



ZAMBIA AND NAMIBIA

A Tropical Birding Custom Trip

October 31 to November 17, 2009
Guide: Ken Behrens

**All photos by Ken Behrens
 unless noted otherwise**

**All Namibia and most Zambia
 photos taken during this trip**

INTRODUCTION

Southern Africa offers a tremendous diversity of habitats, birds, and mammals, and this tour experienced nearly the full gamut: from the lush forests of northern Zambia, with their affinity to the great Congolese rainforests, to the bare dunes and gravel plains of the Namib desert. This was a custom tour with dual foci: a specific list of avian targets for Howard and good general mammal viewing for Diane. On both fronts, we were highly successful. We amassed a list of 479 birds, including a high proportion of Howard's targets. Of course, this list could have been much higher, had the focus been general birding rather than target birding. 'Mammaling' was also fantastic, with 51 species seen. We enjoyed an incredible experience of one of the greatest gatherings of mammals on earth: a roost of straw-coloured fruit bats in Zambia that includes millions of individuals. In Namibia's Etosha National Park, it was the end of the dry season, and any place with water had mammals in incredible concentrations. The undoubted highlight there was seeing lions 5 different times, including a pride with a freshly killed rhino and a female that chased and killed a southern oryx, then shared it with her pride.

In Zambia, much of our birding was in miombo, a type of broadleaf woodland that occurs in a broad belt across south / central Africa, and that has a large set of specialty birds. We were highly successful in finding miombo species, including Pennant-winged Nightjar, Spotted Creeper, Black-necked Eremomela, Yellow-bellied Hyliota, Souza's Shrike, Anchieta's, and Miombo Double-collared



Spotted Creeper is not uncommon in miombo.

Sunbirds, Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Weaver, and Bar-winged Weaver. Another distinctive habitat in this part of the world is dambo, seasonally inundated grassland that covers the low areas between stretches of miombo. Here we found spectacular and range-restricted birds like Blue Quail, Swamp Nightjar, Marsh Tchagra, Fuelleborn's Longclaw, and Locustfinch. Yet another set of spectacular species is found in and adjacent the rain forest-like mushitus, where we spotted Crowned Hawk-Eagle, Ross's Turaco, Black-backed Barbet, Boehm's Bee-eater, Bocage's Akalat, and many others. In the last couple of hours of birding we did in Zambia, we located Chaplin's Barbet, a beautiful and unique species, and Zambia's only endemic.

With a couple of quick flights, we switched countries, and found ourselves in the arid vastness of Namibia – quite a change from moist and wooded Zambia. Descending from the highlands around Windhoek, we birded the great Namib Desert and the escarpment, with its unique endemic birds. Here we were remarkably successful with specialty species, locating Dune Lark, Namibia's only endemic, along with every other near-endemic that was likely along our route. This load of specialties included the taxonomically confusing Rockrunner, charismatic White-tailed Shrike, a load of larks, including Benguela, Stark's, and Gray's, two beautiful parrots: Rosy-faced Lovebird, and Rueppell's Parrot, and Hartlaub's Francolin.

DAILY ACCOUNTS

October 31, 2009

An early arrival into Lusaka allowed us to start birding almost immediately. Although Lusaka is a typically bustling African city with little natural habitat left in its vicinity, there are some sanctuaries left. One of these holds excellent miombo, and that's where we headed for a few hours of birding. Despite the heat, the miombo yielded birds surprisingly easily. Pale-billed Hornbill, Stierling's Wren-Warbler, Spotted Creeper, Black-eared Seed-eater, Miombo Rock-Thrush, Miombo Tit, and Souza's Shrike were added in quick succession.

In the late afternoon, we walked around our lodge, which is surrounded by another pocket of semi-natural vegetation. An area of thicket held a surprising Terrestrial Brownbul, while in the drier woodland above were several Gray-headed Parrots, unexpected in an area this populated, as this species is frequently caught and sold as a pet.



Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Weaver (left) and Miombo Tit (right).



Red-capped Crombec (left) and Miombo Scrub-Robin (right) both thrive in the gardens of the Forest Inn.

November 1, 2009

As is so often the case with the lodges where we stay, the birding from the breakfast table was excellent! Sightings included Groundscraper Thrush, Brubru, and Collared Sunbird. By mid morning we were searching an area north of Lusaka that is known to hold Zambia's only endemic, Chaplin's Barbet. Several hours in the area did not yield a barbet, though there were interesting sightings, including Lesser Spotted Eagle, Trumpeter Hornbill, Broad-billed Roller, and Southern Black-Tit.

Driving another hour north finally brought us out of the degraded area that surrounds Lusaka and into the relatively undisturbed miombo woodland that characterizes most of Zambia. Taking the Great North Road into the heart of Zambia is something like stepping back into the northeastern United States of 300 years ago. There is a seemingly endless forest, with only small clearings for towns and villages. The population here is low, and you drive for long stretches without seeing any people or houses. Nonetheless, charcoal that is stacked all along this road serves as a reminder that even this seemingly pristine habitat is under threat.



We encountered Pennant-winged Nightjars both at Forest Inn and Mutinondo.

As the sun sank into the western haze, we took an initial walk through the patch of miombo adjacent the Forest Inn, our base for the next two nights. As in Lusaka, the rains had not yet arrived here, and leaves crunched underfoot as in a temperate forest in autumn. Though the birds were quiet and inconspicuous, we were happy to spot several Miombo Scrub-Robins, and an unexpected Kurrichane Buttonquail.

November 2, 2009

Birds were much more active at dawn than they had been the previous afternoon. I quickly heard then spotted an active flock of Black-necked Eremomelas. This handsome warbler is a specialty of miombo woodland, with the Forest Inn one of the best places to find it. Another Forest Inn specialty is Chestnut-mantled Sparrow-Weaver, and this one proved more elusive. Although I heard one call several times, it is very difficult to spot this bird, which often sits without moving at mid levels. Eventually, waiting in a prime area paid off, when a territorial dispute broke out between two Sparrow-Weavers, shaking them out of their normally lethargic habits. They chased each other around and called loudly, pausing several times for satisfying views through the scope.



Boehm's Flycatcher (left) and the handsome Black-necked Eremomela (right).

Further birding revealed two more scarce miombo birds: Boehm's Flycatcher and Yellow-bellied Hylia. On our walk back to the lodge, I heard a few scratchy tit calls, and played the call of Rufous-bellied Tit, which was a much-desired species. After a few repetitions, nothing happened, but just as we prepared to walk off, I spotted a tit sitting directly above our heads; it had come in silently, and no doubt watched with bemusement as the two strangely-equipped humans below it futilely scanned distant treetops.

November 3, 2009

Though we had only been in Zambia for three days, it was already becoming difficult to pry new birds from the miombo woodland. This habitat looks quite lush, much lusher than more arid savanna woodland, such as the acacia / commiphora savanna of the Kalahari. But its looks are deceptive, and it contains bird life at very low densities. It is possible to walk for hours without seeing or hearing more than a handful of birds. The birds here are very special, and worth the effort, but finding them can be frustratingly difficult. After a long and unproductive morning tromp through

the miombo, I finally spotted a tiny bird flushing from the forest floor. Putting it in the scope revealed it as an Orange-winged Pytilia, a particularly scarce and inconspicuous miombo species. This was typical birding in this habitat – a long walk with few birds culminating on a satisfying sighting that made the time seem well spent.

During breakfast on the lodge's porch, I spotted a Black-backed Barbet. This sighting was quite surprising, as this species is usually confined to moist evergreen mushitu forest. Apparently, the irrigation that occurs at the inn has modified the habitat enough to make it attractive to this mushitu species.



At dusk, Kasanka's horde of straw-colored fruit bats erupts from its day roost.

Leaving the Forest Inn, we headed towards Kasanka National Park. Along the way, we had the exciting task of buying diesel. Zambia seems to suffer a perpetual fuel shortage, and even in Lusaka, lines up to 5 blocks long often form at gas stations that actually have gas. Once outside of the big towns, it is often impossible to buy fuel from a true station, leaving entrepreneurs with jerry cans as your only option. This was the case today, though it was easy enough to negotiate the price, smell the product (hoping to detect non-diesel odors if the fuel has been cut with something else), and pour it into the tank.

We made good time to Kasanka, and arrived with enough leisure for an afternoon rest before venturing out in search of birds and mammals. Our first birding was in a beautiful mushitu that held several amazing birds, including Ross's Turaco and Black-backed Barbet. The open areas adjacent

the forest held Chirping Cisticola, Hartlaub's Babbler, and Brown Firefinch. At dusk we were in place to watch one of the greatest natural history spectacles on offer in Zambia, and indeed anywhere in Africa. In late October and November, a tremendous roost of straw-colored fruit bats forms within the national park, with peak numbers somewhere between 3 and 10 million individuals. Each one of these animals is impressive in its own right with an almost 3-foot wingspan. Seeing them pour from the forest and form a smoke-like cloud across the horizon in every direction is a magnificent sight. The sound made by these bats is vaguely oceanic – the dull roar of millions of simultaneously flapping leathery wings. Every night they venture forth to feed on fruit, though even with the knowledge that they fly up to 50 km away from the roost each night, it is difficult to imagine enough food to feed this horde.

As we returned to the lodge in the darkness, we swept the roadsides with a spotlight, and were rewarded with several interesting mammal sightings, including Common Genet, African Civet, and Bush Duiker. The birding was also good, with one African Barred Owlet and several Pennant-winged Nightjars. We got out of the truck and approached one nightjar, which proceeded to fly directly toward us, land on the ground, swoop around us several times, then land again. This incredible display was one of the highlights of the trip – this bird simply must be seen to be believed. Its remarkable yard-long plumes and swooping flight give credence to a deep human tendency to believe the night full of marvelous and mysterious creatures! As I went to sleep with hippos grunting in the distance, I pondered the deep miombo night, full of wild-eyed genets, dancing nightjars, and a hungry horde of aerial frugivores. What a world we live in!

November 4, 2009

Waking up at Kasanka is always a pleasure, as the chalets all have ample porches that look out onto a teeming marsh. Coppery-tailed Coucals bubble from the papyrus while White-backed Ducks and African Pygmy Geese float on open stretches of water. While enjoying a quick dawn snack and some tea and coffee, we were pleased to spot a sable antelope on the opposite side of the marsh. This species is scarce everywhere, and it's particularly satisfying to see it in Kasanka, where they are completely wild, with no fences to hem them in.



Boehm's Bee-eater is one of Kasanka's finest specialty birds.



At Kasanka we saw a Senegal Lapwing on a nest (left) and Miombo Double-collared Sunbird (right).

An initial stop at a good mushitu was productive, with Sharp-tailed Starling sitting cooperatively on a dead snag and a Marsh Tchagra sallying out of an adjacent dambo. A stop at a usually productive miombo area was quiet, though we did enjoy watching a variety of Palearctic migrants streaking across the sky. One particularly notable migrant was European Oriole, a first record for the national park! Taking a long loop back to a well-deserved brunch, we spotted a variety of mammals. One area hosted an incredible concentration of antelope – mostly puku but with a few sitatunga mixed in. There were also vast numbers of birds along a river bend, including a huge flock of African Openbills and Yellow-billed Storks.

Late in the afternoon, we made an expedition to a beautiful area of dambo. These open, and usually wet, grassland areas offer welcome relief to the monotony of the miombo, and an entirely different set of birds. Our main target was Locustfinch, and after an hour of tromping, we flushed up



In Kasanka, we encountered two family groups of Temminck's Coursers, that included this stripling.

a whole flock of this tiny, taxonomically odd finch. Waiting for dusk to fall, we were treated to a spectacular sunset over the open dambo. Huge, dark clouds turned orange as the sun descended. Though we hadn't seen rain yet, it was clear that the rains were marching down from the north, and it was only a matter of time before they arrived. The birds seemed to sense the proximity of the rain, and activity was unusually high. Square-tailed Nightjars frequently flitted through the beam of our

spotlights, and African Scops-Owls called everywhere. This species was a particular nemesis bird for Howard, who had missed it on many Africa trips, and we were very happy to eventually track down this tiny mite of an owl.



Mutinondo's spectacular vistas (left) and comfortable chalets (right).

November 5, 2009

After another breakfast on the terrace, we did some more miombo birding. This was one of the best mornings of birding I have ever done in this habitat, with large flocks of birds everywhere. One massive flock trailed past us for a half-hour. One of our target species was Anchieta's Sunbird, and we quickly spotted a pair of this spectacular species. Miombo Pied Barbet proved more elusive, and we didn't find one despite combing several promising flocks of mid-sized to large birds.

On the way to Mutinondo Wilderness Lodge, our next destination, the rains finally caught us. One of the pregnant, dark clouds that had lingered about for days finally released its burden of water. Though the rain slowed our progress, it was a fine spectacle to observe. In terms of the real life of Zambia, its birds, miombo forest, and farmers, the day of the first rains is the most important of the year, and it was a privilege to observe such a momentous occasion. With the rain still falling, we had to delay our birding until the following morning.



Mutinondo's dambos hold Fuelleborn's Longclaws.

November 6, 2009

Waking up at Mutinondo is one of my favorite experiences to be had in Zambia, and experiencing it the morning after the arrival of the rains was spectacular! After days in the relative flatness of Zambia, waking up among the towering inselbergs and endless vistas of Mutinondo is particularly striking. The chalets are carefully constructed so as to blend in with the environment, and have one wall open to admit the sweeping views. The first thing you see when sitting up in bed is a vast swath of miombo studded with massive granite inselbergs! The pristine miombo woodland here is draped in evocative Spanish moss-like 'old man's beard', and encrusted with lichens. The inselbergs themselves seem almost like the deserted monuments of an ancient civilization, and one would hardly be surprised to chance upon a hobbit greedily harvesting mushrooms! After all, among its other superlatives, the Mutinondo area boasts the largest edible mushroom in the world!

Along with spectacular wilderness landscapes, Mutinondo has some fantastic birds. Preeminent among these is Bar-winged Weaver. Quite simply, this is the best place in the world to see this odd, range-restricted species. With that in mind, I decided to pursue this species on the first morning. Walking through a prime area for the weaver, I repeatedly heard some very faint calls that sounded like the species. Almost ignoring them, I decided to try a burst of tape. Sure enough, a pair immediately flew in. They were dripping wet, and had evidently just enjoyed a bath in a pool of fresh rain water! Prolonged views of this strange, nuthatch-like weaver were savored.



A young Bar-winged Weaver being fed by an adult. Sights like this are among the prime reasons to visit Mutinondo.

After a long afternoon of relaxing and soaking in Mutinondo's vistas, we headed to a dambo nestled at the base of one of the tallest inselbergs. Though menacing dark clouds marshaled all

around, the rain held off and we were able to make a dambo tromp. The tiny Blue Quail was our main target, and we quickly flushed one of these beautiful birds. Another treat was a Swamp Nightjar that we seemingly startled off its nest, which circled around us several times.



Anchieta's Sunbird (right) is a beautiful miombo specialty.
This large dung beetle (left) was seen at Mutinondo.

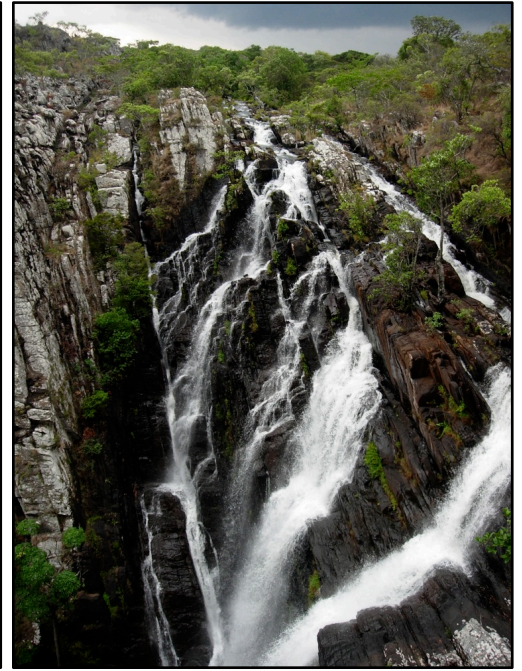
November 7, 2009

Though Kasanka normally has Bocage's Akalat, we were hindered in our search for this species by millions of bats roosting in its habitat! Thankfully, we had a second chance for this local species in a mushitu at Mutinondo. Slowly walking along the forest strip and listening quickly revealed a group of Gray-olive Greenbuls. Just before turning back, we stumbled on an akalat, which led us a merry chase before finally yielding fleeting views.

A short walk reunited Howard and I with Diane and the lodge staff, who had prepared a 'bush breakfast' in a spectacular setting on the base of one of the inselbergs. Though they were miles from their kitchen, the cooks had made a small fire, and we were served hot coffee, eggs to order, and delicious crepes. This was a breakfast to remember. There were even some birds, with a Lanner perching on a distant cliff and Rock-loving Cisticola singing from the rocks above us.

November 8, 2009

On our final morning at Mutinondo, we had nothing but scarce birds to pursue. In particular, we were keen to see a pair of wary francolins – Hildebrandt's and Shelley's. Unfortunately, neither cooperated, but we nonetheless enjoyed sweeping views from the top of Charlie's Rock. Though it is difficult to pick a most spectacular place in such scenic country, this central inselberg might be the winner. Looking down from its granite heights, we could see all the dambos, mushitu, and miombo



The view from above Kundalila Falls (left) and the falls themselves (right).

where we had been birding for the previous days. In every direction stretched untouched country, disappearing into the haze. Even the lodge is so carefully designed so as to disappear at a distance, so were left with nothing but an unspoiled, primal piece of Africa – no evidence of human tampering anywhere. Though ‘wilderness’ almost becomes a cliché in Africa, its placement in the name of this lodge is entirely appropriate. For all their Land Rovers and game fences, most of the ‘great parks’ of southern Africa don’t feel as wild as Mutinondo.

Saying goodbye to our kind hosts, we ventured back to the Great North Road and its epic potholes. Our lunch stop was at Kundalila Falls, where we found a spectacular thunderstorm bearing down on us. Wanting to see the falls before the deluge, we quickly made our way to the viewpoint. The sight of this massive falls roaring below us as a huge cloud glowered and thundered overhead was both intimidating and spectacular. We just beat the rain back to the car and a sheltered area where we ate a picnic lunch. Late in the afternoon we found ourselves back at the Forest Inn, which makes a convenient stop on the way back to Lusaka.

November 9, 2009

After an early morning walk and breakfast at the Forest Inn, we headed back to the Chaplin’s



Chaplin's Barbet by Alan Davies



Beautiful and unique Namibian specialties Rockrunner (left) and Rosy-faced Lovebird (right) were birds that we found soon after arriving in Namibia.

Barbet area, for one last attempt at this Zambian endemic. With time running short and spirits sagging, I was shocked to see a Chaplin's Barbet shoot over the windscreen, obviously flying in the same direction we were driving. I quickly accelerated, and the chase was on! Just as we caught it, the bird disappeared behind a hedgerow, leaving it unclear whether it had stopped or continued. We piled out of the truck and began a frantic search. The nearby sycamore figs held no barbets, and it looked like we had lost our quarry, when I caught a flash of black and white on a more distant fig. Seconds later, we were watching an adult and bizarrely-patterned juvenile through the scope. There could have been no more fitting or satisfying end to our birding in Zambia. All that was left was a drive to the airport and the usual travel formalities before the second leg of our trip, in Namibia.

November 10, 2009

A short flight brought us from the urban wastes of Johannesburg to the cheerful town of Windhoek, the small capital city of Namibia, set in that country's beautiful highlands. We shook off the fatigue of our early departure and headed out to look for one of Namibia most interesting endemics, the Rockrunner. We birded our way through scrubby savanna and rocks, quickly seeing new birds in this entirely novel environment. A Rockrunner sang desultorily, and



White-tailed Shrike is my personal favorite among Namibian specialties, though it would be better named 'Terrestrial Batis'!

briefly showed itself, then disappeared. We decided it was time for a siesta, with the Rockrunner campaign to be renewed in the afternoon.

Although the Rockrunner again proved remarkably elusive for a bird living in such an open habitat, our afternoon excursion was successful. We enjoyed amazing scope views of this handsome species bobbing up and down as it gave its warbled song. Other great sightings included a beautiful male Green-winged Pytilia and the odd Red-headed Finch.

November 11, 2009

One of the more elusive birds in Namibia, and indeed across southern Africa, is Orange River Francolin. Though this bird has a large range, it is quite difficult to locate. As a sliver moon floated in a crystalline, star-studded sky, we were in place below our francolin stakeout. With the right threshold of ambient light achieved, the francolins started calling. We quickly pursued, and had quick views of a calling bird and then several of flying birds. Considering ourselves lucky to have seen the birds at all, we went after our second target, Barred Wren-Warbler, which we found after a brief search.

On the way to breakfast, we made a quick stop at a new site for White-tailed Shrike, and within minutes of stopping had spotted some birds. Though they were distant, they were next to another road, and a short drive brought us close to this odd and spectacular Namibian endemic. Though I consider 'Terrestrial Batis' a much better name for it, these individuals did little to bolster my cause, confining themselves to the tops of *acacia* trees!



Rueppell's Korhaan is restricted to the arid desert and semi-desert plains below the Namibian escarpment.



Two specialty larks of the sun-drenched Namib plains: Stark's (left) and Gray's (right).

Though the birding had been good, we had seen few mammals so far in Namibia, so on the way out of Windhoek, we entered for Daan Viljoen game reserve. Despite the late morning heat, we spotted several spectacular mammals including blue wildebeest, giraffe, and southern oryx. As we prepared to leave, I was surprised to hear Orange River Francolins calling from a nearby hill. After some careful listening and maneuvering, we secured scope-filling views of this species that had proved so elusive in the morning cool. Well satisfied, we headed west towards Walvis Bay.

Few days on any Tropical Birding tour are as spectacular as the day spent descending the Namibian escarpment and coursing the Namib plains on the way to Walvis Bay. The scenery is ruggedly spectacular and constantly changing, there are new birds and mammals everywhere, and despite traveling on a main road, you have this expansive wilderness to yourself. Over the course of the several-hour journey, you might see a dozen vehicles and a handful of farms. On an increasingly crowded planet, this is a blessedly empty stretch of country. We ate a packed lunch perched on the edge of the escarpment, with the lonely white plains of the Namib shimmering in the heat below. A lone Hartmann's Mountain Zebra watched us warily, and a small flock of Chestnut



Springbok are one of the few big mammals that can survive in the Namib Desert.

Weavers flew in unexpectedly. Continuing down into the ocean of desert, the landscape continued to get drier, though against all odds, the horizon was still dotted with Springbok, whose remarkable adaptations allow them to thrive in this arid wilderness. A pair of Rueppell's Korhaans flushed from the roadside, momentarily shaking us out of our hazy desert reverie. As one descends through the Namib, it becomes harder and harder not to believe that you are sleepwalking through some primal Gondwanaland desert dream, and the sight of massive dunes rising on the horizon, and blocking the deep blue Atlantic from view, does little to shake this illusion. It is only when the cell towers and Norfolk pines of Walvis Bay rear into view that you are again convinced that you are still a wakeful member of the 21st century.



Red-headed Finch can be seen throughout Namibia.

**November 12,
2009**

The pre-dawn dark found us again traversing the gravel plains of the Namib, headed for the edge of the great dune sea. In this unique and spectacular environment we were searching for Dune Lark, Namibia's only true endemic (all other Namibian 'endemics' are also found in Angola). A quick and sandy

walk brought us within range of several singing larks, which were located and thoroughly enjoyed. The night chill was quickly pushed back as the sun climbed over the horizon, and the bank of dense, dark clouds that so often hangs over the cold Benguela coast, made a spectacular backdrop for some dune photography. Although bird life is scarce in this harsh environment, it is full of remarkable creatures, and everything you observe seems to have some special adaptation to the arid environment. From the dune ant to the nara plant and sidewinding adder, everything here is a testament to the tenacity of life.

After a hearty breakfast back at our lodge in Walvis Bay, we ventured onto the mud flats and salt pans of the area searching for aquatic birds, Damara Tern in particular. It wasn't long before its screeching calls alerted us to the presence of this tiny Benguela current endemic. Huge numbers of other waterbirds were present, ranging from the lanky Greater Flamingo down to the tiny Little Stint. A short walk to the ocean revealed bodysurfing Cape fur seals and foam-skimming Sooty

Shearwaters. With all of our Walvis targets in hand, we took a long afternoon rest to recover from this day's early departure and to prepare for the next.



Dawn at Spitzkoppe.

November 13, 2009

A very early start from Walvis Bay found us at Spitzkoppe at dawn, as this needle-like massif cast its vast shadow across the barren expanses to the west. One of our targets, Karoo Long-billed Lark, was quickly located. Or rather, we were quickly located by one of our targets, as a lark flew in and circled us, seemingly curious about what we were up to tromping around its stark habitat. Our main objective at Spitzkoppe was to see Herero Chat, often considered the most difficult Namibian endemic. To my surprise, within ten minutes of arrival, we had located a pair of this subtly colored melancholy

songster. A celebratory packed breakfast was shared with dozens of inquisitive (and hungry) Pale-winged Starlings. Driving north, we stopped for a Secretarybird, a meerkat burrow, and a ratcheting quartet of Rueppell's Korhaans. Quickly upon entering the range of a new species of long-



Herero Chat is a Spitzkoppe specialty.

billed lark, the Benguela, we spotted our target, and were soon photographing, sound recording, and carefully observing this poorly known northern Namibian specialty.

With the sun riding high in the azure dome of the endless Namibian sky, we arrived at our accommodation in the Erongo Mountains, and enjoyed a well-earned afternoon rest. An evening walk was graced with sightings of a Pearl-spotted Owlet, and at dusk, the resident Freckled Nightjars were vocal and conspicuous.

November 14, 2009

On a quickly shrinking list of Namibian specialties that we hadn't seen, Hartlaub's Francolin stood out. Thankfully, the Erongo Mountains are at the center of this species' range, and I knew that our chances of seeing it were excellent. Sure enough, even before the sun rose, several groups of francolins began vocalizing. Though it took some work, we eventually had fantastic views of males and females.



A beautiful male Hartlaub's Francolin.

Breakfast at our lodge is a major event, since it is served to humans and birds concurrently! As we tucked into hearty omelets, granola, and yogurt, 20 species of birds, including dozens of Rosy-faced Lovebirds, streamed in and out to feast on the seeds provided for them on the rocks below the dining area. It is hard to eat with such a spectacle occurring, particularly for a photographer! Our final target for the Erongo area was Violet Wood-hoopoe, and we were in luck,

as a local guide had recently found an active nest. A short drive and walk brought us to the nest hole, which was attended by a whole group of these large and impressive birds.

Resting on our laurels, we took a long afternoon rest, avoiding the heat of the day. As the world gradually cooled, we headed out for a dusk 'game drive'. Although there wasn't a lot of activity, we did enjoy sightings of greater kudu, southern oryx, scrub hare, Damara dik-dik, and a Southern Pied Babbler on the avian front. Just as we sat down to dinner, there was a flurry of activity at the lodge's illuminated waterhole, as a common genet and South African porcupine visited in quick succession.



Double-banded Courser (left) and Spike-heeled Lark (right) were among the species seeking shelter in the meager shade of a hot afternoon at Etosha.

November 15, 2009

We had done so well at Erongo that we didn't have anything further to look for, so after another great breakfast looking out at a throng of feeding and watering birds, we headed towards Etosha National Park. A drive of a couple hours brought us through the park gate, and to our first water hole. The sight that greeted us here was spectacular. The open area surrounding the water was covered in antelope: southern oryx, blue wildebeest, springbok, and impala. Literally hundreds of animals crowded around this tiny pool. This was the end of the dry season; the rains that had met us in Zambia had not yet arrived this far south, and animals were desperate for water. A careful scan of the back side of the clearing revealed a pride of lions lounging in the shade. It was stunning to see lions this soon after entering the national park!

After checking into one of the national park rest camps and waiting for the afternoon sun to slightly subside, we headed into the barren flats that characterize the western part of the park. Despite the heat, there were birds everywhere, particularly in any tiny patch of shade. Red-capped Larks sheltered behind a national park road marker while a Double-banded Courser hunched in the meager shadow thrown by a small boulder. Crouching in a tiny bush, no more than 3 inches tall, was a Pink-billed Lark, our major target for the day. A Pygmy Falcon fiercely surveyed its environment as Secretarybirds, Kori Bustards, and an array of big mammals trod the surrounding plain. A waterhole set at the edge of the vast whiteness of Etosha pan was lorded over by a pride of

lions, including several impressive males. Almost overwhelmed by what we'd seen so far, we retreated to the rest camp to watch the adjacent waterhole at dusk.

Incredible sights continued to present themselves. Elephants watered, as always making

much less sound than you would expect for such a huge animal. Well before dusk, a family of Verreaux's Eagle-Owls flew in and began screeching from a nearby tree. One even swooped down to the water hole and came up with some unidentifiable bird. Despite scrutinizing it through the scope as the owl tore into it, we could not discern its identity. As a spectacular red sunset exploded across the west, a black rhino came into the water, right on schedule. Etosha is an amazing place!



Giraffe at this close of a range is a common sight in Etosha.

November 16, 2009

Etosha continued to be spectacular, with new birds everywhere, and the landscape littered with mammals. About mid morning, we approached a water hole that seemed strangely devoid of mammals, though a herd of springbok waited in the distance. Scanning the area, I spotted the massive head of a lioness sticking out of a clump of grass next to the water. Bright yellow eyes stared intently at the springbok shimmering in the hazy distance.

Within moments of my spotting it, the lion's head disappeared again into the grass. It seemed too much to hope, but after 15 minutes, the herd of springbok cautiously began approaching. Perhaps their need for water outweighed their vague premonition of a predator in the area. Once a few bold antelope began drinking, the rest streamed in. Soon a herd of zebras arrived and also began drinking. Nothing happened. The lion was ignoring springbok watering no more than 20 feet away. Soon I understood why, as a mostly grown but still gangly southern oryx approached the water hole. It had the look of a doomed creature. As fate would have it, the oryx selected the patch of water closest to the prone lion. Again, nothing happened. The oryx drank happily, then turned to leave. We were convinced that despite a seemingly perfect setup for a kill, that the lioness was going to forbear. Then it happened. The instant that the oryx turned its back on the massive cat, it sprang.

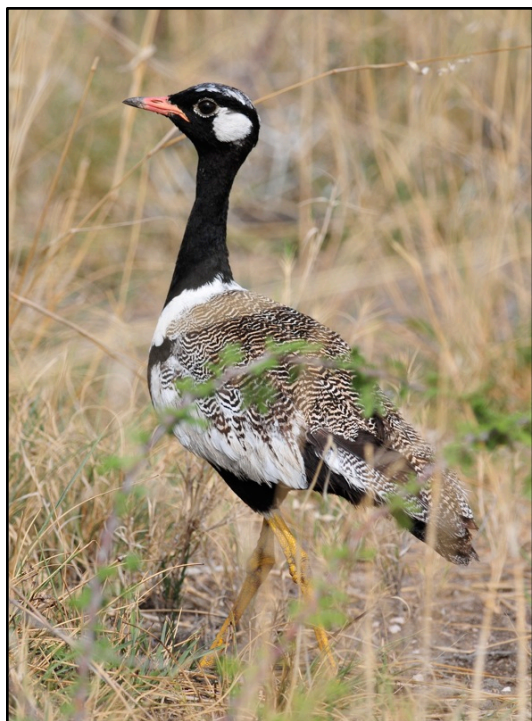
Pandemonium broke out around the waterhole, as zebras, springbok, Egyptian Geese, and Blacksmith Plovers fled in terror. Dust filled the air as the timeless drama of predator versus prey played out before us. At first, the oryx seemed to have hope. Despite its awkward gait, it ran with surprising speed, fueled by an ancient cocktail of hormones inherited from a race of survivors. Despite the power and experience of the lion, it seemed that the spry and desperate youth of the oryx would win out. Then the oryx made the fateful mistake of turning back and running through the shallow water hole. As it came out of the water, it tripped on the muddy bank pocked with countless hoofmarks. This was all the lion needed. In an instant, it was on the oryx, with huge paw raking its side and jaw clamping its nape. There was little struggle and commotion, with the animal quickly seeming to accept its helplessness in the face of such a mighty predator. As soon as the oryx was down, a whole pride of 8 lions burst from under a nearby tree. They had lain there completely concealed, waiting for the dominant female to secure food for them. It was staggering to think of the 100s of springbok that had calmly walked all around this nest of predators without incident! The rest of the story was quite predictable, with the oryx devoured by the lions in 10 frenetic minutes of jostling and growling. When it re-appeared from under its carpet of lions, there was very little left of the oryx. Though this was a grisly sight, it was also thrilling and spectacular. There was no unnecessarily brutality, and the death of the oryx did not seem cruel or inappropriate. We left the water hole awed at the drama we had been privileged to witness.



A late afternoon drive saw us arriving at a usually productive water hole an hour before dark. As we pulled in, a rhino was quickly evident. It took me a moment to realize that it was a white rhino – an extremely rare species in Etosha, vastly outnumbered by black rhino. The fact that this grizzled brute passed within 20 yards of our vehicle on its retreat from the water made the sighting all the more spectacular. As we waited for dusk, I caught sight of fluttering wings, bringing my attention to a South African rock python that had just caught a Cape Turtle-Dove, yet another life and death drama next to Etosha's treacherous waters!

November 17, 2009

As we slowly made our way towards Etosha's eastern gate we enjoyed final experiences of its incredible mammals, such as a group of giraffes awkwardly stooping for a drink of water. At our final water hole in the park, we found a Black-winged Pratincole, a rarity in the park, likely a passage migrant to points farther south in Africa. Once out of the park, an uneventful drive brought us back to Windhoek and to the conclusion of what had been a remarkably interesting, productive, and diverse tour.



Northern Black Korhaan (left) is fairly common in Etosha, while Martial Eagle (right) is scarce.

GALLERY



Palearctic migrants were just arriving in Namibia, resulting in dramas like this one, where a migrant Steppe Eagle faces off with a closely related resident Tawny Eagle.



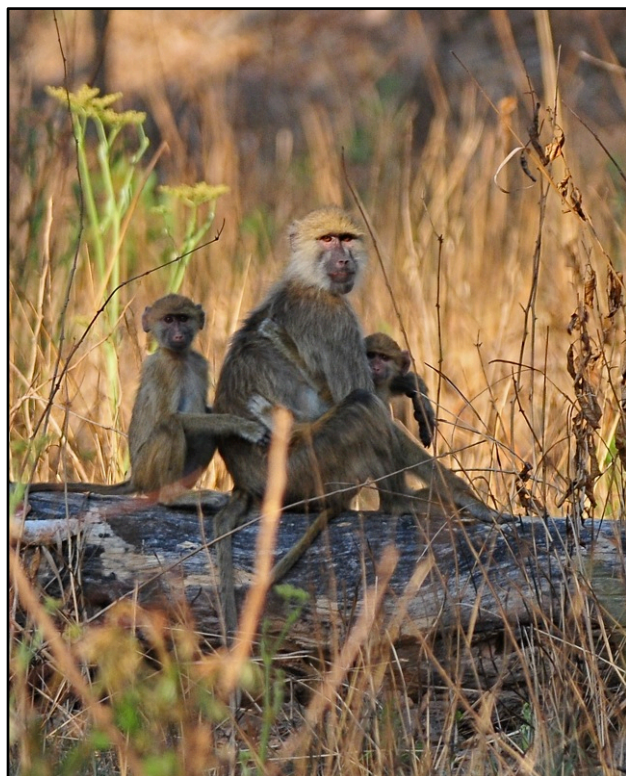
Etosha is a wonderful place for sandgrouse, including Namaqua (left) and Double-banded (right).



Lilliputian meets gargantuan as a Little Swift crosses orbits with a Lappet-faced Vulture.



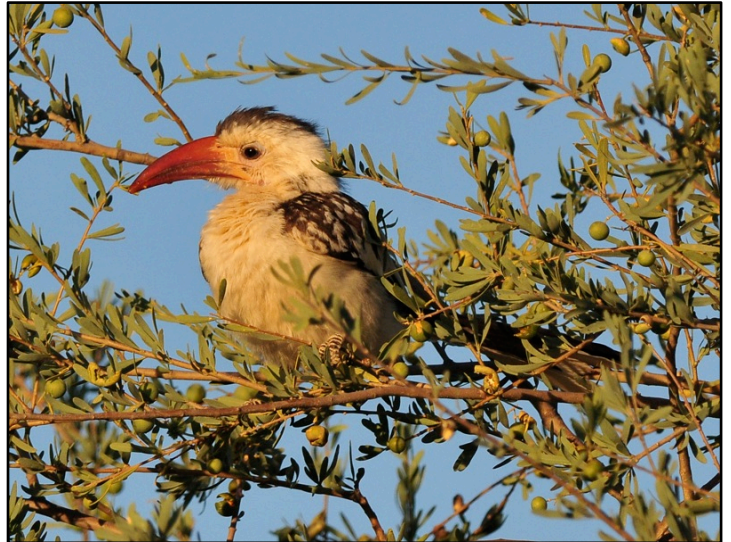
Green-capped Eremomela (left) and Chinspot Batis (right) are fairly common in Zambia's miombo woodland.



The plains that slope down to Namibia's Atlantic coast hold meerkat (left), while yellow baboon (right) thrives in the protection of Zambia's Kasanka National Park.



Gray Go-away-birds greeting the morning sun as it crests the Erongo Mountains.



At Erongo, we were treated to a nesting Pririt Batis (left) and a fruiting shepherd's tree that was full of hornbills, including this Damara (right).



This lion's mane is soaked in the blood of a freshly-killed rhino.



The true colors of the Dusky Sunbird are rarely revealed, though it is common throughout Namibia.



In Etosha, red hartebeest spar (left) and a white rhino (right) tromps past a safari vehicle.



Another look at Kasanka's winged horde.



Short-toed Rock-Thrush (left) and Crowned Lapwing (right).

BIRD LIST

This list largely follows *Birds of Africa South of the Sahara* (2008) by Sinclair and Ryan. When that book's treatment varies from that of *The Clements Checklist of Birds of the World* (2007), the alternate name is noted in parentheses.

	English Name	Scientific Name	
1	Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>	
2	Black-necked (Eared) Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	
3	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	
4	Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	
5	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	
6	Cape Gannet	<i>Morus capensis</i>	
7	White-breasted (Great) Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	
8	Cape Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i>	
9	Reed Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>	
10	African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>	
11	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	
12	Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>	
13	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	
14	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	
15	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	
16	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	
17	Rufous-bellied Heron	<i>Ardeola rufiventris</i>	
18	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	
19	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	
20	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	
21	Abdim's Stork	<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>	
22	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	
23	African Openbill	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>	
24	Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>	
25	Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumeniferus</i>	
26	Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>	
27	African Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	
28	Hadedda Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	
29	African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>	
30	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	
31	Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus minor</i>	
32	White-backed Duck	<i>Thalassornis leuconotus</i>	
33	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>	
34	South African Shelduck	<i>Tadorna cana</i>	
35	Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>	
36	Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>	
37	Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>	
38	Southern Pochard	<i>Netta erythrophthalma</i>	
39	African Pygmy-goose	<i>Nettapus auritus</i>	
40	Comb Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	
41	Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>	
42	Secretarybird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>	
43	Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>	G

44	White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>	
45	Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>	
46	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	
47	Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>	
48	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	
49	Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>	
50	Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>	
51	Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	
52	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	
53	Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Aquila wahlbergi</i>	
54	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	
55	Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>	
56	Brown Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>	
57	Black-chested Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>	
58	Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>	
59	Crowned Hawk-Eagle	<i>Stephanoaetus coronatus</i>	
60	Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>	
61	African Fish-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>	
62	Steppe Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	
63	Augur Buzzard	<i>Buteo augur</i>	
64	Jackal Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>	
65	Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>	
66	Little Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter minullus</i>	
67	Black Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter melanoleucus</i>	
68	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	
69	African Goshawk	<i>Accipiter tachiro</i>	
70	Gabar Goshawk	<i>Melierax gabar</i>	
71	Southern Pale Chanting-Goshawk	<i>Melierax canorus</i>	
72	Dark Chanting-Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>	
73	Western Marsh-Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	G
74	African Marsh-Harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>	G
75	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	
76	Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	
77	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	
78	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	
79	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	
80	African Hobby	<i>Falco cuvieri</i>	
81	Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>	
82	Rock (Eurasian) Kestrel	<i>Falcorupicolus</i>	
83	Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>	
84	African Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>	
85	Coqui Francolin	<i>Francolinus coqui</i>	H
86	Orange River Francolin	<i>Francolinus levaillantoides</i>	
87	Shelley's Francolin	<i>Francolinus shelleyi</i>	H
88	Red-billed Spurfowl	<i>Pternistes adspersus</i>	
89	Hartlaub's Spurfowl	<i>Pternistes hartlaubi</i>	
90	Red-necked Spurfowl	<i>Pternistes afer</i>	
91	Swainson's Francolin	<i>Pternistes swainsonii</i>	
92	Blue Quail	<i>Coturnix adansoni</i>	
93	Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	
94	Kurrichane Buttonquail	<i>Turnix sylvatica</i>	
95	Wattled Crane	<i>Grus carunculatus</i>	

96	Blue Crane	<i>Grus paradisea</i>	
97	Black Crake	<i>Amaurornis flavirostra</i>	
98	African Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>	
99	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	
100	Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>	
101	Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>	
102	Rueppell's Korhaan	<i>Eupodotis rueppellii</i>	
103	Red-crested Korhaan	<i>Eupodotis ruficrista</i>	
104	Northern Black Korhaan	<i>Eupodotis afraoides</i>	
105	Black-bellied Bustard	<i>Eupodotis melanogaster</i>	
106	African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africana</i>	
107	Lesser Jacana	<i>Microparra capensis</i>	
108	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	
109	White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>	
110	Chestnut-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius pallidus</i>	
111	Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>	
112	Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>	
113	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	
114	Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>	
115	Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>	
116	African Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>	
117	Senegal Lapwing	<i>Vanellus lugubris</i>	
118	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	
119	Common Sandpiper	<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>	
120	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	
121	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	
122	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	
123	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	
124	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	
125	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	
126	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	
127	Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	
128	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	
129	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	
130	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	
131	Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>	
132	Temminck's Courser	<i>Cursorius temminckii</i>	
133	Double-banded Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus africanus</i>	
134	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	
135	Black-winged Pratincole	<i>Glareola nordmanni</i>	
136	Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	
137	Grey-headed Gull	<i>Larus cirrocephalus</i>	
138	Hartlaub's Gull	<i>Larus hartlaubii</i>	
139	Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	
140	Swift Tern	<i>Sterna bergii</i>	
141	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	
142	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	
143	Damara Tern	<i>Sterna balaenarum</i>	
144	Namaqua Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles namaqua</i>	
145	Double-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles bicinctus</i>	
146	Feral (Rock) Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	
147	Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	

148	Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	
149	Cape Turtle (Ring-necked) Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	
150	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	
151	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>	
152	Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>	
153	African Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron calva</i>	
154	Grey-headed (Cape) Parrot	<i>Poicephalus suahelicus</i>	
155	Meyer's Parrot	<i>Poicephalus meyeri</i>	
156	Rueppell's Parrot	<i>Poicephalus rueppellii</i>	
157	Rosy-faced Lovebird	<i>Agapornis roseicollis</i>	
158	Schalow's Turaco	<i>Tauraco schalowi</i>	
159	Ross's Turaco	<i>Musophaga rossae</i>	
160	Grey Go-away Bird	<i>Corythaixoides concolor</i>	
161	African Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus gularis</i>	
162	Red-chested Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>	
163	Black Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus clamosus</i>	
164	Levaillant's (Striped) Cuckoo	<i>Oxylophus levaillantii</i>	H
165	Jacobin (Pied) Cuckoo	<i>Oxylophus jacobinus</i>	
166	Klaas's Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>	
167	Diderick Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>	
168	Coppery-tailed Coucal	<i>Centropus cupreicaudus</i>	
169	Senegal Coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>	
170	White-browed Coucal	<i>Centropus superciliosus</i>	H
171	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	H
172	African Wood-Owl	<i>Strix woodfordi</i>	H
173	African Scops-Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>	
174	Southern White-faced Scops Owl	<i>Otus leucotis</i>	
175	Pearl-spotted Owlet (Owl)	<i>Glaucidium perlatus</i>	
176	African Barred Owlet (Owl)	<i>Glaucidium capense</i>	
177	Spotted Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>	
178	Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>	
179	Fiery-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus pectoralis</i>	
180	Rufous-cheeked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus rufigena</i>	
181	Swamp Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus natalensis</i>	
182	Freckled Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus tristigma</i>	
183	Square-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus fossii</i>	
184	Pennant-winged Nightjar	<i>Macrodipteryx vexillarius</i>	
185	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	
186	Bradfield's Swift	<i>Apus bradfieldi</i>	
187	White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>	
188	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	
189	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>	
190	African Palm-Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	
191	White-backed Mousebird	<i>Colius colius</i>	
192	Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>	
193	Red-faced Mousebird	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>	
194	Narina Trogon	<i>Apaloderma narina</i>	H
195	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	
196	Half-collared Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo semitorquata</i>	
197	African Pygmy-Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>	
198	Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>	
199	Brown-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>	

200	Grey-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>	
201	Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>	
202	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	
203	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>	
204	White-fronted Bee-eater	<i>Merops bullockoides</i>	
205	Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>	
206	Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundinaceus</i>	
207	Boehm's Bee-eater	<i>Merops boehmi</i>	
208	Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudata</i>	
209	Racket-tailed Roller	<i>Coracias spatulata</i>	
210	Rufous-crowned (Purple) Roller	<i>Coracias naevia</i>	
211	Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>	
212	African (Eurasian) Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>	
213	Green Woodhoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>	
214	Violet Woodhoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus damarensis</i>	
215	Common Scimitar-bill	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>	
216	Southern Ground Hornbill	<i>Bucorvus leadbeateri</i>	
217	Trumpeter Hornbill	<i>Ceratogymna bucinator</i>	
218	African Grey Hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>	
219	Pale-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus pallidirostris</i>	
220	(Southern) Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>	
221	Damara Hornbill	<i>Tockus damarensis</i>	
222	Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>	H
223	Crowned Hornbill	<i>Tockus alboterminatus</i>	
224	Monteiro's Hornbill	<i>Tockus monteiri</i>	
225	Black-collared Barbet	<i>Lybius torquatus</i>	
226	Chaplin's Barbet	<i>Lybius chaplini</i>	
227	Black-backed Barbet	<i>Lybius minor</i>	
228	Acacia Pied Barbet	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>	
229	Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>	
230	Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus bilineatus</i>	
231	Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>	
232	Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>	
233	Scaly-throated Honeyguide	<i>Indicator variegatus</i>	
234	Brown-backed (Wahlberg's) Honeybird	<i>Prodotiscus regulus</i>	
235	Bennett's Woodpecker	<i>Campethera bennettii</i>	
236	Golden-tailed Woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>	
237	Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>	
238	Bearded Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos namaquus</i>	H
239	African Broadbill	<i>Smithornis capensis</i>	H
240	Rufous-naped Lark	<i>Mirafraga africana</i>	
241	Flappet Lark	<i>Mirafraga rufocinnamomea</i>	
242	Eastern Clapper Lark	<i>Mirafraga fasciolata</i>	
243	Sabota Lark	<i>Mirafraga sabota</i>	
244	Karoo Long-billed Lark	<i>Certhilauda subcoronata</i>	
245	Benguela Lark	<i>Certhilauda benguelensis</i>	
246	Dune Lark	<i>Certhilauda erythrochlamys</i>	
247	Spike-heeled Lark	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>	
248	Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>	
249	Pink-billed Lark	<i>Spizocorys conirostris</i>	
250	Stark's Lark	<i>Eremalauda starki</i>	

251	Gray's Lark	<i>Ammomanes grayi</i>	
252	Grey-backed Sparrowlark	<i>Eremopterix verticalis</i>	
253	White-headed Sawwing	<i>Psaldoprocne albiceps</i>	
254	Black Sawwing	<i>Psaldoprocne pristopectera</i>	
255	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	
256	White-throated Swallow	<i>Hirundo albigularis</i>	
257	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	
258	Red-breasted (Red-chested) Swallow	<i>Hirundo semirufa</i>	
259	Mosque Swallow	<i>Hirundo senegalensis</i>	G
260	Greater Striped-Swallow	<i>Hirundo cucullata</i>	
261	Lesser Striped-Swallow	<i>Hirundo abyssinica</i>	
262	Rock Martin	<i>Hirundo fuligula</i>	
263	Common House-Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	
264	Grey-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo griseopyga</i>	
265	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	
266	Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	
267	Banded Martin	<i>Riparia cincta</i>	
268	Black Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Campephaga flava</i>	
269	White-breasted Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina pectoralis</i>	
270	Purple-throated Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Campephaga quiscalina</i>	H
271	Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	
272	Square-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus ludwigii</i>	
273	Eurasian Golden-Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	
274	African Golden-Oriole	<i>Oriolus auratus</i>	
275	(African) Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>	
276	Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>	
277	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	
278	White-necked Raven	<i>Corvus albicollis</i>	
279	Miombo Tit	<i>Melaniparus griseiventris</i>	
280	Ashy Tit	<i>Parus cinerascens</i>	
281	White-winged Black-Tit	<i>Melaniparus leucomelas</i>	
282	Southern Black Tit	<i>Parus niger</i>	
283	Carp's Black Tit	<i>Parus carpi</i>	
284	Rufous-bellied Tit	<i>Parus rufiventris</i>	
285	Spotted Creeper	<i>Salpornis spilonotus</i>	
286	Cape Penduline-Tit	<i>Anthoscopus minutus</i>	
287	Grey (African) Penduline-Tit	<i>Anthoscopus caroli</i>	
288	Arrow-marked Babbler	<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>	
289	Hartlaub's Babbler	<i>Turdoides hartlaubii</i>	
290	Southern Pied Babbler	<i>Turdoides bicolor</i>	
291	African Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>	
292	Dark-capped Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus tricolor</i>	
293	Terrestrial Brownbul	<i>Phyllastrephus terrestris</i>	
294	Cabanis's Greenbul	<i>Phyllastrephus cabanisii</i>	
295	Gray-olive Greenbul	<i>Phyllastrephus cerviniventris</i>	
296	Yellow-throated Leaf-love (Greenbul)	<i>Chlorocichla flavicollis</i>	
297	Kurrichane Thrush	<i>Turdus libonyanus</i>	
298	Groundscraper Thrush	<i>Psophocichla litsipsirupa</i>	
299	Miombo Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola angolensis</i>	

300	Short-toed Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola brevipes</i>	
301	Mountain Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe monticola</i>	
302	Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>	
303	Familiar Chat	<i>Cercomela familiaris</i>	
304	Tractrac Chat	<i>Cercomela tractrac</i>	
305	Karoo Chat	<i>Cercomela schlegelii</i>	
306	Arnott's (White-headed Black) Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla arnotti</i>	
307	(Southern) Ant-eating Chat	<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>	
308	(African) Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	
309	Mocking Cliff-Chat	<i>Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris</i>	
310	Bocage's Akalat	<i>Sheppardia bocagei</i>	
311	White-browed Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha heuglini</i>	
312	White-browed (Red-backed) Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>	
313	Miombo Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas barbata</i>	
314	Kalahari Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas paena</i>	
315	Herero Chat	<i>Namibornis herero</i>	
316	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	
317	Chestnut-vented Tit-babbler	<i>Sylvia subcaeruleum</i>	
318	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>	
319	Olive-tree Warbler	<i>Hippolais olivetorum</i>	
320	African Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>	
321	Little Rush (African Bush) Warbler	<i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>	G
322	Moustached Grass-Warbler	<i>Melocichla mentalis</i>	
323	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	
324	Broad-tailed Warbler (Fan-tailed Grassbird)	<i>Schoenicola brevirostris</i>	
325	Yellow-bellied Hyliota	<i>Hyliota flavigaster</i>	
326	Southern Hyliota	<i>Hyliota australis</i>	
327	Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>	
328	Bar-throated Apalis	<i>Apalis thoracica</i>	
329	Gray (Brown-headed) Apalis	<i>Apalis cinerea</i>	
330	Long-billed (Cape) Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>	
331	Red-capped Crombec	<i>Sylvietta ruficapilla</i>	
332	Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>	
333	Green-capped Eremomela	<i>Eremomela scotops</i>	
334	Black-necked Eremomela	<i>Eremomela atricollis</i>	
335	Gray-backed Cameroptera	<i>Cameroptera brevicaudata</i>	
336	Barred Wren Warbler	<i>Calamonastes fasciolatus</i>	
337	Stierling's (Miombo) Wren-Warbler	<i>Calamonastes stierlingi</i>	
338	Rockrunner	<i>Achaetops pycnopygius</i>	
339	Red-faced Cisticola	<i>Cisticola erythrops</i>	
340	Trilling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola woosnami</i>	
341	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	
342	Desert Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aridulus</i>	
343	Pale-crowned Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cinnamomeus</i>	
344	Siffling (Short-winged) Cisticola	<i>Cisticola brachypterus</i>	
345	Grey-backed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola subruficapillus</i>	H
346	Croaking Cisticola	<i>Cisticola natalensis</i>	
347	Chirping Cisticola	<i>Cisticola pipiens</i>	
348	Rock-loving Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aberrans</i>	

349	Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chinianus</i>	
350	Neddicky	<i>Cisticola fulvicapillus</i>	
351	Tabora Cisticola (Neddicky)	<i>Cisticola angusticauda</i>	
352	Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>	
353	Black-chested Prinia	<i>Prinia flavicans</i>	
354	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	
355	African Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>	
356	Boehm's Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa boehmi</i>	
357	Ashy Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa caerulescens</i>	
358	Southern Black Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis pammelaina</i>	
359	Marico Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis mariquensis</i>	
360	Pale Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis pallidus</i>	
361	Chat Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis infuscatus</i>	
362	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>	
363	Black-throated Wattle-eye	<i>Platysteira peltata</i>	
364	Chinspot Batis	<i>Batis molitor</i>	
365	Pririt Batis	<i>Batis pririt</i>	
366	White-tailed Blue-Flycatcher	<i>Elminia albicauda</i>	
367	African Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>	
368	African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>	
369	Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>	
370	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	H
371	African (Grassveld) Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>	
372	Plain-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>	
373	Long-billed Pipit	<i>Anthus similis</i>	
374	Buffy Pipit	<i>Anthus vaalensis</i>	
375	Striped Pipit	<i>Anthus lineiventris</i>	
376	Bushveld (Bush) Pipit	<i>Anthus caffer</i>	
377	Wood Pipit	<i>Anthus nyassae</i>	
378	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	
379	Fuelleborn's Longclaw	<i>Macronyx fuelleborni</i>	
380	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>	
381	Common Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>	
382	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	
383	Souza's Shrike	<i>Lanius souzae</i>	
384	Tropical Boubou	<i>Laniarius aethiopicus</i>	
385	Crimson-breasted Shrike	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>	
386	Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>	
387	Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>	
388	Marsh (Anchieta's) Tchagra	<i>Tchagra minutus</i>	
389	Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>	
390	Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegala</i>	
391	Bokmakierie	<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>	
392	Orange-breasted (Sulphur-breasted) Bushshrike	<i>Telophorus sulfureopectus</i>	
393	Grey-headed Bushshrike	<i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i>	
394	White-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanioturdus torquatus</i>	
395	White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>	
396	Retz's Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops retzii</i>	
397	(Southern) White-crowned Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus anguitimens</i>	
398	Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>	
399	Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>	

400	Cape Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>	
401	Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>	
402	Sharp-tailed Starling	<i>Lamprotornis acuticaudus</i>	
403	Pale-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus nabouroup</i>	
404	Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>	
405	Anchieta's Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes anchietae</i>	
406	Western Violet-backed Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes longuemarei</i>	
407	Green-headed Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra verticalis</i>	H
408	Eastern Olive Sunbird	<i>Cyanomitra olivacea</i>	
409	Marico Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>	
410	Purple-banded Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris bifasciatus</i>	
411	White-bellied Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris talatala</i>	
412	Variable (Yellow-bellied) Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>	
413	Dusky Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris fusca</i>	
414	Coppery (Copper) Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris cupreus</i>	
415	Miombo (Double-collared) Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris manoensis</i>	
416	Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>	
417	Amethyst (Black) Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra amethystina</i>	
418	Collared Sunbird	<i>Hedidypna collaris</i>	
419	Orange River White-eye	<i>Zosterops capensis</i>	
420	Yellow White-eye	<i>Zosterops senegalensis</i>	
421	Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>	
422	White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>	
423	Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser rufoscapulatus</i>	
424	Sociable Weaver	<i>Philetairus socius</i>	
425	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	
426	Great Sparrow	<i>Passer motitensis</i>	
427	Cape Sparrow	<i>Passer melanurus</i>	
428	Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>	
429	Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>	
430	Yellow-throated Petronia	<i>Petronia superciliaris</i>	
431	Scaly-feathered Finch	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>	
432	Spectacled Weaver	<i>Ploceus ocularis</i>	
433	(Holub's) Golden Weaver	<i>Ploceus xanthops</i>	
434	Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	
435	Chestnut Weaver	<i>Ploceus rubiginosus</i>	
436	Southern Masked-Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>	
437	Lesser Masked Weaver	<i>Ploceus intermedius</i>	
438	Bar-winged Weaver	<i>Ploceus angolensis</i>	
439	Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>	
440	Cuckoo Finch (Parasitic Weaver)	<i>Anomalospiza imberbis</i>	
441	Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>	
442	(Southern) Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>	
443	Black-winged (Fire-crowned) Bishop	<i>Euplectes hordeaceus</i>	
444	Yellow-crowned (Golden) Bishop	<i>Euplectes afer</i>	
445	Yellow Bishop	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>	
446	Yellow-shouldered Widowbird (Yellow-mantled)	<i>Euplectes macroura</i>	
447	White-winged Widowbird	<i>Euplectes albonotatus</i>	
448	Marsh Widowbird (Hartlaub's)	<i>Euplectes hartlaubi</i>	
449	Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>	

450	Orange-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia afra</i>	
451	African (Blue-billed) Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rubricata</i>	
452	Jameson's Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rhodopareia</i>	
453	Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>	
454	Brown Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta nitidula</i>	
455	Blue Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>	
456	Violet-eared Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus granatina</i>	
457	Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>	
458	Fawn-breasted Waxbill	<i>Estrilda paludicola</i>	
459	Black-faced Waxbill	<i>Estrilda erythronotos</i>	
460	African Quailfinch	<i>Ortygospiza atricollis</i>	G
461	Locustfinch	<i>Paludipasser locustella</i>	
462	Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i>	
463	Red-backed (Black-and-white) Mannikin	<i>Spermestes bicolor</i>	
464	Orange-breasted (Zebra) Waxbill	<i>Amandava subflava</i>	
465	Red-headed Finch	<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>	
466	Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>	
467	Shaft-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua regia</i>	
468	Indigobird sp.	<i>Vidua sp.</i>	
469	Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Serinus mozambicus</i>	
470	Black-throated Canary	<i>Serinus atrogularis</i>	
471	Yellow Canary	<i>Serinus flaviventris</i>	
472	White-throated Canary	<i>Serinus albogularis</i>	
473	Black-eared Seedeater	<i>Serinus mennelli</i>	
474	Reichard's (Stripe-breasted) Seedeater	<i>Serinus reichardi</i>	
475	Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>	
476	Cabanis's Bunting	<i>Emberiza cabanisi</i>	
477	Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>	
478	Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>	
479	Lark-like Bunting	<i>Emberiza impetuanii</i>	

G = Guide only

H = Heard only

MAMMAL LIST

This list follows *The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals* (2003) by Jonathan Kingdon.

	English Name	Scientific Name
1	Dassie Rat	<i>Petromus typicus</i>
2	Cape Fur Seal	<i>Actophilornis pusillus</i>
3	Haviside's Dolphin	<i>Cephalorhynchus heavisidii</i>
4	Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>
5	Yellow Baboon	<i>Papio cynocephalus</i>
6	Vervet (Grivet) Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus aethiops</i>
7	South African Galago (Lesser Bushbaby)	<i>Galago moholi</i>
8	Straw-coloured Fruit Bat	<i>Eidolon helvum</i>

9	South African Ground Squirrel	<i>Geosciurus inauris</i>
10	Tree Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>
11	Gambian Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus gambianus</i>
12	Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i>
13	South African Porcupine	<i>Hystrix africaeaustralis</i>
14	Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>
15	Common Genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>
16	African Civet	<i>Civettictis civetta</i>
17	Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>
18	African Wild Cat	<i>Felis sylvestris</i>
19	Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>
20	Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>
21	Giraffe	<i>Camelopardus giraffa</i>
22	Burchell's (Common) Zebra	<i>Equus burchelli</i>
23	Hartmann's Mountain Zebra	<i>Equus hartmannae</i>
24	Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibious</i>
25	Black Rhino	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>
26	White Rhino	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>
27	Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>
28	Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>
29	Sitatunga	<i>Tragelaphus spekii</i>
30	Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>
31	Gemsbok (Southern Oryx)	<i>Oryx gazella</i>
32	Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>
33	Sable (Antelope)	<i>Hippotragus hippotragus</i>
34	Puku	<i>Kobus vardonii</i>
35	Bush Duiker	<i>Cephalophus harveyi</i>
36	Steenbuck	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>
37	Klipspringer	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>
38	Damara Dikdik	<i>Madoqua kirkii</i>
39	Blesbok	<i>Damaliscus dorcas</i>
40	Red Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>
41	Lichtenstein's Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus lichtensteinii</i>
42	Southern Reedbuck	<i>Redunca arundinum</i>
43	Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>
44	Blue Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>
45	Springhare	<i>Pedetes capensis</i>
46	Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguinea</i>
47	Black Mongoose	<i>Herpestes nigrata</i>
48	Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>
49	Dwarf Mongoose	<i>Helogale parvula</i>
50	Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>
51	Suricate (Meerkat)	<i>Suricata suricatta</i>