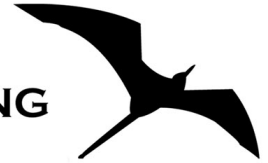




TROPICAL  
BIRDING



# NAMIBIA & ZAMBIA: NAMIB DESERT TO VIC FALLS

A Tropical Birding / Audubon Shop  
Custom Birding Tour

August 5-20, 2024

Guides: Ken Behrens &  
Charley Hesse

Photos & Videos by Ken Behrens

Annotated Mammal & Reptile  
Lists by Jerry Connolly

## TOUR SUMMARY

This was a custom trip for an Audubon Shop group. Unlike previous versions of this trip, we skipped the Okavango Delta, and instead explored the Zambezi River and ended the trip at Victoria Falls. The variety of scenery was staggering: from the sand dunes of Sossusvlei to the mighty Zambezi River lined with gallery forest. Bird highlights included Namib escarpment endemics like Herero Chat and White-tailed Shrike, and desert specials like Rueppell's Bustard and Dune Lark. Farther north, diversity increased, and some of the highlights there included Pel's Fishing-Owl (see photo above), African Finfoot, and White-backed Night-Heron. Actually all three of these amazing species were seen on one night boat trip! The mammals were also great. Out in the desert we had Southern Oryx and Springbok; along the escarpment were Rock Hyrax and Black Mongoose; Etosha had hordes of beasts including Black Rhino, Lion, and African Elephant; and up north we had African Buffalo and Malbrouk monkey. This trip had a lot of logistical

challenges, including late-arriving luggage, a breakdown in the desert, and a very long border crossing, but these all made for good stories, and our group maintained good spirits throughout. Thanks to all – it was a pleasure to travel with you!

For an immersive experience of this trip's highlights, check out the 10.5-minute video trip report:

**VIDEO TRIP REPORT on YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwDcacn6y7w>

## ITINERARY

<b>August 5</b>	Arrival in Windhoek.
<b>August 6</b>	Windhoek to Namibgrenes.
<b>August 7</b>	Namibgrenes to Sossusvlei.
<b>August 8</b>	Sossusvlei.
<b>August 9</b>	Sossusvlei to Walvis Bay.
<b>August 10</b>	Walvis Bay to Erongo Mountains.
<b>August 11</b>	Erongo Mountains.
<b>August 12</b>	Erongo to Okakuejo, Etosha NP.
<b>August 13</b>	Okakuejo to Halali, Etosha NP.
<b>August 14</b>	Halali to Mokuti, Etosha NP.
<b>August 15</b>	Mokuti to Kavango.
<b>August 16</b>	Kavango to Katima Mulilo.
<b>August 17</b>	Katima Mulilo and Zambezi River.
<b>August 18</b>	Katima Mulilo to Botswana to Livingstone, Zambia.
<b>August 19</b>	Victoria Falls.
<b>August 20</b>	Departure from Livingstone, Zambia.

## PHOTO GALLERY

A full [Flickr gallery](https://www.flickr.com/photos/kbehrens/albums/72177720319968475/) of photos from this trip, organized chronologically, is on Ken's Flickr page: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/kbehrens/albums/72177720319968475/>

## BIRD LIST

The full list, including numbers and many other details, can be see as part of the [eBird trip report](https://ebird.org/tripreport/266912) for this trip: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/266912>

# MAMMAL LIST

<b>Macroscelididae (Elephant Shrews)</b>		
Western Rock Sengi	<i>Elephantulus rupestris</i>	Aft outing near Namibgrens - very cool member of "Little Five"
<b>Elephantidae (Elephants)</b>		
Savanna Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	Etosha, Mosi-Oa-Tunya NP
<b>Procaviidae (Hyraxes)</b>		
Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>	Escarpment, Erongo
<b>Cercopithecidae (Old World monkeys)</b>		
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>	Throughout
Malbrouck Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus cynosuroides</i>	Mosi-Oa-Tunya NP
Vervet Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>	Drive to Nkhosi
<b>Leporidae (Rabbits &amp; Hares)</b>		
Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>	Mokuti
<b>Hystricidae (Old World Porcupines)</b>		
Cape Porcupine	<i>Hystrix africaeaustralis</i>	Erongo
<b>Petromuridae (Dassie Rat)</b>		
Dassie Rat	<i>Petromus typicus</i>	Erongo
<b>Sciuridae (Squirrels)</b>		
South African Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus inauris</i>	First in Namib Desert
Damara Ground-Squirrel	<i>Xerus princeps</i>	By some at Erongo
Smith's Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>	First at Etosha
<b>Felidae (Cats)</b>		
Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>	Etosha
African Wild Cat	<i>Felis lybica</i>	Etosha, second one by Deb only at Halali
<b>Herpestidae (Mongooses)</b>		
Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>	Etosha
Common Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguinea</i>	Etosha
Kaokoveld Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes flavescens</i>	Drive to Etosha from Charley's vehicle

Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>	First on escarpment; Etosha
<b>Viverridae (Genets)</b>		
Southern Small-spotted Genet	<i>Genetta tigrina</i>	First by Photos @ Erongo; Mokuti
<b>Canidae (Canids)</b>		
Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>	Escarpment, Erongo
Bat-eared Fox	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>	Sossusvlei
<b>Mustelidae (Mustelids)</b>		
Spotted-necked Otter	<i>Lutra maculicollis</i>	Kayova River Lodge
<b>Otariidae (Eared seals)</b>		
Brown Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus pusillus</i>	Walvis Bay
<b>Equidae (Horses)</b>		
Hartmann's Mountain Zebra	<i>Equus zebra hartmannae</i>	Aft outing near Namibgrens well over a mile away
Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>	Etosha, etc
<b>Rhinocerotidae (Rhinoceroses)</b>		
Black Rhino	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	Etosha
<b>Suidae (Pigs)</b>		
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>	First at Etosha
<b>Delphinidae (Oceanic Dolphins)</b>		
Heaviside's Dolphin	<i>Cephalorhynchus heavisidii</i>	Walvis Bay
<b>Hippopotamidae (Hippopotamuses)</b>		
Common Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibious</i>	Kavango and Zambezi Rivers
<b>Bovidae (Bovids)</b>		
(Black-faced) Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus petersi</i>	Erongo = "black-faced"; Vic Falls area = non black-faced
Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>	Etosha
Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>	Widespread
Common Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>	Etosha
Sable Antelope	<i>Hippotragus niger</i>	Caprivi drive to Vic Falls

Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>	Caprivi drive to Vic Falls
(Southern) Lechwe	<i>Kobus leche</i>	Caprivi drive to Vic Falls
Damara Dikdik	<i>Madoqua kirkii damarensis</i>	Erongo, drive to Kayova River Lodge
Klipspringer	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>	Escarpment
Gemsbok	<i>Oryx gazella</i>	Widespread... and pretty tasty too!
Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>	Big ears with unique markings seen on escarpment, Etosha
African Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>	Mosi-Oa-Tunya NP
Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>	First seen at Erongo
<b>Giraffidae (Giraffes)</b>		
Southern Giraffe	<i>Giraffa giraffa</i>	
<b>Pteropodidae (Old World Fruit Bats)</b>		
White-bellied House Bat	<i>Scotophilus leucogaster</i>	Namibgrenes

## REPTILE LIST

<b>Pelomedusidae (Side-necked Terrapins)</b>		
Helmeted Turtle	<i>Pelomedusa subrufa</i>	Halali
<b>Agamidae (Agamas)</b>		
Namib Rock Agama	<i>Agama planiceps</i>	Erongo
<b>Gekkonidae (Geckos)</b>		
Fischer's Thick-toed Gecko	<i>Chondrodactylus laevigatus</i>	Day 2 by some
Chobe Dwarf Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus chobiensis</i>	Caprivi H-b Lodge
<b>Scincidae (Skinks)</b>		
Wahlberg's Striped Skink	<i>Trachylepis wahlbergi</i>	Etosha
Western Rock Skink	<i>Trachylepis sulcata</i>	Erongo
<b>Elapidae (Snakes)</b>		
Olive Whipsnake	<i>Demansia olivacea</i>	Drive to Vic Falls
<b>Varanidae (Monitors)</b>		
Nile Monitor	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>	Zambezi River
<b>Crocodylidae (Crocodiles)</b>		
Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus cowiei</i>	Kavango and Zambezi Rivers