

Namibia's Etosha Pan & Skeleton Coast

Naturetrek Tour Report

4 - 20 November 2011



Elephant in Musth



Kudu



Springbok



Pale Chanting Goshawk

Report compiled by Zul Bhatia
Images courtesy of Allan Worden



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Summary

This is the report of a 16-day trip to some of the best wildlife and scenic sites of Namibia. Thirteen guests and three leaders (including two local) travelled by 4x4. Exceptional rains earlier in year meant that many of the sites that in 'normal' years would be devoid of water had some left, with the result that numbers of waterbirds were higher than usual. The primary aim of the trip was to observe birds and mammals, but we took notice of other wildlife too. 234 bird species were recorded (three more than the same trip last year) and just over 40 species of mammal were also recorded. Great thanks go to our two superb guides, Festus & Jeremia who not only did some very hard driving & guiding and had excellent spotting skills but also were very knowledgeable about all the things we asked about!

Day 1

Friday 4th November

Travel to Namibia

All of us except Barbara & Max (who were coming from Australia), met up in the departure lounge at Heathrow Airport for our 1510 BA flight to Frankfurt where we connected with the Air Namibia flight to Windhoek departing at 2000.

Day 2

Saturday 5th November

Hot and sunny

Windhoek to Namib Grens Farm

We arrived at Windhoek more or less on schedule at 0700. Entry formalities didn't take too long, and we were soon out. Awaiting us were Festus and Jeremia, our local guides who were to be with us for the whole trip. We started our bird list on the airport grounds with Little and Palm Swifts, Cape Wagtail, Red-eyed, Bulbul and Cape Glossy Starling. Soon after leaving the airport, we started the mammal list too and en route to Windhoek (40km away) we saw Red Hartebeeste, Gemsbok and Chacma Baboon.

We called in at River Crossing Lodge to pick up Barbara & Max and had some great birds in the grounds there including Swallow-tailed Bee-eater and Blue Waxbill. We stopped at a supermarket complex in Windhoek for the driver/guides to pick up some snacks for our journey and we were off after a brief stop there. The scenery was often superb en route to our next destination which was the Namib Grens Camp. Progress was not particularly brisk from Windhoek as we were fortunate in seeing good wildlife, including Montiero's Hornbill, Short-toed Rock Thrush, Pale Chanting Goshawk, African Hoopoe, Lilac-breasted Roller, Lappet-faced Vulture, Mountain Flycatcher and Groundscraper Thrush. New mammals were Springbok, Yellow Mongoose and Warthog.

After settling into our rooms at Namib Grens, where we arrived at c.1415, we had lunch which included Bobotie (traditional Namibian dish with minced beef, spices & raisins). After lunch, we had a tour briefing after which there was time for a short siesta before most of us set off on a bird watch as far as a nearby lake in the grounds of Namib Grens. It was excellent for birds and we rapidly added birds to our trip list with highlights being Spur-winged goose, S.African Shelduck, our only Maccua Ducks of the trip, Kittlitz's Plover, etc.

Day 3

Sunday 6th November

Hot and sunny (were told it was 36 degrees!)

Namib Grens Farm to Kulala Desert Lodge

Most people joined the pre-breakfast bird walk in the grounds of Namib Grens from 0630 to 0830. At times, the birding was hard but we added birds including Hamerkop, Pygmy Falcon, Sabota Lark, Kalahari Scrub Robin and Scarlet-chested & Dusky Sunbirds to the trip list.

After a hearty breakfast, we left Namib Grens at c0940 and headed for the dunes of the Namib-Naukluft NP, one of the largest national parks in Africa. We stopped at the Spreetshoogte Viewpoint for twenty minutes to admire the vastness of the desert spread out below us. Shortly after this, we had brilliant views of a Hartmann's Mountain Zebra on a hillside right next to the road.

Just after mid-day, we got to Solitaire where we stopped at the famous 'Moose McGregor's Desert Retreat'. Their Apple Strudels are famed throughout Namibia and most of us sampled them. It was also great for photography with Cape Sparrows, Social Weavers and Striped Ground Squirrels almost feeding out of our hands! Nearby were a whole load of old brightly painted cars gradually being buried by the sand over the years. All classic photography subjects...

We left Solitaire at 1250 and arrived at Little Kulala Lodge right on the edge of the Namib-Naukluft NP just after 1430. The lodge is set inside a private nature reserve and there was lots of wildlife to see on the way in. It was an amazing place to stay with fabulous views and luxury accommodation in separate 'chalets'. The Assistant Manager, Kobus was quite a keen birder and alerted us to possibilities. The General Managers Dawie & Christa also helped to look after us really well during our stay there. The veranda areas were great to chill out with a cold drink and watch wildlife. Mountain Wheatears were common and tame there, and we also had two Secretary Birds in flight from there.

After a short break, we set off for a short drive to a beautiful area with a natural spring. We heard that there had been quite a few sandgrouse recently. There were many dozens of Speckled Pigeons and a few other species coming to drink and although we enjoyed them, there was more enthusiasm when Festus & Jeremia set up a table and snack and started pouring sundowner drinks! It was a beautiful sunset too. Suddenly, the first Double-banded Sandgrouse appeared at the spring, soon to be joined by more and more until eventually there were at least 100+ present. It was wonderful looking at them through the scope and they were calling away too. Very atmospheric!

Day 4

Monday 7th November

Very hot and sunny

Dead Vlei, Sossus Vlei and Sesriem Gorge

We had a very early start today with a wake up call for most at 5am, leaving the lodge after breakfast just after 6am. Five minutes later and we were entering the Namib-Naukluft NP, the first people to enter that day. Our first stop was 'Dune No 1' where we spent nearly an hour looking successfully for Dune Lark, one of the very special birds of the park. At first, only one or two people saw it, but eventually after it had led us a merry song and dance, we all had great views down to a few metres from us. Somehow it seemed fitting to have had to work for it amongst those vast dunes. Namaqua Sandgrouse were very obvious at that time of the day and we must have had at least 150.

Next we stopped briefly at 'Dune No 45' for a few photographs of the stunning scenery and to capture the light and shadows at this very early time of the day. This particular dune was a very popular climb and lots of people were already high up there. We stopped briefly to look at eight roadside Burchell's Coursers, the only ones of the trip. Soon we were at the parking place for the start of the walk to Dead Vlei, one of the most famous landmarks of the Namib-Naukluft NP. Joan, Barry, Michael & Festus took a circuitous route to the ancient pan which involved them in a bit of a climb and then a steep descent through deep sand, whilst the rest of us took the easy route and relaxed for a while taking photos at Dead Vlei itself.

We were back at the vehicles at 1045 and next went to Sossus Vlei, another very famous place (probably more popular as it involved no walking to get to the pan!). There we had tea & coffee which Festus & Jeremia had brought, and checked out the birds on the lake which had formed in the pan (due to exceptional rains earlier in the year). There was quite a good variety with highlights being Avocet, Great Egret and Greenshank. On our way back to the tarmac, some of us had a Red-necked Falcon in flight, but it became invisible as soon as it landed in a tree! Eventually, after much effort, everyone saw it – a good bird.

At the edge of the Elim Dune, Festus & Jeremia set up a table and chairs under a large tree and produced a wonderful picnic lunch with cold drinks including beers. It was brilliant. We left there just after 2pm and about a quarter of an hour later, we were at the Sesriem Canyon, where after a short explanation from Festus & Jeremia about the formation of the canyon, we descended in to it. Although it was much cooler in the canyon than outside, it was still very hot. Rachael felt a bit unwell in the canyon for a while, and missed the evening meal too, but thankfully was the next day.

It was Eve's birthday today and to her surprise, after our meal, a large group of Kulala Lodge staff arrived with much singing and dancing, carrying a cake with candles! Eve was a great sport and joined in the singing and dancing!

Day 5

Tuesday 8th November

Mainly hot and sunny, but cooler later in day

Kulala Lodge to Walvis Bay

We reluctantly said goodbye to Kulala Desert Lodge at 0710 as we started the long journey to Walvis Bay via some amazing scenery with numerous stops en route for wildlife or features of interest. We had some good birds en route to Solitaire including Black-chested Snake Eagle, Lanner and Rosy-faced Lovebird. We also had great views of a Black-backed Jackal and a pair of Ground Squirrels who posed beautifully right next to our vehicle for photos. At Moose McGregor's Desert Retreat at Solitaire, we once again enjoyed the apple strudel and cakes! At 1040, we were back on the road.

Highlights en route during the next stage of the journey were several Chat Flycatchers, a Black-shouldered Kite and about a dozen Hartmann's Mountain Zebra together. We stopped for about ten minutes to admire the scenery and take photos at the viewpoint overlooking the Quiseb Pass, before dropping down to the dry river itself where we had a picnic lunch under a large *Albizia* tree. The exposed roots and buttresses made for very nice seats. Apart from the odd short stop to identify a bird (eg: Tractrac Chat), our next proper stop was to admire and photograph three magnificent specimens of *Aloe dichotoma* (Quiver tree or Kokerboom). Now rare and endangered, the desert areas of Namibia are a very important habitat for this species. These particular specimens were 10 -12' tall. – the world's tallest Aloe. Shortly afterwards, we saw a lovely lone Meerkat on sentinel duty. We also puzzled for a while over some larks, which we eventually decided were Stark's Larks. We had been through some very varied and amazing scenery today, but even so, we were pleased to get to our very comfortable Langholm Hotel in Walvis Bay. We were made very welcome by the Assistant Manager Christi. Our evening meal was at a very fancy French Restaurant. The food was amazing!

Day 6

Wednesday 9th November

Sunny and windy. Cool at times

Pelagic trip and Walvis Bay Lagoons

We left Langholm Hotel just after 0800 for the harbour for our pelagic trip. Everyone came along including Zul, but not Festus (not enough room) or Jeremia (who didn't fancy it and made some excuse about having to go and buy a marker pen to mark our water bottles!).

Our skipper was called Mossy and he was quite a showman with a good sense of humour. We enjoyed his company. Unfortunately, although we saw quite a few Sooty Shearwaters, three White-chinned Petrels, many Cape Gannets and a Pomarine Skua amongst other wildlife, it was generally a quiet trip. Four African Black Oystercatchers on an isolated sandy area were nice, and the only ones of our whole trip. We spent a bit of time following reports of dolphins too, but to no avail. We certainly spent a long time at sea (about four and a half hours), longer than we expected to be. Highlights of the trip were undoubtedly a very tame Cape Fur Seal which climbed in to our boat and allowed itself to be stroked, and the sparkling wine, savoury snacks and copious oysters which Mossy served up towards the end after anchoring the boat!

Back on land, we were met by Festus & Jeremia and taken for lunch to the well-known Willie Probst's Bakery. As most people had already eaten a lot of snacks on the boat, not many main courses were ordered but quite a few fancy ice creams were. We were back at the Langholm Hotel by 1500 and out again at 1630, this time going to the Walvis Bay lagoons. As it was so windy, we did most of our birding from inside the vehicles except at one spot. There were phenomenal numbers of birds about and we had excellent views of many of them. We estimated at least 500 Black-necked Grebe, hundreds of Black-winged Stilts, 500+ Little Stints, 1000+ Sanderling and many thousands of Curlew Sandpiper. Scarcer waders that were also very nice to see were White-fronted Plover and Marsh Sandpiper. It was great for terns too, and we had Caspian, Swift, Sandwich, Common and Arctic around.

Dinner was at the very posh Raft Restaurant, built out on a pier. Despite being quite expensive, it was packed. The food was amazing and really nicely presented including little labels identify what seafood you were just about to tuck in to. Barry had a "Prawn Frenzy" (probably the most expensive main course there [\$400 Namibian]), and it was so impressive looking, that Zul took a picture of it! It had been an amazing day...

Day 7

Thursday 10th November

Cooler than recently and very windy

Walvis Bay Lagoons and Swakopmund

This morning, we explored Walvis Bay for birds. There were phenomenal numbers of birds here - one of the biggest concentrations of birds in Southern Africa. The numbers of Curlew sandpipers and Little Stints was again amazing. At one place where we got the scopes out, we had brilliant views of so many species including Grey Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Ruff and Whimbrel. We also explored the salt lagoons thoroughly as well as the bay proper. Highlights during the morning included 15 Red-necked Phalarope (including one showing a lot of breeding plumage), several Marsh Sandpipers, many Lesser Flamingos and an elusive Chestnut-banded Plover that sadly eluded the other vehicle.

By popular demand, we stopped at Spar Supermarket and bought some snacks for lunch instead of going to a restaurant. Most people felt they had been overindulging! In the afternoon, one group (including Zul) went to Swakopmund for an hour to just wander round, look at shops and perhaps buy souvenirs. It was very nice to do this. The other group wanted to avoid the town and went to the nearby beach and lagoon instead. On the way back, we stopped to look at a small estuary, but it had got quite windy by then and we didn't see much new.

After dropping the others off at the Langholm, Peter & Zul went back to the Walvis Bay lagoons with Jeremia to enjoy the waders and terns again. We looked for the Chestnut-banded Plover again, but no luck. The town had been without power all day which was affecting us all for things like showers, TV, etc but luckily just before darkness fell, the electricity came back. We had our evening buffet meal at the Pelican Restaurant which was inside the Protea Hotel.

Day 8

Friday 11th November

Windy and cool at times.

Walvis Bay to Damaraland Camp

As we had a very long drive today, we had an early breakfast and were away just after 0730. We stopped for about half an hour at the guano platforms on our route north. The sheer numbers of birds present there was incredible; with Cape Cormorants being the dominant species. The one Crowned Cormorant we saw was a first for the trip. We made another stop just before Henties Bay to look more closely at one of the shipwrecks that give that bit of coast the name Skeleton Coast. According to Festus, the wreck was not that old. Already, White-breasted Cormorants were nesting on it. We stopped at Henties Bay to buy fuel and use the loos before heading north again.

Our next major stop was at the Cape Cross seal colony. Just before we got there, we stopped to look closely at the very fragile lichen fields which are just sustained by mist and condensation. Festus showed us an experiment whereby very dark, dry and brittle lichens became colourful and leafy within seconds by pouring water on them. Very impressive! The Cape Fur Seal colony was a real spectacle - there was so much activity, noise and atmospheric smells too. The viewing was well organised with a raised walkway giving great views and photo opportunities. There were plenty of very young pups, including the odd dead ones which attracted scavengers including Kelp Gull and Turnstone.

We stayed at the seal colony for nearly an hour and then adjourned to the nearby Cape Cross Lodge where we relaxed with tea and cakes whilst Festus & Jeremia collected our lunch boxes and we left there at 1310. We had lunch beside the vehicles at the 'Seal Wreck', another boat that had met its end on this notorious stretch of coast. This one went down in the 1970s and there was not much of it left. Some of us walked down to near it to get some exercise and walk off some lunch.

Our next stop was at the Huab Lagoon, which was at the mouth of the same river that we were to explore from the Damaraland Camp. It was a lovely spot and there were a few birds about highlights being Avocet, White-fronted Plover, Curlew Sandpiper and Swift Tern.

We entered the Skeleton Park National Park about an hour later and drove for some hours through a very bleak, desolate and dusty place. Festus & Jeremia certainly did a great job as at times, it was difficult to see what was the road and what was just desert! We made the occasional brief stop to look at wildlife and got out of the car to admire and photograph a particularly large specimen of *Welwitschia mirabilis*, a plant considered a living fossil and restricted to the Namib Desert within Namibia and Angola. The plants are very long-lived, with some individuals estimated to be more than 2000 years old!

The plant was actually quite common in the areas we drove through in the late afternoon and we saw many dozens. It was great to see them here rather than the more usual location near Sossus Vlei in the Namib-Naukluft NP (where we were a few days ago) where most people encounter it. At that location, the plant is inside a metal cage making it very difficult to get quality photographs!

We finally made it to the wonderful Damaraland Camp at 1910, tired and dusty but we had had a great day with many things of interest en route. Maggie, the manager and a couple of her colleagues sang some songs for us on our arrival. The day wasn't over yet as the staff had arranged for us to have our evening meal in a traditional Boma (a wooden stockade). This boma was hidden from the main lodge and the short walk with torches in the African night added to the anticipation and atmosphere. The staff sang various songs and announced the menu in several languages including a click language. The atmosphere created was brilliant. The night was punctuated by a neighbour's donkey wandering in to our camp and braying very loudly!

Day 9

Saturday 12th November

Sunny and warm. Cool in late afternoon

Exploring Damaraland area

At breakfast, we had great views of the very striking Bokmakierie which appeared to be common here in the camp as we often heard it. Left our Damaraland Camp just after 0800 and drove to Twyfelfontein to look at the rock engravings there. We took our time getting there as there was so much wildlife to see en route and we didn't get there till 1130. Highlights were brief views of Common Quail, Common Buttonquail, Rosy-faced Lovebird and Crowned Lapwing.

Our guide at Twyfelfontein was Charles and he gave us a fascinating insight in to the area and the engravings. The visitor centre was a very impressive building and was constructed out of old oil drums. The series of platforms and viewpoints on the trails have been tastefully designed to facilitate the experience of the engravings without causing damage. The Twyfelfontein Valley has been inhabited by [Stone-age hunter-gatherers](#) approximately 6,000 years ago. They made most of the engravings 2,000 to 2,500 years ago. The area was uninhabited by Europeans until after [World War II](#), when a severe drought caused white [Afrikaans](#) speaking farmers ([Boers](#)) to move in. Although it was a very interesting visit, it was very hot and some of us took advantage of the cold drinks being sold at the centre afterwards.

We got back for a late lunch at the Damaraland Camp at 1445 and went out again at 1630, this time to look for the desert-adapted Elephants that are found in this area. Festus and Jeremia knew the area very well and were familiar with the sorts of places the elephants would use, but even so, due to the dense vegetation alongside the dry river bed that we searched, it was a bit like looking for needle in a haystack. After quite a long search, we found a couple and then more until eventually we had thirteen of them. They were very obliging and were a mixture of ages including very tiny ones. Cameras were clicking away from every conceivable angle. It was magic! For a while, the birds were neglected. We had seen a fair few new birds too this afternoon including African Hawk-eagle, our first Double-banded Courser and on our way home, we had great views of three Stanley's Bustard in the evening light.

Day 10

Sunday 13th November

Hot and sunny

Damaraland Camp to Andersson's Camp, Ongava Nature Reserve

Up bright and early today (as usual) and we left Damaraland Camp just after 0700. It was a sad farewell as everyone had enjoyed the camp so much and the staff had been outstanding. Not far from the camp, we had great views of a Benguela Long-billed Lark – a restricted range species. The last new bird at the camp was a White-throated Canary. At a roadside rock face, there were some Rock Hyrax enjoying the early morning sun. We also had a nice stop at the Petrified Forest for about three-quarters of an hour. The place was absolutely brimming with fossilised remains and we saw a few nice lizards too including the Etosha Agama. A sighting of a pair of the endemic White-tailed Shrike by the roadside was very welcome.

At 1025, about one kilometre before Khorixas, we hit the tarmac again....a welcome change from the gravelled roads we had been driving on for some days. European Bee-eaters were obvious at the roadsides just north of Outjo. We got to the entrance to the private Ongava Nature Reserve, where Andersson's Camp was (our base for the next two nights) at 1255. From the tarmac, it was about 7 km to the actual camp and within minutes, we were watching a lovely Steenbok resting under a tree and saw many birds en route to the camp including Bare-cheeked Babbler.

At the camp, we were greeted warmly by Corne and Sylvia (the joint managers) and at the water hole by the camp, a Black Rhino was awaiting us! There was so much other activity that it was really difficult to tear ourselves away from that spot. A magnificent Great Kudu arrived as did several Red Hartebeeste, Black-faced Impala, and Waterbuck. Birds were extremely numerous at the water hole including the very pretty Cinnamon-breasted and Golden-breasted Buntings. We also saw a Gabar Goshawk here.

Our lovely buffet lunch was followed by some free time which some of us spent overlooking the water hole. We went out again at 1600. We found four Lions (the first of the trip) by a water hole and as they were a bit skittish, we watched them from a distance. Later on, at a different water hole, we saw eight more Lions and these ones were not bothered by our presence at all. It was great to watch their interactions with each other. Birds were plentiful and notable sightings were Southern Pied Babbler and our first Kori Bustard. As we were heading home, we were very fortunate indeed to see a Honey Badger (or Ratel) on the road ahead of us carrying a youngster! A rarely seen sight!

After dinner, we went on a night drive from about 2030 to 2200. It wasn't a particularly eventful night drive, but we did see a couple of Flap-necked Chameleons, a Polecat and a nightjar. The best sighting was five White Rhino at a water hole, but unfortunately Jeremia's car alarm went off for no apparent reason, spooked them and they went off.

Michael had decided not to come on the night drive and we found him back at the camp water hole very happy, with a bottle of wine and surrounded by nightjars! We worked out that the majority (if not all) of the nightjars were Rufous-cheeked and we counted 18 together at any one time. It was sheer magic. The memory of those birds hunting and calling so near us will long stay with us.

Day 11

Monday 14th November

Very hot and sunny

Andersson's Camp to Okaukuejo, Etosha NP

We had a very early start today, setting off from the camp just after 0600 and came back for a hearty breakfast at 0830. The undoubted highlight of the drive was to get out of the vehicles, be briefed by Festus on how to behave as we stalked some White Rhino on foot. Festus had a rifle and both he and Jeremia were very experienced trackers and it was all very exciting.

We left Andersson's Camp at 1030 and quarter of an hour later we were at the entrance of Etosha NP. Within minutes, we were watching a huge bull Elephant that decided to cross the tarmac road we were on. We also took a detour loop and visited a water hole where there were several Plains Zebra, Warthog, Impala and Gemsbok. A Martial Eagle was also seen nearby.

We arrived at the Okaukuejo Camp, our base for the next two nights just after noon. The place was very busy, and as it was going to take a while to get our rooms, we decided to get everyone to the restaurant to have an early lunch whilst Jeremia & Zul sorted the rooms out. The rooms were all very comfortable with mod cons, and the large water hole was amazing - there was always activity there any time of the day or night. The grounds were very good for birds too including a few waders such as Ruff and Wood Sandpiper and a Verreaux's Eagle Owl which we saw there several times.

We went out on a drive from 1600 to 1900. Highlights were several African White-backed Vultures, our first Bateleur Eagle and Northern Black Korhaan. Double-banded Coursers were very common and we must have seen at least 25, including with chicks. After dinner, some of us went to the water hole. Two Black Rhino were present and there were a few nightjars too (Rufous-cheeked was present, but here may have been another unidentified one too).

Day 12

Tuesday 15th November

Very hot and sunny

Exploring Okaukuejo area, Etosha NP

We were out of our accommodation complex before anyone else at opening time (0610). We had a great early morning drive and saw lots of wildlife but not the Cheetah which had been reported from that area recently. Wildlife highlights included several Steenbok, Etosha Agama (an endemic lizard), Chestnut-backed Sparrow Lark, Northern Black Korhaan, several Greater Kestrels, three Secretary Birds, and masses of larks (Red-capped and Grey-backed Sparrow-Larks) at a water hole. We were back for a well-deserved breakfast just after 0900.

After breakfast, most of us adjourned to the water hole which we had to ourselves. There was constant activity and the Verreaux's Eagle Owl was showing itself too. Lunch was at different times for different people. Some went back to the water hole, others had a rest and some explored the grounds which were very good for birds including African Cuckoo (the only place we saw it), African Hoopoe, Ashy Tit, Black-chested Prinia, Green Sandpiper and Namaqua Sandgrouse.

Several Elephants were encountered on the afternoon drive including one in 'musth' (a periodic condition in bulls, often characterized by highly aggressive behaviour, accompanied by a large rise in reproductive hormones - [testosterone](#) levels in an elephant in musth can be as much as 60 times greater than in the same elephant at other times). It was nice to watch three Giraffes drinking at a water hole. Best bird of the afternoon was a sub-adult male harrier which was identified as a Pallid at the time (the Naturetrek trip at the same time in the previous year had one too), but detailed examination of the photographs of the bird back in the UK showed that it was in fact a sub-adult male Montagu's Harrier – a rarer bird!!!

Other birds seen in the afternoon included many Red-headed Finches, a Lanner and a Common Scimitarbill. We spent a fair bit of time at the Aus Water hole – a lovely spot where amongst many other species, we had several Wood Sandpipers, Hottentot & Red-billed Teal, 20+ Little Grebes, Namaqua Sandgrouse, etc. Shortly after we left there, we came across a group of Swainson's Spurfowl. There was a Black Rhino and calf at the Neuwbroni Water hole and we also saw a Slender-tailed Mongoose and a couple of Spotted Hyenas that afternoon.

At the water hole in our camp after dinner, there were five Black Rhinos together, an Elephant and two Black-backed Jackals too. Several Rufous-cheeked Nightjars were present too.

Day 13

Wednesday 16th November

Hot and sunny but clouded over later

Okaukuejo to Namutoni via Halali Camp, Etosha NP

Some of us were at the water hole shortly after 0500! There were dozens of Double-banded Sandgrouse arriving to drink, several nightjars were present and there were a couple of Blacksmith Plovers. The only mammals were a couple of Springbok, a Giraffe and a couple of jackals. We left Okaukuejo Camp at 0715 and slowly wound our way to Halali where we were to have lunch. There was great excitement around 8am when an African Wild Cat was spotted very close to our vehicle – a rarely observed species. A very obliging roadside Black-shouldered Kite was popular with the photographers. At one point, our route was blocked by a group of Elephants (at least 12) and we enjoyed watching them for quite a while. One young bull made threatening moves in our direction and we could have forced it off the road to get past, but Festus & Jeremia decided to leave the group in peace, so we turned round and took a different route.

Although we had been on the edge of the Etosha Pan a number of times, we hadn't actually been right out on it, so Festus & Jeremia took us to Etosha Lookout - a place where we could get out and experience it for ourselves. It was blisteringly hot there and we only stayed briefly. Shortly afterwards, we had a Lesser Grey Shrike (first one of the trip) and then we came across a small wetland (Salvadora Pan) with three Blue Cranes! This endangered species is not always encountered on these trips, so it was great to see. Two of the three birds were colour-ringed. At Reitfontein Pan, we had a couple of African Jacanas and a Three-banded Plover. We also had a White Rhino en route to Halali.

We arrived at Halali at about 1130 and went straight to the water hole, but it was very quiet there, the best sighting being a Eurasian Hobby that sailed past. Most of us decided to walk the short distance to the restaurant and bird watch en route there. Zul got chatting to a local who showed him three beautiful African Scops Owls roosting quite low down in a tree, so everyone was called to see them. They posed beautifully for photos.

Lunch was a very nice buffet and the staff were especially nice. After lunch, there was some time to explore the immediate area and we saw some wildlife including the very localised Violet Wood-hoopoe, a Flap-necked Chameleon, and Striped Tree Squirrel. Our departure was delayed by a report of three White-faced Scops Owls roosting nearby and we all had great views of them too. We finally left just after 1400, getting to Namutoni (our next base) at 1720. We called in at a couple of more water holes (Goas and Nuamses) en route. At the latter, we had two different groups of Elephants (13 in one group, 11 in the other) visiting to drink/play. They provided us with much entertainment.

At Namutoni, we had a nice surprise. The ground agents had booked us all in for a night drive! We set off at about 2000 and were back about 2230. On the night drive, we saw many of the animals we were seeing during the day, but they looked eerie in the red-filtered light. The best sighting was a Cape Fox (the only one of the trip) which we watched for many minutes including seeing it pounce a few times. We also saw about half a dozen Spotted Hyenas, sometimes very close to our vehicle.

Day 14

Thursday 17th November

Overcast and not so hot. A few drops of rain.

Exploring Namutoni area, Etosha NP

We were out early again today, leaving camp at about 0615 and getting back for breakfast at just after 0830. The rest of the morning was free, so some of us went to the water hole or birding in the grounds. The Banded Mongooses that lived in the grounds were very entertaining.

We set off for the afternoon drive at 1400 (much earlier than 'normal') as we were going to explore several areas to the north of Namutoni. Because of exceptional rains earlier in 2011, there was an abundance of water around (in some years, the pan would be dry by now) and we had phenomenal numbers of waterfowl (especially next to the Doringdraai loop), albeit many of them were quite distant. The sheer numbers of birds (eg: 2000+ Avocet, 200+ Wood Sandpiper, 300+ Greater Flamingo, etc.) was amazing. The highlight of the afternoon was superb views of three Painted Snipe at Klein Okevi water hole. We carefully looked at any Aquila eagles we saw and identified two Steppe Eagles as well as the 'normal' Tawny Eagles. There was a 'controversial' bird – Tchagra which was identified as Brown-crowned by Zul and Black-crowned by a couple of other people - each was adamant that it was the species they had called!

We finished off the drive by going to Klein Namutoni, the nearest water hole outside our camp. We watched hundreds of Red-billed Teal, a few other ducks and quite a few mammals coming to drink before heading home. Festus, who was driving the first vehicle back, saw two leopards crossing the road well ahead of their vehicle, raced there to let everyone see them and radioed us, but by the time we got there, there was no signs of them. We were back at the camp at 1840.

Day 15

Friday 18th November

Mainly cloudy and overcast with occasional sun. A few spots of rain

Namutoni, Etosha NP to Waterberg

We were at the exit gate at 0605, but although the official gate opening time was 0610, the three security guys at the gate wouldn't let us through until 0620 when they had received clearance from the main office! Very frustrating! It was apparently to stop people leaving without settling their bills.

For some reason, Tawny Eagles were amazingly numerous today and we counted at least 18! We were very careful to look closely at any that were nearby through the telescope to rule out Steppe Eagle, but all we saw well were Tawny. At Klein Namutoni, a Tawny was starting to eat a Red-billed Teal that was still moving!! At Kalkheuwel Water Hole, there was a bull Elephant that drank an amazing amount of water. Other notable sightings were 26 Marabou Storks together and two Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters. We were back for breakfast at about 0945.

We left Namutoni Camp at about 1030 and said goodbye to Etosha NP at 1045. It had been a great stay here. We stopped for nearly an hour at Lake Otjikoto, apparently one of only two natural lakes in [Namibia](#). It is a sinkhole lake, created by a collapsing [karst](#) cave and is located 20 km outside of [Tsumeb](#). There was a small group of very photogenic children here, spectacular views and some new birds for the trip including Green-backed Heron, Lesser Striped Swallow, Paradise Flycatcher, Pied Kingfisher and Senegal Coucal.

We stopped at Tsumeb to buy snacks (at Spar!) for a picnic lunch which we had by the roadside a bit further south. We also stopped for refuelling, loos and ice creams at Otavi filling station. Unfortunately, Festus's vehicle had developed some sort of diesel pump problem, so was a bit sluggish to get going and on hills and he phoned the office in Windhoek and they sent a replacement vehicle which was awaiting us at Otjiwarongo. We transferred all our stuff to this new vehicle and set off again at 1630. About an hour later, we turned off the main tarmac and took the gravelled road for the few remaining kilometres to the Waterberg Park. Around the reception area, there were some Burchell's Starlings and a couple of African Hoopoe.

The evening meal was interesting as there were some unusual items on the menu. Barry had Slippery Snails for his starter and Max had Crocodile for his main course! Barry & Joan walked back to the accommodation chalets and were rewarded with sightings of a Common Genet.

Day 16

Saturday 19th November

Mainly cloudy with occasional sun. Quite humid

Waterberg to Windhoek

Most people came out on an early morning bird walk from 0630 to 0830. We took a low level trail at the base of the Waterberg Escarpment and added a number of new birds to the trip list including Black-backed Puffback, Brubru and Ruppell's Parrot. Most of us had breakfast on the balcony outside the main restaurant. Below us were about 25 Banded Mongoose and at least five jet-black Dwarf Mongooses.

After we checked out of our rooms, we assembled by the swimming pool and Festus & Jeremia gave us short insights in to Namibian culture....fascinating information, providing much discussion afterwards. We left the Waterberg area at about 1130.

We had a nice lunch at De Oude Koffieshop in Okahanja. Those who wanted to then had an hour at the craft market across the road from the Cafe. Zul was happy because he met four Swahili speakers there and was able to talk to them in Swahili. All were business women, two from the Congo, one from Kenya and one from Tanzania (Zul's home country). We left Okahanja at 1545 and drove to Windhoek. A magnificent male Sable Antelope and four Blesbok were seen en route to Windhoek, but as they were behind a fence on a game ranch, they probably weren't wild animals. Still nice to see though!

Our first stop in Windhoek was to say goodbye to Festus who had been assigned another job and was off to the NW of Namibia overnight tonight. Replacing him for the transfer to the airport was Ketji. We dropped Barbara and Max off at the Windhoek Hilton. They were off to South Africa tomorrow for the start of another trip which was to include Victoria Falls! We got to the airport at 1730. We had enough time to do the bird and mammal log for the last two days. The flight left more or less on schedule at 2105. The plane was pretty full and got to Frankfurt just behind schedule early the next morning.

Day 17

Sunday 20th November

Cold & foggy at Frankfurt & Heathrow with temps down to 4-5 degrees!

Our departure to London Heathrow was delayed by fog in London, but eventually we got the go-ahead to take off and we actually arrived at Heathrow on schedule. It was a shock to the system to experience that weather after Namibia! It had been a great trip....

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Burchell's Zebra

Species Lists

In the following checklist, an attempt has been made to give an approximation of the numbers of the different species recorded each day by the trip participants and gives a flavour of what we experienced. The following abbreviations have been used:

Key

K(s) = thousand(s)

+ = at least

00s = hundreds

000s = thousands

* = Not recorded by the leader

M = male

? = identity not certain

Birds

	Common name	Scientific name	November														
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1	Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>		18	6	25			8	5	4	100+	12	10			
2	Helmeted Guinea fowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>						2	2	4	100+	200+	50+	100+	200	100	5
3	Red-billed Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis adspersus</i>	4*							4		2		12	20	25	20
4	Swainson's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>											6	4	4		
5	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>								1							
6	Fulvous duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>													30	12	
7	Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>	1														
8	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	40						2				2	12	50	3	
9	South African Shelduck	<i>Tadorna cana</i>	4														
10	Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>	10		6		5	7	12						10	2	
11	Cape Shoveler	<i>Anas smithii</i>	8												6	1	
12	Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>	15										1	100+	1K+	150+	
13	Hottentot Teal	<i>Anas hottentota</i>											1				
14	Southern Pochard	<i>Netta erythrophthalma</i>													20	6	
15	Maccoa Duck	<i>Oxyura maccoa</i>	12														
16	White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>					3										
17	Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>					12										
18	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	20+		1							1	21	30	6	10	
19	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>					500+	300+									
20	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>						300						200+	300+	300+	
21	Abdim's Stork	<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>											1				
22	Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumeniferus</i>													4	29	
23	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>													2		
24	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>														3	
25	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>											10	15	30	5	
26	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>				1*	2	20				1					

	Common name	Scientific name	November														
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
27	Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>										1	1		1		
28	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			6								2	2			
29	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>					1	10	3					2	6		
30	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>		3													
31	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>					20	150+	50								
32	Cape Gannet	<i>Morus capensis</i>					25		1								
33	White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>	2				4	25	30								
34	Reed Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>	1													2	
35	Cape Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>					100s	50	1K+								
36	Crowned Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax coronatus</i>							1								
37	Secretarybird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>		2	1							2	3	2	4	2	
38	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	4	6	1	3					2	1	2	5	4	2	
39	Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>												1			
40	White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>	6									10		2	10	2	
41	Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>	2		5								2	3	3		
42	Black-chested Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>		1		1				2							
43	Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>										1		3	1		
44	Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>												1m			
45	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>										1	1				
46	Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>	10	6	1	3					5	1		2	1	1	
47	Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>								1	1		1				
48	Steppe Buzzard	<i>Buteo vulpinus</i>			1										1		
49	Augur Buzzard	<i>Buteo augur</i>	1*	1													
50	Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>												2	4	18	
51	Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>													2		
52	African Hawk Eagle	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>								1							
53	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>										1*					
54	Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>										2	1	1			
55	Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>		2									1				
56	Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicolus</i>		4	2	2			2	3	2						
57	Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>		3	1	2						1	4	6	1		
58	Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>			1								2				
59	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>												1			
60	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>				2							1		1		
61	Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>									1	4	6	10	10	4	
62	Ludwig's Bustard	<i>Neotis ludwigii</i>			2*					3	1						
63	RUPPELL'S KORHAAN	<i>Eupodotis rueppellii</i>		5	3	8			9	6	2						
64	Red-crested Korhaan	<i>Eupodotis ruficrista</i>									1	1			1	1	
65	Northern Black Korhaan	<i>Eupodotis afroides</i>										5	4	1	1		
66	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	2											3	6	4	

			November														
	Common name	Scientific name	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
67	Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>	30										10	2	6		
68	Blue Crane	<i>Grus paradisea</i>												3			
69	Common Buttonquail	<i>Turnix sylvaticus</i>								1							
70	Spotted Thick-Knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>									2		2	1	2		
71	African Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus moquini</i>					4										
72	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	20		4		100s	100s						6	100	20	
73	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>			15		2	4	6						2K+		
74	Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>	12					1				4	20	25	50	25	
75	Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>								2	1	4	2				
76	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>					1	50	1								
77	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>					2	10							20		
78	Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>	15											6	50		
79	Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>	6	1	1			1						1	4	1	
80	White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>					30	20	2								
81	Chestnut-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius pallidus</i>						1m							20		
82	Greater Painted Snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>													3		
83	African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>												2			
84	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>						500+									
85	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>					3	20	1								
86	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>					6	3						1	2	1	
87	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	1		2		50+	50+						2	10	10	
88	Common Sandpiper	<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>												2	6	1	
89	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>											5	20	200+	6	
90	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>										1	1				
91	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>					5	20	30								
92	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>					1K+	1K+	100								
93	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>					500+	500+							10		
94	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>					K's	K's	200								
95	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>					20	25					3	2			
96	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>						15									
97	Burchell's Courser	<i>Cursorius rufus</i>			8												
98	Double-banded Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus africanus</i>								1		25		2			
99	Hartlaub's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus hartlaubii</i>					200+	300+	50								
100	Grey-headed Gull	<i>Larus cirrocephalus</i>												25	50	10	
101	Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>				2	300+	100	200								
102	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>					20	15									
103	Swift Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>					12	20	20								
104	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>					6	25	20								
105	Damara Tern	<i>Sternula balaenarum</i>						10	10								
106	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>					100s	200+	50								

	Common name	Scientific name	November														
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
107	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>					10+										
108	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>													10+		
109	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>													50+		
110	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>					1										
111	Namaqua Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles namaqua</i>			150+				6	20	25	30	50				
112	Double-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles bicinctus</i>		100+							25+	10		30			
113	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	5				10		10								
114	Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>		50	60	20				20	25	4					
115	Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	6	6	25	10					50	25	4	20	40	30	12
116	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	6	4		5			2	4	10	10	4	10	20	20	25
117	Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>												1	2		
118	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>	4	4	1	6				10	20	10	12	15	20	3	
119	Rosy-faced Lovebird	<i>Agapornis roseicollis</i>				5		1		5							2
120	RUPPELL'S PARROT	<i>Poicephalus rueppellii</i>															4
121	Grey Go-away-Bird	<i>Corythaixoides concolor</i>	2	2										10	15	12	4
122	Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>														2*	
123	Jacobin Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>														2*	
124	African Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus gularis</i>											1	1	1		
125	African Scops Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>												3			
126	Southern White-faced Owl	<i>Ptilopsis granti</i>												3			
127	Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>										1	1			1*	
128	Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>															1
129	Rufous-cheeked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus rufigena</i>									18+			6			
130	Nightjar sp.	<i>Caprimulgus sp.</i>										4			3		
131	African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	12	6								6	2			6	
132	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarpis melba</i>	4														25+
133	Bradfield's Swift	<i>Apus bradfieldi</i>	1	12						1					1	2	30+
134	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	40	20			8	6					12				
135	White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>	2														
136	White-backed Mousebird	<i>Colius colius</i>	1	2						7							1
137	Purple Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>	1								2					1	2
138	Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>	2														
139	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>															
140	Swallow-tailed Bee-Eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>	1	2	4						1	2			1	3	1
141	European Bee-Eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>									30+		12	10	20+		
142	African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>	3	1				H				1	1			2	
143	VIOLET WOOD HOOPOE	<i>Phoeniculus damarensis</i>												6			
144	Common Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>		2							1		1				
145	African Grey Hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>				1*						1				2?	2
146	MONTEIRO'S HORNBILL	<i>Tockus monteiri</i>	1						1		2						

			November														
	Common name	Scientific name	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
147	Southern Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus rufirostris</i>								1	1			2	2		
148	Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>								2	4	10	6	12	20	6	
149	Acacia Pied Barbet	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>	1	1										1			
150	Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>										2*					
151	Chinspot Batis	<i>Batis molitor</i>															
152	Pririt Batis	<i>Batis pririt</i>										1m					
153	WHITE-TAILED SHRIKE	<i>Lanioturdus torquatus</i>									2						
154	Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>							1	3	1						
155	Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>													1		
156	Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>													1?*		
157	Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>															2
158	Crimson-breasted Shrike	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>	2							1	1	1	1	1	2	3	
159	Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>															1
160	Southern White-crowned Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus anguitimens</i>								1				1			
161	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>												1			
162	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>												1		1	
163	Common Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>	1	2	1	1				1			6				
164	Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	2	2		1				1	4	6	10	25	20	10	3
165	African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>														2	
166	Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>				4						2	15	5	3		
167	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>		20	25	10			8	2	10	20	12	2			
168	Ashy Tit	<i>Parus cinerascens</i>		1									2				
169	Rufous-naped Lark	<i>Mirafra africana</i>													2		
170	Sabota Lark	<i>Calendulauda sabota</i>		4		2					2	2					
171	DUNE LARK	<i>Calendulauda erythrochlamys</i>			1												
172	Benguela Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda benguelensis</i>							1	3							
173	Spike-heeled Lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>										5*					
174	Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>										100+	200+	100+	10		
175	Stark's Lark	<i>Spizocorys starki</i>				100+							?				
176	Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix leucotis</i>										5	4				
177	Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix verticalis</i>			200	30+			50	100+		20	20	50+			
178	African Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>	2	4		1				1	6	4	4	10	6	4	
179	Banded Martin	<i>Riparia cincta</i>													4		
180	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>						2			6	10	12	20	50	20	
181	Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>	6	20	12	2			6	4	6	4				4	2
182	Greater Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis cucullata</i>		2											1	3	4
183	Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>														2	
184	Red-breasted Swallow	<i>Cecropis semirufa</i>													2		
185	Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>															1
186	Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>												1	2		

			November														
	Common name	Scientific name	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
187	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>											1				
188	Black-chested Prinia	<i>Prinia flavicans</i>	1		2	2						1	2		1		
189	Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>															10+
190	Southern Pied Babbler	<i>Turdoides bicolor</i>									6						
191	BARE-CHEEKED BABBLER	<i>Turdoides gymnogenys</i>									5						
192	Chestnut-vented Warbler	<i>Sylvia subcaerulea</i>	2	2						1							
193	Orange River White-Eye	<i>Zosterops pallidus</i>						3									
194	Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>										2	20	12	30		
195	Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>	6	18		5				2	4	6	12	20	50	10	
196	Burchell's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis australis</i>													2	2	
197	Pale-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus nabouroup</i>		10	2	20			6	20						2	4
198	Groundscraper Thrush	<i>Psophocichla litsitsirupa</i>	1							3		2	1	1		1	2
199	White-browed Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>														1	4
200	Kalahari Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas paena</i>		2													
201	Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>										2*					
202	Mountain Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe monticola</i>	6	15	5	4			10	20	5					2	
203	Tractrac Chat	<i>Cercomela tractrac</i>				4				1	1						
204	Familiar Chat	<i>Cercomela familiaris</i>	1	2					1		1	1					
205	Ant-eating Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>										8					
206	Short-toed Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola brevipes</i>	2	2							2	1					
207	Chat Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis infuscatus</i>	1	1		6							2				
208	Marico Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis mariquensis</i>	1												2	1	
209	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>		1m													1m
210	Dusky Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris fuscus</i>	1	1	2				1	2							
211	White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>	20							4	40+	20				1	
212	Sociable Weaver	<i>Philetairus socius</i>	6	25		30						50	50	25			
213	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	6			6											
214	Great Sparrow	<i>Passer motitensis</i>	2	6					2						6		
215	Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>		10	20	15		4		2	100+						
216	Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>				1*				12		10		20	50	20	
217	Red-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>								2				10		12	
218	Scaly-feathered Weaver	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>		4	1							6			1		
219	Southern Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>	2	5		6							5	2		2	4
220	Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>		100							200+	200+	100+	500+	500+	1K+	
221	Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>									1	1					2
222	Red-headed Finch	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>		1	3	6			3				50		10		
223	Blue Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>	4												6		
224	Violet-eared Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus granatinus</i>									2				6		
225	Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>	2														
226	Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>						1*									

			November														
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227	Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>	8														
228	Shaft-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua regia</i>												1*	2		
229	Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>	2				10	12		1							
230	African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>		1										1	1		
231	Black-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>	25	2											10*		
232	White-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra albogularis</i>									1						
233	Lark-like Bunting	<i>Emberiza impetuanii</i>		1		1*			50		2						
234	Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>									4	2	1				
235	Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>									2	1		2	2	2	

Mammals

1	Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>	2			6					2						
2	African Bush Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>								13		4	10	50		1	
3	Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>	20			3				10						30	30
4	Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>		1							5						
5	Wild Cat	<i>Felis silvestris</i>									1*			1			
6	Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>									12	7					
7	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>													2*		
8	Common Genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>														1*	
9	Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>	2									1	1	1	1		
10	Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>											1	1	2	1	
11	Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>												24	12	15	12
12	Dwarf Mongoose	<i>Helogale parvula</i>															6
13	Meerkat	<i>Suricata suricatta</i>				1				2*							
14	Spotted Hyena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>											2	9			
15	Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>		1		2		1			3	15	12	2	3	1	
16	Cape Fox	<i>Vulpes chama</i>												1			
17	Brown Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>					1K+	1	1K+								
18	Honey Badger	<i>Mellivora capensis</i>									2						
19	Plains Zebra	<i>Equus burchelli</i>									12	200+	250+	200	50	50	
20	Hartmann's Mountain Zebra	<i>Equus zebra hartmannae</i>		1		15			6		3						
21	Black Rhinoceros	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>									1	2	5	4			
22	White Rhinoceros	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>									5	2		1			
23	Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>	4	1							3	3			3		2
24	Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>							8		3	8	20	40	50	25	
25	Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>									20	30	3	50	50	40	
26	Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>									1						
27	Red Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus caama</i>	20								10	6	4	1		50	
28	Blue Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>									25	100+	20	20	50	30	

			November														
	Common name	Scientific name	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
29	Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>	75	100	100	50+			50	40	100+	200+	200+	200	100+	50+	
30	Kirk's Dikdik	<i>Madoqua kirkii</i>													9	3	1
31	Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>									1		5	2	2	2	
32	Common Eland	<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>		5												1	
33	Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>							6	8	1	5	30	1	10		
34	Gemsbok	<i>Oryx gazella</i>	10	10	4	12			10	30	20	10	8	20	40	30	
35	South African Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus inauris</i>	1	5		2					3	6	5	4			
36	Dassie Rat	<i>Petromus typicus</i>		1						2							
37	Striped Tree Squirrel	<i>Funisciurus sp.</i>												1			
38	Bush Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>									1		1*				
39	Polecat	<i>Ictonyx striatus</i>									1*						
40	Sable Antelope	<i>Hippotragus niger</i>															1
41	Blesbok																4

Other Taxa

1	Terrapin sp														3		
2	Spotted Bush Snake	<i>Phyllorhynchus sp</i>											1*				
3	Lizard sp			1													
4	Gecko sp			1													
5	Shovel-nosed Lizard				1												
6	Beetles sp				6+												
7	Ladybird sp				1												
8	Cockchafer sp				1												
9	Agama Lizard					1				3	3						
10	Flap-necked Chameleon	<i>Chamaeleo dilepis</i>									2			1			
11	Skink sp										1	1		1	1		
12	Etosha Agama	<i>Agama finchi</i>											1	1			
13	Leopard Tortoise	<i>Geochelone pardalis</i>													1		
14	Welwitschia	<i>Welwitschia Mirabilis</i>							lots								