Wise Birding Holidays Bird and mammal watching tours

NAMIBIA, BOTSWANA & ZAMBIA: Birds & Mammals Sunday 6th - Tuesday 22nd November 2016

Tour Participants: Mick Taylor, Roy Frost, Ken Shaw, Andrew Moon, Alison Moon,

Stan Davies, Carol Davies

Leaders: Sean Braine and Chris Townend

HIGHLIGHTS OF TRIP

Pel's Fishing Owl: A top target for many of the group. We had fabulous views whilst exploring the Okavango River in the Botswana Pan Handle.

Leopard: Two encounters, one at night in Erindi and a very close female in Etosha.

Aardwolf: Some excellent views in Etosha NP, near Halali whilst spotlighting.

Rockrunner: Two birds seen very well at Avis Dam on our first morning.

Brown Hyena We worked hard for this mammal and patience finally paid off with good views in Erindi Game Reserve during a night drive.

Blue Crane: Wonderful views on the Andoni Plains of Etosha were a memorable sight.

Elephants: Impressive numbers and of varying ages, from large adults to small

young, whilst exploring Etosha and Mudumo National Parks.

Dune Lark: Great views of Namibia's only true endemic bird in dunes near Walvis Bay.





Two of the tour highlights were this Pel's Fishing Owl and a female Leopard.

Namibia is quite simply a country of vast open space, few people and packed full of amazing birds, mammals and reptiles. This tour focused on all wildlife, mostly birds but with a particular focus on mammals when in the game reserves.

We recorded an incredible 404 birds and 55 mammals.

The following details are just a brief summary of some of the daily highlights.

6th Nov: ARRIVE WINDHOEK

After collecting the group from the very relaxed and welcoming Windhoek airport we soon arrived at our accommodation in the quiet savannah area on the edge of the city. A leisurely evening walk around the immediate area of our guesthouse produced a few good species including Chestnut-vented Warbler, Pririt Batis, Marico Sunbird, Alpine Swift and Bradfield's Swift.

7th Nov: AVIS DAM, GAMMAMS SEWAGE PONDS - NAMIBGRENS

An early morning walk around Avis Dam gave excellent views of Orange River Francolins, an adult Spotted Eagle Owl with juvenile, Rockrunner, Black-faced Waxbill, Rattling Cisticola and Desert Cisticola, Cape Sparrow and Black-throated Canary.

After breakfast a visit to the compulsory Gammams Sewage Ponds(!) was well rewarded with a good selection of waders including, Three-banded Plover, a Ruff, Wood Sandpiper and Little Stints as well as Cape Shoveler, Red-billed Teal, Hottentot Teal, Southern Pochard, South African Shelduck, Egyptian Goose and numerous Red-knobbed Coot. Two Openbills and a Lesser Swamp Warbler were very unusual for this part of Namibia and Purple Heron was also good for the site. Other species around the sewage ponds included Squacco Heron, Purple Swamphen, African Reed Warbler, Wattled Starlings and Southern Masked Weavers. The clear mammal highlight were two Yellow Mongoose chasing each other just metres away from us.

En route to our lunch stop we found Cape Penduline Tits, Short-toed Rock Thrush, Marico Flycatcher, Pale-chanting Goshawk and a male Steenbok. Another stop produced Ashy Tit, our first Lilac-breasted Roller, Pearl-spotted Owlet and Meve's Starling. During our picnic lunch we enjoyed views of our first Kalahari Scrub Robin, Sociable Weavers and a group of Springbok.

We finally arrived at Namibgrens in the late afternoon where a final boost of new birds arrived! Karoo Scrub Robin, Scarlet-chested Sunbird, Dusky Sunbird, Rosy-faced Lovebird, Acacia Pied Barbet, Great Sparrows and Groundscraper Thrush. The last highlights of the day were a pair of stunning Verreaux's Eagles and two Klipspringer.

8th Nov: NAMIBGRENS - SPREETSHHOGTE PASS - SOLITAIRE - WALVIS BAY

Today was mostly a travel day though we still had time for birding around our accommodation at Namibgrens before breakfast. Highlights here included the same pair of Verreaux's Eagles, Bokmakierie and the range restricted Layard's Warbler. After breakfast we continued our journey across the Spreetshoogte Pass where we hoped to find one of Namibia's near endemics. Before reaching the main area for the species we made a few stops en route, seeing our first Violet-eared Waxbill, Karoo Long-billed Lark and a group of five Lark-like Bunting. The latter is usually a very common species, but due to the recent drought it had become much scarcer and amazingly these birds were the only birds of the tour! As we began to descend the steep pass and much searching, finally a singing Herero Chat-flycatcher finally gave away its

location and we had good scope views of two birds. Our only Long-billed Pipit of the trip was seen also seen nearby. We then headed for the coast and began to see the first of many Brown Chat-flycatchers.

As we neared our lunch stop a great spot by Sean had us soon watching our first Bateared Foxes as two animals showed by the road and were our only daylight encounter of this wonderful species. We also enjoyed our first views of Common Ostrich with a total of six birds seen whilst travelling. After lunch a couple of targeted stops went to plan as we enjoyed good views of the very localised Gray's Lark as well as two Burchell's Courser and a single Ruppell's Bustard. As we arrived at the coast, we checked into our accommodation and took time to enjoy the cool breeze and an hour's birding before dinner. Highlights included up to 25 Damara Terns, Greater Crested (Swift) Tern and numerous waders of which first prize had to go to the 30+ Chestnut-banded Plovers. A Black-backed Jackal trotted cross the salt pans and we then headed back for a shower and some great locally caught seafood at a nearby restaurant.

9th Nov: WALVIS BAY - SWAKOPMUND - ERINDI PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

This morning we headed out to try and find Namibia's only true endemic, the Dune Lark. After a short drive from our accommodation we soon arrived at a point where the terrain prevented us from driving any further, so we continued on foot towards a distant sand dune. At the Dune edge we slowly walked through the vegetation and before long, Sean located a singing bird that sat and posed perfectly. On our return to the vehicle, it was very exciting to find fresh Leopard footprints in the sand! We then returned via the lagoon area before returning for a well earned breakfast.

We then travelled the 40 Km north to the town of Swakopmund where Sean had a Cape (Orange River) White-eye stake out. A small ornamental garden on the edge of the town produced at least two birds. We then enjoyed an hour or so birding the river mouth where highlights were excellent scope views of Great (White-breasted) and Cape Cormorants with the odd Crowned Cormorant and the endangered Bank Cormorant. A single Long-tailed Cormorant was present on the small reed edged pool, taking our cormorant tally to five species! A Damara Tern gave better views compared to the previous day as it fished just offshore. On the nearby beach pool, there was plenty of activity with a single adult Grey-headed Gull sat amongst the Hartlaub's Gulls, Caspian Tern, Sandwich Tern and Greater Crested (Swift) Tern, Greater and Lesser Flamingo, Purple Swamphen and a great selection of waders including Curlew Sandpiper, Ruff, Little Stint, Three-banded Plover and White-fronted Plover. We then continued our journey towards Erindi Private Game Reserve.

As we arrived at the gates of Erindi, a large bull elephant with big tusks greeted us along with a single Red Hartebeest. A large flock of low flying swifts including Bradfield's Swift and Alpine Swift was equally impressive, as were our first European Bee-Eaters and a brief Swainson's Francolin. We then checked into our fabulous rooms overlooking thornveld savannah with Giraffes as our neighbours! We met at the waterhole whilst sipping drinks and watched our first Nile Crocodiles a couple of Marabou Storks, a lone White-winged Tern and a selection of waders including Ruff, Three-banded Plover and Little Stint.

One of the key reasons for staying at Erindi was for its exciting night drives, so after dinner we headed out on our private game drive truck. Highlights included Spotted

Thick-knee, a couple of Spring Hares, Bat-eared Fox, three White Rhino and three Small-spotted Genet. However, the real excitement began after the compulsory team G&T which produced a superb African Wild Cat and large male Leopard!

10th Nov: ERINDI PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

Today we spent the whole day exploring Erindi with early morning and late afternoon game drives and of course some more spotlighting at night!

Bird highlights during our morning drive included good views of Swainson's Francolin, 35+ Namaqua Sandgrouse coming to drink at a waterhole, African Spoonbill, our first Kori Bustard and three Ludwig's Bustards that our vehicle accidentally flushed and were an unexpected bonus. It was a great morning for raptors too with excellent views of White-backed Vulture, Tawny Eagle, African Hawk Eagle and Gabar Goshawk.

After lunch and some time to relax watching the waterhole, we ventured out for our afternoon drive where the clear highlight was seeing no less than 18 African Wild Dogs! They were resting in the shade and were exceedingly unconcerned by our vehicle's presence and allowed some great opportunities to study these wonderful animals at close quarters. Bird highlights during the afternoon included great views of two Spotted Eagle Owls on the ground, some super White-tailed Shrike views, our first Southern Pied Babblers and both Pearl-breasted Swallow and Lesser Striped Swallow.

After dinner, we headed out once again for another spotlighting session. The highlight bird was our only Verreaux's Eagle Owl of the trip which gave superb views plus another Spotted Thick-knee. The clear mammal highlight was a Brown Hyena! After some very convincing eyeshine from one animal that eluded us, we finally found another animal that showed very well indeed as it wandered around in an open area before vanishing! Our first Hook-lipped (Black) Rhinoceros was also a clear highlight, though somewhat trumped by the more difficult to see Brown Hyena. Once again, team G&T produced the goods!

11th Nov: ERINDI - OMARURU - UIS - DAMARA MOPANE

This morning we enjoyed our final breakfast at Erindi overlooking the waterhole and then we were heading for new territory. Today was mostly a travel day, though with the usual compulsory birding stops en route!

Highlights today included no less than four Benguela Long-billed Larks near Uis and an unexpected Herero Chat-flycatcher in the same area. Our fist Ashy Flycatcher was seen en route along with some good views of both Black-chested Snake-eagle and Brown Snake-eagle. A pair of Ruppell's Bustard posed close to the road as they sat under the shade of the tree and we finally arrived at our lodge for the evening. Here, Bare-cheeked Babblers and Ruppell's Parrot greeted us in the lodge gardens.

12th Nov: DAMARA MOPANE - KAMANJAB - ETOSHA NP (Okaukuejo)

Early morning birding around Damara Mopane was successful with three Carp's Tit, Golden-tailed Woodpecker, a group of Bare-cheeked Babblers and a pair of seriously out of range African Green Pigeons being the morning's highlights.

We then headed for the world famous Etosha National Park, making a few stops en route. We tried a couple of places for Hartlaub's Spurfowl with no luck, but were very lucky to see a Black Mongoose dash across the road in front of our vehicle! (Some consider this to be a species in its own right whereas other consider it just a form of

Slender Mongoose). Other highlights en route to Etosha were a superb adult Martial Eagle and a small group of Olive Bee-Eaters hawking for insects on roadside wires.

Later in the afternoon, we arrived at a very hot Etosha NP where we checked into our rooms in Okaukuejo and took a walk around the lodge gardens. Highlights here were African Pipit and Buffy Pipit together, Southern White-crowned Shrike, Pearl-spotted Owlet, African Barred-Wren Warbler and a calling African Cuckoo. A visit to the waterhole before dinner produced numerous Gemsbok, Giraffe and Burchell's Zebra. After dinner we were treated to four Black Rhino, Black-backed Jackals, seven Elephants as well as numerous Rufous-cheeked Nightjars and two European Nightjar hawking insects under the floodlights.

13th Nov: ETOSHA NP (West)

After an early breakfast we explored Nebrownii and Gemsbokvlakte waterholes. Highlights of the morning included our first Spotted Hyena (a young animal with an injury to its rear right leg), Red-headed Finch, Grey-backed Sparrow-lark, Rufous-chested Swallow, Spike-heeled Lark and Pink-billed Lark.

After lunch a wander round the lodge gardens produced similar species to the previous day with African and Buffy Pipits, Southern White-crowned Shrike and African Cuckoo. During the late afternoon, we met for another game drive and visited the Ombika waterhole. It was very hot still and activity was quiet but we enjoyed a great encounter with a Black Rhino and a Spotted Hyena sleeping under a nearby tree. Our first three "Black-faced" Impala gave good views before we returned to Okaukuejo to enjoy the sunset at the waterhole. Here, a very tame Slender Mongoose entertained us as well as a constant procession of Elephants coming to drink along with Giraffe.

After dinner, a very busy evening at the waterhole resulted in non-stop action and some amazing noises! Over 50 Elephants visited throughout the evening, six Black Rhino, a single White Rhino, Giraffe, Black-backed Jackals, calling Hyenas, Rufous-cheeked Nightjars and for those that waited long enough, two male Lions that arrived to drink just before 11pm.

14th Nov: ETOSHA NP (Central)

After breakfast we travelled across the heart of Etosha towards the central part of the park and our base at Halali. Highlights en route included a Gabar Goshawk, a stunning Rufous-eared Warbler and a new mammal in the form of the a very cute looking Bushveld Sengi (Elephant-Shrew) that posed on a log in the early morning sunshine. However, it was Sean that struck gold as he saw a Caracal cross the road ahead very quickly, but despite waiting and searching we could not relocate it!

We arrived at Halali Camp where we were welcomed by both Damara and Red-billed Hornbills, Bare-cheeked Babblers and our first Tree Squirrel. After lunch an African Scops Owl roosting in tree posed for photos before we headed out for an afternoon game drive. Here we saw our first Lesser Grey Shrikes of the trip, but everything was eclipsed by a superb Cheetah that we watched for most of the afternoon. Andrew and Alison enjoyed views of Golden-breasted Bunting & Little Sparrowhawk back at camp.

Another night drive was very productive with an impressive count of seven Bat-eared Foxes, a skinny looking male Lion and a few Lionesses that a Black Rhino was intent

on pushing out of the area! Double-banded Sandgrouse were also seen in the spotlight. We then headed on to check the more open grassland areas and soon hit the jackpot with our target species, the Aardwolf. A single animal gave great views as it searched for food and then disappeared into the night. Of course, birds were also high on our target list and highlights included Spotted Thick-knee, Spotted Eagle Owl and a surprise Marsh Owl. On our return, some ventured to the Moringo Waterhole within the camp grounds where three Black Rhino were present, but a check on the campsite failed to produce the hoped for Honey Badger.

15th Nov: ETOSHA NP (East)

An early morning walk around Halali Camp produced good views of five Violet Wood-Hoopoes plus a superb Little Sparrowhawk at its nest. Other birds included Red-billed and Damara Hornbills and Bare-cheeked Babblers.

After breakfast we continued our journey east where we explored a great waterhole near Goas with bathing Hyenas, Gemsbok, Springbok and Kori Bustard. Another waterhole stop produced a juvenile Black Crake and we then arrived at Namutoni where a number of Banded Mongoose showed well. After a short break, we travelled to the Andoni Plains where we were very pleased to find 13 Blue Cranes, 11 Caspian Plovers as well as good numbers of Kittlitz's Plovers and a lone Yellow Wagtail.

We returned to Namutoni for lunch and some birding at the waterhole. Star bird here was an adult and juvenile Dwarf Bittern; a difficult bird to find in Namibia. An adult Martial Eagle gave great views as it sat on the ground and a walk in the heat of the day was worth the effort and rewarded with a Red-necked Falcon. After lunch we continued to explore the western side of the park and drove a loop near Koinachas. At first it was quiet and very hot, but a superb female Leopard right beside the road soon livened things up! We watched it for a few minutes sitting in the shade just a few metres from us and it was a fabulous encounter.

Our final birding stop in Etosha was the Dik-Dik drive and the edge of the saltpan where a couple more Blue Cranes showed very well before we crossed the park gate and headed into Onguma Bush Camp. Coqui Francolin showed well during our drive to the camp and we all enjoyed a great meal including the best Lemon Meringue Pie!

16th Nov: ONGUMA BUSH CAMP - RUNDU SEWAGE PONDS - NDHOVU LODGEWe left Onguma very early and embarked on the long drive north towards Rundu.
Our first Bradfield's Hornbill and a dark Steppe Buzzard were seen en route before a coffee stop. As we neared Rundu, we made a couple of stops in Miombo woodland south of Rundu trying for the specialities of Rufous-bellied Tit and Souza's Shrike.
Despite no luck with the target species we still managed to find new species for the trip including African Golden Oriole, Red-headed Weaver, Purple-banded Sunbird and Amethyst-backed Starling.

We had lunch at Rundu Sewage Ponds (where else on a birding trip!?) Highlights included two Black Herons, African Snipe, Rufous-bellied Heron in flight, Fan-tailed Weavers, Blue-cheeked Bee-Eater, Yellow-billed Kite and both African Rail and Greater Swamp Warbler were only heard. Amazingly a Lilac-breasted Roller was only our second of the tour! We continued east and stopped to explore more woodland where finally two Rufous-bellied Tit showed well along with our only Green-backed

Eromomelas of the trip. Other birds seen were Pale Flycatcher, Brown-hooded Kingfisher, Red-backed Shrike, Lesser Grey Shrike and a very frustrating Souza's that sadly only Sean managed to see!

By early evening we had arrived at the town of Divundu. Here, a timely fuel stop revealed our only Cut-throat Finches of the tour as they drank from a puddle. We then arrived at our lodge beside the Okavango River and were greeted to the sound of Hippos and another Lemon Meringue brought much pleasure to Roy!

17th Nov: OKAVANGO RIVER - MAHANGO RESERVE - DROTSKY'S CABINSToday we all enjoyed a civilised start with breakfast at 07.00hrs and a superb African Wood Owl just metres from our breakfast table! A few birds were seen around the lodge gardens just before breakfast including our first Meyer's Parrot, Black-collared Barbet, Female Black Cuckoo-shrike, Swamp Boubou and White-browed Robin-chat.

A boat trip on the river was first class with our first Water Thick-knees, African Skimmers, a single Collared Pratincole, Malachite Kingfisher, African Stonechat and White-fronted Bee-Eater. However, the best bird of the morning had to go to the eight Wattled Cranes that patrolled the edge of the water. Also seen well during the boat trip were Long-toed Lapwing a single Slaty Egret, numerous Egyptian Geese, Spurwinged Goose and African Comb Duck. White-backed Night Heron, African Fish Eagle, Striated Heron and numerous Hippos including some with three Red-billed Oxpeckers sat on top. After the boat trip a few more birds were seen around the lodge including African Paradise Flycatcher on the nest and a Holub's Golden Weaver. We then ventured into the Mahango Game Reserve where our first Red-headed Weaver of the trip was seen building a nest at the entrance gate to this great reserve.

Once inside the park, both mammals and birds fought for our attention with a total of 20 Roan and a single Sable being the top of the mammals. Also seen were Tsessebe Hippo, Elephant, Impala, Greater Kudu, Buffalo and Vervet Monkey. Bird highlights were plenty and included Burnt-necked Eromomelas and African Barred Owlet. A perfect shady tree for lunch produced Southern Black Tit, Collared Sunbird, Crested Barbet, Black-backed Puffback and Icterine Warbler. The beautiful Sable strolled past our vehicle just before we continued to the Muhembo border crossing into Botswana where a very relaxed and simple crossing awaited us.

Our first Southern Carmine Bee-Eater greeted us as we arrived in Botswana and after a short drive we were soon checking-in to our very relaxing lodge right beside the Okavango River. Southern White-rumped (Hartlaub's) Babblers welcomed us in the gardens along with great views of White-fronted Bee-eater and some Brown Firefinches visiting a feeder whilst we sipped ice cold drinks on the verandah!

A late afternoon stroll towards the camping area produced nice views of Yellow-bellied Greenbuls, Terrestrial Brownbul, Black Cuckoo, Black-collared Barbet and a couple of Bushbuck. The day was rounded off nicely with a Cheesecake for pudding!

18th Nov: OKAVANGO PAN HANDLE (BOTSWANA)

After a relaxed breakfast we then took the short stroll to the river where we boarded our first boat trip, soon to be known as "Operation Pel's!" We spent the morning slowly cruising the river getting great views of some fabulous birds. A group of three White-backed Night Herons close to the pontoon, then a little further down the river some fabulous views of both Lesser Swamp and Greater Swamp Warbler and African Reed Warbler. Wire-tailed Swallows hawked for insects above the river and the simply fantastic African Skimmers put on a great show all around us! The birds continued with a lone White-winged Tern, African Jacana and posing White-fronted and Little Bee-Eaters. A small group of Marabou Storks stood on the river edge along with Longtoed Lapwings. African Fish Eagle, Osprey, Steppe Buzzard and a Black-winged Kite were the raptor interest. We continued to check the various shaded trees and waited as our boatman Otto checked the usual roost sites on foot. As we waited, a superb Pel's Fishing Owl suddenly emerged in flight briefly before returning to the shade of the tree. Once on land we were all treated to fabulous views as the bird sat perched in full view for the next 30 minutes until we walked away, leaving it sat in the same place. En route to the boat two Yellow-billed Oxpeckers clinging to the rear of a group of cattle allowed the classic photo. As the boat gained speed, the cool breeze was welcomed and we also managed to get some great views of Grey-headed Kingfisher, a posing Giant Kingfisher and Banded Martin before arriving back at our lodge for a rest. Birds around lodge after lunch included Common Cuckoo, Ashy Flycatcher, Goldentailed Woodpecker, Orange-breasted Bush-shrike and a roosting Barn Owl in reception!

A second trip on the river after lunch was equally as impressive as the morning. We explored the area towards Xaro Island and a number of quieter backwaters. Here we enjoyed more great views of the same species seen during the morning and new birds were, Luapula Cisticola and Thick-billed Weaver.

19th Nov: POPA FALLS - BWABWATA PARK - CAMP KWANDO

After another very civilised breakfast and warm muffins(!) we waved goodbye to Botswana and returned to Namibia. A simple border check resulted in some nice views of a number of Meyer's Parrots drinking from a leaking water tank. Also great views of Red-headed Weaver and Holub's Golden Weaver and a number of perched Lesser-striped Swallows. Once across the border we once again, travelled through Mahango Game Reserve and towards Ndhovu Lodge where we took a short walk to the river. Highlights here included a small group of Green Wood-Hoopoes, Orange-breasted Bush-shrike, Goliath Heron and six White-winged Terns on the river.

On the walk back to the minibus a calling Levaillant's Cuckoo soon showed before we continued our journey to the nearby Popa Falls. A quick scan of the rocks produced the key target species with up to five Rock Pratincoles on the rocks including a great scope view of the closest bird.

We continued our journey east towards our accommodation and a quick check of a small *Aquila* by the road produced our first Wahlberg's Eagle. A later stop for lunch produced a Racquet-tailed Roller posing in full view; an often tricky species! We arrived at Camp Kwando in good time to relax and cool down before another boat trip where highlights included African Cuckoo Hawk, a dark morph Jacobin Cuckoo and some very close views of Hippos!

20th Nov: CAMP KWANDO - MUDUMO NP

Today we awoke to rain and much cooler conditions as we enjoyed breakfast overlooking the river and before heading off for our first game drive in the Mudumo National Park. It was a great feeling as we travelled along the main tarmac road with the knowledge that mammals are free to roam between Namibia and Botswana. A Rufous-naped Lark was new for the trip and after a few kilometres we headed on a dirt road to explore the southern half of the park. A stop to check some falcons feeding on newly emerged termites gave some rather brief views of up to five Redfooted Falcons and a single Eurasian Hobby. All the birds seemed to be passing through following the weather and the food source. A posing Wahlberg's Eagle sat in a nearby dead tree whilst being harassed by Drongos. We then ventured towards the river and scanned across into Botswana. A good selection of water birds were visible including Long-toed Lapwing but the best bird went to a smart Greater Painted Snipe. A little further along the track we enjoyed some great views of Elephants as they crossed the river from Botswana to Namibia.

Back at the lodge we had time to relax before lunch and Mick did well to find the only White-headed Vulture of the trip. After lunch we took more time to relax with some birding around the gardens where Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Copper Sunbird and amusing Bush Squirrels were the highlights.

Later in the afternoon we explored the northern edge of the park where the habitat consisted of thicker bushveld savannah. A very smart group of Roan Antelope and Zebras posed en route along with our first White-headed (Arnot's) Chats, Bennett's Woodpecker and a Grey Penduline Tit at the nest. A couple of Black-backed Jackals lurking under a nearby bush had the pulses racing for a few seconds and then we arrived at a waterhole where everyone enjoyed a cool Savannah Cider/ Beer. An Elephant was leaving the waterhole as we arrived and a Zebra didn't seem too sure about visiting the waterhole! Bird highlights included both Rufous-chested and Mosque Swallows drinking from the pool, hearing Clapper Larks, some near breeding Shaft-tailed Whydahs and a Cardinal Woodpecker. We then took a slow drive back towards the road at dusk and although nothing new, it felt like a great place for a Leopard as we travelled through the mix of woodland and bush. Maybe one was watching us!

Back at the the camp a quick visit to the campsite produced a number of calling Square-tailed Nightjars, including one sat in a tree and two African Wood Owls showed well as they called to each other for much of the night.

21st Nov: CAMP KWANDO - KATIMA MULILO - NKWAZI LODGE (ZAMBIA)

It was a fine clear morning and there was lots of bird activity around the camp. Some of us ventured to the edge of the river where Thick-billed Weaver and Great Reed Warbler showed well before breakfast. The posting African Wood Owl was still present by the restaurant and then we headed east. Once again, we had a big journey to do today as we travelled towards Zambia!

The road from Katima was pretty bumpy but we arrived at our lodge by late afternoon allowing us some time to explore the wonderful gardens and to take in the view of the mighty Zambezi River! New birds around the lodge garden included Spectacled Weaver and Yellow-breasted Apalis. We then spent the last couple of hours of the day

taking a very relaxing cruise on the Zambezi River whilst sipping a cool beer and enjoying some snacks and all with the constant distraction of birds - How civilised! Highlights included Long-toed Lapwing, eight White-headed Lapwing, nine Rock Pratincoles, African Skimmers, 25 White-winged Terns, a perched Western Banded Snake-eagle and a couple of Trumpeter Hornbills. The grand finale was a female African Finfoot that posed at dusk close to our boat and even ventured out of the water and onto the muddy bank.

22nd NOV: VICTORIA FALLS - LONDON

Our final morning birding around the lodge produced Ashy Flycatcher, Natal Spurfowl, Eurasian Hobby, Lesser Honeyguide and Tropical Boubou before it was time to head to the world famous, Victoria Falls. Though not the best time of year to see the Falls, it was pretty spectacular regardless and the star bird of the morning clearly went to a couple of beautiful Schalow's Turacos as they sat on a nearby tree in full view. Other species recorded here were Red-winged Starling, Peregrine and a very tame Bearded Scrub Robin building a nest. We then had time to return to our lodge and pack the vehicle before heading to Livingstone airport for our return flight to the UK. However, Sean was determined that we had time for just one new bird and as always he produced them; two Collared Palm-Thrushes! We then travelled the short distance to Livingstone airport and waved goodbye to Sean and wished him a safe return on his long, long journey home! We then took our flight back to the UK where the tour concluded.

Conservation Donation – Following this tour to Namibia, Botswana & Zambia £250 was transferred to the Wise Birding Holiday's central conservation fund. This will be used to support a conservation project in the future, yet to be determined.

For the last three years Wise Birding Holidays has been supporting a number of small conservation projects. However, we now believe that to make a bigger difference to conservation it seems better to pool the donations from most of our tours into one central fund. Once a target amount has been reached this money will then be used to support a single project in the hope of achieving more for species conservation. At present this amount stands at £2,900. Some tours will still continue to donate money to help some of the smaller projects that we feel will still benefit from such smaller

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Two Rockrunners posed for us at Avis Dam on our first morning (above by Andrew Moon) and the stunning Short-toed Rock Thrush was seen on a number of days (below)





Orange River Francolins showed well at Avis Dam and en route to Namibgrens (above) and the huge Martial Eagle gave excellent views on a number of days (below)

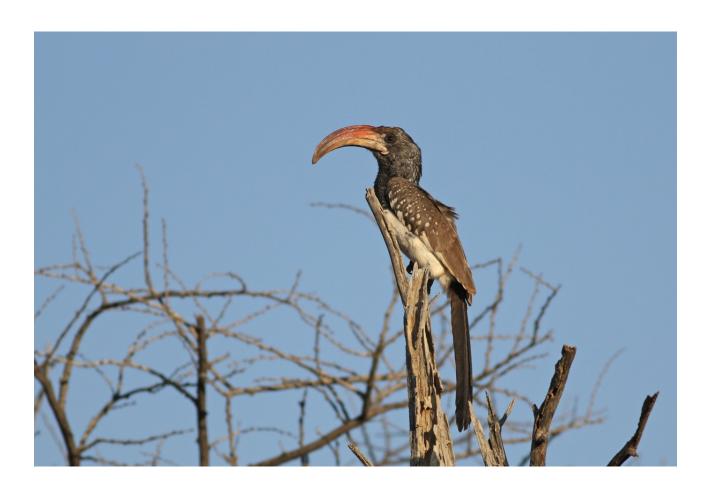




Layard's Warbler (above) and the Herero Chat-flycatcher (below) can both be tricky species to find in Namibia. Both photos by tour participant Andrew Moon



WISE BIRDING HOLIDAYS LTD - NAMIBIA, BOTSWANA, ZAMBIA: Birds & Mammals, Nov 2016



Monteiro's Hornbill (above) and Red-billed Hornbill (below)

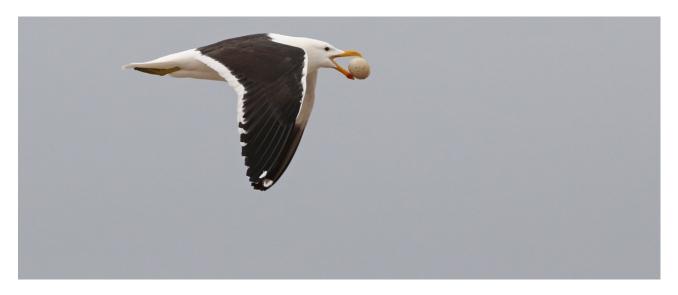




Numerous Common Ostrich were seen during the tour (above) and the Dune Lark which is Namibia's only true endemic (below)



WISE BIRDING HOLIDAYS LTD - NAMIBIA, BOTSWANA, ZAMBIA: Birds & Mammals, Nov 2016



On Namibia's coast near Swakopmund we saw: Kelp Gulls (above) and African Oystercatchers (below)



Five species of cormorant were seen at Swakopmund including: Great (White-breasted), Cape and the endangered Bank Cormorant (below)



WISE BIRDING HOLIDAYS LTD - NAMIBIA, BOTSWANA, ZAMBIA: Birds & Mammals, Nov 2016



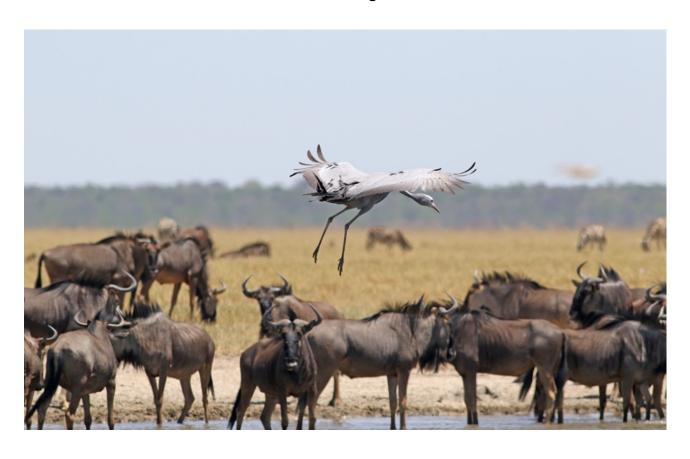
The amazing landscape and sky are ever changing in Namibia



WISE BIRDING HOLIDAYS LTD - NAMIBIA, BOTSWANA, ZAMBIA: Birds & Mammals, Nov 2016



Blue Cranes in Etosha National Park showed very well as they fed near the waterholes amongst the Blue Wildebeest





The Black or Hook-lipped Rhinoceros is a speciality of Etosha National Park. Sadly, some illegal hunting still takes place and some animals have had their horns removed which seems to work as an effective deterrent to poachers



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Bare-cheeked Babbler is speciality and we saw birds at Damara Mopane & Etosha (above) The Double-banded Courser is a beautiful species, particularly common in Etosha (below)



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Black-chested Snake-eagle (above) and Tawny Eagle (below)





The highly localised Rufous-eared Warbler posed in Etosha (above) and these Rufous-chested Swallows also performed very well (below)



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Secretary birds were seen only in Etosha (above) and a daytime encounter with Spotted Eagle Owl was welcomed at Erindi (below)



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Night drives were always exciting with numerous Bat-eared Foxes (above) and our only sighting of this Aardwolf by Andrew Moon was near Halali in Etosha NP (below)





Good numbers of Elephants were seen in Etosha NP including large groups coming to drink at the Okaukuejo waterhole. Photo above by tour participant Stan Davies





We were treated to two Leopard sightings: A presumed male at Erindi (above) and a female in Etosha near Namutoni



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Numerous lions were seen in Etosha, including young cubs (above) and our only sighting of a Cheetah was near Halali Camp (below)



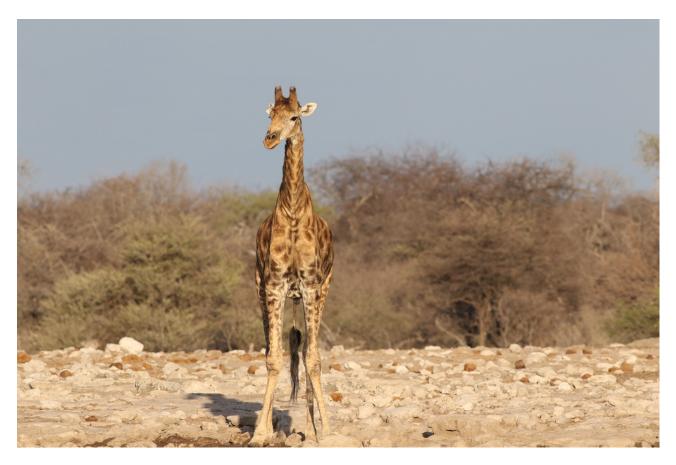
WISE BIRDING HOLIDAYS LTD - NAMIBIA, BOTSWANA, ZAMBIA: Birds & Mammals, Nov 2016



Northern Black Bustard (above) and Ruppell's Bustard (below)



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Etosha's waterholes were always busy with life with Giraffes (above) and Spotted Hyenas, Springbok and Kori Bustard (below)



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Lappet-faced Vultures and Gemsbok or Oryx (above) and Little Sparrowhawk (below)

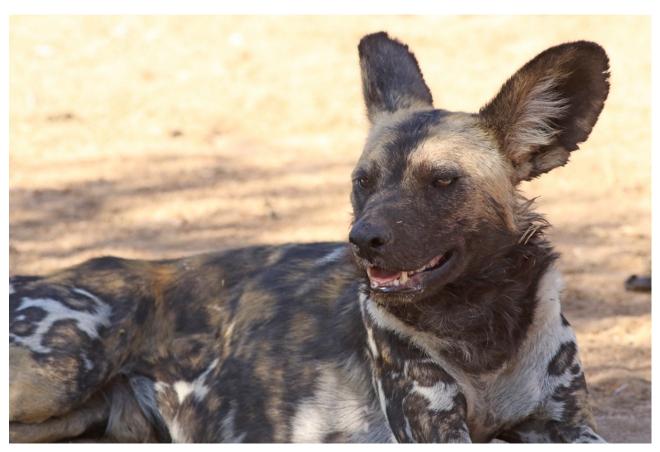




Thick-billed Weaver (above) and White-browed Robin-chat (below)



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One of an incredible 19 African Wild Dogs at Erindi (above) and the very cute Bushveld Sengi or Elephant Shrew in Etosha (below)



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Gemsbok coming to drink at Okaukuejo, Etosha (above) and an obliging Slender Mongoose of the reddish form (below)



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We saw five species of Bee-Eater during the tour. These included the Swallow-tailed Bee-Eater (above) and the White-fronted Bee-eater





We saw seven species of Kingfisher during the tour. These included the Malachite Kingfisher (above) and the Giant Kingfisher by Andrew Moon (below)



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The superb Pel's Fishing Owl (above) was a clear highlight of the tour and we were spoiled with numerous chances to see African Wood Owl (below)



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We saw a total of nine owl species during the tour! This Verreaux's Eagle was seen well at Erindi (above) and a Marsh Owl was a surprise to see in Etosha NP (below).

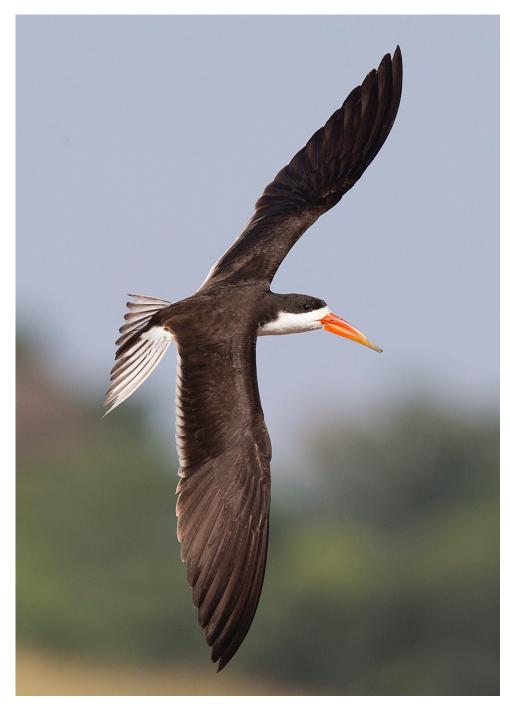


WISE BIRDING HOLIDAYS LTD - NAMIBIA, BOTSWANA, ZAMBIA: Birds & Mammals, Nov 2016



The beautiful Southern Carmine Bee-Eaters were a highlight of our many boat trips on the Okavango River





This adult African Skimmer by Andrew Moon showed exceptionally well during our boat trip and even included a sighting of a young chick



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We saw many Roan Antelope in Mahango and Mudumo (above) and our only sighting of a Sable Antelope was in Mahango (below)



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Common Warthog (above) and Damara Dik-dik (below)



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Double-banded Sandgrouse (above) and Yellow-billed Oxpecker (below)



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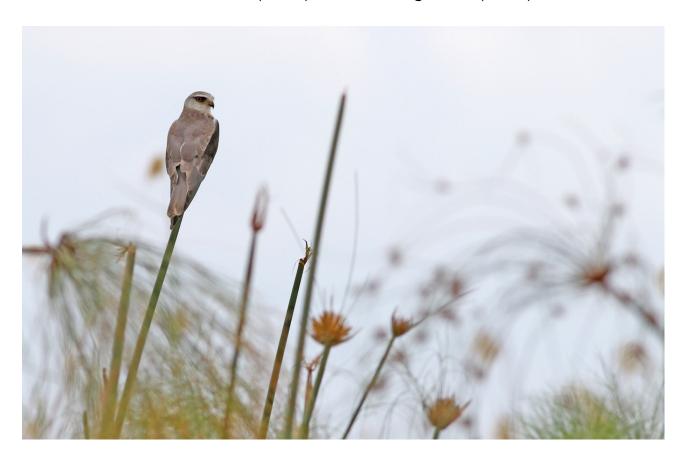


The secretive White-backed Night Heron did its best to hide during our boat trips on the Okavango River(above)





Marabou Stork (above) and Black-winged Kite (below)



WISE BIRDING HOLIDAYS LTD - NAMIBIA, BOTSWANA, ZAMBIA: Birds & Mammals, Nov 2016



Bearded Scrub-robin at its nest (above) and the Golden-tailed Woodpecker (below)



WISE BIRDING HOLIDAYS LTD - NAMIBIA, BOTSWANA, ZAMBIA: Birds & Mammals, Nov 2016



This female African Finfoot (above) and the gorgeous Schalow's Turaco (below) were a great finale to our tour during our short time in Zambia



WISE BIRDING HOLIDAYS LTD - NAMIBIA, BOTSWANA, ZAMBIA: Birds & Mammals, Nov 2016



The Wise Birding Team after seeing Pel's Fishing Owl (above) and our final sunset on the mighty Zambezi River (below)



Thanks to tour participants Andrew Moon & Stan Davies for the use of some of their photos in this report.

More photos from this and other tours can be viewed on our Flickr site:

www.flickr.com/photos/129663578@N06/albums

Wise Birding Holidays

Bird and mammal watching tours



Birds, Mammals & Reptiles Checklist for Namibia 6-22 November 2016: ORANGE = true Namibia endemic BLUE = near endemic

This bird checklist follows the nomenclature and classification from HBW and BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World and the associated online resource, HBW Alive

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	#	Notes
1	Common Ostrich	Struthio camelus	1	Some great views of this impressive birds throughout the tour and recorded on 9 days.
2	Helmeted Guineafowl	Numida meleagris	2	A very common sight and sound recorded on 12 days.
3	Red-billed Francolin (Spurfowl)	Pternistis adspersus	3	The commonest Francolin and often very tame around the lodges. Recorded on 14 days.
4	Natal Francolin (Spurfowl)	Pternistis natalensis	4	Three birds seen in the gardens of Nkwazi Lodge on the 22nd.
5	Swainson's Francolin (Spurfowl)	Pternistis swainsonii	5	Small numbers of this attractive Francolin at Erindi and the Kavango region. Recorded on a total of four days with a high count of 3 birds on the 20th.
6	Crested Francolin	Dendroperdix sephaena	6	A single bird was seen very well at dusk near the Onguma Bush Camp on the 15th. Heard only on three other days.
7	Orange River Francolin	Scleroptila gutturalis	7	An amazing count of 8 birds seen on the 7th. First seen well at Avis Dam and then exceptional views on the road whilst travelling to Namibgrens.
8	White-faced Whistling-duck	Dendrocygna viduata	8	Surprisingly only recorded on the 17th at Mahango Game Park.
9	Egyptian Goose	Alopochen aegyptiaca	9	A common species in suitable wetland areas recorded on 11 days.
10	South African Shelduck	Tadorna cana	10	A small number of birds seen well at Gammams Sewage Works near Windhoek on the 7th.
11	Spur-winged Goose	Plectropterus gambensis	11	Recorded in small numbers in the Kavango region on four days with a high count of 30+ birds on the 17th at Mahango Game Park.
12	African Comb Duck	Sarkidiornis melanotos	12	Small numbers recorded on the 17th and 18th whilst exploring Mahango and the Okavango Pan Handle, Botswana.
13	African Pygmy-goose	Nettapus auritus	13	Three birds were seen at Rundu Sewage Ponds on the 16th.
14	Southern Pochard	Netta erythrophthalma	14	A few birds were seen well at Gammams Sewage Works near Windhoek on the 7th.
15	Hottentot Teal	Spatula hottentota	15	This attractive duck was seen well at Gammams Sewage Works on the 7th and at Rundu Sewage Ponds on the 16th. High count of 15+ at Rundu.
16	Cape Shoveler	Spatula smithii	16	Recorded only at Gammams Sewage Works near Windhoek on the 7th.
17	Cape Teal	Anas capensis	17	One of the commonest ducks. Recorded on four days with birds seen on the coast and in Etosha.
18	Red-billed Teal	Anas erythrorhyncha	18	One of the commonest ducks. Recorded on six days.
19	Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis	19	Recorded on five days with birds on the coast and Etosha.
20	Black-necked Grebe	Podiceps nigricollis	20	Four birds were present at the Swakopmund Salt Pans.
21	Greater Flamingo	Phoenicopterus roseus	21	Hundreds of birds seen well whilst on the coast on the 8th and 9th.
22	Lesser Flamingo	Phoeniconaias minor	22	Smaller numbers feeding with Greater Flamingos on the coast on the 8th and 9th.
23	Rock Dove	Columba livia	23	Recorded around human habitation in Windhoek and on the coast.
24	Speckled Pigeon	Columba guinea	24	This attractive pigeon was seen well during the first seven days of the trip only.
25	Mourning Collared-dove	Streptopelia decipiens	25	Heard on the 18th and 19th whilst in Botswana.
26	Red-eyed Dove	Streptopelia semitorquata	26	A common sight and sound during the second half of the tour. Recorded on 7 days whilst in Namibia, Botswana and Zambia.
27	Ring-necked (Cape Turtle) Dove	Streptopelia capicola	27	A very common species recorded on every day of the tour.
28	Laughing Dove	Spilopelia senegalensis	28	A very common species recorded on all but the first day of the tour.
29	Emerald-spotted Wood-dove	Turtur chalcospilos	29	This beautiful dove was seen very well recorded on 7 days from Etosha onwards and with a max. count of 50+ on the 15th.
30	Namaqua Dove	Oena capensis	30	This unmistakeable dove gave excellent views particularly at waterholes in Etosha. Recorded on 6 days.

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	#	Notes
31	African Green-pigeon	Treron calvus	31	Recorded on four days. The most surprising sighting was of two birds at Damara Mopane on the 12th and way south of its normal range.
32	Namaqua Sandgrouse	Pterocles namaqua	32	Great to see some up close and personal views of this sandgrouse. Recorded on six days with a max. count of 50+ birds on the 13th in Etosha.
33	Burchell's Sandgrouse	Pterocles burchelli	33	Recorded on the 18th whilst exploring the Okavango Pan Handle by boat. Up to 15 birds seen on the sand banks and in flight.
34	Double-banded Sandgrouse	Pterocles bicinctus	34	Recorded on three days whilst in Etosha and the Kavango region including birds at night whilst spotlighting.
35	European Nightjar	Caprimulgus europaeus	35	At least 2 birds seen side by side with Rufous-cheeked Nightjars at Okaukuejo waterhole in floodlights on the 12th and 13th.
36	Rufous-cheeked Nightjar	Caprimulgus rufigena	36	Recorded on six days with birds both heard singing and seen. The best views were undoubtedly birds hawking around the Okaukuejo waterhole.
37	Fiery-necked Nightjar	Caprimulgus pectoralis	37	Heard singing before dawn on the 16th at Onguma Bush Camp and again at Drotsky's Cabins, Botswana on the 18th.
38	Mozambique (Square-tailed) Nightjar	Caprimulgus fossii	38	Heard singing on the evening of the 19th and seen well on the evening of the 20th at Camp Kwando.
39	African Palm-swift	Cypsiurus parvus	39	A very common species recorded daily.
40	Alpine Swift	Tachymarptis melba	40	Small numbers recorded on the first five days of the tour.
41	White-rumped Swift	Apus caffer	41	Singles recorded on the 6th, 11th and 12th.
42	Little Swift	Apus affinis	42	A common species particularly around habitation recorded on 13 days.
43	Bradfield's Swift	Apus bradfieldi	43	This distinctive swift was seen well and in good light. Recorded on 7 days including a large feeding flock as we arrived at Erindi on the 9th.
44	Common Swift	Apus apus	44	A few birds recorded on the second half of the trip on four days.
45	Coppery-tailed Coucal	Centropus cupreicaudus	45	Excellent views of this speciality whilst in the Kavango region. Recorded on 6 days from the 16th onwards.
46	White-browed Coucal	Centropus superciliosus	46	Seen very well whilst in the Kavango region and in Zambia when close to water. Seen from the 19th - 22nd and heard on the 17th.
47	Jacobin Cuckoo	Clamator jacobinus	47	A dark morph bird showed very well whilst on the River Kwando on the 19th.
48	Levaillant's Cuckoo	Clamator levaillantii	48	Single birds on the 17th near Ndhovu Lodge and the 19th near Drotsky's Cabins, Botswana.
49	Great Spotted Cuckoo	Clamator glandarius	49	A single bird was seen by some on the 21st at Nkwazi Lodge, Zambia.
50	Klaas's Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx klaas	50	A bird was heard singing at Nkwazi Lodge, Zambia.
51	Diederik Cuckoo	Chrysococcyx caprius	51	A bird was heard singing near the Rundu Mast on the 16th whilst looking for Souza's Shrike.
52	Red-chested Cuckoo	Cuculus solitarius	52	A single bird seen by some of the group in woodland near Rundu on the 16th.
53	Black Cuckoo	Cuculus clamosus	53	Recorded on three days and seen well on the 17th near Drotsky's Cabins, Botswana.
54	Common Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus	54	A 1st year bird with an injured eye was seen at Drotsky's Cabins gardens on the 18th.
55	African Cuckoo	Cuculus gularis	55	Seen and heard singing at Okaukuejo on the 12th and 13th.
56	African Finfoot	Podica senegalensis	56	Two female birds were seen on the Zambezi River on the evening of the 21st.
57	African Rail	Rallus caerulescens	57	A calling bird was heard only at the Rundu Sewage Ponds on the 16th.
58	Black Crake	Zapornia flavirostra	58	A number of birds including adults and juveniles seen well on 7 days between 15th -21st.
59	Purple Swamphen	Porphyrio porphyrio	59	Recorded on four days at wetland sites near Windhoek, the coast, Rundu and on the Pan Handle, Botswana.
60	Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	60	Recorded on four days at wetland sites.
61	Red-knobbed Coot	Fulica cristata	61	Seen well at Gammams Sewage Works and Rundu Sewage Ponds.
62	Wattled Crane	Bugeranus carunculatus	62	Despite the dry conditions, we were relieved to find up to 7 birds during a boat trip on the Okavango River on the 17th

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	#	Notes
63	Blue Crane	Anthropoides paradiseus	63	Fabulous views of a total of 15 birds whilst exploring Etosha on the 15th. 13 birds at the Andoni Plains and 2 birds near the east gate of Etosha.
64	Ludwig's Bustard	Neotis ludwigii	64	Three birds were flushed whilst exploring Erindi on the 10th.
65	Kori Bustard	Ardeotis kori	65	Great views of this huge bustard in Erindi and Etosha over four days.
66	Red-crested (Korhaan) Bustard	Lophotis ruficrista	66	The commonest bustard recorded on 10 days with some excellent views including display and hearing the distinctive call day and night.
67	Rüppell's Bustard	Heterotetrax rueppelii	67	A single bird seen briefly by some on the 8th near Solitaire, but the best views were of a pair sitting in the shade of a tree en route to Uis on the 11th.
68	Northern Black Bustard	Afrotis afraoides	68	Great views with many posers! First recorded on the 9th with others on the 13th - 15th whilst in Etosha NP.
69	Grey Go-away-bird	Corythaixoides concolor	69	Recorded throughout the tour on 14 days.
70	Schalow's Turaco	Tauraco schalowi	70	Two birds posed for us at the Victoria Falls on our final morning.
71	Marabou	Leptoptilos crumenifer	71	Counts of 1-2 birds recorded on eight days.
72	Yellow-billed Stork	Mycteria ibis	72	Three birds on the 17th whilst birding Mahango Game Park.
73	African Openbill	Anastomus lamelligerus	73	Two birds on the 7th at Gammams Sewage Works were well out of range. Then 1-2 birds were recorded on the 17th - 21st within their normal range.
74	African Woollyneck	Ciconia microscelis	74	Singles on the 13th and 14th in Etosha and then two birds on the 17th during a boat trip on the Okavango River.
75	African Spoonbill	Platalea alba	75	Recorded on three days with counts of 8 birds on the 9th and 10 birds on the 17th in Namibia and 11 birds on the 22nd whilst in Zambia.
76	Hadada Ibis	Bostrychia hagedash	76	First recorded near Windhoek on our first evening. Then on five days in the Kavango, Botswana and Zambia with a max. count of 6 birds on the 20th.
77	Common Little Bittern	Ixobrychus minutus	77	Single birds seen at Gammams Sewage Works on the 7th and on the Pan Handle in Botswana on the 18th.
78	Dwarf Bittern	Ixobrychus sturmii	78	Great views of an adult and a juvenile together at the unexpected site of Namutoni pool on the 15th.
79	White-backed Night-heron	Calherodius leuconotus	79	Recorded on three days whilst exploring the rivers in the Kavango, Botswana & Zambia and a max. count of 3 birds on the18th near Drotsky's Cabins.
80	Green-backed Heron	Butorides striata	80	Recorded daily in small numbers between the 16th and 21st.
81	Squacco Heron	Ardeola ralloides	81	First recorded at Gammams Sewage Works on the 7th and then daily between the 16th and 21st
82	Rufous-bellied Heron	Ardeola rufiventris	82	A single bird was seen well in flight at Rundu Sewage Ponds on the 15th.
83	Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis	83	Recorded on seven days.
84	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea	84	Recorded at various sites throughout the tour over nine days.
85	Goliath Heron	Ardea goliath	85	Excellent views of 3 birds on the 17th whilst exploring the Okavango River by boat and another single on the 19th near Camp Kwando.
86	Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea	86	First recorded on the 7th at Gammams Sewage Works with others on the 15th, 17th, 21st and 22nd.
87	Great White Egret	Ardea alba	87	Recorded on just two days in the Kavango region.
88	Yellow-billed Egret	Ardea brachyrhyncha	88	Recorded on three days in the Kavango region.
89	Black Heron	Egretta ardesiaca	89	Two birds seen at Rundu sewage ponds and a single bird.
90	Slaty Egret	Egretta vinaceigula	90	A single bird was seen well on the 17th whilst exploring the Okavango River by boat near Ndhovu Lodge.
91	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	91	Recorded at various wetland sites on at least six days.
92	Hamerkop	Scopus umbretta	92	First recorded on the 17th whilst exploring the Okavango River by boat with other sightings on the 18th and 20th.
93	Great White Pelican	Pelecanus onocrotalus	93	Fabulous views on two days whilst on the coast at Walvis Bay and Swakopmund.
94	Crowned Cormorant	Microcarbo coronatus	94	Great views of birds in breeding plumage on the 9th at Swakopmund along with four other cormorant species!

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	#	Notes
95	Long-tailed (Reed) Cormorant	Microcarbo africanus	95	A common species in suitable habitat recorded on seven days.
96	Great Cormorant (White-breasted)	Phalacrocorax carbo (lucidus)	96	The distinctive White-breasted form seen well on four days between the 7th and 10th.
97	Cape Cormorant	Phalacrocorax capensis	97	Recorded on two days whilst on the coast at Walvis Bay and Swakopmund.
98	Bank Cormorant	Phalacrocorax neglectus	98	This endangered cormorant was seen very well in close proximity to Crowned and Cape Cormorants at Swakopmund on the 9th.
99	African Darter	Anhinga rufa	99	First recorded on the 7th at Gammams Sewage Works and on six other days in the Kavango and Botswana.
100	Water Thick-knee	Burhinus vermiculatus	100	Excellent views on at least six days, mostly from our boat trips.
101	Spotted Thick-knee	Burhinus capensis	101	Single birds seen well at night whilst at Erindi on the 9th and 10th and again on the 14th in Etosha NP.
102	African Oystercatcher	Haematopus moquini	102	Four birds were seen very well at the Swakopmund Salt Pans on the 9th.
103	Pied Avocet	Recurvirostra avosetta	103	Small numbers recorded on two days on the coast at Walvis Bay and Swakopmund.
104	Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus	104	Small numbers recorded on six days at suitable wetland sites.
105	Grey Plover	Pluvialis squatarola	105	Recorded on two days at Walvis Bay and Swakopmund.
106	Common Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula	106	Recorded on two days at Walvis Bay and Swakopmund.
107	Kittlitz's Plover	Charadrius pecuarius	107	A single bird on the 13th whilst in Etosha and a minimum of 8 birds at Rundu Sewage Ponds on the 16th.
108	African Three-banded Plover	Charadrius tricollaris	108	A common but nonetheless stunning wader recorded on eight days with a max. count of 60+ birds on the 15th.
109	White-fronted Plover	Charadrius marginatus	109	Recorded on four days whilst on the coast and in Etosha NP.
110	Chestnut-banded Plover	Charadrius pallidus	110	We were treated to 30+ of these stunning birds at Walvis Bay salt pans on the evening of the 8th and 150+ birds together in Etosha on the 15th.
111	Caspian Plover	Charadrius asiaticus	111	A group of 11 birds were very much appreciated at the Andoni Plains, Etosha on the 15th.
112	Long-toed Lapwing	Vanellus crassirostris	112	First recorded at Mahango Park on the 17th with a high count of at least 4 birds. Other sightings of 3+ on the18th, one on the 20th and two on 21st.
113	Blacksmith Lapwing	Vanellus armatus	113	A very common and stunning wader recorded on 13 days.
114	White-headed (crowned) Lapwing	Vanellus albiceps	114	Eight birds on the Zambezi River during our evening boat cruise were the only birds.
115	Crowned Lapwing	Vanellus coronatus	115	A noisy species recorded on five days.
116	Wattled Lapwing	Vanellus senegallus	116	Recorded on four days.
117	Greater Painted-snipe	Rostratula benghalensis	117	A single bird on the 20th in Mudumo NP was the only sighting.
118	African Jacana	Actophilornis africanus	118	This common species was recorded on at least nine days.
119	Whimbrel	Numenius phaeopus	119	Recorded only on the coast on the 8th and 9th.
120	Bar-tailed Godwit	Limosa lapponica	120	Recorded only on the coast on the 8th and 9th.
121	Ruddy Turnstone	Arenaria interpres	121	Recorded only on the coast on the 8th and 9th.
122	Red Knot	Calidris canutus	122	A few birds recorded on the evening of the 8th at Walvis Bay.
123	Ruff	Calidris pugnax	123	Commonly recorded in any suitable wet areas on 10 days.
124	Curlew Sandpiper	Calidris ferruginea	124	Good numbers recorded on the coast on the 8th and 9th and one or two birds in Etosha on the 14th.
125	Sanderling	Calidris alba	125	Recorded only on the coast on the 8th and 9th.
126	Little Stint	Calidris minuta	126	Good numbers recorded on the coast and smaller numbers in Etosha and recorded on seven days.

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	#	Notes
127	African Snipe	Gallinago nigripennis	127	A single bird on the 16th at Rundu Sewage Ponds.
128	Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos	128	A common species recorded throughout the tour on seven days.
129	Common Greenshank	Tringa nebularia	129	Small numbers recorded at various wetland sites on 10 days.
130	Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola	130	Small numbers recorded at various wetland sites on eight days.
131	Marsh Sandpiper	Tringa stagnatilis	131	Counts of 1-2 birds on four days whilst at Erindi, Etosha NP and Mahango Park.
132	Double-banded Courser	Smutsornis africanus	132	This stunning wader was seen well on four days near Solitaire on the 8th and then in Etosha NP.
133	Burchell's Courser	Cursorius rufus	133	Good to find this nomadic species with two birds near Solitaire on the 8th and then counts of 3 and 8 in Etosha NP.
134	Collared Pratincole	Glareola pratincola	134	Singles on the 17th and 18th from boat trips and then four birds on the 20th near Camp Kwando.
135	Rock Pratincole	Glareola nuchalis	135	Great views of 5birds at the Popa Falls on the 19th and 9 birds on the Zambezi River on the evening of the 21st.
136	African Skimmer	Rynchops flavirostris	136	Excellent flight and perched views during numerous boat trips on the 17th, 18th and 21st. Highest count was 30+ birds on the Pan Handle, Botswana.
137	Hartlaub's Gull	Larus hartlaubii	137	Great views whilst on the coast on the 8th and 9th.
138	Grey-headed Gull	Larus cirrocephalus	138	Excellent views with Hartlaub's Gull at Swakopmund on the 9th.
139	Kelp Gull	Larus dominicanus	139	Great views whilst on the coast on the 8th and 9th.
140	Damara Tern	Sternula balaenarum	140	At least 25 birds recorded during the evening of the 8th at Walvis Bay. The closest views were at Swakopmund on the 9th.
141	Caspian Tern	Hydroprogne caspia	141	Small numbers recorded whilst on the coast on the 8th and 9th.
142	Whiskered Tern	Chlidonias hybrida	142	Single birds on the 17th, 18th and 21st.
143	White-winged Tern	Chlidonias leucopterus	143	Recorded on eight days. Mostly single birds, except for 6 birds on the 19th in Bwabwata Park and 25 birds on the Zambezi River on the 21st
144	Common Tern	Sterna hirundo	144	Recorded on the coast on the 8th and 9th.
145	Sandwich Tern	Thalasseus sandvicensis	145	Recorded on the coast on the 8th and 9th.
146	Greater Crested (Swift) Tern	Thalasseus bergii	146	Good views on the coast on the 8th and 9th.
147	Common Barn-owl	Tyto alba	147	A single bird seen roosting at Drotsky's Cabins on the 18th was the only sighting.
148	Pearl-spotted Owlet	Glaucidium perlatum	148	Recorded on three days, seen well on the 7th and the 12th.
149	African Barred Owlet	Glaucidium capense	149	Wonderful day views of a bird looking down at us whilst exploring Mahango Park on the 17th.
150	African Scops-owl	Otus senegalensis	150	Superb views of a day roosting bird at Halali Camp on the 14th and also heard on the 16th.
151	Marsh Owl	Asio capensis	151	A surprise bird in Etosha NP showed very well on the night of the 14th whilst spotlighting.
152	African Wood-owl	Strix woodfordii	152	Some wonderful views of birds at their daytime roosts. One bird at Ndhovu on the 17th and then up to 2 birds at Camp Kwando on the 20th and 21st.
153	Spotted Eagle-owl	Bubo africanus	153	Recorded on four days with a maximum two birds at any one time. The most memorable sighting was an adult and juvenile at Avis Dam on the 7th.
154	Verreaux's Eagle-owl	Bubo lacteus	154	An adult was seen very well by spotlight on the evening of the 10th at Erindi.
155	Pel's Fishing-owl	Scotopelia peli	155	It took some finding, but perseverance paid off! A tour highlight was a single adult in full view during the day near Drotsky's Cabins on the 18th.
156	Secretarybird	Sagittarius serpentarius	156	Recorded in Etosha NP on the 13th, 14th and 15th. Two birds on the first two days and a single on the last.
157	Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	157	Great to see single wintering birds whilst taking boat trips on the 17th, 18th and 21st.
158	Black-winged Kite	Elanus caeruleus	158	A common species that surprisingly took us until the 18th to see our first and then recorded on two other days.

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159	African Cuckoo-hawk	Aviceda cuculoides	159	Two adult birds were seen well during our boat trip from Camp Kwando on the evening of the 19th.
160	African Harrier-hawk	Polyboroides typus	160	The only sighting was of a bird on the 17th.
161	Bateleur	Terathopius ecaudatus	161	Three birds seen very well in Etosha on the 15th and others on the 19th, 20th and 21st.
162	Black-chested Snake-eagle	Circaetus pectoralis	162	Singles of this very striking raptor were seen on five days.
163	Brown Snake-eagle	Circaetus cinereus	163	Single birds on the 11th and 19th
164	Western Banded Snake-eagle	Circaetus cinerascens	164	A single perched bird posed for us on the banks of the Zambezi River on the evening of the 21st.
165	White-headed Vulture	Trigonoceps occipitalis	165	Mick saw a male from his verandah at Camp Kwando on the 20th.
166	White-backed Vulture	Gyps africanus	166	The commonest large raptor recorded on 10 days with a high count of 50+ birds on the 19th.
167	Lappet-faced Vulture	Torgos tracheliotos	167	We enjoyed excellent views of this huge vulture in Etosha on two days with a high count of 6 birds and another 3 birds on the 19th in the Kavango.
168	Martial Eagle	Polemaetus bellicosus	168	An adult and immature were seen very well on the 12th near Kamanjab and another perched adult at Namutoni in Etosha NP on the 15th.
169	Tawny Eagle	Aquila rapax	169	A common raptor recorded on seven days in small numbers.
170	Steppe Eagle	Aquila nipalensis	170	A single bird was seen well on the 15th.
171	Verreaux's Eagle	Aquila verreauxii	171	Excellent perched and flight views of this impressive eagle on four days. High count of 4 birds on the 8th. The most memorable views at Namibgrens.
172	African Hawk-eagle	Aquila spilogaster	172	A single adult perched at Erindi on the 10th.
173	Wahlberg's Eagle	Hieraaetus wahlbergi	173	Some good views of perched birds on the 19th and 20th whilst in the Kavango and a max. count of 4 birds on the 20th.
174	Dark Chanting-goshawk	Melierax metabates	174	Recorded on the 16th and 20th only.
175	Pale Chanting-goshawk	Melierax canorus	175	The default medium-sized raptor recorded on at least 10 days.
176	Gabar Goshawk	Micronisus gabar	176	Single birds were seen on the 10th and 14th.
177	Shikra	Accipiter badius	177	The only bird was a single on our first day near Windhoek.
178	Little Sparrowhawk	Accipiter minullus	178	A nesting bird gave superb views at Halali Camp on the 14th and 15th.
179	African Fish-eagle	Haliaeetus vocifer	179	This impressive species synonymous with Africa was seen very well on 7 days whilst in the Kavango region.
180	Black Kite (Yellow-billed Kite)	Milvus migrans / M.m. aegyptius	180	Recorded on seven days with a max. count of 100+ birds on the 21st. All were "Yellow-billed" Kites.
181	Eurasian (Steppe) Buzzard	Buteo Buteo (vulpinus)	181	Relatively scarce with small numbers recorded on 5 days.
182	Augur Buzzard	Buteo augur	182	Great views of this striking buzzard. First seen at Namibgrens on the 7th and then another 2 birds on the 12th en route to Okaukuejo.
183	White-backed Mousebird	Colius colius	183	Seen during the first four days of the trip with a max. count of 6+ birds on the 6th.
184	Red-faced Mousebird	Urocolius indicus	184	Recorded on four days with our first sighting on the 8th around Namibgrens and then again in Etosha and Botswana.
185	African Grey Hornbill	Lophoceros nasutus	185	The commonest hornbill species recorded on 12 days.
186	Bradfield's Hornbill	Lophoceros bradfieldi	186	Some excellent views of this species with our first sighting on the 16th travelling from Onguma to Ndhovu. Then again on the 19th and 20th.
187	Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	Tockus leucomelas	187	This attractive hornbill with diagnostic "banana bill" was seen well on five days.
188	Monteiro's Hornbill	Tockus monteiri	188	Excellent views on five days with our highest count at Erindi with at least 4 birds on the 9th.
189	Damara Hornbill	Tockus damarensis	189	This whiter-faced version of the Red-billed Hornbill with a distinct dark eye was recorded on five days with some very tame birds at Halali Camp.
190	Red-billed Hornbill	Tockus erythrorhynchus	190	Recorded on five days.

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	#	Notes
191	Trumpeter Hornbill	Bycanistes bucinator	191	Two birds ween in flight whilst sailing on the Zambezi River on the evening of the 21st and another at Victoria Falls on the 22nd.
192	Common (African) Hoopoe	Upupa epops (africana)	192	A relatively common species in the right habitat recorded on at least seven days.
193	Green Woodhoopoe	Phoeniculus purpureus	193	Recorded on three days, typically in groups. Our largest day count was 20+ birds on the 20th whilst exploring Mudumo NP.
194	Violet Woodhoopoe	Phoeniculus damarensis	194	Two birds on the 12th at Okaukuejo and five birds on the 15th at Halali Camp
195	Common Scimitarbill	Rhinopomastus cyanomelas	195	Recorded on five days.
196	White-fronted Bee-eater	Merops bullockoides	196	This beautiful Bee-Eater was a common sight whilst in the Kavango Region and Pan Handle. Recorded on four days.
197	Southern Carmine Bee-eater	Merops nubicoides	197	Another stunning Bee-Eater recorded on five days and a highlight was visiting a colony near Drotsky's Cabins, Botswana.
198	Olive (Madagascar) Bee-Eater	Merops superciliosus	198	Great views of up to 6 birds hawking for insects as we travelled from Damara Mopane to Kamanjab.
199	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	Merops persicus	199	Yet another beautiful Bee-Eater recorded on four days with a max. count of 100+ birds on the 18th whilst in the Pan Handle.
200	European Bee-eater	Merops apiaster	200	Recorded on seven days.
201	Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	Merops hirundineus	201	The most commonly recorded Bee-Eater with sightings on eight days.
202	Little Bee-eater	Merops pusillus	202	These tiny beauties were recorded on seven days with some very obliging birds at Drotsky's Cabins whilst waiting for our boat.
203	Purple Roller	Coracias naevius	203	A relatively common Roller in the right habit recorded on seven days.
204	Racquet-tailed Roller	Coracias spatulatus	204	This often tricky species is restricted to the Kavango region where we enjoyed excellent views of 2 birds en route to Camp Kwando on the 19th.
205	Lilac-breasted Roller	Coracias caudatus	205	Surprisingly scarce during the trip with much smaller numbers than usual. Recorded on seven days, often just single birds.
206	Broad-billed Roller	Eurystomus glaucurus	206	Great views as birds often hawked over the Okavango River at dusk and recorded on four days.
207	Malachite Kingfisher	Corythornis cristatus	207	Mostly single birds recorded on four days.
208	Giant Kingfisher	Megaceryle maxima	208	Single counts of this impressive kingfisher were recorded on the 17th, 18th and 22nd.
209	Pied Kingfisher	Ceryle rudis	209	A common species recorded on seven days.
210	Grey-headed Kingfisher	Halcyon leucocephala	210	Recorded on three days around the Kavango region.
211	Brown-hooded Kingfisher	Halcyon albiventris	211	Recorded on five days.
212	Striped Kingfisher	Halcyon chelicuti	212	A single bird in woodland whilst searching for Rufous-bellied Tit on the 20th.
213	Woodland Kingfisher	Halcyon senegalensis	213	A common but impressive species recorded on six days.
214	Crested Barbet	Trachyphonus vaillantii	214	This very striking Barbet was seen well on the 17th and 21st.
215	Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	Pogoniulus chrysoconus	215	Two birds were seen well in the gardens of Camp Kwando on the 20th.
216	Acacia Pied Barbet	Tricholaema leucomelas	216	The commonest barbet species recorded on eight days.
217	Black-collared Barbet	Lybius torquatus	217	Recorded daily whilst in the northern part of the tour on six days.
218	Lesser Honeyguide	Indicator minor	218	A single bird on the 22nd was seen by some of the group at Nkwazi Lodge.
219	Bennett's Woodpecker	Campethera bennettii	219	Two birds showed well during a game drive in Mudumo NP on the 20th.
220	Golden-tailed Woodpecker	Campethera abingoni	220	Mostly single birds recorded at various sites on five days.
221	Cardinal Woodpecker	Dendropicos fuscescens	221	Mostly single birds recorded at various sites on six days.
222	Common (Rock) Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus (rupicoles)	222	Recorded on the first three days and the 12th.

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223	Greater Kestrel	Falco rupicoloides	223	Good views of this subtle falcon with sightings on the 8th and again on the 13th and 14th in Etosha NP.
224	Red-necked Falcon	Falco ruficollis	224	A single bird showed well at Namutoni on the 15th.
225	Red-footed Falcon	Falco vespertinus	225	Recorded on just two days in the north with 7+ birds on the 20th in Mudumo NP and another whilst travelling on the 21st.
226	Eurasian Hobby	Falco subbuteo	226	Recorded on the 20th - 22nd with two birds on the 20th.
227	Lanner Falcon	Falco biarmicus	227	Great views in Etosha with a single adult bird on the 13th and then 2 adults and 1 juvenile on the 14th.
228	Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus	228	A male on the 16th and another bird on the 22nd.
229	Brown (Meyer's) Parrot	Poicephalus meyeri	229	Recorded on five days during the northern part of the tour.
230	Rüppell's Parrot	Poicephalus rueppellii	230	Seen very well on the 11th and 12th whilst at Damara Mopane Lodge.
231	Rosy-faced Lovebird	Agapornis roseicollis	231	Recorded on four days with a max. count of 8 birds on the 7th at Namibgrens.
232	Rufous-naped Lark	Mirafra africana	232	Two singing birds seen well on the 20th in Mudumo NP.
233	Eastern Clapper Lark	Mirafra fasciolata	233	Seen well on the 13th, 15th and 20th.
234	Sabota Lark	Calendulauda sabota	234	The commonest lark species recorded on 10 days.
235	Fawn-coloured Lark	Calendulauda africanoides	235	A single bird on the 19th was our only sighting.
236	Dune Lark	Calendulauda erythrochlamys	236	Brilliant views early on the 9th after a walk out into the dunes near Swakopmund.
237	Gray's Lark	Ammomanopsis grayi	237	Four birds seen very well on the 8th near Walvis Bay.
238	Spike-heeled Lark	Chersomanes albofasciata	238	Seen very well in Etosha on the 13th and 14th allowing the spikes to be seen!
239	Karoo Long-billed Lark	Certhilauda subcoronata	239	Singing birds seen well on the 8th and 9th in the Spreetshhogte Pass and en route to Erindi.
240	Benguela Long-billed Lark	Certhilauda benguelensis	240	Four birds near Uis on the 11th showed very well in the heat of the day.
241	Grey-backed Sparrow-lark	Eremopterix verticalis	241	Small groups recorded in Etosha on the 13th and 14th.
242	Red-capped Lark	Calandrella cinerea	242	This aptly named lark was seen well on three days whilst in Etosha on the 13th - 15th.
243	Stark's Lark	Spizocorys starki	243	Good views in Etosha on the 13th and 14th.
244	Pink-billed Lark	Spizocorys conirostris	244	Four birds showed well in Etosha on the 13th.
245	Plain (Brown-throated) Martin	Riparia paludicola	245	Recorded on the Okavango River whilst in the Pan Handle on the 18th and 19th.
246	Banded Martin	Riparia cincta	246	This large hirundine was seen well on four days.
247	Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	247	Recorded on 13 days.
248	White-throated Swallow	Hirundo albigularis	248	Recorded on the 7th at Gammams Sewage Works and again on the 18th in the Pan Handle.
249	Wire-tailed Swallow	Hirundo smithii	249	Recorded on six days in the north.
250	Pearl-breasted Swallow	Hirundo dimidiata	250	Recorded on the 10th and the 12th only.
251	Rock Martin	Ptyonoprogne fuligula	251	Recorded on the first nine days of the trip.
252	Northern House Martin	Delichon urbicum	252	Recorded on the 6th and the 8th only.
253	Greater Striped Swallow	Cecropis cucullata	253	Surprisingly small numbers, recorded on the 12th and the 16th only.
254	Lesser Striped Swallow	Cecropis abyssinica	254	Recorded on the 10th at Erindi and then again on the 17th-19th.

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	#	Notes
255	Rufous-chested (Red-breasted) Swallow	Cecropis semirufa	255	Great views of this stunning small on six days from Etosha to the north.
256	Mosque Swallow	Cecropis senegalensis	256	At least two birds showed well as they came to drink whilst we sat in a hide in Mudumo NP on the 20th.
257	Grassveld (African) Pipit	Anthus cinnamomeus	257	The commonest default pipit species recorded on nine days.
258	Long-billed Pipit	Anthus similis	258	A single bird whilst descending the Spreetshoogte Pass on the 8th.
259	Buffy Pipit	Anthus vaalensis	259	Single birds gave excellent views in the gardens of Okaukuejo on the 12th and 13th. Seen wagging their tails as is typical of this species.
260	African Pied Wagtail	Motacilla aguimp	260	Recorded on five days.
261	Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava	261	A single on the 15th and 2 birds on the 18th and 20th. None assigned to race.
262	Cape Wagtail	Motacilla capensis	262	Recorded on five days.
263	Black Cuckoo-shrike	Campephaga flava	263	Females seen well on the 16th and 17th.
264	Common (Dark-capped) Bulbul	Pycnonotus barbatus	264	Recorded daily between 16th and 22nd
265	African Red-eyed Bulbul	Pycnonotus nigricans	265	Recorded on nine days until it was replaced by the above species from the 16th onwards.
266	Yellow-bellied Greenbul	Chlorocichla flaviventris	266	Recorded on six days in the north.
267	Terrestrial Brownbul	Phyllastrephus terrestris	267	Recorded on three days.
268	Kurrichane Thrush	Turdus libonyanus	268	A single bird on the 22nd only at Nkwazi Lodge.
269	Groundscraper Thrush	Psophocichla litsitsirupa	269	A common species recorded on 12 days.
270	Short-toed Rock-thrush	Monticola brevipes	270	Some excellent views of this stunning thrush and recorded on five days, typically around the more rocky habitat.
271	Southern Anteater-chat	Myrmecocichla formicivora	271	Two birds on the 13th and another two birds on the 15th, both in Etosha NP.
272	White-headed (Arnot's) Black-chat	Pentholaea arnotti	272	Up to 12 of these specialities seen in Mudumo NP on the 20th.
273	White-browed Robin-chat	Cossypha heuglini	273	Great views of this attractive songster on at least five days.
274	Collared Palm-thrush	Cichladusa arquata	274	One bird seen very well in garden Palms of Nkwazi Lodge on the 22nd.
275	White-browed Scrub-robin	Erythropygia leucophrys	275	One bird seen well on the 15th in Etosha and heard on the 17th.
276	Kalahari Scrub-robin	Erythropygia paena	276	Seen well on five days.
277	Karoo Scrub-robin	Erythropygia coryphaeus	277	Excellent views on the 7th and 8th around Namibgrens.
278	Bearded Scrub-robin	Tychaedon quadrivirgata	278	Very close views of an adult nest building at Victoria Falls on the 22nd.
279	Common (African) Stonechat	Saxicola torquatus	279	An adult on the 17th and a juvenile on the 18th were the only sightings.
280	Karoo Chat	Cercomela schlegelii	280	Great views of a bird near Swakopmund on the 9th.
281	Tractrac Chat	Cercomela tractrac	281	Great views of a bird near Swakopmund on the 9th.
282	Familiar Chat	Cercomela familiaris	282	Recorded on six days between the 7th - 12th.
283	Mountain Wheatear	Oenanthe monticola	283	Some excellent views on four days during the first few days of the tour.
284	Capped Wheatear	Oenanthe pileata	284	This cracking wheatear was seen well on the 7th, 13th and 17th.
285	Herero Chat-flycatcher	Namibornis herero	285	This near endemic was seen well as we descended the Spreetshoogte Pass where we saw 2 birds. A bird on the 11th near Uis was unexpected.
286	Pale Flycatcher	Bradornis pallidus	286	Our only sighting was of a bird on the 16th near Rundu.

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287	Brown Chat-flycatcher	Bradornis infuscatus	287	Recorded on four days, often whilst travelling.
288	Mariqua (Marici) Flycatcher	Bradornis mariquensis	288	A relatively common flycatcher recorded on seven days.
289	Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata	289	Nice to see this winter migrant recorded on six days from Etosha to the Kavango region.
290	Ashy Flycatcher	Muscicapa caerulescens	290	Single birds recorded on four days with the best views in the garden of Drotsky's Cabins.
291	Chin-spot Batis	Batis molitor	291	A pair showed very well on the 16th in woodland near Rundu.
292	Pririt Batis	Batis pririt	292	A number of good sightings recorded on six days up until Etosha NP.
293	African Paradise-flycatcher	Terpsiphone viridis	293	Some great views of this stunning flycatcher recorded on six days in the northern section of the tour.
294	Tawny-flanked Prinia	Prinia subflava	294	Recorded on five days in the north.
295	Black-chested Prinia	Prinia flavicans	295	Recorded on eight days up until the 14th whilst in Etosha.
296	Rattling Cisticola	Cisticola chiniana	296	Recorded at various sites throughout the trip on a total of five days.
297	Luapula Cisticola	Cisticola luapula	297	Two of these Kavango specialities were seen well on the 17th during a boat trip on the Okavango.
298	Chirping Cisticola	Cisticola pipiens	298	Recorded on the 18th and 19h only.
299	Zitting Cisticola	Cisticola juncidis	299	Recorded on the 16th and 19th only.
300	Desert Cisticola	Cisticola aridulus	300	First seen at Avis Dam on the 7th and then again on the 13th.
301	Rufous-eared Warbler	Malcorus pectoralis	301	This stunning warbler posed for us in Etosha NP on the 14th.
302	Yellow-breasted Apalis	Apalis flavida	302	Two birds were seen well at Nkwazi Lodge on the 21st.
303	Grey-backed Camaroptera	Camaroptera brachyura	303	A relatively common species throughout the tour seen on at least seven days.
304	Barred Wren-warbler	Calamonastes fasciolatus	304	A single bird showed very well indeed at Okaukuejo during the late afternoon on the 12th
305	Sedge Warbler	Acrocephalus schoenobaenus	305	Singles on the 17th and 19th and then 2 birds on the 20th.
306	African Reed-warbler	Acrocephalus baeticatus	306	Singing birds seen at Gammams Sewage Works on the 7th and Swakopmund on the 8th, plus a bird on the 18th.
307	Great Reed-warbler	Acrocephalus arundinaceus	307	Two birds showed well to some of the group at Camp Kwando on the morning of the 21st.
308	Greater Swamp-warbler	Acrocephalus rufescens	308	Recorded on six days in the north with the best views whilst on the boat trips.
309	Lesser Swamp-warbler	Acrocephalus gracilirostris	309	A very unusual record so far south was a bird at Gammams Sewage Works on the 7th plus more expected birds in the north on the 18th/19th.
310	Icterine Warbler	Hippolais icterina	310	Singles on the 17th and 19th.
311	Willow Warbler	Phylloscopus trochilus	311	A very common warbler recorded on 15 days.
312	Yellow-bellied Eremomela	Eremomela icteropygialis	312	Good views of this warbler on four days up until the 12th.
313	Green-capped Eremomela	Eremomela scotops	313	Three birds showed well in woodland near Rundu on the 16th.
314	Burnt-necked Eremomela	Eremomela usticollis	314	Up to 7 different birds were seen on the 17th whilst exploring Mahango Game Park.
315	Long-billed Crombec	Sylvietta rufescens	315	1-2 birds recorded on five days.
316	Garden Warbler	Sylvia borin	316	Two birds on the 19th were our only sightings.
317	Chestnut-vented Warbler	Sylvia subcaerulea	317	A common warbler in most habitats during the southern / central section of the tour.
318	Layard's Warbler	Sylvia layardi	318	Another sometime tricky species to find, so we were pleased to get great views of one bird at Namibgrens on the morning of the 8th.

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	#	Notes
319	Arrow-marked Babbler	Turdoides jardineii	319	Small groups recorded on four days whilst in the Kavango region.
320	Southern White-rumped (Hartlaub's) Babbler	Turdoides hartlaubii	320	Recorded on six days whilst in the Kavango region.
321	Southern Pied Babbler	Turdoides bicolor	321	This very striking babbler was seen on three days from Erindi to Etosha NP.
322	Bare-cheeked Babbler	Turdoides gymnogenys	322	We did well with this sometimes tricky babbler with sightings on four days with a max. count of 5 birds at Damara Mopane.
323	Rockrunner	Achaetops pycnopygius	323	The tour started very well with two birds on our first morning at Avis Dam.
324	Thesethrush	Parus niger	324	Two birds were seen very well in Mahango Game Park on the 17th.
325	Carp's Black Tit	Parus carpi	325	Three birds showed very well in suitable habitat around Damara Mopane Lodge on the morning of the 12th.
326	Rufous-bellied Tit	Parus rufiventris	326	Two birds finally gave themselves up in woodland eats of Rundu on the afternoon of the 16th.
327	Ashy Tit	Parus cinerascens	327	Recorded on four days.
328	Grey Penduline-tit	Anthoscopus caroli	328	A single bird showed well in Mudumo NP on the 20th.
329	Cape Penduline-tit	Anthoscopus minutus	329	Two birds seen near Windhoek en route to Namibgrens on the 7th.
330	Collared Sunbird	Anthodiaeta collaris	330	Recorded on three days in the northern section of the tour.
331	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	Chalcomitra senegalensis	331	Recorded on the 7th and the 16th only.
332	Mariqua (Marico) Sunbird	Cinnyris mariquensis	332	A common species recorded on six days.
333	Common Purple-banded Sunbird	Cinnyris bifasciatus	333	Recorded on four days from Rundu eastwards.
334	Dusky Sunbird	Cinnyris fuscus	334	Recorded on seven days.
335	Copper Sunbird	Cinnyris cupreus	335	Recorded from the 19th - 22nd.
336	Cape (Orange River) White-eye	Zosterops pallidus (pallidus)	336	Excellent views in a small park in Swakopmund on the 9th.
337	African Yellow White-eye	Zosterops senegalensis	337	Recorded on four days in the north.
338	African Golden Oriole	Oriolus auratus	338	1-2 birds seen well on five days in the northern part of the tour.
339	Eastern Black-headed Oriole	Oriolus larvatus	339	Seen on the 16th and the 17th only.
340	Red-backed Shrike	Lanius collurio	340	Great to see this winter migrant with sightings on five days and a max. count of 6 birds on the 17th.
341	Souza's Shrike	Lanius souzae	341	A brief sighting on the 16th whilst checking woodland east of Rundu , sadly only seen by by Sean.
342	Lesser Grey Shrike	Lanius minor	342	Small numbers on seven days from Etosha and the northern section of the tour.
343	Common Fiscal	Lanius collaris	343	Recorded on nine days between the 7th and 15th often whilst travelling.
344	Magpie Shrike	Corvinella melanoleuca	344	Great views of this striking shrike recorded daily from the 17th - 21st and a max. count of 4 birds on the 17th.
345	Southern White-crowned Shrike	Eurocephalus anguitimens	345	This chunky and very striking shrike was seen well in Etosha NP on four days.
346	Brown-crowned Tchagra	Tchagra australis	346	Two birds were ween well on the 20th whilst exploring Mudumo NP.
347	Black-crowned Tchagra	Tchagra senegalus	347	The only sighting was of a bird on the 17th whilst looking for Rufous-bellied Tit when Andrew had some good views.
348	Black-backed Puffback	Dryoscopus cubla	348	Four birds on the 17th and at least one bird on the 21st.
349	Crimson-breasted Shrike	Laniarius atrococcineus	349	Probably the most stunning of all the Bush-Shrike and a familiar sound on most days, recorded on nine days.
350	Tropical Boubou	Laniarius aethiopicus	350	Three birds were seen very well by some of the group at Nkwazi Lodge on the morning of the 22nd.

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	#	Notes
351	Swamp Boubou	Laniarius bicolor	351	Some excellent views, particularly during our boat trips. Recorded on seven days.
352	Orange-breasted Bush-shrike	Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus	352	A beautiful Bush-Shrike with distinctive monotonous song seen very well, especially in the gardens of Drotsky's Cabins and recorded on four days.
353	Bokmakierie	Telophorus zeylonus	353	Great views on the 7th and 8th around the Namibgrens area.
354	Brubru	Nilaus afer	354	Recorded on five days, often located by its distinctive telephone-like ringing call.
355	White-tailed Shrike	Lanioturdus torquatus	355	Some excellent views of this stunning near endemic, recorded on five days between the 8th and the 12th.
356	White-crested Helmet-shrike	Prionops plumatus	356	A gang of 4 birds on the 16th and again on the 17th.
357	Fork-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus adsimilis	357	Recorded every day.
358	Cape Crow	Corvus capensis	358	Recorded on four days.
359	Pied Crow	Corvus albus	359	Recorded on eight days in all areas of the tour.
360	Red-billed Oxpecker	Buphagus erythrorhynchus	360	Recorded on the 17th and 20th only.
361	Yellow-billed Oxpecker	Buphagus africanus	361	Small groups recorded on the 18th - 20th with a max. count of at least 5 birds on the 18th whilst watching Pel's Fishing Owl!
362	Wattled Starling	Creatophora cinerea	362	First seen on the 7th at Gammams Sewage Works and then again on the 16th, 18th and 19th.
363	Amethyst (Violet-backed) Starling	Cinnyricinclus leucogaster	363	The males are truly stunning and we saw small groups on the 16th - 18th.
364	Red-winged Starling	Onychognathus morio	364	A single bird seen well on the 17th and then 6+ birds around Victoria Falls on the 22nd.
365	Pale-winged Starling	Onychognathus nabouroup	365	Small groups seen well on the 6th, 8th and 9th.
366	Burchell's Starling	Lamprotornis australis	366	A relatively common starling recorded on 10 days during both sections of the tour.
367	Meves's Long-tailed Starling	Lamprotornis mevesii	367	A speciality of the north and the Kavango region where we recorded small number on the 16th - 18th.
368	Cape Glossy Starling	Lamprotornis nitens	368	By far the commonest starling recorded on 14 days.
369	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	369	Recorded on five days mostly around habitation.
370	Southern Rufous (Great) Sparrow	Passer motitensis	370	This beautiful sparrow was seen very well and recorded on six days.
371	Cape Sparrow	Passer melanurus	371	Another beautiful sparrow that was recorded on four days.
372	Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	Passer diffusus	372	Recorded on six days.
373	Yellow-throated (Petronia) Bush-sparrow	Gymnoris superciliaris	373	Surprisingly few sightings, recorded on only the 16th and the 20th.
374	Red-billed Buffalo-weaver	Bubalornis niger	374	Small colonies recorded on the 7th near our accommodation and again on the 15th in Etosha NP.
375	White-browed Sparrow-weaver	Plocepasser mahali	375	A common species recorded on at least 13 days.
376	Scaly-feathered Finch	Sporopipes squamifrons	376	Smaller numbers than usual and recorded on just five days.
377	Sociable Weaver	Philetairus socius	377	This interesting species with its huge nests were recorded on five days.
378	Thick-billed Weaver	Amblyospiza albifrons	378	A male on the 18th from our boat trip on the Okavango River and then at least 2+ birds seen well in the gardens of Camp Kwando on the 21st.
379	Red-billed Quelea	Quelea quelea	379	Surprisingly scarce and recorded on only the 15th and 16th in small numbers.
380	Fan-tailed Widowbird	Euplectes axillaris	380	First seen well at Rundu sewage ponds on the 16th and then again on the 18th.
381	Southern Masked Weaver	Ploceus velatus	381	Seen daily during the first nine das of the tour.
382	Village Weaver	Ploceus cucullatus	382	Recorded on five days during the northern part of the tour.

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	#	Notes
383	Southern Brown-throated Weaver	Ploceus xanthopterus	383	Good views of this weaver at Drotsky's Cabins on the 18th only.
384	Spectacled Weaver	Ploceus ocularis	384	Good views of a bird in the gardens of Camp Kwando on the 21st only.
385	Holub's Golden Weaver	Ploceus xanthops	385	This chunky-billed weaver was seen very well on four days during the northern part of the tour.
386	Red-headed Weaver	Anaplectes rubriceps	386	This stunning weaver was seen very well on four days whilst in the the north.
387	Pin-tailed Whydah	Vidua macroura	387	Recorded only at Avis Dam on the 7th.
388	Shaft-tailed Whydah	Vidua regia	388	Birds were recorded in Etosha NP on the 15th and again on the 20th in Mudumo NP.
389	Cut-throat Finch	Amadina fasciata	389	Our only sighting was of at least one bird drinking from a puddle at Divundu on the 16th.
390	Red-headed Finch	Amadina erythrocephala	390	These attractive finches were seen well whilst in Etosha NP, mostly around waterholes on the 13th and 14th.
391	Black-faced Waxbill	Estrilda erythronotos	391	A smart waxbill recorded on four days during the first few days of the tour.
392	Common Waxbill	Estrilda astrild	392	Recorded in the southern and northern parts of the tour on six days.
393	Blue Waxbill	Uraeginthus angolensis	393	This striking waxbill was recorded at various sites throughout the trip on at least eight days.
394	Violet-eared Waxbill	Granatina granatina	394	Without doubt, the most stunning of the waxbills and we had a number of sightings throughout the trip, recorded on seven days.
395	Melba Finch (Green-winged Pytilia)	Pytilia melba	395	Another stunner and both males and females were recorded during the tour on five days.
396	Red-billed Firefinch	Lagonosticta senegala	396	This smart fire finch was seen very well at various sites often by water on four days.
397	Brown Firefinch	Lagonosticta nitidula	397	Recorded on four days with the best views in the garden at Drotsky's Cabins.
398	Bronze Mannikin	Spermestes cucullata	398	Amazingly, our only sighting was on the 20th whilst travelling to Zambia!
399	Black-throated Canary	Serinus atrogularis	399	A fairly common species recorded on eight days.
400	Yellow-fronted Canary	Serinus mozambicus	400	Good views of at least 2 birds on the 16th en route to Ndhovu Lodge.
401	Yellow Canary	Serinus flaviventris	401	Recorded on five days.
402	Lark-like Bunting	Emberiza impetuani	402	Just 5 birds recorded on the 8th at a drinking pool - Much harder to find than usual due to the recent drought.
403	Cape Bunting	Emberiza capensis	403	Excellent views of both male and female on the 7th at Avis Dam and around Namibgrens on the 8th.
404	Golden-breasted Bunting	Emberiza flaviventris	404	Great views of this stunning bunting between the 14th and 16th with a max. count of 7 birds on the 15th in Etosha NP.

Birds, Mammals & Reptiles Checklist for Namibia 6-22 November 2016

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	#	Notes
1	Chacma Baboon	Papio ursinus	1	A very common species throughout the trip recorded on 14 days.
2	Vervet Monkey	Chlorocebus pygerythrus	2	First recorded on the 17th in Mahango Game Park and then seen on three other days.
3	Scrub Hare	Lepus saxatilis	3	Small numbers seen, often on night drives. Recorded on a total of four days.
4	Southern African Ground Squirrel	Xerus inauris	4	First recorded near Solitaire on the 8th and then again on the 12th and 13th in Etosha NP.
5	Smith's Bush Squirrel	Paraxerus cepapi	5	This relatively common species was seen well on six days from Etosha NP onwards.
6	Southern African Springhare	Pedetes capensis	6	Great views of these strange looking mammals during a night drive on the 9th in Erindi Game Reserve.
7	Bat-eared Fox	Otocyon megalotis	7	Our first sighting was of 2 animals on the 8th during the day whilst travelling from Namibgrens to Solitaire. Other sightings were at night in Erindi on the 9th and an amazing count of 7 animals in Etosha near Halali on the 14th.
8	Black-backed Jackal	Canis mesomelas	8	A commonly encountered species in Etosha, but also seen in Erindi and Mudumo NP. Recorded on eight days.
9	African Wild Dog	Lycaon pictus	9	A fabulous encounter of a family group consisting of 18 animals in Erindi Game Reserve on the 10th.
10	Banded Mongoose	Mungos mungo	10	A group of at least 6 animals were seen very well at Namutoni in Etosha NP on the 15th.
11	Slender Mongoose	Galerella sanguinea	11	The most commonly seen mongoose with sightings on seven days with a max. count of 2 animals on the 11th.
12	Yellow Mongoose	Cynictis penicillata	12	Great views of this aptly named mongoose on the 6th, 7th and 13th with a max. count of 2 animals on the 7th.
13	Black Mongoose	Galerella nigrata	13	An animal ran across the road that most of the group saw well near Erongo Wilderness Lodge on the 12th. Considered by some as a form of slender mongoose.
14	Small-spotted Genet	Genetta genetta	14	Three different animals seen very well during a night drive in Erindi Game Reserve on the 9th.
15	Spotted Hyaena	Crocuta crocuta	15	A captive animal awaiting release at Erindi on the 10th. Truly wild individuals in Etosha NP on three days with a max. count of 6 animals on the 14th.
16	Brown Hyaena	Hyaena brunnea	16	One animal seen very well at night in Erindi on the 10th after what was most likely a second animal had escaped our spotlight just a few minutes before.
17	Aardwolf	Proteles cristatus	17	A single animals seen very well at night in Etosha NP near Halali on the 14th.
18	African Wild Cat	Felis silvestris cafra	18	Sean did very well to pick up our only animal of the trip whilst spotlighting in Erindi on the 9th.
19	Cheetah	Acinonyx jubatus	19	A fabulous animal seen sitting up under the shade of a tree in Etosha on the afternoon of the 14th near Halali.
20	Lion	Panthera leo	20	A captive animal at Erindi on the 10th. Truly wild animals included two males coming to drink at the Okaukuejo waterhole on the evening of the 13th and then a total of 13 animals the following day whilst visiting various waterholes.
21	Leopard	Panthera pardus	21	Two great sightings! An animal on the night of the 9th in Erindi was thought to be a male and then a female during the afternoon just metres from our vehicle on the 15th in Etosha NP near Namutoni.
22	Caracal	Caracal caracal	22	Sadly, Sean was the only person to see the animal as it dashed across the road in Etosha NP east of Okaukuejo on the morning of the 14th.
23	African Elephant	Loxodonta africana	23	Some fabulous sightings in Erindi, Etosha, Mahango, near Drotsky's Cabins and Mudumo. Recorded on nine days with a max. count of at least 40 animals on the 20th at Mudumo NP.
24	Rock Dassie (Hyrax)	Procavia capensis	24	Seen very well at Namibgrens on the 7th and 8th and then again on the 11th and 12th.
25	Four-striped Grass Mouse	Rhabdomys pumilio	25	Recorded on the 10th by some of the group.
26	Bushveld Sengi	Elephantulus intufi	26	One showed exceptionally well as it warmed up on a log in the morning sunshine whilst in Etosha Np on the 14th.
27	Black-tailed Tree Rat	Thallomys nigricauda	27	Recorded on the 12th by some of the group.
28	(Hartmann's) Mountain Zebra	Equus zebra (hartmannae)	28	A small group seen near the top of the SPreetshoogte Pass on the 8th.
29	Plains (Burchell's) Zebra	Equus quagga (burchelli)	29	Recorded on six days from Etosha NP onwards.

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	#	Notes
30	Hook-lipped (Black) Rhinoceros	Diceros bicornis	30	An excellent assortment of sightings both in the day and at night on five days. One in Erindi on the night of the 10th and then all others in Etosha NP with 8 animals seen on the 14th. Many of the animals were "de-horned" due to the sad and continuing issue of poaching.
31	Square-lipped (White) Rhinoceros	Ceratotherium simum	31	Three animals seen in Erindi Game Reserve on the 9th and 10th and a single at Okaukuejo on the evening of the 13th with Black Rhino.
32	Hippopotamus	Hippopotamus amphibius	32	Great views, many during our numerous boat trips and recorded on nine days.
33	Common Warthog	Phacochoerus africanus	33	Seen very well at numerous sites and recorded on nine days.
34	Giraffe	Giraffa camelopardalis	34	Many opportunities to see this beautiful animal as we recorded numerous animals on eight days.
35	African Savanna Buffalo	Syncerus caffer	35	First recorded on the 17th in Mahango Game Park with 25+ animals and then recorded on the 19th - 21st.
36	Common Eland	Taurotragus oryx	36	Recorded only in Erindi Game Reserve on the 9th.
37	Greater Kudu	Tragelaphus strpsiceros	37	Some excellent encounters of both males and females on eight days on the 8th - 15th.
38	Bushbuck	Tragelaphus sylvaticus	38	Two animals seen well in Mahango Game Park on the 17th.
39	Roan Antelope	Hippotragus equinus	39	Great views of 20 animals in Mahango Game Park on the 17th and then 18 animals in Mudumo NP on the 20th.
40	Sable Antelope	Hippotragus niger	40	A single animals was seen very well in Mahango Game Park on the 17th.
41	Gemsbok	Oryx gazella	41	Recorded on eight days between the 9th - 15th.
42	Waterbuck	Kobus ellipsiprymnus	42	Recorded in Erindi Game Reserve on the 9th and 10th.
43	Lechwe	Kobus leche	43	50+ animals in Mahango Game Park on the 17th and others seen in Mudumo NP on the 20th.
44	Common Reedbuck	Redunca arundinum	44	25+ animals in Mahango Game Park on the 17th and a single in Mudumo NP on the 20th.
45	Blue Wildebeest	Connochaetes taurinus	45	Recorded on eight days from Erindi to Etosha and Mudumo NP.
46	Red Hartebeest	Alcelaphus caama	46	First seen in Erindi Game Reserve on the 8th, followed by 2 animals in Etosha NP on the 14th.
47	Tsessebe	Damaliscus lunatus	47	The only sighting was of 2 animals in Mahango Game Park on the 17th.
48	Impala	Aepyceros melampus	48	Recorded in Erindi , Mahango Game Park and Mudumo NP on six days.
49	Black-faced Impala	Aepyceros melampus (petersi)	49	This beautiful race was seen very well in Etosha NP with 3 animals on the 13th and singles on the 14th and 15th.
50	Springbok	Antidorcas marsupialis	50	Recorded on nine days from 7th - 15th.
51	Damara Dik-dik	Madoqua damarensis	51	Our first sighting was in Erindi Game Reserve on the 9th with another on the 11th and then on the 15th in Etosha NP
52	Klipspringer	Oreotragus oreotragus	52	Two animals seen well at Namibgrens whilst watching Verreaux's Eagle and then 4 animals on the 8th.
53	Steenbok	Raphicerus campestris	53	Recorded at various sites on nine days.
54	Common Duiker	Sylvicapra grimmia	54	Singles on the 8th and 9th in Erindi Game Reserve.
55	Cape Fur Seal	Arctocephalus pusillus	55	Singles seen around Walvis Bay on the 8th and 9th.
1	Water Monitor	Varanus niloticus	1	Two seen on the 17th in Mahango Game Park.
2	Namibian Rock Agama	Agama planiceps	2	Recorded on five days.
3	Ground Agama	Agama aculeata	3	Recorded on the 7th, 8th and 12th.
4	Jordan's Girdled Lizard	Cordylus jordani	4	Recorded on the 8th.

#	Common Name	Scientific Name	#	Notes
5	Striped Skink	Trachylepis striata	5	Recorded on the 13th only.
6	Common Barking Gecko	Ptenopus garrulus	6	Heard on the 10th in Erindi Game Reserve.
7	Koch's Barking Gecko	Ptenopus kochi	7	Heard on the morning of the 9th whilst looking for Dune Lark.
8	Chobe Dwarf Gecko	Lygodactylus chobiensis	8	Recorded on the 17th and 20th.
9	Nile Crocodile	Crocodylus niloticus	9	Recorded on six days.
10	Common Marsh Terrapin	Pelomedusa subrufa	10	Recorded on the 14th and 15th in Etosha NP.
11	Bibron's Burrowing Asp	Atractaspis bibronii	11	Seen at Onguma Bush Camp early on the morning of the 16th.

