

NAMIBIA, BOTSWANA, & ZAMBIA

AUGUST 13-28, 2006

NAMIBIA: WALVIS BAY PRE-TRIP

AUGUST 10-14, 2006



Saddle-billed Stork

Photo by Bill Denton

LEADER: GEOFF LOCKWOOD

COMPILED BY: GEOFF LOCKWOOD

VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS, INC.
2525 WALLINGWOOD DRIVE, SUITE 1003
AUSTIN, TX 78746
WWW.VENTBIRD.COM

ITINERARY

- Aug 11-14 - Pre-tour to the Namibian coast, Walvis Bay and Swakopmund
- Aug 14 - Flight to Huab Lodge
- Aug 15 - Huab Lodge
- Aug 16 - Huab Lodge, drive to Okakeujo Camp, Etosha
- Aug 17 - Etosha (Okakeujo to Halali via Okandeka, Rietfontein waterhole)
- Aug 18 - Etosha (Halali to Namutoni Camp via Goas and Kalkheuwel waterholes)
- Aug 19 - Etosha (Namutoni to Andoni plains via Klein Okeivi, Tsumcor and Stinkwater)
- Aug 20 - Namutoni Camp; charter to Bagani (Caprivi Strip); Mahango Game Reserve to Shakawe
- Aug 21 - Shakawe
- Aug 22 - Shakawe
- Aug 23 - Shakawe, flight to Xakanaxa, Moremi
- Aug 24 - Xakanaxa
- Aug 25 - Xakanaxa, flight to Livingstone via Kasane
- Aug 26 - Zambezi boat trip, and game drive in the Mosi oa Tunya National Park
- Aug 27 - Hotel grounds in Livingstone and flight back to Johannesburg

TOUR SUMMARY

An unusual climate and rainfall pattern again made this year's tour an interesting challenge, with several species that are usually a given on this itinerary proving surprisingly elusive. Namibia experienced its highest rainfall in decades, and grass and bush cover was thicker than on past tours, making the finding and viewing of terrestrial species more difficult than usual. Even the Namib Desert—one of the driest in the world—had a healthy growth of grass!

Flight schedules this year meant that our time at Huab was unfortunately cut short, but in spite of this we managed great views of most of the arid zone endemics we look for on this leg of our tour.

The good rains and excellent grazing meant that the distribution of game in Etosha was very different from that which we usually encounter on this tour. Large herds of antelope were still present in the western section of the park, and the first breeding herds of elephants only encountered between Halali and Namutoni, but game-viewing was generally excellent.

Shakawe again delivered its usual spectacular array of bush and water birds, while Xakanaxa also provided great views of leopard, lion, and elephant (including a lone bull that caused havoc around our tents each night), as well as a variety of bush bird species.

The boat trip on the Zambezi above Victoria Falls was one of the best ever, producing great sightings of several special birds.

A puzzling aspect of this leg, however, was the dearth of seedeaters, as well as the surprisingly few Rock Pratincoles that were present on the exposed rocks above the falls. On previous tours we have recorded flocks of several hundreds hawking insects over the Falls!

Our pre-trip to the coast (Walvis Bay and Swakopmund) proved a great addition, giving a wonderful spectacle of thousands of both Greater flamingos; ultra-close views of Great White Pelicans; large numbers of shorebirds; and a total of 12 regionally endemic or near-endemic bird species. It also gave us great "at our feet" views of the unusual Pinguicula's Adder, a near-endemic burrowing snake of the Namib dunes.

KEY

- E** Denotes a regional Endemic Species
- NE** Denotes a regional Near-Endemic Species
- BE** Denotes a breeding endemic species
- Recorded on pre-tour
- ▲ Recorded on main tour
- h heard only
- LB Leader only

BIRDS

		Namibian Coast									
			Huab	(Travelling)	Okaukeujo	Halali	Namutoni	Mahango N.R.	Shakawe	Xakanaxa	Livingstone
OSTRICH : <i>Struthionidae</i>											
Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>	■			▲	▲	▲	▲		▲	
GREBES : <i>Podicipedidae</i>											
Dabchick (Little Grebe)	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	■				▲					
Black-necked (Eared) Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	■									
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	■									
SHEARWATER and PETRELS : <i>Procellariidae</i>											
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	■									
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	■									
PELICANS : <i>Pelecanidae</i>											
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	■						▲		▲	
Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>								▲	▲	
GANNETS and BOOBIES											
BE Cape Gannet	<i>Morus capensis</i>	■									
CORMORANTS : <i>Phalacrocoracidae</i>											
White-breasted (Great) Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>	■									
BE Cape Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>	■									
E Bank Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax neglectus</i>	■									
E Crowned Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax coronatus</i>	■									
Reed (Long-tailed) Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>							▲	▲	▲	▲
DARTER : <i>Anhingidae</i>											
African Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>							▲	▲	▲	▲
HERONS, EGRETS and BITTERNs : <i>Ardeidae</i>											
Gray Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	■							▲	▲	▲
Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>			▲	▲	▲					▲
Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>							▲	▲		
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>							▲			
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>							▲	▲	▲	▲
Slaty Egret	<i>Egretta vinaceigula</i>							▲		▲	
Black Heron	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>								▲		
Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>								▲		
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	■							▲	▲	
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>							▲	▲	▲	
Rufous-bellied Heron	<i>Ardeola rufiventris</i>							▲		▲	
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	■				▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Green-backed (Striated) Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>								▲	▲	▲
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>								▲	▲	▲
White-backed Night Heron	<i>Gorsachius leucomelas</i>								▲		▲
# Great, close views of pair perched on the bank below Shakawe village - Shakawe boat trip.											
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>								▲		
HAMERKOP : <i>Scopidae</i>											
Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>								▲	▲	▲

E	Dune Lark	<i>Certhilauda erythrochlamys</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table>										
	# We had several great, close views of this species feeding in the Kuiseb River Delta - Walvis Bay													
	Spikeheeled Lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td style="text-align: center;">▲</td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table>			▲							
		▲												
	Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix leucotis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td style="text-align: center;">▲</td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table>			▲							
		▲												
NE	Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix verticalis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td style="text-align: center;">▲</td><td style="text-align: center;">▲</td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table>			▲	▲						
		▲	▲											
NE	Gray's Lark	<i>Ammomanes grayi</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table>										
	# Good, extended scope views of this near-endemic, desert lark - Namib Desert near Swakopmund													

Black (Cape) Crow

Corvus capensis

Namibian Coast			▲	▲					
	Huab								
	(Travelling)								
	Okaukeujo								
	Halali								
	Namutoni								
	Mahango N.R.								
	Shakawe								
Xakanaxa									
Livingstone									

CROWS and ALLIES : Corvidae cont.

Pied Crow

Corvus albus

			▲	▲			▲		▲
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STARLINGS : Sturnidae

Wattled Starling

Creatophora cinerea

		▲	▲		▲	▲	▲		
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(Cape) Glossy Starling

Lamprotornis nitens

▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲		
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Sharp-tailed Starling

Lamprotornis acuticaydus

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A sighting of a party of five birds flying over the group and displaying their characteristic wedge-shaped tails was the first

record of this species for this tour itinerary - Mahango Nature Reserve

Greater Blue-eared Glossy Starling

Lamprotornis chalybaeus

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Meves' Glossy Starling

Lamprotornis mevesii

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Burchell's (Glossy) Starling

Lamprotornis australis

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Violet-backed Starling

Cinnyricinclus leucogaster

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Red-winged Starling

Onychognathus morio

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NE Pale-winged Starling

Onychognathus nabouroup

▲	▲								
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Red-billed Oxpecker

Buphagus erythrorhynchus

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Yellow-billed Oxpecker

Buphagus africanus

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OLD WORLD SPARROWS and ALLIES : Passeridae

House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

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Great (Rufous) Sparrow

Passer motitensis

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NE Cape Sparrow (Mossie)

Passer melanurus

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Southern Grey-headed (Cape) Sparrow

Paser diffusus

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Yellow-throated Petronia

Petronia superciliaris

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WEAVERS and ALLIES : Ploceidae

Red-billed Buffalo Weaver

Bubalornis albirostris

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NE Scaly-feathered Finch (Scaly Weaver)

Sporopipes squamifrons

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White-browed Sparrow Weaver

Plocepasser mahali

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E Sociable (Social) Weaver

Philetairus socius

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(Holub's) Golden Weaver

Ploceus xanthops

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Southern Masked Weaver

Ploceus velatus

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Village Weaver

Ploceus cucullatus

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Chestnut Weaver

Ploceus rubiginosus

▲									
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Red-headed Weaver

Anaplectes rubriceps

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Red-billed Quelea

Quelea quelea

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Red-shouldered (Fantailed) Widow(-bird)

Euplectes axillaris

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Grosbeak Weaver

Amblyospiza albifrons

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WAXBILLS and ALLIES : Estrildidae

Green-winged Pytilia

Pytilia melba

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Brown Firefinch

Lagonosticta nitidula

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Unbelievable, ultra-close views of 4 of these usually illusive birds on the path in camp - Xakanaxa

Red-billed Firefinch

Lagonosticta senegala

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Blue Waxbill (Bluebreasted Cordonbleu)

Uraeginthus angolensis

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Violet-eared Waxbill

Uraeginthus granatina

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Common Waxbill

Estrilda astrild

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Black-faced Waxbill

Estrilda erythronotos

▲		▲		▲	▲				
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Bronze Mannikin

Lonchura cucullata

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NE Red-headed Finch

Amadina erythrocephala

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Great views of a magnificent male draped in the branches of a Leadwood Tree *Combretum imberbe* - Xakanaza

Lion

Panthera leo



Superb views of a pride of 15 feeding on the far-from fresh carcass of a hippo that had died in a fight. They were still feeding a week after the hippo had died! - Xakanaza

		Namibian Coast	Huab	(Travelling)	Okaukeujo	Halali	Namutoni	Mahango N.R.	Shakawe	Xakanaxa	Livingstone
	Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>			▲	▲	▲				
	Side-striped Jackal	<i>Canis adustus</i>								▲	
E	Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>			▲						
	Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>					▲				
	Small-spotted Genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>			▲						
	Large-spotted Genet	<i>Genetta tigrina</i>								▲	
	Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>			▲	▲	▲	▲		▲	▲

An un-nervingly close encounter with a bull who came within five yards of the front of our gamedrive vehicle - Mosi oa Tunya National Park, Zambia. This after another bull had kept us awake at Xakanaxa breaking branches and uprooting trees in the camp.

E	Rock Dassie (Hyrax)	<i>Procavia capensis</i>		▲	▲						
	Black (Hook-lipped) Rhinoceros	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>			▲	▲					

Several wonderful views of up to 5 adults coming to drink at Okakeujo waterhole and great views of large calves suckling - both at Okakeujo, and again at Halali waterholes - Etosha

	White (Square-lipped) Rhinoceros	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>									▲
	Burchell's Zebra	<i>Equus burchellii</i>			▲	▲	▲	▲			
	Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus aethiopus</i>		▲			▲	▲		▲	▲
	Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>						▲	▲	▲	▲
	Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>			▲	▲	▲	▲		▲	▲
	Blue Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>			▲	▲	▲	▲		▲	
	Red Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>				▲	▲				
E	Blesbuck	<i>Damaliscus damaliscus</i>					▲				

A dubious record of group of five of these antelope that had been introduced to the Mokuti Lodge outside of Etosha

	Tsessebe	<i>Damaliscus lunatus</i>						▲			
	Common Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>		▲							
NE	Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>			▲	▲	▲	▲			
	Damara (Kirk's Long-snouted) Dikdik	<i>Madoqua kirkii</i>					▲				
	Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>		▲	▲	▲	▲	▲			
	Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>						▲		▲	▲
	Blackfaced Impala	<i>Aepyceros m. petersi</i>				▲	▲				
	Roan Antelope	<i>Hippotragus equinus</i>						▲			
	Sable Antelope	<i>Hippotragus niger</i>						▲			
	Gemsbok (Oryx)	<i>Oryx gazella</i>		▲	▲	▲	▲	▲			
	Eland	<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>		▲							
	Cape Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>						▲			▲
	Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>		▲	▲	▲	▲	▲		▲	
	Sititunga	<i>Tragelaphus spekei</i>							▲		

Unusually good spotlight views of a pair of these swamp-loving antelope - night boat trip - Shakawe

	Bushbuck	<i>Tragelephus scriptus</i>								▲	▲
	Common Reedbuck	<i>Redunca arundinum</i>						▲			
	Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>								▲	▲
	Red Lechwe	<i>Kobus lechwe</i>						▲		▲	

1 - Mammal species recorded - Namibian Coast pre-tour

46 - Mammal species recorded - Main Tour

4 - Endemic species recorded

4 - Near-Endemic species recorded

REPTILES and AMPHIBIANS

		Namibian Coast	Huab	(Travelling)	Okaukeujo	Halali	Namutoni	Mahango N.R.	Shakawe	Xakanaxa	Livingstone
	Marsh Terrapin	<i>Pelomedusa subrufa</i>	▲		▲	▲	▲				
	Namib Rock Agama	<i>Agama planiceps</i>	▲								
E	Etosha Agama	<i>Agama etoshae</i>				▲					
	Bouton's Namib Day Gecko	<i>Rhoptropus boultoni</i>	▲								
E	Common Barking Gecko	<i>Ptenopus garrulus</i>	▲								
	Cape Dwarf Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus capensis</i>									▲
	Striped Skink	<i>Mabuya striata</i> spp.	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Rock Monitor Lizard	<i>Varanus exanthematicus</i>					▲				
	Nile (Water) Monitor	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>						▲	▲	▲	▲
	Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>						▲	▲	▲	▲
	Peringuey's Adder	<i>Bitis peringueyi</i>						▲	▲	▲	▲
	# A reptile lifer for the leader. We came across an adult female while searching for Bokmakieries - Swakop River mouth										
	Boomslang	<i>Dispholodus typs</i>									

12 - Reptile species recorded

2 - Endemic species recorded

Gutteral Toad

Bufo gutturalis

								▲		
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1 - Amphibian species recorded