



Field Guides Tour Report

Namibia & Botswana

Apr 3, 2012 to Apr 22, 2012

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Our 2012 Namibia & Botswana tour followed our well-tried route and once again gave us all possible Namibian endemics (and near-endemics), plus simply wonderful looks at Wattled Crane and Pel's Fishing Owl in the Okavango Delta - two of the regions most sought after birds! We also enjoyed some great mammals, with close up Black Rhino and Elephants at Etosha, the unusual Dassie Rat at Erongo, and Serval, Leopard, and the rare Hunting (Wild) Dog in the Okavango Delta.

The tour began in fine style with almost 90 species being seen just around Windhoek itself. Highlights included flocks of South African Shelduck, African Hawk-Eagle, Gray Go-away-bird, Pearl-spotted Owlet (the first of many), Bradfield's Swift, White-backed Mousebird, Pririt Batis, Crimson-breasted Gonolek (just stunning), Ashy Tit, Black-fronted Bulbul, Rufous-vented Warbler, Kalahari Scrub-Robin, Scaly Weaver, the gorgeous Violet-eared Waxbill, and 'out of this world' Shaft-tailed Whydah.

Heading south-west from Windhoek we stopped at a small dam near Guisis, picking up Cape Shoveler and Moccoa Duck, and then, as we entered the more arid country, Pale Chanting-Goshawk, Kori and White-quilled bustards, and our first Chat Flycatchers.

We then had two nights in the Namib Naukluft Desert, and a day trip to the huge red sand dunes at Sossusvlei. Having experienced almost three years of record rains, the normally arid desert was now a vast grassland, with scattered herds of Gemsbok and Springbok throughout. Our main target bird here was Dune Lark, which performed very well and in record time, and we also enjoyed Ostrich, Secretary-bird, Pygmy Falcon, Burchell's Courser, Ludwig's and Rueppell's bustards, and several large flocks of Namaqua Sandgrouse.

Continuing on, we then headed north-west to Walvis Bay at the coast, but not before a stop at the Tropic of Capricorn, where we had good looks at Tractrac Chat, the rather uncommon Yellow-rumped (Karoo) Eremomela, and distant herds of Mountain Zebra. The coast itself was marvellous, with huge numbers of shorebirds wheeling around over the Walvis Bay tidal flats. Greater Flamingo, Cape and Crowned cormorants, Hartlaub's and Kelp (Cape) gulls, Damara Tern, Gray's Lark, and Orange River White-eye were other highlights, and we even had time to see the strange Welwitschia plants in their special reserve near Swakopmund.

An early start for the hinterland then took us to Spitzkoppe and a search for one of Namibia's most localized endemic birds-it was tough this year, but eventually we were all rewarded with some of our closest views ever of a pair of Herero Chats. Continuing on, we then found a pair of the uncommon Rueppell's Parrots before arriving at the delightful Erongo Wilderness Camp for a two night stay. And what a great place Erongo is, with Hartlaub's Francolin, Rosy-faced Lovebird (dozens), Monteiro's Hornbill, White-tailed Shrike, Carp's Tit, Rockrunner, and Short-toed Rock-Thrush, all just around the camp. An afternoon walk in a nearby dry river bed produced a troop of Chacma Baboons, Banded Mongoose, Warthog, a magnificent male Greater Kudu, and about 20 Gemsbok. While at the camp itself, Rock Hyrax and a few of the localised Dassie Rats were rarely out of sight.

The next part of our tour took us north to Etosha and then to near Rundu on the border with Angola. By driving slowly, and watching for birds and mammals along the way, it took us two days to travel just half the length of Etosha park, but it was well worth it, with just a few of the highlights being White-backed and Lappet-faced vultures, Greater Kestrel, the beautiful Blue Crane, Temminck's and Double-banded coursers, Double-banded Sandgrouse, African Scops-Owl, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, Violet Woodhoopoe, Southern Red-billed Hornbill, White Helmetshrike, Pink-billed Lark, Desert Cisticola, Black-faced Babbler, Groundscraper Thrush, and Eastern Paradise-Whydah. While the most memorable mammal encounters included some close up African Elephant, about 5000 Burchell's Zebra, two Black Rhino,

Common Giraffe, Hartebeest, and Wildebeest. However, perhaps the most unusual incident we saw was a Springbok falling into a drinking trough and then being killed by three Black-backed Jackals as it finally emerged.

As the drive to Rundu is long, we first spent a night at Uris, an hours drive outside Etosha park, and it was here we had great looks at yet another near-endemic: the attractive Bare-cheeked Babbler. But then it was on to Rundu (with an unexpected Slaty Egret at a roadside pool along the way), and then some excellent birding along the Okavango River. White-faced Whistling-Duck, African Openbill, Dwarf Bittern, Rufous-bellied Heron, Long-toed and Wattled lapwings, Lesser Jacana, Coppery-tailed Coucal, Malachite and Giant kingfishers, Gabon (Swamp) Boubou, and Hartlaub's Babbler were all seen well.

Our last stop in Namibia was right on the Botswana border at Mahango Game Reserve. As usual this little park was teeming with birdlife from Spur-winged Goose and Greater Painted-snipe in the the flooded grasslands, to Meyer's Parrot and Retz's Helmetshrike in the woodlands, with White-backed Vulture and Bateleur overhead. It was great for mammals too, with more elephants, Lechwe, Reedbuck, and four uncommon Roan Antelope.

The Botswana part of our tour took place at three lodges this year, beginning as always at Xaro in the Pan Handle. Without doubt the highlight for every one was our spectacular views of Pel's Fishing-Owl, watched for over fifteen minutes, and at times facing us right in the sun. That was not all though, because we also enjoyed African Pygmy-Goose, African Marsh-Harrier, African Green-Pigeon, African Wood-Owl, numerous White-fronted Bee-eaters, Pearl-breasted Swallow, Chirping Cisticola, Yellow-billed Oxpecker, and Brown Firefinch.

We then took a charter flight for about one hour south, deep into the heart of the Okavango Delta, staying first at Stanley's Camp and then at their sister camp - Chief's. Both brought us some serious top-notch luxury, especially when considering the remoteness of these camps. And at both places we drove the sandy tracks in open-sided 4X4 vehicles enjoying the vastness of the landscape, virtually no other vehicles, and a wonderful range of mammals and birds that included Swainson's Francolin, Saddle-billed Stork, Dickinson's Kestrel, Small Buttonquail, Senegal Coucal, Bennett's Woodpecker, Magpie Shrike, and Purple Indigobird. Perhaps the most memorable bird though was the stately Wattled Crane, while Spotted Hyaena with a tiny baby, Serval, Hunting Dog, and Leopard all tied for first place on our mammal list.

All in all, it was a fun and memorable trip, and I thank you all for joining me, and I look forward to seeing each of you on another tour in the near future.

--Terry

For more information about this tour, including future departures, visit our website at www.fieldguides.com. And to see this same triplist online, go to <http://www.fieldguides.com/triplists/nam12LIST.pdf> and you will find the list in its entirety.

KEYS FOR THIS LIST

One of the following keys may be shown in brackets for individual species as appropriate: * = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic, N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant

BIRDS

Struthionidae (Ostrich)

OSTRICH (*Struthio camelus*) – Fifty in the Namib Naukluft Desert NP, and about 140 at Etosha.

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

WHITE-FACED WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna viduata*) – About 100 at both Hakusembe and Mahango GR, and then about 25 near Stanley's Camp.

WHITE-BACKED DUCK (*Thalassornis leuconotus*) – Two were seen by some of the group at Chief's Camp.

COMB DUCK (*Sarkidiornis melanotos*) – A total of 7 were seen at Hakusembe and in the Mahango reserve.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*) – Common and widespread at wetlands throughout the tour; in all we saw about 1200.

SOUTH AFRICAN SHELDUCK (*Tadorna cana*) – About 60 at the Windhoek Sewage Works and 50 at Guisis.

SPUR-WINGED GOOSE (*Plectropterus gambensis*) – About 100 at Mahango GR, and 1 near Stanley's Camp.

AFRICAN PYGMY-GOOSE (*Nettapus auritus*) – Ten (all in flight) near Xaro and then 2 at Chief's Camp.

AFRICAN BLACK DUCK (*Anas sparsa*) – Three at Windhoek Sewage Works (where it is considered to be very uncommon).

CAPE SHOVELER (*Anas smithii*) – About 15 at Guisis.

RED-BILLED DUCK (*Anas erythrorhyncha*) – The most common and widespread duck in Namibia; in all we saw about 700.

HOTTENTOT TEAL (*Anas hottentota*) – Four at Windhoek Sewage Works and 2 near Chief's Camp.

CAPE TEAL (*Anas capensis*) – Small numbers at Windhoek Sewage Works and Guisis, and about 60 at Etosha.

Numididae (Guineafowl)

HELMETED GUINEAFOWL (*Numida meleagris*) – Common in a variety of bushed grassland throughout the tour; in all we saw about 250.

Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)

HARTLAUB'S FRANCOLIN (*Francolinus hartlaubi*) – Great looks at 5 of these very localised endemic francolins near Erongo Wilderness Lodge. [E]

RED-BILLED FRANCOLIN (*Francolinus adspersus*) – Widespread in bushed grasslands; in all we saw about 160.

SWAINSON'S FRANCOLIN (*Francolinus swainsonii*) – About 40 in the Stanley's Camp area.

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

LITTLE GREBE (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) – Widespread on a variety of wetlands throughout the tour, with a total of about 65.

EARED GREBE (*Podiceps nigricollis*) – Ten at the Walvis Bay Salt Works.

Phoenicopteridae (Flamingos)

GREATER FLAMINGO (*Phoenicopus roseus*) – About 80 at the Walvis Bay Salt Works.

Ciconiidae (Storks)

AFRICAN OPENBILL (*Anastomus lamelligerus*) – About 50 at Hakusembe, another 50 in the Xaro area, and 40 near Stanley's Camp.

ABDIM'S STORK (*Ciconia abdimii*) – Four at the Okaukuejo waterhole in Etosha.

SADDLE-BILLED STORK (*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*) – Great looks at 5 in the Stanley's Camp area.

MARABOU STORK (*Leptoptilos crumeniferus*) – Twenty-four were to the south-west of Windhoek, 3 at Etosha, 6 near Stanley's Camp, and 2 near Chief's Camp.

YELLOW-BILLED STORK (*Mycteria ibis*) – One in the Stanley's Camp area.

Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)

GREAT CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) – Four at the Windhoek Sewage Works and about 30 in the Walvis Bay area.

CAPE CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax capensis*) – At least 5000 in the Walvis Bay to Swakopmund area.

LONG-TAILED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax africanus*) – Seen on a variety of fresh water wetlands throughout the tour; in all we saw about 140.

CROWNED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax coronatus*) – About 30 in front of our hotel at Walvis Bay, and 3 at the guano platform.

Anhingidae (Anhingas)

AFRICAN DARTER (*Anhinga rufa rufa*) – Widespread at wetlands throughout the tour, with a total of about 140.

Pelecanidae (Pelicans)

GREAT WHITE PELICAN (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) – Four at Windhoek Sewage Works, 3 at Guisis, and about 300 at Walvis Bay.

Scopidae (Hamerkop)

HAMERKOP (*Scopus umbretta*) – One at Windhoek Sewage Works, and 11 at various sites in the Okavango Delta.

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

LITTLE BITTERN (*Ixobrychus minutus*) – One flew across the river near Xaro Camp.

DWARF BITTERN (*Ixobrychus sturmii*) – One briefly on the way to Rundu and then good looks at 1 at Hakusembe.

GRAY HERON (*Ardea cinerea*) – Widespread at wetlands throughout the tour.

BLACK-HEADED HERON (*Ardea melanocephala*) – One at the Windhoek Sewage Works.

PURPLE HERON (*Ardea purpurea*) – Singles at Windhoek Sewage Works, and one near Xaro Lodge.

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*) – One at Mahango GR.

INTERMEDIATE EGRET (*Mesophoyx intermedia*) – Singles near Rundu, Stanley's Camp, and Chief's Camp.

LITTLE EGRET (*Egretta garzetta*) – About 60 at Walvis Bay, 20 at Hakusembe, 30 at Mahango GR, and 1 near Chief's Camp.

SLATY EGRET (*Egretta vinaceigula*) – One 150 kms. south of Rundu and 2 at Mahango GR - a very localised endemic.

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*) – Common and widespread away from arid desert areas.

SQUACCO HERON (*Ardeola ralloides*) – Two near Xaro Lodge.

RUFOUS-BELLIED HERON (*Ardeola rufiventris*) – Singles at Hakusembe and near Chief's Camp.

STRIATED HERON (*Butorides striata*) – About 45 from Hakusembe easterly to the Okavango Delta.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) – We saw a single adult at Windhoek Sewage Works.

Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*) – Two south of Rundu and 2 near Chief's Camp.

SACRED IBIS (*Threskiornis aethiopicus*) – About 30 in Johannesburg, 2 in Windhoek, 1 at Rundu, and 4 near Stanley's Camp.

HADADA IBIS (*Bostrychia hagedash*) – Six in Johannesburg.

AFRICAN SPOONBILL (*Platalea alba*) – One in Etosha.

Pandionidae (Osprey)

OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*) – Singles in Johannesburg and Windhoek.

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE (*Elanus caeruleus*) – About 20 in the unusually grassy areas from Windhoek to Sussosvlei, and then 10 at Etosha.

BLACK KITE (YELLOW-BILLED) (*Milvus migrans parasitus*) – Two to the east of Rundu.

AFRICAN FISH-EAGLE (*Haliaeetus vocifer*) – About 40 in the Okavango area.

HOODED VULTURE (*Necrosyrtes monachus*) – Ten near Stanley's Camp.

WHITE-BACKED VULTURE (*Gyps africanus*) – About 150 on the way to Spitzkoppe, 100 at Etosha, and another 70 in small scattered flocks elsewhere.

LAPPET-FACED VULTURE (*Torgos tracheliotus*) – Now considered a threatened species, but we were lucky and saw at least 26 throughout the tour.

WHITE-HEADED VULTURE (*Trigonoceps occipitalis*) – We saw a single sub-adult at Mahango GR.

BLACK-BREASTED SNAKE-EAGLE (*Circaetus pectoralis*) – Some of the group saw 1 near the Shakawe airfield.

BROWN SNAKE-EAGLE (*Circaetus cinereus*) – Singles near both Stanley's and Chief's camps.

BATELEUR (*Terathopius ecaudatus*) – About 20 in the Okavango Delta.

AFRICAN MARSH-HARRIER (*Circus ranivorus*) – Two singles from the boat trips out of Xaro Lodge.

AFRICAN HARRIER-HAWK (*Polyboroides typus*) – Singles at Sossusvlei, Hakusembe, and near Chief's Camp.

DARK CHANTING-GOSHAWK (*Melierax metabates*) – One at the Shakawe airfield.

PALE CHANTING-GOSHAWK (*Melierax canorus*) – Very common in the Namib Naukluft Desert NP and north to the Erongo mountains and Etosha; in all we saw about 70.

GABAR GOSHAWK (*Micronisus gabar*) – Singles at Okombahe, Etosha, and Mahango GR.

SHIKRA (*Accipiter badius*) – Singles at Guisis, Spitzkoppe, Etosha, and near Stanley's Camp.

AUGUR BUZZARD (*Buteo augur*) – One at Spitzkoppe.

TAWNY EAGLE (*Aquila rapax*) – Widespread in small numbers; in all we saw 7.

VERREAUX'S EAGLE (*Aquila verreauxii*) – Two of the group saw 1 over Erongo Wilderness Lodge.

AFRICAN HAWK-EAGLE (*Aquila spilogaster*) – Four near Windhoek.

WAHLBERG'S EAGLE (*Hieraetus wahlbergi*) – One near Stanley's Camp.

BOOTED EAGLE (*Hieraetus pennatus*) – Five near Guisis, and 1 near Solitaire.

Sagittariidae (Secretary-bird)

SECRETARY-BIRD (*Sagittarius serpentarius*) – One near Solitaire, and 1 at Etosha.

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

PYGMY FALCON (*Polihierax semitorquatus*) – One for some of the group at the Namib Desert Lodge, and then 1 for everyone near Solitaire.

LESSER KESTREL (*Falco naumanni*) – A single adult male flew over the waterhole at Okaukuejo.

EURASIAN KESTREL (*Falco tinnunculus*) – The distinctive form 'rupicolis' is often split and known as Rock Kestrel, we saw about 20 between Windhoek and Sossusvlei, and then about 10 at Etosha.

GREATER KESTREL (*Falco rupicoloides*) – Great looks several times both around Solitaire and at Etosha.

DICKINSON'S KESTREL (*Falco dickinsoni*) – One briefly at Mahango GR, and then nice looks at 6 in the Stanley's Camp area.

LANNER FALCON (*Falco biarmicus*) – We had a really closed tee-d up bird at Sossusvlei and then another 6 between Solitaire and Walvis Bay.

Otididae (Bustards)

KORI BUSTARD (*Ardeotis kori*) – Two near Solitaire, and about 20 at Etosha.

LUDWIG'S BUSTARD (*Neotis ludwigii*) – Four on the dry grasslands on the way to Sossusvlei.

RUEPPELL'S BUSTARD (*Eupodotis rueppellii*) – Six between Solitaire and Sossusvlei. [E]

RED-CRESTED BUSTARD (*Eupodotis ruficrista*) – Two single females at Etosha.

WHITE-QUILLED BUSTARD (*Eupodotis afraoides*) – We saw a male and a female near Solitaire, and then 4 others at Etosha.

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

BLACK CRAKE (*Amaurornis flavirostra*) – Two at the Windhoek Sewage Works, and then a total of about 30 from Hakusembe and on through the Okavango Delta.

PURPLE SWAMPHEN (*Porphyrio porphyrio*) – Three at Windhoek Sewage Works - sometimes split as the African Purple Swamphen *P. madagascariensis*.

EURASIAN MOORHEN (*Gallinula chloropus*) – Small numbers at Windhoek, Etosha, Hakusembe, and near Stanley's Camp.

RED-KNOBBED COOT (*Fulica cristata*) – About 50 at both the Windhoek Sewage Works and Guisis, and then 30 near Namutoni at Etosha.

Gruidae (Cranes)

BLUE CRANE (*Anthropoides paradiseus*) – Fabulous close looks at an adult and immature at Etosha.

WATTLED CRANE (*Bugeranus carunculatus*) – Just wonderful this year with 2 pairs and a single near Stanley's Camp.

Burhinidae (Thick-knees)

WATER THICK-KNEE (*Burhinus vermiculatus*) – A total of 11 between Mahango and the Stanley's Camp area.

SPOTTED THICK-KNEE (*Burhinus capensis*) – Good looks at a pair near Chief's Camp.

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

LONG-TOED LAPWING (*Vanellus crassirostris*) – Two near Hakusembe and 4 at Mahango.

BLACKSMITH PLOVER (*Vanellus armatus*) – Widespread at wetlands throughout the tour; in all we saw about 220.

CROWNED LAPWING (*Vanellus coronatus*) – Common at Etosha (80), Hakusembe (40), and around Stanley's Camp (20).

WATTLED LAPWING (*Vanellus senegallus*) – Four at Hakusembe, and 2 at Mahango GR.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER (*Pluvialis squatarola*) – About 40 along the shores near Walvis Bay.

COMMON RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius hiaticula*) – About 60 along the shores near Walvis Bay.

THREE-BANDED PLOVER (*Charadrius tricollaris*) – Widespread in small numbers at a variety of fresh water pools throughout the tour.

WHITE-FRONTED PLOVER (*Charadrius marginatus*) – About 40 between Walvis Bay and Swakopmund.

CHESTNUT-BANDED PLOVER (*Charadrius pallidus*) – Nice looks at 1 on a roadside pool near Swakopmund.

Haematopodidae (Oystercatchers)

AFRICAN OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus moquini*) – Two along the shore north of Swakopmund.

Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)

BLACK-WINGED STILT (*Himantopus himantopus*) – Most common around Walvis Bay and Swakopmund, but also widespread at many pools throughout the tour.

PIED AVOCET (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) – Great looks at about 350 on the Walvis Bay and Swakopmund Salt Works ponds.

Jacanidae (Jacanas)

LESSER JACANA (*Microparra capensis*) – Fantastic this tour with great close looks at both Hakusembe and then on a boat trip from Xaro Lodge.

AFRICAN JACANA (*Actophilornis africanus*) – Four at Etosha, and then a total of about 200 in the Okavango Delta.

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

COMMON SANDPIPER (*Actitis hypoleucos*) – Two near Chief's Camp.

COMMON GREENSHANK (*Tringa nebularia*) – Six at Walvis Bay, 1 near Stanley's Camp and 2 near Chief's Camp.

WOOD SANDPIPER (*Tringa glareola*) – First seen in the Mahango GR and then about another 10 around Stanley's and Chief's camps.

WHIMBREL (*Numenius phaeopus*) – The white-backed nominate form (often split as Eurasian Whimbrel) was common around Walvis Bay.

RUDDY TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*) – About 100 between Walvis Bay and Swakopmund.

SANDERLING (*Calidris alba*) – About 200 between Walvis Bay and Swakopmund.

LITTLE STINT (*Calidris minuta*) – At least 400 on the Walvis Bay and Swakopmund salt works ponds.

CURLEW SANDPIPER (*Calidris ferruginea*) – Many thousands on the tidal flats at Walvis Bay, included a good number in near breeding plumage.

RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*) – About 12 at Walvis Bay and 3 near Stanley's Camp.

Turnicidae (Buttonquail)

SMALL BUTTONQUAIL (*Turnix sylvaticus*) – One was seen twice in flight on a drive from Stanley's Camp.

Glareolidae (Pratincoles and Coursers)

BURCHELL'S COURSER (*Cursorius rufus*) – We had good looks at 6 of these erratic wanderers at Sossusvlei.

TEMMINCK'S COURSER (*Cursorius temminckii*) – One at Etosha.

DOUBLE-BANDED COURSER (*Smutsornis africanus*) – About a dozen at Etosha.

COLLARED PRATINCOLE (*Glareola pratincola*) – A single was at a waterhole near Chief's Camp.

Rostratulidae (Painted-Snipes)

GREATER PAINTED-SNIPE (*Rostratula benghalensis*) – One male along the flooded grasslands in Mahango GR.

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

GRAY-HOODED GULL (*Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*) – About 30 flying over our hotel in Johannesburg.

HARTLAUB'S GULL (*Chroicocephalus hartlaubii*) – Very common all along the shore from Walvis Bay to Swakopmund; in all we saw about 3000.

KELP GULL (CAPE) (*Larus dominicanus vetula*) – Common at Walvis Bay and Swakopmund, with a total of about 1000.

DAMARA TERN (*Sternula balaenarum*) – Can be difficult but we were lucky this year and saw 5 to the north of Swakopmund.

CASPIAN TERN (*Hydroprogne caspia*) – Two at the Walvis Bay Salt Works.

COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirundo*) – About 150 at Walvis Bay.

GREAT CRESTED TERN (*Thalasseus bergii*) – Two near Walvis Bay.

SANDWICH TERN (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*) – About 15 with the Common Terns at Walvis Bay.

Pteroclididae (Sandgrouse)

NAMAQUA SANDGROUSE (*Pterocles namaqua*) – Two on the road south-west of Windhoek and then a total of about 550 between Sossusvlei, Spitzkoppe, and Etosha.

DOUBLE-BANDED SANDGROUSE (*Pterocles bicinctus*) – About 200 came to drink at dusk at the Okaukuejo waterhole, and we then saw a total of about 20 feeding on the ground in daylight around Stanley's and Chief's camps.

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*) – About 50 at Windhoek and 20 at Walvis Bay.

SPECKLED PIGEON (*Columba guinea*) – Common from Windhoek to the coast and then north to Etosha; we saw a total of about 100.

RED-EYED DOVE (*Streptopelia semitorquata*) – Common in the Okavango region, where we saw about 130.

RING-NECKED DOVE (*Streptopelia capicola*) – Common and widespread in open wooded or bushy areas throughout the tour.

LAUGHING DOVE (*Streptopelia senegalensis*) – Common and widespread throughout the tour (even in desert areas).

EMERALD-SPOTTED WOOD-DOVE (*Turtur chalcospilos*) – Common from the east side of Etosha and on through the Okavango Delta; in all we saw about 140.

NAMAQUA DOVE (*Oena capensis*) – Widespread throughout the tour with a total of about 300.

AFRICAN GREEN-PIGEON (*Treron calvus*) – Nice looks around Xaro and Stanley's.

Psittacidae (Parrots)

ROSY-FACED LOVEBIRD (*Agapornis roseicollis*) – These attractive little parrots were most common at Erongo Wilderness Lodge, but we also saw them at the Namib Desert Lodge, and 2 near Windhoek. [E]

MEYER'S PARROT (*Poicephalus meyeri*) – Small numbers from Mahango and on through the Okavango.

RUEPPELL'S PARROT (*Poicephalus rueppellii*) – We saw two of these very localised endemic parrots eating wild raisins at Okombahe, and then another pair in flight near the Erongo Mountains. [E]

Musophagidae (Turacos)

GRAY GO-AWAY-BIRD (*Corythaixoides concolor*) – Common throughout the tour away from the most arid areas; in all we saw about 220.

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

PIED CUCKOO (*Clamator jacobinus*) – One at Mahango GR.

GREAT SPOTTED CUCKOO (*Clamator glandarius*) – We saw an immature (being accompanied by a pair of Cape Glossy-Starlings) to the south of Okaukuejo.

COPPERY-TAILED COUCAL (*Centropus cupreicaudus*) – Two at Hakusembe, and then common throughout the Okavango Delta.

SENEGAL COUCAL (*Centropus senegalensis*) – Two singles near Stanley's Camp.

Tytonidae (Barn-Owls)

BARN OWL (*Tyto alba*) – Heard at both Erongo Wilderness Lodge and at Halali in Etosha.

Strigidae (Owls)

AFRICAN SCOPS-OWL (*Otus senegalensis*) – Thanks to a local gardener we had good looks at 1 roosting at Halali Rest Camp.

VERREAUX'S EAGLE-OWL (*Bubo lacteus*) – Singles at Okaukuejo and Chief's Camp.

PEL'S FISHING-OWL (*Scotopelia peli*) – We saw 1 briefly at Xaro Lodge, and then had wonderful long looks at a second bird near Shakawe town - just fantastic this year!

PEARL-SPOTTED OWLET (*Glaucidium perlatum*) – Very common from the Erongo Mountains to Etosha (about 20), and a few others elsewhere.

AFRICAN BARRED OWLET (*Glaucidium capense*) – After a great deal of trying we finally had a responsive bird near Stanley's Camp.

AFRICAN WOOD-OWL (*Strix woodfordii*) – A pair at Xaro Lodge.

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)

FIERY-NECKED NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus pectoralis*) – A single was seen during our evening drive near Stanley's Camp.

FRECKLED NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus tristigma*) – Heard at Erongo Wilderness Lodge.

Apodidae (Swifts)

ALPINE SWIFT (*Apus melba*) – One at Windhoek, and 3 near Sossusvlei.

BRADFIELD'S SWIFT (*Apus bradfieldi*) – About 25 at Windhoek, 100+ at Namib Desert Lodge, and 10 at Omaruru. [E]

LITTLE SWIFT (*Apus affinis*) – Fairly widespread (away from the desert) from Windhoek to Rundu.

WHITE-RUMPED SWIFT (*Apus caffer*) – Six near Windhoek, and 6 at Etosha.

AFRICAN PALM-SWIFT (*Cypsiurus parvus*) – Common and widespread.

Coliidae (Mousebirds)

SPECKLED MOUSEBIRD (*Colius striatus*) – Some of the group saw a few at our hotel in Johannesburg.

WHITE-BACKED MOUSEBIRD (*Colius colius*) – Common from Windhoek to the Erongo Mountains; in all we saw about 150.

RED-FACED MOUSEBIRD (*Urocolius indicus*) – One north of Omaruru, 9 at Xaro Lodge, and 10 near Stanley's Camp.

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

MALACHITE KINGFISHER (*Corythornis cristatus*) – Four singles between Hakusembe and Xaro Lodge.

GRAY-HEADED KINGFISHER (*Halcyon leucocephala*) – Two near Outjo, and about 6 near Stanley's Camp.

WOODLAND KINGFISHER (*Halcyon senegalensis*) – One at Hakusembe, 2 at Stanley's Camp, and 1 at Chief's.

STRIPED KINGFISHER (*Halcyon chelicuti*) – One near Stanley's Camp.

GIANT KINGFISHER (*Megaceryle maximus*) – One at Hakusembe, and then pairs at both Mahango GR, and at Xaro Lodge.

PIED KINGFISHER (*Ceryle rudis*) – Very common along the the river from Hakusembe and on throughout the Okavango Delta.

Meropidae (Bee-eaters)

WHITE-FRONTED BEE-EATER (*Merops bullockoides*) – About 250 along the river at Xaro Lodge included many exceptionally tame birds.

LITTLE BEE-EATER (*Merops pusillus*) – Common (about 120) from Hakusembe and throughout the Okavango Delta.

SWALLOW-TAILED BEE-EATER (*Merops hirundineus*) – First seen at Sossusvlei (6) and then about another 60 at widely scattered locations throughout the tour.

BLUE-CHEEKED BEE-EATER (*Merops persicus*) – We saw a total of 15 (in stunning plumage) around Hakusembe and Xaro.

Coraciidae (Rollers)

LILAC-BREASTED ROLLER (*Coracias caudatus*) – Common and widespread away from desert areas; in all we saw about 160.

RUFOUS-CROWNED ROLLER (*Coracias naevius*) – One near Soliatire, and 6 at Etosha.

Upupidae (Hoopoes)

EURASIAN HOOPOE (AFRICAN) (*Upupa epops africana*) – One near Solitaire, 3 at Xaro Lodge, and 2 near Chief's Camp.

Phoeniculidae (Woodhoopoes and Scimitar-bills)

GREEN WOODHOOPOE (*Phoeniculus purpureus*) – First seen at Okombahe and Omaruru (30) and then about 30 at various sites in the Okavango.

VIOLET WOODHOOPOE (VIOLET) (*Phoeniculus damarensis damarensis*) – Nice looks at a pair feeding a juvenile at Halali Rest Camp in Etosha. [E]

COMMON SCIMITAR-BILL (*Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*) – Five in the Outjo to Omaruru area, and 1 at Mahango GR.

Bucerotidae (Hornbills)

MONTEIRO'S HORNBILL (*Tockus monteiri*) – Four in the Spitzkoppe to Erongo Mountains area. [E]

SOUTHERN RED-BILLED HORNBILL (*Tockus rufirostris*) – Common from the east side of Etosha to the Okavango Delta; in all we saw about 80.

DAMARA RED-BILLED HORNBILL (*Tockus damarensis*) – We saw 4 in the river bed at Okombahe. [E]

SOUTHERN YELLOW-BILLED HORNBILL (*Tockus leucomelas*) – Fairly common in the bush country from Spitzkoppe to Mahango.

AFRICAN GRAY HORNBILL (*Tockus nasutus*) – Very common from Spitzkoppe northwards and easterly; a total of about 250 included over 50 together at Etosha.

Lybiidae (African Barbets)

CRESTED BARBET (*Trachyphonus vaillantii*) – One in Johannesburg, 8 around Xaro Lodge, and 1 at Chief's Camp.

YELLOW-FRONTED TINKERBIRD (*Pogoniulus chrysoconus*) – One at Xaro Lodge.

PIED BARBET (*Tricholaema leucomelas*) – Small numbers from Windhoek to the coast and north to Etosha.

BLACK-COLLARED BARBET (*Lybius torquatus*) – Took a long time but we eventually all saw them at Xaro Lodge, and then at Chief's camp.

Indicatoridae (Honeyguides)

LESSER HONEYGUIDE (*Indicator minor*) – Some of the group saw 1 at Xaro Lodge.

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

BENNETT'S WOODPECKER (*Campethera bennettii*) – Great looks at a single, and then a pair, in the Chief's Camp area.

GOLDEN-TAILED WOODPECKER (*Campethera abingoni*) – Near Erongo Wilderness Lodge, at Etosha, and at Xaro we saw 4 of the race 'anderssoni', the Erongo bird (which had a virtually black breast) is just a variation of this race.

CARDINAL WOODPECKER (*Dendropicos fuscescens*) – One at Okaukuejo, and 4 at Xaro Lodge.

BEARDED WOODPECKER (*Dendropicos namaquus*) – We saw a female near Erongo Wilderness Lodge and a pair at Xaro Lodge.

Platysteiridae (Wattle-eyes and Batises)

CHINSPOT BATIS (*Batis molitor*) – A pair near Stanley's Camp.

PRIRIT BATIS (*Batis pririt*) – Four in the Windhoek area, and 4 at Spitzkoppe.

WHITE-TAILED SHRIKE (*Lanioturdus torquatus*) – This striking and attractive endemic was common around the Erongo Wilderness Lodge. [E]

Prionopidae (Helmetshrikes and Allies)

WHITE HELMETSHRIKE (*Prionops plumatus*) – Small flocks were seen at Etosha, on the way to Hakusembe, and at Mahango GR; in all we saw about 35.

RETZ'S HELMETSHRIKE (*Prionops retzii*) – Three at Mahango GR, 4 at Xaro, and 3 more near Stanley's Camp.

Malaconotidae (Bushshrikes and Allies)

BRUBRU (*Nilaus afer*) – Small numbers (6) were widespread in the open acacia woodland.

BLACK-BACKED PUFFBACK (*Dryoscopus cubla*) – Two at Mushara Lodge, and then 2 at Mahango, and 4 near Stanley's Camp.

BROWN-CROWNED TCHAGRA (*Tchagra australis*) – Two at Xaro Lodge.

GABON BOUBOU (*Laniarius bicolor*) – Also known as Swamp Boubou we saw about 20 between Hakusembe and Xaro Lodge.

CRIMSON-BREASTED GONOLEK (*Laniarius atrococcineus*) – These striking bushshrikes were widespread in acacia bush country; in all we saw about 18.

BOKMAKIERIE (*Telophorus zeylonus*) – Two at Spitzkoppe.

SULPHUR-BREASTED BUSHSHRIKE (*Telophorus sulfureopectus*) – Singles at Mahango GR and Xaro Lodge.

Campephagidae (Cuckoo-shrikes)

BLACK CUCKOO-SHRIKE (*Campephaga flava*) – Two females at Xaro Lodge and a pair at Stanley's Camp.

Laniidae (Shrikes)

LESSER GRAY SHRIKE (*Lanius minor*) – A total of about 120 were seen between Windhoek, the coast, and north to Etosha.

COMMON FISCAL (*Lanius collaris subcoronatus*) – The distinctive white-browed form 'subcoronatus' is sometimes split at Latakoo Fiscal; we saw about 16 between Windhoek, Sossusvlei, and Etosha.

MAGPIE SHRIKE (*Corvinella melanoleuca*) – About 10 in the Stanley's Camp area.

WHITE-CROWNED SHRIKE (*Eurocephalus anguitimens*) – Fairly common from Okombahe to Etosha.

Oriolidae (Old World Orioles)

AFRICAN GOLDEN ORIOLE (*Oriolus auratus*) – Six singles between Etosha and the Xaro Lodge area.

Dicruridae (Drongos)

FORK-TAILED DRONGO (*Dicrurus adsimilis*) – Common and widespread.

Monarchidae (Monarch Flycatchers)

AFRICAN PARADISE-FLYCATCHER (*Terpsiphone viridis*) – A pair at Erongo Wilderness Lodge.

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

CAPE CROW (*Corvus capensis*) – Four near Solitaire, and about 20 at Etosha.

PIED CROW (*Corvus albus*) – Fairly common from Solitaire to the coast and then at Etosha; we saw a total of about 80.

Alaudidae (Larks)

SABOTA LARK (*Calendulauda sabota naevia*) – First seen at the Tropic of Capricorn (3), and then at Spitzkoppe (4) and Etosha (20).

DUNE LARK (*Calendulauda erythrochlamys*) – We had excellent close looks at this very localized endemic at our usual site near Sossusvlei. [E]

DUSKY LARK (*Pinarocorys nigricans*) – Four on the road near Halali, and 6 at Mahango GR.

GRAY'S LARK (*Ammomanopsis grayi*) – Can be difficult, but we had great looks at about 10 on the gravel plains north of Swakopmund. [E]

SPIKE-HEELED LARK (*Chersomanes albofasciata*) – About a dozen at Etosha.

KAROO LONG-BILLED LARK (*Certhilauda subcoronata*) – One to the north of Spitzkoppe.

CHESTNUT-BACKED SPARROW-LARK (*Eremopterix leucotis*) – Several small flocks at the Etosha waterholes.

GRAY-BACKED SPARROW-LARK (*Eremopterix verticalis*) – Several hundred at Sossusvlei, and then similar large flocks around Spitzkoppe and at Etosha.

RED-CAPPED LARK (*Calandrella cinerea*) – One near Swakopmund, and about 40 at Etosha.

STARK'S LARK (*Spizocorys starki*) – Two on the plains north of Swakopmund.

PINK-BILLED LARK (*Spizocorys conirostris*) – Six in the Okaukuejo area of Etosha.

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

PLAIN MARTIN (*Riparia paludicola*) – Six at Etosha, and about 40 along the river at Xaro Lodge.

BANDED MARTIN (*Riparia cincta*) – Ten over the grassy plains at Etosha.

ROCK MARTIN (*Ptyonoprogne fuligula*) – Common and widespread between Windhoek and Etosha; in all we saw about 150.

BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*) – Small numbers from Etosha to Rundu and easterly to the Okavango.

WHITE-THROATED SWALLOW (*Hirundo albigularis*) – Four at the Windhoek Sewage Works.

WIRE-TAILED SWALLOW (*Hirundo smithii*) – About 10 at Hakusembe, and a dozen near Xaro Lodge.

PEARL-BREASTED SWALLOW (*Hirundo dimidiata*) – Three at Xaro Lodge.

GREATER STRIPED-SWALLOW (*Cecropis cucullata*) – Twenty at Windhoek, and 3 near the Erongo Mountains.

LESSER STRIPED-SWALLOW (*Cecropis abyssinica*) – These beautiful swallows were common in the Mahango, Xaro, and Stanley's Camp areas.

Paridae (Chickadees and Tits)

SOUTHERN BLACK-TIT (*Melaniparus niger*) – Two in the eastern part of Etosha, and then another 10 between Mahango GR and Stanley's Camp.

CARP'S TIT (*Melaniparus carpi*) – We saw 5 of these localized endemics in the Erongo Mountains area. [E]

ASHY TIT (*Melaniparus cinerascens*) – Two near Windhoek and 3 near Solitaire.

Pycnonotidae (Bulbuls)

YELLOW-BELLIED GREENBUL (*Chlorocichla flaviventris*) – Two singles at Hakusembe and Mahango GR.

COMMON BULBUL (DARK-CAPPED) (*Pycnonotus barbatus tricolor*) – Six at Johannesburg (for some), and then common for everyone from Hakusembe and throughout the Okavango Delta.

BLACK-FRONTED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus nigricans*) – More commonly known as Red-eyed Bulbul, they were very common from Windhoek to Etosha; in all we saw about 250.

Macrosphenidae (African Warblers)

CAPE CROMBEC (*Sylvietta rufescens*) – Small numbers were widespread in the acacia bush country.

ROCKRUNNER (*Achaetops pycnopygius*) – This strange endemic is now placed in the family Macrosphenidae (African Warblers); we had excellent looks at a pair at the Erongo Wilderness Lodge. [E]

Acrocephalidae (Reed-Warblers and Allies)

SEDGE WARBLER (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*) – One at Hakusembe.

AFRICAN REED-WARBLER (*Acrocephalus baeticatus*) – About 5 at the Windhoek Sewage Works.

Cisticolidae (Cisticolas and Allies)

GREEN-BACKED CAMAROPTERA (GRAY-BACKED) (*Camaroptera brachyura brevicaudata*) – Common in wooded and bush country from the Erongo Mountains to the Okavango Delta.

BARRED WREN-WARBLER (*Calamonastes fasciolatus*) – Two in the acacia bush country at Windhoek.

RUFOUS-EARED WARBLER (*Malcorus pectoralis*) – We saw these attractive warblers in the low scrub near Guisis and at the Tropic of Capricorn.

RATTLING CISTICOLA (*Cisticola chiniana*) – Eight near Windhoek, and then about 40 in the Okavango Delta bush country.

CHIRPING CISTICOLA (*Cisticola pipiens*) – One in the reeds during a boat trip from Xaro Lodge.

ZITTING CISTICOLA (*Cisticola juncidis*) – Two at the Windhoek Sewage Works.

DESERT CISTICOLA (*Cisticola aridulus*) – One at Etosha.

BLACK-CHESTED PRINIA (*Prinia flavicans*) – Common from Windhoek to Etosha and on to Rundu, and 1 near Stanley's Camp; in all we saw about 80.

YELLOW-BELLIED EREMOMELA (*Eremomela icteropygialis*) – Fairly common from Windhoek to the coast and north to Etosha.

YELLOW-RUMPED EREMOMELA (*Eremomela gregalis*) – Also known as Karoo Eremomela, we had good looks at 1 of these uncommon birds on the way to Walvis Bay.

BURNT-NECK EREMOMELA (*Eremomela usticollis*) – Three at our hotel in Windhoek.

Sylviidae (Old World Warblers)

RUFOUS-VENTED WARBLER (*Parisoma subcaeruleum*) – About 20 in the Windhoek and Solitaire areas, and 2 near Spitzkoppe.

Zosteropidae (Yuhinas, White-eyes, and Allies)

CAPE WHITE-EYE (*Zosterops pallidus*) – Confusing use of scientific names between this and the next 'species' with most African authorities now calling Cape White-eye *Z. virens*, which was seen by most of the group at Johannesburg.

CAPE WHITE-EYE (ORANGE RIVER) (*Zosterops pallidus pallidus*) – Confusing use of scientific names between this and the previous 'species' with most African authorities now splitting this as Orange River White-eye *Z. pallidus*.

Leiothrichidae (Laughingthrushes)

HARTLAUB'S BABBLER (*Turdoides hartlaubii*) – Common at Hakusembe and throughout the Okavango Delta; in all we saw about 120.

BLACK-FACED BABBLER (*Turdoides melanops*) – We saw 6 of these localized babblers during our lunch at Mushara Lodge.

SOUTHERN PIED-BABBLER (*Turdoides bicolor*) – About 8 (quite well hidden) near the Erongo Mountains, and then good looks at 5 at Etosha.

ARROW-MARKED BABBLER (*Turdoides jardineii*) – Three small flocks at Xaro Lodge and near Stanley's Camp.

BARE-CHEEKED BABBLER (*Turdoides gymnogenys*) – Great looks at about 25 of these very localized endemic babblers at Uris. [E]

Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)

CHAT FLYCATCHER (*Bradornis infuscatus*) – Small numbers were widespread in the arid country from Windhoek to Sossusvlei and then on to the coast, also a few south of Etosha.

MARIQUA FLYCATCHER (*Bradornis mariquensis*) – Common in acacia bush country throughout Namibia; in all we saw about 70.

SOUTHERN BLACK-FLYCATCHER (*Melaenornis pammelaina*) – Six between Mahango and Stanley's Camp.

ASHY FLYCATCHER (*Muscicapa caerulescens*) – Some of the group saw 2 at Xaro Camp.

GRAY TIT-FLYCATCHER (*Myioparus plumbeus*) – Three singles in the Xaro Lodge area.

KALAHARI SCRUB-ROBIN (*Cercotrichas paena*) – Six in the Spitzkoppe to Erongo Mountains area, and a couple of others elsewhere including near Windhoek.

RED-BACKED SCRUB-ROBIN (*Cercotrichas leucophrys*) – Four around Erongo Wilderness Lodge.

HERERO CHAT (*Namibornis herero*) – After some effort we eventually had great looks at a pair of these very localized endemic chats at Spitzkoppe - yippee! [E]

CAPE ROBIN-CHAT (*Cossypha caffra*) – Two in Johannesburg for most of the group.

WHITE-BROWED ROBIN-CHAT (*Cossypha heuglini*) – Small numbers between Hakusembe and the delta camps.

SHORT-TOED ROCK-THRUSH (*Monticola brevipes*) – Some of the group saw a female at Namib Desert Lodge, and then everyone had great looks at a male at Erongo.

STONECHAT (*Saxicola torquatus*) – One in the reed beds near Xaro Lodge - often split as African Stonechat.

SOUTHERN ANTEATER-CHAT (*Myrmecocichla formicivora*) – About 6 near the Erongo Mountains, and 20+ at Etosha.

TRACTRAC CHAT (*Cercomela tractrac*) – Singles at the Tropic of Capricorn and near Swakopmund.

FAMILIAR CHAT (*Cercomela familiaris*) – Small numbers in central and western Namibia.

MOUNTAIN WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe monticola*) – About 20 in the Namib Desert NP, 4 at Spitzkoppe, and 2 in the Erongo Mountains.

CAPPED WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe pileata*) – Six around Solitaire, and 6 at Etosha.

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

GROUNDSCRAPER THRUSH (*Psophocichla litsipsirupa*) – Two on the road in the eastern part of Etosha.

KAROO THRUSH (*Turdus smithi*) – Most of the group saw 1 at our hotel in Johannesburg.

Sturnidae (Starlings)

WATTLED STARLING (*Creatophora cinerea*) – About 20 at Etosha.

CAPE GLOSSY-STARLING (*Lamprotornis nitens*) – Widespread throughout most of Namibia.

GREATER BLUE-EARED GLOSSY-STARLING (*Lamprotornis chalybaeus*) – Five at Hakusembe.

MEVES'S GLOSSY-STARLING (*Lamprotornis mevesii*) – Common throughout the Okavango Delta; in all we saw about 100.

BURCHELL'S GLOSSY-STARLING (*Lamprotornis australis*) – Common throughout the Okavango Delta; in all we saw about 140.

VIOLET-BACKED STARLING (*Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*) – About 40 around Erongo Wilderness Lodge.

PALE-WINGED STARLING (*Onychognathus nabouroup*) – Seventy in the Namib Desert NP area, and about 40 around Spitzkoppe.

Buphagidae (Oxpeckers)

RED-BILLED OXPECKER (*Buphagus erythrorhynchus*) – About 40 at various places in the Okavango Delta.

YELLOW-BILLED OXPECKER (*Buphagus africanus*) – Ten in the Okavango Delta - particularly fond of feeding on giraffe and buffalo.

Nectariniidae (Sunbirds and Spiderhunters)

COLLARED SUNBIRD (*Hedydipna collaris*) – Two at Chief's Camp.

SCARLET-CHESTED SUNBIRD (*Chalcomitra senegalensis*) – Three at Windhoek Country Club, and 4 around Hakusembe.

MARIQUA SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris mariquensis*) – About a dozen in the Windhoek area, and then 1 at Etosha, and 3 at Hakusembe.

WHITE-BREASTED SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris talatala*) – Nice looks at a male north of Grootfontein.

DUSKY SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris fuscus*) – Common in the Namib Naukluft Desert NP and around Spitzkoppe.

Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)

CAPE WAGTAIL (*Motacilla capensis*) – Fairly common at Johannesburg, Windhoek, Walvis Bay, and the Xaro Lodge area; we saw a total of about 50.

AFRICAN PIED WAGTAIL (*Motacilla aguimp*) – Six at Hakusembe, and 2 at Xaro Lodge.

AFRICAN PIPIT (*Anthus cinnamomeus*) – A total of about 10 at Etosha and near Stanley's and Chief's camps.

BUFFY PIPIT (*Anthus vaalensis*) – One at Etosha.

Emberizidae (Buntings, Sparrows and Allies)

LARK-LIKE BUNTING (*Emberiza impetuani*) – Very common around Guisis and Spitzkoppe, and a few other elsewhere;

in all we saw about 120.

CINNAMON-BREASTED BUNTING (*Emberiza tahapisi*) – Four at Spitzkoppe and about 10 at Etosha.

CAPE BUNTING (*Emberiza capensis*) – One at the Erongo Wilderness Lodge.

GOLDEN-BREASTED BUNTING (*Emberiza flaviventris*) – Two at the Erongo Wilderness Lodge.

Fringillidae (Siskins, Crossbills, and Allies)

BLACK-THROATED CANARY (*Serinus atrogularis*) – About 20 at Windhoek, 4 at Spitzkoppe, and 6 at Erongo Wilderness Lodge.

YELLOW CANARY (*Serinus flaviventris*) – We saw 5 (including 4 super bright yellow males) at Sossusvlei, and at the Namib Desert Lodge.

WHITE-THROATED CANARY (*Serinus albigularis*) – Two at Kuiseb Pass.

Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*) – Common around Johannesburg, Windhoek, Solitaire, and Walvis Bay.

GREAT RUFIOUS SPARROW (*Passer motitensis*) – One at Guisis, and then 8 at Erongo, and about a dozen at Etosha.

CAPE SPARROW (*Passer melanurus*) – A few at Johannesburg, and then very common around Sossusvlei and Solitaire.

SOUTHERN GRAY-HEADED SPARROW (*Passer diffusus*) – Small numbers at many widespread locations throughout the tour; in all we saw about 180.

Ploceidae (Weavers and Allies)

RED-BILLED BUFFALO-WEAVER (*Bubalornis niger*) – Poor views in the Erongo Mountains, but then seen well around both Stanley's and Chief's camps.

SCALY WEAVER (*Sporopipes squamifrons*) – More commonly known as Scaly-feathered Finch, we saw about 50 at Windhoek, Solitaire and Sossusvlei.

WHITE-BROWED SPARROW-WEAVER (*Plocepasser mahali*) – Widespread in acacia country throughout the tour.

SOCIAL WEAVER (*Philetairus socius*) – About 1000 in the Solitaire to Sossusvlei area (including many at large nests), and then about 250 at Etosha.

HOLUB'S GOLDEN-WEAVER (*Ploceus xanthops*) – About a dozen at Xaro Lodge.

SOUTHERN MASKED-WEAVER (*Ploceus velatus*) – Common and widespread throughout most of Namibia, and a few near Stanley's Camp.

RED-BILLED QUELEA (*Quelea quelea*) – Flocks of several thousand in the Okavango, and several smaller flocks at Windhoek and Etosha.

RED BISHOP (*Euplectes orix*) – About 20 (including some in breeding plumage) at the Windhoek Sewage Works.

GROSBK WEAVER (*Amblyospiza albifrons*) – Some of the group saw a single female at Xaro Lodge.

Estrildidae (Waxbills and Allies)

COMMON WAXBILL (*Estrilda astrild*) – Singles at Windhoek and Walvis Bay, and then about 30 at Xaro Lodge.

BLACK-CHEEKED WAXBILL (*Estrilda erythronotos*) – More commonly known as Black-faced Waxbill, we saw 6 at Windhoek and 6 at Erongo Wilderness Lodge.

BLUE-BREASTED CORDONBLEU (*Uraeginthus angolensis*) – Small flocks were widespread in acacia bush country throughout the tour.

VIOLET-EARED WAXBILL (*Granatina granatina*) – We saw 12 of these beautiful waxbills at Windhoek, Spitzkoppe, and Etosha.

GREEN-WINGED PYTILIA (*Pytilia melba*) – Another gorgeous looking waxbill, we saw them at Windhoek and in the Erongo Mountains.

RED-BILLED FIREFINCH (*Lagonosticta senegala*) – A single female at Xaro Lodge.

BROWN FIREFINCH (*Lagonosticta nitidula*) – Six at Hakusembe, and about 20 at Xaro Lodge.

JAMESON'S FIREFINCH (*Lagonosticta rhodopareia*) – A single male at Mahango GR.

RED-HEADED FINCH (*Amadina erythrocephala*) – Eight at the Namib Desert Lodge, and about 60 at Etosha.

AFRICAN QUAILFINCH (*Ortygospiza fuscocrissa*) – About a dozen were flying around calling over one of the Etosha waterholes.

Viduidae (Indigobirds)

PIN-TAILED WHYDAH (*Vidua macroura*) – Good looks at a male at Windhoek Sewage Works.

- EASTERN PARADISE-WHYDAH** (*Vidua paradisaea*) – Four males at Etosha, and about 8 (males and females) near Chief's Camp.
- SHAFT-TAILED WHYDAH** (*Vidua regia*) – We saw a pair near Windhoek, and then 250+ (some in large flocks) at Etosha.
- VILLAGE INDIGOBIRD** (*Vidua chalybeata*) – A single male in breeding plumage near Stanley's Camp - remember the bright reddish legs!
- PURPLE INDIGOBIRD** (*Vidua purpurascens*) – A single male in breeding plumage near Stanley's Camp - remember the very pale pinkish-white legs!
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MAMMALS

- MOHOLI BUSHBABY** (*Galago moholi*) – Good looks at 2 during the evening drives in the Stanley's Camp area.
- BLACK-FACED VERVET MONKEY** (*Cercopithecus aethiops*) – About 20 around Xaro Lodge and 15 at Chief's Camp.
- CHACMA BABOON** (*Papio ursinus*) – Troops were seen around Windhoek, in the Erongo Mountains, and in the Okavango near Stanley's and Chief's camps.
- CAPE GROUND SQUIRREL** (*Xerus inaurius*) – Common around Solitaire, and then smaller numbers around Erongo Wilderness Lodge and at Etosha; in all we saw about 60.
- TREE SQUIRREL** (*Paraxerus cepapi*) – Common from Rundu in northern Namibia and throughout the Okavango; we saw a total of about 250.
- OLD WORLD PORCUPINE SP.** (*Hystrix africaeaustralis*) – One came past the dining room at Erongo Wilderness Lodge.
- DASSIE RAT** (*Petromus typicus*) – Great looks at this strange animal at Erongo Wilderness Lodge.
- BLACK-BACKED JACKAL** (*Canis mesomelas*) – Small numbers at Sussosvlei, near the Erongo Mountains and at Etosha where we saw 3 kill a Springbok which had accidentally slipped into a waterhole.
- BAT-EARED FOX** (*Otocyon megalotis*) – Five in the grasslands near Solitaire.
- HUNTING DOG** (*Lycaon pictus*) – Just fantastic this tour with 10 near the Stanley's Camp airstrip and 5 near Chief's Camp - one of Africa's rarest large mammals!
- COMMON (SMALL-SPOTTED) GENET** (*Genetta genetta*) – Good looks at 1 while spot-lighting near Stanley's Camp.
- SLENDER MONGOOSE** (*Herpestes sanguineus*) – We saw the black form near Erongo Wilderness Lodge; this is sometimes split as Black Mongoose. We also saw the 'normal' form at Uris and near Stanley's Camp.
- BANDED MONGOOSE** (*Mungos mungo*) – About 25 near Erongo and 60+ on the way to Rundu.
- YELLOW MONGOOSE** (*Cynictis penicillata*) – About 10 in the Solitaire area, and singles at Spitzkoppe and Etosha.
- SPOTTED HYAENA** (*Crocuta crocuta*) – Two adults and a tiny baby during our evening drive near Stanley's Camp.
- SERVAL** (*Felis serval*) – Two singles during our evening drive near Stanley's Camp.
- LEOPARD** (*Panthera pardus*) – Good long looks at a young male in a tree near Chief's Camp.
- CAPE (AUSTRALIAN) FUR SEAL** (*Arctocephalus pusillus*) – One near Walvis Bay.
- AFRICAN ELEPHANT** (*Loxodonta africana*) – Repeated good looks in Etosha and the Okavango Delta; in all we saw about 90.
- ROCK HYRAX** (*Procavia capensis*) – Very numerous around Erongo Wilderness Lodge.
- MOUNTAIN ZEBRA** (*Equus zebra*) – About 80 were seen in the distance near the Tropic of Capricorn.
- BURCHELL'S ZEBRA** (*Equus burchelli*) – Very common at Etosha where we saw about 5000, and then smaller numbers at Mahango GR and in the Okavango.
- BLACK RHINOCEROS** (*Diceros bicornis*) – Two singles at Etosha NP.
- WARTHOG** (*Phacochoerus aethiopicus*) – Widespread away from the most arid desert regions; in all we saw about 350.
- HIPPOTAMUS** (*Hippopotamus amphibius*) – Five during one of our boat trips from Xaro Lodge.
- COMMON GIRAFFE** (*Giraffa camelopardalis*) – About 20 at Etosha, and 80 in the Okavango Delta.
- BUSHBUCK** (*Tragelaphus scriptus*) – Two singles in the Okavango Delta.
- GREATER KUDU** (*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*) – We saw a huge male in a river bed near Erongo Wilderness Lodge, and then about 10 at Etosha, 15 at Mahango, and 8 in the Okavango Delta.
- AFRICAN BUFFALO** (*Syncerus caffer*) – About 80 near Stanley's Camp.
- LECHWE** (*Kobus leche*) – About 100 at Mahango GR, and then several smaller herds from the air as we flew over the Okavango Delta.
- REEDBUCK** (*Redunca arundinum*) – Three singles at Mahango and in the Okavango Delta.

ROAN ANTELOPE (*Hippotragus equinus*) – Four in the Mahango GR.

GEMSBOK (*Oryx gazella*) – About 60 in the Namib Naukluft NP (including Sossusvlei) then 5 near Erongo Mts. and about 100 at Etosha.

TOPI (*Damaliscus lunatus*) – Often split and known as Tsessebe in southern Africa, we saw 5 near Stanley's Camp.

HARTEBEEST (KONGONI) (*Alcelaphus buselaphus*) – About 20 at Etosha.

BLUE WILDEBEEST (*Connochaetes taurinus*) – A single lonely beast near Solitaire, and then about 300 at Etosha and 80+ in the Okavango.

KLIPSPRINGER (*Oreotragus oreotragus*) – Three in the hills to the west of the Erongo Mountains.

STEENBOK (*Raphicerus campestris*) – Two at Etosha.

IMPALA (*Aepyceros malampus*) – About 40 of the 'black-faced' form at Etosha, and then 750+ of the more widespread form at Mahango and in the Okavango Delta.

SPRINGBOK (*Antidorcas marsupialis*) – Large numbers on the grassy plains in the Namib Naukluft NP and at Etosha; in all we saw about 8000.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Reptiles seen on the tour.

Yellow-bellied Sand Snake; one near Erongo Wilderness Lodge.

Agama Lizard; small numbers at Guisis and in the Namib Naukluft Desert NP.

Shovel-snouted Lizard; about 10 in the Sossusvlei area.

Leopard Tortoise; singles at Etosha and near Stanley's Camp.

Water Monitor; five (including a couple of huge one's) in the Okavango Delta.

Nile Crocodile; three in the Okavango Delta.

Totals for the tour: 338 bird taxa and 40 mammal taxa