

Namibia's Etosha Pan & Skeleton Coast

Naturetrek Tour Report

29 October - 14 November 2009

Report compiled by John Carruthers



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 Festus Mbinga (Local Guide and Naturalist)
 Ricky Averia (Local Guide and Naturalist)

Participants: David Bell
 John Turner
 Ursula Turner
 Keith Wilson-Davis
 Lilian Wilson-Davis
 Alan Jones
 Rhoddy Wood
 Christine Raines
 Roy Nixon

Day 1

Thursday 29th October

The group met at Heathrow for a flight to Frankfurt to pick up the Air Namibia overnight flight to Windhoek.

Day 2

Friday 30th October

Windhoek to Kulala Desert Lodge

Weather hot & sunny 30C

We landed on time at 7.30am after a smooth flight and met up with Keith and Lilian and our two local driver guides, Festus and Ricky. We soon got ourselves sorted out and set off in our two extended Land Rovers with everybody having a window seat. We left the Little Swifts, Glossy Starlings and Bulbuls behind at the airport and after passing through Windhoek we headed out into rocky country. The first birds we saw were Pale Chanting Goshawks, Purple Rollers, a Crimson-breasted Shrike, a Pygmy Falcon and a Black-shouldered Kite. We stopped at a bridge to check out a Cape Vulture and a Black-chested Snake Eagle which were both flying overhead, then we spotted a pair of Crowned Lapwings (Plovers) in the dry riverbed. The animals seen included Baboons, Springbok, an Oryx, Steenbok, Jackal and finally, an African Wildcat which ran across the road just ahead of us.

After a good lunch at Namib Grens Farm, accompanied by a tame orphan Meercat, we arrived at the stunning Spreetshooghte Pass to admire the view and spot a Short-toed Rock Thrush before descending to the plain below. Next came a drinks stop at the cafe at Solitaire - this is a lonely outpost on the edge of the desert which provides an oasis for many birds including Sociable and Masked Weavers, Cape Sparrows, Glossy Starlings, White-browed Sparrow Weavers, Red-headed Finches and an Acacia Pied Barbet.

Our final leg of the journey took us into increasingly desert terrain but we did find several Ostriches, Ruppell's Korhaans and Ludwig's Bustards plus a Lappet-faced Vulture sitting on top of a small tree. We arrived at the very comfortable Kulala Desert Lodge where there was time for a drink before dinner.

Day 3

Saturday 31st October

Sossusvlei and Deadvlei

Weather hot & sunny 35C

We were up and away promptly to catch the early sun on the dunes at Sossusvlei. Our first stop was to search for the endemic Dune Lark which we found quite quickly running around between tussocks of vegetation, and we then continued along a wide dry riverbed with enormous dunes on each side, stopping at the largest one which was about 300 metres high. Ostrich, Springbok, Oryx and Jackal were all seen as we made our way to Deadvlei. We took a walk through the dunes to the dry pan dotted with long-dead acacias which had been deprived of water when the river was forced to change its course by the advancing dunes. In the sand we watched a Shovel-snouted Lizard, a Striped Skink and a three foot long Sand Snake which was looking out from a crack in a long-dead fallen tree trunk. Later we noticed an Oryx using its very long horns to knock the pods from a Camel Thorn tree, and pick them up from the ground - a clever way for the animal to obtain food which was normally out of reach. After lunch and a short siesta we walked from the lodge along the nearby dry riverbed and watched several Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters catching insects, Red-faced Mousebirds flying from bush to bush and a very fine Spotted Eagle Owl roosting in a large tree. It was then time for dinner.

Day 4

Sunday 1st November

Kulala to Walvis Bay

Weather hot & sunny, 35C - 20C

We left Kulala at 8am and were soon seeing Springbok and Oryx, Mountain Wheatears, Ruppell's Korhaans, Burchell's Coursers, a pair of hunting Secretary Birds and a flock of Namaqua Sand Grouse. En route we paid a visit to Sesriem Canyon where we spent about an hour walking down into and along the floor of this small but spectacular gorge. After coffee at Solitaire we stopped briefly at the Tropic of Capricorn and beneath the sign, standing in the shade, was a Gray's Lark, one of Namibia's endemics. We were now in a very desolate area but we did find a new mammal, Hartmann's Mountain Zebra, another endemic. After a picnic lunch in the dry bed of the Kuiseb River we travelled a stretch of flat stony desert to reach Walvis Bay and the Langham Hotel where there was a Cape White Eye waiting to greet us. A short walk to the waterfront found us at the Pelican Restaurant where we relaxed over dinner.

Day 5

Monday 2nd November

Walvis Bay Lagoon and Saltpans

Weather cloudy am, sunny pm 20C

Today was wader day, with 16 species seen. We spent the morning walking round the lagoon which is very close to the hotel and where the rising tide was pushing the feeding birds towards us. Walvis Bay Lagoon is one of the best sites for waders in south-west Africa and is recognised under the International RAMSAR Conservation Convention. We saw at least 200 Avocet, 15 Grey Plover, 10 Whimbrel, 10 Ruff, 30 Sanderling, hundreds of Curlew Sandpipers and a few Greenshank. The rarest find of the day, which we all saw, was a Terek Sandpiper in the midst of the Curlew Sandpipers.

We also saw some local birds, including Kelp, Hartlaub's and Grey-headed Gulls with Caspian, Swift, Common, Sandwich and the endemic Damara Terns, as well as many groups of Greater Flamingoes feeding in the shallows and White Pelicans flying overhead. In the afternoon we drove round the lagoon into an area of extensive commercial saltpans and from the vehicles we had close views of Little Stint, Curlew Sandpipers, White-fronted Plovers, Cape Teal, Black-winged Stilts and in with the Plovers were 7 Red-necked Phalaropes which only occur in quite small numbers in this area. At the end of the track we walked across the shingle to the open sea where we watched many Cape Cormorants and Cape Fur Seals in the surf and several Sooty Shearwaters skimming the waves. We ended the day with 6 Common Waxbills in the hotel garden and dinner at the famous Raft Restaurant built on stilts a few yards out into the lagoon.

Day 6

Tuesday 3rd November

Boat trip and visit to Swakopmund

Weather clear, calm and cloudy am, sunny pm 25C

After an early breakfast we set off in a boat with owner Francois and bird guide Neil MacLeod, heading out to sea in calm conditions. The first birds we saw were Sooty Shearwaters, large numbers of Common Terns plus a few Arctic Terns, while in the distance 2 Bottle-nosed Dolphins surfaced. Then, next to the boat 6 Heaviside's (Benguela) Dolphins popped up and stayed with us, sometimes alongside the boat or at the bow and occasionally right underneath us. White-chinned Petrels appeared next, as they surrounded a Seal which was biting chunks out of a large fish it had caught. Five minutes later an African Penguin (juvenile) came into view closely followed by a Southern Giant Petrel which was paddling towards us and came very close. Another highlight of the trip was seeing 3 Sabine's Gulls (long-distance migrants) as they glided round the boat. We finished the trip with a good view of a Sun Fish on the surface and lunch on board including local Oysters. In the afternoon we drove the few miles to Swakopmund for the promised shopping trip before heading off to the Swakop River estuary and reedbed where we found Southern Pochard, African Purple Swamp Hen, Three-banded Plover and Kittlitz's Plover. On returning to the town centre, some of us saw the Peregrine sitting on top of a tower, before we enjoyed a meal at the Lighthouse Restaurant.

Day 7

Wednesday 4th November

Walvis Bay to Damaraland

Weather misty and cool to start, warm and sunny pm

We set off early on the long drive along the Skeleton Coast to Damaraland. After Swakopmund we stopped at the Guano Company's lagoon where we found some Lesser Flamingos, Avocets, a family of Cape Teal, White-fronted Plovers and Black-necked Grebes. Our next stop was at an area known as the Lichen Fields where over 100 species have to survive on sea mist for moisture as there is virtually no rainfall. Here we noticed a pair of Damara Terns which do breed in this area which is slightly inland from the coast. Later we visited a huge colony of Cape Fur Seals at Cape Cross where, in addition to hundreds of Seals, there were Turnstone and Sanderling and the occasional Black-backed Jackal. After our picnic lunch nearby overlooking the sea we continued into the Skeleton Coast National Park (an extremely desolate area), then we turned inland and climbed onto the plateau. This was a wild rocky desert with flat-topped mountains and very little vegetation but we did find the world's longest living plant, the *Welwitschia mirabilis*.

As we travelled on, the amount of vegetation increased and we started seeing some animals, namely Springbok, Kudu, Oryx and Jackal. Our final wildlife memory of the day was watching a pair of Ostrich cross the road in front of us with 11 small young ones keeping very close to the adults. During this last part of the journey we had seen an amazing 34 Ruppell's Korhaans, far exceeding previous numbers. It had been a long day, but our accommodation at Damaraland Camp was comfortable, the service and food excellent.

Day 8

Thursday 5th November

Exploration at Damaraland

Weather hot & sunny 33C

We left camp at 7.30am with an air of anticipation as we were off in search of the desert-adapted Elephants which live in the nearby dry riverbeds. The terrain was quite rough and we had taken nearly an hour to reach the first dry valley of the Hoab river system which had a surprising number of large green trees and bushes. We had already seen Springbok, Oryx, Kudu, Mountain Wheatears, Familiar Chat, a Black-chested Snake Eagle overhead and our first Benguela Long-billed Lark. After another hour of searching we spotted fresh elephant dung and tracks and then found our first 2 Elephants, part of a group of 15 which we watched for over half an hour, until they disappeared into rough terrain where we could not follow. We now had time to visit the rock engravings at Twyfelfontein and here we also found 2 Yellow-billed and 2 Red-billed Hornbills and a splendid Bokmakierie in a bush. A little further on, two new mammals were spotted, a Rock Hyrax in a tree and a Dassie Rat amongst some rocks.

From here we went to a nearby lodge where we had lunch and then made our way back to our own lodge along the dry valleys stopping for wildlife spotting as we went. We saw a pair of White-crowned Shrikes, a Rock Kestrel, some Namaqua Sand Grouse and a pair of Crowned Lapwings with 2 tiny young. Our final sighting was of a solitary bull Elephant making his way down the valley. Back at the lodge sundowners had been arranged on a nearby hillside while the final rays of the sun lit up the surrounding mountain tops. We then enjoyed dinner under the stars in a boomer, (a traditional wooden-fenced enclosure where stock are kept at night) accompanied by singing from the staff around the campfire.

Day 9

Friday 6th November

Damaraland to Hobatere

Weather hot & sunny 34C

We left Damaraland Lodge at 7.45am and travelled up the river valley to join the gravel road. On the way we saw an African Hawk Eagle flying over, a pair of Ruppell's Parrots (endemic) in an ana tree, 3 Bare-cheeked Babblers (endemic), a Monteiro's Hornbill (endemic) and some Baboons. We then stopped briefly to look at some examples of 280 million-year-old fossilized tree trunks on an exposed hillside. We had lunch in a restaurant at Kamanjab, after which we were on a tarmac road heading north and then turning off left on a private track to the lodge. Along the track were many mature trees and several dry river valleys with distant views of rocky hills all making for varied habitat. Here there were some Mountain Zebras and we had a glimpse of an African Wild Cat, a Black-chested Snake Eagle, an Augur Buzzard and a pair of Grey Hornbills.

After settling in and having dinner we were taken on a night drive and using a powerful spotlight we found a Cape Fox, 8 Bat-eared Foxes, a pair of Jackals with 3 young, a Steinbok, a Rufus-cheeked Nightjar African Wild Cat and a Giant Eagle Owl. I learnt that there had been 5 young Jackals but 2 had been taken by the Eagle Owl!

Day 10

Saturday 7th November

Hobaterere to Okaukuejo in Etosha National Park

Weather hot & sunny

We were taken on a walk before breakfast by Dane (son of the owners and a keen birder) to find some of the local specialities. They included Olive Bee-eaters, African Cuckoo, Rosy-faced Lovebirds, Crimson-breasted Shrike, a Black-backed Puffback at its nest and a solitary male Elephant. Breakfast was accompanied by Yellow-billed Hornbills, Long-tailed Starlings and Cape Glossy Starlings feeding in the garden. We entered the nearby western gate of Etosha National Park mid-morning and visited most of the waterholes along the route to Okaukuejo. There were many animals to be seen including Giraffe, Kudu, Blue Wildebeest, Mountain Zebra, Burchell's Zebra, a Black Rhino, several Elephants and 2 male Lions resting under a tree in the shade. Birds seen along the way were Southern Pied Babblers, Lappet-faced and White-backed Vultures, a Tawny Eagle, an African Hawk Eagle, Secretary Bird, Martial Eagle and several Kori Bustard. We arrived at camp at 6.30pm, settled in and had a pre-dinner drink. Later we visited the floodlit waterhole where we found no less than 8 Black Rhinos including a mother with a two year old youngster plus 2 Giraffe and an Eagle Owl.

Day 11

Sunday 8th November

Exploration of the Okaukuejo area

Weather hot & sunny 35C

We left at 6.30am on the morning game drive, setting off north and the first birds we saw were Violet-eared Waxbill, Spike-heeled Larks, Temminck's Courser and Double-banded Courser plus lots of Zebra, Wildebeest, Banded Mongoose and a Yellow Mongoose. At the first waterhole there were Pink-billed and Red-capped Larks, Capped Wheatear, Northern Black Korhaan and a Kori Bustard. Moving on, we came across 12 White-backed Vultures and one Lappet-faced Vulture sitting around the remains of a freshly killed Zebra, very close to the track. We were now in the Okendeka area and had seen some Oryx and Giraffe, when we spotted a pair of Lions mating in the open and then reclining while being watched, possibly by a brother of the male, looking on from a respectful distance. Another male Lion then appeared from behind us which walked down to take a drink, keeping clear of the other three. Then two young female Lions appeared from the long grass to the left and came down to drink. They were very thin and were not moving at all well and it's just possible that they were starving as the pride in this area has at least 11 members currently and maybe there are times when there is not enough food to go round. The original four then walked up towards and past us, heading for the shade of some bushes, leaving the two thin ones out in the open in the long grass.

It was now time to head back and en route we saw a Secretary Bird, a Lanner Falcon, a Black-chested Snake Eagle, 3 Bateleurs, 2 Greater Kestrels and a Yellow Mongoose. Back in camp it was time for lunch, followed by having a siesta, taking a swim or visiting the waterhole and trying to photograph some of the wildlife.

These included Crimson-breasted Shrike, African Hoopoe, African Cuckoo, Acacia-pied Barbet, Ground-scraper Thrush, Fork-tailed Drongo and Blue Waxbill. At 4pm we set off in an easterly direction for the afternoon game drive and quickly spotted a bird in a bush which was a Shaft-tailed Wydah and as Festus looked deeper into the bush he found a pair of Barn Owls! Nearby, a Spotted Eagle Owl was sitting in the shade at the base of a tree and soon after, a Black Rhino was found in some dense bushes, though it was not visible for long. The highlights at the first waterhole were Black-faced Impala, Kudu and a perched Martial Eagle and on the way back to camp, 3 Spotted Hyena were found very close to the road. At the waterhole, in the evening, there were 3 Elephants, 2 Black Rhino and an Eagle Owl which flew down to the ground in front of us to take a large beetle. We heard a Rufus-cheeked Nightjar chirring and then saw a Small Spotted Genet which jumped over the boundary wall and ran off through the cabins!

Day 12

Monday 9th November

To Namutoni

Weather hot & sunny 35C

We set off for Namutoni Lodge at the eastern end of Etosha National Park and immediately came across a Martial Eagle, 3 Jackals, 3 Spotted Hyenas and the first of many migrant Lesser Grey Shrikes. There was something of interest to see at almost all the waterholes, including Kudu, Wildebeest, Zebra, Giraffe, Warthog, Red-billed Teal, Cape Teal, Booted Eagle, African Jacana and a pair of African Hawk Eagles. We stopped at Halali Rest Camp for lunch, but before eating we were taken to see a Scops Owl roosting in a tree, and later, at the camp waterhole, we found some Impala, some Terrapins and a Brown Snake Eagle. At another waterhole, there were at least 6 Lions sleeping in a heap under a large acacia tree. After seeing many more Giraffe, Elephants, Red Hartebeest, Warthog, Kori Bustards and a Tawny Eagle, we arrived at Namutoni Lodge, our base for the next three nights.

Day 13

Tuesday 10th November

Exploration of Namutoni area

Weather hot & sunny, 35C

During an early session at the waterhole we watched African Jacana, Maribou Stork, Greater Flamingo, African Spoonbill, Squacco Heron and 4 Black-winged Pratincoles. On the way north from Namutoni we spotted a Tawny Eagle, a Black-shouldered Kite, a Kori Bustard, a White-backed Vulture, 12 Caspian Plovers and an African Barred Warbler. At the first waterhole there were 11 Giraffe plus a Tawny Eagle sitting in a tree and as we left we were captivated by at least 20 migrant European Bee-eaters hawking for insects around us. At the next waterhole there were more Giraffe, a Slender Mongoose and 2 Elephants and the birds included Blue Waxbill, Cape Teal, Ruff, Three-banded Plover and Chestnut-banded Plovers. The highlight here was seeing a line of mixed age Elephants, at least 30, coming down a slope to drink and we could almost sense the air of excitement and anticipation as they approached. Around the camp you can often see some good birds and today we found a pair of Jacobin Cuckoos on top of a large tree and a Pearl-spotted Owlet roosting in a tree near the office. On the afternoon game drive we were looking for the tiny Damara Dik Dik which is one of the smallest antelopes and an endemic to Namibia which we had not yet seen.

We were searching an area where these animals are known to be and after a while we did manage to find one and ended up seeing seven plus a pair of Leopard Tortoises. At the nearby waterhole were a group of Impala, 6 Kittlitz's Plovers and an amazing total of 5 Tawny Eagles.

Day 14

Wednesday 11th November

Exploration of Namutoni area

Weather hot & sunny, 35C

For the morning game drive we went west, and at the first waterhole we found a small reed bed and some bushes which contained Blue Waxbills, flocks of Red-headed Finches and, at the water's edge were Cape Shoveller, Black-winged Stilt, Wood Sandpiper and Three-banded Plover. Amongst the stones we watched Red-capped Larks, a Double-banded Courser and a group of Banded Mongoose. At the next waterhole we were fascinated by a Jackal working its way around the water's edge to see how close it could get to the Turtle Doves which were taking a drink. The Jackal appeared to be uninterested when suddenly he seized his opportunity and grabbed a Turtle Dove. In the same area was a group of Black-faced Impala, some Cape Teal and an Emerald-Spotted Wood-Dove (a new bird for the trip). As we left we noticed an Icterine Warbler in a bush and a Tawny Eagle and as we drove on we found many Lesser Grey Shrikes perched in the tops of bushes plus a Kalahari Scrub-Robin under one of these bushes. At one of the comfort stops we found Chestnut-vented Titbabbler, Violet-eared Waxbill and a Rattling Cisticola.

Next we arrived at the edge of the Pan and in the distance was a vast flock of Greater Flamingoes disappearing into a mirage. The final sighting of the morning was of a Black Rhino deep in bushes only about 50 yards away; she looked very large (possibly pregnant) as she slowly disappeared into the undergrowth. Amongst the Black Koorhans, Kori Bustards and European Bee-eaters seen in the afternoon, perhaps the best sighting was of a pair of beautiful and very elegant Blue Cranes.

Day 15

Thursday 12th November

To Waterberg

Weather hot & sunny 35C

We were at the waterhole before breakfast watching the usual waders when some Grey-headed Gulls and an African Marsh Warbler flew in and Lions starting roaring in the distance. I was thinking that the Lions were not too far away and, sure enough, just after we left camp, two male Lions were found under bushes near the road. From the vehicle 2 Steenbok and 2 Red Hartebeest were seen close to the road. We had a break at Lake Otjikoto which is surrounded by woodland, and where we had hoped to find the secretive Green Pigeon, but today we were out of luck. We did, however, have the compensation of seeing a pair of Violet-eared Waxbills, 2 Reed Cormorants and a Green-backed Heron. After lunch we turned left off the main road, heading for Waterberg Plateau National Park and we noticed Warthogs, Baboons, Kudu, Purple Rollers and Damara Hornbills from the vehicles. After we had settled into our accommodation we took a walk through the wooded slopes below a huge crag and watched Ruppell's Parrots, Kalahari Scrub-Robin, a Grey Lourie, a Bleating Warbler, a Black-crowned Tchagra and, high above us flew Alpine Swifts and a pair of Black Eagles. It was now time for dinner.

Day 16

Friday 13th November

To Windhoek

Weather hot & sunny, 35C

On our pre-breakfast walk we found 6 Rosy-faced Lovebirds, 3 Bearded Woodpeckers, a Cardinal Woodpecker, 2 Melba Finches, a Scarlet-chested Sunbird, a White-browed Scrub-Robin and a Black Eagle. At breakfast, one of the group saw 4 Dwarf Black Mongoose which are resident in the area while some others saw an African Paradise Flycatcher and a White-bellied Sunbird (a new bird for the trip). We were now heading south on a very good tarmac road but we still managed to spot some birds from the vehicles, namely Pale Chanting Goshawks, a Tawny Eagle, some Swainson's Spurfowl (also a new bird for the trip) and a Warthog. We arrived in Windhoek where we had a good lunch at one of the best restaurants in town after which it was time to head for the airport and our overnight flight home via Frankfurt.

Day 17

Saturday 14th November

We arrived at Heathrow a little late due to headwinds. Our thanks go to Festus and Ricky for their safe driving and all the knowledge that they shared with us to make this such a memorable trip.

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Species Lists

Birds (H = heard only) (Capital letters = endemic)

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November															
			30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1	Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>	8	6	74				13	1		15	✓	✓		✓		✓
2	African (Jackass) Penguin	<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>						3										
3	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	1					4						✓	✓	✓	✓	
4	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>				10			20					1				
5	Southern Giant Petrel	<i>Machronectes giganteus</i>						1										
6	White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>						10										
7	Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>				6		20										
8	Cape Gannet	<i>Morus capensis</i>						4										
9	White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>				20		50	10									4
10	Cape Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>				100		✓	✓									
11	Reed Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>																2
12	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>				50		10	3								1	
13	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>				3		2				1		3				1
14	Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>										5	1	1	1	1	1	
15	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				4		2				2	1	1	2			
16	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>												4	4	1	2	
17	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>													1	1	1	
18	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>																
19	Green-backed Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>																1
20	African Marabou	<i>Leptoptilos crumeniferus</i>												1	8	1	1	
21	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>				100		100	20					10	6	✓	6	
22	Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus minor</i>							30						1			
23	African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>													1			
24	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>							1			1		12	2	2		
25	South African Shelduck	<i>Tadorna cana</i>														1	1	
26	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>						1	1									
27	Southern Pochard	<i>Netta erythrophthalma</i>						1										1
28	Maccoa Duck	<i>Oxyura maccoa</i>												1	1			
29	Cape Shoveler	<i>Anas smithii</i>														1		

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November																
			30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
30	Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>				9	3	30					20	4	2	1			
31	Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>											26	4					
32	Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>	1		4				3			20	4	1		1			
33	White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>										35	12	2	2	2			
34	Cape Vulture	<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>	1														1		
35	Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>											3						
36	Brown Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>											1						
37	Black-chested Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>	1	2	1				2	1		1					1		
38	Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>										1		1	7	1	1	1	
39	Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>	1	2	1														
40	Verraux's Eagle (Black)	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>															2	1	
41	African Hawk Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i>									1		2						
42	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>											4						
43	Augur Buzzard	<i>Buteo augur</i>									1	1							
44	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	1		1							3	10	2	1	1		1	
45	Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>	8	2	6							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8
46	Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>										2			1				
47	Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>	1																
48	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>											1	2		1			
49	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>						1											
50	Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	2	1	1				1	1	1								
51	Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>		1	3							1	3	1					
52	Red-billed Francolin	<i>Pternistes adspersus</i>										2	4			✓	✓	✓	✓
53	Swainson's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistes swainsonii</i>																	5
54	Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	20						11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
55	Small Buttonquail	<i>Turnix sylvatica</i>																	
56	Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>						10								✓	✓	✓	
57	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	1					2								✓	✓	✓	
58	African Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>						1											
59	African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>												2	2	2	1		
60	Blue Crane	<i>Anthropoides paradisea</i>													2	4			
61	Secretary Bird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>			2								4	2	2				

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November														
			30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
62	Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>										5	2	4	4	7	2
63	Ludwig's Bustard	<i>Neotis ludwigii</i>	3		1												
64	RUPPELL'S KORHAAN	<i>Eupodotis rueppellii</i>	14	2	5				34	6	3						
65	Red-crested Korhaan	<i>Eupodotis ruficrista</i>										2		2		1	1
66	Northern Black Korhaan	<i>Eupodotis afroides</i>										3	6	1	1	1	
67	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>				200	6	15									
68	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				25		4					2	1	100	2	
69	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>				6	1	1									
70	Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>						3			1				1	2	
71	Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>						2						6	4	2	
72	Caspian Plover	<i>Charadrius asiaticus</i>													12		
73	Chestnut-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius pallidus</i>												8	1	5	
74	White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>				28	6	6									
75	Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>	2							4		3	2	2	2	2	
76	Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>					3				4	8	40	10	6	2	4
77	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>				LOTS	20	6								1	
78	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>				30		2									
79	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>				4	4	2							1	1	1
80	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>				15		1									
81	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>				10		2						2	6	1	2
82	Common Sandpiper	<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>				1	1					1			1	1	1
83	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>											1	2	3	3	2
84	Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>				1											
85	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>				10	2	1						1	1		
86	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>				4											
87	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>				10	1										
88	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>					2										
89	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>				30	1	12									
90	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>				7											
91	Black-winged Pratincole	<i>Glareola nordmanni</i>													4		
92	Spotted Thick-Knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>									1	2	1				
93	Temminck's Courser	<i>Cursorius temminckii</i>											1				

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November														
			30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
94	Burchell's Courser	<i>Cursorius rufus</i>		5	6												
95	Double-banded Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus africanus</i>										1			6		
96	Cape (Kelp) Gull	<i>Larus vetula</i>				6	10	✓									
97	Sabine's Gull	<i>Larus sabini</i>					3										
98	Hartlaub's Gull	<i>Larus hartlaubii</i>				100	50	✓									
99	Grey-headed Gull	<i>Larus cirrocephalus</i>				1								4			
100	Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>				11											
101	Swift Tern	<i>Sterna bergii</i>				4	4										
102	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>				25	2	✓									
103	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				50	100	✓									
104	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>					6	2									
105	Damara Tern	<i>Sterna balaenarum</i>				4		4									
106	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>					100										
107	Double-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles bicinctus</i>								1		1		3			
108	Namaqua Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles namaqua</i>	1	12	50			4	7			✓	✓				
109	Speckled (Rock) Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓								✓
110	Ferel Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓														
111	Cape Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
112	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
113	Emerald-Spotted Wood-Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>													2	1	
114	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>	2	6	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
115	RUPPELL'S PARROT	<i>Poicephalus rueppellii</i>								2						4	2
116	Rosy-faced Lovebird	<i>Agapornis roseicollis</i>								5	10					15	6
117	Grey Go-Away-Bird	<i>Corythaixoides concolor</i>			1					1	3		2	2	15	2	2
118	African Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus gularis</i>									2			1			
119	Jacobin Cuckoo	<i>Oxylophus jacobinus</i>										1	2				
120	Verreaux's Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>								1	1	1	1				
121	Spotted Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>		1								1					
122	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>										2					
123	Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>												1	1	1	
124	African Scops Owl	<i>Otis senegalensis</i>								H			1				
125	Freckled Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus tristigma</i>										H					

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November															
			30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
126	Rufous-cheeked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus rufigena</i>									1	1	4					
127	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>	3													4	6	
128	Bradfield's Swift	<i>Apus bradfieldi</i>														4		
129	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	2			6								6	4	✓	✓	
130	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	4														2	
131	White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>										2		4			2	
132	African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>												4	6	2		
133	Red-faced Mousebird	<i>Colius indicus</i>		12	1	2	2				2			5		2	2	
134	White-backed Mousebird	<i>Colius colius</i>									1						2	
135	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>											20	20	12	6	4	
136	Madagascar Bee-eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>									1	7						
137	Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>		6							2	2		1		2		
138	Purple Roller	<i>Coracias naevia</i>	3								2	2		1	1	2	5	2
139	MONTEIRO'S HORNBILL	<i>Tockus monteiri</i>	1								2	1		1			1	1
140	African Grey Hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>									1	1	1		5		2	1
141	Sthn Yellow-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>	2							2	4	1		2	2	2	2	
142	Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>								2	2	2		1	1		4	
143	Damara Hornbill ENDEMIC	<i>Tockus damarensis</i>									2	2		1			2	
144	Common Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>										1				1	1	
145	African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>	1								1	H	1	1				
146	Acacia Pied Barbet	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>	1	1							1	2	1				1	2
147	Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>																1
148	Bearded Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos namaquus</i>																3
149	Monotonous Lark	<i>Mirafra passerina</i>										1			H			
150	DUNE LARK	<i>Certhilauda erythrochlamys</i>		3														
151	Benguela Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda subcoronata</i>							1	4								
152	Sabota Lark	<i>Mirafra sabota</i>	1								1	1	2	2	1	1		
153	Rufous-naped Lark	<i>Mirafra africana</i>												1				
154	Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>											1		2	2		
155	Pink-billed Lark	<i>Spizcorys conirostris</i>											1					
156	Stark's Lark	<i>Eremalauda starki</i>		2	2													
157	Grey-backed Sparrowlark	<i>Eremopterix verticalis</i>							50	✓	✓	✓	✓					

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November														
			30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
158	GRAY'S LARK	<i>Ammomanes grayi</i>			1												
159	Spike-heeled Lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>										7	2				
160	Red-breasted Swallow	<i>Hirundo semirufa</i>												1	1	2	
161	Greater Striped Swallow	<i>Hirundo cucullata</i>	2														
162	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
163	Pearl-breasted Swallow	<i>Hirundo dimidiata</i>									1						
164	Banded Martin	<i>Riparia cincta</i>										4	2			2	
165	Rock Martin	<i>Hirundo fuligula</i>	4	2	1				2			2	4			4	2
166	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>										2	1				
167	Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
168	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>												1			
169	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
170	Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓			
171	CARP'S TIT	<i>Parus carpi</i>										1					
172	BARE-CHEEKED BABBLER	<i>Turdoides gymnogenys</i>									2	2					
173	Southern Pied Babbler	<i>Turdoides bicolor</i>										2					
174	African Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
175	Groundscraper Thrush	<i>Psophocichla litsitsirupa</i>							3		1	2	2			2	
176	Short-toed Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola brevipes</i>	1								1						
177	Familiar Chat	<i>Cercomela familiaris</i>	2	1					2	1	2	1					1
178	Tractrac Chat	<i>Cercomela tractrac</i>	2					2		1							
179	Karoo Chat	<i>Cercomela schlegelii</i>	1														
180	Mountain Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe monticola</i>	1	2	2			4	4	2							
181	Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>									1	2	1	1			
182	Ant-eating Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>	1									2	6			1	
183	HERERO CHAT	<i>Namibornis herero</i>									1						
184	White-browed Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>															1
185	Kalahari Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas paena</i>													1		2
186	African Barred Warbler	<i>Calamonastes fasciolatus</i>												1			
187	African Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>															1
188	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>															H
189	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>														1	

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November														
			30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
190	African Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>					1										
191	Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>													1	2	4
192	Chestnut-Vented Titbabbler	<i>Parisoma subcaeruleum</i>		1								1			3		
193	Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>									1						
194	Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>													1	1	
195	Black-chested Prinia	<i>Prinia flavicans</i>		3	1					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
196	Rufous-eared Warbler	<i>Malcorus pectoralis</i>	2														
197	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>															1
198	Chat Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis infuscatus</i>										1	1	1			
199	Marico Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis mariquensis</i>	1									2	1	3	1		
200	African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>															1
201	Cape White-eye	<i>Zosterops pallidus</i>			1	1	4										
202	Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>	1			1	2	2						1			
203	African (Grassveld) Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>	1										1	1	1	4	
204	Crimson-breasted Shrike	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>	1									3	1	1	1	1	1
205	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>			1					1							
206	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>												2	3	13	2
207	Common Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>	2	2	1				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
208	Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegala</i>										1					1
209	Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>							1	1	1						
210	WHITE-TAILED SHRIKE	<i>Lanioturdus torquatus</i>									1			1			
211	Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>										1			1	1	1
212	Sthn White-crowned Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus anguitimens</i>								2			1				
213	Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>										1					
214	Cape Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>	4	✓	✓							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
215	Burchell's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis australis</i>															4
216	Meve's (Long-tailed) Starling	<i>Lamprotornis mevesii</i>										2					
217	Pale-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus nabouroup</i>	4	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓					✓
218	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>															
219	White-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris talatala</i>															1
220	Dusky Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris fusca</i>		12	2	2	3			1	1	1			1		
221	Marico Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>														2	

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November														
			30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
222	Great Sparrow	<i>Passer motitensis</i>										1	1	2		1	
223	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓									✓
224	Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>	6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
225	Sthn Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>								4	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
226	Red-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>									2				2	4	2
227	White-browed Sparrow Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>	4	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
228	Sociable Weaver	<i>Philetairus socius</i>	4		6							2	6	4			
229	Southern Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>	2	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
230	Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>														1	
231	Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>								6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
232	Shaft-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua regia</i>											1		2	1	
233	Scaly-feathered Finch	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>	2	4	1		1						10	3	4	2	
234	Red-headed Finch	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>	6		8								2		2		
235	Violet-eared Waxbill	<i>Granatina granatinus</i>											1			1	2
236	Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>				6	10	1					4				
237	Blue Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>	2										2		3	3	3
238	Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>															2
239	Yellow Canary	<i>Serinus flaviventris</i>	1	2	1												
240	Black-throated Canary	<i>Serinus atrogularis</i>												2		2	
241	White-throated Canary	<i>Serinus albogularis</i>		2	2					1	2		2				
242	Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>												2			2
243	Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>										2					
244	Lark-like Bunting	<i>Emberiza impetuani</i>	10						✓	✓	✓						
245	Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>								2							

Mammals

1	Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>	5		1						20					4	2
2	Cape Hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i>											1				1
3	S. African Ground Squirrel	<i>Geosciurus inauris</i>	2		3							3	✓	✓			
4	Striped Tree Squirrel	<i>Funisciurus sp.</i>								1				1			
5	Dassie Rat	<i>Petromus typicus</i>								1				1			
6	Striped Fieldmouse	<i>Rhabdomys pumilio</i>		2	4								1				

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November															
			30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
7	Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>	1	3	1	1		1	1	7	4	1	3	1	2			
8	Cape Fox	<i>Vulpes chama</i>								1								
9	Bat-eared Fox	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>								8								
10	Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>											1	1				
11	Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictic penicillata</i>									1	2						
12	Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>										3		17	12	6	19	
13	Dwarf Mongoose	<i>Helogale parvula</i>															4	
14	Spotted Hyaena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>										3	3	1				
15	Small Spotted Genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>										1						
16	African Wild Cat	<i>Felis silvestris</i>	1								3							
17	Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>									2	6	6			2		
18	Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>							2									
19	African Elephant	<i>Loxodonta Africana</i>							16		8	12	8	30	1			
20	Burchell's Zebra	<i>Equus (quagga) burchelli</i>									100	100	20	20	10	100		
21	Hartmann's Mountain Zebra	<i>Equus zebra hartmannae</i>			125						2	31						
22	Browse (Black) Rhinoceros	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>										9	3		1			
23	Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus aethiopicus</i>	3									9		6	4		8	2
24	Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>										20	4	2	20	4	2	
25	Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>						2	4	5	3	7	2	2			5	
26	Gemsbok	<i>Oryx gazella</i>	1	18	10			2	40		4	10	6	6	4	1		
27	Steinbuck	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>	1								1	7		1	1		2	1
28	Red Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus caama</i>											7				2	
29	Blue Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>									80	10	5	1	10	4		
30	Black-faced Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus petersi</i>										6	36	20	6	6		
31	Springbuck	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>	50	1	✓			10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
32	DAMARALAND DIK-DIK	<i>Rhynchotragus kirki damarensis</i>												7		2	1	
33	Cape Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>				20	100	✓										
34	Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>					2											
35	Heaviside's Dolphin	<i>Cephalorhynchus heavisidii</i>					10											

Other taxa

Tiger Snake
semiannulatus

NAMIBIAN ROCK AGAMA

Helmeted Terrapin

Swallowtail

Sunfish

Teloscopus

Agama planiceps

Pelomedusa subrufa

Papilio glaucus

Mola mola

Sand Snake

Striped Skink

African Bullfrog

Orange Tip

Psammophis subtaeniatus

Mabuya striata

Pyxicephalus adspersus

Anthocharis cardamines

Shovel-snouted Lizard *Aporosaura anchietae*

Leopard Tortoise *Geochelone pardalis*

African Monarch Butterfly *Danaus chrysippus*

Toktok Beetle *Psammodes striatus*