country</li> </ul>
59.	<b>Common Duiker</b> <i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several seen at Tandala Ridge at dusk</li> <li>• Tame individual observed every evening at Mobola Lodge</li> <li>• Two seen at Roidina Safari Lodge while spotlighting</li> </ul>
60.	<b>Cape Fur Seal</b> <i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several thousand seen on boat trip in Walvis Bay. Smaller numbers can be seen around the harbour area</li> </ul>
61.	<b>Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphin</b> <i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent views of small pod in Walvis Bay</li> </ul>