

**ORNITHOLIDAYS' TOUR TO NAMIBIA**  
*Etosha and the Skeleton Coast*  
**05 – 19 November 2016**



**Leaders: Richard Coomber and Orlando Haraseb**

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### **A Personal Diary**

It is not surprising that Namibia has been a favourite tour for many Ornitholidays' clients for many years because the country has so much to offer in the way of scenery, birds and other wildlife. We have been travelling to Namibia now for almost 30 years and over this period we have changed and refined our itinerary. This current 15 day tour encompasses the best of what the country has to offer a visit to the wonderful Namib-Naukluft National Park, with the superb sand dunes at Sossusvlei, the wilderness of the Skeleton Coast and a superb boat trip out to see seabirds, seals and cetaceans, the stark landscape of the Damaraland with its desert adapted elephants and amazing rock engravings, plus a few days to enjoy Etosha National Park, with large numbers of game visiting the waterholes and the spectacle of rhinos, elephants, Oryx and giraffes vying with groups of ostriches to drink. We finish with a visit to Erongo Wilderness Lodge where we can enjoy the luxurious accommodation and look out to the granite formations where Rockrunners, Hartlaub's Francolins and Freckled Nightjars can all be found and well as the spectacle of an early morning extravaganza of Rosy-faced Lovebirds. The tour is timed to occur just at the end of the dry season and just before the rains, so the game at Etosha will all be gathered around the waterholes and easy to see and photograph.

#### **Saturday, 05 November**

This evening most of the 2016 Ornitholidays party to Namibia left Heathrow's Terminal 5 aboard one of British Airways' new double-deck Airbus A380 for the flight to Johannesburg. What a send-off we had with people setting off fireworks from the residential properties beyond the airport's perimeter. Heading south we passed over Brighton to cross the English Channel.

#### **Sunday, 06 November**

We arrived at Johannesburg more or less on time after the relatively smooth 11 hour flight. Having cleared the various formalities and checked-in for our Air Namibia flight to Windhoek we had half an hour to relax and chat before boarding. Few birds were seen at the airport with Rock Martins and feral pigeons the most conspicuous, but Long-tailed Widow was seen from the plane whilst taxiing.

Shortly after midday we left for Namibia on board a smaller Airbus. It was a smooth flight of about two hours before we touched down at the tiny international airport where African Palm Swifts hawked insects around the terminal buildings. With two flights arriving more or less at the same time the immigration hall was packed, but once eventually through the formalities and re-united with our luggage we cleared Customs and met our regular local guide, Orlando Haraseb. On the way into Windhoek, the capital, Lilac-breasted Rollers were seen on utility wires and Warthogs and Chacma Baboons along the road's verges.

On reaching our well-appointed guesthouse in the suburbs of Windhoek the rooms were allocated and some of us met up around the swimming pool for birding or a swim under leaden skies. The best birds were the pair of Pririt Batis spotted by Tony and Jillie and a pair of Red-headed Finches before the heavens opened and rain stopped play. Earlier some interesting locusts were found outside the bedrooms – Green Milkweed Locust. Fred, who arrived yesterday, returned from a productive local birding walk just before heavy rain and its accompanying hail fell.

After an excellent dinner we retired to bed anticipating a great day tomorrow.

#### **Monday, 07 November**

A fine start with light cloud eventually thickening during afternoon to give a few spots of rain. 32°C

After breakfast and with the luggage loaded in the Land Cruiser we left the guest-house as planned soon after 08:00. Windhoek was relatively quiet for a capital city, except for the hundreds, if not thousands, of Little Swifts wheeling over the buildings. Near Palm Park and the railway station we stopped to see the breeding

African Palm Swifts and enjoyed great views of both Alpine and Bradfield's Swifts as well. A pair of Rosy-faced Lovebirds, also in the palms, were not as obliging.

We headed south on a good tarmac road for the first 70 kilometres to Rehoboth, stopping to see roadside Burchell's Starlings, a flock of non-breeding Shaft-tailed Whydahs, an Ostrich and the first Pale Chanting Goshawks.

A brief stop and a leg stretch were appreciated at Rehoboth producing several Rock Martins and Greater Striped Swallows. A few kilometres further south we turned off on to a well-maintained gravel road that carried little traffic, so stopping to look at things became possible. New birds noted included Chat Flycatchers, Sabota Lark, Scaly-feathered Finch and a singing Bokmakierie, the latter being found when we stopped to admire a pair of African Pygmy Falcons. Further on the south-western race of Common Fiscal (*ssp subcoronatus*) was perched on utility wires to give excellent views that enabled us to see the distinctive white supercilium that lead some ornithologists to think it deserves specific recognition and should be called Latakoo Fiscal.

We were making good time and without having to tow a trailer we took the road that led to the spectacular views of Spreetshoogte Pass, where Orlando produced an excellent sit-down buffet lunch. Migrating Brown-veined White butterflies were passing in small numbers and during a post-lunch wander Fred found a Mountain Wheatear, a species the rest of the party were to see well later in the afternoon. Soon after continuing our journey a chat flew across the road. Orlando stopped and as one we both said "Hereo Chat" in disbelief as much as anything for there was one of Namibia's most sought-after birds only yards away. Of course we all piled out for a better view and over the next 20-30 minutes we enjoyed stunning views of a pair at relatively close range, much to the delight of the party's photographers. Tony and Jillie were particularly thrilled as it was a species missed on their previous visit. Also seen during the stop was a White-tailed Shrike and several Klipspringers, a small agile rock-loving antelope.

Once off the high country we headed for Solitaire seeing Yellow-billed Hornbill, Rüppell's Korhaan and Namaqua Sandgrouse before we reached the rest stop and service station. There we enjoyed good views of Marico Flycatcher as well as Pied Crows and Helmeted Guineafowl.

Once we reached the flat lands the continuing drought was most apparent for there was precious little in the way of grass for grazing species such as Oryx, Springbok and Blue Wildebeest. Consequently we saw relatively few of all three species and none of the anticipated bustards and Korhaans. Building clouds suggested rain, but a mere few drops was all this thirsty land received as we headed towards our lodge at Sesriem. It was almost 17:30 when we stopped just inside the entrance gate within the Namib-Naukluft National Park for Orlando to purchase the permits for our stay. From there it wasn't far to our lodge where the chalets were soon allocated and we were soon walking the long wooden boardwalk that led to our spacious rondavels overlooking the Namib grasslands to the dunes and mountains beyond.

At 19:00 we assembled at the bar to complete the first checklist of the tour recalling an extremely memorable day before a delicious dinner by lamplight on the decking outside. As we were tired little boys and girls we headed for bed soon after as there was an early start 'promised' for the morrow.

## **Tuesday, 08 November**

Strong winds and a shower during the night. Clear by dawn and becoming very hot and sunny, with some cloud from midday onwards. 39°C

To maximise our time amongst the dunes in the Sossusvlei area we were up early, very early and before the lark, but not before the Spotted Eagle Owl that called unseen from the car park area below the lodge. We left the lodge at 05:00, having had a caffeine fix, and headed all the way down to the end of the 4x4 track, some 60 kilometres into the heart of the dune system.

The walk of just over a kilometre to Deadvlei was relatively easy and not all sandy for in places we walked on 'pavements' of baked mud, a reminder that years ago after a period of good rainfall this whole area became a large lake that no doubt teemed with waterbirds. The vlei was in stark contrast to the red dunes that surrounded the kilometre wide depression. From its floor of white baked mud the skeletal remains of dead Camel Thorns stood. Long ago sufficient moisture had enabled these trees to grow and survive to maturity, but then they

drowned during the prolonged flood that also laid down the floor of mud to form the aptly named Deadvlei we see today. Initially the low angle of the sun produced some great opportunities to photograph the landscape of dunes, baked mud and dead trees as the sun rose above the skyline bathing the vlei with light. Birds were few with a pair each of Cape and Pied Crows and a Familiar Chat.

The Deadvlei car park was not the place for breakfast, but nearby Sossusvlei was and there, beneath a shady Camel Thorn, Orlando set up a breakfast picnic table for us. With fresh tea and coffee to hand, we enjoyed a five course meal with Orlando (minus his pinnie this year) cooking bacon and scrambled eggs to follow the bowls of cereal, fruit salad and yogurt. Have bacon butties ever tasted better? We added Chestnut-vented Tit-babbler, Black-chested Prinia and a pair of Red-necked Falcons to the list, whilst a Familiar Chat became quite friendly.

Replete we headed back towards Sesriem. The persisting drought and lack of vegetation meant that there were fewer Oryx and Springbok than usual, but we were still optimistic about our chances of finding Dune Lark, Namibia's only truly endemic species, for the other south-west specialities spill across international borders somewhere within their limited ranges. Our luck held for as we drew up at a known site one ran towards the shadow we cast from the shadows of a small barrier! How lucky could one get! Over the next 20 minutes or so we had amazing views as it, and later another, searched for food around various vehicles and amongst more natural clumps of grasses growing on the dunes.

Elated we returned by noon seeing a Black-backed Jackal shortly before we arrived at the lodge, where lunch and a siesta awaited us. It was seriously hot touching 39°C after lunch and by the time we set out for Sesriem Canyon at 17:00 it was barely much cooler at 36°C!

It was not far to Sesriem Canyon, where Speckled Pigeons and Pale-winged Starlings were coming to roost, but before the anticipated arrival of swifts and our sundowners Orlando explained in detail the complicated geology of the area and within the canyon itself before leading us down for a walk along the canyon's floor. Unfortunately, we were not alone for in addition to pigeons and starlings there were other tourists. The walk led to a pool by a recent rock fall where some of the group saw catfish with varying degrees of success. As we returned we came across masses of Spotted Eagle Owl pellets contain the fur and bones of gerbils, but no sign of the bird itself?

Back on top of the canyon we were enjoying our drinks watching an orange glow spread across the western horizon as the sun dipped behind distant mountains when the first Bradfield's Swifts arrived and soon we were watching some 50+ wheeling and screaming over the canyon before disappearing into their roosting sites. It had been a truly wonderful day in the Namib-Naukluft National Park.

Dinner again was beneath the stars and the butternut soup was to die for!

### **Wednesday, 09 November**

Hot and sunny. 38°C, but cooler on the coast 24°C

During breakfast a Three-banded Plover and White-throated Canaries were seen. As the Land Cruiser was being loaded Bron told the rest of us that several Rock Hyraxes were drinking from the swimming pool! More camera fodder. Before we began our journey northwards to Swakopmund we refuelled at Sesriem and added Acacia Pied Barbet to the list. Little was seen on the way to Solitaire, except for a pair of Rock Kestrels and two Hartmann's Mountain Zebras standing on top of a rocky ridge on the skyline, but they were aware of us and before everyone had telescope views they disappeared from view. At Solitaire it wasn't the birds that attracted our attention, but butterflies. Hundreds of Brown-veined Whites were nectaring on flowering trees or mud-puddling at a damp area.

Pressing on we saw dozens more Mountain Zebras over the next 50 or so kilometres, but birds hardly existed until Orlando spotted the movement of a small bird in the shade of a tree we passed. It was a Tractrac Chat, but one thing led to another for when we repositioned to get a better view it flew to some boulders where there was a pair of Rüppell's Korhaans and we had a good view of them as well. In the background a pair of Burchell's Coursers, a Southern African endemic, were running away across the stony desert. When we repositioned again to see them better we discovered more Tractrac Chats and disturbed a Sabota Lark that flew to a fence,

but the Karoo Long-billed Lark that flew at the same time was only really seen by Orlando. We repositioned once more, but failed to relocate the lark. However back near the korhaans there was a pair of Double-banded Coursers! We had really hit a purple patch and then as we drove on there was a pair of Namaqua Sandgrouse under another isolated tree.

The scenery became rockier and much more spectacular. Beneath the sweeping arc of the bridge crossing the Kuiseb River we found shade, a breeze and somewhere to park and have our picnic in the heat of the day, before continuing once again. Before long the landscape changed yet again as the rocks gave way to undulating stony and sandy plains for mile after mile. Quite a soporific part of the journey, but Orlando wasn't asleep when he saw a Gray's Lark along the edge of the road where the road maintenance grader had pushed up a low ridge of large stones. We had great views of yet another of the region's specialities as a small party fed amongst the stones and gravel. Eventually we neared Walvis Bay and found a number of shallow lagoons where richly coloured Lesser Flamingos were feeding along with a handful of Little Stints. Walvis Bay and along the coastal strip north towards Swakopmund has seen tremendous growth in recent years, so it was good to find that Swakopmund itself still retains its Germanic heritage. We had lost the sun for being close to the sea chilled by the cold Benguela Current the sky was overcast and it was degrees colder. Soon after we had checked into our hotel we set off on foot to bird along the seafront north towards Swakopmund Lagoon. Along the beach Hartlaub's Gulls behaved just like Black-headed Gulls at home, whilst offshore a few Cape Cormorants were passing.

The lagoon is formed by sand accumulating to block the Swakop River from reaching the sea during periods of poor rains. When there is a good rainy season the river breaks through to the sea once more. There were birds aplenty with Great White Pelicans and both Greater and Lesser Flamingos dominating the scene. Around the muddy margins wintering Curlew Sandpipers, Little Stints, Common Ringed Plover and a Common Greenshank mingled with the local Chestnut-banded Plover, Black-winged Stilt and Pied Avocet. Along the edge of a reedbed were Little Grebe, Cape Teal, Common Moorhen and a lone Purple Swamphen, whilst in the background were a few Little Egrets.

It was a productive walk, so we returned to the hotel to freshen up before going to the Tug Restaurant overlooking the South Atlantic Ocean for an excellent dinner.

#### **Thursday, 10 November**

Overcast until after lunch, when became sunny. 23°C

After breakfast we drove south from Swakopmund to the former South African enclave of Walvis Bay, home to the largest port along this stretch of the African coast, for the huge bay offers the safest anchorage for commercial shipping for probably thousands of kilometres. From a boat dock at the southern end of the harbour complex we set sail on the catamaran Silversand all dressed for a chilling voyage, but in spite of light misty drizzle for a few minutes as we departed the temperature although cool was not unpleasant.

The sea was calm and we were soon joined by several Great White Pelicans, a Cape Cormorant and a bull Cape Fur Seal. Their arrival interrupted the safety briefing for a few minutes as they all demanded to be fed with the pelicans in particular clambering rough shod over some passengers to get to the fish. A fur seal had better manners.

The guide was very informative giving highly detailed, but humorous, accounts of the oyster rearing industry along with other facts and figures about the bay and its environs. Birds were at a premium with just cormorants, terns and gulls being seen until we neared Pelican Point with its vast gatherings of Cape Fur Seals. By that time Fred had discovered a small viewing area above the bridge - just room for the six of us and we seemed to be the only passengers with binoculars! How crazy is that?

In the area around the point we had numerous sightings of Sooty Shearwaters as they headed south in ones and twos, some passing close to our vessel. Care had to be taken for at least two White-chinned Petrels were milling about the area, but their flight was rather more languid. We hoped for cetaceans and had to be satisfied with brief views of Bottle-nosed Dolphins, but nothing rarer nor anything larger this time. I spotted a distant African Penguin which was also seen briefly by Peter and a crew member, but we failed to relocate it when the skipper took us across to the area.

Returning to Pelican Point we watched small flocks of Sanderlings scurrying along the water's-edge under the gaze of Kelp Gulls and Cape Fur Seals. A number of 'commic' terns were beating up and down, but no sign of any marauding skuas on the lookout for an easy meal. Across the sand and beyond the seals roosted a large flock of Crested or Swift Terns and then we were encouraged to leave our vantage point and take our seats for a buffet lunch of finger bits, including fresh oysters and champagne! With that the wildlife watching took second place.

Once back ashore we were reunited with Orlando and then called in at a café for refreshments before we visited the waterfront at Walvis Bay, where we were soon watching shorebirds and photographing a few of the thousands upon thousands of Lesser Flamingos along the waterfront. The waterfront is on a par with the one at Cairns (Queensland) but here there were few walkers and joggers and many, many more birds ranging from Little Stints to massive Caspian Terns. A small group of terns rested on the beach closer to our vantage point, so we were able to compare short-legged immature Arctics with the corresponding age and longer legged Common Terns. Soon after Orlando picked up a Damara Tern, the local speciality. As the falling tide retreated it exposed sand and mud banks that attracted a flock of perhaps 1,000 Bar-tailed Godwits that flew in to join other wintering species from the Palearctic including Eurasian Whimbrel, a few Grey and Ringed Plover as well as Curlew Sandpipers.

We then headed out to the nearby salt works, where many shorebirds fed along the edges of lagoons close to the road. We had excellent views of familiar shorebirds, with Curlew Sandpiper in their thousands as well as Little Stint and Sanderling with a few Ruff, Marsh Sandpipers and Common Greenshank in some of the flocks. As we drove further into the area there came flamingos with thousands upon thousands scattered across the shallow waters as far as the eye could see until they just became a pink shimmer in the distance. There were huge numbers of Pied Avocets, running into the thousands, with a lesser number of Black-winged Stilts and equally large numbers of Curlew Sandpipers with Little Stints, Ruff and Sanderling mixed in with them. Over recent years the area has become a reliable site for a few Red-necked Phalaropes and today we found at least 13! We also had good views of a number of Chestnut-banded Plover and a few White-fronted Plover.

The terns really stole the show with perhaps as many as 10,000 'commic' terns resting on the sandy mud along with Sandwich and Black Terns. Small parties were constantly leaving the mass of bird and heading across the sand to the open ocean to fish in the food rich waters. Unfortunately the sand was too soft for us to follow for had we been able to do so we would surely have seen skuas. Back on the mud the main flock panicked every so often as if there was a Peregrine about and then settled down again once more. To us anyway there was no sign of a predator.

We returned the way we had come, seeing more of the same and marvelling at the sheer numbers of birds Walvis Bay supports. We were back at the hotel by 17:30 so had time to relax, or perhaps wander around town, before a superb dinner in the dining room.

### **Friday, 11 November**

Overcast initially, becoming sunny as we headed north along the coast. Up to 34°C

Before breakfast we were delighted to see an Orange River White-eye come to bathe at the fountain in the hotel garden although it did look somewhat scruffy by the end of its ablutions! After breakfast and leaving the hotel we headed north to visit Swakopmund salt works. This was small compared with the one we visited yesterday at Walvis Bay, but nevertheless it attracted a good variety of birds, including a flock of Black-necked Grebes, wintering Palearctic shorebirds and flamingos of both species. A huge guano platform only had a few small groups of cormorants this morning and in fact, apart from one distant huge gathering we saw north of Walvis yesterday, there were relatively few passing offshore. Beyond the salt works, from a vantage point overlooking the beach, we scoped three African Black Oystercatchers along the beach, where Ruddy Turnstone, Common Greenshank and Grey Plover were also noted.

Our next stop north was at the lichen fields that stretch inland from the road. Some 70 or so species of lichen are recorded from the area and a few drops of water showed how quickly the apparently lifeless lichens could spring into life. Along the coast, and for a few kilometres inland, the lichens receive moisture from the fog that

drifts in from the Benguela current on some 90 days a year. This delicate eco-system is so easily damaged by 4WD vehicles being driven off-road that the tracks they make can be 'permanent' for hundreds of years.

The Skeleton Coast was living up to its name for just south of Henties Bay the trawler Zeila came ashore in September 2008. She was little more than a hulk at the time as she was en route to the breaker's yard, but she broke her tow in Walvis Bay and ended up amongst different breakers near Henties, becoming a both a tourist attraction and home to a thriving colony of White-breasted Cormorants.

Henties Bay is a small, but expanding, community boasting a new shopping mall where we bought our lunch requirements and enjoyed warming hot drinks before beginning the drive inland that crossed mile after mile of featureless desert with nothing except for a line of telegraph poles marching relentlessly inland. The flat coastal plain gave way to hills as we approached Uis and entered Damaraland, a unique landlocked region of Namibia, whose name has been given to many species, such as Damara Hornbill and the deadly spurge *Euphorbia damarana*. At Uis we ate our picnic at the visitor centre. By now the temperature had risen from the mid-teens C to the mid 30°C!

Our route turned off north-west just before Uis and after just a few kilometres and after seeing several Sabota Larks we failed to connect with Benguela Long-billed Lark on the quartz and stony hillside. In fact there were precious few birds around with just a pair of Chat Flycatchers and a Common Fiscal being found. Pressing on our route took us deeper into Damaraland, with its red mountains, but the golden grasslands dotted with acacias had suffered badly in the drought and showed little in the way of grass. Further on as the scenery became more wooded the Mopane trees bore fresh green leaves.

By late afternoon we reached our lodge with its beautiful rondavel huts built into the huge boulders of a large kopi. Some of the party enjoyed the plunge pool before we climbed to the top of the hill behind the dining area for sundowners as the sun set in a cloudless sky bathing Damaraland in the orange light of the afterglow. As Pale-winged Starlings and Speckled Pigeons flew to roost, the only mammals seen were a few Springbok amongst the scattered Mopane trees below us.

### **Saturday, 12 November**

Cloudless and hot, with a refreshing breeze at times. 31°C.

After breakfast we drove for just a few minutes to the dry bed of the Aba Huab river, where immediately we came across five 'Desert' Elephants. They are just the same species as the ordinary African Elephants, but can manage on less water. We stayed with them for about half an hour as they stripped branches off the large Ana or Winter Thorns (acacias) growing in the sandy bed. There was plenty for the photographers to record, including close-ups of a fresh Elephant dumpling which Orlando disassembled to demonstrate how much passes through the animal's digestive system undigested!

From here it wasn't far to Twyvelfontein for a visit to the bushman engravings, a World Heritage site, before it became too hot. With a local guide we walked along stony paths to view the engravings that have been etched into the red sandstone over thousands of years. In many places across the Bushman's world of southern Africa there are ochre drawings beneath and on sheltered rock faces, but there are few places where the ancient peoples made engravings, and probably some of the finest examples are here at Twyvelfontein. We followed the path that meanders around huge sandstone slabs across which Giraffes, Mountain Zebras, Greater Kudus and Black and White Rhinos raced, walked or stood on the rock 'canvases'. Some of the animals with their hoof/paw print attached to either the foot or the tail might have served as a learning tool for the younger members of the nomadic people. The male Lion with five toes, rather than four, is now considered to represent a shaman. There are raised platforms in front of some of the better engraved rock faces to permit much improved viewing positions and to prevent people climbing the galleries for a better view. Whilst Ostriches and African Penguins appeared as engravings, there were 'real' birds too, although none was new, just the usual suspects - Pale-winged Starling, White-throated Canary, Mountain Wheatear, Red-eyed Bulbul and Cape Sparrow as well as doves and Speckled Pigeon.

On the way back to the lodge we detoured to the local campsite where soon we were watching an active party of Bare-cheeked Babblers. A pair of Pririt Batis responded well to playback as did a pair of White-tailed Shrike. The latter used to be thought of as a shrike, but recent studies have it to be more closely related to the Batis

family. There were good views too of a Damara Hornbill as it fed alongside Southern Grey-headed Sparrows. We also found our first wintering Willow Warblers, down from the Palearctic to warmer winter quarters. Well satisfied with the morning we returned to the lodge for lunch and a siesta before returning to the field at 16:00.

We headed away from the lodge only to stop after a few hundred yards for great views of Double-banded Sandgrouse beside the road. Our target was some low rocky hills and the *Welwitschia mirabilis* plants that grow on the hills. Although the specimens were not particularly large we could clearly see that there were just two leaves and that it was the wind that shredded them to make it look as if there were more. We found both male and female plants and as he was pointing them out Orlando talked us through the biology of this extraordinary and unique plant. One of the joys of this site was that there was no one else around for often footprints of other visitors spoil one's appreciation.

We still needed to see some of the local birds, so by returning to the Aba Huab we found some of them, and some fresh Elephant tracks too, but they might have been from this morning's small herd. Luckily we soon found a pair of Rüppell's Parrots, but against the light in an Ana Thorn. A Pearl-spotted Owlet answered the call and we had great views through the scopes. As we left the river bed for the last time we had further good views of Bare-cheeked Babblers, before returning to the lodge ahead of sunset, dinner and bringing the checklist up-to-date.

### **Sunday, 13 November**

Hot, sunny and clear. 36°C.

After breakfast we loaded the vehicle and hit the road, heading across Damaraland. Shortly after leaving the lodge we had good views of a party of Monteiro's Hornbill. We tried several places for Benguela Long-billed Lark without success, although at the first we turned up another pair of Herero Chats and enjoyed great views. The last place was just outside the Petrified Forest, but we chose not to have the guided tour of the Petrified Forest area although we did check out their facilities before exploring along the perimeter fence. An Acacia Pied Barbet was feeding on Mistletoe berries and a Yellow-bellied Eremomela and a pair of Great Sparrows were tour additions.

As we neared Khorixas we found a pair of Olive Bee-eaters that were probably breeding in the sides of a dry riverbed that cut through the surrounding Mopane woodland that was home to a gang of White-crested Helmet-shrikes. Alpine Swifts were passing overhead and like us could have been heading for the local sewage works. It was filthy and run down, but the birds loved it and judging by the tracks and broken fences Elephants did too! The main lagoon held Little Grebes, but little else for most birds favoured the next and muddier lagoon. There weren't as many birds as we have seen on some visits, but there was a good variety including Red-billed and Cape Teal, Egyptian Geese, South African Shelduck, Three-banded Plover, Wood Sandpiper, Ruff and Little Stint. African Palm Swifts sped overhead dwarfed by several Alpine and Bradfield's Swifts that were coming in to drink as well as a few Barn Swallows. We had two good birds. A Grey Plover was perhaps unexpected so far inland; a White-winged Tern perhaps less so.

After refuelling at Khorixas we took a cross country route to the Anderson Gate entrance to Etosha, stopping in the shade of large trees by a well-watered market garden at Fransfontein to enjoy our excellent boxed lunches from the lodge. We were in the company of Lesser Honeyguides and Rüppell's Parrots, then when a Pearl Spotted Owlet answered the call it attracted a Spotted Flycatcher and an Icterine Warbler.

We pressed on along quite well-graded roads passing dozens of European Bee-eaters before we crossed the main Kamanjab to Outjo road. Near the crossroads a broken pipe by a water tank was a lifeline to the birds of the surrounding very dry thorn bush countryside. It produced a steady stream of good birds - Namaqua Dove, Green-winged Pytilia and Black-faced and Violet-eared Waxbills were new. There was another Spotted Flycatcher as well as Kalahari Scrub-Robin and a few Scaly-feathered Finches.

We reached Etosha just after 17:00 and once checked-in at Okaukuejo, our rondavels near the waterhole were allocated. Before long the waterhole became compulsive viewing as first Giraffes drank and then a breeding herd of Elephants strolled in to provide entertainment for the rest of the afternoon. Birdwise the highlight was a stunning Crimson-breasted Shrike and a confiding Kalahari Scrub-Robin. Double-banded Sandgrouse were

just beginning to arrive as we assembled to leave for a dinner beneath the rising full moon and the stars, where our companions were marauding Black-backed Jackals, but they kept their distance.

After dinner we all watched the waterhole where Rufous-cheeked Nightjars spectacularly pursued moths attracted by the large floodlights. With a tally of four Black Rhinos, two White Rhinos and two male Lions in addition to yet more Elephants we went to bed well satisfied with another excellent day.

### **Monday, 14 November**

Very hot and almost cloudless during the day. 40°C

Before breakfast there were a few animals coming to the waterhole including six female Greater Kudu and a one horned Oryx. A pair of Tawny Eagles watched the comings and goings of numerous doves but failed to make a successful kill. A Red-necked Falcon sped by without hesitation or deviation.

This morning's drive took us north-west from Okaukuejo, towards the natural spring at Okondeka, across flat plains where just a few Springbok were seen. The area usually provides the challenge of lark i.d., but today apart from a few Spike-heeled Larks there were just African Pipits, Capped Wheatear and Ant-eating Chat.

Although Etosha Pan at Okondeka was dry, a spring provided sufficient water to attract large numbers of antelope, zebras and Ostriches to drink, which in itself suggested that the local pride of Lions was having an away day. As we continued the circuit which then looped south a Lappet-faced Vulture stood at a nest in a small acacia as a Black-chested Snake Eagle circled to the west.

Our return route took us south to Leeubron, but there seemed little about except for good views of Kalahari Scrub-Robin when we stopped for a comfort stop within a secure compound. The acacias in the area support large colonies of Sociable Weavers. One had been particularly large, but the tree had collapsed a few years ago from the sheer weight of the colossal nest that had accumulated over the years.

As we drove along there was an African Pygmy Falcon perched on top of a small acacia and a 'lump' in another turned out to be a Barn Owl seeking shade amongst its leafless branches. Not the best of views, but it's always nice to see a Barn Owl.

As the sun climbed higher, so the day became hotter and birds such as sandgrouse and Spotted Thick-knees sought shade beneath larger trees. The biggest surprise came when a Spotted Eagle Owl was well spotted doing the same, except that it was much closer to the road and staring at us with its huge yellow eyes. Those eyes were almost hypnotic, so it was perhaps not surprising that we all missed seeing the downy chick lying at the base of the tree a few inches away until Bron spotted it on her photos a few weeks after we returned!

Lunch was arranged at Andersson's Camp, but as we were passing Okaukuejo we made a brief stop and at the same time saw some good birds including Icterine Warbler and, for the photographers, an obliging Southern White-crowned Shrike and a Purple Roller near the reception area.

Andersson's Camp is just outside the park entrance and they greeted us with refreshingly cold face clothes and a welcome drink. There were good birds about including Jacobin Cuckoo, Groundscraper Thrush and a very confiding party of Bare-cheeked Babblers. From our table during lunch we could look across at a small waterhole that was attracting birds during the heat of the day with Cinnamon-breasted and Golden-breasted Buntings joining Great Sparrows, Violet-eared Waxbills and Black-throated Canaries. Actually around the dining area a male Short-toed Rock Thrush was a smart addition to the list.

After a period of relaxation we returned to Etosha and took the road to the waterhole at Newbrownii, soon to be surprised as we rounded a bend to find a Black Rhino, who was equally startled and decided to charge, only to pull out as Orlando took evasive action in a cloud of dust! It was all over in the blink of an eye so that no one even thought of a photo before the beast disappeared into the bush. We fared better with a Steenbok and a Northern Black Korhaan before reaching Gemsbokvlakte, where Kittlitz's Plover was the most notable sighting, whilst at Newbrownii it was just the usual suspects.

Orlando arranged another special dinner out on the lawns this evening and afterwards we migrated to the waterhole again, but there was little new with just two Black Rhinoceroses coming in, but the Rufous-cheeked Nightjars put on a great performance and we actually had good views of them perched on the ground near the floodlights. Nevertheless, it had been a most memorable day!

## **Tuesday, 15 November**

Very hot and sunny with increasing cloud to the south during afternoon. Looked like rain, but didn't. 40°C

The waterhole was quieter than yesterday before breakfast. After the meal, some of the party saw an African Hoopoe below the dining room, whilst the rest had to console themselves with a Rattling Cisticola when they tried to see it! Icterine Warbler and Chestnut-vented Tit-babbler were also noted.

Soon after we left Okaukuejo at 08:15 we were treated to cracking views of a male Northern Black Korhaan which, as it became more and more excited, took off in display just for Jillie. The first waterhole was Newbrownii, which we had visited yesterday afternoon. Springbok, Oryx, Ostrich and Red-capped Lark were classed as the usual suspects. A little further on we saw a Spotted Hyena briefly before it disappeared into a culvert beneath the road. Nearby a long line of Oryx walking steadily across the scrubby landscape were considered to be moving to the east of the park where rain had fallen recently

Rufous-eared Warbler was one of the day's target birds and within a minute of playback we were seeing it well and photographing the inquisitive bird shortly after that. As we watched, Orlando spotted a male Pallid Harrier flying steadily across the plains on the other side of the road. Ahead, on two acacias, were a pair of Lappet-faced Vultures, probably nesting. Nearby at Gemsbokvlakte things were quiet again, so without wasting too much time we continued to other waterholes, visiting Olifantsbad, Aus and Homob. At Olifantsbad there were Black-faced Impala and we added Long-billed Pipit to the list. At Aus Common Swifts were swooping down for a brief drink as they skimmed the water. We also saw Chestnut-backed and Grey-backed Sparrow-larks, Little Grebe (and nest), Wood Sandpiper and a White-winged Tern. As we left a pair of Red-breasted Swallows came to drink and a fine herd of Greater Kudu was heading towards the waterhole. Homob was quiet with Ruff (10) and a Tawny Eagle being the highlights. A roadside puddle gave us good views of a Plain-backed Pipit and a pair of Great Sparrows.

At Charitsaub we joined several other vehicles watching a pair of Lions that appeared to be taking a breather from mating Orlando's positioning of our Landcruiser was superb, so we had excellent views.

We by-passed the next waterhole at Sueda, preferring nearby Salvadora which overlooks Etosha Pan. We only saw more zebras and a few ducks and shorebirds, but there was a distant Secretarybird and also a Spotted Thick-knee. Word reached us of more Lions near Reitfontein, but before looking for them we looked first at the waterhole. An African Jacana was a good find and we also found our second White-winged Tern of the day and amongst the wintering shorebirds was a Marsh Sandpiper and a Grey Plover.

Most of the five female Lions we saw were lying in the shade of small trees and bushes, sated after feasting on a Blue Wildebeest they had killed earlier. Just one female was still tucking in. Pressing on we reached Halali on schedule and after lunch we searched unsuccessfully for an African Scops Owl, but Orlando met a man who did! Soon we were having great views of the diminutive owl. Also seen in the camp were Pearl Spotted Owlet, Bare-cheeked Babbler and Icterine Warbler.

We still had a long way to go and things to see. First stop of the afternoon session was at Goas waterhole. There were the usual wildfowl and shorebirds, but few other birds were coming to drink other than doves. A Common Sandpiper was an addition to the list and between the two pools we got close up and personal with Giraffes.

The next waterhole we visited was Chudop, a natural spring-fed waterhole unlike many in the park that are maintained by pumps. The day's only Elephant was there as well as more Giraffe and a pair of Golden Breasted Buntings. As we returned to the main road we stopped to enjoy great views of a pair of Double-banded Coursers. Unfortunately, it meant we missed a roadside Leopard by just a matter of minutes!

Just after we exited Etosha National Park we watched a gang of Banded Mongooses working their way along the field. It was just a few kilometres to our lodge, where the very comfortable rooms were quickly allocated. Half an hour later some of the party were out birding, wandering around the grounds and beyond. It was very quick, but earlier from the pool Bron had seen a Bearded Woodpecker. The call of Pearl-spotted Owlet brought in Marico Sunbirds. The weather was 'close' as building clouds were threatening and already producing rain to the south. Outside the property we discovered a party of three White-crested Helmet-Shrikes, an Icterine Warbler and finally a very confiding female Red-backed Shrike.

Next on the agenda was a show before dinner on the patio with a Common Duiker grazing on the lawns nearby.

### **Wednesday, 16 November**

Partly overcast. Hot and humid. 33.5°C

During breakfast we had great views of a Crimson-breasted Shrike in the garden and as we left we saw our first Red-billed Spurfowl, a species that we should have seen well before now. On the drive into the Etosha National Park there were stunning views of an adult Martial Eagle perched in a roadside tree. On nearing Fort Namutoni a pair of Crested Francolins fed beside the road before wandering off into the bush.

Once inside the grounds of the old German fort complex we had an excellent session calling up birds with the Pearl-spotted Owlet call. Once the Red-eyed Bulbuls arrived then so did Black-backed Puffback, Black-crowned Tchagra and Amethyst Sunbird as overhead flew a small flock of Wattled Starlings to land in a tree across the road.

We took the road to Andoni across the causeway dividing the currently dry Etosha and Fischer's Pans. Turning off the 'main' road we visited Klein Okevi and then Groot Okevi. Things were relatively quiet at both. At the former we had a flock of Red-headed Finches, Namaqua Sandgrouse and when two swallows passed through one was Grey-rumped and the other a White-throated Swallow. At Groot Okevi we watched Black-faced Impala at the waterhole as Namaqua Doves flew in to drink. Further north the waterhole at Tsumcor was quite unproductive, although Giraffe and Greater Kudu were drinking and a large flock of whydahs, both Shaft-tailed and Long-tailed Paradise Whydahs, were coming to drink as well. With the advent of the rains the males were beginning moult into their breeding finery. As we pressed on northwards the clouds started to clear away.

As we reached the vast Andoni Plains large numbers of Wildebeest and somewhat fewer Plains Zebra could be seen for there was still sufficient golden grass from the rains six months or more ago to sustain so many animals. No doubt there were Lions around too for in the distant heat haze some 50 vultures spiralled up from the ground on a thermal. Unfortunately larks were at a premium for although there were hundreds if not thousands of Red-capped Larks everywhere other species were very few and far between. Just one Eastern Clapper Lark and a handful of Pink-billed were located. The crowded waterhole was dominated by Wildebeest and Red-capped Larks, but the highlight was a pair of Blue Cranes. When we returned later to see if there was anything new there were 12 of them, about a quarter of the species northern population. The rest are in South Africa. We had good views of a number of Palearctic shorebirds including Marsh Sandpiper and Common Greenshank side by side. Kittlitz's and Chestnut-banded Plover were the commonest shorebirds present. Four Burchell's Coursers were a nice find.

On several tours now we have visited a spouting borehole several kilometres to the north of the Park's King Nehale Gate and as it often produces good birds we now try to visit it each tour. Today was no exception. With the surrounding plains being salty and grazed by the locals' cattle as well as by Springbok and Wildebeest, the flow from the borehole being sweet water (fresh) is appreciated by all as well as by a good variety of waterbirds. On the way there were good views of an adult Black-chested Snake-Eagle as it took off near the road. At the fountain the most conspicuous birds were Pied Avocets and Black-winged Stilts. Wildfowl were the usual Cape Teal, Egyptian Geese and a pair of sleeping South African Shelduck. Shorebirds included Marsh Sandpipers and most of the other Palearctic wintering species and dozens if not hundreds of Chestnut-banded and Kittlitz's Plover. Alas there was no Caspian Plover today, but there was a Saddle-billed Stork by way of compensation and as we headed back towards the park more Burchell's Coursers were seen in the shade of thorn bushes.

As rain clouds gathered we returned to the lodge and to lunch. After a much appreciated siesta we returned to Etosha National Park as the first drops of rain fell although we didn't have nearly as much as surrounding areas judging by the intensity of the black clouds to the south and east. We stayed relatively local visiting Klein Namutoni waterhole and Dik-dik Drive, areas near Fort Namutoni. A Leopard Tortoise posed well for us at the road side and thankfully wandered off to safety when other vehicles arrived.

The main interest at Klein Namutoni were the birds with Cape and Red-billed Teal working their way around the margins where Ruff, Marsh Sandpiper and Common Greenshank fed. A juvenile Wood Sandpiper looked a bit odd, its sluggish and crouched behaviour indicating that it might be unwell. As we began Dik-dik Drive, what should we see but a pair of Damara Dik-diks delicately browsing on the emerging leaves of small bushes. There were great photo opportunities of this, Africa's smallest antelope. Bird wise there wasn't much around the drive with Swainson's Spurfowl being the only addition to the list. The landscape, badly beaten up by Elephants, was dramatic with the sun breaking through to enhance the fresh green leaves of acacias against the very black clouds beyond.

Before leaving the area completely we returned to Klein Namutoni to see if there was anything new and were rewarded with a family of Black-backed Jackals outside their den. There were two pups, one of which was suckling from its mother, and both the parents. We enjoyed watching the scene of domesticity until we ran out of time and had to leave the park before it closed at sunset.

Dinner was in the dining room, although the skies were clearing and the moon rising. Afterwards Orlando pointed out the calls of Fiery-cheeked Nightjar but it failed to respond to playback and nor did the Barn Owl that Fred had seen earlier in the day near his chalet as it was being mobbed by drongos.

#### **Thursday, 17 November**

Hot and sunny after early cloud 35+°C

After breakfast and checking that our luggage was on board the Land Cruiser we birded along the track where before the meal I had seen White-browed Scrub-Robin very well. Thankfully we were not disappointed and we also had good views of Blue and Violet-eared Waxbills, Violet-backed Starling, a female Scarlet-chested Sunbird, Long-billed Crombec and White-crested Helmet-Shrikes. A flock of about 100 Common Swifts passed overhead when it looked as if rain was imminent, but it failed to materialise.

After hundreds of miles of graded roads and dust, it was a pleasure to be driven on tarmac once more. Quite soporific in fact, but for us and not Orlando thank goodness! Soon we saw an African Hobby, weeks earlier than Orlando would have expected. It was rather flighty and flew to a more distant tree as we pulled up. Further on we came across a small flock of Red-billed Quelea.

Lake Otjikoto is a large sinkhole and has become a stop for tourists travelling through the area. Birds in the surrounding woodland have to compete with a local dancing and singing troupe, but nevertheless we saw African Paradise Flycatcher, Southern Masked Weavers and had great flybys from a pair of Jacobin Cuckoos in response to playback. The lake is some 100m in diameter and plunges to unknown depths. It is home to an species of fish, *Tilapia guinasana*, endemic to nearby and introduced to Lake Otjikoto. Perhaps that's what attracted a pair of Little Grebes, White-throated Cormorants, Striated Heron and a Pied Kingfisher.

We passed through Otjiwarongo towards the Germanic town of Omaruru, stopping for our picnic beneath a roadside acacia. An Ashy Tit was singing nearby and it was seen when a Pearl-spotted Owlet appeared along with Pririt Batis and a Burnt-necked Eremomela. At Omaruru we really got stuck into looking for Violet Woodhoopoe, but alas without success. The local water treatment works has attractions in its own right and today four White-winged Terns patrolled its murky waters as Barn and Pearl-breasted Swallows, Brown-throated Martin, Alpine, Little, Palm and White-rumped Swifts skimmed the surface from time to time. Of course there were ducks and shorebirds - Cape and Red-billed Teal, Wood and Marsh Sandpipers, Little Stints, Ruff and Three-banded Plover fed along the damp margins. Best of all was a vagrant Broad-billed Sandpiper! So a good collection of birds and several new ones for the list.

Pressing on we soon turned off onto a gravel road that took us to Erongo Wilderness Lodge, a beautiful tented lodge nestling amongst bare granite hills and thorn scrub on the edge of the Erongo Mountains. On reaching

the lodge the well-appointed luxury tents were allocated. Each had its own en-suite facilities and a patio with deck chairs making it an ideal place to relax at the end of a tour. Tea and coffee were on the go in the dining area where, on some rocks just outside, an overflowing birdbath attracted a few birds as well as a Dassie Rat.

We were joined for dinner by my son Roger, who farms southwest of Etosha where I would be staying for a few days before flying back home later. As we assembled for the meal a pair of Freckled Nightjars flew around and called from the granite kopi beside the dining area. We had our last dinner beneath the stars of the African night and accompanied by wine courtesy of Ornitholidays and Fred. During the meal a waiter pointed out a Caracal walking beside the floodlit waterhole below us, but sadly it was one of the few occasions that no-one had their binoculars!

### **Friday, 18 November**

Hot & sunny again.

It was a fine clear morning when we woke. Behind the tents the fluty song of a Rockrunner was heard by Orlando. At the dining area we had great views of a pair of Hartlaub's Spurfowl, dozens and dozens of Rosy-faced Lovebirds, Cape Buntings and Green-winged Pytilia feeding on scattered seed outside on the rocks below along with doves, Pale-winged Starlings, Great Sparrows and a Dassie Rat.

As the group prepared to load up for a game drive on their way back to the main road with Orlando I said goodbye. Our amiable party would be heading for Windhoek airport to catch their flight across to Johannesburg and to their overnight intercontinental connection with British Airways back to the UK as Roger took me back to the farm via Otjiwarongo and Outjo; a round trip for him of over 700 kilometres! We saw a Steppe Buzzard and European Bee-eaters on our journey. At the farm the temperature was over 40°C as what could have been some rain clouds retreated eastwards.

*Thankfully Tony and Jillie filled in the missing hours of this report for me as follows:*

Sadly the Rockrunner eluded even local guide Paulo and Orlando. Highlights were a pair of Monteiro's Hornbills in nearby bushes, and two Verreaux's Eagles flying a considerable distance away. The heat deterred much bird activity, although the lovebird extravaganza before breakfast more than compensated - stunning, and unforgettable!

On reaching the airport Orlando, outstanding to the last, found some official at the airport to fast-track us through the check-in queues....! On arrival in Johannesburg there was time to explore the shopping areas before boarding the BA flight to London.

### **Saturday, 19 November**

The flight to Heathrow was uneventful, and we arrived 10 minutes ahead of schedule, with our bags amongst the first, before going our separate ways. It was a bit colder than we had become used to!

### **Acknowledgments**

Over the years I have been fortunate to do the majority of Ornitholidays' tours to Namibia. This tour was yet another memorable one. The country is in the grip of a serious drought, so things were rather different birdwise from most of the previous tours as ten checklist 'write-ins' testified. In Orlando we had an excellent guide and driver who is proud of his Damara heritage. His birding and natural history knowledge is second to none and he was a mine of information about this unique country, its background and its peoples. Thank you Orlando, I can't wait to repeat this tour with you again next year. Thanks to those of you who have contributed photos for this report. Thanks to Tony and Jillie for filling in the last hours of the tour. Finally thank you all for coming, for the great company, humour and your help in various ways throughout the tour. I hope it won't be too long before we meet up on another Ornitholidays' tour to another fascinating destination – there are plenty to choose from in the brochure!

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February 2017

### Itinerary and Weather

- 05 November** Overnight British Airways flight from Heathrow to Johannesburg
- 06 November** Arrival at Johannesburg. Midday connection with Air Namibia to Windhoek. Afternoon siesta. Overnight Windhoek.  
Heavy shower with hail. 23°C
- 07 November** Day transfer to Sossus Dune Lodge with picnic lunch at Spreetshoogte en route.  
Fine with light cloud p.m. 32°C
- 08 November** Early morning visit to Sossusvlei and Deadvlei with picnic breakfast. Lunch at lodge.  
Siesta followed by late afternoon visit to Sesriem Canyon.  
Very hot and sunny. 39°C
- 09 November** Transfer to Swakopmund via Solitaire, Kuiseb Canyon (picnic lunch) and Walvis Bay.  
Late afternoon walk to Swakop Lagoon.  
Hot and sunny 35°C inland, overcast and much cooler on coast 15°C
- 10 November** Morning boat trip around Walvis Lagoon with lunch on board. Afternoon birding around southern end of bay and saltworks.  
Overcast a.m. becoming hot & sunny, stiff breeze p.m. 23°C.
- 11 November** Brief visit Swakopmund Saltworks, lichen fields, a ship wreck and Henties Bay, before transfer to Damaraland birding en route with picnic lunch at Uis. Dinner and overnight at Camp Kipwe. Overcast initially becoming hot and sunny away from coast. 20+°C on coast, hotter inland 35°C.
- 12 November** Morning exploration of Aba Huab River for Desert Elephant followed by visit to the bushman engravings at Twyvelfontein, Picnic at lodge, siesta, before further exploration of Damaraland. Hot & sunny, slightly cooler 31°C.
- 13 November** Transfer to Etosha via Petrified Forest, Khorixas Water Treatment Works and Fransfontein (lunch). Overnight at Okaukuejo Rest Camp.  
Very hot & sunny. 37°C
- 14 November** Morning game drive to Okondeka and Leeubron. Lunch at Andersson's Camp.  
Afternoon game drive to Newbrownii and Gemsbokvlakte water-holes.  
Very hot & sunny. 40°C
- 15 November** Transfer to Mushara Lodge via water-holes at Newbrownii, Gemsbokvlakte, Olifantsbad, Aus, Homob, Charitsaub, and Salvadora in morning. Lunch at Halali Rest Camp. Afternoon continued east visiting Goas and Chudop. Exit Etosha NP. Dinner and overnight Mushara Lodge. Very hot and sunny. 40°C
- 16 November** Morning game drive to Andoni Plains via water-holes at Klein Okevi, Groot Okevi and Tsumcor, visiting fountain north of King Nehale Gate. Lunch at Mushara. Siesta. p.m. game drive to Klein Namutoni and Dik-dik Drive.

Partly cloudy. Cooler after p.m. rain, becoming sunny. 35°C.

**17 November** Morning transfer to Erongo via Lake Otjikoto, Otjiwarongo and Omaruru. Afternoon visit to Omaruru water treatment works.  
Very hot & sunny 35+°C

**18 November** Morning transfer to Windhoek Airport via Okahandja. Afternoon flight to Johannesburg and onward connection to London.  
Hot & sunny. 35°C

**19 November** Early morning arrival at London Heathrow.



**Pale-winged Starling**



**Terns**



**Oryx**



**Damara Dik-dik**

## CHECKLIST OF SPECIES SEEN DURING TOUR

No of days recorded	Locations	Abundance scale
1 2h means seen	W = Windhoek area and the highlands to the south	1 = <5 seen
on 1 day and heard	N = Namib to Walvis Bay including Sossusvlei and Namib-Naukluft Park	2 = 5-9 seen
on 2 other	S = Skeleton Coast from Walvis Bay north to Henties Bay	3 = 10-99 seen
	D = Damaraland including Twyfelfontein, Aba Huab and Huab Rivers and Khorixas area	4 = 100-999
	E = Etosha Pan National Park area	5 = 1,000-9,999
	O = Erongo area including Omaruru	6 = 10,000+
	> = seen on journey to ....	
(E)	Endemic to southern Africa (south of Zambezi)	
(NE)	Near-endemic to southern Africa	

SPECIES	No of days recorded	Locations	Abundance Scale	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Common Ostrich	9	N	D E	3 <i>Struthio camelus</i>
Helmeted Guineafowl	8	N	D E	3 <i>Numida meleagris</i>
Crested Francolin	1		E	1 <i>Peliperdix sephaena</i>
Hartlaub's Spurfowl (NE)	1		O	1 <i>Pternistes hartlaubi</i>
Red-billed Spurfowl (NE)	3		E O	2 <i>Pternistes adspersus</i>
Swainson's Spurfowl (NE)	1		E	1 <i>Pternistes swainsonii</i>
Egyptian Goose	6	W	S D E O	2 <i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>
South African Shelduck (E)	2		D E	1 <i>Tadorna cana</i>
Cape Teal	6		S E O	4 <i>Anas capensis</i>
Red-billed Teal	4		D E O	3 <i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>
African Penguin	1		S	1 <i>Spheniscus demersus</i>
White-chinned Petrel	1		S	1 <i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>
Sooty Shearwater	1		S	3 <i>Puffinus griseus</i>
Little Grebe	5		S D E O	3 <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Black-necked Grebe	1		S	3 <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
Greater Flamingo	3		S	4 <i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>
Lesser Flamingo	4		S	6 <i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>
Woolly-necked Stork	1		E	1 <i>Ciconia episcopus</i>
Saddle-billed Stork	1		E	1 <i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>
Marabou Stork	1			1 <i>Leptoptilos crumeniferus</i>
Green-backed (Striated) Heron	1		>O	1 <i>Butorides striata</i>
Western Cattle Egret	2		E	1 <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Grey Heron	3		S E	2 <i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Little Egret	3			2 <i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Great White Pelican	3		S	4 <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>
Cape Gannet (E)	2		S	1 <i>Morus capensis</i>
Crowned Cormorant (E)	1		S	1 <i>Phalacrocorax coronatus</i>
Bank Cormorant (E)	1		S	1 <i>Phalacrocorax neglectus</i>
White-breasted (Great) Cormorant <sup>1</sup>	3		S >O	3 <i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>
Cape Cormorant (E)	3		S	4 <i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>
African Pygmy Falcon	2	N	E	1 <i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>
Rock (Common) Kestrel <sup>2</sup>	5	N	D E	1 <i>Falco rupicola</i>
Greater Kestrel	4	N	E	1 <i>Falco rupicoloides</i>
Red-necked Falcon	2	N	E	1 <i>Falco chicquera</i>
African Hobby	1		E	1 <i>Falco cuvierii</i>
Lanner Falcon	1		E	1 <i>Falco biarmicus</i>
Secretarybird	2		E	1 <i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>
White-backed Vulture	2	W	E	3 <i>Gyps africanus</i>

Lappet-faced Vulture	3					E	1	<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>			
Black-chested Snake-Eagle	1					E	1	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>			
Brown Snake-Eagle	1				D		1	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>			
Bateleur	1					E	1	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>			
Pallid Harrier	1					E	1	<i>Circus macrourus</i>			
Pale Chanting Goshawk (NE)	9		N		D	E	O	3	<i>Melierax canorus</i>		
Gabar Goshawk	1					E	1	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>			
Tawny Eagle	4					E	1	<i>Aquila rapax</i>			
Verreaux's Eagle	1						1	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>			
Martial Eagle	1					E	1	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>			
Kori Bustard	4					E	1	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>			
Rüppell's Korhaan (NE)	5		N		D		1	<i>Eupodotis rueppellii</i>			
Red-crested Korhaan	1	2h			D	E	1	<i>Eupodotis ruficrista</i>			
Northern Black Korhaan (E)	3					E	2	<i>Eupodotis afroaoides</i>			
(African) Purple Swamphen <sup>3</sup>	1				S		1	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>			
Common Moorhen	1				S		1	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>			
Blue Crane (E)	1					E	3	<i>Anthropoides paradiseus</i>			
Spotted Thick-knee	2					E	1	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>			
African Black Oystercatcher (E)	1				S		1	<i>Haematopus moquini</i>			
Black-winged Stilt	6				S	D	E	O	3	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	
Pied Avocet	4				S		E	5	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		
Blacksmith Lapwing	7		W		S	D	E	O	3	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>	
Crowned Lapwing	4					D	E	3	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>		
Grey Plover	4				S	D	E	3	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		
Common Ringed Plover	2				S			3	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		
Kittlitz's Plover	2						E	3	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>		
Three-banded Plover	5		N		S	D	E	O	3	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>	
White-fronted Plover	2				S			3	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>		
Chestnut-banded Plover	3				S		E	3	<i>Charadrius pallidus</i>		
African Jacana	1						E	1	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>		
Bar-tailed Godwit	2				S			5	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>		
Common Whimbrel	1				S			2	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		
Marsh Sandpiper	3				S		E	3	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>		
Common Greenshank	5				S	D	E	3	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		
Wood Sandpiper	4					D	E	3	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		
Common Sandpiper	3						E	O	1	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	
Ruddy Turnstone	2				S			3	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>		
Sanderling	2				S			4	<i>Calidris alba</i>		
Little Stint	7				S	D	E	O	4	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	
Broad-billed Sandpiper	1							O	1	<i>Calidris falcinellus</i>	
Curlew Sandpiper	3				S			5	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>		
Ruff	5				S	D	E	O	3	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	
Red-necked Phalarope	1				S			3	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>		
Burchell's Courser (NE)	2		N				E	3	<i>Cursorius rufus</i>		
Double-banded Courser	3		N				E	1	<i>Smutornis africanus</i>		
Kelp Gull	3				S			4	<i>Larus dominicus</i>		
Grey-headed Gull	2				S			1	<i>Larus cirrocephalus</i>		
Hartlaub's Gull (E)	3				S			4	<i>Larus hartlaubii</i>		
Caspian Tern	1				S			3	<i>Sterna caspia</i>		
Sandwich Tern	2				S			4	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>		
Swift (Crested) Tern	3				S			4	<i>Sterna bergii</i>		
Common Tern	2				S			5	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		
Arctic Tern	1				S			3	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>		
Damara Tern (NE)	2				S			2	<i>Sterna balaenarum</i>		
White-winged Tern	3					D	E	O	1	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	
Black Tern	1				S			4	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>		
Namaqua Sandgrouse (NE)	5		N			D	E	O	3	<i>Pterocles namaqua</i>	
Double-banded Sandgrouse (NE)	3						E	3	<i>Pterocles bicinctus</i>		
Burchell's Sandgrouse (NE)	1						E	4	<i>Pterocles burchelli</i>		
Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon) ( <i>Introduced</i> )	7		W		S	D		O	3	<i>Columba livia</i>	
Speckled Pigeon	9				N	S	D		O	3	<i>Columba guinea</i>
Cape Turtle-Dove	9				N		D	E	O	4	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>
Laughing Dove	11		W		S	D	E	O	3	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	

Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove	4					E	2	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>	
Namaqua Dove	4					E	O	3 <i>Oena capensis</i>	
Rosy-faced Lovebird (NE)	4	W			D		O	4 <i>Agapornis roseicollis</i>	
Rüppell's Parrot (NE)	2					D		1 <i>Poicephalus rueppellii</i>	
Grey Go-away-bird	9	W				D	E	O	2 <i>Corythaixoides concolor</i>
Jacobin Cuckoo	2						E	>O	1 <i>Clamator jacobinus</i>
African Cuckoo	2		>N				E		1 <i>Cuculus gularis</i>
Barn Owl	2						E	O	1 <i>Tyto alba</i>
African Scops-Owl	1						E		1 <i>Otus senegalensis</i>
Spotted Eagle-Owl	1	1h	N				E		1 <i>Bubo africanus</i>
Pearl-spotted Owlet	4					D	E	>O	1 <i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>
Rufous-cheeked Nightjar	-	1h					E		1 <i>Caprimulgus rufigena</i>
Fiery-necked Nightjar	2						E		2 <i>Caprimulgus pectoralis</i>
Freckled Nightjar	1							O	1 <i>Caprimulgus tristigma</i>
African Palm Swift	8	W		S			E		3 <i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>
Alpine Swift	4	W				D		O	3 <i>Apus melba</i>
Common Swift	2						E		4 <i>Apus apus</i>
Bradfield's Swift (NE)	3	W	N			D			3 <i>Apus bradfieldi</i>
Little Swift	7	W					E	O	4 <i>Apus affinis</i>
White-rumped Swift	1							O	1 <i>Apus caffer</i>
White-backed Mousebird	2						E		1 <i>Colius colius</i>
Purple Roller	2						E		1 <i>Coracias naevius</i>
Lilac-breasted Roller	1	W							1 <i>Coracias caudatus</i>
Pied Kingfisher	1							>O	1 <i>Ceryle rudis</i>
European Bee-eater	5					D	E	O	4 <i>Merops apiaster</i>
Olive Bee-eater	1					D			1 <i>Merops superciliosus</i>
African Hoopoe	1						E		1 <i>Upupa africana</i>
African Grey Hornbill	3	W				D	E		2 <i>Tockus nasutus</i>
Monteiro's Hornbill	3	W				D			3 <i>Tockus monteiri</i>
Red-billed Hornbill <sup>4</sup>	3						E		3 <i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>
Damara Red-billed Hornbill <sup>5</sup> (E)	1					D			1 <i>Tockus damarensis</i>
Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	8	W				D	E	>O	3 <i>Tockus leucomelas</i>
Acacia Pied Barbet (NE)	3		N			D	E		1 <i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>
Lesser Honeyguide	1					D			1 <i>Indicator minor</i>
Bearded Woodpecker	1						E		1 <i>Dendropicos namaquus</i>
Pirit Batis (NE)	4	W				D	E	>O	1 <i>Batis pirit</i>
White-tailed Shrike (NE) <sup>6</sup>	2		N			D			1 <i>Lanioturdus torquatus</i>
White-crested Helmet-Shrike	3					D	E		2 <i>Prionops plumatus</i>
Bokmakierie (E)	2		N					O	1 <i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>
Black-crowned Tchagra	2						E		1 <i>Tchagra senegala</i>
Black-backed Puffback	3					D	E		1 <i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>
Crimson-breasted Shrike (NE)	5						E		1 <i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>
Brubru	1					D			1 <i>Nilaus afer</i>
Southern White-crowned Shrike (NE)	3						E		2 <i>Eurocephalus anguitimens</i>
Red-backed Shrike	1						E		1 <i>Lanius collurio</i>
Lesser Grey Shrike	4		>N				E		1 <i>Lanius minor</i>
Common Fiscal	7		>N	S		D	E	>O	1 <i>Lanius collaris</i>
Fork-tailed Drongo	7	W	>N			D	E	O	3 <i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
African Paradise Flycatcher	3					D	E	>O	1 <i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>
Cape Crow	5		N			D	E		3 <i>Corvus capensis</i>
Pied Crow	7		N	S		D	E	O	3 <i>Corvus albus</i>
Indian House Crow ( <i>introduced</i> )	1			S					1 <i>Corvus splendens</i>
Carp's Tit (NE)	2					D		O	1 <i>Parus carpi</i>
Ashy Tit (E)	1							>O	1 <i>Parus cinerascens</i>
Brown-throated (Plain) Martin	1							O	1 <i>Riparia paludicola</i>
Banded Martin	1						E		1 <i>Riparia cincta</i>
Barn (European) Swallow	8			S		D	E	O	4 <i>Hirundo rustica</i>
White-throated Swallow	1							>O	1 <i>Hirundo albigularis</i>
Pearl-breasted Swallow	1							O	2 <i>Hirundo dimidiata</i>
Grey-rumped Swallow	1							>O	1 <i>Pseudhirundo griseopyga</i>
Rock Martin	10	W	N			D	E	O	3 <i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>
Greater Striped Swallow (E)	2		>N					>O	2 <i>Cecropis cucullata</i>
Red-breasted Swallow	4						E	>O	1 <i>Cecropis semirufa</i>

Eastern Clapper Lark <sup>7</sup> (E)	1					E	1	<i>Mirafra fasciolata</i>		
Sabota Lark (NE)	5		N		D	E	1	<i>Mirafra sabota</i>		
Karoo Long-billed Lark <sup>8</sup> (E)	-	1h	N				h	<i>Certhilauda subcoronata</i>		
Dune Lark (E)	1		N				1	<i>Certhilauda erythrochlamys</i>		
Spike-heeled Lark	2					E	3	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>		
Gray's Lark (NE)	1		N				2	<i>Ammomanes grayi</i>		
Red-capped Lark	4					E	4	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>		
Pink-billed Lark (E)	2					E	3	<i>Spizocorys conirostris</i>		
Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark	1					E	3	<i>Eremopterix leucotis</i>		
Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark (NE)	3					E	3	<i>Eremopterix verticalis</i>		
Rattling Cisticola	1					E	1	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>		
Desert Cisticola	3					E	2	<i>Cisticola aridulus</i>		
Rufous-eared Warbler (E)	1					E	1	<i>Malcorus pectoralis</i>		
Black-chested Prinia (NE)	5		N		D	E	1	<i>Prinia flavicans</i>		
Grey-backed Camaroptera	1					E	1	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>		
Icterine Warbler	4					E	1	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>		
Willow Warbler	1				D		1	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	1				D		1	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>		
Burnt-necked Eremomela	1					>O	1	<i>Eremomela usticollis</i>		
Long-billed Crombec	1					E	1	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>		
Chestnut-vented Tit-babbler (NE)	3		N		D	E	1	<i>Parisoma subcaeruleum</i>		
Red-eyed Bulbul (NE)	10		W		S	D	E	O	3	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>
Black-faced Babbler	1					E	1	<i>Turdoides melanops</i>		
Bare-cheeked Babbler (NE)	3				D	E	3	<i>Turdoides gymnogenys</i>		
Rockrunner (E)	-	1h					1	<i>Achaetops pycnopygius</i>		
Orange River White-eye (E)	1				S		1	<i>Zosterops pallidus</i>		
Wattled Starling	1					E	2	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>		
Cape Glossy Starling	9		W	N		D	E	O	3	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>
Burchell's Starling (NE)	1			>N			3	<i>Lamprotornis australis</i>		
Violet-backed Starling	1					E	1	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>		
Pale-winged Starling (NE)	9		N		D		O	3	<i>Onychognathus nabouroup</i>	
Groundscraper Thrush	3					E	1	<i>Psophocichla litsipsirupa</i>		
Kalahari Scrub-Robin (NE)	3					E	1	<i>Cercotrichas paena</i>		
White-browed Scrub-Robin	1	1h				E	1	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>		
Herero Chat (NE)	2		N		D		1	<i>Namibornis herero</i>		
Capped Wheatear	1					E	1	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>		
Mountain Wheatear (NE)	6		N		D		3	<i>Oenanthe monticola</i>		
Tractrac Chat (NE)	2		N		D		2	<i>Cercomela tractrac</i>		
Familiar Chat	4		N	S		E	1	<i>Cercomela familiaris</i>		
Ant-eating Chat (E)	3					E	3	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>		
Short-toed Rock-Thrush (NE)	2					E	O	1	<i>Monticola brevipes</i>	
Chat Flycatcher	5		N		D	E	3	<i>Melaenornis infuscatus</i>		
Marico Flycatcher (NE)	5		N		D	E	2	<i>Melaenornis mariquensis</i>		
Spotted Flycatcher	1				D	>E	1	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	2					E	1	<i>Nectarinia senegalensis</i>		
Marico Sunbird	2					E	1	<i>Nectarinia mariquensis</i>		
Amethyst Sunbird	1					E	1	<i>Nectarinia amethystina</i>		
Dusky Sunbird (NE)	10		W	N	S	D	E	O	1	<i>Nectarinia fusca</i>
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	10		W	>N		D	E	O	3	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>
Sociable Weaver (E)	5			>N	>S	D	E	3	<i>Philetairus socius</i>	
House Sparrow	6		W	N	S		O	3	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	
Great Sparrow	4					D	E	O	2	<i>Passer motitensis</i>
Cape Sparrow (NE)	6		N	S		D		3	<i>Passer melanurus</i>	
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	6					D	E	O	3	<i>Passer diffusus</i>
Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver	1					D		1	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>	
Scaly-feathered Finch (NE)	5		N			D	E	3	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>	
Southern Masked-Weaver	12		W	N	S	D	E	O	3	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>
Red-billed Quelea	2					D	E	3	<i>Quelea quelea</i>	
Green-winged Pytilia	3					D	E	O	2	<i>Pytilia melba</i>
Red-headed Finch (NE)	4		W			E	3	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>		
Blue Waxbill	1					E	3	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>		
Violet-eared Waxbill (NE)	3					D	E	2	<i>Granatina granatina</i>	
Common Waxbill	3				S		2	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>		

Black-faced Waxbill	2		D		1	<i>Estrilda erythronotos</i>	
Shaft-tailed Whydah (NE)	3	>N		E	3	<i>Vidua regia</i>	
Long-tailed Paradise-Whydah	2		D	E	3	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>	
Cape Wagtail	3		S	D	3	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>	
African Pipit	4			E	1	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>	
Long-billed Pipit	2			E	1	<i>Anthus similis</i>	
Plain-backed Pipit	1			E	1	<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>	
Black-throated Canary	3			E	O	2	<i>Serinus atrogularis</i>
White-throated Canary (NE)	3		D		3	<i>Serinus albogularis</i>	
Cinnamon-breasted (Rock) Bunting	1			E	1	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>	
Golden-breasted Bunting	3			E	1	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>	
Cape Bunting (NE)	1				O	2	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>

#### TAXONOMIC NOTES

- 1 White-breasted Cormorant is treated as a split from Great Cormorant by some African authors
- 2 Rock Kestrel – African authors split this from Common Kestrel
- 3 Purple Swamphen complex has been split - formerly known Purple Gallinule
- 4 Red-billed Hornbill complex has recently been split, so that Central and Southern African birds are Southern Red-billed Hornbill
- 5 Damara Hornbill is a recent split from Southern Red-billed Hornbill
- 6 White-tailed Shrike – formerly thought to be a shrike, but now considered to be more closely related to the Batis family
- 7 Clapper Lark has been split into Cape, Agulhas and Eastern, which has the widest distribution
- 8 With splitting of Long-billed Lark, Benguela and Karoo races are now species in their own right.

MAMMALS	No of Days Recorded	Abundance Scale	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Baboon, Chacma	5	3	<i>Papio ursinus</i>
Bat, Common Slit-faced	2	1	<i>Nycteris thebaica</i>
Caracal	1	1	<i>Felis caracal</i>
Dassie, Rock (Hyrax)	5	3	<i>Procavia capensis</i>
Dik-dik, Damara	2	2	<i>Madoqua kirkii</i>
Dolphin, Bottle-nosed	1	1	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>
Duiker, Common	3	1	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>
Elephant, African	4	3	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>
Gemsbok (Oryx)	7	4	<i>Oryx gazella</i>
Giraffe, Southern	4	3	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>
Hartebeest, Red	1	2	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>
Hyena, Spotted	1	1	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>
Impala, Black-faced	5	3	<i>Aepyceros melampus petersi</i>
Jackal, Black-backed	6	2	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>
Klipspringer	1	1	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>
Kudu, Greater	4	3	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>
Lion	2	2	<i>Panthera leo</i>
Meerkat (Suricate)	1	3	<i>Suricata suricatta</i>
Mongoose, Banded	3	2	<i>Mungos mungo</i>
Mongoose, Slender	2	1	<i>Galerella sanguinea</i>
Rat, Dassie	3	1	<i>Petromys typicus</i>
Rhinoceros, Black	2	2	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>
Rhinoceros, White	1	1	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>
Seal, Cape Fur	2	5	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>
Shrew, Elephant (Bushveld)	1	1	<i>Elephantulus intufi</i>
Springbok	10	4	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>
Squirrel, Ground	4	3	<i>Xerus inauris</i>
Squirrel, Tree	4	2	<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>
Steenbok	6	1	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>
Warthog	6	2	<i>Phacochoerus aethiopicus</i>
Wildebeest, Blue	5	4	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>
Zebra, Plains	4	4	<i>Equus quagga</i>
Zebra, Hartmann's Mountain	1	4	<i>Equus zebra hartmannae</i>

**Note:** It seems that various subspecies of Giraffe and Burchell's Zebra have been elevated to full species

**REPTILES**

- Leopard Tortoise
- Marsh Terrapin
- Namibian Rock Agama
- Etosha Agama
- Kalahari Tree Skink

**BUTTERFLIES**

- Brown-veined White
- African Monarch
- Velvet-spotted Blue (at Solitaire)

**INSECTS**

- Green Milkweed Locust (at Galton House)

*Phymateus viridipes*

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

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**Bare-cheeked Babbler**



**Kori Bustard**



**Double-banded Courser**



**Blue Cranes**



**Martial Eagle**



**Hartlaub's Spurfowl**



**Dune Lark**



**Photographing Dune Lark in shade of vehicle**



**Rosy-faced Lovebird**



**Common Ostrich chick**



**African Scops-Owl**



**Spotted Eagle-Owl**



**Rufous-eared Warbler**



**Southern Masked Weaver**



**Greater Kudu**



**Black Rhinoceros and Southern Giraffe**



**Southern Giraffe**



**Plain's Zebra**



**African Elephant**



**African Elephants**

**Front cover: Crimson-breasted Shrike**

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