



## NAMIBIA & BOTSWANA Where the Desert Comes Alive

July 14-31, 2019

**Tour leader: Josh Engel | Private Tour**  
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This was truly an incredible trip, the “trip of a lifetime,” as the clients put it. We saw a stunning diversity of landscapes, from harsh desert to lush riverine forest, took in the incredible diversity of African mammals, met many wonderful people, took countless photos, and of course reveled in Namibia and Botswana’s world class birding. We saw many of the region’s top birds, like Herero Chat, Dune Lark, Ludwig’s Bustard, Rüppell’s Korhaan, Rüppell’s Parrot, Damara, Monteiro’s, and Bradfield’s Hornbills, Rockrunner, Hartlaub’s Francolin, Pel’s Fishing Owl, and on and on. The flamingo and waterbird spectacle at Walvis Bay was awesome to behold. The unquestionable mammal highlight was watching an African Wild Cat hunting doves at one of Etosha’s waterholes; we also saw Lion, countless Elephants and Giraffes, Spotted-necked Otter, and so much more. These are simply fantastic countries for traveling, birding, and photography, and we certainly made the most of it.

### Top 5 birds and mammals as voted by the group

1. Pel’s Fishing Owl
2. Dune Lark
3. Kori Bustard
4. Lesser Flamingo
5. African Finfoot

1. African Wild Cat
2. Spotted-necked Otter
3. Elephant
4. Black Rhinoceros
- 5 (tie). Southern Oryx/Kudu



*Crimson-breasted Shrike. Photo by Josh Engel.*

**Day 1, July 15. Windhoek.**

Everyone arrived to Windhoek easily and we met up for breakfast in the morning. Today was going to be a leisurely arrival day—we saw some of the historic sites in Windhoek, did some shopping for supplies for the trip, had very nice meals, and of course got in some birding at the local sewage treatment plant. It's a great place to start a Namibia trip, full of waterbirds as well as birds of Kalahari scrub. Among the waterfowl were good numbers of South African Shelducks, while around the edges we found Crimson-breasted Shrike, Black-faced Waxbill, and White-backed Mousebird. There were also large numbers of Wattled Starlings present. We finished the day at the Windhoek institution Joe's Beer House for dinner.

**Day 2, July 16. Windhoek to Sossusvlei.**

We left Windhoek after breakfast for the long drive over the Khomas Hochland into the Namib Desert at Sossusvlei. We slowly picked up new Karoo and Kalahari birds like Pale Chanting Goshawk, Kalahari Scrub-Robin, and Marico Flycatcher. A fortuitous bathroom break led us to many birds, including Bokmakierie, Groundscraper Thrush, and one my favorite Namibian birds, White-tailed Shrike. A Pygmy Falcon obliged us with great views.

We stopped for a picnic lunch at the beautiful Spreetshoogte Pass, where a pair of Mountain Wheatears ate our lunch scraps. As we left and headed down the pass, we ground to a halt when a Herero Chat popped up by the roadside. We got tremendous views of this uncommon bird that is only found in the Namib Escarpment and is never easy to track down.

We made it to the lodge in the afternoon, took a break to wash the dust off our faces, then took a walk around the lodge and its property in the beautiful evening light. A highlight was petting the baby zebra that the lodge had recently rescued, but we also enjoyed very good, close views of Pale-winged Starling, Sociable Weaver, and Mountain Wheatear.

**Day 3, July 17. Sossusvlei, to Swakopmund.**

We started early to get the Sossusvlei while the morning sun was low in the sky. We had a wonderful time visiting Deadvlei and the surrounding immense red sand dunes that Namibia is rightly famous for. Birds are few in this environment, but we did see Ostrich, Pale Chanting Goshawk, Chat Flycatcher, and a few others. We stopped to look for Dune Lark as well, Namibia's only endemic bird and a lover of red sand dunes. We found it in no time at all; better put, it found us! We couldn't believe when it came right up to us, clearly looking for food handouts. We were only too happy to oblige.

We spent the remainder of the day making the long drive to the coast. We saw some good birds on the way, including both Ludwig's Bustard and Rüppell's Korhaan. We had nice views of Stark's Lark and a pair of Lappet-faced Vultures buzzed low overhead at one point, giving us unusually close views. Desert mammals were out, too, and we saw many Southern Oryx,

Springbok, and Hartmann's Mountain Zebra. We were very happy to arrive to the cool coast and have a nice dinner near our hotel.



*Dune Lark is Namibia's only country endemic. Photo by Josh Engel.*

#### **Day 4, July 18. Swakopmund and Walvis Bay.**

We started our birding day around the famous Walvis Bay Lagoon. It was incredibly full of flamingoes; thousands of both Greater and Lesser Flamingos put on a tremendous show for us and presented us with fool-proof photo ops. We also found huge numbers of Chestnut-banded Plovers and Pied Avocets and smaller numbers of other shorebirds, including Ruff, Curlew Sandpiper, Common Greenshank, and White-fronted Plover. A nice surprise was seeing three of the long-staying Red-necked Phalaropes. We ate a picnic lunch on the waterfront, where we shared our crackers with Hartlaub's, Kelp, and Gray-headed Gulls.

We had a nice break after lunch to explore the town of Swakopmund before returning to the field in the late afternoon. We birded the salt works north of Swakopmund, which had many waterbirds, including our first Ruddy Turnstone and Sandwich Tern, along with Eared Grebe, many Great Crested Terns, and lots more flamingos. We made a final birding stop back in Swakopmund, where coots, moorhens, and other birds were taking advantage of a freshwater wetland.

**Day 5, July 19. Swakopmund to Erongo Mountains.**

We started our day's birding with....botanizing. We did find our first Red-capped Larks on the way, but our main goal was to see the Namib Desert's most famous plant, *Welwitschia mirabilis*. Fortunately, they are very long-lived, so they were just where they were supposed to be. It's a worthwhile side trip to see these remarkable and utterly unique plants. We continued on towards the Erongo Mountains, finding Short-toed Rock Thrush at a bathroom stop and some close Martial Eagles along the roadside.

We spent some time after lunch birding in the town of Omaruru. Our main goal was to find Rüppell's Parrot, and not long after we started looking, we ran into a guy who took us to his backyard where he said they come to his bird feeders. We waited and eventually started hearing them call nearby, where we were able to find them perched, showing their blue bellies and yellow wings. We returned to his house, where he put out fresh seed, and they showed up at the feeder. Not bad. We also saw Damara Red-billed Hornbill here, along with Burnt-necked Eremomela, Brown Snake-Eagle, and Bearded and Cardinal Woodpeckers.

We eventually made it to the spectacular Erongo Wilderness Lodge in the late afternoon. A Peregrine Falcon put in an appearance in the failing light, and after dinner Freckled Nightjars showed nicely just outside the restaurant.



***Rüppell's Parrots favor tree-lined watercourses. Photo by Josh Engel.***



**Day 6, July 20. Erongo Mountains.**

After coffee and feeder birds—Rosy-faced Lovebird, Green-winged Pytilia, Pale-winged Starling—we took a walk on the property. It was a beautiful morning. We found Hartlaub's Francolin, the lodge's most famous avian resident, twice, but couldn't get good views. We did get good views of other rock-loving Namib endemics, Rockrunner and White-tailed Shrike.

After a delicious fresh breakfast at the lodge and a comfy mid-day break, we returned to the field doing a nature drive around the Erongo Conservancy with a guide from the lodge. We got lucky and were the only people on the trip, so that meant we could spend as much time as we wanted birding and taking pictures! The guide had a spot for Hartlaub's Francolin, and the site came through in a big way, giving us wonderful views of a pair of this very specialized bird. He also showed us an enormous, decades old Verreaux's Eagle nest, with an adult perched right on top. Augur Buzzards were also flying around the area. Short-snouted Elephant-Shrews showed off their impressive speed darting across the track several times. We enjoyed seeing Damara Dik-dik, Namibia's smallest antelope, along with many Hartmann's Mountain Zebra. We had a lovely sundowner while we learned about the local area from the guide, before returning to the lodge for dinner.

**Day 7, July 21. Erongo to Etosha National Park.**

This morning we took our time enjoying the morning show at the bird bath and feeder that is just outside the restaurant. The light was beautiful for photography as the sun rose and as hordes of Rosy-faced Lovebirds descended on the area. Many birds were taking advantage of the bounty, all offering great views, including Monteiro's Hornbill, Red-billed Francolin, Cape Bunting, Helmeted Guineafowl, and many others. Even Dassie Rat, an unusual rodent endemic to the Namib Escarpment, took part.

After another great breakfast, we set out for Namibia's flagship wildlife reserve, Etosha National Park. We arrived and within an hour had seen Black Rhinoceros, a pride of five lions, a herd of elephants drinking and bathing, and several Giraffe. Etosha really is a special place! Birding was a little slower, but we had great views of Kori Bustard, Red-crested Korhaan, and Northern Black Korhaan. Around camp, White-crowned Shrike was new for the trip and we had excellent views of Groundscraper Thrush and Crimson-breasted Gonolek. We made it to our lodge in the evening, where we enjoyed the antics of the Banded Mongoose that resided around the lodge along with a tame Meerkat that had adopted the mongooses as its family.

**Day 8, July 22. Etosha National Park.**

We enjoyed breakfast at the lodge while the sun rose before setting off for Etosha. We made our way through the park from west to east. Among the first mammals we saw were a group of Giraffes with two Black Rhinos alongside. Double-banded Coursers and Kori Bustards dotted the roadside. One waterhole we stopped at had huge numbers of Gray-backed Sparrowlarks coming in to drink, along with smaller numbers of Chestnut-backed Sparrowlarks, lots of

Namaqua Sandgrouse and Red-headed Finches, and an out-of-place Chestnut-banded Plover. Raptors along with way included Red-necked Falcon, Greater Kestrel, Bateleur, Martial Eagle, and plenty of Pale Chanting Goshawks. A flock of Southern Pied Babblers greeted our evening arrival at our lodge overlooking the park.

#### **Day 9, July 23. Etosha National Park.**

We started the morning at the lodge bordering Etosha. A Squacco Heron joined the Gray Heron at the waterhole, and we found a great mixed flock as we walked around the grounds that included Brubru, Long-billed Crombec, Black-faced Waxbill, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Brown-crowned Tchagra, the *ovamboensis* subspecies of Red-backed Scrub-Robin, Yellow-breasted Apalis, and Rufous-vented Warbler.

We headed to the park and visited a number of waterholes. At the first one, we were entertained by dozens of nervous Burchell's and Namaqua Sandgrouse and a decidedly less nervous Kori Bustard, all quenching their thirst. Another waterhole had a large flock of Red-headed Finches. While we were watching, an African Wild Cat sauntered out of the bush and took a long drink, before settling in to hunt doves. We watched for an hour as it patiently waited, stalking doves, and we saw a few dramatic failed attempts to catch them. A lone bull elephant also came out of the bush and had a long drink, as oryx, zebra, springbok, impala, and kudu came and went. We also finally found our first Violet-eared Waxbills of the trip. After a lunch and a final few giraffes, we said goodbye to Etosha and started on our way northeast.



***An African Wild Cat tries to catch a Cape Turtle Dove. Photo by Josh Engel.***

**Day 10, July 24. Etosha to Shamvura.**

We set out on our way, getting an early start to a long driving day, stopping along the road when we came across a pair of African Hawk-Eagles, and eventually stopping again for an early lunch at Roy's Camp. It was a great stop, absolutely full of birds coming to drink—dozens of Violet-eared Waxbills, along with Blue Waxbill, Chestnut Weaver, Red-billed Quelea, Green-winged Pytilia, Rosy-faced Lovebird, and Southern Red-billed and Southern Yellow-billed Hornbills. Just as we were leaving, we spotted the bird that put the camp on the birding map, a flock of Black-faced Babblers that gave us great views.

After another stop in Rundu, we arrived in the late afternoon to Shamvura Camp, set on a bluff overlooking the Okavango River and Angola, where we enjoyed the sunset and listened to hippos grunting in the distance.

**Day 11, July 25. Shamvura Camp area.**

We started the morning birding the woodlands in the area around the camp. It was very quiet, but we did slowly pick up birds, including Pale Flycatcher, Bradfield's Hornbill, Magpie Shrike, and Dark Chanting Goshawk. The camp itself was very busy with birds after breakfast. They were especially enjoying showering in the sprinklers, where we saw Hartlaub's Babbler, Collared Sunbird, African Yellow White-eye, Violet-backed Starling, and Swamp Boubou.



*Violet-eared Waxbill is one of the region's most colorful songbirds. Photo by Josh Engel.*

For the evening, we took a boat ride on the Okavango River. It was a gorgeous evening, with kingfishers, bee-eaters, and swallows in abundance. African Skimmer was a great find, and we were pleased to see African Marsh Harrier and Collared Pratincole as we enjoyed the sunset and a cold drink from a sandbank. Swamp Nightjars were all along the way as we headed back after sunset, the sky glowing orange.

#### **Day 12, July 26. Shamvura to Shakawe.**

We spent a few minutes before breakfast birding the lodge grounds again, finding our first Orange-breasted Bushshrike. We said our goodbyes to our welcoming hosts after breakfast and made our way to Mahango, a wonderful reserve on the edge of the Okavango River. We quickly found many new mammals, including Roan Antelope, Red Lechwe, Southern Reedbuck, and Cape Buffalo. The floodplain was loaded with both mammals and birds. Waterbirds were especially numerous, with Yellow-billed Stork, White-faced Whistling-Duck, Spur-winged Goose, Glossy Ibis, and Wattled Crane along with many herons and egrets. Meve's Starlings were abundant along the road as well.

We made it to our beautiful lodge along the Okavango in the afternoon, where we took it easy and enjoyed the beautiful setting on the bank of the Okavango River.

#### **Day 13, July 27. Shakawe area.**

After a little early morning birding and breakfast, we took a boat ride on the Okavango. It was a beautiful morning, still and not too cold, with few people along the river. As we were setting off, we had nice views of Giant and Malachite Kingfishers, residing on the opposite ends of the size spectrum, along with many White-fronted Bee-eaters and Wire-tailed Swallows that kept landing on the boat. A sandbar island had a flock of over 50 African Skimmers as well as a Black Heron. A backwater area held a pair of African Pygmy-Geese and a Lizard Buzzard sat in a dead tree along the river. Eventually we made it to the area where we were to look for the Okavango's most famous avian resident, Pel's Fishing Owl. We couldn't find it from the boat, so the guide got off and accidentally flushed it from its hiding place. It flew a short distance and landed right in the open where we could get great views and photos of the huge, spectacular owl.

We returned to the lodge, took a break, and spent the late afternoon wandering around the lodge's lush grounds. Birds are always abundant here, and we had a good time watch the resident birds like Red-faced Mousebird, African Green-Pigeon, our first White-browed Robin-Chat, Meve's and Burchell's Starlings, Hartlaub's Babbler, Swamp Boubou, as well as a couple of furtive Bushbuck. The flowering coral tree in front of the lodge was alive with nectar-drinkers, including Collared Sunbird, African Yellow White-eye, Hartlaub's Babbler, and Black-headed Oriole.



**Day 14, July 28. Shakawe to Katima Mulilo (Okavango River to Zambezi River).**

We had a final morning to enjoy birding at Shakawe. We didn't move off the lawn in front of the lodge and racked up over 50 species in an hour, getting great views of many of the birds, including African Green-Pigeon, African Mourning Dove, Lesser Striped Swallow, Arrow-marked and Hartlaub's Babblers, Black Crake, Holub's Golden Weaver, and many others. Totally out of the blue Diane spotted a pair of large wading birds flying over which turned out to be the very rare (or at least very rarely seen) Great Bittern, a lifer for the guide.



***Pel's Fishing Owl. Amazing. Photo by Josh Engel.***

We packed up and continued making our way east to Katima Mulilo, the easternmost town in Namibia. It was an easy drive and we arrived in the afternoon, to another wonderful riverfront lodge with lush grounds, this time on the mighty Zambezi River. After settling in we took a walk around the grounds, first with the owner who showed us a pair of roosting African Wood-Owls, then on our own, finding one the area's top birds, Schalow's Turaco, which showed off their long crest and beautiful plumage incredibly well.

We got back in the car to head to a nearby wetlands but found them mostly overgrown. We did find a Copper Sunbird in the surrounding vegetation and heard Greater Swamp-Warbler singing from the reedbeds. Since not much was happening there, we headed back to the lodge to have a sundowner and watch the river. This was a fortuitous decision, since as we chatting to other guest and enjoying the scenery, an African Finfoot swam out right in front of us! This was a bit of a "nemesis bird," as I had tried to show this bird to the clients back in 2008 in South Africa and failed. We couldn't have asked for a better way to end the day.

**Day 15, July 29. Katima Mulilo to Kasane, Botswana (Zambezi River to Chobe River).**

We started our morning with coffee and birding right from the lodge's deck overlooking the Zambezi River, after being awoken pre-dawn by the beautiful, loud song of White-browed Robin-Chat outside our rooms. The water was perfectly still, with hardly a ripple. Like in Shamvura and Shakawe, the riverine forest is alive with birds. Tropical Boubou, White-browed Robin-Chat, Tawny-flanked Prinia, Black-backed Puffback, Yellow-bellied Greenbul, and Yellow-breasted Apalis all made appearances in front of us. A pair of African Skimmers flew by, as did, briefly, a Half-collared Kingfisher. Meanwhile, Black-winged Stilts fed along a sandbar across the river.

After breakfast we packed up and headed for the nearby broadleaved woodland. Just outside the lodge gate we encountered a mixed flock, which included a Jameson's Firefinch. We encountered several mixed flocks once we got to the woodlands. Typical birds in the flocks included Brown-crowned Tchagra, Southern Black-Tit, Crested Barbet, Burchell's Starling. Our best find was a pair of cooperative African Penduline-Tits. A Bateleur flew over here.

We made it to the border, where a Bradfield's Hornbill sat in a baobab tree while we waited in line at immigration. We continued on to Kasane, where we would be for the last two nights of the trip. We had lunch, checked in to our riverside lodge, and walked around its beautiful grounds, where we were very pleased to get great views of Brown Firefinch along with typical riverine birds, like African Yellow White-eye and Collared Sunbird. We also visited a nearby lodge's grounds, where we found White-browed Coucal and had our best looks yet at Greater Blue-eared Starling. We finished the day eating dinner while a hippo fed on the nearby lawn.

**Day 16, July 30. Chobe National Park.**

We got an early start for our morning in Chobe National Park. It was cool in the early morning as it tends to be here in July, and it took a little while for the birds and animals to get active. But they certainly did get active. Flocks of seed-eating birds littered the bare grounds close to the Chobe River—Blue Waxbills, Red-billed and Brown Firefinches, Green-winged Pytilias, and Southern Gray-headed Sparrows. African Fish-Eagles seemed like they were everywhere. A Three-banded Courser seemingly warming itself in the morning sun, presumably before retiring to its daytime hiding place, was a great surprise—and a new bird for my Botswana list. We stopped to have a picnic breakfast at what turned out to be an extremely birdy spot. There was a big group of seed-eating birds on the ground, but they retreated to a thicket and started making a lot of noise. All of the sudden a Pearl-spotted Owlet burst out of the thicket and landed on a small twig in the middle of the clearing, long enough for all of us to get multiple scope views. But if the owl was hunting the waxbills, it wasn't successful. The sight of 60+ Blue Waxbills, 20+ Red-billed Firefinches, and the rest of the seadeaters decorating a single thicket was very memorable.

Throughout the morning, giraffes seemed to be everywhere. We even watched two males fighting, even though one was much larger than the other. We encountered a huge herd of buffalo at the river's edge. After a morning of only seeing a few distant elephants, we finally found some of the herds that Chobe is famous for, getting many close encounters with family groups, including many young ones. The baboons were also very entertaining, with the many youngsters playing and fighting and nagging the adults and generally acting like children. We also spotted one of Chobe's special antelopes, Puku, but only from a distance.



***Boat rides on the Chobe River are incredible for photographing riverine birds, like Malachite Kingfisher. Photo by Josh Engel.***

We took a break after lunch in a local restaurant to be primed for our last afternoon—a wildlife boat ride on the Chobe River. It was a beautiful evening as we headed towards the national park. We focused on getting good views of birds and in that regards were very successful. We had up close and personal views and great photo ops of birds like Malachite Kingfisher, Yellow-billed Stork, African Spoonbill, African Jacana, Spur-winged Goose, African Hawk-Eagle, and many others. We saw no fewer than four species of birds eating fish—Malachite and Pied Kingfisher, Yellow-billed Stork, and Gray Heron. Of course, the mammals were incredible, too. We had very close and prolonged views of a lone Spotted-necked Otter, even seeing it out of the water, watching us while we watched it. There were many Waterbuck, Red Lechwe, Hippopotamus, and Cape Buffalo. We finished the boat ride watching the sun set behind a herd of African Elephants, having an evening drink then walking across the river from Sedudu Island back to the “mainland.” But we weren’t quite done yet—a Collared Palm-Thrush was singing from the lodge garden when we stepped off the boat, giving us views in the semi-darkness.

**Day 17, July 31. Chobe departure.**

It was the final morning of July and, sadly, the final morning of the tour. We birded around the lovely lodge property before breakfast and were happy and surprised to find three more new birds for the trip, an African Reed Warbler skulking through the reeds, a Red-faced Cisticola that obliged us with scope views, and a Long-crested Eagle perched across the river in Namibia. A small flock of Brown Firefinches was very cooperative along the river's edge. Our breakfast was interrupted by the friendly lodge staff who told us that a Collared Palm-Thrush was near the lodge entrance. We followed them out to find it hopping around the parking lot!

We enjoyed our final views of the now familiar drongos, bulbuls, rollers, weavers, bee-eaters, and francolins, before finally it was time to head to the airport and start the long journey home. It had been an incredible trip, the "trip of a lifetime," as the clients put it. We saw a stunning diversity of landscapes, from harsh desert to lush riverine forest, took in the incredible diversity of African mammals, met many wonderful people, took countless photos, and of course reveled in Namibia and Botswana's world class birding.

**BIRD LIST. 315 species.** Taxonomy follows the Clements/eBird Checklist, 2019 update. Former or alternate English names are in parentheses. (H) = heard only; (L) = tour leader only. The global IUCN red list status is listed for threatened and near-threatened species: CR=Critically Endangered, EN=Endangered, VU=Vulnerable, NT=Near-threatened.

Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>
White-faced Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>
South African Shelduck	<i>Tadorna cana</i>
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>
African Pygmy-Goose	<i>Nettapus auritus</i>
Hottentot Teal	<i>Spatula hottentota</i>
Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>
Red-billed Duck	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
Hartlaub's Francolin	<i>Pternistis hartlaubi</i>
Red-billed Francolin	<i>Pternistis adspersus</i>
Swainson's Francolin	<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>
Crested Francolin	<i>Dendroperdix sephaena</i>
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>
Lesser Flamingo (NT)	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Eared (Black-necked) Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>



Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>
Mourning Collared-Dove (African Mourning Dove)	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>
Ring-necked Dove (Cape Turtle Dove)	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>
Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>
Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>
African Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>
Namaqua Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles namaqua</i>
Double-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles bicinctus</i>
Burchell's Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles burchelli</i>
Kori Bustard (NT)	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>
Ludwig's Bustard (EN)	<i>Neotis ludwigii</i>
Rüppell's Bustard (Korhaan)	<i>Eupodotis rueppellii</i>
Red-crested Bustard (Korhaan)	<i>Eupodotis ruficrista</i>
White-quilled Bustard (Northern Black Korhaan)	<i>Eupodotis afraoides</i>
Schalow's Turaco	<i>Tauraco schalowi</i>
Gray Go-away-bird	<i>Corythaixoides concolor</i>
Coppery-tailed Coucal	<i>Centropus cupreicaudus</i>
White-browed Coucal	<i>Centropus superciliosus</i>
Red-chested Cuckoo (H)	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>
Fiery-necked Nightjar (H)	<i>Caprimulgus pectoralis</i>
Swamp Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus natalensis</i>
Freckled Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus tristigma</i>
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
African Palm-Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>
African Rail (H)	<i>Rallus caerulescens</i>
Eurasian Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>
African (Purple) Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>
Black Crake	<i>Zapornia flavirostra</i>
African Finfoot	<i>Podica senegalensis</i>
Wattled Crane	<i>Bugeranus carunculatus</i>
Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>
Spotted Thick-knee (H)	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
African Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus moquini</i>
Long-toed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus crassirostris</i>
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>

White-headed (White-crowned) Lapwing	<i>Vanellus albiceps</i>
Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>
Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>
Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>
Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>
White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>
Chestnut-banded Plover (NT)	<i>Charadrius pallidus</i>
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>
Curlew Sandpiper (NT)	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Double-banded Courser	<i>Smutornis africanus</i>
Three-banded Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus cinctus</i>
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>
Gray-hooded Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>
Hartlaub's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus hartlaubii</i>
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Great Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>
African Skimmer (NT)	<i>Rynchops flavirostris</i>
African Openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>
Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>
Long-tailed (Reed) Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>
Crowned Cormorant (NT)	<i>Microcarbo coronatus</i>
Great (White-breasted) Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Cape Cormorant (EN)	<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>
Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
Great Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>

Gray Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Intermediate Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Black-winged (Black-shouldered) Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
Lappet-faced Vulture (EN)	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>
White-backed Vulture (CR)	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
Cape Griffon (Vulture) (EN)	<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>
Bateleur (NT)	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>
Black-breasted (Black-chested) Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>
Brown Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>
Martial Eagle (VU)	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>
Tawny Eagle (VU)	<i>Aquila rapax</i>
Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>
African Hawk-Eagle	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>
Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>
Dark Chanting-Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>
Pale Chanting-Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>
African Marsh-Harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>
African Goshawk	<i>Accipiter tachiro</i>
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
Little Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter minullus</i>
Black Goshawk (Sparrowhawk)	<i>Accipiter melanoleucus</i>
African Fish-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>
Augur Buzzard	<i>Buteo augur</i>
Pel's Fishing-Owl	<i>Scotopelia peli</i>

Pearl-spotted Owlet  
African Wood-Owl  
White-backed Mousebird  
Red-faced Mousebird  
Eurasian (African) Hoopoe  
Green Woodhoopoe  
Common Scimitarbill  
Southern Ground-Hornbill  
Bradfield's Hornbill  
African Gray Hornbill  
Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill  
Monteiro's Hornbill  
Southern Red-billed Hornbill  
Damara Red-billed Hornbill  
Half-collared Kingfisher  
Malachite Kingfisher  
Brown-hooded Kingfisher  
Giant Kingfisher  
Pied Kingfisher  
White-fronted Bee-eater  
Little Bee-eater  
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater  
Southern Carmine Bee-eater (L)  
Lilac-breasted Roller  
Rufous-crowned (Purple) Roller  
Crested Barbet  
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird  
(Acacia) Pied Barbet  
Black-collared Barbet  
Lesser Honeyguide  
Cardinal Woodpecker  
Bearded Woodpecker  
Golden-tailed Woodpecker  
Pygmy Falcon  
Rock Kestrel  
Greater Kestrel  
Red-necked Falcon  
Peregrine Falcon  
Rosy-faced Lovebird  
Meyer's Parrot

*Glaucidium perlatum*  
*Strix woodfordii*  
*Colius colius*  
*Urocolius indicus*  
*Upupa epops*  
*Phoeniculus purpureus*  
*Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*  
*Bucorvus leadbeateri*  
*Lophoceros bradfieldi*  
*Lophoceros nasutus*  
*Tockus leucomelas*  
*Tockus monteiri*  
*Tockus rufirostris*  
*Tockus damarensis*  
*Alcedo semitorquata*  
*Corythornis cristatus*  
*Halcyon albiventris*  
*Megaceryle maxima*  
*Ceryle rudis*  
*Merops bullockoides*  
*Merops pusillus*  
*Merops hirundineus*  
*Merops nubicoides*  
*Coracias caudatus*  
*Coracias naevius*  
*Trachyphonus vaillantii*  
*Pogoniulus chrysoconus*  
*Tricholaema leucomelas*  
*Lybius torquatus*  
*Indicator minor*  
*Chloropicus fuscescens*  
*Chloropicus namaquus*  
*Campethera abingoni*  
*Polihierax semitorquatus*  
*Falco rupicolus*  
*Falco rupicoloides*  
*Falco chicquera*  
*Falco peregrinus*  
*Agapornis roseicollis*  
*Poicephalus meyeri*



Rüppell's Parrot	<i>Poicephalus rueppellii</i>
White-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanioturdus torquatus</i>
Chinspot Batis	<i>Batis molitor</i>
Pirit Batis	<i>Batis pririt</i>
White Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>
Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>
Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>
Tropical Boubou	<i>Laniarius major</i>
Gabon (Swamp) Boubou	<i>Laniarius bicolor</i>
Crimson-breasted Gonolek (Shrike)	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>
Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>
Sulphur-breasted (Orange-breasted) Bushshrike	<i>Telophorus sulfureopectus</i>
Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>
Magpie Shrike	<i>Corvinella melanoleuca</i>
White-crowned Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus anguitimens</i>
African Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>
Spike-heeled Lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>
Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix leucotis</i>
Gray-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix verticalis</i>
Sabota Lark	<i>Calendulauda sabota</i>
Dune Lark	<i>Calendulauda erythrochlamys</i>
Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>
Stark's Lark	<i>Spizocorys starki</i>
Pink-billed Lark	<i>Spizocorys conirostris</i>
Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>
Banded Martin	<i>Riparia cincta</i>
Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>
Pearl-breasted Swallow	<i>Hirundo dimidiata</i>
Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>
Rufous-chested (Red-breasted) Swallow	<i>Cecropis semirufa</i>
Gray-rumped Swallow	<i>Pseudhirundo griseopyga</i>
Southern Black-Tit	<i>Melaniparus niger</i>
Carp's Tit	<i>Melaniparus carpi</i>
African Penduline-Tit	<i>Anthoscopus caroli</i>
Southern Penduline-Tit	<i>Anthoscopus minutus</i>

Yellow-bellied Greenbul	<i>Chlorocichla flaviventris</i>
Terrestrial Brownbul	<i>Phyllastrephus terrestris</i>
Common (Dark-capped) Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>
Black-fronted (Red-eyed) Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>
Cape (Long-billed) Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>
Rockrunner	<i>Achaetops pycnopygius</i>
African Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>
Lesser Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>
Greater Swamp Warbler (H)	<i>Acrocephalus rufescens</i>
Little Rush-Warbler	<i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>
Greencap Eremomela	<i>Eremomela scotops</i>
Burnt-neck Eremomela	<i>Eremomela usticollis</i>
Barred Wren-Warbler	<i>Calamonastes fasciolatus</i>
Green-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>
Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>
Black-chested Prinia	<i>Prinia flavicans</i>
Red-faced Cisticola	<i>Cisticola erythrops</i>
Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>
Red-headed (Gray-backed) Cisticola	<i>Cisticola subruficapilla</i>
Chirping Cisticola	<i>Cisticola pipiens</i>
Desert Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aridulus</i>
Rufous-vented Warbler (Chestnut-vented Tit-Babbler)	<i>Sylvia subcaerulea</i>
African Yellow White-eye	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>
Hartlaub's Babbler	<i>Turdoides hartlaubii</i>
Black-faced Babbler	<i>Turdoides melanops</i>
Southern Pied-Babbler	<i>Turdoides bicolor</i>
Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>
Mariqua (Marico) Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis mariquensis</i>
Pale Flycatcher	<i>Agricola pallidus</i>
Chat Flycatcher	<i>Agricola infuscatus</i>
Ashy Flycatcher	<i>Fraseria caerulescens</i>
Herero Chat	<i>Melaenornis herero</i>
Southern Black-Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pammelaina</i>
Kalahari Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas paena</i>
Red-backed (White-browed) Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>
White-browed Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha heuglini</i>
Collared Palm-Thrush	<i>Cichladusa arquata</i>

Short-toed Rock-Thrush  
African Stonechat  
Karoo Chat  
Familiar Chat  
Mountain Wheatear  
Groundscraper Thrush  
Wattled Starling  
Violet-backed Starling  
Pale-winged Starling  
Burchell's Starling  
Meves's Starling  
Greater Blue-eared Starling  
Cape Starling  
Red-billed Oxpecker  
Collared Sunbird  
Scarlet-chested Sunbird  
Mariqua (Marico) Sunbird  
White-breasted (White-bellied) Sunbird  
Dusky Sunbird  
Copper Sunbird  
Cape Wagtail  
African Pied Wagtail  
African Pipit  
Yellow-fronted Canary  
Black-throated Canary  
Yellow Canary  
Cape Bunting  
House Sparrow  
Great Rufous Sparrow  
Cape Sparrow  
Southern Gray-headed Sparrow  
Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver  
Scaly Weaver (Scaly-feathered Finch)  
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver  
Sociable Weaver  
Red-headed Weaver  
Spectacled Weaver  
Holub's Golden-Weaver (Golden Weaver)  
Southern Brown-throated Weaver  
Lesser Masked-Weaver

*Monticola brevipes*  
*Saxicola torquatus*  
*Cercomela schlegelii*  
*Cercomela familiaris*  
*Oenanthe monticola*  
*Psophocichla litsitsirupa*  
*Creatophora cinerea*  
*Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*  
*Onychognathus nabouroup*  
*Lamprotornis australis*  
*Lamprotornis mevesii*  
*Lamprotornis chalybaeus*  
*Lamprotornis nitens*  
*Buphagus erythrorhynchus*  
*Hedydipna collaris*  
*Chalcomitra senegalensis*  
*Cinnyris mariquensis*  
*Cinnyris talatala*  
*Cinnyris fuscus*  
*Cinnyris cupreus*  
*Motacilla capensis*  
*Motacilla aguimp*  
*Anthus cinnamomeus*  
*Crithagra mozambica*  
*Crithagra atrogularis*  
*Crithagra flaviventris*  
*Emberiza capensis*  
*Passer domesticus*  
*Passer motitensis*  
*Passer melanurus*  
*Passer diffusus*  
*Bubalornis niger*  
*Sporopipes squamifrons*  
*Plocepasser mahali*  
*Philetairus socius*  
*Anaplectes rubriceps*  
*Ploceus ocularis*  
*Ploceus xanthops*  
*Ploceus xanthopterus*  
*Ploceus intermedius*

Southern Masked-Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>
Chestnut Weaver	<i>Ploceus rubiginosus</i>
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>
Grosbeak (Thick-billed) Weaver	<i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
Black-faced Waxbill	<i>Estrilda erythronotos</i>
Southern Cordonbleu (Blue Waxbill)	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>
Violet-eared Waxbill	<i>Granatina granatina</i>
Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>
Brown Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta nitidula</i>
Jameson's Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rhodopareia</i>
Red-headed Finch	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>
Eastern Paradise-Whydah	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>
Shaft-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua regia</i>

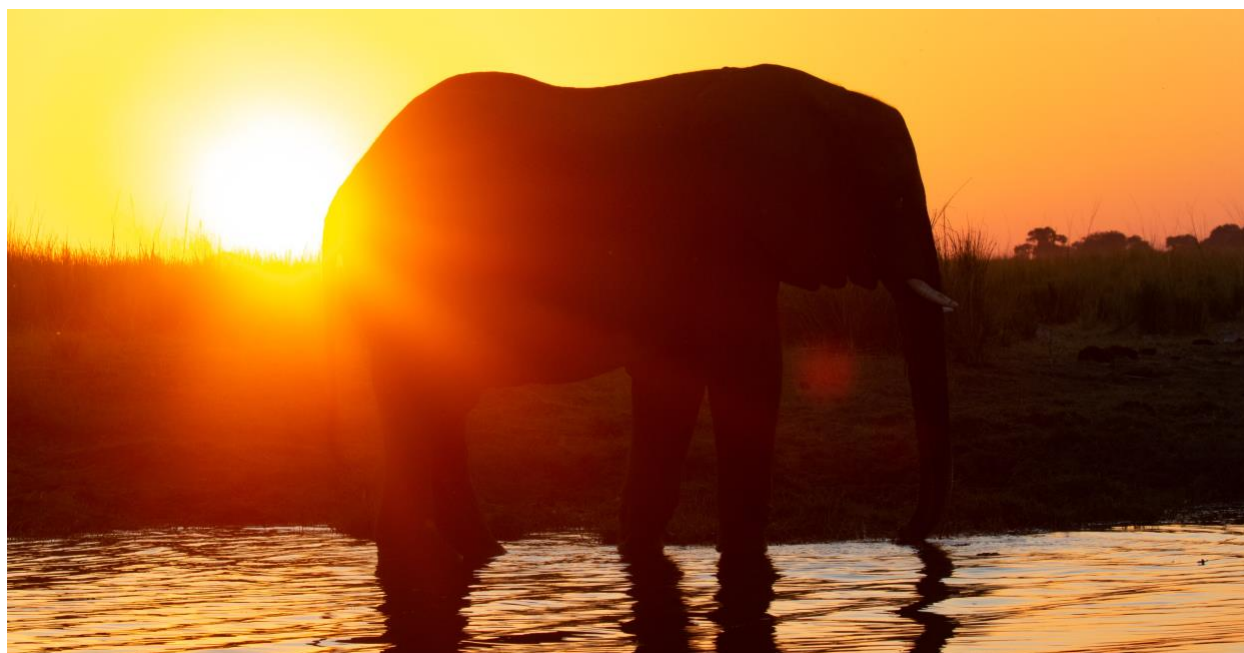
**MAMMAL LIST. 40 species.** As there is no standardized list of English mammal names, the names used here are ones in common usage (with alternate names are in parentheses). (H) = heard only; (L) = tour leader only. The global IUCN red list status is listed for threatened and near-threatened species: CR=Critically Endangered, EN=Endangered, VU=Vulnerable, NT=Near-threatened.

Short-snouted Elephant-shrew	<i>Elephantulus brachyrhynchus</i>
Dassie Rat	<i>Petromus typicus</i>
Cape Fur Seal	<i>Actophilornis pusillus</i>
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>
Vervet Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus aethiops</i>
South African Ground Squirrel	<i>Geosciurus inauris</i>
Tree Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>
Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i>
Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>
Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>
African Wild Cat	<i>Felis sylvestris</i>
Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>
Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>
Giraffe	<i>Camelopardus giraffa</i>
Burchell's Zebra	<i>Equus burchelli</i>
Hartmann's Mountain Zebra	<i>Equus hartmannae</i>
Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibious</i>



Black Rhino  
Warthog  
Buffalo  
Bushbuck  
Greater Kudu  
Southern Oryx (Gemsbok)  
Roan (Antelope)  
Springbok  
Southern Reedbuck  
Common Waterbuck  
Red Lechwe  
Puku  
Duiker  
Steenbuck  
Tsessebe  
Damara Dikdik  
Impala  
Red Hartebeest  
Blue Wildebeest  
Slender Mongoose  
Banded Mongoose  
Yellow Mongoose  
Spotted-necked Otter

*Diceros bicornis*  
*Phacochoerus africanus*  
*Syncerus caffer*  
*Tragelaphus scriptus*  
*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*  
*Oryx gazella*  
*Hippotragus equines*  
*Antidorcas marsupialis*  
*Redunca arundinum*  
*Kobus ellipsiprymnus*  
*Kobus lechwe*  
*Kobus vardonii*  
*Cephalophus harveyi*  
*Raphicerus campestris*  
*Damaliscus lunatus*  
*Madoqua kirkii*  
*Aepyceros melampus*  
*Alcelaphus buselaphus*  
*Connochaetes taurinus*  
*Herpestes sanguinea*  
*Mungos mungo*  
*Cynictis penicillata*  
*Lutra maculicollis*



***An Elephant takes a sunset drink during our last evening of the trip. Photo by Josh Engel.***