

Namibia's Etosha Pan & Skeleton Coast

Naturetrek Tour Report

30 October - 15 November 2016



A Gemsbok in the dunes



Black Rhino



Cheetah and cub



Pygmy Falcon

Report compiled by Rob Mileto
Photos by Mark Howarth



Naturetrek

Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Participants: Rob Mileto (tour leader), Gerhard Thirion & Jimmy Limbo (local guides)
With 10 Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Sunday 30th October

London Heathrow to Jo'burg

An eventless overnight flight brought us to Jo'burg in the early morning where we just had time for a quick coffee...

Day 2

Monday 31st October

Jo'burg to Windhoek to Namib Grens, Weather: mostly hot & sunny

... before boarding a short flight to Windhoek. Now that it was light, we had fine aerial views of the Botswanan Kalahari Desert.

Arriving around lunchtime, some of us saw a first bird for Namibia from the airport tarmac – African Palm Swifts buzzing the terminal building. Clearing immigration and retrieving our luggage, we were then met by our local driver/guides Gerhard and Jimmy and were soon off in our two extended Land Cruisers, where everyone gets a window seat.

We grabbed a quick lunch in the rather idiosyncratic Joe's Restaurant before heading off into the wilds. There was not too much time to look for birds and mammals if we were to arrive at Namib Grens Farm before dark, but we still managed to pick up (amongst others) Pale Chanting Goshawk, Northern Black Korhaan, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, Common Scimitarbill, Pearl-breasted Swallow, Mountain Wheatear and a couple of Ostrich by the road. Amongst the mammals, there were many Chacma Baboons and a solitary but up-close Hartmann's Mountain Zebra. Amazingly, we also managed a rather fleeting but nearby view of an elusive Aardwolf.

Arriving at the farm at dusk, we had time to quickly wash our hands and faces before sitting down to a traditional and hearty farm dinner. This was followed by a much-needed early night.

Day 3

Tuesday 1st November

Namib Grens to Kulala Desert Camp, hot & sunny

A pre-breakfast walk proved very productive – in a tree just outside the cabins were Southern Masked Weavers, Scarlet-chested Sunbirds and an Acacia Pied Barbet even before we had all met up! Strolling around near to the farmstead, we found a lot of bird activity: Dusky Sunbird, Karoo Robin, Groundscraper Thrush, Golden-tailed Woodpecker, Rosy-faced Lovebird, African Hoopoe and dinky little Common Waxbills were in bushes and on the ground, whilst above us wheeled Rock Martins, Little Swifts and a solitary Greater Striped Swallow. One very unusual spot for this part of Namibia was a lone Whinchat – so common in places back home, but a very rare vagrant here.

After breakfast, it was time to pack up the vans and set off for Kulala. As is typical for the start of a trip, progress was slow because there were so many new and wonderful things to see. Amongst our frequent morning stops we saw Short-toed Rock Thrush, Namaqua Sandgrouse, Black-chested Prinia, a Lappet-faced Vulture, Black-chested Snake Eagle, Greater Kestrel (including a nest with chicks), Ashy Tit, Pale-winged Starling, five Bokmakierie in a single small bush, a glorious Crimson-breasted Shrike and soaring Verreaux's Eagles. There was also a stunning view of the endless landscape from the top of the Spreetshoogte Pass.

A lovely lunch was taken in Solitaire where a post-lunch stroll gave us South African Ground Squirrels, Marico Flycatcher, Cape and Great Sparrow and a dinky little Yellow-bellied Eremomela. Then it was off again... and again with frequent stops to see lovely things, like Gemsboks (our first) and Springboks, along with a host of birds that included Pigmy Falcon, Ruppell's Korhaan and the very smart Ludwig's Bustard.

We arrived at Kulala to a glorious sunset and later enjoyed a fine dinner. The comfy beds in the lovely chalets were really welcome after our long journey.

Day 4

Wednesday 2nd November

The dunes, Deadvlei, Sossusvlei and the Namib desert, hot & sunny

We were up before sunrise, downed a quick breakfast and then were off again promptly in order to see the giant 300-metre dunes at their best – in the light of sunrise; we were not disappointed with many photos being taken. Our first stop was Dune 1 (naturally!). Here we were primarily in search of the endemic Dune Lark, and almost immediately Gerhard found one! We watched it for a while as it scuttled around the dunes, then turned our attention the many prints and signs skilfully interpreted by Gerhard and Jimmy, including the virtually invisible trap-door entrance to a Dancing White Lady Spider lair.

Moving on, we were soon striding across the sand towards Deadvlei, with its eerie long-dead acacias. Most opted for the scenic route in, up a nearby dune crest and then striding down its steep orange face and into the contrasting white clay of the ex-lake bed.

Strolling back along the easy route at the base of the dunes and returning to the vehicles, we drove the short distance to the more famous, but perhaps less visually impressive, Sossusvlei. Here we had a small but satisfying second breakfast. When we took a short walk, Red-necked Falcons were seen at the top of a nearby tree. This was a great find and further strolling led us to discover some very photogenic Cape Sparrows, Pied Crows and a Common Fiscal.

After a late lunch back at Kulala and a welcome siesta, we went off into the desert in search of Ludwig's Bustard for those that had missed it. Sadly, it was nowhere to be seen. However, we did enjoy good views of Ruppell's Korhaan, a very smart Black-backed Jackal, Verreaux's Eagle and the amazing landscape of this part of the desert at sunset, enjoyed with sundowners and snacks, to the sound of barking geckoes. Dinner was accompanied by some great singing and dancing by the Kulala staff.

Day 5

Thursday 3rd November

Kulala to Walvis Bay (via Sessreim Canyon, Solitaire and Rostock Ritz); hot & sunny

A short drive brought us to the village of Sessreim with White-backed Mousebirds and Pygmy Falcons in the shrubs there. Stopping nearby, we descended down and into the impressive geomorphological feature that is Sessreim Canyon. Here we came across many owl pellets and eventually some caught a glimpse of a (Western) Barn Owl deep in a small cave in the conglomerate. Leaving the canyon behind, we drove on towards the seaside.

We had a comfort and cake stop in Solitaire, a somewhat bizarre little oasis in the desert which serves world-famous apple pie/strudel in “Moose Macgregor’s Bakery”. There were also many fine birds to be seen including Scaly-feathered Weaver, Sociable Weavers and Southern Masked Weaver, some of which came to share our apple pie!

Driving on, we stopped for obligatory photos at the Tropic of Capricorn and, soon after, spotted some Hartmann’s Mountain Zebra as we approached our lunch stop – the Rostock Ritz with its rehabilitated Meerkats.

Later and further along our journey for the day, we had a quick stroll to admire the weird and wonderful landscape of the Kuiseb River Valley. Just before we descended off the plateau we had been travelling over, we stopped to take in the marvellous view and get up close to some Quiver Trees. These ‘trees’ are actually giant aloes, so have no actual wood. They are thought to be named from the practice of San people who hollow out the tubular branches to form quivers for their arrows. Here too there was an Armoured Ground Cricket, a lovely little (unidentified) Lizard and tiny garnets.

We then travelled on to reach the outskirts of Walvis Bay in the late afternoon, where a quick stop at the sewage works gave us our first view of flamingos and waders (including Common Ringed Plover, Sanderling, Little Stint and Curlew Sandpiper) amongst the sand dunes

Day 6

Friday 4th November

Walvis Bay, overcast am, sunny with a strong breeze pm

After breakfast we headed for the harbour and started the day with a ‘pelagic’ boat trip to the open ocean beyond Walvis Bay lagoon. Even before we set off there was a Great White Pelican (named Lady Gaga!) on the boat to entertain us. Setting off on our South Atlantic odyssey, we were soon joined on board by a young Brown Fur Seal! He knew there was an easy fish breakfast to be had, as did the pelicans and Kelp Gulls who gave a great show snatching fish from the hand of one of the crew. On an old jetty nearby were many Cape Cormorants and just a couple of the much scarcer Crowned Cormorants. Here too were a couple of lovely little African Penguins and helpfully lined up on posts were Swift Terns, Hartlaub's and Kelp Gulls, allowing for a useful comparison of features. Very soon after this we had a school of Bottle-nosed Dolphins right alongside the boat and doing a bit of bow wave riding before heading off and leaping clear of the water. This was closely followed by short-lived views of the much smaller, darker and rarer Heaviside's Dolphin – what a start and we had yet to leave the shelter of the bay!

We now headed straight for the open sea whilst the wind was still modest. As we passed the spit at the harbour mouth, we were within a few metres of hundreds of fur seals. Then, we were soon boating through frequent fly-bys by Common and Swift Terns along with the occasional Sooty Shearwater and a Cape Gannet. As we plied the waves we spotted African Penguins bobbing about on several occasions, one listing sideways, presumably to catch some warming sun. A small black fin turned out to be attached to a large Sunfish, also known as a Mola-mola and it seemed to make a special effort to come and check us out, affording really excellent views.

As we slowly made our way back to shore, we celebrated with local oysters and other snacks, washed down with some tasty sparkling wine. This was followed by a quick look at part of the spit where a host of waders included a handful of the very smart African Oystercatcher.

Lunch/coffee/ice-cream/cake (dependant on how hungry you were) was followed by a slow walk along the Esplanade with loads of birds foraging in the mud and pools just metres away, the highlights including: Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, (Pied) Avocet, Sanderling, Grey Plover, many Bar-tailed Godwits and countless Greater and a good number of Lesser Flamingos. There was also a tight group of Caspian, Swift, Sandwich, Common, and the endemic Damara Tern.

Dinner was at the quayside, the venue doing a great line in seafood, especially calamari.

Day 7

Saturday 5th November

Walvis Bay and Swakopmund, mostly cloudy & windy

Today we had a welcome lie in and after breakfast we set off and had another look at a different (but equally 'fragrant') part of the sewage works. Here our first find was a Kittlitz's Plover sitting tightly on a nest near the track (I say track – we were basically driving on the sand dunes) and nearby were a host of waterbirds including our first and only Hottentot Teal, Cape Shoveler and African Swamphens. Other welcome additions were Cape Teal, Red-knobbed Coot, Black-winged Stilt and the ever-so-dainty White-fronted Plover.

Moving on north up the coast to Swakopmund (famous for its German colonial architecture), we dropped off those who had opted for a scenic flight back down to Sossusvlei. Those who chose not to fly headed to the nearly dry Swakop River on the outskirts of town. Here we saw more Kittlitz's and some Three-banded Plovers, Blacksmith Lapwing and a Ruff with green, rather than the usual orange legs, which had us puzzled for a while!

We then drove round to the salt-works north of the town... but frustratingly, the company had closed off the track that would have taken us nearest to the water. So, we had to content ourselves with rather distant views of Black-necked Grebe and an assortment of terns. On the plus side, the detour did take us round to a seemingly barren gravel field, but the one small grey bird present turned out to be the near-endemic Tractrac Chat.

Lunch was at a café near the seafront where we met up with the intrepid flyers who recounted tales from a tiny plane flying only some 200 metres above the coast and dunes, which was close enough to make out fur seals, jackals and gulls and the minutiae of diamond-mine camps.

After lunch, there was time for a spot of shopping or sightseeing (the aquarium and the museum being the preferred options) before heading off the mouth of the Swakop River (dammed with sand at the time). Here we

had a rather windblown stroll up the beach to see White-breasted and Cape Cormorants on the seaward side and Great White Pelicans, Grey Heron, White-fronted Plover and smart Blacksmith Lapwings on the landward.

Dinner was at a rather posh place in town, after which we returned to our hotel in Walvis for our final night there.

Day 8

Sunday 6th November

Walvis Bay to Damaraland ('D'), cloudy and cool am; warm & sunny pm

After breakfast we headed off on the long drive up the (in)famous Skeleton Coast to Damaraland. After a quick loo-, coffee- and fuel-stop at Henties Bay, we pushed on to the extensive and pungent colony of Brown Fur Seals at Cape Cross which had several attendant Ruddy Turnstones, Jackal and even a Red-capped Lark. The place was bustling with seal activity, from the cute pups suckling fat-rich milk from their mothers to the noisy sparring of the big male beach-masters. We dragged ourselves away but stopped again just a short distance on to admire the lichen fields. Here the oranges, greys and greens of these fungi/algae amalgams encrust the rocks and stones, surviving primarily on moisture and nutrients in the frequent mists and fogs, rather than from rainfall. Here we also had coffee and biscuits, shared by chance with a fellow traveller – one far more adventurous than us... a Japanese man who, having previously cycled from Morocco to Congo a few years back, was now completing his trans-African trek by doing the Congo to Cape Town leg!

Our picnic lunch was taken scenically on the coast in view of the wreck of "The Seal" but it was a touch too windy to stay long, so we pressed on. Turning inland, we headed up onto the plateau and, in this rocky desert, we saw what is claimed to be world's longest living plant (1000 years+), the Welwitschia. We wandered amongst several individuals with their very short, thick, woody trunk and strap-like leaves that continuously grow from the base. Soon after this, we came across our first giraffes – with the help of a telescope from a lofty vantage point.

A young Martial Eagle seemed to welcome us as we approached the impossibly scenic Damaraland Camp at the end of a long day. Dinner was again celebrated with singing and dancing and, afterwards, we had a brief look at the myriad of stars in the clear desert sky.

Day 9

Monday 7th November

The Huab River am; Twyfelfontein pm, hot & sunny am, more cloud in pm, but still hot

We were up before sunrise and, after a quick breakfast, we were off out to the dry Huab River bed. We were primarily in search of the desert-adapted (African Bush) Elephant... and found them almost immediately on entering the river bed! Here they were munching on twigs, one even standing on its hind legs alone in order to reach up that little bit higher to snatch a tasty twig. Here too there were Pirit Batis, Southern White-crowned Shrike, Long-billed Crombec, Lesser Masked Weaver, Red-billed Spurfowl, Olive Bee-eaters, Damara and Red-billed Hornbill, Kudu, Common Duiker and the diminutive Steenbok amongst a host of birds and mammals seen.

We had lunch at 'D' Camp's 'twin', Doro Nawas Camp camp, with its scenic views over the painted desert and with some lovely African Hawk-Eagles and Yellow-billed Kites to entertain us.

After this lovely lunch and a short siesta, we set off for Twyfelfontein (Afrikaans for uncertain spring). Here we took a short walk to view a mass of old engravings on the rocks. These depicted various local creatures and waterhole locations and most are believed to have carved into the sandstone by hunter gatherers that inhabited the region some 5000(ish) years ago. Here too, we managed to spot a Cinnamon-breasted Bunting and some White-browed Sparrow-Weavers. As we slowly wound our way back to camp, there were some very smart Ruppell's Korhaan to be seen in an absolutely glorious sunset.

Dinner was a braai (barbeque) eaten under the stars in a boma (a traditional wooden fenced enclosure where stock are kept at night). Some of us chose to sleep under the star-filled desert sky, atop the roof of our cabins.

Day 10

Tuesday 8th November

Damaraland to Hobatere, hot & sunny

Today we were treated to a 'bush' breakfast. Tables had been set on top of a nearby hill and we enjoyed our food al fresco, as the sun rose and the Pale-winged Starlings, Cape Bunting and an endemic Benguela Long-billed Lark picked at our crumbs. What a fantastic start to the day.

Sadly, it was then time to leave the lovely Damaraland camp but we were soon heartened by the sight of many giraffe (young and old) browsing gracefully next to the road. Our first 'official' stop was at Unijab, where there were toilets, coffee and a wealth of birds, due to the presence of a small spring. Here we had our first view of the near-endemic Ruppell's Parrot as well as the commoner, but also lovely, Wood Sandpiper.

Subsequent roadside stops on our journey were very productive and the top birds included Augur Buzzard, Monteiro's Hornbill and Olive Bee-eater. Top mammal was a dinky little Klipspringer.

Lunch was fish and chips! Soon after, we were turning into the entrance to Hobatere and bumping into our first (Black-faced) Impala (figuratively speaking) whilst soaring above was a Bateleur. We arrived at the camp in the early afternoon and relaxed in our cabins or in the lounge area for a short while, before setting off in a vehicle for the nearby waterhole. The need for the vehicle was soon apparent – an unfortunate beast was being eaten by three lions, just a few hundred metres from our (unfenced) camp. Just down the track from these, a Tawny Eagle on a dead tree provided excellent photo opportunities. What was to be seen from the hide at the waterhole itself was rather tame in comparison, but it was still good to see Namaqua Doves, Speckled Pigeon and Black-backed Jackals.

After dinner, we split into two camp vans and set off for night drives. In the beam of spotlights we saw (as a whole) Scrub Hare, a nightjar (probably Rufous-cheeked), Pearl-spotted Owlet, Common Genets, Wild Cat, Spotted Thick-knee, the unfeasible looking Springhare and a couple of mating Aardwolves (a very rare site!)... oh, and lions... heading for our camp... so we were driven to our cabins!

Day 11

Wednesday 9th November

Hobatere to Okaukuejo in Etosha National Park, hot & sunny (with a sandstorm late pm)

The lions were still there at breakfast, not 30 metres from the breakfast veranda (so we were eating inside); it was no surprise then, that they were busy fencing the camp whilst we were there!

After breakfast, they had moved off far enough for us to have a quick look around the camp grounds where there were Meve's Starlings, Grey-backed Camaroptera and an excellent little Pearl-spotted Owlet, much easier to see the detail of than by the light of a spotlight as seen the previous night. As we slowly made our way to the main road, some Namib Rock Agama were soaking up some early morning rays and, nearby, some of the group had a fleeting view of a (near-endemic) White-tailed Shrike... followed shortly by better views of the same species but different individuals, as we joined the main road.

Just down the main road was the Galton Gate entrance at the western end of the Etosha National Park. Once in the park, we were soon overlooking a succession of waterholes, each with its own community of mammals and birds but as a whole including a fine African mix of Elephants, Ostrich, Gemsbok, Springbok, Warthog, Bateleur, Ant-eating Chat, Lions (sooooo many lions) and Hartmann's Mountain and Plains Zebras.

We ordered toasted sandwiches for lunch and, whilst waiting, we made use of the waterhole hide to get close-up views of three big bull elephants and fly-pasts by a Gabar Goshawk chasing the drinking Red-headed Finches. After lunch, we had a quick look and the birds sheltering from the sun in the nearby trees and whilst most were Red-headed Finches; there were also Shaft-tailed Whydahs (sadly not in breeding plumage) and Red-billed Quelea.

In the afternoon there were more waterholes, one with mating lions, and elsewhere we saw our first Kori Bustard, Red-crested Korhaan and Fawn-coloured Lark.

We arrived at the Okaukuejo Rest Camp in the late afternoon...and at the start of a sandstorm, so we took a short siesta before enjoying a buffet dinner and drinking giraffes at the floodlit waterhole.

Day 12

Thursday 10th November

Around Okaukuejo, hot & sunny

At sunrise, we set out into the park, just as the Spotted Hyenas were making their way slowly to back to dens – some in drainage tunnels under the road. Even in the complimentary light of the morning sun, they still have very-hard-to-love faces. The waterholes were a little on the quiet side, perhaps because there had been some rain, so the puddles offered an alternative. However, there were some top birds to be seen at close quarters and these included the rather enigmatic Spotted Thick-knee, Stark's Lark, Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark and the dainty Double-banded Coursers – some with tiny chicks.

After breakfast, some of us strolled the scenic route back to our chalets and were rewarded with views of both Burnt-necked and Yellow-bellied Eremomelas, a singing Willow Warbler, Chestnut-vented Warbler, a Tawny Eagle and a Yellow-billed Kite soaring above us, and a very photogenic Yellow-billed Hornbill.. Before we knew

it, it was lunchtime and after this, another scenic stroll afforded us excellent views of Violet Wood Hoopoe, Acacia Pied Barbet and African Cuckoo.

In the late afternoon, some chose to watch the waterhole and the procession of game that came to drink – Elephants, Springbok, Plains Zebra, Kudu, Gemsbok etc... and also had a very tame Kalahari Scrub Robin come to visit. Some partook of a short game drive and saw more lovely Double-banded Coursers, Greater Kestrels, Kori Bustards, Northern Black Korhaans and our first and only Long-billed Pipit.

After dinner, for those patient enough to stay up, there was a Black Rhino at the waterhole at 21:45.

Day 13

Friday 11th November

Okaukuejo to Mokuti (via Halali, hot and sunny)

Since we were leaving Okaukuejo today, we breakfasted before setting off. As with the day before, there were hyena to be seen heading for home. At one of the waterholes, lions lay and so the thirsty grazers had to take their chances as they nervously approached to snatch a drink.

As we made our way towards lunch at Halali camp, we stopped at various intervals to spot a variety of birds and also to marvel at the great white emptiness of the Etosha Pan itself. The said stops included one for a Lanner Falcon (and coincidentally around the same time the other van stopped for a Peregrine), one for exquisite European Bee-eaters (well, actually more than one stop – they are just so photogenic) one for Secretarybirds, one for two gorgeous, perched Red-breasted Swallows and one for a very smart Martial Eagle, albeit partly hidden by a branch.

A buffet lunch was preceded by a short walk around Halali camp with a dinky and superbly camouflaged African Scops Owl the star of the show. After lunch, it was then off to the eastern end of Etosha. The heat of the afternoon had forced much of the wildlife into hiding, but we did have a curiosity of a spot when around one corner, there was a herd of spot-patterned giraffe on one side of the road, contrasting nicely with the stripy zebras on the other... then they mixed and spoiled the effect! A waterhole offered up our first Red-billed Teal and African Jacana and another, our first and only Woolly-necked Stork. Some were also lucky enough to see a couple of Bat-eared Foxes.

We popped into Namutoni Camp and strolled to the waterhole, seeing a Black-backed Puffback actually puffing out its back. Here too there were Red-billed Buffalo Weavers and very welcome cold drinks and/or ice cream! We were soon heading off for Mokuti camp (just beyond the park gates) where Black-faced Babblers were getting quite upset at a Pearl-spotted Owlet, as Blesbok grazed and Congo Rope Squirrels darted from tree to tree.

Day 14

Saturday 12th November

Around Namutoni, hot & sunny

Leaving straight after an early breakfast, we were back in the park just after sunrise and overlooking the carcass of a giraffe, the meat of which was being snapped up by at least a dozen jackals. As we then drove slowly around

Fischer's Pan, there were a few top birds to be seen, especially the Violet-eared Waxbills. However, it was the presence of two distant parked vans that alerted us to the presence of something far more exciting – through binoculars, but clearly visible - a mother Cheetah and her fluffy young cub! We were off! Ignoring the Black-chested Snake Eagle perching in a bush by the road, we pushed onwards to where we had seen them... The vans were still there... but where were the cats?? There they were! Drinking lazily at the nearby waterhole. Having slaked their thirst, they moved off in the direction of the track we had just driven down... so off we went too... and there they were again, moving straight towards us. Impossibly, they both passed between our two vans, just scant metres away and continued along, stopping briefly to stand and stare majestically from a termite mound – Planet Earth II eat your heart out (see the report cover).

This excitement could surely not be topped? Well, probably not, but we came close! As the first van radioed back to the second to say we have found some lovely Burchell's Sandgrouse, they replied they were busy watching a Black Rhino! Initially, it was at some distance under a shady bush, but it soon wandered out, and in fits and starts (and in a random route) it came close enough to afford very passable views of its armoured frame before disappearing into a thicket. Wow!

We calmed down over coffee and biscuits at Namutoni – the new-for-the-trip White-browed Scrub Robin there paling into insignificance. Some of us then chose to return to Mokuti, whilst others again enjoyed the myriad of classic African grazing animals at Chudop waterhole.

After lunch and a siesta, the late afternoon game drive into the park focused on finding a Burchell's Courser... we found Double-banded... then Temminck's... and then eventually, off in the heat haze but still distinctive... the Burchell's and someone's day was made. The giraffe carcass that we had seen the morning was now little more than a skeleton. Inside the ribs, as if caged, was a lone Tawny Eagle, picking and scraps of flesh clinging to the bones. As the sun set, we watched hyenas drinking and some tiny jackal cubs disappear into their den.

Day 15

Sunday 13th November

Namutoni to Waterberg (via Lake Okjikoty, hot & sunny)

A pre-breakfast walk started with a glorious Crimson-breasted Shrike, and as we strolled around the manicured and watered gardens, there were plenty of other fine birds to see, including: Yellow-bellied Greenbul, Garden Warbler, Golden-tailed Woodpecker, Black-faced Babblers, Black-backed Puffback, White-bellied and Marico Sunbirds. A band of Banded Mongoose (or should that be Mongese??) was a welcome mammalian addition.

After breakfast we packed up and set off on the journey to Waterberg National Park. Our first official stop was at Lake Okjikoty, the smaller of only two permanent natural lakes in Namibia. It is a sinkhole lake (or doline), that was created by the collapsing roof of a water-filled cave. Since this lake has water all year round, it supports fish and fish-eating birds such as the Pied Kingfisher, Striated Heron and Reed Cormorant which we saw and all were new for the trip. At some distance on the lake edge, Jimmy spotted what he thought might be a portion of African Rock Python, others thought it looked more like a chunk of wet branch – a telescope was employed, but this too did not prove conclusive, but kept us entertained bantering over if the sheen seen was that of scales in the sun or slick wood. In the gardens adjacent, we chased African Paradise Flycatcher around the grounds for a while, some trying to get a decent photo. Lunch was in a rather posh hotel restaurant in Otjiwarongo.

We arrived at the Waterberg Plateau in the early afternoon, giving us time for a spot of relaxation before a late afternoon stroll through the chalets. This provided excellent up-close views of Rosy-faced Lovebird, African Hoopoe, Pirit Batis, Golden-tailed Woodpecker and a Yellow-billed Hornbill feeding its chicks at the nest. Grazing happily around some chalets were some Kirk's Dikdik and Warthogs.

Day 16

Monday 14th November

Waterberg to Windhoek to Jo'burg, hot and sunny

We heard but sadly failed to see the target bird for the morning, Rockrunner, on the pre-breakfast walk.. We had to content ourselves White-browed Scrub Robin, a dinky (and very obliging) Kirk's Dikdik and an even dinkier Rosy-faced Lovebird. After breakfast and rather all too soon, it was time to pack up the vans one last time and head for the capital.

Before we had got to the main road we added a new bird to our bulging list – a pair of Southern Pied Babblers dashed across the track and gave some fleeting views before disappearing into the undergrowth. Not too long after, a wave of descending vultures next to the road was too good an opportunity to pass up. Feasting on the carcass of an unfortunate beast were at least 30 White-backed Vultures with more arriving by the minute... and amongst them, one stood out because of its distinctive blue skin spots at the 'shoulder' – a rare Cape Vulture and the last to join our trip list.

We had a toilet- and drink-break at De Oude Koffieshop in Okahanja and then pressed on to arrive at our lovely lunch stop, Stellenbosch, on the outskirts of Windhoek. Here there was time to freshen up and even check-in on line as well as partake of the lunch fayre (including 'calamari boy's' last cephalopod meal of the trip).

Arriving at the airport in plenty of time, we bade our fond farewells to our two excellent local guides and boarded our short connecting flight to Jo'berg, where some did some last minute souvenir/festive season shopping.

Day 17

Tuesday 15th November

London Heathrow

We arrived at Heathrow on time, bade each other fond farewells and made our ways home, full of memories of the 230 bird and 40+ mammal species seen (or heard) on our 3000+ km Namibian odyssey.

Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

Setting up a personal profile at www.facebook.com is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!

Species Lists

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November															
			31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
1	Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>	2	12	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
2	Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	40	36				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
3	Crested Francolin	<i>Dendroperdix sephaena</i>														2		
4	Red-billed Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis adspersus</i>								13	13	15				6	12	10
5	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>									4	1	2	6	10			
6	Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>				16		26								4		
7	Cape Shoveler	<i>Anas smithii</i>						6										
8	Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>												4				
9	Hottentot Teal	<i>Anas hottentota</i>						1										
10	African Penguin	<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>					6											
11	Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>					4											
12	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>						6						6	6	3		
13	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>						52										
14	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>					100's	✓	✓									
15	Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>				100	100's	✓	✓									
16	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>													1	1		
17	Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>														2		
18	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>															1	
19	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>			6										9	1		
20	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>					4	3										
21	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>					6	2										
22	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>					18	12										
23	Cape Gannet	<i>Morus capensis</i>					1											
24	White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>						12	2								5	
25	Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>															1	
26	Cape Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>					100's	✓	✓									
27	Crowned Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo coronatus</i>					2	5										
28	Secretarybird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>										1		3	3			
29	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>													1			

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November															
			31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
30	Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>									1			1	1		1	
31	White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>		1									1	2		2	1	40
32	Cape Vulture	<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>																1
33	Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>		1		4		1								1		2
34	Black-chested Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>		1	1											1		
35	Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>										1						
36	Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>										1	6					
37	Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>	2	4	2	3					2	1	1		3			
38	Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>											1					
39	Steppe Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo vulpinus</i>														?		
40	Augur Buzzard	<i>Buteo augur</i>										2	2					
41	Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>										1	2	2		2	2	2
42	Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>		2	2							2						
43	African Hawk-Eagle	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>									2							
44	Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>								1					1			
45	Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>		2		2												
46	Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicolus</i>			2	4				1	1					1	1	
47	Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>		4		3								2	4			
48	Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>			4													
49	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>													1			
50	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>													1			
51	Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>										1	3	2	6	5		
52	Ludwig's Bustard	<i>Neotis ludwigii</i>		1														
53	Ruppell's Korhaan	<i>Eupodotis rueppellii</i>		2	6						12	4						
54	Red-crested Korhaan	<i>Lophotis ruficrista</i>											3					
55	Northern Black Korhaan	<i>Afrotis afraoides</i>	3											7	8	7		
56	African Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>						4										
57	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>						6										
58	Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>						2										
59	Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>										2		1				
60	African Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus moquini</i>					10											
61	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				2		6				2			2			

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November														
			31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
62	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>					21	31									
63	Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>					1	2			2	12	7	41	12		
64	Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>									2	4	4	3	9		
65	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>					16	2									
66	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>				1	1	1							1		
67	Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>						6				1			1		
68	Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>						3			4			4	1		
69	White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>				2	6	3									
70	Caspian Plover	<i>Charadrius asiaticus</i>														6	
71	African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>												2			
72	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>					400										
73	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>					12	3									
74	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>						2						2	1		
75	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>				1	1	2			1						
76	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>						1									
77	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>									4			16	2		
78	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>					16	3	16								
79	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>				5	48	12									
80	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>				6	99	12						2	2		
81	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>				12	112	16	6					4			
82	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>						11			4			6	1		
83	Temminck's Courser	<i>Cursorius temminckii</i>													3		
84	Burchell's Course	<i>Cursorius rufus</i>												4	12		
85	Double-banded Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus africanus</i>											6	6	12		
86	Hartlaub's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus hartlaubii</i>					100's	✓	✓								
87	Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>				4	54	✓	✓								
88	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>					60										
89	Swift Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>					35	16									
90	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>					99	6									
91	Damara Tern	<i>Sternula balaenarum</i>					6	2									
92	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>					350	✓	✓								
93	Namaqua Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles namaqua</i>		7									2	12	3		

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November														
			31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
94	Double-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles bicinctus</i>										3					
95	Burchell's Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles burchelli</i>													6		
96	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓								
97	Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>		2		2	1			12	1						
98	Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	7	4	2					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2
99	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>		4		3		3					✓	✓	✓		
100	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>									6	3		16			
101	Rosy-faced Lovebird	<i>Agapornis roseicollis</i>		12						10		9				5	2
102	Ruppell's Parrot	<i>Poicephalus rueppellii</i>									3					3	
103	Grey Go-away-bird	<i>Corythaixoides concolor</i>	9	4						3				12	9	14	4
104	African Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus gularis</i>											1				
105	Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>				1											
106	African Scops Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>									H			1			
107	Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>									1	1		1			
108	Rufous-cheeked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus rufigena</i>									3	3		3			
109	European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>											1				
110	African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	10	4							3		3			2	
111	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>												1		2	
112	Bradfield's Swift	<i>Apus bradfieldi</i>								3							
113	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>		3							6	3					
114	White-backed Mousebird	<i>Colius colius</i>	1	4		3				5							
115	Purple Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>												1	1	3	1
116	Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>	2														
117	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>														1	
118	Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>	4							1	2	3			3	6	
119	Olive Bee-eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>								2	3						
120	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>											1	7			
121	African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>								2	3		2				
122	Violet Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus damarensis</i>											2	3		3	5
123	Common Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>	1							2							
124	African Grey Hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>								2		5	4	5	4	1	2
125	Monteiro's Hornbill	<i>Tockus monteiri</i>									1						

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November															
			31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
126	Damara Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus damarensis</i>									1	3			1			
127	Southern Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus rufirostris</i>													1	2		
128	Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>	1	1							3	3	5	9	12	2	2	
129	Acacia Pied Barbet	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>		2	1						3			1				
130	Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>		2													2	
131	Pirit Batis	<i>Batis pririt</i>									2						1	
132	White-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanioturdus torquatus</i>											3					
133	White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>														3		
134	Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>		5								1						
135	Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>													2		2	
136	Crimson-breasted Shrike	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>		1							1	1		1	1		2	
137	Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>									2							
138	Southern White-crowned Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus anguitemens</i>									4		2	12	2			
139	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>													1	3		
140	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>														3		
141	Common Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>		5	1						2	1	1	1	2	2		
142	Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	2								3	5	12	16	✓	✓	✓	✓
143	African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>														3	5	
144	Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>			4				3				✓	✓	✓	✓		
145	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	1	4	6	4			5				✓	✓	✓			
146	Ashy Tit	<i>Parus cinerascens</i>			2													
147	Rufous-naped Lark	<i>Mirafra africana</i>														1		
148	Sabota Lark	<i>Mirafra sabota</i>									1	1	4	✓	✓	✓		
149	Fawn-coloured Lark	<i>Calendulauda africanoides</i>											1	1				
150	Dune Lark	<i>Calendulauda erythrochlamys</i>			1													
151	Benguela Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda benguelensis</i>										2						
152	Spike-heeled Lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>												3	5	1		
153	Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>							1				1	7	16	12		
154	Stark's Lark	<i>Spizocorys starki</i>												2	1			
155	Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix leucotis</i>												2	1			
156	Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix verticalis</i>												2	1			
157	African Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>	4	10	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	3

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November														
			31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
158	Yellow-bellied Greenbul	<i>Chlorocichla flaviventris</i>														1	
159	Banded Martin	<i>Riparia cincta</i>											1				
160	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	3		2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
161	Pearl-breasted Swallow	<i>Hirundo dimidiata</i>	2								2	4					
162	Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>	5	6	17	12			4	4		✓	✓			✓	
163	Greater Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis cucullata</i>		1													
164	Red-breasted Swallow	<i>Cecropis semirufa</i>												3	2		
165	Rockrunner	<i>Achaetops pycnopygius</i>															H
166	Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>								1			1	1			
167	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>										1	2			1	
168	Black-chested Prinia	<i>Prinia flavicans</i>		2				1		1		1		1			
169	Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>										1			1	1	1
170	Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>		1									2				
171	Burnt-necked Eremomela	<i>Eremomela usticollis</i>											2				
172	Black-faced Babbler	<i>Turdoides melanops</i>										H		12	3	5	
173	Southern Pied Babbler	<i>Turdoides bicolor</i>															2
174	Bare-cheeked Babbler	<i>Turdoides gymnogenys</i>									2						
175	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>														1	
176	Chestnut-vented Warbler (Titbabbler)	<i>Sylvia subcaerulea</i>		H						H			2				
177	Orange River White-Eye	<i>Zosterops pallidus</i>						1									
178	Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>	6	12		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
179	Meves's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis mevesii</i>									5	12					
180	Burchell's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis australis</i>									1						
181	Pale-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus nabouroup</i>		25	10	12			7	60						15	3
182	Groundscraper Thrush	<i>Psophocichla litsitsirupa</i>		2								5	1		1		2
183	Kalahari Scrub Robin	<i>Erythropygia paena</i>		2										2			
184	White-browed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>													1		1
185	Karoo Robin	<i>Cercotrichas coryphaeus</i>		6													
186	Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>												2	1		
187	Mountain Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe monticola</i>	1	12		12			2	6	2						
188	Karoo Chat	<i>Cercomela schlegelii</i>				2											
189	Tractrac Chat	<i>Cercomela tractrac</i>						2									

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November															
			31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
190	Familiar Chat	<i>Cercomela familiaris</i>	2	3	4	2					14		3			9		
191	Ant-eating Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>											12			5		
192	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		1														
193	Short-toed Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola brevipes</i>		2									1					
194	Chat Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis infuscatus</i>		1							1			1	3	3		
195	Marico Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis mariquensis</i>		2							1		1	1	4	3		
196	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>									1							
197	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>		1										1				1
198	Marico Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>															1	1
199	White-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris talatala</i>															6	
200	Dusky Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris fuscus</i>		3					2		3			2				
201	White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>	2	2							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
202	Sociable Weaver	<i>Philetairus socius</i>		60	3	12							✓	✓	✓			
203	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	12	✓	✓	✓			✓									4
204	Great Sparrow	<i>Passer motitensis</i>	6	12								2						
205	Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>	1	4	12	16			✓	✓								
206	Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>									4			3	✓	✓	✓	
207	Red-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>													3			
208	Scaly-feathered Weaver	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>		5		8								15		2		
209	Lesser Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus intermedius</i>									4							
210	Southern Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>		12		6			2			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
211	Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>										3						
212	Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>											2		13			
213	Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>											1		1			
214	Red-headed Finch	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>		6										80	14	19		
215	Blue Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>													2		13	
216	Violet-eared Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus granatinus</i>														6		
217	Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>		12				4										
218	Black-faced Waxbill	<i>Estrilda erythronotos</i>												2				
219	Shaft-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua regia</i>											42		4			
220	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>													1			
221	Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>		1				18	11									2

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November														
			31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
222	African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>											1	4			
223	Long-billed Pipit	<i>Anthus similis</i>											1				
224	Black-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>									2		16	14	12		
225	Yellow Canary	<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>						3									
226	White-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra albogularis</i>		1													
227	Lark-like Bunting	<i>Emberiza impetuani</i>									1						
228	Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>									1				1		
229	Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>		2								1					
230	Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>													1		

Mammals

1	Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>														2	
2	African Bush Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>									15		45	14	2	2	
3	Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>	30								14	3				16	44
4	Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>										1					
5	Cheetah	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>														2	
6	Wild Cat	<i>Felis silvestris</i>										1					
7	Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>										3	20		10		
8	Common Genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>										3					
9	Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>									1					2	1
10	Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>														6	17
11	Meerkat	<i>Suricata suricatta</i>				6											
12	Spotted Hyena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>												4	6	3	
13	Aardwolf	<i>Proteles cristata</i>	1									2					
14	Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>		1	1					7	2	5	4	13	7	16	
15	Bat-eared Fox	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>													2		
16	Brown Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>					100's	100's	1000's								
17	Plains Zebra	<i>Equus burchelli</i>											100's	✓	✓	✓	
18	Hartmann's Mountain Zebra	<i>Equus zebra hartmannae</i>	1	12		52						14	70				
19	Black Rhinoceros	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>												1	1	1	
20	Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>	3			2							14	2	12	8	16
21	Common Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>									1					1	1

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November															
			31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
22	Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>								3		9	✓	✓	✓	✓		
23	Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>										4	23	✓	✓	✓	✓	
24	Red Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus caama</i>											41		2			
25	Blue Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>		10									43	✓	✓	✓		
26	Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>	42	14	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
27	Kirk's Dikdik	<i>Madoqua kirkii</i>														2	14	4
28	Klipspringer	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>										1						
29	Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>		1								3	2		1	1		
30	Common Eland	<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>											3	4				
31	Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>	2									4	3			3	18	
32	Gemsbok	<i>Oryx gazella</i>		22	12	21			12	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
33	Heaviside's Dolphin	<i>Cephalorhynchus heavisidii</i>						2										
34	Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>						16										
35	South African Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus inauris</i>		4		5							2	9				
36	Damara Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus princeps</i>										1						
37	Smith's Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>											2	1				
38	Congo Rope Squirrel	<i>Funisciurus congicus</i>														12	✓	✓
39	South African Springhare	<i>Pedetes capensis</i>											2					
40	Black-tailed Tree Rat	<i>Thallomys nigricauda</i>												1				

The bats below were detected with a detector attached to an iPad equipped with a sonogram ID app

1	Egyptian Free-tailed bat	<i>Tadarida aegyptiaca</i>											✓	✓	✓		✓	
2	Natal Long-fingered Bat	<i>Miniopterus natalensis</i>											✓				✓	
3	Cape Serotine	<i>Neoromicia capensis</i>											✓	✓				
4	African Yellow Bat	<i>Scotophilus dinganii</i>													✓		✓	

Plants (Compiled by Jill Sutcliffe and edited by Rob Mileto)

1	Baobab	<i>Adansonia digitata</i>																
2	Bitterbush	<i>Pechuel-Loeschea leubuitziae</i>		✓														
3	Buffalo Thorn	<i>Ziziphus mucronata</i>																
4	Butterfly Leaf	<i>Adenolobus garipensis</i>		✓														
5	Camel Thorn	<i>Acacia erioloba</i>			✓													

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November														
			31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
6	(Star of the Namib)	<i>Calicorema capitata</i>															
7	Candlepod Acacia	<i>Acacia heberlada</i>									✓						
8	Candelabra Euphorbia	<i>Euphorbia virosa</i>								✓							
9	(Namib plume-flower)	<i>Caesalpinia pearsonii</i>								✓							
10	Bird of Paradise tree	<i>Caesalpinia gilliesii</i>															
11	Common Spike Thorn	<i>Maytenus heterophylla</i>															
12	Common Thorn Apple	<i>Datura stramonium</i>															
13	Devil's Thorn	<i>Tribulus zeyheri</i>								✓							
14	False or Wild Ebony tree	<i>Euclea pseudebenus</i>															
15	Jacaranda	<i>Jacaranda spp.</i>	✓														
16	Kudu Bush	<i>Combretum apiculatum</i>															
17	Leadwood	<i>Combretum imberbe</i>								✓							
18	Makalani Palm	<i>Hyphaene petersiana</i>										✓					
19	Marula	<i>Sclerocarya birrea</i>															
20	Mopane	<i>Colophospermum mopane</i>										✓					
21	!Nara Melon	<i>Acanthosicyos horridus</i>			✓												
22	Quiver Tree	<i>Aloe dichotoma</i>		✓													
23	Ringwood	<i>Maerua schinzii</i>											✓				
24	Saltbush	<i>Ganna spp.</i>			✓												
25	Sausage Tree	<i>Kigelia africana</i>													✓		
26	Shepherd's Tree	<i>Boscia albitrunca</i>		✓													
27	Smelly Shepherd's Tree	<i>Boscia foetida</i>															
28	Sterculia (African Starchestnut)	<i>Sterculia africana</i>										✓					
29	Sweet Thorn	<i>Acacia karroo</i>															
30	Sycamore Fig	<i>Ficus sycomorus</i>		✓													
31	Tamarisk	<i>Tamarix usneoides</i>							✓								
32	Thorn Apple	<i>Datura spp</i>															
33	Welwitschia	<i>Welwitschia mirabilis</i>								✓							
34	Windhook Aloe	<i>Aloe littoralis</i>														✓	
35	Yellow Bark Acacia	<i>Acacia erubescens</i>												✓			

Invertebrates

African Monarch, *Danaus chrysippus*
 Welwitschia Bug, *Odontopus sexpunctatus*
 Spider-killing Wasp, Pompilidae

Tok Tokkie Beetle, Tenebrionidae
 a Praying Mantis, Mantodea

Armoured Ground Cricket, *Acanthopplus spp?*
 Giant Millipede, *Archispirostreptus gigas*

Fish

Sunfish (Mola-mola), *Mola mola*

Reptiles

Ground Agama, *Agama aculeata*
 Kalahari Plated Lizard, *Gerrhosaurus multineatus*

Namib Rock Agama, *Agama planiceps*
 African Rock Python?, *Python sebae*

Ovambo Tree Skink, *Trachylepis binotata*
 Marsh/Helmeted Terrapin, *Pelomedusa subrufa*

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