

# **NAMIBIA, BOTSWANA & ZAMBIA**

**AUGUST 12-26, 2007**

**NAMIBIA: COASTAL PRE-TRIP**

**AUGUST 9-12, 2007**



Pel's Fishing Owl

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## ITINERARY

Aug 9-12	- Pre-tour to the Namibian coast, Walvis Bay and Swakopmund
Aug 12	- Flight to Huab Lodge
Aug 13	- Huab Lodge
Aug 14	- Huab Lodge
Aug 15	- Huab Lodge, drive to Okakeujo Camp, Etosha
Aug 16	- Etosha (Okakeujo to Halali via Okandeka, Rietfontein waterholes)
Aug 17	- Etosha (Halali to Namutoni Camp via Goas and Kalkheuwel waterholes)
Aug 18	- Etosha (Namutoni to Andoni plains via Klein + Groot Okeivi, Tsumcor waterholes and Stinkwater)
Aug 19	- Namutoni Camp; charter to Bagani (Caprivi Strip); Mahango Game Reserve to Shakawe
Aug 20	- Shakawe
Aug 21	- Shakawe
Aug 22	- Shakawe, flight to Xakanaxa, Moremi
Aug 23	- Xakanaxa
Aug 24	- Xakanaxa, flight to Livingstone via Kasane
Aug 25	- Zambezi boat trip, and game drive in the Mosi oa Tunya National Park
Aug 26	- Hotel grounds in Livingstone and flight back to Johannesburg

## TOUR SUMMARY

**Our Walvis Bay Pre-trip to the coast was again a great addition to the tour, providing a wonderful spectacle of thousands of Greater and Lesser flamingoes, Great White Pelicans, numbers of shorebirds, and a total of 12 regionally endemic or near-endemic bird species including larks, chats, and cormorants.**

**Unusual climate and rainfall patterns again made this year's tour an interesting challenge, with several species that are usually a given on this itinerary proving surprisingly elusive. In contrast to last year's exceptional rains, Namibia was much drier, and bird numbers and distributions were very different from previous years. Of particular note were the tens of thousands of Lark-like Buntings in Etosha, and, in contrast, the absence of the customary variety and numbers of seedeaters at Huab.**

**Flood levels along the Okavango River in the Mahango Game Reserve and at Shakawe were still relatively high, but the region had experienced poor rains last summer; away from the river, the birding was quiet by usual standards. In spite of this we still enjoyed great birding, as well as our best-ever views of roan antelope in Mahango!**

**Xakanaxa also provided great game-viewing and birding with superb views of leopard (on all three days); lion; elephant (including a bull which kept us awake on our first night, breaking branches and scratching himself on our tents); a last-gasp view of a cheetah on our way to the airstrip for our flight to Livingstone; and superb views of Pel's Fishing, Verreaux's Eagle, and African Scops owls, as well as African Barred and Pearl-spotted owlets, and a variety of bush birds.**

**Our boat trip on the Zambezi above the Victoria Falls produced great sightings of several special birds, notably our best-ever sightings of both Half-collared Kingfisher and a stunning female African Finfoot.**

## KEY

**Note:** The Endemic classifications used in this Trip List refer to birds endemic to the southern African sub-region - i.e. South of the Cunene and Zambezi Rivers.

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

## BIRDS

	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	Coastal Pre-tour	Huab	Travelling	Okaukuejo	Halali	Namautoni	Mahango G R	Shakawe	Xakanaxa	Travelling	Livingstone
	<b>Ostrich</b>	<b>Struthionidae</b>											
	Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>				▲	▲	▲	▲				
	<b>Grebes</b>	<b>Podicipedidae</b>											
	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	■					▲					
	Eared (Black-necked) Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	■										
	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	■										
	<b>Shearwaters and Petrels</b>	<b>Procellariidae</b>											
	White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	■										
	<b>Pelicans</b>	<b>Pelecanidae</b>											
	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	■										
	<b>Gannets and Boobies</b>	<b>Sulidae</b>											
<b>BE</b>	Cape Gannet	<i>Morus capensis</i>	■										
	<b>Cormorants &amp; Shags</b>	<b>Phalacrocoracidae</b>											
	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	■										
	(White-breasted Cormorant)	<i>(Phalacrocorax (c.) lucidus</i>											
<b>BE</b>	Cape Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>	■										
<b>E</b>	Bank Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax neglectus</i>	■										
<b>E</b>	Crowned Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax coronatus</i>	■										
	(Reed) Long-tailed Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>							▲	▲	▲		▲
	<b>Anhingas &amp; Darters</b>	<b>Anhingidae</b>											
	Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>											
	(African Darter)	<i>(Anhinga (m.) rufa)</i>							▲	▲	▲		▲
	<b>Hérons, Egrets &amp; Bitterns</b>	<b>Ardeidae</b>											
	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>							▲	▲	▲		





















	Klipspringer	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>			▲														
	Damara (Kirk's) 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>									▲								
	# Unbelievable views of a herd of 7 adults and 5 calves which stood and watched as we set up the scope - Mahango GR																		
	Sable Antelope	<i>Hippotragus niger</i>									▲								
	# A single, majestic male gave unusually good views of this normally shy species - Mahango Game Reserve																		
	Gemsbok (Southern Oryx)	<i>Oryx gazella</i>																	
	Cape (African) Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>																▲	▲
	<b>COMMON NAME</b>	<b>SCIENTIFIC NAME</b>	<b>Coastal Pre-tour</b>	<b>Huab</b>	<b>Travelling</b>	<b>Okaukuejo</b>	<b>Halali</b>	<b>Namautoni</b>	<b>Mahango G R</b>	<b>Shakawe</b>	<b>Xakanaxa</b>	<b>Travelling</b>	<b>Livingstone</b>						
	Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>		▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲		▲								
	Sititunga	<i>Tragelaphus spekei</i>									▲								
	Bushbuck	<i>Tragelephus scriptus</i>										▲							▲
	Common Reedbuck	<i>Redunca arundinum</i>								▲									
	Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>																	▲
	Red Lechwe	<i>Kobus leche</i>								▲									▲
	Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	■																
	<b>Mammals recorded - Pre-tour : 6 species; 2 near-endemics</b>																		
	<b>Mammals recorded - Main tour : 43 species; 3 endemics, 2 near-endemics</b>																		
	<b>REPTILES and AMPHIBIANS</b>																		
	<b>COMMON NAME</b>	<b>SCIENTIFIC NAME</b>	<b>Coastal Pre-tour</b>	<b>Huab</b>	<b>Travelling</b>	<b>Okaukuejo</b>	<b>Halali</b>	<b>Namautoni</b>	<b>Mahango G R</b>	<b>Shakawe</b>	<b>Xakanaxa</b>	<b>Travelling</b>	<b>Livingstone</b>						
	Marsh Terrapin	<i>Pelomedusa subrufa</i>				▲													
	Namib Rock Agama	<i>Agama planiceps</i>		▲															
	Common Namib Day Gecko	<i>Rhoptropus afer</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>								▲	▲	▲							▲
	# great views of an enormous animal at least 18 ft long that splashed into the water next to our boat - Shakawe																		
	<b>Reptiles recorded - Pre-tour : 1 species</b>																		
	<b>Reptiles recorded - Main tour : 9 species; 1 endemic</b>																		
	Marbled Rubber Frog	<i>Phrynomantis annectens</i>		▲															
	Tremelo Sand frog	<i>Tomopterna crytotus</i>		▲															
	Eastern Olive Toad	<i>Bufo garmani</i>							▲										
	<b>Amphibians recorded - Main tour : 3 species</b>																		

