



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Namibia, Okavango & Victoria Falls Overland V

27th September to 14th October 2016 (18 days)

Trip Report



Group birding gravel plains & Acacia scrub near Spitzkoppe by Dave Semler

Trip Report compiled by tour leader: Cuan Rush

Tour Summary

Namibia is in the grip of a fairly relentless drought and this was clearly evident on our first day in this magnificent country. The vegetation was excessively arid (comparative to normal years) and the birding relatively quiet for Acacia woodland and scrub.



A female Pririt Batis by Dave Semler

We were also greeted with a morning of heavily overcast and windy conditions, which did not lend themselves to overly good birding opportunities. Despite this, we did rather well with the birds and mammals at Daan Viljoen Game Reserve. On the avian side of things, we had good numbers of Estralids namely, Blue, Black-faced and stunning Violet-eared Waxbills, Green-winged Pytilia, Acacia Pied Barbet, Mountain Wheatear, Short-toed Rock Thrush, Groundscraper Thrush, Scarlet-chested Sunbird, Cinnamon-breasted and Golden-breasted Buntings, Monteiro's Hornbill, Ashy Tit, Pririt Batis, Brubru, Lesser Kestrel and a pair of Verreaux's Eagle. The big and hairies included several Giraffe, Eland, a couple small herds of Hartebeest, Common Wildebeest, a lone Steenbok,

Gemsbok, the uncommon Mountain Zebra, troops of Chacma Baboon and Banded Mongoose.

After lunch, we continued onto Gammams Water Care Works just outside Windhoek for the afternoon session and the obligatory sewage works visit of the tour. Waterfowl were common, as were Acacia associated species adjacent to the ponds. We racked up South African Shelduck, Southern Pochard, a White-backed Duck, Red-billed, Cape and Hottentot Teals, Purple Swamphehen, numerous Three-banded Plover, Grey, Black-headed and Purple Herons, Black-crowned Night Heron, African Darter and both White-breasted and Reed Cormorants. Aside from the hundreds of Wattled Starling - which kept us entertained with their mass flocking, we found Yellow-bellied and Burnt-necked Eremomela, a small family group of three Cape Penduline Tit, hordes of White-backed Mousebird, a pair of Pearl-breasted Swallow, Black-throated Canary and Red-headed Finch. All-in-all, a solid opening day on an unfavourable wicket!



Violet-eared Waxbill male by Dave Semler

Leaving Windhoek after a quiet couple of hours of birding at a local birding site (which only gave us the striking White-tailed Shrike, Pearl-spotted Owlet, White-rumped Swift, African Hoopoe, Greater Striped Swallow, White-browed Scrub Robin and Scaly-feathered Weaver), we headed off into the arid Khomas Hochland. The terrain became increasingly arid the further we ventured

away from Windhoek and birds were few and far between. We did, however, notch up a few new species that included Gabar Goshawk, Red-crested Korhaan, Pale Chanting Goshawk, Purple Roller, a lone Pygmy Falcon (the only one for the entire trip), Burchell's and Pale-winged Starlings, Chat Flycatcher and Ant-eating Chat. We arrived in the late afternoon at our lodgings near Spreetshoogte Pass and proceeded to get checked in before a spot of birding around the lodge. The evening's session really didn't

produce much apart from common species such as Acacia Pied Barbet, Mountain Wheatear and Cape Bunting. Thereafter, we headed to the farmhouse for a well-deserved meal after a long day on the road.

Just before dawn, we tried our luck at enticing in a Freckled Nightjar that was calling near our accommodations but alas, the bird was uninterested and did not co-operate. Continuing on the walk, now



The highly sought-after Herero Chat by Dave Semler

in the early morning light, we managed to track down and have good views of a female Hartlaub's Spurfowl. Also on the cards were calling Orange River Francolin (heard not seen), African Palm Swift, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, Grey-backed Cisticola, a Bokmakierie devouring its breakfast and a confiding pair of Karoo Scrub Robins! After a hearty breakfast, we headed for Spreetshoogte Pass with the hopes of locating one of the most sought-after of Namibia's specials, Herero Chat. As usual the conditions on the pass during our descent were fairly cold and windy, which made birding challenging. However, our persistence paid off and we managed to spot and enjoy very good views of a pair of chats; one even allowed fairly close approach and gave good photo opportunities for a brief moment. Other species seen on the scrubby, rocky slopes included Dusky Sunbird, Long-billed Pipit, Great Sparrow, Black-throated



The nomadic Burchell's Courser by Chris Lester

Canary and the rather drab Lark-like Bunting. Leaving the pass behind us, we struck out for Walvis Bay across the true desert of this stark land. As with the past couple of days, the habitat that we drove through was very arid and parched, and these conditions continued pretty much all the way to Walvis Bay at the

coast. En route we observed Common Ostrich (truly wild birds), the nomadic and erratic Burchell's Courser, Lesser, Rock and Greater Kestrels, Cape Crow, Spike-heeled and Gray's Lark, Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark, Karoo Chat, Black-chested Prinia and half-a-dozen Rüppell's Korhaan.



Searching for Dune Lark at sunrise south of Walvis Bay by Joyce Meyer

We kicked off our explorations of the Walvis Bay area with a pre-tour jaunt to the dune fields south of the town. Our prime quarry here was the Dune Lark, Namibia's only true endemic species, and with a bit of low mist to contend with, we were somewhat concerned about locating the bird. However, after less than 20 minutes, we managed to track down and enjoy extended views of this handsome lark. Our day then took us to the mudflats and salt pans of Walvis Bay lagoon. Although there was nothing of special interest in terms of national rarities, the morning was filled with thousands upon thousands of shorebirds and waders. Large flocks of Great Flamingo kept us enthralled with their riot of colour while we sifted through the more than numerous shorebirds, including Little Stint, Marsh and Curlew Sandpipers, Common Greenshank, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling and Ruff for species such as Terek Sandpiper and Red-necked Phalarope (unfortunately neither was present). Added to these shorebirds were Black-winged Stilt, flocks of striking Pied Avocet, and several species of tern, including Caspian, Great Crested, Sandwich, Common, Arctic and the all-important Damara! Later on, in the day, we headed to the Welwitschia Plains near Swakopmund to observe and puzzle over the bizarre Welwitschia plants. It is quite remarkable how this species, of a monotypic genus, survives in the desert conditions and how the two leaves grow to lengths of up to 4 meters! Last on the agenda for the day was the saltworks and coastline north of Swakopmund but despite our efforts, these areas did not produce much.



The bizarre Welwitschia by Dave Semler

Leaving the cold Atlantic behind, we ventured inland to the Erongo Mountains, an ancient massif of volcanic origins. En route we stopped in at the impressive Spitzkoppe to search for a handful of species.



**A male Hartlaub's Spurfowl, Erongo Mountains
by Chris Lester**

Again, the overly arid conditions made birding challenging but with some persistence, we did find several of the targets. These included Verreaux's Eagle, White-tailed Shrike, Layard's Warbler, Rosy-faced Lovebird and Monteiro's Hornbill. After a hearty lunch and the associated comedic relief, we forged on towards the Erongos. South of Omaruru town, we explored a dry riverbed lined with tall *Acacias* and after a bit of slogging in the soft sand and hot sun, we picked up the Rüppell's Parrot and Violet Wood Hoopoe - the two specials of this area. The Erongo region was also stricken by drought and as such, a similar pattern unfolded here with regards to bird activity. On both morning walks in the area there was virtually no dawn chorus and we struggled to come to grips with this highly unusual situation. Despite this, our scouring of the

lodge and surrounds was fairly fruitful, with bird watching from the main lodge being the most productive. Dozens of Rosy-faced Lovebirds, Cape Bunting, White-throated Canary, stunning Green-winged Pytilia, the highly sought-after Hartlaub's Spurfowl and Dassie Rat came in to the feeding station and allowed excellent close up views. In addition to this, our explorations further afield in the desert-like setting of the greater Spitzkoppe/Erongo areas yielded African Hawk Eagle, Pale Chanting Goshawk, Rock Kestrel, several pairs of Verreaux's Eagle, Double-banded Courser, Kalahari Scrub Robin, both Karoo and Benguela Long-billed Larks, Common Scimitarbill, Damara Red-billed Hornbill, Pirit Batis, Carp's Tit and Brown-crowned Tchagra.

Our strategy for Etosha National Park was to spend time in two of the park's rest camps, namely Okaukuejo and Halali, and another private lodge on the eastern boundary. By doing so, we afforded ourselves access to most of the park and a diversity of habitats. Working the arid grassland and scrubby bushes of the south-western region produced most of the desired targets, and these included half-a-dozen species of lark with Eastern Clapper, Stark's and Pink-billed being the highlights. Other noteworthy birds seen were 15+ Burchell's Courser, numerous Double-banded Courser, Namaqua Sandgrouse, a pair of nesting Spotted Eagle-Owl, Greater Kestrel, Red-breasted Swallow and the delightful Rufous-eared Warbler. Of course, a visit to Okaukuejo is not complete unless several hours were spent at the camp waterhole, and we did just that. In the heat of the day it was an endless procession of game, with Springbuck, Greater Kudu, Plains Zebra, Gemsbok,



**Flock of Rosy-faced Lovebirds,
Erongo Mountains by Mike West**

Impala and Giraffe coming in to quench their thirst. After dark, the concentration of animals dissipated, however, we still observed African Elephant and several impressive Black Rhino.



Flock of Blue Cranes alongside Springbok and Common Wildebeest, Andoni Plains in Etosha by Dave Semler

The south-central sector of Etosha is dominated by Mopane woodland and as such, species diversity is not as high as in other areas. Nonetheless, the area still held some key targets which we managed to notch up, such as Violet Wood Hoopoe, the handsome Bare-cheeked Babbler, Swainson's Spurfowl and the diminutive African Scops Owl. Some of the participants ventured to the rest camp waterhole post dinner and were spoilt with sightings of a herd of African Elephant, Black Rhino, Spotted Hyaena, Lion and the scarce Cape Fox.

Moving onto the eastern and north-eastern regions, we still had some highly sought-after birds and mammals to find. The Namutoni area, Andoni Plains and our private lodge outside the park yielded Barred Wren Warbler, numerous flocks of the attractive Burchell's Sandgrouse, 20 or so of the elegant Blue Crane, Caspian Plover, Golden-tailed Woodpecker, both Black-faced and Southern Pied Babblers, more Burchell's Courser, Martial Eagle and Chestnut-banded Plover. Mammalian highlights here were two

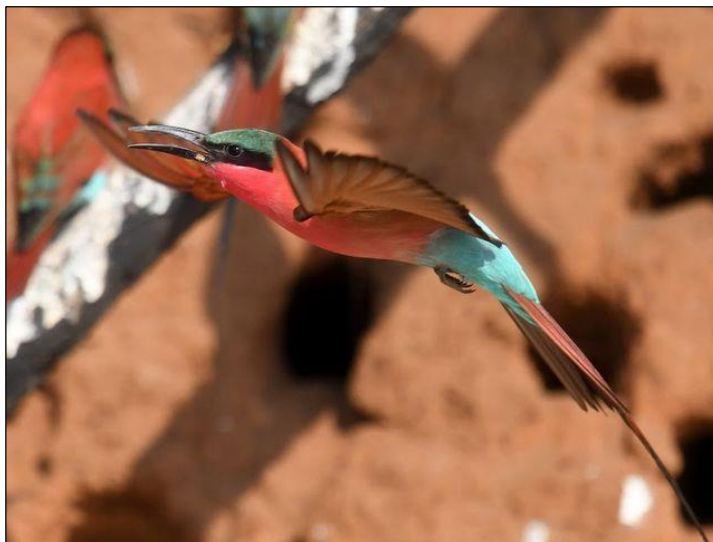


Cheetah, eastern Etosha by Mike West

prides of Lion (one with a particularly handsome blonde-maned male), Kaokoveld Slender Mongoose, Spotted Hyaena, Kirk's Dik-dik and two or three breeding herds of Africa Elephant drinking at Tsumcor water hole. During our final couple of hours in the park, we focused all our attention on finding Cheetah.

After an hour or so of driving and scanning under all bushes and stunted trees in the extreme heat, we were blessed with an extended sighting of a female Cheetah and young cub on the move. Certainly, an eleventh-hour species but a fitting way to conclude our time in this incredible place!

And so, our time in the arid regions of this special country came to an end and we began our explorations of the northern parts of Namibia, the Okavango Panhandle and for the finale Victoria Falls in Zambia. Leaving Etosha we zigzagged our way northwards on the long road to the town of Rundu, gateway to the Caprivi Strip. En route we birded several spots in the Teak woodlands south of the town. As usual it was hot and challenging but after a couple of hours we did manage to locate several priority species including Lizard Buzzard, desired Rufous-bellied Tit, Tinkling Cisticola, Pale Flycatcher, Kurrichane Thrush and Red-headed Weaver. Continuing on, we reached Rundu Sewage Works in the mid-afternoon and were blown away by the sheer number of birds in comparison to what we had experienced the past 10 days! In terms of waterfowl and aquatic



African Skimmer by Mike West

associated species we spotted the diminutive Hottentot Teal, Little Grebe, Striated, Grey and Squacco Herons, Little Egret, African Darter, African Marsh Harrier, the secretive African Rail, African Snipe, Black Crake, African Swamphen, Three-banded Plover, stunning Greater Painted-snipe, Little Stint, Ruff, Marsh Sandpiper, scores of Wood Sandpipers, Malachite and Pied Kingfishers, the striking and highly vociferous Swamp Boubou and Lesser Swamp Warbler. Later on, we reached our lodgings on the banks of the Okavango River with views into southern Angola. An evening session here was also productive and yielded good numbers of new trip birds including Yellow-billed Stork, African Openbill, Little Bittern, Collared Pratincole, African Black Swift, Giant Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Greenbul, Wire-tailed Swallow, Arrow-marked babbler, melodious White-browed Robin-Chat and Southern Brown-throated Weaver.



African Skimmer by Mike West

After overnighting at our lodge near Rundu, we pressed on towards Shakawe at the head of the Okavango Panhandle. Our drive to this gateway town was punctuated by several roadside stops for woodland birds and we notched a few goodies such as African Cuckoo-Hawk, Dark Chanting Goshawk, an unexpected Southern White-faced Owl, Meyer's Parrot, Black-headed Oriole, Southern Black Tit, Greater Blue-eared Starling, Ashy Flycatcher and a possible Souza's Shrike (but unfortunately it did not stick around). Before crossing the border into Botswana, we scoped a few Rock Pratincole on rocks in the Okavango River. For the next few days we explored the riparian forest, seasonally flooded grasslands,

waterways and other habitats along the Okavango River, both in Botswana and neighbouring Namibia. In summary, these areas were very fruitful with mouth-watering species finding their way onto our ever-burgeoning list. The highlights included the elusive White-backed Night Heron, Rufous-bellied and Goliath Herons, Slaty Egret, Western Banded Snake Eagle, the stately Wattled Crane, Long-toed Lapwing, the elegant African Skimmer, the much-desired Pel's Fishing Owl, Grey-headed Kingfisher, Bradfield's Hornbill, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, the gorgeous Orange-breasted Bushshrike, Greater Swamp Warbler and Chirping and Luapula Cisticolas. Special mention must be made of our experience at a Southern Carmine Bee-eater colony along the banks of the Okavango. On our boat, the bee-eaters allowed close approach and carried out their daily business while we watched in awe, mesmerized by their magnificent colours and the nest raiding by 3 species of snake. These included a juvenile Black Mamba (approx. 2 m in length) who was moving from nest hole to nest hole scouring for tasty morsels and seemingly unaware of our presence. Quite an incredible spectacle! On the mammal front, the Panhandle didn't produce but that was to be expected; the Delta proper is where all the big game and associated predators are. However, our forays into the Mahango sector of Bwabwata National Park certainly delivered the goods. Impala, Topi, Waterbuck, Southern Lechwe, Southern Reedbuck, Roan and the handsome Sable Antelope, and herds of both Africa Buffalo and African Elephant were all seen well.



Pel's Fishing Owl
by Chris Lester

Our last few days in Namibia were spent in the far north eastern corner of the country in the vicinity of Katima Mulilo. Habitats in this area included riparian woodland/forest, Mopane woodland, seasonally



Damara Mole Rat by Chris Lester

flooded grasslands and dambos, wetlands and of course the mighty Zambezi River. Our exploits here were certainly productive but aside from this, our lodge overlooking the river offered a very pleasant stay. On the first afternoon and final morning, we birded some riverine forest and a patch of woodland south of Katima. Here, we recorded Crested Francolin, the stunning Schalow's Turaco, Racket-tailed Roller, Arnott's Chat, Stierling's Wren-Warbler, the diminutive but beautiful African Pygmy Kingfisher, Brown-hooded Kingfisher, Bennet's Woodpecker and Jameson's Firefinch! Then, our time

birding the lodge grounds and associated habitats in the surrounds also held good numbers of birds and new species for the trip. Knob-billed Duck, African Pygmy Goose, African Openbill, a pair of Saddle-billed Stork in flight, African Spoonbill, Rufous-bellied and Black Herons, Slaty Egret, a large flock of

Great White Pelican, Western Osprey, White-crowned Lapwing, African Barred Owlet, Western Barn and Marsh Owls, Swamp and Square-tailed Nightjars, Grey Penduline Tit, Grey-rumped Swallow, Grey Tit-Flycatcher and Amethyst Sunbird. We were also treated to good views of a nesting colony of Southern carmine Bee-eaters. Unlike their cousins along the Okavango River, these birds make a shallow burrow for their nest on flat ground near the riverbank and not deep hole in the riverbank itself. This is because the Zambezi has carved away the decent substrate for building nests every year it floods its banks. There were virtually no mammals here but we did discover a rather bizarre, little creature during a night drive, namely Damara Mole Rat!

The final leg of our trip took us from Namibia into southern Zambia and after several hours of enduring a horrendously potholed road we eventually made it to Livingstone. The afternoon was spent at Victoria Falls which didn't have much water flowing over it but it was still an impressive site. The forest at the falls was very dry but we did manage to find Red-winged Starling, the vocal Trumpeter Hornbill and



Half-collared Kingfisher by Dave Semler

Tropical Boubou. As the day was drawing to a close we visited the Royal Livingstone Hotel and enjoyed a sundowner overlooking the Zambezi upstream from the falls – a fitting way to spend the final daylight hour of the trip! Our last morning was filled with new species for the list as we continued to add to the list while we birded the hotel grounds and the waterfront area. These species included Northern Grey-headed Sparrow, Lesser Honeyguide, Common Myna, non-breeding plumaged Pin-tailed Whydah, Red-faced Cisticola, the liquid songsters Collared Palm Thrush and Bearded Scrub Robin, Bronze Mannikin, the gorgeous Half-collared Kingfisher and an African Finfoot. Thereafter, we headed to Harry Mwanga Nkumbula International Airport just outside Livingstone town for our flights homeward bound and final farewells.



African Elephant dust bathing at sunset, Etosha National Park by Dave Semler

Annotated List of species recorded

Note: Number in brackets () indicate number of days on the tour the species was recorded.

List powered through the report generator of our partner iGoTerra.

Visited locations

Gammam Water Care Works, Daan Viljoen GR, Windhoek, Avis Dam, Namib-Naukluft National Park, Spreetshoogte Pass, Welwitschia Drive, Namib-Naukluft NP, Walvis Bay, Rooibank, Swakopmund, Spitzkoppe NR, Khan River, Erongo Mountains, Etosha NP, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo, Etosha NP - Halali, Mushara Lodge, Andoni Plains, Rundu Sewerage Works, Rundu, Nkwazi Lodge, Mokuti Lodge, Mahango GR, Popa Falls, Okavango Panhandle, Shakawe, Caprivi Game Park, Kalizo Lodge, Katima Mulilo and Livingstone.

Birds (410 in total: 408 seen, 2 heard)

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Gill, F and D Donsker (Eds). 2016. IOC World Bird List (v 6.3).
Doi 10.14344/IOC.ML.6.3.

Status codes: **E** = Endemic, **NE** = Near-endemic, **I** = Introduced

IUCN codes: **CR** = Critically endangered, **EN** = Endangered, **VU** = Vulnerable, **EW** = Extinct in the Wild, **NT** = Near Threatened, **DD** = Data Deficient

Ostrich *Struthionidae*

Common Ostrich

Struthio camelus australis

(8) en route 28.9, Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9, Etosha NP 3.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Etosha NP - Halali 4.10, 3 Etosha NP 5.10, Etosha NP 6.10, Mahango GR 8.10 and Mahango GR 10.10.

Highlight was of a male displaying for 2 females in Etosha NP.

Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl *Anatidae*

White-faced Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna viduata

(6) Mahango GR 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Mahango GR 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Good numbers recorded on the floodplains of Mahango Game Reserve.

White-backed Duck

Thalassornis leuconotus leuconotus

(1) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9.

1 spotted at Gammams Water Care Works in Windhoek.

Spur-winged Goose

Plectropterus gambensis niger

(6) Mahango GR 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Mahango GR 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Seen on the floodplains of Mahango, in flight over the papyrus of the Okavango Panhandle and the dambos of Kalizo Lodge.

Knob-billed Duck

Sarkidiornis melanotos

(4) Okavango Panhandle 7.10, Mahango GR 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

As per the previous species.

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiaca

(8) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Swakopmund 30.9, observed Etosha NP 3-6.10, Mahango GR 8.10 and Mahango GR 10.10.

Common and widespread during the tour.

South African Shelduck*Tadorna cana*

(3) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10 and Etosha NP 6.10.

Large numbers seen at Gammams Water Care Works in Windhoek and several in Etosha NP at various waterholes.

African Pygmy Goose*Nettapus auritus*

(3) Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Kalizo Lodge 11.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

A pair of these stunning geese were seen well on the lily-covered backwaters of the Okavango Panhandle and several more on the dambos of Kalizo Lodge.

Cape Teal*Anas capensis*

(6) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Walvis Bay 29.9, Walvis Bay 30.9, Swakopmund 30.9 and observed Etosha NP 4-6.10.

Our best views of this species were at Klein Namutoni waterhole in Etosha NP.

Yellow-billed Duck*Anas undulata undulata*

(3) Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, Mahango GR 10.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

First seen at Rundu Sewage Works, it was thereafter recorded along the Okavango River, floodplains of Mahango and near Kalizo Lodge.

Red-billed Teal*Anas erythrorhyncha*

(5) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Etosha NP 5.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Gammams Water Care Works, Etosha NP, floodplains of Mahango and Kalizo Lodge area yielded sightings of this species.

Hottentot Teal*Anas hottentota*

(3) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

We spotted this diminutive waterfowl at Gammams Water Care Works, Rundu Sewage Works and Kalizo Lodge area.

Southern Pochard*Netta erythrophthalma brunnea*

(1) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9.

Observed at Gammams Water Care Works in Windhoek.

Guineafowl Numididae**Helmeted Guineafowl***Numida meleagris*

(8) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, Avis Dam 28.9, Erongo Mountains 2.10, Etosha NP 3.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Etosha NP - Halali 4.10, Etosha NP 5.10, Etosha NP 6.10 and en route 7.10.

Fairly common and widespread during our trip especially in Namibia.

Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies *Phasianidae*

Orange River Francolin

Scleroptila gutturalis

(2) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9 and 1 heard Spreetshoogte Pass 29.9.

Brief flight view had of 1 bird in Dann Viljoen Game Reserve & also heard calling near our lodgings in the Spreetshoogte area.

Crested Francolin

Dendroperdix sephaena

(1) Katima Mulilo 13.10.

This usually common species was recorded at a private lodge near Katima Mulilo.

Hartlaub's Spurfowl

Pternistis hartlaubi

(2) Spreetshoogte Pass 29.9 and Erongo Mountains 3.10.

A female was seen well in the Spreetshoogte area and a pair at our lodge in the Erongo Mountains.

Red-billed Spurfowl

Pternistis adspersus

(13) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, Avis Dam 28.9, observed Erongo Mountains 1-3.10, Etosha NP 3.10, Etosha NP - Halali 4.10, Mushara Lodge 5.10, Etosha NP 5.10, Etosha NP 6.10, Rundu 7.10, Okavango Panhandle 8.10, 1 heard Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Mahango GR 8.10, Mahango GR 10.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10.

Regularly encountered in Namibia and Botswana.

Swainson's Spurfowl

Pternistis swainsonii swainsonii

(3) Etosha NP - Halali 4.10, Etosha NP - Halali 5.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

First seen at Halali Rest Camp in Etosha and then in the Kalizo area.

Grebes *Podicipedidae*

Little Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis capensis

(6) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, observed Etosha NP 4-6.10, Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Fairly common at waterbodies during our trip.

Flamingos *Phoenicopteridae*

Greater Flamingo

Phoenicopus roseus

(2) Walvis Bay 29.9, Walvis Bay 30.9 and Swakopmund 30.9.

Good numbers observed in the Walvis Bay area, especially in the lagoon.

Lesser Flamingo (NT)

Phoeniconaias minor

(2) Walvis Bay 29.9, Walvis Bay 30.9 and Swakopmund 30.9.

Thousands of these highly stunning birds were recorded during our time at the coast.

Storks *Ciconiidae*

Yellow-billed Stork

Mycteria ibis

(5) Nkwazi Lodge 7.10, Rundu 8.10, Mahango GR 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Mahango GR 10.10 and Mahango GR 11.10.

Recorded along the Okavango River at Rundu, the floodplains of Mahango and the dambos of Kalizo area.

African Openbill

Anastomus lamelligerus lamelligerus

(5) Nkwazi Lodge 7.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Katima Mulilo 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

First seen on the Okavango River near Rundu, it was later observed near Katima Mulilo and along the Zambezi at Kalizo Lodge.

Saddle-billed Stork

Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis

(1) 2 Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

A pair was seen in flight during a morning drive in the Kalizo area.

Marabou Stork

Leptoptilos crumenifer

(4) En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Mahango GR 10.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Kalizo Lodge produced the best sightings of of this grotesque-looking stork.

Ibises and Spoonbills *Threskiornithidae*

African Sacred Ibis

Threskiornis aethiopicus

(6) Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Mahango GR 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10, Kalizo Lodge 13.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

Seen daily from the Okavango Panhandle to the end of the trip.

Hadada Ibis

Bostrychia hagedash

(3) Rundu 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

Scarce during our tour but recorded at Rundu and Livingstones Sewage Works.

Glossy Ibis

Plegadis falcinellus

(4) Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10, Kalizo Lodge 13.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

Observed at several locations but best views were at Livingstones Sewage Works.

African Spoonbill

Platalea alba

(4) Mahango GR 8.10, 50 Mahango GR 10.10, Mahango GR 11.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Highlight for this species was over 40 birds along the Okavango River in the Mahango area.

Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns *Ardeidae*

Little Bittern

Ixobrychus minutus payesii

(2) Nkwazi Lodge 7.10 and 20 Okavango Panhandle 9.10.

1 was spotted along the Okavango near Rundu and then 15+ during our boat rides on the same river south of Shakawe.

White-backed Night Heron

Gorsachius leuconotus

(1) 2 Okavango Panhandle 10.10.

2 separate birds were recorded on our final morning in the Okavango Panhandle. A superb species to pick-up at the eleventh hour!

Black-crowned Night Heron

Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax

(9) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Nkwazi Lodge 7.10, Nkwazi Lodge 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, Mahango GR 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10, Kalizo Lodge 13.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

Numerous birds were seen along the various watercourses during the trip.

Striated Heron

Butorides striata atricapilla

(7) Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, Nkwazi Lodge 7.10, Nkwazi Lodge 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Mahango GR 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Commonly encountered along watercourses and waterbodies on the tour.

Squacco Heron

Ardeola ralloides

(8) Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, Mahango GR 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, Mahango GR 10.10, observed Kalizo Lodge 11-13.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

Regularly recorded during the last week of the tour.

Rufous-bellied Heron

Ardeola rufiventris

(2) Shakawe 9.10 and 1 Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

First spotted in flight during a morning boat ride on the Okavango River, another individual was seen very well on a dambo south of katima Mulilo.

Western Cattle Egret

Bubulcus ibis

(7) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Swakopmund 30.9, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Nkwazi Lodge 7.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Kalizo Lodge 13.10, Livingstone 13.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

Observed at numerous locations on tour.

Grey Heron

Ardea cinerea cinerea

(8) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Walvis Bay 30.9, Etosha NP 6.10, Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, Nkwazi Lodge 7.10, Okavango Panhandle 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Rundu 8.10, Mahango GR 10.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

Seen at most waterbodies throughout our trip.

Black-headed Heron

Ardea melanocephala

(3) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

Small numbers observed at Gammams Water Care Works, Rundu Sewage Works and Livingstone area.

Goliath Heron

Ardea goliath

(3) 6 Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Mahango GR 10.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Spotted during our time on the Okavango River near Divundu and on the Zambezi at Kalizo Lodge.

Purple Heron

Ardea purpurea purpurea

(4) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10 and Mahango GR 11.10.

Numerous along the Okavango River in the Panhandle.

Great Egret

Ardea alba melanorhynchos

(5) Mahango GR 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Mahango floodplains and Kalizo area produced sightings of this species.

Intermediate Egret

Egretta intermedia brachyrhyncha

(4) Mahango GR 8.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

as per the above species.

Black Heron

Egretta ardesiaca

(2) Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

A large flock of 20+ birds were recorded on 2 consecutive days in the Kalizo Lodge area.

Slaty Egret (VU)

Egretta vinaceigula

(2) 1 Okavango Panhandle 9.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Initially seen in the distance in the Okavango Panhandle, we later had good views of 1 south of Katima Mulilo.

Little Egret

Egretta garzetta garzetta

(10) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Walvis Bay 29.9, Walvis Bay 30.9, Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, Mahango GR 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Mahango GR 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Widespread and fairly common, especially in the panhandle, during the trip.

Hamerkop *Scopidae*

Hamerkop

Scopus umbretta umbretta

(8) Nkwazi Lodge 7.10, Nkwazi Lodge 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Mahango GR 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10, Kalizo Lodge 13.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

Recorded on most days during the final week.

Pelicans *Pelecanidae*

Great White Pelican

Pelecanus onocrotalus

(4) Walvis Bay 30.9 and observed Kalizo Lodge 11-13.10.

Best sightings was of a flock of 50+ resting at a dambo near Kalizo Lodge.

Boobies and Gannets *Sulidae*

Cape Gannet (VU)

Morus capensis

(1) Walvis Bay 30.9.

1 bird was seen flying over the sea at Paaltjies, Walvis Bay.

Cormorants and Shags *Phalacrocoracidae*

Reed Cormorant*Microcarbo africanus africanus*

(8) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Nkwazi Lodge 7.10, Mahango GR 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Katima Mulilo 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10, Kalizo Lodge 13.10 and Livingstone 13.10.

Fairly common at most waterbodies and courses.

Crowned Cormorant*Microcarbo coronatus*

(1) Walvis Bay 30.9.

20+ were recorded at Mile 4 Saltworks and more at the platforms between Swakopmund and Walvis Bay.

White-breasted Cormorant*Phalacrocorax lucidus*

(2) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Walvis Bay 30.9 and Swakopmund 30.9.

Gammams Water Care Works and the Walvis Bay/Swakopmund area yielded sightings of this cormorant.

Cape Cormorant (NT)*Phalacrocorax capensis*

(1) Walvis Bay 30.9 and Swakopmund 30.9.

Thousands were seen along the coast in the Walvis Bay & Swakopmund areas.

Anhingas *Anhingidae***African Darter***Anhinga rufa rufa*

(8) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, Okavango Panhandle 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Mahango GR 8.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Mahango GR 11.10, Katima Mulilo 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10, Kalizo Lodge 13.10 and Livingstone 13.10.

Numerous along the Okavango River in Botswana.

Osprey *Pandionidae***Western Osprey***Pandion haliaetus haliaetus*

(1) 1 Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

1 bird was recorded in flight along the Zambezi River not far from Katima Mulilo.

Hawks, Eagles, and Kites *Accipitridae***Black-winged Kite***Elanus caeruleus caeruleus*

(3) En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10 and Okavango Panhandle 10.10.

A few were observed hunting in the early morning in the Okavango Panhandle.

African Harrier-Hawk

Polyboroides typus typus

(2) En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10.

Several scattered sightings were had during the tour.

African Cuckoo-Hawk

Aviceda cuculoides verreauxii

(4) En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, 2 Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10.

We had 3 separate sightings of this sometimes elusive raptor including scope views of 1 in the Teak woodlands east of Rundu.

White-backed Vulture (NT)

Gyps africanus

(7) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Erongo Mountains 2.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, Etosha NP 5.10, Etosha NP 6.10 and Mahango GR 10.10.

Scattered sightings were had of this widespread species throughout Namibia.

White-headed Vulture (VU)

Trigonoceps occipitalis

(1) 2 Mahango GR 10.10.

2 birds were seen on the floodplains of the Mahango sector of Bwabwata NP.

Lappet-faced Vulture (VU)

Torgos tracheliotos tracheliotos

(2) Etosha NP 4.10 and Mahango GR 10.10.

1 was spotted in the Okaukuejo area of Etosha NP and a few more on the floodplains of the Mahango sector of Bwabwata NP.

Black-chested Snake Eagle

Circaetus pectoralis

(3) En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Avis Dam 28.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10.

First seen at Avis Dam in Windhoek, it was thereafter recorded en route to a few sites including Spreetshoogte and Divundu.

Brown Snake Eagle

Circaetus cinereus

(1) Mahango GR 10.10.

Good flight views were had from the deck of our lodge along the Okavango River near Divundu.

Western Banded Snake Eagle

Circaetus cinerascens

(1) 1 Okavango Panhandle 9.10.

During a morning boat cruise along the Okavango River in Botswana we sighted this handsome species.

Bateleur (NT)

Terathopius ecaudatus

(7) 1 Etosha NP 5.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, Mahango GR 10.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Best sightings were of a gorgeous female bird was observed in flight in Etosha NP and a pair in the Mahango sector of Bwabwata NP.

Martial Eagle (NT)

Polemaetus bellicosus

(1) 1 Andoni Plains 6.10.

An adult bird was seen well in flight north of Andoni Plains.

Wahlberg's Eagle

Hieraaetus wahlbergi

(1) En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10.

We enjoyed good, close scope views of 1 en route from Mahango to Katima Mulilo.

Tawny Eagle

Aquila rapax rapax

(5) Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Etosha NP 5.10, Etosha NP 6.10, Mahango GR 10.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10.

Several birds were recorded in Etosha NP, Mahango and en route to various site in well-developed woodland.

Verreaux's Eagle

Aquila verreauxii

(3) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, Spitzkoppe NR 1.10 and Erongo Mountains 2.10.

We were very fortunate to have multiple sightings of several pairs during the trip; including at Daan Viljoen, Spitzkoppe and Erongo Mountains.

African Hawk-Eagle

Aquila spilogaster

(2) Erongo Mountains 2.10 and 2 En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10.

2 juveniles were observed in the Erongo Wilderness Conservancy and a pair near Kongola.

Lizard Buzzard

Kaupifalco monogrammicus meridionalis

(3) En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

Scattered sightings had on a couple travel days and an impromptu morning walk in Livingstone.

Gabar Goshawk

Micronisus gabar gabar

(4) En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10 and 2 Etosha NP 5.10.

We enjoyed good looks at a pair in the Mopane woodland between Halali and Namutoni.

Dark Chanting Goshawk*Melierax metabates mechowii*

(2) En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10.

The Teak woodlands of the Caprivi Strip produced a few sightings of this raptor.

Pale Chanting Goshawk*Melierax canorus argentior*

(6) En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Erongo Mountains 2.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10 and observed Etosha NP 4-6.10.

Recorded in the arid areas of Namibia with peak numbers in Etosha NP.

Shikra*Accipiter badius polyzonoides*

(3) Etosha NP 4.10, 1 Etosha NP 5.10 and Okavango Panhandle 8.10.

The best sighting of this species was in Halali Rest Camp.

Little Sparrowhawk*Accipiter minullus*

(1) Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Brief flight views were had in the Kalioz Lodge area.

African Marsh Harrier*Circus ranivorus*

(2) Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

During our time at Rundu Sewage Works and Kalizo Lodge we found this species.

Yellow-billed Kite*Milvus aegyptius parasitus*

(8) En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Shakawe 9.10, Shakawe 10.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10, Kalizo Lodge 13.10, Livingstone 13.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

Fairly common during the latter half of our tour.

African Fish Eagle*Haliaeetus vocifer*

(7) Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, Mahango GR 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Mahango GR 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10, Kalizo Lodge 13.10 and Livingstone 13.10.

Best sightings were along the Okavango and Zambezi Rivers.

Bustards Otididae**Kori Bustard***Ardeotis kori kori*

(5) En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Etosha NP 3.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Etosha NP 5.10 and Etosha NP 6.10.

First seen in the Khomas Hochland area en route to Spreetshoogte and the rather common in Etosha NP.

Rüppell's Korhaan

Eupodotis rueppellii

(3) 6 Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9, Spitzkoppe NR 1.10 and Erongo Mountains 2.10.

Good numbers were seen in the arid region of central Namibia , especially on the district roads around Spitzkoppe and the Erongo Mountains.

Red-crested Korhaan

Lophotis ruficrista

(6) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Erongo Mountains 2.10, Etosha NP 5.10, Etosha NP 6.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10.

Daan Viljoen GR, Khomas Hochland and Etosha NP all produced sightings of this korhaan.

Northern Black Korhaan

Afrotis afraoides

(6) En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Spitzkoppe NR 1.10, Erongo Mountains 2.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Etosha NP 5.10 and Etosha NP 6.10.

Best looks of the species in Etosha National Park.

Finfoots *Heliornithidae*

African Finfoot

Podica senegalensis petersii

(1) Livingstone 14.10.

On our final morning in Livingstone we scoped a female on the Zambezi River.

Rails, Gallinules, and Coots *Rallidae*

African Rail

Rallus caerulescens

(2) Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10 and 1 heard Rundu 8.10.

Good views of 2 birds were had a Rundu Sewage Works.

Black Crane

Amaurornis flavirostra

(8) Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, Nkwazi Lodge 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, Mahango GR 10.10, up to 1 Kalizo Lodge 11-13.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

Extremely vocal and rather conspicuous along rivers and wetland sites in northern Namibia and Botswana.

African Swampen

Porphyrio madagascariensis

(5) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

Large numbers of this species were recorded at Livingstone Sewage Works.

Common Moorhen

Gallinula chloropus meridionalis

(4) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, 2 Etosha NP 6.10, Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

Gammams Water Care Works, a waterhole in Etosha and Rundu Sewage Works held sightings of this speices.

Red-knobbed Coot

Fulica cristata

(4) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Walvis Bay 30.9, Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Recorded at Gammams Water Care Works, Walvis Bay and Kalizo Lodge.

Cranes Gruidae

Blue Crane (VU)

Grus paradisea

(1) 20 Andoni Plains 6.10.

We had a fantastic sighting of 20 or so of these elegant birds at a waterhole on the Andoni Plains, Etosha NP.

Wattled Crane

Grus carunculata

(1) 2 Mahango GR 10.10.

A pair of these regal birds were recorded on the floodplains of Mahango.

Thick-knees Burhinidae

Water Thick-knee

Burhinus vermiculatus vermiculatus

(4) Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

We recorded this species on sandbanks along the Okavango and Zambezi Rivers, bot in Botswana & Namibia.

Spotted Thick-knee

Burhinus capensis

(3) 2 Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, 2 Etosha NP 5.10 and Etosha NP 6.10.

At least 3 pairs were seen during our time in Etosha National Park.

Stilts and Avocets Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt

Himantopus himantopus

(8) Walvis Bay 30.9, Etosha NP 5.10, Etosha NP 6.10, Popa Falls 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Mahango GR 11.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Observed on saltpans and other wetlands habitats throughout our trip.

Pied Avocet

Recurvirostra avosetta

(2) Walvis Bay 30.9 and Etosha NP 6.10.

Seen in saltpans of Walvis Bay Lagoon and Etosha National Park.

Plovers and Lapwings *Charadriidae*

Long-toed Lapwing

Vanellus crassirostris leucopterus

(5) Mahango GR 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Shakawe 9.10, Mahango GR 10.10, 2 Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

The flooded grassland plains of Mahango and Kalizo Lodge areas and Livingstone Sewage Works produced sightings.

Blacksmith Lapwing

Vanellus armatus

(14) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Swakopmund 30.9, observed Etosha NP 3-6.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, Popa Falls 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Mahango GR 10.10, observed Kalizo Lodge 11-13.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

Seen at most sites barring the desert areas during our trip.

White-crowned Lapwing

Vanellus albiceps

(3) Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10, Kalizo Lodge 13.10 and Livingstone 13.10.

1 individual seen in flight over the Okavango River in Botswana and then good numbers near Kalizo Lodge.

Crowned Lapwing

Vanellus coronatus

(7) Erongo Mountains 2.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, observed Etosha NP 4-6.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10.

Good numbers seen in Etosha National Park.

African Wattled Lapwing

Vanellus senegallus lateralis

(2) Okavango Panhandle 10.10, Mahango GR 10.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

The Okavango Panhandle, Mahango area and Kalizo Lodge held views of this species.

Grey Plover

Pluvialis squatarola squatarola

(1) Walvis Bay 30.9.

Recorded in Walvis Bay.

Common Ringed Plover*Charadrius hiaticula tundrae*

(1) Walvis Bay 30.9.

Several of these plovers were seen on the mudflats of Walvis Bay Lagoon.

Kittlitz's Plover*Charadrius pecuarius*

(3) Swakopmund 30.9, Etosha NP 4.10 and Etosha NP 6.10.

Large concentrations of these birds were seen at a waterhole on the Andoni Plains, Etosha NP.

Three-banded Plover*Charadrius tricollaris tricollaris*

(8) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Swakopmund 30.9, Etosha NP 4.10, Etosha NP 6.10, Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Mahango GR 10.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Regularly recorded at wetlands and other water bodies during our trip.

White-fronted Plover*Charadrius marginatus*

(2) Walvis Bay 30.9, Swakopmund 30.9 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

This smart plover was observed at Walvis Bay, Swakopmund and along the Zambezi River.

Chestnut-banded Plover (NT)*Charadrius pallidus pallidus*

(2) Walvis Bay 30.9, Swakopmund 30.9 and 6 Andoni Plains 6.10.

First seen on the mudflats of the Walvis Bay Lagoon, several good plumaged birds were spotted at a waterhole on the Andoni Plains.

Caspian Plover*Charadrius asiaticus*

(1) Etosha NP 6.10.

Approximately 6 birds were recorded on the Andoni Plains in northeast Etosha.

Painted-Snipes Rostratulidae**Greater Painted-snipe***Rostratula benghalensis*

(2) Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10 and 1 Mahango GR 10.10.

Several males birds were found on our trip at Rundu Sewage Works and along the Okavango River in the Mahango area.

Jacanas Jacanidae**African Jacana***Actophilornis africanus*

(9) Etosha NP 4.10, 1 Etosha NP 5.10, Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, Nkwazi Lodge 7.10, Nkwazi Lodge 8.10, Mahango GR 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Katima Mulilo 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

This attractive species was regularly encountered during the latter half of our trip.

Sandpipers and Allies Scolopacidae

African Snipe

Gallinago nigripennis angolensis

(1) Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10.

Good numbers were seen in the short, flooded grassland at Rundu Sewage Works.

Bar-tailed Godwit

Limosa lapponica lapponica

(1) Walvis Bay 30.9.

This species was scoped on the mudflats of Walvis Bay Lagoon.

Whimbrel

Numenius phaeopus phaeopus

(1) Walvis Bay 30.9.

Walvis Bay Lagoon held sightings of this bird.

Marsh Sandpiper

Tringa stagnatilis

(5) Walvis Bay 30.9, Etosha NP 6.10, Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, 1 heard Okavango Panhandle 9.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Recorded at several wetland/marsh areas including Walvis Bay Lagoon, Rundu Sewage Works and Kalizo Lodge area.

Common Greenshank

Tringa nebularia

(8) Walvis Bay 30.9, Swakopmund 30.9, Etosha NP 6.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Katima Mulilo 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10, Kalizo Lodge 13.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

Singles and pairs were seen at numerous water bodies throughout.

Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

(10) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Swakopmund 30.9, observed Etosha NP 4-6.10, Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, Popa Falls 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Mahango GR 10.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Seen at most waterbodies during the tour with peak numbers at Livingstone Sewage Works on the final morning.

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

(7) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Walvis Bay 30.9, Etosha NP 6.10, Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Scattered sightings had at wetland sites and water courses.

Ruddy Turnstone

Arenaria interpres interpres

(2) Walvis Bay 30.9, Swakopmund 30.9 and Etosha NP 6.10.

Walvis Bay Lagoon and Swakopmund area produced sightings.

Sanderling

Calidris alba

(1) Walvis Bay 30.9.

This species was seen in good numbers on the mudflats of Walvis Bay Lagoon.

Little Stint

Calidris minuta

(7) Walvis Bay 30.9, Swakopmund 30.9, observed Etosha NP 4-6.10, Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, Mahango GR 10.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Seen at most wetlands and other water associated habitats.

Curlew Sandpiper

Calidris ferruginea

(1) Walvis Bay 30.9 and Swakopmund 30.9.

Peak numbers recorded on the coastal mudflats of Walvis Bay Lagoon.

Ruff

Philomachus pugnax

(6) Walvis Bay 30.9, 1 Etosha NP 5.10, Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

Walvis Bay Lagoon, Etosha, Rundu Sewage Works and the Kalizo Lodge area held views of this species.

Pratincoles and Coursers Glareolidae

Burchell's Courser

Cursorius rufus

(3) 3 Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9, 15 Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10 and Etosha NP 6.10.

First seen crossing the desert en route to Walvis Bay, we later had fabulous sightings of 30+ birds in Etosha NP.

Temminck's Courser

Cursorius temminckii aridus

(1) En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10.

1 bird was seen along the roadside en route to Etosha from Omaruru.

Double-banded Courser

Rhinoptilus africanus

(4) Erongo Mountains 2.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Etosha NP 5.10 and Etosha NP 6.10.

Incredible looks were had of these birds in Etosha National Park.

Collared Pratincole*Glareola pratincola fuelleborni*

(5) Nkwazi Lodge 8.10, Mahango GR 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Mahango GR 11.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Our best sightings of these birds were on a boat cruise along the Okavango River in the Mahango area.

Rock Pratincole*Glareola nuchalis nuchalis*

(1) Popa Falls 8.10.

A few of these elegant pratincoles were seen on rocks in the Okavango River.

Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers *Laridae***African Skimmer (NT)***Rynchops flavirostris*

(5) Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Mahango GR 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Fantastic views were had of these stunning birds during a morning boat ride along the Okavango River in Botswana. Also seen in the Mahango area and along the Zambezi River.

Grey-headed Gull*Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus poiocephalus*

(2) Walvis Bay 30.9 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Couple birds spotted in Walvis Bay and along the Zambezi River at Kalizo Lodge.

Hartlaub's Gull*Chroicocephalus hartlaubii*

(2) Walvis Bay 30.9, Walvis Bay 1.10 and Swakopmund 30.9.

Large numbers of these birds were seen in Walvis Bay and Swakopmund.

Kelp Gull*Larus dominicanus vetula*

(3) Observed Walvis Bay 29-1.10 and Swakopmund 30.9.

Recorded mostly on the Walvis Bay Lagoon and Swakopmund area.

Caspian Tern*Hydroprogne caspia*

(1) Walvis Bay 30.9.

Walvis Bay Lagoon gave us several sightings of this large tern species.

Greater Crested Tern*Thalasseus bergii bergii*

(1) Walvis Bay 30.9 and Swakopmund 30.9.

Large numbers were seen in Walvis Bay. Also scoped at Mile 4 north of Swakopmund town.

Sandwich Tern*Thalasseus sandvicensis*

(1) Walvis Bay 30.9 and Swakopmund 30.9.

Both Swakopmund and Walvis Bay yielded views of this species.

Damara Tern *Sternula balaenarum*

(1) Walvis Bay 30.9.

c10 birds were seen well in flight in Walvis Bay.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo hirundo*

(1) Walvis Bay 30.9.

Good numbers observed over the Walvis bay Lagoon.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

(1) Walvis Bay 30.9.

A few birds were seen in flight over the Walvis bay Lagoon.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida hybrida*

(1) Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Seen along the Okavango and Zambezi Rivers.

White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

(3) Okavango Panhandle 9.10, 120 Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

A late evening and early morning watch over the Zambezi River produced views of this bird.

Sandgrouse Pteroclididae

Namaqua Sandgrouse *Pterocles namaqua*

(4) Etosha NP 3.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Etosha NP 5.10 and Etosha NP 6.10.

We had multiple, superb looks at this beautiful species.

Double-banded Sandgrouse *Pterocles bicinctus bicinctus*

(2) Erongo Mountains 2.10 and 2 Etosha NP 5.10.

A female was spotted in the Erongo Wilderness Conservancy and then a few birds observed at Okaukuejo waterhole, Etosha.

Burchell's Sandgrouse *Pterocles burchelli*

(1) Etosha NP 6.10.

Flocks and flocks of this species were seen at a waterhole in the Namutoni area.

Pigeons and Doves *Columbidae*

Rock Dove

Columba livia livia

(9) Windhoek 27.9, Windhoek 28.9, observed Walvis Bay 29-1.10, Swakopmund 30.9, Erongo Mountains 2.10, Katima Mulilo 11.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 13.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

Towns and urban developments yielded sightings of this species.

Speckled Pigeon

Columba guinea phaeonota

(7) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Windhoek 28.9, Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9, Walvis Bay 30.9 and observed Erongo Mountains 1-3.10.

Recorded during the first half of the trip.

Mourning Collared Dove

Streptopelia decipiens ambigua

(5) 1 heard Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Mahango GR 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Seen in the wooded areas of the Panhandle, Mahango and Kalizo.

Red-eyed Dove

Streptopelia semitorquata

(8) Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, Nkwazi Lodge 8.10, observed Okavango Panhandle 8-10.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Mahango GR 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10, Kalizo Lodge 13.10, Livingstone 13.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

This widespread species was seen daily from Rundu onwards.

Ring-necked Dove

Streptopelia capicola

(14) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Erongo Mountains 1.10, Erongo Mountains 2.10, observed Etosha NP 3-6.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, Mahango GR 10.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Probably the most commonly encountered species of the trip; it was seen on most days.

Laughing Dove

Spilopelia senegalensis senegalensis

(18) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Avis Dam 28.9, Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9, Walvis Bay 30.9, observed Erongo Mountains 1-3.10, observed Etosha NP 4-6.10, Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, Mahango GR 10.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10, Kalizo Lodge 13.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

Similarly (as to the aforementioned species), this dove was seen on most days of the trip.

Emerald-spotted Wood Dove

Turtur chalcospilos

(10) Etosha NP - Halali 4.10, 1 Mushara Lodge 5.10, Etosha NP 6.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, Mahango GR 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, Mahango GR 10.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 13.10.

Seen daily from eastern Etosha to the end of the tour.

Namaqua Dove

Oena capensis capensis

(7) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Etosha NP 6.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 13.10.

Good looks were had at waterholes in eastern Etosha National Park.

African Green Pigeon

Treron calvus

(4) Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Mahango GR 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

An attractive pigeon, it was observed in the Panhandle, Mahango area and around Kalizo Lodge.

Turacos *Musophagidae*

Schalow's Turaco

Tauraco schalowi

(2) Katima Mulilo 11.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Incredible views were had of this gorgeous species south of Katima Mulilo.

Grey Go-away-bird

Corythaixoides concolor

(15) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9, Erongo Mountains 1.10, Erongo Mountains 2.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, Mushara Lodge 5.10, Etosha NP 5.10, Etosha NP 6.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Mahango GR 11.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Regularly recorded throughout the trip and often entertaining us with its comical vocalizations.

Cuckoos *Cuculidae*

Senegal Coucal

Centropus senegalensis flecki

(2) Mahango GR 10.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Spotted in the Mahango and Kalizo areas.

Coppery-tailed Coucal

Centropus cupreicaudus cupreicaudus

(5) Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, Nkwazi Lodge 7.10, Nkwazi Lodge 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, Mahango GR 10.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

This impressive looking coucal was recorded first at Rundu Sewage Works and then on numerous occasions in the Okavango Panhandle, Mahango area and Kalizo.

White-browed Coucal

Centropus superciliosus loandae

(4) Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10 and up to 1 Okavango Panhandle 8-10.10.

Our best views were of a pair along the Okavango River in Botswana.

Klaas's Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx klaas

(1) 1 Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

The ONLY cuckoo seen/heard during the trip! We had good looks in the woodland around Kalizo Lodge.

Barn-Owls Tytonidae

Western Barn Owl

Tyto alba

(1) Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

On a night drive in the Kalizo area were found this species.

Owls Strigidae

African Scops Owl

Otus senegalensis senegalensis

(1) 1 Etosha NP - Halali 5.10.

Excellent views were had of this diminutive owl in the mopane woodland in central Etosha NP.

Southern White-faced Owl

Ptilopsis granti

(1) En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10.

On the drive eastwards from Rundu our driver/guide magically conjured up a sighting of this sought-after species. Well done Tuhafeni!!!

Spotted Eagle-Owl

Bubo africanus africanus

(2) Erongo Mountains 1.10 and 2 Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10.

We enjoyed great views of a pair at a nest in south western Etosha NP.

Verreaux's Eagle-Owl

Bubo lacteus

(1) Mahango GR 8.10.

Whilst on a game drive in the Mahango sector of Bwabwata NP were spotted an adult and chick on a nest.

Pel's Fishing Owl

Scotopelia peli

(1) Shakawe 9.10.

The Okavango Panhandle near Shakawe offered us several sightings of this ginger giant!

Pearl-spotted Owlet

Glaucidium perlatum licua

(5) Avis Dam 28.9, Erongo Mountains 3.10, Etosha NP 5.10, Mokuti Lodge 7.10 and Mahango GR 10.10.

Seen fairly regularly during the trip with good sightings at Erongo Wilderness Lodge and Mahango sector of Bwabwata NP.

African Barred Owlet

Glaucidium capense

(3) Okavango Panhandle 9.10, 1 Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and 1 heard Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

First seen in the Okavango Panhandle, we later had walkaway views in the woodland south of Katima Mulilo.

Marsh Owl

Asio capensis capensis

(1) 1 Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

During a walk in the Kalizo Lodge area for Pink-throated Longclaw we managed to flush one of these owls.

Nightjars and Allies *Caprimulgidae*

Rufous-cheeked Nightjar

Caprimulgus rufigena damarensis

(1) Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 3.10.

Seen on a few occasions during our time in Etosha National Park.

Fiery-necked Nightjar

Caprimulgus pectoralis fervidus

(5) 1 Mushara Lodge 5.10, Etosha NP 6.10, Mushara Lodge 7.10, Nkwazi Lodge 7.10, 1 heard Okavango Panhandle 9.10 and Okavango Panhandle 10.10.

Superb, close-up looks were had around our lodge on the eastern boundary of Etosha NP.

Swamp Nightjar

Caprimulgus natalensis

(1) Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

After much effort on our part, we finally managed to locate a few individuals on our last night drive south of Katima Mulilo.

Freckled Nightjar

Caprimulgus tristigma lentiginosus

(2) 1 heard Spreetshoogte Pass 29.9 and Erongo Mountains 3.10.

Seen flying over a waterhole in the Erongo Wilderness Conservancy.

Square-tailed Nightjar*Caprimulgus fossii*

(3) Nkwazi Lodge 7.10, Mahango GR 10.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

An individual responded superbly to playback in the Mahango area. Also seen in the Kalizo area.

Swifts Apodidae**African Palm Swift***Cypsiurus parvus*

(13) Windhoek 27.9, Windhoek 28.9, Spreetshoogte Pass 29.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, Etosha NP 3.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Etosha NP 5.10, Etosha NP 6.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, Nkwazi Lodge 8.10, Shakawe 10.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10, Kalizo Lodge 13.10, Livingstone 13.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

Recorded at most sites on tour especially in the vicinity of tall palm trees.

Alpine Swift*Tachymarptis melba*

(2) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10 and Etosha NP 3.10.

Best sightings were in the town of Omaruru, Namibia.

African Black Swift*Apus barbatus barbatus*

(1) Nkwazi Lodge 7.10.

This species was sighted over the Okavango River near Rundu.

Bradfield's Swift*Apus bradfieldi bradfieldi*

(2) En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10 and Etosha NP 6.10.

Excellent looks were had over the town of Omaruru.

Little Swift*Apus affinis*

(10) Windhoek 27.9, Windhoek 28.9, Spreetshoogte Pass 29.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, Shakawe 10.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

Regularly observed during the trip.

Horus Swift*Apus horus horus*

(1) Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Kalizo Lodge area held views of this species.

White-rumped Swift*Apus caffer*

(4) Avis Dam 28.9, Spreetshoogte Pass 29.9, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Scattered sightings were had a few sites.

Mousebirds *Coliidae*

White-backed Mousebird

Colius colius damarensis

(4) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, Avis Dam 28.9, Spreetshoogte Pass 29.9 and Spitzkoppe NR 1.10.

First week of the trip produced numerous views of this species.

Red-faced Mousebird

Urocolius indicus

(8) Etosha NP 5.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 13.10.

This species was seen from eastern Etosha onwards until the end of the tour.

Rollers *Coraciidae*

Purple Roller

Coracias naevius mosambicus

(10) En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, Etosha NP - Halali 4.10, Etosha NP - Halali 5.10, Etosha NP 6.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, Shakawe 10.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 13.10.

A common roadside species especially on the drive from eastern Etosha to Rundu.

Racket-tailed Roller

Coracias spatulatus

(1) Katima Mulilo 11.10.

A pair was seen very well in the broad-leafed woodland south of Katima Mulilo.

Lilac-breasted Roller

Coracias caudatus caudatus

(10) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, Nkwazi Lodge 7.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Shakawe 10.10, Mahango GR 10.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

One of Africa's iconic species, it was seen at many woodland sites.

Broad-billed Roller

Eurystomus glaucurus suahelicus

(2) Okavango Panhandle 9.10 and Katima Mulilo 11.10.

Our best looks were in the riparian forest along the Zambezi River south of Katima Mulilo.

Kingfishers *Alcedinidae*

Grey-headed Kingfisher

Halcyon leucocephala pallidiventris

(1) Okavango Panhandle 9.10.

At least 2 birds were spotted in the grounds of our lodge in the Okavango Panhandle.

Brown-hooded Kingfisher

Halcyon albiventris

(2) Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Our lodge south of Katima and the Livingstone area yielded sightings of this kingfisher.

Striped Kingfisher

Halcyon chelicuti chelicuti

(1) En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10.

1 bird was seen in the Teak woodlands west of Katima Mulilo.

African Pygmy Kingfisher

Ispidina picta natalensis

(1) Katima Mulilo 13.10.

We enjoyed excellent views of this stunning kingfisher in the riparian woodland near Katima Mulilo.

Malachite Kingfisher

Corythornis cristatus cristatus

(4) Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, Mahango GR 10.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Common along watercourses especially the Okavango River.

Half-collared Kingfisher

Alcedo semitorquata

(1) Livingstone 14.10.

Sensational views were had on our final morning along the Zambezi River near Livingstone.

Giant Kingfisher

Megaceryle maxima maxima

(7) Nkwazi Lodge 7.10, observed Okavango Panhandle 8-10.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Mahango GR 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

This monstrous kingfisher was recorded several times along the Okavango and Zambezi Rivers.

Pied Kingfisher

Ceryle rudis rudis

(8) Etosha NP 4.10, Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, Nkwazi Lodge 7.10, observed Okavango Panhandle 8-10.10, Mahango GR 8.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Mahango GR 11.10, Katima Mulilo 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Numerous on the Okavango and Zambezi Rivers.

Bee-eaters *Meropidae*

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater

Merops hirundineus hirundineus

(10) En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Spreetshoogte Pass 29.9, Erongo Mountains 1.10, Erongo Mountains 2.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, Etosha NP - Halali 5.10, Etosha NP 6.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, Mahango GR 10.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10.

Regularly recorded during the tour; usually in more arid woodland.

Little Bee-eater

Merops pusillus

(6) Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, observed Okavango Panhandle 8-10.10, Mahango GR 8.10, Mahango GR 10.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Seen from Rundu through to the end of the trip.

White-fronted Bee-eater

Merops bullockoides

(6) Observed Okavango Panhandle 8-10.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Katima Mulilo 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Kalizo Lodge produced our best sightings of this species.

European Bee-eater

Merops apiaster

(3) En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, Etosha NP 3.10, Etosha NP 5.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10.

Seen briefly en route a few times and later decent views were had in the Halali area.

Southern Carmine Bee-eater

Merops nubicoides

(6) Observed Okavango Panhandle 8-10.10, Mahango GR 8.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Katima Mulilo 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10, Kalizo Lodge 13.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 13.10.

This stunner was seen during the latter part of our trip. Special mention must go to our close quarters encounter in the Okavango Panhandle at a nesting colony where we were literally in awe of these incredibly plumaged birds.

Hoopoes *Upupidae*

African Hoopoe

Upupa africana

(8) En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Avis Dam 28.9, Spreetshoogte Pass 29.9, Etosha NP 3.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Etosha NP 5.10, Nkwazi Lodge 7.10, Nkwazi Lodge 8.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10.

Our most memorable sighting was in the Rundu area where we observed this attractive species on the lawn of our lodge.

Woodhoopoes and Scimitar-bills *Phoeniculidae*

Green Wood Hoopoe

Phoeniculus purpureus

(4) En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, Mahango GR 8.10, Mahango GR 10.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10.

We had a good sightings of this vocal species in the Mahango sector of Bwabwata NP.

Violet Wood Hoopoe

Phoeniculus damarensis

(2) Khan River 1.10 and 2 Etosha NP - Halali 5.10.

A flock was seen in a dry riverbed south of Omaruru and a couple juveniles in the Halali area of Etosha NP.

Common Scimitarbill

Rhinopomastus cyanomelas

(5) Erongo Mountains 2.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, Mahango GR 8.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Scattered records were had on our trip in woodland habitat.

Ground Hornbills *Bucorvidae*

Southern Ground Hornbill (VU)

Bucorvus leadbeateri

(1) 2 En route - Etosha to Rundu 13.10.

Our only sighting was of 2 birds foraging en route from Kalizo Lodge to Katima Mulilo.

Hornbills *Bucerotidae*

Damara Red-billed Hornbill

Tockus damarensis

(4) Erongo Mountains 2.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, Etosha NP - Halali 4.10 and Etosha NP - Halali 5.10.

Erongo Wilderness Conservancy and Etosha held views of this species.

Southern Red-billed Hornbill

Tockus rufirostris

(5) Mushara Lodge 5.10, Etosha NP 6.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, Katima Mulilo 11.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 13.10.

From eastern Etosha onwards we had sightings of this bird.

Monteiro's Hornbill

Tockus monteiri

(4) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, Spitzkoppe NR 1.10, Erongo Mountains 2.10 and Etosha NP - Halali 4.10.

Seen in Daan Viljoen, Spitzkoppe, Erongo Wilderness Conservancy and Halali area.

Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill

Tockus leucomelas leucomelas

(11) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, Spitzkoppe NR 1.10, Erongo Mountains 2.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Etosha NP 5.10, Etosha NP 6.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, Mahango GR 10.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10.

Regularly recorded throughout the trip.

Bradfield's Hornbill

Lophoceros bradfieldi

(2) Mahango GR 8.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10.

We had a good sighting in the Mahango sector of Bwabwata NP and en route from Divundu to Katima Mulilo.

African Grey Hornbill

Lophoceros nasutus epirhinus

(13) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Avis Dam 28.9, Erongo Mountains 2.10, Erongo Mountains 3.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Etosha NP - Halali 4.10, Etosha NP 5.10, Etosha NP 6.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, Nkwazi Lodge 7.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, Mahango GR 10.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 13.10.

Common at most sites during our trip.

Trumpeter Hornbill

Bycanistes bucinator

(3) 3 Katima Mulilo 11.10, Livingstone 13.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

This handsome hornbill species was spotted south of Katima Mulilo and also in Livingstone at Victoria Falls.

African Barbets *Lybiidae*

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird

Pogoniulus chrysoconus extoni

(2) 1 heard Okavango Panhandle 9.10 and Okavango Panhandle 10.10.

We enjoyed an excellent sighting of this species in the riparian forest along the Okavango River in Botswana.

Acacia Pied Barbet

Tricholaema leucomelas centralis

(7) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, Spreetshoogte Pass 28.9, Erongo Mountains 1.10, Erongo Mountains 2.10, Spitzkoppe NR 1.10, Etosha NP 3.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10 and Etosha NP 5.10.

Seen regularly during the first half in more arid woodland.

Black-collared Barbet

Lybius torquatus

(5) Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Katima Mulilo 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Woodland/riparian forest in the Okavango Panhandle, Mahango, Katima and Kalizo areas held this species.

Crested Barbet*Trachyphonus vaillantii vaillantii*

(2) Mahango GR 10.10 and 1 heard Katima Mulilo 12.10.

Our birding in the Mahango sector of Bwabwata NP yielded this colorful species.

Honeyguides Indicatoridae**Lesser Honeyguide***Indicator minor*

(1) Livingstone 14.10.

2 birds were observed in the Livingstone area.

Woodpeckers Picidae**Bennett's Woodpecker***Campethera bennettii*

(1) Katima Mulilo 11.10.

We recorded this species in the riverine woodland south of Katima Mulilo.

Golden-tailed Woodpecker*Campethera abingoni*

(5) 1 Mushara Lodge 5.10, Nkwazi Lodge 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, Mahango GR 10.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10.

Several sightings were had on the trip but our best was in the grounds of our lodge near Rundu.

Cardinal Woodpecker*Dendropicos fuscescens*

(6) Windhoek 27.9, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Katima Mulilo 11.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Scattered sightings of this bird were had during the tour.

Bearded Woodpecker*Dendropicos namaquus namaquus*

(4) En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10 and Mahango GR 10.10.

Notable views were of a female south of Anderson gate, Etosha NP and in the Mahango Game Reserve.

Falcons and Caracaras Falconidae**Pygmy Falcon***Polihierax semitorquatus semitorquatus*

(1) En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9.

Unusually, we only had one encounter with this diminutive falcon species and that was en route to Spreetshoogte.

Lesser Kestrel*Falco naumanni*

(4) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, Avis Dam 28.9, Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 1.10.

Seen on numerous occasions during the first 5 days of our trip.

Rock Kestrel*Falco rupicolus*

(5) En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9, Erongo Mountains 1.10, Erongo Mountains 2.10 and Etosha NP 6.10.

Similarly, this species was also fairly common during the first week.

Greater Kestrel*Falco rupicoloides rupicoloides*

(2) Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9 and Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10.

The Namib Naukluft Park and Okaukuejo area of Etosha NP produced views of this raptor.

Dickinson's Kestrel*Falco dickinsoni*

(1) En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10.

1 bird was seen really well in the boradleafed woodland east of Divundu in Bwabwata NP.

Lanner Falcon*Falco biarmicus biarmicus*

(1) Okavango Panhandle 9.10.

On one of our mornings in the Panhandle we spotted this falcon flying away.

African & New World Parrots *Psittacidae***Meyer's Parrot***Poicephalus meyeri*

(6) En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Mahango GR 10.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 13.10.

Good views were had around our lodge near Mahango Game Reserve.

Rüppell's Parrot*Poicephalus rueppellii*

(1) Khan River 1.10.

Seen only once on our trip and that was in the tall Acacia woodland south of Omaruru.

Old World Parrots *Psittaculidae***Rosy-faced Lovebird***Agapornis roseicollis roseicollis*

(4) Spreetshoogte Pass 28.9, observed Erongo Mountains 1-3.10 and Spitzkoppe NR 1.10.

First seen briefly in the Spreetshoogte area, this species was later observed for extended periods at close range in the Erongo Wilderness Conservancy.

Wattle-eyes and Batises *Platysteiridae*

Chinspot Batis

Batis molitor palliditergum

(5) Mushara Lodge 5.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Sightings from eastern Etosha throughout the rest of the trip.

Pririt Batis

Batis pririt

(6) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, Avis Dam 28.9, Spitzkoppe NR 1.10, Erongo Mountains 2.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10 and Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10.

The cousin of the above species, it favors more arid habitat and was thus seen during the first week.

White-tailed Shrike

Lanioturdus torquatus

(3) Avis Dam 28.9, Spitzkoppe NR 1.10 and Erongo Mountains 2.10.

An extremely handsome species, it was observed at Avis Dam, Spitzkoppe and in the Erongo Wilderness Conservancy.

Helmetshrikes and Allies *Prionopidae*

White-crested Helmetshrike

Prionops plumatus poliocephalus

(4) Etosha NP 6.10, Mahango GR 8.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 13.10.

Etosha, Mahango and the woodland south of Katima Mulilo held sightings of this inquisitive species.

Bushshrikes and Allies *Malaconotidae*

Orange-breasted Bushshrike

Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus similis

(4) 1 heard Mushara Lodge 7.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Heard at several locations it was eventually seen in the Kalizo area.

Bokmakierie

Telophorus zeylonus

(2) Spreetshoogte Pass 29.9 and 1 heard Rooibank 30.9.

This striking bushshrike was seen well in the Spreetshoogte area and heard in the dune fields south of Walvis Bay.

Brown-crowned Tchagra*Tchagra australis*

(3) Erongo Mountains 2.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10.

Seen in the Erongo Wilderness Conservancy and north of Omaruru town.

Black-crowned Tchagra*Tchagra senegalus kalahari*

(1) Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

During a morning walk around Kalizo Lodge we spotted this species.

Black-backed Puffback*Dryoscopus cubla okavangensis*

(4) 1 Mushara Lodge 5.10, Etosha NP 6.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Scattered sightings in woodland during the latter half of the trip.

Tropical Boubou*Laniarius major*

(1) Livingstone 13.10.

We had good views of this species near Victoria Falls, Livingstone.

Swamp Boubou*Laniarius bicolor sticturus*

(6) Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, Nkwazi Lodge 7.10, Nkwazi Lodge 8.10, observed Okavango Panhandle 8-10.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Numerous sites produced this striking bird but best views were probably in the Okavango Panhandle, Botswana.

Crimson-breasted Shrike*Laniarius atrococcineus*

(12) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, Avis Dam 28.9, 1 heard Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9, Khan River 1.10, Erongo Mountains 2.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, 6 Mushara Lodge 5.10, Etosha NP 6.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10 and Mahango GR 10.10.

This outrageously plumaged species was seen throughout the tour with exceptional views in our lodge grounds in eastern Etosha.

Brubru*Nilaus afer brubru*

(8) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, Avis Dam 28.9, Etosha NP 3.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Etosha NP 5.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, 1 heard Okavango Panhandle 9.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10.

Seen in woodland habitat at various sites on our tour.

Cuckoo-shrikes *Campephagidae***White-breasted Cuckooshrike***Coracina pectoralis*

(1) 2 En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10.

A pair of these uncommon (in Namibia) birds was recorded in the broadleafed woodland east of Divundu.

Black Cuckooshrike

Campephaga flava

(1) 1 heard Shakawe 10.10.

Strangely, this species was only heard and that was in the riparian forest in the Okavango Panhandle.

Shrikes *Laniidae*

Magpie Shrike

Urolestes melanoleucus melanoleucus

(6) En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Shakawe 10.10, Mahango GR 10.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 13.10.

Common during the last week of our tour.

Southern White-crowned Shrike

Eurocephalus anguitimens anguitimens

(5) Etosha NP 3.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Etosha NP - Halali 4.10, Etosha NP - Halali 5.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10.

Etosha National Park produced the most sightings of this gregarious species.

Red-backed Shrike

Lanius collurio

(1) 1 Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

1 male bird was recorded on a morning drive in the Kalizo Lodge area.

Southern Fiscal

Lanius collaris

(6) En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9, Spitzkoppe NR 1.10, Erongo Mountains 2.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10 and Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10.

Observed at various sites during the first week.

Old World Orioles *Oriolidae*

Black-headed Oriole

Oriolus larvatus

(1) En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10.

During our explorations of the broadleafed woodland east of Rundu we managed to pick up this attractive bird.

Drongos *Dicruridae*

Fork-tailed Drongo*Dicrurus adsimilis*

(17) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Avis Dam 28.9, Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9, Spitzkoppe NR 1.10, Erongo Mountains 2.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, observed Etosha NP 3-6.10, Mushara Lodge 5.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, Mahango GR 10.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 13.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

Common throughout.

Monarch Flycatchers *Monarchidae***African Paradise Flycatcher***Terpsiphone viridis plumbeiceps*

(5) Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Nkwazi Lodge 7.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Kalizo Lodge 13.10 and Katima Mulilo 13.10.

First seen in Etosha, it was later spotted at most sites with good woodland/riparian forest.

Crows, Jays, and Magpies *Corvidae***Cape Crow***Corvus capensis capensis*

(6) Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9, Swakopmund 30.9 and observed Etosha NP 3-6.10.

By far the most common corvid in Etosha.

Pied Crow*Corvus albus*

(9) Walvis Bay 29.9, Etosha NP 3.10, Etosha NP 4.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 13.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

Seen mostly in and around urban and rural settlements on our trip.

Chickadees and Tits *Paridae***Southern Black Tit***Melaniparus niger xanthostomus*

(3) En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, Mahango GR 10.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10.

Our best sighting of this bird was in the broadleaved woodland east of Rundu where we observed it in a mixed, feeding flock.

Carp's Tit*Melaniparus carpi*

(1) Erongo Mountains 2.10.

We spotted this species from the viewing deck of our lodge in the Erongo Wilderness Conservancy.

Rufous-bellied Tit*Melaniparus rufiventris*

(1) En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10.

Recorded only once on the trip, namely in the broadleafed woodland south of Rundu town.

Ashy Tit*Melaniparus cinerascens*

(2) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9.

Daan Viljoen Game Reserve and our picnic site en route to Spreetshoogte yielded sightings of this species.

Penduline-Tits *Remizidae***Grey Penduline Tit***Anthoscopus caroli caroli*

(1) Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

We finally caught up with this minute species in the woodland near Kalizo Lodge.

Cape Penduline Tit*Anthoscopus minutus*

(2) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9 and Avis Dam 28.9.

Seen twice on our trip; first at Gammams Water Care Works and then on the following day at Avis Dam.

Larks *Alaudidae***Spike-heeled Lark***Chersomanes albofasciata*

(3) Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9, Erongo Mountains 2.10 and Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10.

Great views of this bird in the sparsely vegetated plains in the Okaukuejo area of Etosha NP.

Gray's Lark*Ammomanopsis grayi*

(2) Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9 and Welwitschia Drive, Namib-Naukluft NP 30.9.

The Namib Naukluft Park and Welwitschia Plains outside of Swakopmund produced this species.

Karoo Long-billed Lark*Certhilauda subcoronata*

(1) Erongo Mountains 2.10.

The karroid type vegetation in the greater Spitzkoppe area held a sighting of this species.

Benguela Long-billed Lark*Certhilauda benguelensis*

(1) Erongo Mountains 2.10.

After much searching we finally tracked down 1 of these birds.

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark*Eremopterix leucotis*

(2) Etosha NP 5.10 and Etosha NP 6.10.

Seen in the eastern region of Etosha NP.

Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark*Eremopterix verticalis*

(3) Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9, Etosha NP 4.10 and Etosha NP 6.10.

Good numbers were recorded in the central grasslands of Etosha NP.

Sabota Lark*Calendulauda sabota*

(7) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9, Spitzkoppe NR 1.10, Erongo Mountains 2.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, Etosha NP 4.10 and Etosha NP 5.10.

Numerous sightings were had for most of the tour; these included the thick-billed form also which is sometimes split as Bradfield's Lark.

Fawn-colored Lark*Calendulauda africanoides*

(1) En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10.

This species was recorded on Kalahari soils north of the Erongo mountains en route to Etosha NP.

Dune Lark*Calendulauda erythrochlamys*

(1) Rooibank 30.9.

We enjoyed excellent, extended views of a bird foraging on the dunefields south of Walvis Bay.

Eastern Clapper Lark*Mirafra fasciolata*

(2) Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10 and Etosha NP 5.10.

A good number observed in the sparsely vegetated plains of the Okaukuejo area in Etosha NP.

Flappet Lark*Mirafra rufocinnamomea*

(1) 1 heard Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Only heard during the trip and that was on a morning walk in the Kalizo area.

Stark's Lark*Spizocorys starki*

(2) Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10 and Etosha NP 6.10.

The sparsely vegetated plains of Etosha NP produced several views of this bird.

Pink-billed Lark*Spizocorys conirostris*

(2) Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10 and Etosha NP 6.10.

as per the aforementioned species.

Red-capped Lark*Calandrella cinerea*

(5) Swakopmund 30.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 1.10 and observed Etosha NP 4-6.10.

Relatively common in the more arid areas of the trip, in particular Etosha NP.

Bulbuls *Pycnonotidae*

African Red-eyed Bulbul

Pycnonotus nigricans nigricans

(11) Windhoek 27.9, Spreetshoogte Pass 28.9, Spreetshoogte Pass 29.9, Avis Dam 28.9, Rooibank 30.9, Erongo Mountains 1.10, Erongo Mountains 2.10, Spitzkoppe NR 1.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, observed Etosha NP 3-6.10, Mushara Lodge 5.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10.

Regularly recorded during the first half of the trip.

Dark-capped Bulbul

Pycnonotus tricolor

(8) Nkwazi Lodge 7.10, Nkwazi Lodge 8.10, observed Okavango Panhandle 8-10.10, Mahango GR 10.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10, Kalizo Lodge 13.10, Livingstone 13.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

Seen from Rundu onwards.

Yellow-bellied Greenbul

Chlorocichla flaviventris occidentalis

(6) Nkwazi Lodge 7.10, Nkwazi Lodge 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, Katima Mulilo 11.10, Mahango GR 11.10 and Katima Mulilo 13.10.

The riverine forest/woodland along the Okavango River held sightings of this species.

Terrestrial Brownbul

Phyllastrephus terrestris intermedius

(4) Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, Katima Mulilo 11.10, Mahango GR 11.10 and Katima Mulilo 13.10.

As per the above species but also in the riparian vegetation along the Zambezi River.

Swallows *Hirundinidae*

Grey-rumped Swallow

Pseudhirundo griseopyga griseopyga

(2) Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

This species was observed over the grasslands around Kalizo Lodge.

Brown-throated Martin

Riparia paludicola paludicola

(6) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, observed Okavango Panhandle 8-10.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Good numbers recorded over waterbodies in Botswana and Kalizo area.

Banded Martin

Riparia cincta xerica

(4) Observed Okavango Panhandle 8-10.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Whilst birding in the Panhandle and Kalizo area we had multiple views of this species.

Barn Swallow

Hirundo rustica rustica

(7) 1 Mushara Lodge 5.10, Mushara Lodge 7.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10, Kalizo Lodge 13.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

Seen almost daily from eastern Etosha to the end of the trip.

White-throated Swallow

Hirundo albigularis

(3) Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10 and Mahango GR 11.10.

Recorded along the Okavango River in the Panhandle and around Mahango Game Reserve.

Wire-tailed Swallow

Hirundo smithii smithii

(7) Nkwazi Lodge 7.10, Nkwazi Lodge 8.10, observed Okavango Panhandle 8-10.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Mahango GR 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Good views were had while birding on the Okavango and Zambezi Rivers. A pair was actually nesting under the boat we did our river cruise in at Mahango.

Pearl-breasted Swallow

Hirundo dimidiata dimidiata

(2) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10.

This species was spotted at Gammams Water Care Works and north of Omaruru town.

Rock Martin

Ptyonoprogne fuligula

(8) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Avis Dam 28.9, Spreetshoogte Pass 29.9, Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9, Erongo Mountains 1.10, Erongo Mountains 2.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, Etosha NP 3.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10 and Mushara Lodge 5.10.

Observed almost daily for the first half of our trip; particularly common around rocky outcrops.

Common House Martin

Delichon urbicum

(2) Etosha NP 6.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

A flock was seen north of Andoni Plains and also over the grasslands near Kalizo Lodge.

Greater Striped Swallow

Cecropis cucullata

(2) En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Avis Dam 28.9 and Etosha NP - Halali 4.10.

The Windhoek and Halali areas produced sightings of this hirundine.

Lesser Striped Swallow

Cecropis abyssinica ampliformis

(6) Observed Okavango Panhandle 8-10.10, Katima Mulilo 11.10, Mahango GR 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Good numbers recorded from the Okavango Panhandle to the end of our trip in Livingstone.

Red-breasted Swallow

Cecropis semirufa semirufa

(8) Etosha NP 3.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Etosha NP 6.10, Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, Mahango GR 8.10, Mahango GR 10.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Pretty commonly sighted from Etosha all the way through out time at Kalizo Lodge.

Crombecs, African warblers *Macrosphenidae*

Rockrunner

Achaetops pycnopygius pycnopygius

(1) Erongo Mountains 2.10.

The usual haunts around Windhoek didn't yield this species however, we managed to track it down in the Erongo Wilderness Conservancy.

Long-billed Crombec

Sylvietta rufescens

(8) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Mushara Lodge 5.10, Etosha NP 6.10, Mushara Lodge 7.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Regularly recorded in Acacia and broad-leaved woodland sites throughout.

Leaf-Warblers *Phylloscopidae*

Willow Warbler

Phylloscopus trochilus yakutensis

(11) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Etosha NP 5.10, Etosha NP 6.10, Nkwazi Lodge 7.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

By far the most commonly sighted warbler species of the trip.

Reed-Warblers and Allies *Acrocephalidae*

Greater Swamp Warbler

Acrocephalus rufescens ansorgei

(1) Okavango Panhandle 9.10.

We observed this papyrus specialist during our time in the Okavango panhandle, Botswana.

Lesser Swamp Warbler

Acrocephalus gracilirostris cuneneensis

(4) 1 heard Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, Nkwazi Lodge 7.10, Nkwazi Lodge 8.10 and Okavango Panhandle 9.10.

Seen in the Rundu area and Okavango Panhandle.

African Reed Warbler*Acrocephalus baeticatus*

(1) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9.

This intra-African migrant was encountered in Windhoek around our lodgings and at Gammams Water Care Works.

Grassbirds and Allies Locustellidae**Little Rush Warbler***Bradypterus baboecala msiri*

(2) Okavango Panhandle 9.10 and 1 heard Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

This endearing species was seen in the aquatic vegetation along the Okavango River in Botswana.

Cisticolas and Allies Cisticolidae**Red-faced Cisticola***Cisticola erythrops nyasa*

(1) Livingstone 14.10.

1 bird was seen on our final morning walk near the waterfront in Livingstone.

Rattling Cisticola*Cisticola chiniana*

(7) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, Avis Dam 28.9, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Mahango GR 10.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Regularly recorded in suitable woodland habitat throughout.

Tinkling Cisticola*Cisticola rufilatus rufilatus*

(3) En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10.

We were fortunate to have several sightings of this species in Teak woodland just south of and along the Caprivi Strip.

Grey-backed Cisticola*Cisticola subruficapilla*

(1) Spreetshoogte Pass 29.9.

Only observed in the scrubby vegetation during our descent of the Spreetshoogte Pass.

Luapula Cisticola*Cisticola luapula*

(2) Okavango Panhandle 9.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

The reedbeds along the Okavango River and dambos around Kalizo Lodge yielded sightings of this bird.

Chirping Cisticola*Cisticola pipiens arundicola*

(2) Okavango Panhandle 9.10 and Okavango Panhandle 10.10.

Another papyrus specialist, it was seen during our time on the Okavango River in Botswana.

Neddicky

Cisticola fulvicapilla

(1) Etosha NP 5.10.

Unfortunately, this species was only seen by Cuan in the central sector of Etosha; brief view before flitting away.

Zitting Cisticola

Cisticola juncidis terrestris

(2) Andoni Plains 6.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Recorded over the grasslands of north-eastern Etosha and south of Katima Mulilo.

Desert Cisticola

Cisticola aridulus

(2) Etosha NP 4.10 and Etosha NP 5.10.

Only spotted in the arid grasslands of Etosha national Park. Best views in northern Andoni Plains.

Tawny-flanked Prinia

Prinia subflava

(7) En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Mahango GR 10.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

Observed during the latter half of our trip in moist woodland/riparian habitat.

Black-chested Prinia

Prinia flavicans

(5) Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9, Erongo Mountains 1.10, Erongo Mountains 2.10, Etosha NP 3.10 and Etosha NP 5.10.

Cousin to the aforementioned species, it was recorded in arid, scrubby habitat during the first half of our adventure.

Yellow-breasted Apalis

Apalis flavida flavida

(4) Mushara Lodge 5.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10 and Okavango Panhandle 10.10.

Eastern Etosha and riparian forest/woodland produced views of this vocal species.

Rufous-eared Warbler

Malcorus pectoralis

(1) Etosha NP 4.10.

Seen only once but exceptionally well in the karroid scrub of southern Etosha National Park.

Grey-backed Camaroptera

Camaroptera brevicaudata

(9) Erongo Mountains 2.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, Mushara Lodge 5.10, Etosha NP 6.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 13.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

Fairly regularly encountered in woodland/riverine forest patches during the trip.

Stierling's Wren-Warbler*Calamonastes stierlingi*

(1) En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10.

We had incredible views of this uncommon species in the Mopane woodland south of Katima Mulilo, north-eastern Namibia.

Barred Wren-Warbler*Calamonastes fasciolatus*

(2) 1 heard en route 28.9 and 1 Etosha NP 6.10.

After much searching for this species we finally caught-up with an individual in the Acacia woodland of eastern Etosha.

Yellow-bellied Eremomela*Eremomela icteropygialis*

(7) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9, Erongo Mountains 1.10, Erongo Mountains 2.10, Spitzkoppe NR 1.10, Etosha NP 4.10, Etosha NP 5.10 and Mushara Lodge 5.10.

Observed on numerous occasions in woodland during the first half of our tour.

Burnt-necked Eremomela*Eremomela usticollis usticollis*

(3) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Decent views were had at Gammams Water care Works and in the Kalizo area.

Laughingthrushes *Leiothrichidae***Black-faced Babbler***Turdoides melanops*

(3) Mushara Lodge 5.10, Mushara Lodge 7.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10.

Superb sightings of this species in the grounds of our lodge outside eastern Etosha NP.

Arrow-marked Babbler*Turdoides jardineii*

(6) Nkwazi Lodge 8.10, observed Okavango Panhandle 8-10.10, Mahango GR 10.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Commonly encountered in riparian woodland/forest along the Okavango and Zambezi Rivers.

Hartlaub's Babbler*Turdoides hartlaubii*

(6) Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, Nkwazi Lodge 7.10, Nkwazi Lodge 8.10, observed Okavango Panhandle 8-10.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

As per the aforementioned species.

Southern Pied Babbler*Turdoides bicolor*

(2) 6 Etosha NP 6.10 and Okavango Panhandle 10.10.

Great looks at this species in the woodland north of Namutoni Camp, Etosha NP.

Bare-cheeked Babbler

Turdoides gymnogenys kaokensis

(1) 2 Etosha NP - Halali 5.10.

On an early morning walk around camp at Halali we had walkaway views of this sought-after species.

Old World Warblers *Sylviidae*

Chestnut-vented Warbler

Sylvia subcaerulea

(9) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, Avis Dam 28.9, Spreetshoogte Pass 29.9, Spitzkoppe NR 1.10, Erongo Mountains 2.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Etosha NP 5.10 and Etosha NP 6.10.

Regularly seen in Acacia woodland in Namibia.

Layard's Warbler

Sylvia layardi aridicola

(1) Spitzkoppe NR 1.10.

Seen at only 1 site, namely Spitzkoppe, in the scrubby habitat between the granitic boulders.

Yuhinas, White-eyes, and Allies *Zosteropidae*

Orange River White-eye

Zosterops pallidus

(2) Walvis Bay 29.9 and Walvis Bay 30.9.

The gardens around our lodgings in Walvis Bay held sightings of this bird.

African Yellow White-eye

Zosterops senegalensis anderssoni

(5) En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, 50 En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, 50 Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10 and Mahango GR 11.10.

Highlight for this species was a large flock of 50+ birds in the riparian forest on the banks of the Okavango River in Botswana.

Starlings *Sturnidae*

Common Myna

Acridotheres tristis tristis

(1) Livingstone 14.10.

Seen on our final morning of the tour just outside Livingstone town.

Wattled Starling

Creatophora cinerea

(4) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Huge flocks of these starlings were recorded at Gammams Water care Works outside Windhoek.

Cape Starling

Lamprotornis nitens phoenicopterus

(15) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Avis Dam 28.9, Spreetshoogte Pass 29.9, Erongo Mountains 1.10, Erongo Mountains 2.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, observed Etosha NP 3-6.10, Mushara Lodge 5.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, Mahango GR 10.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 13.10.

The most common starling of the trip; it was seen on most days.

Greater Blue-eared Starling

Lamprotornis chalybaeus nordmanni

(5) En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Mahango GR 10.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 13.10.

Good views in Botswana and Mahango area.

Meves's Starling

Lamprotornis mevesii

(4) Observed Okavango Panhandle 8-10.10, Mahango GR 8.10, Mahango GR 10.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10.

As per the aforementioned species.

Burchell's Starling

Lamprotornis australis

(11) En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, Etosha NP 5.10, Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, observed Okavango Panhandle 8-10.10, Mahango GR 8.10, Mahango GR 10.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10, Kalizo Lodge 13.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 13.10.

Scattered but regular sightings throughout.

Violet-backed Starling

Cinnyricinclus leucogaster verreauxi

(6) En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, Mahango GR 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, Mahango GR 10.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Livingstone 13.10.

This sensationally plumaged species was seen in abundance in the Panhandle and Mahango area.

Red-winged Starling

Onychognathus morio morio

(2) Livingstone 13.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

Spotted around Victoria Falls near Livingstone.

Pale-winged Starling

Onychognathus nabouroup

(5) En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9, observed Erongo Mountains 1-3.10 and Spitzkoppe NR 1.10.

Good numbers and views in the Erongo Wilderness Conservancy; also seen at Spitzkoppe.

Oxpeckers *Buphagidae*

Red-billed Oxpecker

Buphagus erythrorhynchus

(2) Mahango GR 8.10 and Mahango GR 10.10.

Observed in the Mahango sector of bwabwata National Park.

Thrushes and Allies *Turdidae*

Groundscraper Thrush

Turdus litsitsirupa

(6) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, Khan River 1.10, Etosha NP - Halali 4.10, Etosha NP - Halali 5.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10.

Scattered sightings throughout with most memorable being in Halali Camp, Etosha NP.

Kurrichane Thrush

Turdus libonyana

(1) En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10.

Only recorded in the Teak woodlands south of Rundu.

Old World Flycatchers *Muscicapidae*

Karoo Scrub Robin

Cercotrichas coryphoeus coryphoeus

(1) Spreetshoogte Pass 29.9.

Our lodge near Spreetshoogte Pass produced great looks of this species.

Bearded Scrub Robin

Cercotrichas quadrivirgata quadrivirgata

(1) Livingstone 14.10.

We had a brilliant sighting in the scrubby habitat not far from the waterfront in Livingstone area.

Kalahari Scrub Robin

Cercotrichas paena

(3) Erongo Mountains 2.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10 and Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10.

Good views of this species in the Erongo Wilderness Conservancy and Okaukuejo area of Etosha NP.

White-browed Scrub Robin

Cercotrichas leucophrys

(4) Avis Dam 28.9, Mushara Lodge 5.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Katima Mulilo 13.10.

Heard more often than seen but was observed at Avis Dam, eastern Etosha and Kalizo area.

Grey Tit-Flycatcher

Myioparus plumbeus catoleucus

(1) Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Brief but decent sightings in the woodland near Kalizo Lodge.

Southern Black Flycatcher

Melaenornis pammelaina diabolicus

(1) En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10.

We recorded this species in the woodland west of Katima Mulilo.

Pale Flycatcher

Melaenornis pallidus

(4) En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 13.10.

Teak woodlands of the Caprivi Strip held sightings of this species.

Chat Flycatcher

Melaenornis infuscatus

(7) En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9, Spitzkoppe NR 1.10, Erongo Mountains 2.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10 and Etosha NP 5.10.

Good numbers seen in the arid areas of Namibia.

Marico Flycatcher

Melaenornis mariquensis

(9) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, Avis Dam 28.9, Spitzkoppe NR 1.10, Erongo Mountains 2.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Etosha NP 5.10, Etosha NP 6.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10.

The most common flycatcher in Namibia.

Spotted Flycatcher

Muscicapa striata striata

(2) Etosha NP 3.10 and Katima Mulilo 13.10.

Recorded in Okaukuejo Camp in Etosha NP and in the riparian forest south of Katima Mulilo.

Ashy Flycatcher

Muscicapa caerulescens impavida

(2) En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10 and Okavango Panhandle 9.10.

First seen in Teak woodland east of Rundu and later in the riverine woodland of the Okavango Panhandle.

White-browed Robin-Chat

Cossypha heuglini heuglini

(7) Nkwazi Lodge 7.10, Nkwazi Lodge 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Mahango GR 11.10, Katima Mulilo 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10, Kalizo Lodge 13.10 and Katima Mulilo 13.10.

Excellent views in the grounds of our lodge east of Rundu and in the Okavango Panhandle.

Collared Palm Thrush*Cichladusa arquata*

(1) Livingstone 14.10.

Seen exceptionally well in the Palm savanna adjacent to the Zambezi River near Livingstone town.

Short-toed Rock Thrush*Monticola brevipes*

(6) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Spreetshoogte Pass 29.9, Erongo Mountains 2.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, Mushara Lodge 5.10 and Etosha NP 5.10.

This attractive species was seen often in Namibia.

African Stonechat*Saxicola torquatus*

(3) Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Spotted along the Okavango River in Botswana and in the grasslands south of Katima Mulilo.

Karoo Chat*Emarginata schlegelii*

(3) Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9, Spitzkoppe NR 1.10 and Erongo Mountains 2.10.

Namib Naukluft Park, Spitzkoppe and Erongo area all produced sightings of this bird.

Tractrac Chat*Emarginata tractrac*

(2) En route - Etosha to Rundu 1.10 and Erongo Mountains 2.10.

Recorded in the greater Erongo/Spitzkoppe area.

Ant-eating Chat*Myrmecocichla formicivora*

(5) En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Etosha NP 5.10 and Andoni Plains 6.10.

Fairly common in suitable habitat in Namibia; recorded at sites including Okaukuejo and Andoni Plains.

Mountain Wheatear*Myrmecocichla monticola*

(6) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, Spreetshoogte Pass 28.9, Spreetshoogte Pass 29.9, Avis Dam 28.9, Spitzkoppe NR 1.10, Erongo Mountains 2.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10.

The first week of the trip held numerous views of this species with the bird being particularly common around rocky outcrops and mountainous areas.

Arnot's Chat*Myrmecocichla arnotti arnotti*

(1) En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10.

We enjoyed incredible, close range views of a female bird in the Mopane woodland south of Katima Mulilo.

Familiar Chat*Oenanthe familiaris*

(6) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, Avis Dam 28.9, Spreetshoogte Pass 29.9, Erongo Mountains 1.10, Erongo Mountains 2.10 and Etosha NP - Halali 5.10.

Regularly recorded during the first week of the tour in Namibia.

Herero Chat

Namibornis herero

(1) Spreetshoogte Pass 29.9.

We were fortunate to have great looks at 2 birds on our descent of Spreetshoogte Pass. This is probably the most sought-after species in Namibia.

Sunbirds and Spiderhunters *Nectariniidae*

Collared Sunbird

Hedydipna collaris zambesiana

(3) Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Seen in the Riverine forest./woodland in Shakawe area and near Kalizo Lodge.

Amethyst Sunbird

Chalcomitra amethystina

(1) Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

A male bird was spotted at Kalizo Lodge in north-eastern Namibia.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird

Chalcomitra senegalensis

(5) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

Scattered sightings were had of this stunning species.

Marico Sunbird

Cinnyris mariquensis mariquensis

(8) En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Avis Dam 28.9, Spreetshoogte Pass 29.9, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Mushara Lodge 5.10, Etosha NP 5.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Best views of this species were at Kalizo Lodge where the birds were feeding on flowering trees.

Purple-banded Sunbird

Cinnyris bifasciatus microrhynchus

(2) Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Seen in the riverine woodland south of Katima Mulilo.

White-bellied Sunbird

Cinnyris talatala

(11) En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Mushara Lodge 5.10, Etosha NP 6.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Seen almost daily from Etosha NP to the conclusion of our tour in Livingstone.

Dusky Sunbird

Cinnyris fuscus fuscus

(5) Spretshoogte Pass 29.9, Rooibank 30.9, Spitzkoppe NR 1.10, Erongo Mountains 2.10 and Erongo Mountains 3.10.

The arid areas of Spretshoogte, Spitzkoppe and Erongo Wilderness Conservancy all produced views of this species.

Old World Sparrows *Passeridae*

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver

Plocepasser mahali

(11) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, Avis Dam 28.9, observed Erongo Mountains 1-3.10, Spitzkoppe NR 1.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, Etosha NP 3.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Etosha NP 5.10, Etosha NP 6.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 13.10.

Common, especially in the arid woodland of Namibia.

Sociable Weaver

Philetairus socius

(3) En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Etosha NP 3.10 and Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10.

Best looks were in Etosha National Park where these birds nest en masse in Okaukuejo Camp.

House Sparrow

Passer domesticus indicus

(5) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Windhoek 28.9, Walvis Bay 29.9, Walvis Bay 30.9 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 1.10.

Seen in the urban areas of Windhoek and Walvis Bay.

Great Sparrow

Passer motitensis

(9) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Spretshoogte Pass 29.9, observed Erongo Mountains 1-3.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, Etosha NP 3.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Etosha NP 5.10 and Etosha NP 6.10.

Our best views of this species were in the Erongo Wilderness Conservancy at our lodge.

Cape Sparrow

Passer melanurus damarensis

(2) Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9, Rooibank 30.9 and Walvis Bay 30.9.

Recorded in Namib Naukluft NP and Walvis Bay.

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow

Passer griseus ugandae

(1) Livingstone 14.10.

Seen on our final morning in Livingstone.

Southern Grey-headed Sparrow*Passer diffusus diffusus*

(13) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, Windhoek 28.9, Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9, Erongo Mountains 2.10, Erongo Mountains 3.10, Etosha NP 3.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Etosha NP 5.10, Etosha NP 6.10, Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, Mahango GR 10.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Common throughout the trip.

Yellow-throated Petronia*Gymnoris superciliaris*

(2) 1 heard Caprivi Game Park 11.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

oddly enough, this species was only recorded around Kalizo Lodge.

Weavers and Allies *Ploceidae***Red-billed Buffalo Weaver***Bubalornis niger niger*

(4) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, Etosha NP 6.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10 and Kalizo Lodge 11.10.

Daan Viljoen, Etosha and Kalizo yielded views of this species.

Scaly-feathered Weaver*Sporopipes squamifrons*

(7) En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Avis Dam 28.9, Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9, Spitzkoppe NR 1.10, Erongo Mountains 2.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10 and Etosha NP 6.10.

This delicate species was recorded often in Namibia.

Thick-billed Weaver*Amblyospiza albifrons maxima*

(3) Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Seen in the Okavango Panhandle and around Kalizo.

Spectacled Weaver*Ploceus ocularis tenuirostris*

(5) 1 heard Rundu Sewerage Works 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Our best looks were near Kalizo Lodge.

Holub's Golden Weaver*Ploceus xanthops*

(6) Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, observed Okavango Panhandle 8-10.10, Katima Mulilo 11.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Excellent views of a nesting bird were had from our boat on the Okavango River in Botswana.

Southern Brown-throated Weaver*Ploceus xanthopterus castaneigula*

(5) Nkwazi Lodge 7.10, Nkwazi Lodge 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Recorded in the reedbeds of the Okavango River in northern Namibia and the Panhandle.

Lesser Masked Weaver

Ploceus intermedius cabanisii

(1) Okavango Panhandle 9.10.

Only seen around our lodge in Botswana.

Southern Masked Weaver

Ploceus velatus velatus

(14) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, Windhoek 27.9, Avis Dam 28.9, Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9, Swakopmund 30.9, observed Erongo Mountains 1-3.10, Etosha NP 3.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Mushara Lodge 5.10, Etosha NP 6.10, Mushara Lodge 7.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Regularly recorded throughout the trip.

Village Weaver

Ploceus cucullatus

(1) Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Several non-breeding birds were seen around Kalizo Lodge.

Red-headed Weaver

Anaplectes rubriceps rubriceps

(2) En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10.

Observed (both male and female birds) in the Teak woodlands south of Rundu and in the Caprivi Strip.

Red-billed Quelea

Quelea quelea lathamii

(5) Etosha NP 6.10, Mahango GR 10.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 13.10.

Good numbers seen in Etosha, Mahango and Kalizo area.

Southern Red Bishop

Euplectes orix

(1) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9.

Found only in the reedbeds of Gammam's Water Care Works.

Fan-tailed Widowbird

Euplectes axillaris

(3) Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Wetlands and riverine habitats along the Okavango River and near the Zambezi produced this species.

Waxbills and Allies Estrildidae

Green-winged Pytilia

Pytilia melba melba

(7) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, observed Erongo Mountains 1-3.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10 and Katima Mulilo 11.10.

This stunningly plumaged estrilid was seen at many sites during the trip. Probably the best sightings were at our lodge in Erongo Wilderness Conservancy where the birds were rather confiding.

Red-headed Finch

Amadina erythrocephala

(3) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Avis Dam 28.9 and Etosha NP 6.10.

Good numbers seen in and around birding sites near Windhoek.

Brown Firefinch

Lagonosticta nitidula

(2) Okavango Panhandle 9.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

We had incredible views of these birds in the grounds of our lodge in Botswana and Kalizo area.

Red-billed Firefinch

Lagonosticta senegala rendalli

(6) Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, Okavango Panhandle 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Katima Mulilo 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

Seen regularly from norther Namibia to the end of the trip in Livingstone.

Jameson's Firefinch

Lagonosticta rhodopareia

(1) Katima Mulilo 11.10.

We encountered this attractive species in the riparian forest on the banks of the Zambezi River south of katima Mulilo.

Blue Waxbill

Uraeginthus angolensis

(11) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, Avis Dam 28.9, 1 Mushara Lodge 5.10, Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10, Katima Mulilo 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10, Kalizo Lodge 13.10 and Livingstone 14.10.

Widespread and failry common throughout the tour.

Violet-eared Waxbill

Uraeginthus granatinus

(5) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, Mushara Lodge 5.10, Mahango GR 8.10 and Okavango Panhandle 9.10.

This absolutely gorgeous species was observed on numerous occassions and showed extremely well on most of those.

Common Waxbill

Estrilda astrild

(6) Avis Dam 28.9, Walvis Bay 30.9, Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10, 30 Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Scattered sightings throughout in suitable habitat; best views were in the grounds of our lodge in the Panhandle.

Black-faced Waxbill*Estrilda erythronotos erythronotos*

(4) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, Avis Dam 28.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10 and Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10.

Seen in several locations in Namibia with superb looks in the Acacia woodland at Avis Dam.

Quailfinch*Ortygospiza atricollis*

(1) En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10.

A few birds were seen well in some recently burnt grassland east of Divundu.

Bronze Mannikin*Lonchura cucullata scutata*

(1) Livingstone 14.10.

Only recorded on our final morning in the Palm savanna near Livingstone.

Indigobirds *Viduidae***Pin-tailed Whydah***Vidua macroura*

(1) Livingstone 14.10.

Several semi breeding plumaged males along with females were recoded on our final morning in the Livingstone area.

Shaft-tailed Whydah*Vidua regia*

(4) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, Etosha NP 6.10 and Rundu Sewerage Works 7.10.

Non-breeding birds were seen at Daan Viljoen, in Etosha National Park & at Rundu Treatment Works.

Long-tailed Paradise Whydah*Vidua paradisaea*

(1) Etosha NP 6.10.

Good numers of non-breeding plumaged birds were observed drinking at Tsumcor waterhole north of Namutoni Camp.

Wagtails and Pipits *Motacillidae***Cape Wagtail***Motacilla capensis*

(6) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, Avis Dam 28.9, Walvis Bay 29.9, Walvis Bay 30.9, Okavango Panhandle 9.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Present during the first 4 days in Namibia and then later in the Okavango Panhandle and around Kalizo.

African Pied Wagtail*Motacilla aguimp*

(5) Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Mahango GR 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10, Kalizo Lodge 13.10 and Livingstone 13.10.

This species was recorded along the Okavango and Zambezi Rivers.

Rosy-throated Longclaw *Macronyx ameliae*

(1) Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

A brief sighting was had on the edge of a dambo near Kalizo Lodge.

African Pipit *Anthus cinnamomeus*

(5) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Avis Dam 28.9, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Andoni Plains 6.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Scattered observations of this widespread and common Africa bird were had on our tour.

Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis*

(3) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, Avis Dam 28.9 and Spreetshoogte Pass 29.9.

Daan Viljoen Game Reserve, Avis Dam and Spreetshoogte Pass held sightings of this species.

Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys tephridorsus*

(3) Mahango GR 10.10, Mahango GR 11.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

The short grassland on black cotton soils in the Mahango and Kalizo areas yielded views of this pipit.

Finches, Euphonias *Fringillidae*

Black-throated Canary *Crithagra atrogularis*

(9) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, Avis Dam 28.9, Spreetshoogte Pass 29.9, Erongo Mountains 1.10, Erongo Mountains 2.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, Etosha NP 3.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Etosha NP 6.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10.

Common and regularly recorded throughout Namibia.

Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica*

(3) En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10.

This attractive species was seen in the broad-leaved Teak Woodlands of north Namibia.

Yellow Canary *Crithagra flaviventris*

(1) En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10.

Seen only once during our trip, namely close to a farm water point south of Outjo en route to Etosha NP.

White-throated Canary *Crithagra albogularis*

(1) Erongo Mountains 2.10.

Seen by some outside the main lodge building of our accommodations in the Erongo area.

Buntings, Sparrows and Allies *Emberizidae*

Lark-like Bunting

Emberiza impetuari

(2) Spreetshoogte Pass 29.9 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10.

Seen on our descend of the Spreetshoogte Pass and in the greater Erongo/Spitzkoppe area.

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting

Emberiza tahapisi

(2) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10.

Recorded in Daan Viljoen GR and en route to Etosha from the Erongos.

Cape Bunting

Emberiza capensis

(5) Spreetshoogte Pass 28.9, Spreetshoogte Pass 29.9, observed Erongo Mountains 1-3.10 and Spitzkoppe NR 1.10.

Very common during our first week in Namibia with excellent looks at several birds around our lodge in the Erongo Mountains.

Golden-breasted Bunting

Emberiza flaviventris

(6) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, Etosha NP 6.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 8.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10.

Scattered sightings during the tour at Daan Viljoen, Etosha NP and multiple views of flocks in the Teak woodlands of northern Namibia.

Visited locations

Gammam Water Care Works, Daan Viljoen GR, Windhoek, En route - Etosha to Rundu, Avis Dam, Namib-Naukluft National Park, Spreetshoogte Pass, Welwitschia Drive, Namib-Naukluft NP, Walvis Bay, Rooibank, Swakopmund, Spitzkoppe NR, Khan River, Erongo Mountains, Etosha NP, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo, Etosha NP - Halali, Mushara Lodge, Andoni Plains, Rundu Sewerage Works, Rundu, Nkwazi Lodge, Mokuti Lodge, Mahango GR, Popa Falls, Okavango Panhandle, Shakawe, Caprivi Game Park, Kalizo Lodge, Katima Mulilo, Livingstone.

Mammals (49 in total: 49 seen)

Status codes: **E** = Endemic, **NE** = Near-endemic, **I** = Introduced

IUCN codes: **CR** = Critically endangered, **EN** = Endangered, **VU** = Vulnerable, **EW** = Extinct in the Wild, **NT** = Near Threatened, **DD** = Data Deficient

Wolves, Coyote, Foxes, Jackals *Canidae*

Black-backed Jackal

Canis mesomelas

(6) En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, 1 heard Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9, Walvis Bay 30.9, Etosha NP 3.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10 and Etosha NP 6.10.

Highlight for this species was at the edge of Walvis Bay Lagoon where a pair had at least 5 pups! We enjoyed close range views for an extended period.

Cats *Felidae*

Cheetah

Acinonyx jubatus jubatus

(1) 2 Etosha NP 6.10.

After much searching and perseverance we managed to track down a female Cheetah and cub in eastern Etosha. We followed the 2 for a lengthy period of time as they walked pretty close to the track.

Lion

Panthera leo leo

(3) Etosha NP 3.10, Etosha NP 5.10 and 6 Etosha NP 6.10.

Good numbers of these beasts were recorded in Etosha NP; this included several large males with blonde manes!

Mongoose *Herpestidae*

Yellow Mongoose

Cynictis penicillata

(2) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9 and Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10.

Seen at Gammams Water Care Works and in the Okaukuejo area of Etosha NP.

Kaokoveld Slender Mongoose

Herpestes flavescens

(4) Erongo Mountains 2.10, Etosha NP - Halali 4.10, Mushara Lodge 5.10 and Etosha NP 6.10.

We encountered this species on several occasions in the arid areas of Namibia.

Slender Mongoose

Herpestes sanguineus

(1) En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9 and Avis Dam 28.9.

Recorded at Avis Dam just outside Windhoek and in the Khomas Hochland en route to Spreetshoogte.

Banded Mongoose

Mungos mungo

(2) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9 and Etosha NP 6.10.

Observed twice during the tour, namely at Daan Viljoen Game Reserve and at the Von Lindqvist gate of eastern Etosha NP.

Meerkat

Suricata suricatta

(1) En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9.

A family of these endearing creatures were seen in the arid region of the Khomas Hochland en route to the Spreetshoogte.

Hyenas, Aardwolf *Hyaenidae*

Spotted Hyaena

Crocuta crocuta

(1) 3 Etosha NP 6.10.

A total of 3 animals were seen in eastern Etosha.

Sea Lions *Otariidae*

Afro-Australian Fur Seal

Arctocephalus pusillus

(1) Walvis Bay 30.9.

Only recorded during our time at Walvis Bay.

Vivets, Genets *Viverridae*

Common Genet

Genetta genetta

(1) Erongo Mountains 1.10.

Seen by some participants at the waterhole after dinner at our lodge in the Erongo Mountains.

South African Large-spotted Genet

Genetta tigrina

(1) Rundu 8.10.

This species ventured into the dinning area of our lodge on the Okavango River near Rundu.

Cattle, Antelopes, Sheep, Goats *Bovidae*

Impala

Aepyceros melampus

(7) Erongo Mountains 2.10, Etosha NP 3.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Etosha NP 5.10, Etosha NP 6.10, Mahango GR 8.10 and Mahango GR 10.10.

Both the black-faced and regular races were encountered during the trip. The former in Etosha NP and the latter in the Erongos and Mahango.

Hartebeest

Alcelaphus buselaphus caama

(2) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, Mushara Lodge 5.10 and Etosha NP 5.10.

Recorded in Daan Viljoen Game Reserve, Etosha NP near Namutoni and around our lodge outside Etosha.

Springbok

Antidorcas marsupialis

(8) En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 1.10, Erongo Mountains 2.10 and observed Etosha NP 3-6.10.

Commonly encountered in the arid regions of Namibia with peak numbers in Etosha National Park.

Common Wildebeest

Connochaetes taurinus

(4) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9 and observed Etosha NP 4-6.10.

Seen regularly during the first half of the tour.

Topi

Damaliscus lunatus lunatus

(2) Mahango GR 8.10 and Mahango GR 10.10.

Only observed in the woodland of the Mahango sector of Bwabwata NP.

Roan Antelope

Hippotragus equinus

(2) 3 Mahango GR 8.10 and Mahango GR 10.10.

A few individuals were recorded in the Mahango sector of Bwabwata NP.

Sable Antelope

Hippotragus niger

(2) 11 Mahango GR 8.10 and Mahango GR 10.10.

A herd of 11 were seen on our first visit to Mahango and then a very handsome bull was on our second excursion to the park.

Waterbuck

Kobus ellipsiprymnus ellipsiprymnus

(1) Mahango GR 10.10.

Only spotted in the Mahango sector of Bwabwata NP.

Southern Lechwe

Kobus leche

(2) Mahango GR 8.10 and Mahango GR 10.10.

Large numbers of these attractive antelope were seen on the floodplains of the Mahango sector of Bwabwata NP.

Kirk's Dik-dik

Madoqua kirkii

(4) Erongo Mountains 1.10, Erongo Mountains 2.10, Mushara Lodge 5.10, Etosha NP 5.10 and Etosha NP 6.10.

Erongo Wilderness Conservancy and Etosha NP held views of this diminutive antelope species.

Klipspringer

Oreotragus oreotragus

(2) Spreetshoogte Pass 29.9 and Erongo Mountains 1.10.

Recorded at the Spreetshoogte Pass and in the Erongo Wilderness Conservancy.

Gemsbok

Oryx gazella

(8) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9, Erongo Mountains 2.10, Erongo Mountains 3.10 and observed Etosha NP 4-6.10.

This handsome species was seen at all the arid areas of Namibia.

Steenbok

Raphicerus campestris campestris

(8) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Erongo Mountains 2.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, observed Etosha NP 4-6.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10.

Scattered sightings were had of this antelope during the first 11 days of the tour.

Southern Reedbuck

Redunca arundinum

(2) Mahango GR 8.10 and Mahango GR 10.10.

Good numbers of these antelope were seen on the floodplains of the Mahango sector of Bwabwata NP.

Common Duiker

Sylvicapra grimmia

(2) Mushara Lodge 5.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10.

During dinner at our lodge on the eastern boundary of Etosha we spotted a couple of these animals.

African Buffalo

Syncerus caffer caffer

(2) Mahango GR 10.10 and Mahango GR 11.10.

A few recorded in Mahango and a large herd seen across the Okavango from our lodge near Divundu.

Common Eland

Tragelaphus oryx

(2) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9 and Erongo Mountains 2.10.

We observed this monstrous antelope in Daan Viljoen game Reserve and Erongo Wilderness Conservancy.

Bushbuck

Tragelaphus scriptus

(4) 1 Mahango GR 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, Mahango GR 10.10 and Mahango GR 11.10.

Mahango sector of Bwabwata NP and the Okavango Panhandle yielded records of this species.

Greater Kudu

Tragelaphus strepsiceros

(10) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Erongo Mountains 2.10, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Etosha NP - Halali 4.10, Etosha NP 5.10, Etosha NP 6.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, Mahango GR 8.10, Mahango GR 10.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10.

Our best sighting was of a male with an impressive set of horns in the Erongo Wilderness Conservancy.

Giraffe, Okapi *Giraffidae*

Giraffe

Giraffa camelopardalis

(7) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, Erongo Mountains 2.10, observed Etosha NP 3-6.10 and Mahango GR 10.10.

Daan Viljoen Game Reserve, Erongo Wilderness Conservancy, Etosha NP and Mahango sector of Bwabwata NP held views of these bizarre animals.

Hippopotamuses *Hippopotamidae*

Hippopotamus

Hippopotamus amphibius capensis

(5) Popa Falls 8.10, Mahango GR 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Mahango GR 11.10 and Livingstone 13.10.

Our best looks at these beasts was during a boat ride on the Okavango River near Divundu.

Pigs *Suidae*

Common Warthog

Phacochoerus africanus sundevallii

(7) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Mushara Lodge 5.10, Etosha NP 5.10, Etosha NP 6.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 7.10, Mahango GR 8.10 and Mahango GR 10.10.

Recorded at most sites with suitable habitat including Daan Viljoen Game Reserve, Etosha NP and Mahango sector of Bwabwata NP.

Old World Fruit Bats *Pteropodidae*

Peters's Epauletted Fruit Bat

Epomophorus crypturus

(1) Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Kalizo Lodge produced several records of this species.

Hylaxes Procaviidae

Rock Hyrax

Procavia capensis

(5) Avis Dam 28.9, Spreetshoogte Pass 29.9, observed Erongo Mountains 1-3.10 and Spitzkoppe NR 1.10.

Seen regularly during the first week of the tour; best sightings were of numerous animals in the Erongo Mountains.

Rabbits, Hares Leporidae

Scrub Hare

Lepus saxatilis

(2) Etosha NP 3.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

Tuhafeni spotted one near Okaukuejo Resort shortly after entering the park and other sightings were had around Kalizo Lodge during night drives.

Elephant Shrews Macroscelididae

Western Rock Sengi

Elephantulus rupestris

(1) Erongo Mountains 2.10.

We had views of these creatures in the arid areas near the Erongo Wilderness Conservancy.

Zebras, Horse, Asses Equidae

Plains Zebra

Equus quagga

(5) Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, observed Etosha NP 4-6.10, Mahango GR 8.10 and Mahango GR 10.10.

Etosha NP and the Mahango sector of Bwabwata NP held many sightings of this species.

Mountain Zebra

Equus zebra hartmannae

(3) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9 and Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9.

c200 plus were observed between Windhoek and Walvis Bay; incredible numbers indeed and probably related to the extended drought conditions in Namibia.

Rhinceroses Rhinocerotidae

Black Rhinoceros*Diceros bicornis*

(2) 2 Etosha NP 3.10 and 1 Etosha NP - Halali 5.10.

At least 3 were recored at Okakuejo waterhole and another impressive specimen in the woodland east of Halali Rest Camp.

Old World monkeys Cercopithecidae**Vervet***Chlorocebus pygerythrus*

(5) Mahango GR 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, Mahango GR 10.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10, Kalizo Lodge 13.10 and Livingstone 13.10.

Regularly recorded in north-eastern Namibia and the Okavango Panhandle.

Chacma Baboon*Papio ursinus*

(9) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Spreetshoogte Pass 29.9, Erongo Mountains 1.10, Erongo Mountains 2.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, Mahango GR 8.10, Mahango GR 10.10 and En route - Etosha to Rundu 13.10.

Numerous in Namibia especially in the Khomas Hochland region, they were also seen in Mahango and Livinstone.

Galagos Galagidae**Southern Lesser Galago***Galago moholi*

(1) 2 Okavango Panhandle 9.10.

We had a good sighting of 2 rival animals in the grounds of our lodge in the Okavango Panhandle. This event took place just before dawn and the little critters were involved in a full blown territorial battle!

Elephants Elephantidae**African Elephant***Loxodonta africana*

(9) Observed Etosha NP 3-6.10, Mahango GR 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Mahango GR 10.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10 and Livingstone 13.10.

Our most memorable sighting was of 2 breeding herds interacting at Tsumcor waterhole north of Namutoni rest Camp.

Old World Porcupines Hystricidae**Cape Porcupine***Hystrix africaeaustralis*

(1) Erongo Mountains 2.10.

We had a brief view of this prickly character during a pre-dawn walk at Erongo Wilderness Lodge.

Dassie Rat *Petromuridae*

Dassie Rat

Petromus typicus

(5) Sreetshoogte Pass 28.9, Sreetshoogte Pass 29.9 and observed Erongo Mountains 1-3.10.

Fairly common in the Sreetshoogte area and Erongo Mountains.

Squirrels *Sciuridae*

Smith's Bush Squirrel

Paraxerus cepapi

(7) Etosha NP - Halali 4.10, Etosha NP - Halali 5.10, Mushara Lodge 5.10, Etosha NP 6.10, Mushara Lodge 7.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 11.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Common from eastern Etosha onwards.

South African Ground Squirrel

Xerus inauris

(6) Gammam Water Care Works 27.9, En route - Etosha to Rundu 28.9, Namib-Naukluft National Park 29.9, Spitzkoppe NR 1.10, En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10, Etosha NP 3.10 and Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10.

Observed in the arid areas of Namibia.

Visited locations

Gammam Water Care Works, Daan Viljoen GR, Windhoek, En route - Etosha to Rundu, Avis Dam, Namib-Naukluft National Park, Sreetshoogte Pass, Welwitschia Drive, Namib-Naukluft NP, Walvis Bay, Rooibank, Swakopmund, Spitzkoppe NR, Khan River, Erongo Mountains, Etosha NP, Etosha NP - Okaukuejo, Etosha NP - Halali, Mushara Lodge, Andoni Plains, Rundu Sewerage Works, Rundu, Nkwazi Lodge, Mokuti Lodge, Mahango GR, Popa Falls, Okavango Panhandle, Shakawe, Caprivi Game Park, Kalizo Lodge, Katima Mulilo, Livingstone.

Reptiles (10 in total: 10 seen)

Status codes: **E** = Endemic, **NE** = Near-endemic, **I** = Introduced

IUCN codes: **CR** = Critically endangered, **EN** = Endangered, **VU** = Vulnerable, **EW** = Extinct in the Wild, **NT** = Near Threatened, **DD** = Data Deficient

Crocodiles and relatives *Crocodylidae*

Nile Crocodile

Crocodylus niloticus cowiei

(5) 1 Mahango GR 8.10, Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Okavango Panhandle 10.10, Mahango GR 10.10, Kalizo Lodge 12.10 and Kalizo Lodge 13.10.

Recorded on the Okavango and Zambezi Rivers with particularly large specimens on the former.

Agamas *Agamidae*

Namib Rock Agama

Agama planiceps

(4) Daan Viljoen GR 27.9, Avis Dam 28.9, Erongo Mountains 1.10, Erongo Mountains 2.10 and Spitzkoppe NR 1.10.

This colorful species was observed in arid, rocky areas of Namibia.

Chameleons *Chamaeleonidae*

Flap-neck Chameleon

Chamaeleo dilepis

(1) En route - Etosha to Rundu 3.10.

On the drive from the Erongo Mountains to Etosha we spotted one on the road north of Omaruru town.

Colubrid snakes *Colubridae*

Common Egg Eater

Dasypeltis scabra

(1) Okavango Panhandle 9.10.

We observed only the head of this species, sticking out of a Southern Carmine Bee-eater nest hole at the same colony the Black Mamba was raiding.

Western Green Snake

Philothamnus angolensis

(1) Okavango Panhandle 9.10.

Brief but good looks of this snake along the edge of the Okavango River in Botswana.

Elapidae *Elapidae*

Black Mamba

Dendroaspis polylepis

(1) Okavango Panhandle 9.10.

We had an incredible sighting of a 2 metre long specimen raiding nests of Southern Carmine Bee-eaters in the riverbank of the Okavango.

Plated Lizards *Gerrhosauridae*

Black-lined Plated Lizard

Gerrhosaurus nigrolineatus

(1) Okavango Panhandle 9.10.

This impressively large lizard was seen in the riverine forest of the Okavango Panhandle.

Skinks *Scincidae*

African Striped Skink

Trachylepis striata wahlbergi

(3) Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 4.10, Etosha NP 5.10 and Etosha NP 6.10.

Several seen during our time in Etosha National Park.

Monitor Lizards *Varanidae*

Nile Monitor

Varanus niloticus

(3) Okavango Panhandle 9.10, Mahango GR 10.10 and Kalizo Lodge 12.10.

A few were seen along the edge of both the Okavango and Zambezi Rivers.

Afro-American Sideneck Turtles *Pelomedusidae*

Helmeted Turtle

Pelomedusa subrufa

(2) Etosha NP - Okaukuejo 3.10 and Etosha NP 6.10.

Observed during our visit to Etosha National Park.

**Rockjumper Birding Ltd
Labourdonnais Village
Mapou
Mauritius**

Tel (USA & Canada) toll free: 1-888-990-5552

Email: info@rockjumperbirding.com

Alternative email: rockjumperbirding@yahoo.com

Website: www.rockjumperbirding.com