

# Namibia's Etosha Pan & Skeleton Coast

Naturetrek Tour Report

30 October - 15 November 2015



Black Rhinoceros



Elephant Family



Flamingoes at Walvis Bay



The desert

Report compiled by Rob Mileto  
Images courtesy of Ingrid William



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Tour Participants: Rob Mileto, Festus Mbinga & Franco Morao (leaders) and 12 Naturetrek clients

## Day 1

Friday 30th October

London Heathrow to Johannesburg

We all met up, mostly at the gate, for an uneventful overnight flight to Johannesburg in our double-decker plane

## Day 2

Saturday 31st October

Johannesburg to Namib Grens Farm (via Windhoek)

Weather: hot and sunny. The bleary but keen-eyed spotted our first southern African bird, a Rock Martin, from the Johannesburg airport terminal building. After a welcome coffee or two, a further short flight over the Kalahari brought us to Windhoek. Here we met our local guides, Festus and Franco, and were soon aboard our extended Land Rovers that were to be our transport and 'hides' for the next two weeks.

Then we were off. After passing through Windhoek, we were soon out in the wilds and spotting lots of new birds and mammals like Chacma Baboon, Springbok, Cape Starling, Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill, White-backed Mousebird, Pale Chanting Goshawk and Ostrich. All these distractions meant that we arrived at Namib Grens after dark. The bungalows here are literally built around granite boulders which form some of the walls, and after a hearty farm dinner we retired to our beds amongst the rocks – one complete with a Rock Hyrax stuck in the bath!

## Day 3

Sunday 1st November

Namib Grens to Kulala

Weather: hot and sunny. Not too early the next morning we had a stroll through the grounds from the cabins to the farm for breakfast. Birds were plentiful including Mountain Wheatear, Lark-like Bunting, Stark's Lark, African Pipit and White-throated Canary – the latter being obliging enough to show us its yellow rump!

After a welcome breakfast, a further stroll resulted in some rather more colourful sightings including Dusky Sunbird, Southern Masked Weaver, African Red-eyed Bulbul, Gabar Goshawk, Grey Go-away Bird, Short-toed Rock Thrush and Common Waxbills. We then packed our bags to leave, but it took a while to actually get out of the gate as there was much to see on the entrance lawn and nearby – a smart Groundscraper Thrush was busy feeding while a couple of Yellow Wagtails wandered about nearby, a pair of Laughing Doves sat under a shady tree, and in the distance was an African Hoopoe. When all had partaken of these, we actually set off properly.

As we approached the scenic Sreetshoogte Pass, a lone Hartmann's Mountain Zebra stood stoically on the horizon and, as we watched it, some Klipspringer moved slightly nearby and so became visible to us.

As we continued, there were plenty more birds to be seen en route including Pale-winged Starling and a dinky Pigmy Falcon. At our lunch stop in Solitaire, Pied Crow, Cape Sparrow, and Scaly-feathered, Southern Masked and Sociable Weavers were some of the species making use of this little oasis.

Moving on, the occasional Springbok, Gemsbok, Ludwig's Bustard, Ruppell's Korhaan, Greater Kudu and Black-backed Jackal helped to stop us dozing off. We arrived at Kulala Desert Camp to a glorious sunset and a fine dinner under the stars. The comfortable beds in the lovely chalets were really welcome after our long journey.

## Day 4

Monday 2nd November

### Deadvlei, Sossusvlei and the dunes

Weather: hot and sunny. We were up before sunrise and set off promptly in order to see the giant 300-metre dunes at their best; in the light of sunrise. We were not disappointed with many photographs being taken. On Dune 1 we saw the tracks and lair of a White Lady Spider, as well the spoor of numerous other creatures in the sand. Here our story temporarily divides as one of the group fell and fractured her wrist, and was taken by Rob and Festus to the clinic at Swakopmund. Meanwhile the rest of the group strolled across the sand to Deadvlei with its eerie, long-dead, Acacias. Returning to the vehicles, we drove a short distance to the more famous, but perhaps less visually impressive, Sossusvlei, near where a Gemsbok in a sandy hollow was just too much of a photographic opportunity to miss.

After lunch back at Kulala and a welcome siesta, the group went off in search of more wildlife and stunning scenery, and were rewarded with Pale Chanting Goshawk, Speckled Pigeon, Spotted Eagle-Owl, a very smart Bronze-winged Courser, and a Cape Fox which could easily have been mistaken for a glove puppet!

Before returning to camp, we enjoyed sundowners and snacks to the sound of barking geckos.

## Day 5

Tuesday 3rd November

### Kulala to Walvis Bay (via Sessriem)

Weather: hot and sunny. After breakfast, we were soon at the Sesriem Canyon. Walking down and into this impressive geomorphological feature, we came across Rock Kestrel and more Speckled Pigeons, but the top spot was the very cryptic Horned Adder.

It was then off northwards and into the ever changing landscape, painted in the dark but glittering hues of mica schists, vibrant oranges of sandstone and subtle tans of limestone and dolomite.

Our second comfort/fuel stop at Solitaire was less productive than the first, but it is always good to see the dashing South African Ground Squirrels, and the slowly disintegrating skeletons of a plethora of vintage cars and trucks.

Lunch was taken at a restaurant near Rostock, which doubles as a Meerkat rescue centre, so it was fun to see these now famous mongoose relatives up close. We then travelled on to reach Walvis Bay in good time for a shower and to freshen up before dinner at a nearby hotel, where group members were re-united (some now sporting a jaunty cast on one arm).

## Day 6

Wednesday 4th November

## Walvis Bay lagoon and salt-pans

Weather: partly cloudy. After breakfast, most of us started the day with a 'pelagic' boat trip to the open ocean beyond Walvis Bay lagoon. Almost as soon as we had set off, we were joined on board by Great White Pelicans, Cape Cormorants and even a Brown Fur Seal! - all looking for an easy meal of fish being fed to them.

On the wrecks in the lagoon were many more Cape Cormorants and a scattering of White-breasted Cormorants. Bobbing on the still waters nearby were Black-necked Grebes, some still sporting their dashing summer plumage. From here we headed straight for the open sea whilst the wind was still modest. We were soon boating through terns, mostly Common Terns, feeding on the bounty being brought to the surface by the many Heaviside's Dolphins that bobbed up regularly. The weather was unusually calm, which was great for avoiding sea sickness, but not so good for spotting seabirds that largely rely on a stiff breeze to keep them airborne. It was also great for seeing the waving fin of the Mola-mola (Sunfish) and we were lucky enough to see several of these strange, laterally flattened, fish that bask on their sides and feast on jellyfish. Eventually, with patience, we did see Sooty Shearwater, White-chinned Petrel, Cape Gannet and the dinky Wilson's Storm Petrel. Top spot though, was a virtually adult Shy Albatross that allowed a very close approach, clearly reluctant to expend a lot of energy trying to fly in such still conditions. We celebrated our luck with local oysters and other snacks, accompanied by tasty sparkling wine.

A waterside lunch was followed by a slow drive to and around the local commercial salt-pans, including some bright pink ones. Lots of birds were seen, the highlights including Pied Avocet, Bar-tailed Godwit, Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Sanderling, Chestnut-banded and White-fronted Plovers, and Caspian, Swift, Common, Sandwich and the endemic Damara Terns. However, birds of the day were probably the hundreds, if not thousands of Greater and Lesser Flamingoes that splashed colour over the waterfront.

Dinner was at The Raft restaurant, situated on poles in the lagoon.

## Day 7

Thursday 5th November

### Walvis Bay & Swakopmund.

Weather: hot and sunny. Today we had a lie-in until 7.45am! Breakfast was followed by a trip to the esplanade/waterfront where we saw the usual sightings plus a pair of very smart African Oystercatchers with all black plumage and carrot-coloured bills!

Then it was off to Swakopmund, spotting Red-capped Lark on the way. At the Swakop river there were a couple of Kittlitz's Plovers, one with a tiny, fluffy and totally cute chick. Here too there were Three-banded Plovers, a little flock of sleeping Pied Avocets, and a pair of dabbling Cape Teal. From here we moved on to see the 'Martin Luther' steam locomotive, abandoned in the desert, having sunk into the ground and lacking spare parts and water to run it. We also had a sobering visit to the memorial of the genocide of the OvaHerero and OvaMbanderu, held in German camps during the First World War.

There was some time before lunch for sightseeing (colonial German architecture), souvenir shopping (lots of African themed curios) or just having a coffee and watching the world go by.

After a fine lunch at the very colonial Hansa Hotel, some of the group took an option for a scenic flight out to the dunes around Sossusvlei and back along the coast, much of it seemingly at no more than a few hundred feet and low enough to identify gulls such as Kelp Gull on the beach, as well as spotting Black-backed Jackals and Brown Fur Seals. The rest of the group visited the local salt-pans where we got close to Cape Teals and hundreds of terns. We then returned to 'Swakop' and had a quick look around the museum, which as well as having a collection of stuffed and pinned creatures, held a miscellany of all sorts of local memorabilia, including a reconstructed colonial home interior, Emil Kiewittand's apothecary shop, and an informative display on the Rössing Mine. Later, a brief stroll along the beach added great views of White-fronted Plover, a fishing Damara Tern, and three species of Cormorant; Cape, White-breasted and Bank, nicely lined up on a old bridge support.

For dinner, we walked along a pier to the Jetty restaurant. Having spent the day exploring wildlife, some possibly failed to meet the smart casual dress code!

## Day 8

Friday 6th November

Walvis Bay to Damaraland Camp (via lichen fields, wreck of the Seal, and Cape Cross)

Weather: hot and sunny. After breakfast we collected a picnic lunch and set off on the long drive along the Skeleton Coast to Damaraland. Shortly after Swakopmund we stopped to take a look at an area of what are known as lichen fields, where the oranges, greys and greens of fungi/algae amalgams encrust the rocks and stones, surviving primarily on moisture and nutrients in the frequent mists and fogs rather than in rainfall.

Our next stop was to take atmospheric photographs of the wreck of the Seal, one of the hundreds of skeletal shipwrecks that give the Skeleton Coast its name. Just before lunch we stopped by the large colony of Brown Fur Seals and attendant Kelp Gulls at Cape Cross. This was a nasal as well as an audio and visual sensation!

Our picnic lunch was taken scenically on the coast in view of another wreck, now largely reduced to sand blasted fragments of wood and rusted iron. Post lunch, we visited the Huab River, where we strolled across a small bridge and found lion tracks - so were happy to climb back aboard the Land Rovers.

Turning inland, we headed up onto the plateau. In this rocky desert the claimed world's longest living plant (1,000 years+), the Welwitschia, makes its home. We wandered amongst several individuals with their short, thick, woody trunk and strap-like leaves that continuously grow from the base.

A scattering of Gemsbok seemed to welcome us as we approached Damaraland Camp at sunset. After showering and changing, we enjoyed a fine dinner in a 'boma' with a spoken menu in the local Nama click language.

## Day 9

Saturday 7th November

Morning - Damaraland Camp & the Huab River; pm - Twyfelfontein.

Weather: hot and sunny. Sunrise was stunning, and leaving behind the bacon-stealing Pale-winged Starlings, we set out in search of the desert-adapted Elephants. En route to the Huab River bed we paused to take in excellent views Mountain Wheatear and White-throated Canary.

In the riverbed itself, the more lush vegetation attracted a wide variety of birds and we enjoyed fine views of Red-billed Spurfowl, Purple Roller, African Hoopoe, Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill and some stunning Rosy-faced Lovebirds. We soon found signs of elephant and, following their 'prints and plops', we soon came across a herd of about six, including some dinky little youngsters. We watched them for a good long while before heading back along the river bed. We stopped under some large old camelthorns and managed to attract a fantastic little Pearl-spotted Owlet, which perched obligingly nearby for views and photographs. A Steenbok were also very obliging, posing for photographs only a few metres from us, but you had to be a good deal quicker to get a photograph of the Slender Mongoose that flashed past!

After a lovely bush lunch under a shady acacia and in the company of Southern White-crowned Shrikes, we set off for Twyfelfontein, taking in Bare-cheeked Babbler and Double-banded Sandgrouse on the way. At Twyfelfontein, we had a short walk to view the 5,000(ish) year old engravings on the rocks depicting various local creatures and waterholes. Here too there were mammals in the form of Damara Ground Squirrels (darker and bushier-tailed than their South African relatives) and a Dassie Rat.

Dinner was followed by some close harmony singing, and then a quick tour of the stars by Festus before a welcome comfortable bed.

## Day 10

Sunday 8th November

### Damaraland to Hobatere

Weather: hot and sunny. We had an early start to enjoy a bush breakfast on top of a nearby hill in the first light of dawn. Our bacon-thieving starling friends were here again, as were Pied Crows and a dinky little (and endemic) Benguela Long-billed Lark. Sadly, it was then time to leave Damaraland Camp.

Our first stop was the petrified forest, the resting place for trees swept downstream by a large flood and covered by alluvial sands in millennia past. Deprived of air, the organic matter could not rot and decay, but instead, over millions of years, underwent silicification, whereby each cell is individually fossilised and the appearance, if not the colour, of wood is retained. This was also a great place to see more Welwitschia and some lovely little Ground Agama lizards.

At least three species of Swift; Alpine, Common and Bradfield's, were busy hawking over Khorixas, where we stopped for a little break and an ice cream. Just after leaving this town, we spotted a Pigmy Falcon on a wire, which was more than happy to sit whilst we watched and snapped away with cameras.

Lunch was in a rather less than salubrious, but lovely and shady, picnic spot under some fig trees, with the fruit attracting many birds. Most were the ubiquitous African Red-eyed Bulbul, but we also spotted Cape Starling, African Grey Hornbill, and a fine specimen of an African Cuckoo. Some local children had found a terrapin which we released in exchange for excess bits and pieces from our lunch packs.

It was then time to continue and en route Hobatere Lodge there was much to see, including Damara Hornbill and a Martial Eagle eating some unfortunate beast, possibly a young baboon. Leaving the main road, the access track to the lodge gave us our first views of Giraffe and some smart Kudu. At the lodge itself, we took the

opportunity to shower or swim and then relax overlooking the waterhole, alive with Mountain Zebra, Springbok and Gemsbok.

After dinner we had a night drive. By the light of powerful spotlights we spotted an African Scops Owl before we had even left the camp, and a Western Barn Owl munching on what appeared to be a sun spider (solifuge) shortly after. This set the stage for a creature-packed couple of hours with highlights being Lion, Spring Hare, Nightjar, a really cute Common Genet, and some even cuter Black-backed Jackal pups playing at their den entrance. To top this, there was a pair of Cape Porcupine busy feeding near the camp entrance on our return.

## Day 11

Monday 9th November

Hobatere to Okaukuejo in Etosha National Park.

Weather: hot and sunny. Despite the (relatively) late night, some of us had a pre-breakfast walk and found Meve's Starling, Bare-cheeked Babbler and Black-throated Canary. However, the bulk of the bird activity was at breakfast which was accompanied by Rosy-faced Lovebird, Red-headed Finch, Grey-headed and Cape Sparrows, and smart Ruppell's Parrots (amongst others) at a feeding /watering station. Looking over to the waterhole, there were also Kudu and Black-backed Jackal to be seen.

Leaving Hobatere, we saw Swallow-tailed Bee-eater en route Etosha National Park. We entered by the western gate and spotted our first Blacksmith Lapwing, a female Short-toed Rock Thrush, and a lovely little Brubru calling out its name from a nearby bush. At a small waterhole along our route there were two large Elephants, who dutifully crossed the track ahead of us. Nearby we saw more Mountain Zebra and the first of many Burchell's Zebra.

Lunch was at the new Dolomite Camp, perched on a rocky hillside – a great place to see Rock Martins and a Black-chested Prinia.

Post lunch, the drive to our camp took in a number of waterholes, the most productive of which held a host of White-backed Vultures, a couple of Lappet-faced Vultures and a very smart Bateleur, along with our first decent views of Warthogs. Near to this, Franco's sharp eyes spotted some Lions in the distance, lying around as lions are wont to do.

We arrived at Okaukuejo Rest Camp late in the afternoon and to a power cut! However, the three Black Rhinoceros at the waterhole at sunset was ample compensation for this. A candle-lit dinner (with an over-friendly Black-backed Jackal) was enlightened part way through by the return of power, and the now floodlit waterhole held even more interest with seven Black Rhinoceros present at one point, along with Elephants and Lions coming and going... and not forgetting the pair of Little Grebes that were present throughout!

## Day 12

Tuesday 10th November

Around Okaukuejo.

Weather: hot and sunny. At dawn a single, rather sick-looking, Lion remained at the waterhole. However, not long after we left the camp, we spotted several more lions, first walking parallel to us and then drinking from a puddle right next to our vehicles. Thirst sated, they sought the shade of a large drainage pipe under the road!

As we made our way back for breakfast, a Spotted Hyena was a welcome addition to our morning safari, as were the posing Kori Bustard, Northern Black and Red-crested Korhaans, and hunting Yellow Mongoose. As a finale, an old Sociable Weaver nest on the roadside harboured a Spotted Eagle Owl.

After breakfast and a short break we were off again, and at a nearby waterhole there was a classically African scene – Springbok, Gemsbok and zebra waiting for an old bull Elephant to relinquish his monopoly on the fresh clean water outlet to the waterhole. Some seemed to take out their frustrations on each other, sparring with neighbours, some gave up and drank the grubbier water, some just waited and waited.... just as the Elephant looked like he might finish... another bull Elephant appeared and took his place!

We returned in time for lunch and a relaxing early afternoon. Around 4pm we set off on an afternoon game drive. As some drives are, this one was rather quiet. The Double-banded Coursers were a lovely spot, as were the Namaqua Sandgrouse we saw. The larks (Red-capped, Stark's and Grey-backed Sparrow) were perhaps more of an acquired taste!

For the patient, the evening waterhole watch gave us Black Rhinoceros and Lion.

## Day 13

Wednesday 11th November

Okaukuejo to Mokuti (via Halali).

Weather: hot and sunny. Today we were swapping camps but had breakfast before leaving. In a weird re-run of the previous day, the Lions were drinking at the same road puddle, so we sat and watched them, from very close quarters, for a goodly long while. The re-run at the waterhole was only lacking the Elephants, so the animals were able to drink their fill of the cleaner water.

As we headed west we came across some Northern Black Korhaan. A male and a female were getting quite friendly, but a third was alarm calling - it had spotted a Caracal – a bird-hunting cat par extraordinaire. It was slinking away, but at least some of us saw its face rather than just its behind. Later, at a waterhole, we spotted our first African Jacana and Wood Sandpiper. A Lanner Falcon overhead was a welcome bonus.

Lunch was at Halali rest camp with Cape Starlings, and a post lunch walk gave us great views of a Common Scimitarbill and a young African Cuckoo.

As we carried on westwards, another waterhole was awash with birds. A single tree held Levillant's Cuckoo, Cape Starling, Wattled Starling, Great Sparrow, Southern White-crowned Shrike and Southern Masked Weaver.

After this, we ventured out a few hundred metres onto the Etosha pan itself. Hot and dry, the white/grey flatness extended as far as the eye could see, and yet footprints bore witness to the fact that some animals do wander out into the apparent nothingness.



At a final waterhole before our camp for the night, an unfortunate giraffe had been taken down by Lions, and two very full-looking ones were still present, along with a pair of Black-backed Jackals. Unsurprisingly, this was making the Impala, Springbok and Kudu on the far side of the water very nervous about snatching a drink!

Congo Rope Squirrels were our welcoming party at Mokuti camp where, after a wash and brush up, the braai (barbecue) buffet provided us with a delicious dinner.

## Day 14

Thursday 12th November

Around Namutoni.

Weather: am overcast, pm sunny. After enjoying an early breakfast we set off on the last of our early morning game drives. On the way to the waterhole we passed a large bull Elephant at the roadside, head on and munching branches. At the waterhole itself, the unfortunate Giraffe was looking more skeletal and now three full Lions were present – causing the gathered grazers to still be as nervy as the previous evening. One new addition here was a sleepy Black Rhinoceros which could easily have been mistaken for a rock, until it lifted its head!

As we slowly drove around Fischer's Pan, a Lesser Grey Shrike was new for the trip, as was an Emerald Spotted Dove. We radioed this sighting through to the other vehicle, and they replied with a sighting of a Secretarybird. It was now a question of should we wait and show them the dove, or should they wait and show us the Secretarybird! However, since one of the group in the 'dove' van was REALLY keen to see the Secretarybird, it was not much of a contest! When we got there, the said bird was rather distance, but still distinctive and, for one, the end of a long wait to see this species.

Back at the camp, lunch was accompanied by a beautiful African Paradise Flycatcher. We tried to find it again after lunch when we had a meandering bird walk back to our chalets, but it proved elusive. However, we did get great views of Marico Sunbird, Crimson-breasted and Red-backed Shrikes and a pair of Black-backed Puffbacks, one hanging upside down and really showing us why it is called a puffback!

On the late afternoon drive, the same Lions were still guarding their now 'ripe' carcass, and a tour of 'Dik-dik' drive revealed many of these tiny antelopes. Later, we spotted a group of vehicles with people looking out into what seemed to be empty bushland. Apparently somewhere in those bushes was a Leopard...but none of us could see it! After much to-ing and fro-ing and questioning of other drivers, we spotted it in a reasonably open area, but so well camouflaged that only when it got up and walked did all of us finally get decent views. We tracked it walking for some time, but eventually lost it in thick cover.

Now it was getting dark and so sadly time to make our way back to camp. One final visit to a waterhole gave us a very fitting finale – a lone Black Rhinoceros coming down to drink, and a Spotted Hyena, so hot and dusty that it waded into the water to drink and even dunked its head repeatedly under the water to cool down and freshen up!

## Day 15

Friday 13th November

Mokuti to Gros Barmen (via Lake Otjikoto)

Weather: hot and sunny. An early morning bird walk began with yet another stunning Crimson-breasted Shrike. The well-watered gardens of the camp meant that bird life was prolific and, amongst others, it was a treat to see White-bellied Sunbird, Grey Go-away Birds and an African Green Pigeon. Not to be outdone, some mammals put in an appearance in the form of a band of Banded Mongoose. Star bird though was probably the Red-headed Weaver that put in an appearance just before we returned to the building for breakfast.

Leaving Mokuti, we headed south and around mid-morning we stopped at Lake Otjikoto. This is the smaller of only two permanent natural lakes in Namibia. It is a doline or sinkhole lake that was created by a collapsing karst cave. The permanent water is a magnet for thirsty creatures and the fish population present feeds White-breasted Cormorants and Pied Kingfishers, both of which we saw, along with African Paradise Flycatcher and Ruppell's Parrots. Some rather porcine-looking bats hanging in a tree were later identified as Commerson's Leaf-nosed Bats, one of the largest of the insectivorous bats in Africa.

In Otjiwarongo, Christine's cast was split ready for the journey home whilst the rest of the group order lunch... and then waited... and waited ... and waited... and then lunch finally arrived as mega portions, much of which ended up being donated to the chap guarding our vehicles outside the venue.

After lunch, the drive down to our final camp was punctuated with roadside Warthogs and Baboons. We arrived in the late afternoon and some chose to have a quick walk down to the lake just before sunset. They were rewarded with good views of Red-knobbed Coot, White-backed Duck, Reed Cormorant and our first Red-billed Quelia, which, given they are touted as the commonest wild bird in the world, seemed a touch surprising.

## Day 16

Saturday 14th November

### Gros Barmen to Johannesburg (via Windhoek)

Weather: hot and sunny. On the pre-breakfast walk we were enthralled by a smart Black-winged Kite perching nearby. Monterio's Hornbills were more distant, but still definable with binoculars. As we strolled, many small birds flew up ahead of us; most seemed to be Blue Waxbills, but there were also a few Green-winged Pyillia and a single Cardinal Woodpecker. Some Kudu were spotted on a nearby hillside and as we swung round to the lake, the Red-knobbed Coots were close enough to see some with their rather odd-looking red knobs on the tops of their white head shields.

After breakfast we set off for the airport, stopping briefly at a curio shop to make last minute purchases, change clothes, give thanks to our local guides and have a group photograph taken.

Arriving at the airport in good time, we bade fond farewells to our two excellent local guides and boarded our flight to Johannesburg, where coffee and snacks were enjoyed before boarding our overnight flight home.

## Day 17

Sunday 15th November

### London Heathrow

We arrived at Heathrow airport on time, bade each other fond farewells and made our way home, full of memories of the 209 bird and 40 (native) mammal species seen in our 3,000 (or so) kilometre tour of that lovely place that is Namibia.

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## Species Lists

Birds (✓=recorded; H=heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November														
			31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>	3	2	16	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
2	Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	12	14				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
3	Orange River Francolin	<i>Scleroptila levaillantoides</i>		4													
4	Red-billed Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis adspersus</i>								5	4	21		2	4		
5	White-backed Duck	<i>Thalassornis leuconotus</i>														14	3
6	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>						14	5				✓	✓	✓		
7	South African Shelduck	<i>Tadorna cana</i>											1	1			
8	Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>						66						2	4		
9	Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>														3	2
10	African Penguin	<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>					4										
11	Shy Albatross	<i>Thalassarche cauta</i>					1										
12	White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>					3										
13	Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>					10										
14	Wilson's Storm Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>					12										
15	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>										1	2	4	2	6	2
16	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>					62	14									
17	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>				1	100's	100's	6								
18	Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>					100's	100's	12								
19	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>							1								
20	Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumeniferus</i>											3				
21	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>															
22	Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>														1	
23	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>					9	1				2	2	1			
24	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>					1								2	1	
25	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>					2	1									
26	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>					43		1								
27	Cape Gannet	<i>Morus capensis</i>					4										
28	Bank Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax neglectus</i>						2									
29	White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>					2	16	12								12

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November														
			31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
30	Reed Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>														4	10
31	Cape Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>					100's	40	50							2	
32	African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>														1	
33	Secretarybird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>													1		
34	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	2														1
35	White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>										19			5	2	
36	Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>		1		1			1			1		1	3		
37	Black-chested Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>		1							1	1					
38	Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>										4			2		
39	Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>	1	4	2							2	3	2	2		
40	Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>		1													
41	Steppe Buzzard	<i>Buteo vulpinus</i>									1						
42	Augur Buzzard	<i>Buteo augur</i>										1					
43	Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>												2	2		
44	African Hawk Eagle	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>												2		1	
45	Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>									1	1		1	2	1	
46	Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>		1													
47	Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicolus</i>	1	1	3	1					2	1	1		1		
48	Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>				1									2		
49	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>														1	
50	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>												3			
51	Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>	1														
52	Ludwig's Bustard	<i>Neotis ludwigii</i>		1	2	1											
53	Ruppell's Korhaan	<i>Eupodotis rueppelii</i>			3	2			4	2	2						
54	Red-crested Korhaan	<i>Eupodotis ruficrista</i>										2	2		1		
55	Northern Black Korhaan	<i>Eupodotis afroides</i>	2									1	4	14	1		
56	Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>							1							61	
57	Spotted Thick-Knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>											1				
58	African Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus moquini</i>						2									
59	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>						16						2			
60	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>					91	32	3								
61	Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>										4	11	✓	✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November															
			31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
62	Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>												6	5			
63	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>					13	14										
64	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>					19											
65	Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>						4										
66	Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>		1		3	14	3										
67	White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>					15	12										
68	Chestnut-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius pallidus</i>						1					45					
69	African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>													2			
70	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>					100's	47										
71	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>					2	4										
72	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>					1	2										
73	Common Sandpiper	<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>						1										
74	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>												3	3			
75	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>					4	5										
76	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>					5											
77	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>					42	4										
78	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>				4	12	22						2	2			
79	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>					100's	100's										
80	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>														1		
81	Burchell's Courser	<i>Cursorius rufus</i>											2					
82	Temminck's Courser	<i>Cursorius temminckii</i>												5				
83	Double-banded Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus africanus</i>											7					
84	Bronze-winged Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus chalcopterus</i>			1													
85	Hartlaub's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus hartlaubii</i>					100's	✓	✓									
86	Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>					62	✓	✓									
87	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>					51	3										
88	Swift Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>					4	13										
89	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>					14	25										
90	Damara Tern	<i>Sternula balaenarum</i>					1	1										
91	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>					100's	100's										
92	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>					3											
93	Namaqua Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles namaqua</i>											61	6	4			

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November															
			31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
94	Double-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles bicinctus</i>									1				2	1		
95	Burchell's Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles burchelli</i>														6		
96	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia (feral)</i>	5															
97	Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>			3	1	2	1										
98	Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	14		2							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
99	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>		3			1	1			1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
100	Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>														1		
101	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>	1										4		9	12		
102	African Green Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>															6	
103	Rosy-faced Lovebird	<i>Agapornis roseicollis</i>									6	10	15					
104	Ruppell's Parrot	<i>Poicephalus rueppellii</i>											2				6	
105	Grey Go-away-Bird	<i>Corythaixoides concolor</i>		6							3	4	6		2	4	7	8
106	Levaillant's Cuckoo	<i>Clamator levaillantii</i>													1			
107	African Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus gularis</i>										2		1	1	2		
108	Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>										1						
109	African Scops Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>										1						
110	Spotted Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>			2									1				
111	Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>									2							
112	Rufous-cheeked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus rufigena</i>										2						
113	African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	4	15									3				16	
114	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>		1										6				
115	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>											16		6	40		
116	Bradfield's Swift	<i>Apus bradfieldi</i>											4			4		
117	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>												11	2			
118	White-backed Mousebird	<i>Colius colius</i>	16	4	5						6							
119	Purple Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>		1							1		1					
120	Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>	1															
121	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>															1	
122	Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>											2		1	4		
123	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>						1						44	60	45	16	
124	African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa Africana</i>		1							2			1				
125	Common Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>			1						1				1			

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November														
			31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
126	African Grey Hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>									1			9			
127	Monteiro's Hornbill	<i>Tockus monteiri</i>															2
128	Damara Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus damarensis</i>									1	2			5	1	
129	Southern Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus rufirostris</i>													5	1	
130	Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>	2							4	1	3			19		
131	Acacia Pied Barbet	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>			1												
132	Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>															1
133	Bearded Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos namaquus</i>													1		
134	White-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanioturdus torquatus</i>		1								2					
135	Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>									1						
136	Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>													2		
137	Crimson-breasted Shrike	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>			1								1		5	2	
138	Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>										1					
139	Southern White-crowned Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus anguitimens</i>								4	2	1	2	9		2	
140	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>													2	2	
141	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>													2		
142	Common Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>		3	2					1			1				
143	Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	5							2		1	6	✓	✓	✓	
144	African Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>													2	2	
145	Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>				2		1	2			3	✓	✓	✓	✓	
146	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>		10	3	6			10	12	1		✓	✓	✓	✓	
147	Sabota Lark	<i>Mirafraba sabota</i>											2	2	2		
148	Benguela Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda benguelensis</i>									1						
149	Spike-heeled Lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>											17	4			
150	Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>						2	1				19	6	2		
151	Stark's Lark	<i>Spizocorys starki</i>		1									14				
152	Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix verticalis</i>											19	13			
153	African Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>		16	12					2	3	2	4	✓	✓	✓	
154	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>										3					
155	Banded Martin	<i>Riparia cincta</i>						1				5					
156	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>				3		1				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
157	Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>	14	12	6	2	6			6		3	2				



	Common name	Scientific name	October/November														
			31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
158	Red-breasted Swallow	<i>Cecropis semirufa</i>											7				
159	Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>		1	1												
160	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>											1		4		
161	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>						H									
162	Black-chested Prinia	<i>Prinia flavicans</i>										1	1				
163	Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>									1					1	
164	Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>									1			1	2		
165	Burnt-necked Eremomela	<i>Eremomela usticollis</i>											1				
166	Bare-cheeked Babbler	<i>Turdoides gymnogenys</i>									6		7				
167	Chestnut-vented Warbler (Titbabbler)	<i>Sylvia subcaerulea</i>		2	1								1				
168	Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>											1	1			
169	Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>	14	31							6		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
170	Meves's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis mevesii</i>											6				
171	Pale-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus naboroupp</i>		40	22	1				14	42						
172	Groundscraper Thrush	<i>Psophocichla litsitsirupa</i>		1									1	2	1		
173	Kalahari Robin	<i>Cercotrichas paena</i>		2													
174	Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>												2			
175	Mountain Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe monticola</i>		3		1				6	12						
176	Tractrac Chat	<i>Cercomela tractrac</i>								1							
177	Familiar Chat	<i>Cercomela familiaris</i>		3	2	1					2						
178	Ant-eating Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>											1			1	
179	Short-toed Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola brevipes</i>		2									1				
180	Chat Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis infuscatus</i>													3	4	
181	Marico Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis mariquensis</i>	1										1	1	1	1	
182	Marico Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>		1												1	1
183	White-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris talatala</i>														1	2
184	Dusky Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris fuscus</i>		2	1		1	1			2			6			
185	White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>											8	12			6
186	Sociable Weaver	<i>Philetairus socius</i>		100s	✓	✓											
187	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		14	✓	✓	✓	✓									
188	Great Sparrow	<i>Passer motitensis</i>		3								2	6		6		
189	Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>		4	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November																	
			31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14			
190	Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>												11			✓	✓	✓	
191	Red-billed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>																		
192	Scaly-feathered Weaver	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>	2	2	✓															
193	Southern Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>		13					2					4		17	14	2		
194	Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>																	1	
195	Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>																	100's	
196	Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>															1			
197	Red-headed Finch	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>												5			1			
198	Blue Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>															2	3		
199	Violet-eared Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus granatinus</i>	1													3	2			
200	Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>		10																
201	Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>																	6	
202	Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>		2			5	4	3											
203	African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomus</i>		2													2			
204	Black-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>												3						
205	White-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra albogularis</i>		4									6							
206	Lark-like Bunting	<i>Emberiza impetuani</i>		31												44				
207	Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>														2	2			
208	Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>		4										1						
209	Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>															1			

Mammals [ () = farmed]

1	Commerson's leaf-nosed bat	<i>Hipposideros vittatus</i>																	8	
2	Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>		1																
3	African Bush Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>									6		17	12	2	2				
4	Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>	12								8	14	30					19	5	
5	Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>												2						
6	Caracal	<i>Felis caracal</i>														1				
7	Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>										3	17	9	10	5				
8	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>														1				
9	Common Genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>										2								
10	Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>													1	3				

	Common name	Scientific name	October/November														
			31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>									1			1			
12	Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>													4	6	
13	Meerkat	<i>Suricata suricatta</i>								7							
14	Spotted Hyena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>											2	3	2		
15	Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>		1	1			5			6	3	12	6	4		
16	Cape Fox	<i>Vulpes chama</i>			1						3						
17	Brown Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>					100's	100's	100's								
18	Plains Zebra	<i>Equus burchelli</i>										100's	✓	✓	✓	✓	
19	Hartmann's Mountain Zebra	<i>Equus zebra hartmannae</i>		1	7	18				6		30	41				
20	Black Rhinoceros	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>										7	1		1		
21	Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>		1								14		3		14	
22	Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>									4	12	14	✓	✓		
23	Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>	14									13	2	✓	✓		
24	Red Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus caama</i>										30		14			
25	Blue Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>										62	90	✓	✓		
26	Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>	6	40	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
27	Kirk's Dikdik	<i>Madoqua kirkii</i>												3	✓		
28	Klipspringer	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>		3													
29	Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>	1							5		1		3	✓		
(30)	(Common Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i> )	(4)														
31	Common Eland	<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>		6								2			1		
32	Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>		16							4	37	11	✓	✓		
33	Gemsbok	<i>Oryx gazella</i>		21	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
34	Heaviside's Dolphin	<i>Cephalorhynchus heavisidii</i>				21			10	12							
35	South African Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus inauris</i>		6	4								12				
36	Damara Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus princeps</i>								2							
37	Smith's Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>									3	6					
38	Congo Rope Squirrel	<i>Funisciurus congicus</i>												4	16	14	
39	South African Spring Hare	<i>Pedetes capensis</i>									14						
40	Cape Porcupine	<i>Hystrix africaeaustralis</i>									2						
41	Dassie Rat	<i>Petromus typicus</i>	1								1						

## Other species

Welwitschia, *Welwitschia mirabilis*

African Monarch, *Danaus chrysippus*

A striped Skink

A ground agama

A sand snake

A giant millipede

Tenebrionid beetles, *Various*

Side-striped Desert Skink sp.

Red-headed Rock Agama, *Agama agama*

Horned Adder, *Bitis caudalis*

A scorpion

Sunfish/Mola-mola, *Mola mola*

Ovambo Tree Skink, *Trachylepis binotata*

Common Barking Gecko, *Ptenopus garrulous*