Namibia evokes images of dry, barren landscapes, and this is in part true, but many of these are incredibly scenic and remarkably full of life. We visited several distinct ecotypes, from the dry, Kalahari scrub and thornveld of the Khomas Hochland plateau, to rocky edges to the escarpment, and from the ancient, dune-filled Namib Desert to the dry open plains of Etosha National Park. We tracked down Namibia’s only geopolitical endemic, the Dune Lark at Sossusvlei, the endangered Hartemann’s Mountain Zebra crossing the Namib desert, and the charismatic near-endemic Rockrunner and White-tailed Shrike in the stunning Erongo Mountains. We found the iconic *Welwitschia mirabilis* (practically a living fossil) and enjoyed the mysterious rock engravings at Twyfelfontein. We delved into the fascinating culture of the Himba tribe in the neighbouring Kaokoland, and for a grand finale, we experienced the amazing Etosha National Park with its associated megafauna. As well as sightings of lions, leopards and elephants galore, we enjoyed the unique photographic opportunities of some wonderful birdlife. It was truly an unforgettable trip.
1st November – Arrival in Windhoek
On the arrival day in Windhoek, we had a short stroll near our hotel. The name of which was the local name for 
**Helmeted Guineafowl**, and there were a dozen running around just outside the gate. We saw many birds in the gardens of the local houses, including **White-backed Mousebird**, **Speckled Pigeon** and **Gray Go-away-bird**. 
**White-browed Sparrow-Weavers** and **Southern Masked-Weavers** were busy nest building and we also found **Pied Barbet**, **Rosy-faced Lovebirds**, a family of **Groundscraper Thrushes** and **Mariqua Sunbird** in the trees nearby. We walked along the road a bit and added the colourful **Swallow-tailed Bee-eater** plus several members of the waxbill family, including **Red-headed Finch**, **Green-winged Pytilia**, **Black-faced Waxbill** and the sky blue **Southern Cordonbleu**. The intra-African migrant **Greater Striped-Swallows** had recently arrived and they were also busy collecting some mud for their nests. It had been a great introduction to the common birds of the area, and in the evening we headed out for dinner at the famous Joe’s Beer House.

![Our first evening in the desert was an unforgettable experience.](image)

2nd November – Windhoek to Sussusvlei
We left Windhoek in our large overland vehicle that we would be travelling in for the next fortnight. We headed south on a paved road to Rehoboth and from there it was gravel roads. We had several birding stops on the way and added many new birds, including: **Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill**, **Southern Fiscal**, **Sabota Lark**, **Black-chested Prinia**, **Yellow-bellied Eremomela** and **Mariqua Flycatcher**. As we headed west, the habitat became drier and we started picking up birds like **Lark-like Bunting**, **Scaly Weaver**, **Pale Chanting-Goshawk**, **Great Rufous Sparrow** and **Social Weaver**. The latter had huge nesting colonies so big that some even filled the tree. I was on the lookout for, and finally found a **Pygmy Falcon**, which often cohabit with **Social Weavers**. Rent free, in exchange for some protection. We passed down into ever drier habitats, and found **Helmeted Guineafowl**, **Spike-heeled Lark** and **Gray-backed Sparrow-Larks**. We had a particularly productive stop at a dry riverbed where we saw **Red-crested Bustard**, **Crimson-breasted Gonolek**, **Mariqua & Dusky Sunbirds** and the beautiful little **Violet-eared Waxbill**. After a field lunch, we drove on to our hotel, with a quick stop for our first **Namaqua Sandgrouse**. After settling in, we took our first walk in the desert habitat near the hotel. We enjoyed seeing the desert vegetation and a few common birds, but also found a huge juvenile **Martial Eagle**, plus our first **Gemsbok** and **Springboks**. The desert sunset was truly spectacular, and the dunes were dyed red. It was an unforgettable moment, and the bumpy road to get here was all but forgotten.
3rd November – Sussusvlei to Swakopmund

After an early breakfast, we joined the line of cars to get into the park. The popular thing here is to look at the spectacular scenery in the first light of day, and it was truly spectacular. We had a few stops along the road, and saw a huge Lappet-faced Vulture with a couple of Jackals, and the unforgettable sight of a Gemsbok running with a stunning backdrop of dunes. Next, we stopped at a viewpoint over the dry expanse. There were some sparsely vegetated dunes behind us and they looked a likely place to check for Dune Lark. I found one quickly and rushed to get everyone on it, but the bird just walked closer and closer until it was walking around our feet. It was unbelievably tame. We also had the rare Ludwig’s Bustard flying by before we carried on further into the desert. We had two pairs of Rüppell’s Bustards before arriving at a parking lot where we transferred into 4x4s for the short ride to Dead Vlei. It was a 2km round trip walk but we were treated to the very iconic views of dead trees with towering dunes in the background for which this place is famous. We had a long drive ahead of us today. We had a splendid picnic lunch under a tree on the way and during the remaining drive we found a small herd of the endangered Hartmann’s Mountain Zebra and then a big flock of Lappet-faced & White-backed Vultures at a carcass. As we crossed the desert, the habitat became drier until it was a barren expanse. It was a relief to reach civilization and a paved road at Walvis bay and the final smooth ride to the quaint colonial town of Swakopmund.
4th November - Walvis Bay
From Swakopmund we drove south, stopping at Dune 7, which at 383m from the base, is the highest sand dune in the world. We scoured the parking lot for birds, and found some Red-capped Larks coming to drink at a leaky tap. We were heading to Rooibank, a small settlement on the dry Kuiseb River that demarcates the great Namib Dune sea to the south. We had an enjoyable walk through the dry riverbed and looking at the unique desert wildlife. We had several common birds, including Namaqua Dove, Dusky Sunbird and Cape Sparrow, plus the pretty Wedge-nosed Desert Lizard along with some fascinating desert plants like the Nara Melon and the succulent Dollarbush. On the drive out, we finally caught up with our target Tractrac Chat.

During a pleasant lunch in Walvis Bay, which we spent scanning for water birds with our scopes, we found Sanderling, Caspian Tern, Gray-hooded Gull, Hartlaub’s Gull and Kelp Gull. Afterwards we made our way along the waterfront, adding Greater Flamingo, Great White Pelican, Pied Avocet, African Oystercatcher, Bar-tailed Godwit, Common Greenshank and Common, Great Crested & Sandwich Terns. We then drove along to the Salt works where we found Lesser Flamingo, White-fronted & Chestnut-banded Plovers, Curlew Sandpiper and Little Stint. Our time was up and we started back towards Swakopmund with one last stop at a guano platform where we found several Crowned & hundreds of Cape Cormorants. We also had a chance to walk around the quaint Germanic town of Swakopmund.
5th November – Spitzkoppe to Erongo
We were heading back inland, crossing the desert. Our first port of call was the iconic inselberg, Spitzkoppe. These huge, towering rocks jut out of the flat plain below and form this impressive and distinctive landmark. Before arriving there, we stopped at little rocky hilltop where we picked up our target Karoo Long-billed Lark easily. At the gate of Spitzkoppe, we bought our entrance tickets and spent some time birding the surrounding trees where we found Ashy Tit, Pirit Batis and Marico Flycatcher. Our main target of the morning was the near endemic Herero Chat. It specialises in the band of woodland around the base of such inselbergs, and this is where we spent the rest of the morning birding. We picked up Mountain Wheatear, Pale-winged & Cape Starlings, Gray Go-away-bird, Dusky Sunbird and even a Black-breasted Snake-Eagle, before finally locating the Herero Chat. A rather understated bird, but not without its charms. After enjoying a nice field lunch in the shade of the mountain, we continued on to the wonderful Erongo Wilderness Lodge. On the way in we saw Monteiro’s Hornbill and a surprise Lesser Gray Shrike. After sheltering in our rooms from the heat, we took a late afternoon walk, on which we saw Rosy-faced Lovebird, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, a pair of the near endemic White-tailed Shrikes, and many Namibian Rock Agamas. During our atmospheric dinner, we heard a Freckled Nightjar on the rocks below and had great views. Erongo really is an unforgettable place.
6th November – Erongo
One of the highlights at Erongo Wilderness Lodge is the birding breakfast. A lot of seed is put out in the rocks below the restaurant, and large numbers of birds come in to feed. The most eye-catching being dozens of Rosy-faced Lovebirds, but they were joined by Red-billed Francolin, Black-throated Canary, Great Rufous Sparrow, Southern Gray-headed Sparrow, White-browed Sparrow-Weaver, Chestnut Weaver, Red-billed Quelea and Green-winged Pytilia. We were also lucky enough to have a pair of Carp’s Tit and a very vocal Barred Wren-Warbler. Neither of which are particularly easy birds. After breakfast, we took a short drive along the entrance road to a dry river bed and on the way, saw a Black-breasted Snake-Eagle and the steppe form of Common Buzzard.

A pint-sized predator. Pearl-spotted Owlet.

We explored the dry riverbed, mostly from the shade of the trees as it was already getting quite hot, and saw African Gray, Monteiro’s & Damara Red-billed Hornbills, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, Rufous-crowned Roller, Lesser Honeyguide, Golden-tailed & Bearded Woodpeckers, Pririt Batis, Crimson-breasted Gonolek, White-crowned Shrike, Green-backed Camaroptera, the large Alpine Swift and one of our main targets here, Rüppell’s Parrot. We also had our first owl of the trip in the form of Pearl-spotted Owlet. After lunch and a rest during the hottest hours of the day, we took an afternoon walk on which we saw the charismatic Rockrunner but failed to find the elusive Hartlaub’s Francolin.
7th November – Erongo to Twyfelfontein
It was our last chance to see Hartlaub’s Francolin, so we took a pre-breakfast walk. We saw interesting birds, including Rockrunner, Red-backed Scrub-Robin and both Mariqua & Dusky Sunbirds. We climbed up a rocky trail and after a while, a francolin flew over our heads and landed behind a boulder nearby. After a short while both male and female Hartlaub’s Francolins appeared up on top, long enough for everybody to see. It was a relief to have found our target. After another wonderful breakfast up at the restaurant watching the feeders, again with Red-billed Francolin, countless Rosy-faced Lovebirds, Great Rufous Sparrow and Chestnut Weavers to name but a few, we packed up and said goodbye to this unforgettable place.

What the Red-backed Scrub-Robin lacks in colourful plumage, it makes up for with its beautiful song.

On the way through the town of Omaruru, we stopped at a wood carving workshop to watch the local craftsmen fashioning animals out of driftwood and to buy a few souvenirs. We had another drive along bumpy roads with a few birding stops where we picked up Pale Chanting-Goshawk, Crowned Lapwing and Karoo Chat. We also enjoyed another field lunch under a tree. The final section of road was particularly bad and we had to go slowly, but we still arrived in time for an afternoon walk near hotel. It was a wonderfully scenic location in the desert surrounded by rocky mountains. Around the gardens we saw Speckled Pigeon, Pale-winged Starling, Dusky Sunbird, White-throated Canary and Cape Sparrow. We walked down to a small man-made waterhole that had plenty of elephant dung around it, but no sign of the elephants. We did see a pair of Three-banded Plovers though. After dinner we had an early night, looking forward to our visit to the famous rock engravings tomorrow.
8th November – Twyelfontein to Khowarib
After a short pre-breakfast walk around the grounds of the hotel, we checked out and drove the short distance to the Twyelfontein rock engravings. The visit by far exceeded our expectations and the local guide was excellent. It started with a short walk to the base of the rocks and along here we saw Bokmakierie, Layard's Warbler, Mountain Wheatear, White-throated Canary and even a Verreaux's Eagle. The engravings (a world heritage site) were mainly of animals and done over thousands of years. The symbolism and relevance to the bushmen who created them was absolutely fascinating to hear about. After our tour came to an end, we thanked our great local guide and were on our way. On the way out, we spotted a pair of desert Common Ostriches. Another thing we wanted to see in the area before we left and that was a place know as Burnt mountain which had several Welwitschia mirabilis plants nearby. These living fossils and totally unique plants were a highlight for the botanist of the group but interesting for all of us. On the way out, we stopped to look at some rock formations called the Organ Pipes and heard a Benguela Lark calling on the rocky slope across from us. One eagle-eyed member of the group spotted it and we all got scope views of this restricted species.
We drove to our next lodge up in the neighbouring Kaokoland, having another field lunch under a tree on the way. At the end of another bumpy road, we checked in and had time for a short rest before some of us went out for our visit to a Himba village. It was another fascinating aspect to the tour and we had plenty of opportunity to photograph and learn about one of the most unique and photogenic tribes in the world. We even had our first Kori Bustards on the way back.

We had the opportunity to visit a Himba tribe in Kaokoland.
9th November – Khowarib to Grootberg

The grounds of our lodge were large with varied habitats and we had many birds calling at dawn. Some members of our group had good luck with birds around the swimming pool area yesterday, so we started there and found Cardinal Woodpecker, Brubru, Black-backed Puffback, Crimson-breasted Gonolek and Carp's Tit. We also took a walk in the riverbed which actually had water flowing in it. Not a common sight in Namibia. Here we found a Striated Heron, a pair of Black-chested Prinias doing a fascinating courtship display, Spotted Flycatcher, a majestic Verreaux's Eagle soaring above the cliffs and a surprise fly-over Madagascar Bee-eater, a migrant restricted to this northwest corner of Namibia. We also had a delightful Striped Squirrel scurrying along the river bank. Back up in the grounds of the hotel, we finally managed to track down Mourning Collared-Dove, plus a few other common birds, like Gray Go-away-bird, Eurasian Hoopoe, Rosy-faced Lovebird, Green-backed Camaroptera and numerous Lesser Masked-Weavers.

After breakfast we packed up and set off for our next site, Grootberg. On the way we had a pair of sand-coloured Rüppell's Bustards, a large Ludwig's Bustard which flushed from near the road, and also a Karoo Chat. At Grootberg, we saw an Augur Buzzard on the way up and enjoyed the most amazing view from the lodge itself. We had a rest before a short afternoon walk, when we saw several birds, including Helmeted Guineafowl, Verreaux's Eagle, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Short-toed Rock-Thrush, Mountain Wheatear, White-throated Canary, Great Rufous Sparrow and Red-headed Finch but also found several interesting species of lizards and a rather dangerous-looking scorpion.
10th November – Grootberg to Kanmanjab
After our early breakfast, we set off on our activity of tracking desert elephants. After the rains, most of the elephants had retreated up into the hills, but the trackers said they were going to try their best to locate them. We had a fun morning driving round the surrounding areas, particularly manmade waterholes, looking for recent signs. We had a lot of dung, and some tracks, but none of it was too recent. As well as searching for signs, we also asked local people directly if they had seen them. The take home message for me was how destructive the elephants were of fencing, buildings, water tanks, and food gardens, and how unpopular this had made them with the local population. They had led a trail of destruction in their wake. In the end, we didn’t find the elephants but we had a great morning of sightings with many interesting birds and plants.

Madagascar Bee-eater is a rare treat to see in Namibia.

During the morning we saw many Lark-like Buntings, Violet-eared Waxbill, Crimson-breasted Gonolek, Sabota Lark, Pale Chanting-Goshawk, Gabar Goshawk, Red-crested and Red-crowned Go-away-bird, Eurasian Hoopoe, Swallow-tailed & and even Madagascar Bee-eaters. Shepherd’s Trees were in fruit and we saw African Gray, Southern Yellow-billed, Monteiro’s & Damara Red-billed Hornbills feeding on them. On the way to our lunch stop we also added several key regional targets, with a surprise pair of Rüppell’s Parrot, White-tailed Shrike, and Bare-cheeked Babbler. We also had several good mammal sightings, with Eland, Giraffes, Baboons and Damara Ground-Squirrel. We had a pleasant field lunch with our guides and drivers, and on the way out added Black-breasted Snake-Eagle, Common Scimitarbill and Rufous-vented Warbler. It had been a great morning of exploring and we were all happy even without our desert elephants. Back at the lodge, we had time for a short rest before packing up and driving on to the town of Kamanjab for the night.
11th November – Kanmanjab to Okakuejo

We were on our way to the world famous Etosha National Park but we couldn’t resist a couple of short stops on the way to see Steenbok, Swallow-tailed & our first European Bee-eaters, Black-shouldered Kite, Tawny Eagle and Greater Striped-Swallow. We quickly finished the entrance formalities and used the facilities at the park gate. We would not be allowed out of the vehicle until we reached the rest camp due to the presence of dangerous animals. With the availability of water being the key to life in this dry place, the waterholes are vital for the wildlife of the park. We stopped at the first waterhole, and saw our first Burchell’s Zebras and Impala. There were many birds too, including Namaqua Dove, Lesser Gray Shrike, African Pipit, and Red-billed Quelea. We carried along the road towards Okakuejo restcamp and saw Common Ostrich and Kori Bustard along the way.

The aerial acrobatics of Greater Kestrels kept us entertained.

We arrived in time for lunch and a rest before heading out for an afternoon drive. This area of the park is especially dry and is characterized by open plains. The road to the Okondeka waterhole passes through a sea of short, yellow grass, which in the warm afternoon light, glows a warm golden color. The birding here is great and we picked up a host of new birds, with smartly pied White-quilled Bustards, Namaqua Sandgrouse, Cape Crow, Gray-backed Sparrow-Lark and the handsome Capped Wheatear. In the dry season, Okondeka is a good bet for lions. It is the only water for miles around and they can just let their dinner come to them. After the first rains, there is more water around and we found the spot devoid of herbivores or lions. There was no shortage of birds though and we racked up quite a list, with several Kori and Ludwig’s Bustards, Burchell’s & Double-banded Courser, an amazing aerial display from a pair of Greater Kestrel, Spike-heeled & Eastern Clapper Lark, Banded Martins and a pair of Southern Anteater-Chats. Our time was up, and it was time to head back to camp before our 7pm curfew, although we did manage a distant family of Red-necked Falcons just before camp. After dinner, we went to the fantastic waterhole and had several Elephants and our first Black Rhino.
One of the heaviest flying birds in the world, the Kori Bustard & the desert specialist Burchell’s Courser.
12th November – Okakuejo
We started the day at the Okakuejo waterhole, where some early birds had caught the pre-dawn Double-banded Sandgrouse. A few other birds were hanging about, with Egyptian Goose, Little Grebe, Black-headed Heron, Three-banded Plover and huge flocks of Red-billed Queleas coming in to drink. Before setting off on our morning drive we birded a little bit in the camp to find a vocal African Cuckoo, a Rufous-crowned Roller eating a snake, Crimson-breasted Gonolek, White-crowned Shrike, Rufous-vented Warbler and a Groundscraper Thrush. We planned a loop drive around several waterholes during the morning. Straight out the gate we spotted a Black Rhino in the Acacia scrub. We passed open plains similar to yesterday, where we saw Double-banded Courser, Lesser Gray Shrike, Spike-heeled, Sabota, Fawn-colored & Red-capped Larks, Chat Flycatcher, Capped Wheatear and Scaly Weaver. Gemsbokvlakte waterhole had its usual throng of zebras and a few interesting birds, including Namaqua Sandgrouse, Gray-backed Sparrow-Lark and African Quailfinch.

At the next waterhole, Olifantsbad, we saw Pale Chanting-Goshawk, White-quilled Bustard and Greater Kestrel, and at the waterhole itself Wood Sandpiper, Lark-like & Cinnamon-breasted Buntings and large numbers of Red-billed Queleas. We also took advantage of a rustic restroom. At Aus, we saw African Pipit, Red-headed Finch, Shaft-tailed Whydah and a beautiful male Anchieta’s Agama. Heading north, we spotted a Spotted Thick-knee under a tree, had a close encounter with a herd of Elephants, then really struck gold with a Leopard under a tree. There was a bit of jostling and name calling in various languages between vehicles in the ‘Leopard Jam’ before we finally gained a good vantage point. After some time trying to decent views of the Leopard, we carried on and had one of the highpoints of the trip for one client, Desert Cisticola. I’m not even kidding. The home stretch was a little bumpy but we broke it up with our first Secretarybirds, more European Bee-eaters, and a Lappet-faced Vulture. After lunch and a good rest, we went out to another couple of roads nearby and different waterhole, but didn’t really add anything new. After dinner, we had some more great sightings of Black Rhino and Elephants at the waterhole.
Etosha is full of great birds. Rufous-crowned Roller & African Cuckoo.
13th November – Okakuejo to Halali
We started the day with a bit of birding around camp, where we had good views of Eurasian Hoopoe, Cape Crombec and Lesser Masked-Weaver. Our morning would be spent working our way to Halali camp, which is not a huge distance, but when you are stopping every 2 minutes, it can take a bit of time. Straight out the gate we had some nice birds, with Crowned Lapwing, Lesser Gray Shrike and Social Weavers. The first waterhole we checked was Nebrowni. There was a gaggle of cars as we pulled up, which made me feel like there was something interesting. Sure enough there were 3 Lions laying down on one side of the waterhole. It was a bit of a car scrum, but the extra height afforded by our vehicle paid dividends. The lions were doing what lions do best, sleeping. Dozens of zebras and wildebeest were all standing at the other side of the waterhole, too afraid to come any closer.

The place was swarming with Namaqua Sandgrouse, Gray-backed Sparrow-Larks, Red-capped Larks and a couple of Black-winged Stilts, and they didn’t seem to care less. The lions got up briefly, nuzzled and lay back down, and that actually consists a good lion sighting. We were on our way again and had Common Ostrich, Lappet-faced Vulture and the gorgeous little Rufous-eared Warbler. Further on, a gorgeous male White-quilled Bustard, Spotted Thick-knee and even a Rock monitor in a tree. We reached a nice waterhole called Kapuphedi, on the edge of the pan which was great for waterbirds. Here we saw Cape Teal, Red-billed Duck, Black-winged Stilt, and Common Greenshank but the highlight was definitely the pair of Blue Cranes. Coming in to drink we saw Rufous-naped Lark, Red-headed Finch and African Quailfinch plus some displaying Eastern Clapper Larks on the way out.
At Charitsaub we found 3 young Red-necked Falcons roosting in a tree. Two other falcons flew in to the tree, and I thought they might be the parents, but they ended up being a pair of migrant Lesser Kestrels. What a score! We had time for just one more waterhole before lunch, which was Rietfontein. It is always good for water birds here, and we saw Cape Teal, Red-billed Duck, Three-banded Plover, African Jacana, Ruff and Wood Sandpiper. We had a large bird with long legs flying around, which turned out to be a Secretarybird. We also added our first Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark & Yellow-crowned Bishop. One last stop on the way to Halali produced Kalahari Scrub-Robin which was also new for our lists.

The tiny African Scops-Owl is perfectly camouflaged against the bark of the Mopani tree

After lunch, I managed to locate a day-roosting African Scops-Owl which we took some photos of before retreating to our air-conditioned rooms. We had just a short foray in the afternoon to a local waterhole called Goas. On the way we had a nice Kori Bustard, Cinnamon-breasted & Golden-breasted Buntings and our first Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill. Goas always produces something interesting and today it was a young male Lion. He was so lazy, he couldn't even be bothered to stand up while drinking, but rather lay down as he lapped at the water. We had a fair few birds too, with Red-billed & Swainson's Francolins, Tawny Eagle, African Jacana, African Gray Hornbill, a small flock of White Helmetshrikes and Cape Crombec. After dinner we took a walk to the Moringa Waterhole, where we had Black-backed Jackal, Spotted Hyaena and a great flyby of a Barn Owl.
A male Lesser Kestrel and young male lion
14th November – Halali to Namutoni
Halali has some of the best birding of any of Etosha's camps. We found our target Violet Woodhoopoe straight away, which took some pressure off. We saw many hornbills, including African Gray, Southern Yellow-billed, Southern Red-billed and even Southern Red-billed x Damara Hornbill hybrids. We also picked up Brown-crowned Tchagra, Green-backed Camaroptera, Spotted Flycatcher, Groundscraper Thrush, Green-winged Pytilia, our first Red-billed Buffalo-Weavers and even a surprise male Red-headed Weaver. One of the birds of the morning were the charismatic Bare-cheeked Babblers which were practically hopping around the pumps at the gas station. We were on our way again and soon had some great sightings along the road, including another fabulous pair of Blue Cranes, many European Bee-eaters, better views of Gray-backed Sparrow-Larks, Double-banded Courser, Lesser Gray Shrike and our first Rufous-chested Swallows. We also had great views of some huge elephants. We drove to the Etosha lookout where we were permitted to exit our vehicle and take some touristy photos on the edge of the pan. Before getting in to our next camp, Namutoni, we had some more good views of Pale Chanting-Goshawk and Greater Kestrel.

As in other areas of Africa, Black Rhinos are under huge poaching pressure and their populations are crashing.

After lunch and a rest, we took a drive around a few local waterholes in the afternoon. There were some huge elephants, and after watching them for a while, somebody in the group spotted a Black Rhino coming in. It was a magnificent beast sporting an impressive horn. It seemed unperturbed by the massive elephants, but after a few minutes of drinking, something spooked it and it charged off into the distance. Rhinos have pretty poor eyesight, and I couldn't help wondering if the rhino had only just noticed the elephants. We moved on and drove the Doring Draai loop in search of Cheetah, but only found Giraffe and more Kori Bustards (almost a trash bird in Etosha). Our last stop for the day was the Klein Namutoni waterhole. On the way in we stopped to photograph some adorable Damara dikdiks; Southern Africa’s smallest antelope. We also had Red-crested Bustard and Tawny Eagle. Klein Namutoni is one of the best waterholes for waterbirds and there was a decent variety, with Red-billed Duck, Black-winged Stilt, Kittlitz's & Three-banded Plovers, Ruff, Little Stint, Marsh & Wood Sandpipers and even a White-winged Tern. A beautiful sunset marked the end of another wonderful day in Africa.
15th November – Namutoni to Tsumeb
We were back at Klein Namutoni waterhole this morning and had the same selection of waterbirds, with Red-billed Duck, Black-winged Stilt, Kittlitz’s & Three-banded Plovers, Ruff, Little Stint, Marsh & Wood Sandpipers and White-winged Tern, but today added Cape Shoveler and Greater Flamingo. After breakfast back at the camp, we took a drive around the Fischer's Pan loop, where we saw Lappet-faced Vulture, Pale Chanting-Goshawk, Common Ostrich, Black-shouldered Kite, Tawny Eagle, Red-crested Bustard and one of our main targets of the day, Burchell's Sandgrouse. We had plenty of mammal sightings too, with some nice Giraffe, Warthogs and Zebras. From there, we turned north towards the Andoni Plain; a sea of uninterrupted golden grass. On the way up there, we finally caught up with Lilac-breasted Roller, which is normally pretty common but they seemed to have shifted their distribution with the onset of the rains. We took advantage of a fenced area for a short bathroom break but also found a couple of migrants, Icterine Warbler and Spotted Flycatcher, but also our first Bateleur, Violet-eared Waxbill and Green-winged Pytilia.

The endemic Etosha Agama

We drove up through the scenic plain to the Andoni waterhole, where many Gemsbok, Wildebeest and Zebras, plus a few Warthogs were gathered. The waterhole was also a magnet for birds, and we saw Cape Teal, Black-winged Stilt, Pied Avocet, Little Stint, Red-necked Falcon plus Red-capped, Pink-billed & Gray-backed Sparrow-Larks coming in to drink. We even had nice views of an Etosha Agama right next to the vehicle. The highlight though was undoubtedly when several Blue & a single Wattled Crane flew in. Blue Cranes are very rare in Namibia but Wattled are even rarer. On the way back to the camp, we stopped in at Groot Okevi waterhole where we saw Gabar Goshawk, Yellow Canary, and Shaft-tailed Whydah, and at Klein Okevi, where we saw Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove, Violet-eared Waxbill and African Quailfinch. After lunch back at Namutoni, we had some time to check out the museum, fort and waterhole. At the latter we added Marabou Stork, Eurasian Moorhen and Rattling Cisticola. Our time in Etosha was finally at an end, and all that remained was to exit the park on the mercifully paved road and drive to our hotel in Tsumeb.
The spectacular sight of Blue & Wattled Cranes flying together.

15th November – Tsumeb to Windhoek
After an amazing trip exploring Namibia’s scenic, cultural and natural wonders, it was time to head back to Windhoek where we ended an unforgettable trip.
BIRD LIST
Taxonomy follows eBird/Clements online checklist v2017.

STRUTHIONIFORMES: Struthionidae
Common Ostrich  Struthio camelus
Seen at Sossusvlei, Twyfelfontein, on the way to Khowarib & Etosha.

ANSERIFORMES: Anatidae
Egyptian Goose  Alopochen aegyptiaca
Seen at Khowarib & Etosha.
Cape Shoveler  Anas smithii
Seen at Etosha.
Red-billed Duck  Anas erythrorhyncha
Seen at Etosha.
Cape Teal  Anas capensis
Seen at Etosha.

GALLIFORMES: Numididae
Helmeted Guineafowl  Numida meleagris
Seen throughout the trip.

GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae
Hartlaub's Francolin  Pternistis hartlaubi
Near endemic
Seen at Erongo.
Red-billed Francolin  Pternistis adspersus
Seen at Erongo & Etosha.
Swainson's Francolin  Pternistis swainsonii
Seen at Etosha.
Crested Francolin  Francolinus sephaena
Heard at Etosha.

PODICIPEDIFORMES: Podicipedidae
Little Grebe  Tachybaptus ruficollis
Seen at near Grootberg & at Etosha.

PHOENICOPTERIFORMES: Phoenicopteridae
Greater Flamingo  Phoenicopterus roseus
Seen at Walvis Bay & Etosha.
Lesser Flamingo  Phoeniconaias minor
Near-threatened. Seen at Walvis Bay.

CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae
Marabou Stork  Leptoptilos crumenifer
Seen at Etosha.

SULIFORMES: Phalacrocoracidae
Crowned Cormorant  Microcarbo coronatus
Near-threatened. Seen near Swakopmund.
Cape Cormorant  Phalacrocorax capensis
Endangered. Seen at Walvis Bay & near Swakopmund.
PELECANIFORMES: Pelecanidae
Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*
Seen at Walvis Bay & near Swakopmund.

PELECANIFORMES: Scopidae
Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*
Seen by some in Windhoek.

PELECANIFORMES: Ardeidae
Gray Heron *Ardea cinerea*
Seen at Walvis Bay.
Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala*
Seen at Etosha.
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
Seen at Walvis Bay.
Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*
Seen at Etosha.
Striped Heron *Butorides striata*
Seen at Khowarib.

ACCIPITRIFORMES: Sagittariidae
Secretary-bird *Sagittarius serpentarius*
Vulnerable. Seen at Etosha.

ACCIPITRIFORMES: Accipitridae
Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*
Seen at Windhoek, between Kamanjab-Outjo & Etosha.
Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos*
Endangered. Seen at Sossusvlei, between Sossusvlei-Swakopmund & Etosha.
White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus*
Critically endangered. Seen between Sossusvlei-Swakopmund.
Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus*
Near-threatened. Seen at Etosha.
Black-breasted Snake-Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis*
Seen at Spitzkoppe, Erongo & near Grootberg.
Brown Snake-Eagle *Circaetus cinereus*
Seen at.
Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus*
Vulnerable. A juvenile bird seen at Sossusvlei.
Lesser Spotted Eagle *Clanga pomarina*
Seen at Etosha.
Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax*
Seen between Kamanjab-Outjo & at Etosha.
Verreaux’s Eagle *Aquila verreauxii*
Seen at Twyfelfontein, Khowarib & Grootberg.
Pale Chanting-Goshawk *Melierax canorus*
Seen on the way to Sossusvlei, between Omaruru-Twyfelfontein, near Grootberg & Etosha.
Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar*
Seen at near Grootberg & Etosha.
Common (Steppe) Buzzard  
*Buteo buteo vulpinus*

  Seen at Erongo.

Augur Buzzard  
*Buteo augur*

  Seen at Grootberg.

**OTIDIFORMES: Otididae**

Kori Bustard  
*Ardeotis kori*

  Near-threatened. Seen near Khowarib & at Etosha.

Ludwig’s Bustard  
*Neotis ludwigii*

  Endangered. Seen at Sossusvlei, between Khowarib-Grootberg & Etosha.

Rüppell’s Bustard  
*Eupodotis rueppellii*

  Seen at Sossusvlei & between Khowarib-Grootberg.

Red-crested Bustard  
*Eupodotis ruficrsta*

  Seen on the way to Sossusvlei, near Grootberg & at Etosha.

White-quilled Bustard  
*Eupodotis afraoides*

  Seen at Etosha.

**GRUIFORMES: Rallidae**

Eurasian Moorhen  
*Gallinula chloropus*

  Seen at Etosha.

Red-knobbed Coot  
*Fulica cristata*

  Seen at Etosha.

**GRUIFORMES: Gruidae**

Blue Crane  
*Anthropoides paradiseus*

  Vulnerable. Seen at Etosha.

Wattled Crane  
*Bugeranus carunculatus*

  Seen at Etosha.

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Burhinidae**

Spotted Thick-knee  
*Burhinus capensis*

  Seen at Etosha.

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae**

Black-winged Stilt  
*Himantopus himantopus*

  Seen at Etosha.

Pied Avocet  
*Recurvirostra avosetta*

  Seen at Walvis Bay & Etosha.

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Haematopodidae**

African Oystercatcher  
*Haematopus moquini*

  Near-threatened. Seen at Walvis Bay.

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae**

Black-bellied Plover  
*Pluvialis squatarola*

  Seen at Walvis Bay.

Blacksmith Lapwing  
*Vanellus armatus*

  Seen at Etosha.

Crowned Lapwing  
*Vanellus coronatus*

  Seen between Omaruru-Twyfelfontein, near Grootberg & Etosha.
Tropical Birding Trip Report

NAMIBIA NOVEMBER, 2017

Kittlitz's Plover
Charadrius pecuarius
Seen at Etosha.

Three-banded Plover
Charadrius tricollaris
Seen at Twyfelfontein & Etosha.

White-fronted Plover
Charadrius marginatus
Seen at Walvis Bay.

Chestnut-banded Plover
Charadrius pallidus
Near-threatened. Seen at Walvis Bay.

CHARADRIIFORMES: Jacanidae

African Jacana
Actophilornis africanus
Seen at Etosha.

CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae

Bar-tailed Godwit
Limosa lapponica
Near-threatened. Seen at Walvis Bay.

Ruddy Turnstone
Arenaria interpres
Seen at Walvis Bay.

Ruff
Calidris pugnax
Seen at Etosha.

Curlew Sandpiper
Calidris ferruginea
Near-threatened. Seen at Walvis Bay.

Sanderling
Calidris alba
Seen at Walvis Bay.

Little Stint
Calidris minuta
Seen at Walvis Bay & Etosha.

Common Greenshank
Tringa nebularia
Seen at Walvis Bay & Etosha.

Marsh Sandpiper
Tringa stagnatilis
Seen at Etosha.

Wood Sandpiper
Tringa glareola
Seen at Etosha.

CHARADRIIFORMES: Glareolidae

Burchell’s Courser
Cursorius rufus
Seen at Etosha.

Double-banded Courser
Smutsornis africanus
Seen at Etosha.

CHARADRIIFORMES: Laridae

Gray-hooded Gull
Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus
Seen at Walvis Bay.

Hartlaub’s Gull
Chroicocephalus hartlaubii
Seen at Walvis Bay.

Kelp Gull
Larus dominicanus
Seen at Walvis Bay.

Caspian Tern
Hydroprogne caspia
Seen at Walvis Bay.

White-winged Tern
Chlidonias leucopterus
Seen at Etosha.

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Common Tern  
*Sterna hirundo*  
Seen at Walvis Bay.

Great Crested Tern  
*Thalasseus bergii*  
Seen at Walvis Bay.

Sandwich Tern  
*Thalasseus sandvicensis*  
Seen at Walvis Bay.

**PTEROCLIFORMES: Pteroclidae**

Namaqua Sandgrouse  
*Pterocles namaqua*  
Seen on the way to Sossusvlei, near Grootberg & at Etosha.

Double-banded Sandgrouse  
*Pterocles bicinctus*  
Seen at Grootberg & Etosha.

Burchell's Sandgrouse  
*Pterocles burchelli*  
Seen at Etosha.

**COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae**

Rock Pigeon  
*Columba livia*  
Seen at Walvis Bay.

Speckled Pigeon  
*Columba guinea*  
Seen at Windhoek, Sossusvlei, Erongo, Twyfelfontein, Khowarib & near Grootberg.

Ring-necked Dove  
*Streptopelia capicola*  
Seen at Erongo, Khowarib, near Grootberg & Etosha.

Mourning Collared-Dove  
*Streptopelia decipiens*  
Seen at Khowarib.

Laughing Dove  
*Streptopelia senegalensis*  
Seen at Windhoek, Rooibank, Erongo, Twyfelfontein, Khowarib, near Grootberg & Etosha.

Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove  
*Turtur chalcospilos*  
Seen at Etosha.

Namaqua Dove  
*Oena capensis*  
Seen at Rooibank, Erongo, near Grootberg & Etosha.

**CUCULIFORMES: Musophagidae**

Gray Go-away-bird  
*Corythaixoides concolor*  
Seen at Spitzkoppe, Erongo, Khowarib, near Grootberg & Etosha.

**CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae**

African Cuckoo  
*Cuculus gularis*  
Seen at Etosha.

Black Cuckoo  
*Cuculus clamosus*  
Heard at Etosha.

**STRIGIFORMES: Tytonidae**

Barn Owl  
*Tyto alba*  
Seen at Etosha.

**STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae**

African Scops-Owl  
*Otus senegalensis*  
Seen at Etosha.

Pearl-spotted Owlet  
*Glaucidium perlatum*  
Seen at Erongo & heard at Etosha.
**CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae**

- **Rufous-cheeked Nightjar** *Caprimulgus rufigena*
  Seen at Etosha.
- **Freckled Nightjar** *Caprimulgus tristigma*
  Seen at Erongo.

**CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Apodidae**

- **Alpine Swift** *Apus melba*
  Seen at Erongo.
- **Bradfield's Swift** *Apus bradfieldi*
  Seen at Windhoek.
- **Little Swift** *Apus affinis*
  Seen at Windhoek & Etosha.
- **African Palm-Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus*
  Seen at Windhoek, Khowarib, near Grootberg & Etosha.

**COLIIFORMES: Coliidae**

- **White-backed Mousebird** *Colius colius*
  Seen at Windhoek.

**BUCEROTIFORMES: Upupidae**

- **Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*
  Seen at Erongo, Khowarib, near Grootberg & Etosha.
- **Violet Woodhoopoe** *Phoeniculus damarensis*  
  Near endemic
  Seen at Etosha.
- **Common Scimitarbill** *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*
  Seen at Erongo, near Grootberg & Etosha.

**BUCEROTIFORMES: Bucerotidae**

- **African Gray Hornbill** *Lophoceros nasutus*
  Seen at Erongo, near Grootberg & Etosha.
- **Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill** *Tockus leucomelas*
  Seen on the way to Sossusvlei, near Grootberg & at Etosha.
- **Monteiro's Hornbill** *Tockus monteiri*
  Seen at Erongo & near Grootberg.
- **Southern Red-billed Hornbill** *Tockus rufirostris*
  Seen at Etosha.
- **Damara Red-billed Hornbill** *Tockus damarensis*  
  Near endemic
  Seen at Erongo, near Grootberg & Etosha (hybrids).

**CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae**

- **Swallow-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops hirundineus*
  Seen at Windhoek, Erongo, near Grootberg, between Kamanjab-Outjo & Etosha.
- **European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*
  Seen between Kamanjab-Outjo & at Etosha.
- **Madagascar Bee-eater** *Merops superciliosus alternans*
  Seen at Khowarib & near Grootberg.
CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae
Lilac-breasted Roller  Coracias caudatus
Seen at Etosha.
Rufous-crowned Roller  Coracias naevius
Seen at Erongo & Etosha.

PICIFORMES: Lybiidae
Pied Barbet  Tricholaema leucomelas
Seen at Windhoek & Etosha.

PICIFORMES: Indicatoridae
Lesser Honeyguide  Indicator minor
Seen briefly by some at Erongo.

PICIFORMES: Picidae
Golden-tailed Woodpecker  Campethera abingoni
Seen at Erongo.
Cardinal Woodpecker  Dendropicos fuscescens
Seen at Khowarib.
Bearded Woodpecker  Dendropicos namaquus
Seen at Erongo.

FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae
Pygmy Falcon  Polihierax semitorquatus
Seen on the way to Sossusvlei.
Rock Kestrel  Falco rupicolus
Seen at Grootberg.
Lesser Kestrel  Falco naumanni
Seen at Etosha.
Greater Kestrel  Falco rupicoloides
Seen at Etosha.
Red-necked Falcon  Falco chicquera
Seen at Etosha.

PSITTACIFORMES: Psittaculidae
Rosy-faced Lovebird  Agapornis roseicollis
Near endemic
Seen at Windhoek, Spitzkoppe, Erongo, Khowarib & Grootberg.

PSITTACIFORMES: Psittacidae
Rüppell's Parrot  Poicephalus rueppelli
Near endemic
Seen at Erongo & near Grootberg.

PASSERIFORMES: Platysteiridae
White-tailed Shrike  Lanioturdus torquatus
Near endemic
Seen at Erongo & near Grootberg.
Pririt Batis  Batis pririt
Seen at Windhoek, Spitzkoppe, Erongo & near Grootberg.
**Tropical Birding Trip Report**

**NAMIBIA**

**NOVEMBER, 2017**

**PASSERIFORMES: Vangidae**

*White Helmetshrike*  
*Prionops plumatus*  
Seen at Etosha.

**PASSERIFORMES: Malaconotidae**

*Brubru*  
*Nilaus afer*  
Seen at Khowarib & Etosha.

*Black-backed Puffback*  
*Dryoscopus cubla*  
Seen at Erongo, Khowarib & Etosha.

*Brown-crowned Tchagra*  
*Tchagra australis*  
Seen at Etosha.

*Crimson-breasted Gonolek*  
*Laniarius atrococcineus*  
Seen on the way to Sossusvlei, at Erongo, Khowarib, near Grootberg & Etosha.

*Bokmakierie*  
*Telophorus zeylonus*  
Seen at Twyfelfontein.

**PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae**

*Lesser Gray Shrike*  
*Lanius minor*  
Seen at Erongo, Etosha.

*Southern Fiscal*  
*Lanius collaris*  
Seen on the way to Sossusvlei & near Grootberg.

*White-crowned Shrike*  
*Eurocephalus anguitimens*  
Seen at Erongo, near Grootberg & Etosha.

**PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae**

*Fork-tailed Drongo*  
*Dicrurus adsimilis*  
Seen at Windhoek, on the way to Sossusvlei, Erongo, Khowarib, near Grootberg & Etosha.

**PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae**

*Cape Crow*  
*Corvus capensis*  
Seen at Etosha.

*Pied Crow*  
*Corvus albus*  
Seen at Sossusvlei, Etosha.

**PASSERIFORMES: Alaudidae**

*Spike-heeled Lark*  
*Chersomanes albofasciata*  
Seen on the way to Sossusvlei, at Etosha.

*Karoo Long-billed Lark*  
*Certhilauda subcoronata*  
Seen at Spitzkoppe.

*Benguela Lark*  
*Certhilauda benguelensis*  
Near endemic

*Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark*  
*Eremopterix leucotis*  
Seen at Etosha.

*Gray-backed Sparrow-Lark*  
*Eremopterix verticalis*  
Seen on the to Sossusvlei, Etosha.

*Sabota Lark*  
*Calendulauda sabota*  
Seen at on the way to Sossusvlei, near Grootberg & Etosha.

*Fawn-colored Lark*  
*Calendulauda africanoides*  
Seen at Etosha.
Dune Lark  
*Calendulauda erythrochlamos*  
Endemic  
Seen at Sossusvlei.

Eastern Clapper Lark  
*Mirafra fasciolata*  
Seen at Etosha.

Rufous-naped Lark  
*Mirafra africana*  
Seen at Etosha.

Red-capped Lark  
*Calandrella cinerea*  
Seen at Walvis Bay, Etosha.

Pink-billed Lark  
*Spizocorys conirostris*  
Seen at Etosha.

**PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae**

Banded Martin  
*Riparia cincta*  
Seen at Etosha.

Rock Martin  
*Ptyonoprogne fuligula*  
Seen at Windhoek, between Sossusvlei & Swakopmund, Spitzkoppe, Erongo, Grootberg & Etosha.

Barn Swallow  
*Hirundo rustica*  
Seen at Walvis Bay, Erongo, Etosha.

Greater Striped-Swallow  
*Cecropis cucullata*  
Seen at Windhoek, between Kamanjab-Outjo & Etosha.

Rufous-chested Swallow  
*Cecropis semirufa*  
Seen at Etosha.

**PASSERIFORMES: Paridae**

Carp’s Tit  
*Melaniparus carpi*  
Near endemic  
Seen at Erongo & Khowarib.

Ashy Tit  
*Melaniparus cinerascens*  
Seen at Spitzkoppe.

**PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae**

Black-fronted Bulbul  
*Pycnonotus nigricans*  
Seen at Windhoek, on the way to Sossusvlei, Spitzkoppe, Erongo, Khowarib, near Grootberg & Etosha.

**PASSERIFORMES: Macrosphenidae**

Cape Crombec  
*Sylvietta rufescens*  
Near endemic  
Seen at Etosha.

Rockrunner  
*Achaetops pycnopygius*  
Near endemic  
Seen at Erongo.

**PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae**

Green-backed Camaroptera  
*Camaroptera brachyura*  
Seen at Erongo, Khowarib & Etosha.

Barred Wren-Warbler  
*Calamonastes fasciolatus*  
Seen at Erongo.

Rufous-eared Warbler  
*Malcorus pectoralis*  
Seen at Etosha.

Rattling Cisticola  
*Cisticola chiniana*  
Seen at Etosha.

Desert Cisticola  
*Cisticola aridulus*  
Seen at Etosha.
Black-chested Prinia  
*Prinia flavicans*  
Seen at on the way to Sossusvlei, Spitzkoppe, Erongo, Twyfelfontein, Khowarib, near Grootberg & Etosha.

Yellow-bellied Eremomela  
*Eremomela icteropygialis*  
Seen at on the way to Sossusvlei, Erongo, Grootberg & Etosha.

Burnt-neck Eremomela  
*Eremomela usticollis*  
Seen at Etosha.

**PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae**

Layard’s Warbler  
*Sylvia layardi*  
Seen at Twyfelfontein.

Rufous-vented Warbler  
*Sylvia subcaerulea*  
Seen at Erongo & near Grootberg.

**PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae**

Orange River White-eye  
*Zosterops pallidus*  
Seen at Swakopmund.

**PASSERIFORMES: Leiothrichidae**

Bare-cheeked Babbler  
*Turdoides gymnogenys*  
Seen near Grootberg & at Etosha.

**PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae**

Spotted Flycatcher  
*Muscicapa striata*  
Seen at Khowarib & Etosha.

Mariqua Flycatcher  
*Bradornis mariquensis*  
Seen on the way to Sossusvlei, at Spitzkoppe, Erongo, near Grootberg & Etosha.

Chat Flycatcher  
*Agricola infuscatus*  
Seen at Etosha.

**Near endemic**

Herero Chat  
*Melaenornis herero*  
Seen at Spitzkoppe.

Kalahari Scrub-Robin  
*Cercotrichas paena*  
Seen at Etosha.

Red-backed Scrub-Robin  
*Cercotrichas leucophrys*  
Seen at Erongo & Etosha.

Short-toed Rock-Thrush  
*Monticola brevipes*  
Seen at Erongo & Grootberg.

**Near endemic**

Southern Anteater-Chat  
*Myrmecocichla formicivora*  
Seen at Etosha.

Karoo Chat  
*Cercomela schlegelii*  
Seen between Omaruru-Twyfelfontein & between Khowarib-Grootberg.

Tractrac Chat  
*Cercomela tractrac*  
Seen near Rooibank.

Familiar Chat  
*Cercomela familiaris*  
Seen at Sossusvlei & Erongo.

Mountain Wheatear  
*Oenanthe monticola*  
Seen at Windhoek, between Sossusvlei & Swakopmund, Spitzkoppe, Erongo, Twyfelfontein & Grootberg.

Capped Wheatear  
*Oenanthe pileata*  
Seen at Etosha.
PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae
Groundscraper Thrush  
*Psophocichla litsitsirupa*
Seen at Windhoek & Etosha.

PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae
Wattled Starling  
*Creatophora cinerea*
Seen at Etosha.
Pale-winged Starling  
*Onychognathus nabouroup*
Seen at Windhoek, on the way to Sossusvlei, Spitzkoppe, Erongo, Twyfelfontein, Khowarib & Grootberg.
Burchell's Starling  
*Lamprotornis australis*
Seen at Etosha.
Cape Starling  
*Lamprotornis nitens*
Seen on the way to Sossusvlei, at Spitzkoppe, Erongo, Khowarib, Grootberg & Etosha.

PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae
Scarlet-chested Sunbird  
*Chalcomitra senegalensis*
Seen in Windhoek.
Mariqua Sunbird  
*Cinnyris mariquensis*
Seen at Windhoek, on the way to Sossusvlei, Erongo & Etosha.
Dusky Sunbird  
*Cinnyris fuscus*
Seen on the way to Sossusvlei, Rooibank, at Spitzkoppe, Erongo & Twyfelfontein.

PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae
Cape Wagtail  
*Motacilla capensis*
Seen at Walvis Bay.
African Pipit  
*Anthus cinnamomeus*
Seen at Etosha.

PASSERIFORMES: Emberizidae
Lark-like Bunting  
*Emberiza impetuani*
Seen on the way to Sossusvlei, at Grootberg & Etosha.
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting  
*Emberiza tahapisi*
Seen at Erongo & Etosha.
Cape Bunting  
*Emberiza capensis*
Seen at Erongo.
Golden-breasted Bunting  
*Emberiza flaviventris*
Seen at Etosha.

PASSERIFORMES: Fringillidae
Black-throated Canary  
*Serinus atrogularis*
Seen at Windhoek, Erongo & Etosha.
Yellow Canary  
*Crithagra flaviventris*
Seen at Etosha.
White-throated Canary  
*Crithagra albogularis*
Seen at Erongo, Twyfelfontein & Grootberg.

PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae
House Sparrow  
*Passer domesticus*
Introduced species
Seen at Windhoek, Walvis Bay & Rooibank.
Great Rufous Sparrow  
*Passer motitensis*
Seen on the way to Sossusvlei, at Erongo, Grootberg & Etosha.
Cape Sparrow  
*Passer melanurus*

Seen at Sossusvlei, Rooibank & Twyelfontein.

**Southern Gray-headed Sparrow**  
*Passer diffusus*

Seen at Windhoek, Erongo, Khowarib & Etosha.

PASSERIFORMES: Ploceidae

**Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver**  
*Bubalornis niger*

Seen at Etosha.

**Scaly Weaver**  
*Sporopipes squamifrons*

Seen on the way to Sossusvlei, near Grootberg & at Etosha.

**White-browed Sparrow-Weaver**  
*Plocepasser mahali*

Seen at Windhoek, Erongo, Khowarib, near Grootberg & Etosha.

**Social Weaver**  
*Philetairus socius*

Seen on the way to Sossusvlei & at Etosha.

**Red-headed Weaver**  
*Anaplectes rubriceps*

Seen at Etosha.

**Lesser Masked-Weaver**  
*Ploceus intermedius*

Seen at Khowarib & Etosha.

**Southern Masked-Weaver**  
*Ploceus velatus*

Seen at Windhoek, Erongo & Etosha.

**Chestnut Weaver**  
*Ploceus rubiginosus*

Seen at Etosha & at Etosha.

**Red-billed Quelea**  
*Quelea quelea*

Seen at Windhoek, Erongo & Etosha.

**Southern Red Bishop**  
*Euplectes orix*

Seen at Windhoek.

**Yellow-crowned Bishop**  
*Euplectes afer*

Seen at Etosha.

PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae

**Common Waxbill**  
*Estrilda astrild*

Seen by some at Swakopmund.

**Black-faced Waxbill**  
*Estrilda erythronotos*

Seen at Windhoek & Erongo.

**Southern Cordonbleu**  
*Uraeginthus angolensis*

Seen at Windhoek & Etosha.

**Violet-eared Waxbill**  
*Granatina granatina*

Seen on the way to Sossusvlei, near Grootberg & at Etosha.

**Green-winged Pytilia**  
*Pytilia melba*

Seen at Windhoek, Erongo & Etosha.

**Red-headed Finch**  
*Amadina erythrocephala*

Seen at Windhoek, Erongo, Grootberg & Etosha.

**African Quailfinch**  
*Ortygospiza fuscocrissa*

Seen at Etosha.

PASSERIFORMES: Viduidae

**Eastern Paradise-Whydah**  
*Vidua paradisaea*

Seen by the guide at Etosha.

**Shaft-tailed Whydah**  
*Vidua regia*

Seen at Etosha.
MAMMAL LIST

**Macroscelididae (Elephant Shrews)**
Western Rock Sengi  
*Elephantulus rupestris*  
Seen at Erongo.

**Cercopithecidae (Old World monkeys)**
Chacma Baboon  
*Papio ursinus*  
Seen at Erongo & Grootberg.

**Leporidae (Rabbits & Hares)**
African Savanna Hare  
*Lepus microtis*  
Seen at Etosha.

**Sciuridae (Squirrels)**
Southern African Ground Squirrel  
*Xerus inauris*  
Seen at Etosha.

Damara Ground-Squirrel  
*Xerus princeps*  
Seen at Grootberg.

Striped Tree Squirrel  
*Funisciurus congicus*  
Seen at Khowarib.

Tree Squirrel  
*Paraxerus cepapi*  
Seen at Etosha.

**Petromuridae (Dassie Rat)**
Dassie Rat  
*Petromus typicus*  
Seen at Erongo.

**Muridae (Rats & mice)**
Four-striped Grass Mouse  
*Rhabdomys pumilio*  
Seen in Windhoek.

Acacia Rat  
*Thallomys paedulcus*  
Seen at Etosha.

**Canidae (Canids)**
Black-backed Jackal  
*Canis mesomelas*  
Seen at Sossusvlei & Etosha.

**Herpestidae (Mongoose)**
Banded Mongoose  
*Mungos mungo*  
Seen at Etosha.

Slender Mongoose  
*Galerella sanguinea*  
Seen at Etosha.

Yellow Mongoose  
*Cynictis penicillata*  
Seen at Etosha.

**Hyaenidae (Hyaenas)**
Spotted Hyena  
*Crocuta crocuta*  
Seen at Etosha.

**Felidae (Cats)**
Lion  
*Panthera leo*  
Seen at Etosha.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal Type</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leopard</strong></td>
<td>Panthera pardalis</td>
<td>Seen at Etosha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elephantidae (Elephants)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>African Elephant</td>
<td>Loxodonta africana</td>
<td>Seen on the way to Khowarib &amp; at Etosha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Procaviidae (Hyraxes)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cape Rock Hyrax</td>
<td>Procavia capensis</td>
<td>Seen at Erongo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Equidae (Horses)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartmann's Mountain Zebra</td>
<td>Equus zebra hartmannae</td>
<td>Seen between Sossusvlei &amp; Swakopmund.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plains Zebra</td>
<td>Equus quagga</td>
<td>Seen at Etosha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rhinocerotidae (Rhinoceroses)</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Rhino</td>
<td>Diceros bicornis</td>
<td>Seen at Etosha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Suidae (Pigs)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Warthog</td>
<td>Phacochoerus africanus</td>
<td>Seen at Etosha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Giraffidae (Giraffes)</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giraffe</td>
<td>Giraffa camelopardalis</td>
<td>Seen at Grootberg &amp; Etosha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bovidae (Bovids)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Eland</td>
<td>Tragelaphus oryx</td>
<td>Seen at Grootberg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Kudu</td>
<td>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</td>
<td>Seen at Etosha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gemsbok</td>
<td>Oryx gazella</td>
<td>Seen at Sossusvlei &amp; Etosha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Wildebeest</td>
<td>Connochaetes taurinus</td>
<td>Seen at Sossusvlei &amp; Etosha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Hartebeest</td>
<td>Alcelaphus buselaphus</td>
<td>Seen at Etosha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Black-faced) Impala</td>
<td>Aepyceros melampus petersi</td>
<td>Seen at Etosha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springbok</td>
<td>Antidorcas marsupialis</td>
<td>Seen at Sossusvlei, Etosha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damara Dikdik</td>
<td>Madoqua kirkii damarensis</td>
<td>Seen at Erongo &amp; Etosha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steenbok</td>
<td>Raphicerus campestris</td>
<td>Seen at Etosha.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Otariidae (Eared seals)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Fur Seal</td>
<td>Arctocephalus pusillus</td>
<td>Seen near Swakopmund.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
REPTILE LIST
Taxonomy follows Field Guide to Snakes and Other Reptiles by Bill Branch.

Pelomedusidae (Side-necked Terrapins)
- Marsh Terrapin  
  Pelomedusa subrufa
  Seen at Etosha.

Elapidae (Cobras)
- Black Mamba  
  Dendroaspis polylepis
  Seen briefly at Etosha.

Scincidae (Skinks)
- Wedge-snouted Skink  
  Mabuya acutilabris
  Seen at
- Striped Skink  
  Mabuya striata
  Seen at Etosha.
- Western Rock Skink  
  Mabuya sulcata
  Seen at Grootberg.

Lacertidae (Old World Lizards)
- Bushveld Lizard  
  Heliobolus lugubris
  Seen at Erongo.
- Wedge-snouted Desert Lizard  
  Meroles cuneirostris
  Seen at Rooibank.
- Namaqua Sand Lizard  
  Pedioplanis namaquensis
  Seen at Grootberg.

Varanidae (Monitors)
- Rock Monitor  
  Varanus albicularis
  Seen at Etosha.

Agamidae (Agamas)
- Ground Agama  
  Agama aculeata
  Seen in Omaruru.
- Anchieta’s Agama  
  Agama anchietae
  Seen at Etosha.
- Etosha Agama  
  Agama etoshae
  Seen at Etosha.
- Namibian Rock Agama  
  Agama planiceps
  Seen at Erongo & Grootberg.

Gekkonidae (Geckos)
- Turner’s Thick-toed Gecko  
  Pachydactylus turneri
  Seen at Etosha.
- Barnard’s Namib Day Gecko  
  Rhoptropus barnardi
  Seen at Grootberg.