

Namibia's Etosha Pan & Skeleton Coast

Naturetrek Tour Report

29 October - 14 November 2019



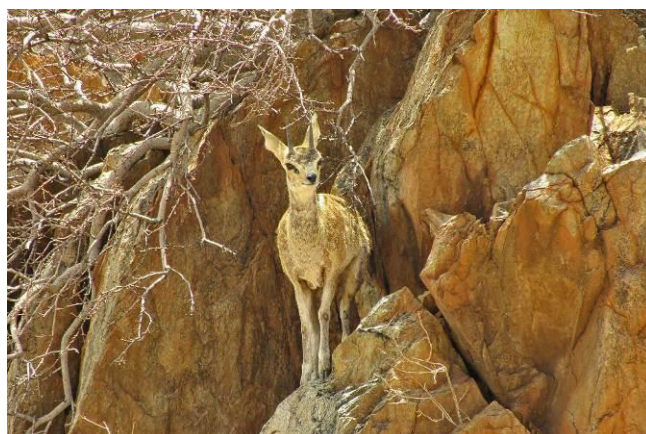
Bat-eared Fox by Rob Mileto



Black Rhinoceros by Mick Hoult



Giraffe in Damaraland by Mick Hoult



Klipspringer by Rob Mileto

Report compiled by Rob Mileto
Images courtesy of Mick Hoult & Rob Mileto



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

Tour participants: Rob Mileto (Leader), Jeremiah Mwapopi & Charles Gaingob (local guides)
and 12 Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Tuesday 29th October

London Heathrow to Jo'burg

An uneventful overnight flight brought us to Jo'burg in the early morning.

Day 2

Wednesday 30th October

Jo'burg to Windhoek to River Crossing Lodge

Here we had time for a coffee and/or some breakfast. There were also a few birds to see such as Little Swift, Rock Martin, Common Myna flying outside, along with the odd House Sparrow scavenging crumbs inside. We soon boarded the short flight to Windhoek from which we had fine aerial views of the Botswanan Kalahari Desert.

Arriving in the early afternoon, we cleared immigration and retrieved our luggage. We were then met by one of our local driver/guides Charles, along with Jimmy, who was just there to chauffeur us that day. We were soon off in our two extended Land Cruisers, where everyone gets a window seat. Even though it was only a half-hour journey, there was plenty to see – Common Warthogs and Chacma Baboons on the roadside and Lilac-breasted Rollers adorning the telephone wires.

After checking in and a bit of a break, a walk around the lodge grounds revealed Southern Masked Weaver, Chestnut-vented Warbler, Laughing Dove and very smart Short-toed Rock Thrush. An Ovambo Tree Skink also put in an appearance. We had an early dinner, then some ticked off the checklist to date, followed by a much needed early night.

Day 3

Thursday 31st October

River Crossing Lodge to Kulala Desert Camp

After not too early a breakfast, Charles arrived in one van, along with Jerry in the other. He was to be the other driver/guide for the trip. All packed up and ready to go, we were waylaid for a while by the appearance of a Kalahari Scrub Robin. Robin in the bag (figuratively speaking!), we 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 European Bee-eater, Chestnut Weaver, Lilac-breasted Roller, Pale Chanting Goshawk, Ant-eating Chat, Great Sparrow, Familiar Chat, Southern Pied Babbler, African Hoopoe, Springbok, Gemsbok and more roadside baboons and warthog.

Just before the stunning view of the endless landscape from the top of the Spreetshoogte Pass, Jerry spotted a Klipspringer. How he did so is a compelling mystery, as it blended in soooooo well with its rocky surroundings that it took some while after to get everyone onto it – and we knew where it was!

A lovely lunch was taken in Solitaire where a post-lunch stroll gave us Cape Starling and Sparrow, Red-headed Finch, Sociable Weaver, and the ubiquitous Cape and Pied Crows. Not long after we had left, we spotted a Lappet-faced Vulture on a nest and Crowned Lapwing under a shady bush. Then a flat tyre on Charles' van made for added excitement.

Ruppell's Korhaan and Namaqua Sandgrouse were seen before we arrived at Kulala to refreshing drinks, cooled face towels, a Black-backed Jackal and a glorious sunset. Later we enjoyed a fine buffet dinner and some traditional songs. The comfy beds in the lovely chalets were really welcome after our long journey.

Day 4

Friday 1st November

The dunes, Deadvlei, Sossusvlei and the Namib desert

We were up before sunrise, downed a quick breakfast and then were off promptly in order to see the giant 300m dunes at their best – in the light of sunrise – and we were not disappointed with many photos being taken, despite the annoying patchy cloud. Serenading us was a Ruppell's Korhaan, its weird croaky call giving the nickname of the desert frog.

As we approached a parking and toilet area, a snatched view of a Brown Hyena was a big surprise and a very welcome treat. Soon we were preparing for the 1km hike across the sand to Deadvlei, but were side-tracked by Cape Sparrow, Scaly-feathered Finch and Black-backed Jackal. Deadvlei, with its eerie long-dead acacias rooted in the white clay of the ex-lakebed contrasting sharply with steep orange dune faces is incredibly photogenic and atmospheric. Returning to the vehicles, we drove the short distance to the more famous, but perhaps less visually impressive, Sossusvlei and then on to a second breakfast with pronking Springbok for entertainment.

On our leisurely drive back to Kulala, it was interesting to see Gemsbok forming an orderly queue to drink from small waterhole. We found space for a buffet lunch, followed by a siesta in compensation for the early start. Late in the afternoon Jerry gave us a short talk on dune formation (who knew the dune sand had gone all the way out into the Atlantic before coming back again...?). This was followed by a trip out to the less than inventively named Dune 1. Here we were primarily in search of the endemic Dune Lark, and almost immediately we found one! Problem was we had also just found our first Shovel-snouted Lizard, so a tricky choice had to be made as to what to focus on. Most plumped for the cute lark although we soon found another lizard, trying and failing to catch Namib Dune Ants.

Whilst we prepared to enjoy sundowners and snacks, a Dune Lark joined us! Into the bargain, the sunset allowed more opportunities for impossibly scenic photos.

Day 5

Saturday 2nd November

Kulala to Walvis Bay

We had a semi lie-in until 7am and were all set to leave at 8am. Waving our goodbyes to the lovely Kulala staff, we ventured forth and soon found a Gemsbok striding purposefully against the sunlit dunes – the classic desert photo. Fairy circles of vegetation were evident in the bare sand and gravel. Their formation is still a bit of a mystery, but probably just a product of plant growth in a harsh water and nutrient poor environment, along with

the seed/vegetation clearing action of termites perhaps. A flying Ludwig's Bustard was gone all too quickly and another Brown Hyena was an incredibly lucky spot, and this time seen by all.

As we neared the village of Sessreim, a Pygmy Falcon and Blue Wildebeest were to be seen. Nearby, we descended into the impressive geomorphological feature that is Sessreim Canyon. Here we came across some owl pellets but only one of us caught a glimpse of the (Western) Barn Owl after the rest of us had wandered back up! We did all see the lovely Speckled Pigeons and Pale-winged Starlings though. Leaving the canyon behind, we stopped under a massive Sociable Weaver nest and watched their busy antics for a while before heading to a nearby service station for ice-cream!

We had lunch in Solitaire again; this is a somewhat bizarre little oasis in the desert which serves world famous apple pie/strudel as well as lunches. Driving on, we stopped for obligatory photos at the Tropic of Capricorn and, soon after, spotted some Hartmann's Mountain Zebra.

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 the San people who hollowed out the tubular branches to form quivers for their arrows. Here too there were tiny garnets for us to find, but replace after doing so - after all, we were still in a National Park.

We then travelled on through the rather featureless nothingness that are the gravel plains to reach the outskirts of Walvis Bay in the late afternoon. Our lovely hotel was called Flamingo Villas and it certainly lived up to its name with both Lesser and Greater Flamingo roosting just across the way from it in the tidal lagoon.

Day 6

Sunday 3rd November

Walvis Bay

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. As we headed out on our South Atlantic odyssey, she was soon joined on board by two other pelicans all keen to get a pouched beakful of the fish that was on offer. The Kelp Gulls had to work a little harder for their breakfast, snatching fish in flight from the hand of one of the crew.

At the point of the spit that part encloses the bay Afro-Australian Fur Seals were everywhere and all seem to be having a fun time just messing about in the water. From here we set out into the open ocean and soon encountered

Sooty Shearwater and White-chinned Petrel in a feeding frenzy involving them plus plenty of gulls and terns. At least three storm petrels flew past, but the swell was too great and the birds too fast to be sure which species. A large grey blob on the ocean surface turned out to be a very obliging Ocean Sunfish. We circled it many times whilst it eyed us curiously with one eye. Since it was swimming on its side, the other eye was looking down at the deep water. We celebrated this top spot with some cold drinks.

Heading back into the bay, some smart black African Oystercatchers were loafing on the water's edge of the spit as Sanderling and Little Stint raced the surf up and down picking out tiny morsels of food. Some Cape Gannet flew by and as we neared the jetty, two fur seals joined us in the boat! The first was a small male and so manageable, the second was a fully grown bull called Necklace (after a scar left by entanglement in fishing line). This 230kg (36 stone) bull was more of a handful and demanded fish with loud barking and would not leave until he could see and hear that the fish bucket was empty!

Lunch was followed by a slow drive along the Esplanade, lagoon and saltwork's edges with loads of birds foraging in the mud and pools just metres away. The highlights included Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, (Pied) Avocet, Sanderling, Grey Plover, several Bar-tailed Godwits and countless Greater and a good number of Lesser Flamingos. There was also a fly past by a few of the near-endemic Damara Tern and an unfeasibly large flock of roosting Chestnut-banded Plover near some Cape Teal.

Dinner was at the Anchor on the quayside and this venue did a great line in seafood, especially calamari.

Day 7

Monday 4th November

Walvis Bay and Swakopmund

Today we had a welcome lie in and after breakfast we headed just across the road from the hotel and set the telescope up on a large flock of roosting terns nearby. There were a couple of 'small' ones, one quite non-descript with a black bill and part black cap – Common Tern, the other a touch bigger, also with a black cap but including a bit of a Mohican look at the back of its head and a tiny yellow spot on the bill end – Sandwich Tern. There were also a couple of 'large' terns, one with a yellow bill – Greater Crested Tern, while the other was a monster of a bird, bigger than the nearby Hartlaub's Gulls and with what could easily pass for a carrot of a bill – Caspian Tern.

Four terns ticked off, we set off to have a look at the sewage works, a Naturetrek tradition! Thankfully it was not too 'fragrant' and we saw Cape Teal, Blacksmith Lapwing, Ruff and had a fly over by squadron of Great White Pelicans. We then headed north up the coast and soon reached Swakopmund, named after the Swakop river. It was this river at the eastern end of the town that we investigated next. In the little pools that remained we spied Three-banded Plover, Little Grebe and Kittlitz's Plover sitting tightly on the nest (I say nest, it was just a shallow scrape in the sand) next to the track (I say track, it was basically the river bed!)

It was soon time for a little spot of history. We stopped briefly at the Martin Luther museum. The Martin Luther steam locomotive was abandoned in the desert to "stand" since it could "do no other" having sunk into the ground and lacking spare parts and water to run it. Lunch was enjoyed overlooking the ocean with a Southern Masked Weaver stealing the sugar packets from the next table and no doubt rotting its bill!

Some were then whisked off for a scenic flight, back down to Sossusvlei

The rest enjoyed some sightseeing (colonial German architecture), retail therapy (lots of African themed curios) and the museum (which as well as having the usual collection of stuffed and pinned creatures, held a miscellany of all sorts of local memorabilia, including a reconstructed colonial home interior, Emil Kiewittand's apothecary shop and an informative display on the Rössing Mine). In the latish afternoon some headed off to the saltworks

where we had excellent views of large numbers of flamingos. There was also a pair of Chestnut-banded Plover and their two tiny fluffy chicks. These were probably only a day or so old but were already busy fending for themselves, albeit with the occasional return to sit under mummy's/daddy's wings.

We then returned to 'Swakop' for dinner in a pub, where we met up with the intrepid flyers who recounted tales from a tiny aircraft, sometimes flying only some 500m above the coast and dunes, which was close enough to make out fur seals, jackals and gulls and the minutiae of abandoned diamond mine camps.

Day 8

Tuesday 5th November

Walvis Bay to Damaraland ('D') Camp

After breakfast we headed off on the long drive up the (in)famous Skeleton Coast to Damaraland. After a quick stop in Swakopmund to pick up a picnic lunch, we headed north to the wreck of the Zeila now adorned with the nests of Cape and White-breasted Cormorants. This was just one of the dozens of skeletal wrecks that give the Skeleton Coast its name.

At Henties Bay we enjoyed a coffee before pushing on the extensive and pungent colony of fur seals at Cape Cross.

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. Amongst all of this Kelp Gulls were scavenging, but uncharacteristically apparently so were White-fronted Plover and Ruddy Turnstone. We dragged ourselves away and continued our northward journey. At the Skeleton Coast Park gate, paperwork was done whilst some used the facilities or bought desert roses that were for sale at a very reasonable price.

Our picnic lunch was taken scenically on the coast in view of the wreck of "The Seal" and Sandwich Terns. Nourished, we drove on and soon turned inland and headed up onto the plateau and in this rocky desert we saw what is claimed to be one of the world's longest living plants (1,000 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. Here too was the stripy Welwitschia bug.

From a lofty vantage point we had stunning views out over Damaraland and later spotted our first Benguela Long-billed Lark and Giraffes, including an incredibly well-hidden Giraffe baby. Singing welcomed us as we approached the impossibly scenic Damaraland Camp at the end of a long day. There was time for a quick freshen up before dinner and after dinner, one guest was 'lucky' enough to find a snake in her chalet! This was quickly removed and turned out to be a young, harmless and very beautiful Rhombic Eggeater.

Day 9

Wednesday 6th November

Twyfelfontein – am. The Huab River – pm

We were up before sunrise and after a quick breakfast with Pale-winged Starlings, we were off out and were soon seeing the likes of Benguela Long-billed Lark, Southern Red-billed Hornbill and a Namaqua Sandgrouse fly over. Our morning destination was Twyfelfontein (Afrikaans for uncertain spring). Here we took a short walk to view

a mass of ancient 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 who inhabited the region some 5,000(ish) years ago. Here too, we managed to spot Damara Ground Squirrel, White-throated Canary, Red-eyed Bulbul and Cape Bunting. For those that chose not to walk, they saw Dassie Rat and Bokmakierie.

Lunch was beautifully al fresco under a large twisted Camel Thorn tree with Grey-backed Camaroptera and Damara Red-billed Hornbill and Red-billed Spurfowl. It was then time to explore the dry Huab riverbed. We were primarily in search of the desert-adapted (African Bush) Elephant... and found them quickly. A mother and baby were munching on twigs, whilst a young male stood on its hind legs and 'hopped' in order to grab some tasty Ana fruit with the tip of its trunk. A little further along the riverbed was a big bull and we spent some time watching him 'own' the riverbed with all other elephants deferring to him. We too deferred to him when he approached the van!!

We got back in time for a short siesta before dinner which was a braai (barbeque) eaten under the stars in a boma (a traditional wooden fenced enclosure where stock are kept at night). After dinner we found some scorpions using ultra violet light under which they fluoresce and then looked up and spotted Scorpio the constellation, along with Sagittarius and Jupiter.

Day 10

Thursday 7th November

Damaraland Camp to Hobatere

Today we were treated to a 'bush' breakfast. Tables had been set on top of a nearby hill and we enjoyed our food as the sun rose and the Pale-winged Starlings and Cape Buntings picked at our crumbs. It also boasted what many thought to be the best loo with a view they had ever had the privilege to make use of, looking out as it did, over the painted and endless desert. 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 and a soaring Black-chested Snake Eagle. Our first 'official' stop was at Unijab, where there were toilets and our first view of the near-endemic Ruppell's Parrot as well as the much commoner, but also lovely, Laughing Dove.

Subsequent roadside stops on our journey were very productive and the top birds included Chat Flycatcher, African Hoopoe, Monteiro's Hornbill, Double-banded Sandgrouse, Brown Snake Eagle and Gabar Goshawk. Top mammal was a herd of Hartmann's Mountain Zebra. Just before lunch in Kaminjab there was a whole host of birds including Marico Flycatcher, Great Sparrow, Black-chested Prinia, White-tailed and Crimson-breasted Shrikes. Had we stayed longer we would probably have seen more, but the police moved us on as we were obstructing the highway!

Lunch was at Oppi Koppi, and here water and food put out for the birds attracted Grey-headed and Great Sparrow, Violet-eared Waxbill and Red-billed Quelea. In the nearby trees, Dusky Sunbird, Rosy-faced Lovebird, Grey Go-away-bird and Pirit Batis lurked and on walls the unfeasibly coloured Namib Rock Agamas sunned themselves.

Soon after, we were turning into the entrance to Hobatere. We arrived at the camp in the early afternoon and relaxed in our cabins or in the lounge area for a while, before an earlyish dinner followed by a night drive. For this we split into two camp vans. In the beam of spotlights we saw (as a whole) Rufous-cheeked Nightjar, Common Genet, Spotted Thick-knee, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Verreaux's Eagle Owl and Southern White-faced Owl. An Aardwolf and a Bat-eared Fox were a real treat and the Spring Hare brought a smile to our faces, being a crazy almost comical giant gerbil. Oh, and Lions... four of them, one maybe a little too close for comfort given we were in open sided vans!

Day 11

Friday 8th November

Hobatere to Okaukuejo in Etosha National Park

We were entertained by Congo Rope Squirrels at breakfast. After we were repleat, we packed up and headed out. In the relative cool of the early morning we saw Monteiro's and Damara Red-billed Hornbill, Double-banded Sandgrouse, African Hoopoe and the diminutive and very cute Steenbok.

At the Galton Gate entrance at the western end of the Etosha National Park there were Lesser Striped Swallow while Monteiro's Hornbill and Crimson-breasted Shrike were also to be seen. Having completed the signing in needs, 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 Ostrich, Gemsbok, Springbok, Greater Kudu, Hartebeest, Common Wildebeest, a huge male Lion with a massive shaggy mane, Hartmann's Mountain and Plains Zebras.

Lunch was at Olifantsrus with Yellow-billed Hornbill, then in the afternoon there were more waterholes, one with three big bull Elephants, another with the usually shy and retiring Common Eland and also one with a Black Rhino asleep within it! We arrived at the Okaukuejo Rest Camp in the late afternoon where there was ample time for showers before a buffet dinner, the checklist and at least five Black Rhino at a floodlit water hole.

Day 12

Saturday 9th November

Around Okaukuejo

At sunrise, we prepared to set out into the park, just as the Acacia Pied Barbet was feeding nearby. Soon after we set off, we stumbled upon a Black Rhino. This was nearby but largely well hidden in the thick acacia bushes, so we moved on. The waterholes were a little on the quiet side mammalwise, but the birdlife was prolific with large numbers of Grey-backed Sparrow-larks as well as the occasional Chestnut-backed. There were also Red-capped and Spike-heeled Larks for the lark connoisseurs amongst us (Hmmm, just me then...!). Away from the waterholes we saw several White-browed Scrub-robins singing and both Greater Kestrel and Red-necked Falcon put in a welcome appearance. As we headed back for breakfast we were waylaid first by scenic line of Springbok, some pronging (bouncing into in the air with an arched back and stiff legs), then 30+ Elephant on the road... and finally a surprise Black Rhino crossing right in front of us!

Breakfast at 09:00, was followed by a bird walk through the camp and to the waterhole. Yellow-billed Hornbill, European Bee-eater, Groundscraper Thrush, Black-chested Prinia and a lovely pair of Crimson-breasted Shrike all showed well. At the waterhole zebra, Impala and Gemsbok were all busy quenching their thirst, the latter so

much so that they ended up wading into the middle. Helmeted Terrapins sunned themselves whilst Three-banded Plover and a dark phase Tawny Eagle watched over.

Before we knew it, it was lunchtime and after this, another scenic stroll afforded us excellent views of Southern White-crowned Shrike and Acacia Pied Barbet. Given the heat, it was quiet at the waterhole – although there was a Black Rhino asleep to one side. We set off on a game drive at 17:00 but this too was quiet. A lone jackal and Springbok were the sole mammals at one waterhole and just a jackal at another other. A large contingent of South African Ground Squirrels provided some entertainment, whilst a couple of Black Rhino were a welcome surprise.

After dinner, there were several more Black Rhino at the waterhole - we saw so many rhinos on this day!

Day 13

Sunday 10th November

Okaukuejo to Mokuti

Since we were leaving Okaukuejo today, we breakfasted before setting off. Our first sighting of note was a mating pair of Lions, although they were mainly sleeping rather than trying to make baby lions. Soon after we saw a Pale Chanting Goshawk on a kill right next to the van. It was hard to say what unfortunate bird was its breakfast, but most likely a sandgrouse. Surprisingly, we had yet to see Spotted Hyena, but here was one asleep some 15m away. Even in the flattering light of the morning sun, it still had a very hard to love face!

As we made our way towards lunch at Halali camp, we stopped at various intervals to spot various birds and also to marvel at the great white emptiness of the Etosha Pan itself, with Gemsbok in the foreground for added atmosphere. Said stops included ones for Bateleur, African Swamphen, wildebeest and Kori Bustard drinking together and a Double-banded Courser. At Rietfontein waterhole we had the classic African spectacle of seven species of grazers; Giraffe, wildebeest, zebra, Impala, Springbok, kudu and Gemsbok all enjoying a mid-morning drink at the same time. Nearby a Cheetah under a mopane tree was a touch too distant to really have a wow factor but was still a welcome spot.

A buffet lunch was followed by a short walk around Halali camp restaurant to see a couple Bare-cheeked Babblers snuggling up to each other and Smith's Bush Squirrels raiding picnic crumbs. It was then off to the eastern end of Etosha. The heat of the afternoon had forced much of the wildlife into hiding, but a waterhole offered up our first Red-billed Teal, African Jacana and Wood Sandpiper. There were also more bambi-like Steenbok to be enjoyed.

We popped into Namutoni Camp where a gang of Banded Mongoose provided much entertainment. Here too African Cuckoo, Golden-breasted Bunting and Burchell's Starling added to our now bulging checklist. When the mongoose headed off so did we, for Mokuti camp (just beyond the park gates) where there was time to enjoy a walk in shower before an excellent buffet dinner.

Day 14

Monday 11th November

Around Namutoni

Leaving straight after an early breakfast, we were back in the park just after sunrise and overlooking the carcass of an unfortunate zebra, the meat of which was being guarded by at least four very well fed and sleepy Lions. As we then drove slowly around Fischer's Pan, there were a few top birds to be seen, especially the Southern Fiscal. However, it was the presence of parked vans that alerted us to the presence of something far more exciting – through binoculars, but clearly visible once you found them, three Cheetah, most likely well grown cubs. It was a satisfactory but not a great view – that was next! We then heard that just up from where we had come was another Cheetah and indeed, there it was, much closer and more visible than the others and apparently catching mice at the base of a tree. Fed up with that game, it walked parallel to us for a good 10 minutes affording excellent views before disappearing off into thick bush – fantastic!

Chattering away in excitement we almost missed a second Pale Chanting Goshawk on a kill for the trip. This time the red legs of the prey rather gave it away as a Crowned Lapwing. A white lump in a distant tree turned out to be a surprise Great White Pelican! Whilst these do breed in the pan, this one was a touch early, it was probably another couple of months until the rains filled it with water. Also to be seen on our perambulation of the pan were Lesser Grey Shrike. Ant-eating Chat, Capped Wheatear and some lovely White-crested Helmet Shrike. We also had a further welcome surprise in the shape of a Bat-eared Fox unusually out in the day, albeit for just a few seconds of digging at its burrow entrance before disappearing below ground.

We calmed down over ice cream at Namutoni with Marico Sunbird into the bargain. On the drive back to Mokuti a Slender Mongoose darted in and out of fallen wood. Lunch was with Smith's Bush Squirrel and Cape Serotine bats and a short bird walk afterwards gave us our first views of the stonking African Paradise Flycatcher

We set off out again at 16.30 and now tens of vultures were waiting for the Lions to vacate now rather skeletal looking ex-zebra. On "Dik Dik Drive" we unsurprisingly saw lots of Kirk's Dik-dik. However cute these tiny antelope were, I suspect top mammal spot of the afternoon were the Spotted Hyena at a den complete with tiny hyena cubs. They were tricky to see, but most got a glimpse and discovered that even as cubs, they have a face only a hyena mother could love! Top bird spot of the afternoon was a Martial Eagle perched on the very top of a small tree in the warm rich light of the setting sun.

Day 15

Tuesday 12th November

Mokuti to Waterberg

A pre-breakfast walk was enjoyed strolling around the manicured and watered gardens, there with several fine birds to see, including; Black-faced Babblers, Black-backed Puffback, White-bellied Sunbirds and Southern Masked Weaver.

After a fulsome buffet breakfast we packed up and set off on the journey to Waterberg National Park. Our first official stop was at Lake Okjikoto, 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 Striated Heron and Little Grebe which we saw. In the gardens adjacent, we chased African Paradise Flycatcher around the grounds for a while, some trying to get a

decent photo. Easier to see were the Golden-breasted Bunting, White-bellied Sunbird, Willow Warbler and Grey-backed Cameroptera. Lunch was in Otjiwarongo at Casa Forno where the pizza is to be recommended.

We arrived at the Waterberg Plateau in the early afternoon having seen kudu, Impala, baboon and Common Warthog en route). This gave us time for a spot of relaxation before a late afternoon stroll through the chalets and down to dinner. This stroll provided excellent views of three Verreaux's Eagles (two parents and a juvenile) soaring along the top of the cliff face under which our chalets were nestled. Grazing happily around some chalets were some Kirk's Dik-dik and Common Warthogs. A couple of the dik-dik engaged in a territorial tussle and raised a hairy crest on their foreheads, making them look even more coconut-like than usual.

As this was our last full day in the country, a few post-dinner words of thanks and appreciation were said for our two excellent local guides.

Day 16

Wednesday 13th November

Waterberg to Windhoek to Jo'burg

We heard but sadly failed to see the target bird for the morning, Rockrunner, on the pre-breakfast walk. We had to content ourselves with baboons using a car as a makeshift gymnasium instead. Luckily for the owner, they decided not to remove any parts for later entertainment. There was a Scarlet-chested Sunbird and a displaying African Paradise Flycatcher with breakfast.

After breakfast and rather too soon, it was time to pack up the vans one last time and head for the capital. Rob gave a quick talk about termite mounds whilst we looked at one some 3m tall. This remarkable structure is constructed out of a mixture of soil, termite spit and termite poo. Although the mounds appear solid, the structure is incredibly porous. Its walls are filled with tiny holes that allow outside air to enter and permeate. There is also as much of it below ground as above.

We had a quick coffee stop at a service station and even here on the outskirts of town there was a lovely Short-toed Rock Thrush to be seen. On the road to Windhoek we also repeatedly drove through clouds of literally thousands of Common Swifts. They were agile enough to dodge our speeding vans... but only just!

We picked up packed lunches on the outskirts of the capital and arrived at the airport in plenty of time. Here we bade our fond farewells not only to our two excellent local guides but also to two of our gang who were catching a later flight. There were thunderstorms on our way to Jo'burg, but we managed to avoid them. However later, on departing for London a couple of bright flashes and loud bangs heralded our aircraft being stuck by lightning! Not that we would otherwise have noticed; modern aircraft are built to brush such things off with ease.

Day 17

Thursday 14th November

London Heathrow

We arrived at Heathrow on time, bade each other fond farewells and made our ways home, full of memories of the nearly 200 bird and 45+ mammal species seen (or heard) on our 3000+ km Namibian odyssey.

Species Lists

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

	E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic I=Introduced		October - November															
	Common name	Scientific name	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1	Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
2	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>										✓	✓	✓				
3	Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>					✓	✓						✓				
4	Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>												✓				
5	Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
6	Crested Francolin	<i>Dendroperdix sephaena</i>													✓			
7	Red-billed Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis adspersus</i>								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
8	Wilson's Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>					?											
9	European Storm Petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>					?											
10	White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>					✓											
11	Sooty Shearwater	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>					✓											
12	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>						✓						✓	✓	✓		
13	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓									
14	Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>					✓	✓	✓									
15	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>						✓										
16	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>														✓		
17	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>						✓								✓		
18	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>					✓	✓										
19	Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>										✓	✓					
20	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>					✓	✓	✓									
21	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>					✓	✓							✓			
22	Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>																
23	Cape Gannet	<i>Morus capensis</i>					✓											
24	White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>						✓	✓									
25	Cape Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>					✓	✓	✓									
26	Secretarybird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>										✓						
27	White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>		✓										✓	✓			
28	Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>		✓		✓								✓				
29	Black-chested Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>									✓	✓						

	E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic I=Introduced		October - November															
	Common name	Scientific name	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
30	Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>									✓							
31	Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>										✓		✓			✓	
32	Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>									✓				✓			
33	Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
34	Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>														✓	✓	
35	Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>										✓	✓	✓		✓		
36	Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>	✓	✓							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
37	Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓			
38	Rüppell's Korhaan - N	<i>Eupodotis rueppellii</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓							
39	Red-crested Korhaan	<i>Lophotis ruficrista</i>									✓	✓			✓			
40	Northern Black Korhaan	<i>Afrotis afraoides</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓			
41	African Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>						✓						✓				
42	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>												✓				
43	Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>						✓										
44	Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>									✓		✓					
45	African Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus moquini</i>					✓											
46	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>					✓	✓						✓				
47	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>					✓	✓										
48	Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>						✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
49	Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>		✓						✓	✓	✓			✓			
50	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>					✓	✓	✓									
51	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>					✓											
52	Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>						✓					✓		✓			
53	Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>						✓					✓	✓				
54	White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>					✓	✓	✓									
55	Chestnut-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius pallidus</i>					✓	✓										
56	African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>												✓				
57	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>					✓	✓										
58	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>					✓											
59	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>					✓	✓	✓									
60	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>						✓						✓	✓			
61	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>					✓	✓										

	E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic I=Introduced		October - November															
	Common name	Scientific name	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
62	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>					✓	✓	✓									
63	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>					✓	✓	✓					✓	✓			
64	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>												✓	✓			
65	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>					✓											
66	Double-banded Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus africanus</i>												✓				
67	Hartlaub's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus hartlaubii</i>					✓	✓	✓									
68	Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>					✓	✓	✓									
69	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>					✓	✓										
70	Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>					✓	✓										
71	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>						✓	✓									
72	Damara Tern	<i>Sternula balaenarum</i>					✓		✓									
73	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>					✓	✓										
74	Namaqua Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles namaqua</i>		✓						✓		✓	✓		✓			
75	Double-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles bicinctus</i>									✓	✓						
76	Rock Dove - I	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓					✓	✓		✓							
77	Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓							
78	Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>			✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
79	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
80	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>				✓						✓	✓		✓			
81	Grey Go-away-bird	<i>Corythaixoides concolor</i>									✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
82	African Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus gularis</i>											✓	✓	✓			
83	Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>				✓												
84	African Scops Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>									H							
85	Southern White-faced Owl	<i>Ptilopsis granti</i>									✓							
86	Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>									✓							
87	Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>									✓							
88	Rufous-cheeked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus rufigena</i>									✓	✓	✓					
89	African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>		✓							✓				✓		✓	
90	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>															✓	
91	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>						✓								✓	✓	
92	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	✓						✓			✓	✓	✓				
93	White-backed Mousebird	<i>Colius colius</i>		✓														

	E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic I=Introduced		October - November															
	Common name	Scientific name	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
94	Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>	✓	✓														
95	Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>										✓						
96	Olive Bee-eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>									✓							
97	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		✓									✓	✓		✓		
98	African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>		✓						H	✓	✓	H	✓		✓		
99	Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>														✓		
100	Common Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>												✓				
101	Damara Red-billed Hornbill - N	<i>Tockus damarensis</i>								✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			
102	Southern Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus rufirostris</i>								✓					✓			
103	Monteiro's Hornbill - N	<i>Tockus monteiri</i>									✓	✓						
104	Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>									✓	✓	✓					
105	African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
106	Acacia Pied Barbet	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>											✓					
107	Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>												✓				
108	Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>													✓			
109	Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>					✓											
110	Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicolus</i>								✓								
111	Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>											✓					
112	Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>											✓					
113	Rüppell's Parrot - N	<i>Poicephalus rueppellii</i>								H	✓					✓		
114	Rosy-faced Lovebird	<i>Agapornis roseicollis</i>	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓							
115	Pririt Batis	<i>Batis pririt</i>									✓							
116	White-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanioturdus torquatus</i>									✓							
117	White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>													✓			
118	Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>								✓								
119	Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>														✓	✓	
120	Crimson-breasted Shrike	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
121	Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>								H								
122	Southern White-crowned Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus anguitemens</i>												✓				
123	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>													✓			
124	Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>											✓	✓				
125	Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	✓							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

	E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic I=Introduced		October - November															
	Common name	Scientific name	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
126	African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>													✓	✓	✓	
127	Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>		✓								✓	✓	✓				
128	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
129	Ashy Tit	<i>Melaniparus cinerascens</i>													✓			
130	Spike-heeled Lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>											✓					
131	Gray's Lark - N	<i>Ammomanopsis grayi</i>							✓									
132	Benguela Long-billed Lark - N	<i>Certhilauda benguelensis</i>							✓	✓								
133	Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix leucotis</i>											✓					
134	Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix verticalis</i>							✓	✓		✓	✓					
135	Sabota Lark	<i>Calendulauda sabota</i>										✓	✓		✓			
136	Dune Lark - E	<i>Calendulauda erythrochlamys</i>			✓													
137	Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>						✓					✓					
138	African Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>		✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
139	Banded Martin	<i>Riparia cincta</i>										✓						
140	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓						✓	✓		
141	Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓							
142	Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>										✓						
143	Red-breasted Swallow	<i>Cecropis semirufa</i>											✓	✓	✓			
144	Rockrunner	<i>Achaetops pycnopygius</i>														H		
145	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>														✓	✓	
146	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>													✓			
147	Black-chested Prinia	<i>Prinia flavicans</i>								✓	✓		✓					
148	Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>								✓						✓		
149	Black-faced Babbler	<i>Turdoides melanops</i>													✓	✓		
150	Southern Pied Babbler	<i>Turdoides bicolor</i>		✓														
151	Bare-cheeked Babbler	<i>Turdoides gymnogenys</i>												✓				
152	Chestnut-vented Warbler	<i>Sylvia subcoerulea</i>	✓								✓							
153	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓															
154	Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
155	Meves's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis mevesii</i>									✓	✓						
156	Burchell's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis australis</i>												✓	✓			
157	Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>													✓			

	E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic I=Introduced		October - November															
	Common name	Scientific name	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
158	Pale-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus nabouroup</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓						✓	✓	
159	Groundscraper Thrush	<i>Turdus litsitsirupa</i>								✓			✓	✓		✓		
160	Kalahari Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas paena</i>		✓														
161	White-browed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>											✓		✓			
162	Chat Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis infuscatus</i>									✓		✓	✓				
163	Marico Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis mariquensis</i>									✓				✓			
164	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>														✓		
165	Short-toed Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola brevipes</i>	✓	✓														
166	Ant-eating Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>		✓											✓			
167	Mountain Wheatear	<i>Myrmecocichla monticola</i>		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓							
168	Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>													✓			
169	Familiar Chat	<i>Oenanthe familiaris</i>		✓	✓	✓				✓								
170	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>		✓													✓	
171	Marico Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>													✓			
172	White-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris talatala</i>													✓		✓	
173	Dusky Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris fuscus</i>									✓		✓			✓		
174	House Sparrow - I	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									
175	Great Sparrow	<i>Passer motitensis</i>		✓							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
176	Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓								
177	Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>									✓		✓	✓				
178	Red-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>												✓	✓	✓		
179	White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>		✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
180	Sociable Weaver	<i>Philetairus socius</i>		✓		✓												
181	Scaly-feathered Weaver	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>			✓										✓			
182	Southern Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓			✓				✓	✓	✓	
183	Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>									✓	✓	✓	✓				
184	Red-headed Finch	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>		✓					✓				✓					
185	Violet-eared Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus granatinus</i>									✓							
186	Shaft-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua regia</i>										✓			✓			
187	Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓									
188	African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>										✓						
189	Black-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>										✓						

	E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic I=Introduced		October - November															
	Common name	Scientific name	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
190	Yellow Canary	<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>			✓							✓	✓					
191	White-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra albogularis</i>								✓								
192	Lark-like Bunting	<i>Emberiza impetuani</i>											✓					
193	Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>	✓							✓								
194	Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>												✓		✓		

Mammals

1	Cape Bat (Cape Serotine)	<i>Neoromicia capensis</i>													✓	✓	
2	Egyptian Free-tailed Bat	<i>Tadarida aegyptiaca</i>												?	?		
3	African Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>								10		✓	✓	✓	✓		
4	Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>									✓	✓					
5	Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
6	Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>									✓		✓				
7	Spring Hare	<i>Pedetes capensis</i>									✓						
8	Dassie Rat	<i>Petromus typicus</i>								✓							
9	Black-tailed Tree Rat	<i>Thallomys nigricauda</i>											✓				
10	Congo Rope Squirrel	<i>Funisciurus congicus</i>										✓					
11	Smith's Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>												✓	✓	✓	
12	South African Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus inauris</i>		✓		✓							✓	✓			
13	Damara Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus princeps</i>								✓							
14	Cheetah	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>												1	4		
15	Wild Cat	<i>Felis silvestris</i>									✓						
16	Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>									4	✓		✓	✓		
17	Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>													✓		
18	Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>										✓		✓	✓	✓	
19	Meerkat	<i>Suricata suricatta</i>		✓													
20	Spotted Hyaena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>												✓	✓		
21	Brown Hyaena	<i>Hyaena brunnea</i>			1	1											
22	Aardwolf	<i>Proteles cristata</i>										2					
23	Common Genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>										2					
24	Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
25	Bat-eared Fox	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>										1			1		

	E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic I=Introduced		October - November															
	Common name	Scientific name	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
26	Afro-Australian Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>					✓	✓	✓									
27	Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga burchellii</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
28	Mountain Zebra - N	<i>Equus zebra hartmannae</i>		✓		✓					✓	✓						
29	Black Rhinoceros	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>										6	✓	✓				
30	Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>	✓	✓											✓	✓	✓	
31	Heaviside's Dolphin	<i>Cephalorhynchus heavisidii</i>					✓											
32	Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>										✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
33	Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus caama</i>												✓	✓		✓	
34	Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
35	Common Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>				✓						✓	✓	✓	✓			
36	Kirk's Dik-dik	<i>Madoqua kirkii</i>										✓			✓	✓	✓	
37	Klipspringer	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>		✓														
38	Gemsbok	<i>Oryx gazella</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
39	Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>										✓		✓				
40	(Bleisbok	<i>Damaliscus pygargus phillipsi</i>)		✓														
41	(Bontebok	<i>Damaliscus pygargus pygargus</i>)													✓			
42	Common Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>													✓	✓		
43	Common Eland	<i>Tragelaphus oryx</i>										✓			✓			
44	Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
45	Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>							✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Reptiles

Shovel-snouted Lizard, *Meroles anchietae*
 Common Barking Gecko, *Ptenopus garrulous*
 Leopard Tortoise, *Stigmochelys pardalis*

Ovambo Tree Skink, *Trachylepis binotata*
 Boulton's Namib Day Gecko, *Rhoptropus boultoni*
 A Helmeted Terrapin, *Pelomedusa* sp

Namib Rock Agama, *Agama planiceps*
 Rhombic Egg Eater, *Dasypeltis scabra*

Other species

A Giant Millipede, *Archispirostreptus* sp?
 A Red Velvet Mite, family Trombididiidae
 A Blister Beetle, *Hyaleus* sp

Lion's Mane Jellyfish, *Cyanea capillata*
 A Knobbly Darkling Beetle, *Physadesmia* sp
 A Chafer Beetle, subfamily Cetoniinae

A Scorpion, *Parabuthus* sp
 A Racing-stripe Darkling Beetle, *Stenocara* sp
 Welwitschia Bug, *Probergrothius angolensis*

A Spider-hunting Wasp, family Pompilidae
Red-veined Dropwing, *Trithemis arteriosa*

A Potter Wasp, family Eumenidae
An Antlion, family Myrmeleontidae

Namib Desert Dune Ant, *Camponotus detritus*
Ocean Sunfish, *Mola mola*

Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek e-mailing list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers. Visit www.naturetrek.co.uk to sign up.

Social Media

We're social! Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and be the first to hear about the launch of new tours, offers and exciting sightings and photos from our recently returned holidays.



www.facebook.com/naturetrekwildlifeholidays



www.twitter.com/naturetrektours



www.instagram.com/naturetrek_wildlife_holidays



Dune Lark by Mick Hoult



Cheetah by Rob Mileto



Verreaux's Eagle Owl by Mick Hoult