



**SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA: CUSTOM TOUR
August and September 2017**

By Jason Boyce



Rosy-faced Lovebird – the most photogenic species of the trip

TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 – Arrival in Cape Town
 Day 2 – Cape Town area
 Day 3 – Cape Town to Springbok
 Day 4 – Port Nolloth day trip
 Day 5 – Springbok to Pofadder
 Day 6 – Pofadder to Augrabies Falls National Park
 Day 7 – Augrabies Falls National Park to the Kgalagadi
 Day 8 – A full day in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park
 Day 9 – A full day in the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park
 Day 10 – Mata Mata to |Ai-|Ais/Richtersveld Transfrontier Park
 Day 11 – The Fish River Canyon
 Day 12 – |Ai-|Ais north towards Sossusvlei
 Day 13 – Further north and arrival in Sossusvlei
 Day 14 – Sossusvlei to Walvis Bay
 Day 15 – Full day at Walvis Bay
 Day 16 – Walvis Bay to Spitzkoppe to Erongo Wilderness
 Day 17 – Erongo Wilderness Lodge
 Day 18 – Erongo Wilderness to Uis
 Day 19 – Uis to the Kunene region
 Day 20 – The Zebra Mountains and the Kunene region
 Day 21 – Kunene region to Dolomite Camp, Etosha
 Day 22 – Dolomite Camp to Okaukuejo Camp, Etosha
 Day 23 – Okaukuejo Camp area
 Day 24 – Okaukuejo to Namutoni Camp, Etosha
 Day 25 – Namutoni Camp to Waterberg Plateau
 Day 26 – Waterberg Plateau to Okonjima Nature Reserve
 Day 27 – Okonjima Nature Reserve to Windhoek

Overnight

Fernwood Manor, Cape Town
 Fernwood Manor, Cape Town
 Naries Guest Farm, Springbok
 Naries Guest Farm, Springbok
 Pofadder Hotel, Pofadder
 Augrabies Falls National Park
 Twee Rivieren, Kgalagadi
 Twee Rivieren, Kgalagadi
 Mata Mata, Kgalagadi
 Ai Ais Resort, Namibia
 Ai Ais Resort, Namibia
 Betta Camp, Maltahöhe
 Sossus Dune Lodge, Sesriem
 Lagoon Loge, Walvis Bay
 Lagoon Loge, Walvis Bay
 Erongo Wilderness Lodge, Omaruru
 Erongo Wilderness Lodge, Omaruru
 Brandberg Rest Camp, Uis
 Kunene River Lodge, Ruacana
 Kunene River Lodge, Ruacana
 Dolomite Camp, western Etosha
 Okaukuejo Camp, central Etosha
 Okaukuejo Camp, central Etosha
 Namutoni Camp, eastern Etosha
 Waterberg Plateau National Park
 Okonjima Lodge, Okonjima

OVERVIEW

Well, what a trip this has been! Many thanks to John and Alison for making this a really memorable tour! Many an excellent photograph was taken, and many fun moments were had. If you are looking to do a trip through any parts of Southern Africa and want to be in control of your own schedule, time spent at sightings, and of course photography, then this is the way to do it. We recorded 340 species of birds and 51 species of mammals on this tour, with an additional 12 species of reptiles. What we really enjoyed was the ability to focus time in the early morning and late afternoon lights for photography, and because of this a really high percentage of birds and mammals seen were photographed well! The journey begun in Cape Town, and after spending a few days there we traversed a large portion of the Northern Cape, including the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, before we entered Namibia at Mata Mata. We explored the Fish River Canyon and thereafter made our way to Walvis Bay via the famous Sossusvlei. We headed up the escarpment and eventually found ourselves at the Kunene River and the Zebra Mountain near Angola. Lastly, we explored Etosha National Park thoroughly and ended off by visiting the Waterberg Plateau National Park.

29 August, Day 1 – Arrival in Cape Town, birding the eastern part of False Bay

John and Alison arrived in the midmorning. We jumped into our vehicle and headed east to bird some of the sites around False Bay. Some incredible scenery and a few local birding spots were great to get acquainted with the more common Cape Town and South African bird species. It was a stop-start day because of some (much needed) rain in the area, but with a total of 53 species we did well, considering. Some excellent birds to kick off the trip included the cracking **Cape Sugarbird** (both males and females) feeding on proteas in Rooiels. Stops on the side of the road produced **Cape Robin-Chat**, **Cape Spurfowl**, **Cape White-eye**, **Southern Double-collared Sunbird**, and **Kelp** and **Hartlaub's Gulls**, as well as the very common stunner, **Red-winged Starling**. Harold Porter National Botanical Garden served as both shelter from the rain and a fantastic lunch spot. We also picked up the likes of **Sombre Greenbul**, **Cape Bulbul**, **African Dusky Flycatcher**, **Fiscal Flycatcher**, and **Cape Batis**. The **African Penguins** at Betty's Bay were surely a highlight of the day – it's something special to watch hundreds of penguins going about their everyday activities. Other birding around Stony Point was great; **African Oystercatcher** as well as all four cormorants, **White-breasted**, **Cape**, **Crowned**, and the endangered **Bank Cormorants** were all accounted for.

30 August, Day 2 – Cape Point and the Cape Peninsula

A fantastic breakfast at the guest house in Newlands stood us in good stead for a full days birding around the Cape Peninsula. Cape Point was our first port of call, and even though it was once again cold and wet we really enjoyed seeing some fynbos species like the endemic **Orange-breasted Sunbird**, **Malachite Sunbird**, **Cape Grassbird**, and **Bokmakierie**, as well as a few **Common Ostriches** feeding right on the road verge. Thousands of **Cape Cormorants** roost and breed on the cliffs near the Cape of Good Hope, and while we were there watching them fly back and forth we also managed sightings of **Cape Gannet**, **White-chinned Petrel**, and **Sooty Shearwater** from shore. Mammal sightings on the peninsula included bontebok, common eland, and Cape fur seal. **African Harrier-Hawk**, **Malachite Sunbird**, and **African Oystercatcher** were a few of the last species we picked up that morning.



African Oystercatcher – Cape Point

The world-renowned Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden is a must visit for all birders and nature enthusiasts alike. We were greeted at the entrance by a pair of **Spotted Eagle-Owls** that have taken up residence at the garden entrance and thereafter enjoyed the garden as well as the likes of **African Dusky Flycatcher**, many **Cape White-eyes**, **Cape Canary**, **Sweet Waxbill**, and **Black Saw-wing**. After an enjoyable lunch we headed to a birder's favorite spot, Strandfontein Sewage Works. This wonderful area delivered an excellent display of species, as has been come to be expected. **Cape Teal**, **Red-billed Teal**, **Cape Shoveler**, **Spur-winged Goose**, **Pied Avocet**, **Black-winged Stilt**, and **Little Grebe** became the first few species that we connected with. Thereafter we found **Common Waxbill**, **Levaillant's** and **Zitting Cisticolas**, **Glossy Ibis**, **Kittlitz's Plover**, a single **Grey Plover**, **Common Greenshank**, **Grey-headed Gull**, and **Caspian Tern**, and a big flock of **Greater Flamingos** came coasting over the ponds in a sea of pink. **Southern Masked** and **Cape Weaver** showed really well, both in some cracking breeding plumage. **Black Sparrowhawk** flew over, and **White Stork**, **Lesser Swamp Warbler**, **Water Thick-knee**, and **Brown-throated Martin** were the last highlights before we headed back to our guest house and a scrumptious dinner.

31 August, Day 3 – Sir Lowry's Pass and onwards to the Northern Cape

Having missed Cape Rockjumper on the first day we deemed it necessary to give it another try, this time at one of the Sir Lowry's Pass sites. An enjoyable walk up the mountain produced great visuals of **Cape Sugarbird** and **Orange-breasted Sunbird** and decent visuals of the shy **Victorin's Warbler**. The **Cape Rockjumper** really did play hard to get, though, and only showed once we had almost thrown in the towel. We did also record **Cape Siskin**, **Booted Eagle**, and **Neddicky** at this site. A really long drive to Springbok was on the cards, and therefore we didn't manage to spend much more time birding. However, we did record a few more excellent species, these included a pair of **Blue Cranes** near Malmesbury and about seven **Ludwig's Bustards** as well as **Cape Clapper Lark**, **Yellow Canary**, and **Ant-eating Chat** before Kamieskroon. The scenic hillsides of Kamieskroon hold **Ground Woodpecker**, and we did well to find one before the sun went down. A well-earned dinner was enjoyed, and we retreated to the warmth of the rooms to prepare for another day's birding tomorrow.

1 September, Day 4 – Port Nolloth

A morning walk before breakfast in a chilly wind produced **Karoo Lark**, **White-throated Canary**, and **Pale-winged Starling**. After breakfast we began our long day's travel to the Port Nolloth area, where we would target a few localized species. We found **Cape Long-billed Lark**, a real cracker of a lark (probably bird of the trip?), showing off its very long decurved bill as well as singing.



Cape Long-billed Lark – Port Nolloth

Tractrac Chat, Pale Chanting Goshawk, Greater and Rock Kestrels, Namaqua Sandgrouse, and Ant-eating Chat were also present in good numbers in the area. The big target for the day was **Barlow's Lark**, which did require some effort on our part. But eventually we managed to find one about 50 kilometers north of Port Nolloth. Supporting acts from **Rufous-eared Warbler** and **Kori Bustard** were also great, even though they avoided our cameras for now. We headed back to Springbok, called our bird list, and prepared for our drive to Pofadder the next day.

2 September, Day 5 – Springbok birding, travel to Pofadder

We enjoyed a relaxed morning spending some time birding around the grounds and getting good looks, and some really good photographs, of some of the more common Karoo species. Some of these included **Malachite Sunbird, Bokmakierie, Grey Tit, Orange River White-eye, Acacia Pied Barbet, White-throated Canary, and Karoo Scrub Robin**.

After breakfast we went to Goegap Nature Reserve near Springbok, where we were able to take a relaxed drive looking for some localized species. We picked up **Cinnamon-breasted Warbler**, which wasn't very accommodating, quite unlike **Karoo Eremomela, Large-billed and Spike-heeled Larks, Karoo Chat, and Capped Wheatear**, which were all great and showed very nicely.

En route to Pofadder we stopped off near Aggeneys to see if we could find **Red Lark**. We were successful, but it disappeared before we were able to get any prolonged views. We did also enjoy **Pygmy Falcon** as well as a yellow mongoose in this area before making our way to the Pofadder Hotel.

3 September, Day 6 – Pofadder to Augrabies Falls National Park

Generally today was a fairly tough day bird-wise, not too much was encountered between Pofadder and Augrabies, and the birding in Augrabies itself was slow. Many different hypotheses were thrown on the table as to why things were slow and quiet, the most likely scenario was the fact that drought has played a part in this area for many months and bird populations were probably feeling the force of it. Nevertheless we encountered some great birds;

highlights of the morning were **Tractrac Chat**, **Pale Chanting Goshawk**, **Acacia Pied** and **Crested Barbets**, **African Pied Wagtail**, **African Palm Swift**, **African Reed Warbler**, **Fiscal Flycatcher**, and a stunning **Common Scimitarbill**. **Alpine Swifts** appeared in good numbers over the falls and would occasionally drop low enough for a few photos. **Sociable Weaver** and **Scaly-feathered Weaver** were some of the avian highlights on the drive in the afternoon. Mammal sightings were good; we saw giraffe, greater kudu, klipspringer, steenbok, common eland, vervet monkey, rock hyrax, South African ground squirrel, and yellow and large grey mongooses. The landscape and the falls themselves were stunning and certainly made for an enjoyable day, even though birding was a little tough.

4 September, Day 7 – Augrabies Falls National Park to Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park

A beautiful morning greeted us in Augrabies Falls National Park, where we spent an hour or so picking up a few birds. Other than the usual characters like **Pale-winged Starling**, **Rock Martin**, **Alpine Swift**, **Karoo Scrub Robin**, and **White-backed Mousebird** we also picked up **Greater Striped Swallow**, **Pririt Batis**, and a very out of range **Grey Tit-Flycatcher**. We stopped off near the bridge on the way out and enjoyed photographing **Little Swift** and seeing **Swallow-tailed Bee-eater**, **White-rumped Swift**, **Dusky Sunbird**, **Southern Fiscal**, and the smart but very common **Cape Sparrow**. Most of the middle part of the day was spent driving to the much anticipated and famous Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. Before we actually arrived at the park we had found some top Kalahari birds, the likes of **Crimson-breasted Shrike**, **Red-headed Finch**, **Southern Yellow-billed** and **African Grey Hornbills**, **Northern Black Korhaan**, and **Groundscraper Thrush**. We then took a drive in the park for the last couple of hours of daylight; this was excellent for some bird photography. We managed to find **Scaly-feathered Weaver**, **White-browed Sparrow-Weaver**, **Marico Flycatcher**, **Sociable Weaver**, **Yellow Canary**, and the highlights – both **Verreaux's Eagle-Owl** and **Namaqua Sandgrouse** with chicks, two special sightings. The following few days would be spent in the park, which would provide us with some excellent opportunities for large game, some great photographic opportunities that John enjoyed tremendously, and a night drive.



Alpine Swift – a constant presence at Augrabies Falls National Park

5 September, Day 8 – Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park

The massive Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park is a magical place, to say the least. I personally love every day spent and every sighting in the park. Today we enjoyed a full day in the southern parts of the park, the early morning light was lovely, and the first few species we found were **Pale Chanting Goshawk**, **Gabar Goshawk**, **Black-chested Prinia**, **Sociable Weaver**, and many **Scaly-feathered Weavers**. The waterholes are known to attract many species, a few seedeaters such as **Yellow Canary** as well as **Ring-necked** and **Namaqua Doves**. This activity around the waterholes attracts predators like falcons; we did well to see a few different **Lanner Falcons** as well as the attractive **Red-necked Falcon**. Other raptors that we added today included **Tawny Eagle**, **Bateleur**, and **Black Harrier**.

We headed back to Twee Rivieren for lunch, and after a quick rest we were out again, catching a flurry of activity in the afternoon. **Chat** and **Marico Flycatchers**, **Southern Fiscal**, **Northern Black Korhaan**, **Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark**, **Fawn-colored Lark**, and **Spike-heeled Lark** were all out and about, many sitting up in stunning light for cracking pictures to be had. A few small mammals were enjoyed too, like four-striped grass mouse, Brandts's whistling rat, and bushveld sengi.

6 September, Day 9 – Twee Rivieren to Mata Mata, Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park

On one of the best days that we spent in the park we drove from the southern camp, Twee Rivieren, to the western camp, Mata Mata. The whole 112-kilometer route was alive with bird activity, many a **Scaly-feathered** and **Sociable Weavers** flitting back and forth in the Kalahari grasslands. One of the spectacles of the morning was watching both **Namaqua** and **Burchell's Sandgrouse** in large flocks above and on a waterhole; we were able to watch from the small museum atop the side of the river bed. **Cape Crow** came to visit us at the museum, looking for any morsel it could find.



Two male Burchell's Sandgrouse in flight near a waterhole – Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park

Verreaux's Eagle-Owl is surprisingly easy to spot, roosting in some of the larger acacia trees along the river bed, and we did well to pick up a few different pairs. Other species that we

enjoyed along the way included **Pearl-spotted Owlet**, **Striped Kingfisher** calling above the road, **Kori Bustard** (many individuals prowling the dry river beds), **Violet-eared Waxbill**, **Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill**, and the stunning **Swallow-tailed Bee-eater**. The bee-eaters were a joy to photograph in really wonderful light.

We then also enjoyed an extremely productive night drive at Mata Mata. It produced spring hare, bat-eared and Cape foxes, small-spotted genet, African wildcat, **Verreaux's** and **Spotted Eagle-Owls**, and black-backed jackal.

7 September, Day 10 – Mata Mata to Fish River Canyon, Namibia

Today would be spent crossing the border into Namibia and traveling southwest to |Ai-|Ais/Richtersveld Transfrontier Park near the Fish River Canyon. It was a long day's travel with a few stops, which yielded a number of new species. Most notably were **Eastern Clapper Lark** and a large flock of **Stark's Larks** within some grassy habitat before Keetmanshoop. We also picked up **Rufous-eared Warbler**, **Desert Cisticola**, **Lark-like Bunting**, **Cape Sparrow**, and a beautiful pair of **Secretarybirds** displaying above us at our lunch stop.

There was more adventure later that afternoon; after picking up a nice flock of **Rosy-faced Lovebirds** we stumbled upon a very out-of-place **Ruff** wandering around the arid landscape of southern Namibia. Arriving safely in |Ai-|Ais after a very scenic drive we picked up a pair of **South African Shelducks** on small settling ponds just outside of the settlement. A nice surprise to end off the day!

8 September, Day 11 – Exploring the Fish River Canyon

The magnificent Fish River Canyon area is most certainly not known for its birding, but the beautiful arid landscape was still definitely worth a bit of exploration. The bird of the day came early on, a beautiful **Karoo Long-billed Lark** that perched beautifully for great views and good photographs.



Karoo Long-billed Lark, resident sentinel in the rocky landscapes

A small party of **Karoo Eremomelas** was another highlight; we spent time watching them move along a few small bushes at one of the canyon lookout points. A modest day total also included **Ashy Tit**, **White-backed Mousebird**, **Orange River White-eye**, **Mountain Wheatear**, **Karoo** and **Familiar Chats**, **Long-billed Crombec**, **Common Scimitarbill**, and **Brown-throated Martin**. The views across the canyon are stunning, and visiting the Fish River Canyon for the five-to-six-day hike, if you are into hiking, is well worth it!

9 September, Day 12 – |Ai-|Ais north toward Sossusvlei

This day was a travel day of over 400 kilometers through some of the beautiful semi-arid and desert landscapes of southern Namibia. It was a fairly long drive and not very productive for new bird species, and, unfortunately, no new trip species were added. We were, however, very excited to get to the Sossusvlei and the Walvis Bay Lagoon areas.

10 September, Day 13 – Drive to Sossusvlei

Just as we were leaving our guest house we picked up **Rosy-faced Lovebird** and **Short-toed Rock Thrush**, which posed beautifully for our lenses. **Ludwig's Bustard**, **Burchell's Courser** (bird of the trip!) and **Greater Kestrel** were also around just a few kilometers from the guest house.

In typical Namibian fashion we picked up a flat tire on one of the gravel roads to Sesriem; luckily this didn't take up too much time, and we managed to get back on the road rather quickly. We picked up our first **Rüppell's Korhaans**, a small group of four birds, and later we saw a few more at Sossusvlei! We visited Dune 45 that afternoon, and because we stayed inside the park we were able to stay out late and enjoy the amazing scenes for the sunset, all by ourselves. What a treat! **Greater Kestrel** perched up in a lonely tree alongside Dune 45.



Rüppell's Korhaan, both males and females seen well on the arid gravel plains in the south

11 September, Day 14 – A morning in Sossusvlei

A really early start to get out to Sossusvlei was the order of the day. We managed to get on site to enjoy the sunrise and over the course of the next two hours watched the shadows as they slowly moved across the landscape. The famous site Deadvlei was also as special as it is made out to be, towering dunes alongside a dry pan that is host to many dead trees, which of course make for fantastic photographs. We picked up a few more **Rüppel's Korhaans** as well as **Ludwig's Bustard** before heading back to our lodge for lunch. Thereafter we headed north on a fairly long journey to the coastal port of Walvis Bay.



Deadvlei – a landscape like no other

12 September, Day 15 – Birding Walvis Bay

One of the best days of the trip thus far was spent birding the Walvis Bay Lagoon area, a flamingo and shorebird spectacle of note! The lagoon birding never seems to disappoint, and after two weeks of inland birding getting to a coastline and seeing good numbers of shorebirds and waterfowl was certainly a welcome sight. We picked up all the common shorebirds in the morning, these included **Common Greenshank**, **Marsh Sandpiper**, **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Bartailed Godwit**, **Grey Plover** (one individual in cracking breeding plumage, definitely the bird of the trip according to John), **Common Ringed Plover**, **White-fronted Plover**, **Kittlitz's Plover**, **Three-banded Plover**, **Sanderling**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Whimbrel**, **Little Stint**, **Ruff**, and both **Black-winged Stilt** and **Pied Avocet**. We also enjoyed really decent numbers of the localized, saline-loving **Chestnut-banded Plover**. Both **Greater** and **Lesser Flamingos** covered the flats of the lagoon, and at times all you could see with the naked eye was a pinky haze across the surface of the water. **Black-necked Grebes** formed large rafts over the deeper water, while a single **Great White Pelican**, looking rather pinky in excellent plumage, bobbed on the water between them. Six species of tern were seen today, including a quick visual of the tricky, diminutive **Damara Tern**. Other terns were: **Greater Crested**, **Sandwich**, **Common**, **Caspian**, and **White-winged Terns**. A few **Cape Teals** were also hanging around, feeding close to the saltworks road.



A trio of Greater Flamingos – Walvis Bay Lagoon

A special trip was taken to the tiny town of Rooibank (Red Dune) to see the Namibia-endemic **Dune Lark**. A pair of larks were working their way through the smaller dunes when we arrived; we managed to spend some time watching them and grabbing some video and photographs of them. After that special sighting we were already debating the possible bird of the trip!

13 September, Day 16 – Spitzkoppe and onward to Erongo

We left Walvis Bay quite early in order to get to our main birding areas without too much delay. Unfortunately, we hit some foggy areas, which hindered our search for Gray's Lark. We did get two **Gray's Larks** shoot over the road, but unfortunately they disappeared without much trace. Spitzkoppe was a real highlight, and other than the amazing scenery we enjoyed a lot of new species for the trip. **Grey Go-away-bird** was active outside the gate, while a whole group of **Monteiro's Hornbills** were moving around the lower woodland alongside the boulders. Other species here included **Mountain Wheatear**, **Layard's Warbler**, **Swallow-tailed Bee-eater**, **Brown-crowned Tchagra**, **Red-billed Spurfowl**, a brief flyby by **Verreaux's Eagle**, **Cardinal Woodpecker**, and **Pale-winged Starling**. Unfortunately, our concerted search for Herero Chat didn't produce any, and we had to make the tough decision to try again at a few other spots later on the trip. But we did pick up **Rosy-faced Lovebird**, **Sabota Lark**, **Namaqua Dove**, and a lovely pair of **African Hawk-Eagles** before we left. A fairly enjoyable drive after lunch did produce a few species of note. **Karoo Long-billed Lark**, **Purple Roller**, **Ashy Tit**, and **Black-chested Snake Eagle** were all seen well from the main road. Arriving safely at Erongo we were excited about the birding here, and in the evening managed quick sighting of dassie rat as well as **Freckled Nightjar** near the dinner setting!

14 September, Day 17 – Erongo Wilderness Lodge

The full day was spent around Erongo Wilderness Lodge. Our main targets for the day could all be found within walking distance from the lodge. So we set off before sunrise in order to scout out the best areas for the tricky **Hartlaub's Spurfowl**, which duly appeared. While we were enjoying a pair of the spurfowl, a **Rockrunner** landed alongside us and showed off brilliantly. What a cracking bird – and bird of the trip! Other specials for the day included the strange

White-tailed Shrike, Verreaux's Eagle, Monteiro's Hornbill, Chestnut Weaver (non-breeding plumage only), hundreds and hundreds of **Rosy-faced Lovebirds**, and a very confiding **Marico Sunbird**. We had worked really hard that afternoon for **Carp's Tit**, and only in the dying moments of the day did we finally hear the call among the rocky landscape and track the bird down, two individuals that gave us really nice visuals. Erongo Wilderness Lodge is truly a gem of a spot, and I personally recommend a visit on a private tour – there are really magnificent photographic opportunities of some tricky species, to say the least.



Rockrunner – the bird of the trip!

15 September, Day 18 – Erongo to Uis

We had another brilliant morning around the lodge, focusing on photography of some species that we had missed up until today, picking up **White-browed Scrub Robin, Chestnut Weaver**, and **Lark-like** and **Cinnamon-breasted Buntings**, as well as **Shaft-tailed Whydah** (in non-breeding plumage) before we left. We did eventually persuade ourselves that we needed to leave and start our journey toward Uis. **Benguela Long-billed Lark** was heard calling en route, and with a little bit of work we cracked some great shots of a confiding bird going about its business feeding on the arid plains. That afternoon we found an incredible pair of **Herero Chats** in the Uis area – a bird that can really sometimes give one the run-around.



Benguela Long-billed Lark in the Uis area



Herero Chat in the Uis area

16 September, Day 19 – Travel to the Kunene region

A long journey lay before us today so we grabbed breakfast and hit the road. An unplanned stop at a small roadside dam really did produce the goods; **Red-billed Teal**, **South African Shelduck** and flocks of **Grey-backed Sparrowlark** were all easily observed. Massive flocks of both **Namaqua** and **Burchell's Sandgrouse** were obviously using this spot as their morning drinking spot, as we must have seen well into the hundreds over the course of an hour. **Alpine Swift** came swooping in overhead for a drink at the dam, while a pair of **African Hawk-Eagles** was trying their luck at some of the sandgrouse that were coming in to drink. Shorebirds included **Little Stint**, **Common Sandpiper**, **Ruff**, and **Three-banded Plover**. After spending the desired amount of time here in nice light we headed north and grabbed a few Kunene species along the way; **Bare-cheeked Babbler**, **Little Bee-eater**, and **Yellow-bellied Greenbul** were the first few.

Kunene River Lodge is a spot that we don't leave out on any of our Birding Ecotours tours, custom or set departure, as it is just such a special place with many targets around.

17 September, Day 20 – The Zebra Mountains, Angola Cave Chat trip

A really early start (to the call of **Verreaux's Eagle-Owl**) as we headed out to the Zebra Mountains, hoping to connect with **Angola Cave Chat**. The chat was heard immediately as we arrived, and we grabbed some visuals high up on the dark, rocky slopes. A good few **Cinderella Waxbills** came cruising in from the mountain slopes as we waited for the cave chat, while **White-bellied** and **Scarlet-chested Sunbirds** were both very vocal. Unfortunately, try as we might, the cave chat didn't come through for any close-up view or photographs. **Golden-tailed** and **Bennett's Woodpeckers** as well as both **Rüppell's Parrot** and **Rosy-faced Lovebirds** were landing nearby.



Rüppell's Parrot – this individual was seen in the Waterberg Plateau National Park

We headed back to a dry river bed where the Himba people dig for water; this is one of the "Cindies" drinking spots. The **Cinderella Waxbills** did not disappoint us, and a flock of about six or seven birds came through. **Wood Sandpiper**, **Black Crake**, **Three-banded Plover**, **Carp's Tit**, **Long-billed Crombec**, and **White-tailed Shrike** were all around the river crossing area in the heat of the day, while we also picked up a single **Violet Wood Hoopoe** in the mopane as we headed back to the main road. A successful and very interesting trip to the strange Zebra Mountains! After lunch we came up trumps with **Holub's Golden Weaver**, **Mourning Collared Dove**, the sought-after **Rufous-tailed Palm Thrush**, and **Red-necked Spurfowl** all in close quarters in the camp grounds. We took a drive out to the west to look for Grey Kestrel, unfortunately we came up negative on this bird. We did pick up, however, **Black Stork**, **Red-billed Firefinch** and **Bearded Woodpecker**. **Glossy Ibis**, **Squacco Heron**, **Wire-tailed Swallow**, **Hamerkop**, and flocks of non-breeding **Chestnut Weavers** came to roost in the large riverside bushes within Angola, getting our Angola list off to a good start!

18 September, Day 21 – Kunene region to Dolomite Camp, Etosha

A slow morning! We struck out on the resident Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, but **Meves's Starling**, **Emerald-spotted Wood Dove**, **Bare-cheeked Babbler**, and **White-browed Coucal** were around before breakfast, and **Goliath Heron** was spotted on the sand banks from the breakfast table. Then we packed up and made our way onward toward western Etosha. The bridge near Ruacana Falls provided **Lesser Striped Swallow**, **Pearl-spotted Owlet**, and a few more **Cinderella Waxbills**. On our first afternoon in Etosha we found **Burchell's** and **Double-banded Coursers**, **Ludwig's Bustard**, and **Northern Black Korhaan** and had a close encounter with a pride of eight lions. It's just incredible to spend some time watching a pride of lions within five meters from the vehicle, definitely the bird of the trip! (This was, of course, the running joke of the trip.) Damara dik-dik was a special mammal sighting as well; two individuals sat quietly within the shade of a small thorn bush. **Greater Striped Swallow** (a personal favorite and a probable bird of the trip) and **Hartlaub's Spurfowl** ended the day.

19 September, Day 22 – Dolomite Camp across western Etosha to Okaukuejo Camp

After much anticipation we finally enjoyed our first full day in the well-known Etosha National Park. We set off from Dolomite Camp after watching a couple of lionesses drinking from the waterhole that can be seen from some of the chalets. It wasn't long before we picked up a small number of **Double-banded Coursers** as well as a single **Ludwig's Bustard**. Both **Red-crested Korhaan** and **Northern Black Korhaan** were in good numbers, while small parties of waxbills and other small passerines included **Black-faced** and **Violet-eared Waxbills**, **Scaly-feathered Weaver**, **Cape Penduline Tit**, **Red-headed Finch**, **Great Sparrow**, and **Yellow-bellied Eremomela**. A few other crackers at one of the waterholes en route were: **Secretarybird**, **Golden-breasted Bunting**, **Namaqua Dove**, and **Kalahari Scrub Robin**. It also was an excellent day as far as four-legged animals go; we had two separate lion sightings and saw giraffe, African elephant, plains zebra, Hartman's mountain zebra, springbok, black-faced impala, red hartebeest, blue wildebeest, gemsbok, steenbok, black-backed jackal, yellow mongoose, South African ground squirrel, and the small four-striped grass mouse. **Spotted Thick-knee** and the magnificent black rhino were also observed at the waterhole that evening.



Plains zebra – Etosha National Park

20 September, Day 23 – Full day in Etosha’s Okaukuejo area

Well, you really need to spend at least a full day in Etosha to experience how special this place can be. Not only is there a chance of seeing some really incredible large game, but there always seems to be something to spend time watching and photographing. Today we headed out early and enjoyed the morning light around the Gemsbokvlakte waterhole and in the Okaukuejo area.

Helmeted Guineafowl called the open, scrubby areas home, while many **Northern Black** and a few **Red-crested Korhaans** were also found. **Double-banded Coursers** are a real treat, and we found quite a few alongside the road, posing for pictures. Larks enjoy the gravel plains, and today we managed five species: **Red-capped**, **Spike-heeled**, **Pink-billed**, **Sabota**, and **Stark’s Larks**. A few **Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Larks** were also seen.



Spike-heeled Lark – Etosha National Park



Black Rhino – Etosha National Park

Some of the real treats that day came late and included an absolutely stunning black rhino coming to drink at the Gemsbokvlakte waterhole about an hour before sunset! An unforgettable sighting of a Critically Endangered (IUCN) species!

21 September, Day 24 - Okaukuejo Camp to Namutoni Camp

Encountered on a daily basis in Etosha, the following species are included among others: **Red-eyed Bulbul**, **Great Sparrow**, **Namaqua Sandgrouse**, **Common Ostrich**, **Greater Kestrel**, **Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill**, **Cape Crow**, **Rock Martin**, and **Cape Starling**, as well as the communal **White-browed Sparrow-Weaver**.

Today we picked up a few less common species on our journey to Namutoni. It started off with a group of spotted hyenas coming back to their den after a night out scavenging off what would have presumably been a lion kill nearby. Today we also found the first of our **Caspian Plovers** – a few birds near Halali just after lunch in the heat of the day as well as a single bird late in the day at the Namutoni waterhole.



Caspian Plover – Etosha National Park

Red-breasted Swallows and our only **Barn Swallow** of the trip appeared the road near some of the pan lookout points. **Wattled** and **Burchell's Starlings** **Blue Waxbill**, **Common Moorhen**, **Southern White-crowned Shrike**, **Red-necked Falcon**, and **African Palm Swift** were encountered near Namutoni as well.

22 September, Day 25 – Eastern Etosha to Waterberg Plateau National Park

We decided to take a morning trip to Andoni Plains and really got some cool pictures and sightings up there. **Double-banded Sandgrouse** was a highlight along with **Red-crested Korhaan**, as both of them were quite confiding and we spent some time getting some pictures of them on the road verges. We also added **Crested Francolin** and **Bateleur** to the trip list. **Blue Crane** was found at its usual spot near the Andoni waterhole along with **Red-billed Teal**, **White-backed Vulture**, **Caspian Plover**, **Ruff**, and **Kittlitz's Plover**. We then birded to the northern King Nehale Gate, and outside the park along the road we found **Yellow-billed** and **Saddle-billed Storks**, **Caspian Plover**, **Chestnut-banded Plover**, **Three-banded Plover**,

Black-winged Stilt, and **Yellow-billed Duck**. We started our journey to Waterberg Plateau National Park that afternoon, and before the day had ended we picked up **Swainson's Spurfowl** and a beautiful pair of **Verreaux's Eagles** on the cliffs near the accommodation units.



Double-banded Sandgrouse – Etosha National Park

23 September, Day 26 – Waterberg Plateau to Okonjima Lodge

The Waterberg Plateau is a very scenic spot that you need to see to appreciate. Today we spent time tracking some bird species of which we hadn't yet managed to take pictures. We did well in the end to find the main target, **Rüppell's Parrot**. These parrots breed in the larger acacia trees in the camping area, so they can be found without too much trouble. Here we also found **Green Wood Hoopoe**, and **African Black Swift** flew overhead, while **White-browed Scrub Robin**, **Cardinal Woodpecker**, **Black-faced Waxbill**, **Black-backed Puffback**, and **Burchell's Starling**, as well as many pretty **Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters**, served as additional targets. One of the most enjoyable sightings, personally, was stumbling upon two black mongooses (*Galerella nigrata*), a species that had had species status many years ago but later was thought to be a subspecies of slender mongoose. Now genetic evidence suggests that it is indeed a full species. With John's help we managed to get great looks at these individuals.



Black mongoose – Waterberg Plateau National Park

Later we made our way south toward Windhoek, from where John and Alison's flight would depart the following day, for our last night in Namibia. We stayed at Okonjima Lodge and visited the Africat Foundation in the afternoon. Here we enjoyed successful cheetah tracking, an activity that they offer at the foundation's natural rehabilitation centre. The cats that they have here have been brought to them for rehabilitation and are mostly habituated, not quite the same as a national park sighting. However, getting up close and personal on foot to these magnificent creatures was really great.



A young cheetah at the Africat Foundation

24 September, Day 27 – Okonjima Lodge to Windhoek, flight home

This morning we traveled to Windhoek's Hosea Kutako International Airport, from where Alison and John departed Namibia.

SOUTH AFRICA and NAMIBIA: Custom Tour August - September 2017, Bird List		
Bold = Southern African endemic		
Status: NT = Near-threatened, VU = Vulnerable, EN = Endangered, CR = Critically Endangered		
Common name	Scientific name	Trip
	STRUTHIONIFORMES	
<u>Ostriches</u>	<u>Struthionidae</u>	
Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>	1
	ANSERIFORMES	
<u>Ducks, Geese and Swans</u>	<u>Anatidae</u>	
Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>	1
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	1
South African Shelduck	<i>Tadorna cana</i>	1

Cape Shoveler	<i>Spatula smithii</i>	1
Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>	1
Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>	1
Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>	1
	GALLIFORMES	
<u>Guineafowl</u>	<u>Numididae</u>	
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	1
<u>Pheasants and allies</u>	<u>Phasianidae</u>	
Crested Francolin	<i>Dendroperdix sephaena</i>	1
Hartlaub's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis hartlaubi</i>	1
Red-billed Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis adspersus</i>	1
Cape Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis capensis</i>	1
Red-necked Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis afer</i>	1
Swainson's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>	1
	SPHENISCIFORMES	
<u>Penguins</u>	<u>Spheniscidae</u>	
African Penguin	<i>Spheniscus demersus</i>	1
	PROCELLARIIFORMES	
<u>Petrels, Shearwaters</u>	<u>Procellariidae</u>	
White-chinned Petrel - VU	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	1
Sooty Shearwater - NT	<i>Ardenna grisea</i>	1
	PODICIPEDIFORMES	
<u>Grebes</u>	<u>Podicipedidae</u>	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	1
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	1
	PHOENICOPTERIFORMES	
<u>Flamingos</u>	<u>Phoenicopteridae</u>	
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	1
Lesser Flamingo - NT	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>	1
	CICONIIFORMES	
<u>Storks</u>	<u>Ciconiidae</u>	
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>	1
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	1
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	1
Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>	1
	PELECANIFORMES	
<u>Ibises, Spoonbills</u>	<u>Threskiornithidae</u>	
African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	1
Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	1

Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	1
<u>Herons, Bitterns</u>	<u>Ardeidae</u>	
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	1
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	1
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	1
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>	1
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>	1
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	1
<u>Hamerkop</u>	<u>Scopidae</u>	
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	1
<u>Pelicans</u>	<u>Pelecanidae</u>	
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	1
	SULIFORMES	
<u>Gannets, Boobies</u>	<u>Sulidae</u>	
Cape Gannet - VU	<i>Morus capensis</i>	1
<u>Cormorants, Shags</u>	<u>Phalacrocoracidae</u>	
Reed Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>	1
Crowned Cormorant - NT	<i>Microcarbo coronatus</i>	1
Bank Cormorant - EN	<i>Phalacrocorax neglectus</i>	1
White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>	1
Cape Cormorant - EN	<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>	1
	ACCIPITRIFORMES	
<u>Secretarybird</u>	<u>Sagittariidae</u>	
Secretarybird - VU	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>	1
<u>Kites, Hawks and Eagles</u>	<u>Accipitridae</u>	
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	1
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>	1
White-backed Vulture - CR	<i>Gyps africanus</i>	1
Lappet-faced Vulture - EN	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>	1
Black-chested Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>	1
Bateleur - NT	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>	1
Martial Eagle - VU	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>	1
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	1
Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>	1
Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>	1
African Hawk-Eagle	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>	1
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>	1
Pale Chanting Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>	1
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	1

Black Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter melanoleucus</i>	1
Black Harrier - VU	<i>Circus maurus</i>	1
African Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>	1
Augur Buzzard	<i>Buteo augur</i>	1
Jackal Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>	1
	OTIDIFORMES	
<u>Bustards</u>	<u>Otididae</u>	
Kori Bustard - NT	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>	1
Ludwig's Bustard - EN	<i>Neotis ludwigii</i>	1
Rüppell's Korhaan	<i>Eupodotis rueppellii</i>	1
Red-crested Korhaan	<i>Lophotis ruficrista</i>	1
Northern Black Korhaan	<i>Afrotis afraoides</i>	1
	GRUIFORMES	
<u>Rails, Crakes and Coots</u>	<u>Rallidae</u>	
Black Crake	<i>Amaurornis flavirostra</i>	1
African Swamphe	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>	1
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	1
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>	1
<u>Cranes</u>	<u>Gruidae</u>	
Blue Crane - VU	<i>Grus paradisea</i>	1
	CHARADRIIFORMES	
<u>Stone-curlews, Thick-knees</u>	<u>Burhinidae</u>	
Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>	1
Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>	1
<u>Oystercatchers</u>	<u>Haematopodidae</u>	
African Oystercatcher - NT	<i>Haematopus moquini</i>	1
<u>Stilts, Avocets</u>	<u>Recurvirostridae</u>	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	1
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	1
<u>Plovers</u>	<u>Charadriidae</u>	
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>	1
Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>	1
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	1
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	1
Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>	1
Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>	1
White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>	1
Chestnut-banded Plover - NT	<i>Charadrius pallidus</i>	1
Caspian Plover	<i>Charadrius asiaticus</i>	1

<u>Sandpipers, Snipes</u>	<u>Scolopacidae</u>	
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	1
Bar-tailed Godwit - NT	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	1
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	1
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	1
Curlew Sandpiper - NT	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	1
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	1
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	1
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	1
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	1
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	1
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	1
<u>Courasers, Pratincoles</u>	<u>Glareolidae</u>	
Burchell's Courser	<i>Cursorius rufus</i>	1
Temminck's Courser	<i>Cursorius temminckii</i>	1
Double-banded Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus africanus</i>	1
<u>Gulls, Terns and Skimmers</u>	<u>Laridae</u>	
Grey-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus</i>	1
Hartlaub's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus hartlaubii</i>	1
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	1
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	1
Greater Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	1
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	1
Damara Tern - VU	<i>Sternula balaenarum</i>	1
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	1
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	1
	PTEROCLIFORMES	
<u>Sandgrouse</u>	<u>Pteroclididae</u>	
Namaqua Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles namaqua</i>	1
Double-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles bicinctus</i>	1
Burchell's Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles burchelli</i>	1
	COLUMBIFORMES	
<u>Pigeons, Doves</u>	<u>Columbidae</u>	
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	1
African Olive Pigeon	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>	1
Mourning Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>	1
Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	1
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	1
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>	1

Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>	1
	MUSOPHAGIFORMES	
<u>Turacos</u>	<u>Musophagidae</u>	
Grey Go-away-bird	<i>Corythaixoides concolor</i>	1
	CUCULIFORMES	
<u>Cuckoos</u>	<u>Cuculidae</u>	
White-browed Coucal	<i>Centropus superciliosus</i>	1
	STRIGIFORMES	
<u>Barn Owls</u>	<u>Tytonidae</u>	
Western Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	1
<u>Owls</u>	<u>Strigidae</u>	
African Scops Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>	1
Spotted Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>	1
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>	1
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>	1
	CAPRIMULGIFORMES	
<u>Nightjars</u>	<u>Caprimulgidae</u>	
Rufous-cheeked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus rufigena</i>	1
Freckled Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus tristigma</i>	1
	APODIFORMES	
<u>Swifts</u>	<u>Apodidae</u>	
African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	1
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>	1
African Black Swift	<i>Apus barbatus</i>	1
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	1
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>	1
	COLIIFORMES	
<u>Mousebirds</u>	<u>Coliidae</u>	
White-backed Mousebird	<i>Colius colius</i>	1
Red-faced Mousebird	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>	1
	CORACIIFORMES	
<u>Rollers</u>	<u>Coraciidae</u>	
Purple Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>	1
Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>	1
<u>Kingfishers</u>	<u>Alcedinidae</u>	
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>	1
Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>	1
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	1
<u>Bee-eaters</u>	<u>Meropidae</u>	

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>	1
Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>	1
	BUCEROTIFORMES	
<u>Hoopoes</u>	<u>Upupidae</u>	
African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>	1
<u>Wood Hoopoes</u>	<u>Phoeniculidae</u>	
Green Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>	1
Violet Wood Hoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus damarensis</i>	1
Common Scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>	1
<u>Hornbills</u>	<u>Bucerotidae</u>	
Damara Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus damarensis</i>	1
Southern Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus rufirostris</i>	1
Monteiro's Hornbill	<i>Tockus monteiri</i>	1
Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>	1
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>	1
	PICIFORMES	
<u>African Barbets</u>	<u>Lybiidae</u>	
Acacia Pied Barbet	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>	1
Crested Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>	1
<u>Honeyguides</u>	<u>Indicatoridae</u>	
Brown-backed Honeybird	<i>Prodotiscus regulus</i>	1
<u>Woodpeckers</u>	<u>Picidae</u>	
Bennett's Woodpecker	<i>Campethera bennettii</i>	1
Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>	1
Ground Woodpecker	<i>Geocolaptes olivaceus</i>	1
Bearded Woodpecker	<i>Chloropicus namaquus</i>	1
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>	1
	FALCONIFORMES	
<u>Caracaras, Falcons</u>	<u>Falconidae</u>	
Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>	1
Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicolus</i>	1
Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>	1
Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>	1
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	1
	PSITTACIFORMES	
<u>African & New World Parrots</u>	<u>Psittacidae</u>	
Rüppell's Parrot	<i>Poicephalus rueppellii</i>	1
<u>Old World Parrots</u>	<u>Psittaculidae</u>	
Rosy-faced Lovebird	<i>Agapornis roseicollis</i>	1

	PASSERIFORMES	
<u>Wattle-eyes, Batises</u>	<u>Platysteiridae</u>	
Cape Batis	<i>Batis capensis</i>	1
Pririt Batis	<i>Batis pririt</i>	1
White-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanioturdus torquatus</i>	1
<u>Helmetsrikes</u>	<u>Prionopidae</u>	
White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>	1
<u>Bushsrikes</u>	<u>Malaconotidae</u>	
Grey-headed Bushshrike	<i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i>	1
Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>	1
Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>	1
Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>	1
<u>Southern Boubou</u>	<u>Laniarius ferrugineus</u>	1
Crimson-breasted Shrike	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>	1
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>	1
<u>Shrikes</u>	<u>Laniidae</u>	
Southern White-crowned Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus anguitimens</i>	1
Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>	1
<u>Drongos</u>	<u>Dicruridae</u>	
Square-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus ludwigii</i>	1
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	1
<u>Crows, Jays</u>	<u>Corvidae</u>	
Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>	1
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	1
White-necked Raven	<i>Corvus albicollis</i>	1
<u>Rockjumpers</u>	<u>Chaetopidae</u>	
Cape Rockjumper	<i>Chaetops frenatus</i>	1
<u>Fairy Flycatchers</u>	<u>Stenostiridae</u>	
Fairy Flycatcher	<i>Stenostira scita</i>	1
<u>Tits, Chickadees</u>	<u>Paridae</u>	
Carp's Tit	<i>Melaniparus carpi</i>	1
Ashy Tit	<i>Melaniparus cinerascens</i>	1
Grey Tit	<i>Melaniparus afer</i>	1
<u>Penduline Tits</u>	<u>Remizidae</u>	
Cape Penduline Tit	<i>Anthoscopus minutus</i>	1
<u>Larks</u>	<u>Alaudidae</u>	
Spike-heeled Lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>	1
Gray's Lark	<i>Ammomanopsis grayi</i>	1
Karoo Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda subcoronata</i>	1

Benguela Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda benguelensis</i>	1
Cape Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda curvirostris</i>	1
Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix leucotis</i>	1
Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix verticalis</i>	1
Sabota Lark	<i>Calendulauda sabota</i>	1
Fawn-colored Lark	<i>Calendulauda africanoides</i>	1
Karoo Lark	<i>Calendulauda albescens</i>	1
Red Lark - VU	<i>Calendulauda burra</i>	1
Dune Lark	<i>Calendulauda erythrochlamys</i>	1
Barlow's Lark	<i>Calendulauda barlowi</i>	1
Eastern Clapper Lark	<i>Mirafraga fasciolata</i>	1
Cape Clapper Lark	<i>Mirafraga apiata</i>	1
Rufous-naped Lark	<i>Mirafraga africana</i>	1
Stark's Lark	<i>Spizocorys starki</i>	1
Pink-billed Lark	<i>Spizocorys conirostris</i>	1
Large-billed Lark	<i>Galerida magnirostris</i>	1
Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>	1
<u>Bulbuls</u>	<u>Pycnonotidae</u>	
African Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>	1
Cape Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus capensis</i>	1
Dark-capped Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus tricolor</i>	1
Sombre Greenbul	<i>Andropadus importunus</i>	1
Yellow-bellied Greenbul	<i>Chlorocichla flaviventris</i>	1
<u>Swallows, Martins</u>	<u>Hirundinidae</u>	
Black Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne pristoptera</i>	1
Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	1
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	1
White-throated Swallow	<i>Hirundo albigularis</i>	1
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	1
Pearl-breasted Swallow	<i>Hirundo dimidiata</i>	1
Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>	1
Greater Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis cucullata</i>	1
Lesser Striped Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>	1
Red-breasted Swallow	<i>Cecropis semirufa</i>	1
South African Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon spilodera</i>	1
<u>Crombecs, African Warblers</u>	<u>Macrospenidae</u>	
Cape Grassbird	<i>Sphenoeacus afer</i>	1
Rockrunner	<i>Achaetops pycnopygius</i>	1
Long-billed Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>	1

Victorin's Warbler	<i>Cryptillas victorini</i>	1
<u>Reed Warblers and allies</u>	<u>Acrocephalidae</u>	
Lesser Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>	1
African Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>	1
<u>Cisticolas and allies</u>	<u>Cisticolidae</u>	
Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>	1
Grey-backed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola subruficapilla</i>	1
Levaillant's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola tinniens</i>	1
Neddicky	<i>Cisticola fulvicapilla</i>	1
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	1
Desert Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aridulus</i>	1
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>	1
Black-chested Prinia	<i>Prinia flavicans</i>	1
Namaqua Warbler	<i>Phragmacia substriata</i>	1
Rufous-eared Warbler	<i>Malcorus pectoralis</i>	1
Grey-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>	1
Barred Wren-Warbler	<i>Calamonastes fasciolatus</i>	1
Cinnamon-breasted Warbler	<i>Euryptila subcinnamomea</i>	1
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>	1
Karoo Eremomela	<i>Eremomela gregalis</i>	1
Burnt-necked Eremomela	<i>Eremomela usticollis</i>	1
<u>Laughingthrushes</u>	<u>Leiothrichidae</u>	
Black-faced Babbler	<i>Turdoides melanops</i>	1
Southern Pied Babbler	<i>Turdoides bicolor</i>	1
Bare-cheeked Babbler	<i>Turdoides gymnogenys</i>	1
<u>Sylviid Babblers</u>	<u>Sylviidae</u>	
Chestnut-vented Warbler	<i>Sylvia subcoerulea</i>	1
Layard's Warbler	<i>Sylvia layardi</i>	1
<u>White-eyes</u>	<u>Zosteropidae</u>	
Cape White-eye	<i>Zosterops virens</i>	1
Orange River White-eye	<i>Zosterops pallidus</i>	1
<u>Sugarbirds</u>	<u>Promeropidae</u>	
Cape Sugarbird	<i>Promerops cafer</i>	1
<u>Starlings, Rhabdornis</u>	<u>Sturnidae</u>	
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	1
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	1
Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>	1
Cape Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>	1
Meves's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis mevesii</i>	1

Burchell's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis australis</i>	1
Pied Starling	<i>Lamprotornis bicolor</i>	1
Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>	1
Pale-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus nabouroup</i>	1
<u>Oxpeckers</u>	<u>Buphagidae</u>	
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>	1
<u>Thrushes</u>	<u>Turdidae</u>	
Groundscraper Thrush	<i>Turdus litsitsirupa</i>	1
Olive Thrush	<i>Turdus olivaceus</i>	1
Karoo Thrush	<i>Turdus smithi</i>	1
<u>Chats, Old World Flycatchers</u>	<u>Muscicapidae</u>	
Karoo Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas coryphoeus</i>	1
Kalahari Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas paena</i>	1
White-browed Scrub Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>	1
Grey Tit-Flycatcher	<i>Myioparus plumbeus</i>	1
Chat Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis infuscatus</i>	1
Marico Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis mariquensis</i>	1
Fiscal Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis silens</i>	1
Ashy Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa caerulescens</i>	1
African Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>	1
Cape Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha caffra</i>	1
Angolan Cave Chat	<i>Cossypha ansorgei</i>	1
Rufous-tailed Palm Thrush	<i>Cichladusa ruficauda</i>	1
Cape Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola rupestris</i>	1
Short-toed Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola brevipes</i>	1
African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	1
Karoo Chat	<i>Emarginata schlegelii</i>	1
Tractrac Chat	<i>Emarginata tractrac</i>	1
Ant-eating Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>	1
Mountain Wheatear	<i>Myrmecocichla monticola</i>	1
Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>	1
Familiar Chat	<i>Oenanthe familiaris</i>	1
Herero Chat	<i>Namibornis herero</i>	1
<u>Sunbirds</u>	<u>Nectariniidae</u>	
Orange-breasted Sunbird	<i>Anthobaphes violacea</i>	1
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>	1
Malachite Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia famosa</i>	1
Southern Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris chalybeus</i>	1
Marico Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>	1

White-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris talatala</i>	1
Dusky Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris fuscus</i>	1
<u>Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches</u>	<u>Passeridae</u>	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	1
Great Sparrow	<i>Passer motitensis</i>	1
Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>	1
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>	1
<u>Weavers, Widowbirds</u>	<u>Ploceidae</u>	
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>	1
Sociable Weaver	<i>Philetairus socius</i>	1
Scaly-feathered Weaver	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>	1
Spectacled Weaver	<i>Ploceus ocularis</i>	1
Cape Weaver	<i>Ploceus capensis</i>	1
Holub's Golden Weaver	<i>Ploceus xanthops</i>	1
Southern Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>	1
Chestnut Weaver	<i>Ploceus rubiginosus</i>	1
Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>	1
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>	1
Southern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>	1
<u>Waxbills, Munias and allies</u>	<u>Estrildidae</u>	
Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>	1
Red-headed Finch	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>	1
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>	1
Blue Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>	1
Violet-eared Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus granatinus</i>	1
Sweet Waxbill	<i>Coccopygia melanotis</i>	1
Cinderella Waxbill	<i>Estrilda thomensis</i>	1
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>	1
Black-faced Waxbill	<i>Estrilda erythronotos</i>	1
<u>Indigobirds, Whydahs</u>	<u>Viduidae</u>	
Shaft-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua regia</i>	1
Long-tailed Paradise Whydah	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>	1
<u>Wagtails, Pipits</u>	<u>Motacillidae</u>	
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>	1
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>	1
Cape Longclaw	<i>Macronyx capensis</i>	1
African Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>	1
<u>Finches</u>	<u>Fringillidae</u>	
Black-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>	1

Cape Siskin	<i>Crithagra totta</i>	1
Yellow Canary	<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>	1
Brimstone Canary	<i>Crithagra sulphurata</i>	1
White-throated Canary	<i>Crithagra albogularis</i>	1
Cape Canary	<i>Serinus canicollis</i>	1
Black-headed Canary	<i>Serinus alario</i>	1
Buntings, New World Sparrows	Emberizidae	
Lark-like Bunting	<i>Emberiza impetuanii</i>	1
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>	1
Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>	1
Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>	1
TOTAL		340

SOUTH AFRICA and NAMIBIA: Custom Tour August - September 2017, Mammal List		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Trip
	RODENTIA	
	Muridae	
Brants's whistling rat	<i>Parotomys brantsii</i>	1
Karoo bush rat	<i>Otomys unisulcatus</i>	1
Four-striped grass mouse	<i>Rhabdomys pumilio</i>	1
	Petromuridae	
Dassie rat	<i>Petromus typicus</i>	1
	Sciuridae	
Eastern gray squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	1
South African ground squirrel	<i>Xerus inauris</i>	1
Smith's bush squirrel	<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>	1
Congo rope Squirrel	<i>Funisciurus congicus</i>	1
	Macroscelidae	
Bushveld sengi	<i>Elephantulus intufi</i>	1
	Pedetidae	
Spring hare	<i>Pedetes capensis</i>	1
	LAGOMORPHA	
	Leporidae	
Cape hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i>	1
Scrub hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>	1
Jameson's red rock hare	<i>Pronolagus randensis</i>	1
	PRIMATES	

	Cercopithecidae	
Chacma baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>	1
Vervet monkey	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>	1
	CARNIVORA	
	Felidae	
Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>	1
Cheetah	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>	1
African wildcat	<i>Felis silvestris lybica</i>	1
	Hyaenidae	
Spotted hyena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>	1
	Canidae	
Black-backed jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>	1
Bat-eared fox	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>	1
Cape Fox	<i>Vulpes chama</i>	1
	Viverridae	
Common genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>	1
	Herpestidae	
Meerkat	<i>Suricata suricatta</i>	1
Large grey mongoose	<i>Herpestes ichneumon</i>	1
Cape grey mongoose	<i>Herpestes pulverulentus</i>	1
Yellow mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>	1
Banded mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>	1
Common slender mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>	1
Black Mongoose	<i>Galerella nigrata</i>	1
	Otariidae	
Cape fur seal	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus pusillus</i>	1
	PROBOSCIDEA	
	Elephantidae	
African elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	1
	HYRACOIDEA	
	Procaviidae	
Rock hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>	1
	PERISSODACTYLA	
	Rhinocerotidae	
Black rhinoceros	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	1
	Equidae	
Plains zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>	1
Hartmann's mountain zebra	<i>Equus zebra hartmannae</i>	1
	CETARTIODACTYLA	

	Suidae	
Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>	1
	Giraffidae	
Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>	1
	Bovidae	
Red hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus caama</i>	1
Bontebok	<i>Damaliscus pygargus pygargus</i>	1
Black-faced impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus petersi</i>	1
Sable antelope	<i>Hippotragus niger</i>	1
Blue wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus taurinus</i>	1
Gemsbok	<i>Oryx gazella</i>	1
Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>	1
Common duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>	1
Klipspringer	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>	1
Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>	1
Damara dik-dik	<i>Madoqua damarensis</i>	1
Greater kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>	1
Common eland	<i>Tragelaphus oryx</i>	1
TOTAL		51