

**ORNITHOLIDAYS' TOUR TO BOTSWANA**  
*Moremi, Chobe and Kalahari Luxury Camping Tour*

**15 – 29 July 2006**



**Leaders: Grant Reed and Richard Coomber**

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**A Personal Diary**

**Saturday, 15 July**

Following last years pioneering small group, it was good to see a full group on this year's camping adventure to Botswana. Our SAA Boeing 747-400 headed south on a fine summer evening crossing the channel west of Brighton.

**Sunday, 16 July**

We landed in Johannesburg at 7.45am local time (one hour ahead of BST) and while we waited for our flight to Maun, Sacred Ibis and Grey-headed Gull were seen. We met Jean and Shelagh, who had left the UK a week ago to see friends and family in Cape Town, before coming up to Jo'burg yesterday.

On arrival at a cloudless Maun our guides for the coming safari, Grant and Brent Reed – the Letaka brothers – met us. With 140kms to our camp, most of it on sand roads, there was little time to stop for birds. However, during our picnic lunch in the bush we watched Grey Go-away-bird and Gabar Goshawk. Further birding took place when we stopped to fix a puncture on Brent's trailer as we passed through mopane woodland. Initially there were no birds about, but I tried the Pearl-spotted Owlet whistle and soon attracted two owlets that in turn brought in non-breeding Red-headed Weavers and a party of White-crested Helmet Shrikes. Game seen during the drive included Giraffe, Elephant, Impala and Warthog.

On reaching Moremi South Gate we stopped to complete the formalities to enter Moremi Game Reserve. More birds here included Meves's Starling, a Bennett's Woodpecker and a noisy party of Arrow-marked Babblers. With the sun dipping towards the western horizon we started to leave the woodland and reach the flood plain, where at one of the first lagoons we found a Slaty Egret, one of the region's specialities.

We reached the camp, our base for the next two nights, to find our tents already erected in an arc around the dining area and campfire. Grant gave a safety brief about personal security in and around a camp in the bush before we called the checklist over pre-dinner drinks. All was very civilized and after the excellent meal we were all ready for bed.

**Monday, 17 July**

Cool overnight, clear and cloudless throughout the day. 31°C

After a quiet and uneventful night we were roused at 6am when the staff came round with water for the washstands. An early caffeine fix followed, with cereal and toast for those who wanted something before heading out on the four-hour game drive into the surrounding mopane woodlands and flood plains of Moremi.

As always on the first full day of any tour, so much was new as we enjoyed excellent views of many species. Along the tracks, we found Swainson's Spurfowl with Red-billed Francolins and in the dappled shade of the woodland areas we came across Emerald-spotted Wood-Doves with the more widespread Cape Turtle Doves. On the edges of flood plain, and especially where the receding waters concentrated fish into smaller pools, there were egrets, including a number of Slaty as well as African Spoonbill, various wildfowl, Saddle-billed Storks and African Jacanas. Shorebirds included Black-winged Stilts, two Wood Sandpipers and seven or eight Greater Painted Snipe, the latter unusually feeding right out in the open. The highlights for many in that area were the Wattled Cranes. Six appeared in flight with three peeling off to join two others already feeding, which were the ones we saw so well. We had good views of Impala, Chacma Baboon and African Elephant, one of which walked sedately past Grant's Land Cruiser barely six feet away, surely the day's top mammal encounter.

Before we stopped at Xakanaxa boat station for coffee, Grant's party had a great encounter with a mixed

bird party that included a number of firsts for the tour, including Black-crowned Tchagra, Brubru and African Yellow White-eye. Near the boat station there were further opportunities to look at some of the smaller birds including particularly good views of a male Brown Firefinch. Wattled Starlings were a common bird, whilst overhead hawked Lesser Striped Swallows. During the return to camp Brent's party watched a rising spiral of vultures – Lappet-faced, White-backed and Hooded Vultures, that were joined for a while by a Hamerkop and an immature African Hawk-Eagle.

We were ready for the excellent brunch that awaited us in camp, followed by a siesta period, which included an introduction to the joys of bucket showers beneath the midday sun. Around camp a mixed feeding party of non-breeding Southern Masked-Weavers roamed with a colourful male Red-billed Firefinch and some dowdy females.

We left camp at 2pm and headed for the boat station again where we boarded a boat that only took 12 passengers, so leaving Brent and Grant behind we headed off to explore the reed-lined waterways and lagoons of this arm of the Okavango Delta. During the last rainy season the region had an exceptional 1,000mm, which accounted for the unusually high water levels we experienced throughout the tour. We passed Red Lechwe grazing on sandy islets, Reed Cormorants and African Darters perched on water fig bushes, and on examining three smart Marabou Storks at close range, we realised that perhaps they are not always the gruesome scavengers we normally see. Chirping cisticolas were seen, but they were heard more frequently, whilst Little Rush Warblers were only heard. On a couple of floating mud patches Cape Wagtails searched for insects and nearby we had very good views of a colourful female African Jacana.

The mammalian highlight was a Spotted-throated Otter, although we could not see the spots! Our boatman identified it immediately as such when we found it fishing in quiet waters along the reedy edge of a large lagoon. The other otter of the region is the larger Cape Clawless that hunts mainly crabs. Otherwise, the afternoon's trip was very relaxing as we enjoyed the tranquillity of the area on a warm sunny afternoon.

Brent and Grant awaited our return at 5pm and then we drove back towards camp, seeing Dwarf Mongoose on the way to a dry flood plain, where we stopped to enjoy sundowners. Flocks of Red-billed Quelea passed over going to roost and a pair of Grey-rumped Swallows hawked their last insects of the day. Once the sun had set the light started to go quite quickly, but not before we had watched a Water Thick-knee fly-by, and when we stopped to look at a roosting Saddle-billed Stork by the track, a Swamp Nightjar dipped low over the marsh before disappearing into the gloom.

Back in camp we were glad of some extra warm clothing as we did the checklist around the campfire ahead of another of Frank's (our excellent chef) dinners. As we returned to our tents a herd of Elephants noisily had their dinner in the bush to one side of camp and the purring of an African Scops Owl lulled us to sleep.

## **Tuesday, 18 July**

Fine, sunny and virtually cloudless. 29°C

As this was a transfer day, the staff were breaking camp as we gathered around the fire for tea and coffee before setting off on a pre-breakfast game drive that took us around to one of the drying lagoons in the flood plain where we enjoyed breakfast. It was quite productive with a pair of African Pygmy Geese being one of the highlights. The scope gave us good views of Coppery-tailed Coucal and Nile Crocodiles and at an adjacent pool we had excellent views of feeding Yellow-billed Storks and a Hamerkop that circled over the water just inches above the surface with dangling legs just like a storm-petrel. The only explanation we could come up with was that it was attempting to flush fish into the shallows.

Once we were ready to leave the area we headed east through the mopane woodland towards Moremi North Gate near Khwai. Birding was good at times with the Pearl-spotted Owlet whistle being used to good effect, bringing in the owlet and smaller birds such as Golden-breasted Bunting, Southern Black Tit and Chinspot Batis. Several Arnott's Chats were seen in areas of mature mopane. Another highlight was a pair of Double-banded Sandgrouse beside the track with their two tiny chicks that were only a matter of days old.

In places the rising water levels had caused the road to be diverted or sometimes an impromptu ford had appeared. At one such ford Grant took my camera and told me to drive across as he photographed us coming

through, with me at the wheel. The images were quite dramatic as the water almost reached the top of the radiator in one.

Having crossed the bridge over the River Khwai, we headed along the edge of the flood plain beyond the small village, where eventually we reached a spot for our picnic lunch in the shadow of a large Leadwood tree. Birding in the area was superb with a number of goodies such as Malachite Kingfisher and Black Egret being seen. Raptors were always in the air – African Fish Eagle and Bateleur being the most frequent. In fact, like last year, this is the Bateleur capital of the world, for there would be several of these fascinating birds in the air at any one time. One was a cream-backed individual, not the normal brick-coloured phase and later as we were heading further upstream following a siesta, we came across a group of nine that included two more cream-backed birds. One is unusual, but two together is most uncommon. Apparently, research has shown that 7% of Bateleurs have cream backs.

The afternoon drive to our next camp took us along the reed-lined waterway, where larger pools reflected the blue of the sky and provided home to groups of hippos that ignored our passing. White-faced Whistling-Ducks and Black Crakes were common and Brent's party found two immature Lesser Gallinules, whilst Grant's vehicle countered with two male Little Bitterns disputing territorial rights to a patch of taller reeds. Earlier Brent had driven through bush country inland from the river and seen a number of new trip birds that included Capped Wheatear and Double-banded Courser.

We arrived at our new campsite as the boys were putting the finishing touches to the tents. It was a good excuse to have sundowners early and relax as we watched the sun set beyond the camel thorns, the common tree of the area. As dusk settled around us, bats began to emerge and several owls – Southern White-faced and African Scops Owls and Pearl-spotted Owlet – began to call. After dinner the sounds took on a more excitable note with Spotted Hyenas calling from somewhere beyond the kitchen area and with that we turned in for the night, reflecting on another splendid day and one that had produced a collective total of 123 species.

### **Wednesday, 19 July**

Fine and sunny once again, but a little warmer. 32°C

After a night during which Elephant and Spotted Hyena were heard around camp, we were treated to a long lie in – water was delivered to the washstands at 7am, probably one of the few late starts of the whole trip! The morning's activities were either a bush walk with Grant or a game drive along the river with Brent, which worked perfectly as the party voluntarily divided itself 50:50, or rather 6:6. Those with Grant were treated to the rare opportunity to walk in the bush and discover an intimate side to this wildlife rich corner of Botswana. Bush walking is permitted here as we were staying in the buffer zone between Moremi Game Reserve, where we started our safari, and Chobe National Park, which we will be visiting on the next two legs of our journey. For safety's sake Grant was armed, for there are still potential dangers. Elephant and Lion to name but two, although we heard that the local Lion pride had moved away from the river following a large herd of Cape Buffalo that moved on two or three days ago. Mammal wise the walkers had reasonably close encounters with Giraffe and a lone bull Elephant, and added Bat-eared Fox, when a pair tried to lead them away from a den in the sand, where perhaps their pups might have been secreted. Birds noted included African Hawk-eagle, Shikra and Grey-backed Camaroptera. On the other hand, there were tracks to examine. Those of Wild Dog had been driven over by a vehicle, but the Leopard's prints were fresher.

For those with Brent the drive along the river provided a pleasant opportunity to watch feeding African Jacana and some quarrelsome White-faced Whistling-Ducks. A confiding Lesser Jacana was new for the trip and an immature Allen's Gallinule was a catch-up species for some in his party. There were good views of Meyer's Parrot, and as the air warmed up Bateleurs took to the wing, An African Hawk-Eagle disturbed a Red-billed Francolin and some Mopane Tree Squirrels, who were obviously agitated. In addition to the usual game species, they saw Waterbuck and the tour's first Blue Wildebeest. When Brent turned inland, a dry open area produced a Temminck's Courser and further on at a water hole, where tea and coffee were taken, a small party of Black-throated Canaries were feeding amongst Elephant dumplings alongside Southern Grey-headed Sparrows and Yellow-throated Petronias. When an immature African Fish Eagle appeared on the scene, a Black-shouldered Kite saw it off. On the way back to camp there were good views of a small party of Greater Kudu across the river, The level of which was higher than Brent and Grant had seen in their years

of guiding in Botswana. As they neared camp Wally spotted a magnificent sub-adult Brown Snake-Eagle perched in a bare tree close to the track.

Brunch was almost ready by the time everyone had returned and after we had eaten, siesta, bucket showers and journal write-ups awaited. As we were taking our showers a small party of bull Elephants worked its way through the bush behind the tents and showers. It would have been more interesting for Kate if Brent and Grant hadn't stopped it from peeping over the shower curtain!

At 4pm we had afternoon tea beneath the camel thorns and then set out on an afternoon game drive along the river. Much of what we saw had already been noted on previous drives, but some like Crimson-breasted Shrike was new for the trip list – a stunning black and crimson shrike that is always a joy to see. However, the highlight was a reptile, for Grant managed to catch a seven-foot long, dark grey Snouted Cobra to show us. Holding it just behind the jaws both he and the audience were completely safe and I think all were surprised by how small its fangs were – only three millimetres long, so little more than the tip of a pin. The venom would make one unconscious in an hour and dead within three or four! It was a privilege to see such a splendid reptile at close quarters, after which it was released unharmed.

Before sunset we reached the hippo pool and on the opposite bank two Water Thick-knees stood within snapping range of a large crocodile. As the sun set we enjoyed sundowners in the orange glow that strengthened with the afterglow and watched a pair of Square-tailed Nightjars and several hawking over the water.

During the night drive back to camp we used a spotlight to find Lesser Bushbabies in the trees and saw various mice and a Woodland Dormouse along the road. In a bare tree a Verreaux's Eagle-Owl watched us and Square-tailed Nightjars rose from the track ahead. Near camp we stopped to see Spotted Thick-knee and gaze up that the wonders of the Milky Way that crossed the heavens.

#### **Thursday, 20 July**

Weather unchanged! 31°C

An early start and as the camp staff dismantled the tents we headed off in the vehicles to the hippo pool for breakfast in the bush. Malachite Kingfisher, a pair of Greater Painted Snipe and a hunting African Marsh Harrier were amongst the birds seen before we hit the road again.

There were few birds to see as we crossed the Magwikhwe Sand Ridge to the Mababe Depression, passing through a habitat dominated by sand-loving Kalahari Apple-leaf shrubs. Trailer problems delayed us on the way, but on reaching the depression we spent some time watching a Secretarybird hunting rodents, much to the delight of Jean, who had expressed a desire to see one before we left Heathrow! She and Donald had missed one on a previous trip to Africa. Our first Kori Bustard and a party of non-breeding Shaft-tailed Whydah's were seen and as we reached Savuti Brent's party saw a Verreaux's Eagle-Owl.

The staff were busy cooking and erecting tents when we arrived in camp, but the kettle was on and sundowners were ready, but even so it was a pleasant surprise when dinner appeared at the usual time. After that we were ready for bed with the added luxury of hot water bottles!

#### **Friday, 21 July**

Weather unchanged, although colder last night. 6°-32°C

Savuti, after last summer's good rains, was not the Savuti of old. Water holes in the bush saved the need to pump water to Pump Pan near our camp, so to go on the morning's game drive and see no Elephants, flocks of doves or droves of guineafowl was almost unimaginable, but that is how it was.

The morning drive gave us views of the Verreaux's Eagle-Owl on its nest on top of a Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver's condominium and several Pearl-spotted Owlets were seen, along with many of the small bush birds that came in to mob the little thug, for the owlet hunts small birds by day as well as being active at night. White-bellied and Marico Sunbirds, Marico Flycatchers, Black-chested Prinias and Grey-headed Sparrows all joined in the party. Other species seen during the morning included Violet-eared Waxbill,

Brown-crowned Tchagra, Long-billed Crombec and Yellow-breasted Apalis.

Unusually, mammals were thin on the ground at Savuti, although we did find several herds of Impala and Burchell's Zebras and both vehicles came across the diminutive Steenbok. It appears that the Lions, for which the area is renowned, have moved out of range of the normal three to four hour game drives and are either down at the far end of the marsh or perhaps in the woodland hunting Cape Buffalo. Either way there is plenty of cover to hide them this year. Another safari driver told Grant of a Leopard sighting on one of the wooded 'islands' in the marsh, so we headed that way and before long we were watching a beautiful female lying in dappled sunlight in fairly deep cover. We were lucky with Grant's positioning of the vehicle, both initially and again when she started to move around. For agonising minutes we waited for Brent, who had been delayed by a fuel blockage en route, but by the time he arrived she was back where we had first seen her. Wonderful – everyone had seen a Leopard and we headed off for a refreshment stop on a high.

We were attracted by a small waterhole nearby as were a number of other visitors, including a couple of Warthogs and their Red-billed Oxpeckers, Helmeted Guineafowl and a variety of small seed-eating birds. By the time we finished the other vehicles had left the Leopard, or more likely she had given them the slip. Therefore, we drove towards the next area of likely cover and stopped, waited and watched. Grant imitated the distress call of an Impala and told us to quietly watch and see what happened. Leopards are known to come in to such mimicry, but rather than come in directly they circle round just in case there are Lions or hyenas about. We waited and waited. Perhaps five minutes, perhaps 10 and then I saw her cross between two bushes less than 50 yards away. She was circling us just as he had predicted. Brent and his party came across on hearing the news, which went very discretely over the radio and this time everyone had good views. She was our Leopard for there were no other vehicles around and after she had walked through the bush and disappeared into a thick tangle, we left her. No one else would see her unless she broke cover before this evening. We were elated – cloud nine was not high enough! A friend of Brent's told him that he thought that there were two Leopards – a female and her well-grown daughter. Brent checked the photos taken and was convinced that the Leopard seen amongst the bushes was not the same individual that Grant had lured into view!

We returned to camp later than anticipated for brunch, siesta and showers and then before afternoon tea the checklist was brought up-to-date.

During the afternoon game drive, Grant's party went to Harvey's Pan via Bushman Paintings Hill and Brent covered bush and open areas before rendezvousing at Harvey's for sundowners. The drive gave everyone the chance for further or better views of some of the species seen earlier. In the open areas near Harvey's Double-banded Courser and Capped Wheatear were seen well and, in nearby grassland, an Eastern Clapper Lark was discovered. By the pan two Black-backed Jackals waited, perhaps for some unsuspecting guinea fowl coming to drink. When we arrived two splendid male Elephants had just finished drinking before heading away.

As the sun set Double-banded Sandgrouse arrived to drink and just as we were on the point of leaving another Elephant came and drank close to the vehicles. However, it was not over yet for as we drove away two African Wild Cats were watched at close range near the water hole – a drink perhaps, or maybe a portion of sandgrouse!

Later around the campfire Brent found the African Scops-Owl that had been calling each evening during our stay at Savuti. In fact when it was highlighted in the torch we saw a pair. What a shame that the Southern White-faced Owl, which was also calling, would not respond in the same way.

### **Saturday, 22 July**

Weather unchanged, except that there appeared to be a light ground frost in hollows in the Savuti Channel in the early morning and some distant clouds along the Chobe later in the day. 30°C

On breaking camp we drove across to Harvey's for breakfast. Mammal wise it was quiet and amongst the birds seen were Double-banded Courser and Capped Wheatear. Golden-breasted Bunting came to drink as we ate our cereal.

Today went, as transfer days should, without problems, bar a couple of punctures, which are almost inevitable when driving through the terrain we have been. Our route took us north-east along the Magwikhwe Sand Ridge and past the Ghoha Hills and eventually to the flood plain of the Chobe River where we stopped for lunch. On the way Dark Chanting Goshawk and Dickinson's Kestrels were added to the list. Out on the flood plain we shared the area with the local cattle and goats, the latter attempting to finish off the remains of our lunch until Grant rose from his slumbers. The rest of us had gone birding along the water's edge of a large stretch of water. Banded and Rock Martins hawked insects with the more familiar Grey-rumped Swallows, whilst out on the lagoon fed a large flock of Red-billed Ducks and Little Grebes dived in the wavelets.

The sand road gave way to a hard surface several kilometres before the tarmac and as we headed towards Kasane, we turned off to cross another sand ridge through woodland that held a good number of Golden-breasted Buntings. Our new camp was amongst teak trees with the Chobe River flowing between Botswana and Namibia's Caprivi Strip about a kilometre to the north. Once tents were allocated we had a short siesta before going down to the riverbank for sundowners, along with a very large troupe of 100+ Chacma Baboons and dozens of Helmeted Guineafowl. Kittlitz's and Three-banded Plovers by a pool were new and, as the sun sank, egrets, herons, cormorants, darters and wildfowl passed over to roost. In a bush across the river a large number of Pied Kingfishers assembled at their roost – 79 were counted and they were still arriving as we left.

A straightforward run back to camp was hindered by six Lions in the track. We watched until they arose to begin hunting and were joined by a cub, about three months old, that must have been hidden somewhere nearby. As darkness settled we left them and returned to another of Frank's excellent dinners.

### **Sunday, 23 July**

Fine and sunny with some early morning cloud. 28°C

We set off on the morning game drive with Grant going down to the flood plain and Brent exploring the ridge to the west of camp before he too made for the lowlands near the river. The highlights along the ridge were the Verreaux's Eagle-Owl spotted by Wally, a pair of Striped Kingfishers that posed in perfect sunlight and a melanistic Gabar Goshawk, that Grant's party was also to see during their drive. A number of new birds for the tour were seen and included Fulvous Whistling-Ducks amongst the more numerous White-faced, a Southern Pochard, Common Sandpiper, Rufous-naped and Red-capped Larks, Terrestrial Brownbul, Yellow-bellied Greenbul, White-browed Robin-Chat, Kalahari Scrub-Robin, Orange-breasted Bush-Shrike, Golden Weaver, Southern Red Bishop, Jameson's Firefinch and Long-tailed Paradise-Whydah. Also seen were Little Sparrowhawk, Lanner Falcon, Dickinson's Kestrel, Red-breasted Swallow and Capped Wheatear. A good morning was had by all.

After brunch there was only a brief siesta before we drove down to the river to catch our boat for the afternoon excursion eastwards along the Chobe River from White Sands to Sedudu Island and back. Of course getting to the river wasn't straightforward. An African Barred Owlet flew across in front of one of the vehicles and posed perfectly in a bush beside them. Then along the flood plain they came across a herd of 23 Sable Antelopes coming to drink, but was it the Lions that caused them to keep looking back into the surrounding bush? Eventually the antelopes moved further out in to the open with increasing confidence and gave both vehicles superb views of one of Africa's most striking species. As the clock ticked away we watched and clicked until someone pointed out that we had a schedule to keep! Fortunately our route took us to the area where the Sable had been gazing and there, still gazing at them, were two Lionesses – most fortuitous, as Keith had missed those yesterday evening.

An afternoon boat trip on the Chobe is always magical and never long enough and today's was no exception. It was one sighting after another with almost too much to note, so that evening I asked people to give me their personal highlights, a task as difficult for first timers as for old hands!

- Pادمi chose the Purple Heron that gave such superb views before flying off.
- The two Jeans and Geoff chose the Elephants, which were so plentiful and obliging along the river's banks and the flood plain, whilst Donald was rather more specific in choosing the "playful Elephants", a scene that was also one of Betty's highlights along with the small herd that swam

across the river. Shelagh also chose that moment along with particularly good views of a Giant Kingfisher.

- Wally's choice was the Collared Pratincoles near Sedudu Island, which he shared with Kate, who had mentioned to me earlier that she particularly wanted to see both pratincole and African Skimmer - her wishes were granted.
- And as for the rest of us, I think "*Being there*" sums it up!

The cruise was really non-stop wildlife watching – Chacma Baboons picking over elephant dumplings and going down on all fours to drink; Greater Kudu coming down out of the bushes to drink; Chobe Bushbuck feeding on the edge of grounds of Chobe Game Lodge; the most southerly Puku in the world; African Fish Eagles on dead trees; Malachite Kingfisher darting from reed to reed, flocks of White-faced Whistling-Ducks along the riverbanks and finding the odd Fulvous Whistling-Duck amongst them and so on and on. Pure magic!

On returning to shore at sunset we reflected on a heady cocktail of memories and then in the gathering gloom as we returned a Marsh Owl flew across in front of us and a Bronze-winged Courser stood in the headlights of one of the Land Cruisers before flying off into the darkness. What an end!

### **Monday, 24 July**

Fine and sunny yet again. 30°C

As the staff began dismantling our tents we boarded the Land Cruisers and drove the two or three miles down to Serondela on the banks of the Chobe to watch the sun rise over the river and to have breakfast. We watched Namibian fishermen in *makoros* working with their nets and enjoyed prolonged views of stunning White-browed Robin-Chats when they responded to the call from Grant's iPod. Afterwards part of the drive east to Kasane took us along a length of road known as Water Cart that closely followed the edge of the Chobe's flood plain and the drying pools left by the last flood. It was a delight to watch an African Skimmer skimming and when its call was broadcast from Grant's iPod it came over and buzzed the Land Cruiser before returning to skim the waters.

After refuelling in bustling Kasane we spent 30 minutes or more birding in the grounds of Mowana Lodge, where new birds appeared one after another – Scarlet-chested Sunbird, Collared Palm Thrush, Northern Grey-headed Sparrow and Spectacled and Village Weavers. There were also better views of White-fronted Bee-eater than we had in the national park.

Back on the road again and over 300kms of tarmac lay ahead. Looking for birds from an open vehicle travelling at 60mph (100kph) was not easy, but imagine the excitement when a beautiful Racket-tailed Roller sat on the telegraph wires within yards of where we had seen three last year! The rest of the morning was uneventful with little opportunity to bird until we stopped for lunch at some disused and flooded quarry workings near Pandamatenga. Birds were coming to drink constantly – mainly seedeaters that included Southern Grey-headed Sparrow, Southern Masked-Weaver, Red-billed Quelea and Shaft-tailed Whydah. The water attracted a tern in non-breeding plumage. The Brits favoured White-winged, whilst the locals leaned towards Whiskered. In fact we were to see both when we birded around Makgadikgadi.

Our next campsite was a private one operated by Letaka Safaris by the Nata River in the community controlled Nata Sanctuary. On the way to the site we visited a couple of saline lagoons and saw Cape Shoveler and a very distant Hippopotamus entering the main pan, which was the first Grant had ever seen there. Our tents were sited amongst Floodplain Acacias, a species of acacia that seems not to attract the wealth of bird species that others, such as Camel Thorn, do in savannah country. Along the river the occasional Grey-headed Gull flew by. After the long drive today we were happy to settle in and enjoy our sundowners.

In the evening we did the checklist around the campfire as an immature Greater Flamingo fed in the river nearby.

## **Tuesday, 25 July**

Fine and sunny again with thin early morning cloud and a fresher breeze than other days. 27°C.

After our usual caffeine fix and a bowl of cereal, we split into two groups. The paddlers went with Grant to attempt to reach the mouth of the Nata River and the rest with Brent, who did a game drive that ended up at an overlook, a raised viewing platform with a thatched roof. On the way out they saw the first Springbok of the tour and bird wise Buffy Pipit and Ostrich were seen and a Northern Black Korhaan, which was flushed and then disappeared into deep grass. One stop in the grassland on the edge of the water produced a pair of Wattled Cranes, the first we had seen since Xakanaxa. Out at the viewing platform they had good views of a pair of Goliath Heron fly by and could see Great White Pelicans breeding as well as feeding parties of adults. There were the usual ducks, but a juvenile Southern Pochard caused a bit of an identification dilemma. Out on the waters of the pan were Red-knobbed Coot and Black-necked Grebes, both of which were new trip birds. On the way back they were watching Anteater Chat and Rufous-naped Lark at some 50 yards range, when Jean spotted a Double-banded Courser that was only feet from the vehicle so close that those on the back seat were unable to see it!

The paddlers, Julia, Kate, Donald, Jean and myself, set off with Grant alongside the river to the point we reached last night and began walking out towards the main body of water from there, but on realising that we were on a peninsula, we returned and looped around the nearest lagoon in the Land Cruiser until water and drying mud barred our route. The lakeshore was a kilometre or more ahead and it was amazing to think that 12 months ago we could drive out there. This time we slogged through flooded grassland where Black-winged Stilts, African Spoonbills and Yellow-billed Storks fed and over which White-winged and Whiskered Terns dipped for food. Earlier on we flushed a Greater Painted-Snipe and a Small Buttonquail. We might have walked a meandering kilometre or more, but only covered about half that distance as the pelican flies. From a vantage point on the side of the main channel we could scope breeding pelicans and one such colony contained over 130 well-developed chicks, that were probably very close to fledging for some had already taken to the water. In trees killed by guano White-breasted Cormorant nests had chicks. Hundreds of Red-knobbed Coots, some with small downy chicks, were in the lagoons along the edge of the main lake. Ducks seen included a number of Southern Pochard and Cape Shoveler as well as the now more familiar Cape, Hottentot and Red-billed Teals.

Both groups were back in camp for brunch and the paddlers had the excuse to paddle in the river outside the tents! Siesta, showers, diary writing and relaxation followed.

After tea we all left camp on slightly different routes to the lookout by the lake. On the way Grant's party saw Greater Kestrel, Double-banded Courser, Pink-billed and Rufous-naped Larks, whilst Brent's group stopped at a shallow lagoon complex for Jean and Shelagh to see Pied Avocet. Their stop also turned up a lone White-backed Duck, a pair of Red-necked Falcons and I saw a hunting Marsh Owl, but it disappeared into long grass before the others could get on to it. We headed off in search, but to no avail not knowing that it was the precursor of many more to come. Down at the overlook both parties saw the falcons as they swept over a lagoon where a party of juvenile Black-necked Grebes caused some debate. With sundowners we watched another lovely sunset, this time across the waters of the pan.

As we were about to head back to camp I spotted two more hunting Marsh Owls and this time we all saw them well and with the long grass and an abundance of small rodents it was hardly surprising that more were seen on the way back to camp. The combined total for the two vehicles was at least 30, a number of which giving excellent views as they stood on the sandy road. As we drove along we saw several mice and gerbils on the verges. Black-backed Jackal and Spring Hare were also seen as well as a Spotted Thick-knee.

## **Wednesday, 26 July**

Fine and sunny once again after a cool night. 30°C

Grant and Brent had learned that there was no water being pumped to the waterhole at Nxai Pan and as we had not seen some of the anticipated species at Makgadikgadi Pan an extra day in the area was advised. The change involved cutting out the stay at Nxai Pan, but included the Baines' Baobabs on the way through to Maun, where we would spend the final night of the tour at Sitatunga Camp to the south of the town. That would give us the final morning to visit Lake Ngami before the run to the airport.

Therefore, we set off early from camp to have breakfast beside one of the lagoons within Nata Sanctuary. On the way, a Gabar Goshawk was seen and those with Brent also saw a lone Marsh Owl heading back to its daytime roost. At the lagoon we had views of Pied Avocets and the usual wildfowl of the area, whilst some Great White Pelicans were flighting from their colonies to fish elsewhere. A highlight was the fresh Brown Hyena tracks pointed out by Grant in the mud on the water's edge.

The plan was to visit Sua Pan to the south of our camp, which involved driving back to the main road and then south for some 45kms or more until we turned west towards the soda ash works at the pan. As we headed toward the pan the country became more arid, and on passing some quarries where perhaps stone had been excavated for the road to the works, we watched parties of Burchell's Sandgrouse coming in to drink. Brent saw a Yellow-throated Sandgrouse flying away as he arrived and although we waited for some time, the rest of us had to settle for just good views of the Burchell's. Another stop produced a number of bush birds including a pair of Cape Penduline Tits seen by Betty. Unfortunately, only Grant heard a Pirit Batis disappearing into the acacias, but it had gone before the rest of us could get on to it.

On arriving in the area of the soda ash works, we came across several Northern Black Korhaans, numerous Ant-eating Chats and a number of Springbok. Brent's party also saw Black-bellied Bustard. Dead on the road was a Puff Adder about 2½-3 feet long that we planned to look at on the way back, but unfortunately by that time it had gone. Permission was quickly granted by the works office for us to enter and bird around the edge of the lagoons and the pan. Along a wet muddy area we had excellent views of several Chestnut-banded Plover, a salt and soda lake specialist, and also Black-winged Stilts.

Out on the embankment that encircles the salt works we gazed over the vast area of water that stretched away to the horizon and wondered where the flamingos could be; with so much water here and on adjacent pans they could literally be anywhere. Off shore we could see Grey-headed Gulls and when some large terns passed by they were clearly Caspian, a species that was a new Botswana bird for Grant last year, and these were most likely additions to Brent's list. What was interesting was that we had adults with dependent juveniles that begged for food when they landed on the beach.

Barriers along the embankment and soft mud and shingle nearer the water's edge blocked our route westwards back to the soda works along the shore. You cannot beat a Land Cruiser with a good towrope, so we abandoned the westerly route and headed east to a large thatched building where probably soda works management enjoyed some R&R. For us it was the perfect place for our picnic with shade and a vantage point. Shelagh, who spotted more than perhaps this report gives her credit, saw a very distant flock of pink birds land either on the lake or on a lagoon behind the embankment. Either way they were out of sight, but there was still hope, as we had to return the way we had come. Before returning to camp during the afternoon, we explored further to the east from our lunch stop. Sadly there was little extra to add, small herds of Blue Wildebeest and Springbok in the grasslands or crossing dry pans and a very spectacular dust devil that spun salt hundreds of feet into the air above an area of dry pan. Eventually we ran out of track, so we headed back towards the main road and found Shelagh's flock of pink birds on the way – about 150 Greater Flamingos and some 60 Lessers with a mixture of both adults and immatures.

Bird wise the journey back to camp was relatively uneventful and during the latter part of the afternoon we opted to spend time in camp, showering, packing etc in daylight rather than going into the bush for sundowners. While we had been away Frank and his team had been busy in moving the dining area out onto the beach by the river for our last wilderness dinner beneath a velvet African night and its millions of twinkling stars.

#### **Thursday, 27 July**

Sunny and cloudless. 30°C

On loading up and leaving camp we headed towards the pan for breakfast beside one of the lagoons where we looked across at wildfowl and found fresh Brown Hyena tracks in the soft mud at the water's edge. Before leaving the area we went down to the tower overlook and found that the female Cape Shoveler still had all her ducklings.

It was time to leave Makgadikgadi and head on the tarmac to Nata, where the vehicles were refuelled and we added Speckled Pigeon on the roof of the petrol station store, before we headed eastwards towards Nxai Pan and Maun. Along the way we passed a small pan to the north of the road where two juvenile Lesser Flamingos rubbed shoulders with a number of Greater. After a while we turned north along a sandy road passing Fawn-coloured and Sabota Larks before we reached the fabled Baines' Baobabs, a magnificent cluster of trees that are thought to date back over one thousand years. We looked for signs that read, "D. Livingstone was here", but there were none, but he had also gazed on the scene that would have changed little in a century and half. Were the Marico Flycatchers, Green-winged Pytilias and Black-chested Prinias descendents of those that would have been here then? Moreover, did he or one of his party climb the trees to peer into great cavities in their trunks to look for Barn Owls as Brent did? Brent found three and as the rest of us lacked his climbing skills, we had to settle for seeing the photos he took. The days of virtual birding have arrived.

As we drove back to rejoin the main road we saw Steenbok and added Gemsbok (or Oryx) to the list as we passed two groups of these large scimitar-horned antelopes. During the afternoon we continued west on the good tarmac road passing hornbills and parties of Red-billed Quelea along the verges, which they shared with Crowned Lapwing and the occasional Red-crested Korhaan. By the time we reached Sitatunga camp, 10kms or so to the south-west of Maun, it was almost sunset. Our tents had been erected, so it was just the matter of finding our bedding outside one of them! No en suite facilities here, for being in a private area of a large campsite we had an ablution block with flushing loos and hot and cold showers. Frank excelled himself with dinner once again and the final checklist took place around the campfire with a pair of African Scops Owls queuing up to get themselves ticked.

### **Friday, 28 July**

Fine and sunny, yet again. 30°C

Plans for this morning worked really well for after having breakfast in camp we strolled down to the local crocodile farm while birding. Black Crakes were on good form, although some of the inmates of the farm seemed not to be in particularly good humour. We had good views of a number of species including a smart pied Swamp Boubou. In camp Bearded and Cardinal Woodpeckers were seen by most of the party and Village Indigobird by some.

The main objective of the morning was to get to Lake Ngami, some 70kms to the south-west and back before lunch. Grant and Brent had been there ringing during the rainy season at the beginning of the year when the water levels were higher. Now the lake was almost dry ahead of the hoped overflow from the Okavango Delta after the annual flood passes Maun. Eventually we left the tarmac and followed a track to the lake, which was hidden by rank vegetation. When we found water there were just three or four acres remaining surrounded by mud, now baked hard by the sun, but pitted by the feet of local cattle while it was still soft. Not all the animals had managed to extract themselves from its glutinous grip. The remaining water was an oasis for the birds. Great White Pelicans, Greater Flamingos and two or three Lesser Flamingos swam or stood in the deeper water with ducks such as Red-billed Teal, Yellow-billed Duck and a Southern Pochard. Thanks to Donald's scope we came across a few Palearctic shorebirds that included two Little Stints in full breeding plumage. From time to time a Grey-headed Gull or Whiskered Tern would beat up and down, but they were readily dismissed when the first of two sub-adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls appeared – a vagrant to this part of Africa, although last year we found two adults at Makgadikgadi. Not many birders visit the area at this time of the year, so perhaps they are more regular than previously supposed.

Then there were the Red-billed Quelea – millions and millions coming to drink. One flock resembled a line of thick smoke that stretched way to the eastern horizon that continued to arrive for over half an hour! And that wasn't the only flock arriving. How many? Well a guestimate would be 2-5 million, but on the basis that birds would have been coming in for some time before we arrived, there could certainly have been many more. Un...believable as Grant would exclaim. None of us had ever seen birds in such numbers before, for although Brent, Grant and I have witnessed breeding colonies elsewhere, one doesn't see such concentrated numbers. They would come in to drink around the lagoons edges, barely staying more than a few seconds before heading away to feed. Others were drinking on the wing by dipping into the middle of the water. Inevitably not all made it away safely as the Marabou Storks stalking the water's edge would testify and no

doubt the Lesser Black-backed Gulls had a regular food source as well along with the a number of Tawny Eagles and one or two Lanners. One of the Lanners was seen to take an African Pipit for a change of diet! It really was one of Nature's greatest spectacles and what a way to end a fascinating tour, that in so many ways was so different from the one 12 months ago.

We had arrived at the lake by a longer route than anticipated. Now the pressure was on to find the shorter way back to the main road. Brent's GPS was a great help, but it was Wally's sharp eyes that saw tyre tracks heading into the bush as we made for a GPS waypoint, and that saved us precious minutes.

By the time we arrived in camp lunch was almost ready, but we had time to do that last minute packing, change or even have a shower before the meal. Then sadly we bade farewell to Frank and his assistants, boarded the Land Cruisers for the last time, and drove off to Maun and the airport, where unusually nowadays Air Botswana accepted a group check-in for the international flight to South Africa. Before we left we were able meet, say good-bye and offer our best wishes to Trudie, Grant's fiancée as well as to the two brothers that had been such great company for the last two weeks.

From then on everything went like clockwork with things going smoothly with Air Botswana and then South African Airways from Johannesburg to London overnight.

### **Saturday, 29 July**

Our northbound flight was very smooth with no turbulence whatsoever as we crossed the equatorial region, a fact that the captain pointed out as we began our approach to Heathrow. Once through the formalities and into the baggage hall farewells were said as we waited, perhaps longer than usual, for our luggage. As it turned out there was no need for concern for it all appeared and we set off on the final legs of our journeys home on yet another hot and sunny English summer day.

**Acknowledgements** Thanks to Brent and Grant Reed we had a superb trip across an amazing part of Africa. It was a fascinating journey and thanks to camp manager, Francoise and Frank, the chef with his assistants, we had meals of a much higher standard than one might have expected to come from two or three pots on a charcoal fire! The presentation at the table was frequently worthy or even better than in hotels and restaurants in many parts of the western world! I know we benefited from the extra warm clothing we brought after reading of 'cool' temperatures on the last tour, but we never expected the bonus of hot water bottles provided on the coldest nights – amazing. Perhaps next time Grant might have solar powered electric blankets, or perhaps not! Well, he did respond to the previous request for mirrors! It was the most hi-tech adventure I have ever done for not only did we have GPS, vehicle-vehicle-base radios and mobile phones, Brent and Grant were also in contact with the outside world via their laptops, a satellite modem (brought out from UK by Julia) and the Internet!

We were a very well travelled party and when faced with the glitches that one comes to expect with a tour of this time and all the logistical headaches that lurk in the background, oblivious and otherwise, you took it in your stride! Thank you all for coming, for your great company and good humour. Thank you also for all your help, constructive suggestions and just for being there. Thanks to Donald and Jean for use of their telescope on the last day when all the rest of us had packed ours! Writing the report brought back an endless stream of memories that just kept coming like the quelea flock, but if I forgot your special memory or sighting, I'm sorry, but there was so much to recall! I hope it will not be too long before we travel together again on another Ornitholidays tour somewhere, sometime – there are plenty to choose from in the new brochure. See you at the airport.....

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## Itinerary and Weather

- 15 July Dept. London Heathrow for Johannesburg.
- 16 July Early morning arrival in Jo'burg and later onward Air Botswana flight to Maun. Met by Letaka Safaris and transfer to Xakanaxa tented camp with picnic lunch en route.  
Fine and sunny. 28°C
- 17 July Morning game drive in Moremi. Brunch, siesta and afternoon boat trip.  
Fine and sunny 29°C
- 18 July Transfer to Khwai via Moremi North Gate, with picnic lunch, siesta and afternoon game drive en route before arriving at next camp.  
Fine and sunny. 29°C
- 19 July Morning bush walk with Grant or game drive with Brent. Brunch, siesta and afternoon game drive with sundowners before night drive back to camp.  
Sunny. 32°C
- 20 July Transfer to Savuti in Chobe National Park with breakfast by river at Khwai and lunch in the bush. Our route took us over Magwikhwe Sand Ridge to Mababe Depression and then north to Savuti.  
Fine and sunny. 31°C
- 21 July Early morning game drive to Savuti Marsh; brunch at camp, siesta and afternoon game drive ending up at Harvey's Pan for sundowners.  
Fine and sunny. 6°C-32°C
- 22 July Breakfast at Harvey's Pan before transfer north-east to a camp near Serondela by Chobe River. Lunch near village of Kavimba en route. Sundowners on banks of Chobe River.  
Early ground frost in hollows at Savuti, otherwise fine and sunny. 30°C
- 23 July Morning game drives in the Serondela area and towards Kabulala. Brunch and splendid afternoon boat trip on Chobe River from White Sands east to Sedudu Island and back for sundowners. Night drive back to camp.  
7°C-32°C
- 24 July Early morning departure from camp, breakfast at Serondela. Game drive through to Kasane, where birding in grounds of Mowana Lodge before drive south on tarmac to Nata. Lunch at Pandamatenga en route. Camp within Nata Sanctuary and afternoon drive towards Makgadikgadi Pans.  
Weather unchanged. 30°C
- 25 July Morning walk with Grant towards delta of Nata River or game drive with Brent to pan overlook. Brunch in camp, siesta and all to overlook on afternoon game drive and for sundowners.  
A little more cloud today, otherwise fine and sunny. 27°C
- 26 July Day excursion to Sua Pan and soda works and back. Sundowners in camp.  
Fine and sunny. 30°C
- 27 July Transfer to Sitatunga Camp via lunch at Baines' Baobabs in Nxai Pan National Park.  
Fine, sunny and cloudless. 30°C
- 28 July Morning excursion to Lake Ngami after breakfast returning for lunch and transfer to airport in Maun. Afternoon flight to Jo'burg and onward overnight flight to London Heathrow.  
Fine and sunny. 30°C
- 29 July Early morning arrival in London.

## CHECKLIST OF SPECIES SEEN DURING THE TOUR

No of days recorded	Locations	Abundance
1 2h means seen on one day and heard on two other days	X = Xakanaxa and area K = Khwai and area S = Savuti and area C = Chobe River and area (including Kasane) M = Makgadikgadi and area (including Nata) N = Lake Ngami and Maun areas	1 = <5 seen 2 = 5-9 seen 3 = 10-99 seen 4 = 100-999 seen 5 = 1,000-9,999 6 = 10,000-999,999 7 = 1,000,000 plus h = heard only
* 1 2 3 etc	> = seen on journey to .... See Name Changes and Taxonomic notes at end	

SPECIES	No of days recorded	Location	Abundance Scale	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Common Ostrich	5	S	M >N 1	<i>Struthio camelus</i>
Little Grebe*	8	X C	M 3	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Black-necked Grebe	3		M 3	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
Great White Pelican*	7	K C	M N 5	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>
Pink-backed Pelican	1		C 1	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>
White-breasted Cormorant <sup>1</sup>	4		M 4	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Reed Cormorant <sup>2</sup>	8	X K C	M 3	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>
African Darter <sup>3</sup>	9	X K C	M 3	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>
Grey Heron	11	X K C	M N 3	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Black-headed Heron	7	K	M N 3	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>
Goliath Heron	3		M 2	<i>Ardea goliath</i>
Purple Heron	3		C 1	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Great Egret*	8	X K C	M 3	<i>Egretta alba</i>
Little Egret	5	X C	M 2	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Yellow-billed Egret <sup>4</sup>	5	K C	M 1	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>
Black Heron*	2	K C	M 1	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>
Slaty Egret	6	X C	M 2	<i>Egretta vinaceigula</i>
Cattle Egret	12	X K C	M N 3	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Squacco Heron*	4	X C	M 3	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Green-backed Heron <sup>5</sup>	5	1h X K C	M 1	<i>Butorides striatus</i>
Rufous-bellied Heron	5	X K C	M 2	<i>Butorides rufiventris</i>
Black-crowned Night-Heron	8	X K C	M N 2	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Little Bittern	1	K	M 1	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>
Hamerkop	9	X K C	M 1	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
White Stork	1		N 3	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
African Openbill*	9	K C	M 3	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>
Saddle-billed Stork	6	X K C	M 2	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>
Marabou Stork	9	X K C	M N 3	<i>Leptoptilos crumeniferus</i>
Yellow-billed Stork	9	X K C	M 3	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>
African Sacred Ibis*	6	X K C	M 2	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>
Glossy Ibis	3	X C	M 3	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
Hadada Ibis	2	X	M 1	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>
African Spoonbill	8	X C	M N 3	<i>Platalea alba</i>
Greater Flamingo	5		M N 4	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>
Lesser Flamingo	4		M N 3	<i>Phoenicopterus minor</i>
White-faced Whistling Duck	7	X K C	M 4	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
Fulvous Duck	1		C 3	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>
White-backed Duck	1		M 1	<i>Thalassornis leuconotus</i>
Egyptian Goose	13	X K S C	M N 4	<i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>
Yellow-billed Duck	3	X C	M N 1	<i>Anas undulata</i>
Cape Teal	4		M 3	<i>Anas capensis</i>
Hottentot Teal	3		C M N 3	<i>Anas hottentota</i>
Red-billed Teal	8	K S C	M N 4	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>
Cape Shoveler	4		M 3	<i>Anas smithii</i>
Southern Pochard	4		C M N 3	<i>Netta erythrophthalma</i>
African Pygmy-Goose	1	X	M 1	<i>Nettapus auritus</i>

Comb Goose*	4		X	K		C			3	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>
Spur-winged Goose	9		X	K		C	M	N	3	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>
Secretarybird	1					S			1	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>
Hooded Vulture	3		X			C			2	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>
White-backed Vulture*	10		X	K	S	C	M	N	4	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
Lappet-faced Vulture	4		X			C	M		2	<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>
Black-shouldered Kite	12		X	K	S	C	M	N	3	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
Tawny Eagle	11		X	K	S	C	M	N	2	<i>Aquila rapax</i>
African Hawk-Eagle	6		X	K	S	C			1	<i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i>
Long-crested Eagle	1			K					1	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>
Martial Eagle	6		X	K		C	M		1	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>
Brown Snake-Eagle	5		X	K	S		M		1	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>
Black-chested Snake-Eagle*	2			K					1	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
Bateleur	10		X	K	S	C	M		1	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>
African Fish Eagle	11		X	K		C	M	N	3	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>
Lizard Buzzard	1					C			1	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>
Little Sparrowhawk	4		X	K		C			1	<i>Accipiter minullus</i>
Shikra*	10		X	K	S	C	M	N	1	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
Gabar Goshawk	7		>X	K	S	C	M		1	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>
Southern Pale Chanting Goshawk	1							>N	2	<i>Melierax canorus</i>
Dark Chanting Goshawk	3					C			1	<i>Melierax metabates</i>
African Marsh-Harrier	6		X	K		C	M		1	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>
African Harrier-Hawk*	4		X	K		C			1	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>
Lanner Falcon	5		>X			C	M	N	1	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>
Red-necked Falcon	1						M		1	<i>Falco chicquera</i>
Greater Kestrel	4						M		2	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>
Dickinson's Kestrel	2				S	C			1	<i>Falco dickinsoni</i>
Crested Francolin	7			K	S	C	M		3	<i>Francolinus sephaena</i>
Red-billed Francolin	12	1h	X	K	S	C	M	N	4	<i>Francolinus adspersus</i>
Swainson's Spurfowl*	11		X	K	S	C	M	N	3	<i>Francolinus swainsonii</i>
Helmeted Guineafowl	9		X	K	S	C			3	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
Small Buttonquail*	1						M		1	<i>Turnix sylvatica</i>
Wattled Crane	3		X				M		2	<i>Grus carunculata</i>
Grey Crowned Crane*	1						M		2	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>
Black Crake	6		X	K		C		N	3	<i>Amaurornis flavirostris</i>
Allen's Gallinule*	2			K					1	<i>Porphyrio alleni</i>
Common Moorhen	6			K		C	M	N	1	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Red-knobbed Coot	2						M		4	<i>Fulica cristata</i>
Kori Bustard	5				S	C	M		1	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>
Red-crested Korhaan	4		>X		S			>N	1	<i>Eupodotis ruficrista</i>
Black-bellied Bustard*	1						M		1	<i>Eupodotis melanogaster</i>
Northern Black Korhaan	3						M	>N	3	<i>Eupodotis afroaoides</i>
African Jacana	8		X	K		C			3	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>
Lesser Jacana	1			K					1	<i>Microparra capensis</i>
Greater Painted-Snipe	4		X	K		C	M		2	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>
Chestnut-banded Plover	1						M		2	<i>Charadrius pallidus</i>
Kittlitz's Plover	4					C	M		3	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>
Three-banded Plover	4	1h				C	M	N	1	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>
Crowned Lapwing*	11		X	K	S	C	M	N	3	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>
Blacksmith Lapwing*	13		X	K	S	C	M	N	3	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>
White-crowned Lapwing*	1					C			1	<i>Vanellus albiceps</i>
African Wattled Lapwing*	2					C			1	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>
Long-toed Lapwing*	7			K		C	M		2	<i>Vanellus crassirostris</i>
Common Sandpiper	1					C			1	<i>Tringa hypoleucus</i>
Wood Sandpiper	2		X			C			1	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Common Greenshank	5					C	M	N	1	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Little Stint	1							N	1	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Pied Avocet	4						M	N	3	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
Black-winged Stilt	10		X		S	C	M	N	3	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Spotted Thick-knee*	3	2h		K	S		M		1	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>
Water Thick-knee*	10	1h	X	K	S	C	M	N	3	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>
Temminck's Courser	1			K					1	<i>Cursorius temminckii</i>
Double-banded Courser	5				S		M		2	<i>Rhinoptilus africanus</i>

Bronze-winged Courser	1							C		1	<i>Rhinoptilus chalcopterus</i>		
Collared Pratincole*	3							C	M	4	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>		
Grey-headed Gull	6		JNB					C	M	N	3	<i>Larus cirrocephalus</i>	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1									N	1	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	
Caspian Tern	2								M		3	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	
Black Tern	1								M		1	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	
Whiskered Tern	2							C	M	N	1	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	
White-winged Tern	1								M		1	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	
African Skimmer	2								C		1	<i>Rynchops flavirostris</i>	
Burchell's Sandgrouse	7			K	S				M		3	<i>Pterocles burchelli</i>	
Double-banded Sandgrouse	7		X	K	S	C					3	<i>Pterocles bicinctus</i>	
Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	3		JNB						C	M	3	<i>Columbia livia</i>	
Speckled Pigeon	1								M		1	<i>Columbia guinea</i>	
Red-eyed Dove	7		X	K				C	M		2	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	
African Mourning Dove	2								C	N	2	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>	
Cape Turtle Dove	13		X	K	S	C	M	N			4	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	
Laughing Dove	13		X	K	S	C	M	N			3	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	
Namaqua Dove	10		>X	K	S	C	M	N			3	<i>Oena capensis</i>	
Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove*	9		X	K	S	C				N	3	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>	
Meyer's Parrot	5		X	K						N	3	<i>Poicephalus meyeri</i>	
Grey Go-away-bird*	12		X	K	S	C	M	N			3	<i>Corythaixoides concolor</i>	
Coppery-tailed Coucal	6		X	K					C		3	<i>Centropus cupreicaudus</i>	
Senegal Coucal	7	2h	X	K	S	C	M				1	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>	
White-browed Coucal	5		X						C	M	1	<i>Centropus superciliosus</i>	
Marsh Owl	3								C	M	3	<i>Asio capensis</i>	
African Scops-Owl	2	8h	X	K	S	C				N	1	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>	
Southern White-faced Scops-Owl	-	4h		K	S						h	<i>Otus leucotis</i>	
Pearl-spotted Owlet	7	6h	X	K	S	C	M	N			2	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>	
African Barred Owlet	1									C	1	<i>Glaucidium capense</i>	
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl*	5			K	S	C					1	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>	
Fiery-necked Nightjar	-	1h								N	h	<i>Caprimulgus pectoralis</i>	
Swamp Nightjar*	1		X								1	<i>Caprimulgus natalensis</i>	
Square-tailed Nightjar*	1			K							2	<i>Caprimulgus fossii</i>	
Little Swift	1									>M	1	<i>Apus affinis</i>	
African Palm Swift	8		X					C	M	N	3	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	
Red-faced Mousebird	3	1h	X						C	M	3	<i>Colius indicus</i>	
Pied Kingfisher	12		X	K					C	M	N	3	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
Giant Kingfisher	1								C		1	<i>Ceryle maxima</i>	
Malachite Kingfisher	3			K					C		1	<i>Alcedo cristata</i>	
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	1								C		1	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>	
Striped Kingfisher	2	1h	X						C		1	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>	
White-fronted Bee-eater	2								C		1	<i>Merops bullockoides</i>	
Little Bee-eater	12		X	K	S	C	M				3	<i>Merops pusillus</i>	
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	10		X	K	S	C				>N	2	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>	
Lilac-breasted Roller	13		X	K	S	C	M	N			3	<i>Coracias caudate</i>	
Racket-tailed Roller	1								C		1	<i>Coracias spatulata</i>	
Purple Roller	9		X		S	C	M	N			2	<i>Coracias naevia</i>	
African Hoopoe	7		X	K	S	C				N	1	<i>Upupa Africana</i>	
Green Wood-Hoopoe*	7		X	K	S		M	N			3	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>	
Common Scimitarbill*	3				S					N	1	<i>Phoeniculus cyanomelas</i>	
African Grey Hornbill	12		X	K	S	C	M	N			3	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>	
Red-billed Hornbill	12		X	K	S	C	M	N			3	<i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>	
Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	13		X	K	S	C	M	N			3	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>	
Bradfield's Hornbill	9			K	S	C				>N	1	<i>Tockus bradfieldi</i>	
Southern Ground-Hornbill	3	1h	X						C		2	<i>Bucorvus cafer</i>	
Black-collared Barbet	2		X						C		1	<i>Lybius torquatus</i>	
Acacia Pied Barbet	2	1h								M	N	1	<i>Lybius leucomelas</i>
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	1								C		1	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>	
Crested Barbet	6		X						C	M	N	1	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>
Greater Honeyguide	2		X						C		1	<i>Indicator indicator</i>	
Bennett's Woodpecker	5		>X	K						M		1	<i>Campethera bennettii</i>
Golden-tailed Woodpecker	-	2h	X								N	h	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>
Cardinal Woodpecker	1										N	1	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>

Bearded Woodpecker	2	X					N	1	<i>Dendropicos namaquus</i>
Rufous-naped Lark	4				C	M		1	<i>Mirafr Africana</i>
Eastern Clapper Lark <sup>6</sup>	3				C	M		2	<i>Mirafr fasciolata</i>
Fawn-coloured Lark	2			S			>N	3	<i>Mirafr africanoides</i>
Sabota Lark	1						>N	3	<i>Mirafr sabota</i>
Spike-heeled Lark	1						>N	1	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>
Red-capped Lark	1				C			3	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>
Pink-billed Lark	2					M		2	<i>Spizocorys conirostris</i>
Chestnut-backed Sparrowlark *	8	X		S	C	M	N	4	<i>Eremopterix leucotis</i>
Grey-backed Sparrowlark*	5				C	M		3	<i>Eremopterix verticalis</i>
Wire-tailed Swallow	2				C			3	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
Red-breasted Swallow	2		K		C			1	<i>Hirundo semirufa</i>
Lesser Striped Swallow	3	X			C			3	<i>Hirundo abyssinica</i>
Rock Martin	2				C			1	<i>Hirundo fuligula</i>
Grey-rumped Swallow	6	X	K		C			3	<i>Pseudhirundo griseopyga</i>
Banded Martin	3	X			C			1	<i>Riparia cincta</i>
Fork-tailed Drongo	12	X	K	S	C	M	N	3	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
Cape Crow*	1						>N	2	<i>Corvus capensis</i>
Pied Crow	5				C	M		2	<i>Corvus albus</i>
Southern Black Tit	6		K	S	C	M		1	<i>Parus niger</i>
Cape Penduline-Tit	1					M		1	<i>Anthoscopus minutes</i>
Arrow-marked Babbler	8	X	K		C		N	3	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>
Hartlaub's Babbler	5	X	K		C			3	<i>Turdoides hartlaubii</i>
Southern Pied Babbler	3		K	S		M		2	<i>Turdoides bicolor</i>
African Red-eyed Bulbul	9	X	K	S	C	M	N	3	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>
Dark-capped Bulbul*	4	X		S	C			1	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>
Terrestrial Brownbul*	2				C			1	<i>Phyllastrephus terrestris</i>
African Yellow-bellied Greenbul*	2				C			2	<i>Chlorocichla flaviventris</i>
Kurrichane Thrush	1	X						1	<i>Turdus libyanus</i>
Groundscraper Thrush	1	X						1	<i>Turdus litsipsirupa</i>
Capped Wheatear	6		K	S	C	M		2	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>
Arnott's Chat	2	X	>K					2	<i>Thamnolaea arnotti</i>
Ant-eating Chat*	3					M		3	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>
African Stonechat <sup>7</sup>	3	X			C			1	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>
White-browed Robin-Chat*	2				C			2	<i>Cossypha heuglini</i>
Collared Palm-Thrush	1				C			1	<i>Cichladusa arquata</i>
White-browed Scrub-Robin*	2	1h		S	C		N	1	<i>Erythropgyia leucophrys</i>
Kalahari Scrub-Robin*	4				C	M	N	2	<i>Erythropgyia paeon</i>
African Reed-Warbler*	2	1h			C	M	N	1	<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>
Lesser Swamp-Warbler*	1	1h		K			N	1	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>
Little Rush-Warbler*	-	1h	X					h	<i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>
Yellow-breasted Apalis	1				S			2	<i>Apalis flavida</i>
Long-billed Crombec	7	X		S	C	M		2	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>
Green-backed Camaroptera <sup>8</sup>	6	X	K	S	C			1	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>
Zitting Cisticola*	6	X	K			M		2	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
Desert Cisticola	8	X	K	S		M		2	<i>Cisticola aridulus</i>
Rattling Cisticola	7	X	K	S	C	M		2	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>
Luapula Cisticola <sup>9</sup>	1				C			1	<i>Cisticola luapula</i>
Chirping Cisticola	2	X						1	<i>Cisticola pipiens</i>
Tawny-flanked Prinia	4	X	K	S	C			3	<i>Prinia subflava</i>
Black-chested Prinia	4			S		M	N	2	<i>Prinia flavicans</i>
Ashy Flycatcher*	3	X			C		N	1	<i>Muscicapa caeruleascens</i>
Southern Black Flycatcher	2	X			C			1	<i>Melaenornis pammelaina</i>
Marico Flycatcher	6			S	C	M	N	2	<i>Melaenornis mariquensis</i>
Chat Flycatcher	2					M	N	2	<i>Melaenornis infuscatus</i>
Chinspot Batis	5	X		S	C			1	<i>Batis molitor</i>
African Pied Wagtail	1				C			1	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>
Cape Wagtail	4	X			C	M		1	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>
African Pipit*	10	X	K	S	C	M	N	1	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>
Plain-backed Pipit	7	X	K	S	C	M		1	<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>
Buffy Pipit	2					M		1	<i>Anthus vaalensis</i>
Magpie Shrike*	8		K	S		M	N	3	<i>Corvinella melanoleuca</i>
Tropical Boubou	3				C			2	<i>Laniarius aethiopicus</i>

Swamp Boubou	1	1h	X					N	1	<i>Laniarius bicolor</i>
Crimson-breasted Shrike	5			K	S	C		N	1	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>
Black-backed Puffback	4		X			C			2	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>
Brubru	1	3h	X	K				N	1	<i>Nilaus afer</i>
Brown-crowned Tchagra*	5				S	C		N	1	<i>Tchagra australis</i>
Black-crowned Tchagra	1		X						1	<i>Tchagra senegala</i>
Orange-breasted Bush-Shrike	2					C			1	<i>Telophorus sulfureopectus</i>
White-crested Helmet-Shrike*	5		X		S	C			3	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>
Southern White-crowned Shrike	10			K	S	C	M	N	3	<i>Eurocephalus anguitemens</i>
Wattled Starling	6		X			C	M	N	4	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>
Burchell's Starling	10		X	K	S	C		N	3	<i>Lamprotornis australis</i>
Meves's Starling	9		X	K	S			N	3	<i>Lamprotornis mevesii</i>
Cape Glossy Starling	7				S	C	M	>N	4	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>
Greater Blue-eared Starling	9		X	K		C	M	N	3	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	3			K	S	C			2	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>
Red-billed Oxpecker	9		X	K	S	C		N	2	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>
Marico Sunbird	3		X		S			N	2	<i>Nectarinia mariquensis</i>
Purple-banded Sunbird	1					C			1	<i>Nectarinia bifasciata</i>
White-bellied Sunbird	4				S	C	M	N	2	<i>Nectarinia talatala</i>
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	1					C			2	<i>Nectarinia senegalensis</i>
Collared Sunbird	2		X			C			1	<i>Anthreptes collaris</i>
African Yellow White-eye	2		X			C			2	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>
Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver	12		X	K	S	C	M	N	4	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	8		X	K	S	C	M	N	3	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>
House Sparrow (introduced)	2						M	N	1	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	11		X	K	S	C	M	N	3	<i>Passer diffusus</i>
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	1					C			1	<i>Passer griseus</i>
African Yellow-throated Petronia*	7		X	K	S	C			2	<i>Petronia superciliaris</i>
Scaly-feathered Finch	10	1h	X	K	S	C	M	N	3	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>
Spectacled Weaver	1					C			1	<i>Ploceus ocularis</i>
Village Weaver*	1					C			1	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>
Southern Masked-Weaver*	12		X	K	S	C	M	N	3	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>
Golden Weaver	3					C		N	1	<i>Ploceus xanthops</i>
Red-headed Weaver	2		X					N	2	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>
Red-billed Quelea	11		X	K	S	C	M	N	7	<i>Quelea quelea</i>
Southern Red Bishop	1					C			3	<i>Euplectes orix</i>
Green-winged Pytilia*	5				S	C	M	N	3	<i>Pytilia melba</i>
Jameson's Firefinch	2					C			1	<i>Lagonosticta rhodopareia</i>
Red-billed Fire Finch	6		X	K		C	M	N	2	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>
Brown Firefinch	3		X		S	C			2	<i>Lagonosticta nitidula</i>
Blue Waxbill	11		X	K	S	C	M	N	3	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>
Violet-eared Waxbill	4				S	C	M		2	<i>Granatina granatina</i>
African Quailfinch	1						M		1	<i>Ortygospiza atricollis</i>
Red-headed Finch	2						M	N	3	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>
Bronze Mannikin	1					C			3	<i>Lonchura cucullata</i>
Shaft-tailed Whydah	4				S	C	M		3	<i>Vidua regia</i>
Long-tailed Paradise-Whydah*	2					C	M		3	<i>Vidua paradisea</i>
Village Indigobird*	1							N	1	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>
Black-throated Canary	4			K	S	C			2	<i>Serinus atrogularis</i>
Golden-breasted Bunting	5		X		S	C	M		3	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting*	1						M		1	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>

**TAXONOMIC NOTES** - Southern African bird names have undergone a major revision recently ahead of the new edition of Robert's Birds of Southern Africa due in September 2005.

New name	Formerly	New name	Formerly
Little Grebe	Dabchick	African Stonechat	African Stonechat
Great White Pelican	Eastern White Pelican	White-browed Robin-Chat	Heuglin's Robin
Great Egret	Great White Egret	White-browed Scrub-Robin	White-browed Robin
Black Heron	Black Egret	<b>Kalahari Scrub-Robin</b>	<b>Kalahari Scrub Robin</b>
Squacco Heron	(Common) Squacco Heron	African Reed-Warbler	African Marsh Warbler
African Openbill	Openbilled Stork	Lesser Swamp-Warbler	Cape Reed Warbler

African Sacred Ibis	Sacred Ibis	Little Rush Warbler	African Sedge Warbler
Comb Goose	Knob-billed Goose	Grey-backed Camaroptera	Bleating Warbler
White-backed Vulture	(African) White-backed Vulture	Zitting Cisticola	Fantailed Cisticola
Black-chested Snake-Eagle	Black-breasted Snake Eagle	Ashy Flycatcher	Blue-grey Flycatcher
Shikra	Little Banded Goshawk	African Pipit	Grassveld Pipit
African Harrier-Hawk	Gymnogene	Magpie Shrike	(African) Long-tailed Shrike
Swainson's Spurfowl	Swainson's Francolin	Brown-crowned Tchagra	Three-streaked Tchagra
Small Buttonquail	Kurrichane Buttonquail	White-crested Helmet-Shrike	White Helmet-Shrike
Grey Crowned Crane	Southern Crowned Crane	Meves's Starling	Long-tailed Starling
Allen's Gallinule	Lesser Gallinule	African Yellow-throated Petronia	(African) Yellow-throated Sparrow
Black-bellied Bustard	Black-bellied Korhaan	Village Weaver	Spotted-backed Weaver
Crowned Lapwing	Crowned Plover	Southern Masked-Weaver	African Masked-Weaver
Blacksmith Lapwing	Blacksmith Plover	Green-winged Pytilia	Melba Finch
White-crowned Lapwing	White-crowned Plover	Black-faced Waxbill	Black-cheeked Waxbill
African Wattled Lapwing	Wattled Plover	Long-tailed Paradise-Whydah	Eastern Paradise-Whydah
Long-toed Lapwing	Long-toed Plover	Village Indigobird	Steel-blue Widowfinch
Spotted Thick-knee	Spotted Dikkop	Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	Cinnamon-breasted Rock Bunting
Water Thick-knee	Water Dikkop	Common Scimitarbill	Greater Scimitarbill
Collared Pratincole	Red-winged Pratincole	Chestnut-backed Sparrowlark	Chestnut-backed Finchlark
Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove	Greenspotted Wood-Dove	Grey-backed Sparrowlark	Grey-backed Finchlark
Grey Go-away-bird	Grey Lourie	Cape Crow	Cape Rook or Black Crow
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	Giant Eagle-Owl	Dark-capped Bulbul	Black-eyed Bulbul
Swamp Nightjar	Natal Nightjar	Terrestrial Brownbul	Terrestrial Bulbul
Square-tailed Nightjar	Mozambique Nightjar	African Yellow-bellied Greenbul	Yellow-bellied Bulbul
Green Wood-hoopoe	Red-billed Woodhoopoe	Anteating Chat	Southern Anteating Chat

#### SPLITS etc.

- 1 White-breasted Cormorant is treated as a race of Great Cormorant by some authors
- 2 Reed Cormorant is also known as Long-tailed Cormorant elsewhere in Africa
- 3 African Darter – Clements treats the Old World Darters (African, Indian and Australian) as a single species.
- 4 Yellow-billed Egret is called Intermediate Egret in other parts of its distribution
- 5 Green-backed Heron is known as Striated Heron elsewhere in its range.
- 6 Clapper Lark has been split onto Cape, Agulhas and Eastern, which has the widest distribution.
- 7 The Common Stonechat of Europe has been split from African Stonechat
- 8 Bleating Warbler split into two species and renamed Grey and Green-backed Camaroptera
- 9 Luapula Cisticola results from splitting of Black-backed Cisticola

#### MAMMALS RECORDED

Lesser Bushbaby	2		K		M	1	<i>Galago moholi</i>		
Black-faced Vervet Monkey	3	X			C	2	<i>Cercopithecus aethiops</i>		
Chacma Baboon	7	X	K		C	4	<i>Papio ursinus</i>		
Black-backed Jackal	4	2h		S	M	1	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>		
Bat-eared Fox	1		K			1	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>		
Wild Dog	-	fp	K			fp	<i>Lycaon pictus</i>		
Honey Badger	-	fp			M	fp	<i>Mellivora capensis</i>		
Spotted-necked Otter	1	X				1	<i>Lutra maculicollis</i>		
Dwarf Mongoose	4	X	K	S		2	<i>Helogale parvula</i>		
Slender Mongoose	3		K	S		1	<i>Galerella sanguinea</i>		
Banded Mongoose	1				C	3	<i>Mungos mungo</i>		
Yellow Mongoose	3		K	S		>N	1	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>	
Brown Hyena	-	fp				M	fp	<i>Hyaena brunnea</i>	
Spotted Hyena	2	4h	K	S	C		1	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>	
African Wild Cat	1			S			1	<i>Felis lybica</i>	
Caracal	-	fp				M	fp	<i>Felis caracal</i>	
Leopard	1	1fp	K	S			1	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	
Lion	2				C		2	<i>Panthera leo</i>	
African Elephant	10	X	K	S	C	N	4	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	
Burchell's Zebra	6	X	K	S			3	<i>Equus burchellii</i>	
Warthog	8	>X	K	S	C	M	3	<i>Phacochoerus aethiopicus</i>	
Hippopotamus	7	1h	X	K		C	M	3	<i>Hippotamus amphibius</i>
Giraffe	8	X	K	S	C		3	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>	

Bushbuck	1				C		1	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	
Greater Kudu	5	X	K	S	C		3	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>	
Cape Buffalo	2				C		4	<i>Synceros caffer</i>	
Waterbuck	6	X	K		C		2	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>	
Red Lechwe	4	X			C		3	<i>Kobus leche</i>	
Puku	2				C		2	<i>Kobus vardonii</i>	
Sable Antelope	1				C		3	<i>Hippotragus niger</i>	
Gemsbok	1					>N	2	<i>Oryx gazella</i>	
Blue Wildebeest	2		K			M	3	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>	
Steenbok	3			S		M	2	<i>Raphiceros campestris</i>	
Impala	9	X	K	S	C		4	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>	
Springbok	3					M	>N	3	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>
Mopane Tree Squirrel	9	X	K	S	C		2	<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>	
Spring Hare	2		K			M	1	<i>Pedetes capensis</i>	
Woodland Dormouse	1		K				1	<i>Graphirus murinus</i>	
Multimammate Mouse	1		K				1	<i>Mastomys sp.</i>	
Acacia Rat	1		K				1	<i>Thallomys sp.</i>	
Scrub Hare	2				C	M	1	<i>Lepus saxatillis</i>	
Bushveldt Gerbil	1					M	1	<i>Tatera leucogaster</i>	

fp = footprint

#### REPTILES RECORDED

Nile Crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*), Snouted Cobra (*Naja annulifera*), Yellow-bellied Sand Snake (*Psammophis subtaeniatus*), Striped Skink (*Mabuya striata*), Agama sp. (*Agama sp.*), Rain Frog (*Eleutherodactylus fitzingeri*)

#### BUTTERFLIES RECORDED

African Monarch (*Danaus chrysippus*), Guineafowl (*Hamanumida daelalus*), Foxy Emperor (*Charaxes jasius*), Citrus Swallowtail (*Papilio demodocus*).

#### MOTHS RECORDED

Small Verdant Hawkmoth (*Basiothia madea*), The Vestal (*Rhodometra sacraria*)

#### DRAGONFLIES RECORDED

Blue Emperor (*Anax imperator*), Banded Groundling, (*Brachythemis leucosticta*), Little Scarlet (*Crocothemis sanguinolenta*)

This list represents those birds and other animals seen by party members of this tour.



**Our camp at Xakanaxa**



**Slaty Egret – adult**



**Impala in flight**



**Grant shows the fangs of Snouted Cobra**



**Brown Snake Eagle in flight**



**Breakfast in the bush - Khwai**

**Savuti - our female Leopard runs across the track as Grant imitates the distress call of an Impala**



**Sable Antelope - Chobe**



**Marsh Owl - Magadikadi**



*Only the camera saw the Giant Aardvark before it trampled the group into the sands of the Kalahari*

**- with apologies to Gary Larson and The Farside Gallery**



**Red-billed Quelea – millions were coming into drink at Lake Ngami, south-west of Maun**

**Front cover: Bateleur  
All photographs © Richard Coomber**