

NAMIBIA, BOTSWANA & ZAMBIA

AUGUST 13–30, 2016

NAMIBIA: COASTAL PRE-TRIP

AUGUST 10–14, 2016



Pel's Fishing-Owl

© Geoff Lockwood

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ITINERARY

Pre-trip

- August 11 Flight to Walvis Bay; Kuiseb Delta and drive to our hotel
- August 12 Swakopmund Salt Works; Desert drive and Rossmund Golf Course
- August 13 Walvis Bay, Salt Works
- August 14 Gardens in Swakopmund; flight to Huab Lodge

Main Tour

- August 14 Arrival at Huab; afternoon drive upriver
- August 15 Early morning walk downstream; drive upstream (am); drive to the gate (pm)
- August 16 Early morning walk downstream; river walk (am) drive into the hills (pm)
- August 17 Early morning walk into the hills; drive to Etosha; evening at the Andersson's Camp waterhole
- August 18 Early morning at the waterhole, drive to Okondeka; Newbrownii and Gemsbok Vlake
- August 19 Andersson's Camp to Halali via Newbrownii, Rietfontein and Goas waterholes
- August 20 Halali; drive to Namutoni via Goas and Kalkheuwel waterholes, Dikdik Drive (pm)
- August 21 Namutoni; Klein and Groot Okeivi and Tsumcor waterholes (am); Klein Namutoni to Mokuti Lodge
- August 22 Mokuti Lodge grounds; flight to Bagani; Mahango GR and drive/boat trip to Nxamaseri
- August 23 Boat trips down to the main channel (am and pm); birding around camp; evening boat trip with spotlight
- August 24 Mekoro trip (dug-out canoes) (am); boat trip and drive to the Nxamaseri floodplain (pm).
- August 25 Early morning birding on the island ; flight to Xakanaxa, afternoon game drive (pm)
- August 26 Early morning game drive through Moremi Game Reserve (long); afternoon drive - Xakanaxa
- August 27 Early morning game drive; flight to Livingstone via Kasane, walk to the Falls
- August 28 Early am boat cruise on the Zambezi River; afternoon game drive in the Mosi oa Tunya NP - Livingstone
- August 29 Early am walk to the Falls; flight to Johannesburg

TOUR SUMMARIES

Coastal Pre-trip

Our pre-trip to the Namibian coast and Namib Desert gave amazing views of thousands of flamingos; a spectacular Great White Pelican—in full breeding plumage; several endemic larks and chats; Bank, Crowned, and Cape cormorants; and African Black Oystercatchers, as well as a variety of shorebirds and ducks. Raptors were well-represented, with great views of Peregrine Falcon and Rock Kestrel, with a way-out-of-range melanistic Black Sparrowhawk being the biggest birding surprise of the pre-trip. Mammal highlights were views of a pod of Haviside's Dolphins feeding close in-shore. On our last evening, the group also observed the "green flash" of the sun setting over the Atlantic on our drive back to the hotel—a first for this tour.

Main Tour

Our flight to Huab Lodge for the start of the main tour took us over the extensive deserts of the Skeleton Coast past the Brandberg—the highest peak in Namibia. Passing low through a gap in the hills, our home for the next few days was laid out before us. The drive to the lodge brought the first of two near-endemic hornbill species, along with a number of other new bird sightings. Over the next two days we added a number of sightings of Monteiro's Hornbills (our best year for this species), as well as great sightings of Rüppell's Parrots and our best-ever sightings of Rosy-faced Lovebirds. The severe drought in southern Africa had resulted in a dearth of seedeaters, and birds that we usually record in their hundreds were either absent, or only present as singletons. Hartlaub's Francolins also proved elusive—in spite of us trying to call out this species at every likely-looking rocky koppie on Huab. The Rockrunner—an endemic favoring the same rocky habitat—waited until we were en route to Etosha before finally showing well, but White-tailed Shrikes, Bare-cheeked Babblers, and Short-toed Rock-Thrushes gave us their customary great views. Mammal highlights were two sightings of Mountain Ground Squirrels; a pair of dainty Klipspringer antelope; and distant, but long-time scope views of a leopard closely studying us from the top of a rocky ridge. This was the first time we have seen this gorgeous cat at Huab, and it proved the start of a great trip for this often elusive feline. Huab is a great place for reptiles, and we added an endemic rock agama and day-gecko to our list before heading to Etosha.

The drive to Etosha brought some great birds, with our first sightings of the stunning Crimson-breasted Shrike (or Gonolek), Marico Flycatchers, Kalahari Scrub-Robins, and our only sighting of the near-endemic Yellow Canary. It also gave great views of diminutive Pygmy Falcons, as well as the striking Pale Chanting Goshawk and Black-chested Snake-Eagle. The trip also gave us our first sightings of both Kori and Red-crested bustards. Mammals, by contrast, were scarcer compared to previous years, but we did add our first views of the tiny Damara Dikdik—Namibia's smallest antelope.

We had been unable to secure bookings for Okaukeujo Camp in Etosha, so we were based at Andersson's Camp in the Ongava Reserve for the first two nights. The floodlit waterhole next to camp was rather quiet, but on our first evening provided great views of both leopard and a lioness coming in to slake their thirst, along with a distant view of a Brown Hyeana sloping past on the edge of the light. The early morning brought our only sighting of Common Duiker for the trip, as well as scope views of a pair of Southern White-faced Scops-Owls that had settled in to roost in a tree in the front of the dining area. Bare-cheeked Babblers, Short-toed Rock-Thrushes, Familiar Chats, Southern Yellow-billed Hornbills, and Great (Rufous) Sparrows all joined us at breakfast! We drove into Etosha, heading first for Okaukeujo for some birding in the camp. Highlights were spectacular views of a pair of Ashy Tits, an endemic which has eluded us on recent tours! The drive to Okondeka—a contact spring on the western edge of the Etosha pan—was desperately quiet, and we were almost halfway before we started to see birds in any numbers. Once the floodgates opened, however, we were able to get good views of Double-banded Coursers; Red-capped, Spike-heeled, Eastern Clapper, Pink-billed, Stark's, and Gray-backed sparrow-larks, and amazing close views of Burchell's Coursers. These gorgeous endemics are always a tough challenge to find, and these sightings were the first in several years (and also our best ever on these tours!). Okondeka itself provided the usual spectacle of hundreds of zebras, wildebeest, oryx, and springbok coming in to drink, along with a number of Ostriches and a solitary Ludwig's Bustard—an uncommon sighting on these tours. Driving back to Andersson's Camp, we came upon a young leopard sleeping in the shade of a large road maintenance vehicle. Eventually it stood up and moved past our vehicle and across the road, where it flopped down again in the shade of a small bush. Great views of this beautiful spotted cat!

Our stay in Etosha continued to provide new sightings: distant views of lions mating at Rietfontein waterhole; superb, flashlight views of a Honey Badger (or Ratel) trotting past us after raiding the camp site in Halali as we made our way to the floodlit waterhole; 3 Black Rhinos, including a well-grown calf drinking at the waterhole; and a solitary Spotted Hyeana moving ghost-like through the trees on the edge of the light. Birding highlights were our first Lilac-breasted and Purple (Rufous-crowned) rollers and a pair of Secretary-birds hunting the open grasslands on the way to Namutoni. The area around Namutoni provided some of the best birding and wildlife experiences of the tour: never-to-be-forgotten memories of a group of 47 elephants moving peacefully past us only three yards from our parked vehicle—this after a tourist who had tried to push past the approaching herd had experienced the awesome power of an unhappy elephant's "trumpet scream" from a few feet away. Did the vehicle's abrupt and speedy departure have anything to do with an emergency laundry stop? The crunching of sand under 188 feet was the only sound as these gentle giants filed past! Birding was also great around Namutoni this year, although the influence of the serious drought prevailing in southern Africa had had an obvious effect. Highlights were views of a pair of Red-necked Falcons feeding on a Red-billed Quelea in the camp, and an amazing sighting of the male falcon later stooping on a sub-adult Bat Hawk that had intruded into the pair's airspace. This was the first time we have recorded this species on the Namibian leg of the tour! Another indelible birding memory was watching the drinking behavior of hundreds of Burchell's Sandgrouse coming in to Klein Okeivi waterhole. Seeing the antics of the males as they loaded up their specially-modified belly and breast feathers with water to take back to their chicks opened a special window into the lives of these striking endemics. Our last evening at Mokuti Lodge brought sightings of Black-faced Babblers, our first Shikra, and also another sighting of the Bat Hawk!

Our arrival at Bagani in Namibia's Caprivi Strip usually means our first Bradfield's Hornbill; last year we had recorded 10 before we left the airstrip! This year, however, we were well on the way to Shakawe before we finally connected with this species. Before that we spent an all-too-brief time driving through the amazing Mahango Game Reserve, adding a number of new mammals: Roan and Sable antelope; Tsessebe (Topi); Red Lechwe; Common Reedbuck; African Buffalo; and Hippo, as well as an array of brightly-colored bee-eaters, kingfishers, barbets, swallows, and starlings. Traveling to Nxamaseri, we drove through dry woodland and open floodplain grassland before reaching the water—the boat trip into camp bringing yet more birds. Over the next two days we explored the diverse habitats around Nxamaseri

by motor boat, mekoro (dug-out canoe), and game drive vehicle, adding a host of bird species to our rapidly growing lists. Raptors, kingfishers, and seedeaters were plentiful, while we also managed to record most of the area's heron species from Goliath Heron (the largest) to Little Bittern (one of the world's smallest). Pride of place, however, goes to the superb sightings of Pel's Fishing-Owl we managed on our mekoro trip on our second morning. We headed for an island where Adam, our guide, had seen the bird the previous afternoon. Drawing a blank at the first clump of densely-foliaged trees, we were heading cautiously towards the second when our target took flight. It perched at the top of a nearly leafless tree, giving us superb repeat scope views before flushing to another small island. Back to the mekoro, and we were seeing close, clear views of the bird peering down at us from a large Jackalberry tree. What a way to induct the group into "The order of the Flying Pumpkin" (anyone who has seen this incredible rusty-brown owl)! Our flight to Xakanaxa in the Moremi Game Reserve gave everyone views of the vastness and amazing diversity that is the Okavango delta system, and the group was eagerly waiting to see what this "new face" of the delta would bring. Driving to the camp, it was clear that the area was drier than we have ever seen it on these tours, but we still managed to add a number of new birds including African Barred Owlet, Arnott's (White-headed Black) Chat, and awesome, ultra-close fly-by views of Collared Pratincole.

We had asked if an overflight of the world-renowned Victoria Falls would be possible on our flight into Livingstone, and we were extremely fortunate to have this approved. Because of the drought, the Falls were a shadow of their normal glory, but the brilliant views allowed the group to appreciate the size, and also the history of this natural wonder. After a late lunch, we headed to the Falls where we were treated to awesome close views of two incredibly exotic and strikingly-colored Schalow's Turacos, followed by distant views of our first Trumpeter Hornbills. A real surprise was a brief glimpse of a female Red-throated Twinspot—a bird we have not seen previously on these tours. We left our hotel early the next morning, heading for our boat trip on the mighty Zambezi. This is always a highlight of these tours, and we added superb, ultra-close views of a pair of Collared Palm-Thrushes before we reached the boat station! On the water our luck continued, with brief sightings of Half-collared Kingfisher, Rock Pratincole, and three different African Finfoots—the first of a female that gave spectacular views as she foraged along the shoreline of one of the islands. White-crowned and African Wattled lapwings, Water Thick-knees, African Skimmers, and a single African Harrier-Hawk were next, along with great views of now familiar friends like Hamerkop, Yellow-billed Stork, and Malachite and Giant kingfishers. An excited and happy group were dropped off back at our hotel. Our afternoon game drive in the Mosi oa Tunya National Park gave us two new raptor species for the tour—two lizard buzzards (en route), and an obliging Western Banded Snake-Eagle scanning a muddy side channel for movement. It also gave us much better views of groups of Hooded Vultures and our first Marabou Storks—looking like rather seedy undertakers as they stalked around the carcass of a dead elephant. An early morning walk back to the Falls on our last morning gave yet another unusual seedeater—this time a male Cutthroat Finch...and then it was time for our departure for the airport and our flights home.

KEY

E	Endemic species
NE	Near-endemic species
BE	Breeding endemic species
	Recorded
h	Recorded – Heard only
L	Recorded – Leader only

Note: The endemic classifications used in this trip list reflect the status of a particular species within the southern African sub-region (i.e. the area south of the Cunene and Zambezi rivers) and not to the status of that species in the individual countries that we visited on the tour. They are given to help identify probable life birds for first-time visitors to southern Africa.

BIRDS

		Coastal Pre-tour	Huab Lodge	Travelling	Okaukeujo	Halali	Namutoni	Mahango GR	Nxamaseri	Xakanaxa	Livingstone
COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME										
Ostrich		Struthionidae									
Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>										
Ducks, Geese & Waterfowl		Anatidae									
White-faced Whistling-Duck (White-faced Duck)	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>										
White-backed Duck	<i>Thalassornis leuconotus</i>										
Comb 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>										
Cape Shoveler	<i>Anas smithii</i>										
Red-billed Duck (Teal)	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>										
Hottentot Teal	<i>Anas hottentota</i>										
Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>										
Maccoa Duck	<i>Oxyura maccoa</i>										
Guineafowl		Numididae									
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>										
Pheasants, Grouse & Allies		Phasianidae									
Red-billed Francolin	<i>Pternistis adspersus</i>										
Natal Francolin	<i>Pternistis natalensis</i>										
Swainson's Francolin (Spurfowl)	<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>										
Crested Francolin	<i>Francolinus sephaena</i>										
Grebes		Podicipedidae									
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>										
Eared (Black-necked) Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>										
Flamingos		Phoenicopteridae									
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>										
Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>										
Storks		Ciconiidae									
African Openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>										
Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>										
Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>										
Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>										
Cormorants & Shags		Phalacrocoracidae									
Great Cormorant (White-breasted Cormorant)	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> <i>(Phalacrocorax carbo lucidus)</i>										
Cape Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>										
Bank Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax neglectus</i>										
Long-tailed (Reed) Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>										
Crowned Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax coronatus</i>										
Anhingas		Anhingidae									

African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>	
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Pelicans Pelecanidae

Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	
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Hamerkop Scopidae

Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	
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Herons, Egrets & Bitterns Ardeidae

Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	
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Brilliant, ultra-close views of a male sitting quietly in a reedbed. He ignored us completely and just sat looking at us - Nxamaseri boat trip

Gray Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>	
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	
Great Egret	<i>Ardea (Egretta) alba</i>	
Intermediate Egret	<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i>	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	
Slaty Egret	<i>Egretta vinaceigula</i>	
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>	
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	
Rufous-bellied Heron	<i>Ardeola rufiventris</i>	L
Striated (Little) Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	
Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	

Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

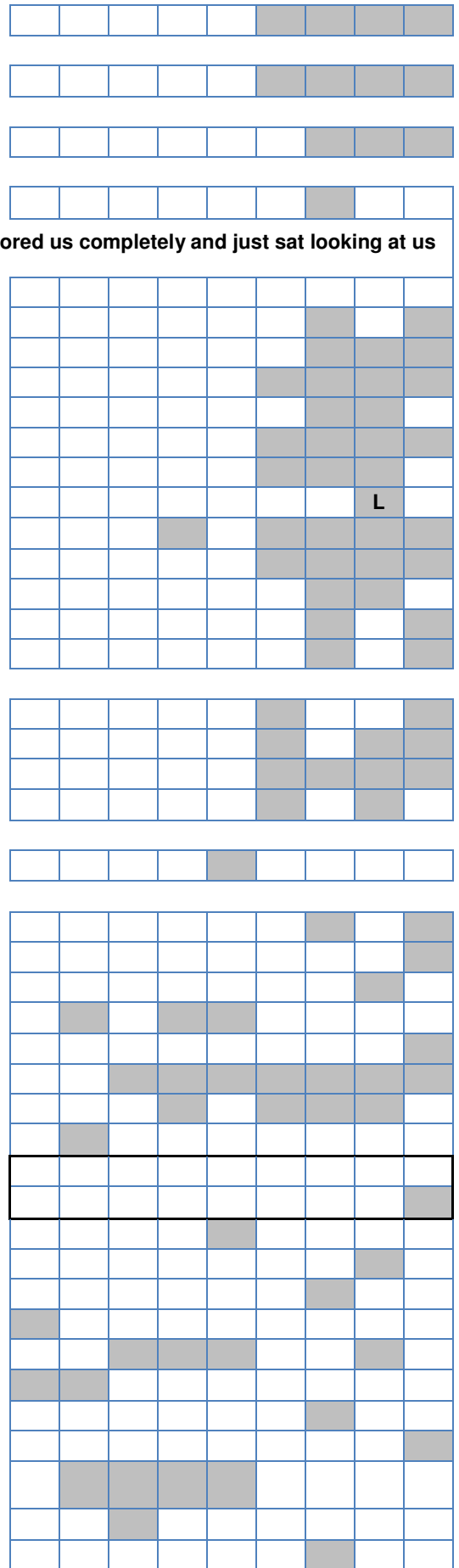
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	
Sacred (African Sacred) Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	
Hadeda Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	
African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>	

Secretary-bird Sagittariidae

Secretary-bird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>	
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Hawks, Eagles & Kites Accipitridae

Black-shouldered(-winged) Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	
African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>	
White-headed Vulture	<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>	
Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>	
Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>	
White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>	
Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>	
Black-breasted Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>	
Banded Snake-Eagle (Western Banded Snake-Eagle)	<i>Circaetus cinerascens</i>	
Bat Hawk	<i>Macheiramphus alcinus</i>	
Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>	
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>	
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	
Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>	
Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>	
African Hawk-Eagle	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>	
Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>	
(Southern) Pale Chanting-Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>	
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>	
African Marsh-Harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>	



NE

Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	
Black Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter melanoleucos</i>	
Little Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter minullus</i>	
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	
(Yellow-billed Kite)	<i>(Milvus migrans parasiticus)</i>	
African Fish-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>	
Augur Buzzard	<i>Buteo augur</i>	

Bustards

Otididae

Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>	
Ludwig's Bustard	<i>Neotis ludwigii</i>	
Red-crested Bustard (Korhaan)	<i>Eupodotis ruficrista</i>	
White-quilled Bustard (Northern Black Korhaan)	<i>Eupodotis afraoides</i>	

NE

NE

E

Rails, Gallinules & Coots

Rallidae

Black Crake	<i>Amaurornis flavirostra</i>	
African Swamphe	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>	
Allen's Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio alleni</i>	

An amazing year where we recorded a juvenile of this species at Nxamaseri - a first on these tours, and then had a second juvenile on our Zambezi boat trip at Livingstone. A first on these tours!

Eurasian (Common) Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>	

Finfoots

Heliornithidae

African Finfoot	<i>Podica senegalensis</i>	
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Cranes

Gruidae

Wattled Crane	<i>Bufoeranus carunculatus</i>	
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Thick-knees

Burhinidae

Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>	
Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>	

Stilts & Avocets

Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	

Oystercatchers

Haematopodidae

African (Black) Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus moquini</i>	
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Plovers & Lapwings

Charadriidae

Black-bellied (Gray) Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	
Long-toed Lapwing (Plover)	<i>Vanellus crassirostris</i>	
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>	
White-headed(-crowned) Lapwing	<i>Vanellus albiceps</i>	
Crowned Lapwing (Plover)	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>	
Wattled Lapwing (Plover)	<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	<i>Charadrius pallidus</i>	

Jacanas

Jacanidae

Lesser Jacana	<i>Microparra capensis</i>	
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>	

Sandpipers & Allies

Scolopaciidae

Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	

African Scops-Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>	
Southern White-faced (Scops-)Owl	<i>Ptilopsis granti</i>	
Pel's Fishing-Owl	<i>Scotopelia peli</i>	

h								h	

Great, extended viewing of an adult who flushed from dense cover and the perched up in a sparsely-foliaged tree - giving everyone wonderful scope views before moving to a large Jackalberry tree on a nearby island. Even better, unobscured views followed!

Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>	
African Barred Owlet	<i>Glaucidium capense</i>	

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Nightjars & Allies

Caprimulgidae

Freckled Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus tristigma</i>	
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Swifts

Apodidae

African Swift	<i>Apus barbatus</i>	
(African Black Swift)		
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	
African Palm-Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	

Mousebirds

Coliidae

E

White-backed Mousebird	<i>Colius colius</i>	
Red-faced Mousebird	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>	L

Hoopoes

Upupidae

Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	
(African Hoopoe)	<i>(Upupa epops africana)</i>	

Woodhoopoes & Scimitar-bills

Phoeniculidae

Green Woodhoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>	
Violet Woodhoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus damarensis</i>	
Common Scimitar-bill	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>	

Hornbills

Bucerotidae

NE

Southern Ground-Hornbill	<i>Bucorvus leadbeateri</i>	
Bradfield's Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros bradfieldi</i>	
African Gray Hornbill	<i>Lophoceros nasutus</i>	
Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>	
Monteiro's Hornbill	<i>Tockus monteiroi</i>	
Southern Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus rufirostris</i>	
Damara Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus damarensis</i>	
Trumpeter Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes bucinator</i>	

Kingfishers

Alcedinidae

Half-collared Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo semitorquata</i>	
Malachite Kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>	
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>	
Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>	
Giant Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle maxima</i>	
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	

Bee-eaters

Meropidae

White-fronted Bee-eater	<i>Merops bullockoides</i>	
Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>	
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>	
Southern Carmine Bee-eater	<i>Merops nubicoides</i>	

Rollers

Coraciidae

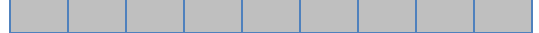
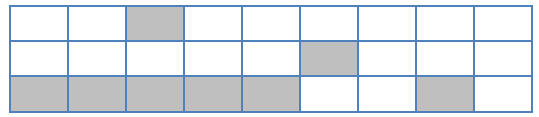
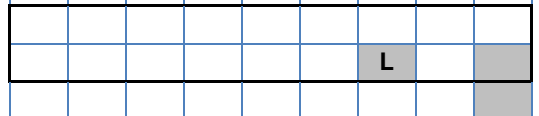
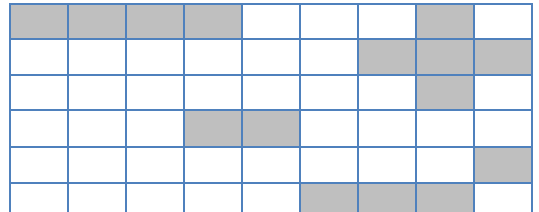
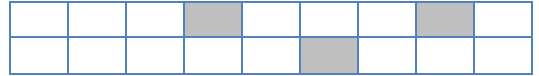
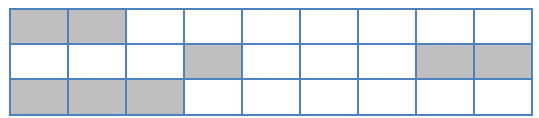
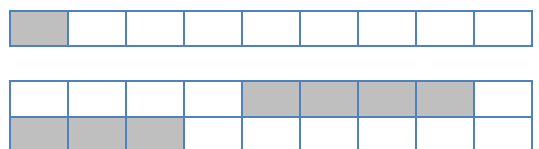
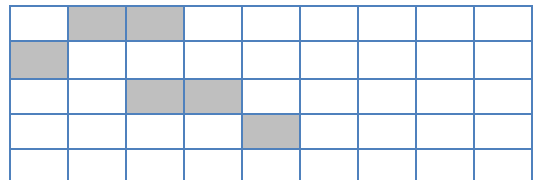
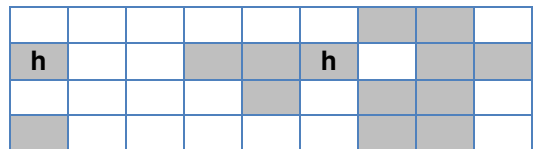
Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>	
Rufous-crowned (Purple) Roller	<i>Coracias naevius</i>	

African Barbets

Lybiidae

Crested Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>	
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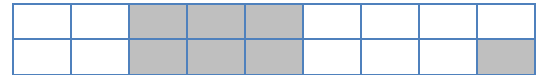
NE	Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>																			
	Pied (Acacia Pied) Barbet	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>																			
	Black-collared Barbet	<i>Lybius torquatus</i>																			
Honeyguides		Indicatoridae																			
	Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>																			
	Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>																			
# A great encounter with a male that persistently tried to get us to follow it to a bee hive that it had located - only the second time we have observed this fascinating "guiding" behaviour on these tours!																					
Woodpeckers										Picidae											
	Bennett's Woodpecker	<i>Campethera bennettii</i>																			
	Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>																			
	Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>																			
	Bearded Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos namaquus</i>																			
Falcons & Caracaras										Falconidae											
	Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>																			
	Rock Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicolis</i>																			
	Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>																			
	Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>																			
	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>																			
NE	Old World Parrots										Psittaculidae										
		Rosy-faced Lovebird	<i>Agapornis roseicollis</i>																		
NE	New World and African Parrots										Psittacidae										
		Meyer's Parrot	<i>Poicephalus meyeri</i>																		
	Rueppell's Parrot	<i>Poicephalus rueppellii</i>																			
NE	Wattle-eyes & Batises										Platysteiridae										
		White-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanioturdus torquatus</i>																		
	Chinspot Batis	<i>Batis molitor</i>																			
NE		Pirit Batis	<i>Batis pirit</i>																		
Vangas, Helmetshrikes & Allies										Vangidae											
	White(-crested) Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>																			
	Retz's Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops retzii</i>																			
Bushshrikes & Allies										Malaconotidae											
	Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>																			
	Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>																			
	Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>																			
	Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>																			
	Tropical Boubou	<i>Laniarius major</i>																			
	(Swamp) Gabon Boubou	<i>Laniarius bicolor</i>																			
NE		Crimson-breasted Gonolek (Shrike)	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>																		
NE		Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>																		
	Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike	<i>Telophorus sulfureopectus</i>																			
	(Orange-breasted Bushshrike)																				
	Gray-headed Bushshrike	<i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i>																			
Shrikes										Laniidae											
	Southern Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>																			
	Magpie Shrike	<i>Corvinella melanoleuca</i>																			
	White-crowned Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus anguitimens</i>																			
Old World Orioles										Oriolidae											
	African Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>																			
Drongos										Dicruridae											
	Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>																			



Crows, Jays & Magpies

Corvidae

Cape Crow (Cape Rook)	<i>Corvus capensis</i>	
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	

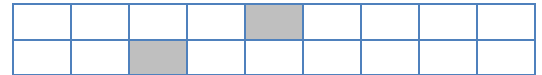


Larks

Alaudidae

NE

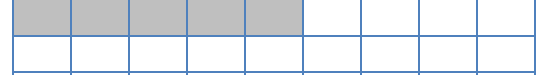
Rufous-naped Lark	<i>Mirafra africana</i>	
Eastern Clapper Lark	<i>Mirafra fasciolata</i>	



E

NE

Sabota Lark	<i>Calendulauda sabota</i>	
Dune Lark	<i>Calendulauda erythrochlamys</i>	



NE

Gray's Lark	<i>Ammomanopsis grayi</i>	
Spike-heeled Lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>	



NE

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix leucotis</i>	
Gray-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix verticalis</i>	



NE

Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>	
Stark's Lark	<i>Spizocorys starki</i>	



NE

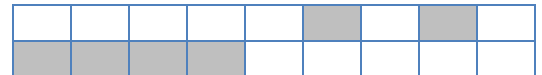
Pink-billed Lark	<i>Spizocorys conirostris</i>	
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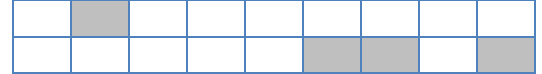
Swallows

Hirundinidae

Banded Martin	<i>Riparia cincta</i>	
Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne (Hirundo) fuligula</i>	



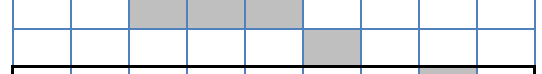
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	



Pearl-breasted Swallow	<i>Hirundo dimidiata</i>	
Lesser Striped-Swallow	<i>Cecropis (Hirundo) abyssinica</i>	



Rufous-chested Swallow	<i>Cecropis (Hirundo) semirufa</i>	
Mosque Swallow	<i>Cecropis (Hirundo) senegalensis</i>	



Gray-rumped Swallow	<i>Pseudhirundo griseopyga</i>	
	<i>(Hirundo griseopyga)</i>	

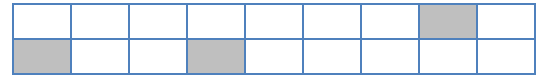


Tits, Chickadees & Titmice

Paridae

NE

Southern Black-Tit	<i>Melaniparus niger</i>	
Carp's Tit	<i>Melaniparus carpi</i>	



NE

Ashy Tit	<i>Melaniparus cinerascens</i>	
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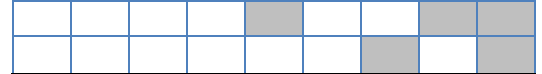


Bulbuls

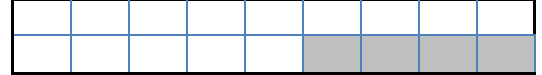
Pycnonotidae

NE

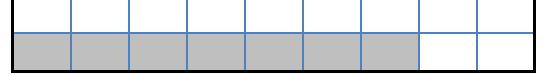
Yellow-bellied Greenbul	<i>Chlorocichla flaviventris</i>	
Terrestrial Brownbul	<i>Phyllastrephus terrestris</i>	



Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	
(Dark-capped Bulbul)	<i>(Pycnonotus barbatus tricolor)</i>	



Black-fronted Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>	
(African Red-eyed Bulbul)		

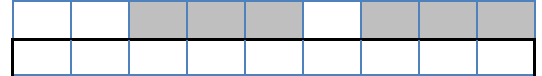


African Warblers

Macrosphenidae

NE

Cape (Long-billed) Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>	
Rockrunner	<i>Achaetops pycnopygius</i>	



(Damara Rock-jumper)		
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Amazing, repeat scope views of a bird that finally showed itself - this after we had tried every likely-looking rock pile in the area over the previous days. Drive from Huab to Etosha.

Reed-Warblers & Allies

Acrocephalidae

African Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>	
Lesser Swamp-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>	



Greater Swamp-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus rufescens</i>	
Little Rush-Warbler	<i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>	



(African Bush-Warbler)		
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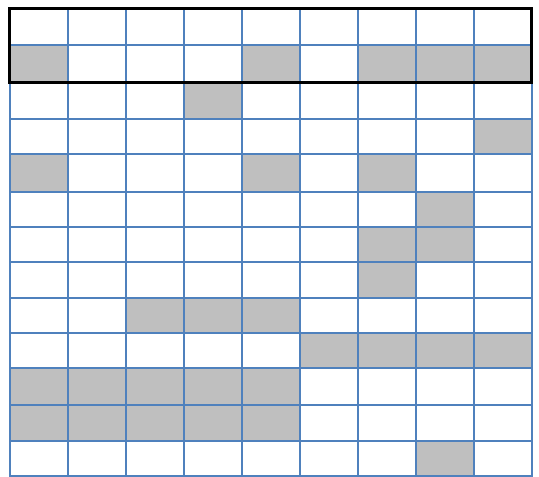
Cisticolas & Allies

Cisticolidae

Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>	
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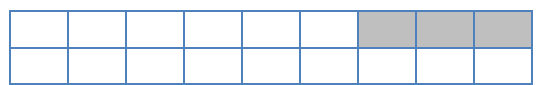
E	Green-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>	
	(Gray-backed Camaroptera)	<i>(C. brachyura brevicaudata)</i>	
	Rufous-eared Warbler	<i>Malcorus pectoralis</i>	
	Red-faced Cisticola	<i>Cisticola erythrops</i>	
	Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>	
	Winding (Luapula) Cisticola	<i>Cisticola galactotes</i>	
	Chirping Cisticola	<i>Cisticola pipiens</i>	
	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	
	Desert Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aridulus</i>	
	Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>	
	Black-chested Prinia	<i>Prinia flavicans</i>	
	Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>	
	Greencap Eremomela	<i>Eremomela scotops</i>	



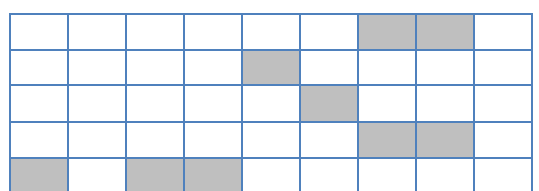
Sylviids		Sylviidae	
NE	Rufous-vented Warbler	<i>Sylvia subcaeruleum</i>	
	(Chestnut-vented Tit-Babbler)		



White-eyes, Yuhinas & Allies		Zosteropidae	
E	African Yellow White-eye	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>	
	Orange River White-eye	<i>Zosterops pallidus</i>	

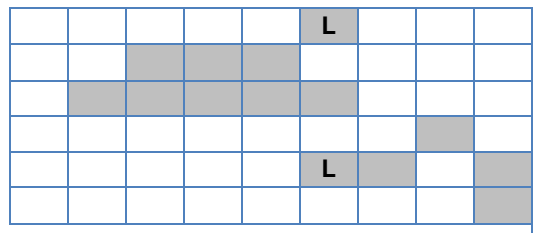


Laughing-thrushes & Allies		Leiothrichidae	
NE	Hartlaub's Babbler	<i>Turdoides hartlaubii</i>	
	Black-faced Babbler	<i>Turdoides melanops</i>	
E	Southern Pied-Babbler	<i>Turdoides bicolor</i>	
	Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>	
	Bare-cheeked Babbler	<i>Turdoides gymnogenys</i>	



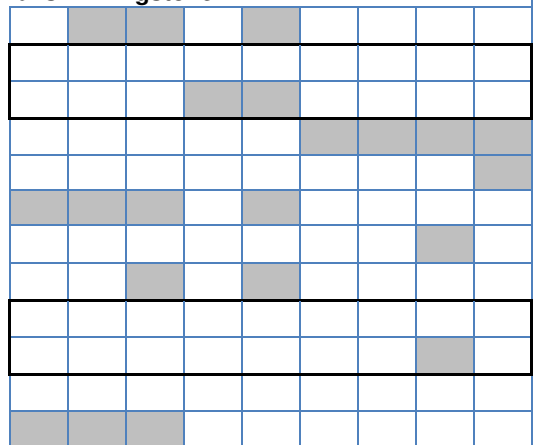
Great views of a flock foraging around our feet at breakfast, Andersson's Camp, Ongava Game Reserve

Old World Flycatchers		Muscicapidae	
NE	Pale Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis pallidus</i>	
	Chat Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis infuscatus</i>	
NE	Mariqua Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis mariquensis</i>	
	Southern Black-Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pammelaina</i>	
	Ashy Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa caerulescens</i>	
	Bearded Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas quadrivirgata</i>	



Great views of a bird quietly feeding next to the path on our way to the Falls - Livingstone

NE	Kalahari Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas paena</i>	
	Red-backed Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>	
	(White-browed Scrub Robin)		
	White-browed Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha heuglini</i>	
NE	Collared Palm-Thrush	<i>Cichladusa arquata</i>	
	Short-toed Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola brevipes</i>	
	African Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	
E	Southern Anteater-Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>	
	White-headed Black-Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla arnotti</i>	
	(Arnott's Chat)		
NE	Tractrac Chat	<i>Cercomela tractrac</i>	
	Familiar Chat	<i>Cercomela familiaris</i>	



Thrushes & Allies		Turdidae	
	Groundscraper Thrush	<i>Psophocichla litsitsirupa</i>	
	Kurrichane Thrush	<i>Turdus libonyana</i>	

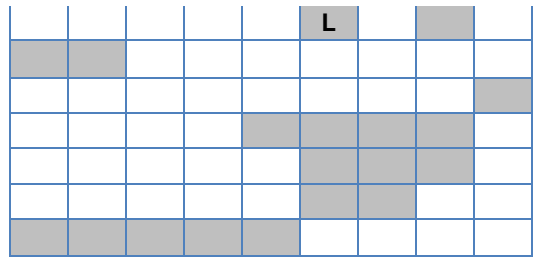


Starlings		Sturnidae	
	Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>	



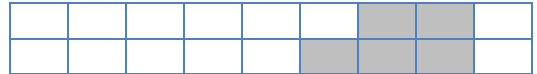
NE

Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>	
Pale-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus nabouroupp</i>	
Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>	



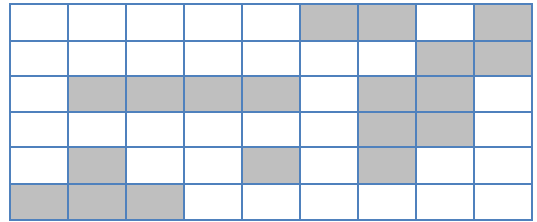
NE

Oxpeckers		Buphagidae
Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>	
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>	



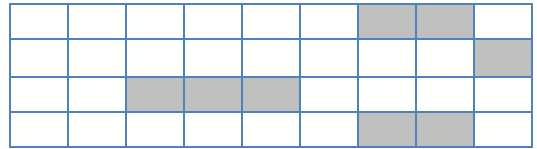
NE

Sunbirds & Spiderhunters		Nectariniidae
Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedydipna collaris</i>	
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>	
Mariqua Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>	
Purple-banded Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris bifasciatus</i>	
White-breasted(-bellied) Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris talatala</i>	
Dusky Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris fuscus</i>	



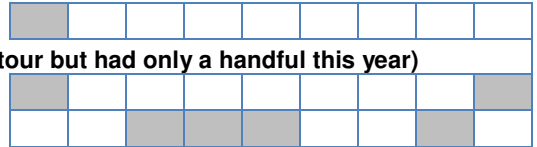
NE

Wagtails & Pipits		Motacillidae
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>	
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>	
African (Grassland) Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>	
Plain-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>	



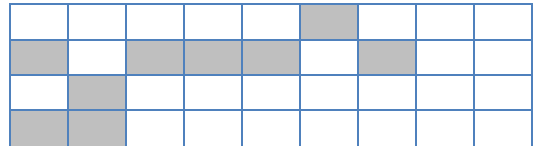
NE

Buntings & New World Sparrows		Emberizidae
Lark-like Bunting	<i>Emberiza impetواني</i>	
# Where were they all! (We usually see thousands of these birds on this tour but had only a handful this year)		
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>	
Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>	



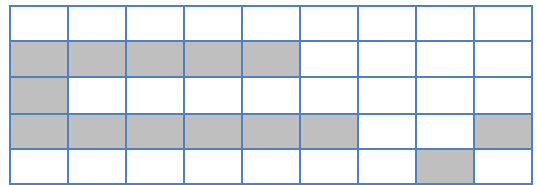
NE

Finches, Euphonias & Allies		Fringillidae
Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Serinus mozambicus</i>	
Black-throated Canary	<i>Serinus atrogularis</i>	
Yellow Canary	<i>Serinus flaviventris</i>	
White-throated Canary	<i>Serinus albogularis</i>	



NE

Old World Sparrows		Passeridae
House Sparrow (I)	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	
Great (Rufous) Sparrow	<i>Passer motensis</i>	
Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>	
Southern Gray-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>	
Yellow-throated Petronia	<i>Petronia superciliaris</i>	

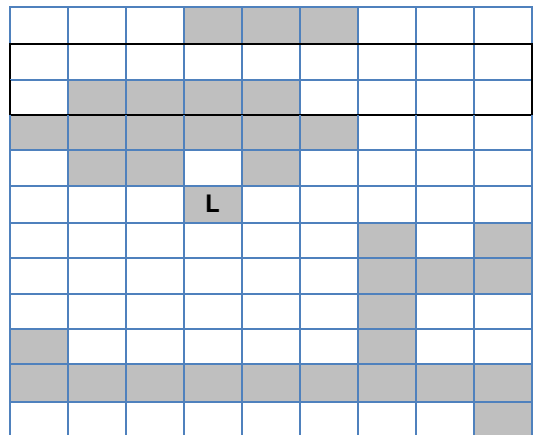


NE

Weavers & Allies		Ploceidae
Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>	
Scaly Weaver	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>	
(Scaly-feathered Finch)		
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>	
Social Weaver	<i>Philetairus socius</i>	
Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>	
Spectacled Weaver	<i>Ploceus ocularis</i>	
Holub's Golden-Weaver	<i>Ploceus xanthops</i>	
Southern Brown-throated Weaver	<i>Ploceus xanthopterus</i>	
Lesser Masked-Weaver	<i>Ploceus intermedius</i>	
Southern Masked-Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>	
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	

NE

E



Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>	
Southern Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>	
Fan-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes axillaris</i>	
Grosbeak (Thick-billed) Weaver	<i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>	
Waxbills & Allies	Estrildidae	
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>	
Orange-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia afro</i>	

			■							
							■			
									■	
	L			■						
										L

A brief view of a male that perched up in a large Knobthorn before flying off was only the second record for these tours - Livingstone

Red-throated Twin-spot	<i>Hypargos niveoguttatus</i>	
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First-ever (and frustratingly brief) views of a female in a dense thicket - Victoria Falls view site, Livingstone

Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>	
Brown Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta nitidula</i>	

				■				■		
								■		

Great repeat views of a small flock feeding only yards away - Nxamaseri Island

Jameson's Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rhodopareia</i>	
Cut-throat	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>	
Red-headed Finch	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>	

									■	■
										■

NE

Indigobirds	Viduidae	
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>	
Eastern Paradise-Whydah	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>	
Shaft-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua regia</i>	
Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>	

										■
										■

NE

Birds recorded - Coastal Pre-tour: 80 species; 8 endemics, 8 near endemics & 1 breeding endemic

Birds recorded - Main tour: 315 species; 5endemics, 37 near endemics

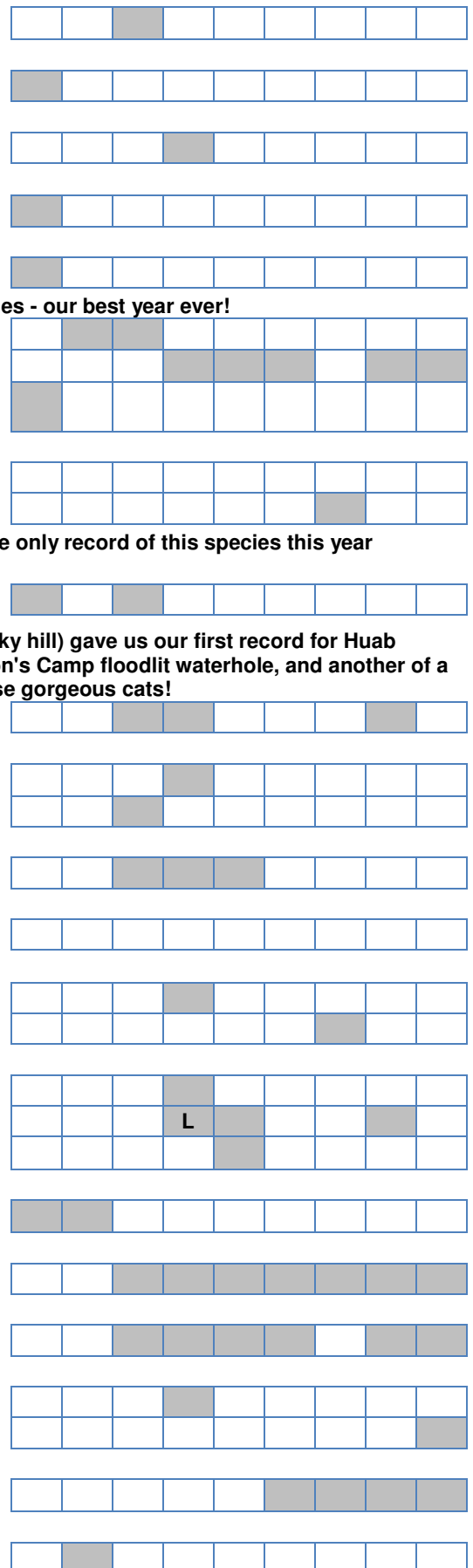
Birds recorded - Combined tours: 355 species; 13 endemics, 42 near-endemic & 1 breeding endemic

MAMMALS

											Coastal Pre-tour
E	Dolphins	Delphinidae									
	Haviside's Dolphin	<i>Cephalorhynchus heavisidii</i>									■
	Sengis (Elephant Shrews)	Macroscelididae									
	Short-snouted Sengi	<i>Elephantulus brachyrhynchus</i>									
	# An animal sunning itself on a termite mound near Namutoni, Etosha was the first record on these tours										
	Cheek-Pouch Monkeys	Cercopithecidae									
	Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>									
	Vervet Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus pygerythrus</i>									
	Old World Fruit Bats	Pteropodidae									
	Peters's Epauletted Fruit Bat	<i>Epomophorus crypturus</i>									■
	Free-tailed Bats	Molossidae									

Huab Lodge	Travelling	Okaukeujo	Halali	Namutoni	Mahango GR	Nxamaseri	Xakanaxa	Livingstone
				■				

Egyptian Free-tailed Bat	<i>Tadarida aegyptiaca</i>	
Vesper Bats		Vespertilionidae
Cape Serotine Bat	<i>Eptesicus capensis</i>	
Slit-faced Bats		Nycteridae
Common Slit-faced Bat	<i>Nycterus thebiaca</i>	
Hares & Rabbits		Leporidae
Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>	
Squirrels		Sciuridae
Damara (Mtn.) Ground Squirrel	<i>Geosciurus princeps</i>	
# The sparse ground cover at Huab gave us great sightings of this species - our best year ever!		
South African Ground Squirrel	<i>Geosciurus inauris</i>	
Smith's Bush (Tree) Squirrel	<i>Parexerus cepapi</i>	
Congo Rope (Striped Tree) Squirrel	<i>Funisciurus congicus</i>	
Rats & Mice		Muridae
Four-striped Grass Mouse	<i>Rhabdomys pumilio</i>	
Acacia Rat (Tree Mouse)	<i>Thallomys paedulus</i>	
# A young animal on the deck of the Beuret's cabin at Nxamaseri was the only record of this species this year		
Cats		Felidae
Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	
# Great scope views of a male watching us from the top of a koppie (rocky hill) gave us our first record for Huab whilst subsequent sightings of a female coming to drink at the Andersson's Camp floodlit waterhole, and another of a young female near Gemsbokvlakte in Etosha gave us a great trip for these gorgeous cats!		
Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>	
Hyaenas		Hyaenidae
Spotted Hyaena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>	
Brown Hyaena	<i>Hyaena brunnea</i>	
Dogs & Allies		Canidae
Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>	
Eared Seals & Sealions		Otariidae
Cape Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>	
Mustelids		Mustelidae
Ratel (Honey Badger)	<i>Mellivora capensis</i>	
Spot-necked Otter	<i>Lutra maculicollis</i>	
Mongoose		Herpestriidae
Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>	
Slender Mongoose	<i>Galerella sanguinea</i>	
Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>	
Hyaxes		Procavidae
Cape Rock Hyrax (Dassie)	<i>Procavia capensis</i>	
Elephants		Elephantidae
African Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	
Horses		Equidae
Common (Plains/Burchell's) Zebra	<i>Equus burchelli</i>	
Rhinoceroses		Rhinocerotidae
Black (Hook-lipped) Rhinoceros	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	
White (Square-lipped) Rhinoceros	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>	
Hippopotamuses		Hippopotamidae
Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	
Pigs		Suidae
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>	
Giraffes		Giraffidae



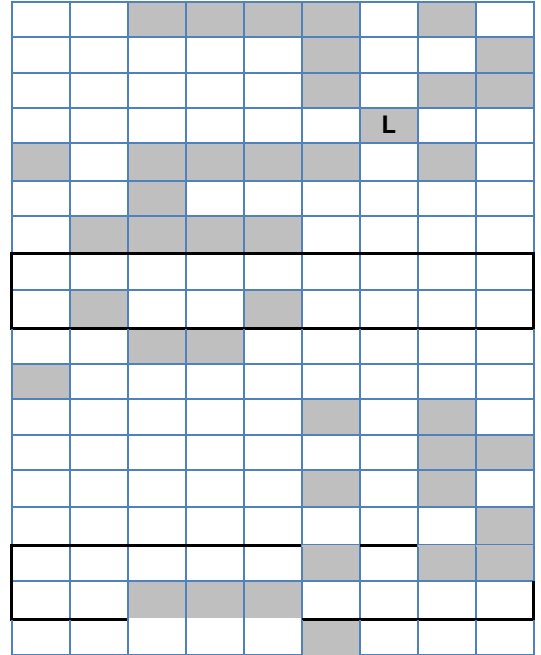
Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>	
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Bovids & Horned Ungulates

Bovidae

Brindled Gnu (Blue Wildebeest)	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>	
African (Cape) Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>	
Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	
Sititunga	<i>Tragelaphus spekei</i>	
Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>	
Bush (Common/Gray) Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>	
Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>	
Kirk's Dikdik	<i>Madoqua kirkii</i>	
Damara Dikdik	<i>Madoqua damarensis</i>	
Steinbuck	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>	
Klipspringer	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>	
Southern (Common) Reedbuck	<i>Redunca arundinum</i>	
Defassa Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>	
Red Lechwe	<i>Kobus leche</i>	
Puku	<i>Kobus vardonii</i>	
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>	
(Black-faced Impala)	<i>Aepyceros (m.) petersi</i>	
Roan Antelope	<i>Hippotragus equinus</i>	

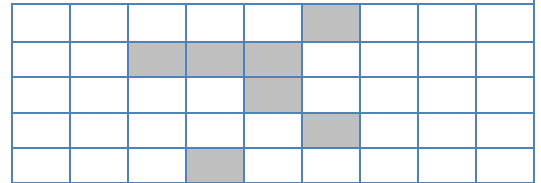


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Great views of a male that stood watching us as we started the floodplain drive through the Mahango Game Reserve, Caprivi. This is often a tricky animal on these tours!

Sable Antelope	<i>Hippotragus niger</i>	
Southern Oryx (Gemsbok)	<i>Oryx gazella</i>	
Blesbuck	<i>Damaliscus dorcas</i>	
Topi (Tsessebe)	<i>Damaliscus lunatus</i>	
Kongoni (Red Hartebeest)	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>	



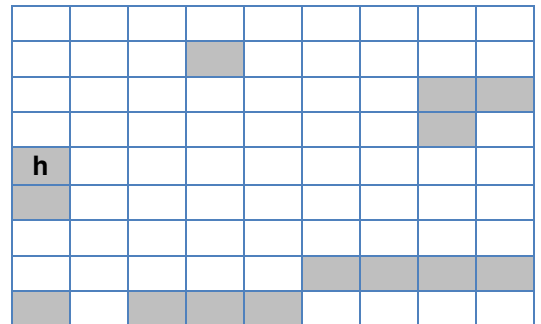
REPTILES

Boomslang (Tree Snake)	<i>Dispholidus typus</i>	
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We had a team of snake-catchers trying to remove a rather lively apple-green male from a small palm tree where we were dropped off at our hotel after our Zambezi boat trip - Livingstone

Wedge-snouted Desert Lizard	<i>Meroles cuneirostris</i>	
Ovambo Tree Skink	<i>Trachylepis binotata</i>	
Rainbow Skink	<i>Trachylepis margaritifer</i>	
Wahlberg's Striped Skink	<i>Trachylepis wahlbergii</i>	
Common Barking Gecko	<i>Ptenopsis garrulus</i>	
Boulton's Namib Day Gecko	<i>Rhoptropus Boultoni</i>	
Bradfield's Namib Day Gecko	<i>Rhoptropus bradfieldi</i>	
Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>	
Marsh Terrapin	<i>Pelomedusa subrufa</i>	



AMPHIBIANS

Guttural Toad	<i>Amietophrynus gutturalis</i>	
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FISH

Tiger Fish	<i>Hydrocynus vittatus</i>																		
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Our guide, Adam, was keen to catch us a Tiger Fish to lure down one of the pair of African Fish-Eagles that nested near camp. Unfortunately he was just too good and the fish he landed was too large for the birds and was carefully released after the group had had a close look at the fearsome teeth of these rapacious predators. A second attempt from the dock in camp on our last morning was more successful, and we enjoyed the sight of the eagle swooping down to snatch up the offering on our way to the airstrip - Nxamaseri