Namibia, Okavango and Victoria Falls IV

20th September to 7th October 2014

Verreaux’s Eagle-Owl and chick by Wayne Jones

Trip report compiled by Tour Leader: Wayne Jones
Our three-country overland adventure began in Namibia’s capital city, Windhoek. We eased into the birding with morning and afternoon walks around Avis Dam and a visit to the local sewage works in between. Due to its deep waters the dam did not hold many waterbirds – we’d concentrate on those later in the day at the sewage works – but the surrounding dry woodland was very productive. African Hawk-Eagle, Red-billed Francolin, Namaqua Dove, Bradfield’s Swift, White-backed Mousebird, Acacia Pied Barbet, Rock Kestrel, Pririt Batis, the dazzling Crimson-breasted Shrike, Cape Penduline Tit, Black-chested Prinia, Chestnut-vented Warbler, Marico and Dusky Sunbirds, Black-throated Canary and numerous exquisite Black-faced Waxbills showed well. We even saw South African Ground Squirrel and Chacma Baboon on the short, suburban drive to the dam.

The waterbird bounty at the sewage works swelled our day list. We checked off, amongst others, South African Shelduck, Cape Teal, Squacco Heron, Great White Pelican, African Darter, the stunning African Swamphen, Three-banded Plover, African Jacana, African Reed Warbler, Wattled Starling and a host of shorebirds. Dinner that night was in the gaudy Afro-German-frontier kitsch of the famed Joe’s Beerhouse. A few brave guests even sampled some of the local game on offer.

The following morning found us at Daan Viljoen Nature Reserve, a small private park outside Windhoek. The dry Acacia woodland yielded Orange River Francolin, Red-crested Korhaan, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Red-faced Mousebird, Purple Roller, African Grey Hornbill, African Hoopoe, Brubru, Brown-crowned Tchagra, Ashy Tit, Pale-winged Starling, Short-toed Rock Thrush, African Red-eyed Bulbul, Marico Flycatcher, Kalahari Scrub Robin, Great Sparrow, Green-winged Ptilia, Shaft-tailed Whydah and Cinnamon-breasted Bunting. We gobbled up the voluminous packed lunches from our German guesthouse in Windhoek and started along the first of many dirt roads, this one winding its way through the Khomas Hochland (highlands). Birding along the way was good, with Lappet-faced Vulture, Martial and Booted Eagles, Pale Chanting Goshawk, dapper Northern Black Korhaan, Rufous-eared Warbler, Sociable and Scaly-feathered Weavers, Spike-heeled Lark, Chat Flycatcher and Lark-like Bunting.

We reached Namib Grens, our overnight stop, in the late afternoon – just enough time to find the area’s best-known avian attraction: the Karoo Scrub Robin.

After breakfast and a little more birding around the guesthouse gardens the following day, we headed to Spreetshoogte Pass where a magnificent view awaited us from the edge of the Great Escarpment. On the way we found some Hartmann’s Mountain Zebras walking along the road. They’d fled down the track when one turned and walked towards us. We were absolutely sure this individual was coming to challenge us in some way! When it was just several metres away it wandered into the thin, barely visible wire fence parallel to the road. The loose rocks and gravel did nothing to help it balance and it stumbled a few times before seemingly losing its nerve, rolling over the fence and darting away on the other side. We were all speechless for a few seconds after this magnificently close encounter.
Once at the Spreetshoogte viewpoint we had sensational views of seven Orange River Francolins that very quickly – and seemingly from out of nowhere – responded to playback, parading around a few metres in front of us. An eye-poppingly beautiful Bokmakierie and a not-quite-as-attractive Grey-backed Cisticola also showed nicely. With these successes under the belt we set about searching for Herero Chat. Unfortunately our luck didn’t carry through to this tricky species, so we continued down the steep pass to Namibia’s smallest town, the little desert outpost of Solitaire.

Leaving Solitaire, we stopped to admire a large Social Weaver nest and discovered three Pygmy Falcons, which also utilise the weaver nests to breed and roost in; this was to be our only sighting of these dinky raptors. We marvelled at the varying desert terrains as we traversed the Namib-Naukluft National Park en route to the Atlantic coast. Birds were understandably scarce, although we did see Common Ostrich, Rüppell’s Korhaan and Secretarybird. After hours in the desert we welcomed the ocean-cooled environs of Walvis Bay.

We rose long before dawn the next morning to reach Rooibank in the early coolness. Our target: the Dune Lark, Namibia’s only true endemic and, as larks go, a pretty bird. After trudging along the dune edges for a short while we spotted our first lark. While watching it, another flitted into the air and broke into song, followed by two more displaying birds further away. We ended up seeing five individuals before returning through the now visibly featureless landscape to a seriously comprehensive breakfast spread at our hotel.

Next up, we explored the huge shorebird wonderland of Walvis Bay lagoon. It must surely rank as one of the best wader-watching spots in the world and our tally included Black-winged Stilt, Pied Avocet, a dozen Chestnut-banded Plovers, White-fronted and Grey Plovers, Marsh Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Whimbrel, Curlew Sandpiper, Little Stint, Red-necked Phalarope and Ruff, in addition to thousands of Greater and Lesser Flamingos, White-breasted Cormorant, Great White Pelican, Cape Teal, Black-necked Grebe, Hartlaub’s and Kelp Gulls and Caspian, Swift, Sandwich and Damara Terns. The latter came and hovered right in front of us, dropping down into the water a few times before drifting off to forage over deeper water. What a great sighting!

We moved to the nearby coastal town of Swakopmund for lunch and then made off into the desert again, this time in search of Gray’s Lark, Trac-trac Chat and prehistoric Welwitschia plants. The rough road took us through some amazing scenery and just past an area called Moonscape we found one of these bizarre living fossils. Birds, however, were nowhere to be seen. Our last stop of the day was Mile 4 Saltworks where we found African Oystercatcher and Trac-trac Chat, but sadly no larks.
We gave Gray’s Lark one more stab along Welwitschia Drive the next morning. We did find a seemingly lost White Stork standing somewhat bemusedly in an isolated patch of water surrounded by desert, but still no larks. We cut our losses and moved on to the impressive granite inselbergs of Spitzkoppe. Verreaux’s Eagle, Layard’s Warbler, Karoo Long-billed Lark, Karoo Chat and Cape Bunting were the most notable additions to our list, along with a pair of insanely cute, tame young Meerkats, which the park officials let us cuddle for a bit. Closer to the Erongo Mountains, where our fabulous overnight lodge awaited us, we saw Rüppell’s Parrot, Common Scimitarbill, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Rosy-faced Lovebird and Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill. That night two Freckled Nightjar gave their cartoon dog-like calls as they sat on the huge boulders flanking the outdoor restaurant.

Another day of bird tour, another early start! This time it was to find Hartlaub’s Spurfowl, the lodge’s most celebrated resident. We were treated to tremendous views of around a dozen birds calling from boulder-tops and catching the first warming rays of sun. Not to be outdone, Monteiro’s Hornbill, quirky White-tailed Shrike, Carp’s Tit, Barred Wren-Warbler, Rockrunner and Mountain Wheatear also gave sterling views. Back at the restaurant breakfast became a 45 minute process as we all scrambled to observe and photograph the menagerie of creatures feeding on birdseed a few metres away – numerous Rosy-faced Lovebirds, Green-winged Pytilia, Blue Waxbill, Cape Bunting, Southern Masked Weaver, Namibian Rock Agama and Dassie Rat. We reluctantly left the sumptuous lodge and headed north towards Etosha National Park. As always, roadside birding was very rewarding, not least the Martial Eagle that circled low over us after having already delivered great views while taking shelter from the midday sun in a small tree. Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, Southern Pied Babbler, Damara Red-billed Hornbill and much-improved views of Rüppell’s Parrot also followed.

We were excited to arrive at Etosha National Park, renowned for its large numbers of game. Along the drive to Okaukuejo Camp we encountered African Elephant, Black-backed Jackal, Giraffe, Common Warthog, Greater Kudu, Gemsbok, Springbok, Red Hartebeest and Black-faced Impala! But the real treat was the floodlit waterhole right alongside the camp, where we watched many of these creatures plus good numbers of Double-banded Sandgrouse coming to drink just after sunset, and a total of no less than five Black Rhino!

Over the next five days while staying at Okaukuejo, Halali and a lodge outside the park we explored a good deal of this famous reserve. *Acacia* and *Mopane* woodlands yielded White-backed Vulture, Black-chested Snake Eagle, Gabar Goshawk, Lilac-breasted Roller, Southern Red-billed Hornbill, Golden-tailed Woodpecker, Black-backed Puffback, White-crested Helmetsrike, Southern White-crowned Shrike, Long-billed Crombec, Black-faced Babbler, Groundscraper Thrush, White-bellied Sunbird, Sabota Lark, Great Sparrow, Red-billed Buffalo Weaver, thousands of Red-billed Queleas, Fawn-coloured Lark, Red-headed Finch, Violet-eared Waxbill, Golden-breasted Bunting, Yellow Canary and European Bee-eater.
On the huge open plains – Andoni and Okondeka, for example – we found Kori Bustard (we saw a total of 38 in Etosha!), Northern Black Korhaan, 7 larks (Rufous-naped, Red-capped, Pink-billed, Spike-heeled, Stark’s, Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark and Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark) Crowned Lapwing, Black-winged Kite, Spotted Thick-knee, Namaqua Sandgrouse, Double-banded Courser, Blue Crane, Greater Kestrel, Red-necked Falcon, Cape Crow, Red-breasted Swallow, Desert Cisticola and Ant-eating Chat. While scanning (successfully) for Burchell’s and Temminck’s Courser we found at least fifty Caspian Plovers dotted all over the landscape. Each was standing on its own dome-like little termite mound – in the blazing sun no less! Quite a strange sight, but very welcome for those guests who’d marked this species down on their wish list.

Waterholes and wetlands attracted an interesting mix of species including Saddle-billed Stork, Kittlitz’s, Three-banded and Chestnut-banded Plovers, Grey-headed Gull and Little Grebe. At one of the waterholes we had our timing spot-on and watched as wave after wave of beautiful Burchell’s Sandgrouse flew in and doused their breast feathers.

Some of us went on a night drive which produced Common Buttonquail (amazing views!) and Spotted Eagle Owl. The owl bonanza continued with sightings of Pearl-spotted Owlet, African Scops Owl and Barn Owl in one camp AND Verreaux’s and Spotted Eagle Owls alongside the road during the day. The latter two easily blended in with the dry, grey Acacias in which they were sleeping but were somehow spotted by our sharp-eyed driver, Tuhafeni.

Now that I’ve got the birds out the way we can get back to Etosha’s big claim to fame: the mammals! Highlights included Lions, Banded Mongoose, Bat-eared Fox, numerous Black-backed Jackals, 10 more Black Rhino, Spotted Hyena, Small-spotted Genet perched in a tree, Scrub Hare and Smith’s Bush Squirrel. Tuhafeni’s incredible eyesight found us another gem: a Leopard reclining in a tree one afternoon. Almost in unison, everybody was standing on their seat, heads peering out the pop-up roof of the overland vehicle. We watched for a little while, joined by a couple more cars, before the gorgeous feline tired of the attention and slunk down the tree trunk into the bush.

During the heat of the day we watched the spectacle of processions of antelope, African Elephant, Giraffe, Plains Zebra, Common Warthog and Blue Wildebeest milling about waterholes and slaking their thirst.

Leaving behind the huge wilderness of Etosha we again set a northerly course, this time to Rundu, on the Angolan border. Unfortunately there was a fault with our overland truck and we spent a couple of hours in the small town of Grootfontein. It did at least give everyone an opportunity to try the Afrikaans confectionary called “koeksusters” along with some welcome cappuccinos. We discovered that South African golfing great Ernie Els now has his own version of an “Arnold Palmer” ice tea drink (available in cans). And some even did a spot of shopping for clothes and glow-in-the-dark footwear! Not a complete waste of time, then!

That night we were entertained by a local dance group performing semi-traditional songs and also a stunning Blotched Genet that ventured close to the lodge restaurant to munch on scraps. A simple walk around the lodge

After heading east along the straight highway through the Caprivi Strip we turned down through Mahango Game Park, crossed the Botswana border and caught a boat on the Kavango River to our lodge downstream. Before disembarking we ventured down a quiet side channel where we found two White-backed Night Herons trying to get some shut-eye underneath the leafy foliage.

While cruising up and down the river the following day we found numerous egrets and herons (150+ Black Herons, Striated, Squacco, Rufous-bellied, Purple and Goliath Herons), Little Bittern, Yellow-billed and Marabou Storks, African Spoonbill, Yellow-billed and Knob-billed Ducks, the delightful African Pygmy Goose, Hamerkop, African Marsh Harrier, Water Thick-knee, Long-toed Lapwing, African Skimmer, Collared Pratincole, Whiskered Tern, Malachite Kingfisher, Fulvous Whistling Duck, Spur-winged Goose, White-fronted, Little and Southern Carmine Bee-eaters, Banded Martin, African Fish Eagle, Chirping Cisticola, Fan-tailed Widowbird and an incongruous Ayre’s Hawk-Eagle that was soaring over the main channel with not a patch of woodland in sight. With a little bit of local help we even managed to find THE main target of the area, Pel’s Fishing Owl, which was resting in a large, leafy fig tree. Large Nile Crocodiles, Hippos and African Elephant provided a megafaunal element on the boat rides.

Back on solid ground, the gardens and bush surrounding the lodge were absolutely alive: Bushbuck, Sitatunga, Vervet Monkey, Brown and Red-billed Firefinch, Southern Black Tit, lovely African Green Pigeon, African Yellow White-eye, Southern Black and Ashy Flycatchers, Yellow-bellied Greenbul, Crested and Black-collared Barbets, Meves’s Starling, Green Wood Hoopoe, Western Banded Snake Eagle (seen and photographed by only one lucky guest, much to our envy!) and an African Barred Owlet. That evening we made it a triple owl day with African Wood Owl.

With our time in Botswana up we crossed back into Namibia via Mahango Game Park, devoting more time to it than on our brief transit through the other day. Tuhafeni found us a Verreaux’s Eagle-Owl nest where two generations posed for pics. We were thrilled to find a total of six Wattled Cranes along the river, and a host of raptors scattered about: Walhberg’s Eagle, Bateleur, White-headed and White-backed Vultures, Brown and Black-chested Snake Eagles and Yellow-billed Kite. This small reserve is well known for the wide variety of game it holds and we were certainly not disappointed! We saw our last African Elephants and Plains Zebra, about 45 Hippos, a dozen African Buffalo, Common Warthog, Bushbuck, Greater Kudu, marsh-loving Lechwe, more than 20 sought-after Sable and Roan Antelope, Common Reedbuck, Tsessebe and Impala.
En route to KatimaMulilo, near the Zambian border, we popped in to Popa Falls where after some perseverance we located a handful of Rock Pratincole. Distant at first, these lovely birds eventually moved closer, allowing better views of their striking red, black and white faces. Then it was a long drive along the unwaveringly straight “Golden Highway” to KatimaMulilo. Roadside stops yielded Tawny Eagle, Dark Chanting Goshawk, Shikra, a nearly implausible Ovambo Sparrowhawk on a lone shrub in the middle of an empty field, Red-crested Korhaan, Southern Red-billed Hornbill, six fantastic Southern Ground Hornbills, Meyer’s Parrot, Chinspot Batis, Black-headed Oriole, Mosque Swallow, Neddicky, Burchell’s Starling, White-browed Scrub Robin, Red-billed Oxpecker, Scarlet-chested Sunbird and Yellow-throated Petronia.

That night a quick stroll about the hotel grounds in search of feeding Hippos turned into an impromptu frogging session! Attracted to the cacophony of croaks coming from the sprinkler outlet revealed Western Olive Toad, Guttural Toad and Sharp-nosed Grass Frog. In addition we nearly stood on a Red-lipped Herald, which we again located the following night in almost the same spot!

First stop the following morning – one we’d obtained good views of Schalow’s Turacos in the hotel garden – was a patch of broad-leaved woodland not far from KatimaMulilo. We had an absolutely sensational time here! Our main target was Racket-tailed Roller, of which two flew in while I was trying to get the attention of an equally beautiful Broad-billed Roller. The elegant White-breasted Cuckooshrike provided little challenge and we found Arnot’s Chat easily. Both Retz’s and White-crested Helmetshrikes were around, the latter on a nest. A Stripe-bellied Sand Snake kept still long enough to be admired and a Lizard Buzzard sat patiently while his photo was taken. Bennett’s and Cardinal Woodpeckers were tapping away and Grey-headed Bushshrike, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird and Red-headed Weaver impressed with their good looks.

We then spent a leisurely afternoon around Kalizo Lodge. A flowering tree had attracted Collared, Scarlet-chested, Marico, White-bellied and Copper Sunbirds, and we counted 43 African Skimmers on a large sandbank in the Zambezi River. Wetlands around the lodge held White-backed Duck, African Pygmy Goose, a Lesser Moorhen (impressively located by a keen-eyed guest), African Jacana, African Stonechat, Rufous-bellied Heron, Luapula Cisticola, White-faced Whistling Duck and Hottentot Teal. We even saw a juvenile Western Banded Snake Eagle and flushed our ninth owl species, Marsh Owl, thanks inadvertently to local herdsmen. In the late afternoon we caught a (sloooooooow) boat ride to the Southern Carmine Bee-eater colony where we remained entranced for the next half hour or so. This particular colony is somewhat unique in that the birds create nest burrows on flat ground, not along a sand bank. It was quite spectacular watching this riot of pink and blue activity from up close.
Our penultimate day involved a lot of travel along pot-holed Zambian roads. To add to our woes some paperwork issues meant that we were delayed at the border post. At least we were heading in the right direction; later on we passed a logjam of traffic waiting to cross from Zambia into Namibia. When not checking for a good deal among the confiscated cars filling the border parking lot, we actually did some birding and even turned up a Rattling Cisticola, a species that had somehow managed to evade us thus far. The main highlights along the way were a Dark Chanting Goshawk and 8 Southern Ground Hornbills.

Once in Livingstone we proceeded straight to Victoria Falls. Unfortunately the water level was very low and the world’s largest curtain of falling water was reduced to a few streams gushing over the edge. Birding was also not very productive, with Red-winged Starling and Trumpeter Hornbill being the only noteworthy mentions, so we headed to a spot nearby where we found Collared Palm Thrush and Bearded Scrub Robin.

For our last birding activity we excitedly made our way to the Livingstone sewage works. While taking care to avoid the “litter” left behind by the resident Hippo we saw Hottentot Teal, Yellow Wagtail, Glossy Ibis, Squacco, Purple and Black-headed Herons, had terrific views of African Rail pottering about in the open, Black Crake, Common Moorhen, Long-toed Lapwing, African AND Lesser Jacana, Senegal and White-browed Coucals, Dickinson’s Kestrel, Wire-tailed Swallow, Lesser Swamp Warbler, Red-faced and Zitting Cisticolas, Red-billed Quelea, Orange-breasted Waxbill, Common Swift, Broad-billed Roller and a superb sighting of a Black Sparrowhawk. What a way to finish!

**Annotated List of Birds recorded**


*Notes are provided where Clements differs; alternatively Clements names are in parenthesis.*


**Total species recorded: 382 (Including 2 heard only)**

**Ostrich Struthionidae**

*Common Ostrich Struthio camelus*

This huge bird was seen almost daily in open habitats during the first half our tour.  
*Note: Clements lumps this species with Somali Ostrich Struthio molybdophanes as Ostrich Struthio camelus.*

**Ducks & Geese Anatidae**

*White-faced Whistling Duck Dendrocygna viduata*

This slender duck was common in the wet habitats of the eastern Caprivi Strip and Okavango.

*Fulvous Whistling Duck Dendrocygna bicolor*

We were lucky to find three of these lovely ducks in marshland along the Kavango River.

*White-backed Duck Thallassornis leuconotus*

We saw 23 of these cute ducks near Kalizo Lodge.

*Spur-winged Goose Plectropterus gambensis*
We saw big numbers along the Kavango River.

**Knob-billed (Comb) Duck**  
*Sarkidiornis melanotos*

A few birds were seen in the Okavango Panhandle.

*NOTE: Clements does not accept the split between Knob-billed Duck [Sarkidiornis melanotos] and Comb Duck [Sarkidiornis sylvicola] but lumps it with Comb Duck [Sarkidiornis melanotos].*

**Egyptian Goose**  
*Alopochen aegyptiacus*

Seen at various wetlands across the tour.

**South African Shelduck**  
*Tadorna cana*

This attractive anatid was seen at Windhoek SW and Walvis Bay Lagoon.

**African Pygmy Goose**  
*Nettapus auritus*

This cute ‘n’ colourful goose was seen in the Okavango Panhandle and near Kalizo Lodge.

**Cape Teal**  
*Anas capensis*

This pale duck was seen at Windhoek SW, Walvis Bay, Etosha NP and Livingstone SW.

**Red-billed Teal (Duck)**  
*Anas erythrorrhyncha*

Seen at Daan Viljoen NR and the Okavango Panhandle.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Red-billed Duck.*

**Hottentot Teal**  
*Anas hottentota*

Singletons were seen at Kalizo Lodge and Livingstone SW.

---

**Guineafowl  Numididae**

**Helmeted Guineafowl**  
*Numida meleagris*

We saw plenty of these spotted gamebirds on the first half of the tour.

---

**Pheasants, Fowl & Allies  Phasianidae**

**Orange River Francolin**  
*Scleroptila gutturalis*

We had poor views of six birds at Daan Viljoen NR and phenomenal views of seven birds at the top of Spreetshoogte Pass.

*NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus, namely Francolinus.*

**Crested Francolin**  
*Dendroperdix sephaena*

Seen nicely at our lodge outside Etosha NP.

*NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus, namely Francolinus.*

**Hartlaub’s Spurfowl (NE)**  
*Pternistis hartlaubi*

We had a great early morning sighting of eleven of these gamebirds at Erongo Wilderness Lodge.

*NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus, namely Francolinus and gives it the common name Hartlaub’s Francolin.*

**Red-billed Spurfowl**  
*Pternistis adspersus*

This widespread woodland inhabitant was seen in a number of woodland areas during the tour, from Windhoek to the Caprivi Strip.

*NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus, namely Francolinus and gives it the common name Red-billed Francolin.*

**Swainson’s Spurfowl**  
*Pternistis swainsonii*

We saw two birds near Grootfontein.

*NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus, namely Francolinus and gives it the common name Swainson’s Francolin.*

---

**Grebes  Podicipedidae**

**Little Grebe**  
*Tachybaptus ruficollis*

A common denizen of waterbodies around Windhoek, Etosha NP and Livingstone.

**Black-necked (Eared) Grebe**  
*Podiceps nigricollis*

We saw four birds well in Walvis Bay.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Eared Grebe.*

---

**Flamingos  Phoenicopteridae**

**Greater Flamingo**  
*Phoenicopterus roseus*

This species was very common in Walvis Bay.

**Lesser Flamingo**  
*Phoeniconaias minor*
Even more abundant than the previous species at Walvis Bay.

**Storks Ciconiidae**

**Yellow-billed Stork** *Mycteria ibis*
This colourful stork was common in the Okavango Panhandle.

**African Openbill** *Anastomus lamelligerus*
This species was common in the Caprivi Strip and Okavango Panhandle along the Zambezi and Kavango Rivers.

**White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*
We saw a single bird in a small wetland outside of Swakopmund.

**Saddle-billed Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*
We saw one of these striking birds at Andoni Spring outside of Etosha NP.

**Marabou Stork** *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*
We saw around 40 of these grotesque birds along the Kavango River.

**Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae**

**African Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus*
This ibis was seen at Windhoek SW, the Okavango Panhandle and Livingstone SW.

**Hadada Ibis** *Bostrychia hagedash*
Seen at Livingstone SW.

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*
We saw a couple along the Kavango River and good numbers at Livingstone SW.

**African Spoonbill** *Platalea alba*
We saw many in the Okavango Panhandle.

**Bitterns & Herons Ardeidae**

**Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus*
We enjoyed multiple sightings of this lovely little bird along the Kavango River.

**White-backed Night Heron** *Gorsachius leuconotus*
We saw two birds really well in the Okavango Panhandle.

**Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*
Also seen in the Okavango Panhandle.

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striatus*
This handsome little heron was seen a few times in the Okavango Panhandle.

**Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides*
This species was common in the Okavango Panhandle and Windhoek and Livingstone SWs.

**Rufous-bellied Heron** *Ardea rufiventris*
We eventually had great sightings of this species in the Okavango Panhandle and at Kalizo Lodge.

**Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*
A common species in the Okavango Panhandle and Livingstone and Windhoek SWs.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*
Small numbers were seen at scattered wetlands throughout the tour.

**Black-headed Heron** *Ardea melanocephala*
This grassland heron was seen best at Livingstone SW.

**Goliath Heron** *Ardea purpurea*
We saw multiple birds along the Kavango River.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*
This elegant species was common along the Kavango River.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*
We recorded these in large numbers along the Kavango River.

*NOTE: Formerly the IOC split Great Egret into two species, the nominate form Western Great Egret and the Asian/ Australasian Eastern Great Egret Ardea modesta. This split is no longer accepted.*
Intermediate Egret
Egretta intermedia
We saw a handful in the Okavango Panhandle, Kalizo Lodge and Livingstone SW.
NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus, namely Mesophoyx.

Black Heron
Egretta ardesiaca
We saw these in large numbers along the Kavango River.

Little Egret
Egretta garzetta
Especially common along the Kavango River and also seen near Walvis Bay and Windhoek SW.

Hamerkop
Scopus umbretta
Scopidae
Seen often along the Zambezi and Kavango Rivers.

Great White Pelican
Pelecanus onocrotalus
Apart from a single out-of-place individual in Etosha NP we saw fair numbers at Windhoek SW and Walvis Bay.

Cormorants
Phalacrocoracidae

Reed Cormorant
Microcarbus africanus
This species was abundant along the Kavango and Zambezi Rivers and at Windhoek and Livingstone SWs.
NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Long-tailed Cormorant.

Crowned Cormorant
Microcarbus coronatus
We saw two birds along the coast between Swakopmund and Walvis Bay.

White-breasted Cormorant
Phalacrocorax lucidus
Seen at Windhoek SW, Avis Dam and at Walvis Bay.
NOTE: The IOC splits the white-breasted African subspecies into a full species from the widely distributed Great Cormorant P. carbo. Clements does not accept this split.

Cape Cormorant
Phalacrocorax capensis
We saw one bird between Walvis Bay and Swakopmund.

Anhingas
Anhingidae

African Darter
Anhinga melanogaster
Large numbers were seen in the Okavango Panhandle and at Windhoek SW.

Secretarybird
Sagittarius serpentarius
Sagittaridae
We saw a total of three birds in the Khomas Hochland and the base of the Spreetshoogte Pass.

Kites, Hawks, Eagles & Vultures
Accipitridae

Black-winged Kite
Elanus caeruleus
Singletons were seen in Etosha NP, the Okavango Panhandle and Livingstone.
NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Black-shouldered Kite.

White-backed Vulture
Gyps africanus
A widespread vulture seen in Windhoek, Etosha NP, Okavango Panhandle and the Caprivi Strip.

White-headed Vulture
Trigonoceps occipitalis
A single bird was seen in Mahango GP.

Lappet-faced Vulture
Torgos tracheliotus
We had numerous sightings of this large vulture in the Khomas Hochland and Etosha NP.

Black-chested Snake Eagle
Circaetus pectoralis
This dapper raptor was seen in Etosha NP, the Okavango Panhandle and near Livingstone.
NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Black-breasted Snake-Eagle.

Brown Snake Eagle
Circaetus cinereus
Singletons were seen in Mahango GP and at Livingstone SW.

Western Banded Snake Eagle
Circaetus cinerascens

Rockjumper Birding Tours
Birds were seen in the Okavango Panhandle, at Kalizo Lodge and Katima Mulilo.  
**Bateleur** \textit{Terathopius ecaudatus}  
We saw this stunning eagle in Etosha NP, Mahango GP and the Okavango Panhandle.  
**Martial Eagle** \textit{Polemaetus bellicosus}  
We saw birds in the Khomas Hochland and en route to Etosha NP.  
**Wahlberg's Eagle** \textit{Hieraaetus wahlbergi}  
Three birds were seen in Mahango GP.  
**Booted Eagle** \textit{Hieraaetus pennatus}  
A pale phase bird was seen in the Khomas Hochland.  
**Ayres's Hawk-Eagle** \textit{Hieraaetus ayresii}  
We had a fluke sighting of one of these birds over the Kavango River, quite far from suitable habitat.  
**Tawny Eagle** \textit{Aquila rapax}  
This species was common in Etosha NP.  
*NOTE: The nominate form African Tawny Eagle \textit{A. r. rapax} may be split from the Asian Tawny Eagle \textit{A. r. vindhiana}, although this is not done by IOC nor Clements.*  
**Verreaux's Eagle** \textit{Aquila verreauxii}  
Two birds showed nicely at Spitzkoppe.  
**African Hawk-Eagle** \textit{Hieraaetus spilogaster}  
Seen at Avis Dam and over woodland near Katima Mulilo.  
**Lizard Buzzard** \textit{Kaupifalco monogrammicus}  
We had a great view of a bird near Katima Mulilo.  
**Gabar Goshawk** \textit{Micronisus gabar}  
Seen near Halali in Etosha NP.  
**Dark Chanting Goshawk** \textit{Melierax metabates}  
We saw a few birds along the eastern end of the Caprivi Strip.  
**Pale Chanting Goshawk** \textit{Melierax canorus}  
This beautiful raptor was seen almost daily and in good numbers for the first half of the tour.  
**African Goshawk** \textit{Accipiter tachiro}  
One bird was seen at our lodge near Rundu.  
**Shikra** \textit{Accipiter badius}  
We saw one bird near Divundu.  
**Ovambos Sparrowhawk** \textit{Accipiter ovampensis}  
We had extended views of a bird perched in a tree in a bare field en route to Katima Mulilo.  
**Black Sparrowhawk** \textit{Accipiter melanoleucus}  
A bird was seen briefly at our lodge near Rundu, with much better views of a bird at Livingstone SW.  
**African Marsh Harrier** \textit{Circus ranivorus}  
We saw a few birds in the Okavango Panhandle and near Kalizo Lodge.  
**Yellow-billed Kite** \textit{Milvus aegyptius}  
Observed daily in the latter half of the tour.  
*NOTE: This race we observed during the tour is considered by some authorities to be a full species, namely: Yellow-billed Kite \textit{M. m. aegyptius} and is not recognized by Clements.*  
**African Fish Eagle** \textit{Haliaeetus vocifer}  
Singletons were seen at Avis Dam and in Etosha NP, with good numbers along the Zambezi and Kavango Rivers.  

### Bustards Otidae

**Kori Bustard** \textit{Ardeotis kori}  
We saw a total of 38 of these huge birds in Etosha NP!  
**Ludwig’s Bustard** \textit{Neotis ludwigii}  
We chanced a single sighting of a bird flying over the Spreetshoogte Pass.  
**Rüppell's Korhaan (NE)** \textit{Eupodotis rueppelli}  
Six birds were seen in the Namib-Naukluft NP.  
*NOTE: Clements common name is Rueppell's Bustard*  
**Red-crested Korhaan** \textit{Lophotis ruficrista}  
Seen in Daan Viljoen NR, Etosha NP and Mahango GP.
NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus, namely Eupodotis and the scientific name is Eupodotis ruficrista and uses the common name of Red-crested Bustard.

Northern Black Korhaan Afrutis afraoides
This species was common in Etosha NP and was also seen in the Khomas Hochland.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus, namely Eupodotis and the scientific name is Eupodotis afraoides and a common name of White-quilled Bustard.

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae

African Rail Rallus caerulescens
We saw seven birds wonderfully well at Livingstone SW.

Black Crake Amaurornis flavirostris
We had good views in the Okavango Panhandle and at Livingstone SW.

African Swamphen Porphyrio madagascariensis
These beauties were seen at Livingstone and Windhoek SWs.

NOTE: Clements does not accept this split and lumps it with Purple Swamphen Porphyrio Porphyrio.

Common Moorhen Gallinula chloropus
Also seen at Livingstone and Windhoek SWs.

Lesser Moorhen Gallinula angulata
A bird was found in wetlands near Kalizo Lodge.

Red-knobbed Coot Fulica cristata
This species was common at Avis Dam and Windhoek SW.

Cranes Gruidae

Blue Crane RE Grus paradisea
We saw two birds in Etosha NP.

Wattled Crane Bugaranatus carunculatus
We saw half a dozen of these majestic, endangered birds in Mahango GP.

Buttonquails Turnicidae

Common Buttonquail Turnix sylvaticus
We had an unbelievable sighting of this normally glimpsed bird sitting quietly in the road on a night drive in Etosha NP.

Thick-knees & Stone-Curlews Burhinidae

Water Thick-knee Burhinus vermiculatus
Two birds were seen along the Okavango River.

Spotted Thick-knee Burhinus capensis
We had good views of these cryptic birds in Etosha NP.

Oystercatchers Haematopodidae

African Oystercatcher (NE) Haematopus moquini
We saw three birds at Swakopmund’s Mile 8 Salt Works.

Stilts & Avocets Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt Himantopus himantopus
Good views were had throughout the tour at suitable wetlands.

Pied Avocet Recurvostra avosetta
Seen at Walvis Bay and Andoni Spring, outside Etosha NP.

Plovers & Lapwings Charadriidae

Long-toed Lapwing Vanellus crassirostris
This jacana-like lapwing was seen in the Okavango Panhandle and at Livingstone SW.

Blacksmith Lapwing Vanellus armatus
Seen almost daily throughout the tour.
NOTE: Clements common name is Blacksmith Plover.

**White-crowned Lapwing**  
*Vanellus albiceps*  
This handsome lapwing was seen at Kalizo Lodge.  
NOTE: Clements common name is White-headed Lapwing.

**Crowned Lapwing**  
*Vanellus coronatus*  
Seen every day in Etosha NP, and also at Mahango GP.

**African Wattled Lapwing**  
*Vanellus senegallus*  
We saw a bird at Mahango GP.  
NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Wattled Lapwing.

**Grey Plover**  
*Pluvialis squatarola*  
We saw a few birds in Walvis Bay.  
NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Black-bellied Plover.

**Kittlitz’s Plover**  
*Charadrius pecuarius*  
This attractively-marked plover was seen at Etosha NP.

**Three-banded Plover**  
*Charadrius tricolor*  
We saw this little plover at Windhoek SW, Avis Dam and in Etosha NP.

**White-fronted Plover**  
*Charadrius marginatus*  
Seen at Walvis Bay.

**Chestnut-banded Plover**  
*Charadrius pallidus*  
We saw a dozen apiece of these cute shorebirds at Walvis Bay and Andoni Spring outside Etosha NP.

**Caspian Plover**  
*Charadrius asiaticus*  
We saw around 50 of these birds as we scanned the Andoni Plain just outside of Etosha NP.

**Lesser Jacana**  
*Microparra capensis*  
We were treated to sensational views of two birds at Livingstone SW.

**African Jacana**  
*Actophilornis africanus*  
This species was seen at Windhoek SW, Etosha NP, the Kavango and Zambezi Rivers and Livingstone SW.

**Bar-tailed Godwit**  
*Limosa lapponica*  
We saw two birds in Walvis Bay.

**Whimbrel**  
*Numenius phaeopus*  
A few were seen at Walvis Bay.

**Marsh Sandpiper**  
*Tringa stagnatilis*  
We saw two birds at Walvis Bay.

**Common Greenshank**  
*Tringa nebularia*  
Seen at Walvis Bay, Andoni Spring, the Okavango Panhandle and Avis Dam.

**Wood Sandpiper**  
*Tringa glareola*  
Seen at the same sites as the previous species.

**Common Sandpiper**  
*Actitis hypoleucos*  
We saw this wader at Windhoek SW and Mahango GP.

**Ruddy Turnstone**  
*Arenaria interpres*  
These boldly marked shorebirds were seen at Walvis Bay.

**Little Stint**  
*Calidris minuta*  
A few birds were seen at Windhoek SW, Walvis Bay, Etosha NP and Livingstone SW.

**Curlew Sandpiper**  
*Calidris ferruginea*  
We saw this wader at Daan Viljoen NR and Walvis Bay.

**Ruff**  
*Philomachus pugnax*  
A common shorebird, seen at Walvis Bay, Etosha NP and Windhoek SW among other places.

**Red-necked Phalarope**  
*Phalaropus lobatus*  
Non-breeding birds were seen at Walvis Bay.

**Burchell’s Courser (NE)**  
*Cursorius rufus*
We saw a total of twelve of these lovely dryland waders in Etosha NP.

**Temminck's Courser**
*Cursorius temminckii*
We found 8 of these coursers in the vicinity of the previous species.

**Double-banded Courser**
*Rhinoptilus africanus*
More common than the previous two coursers, and also seen in Etosha NP.

*NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus, namely Smutsornis.*

**Collared Pratincole**
*Glareola pratincola*
We saw this elegant species in Mahango GP and the Okavango Panhandle.

**Rock Pratincole**
*Glareola nuchalis*
We saw five of these beautiful, unique pratincoles at Popa Falls.

### Gulls, Terns, Skimmers Laridae

**African Skimmer**
*Rynchops flavirostris*
These buoyant flyers were common along the Zambezi and Okavango Rivers.

**Grey-headed Gull**
*Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*
We saw a single bird in Etosha NP.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Gray-hooded Gull.*

**Hartlaub's Gull (NE)**
*Larus hartlaubii*
This small gull was common along the Atlantic Coast.

**Kelp Gull**
*Larus dominicanus*
Also common along the Atlantic Coast.

**Caspian Tern**
*Hydroprogne caspia*
We saw 29 of these sizeable terns in Walvis Bay.

**Greater Crested Tern**
*Thalasseus bergii*
Seen well at Walvis Bay.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Great Crested Tern.*

**Sandwich Tern**
*Thalasseus sandvicensis*
One bird was seen in Walvis Bay.

**Damara Tern**
*Sternula balaenarum*
We had great views of a bird fishing close to shore.

**Common Tern**
*Sterna hirundo*
Common in Walvis Bay.

**Whiskered Tern**
*Chlidonias hybridus*
We saw this species in breeding plumage in the Okavango Panhandle.

### Sandgrouse Pteroclidae

**Namaqua Sandgrouse (NE)**
*Pterocles namaqua*
Seen in good numbers daily in Etosha NP.

**Double-banded Sandgrouse (NE)**
*Pterocles bicinctus*
Seen well when they came in to drink after dark at Okaukuejo.

**Burchell's Sandgrouse (NE)**
*Pterocles bicinctus*
We had excellent views of around 100 birds coming in to drink in Etosha NP.

### Doves & Pigeons Columbidae

**Rock Dove**
*Columba livia*
We saw three birds in Livingstone.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Rock Pigeon.*

**Speckled Pigeon**
*Columba guinea*
Common in the first half of the tour.

**Mourning Collared Dove**
*Streptopelia decipiens*
Recorded in the Okavango Panhandle, Mahango GP and Livingstone.

**Red-eyed Dove**
*Streptopelia semitorquata*
This was common in moist woodland east of Rundu.

**Ring-necked Dove**
*Streptopelia capicola*
Common in dry Acacia woodland.
Laughing Dove  *Streptopelia senegalensis*
This widespread species was seen daily on the tour.

Emerald-spotted Wood Dove  *Turtur chalcospilos*
This attractive little dove was seen in Etosha NP, the Okavango Panhandle and Mahango GP.

Namaqua Dove  *Oena capensis*
We had many sightings of this long-tailed dove in Etosha NP, Erongo, Rundu and Windhoek.

African Green Pigeon  *Treron calvus*
We had good views of this beautiful bird in the Okavango Panhandle.

**Turacos  Musophagidae**

Schalow’s Turaco  *Tauraco schalowi*
We saw six birds well in Katima Mulilo.

Grey Go-away-bird  *Corythaixoides concolor*
This species was seen almost daily.

**Cuckoos  Cuculidae**

Senegal Coucal  *Centropus senegalensis*
We saw birds near Rundu and at Livingstone SW.

Coppery-tailed Coucal  *Centropus cupreicaudus*
This large coucal was seen daily along the Zambezi and Okavango Rivers.

White-browed Coucal  *Centropus superciliosus*
We saw three birds well at Livingstone SW.

*NOTE: Clements still lumps White-browed Coucal C. superciliosus with Burchell’s Coucal C. burchelli which occurs in eastern southern Africa.*

**Barn Owls  Tytonidae**

Barn Owl  *Tyto alba*
A single bird was seen by some in Halali camp in Etosha NP.

**Typical Owls  Strigidae**

African Scops Owl  *Otus senegalensis*
We saw this cutie in Halali camp in Etosha NP.

Spotted Eagle-Owl  *Bubo africanus*
Those on the Etosha night drive saw a number of birds really well, and everybody later saw a day-roosting bird very well.

Verreaux’s Eagle-Owl  *Bubo lacteus*
We had two sightings – one in Etosha NP and a parent and junior in Mahango GP.

Pel’s Fishing Owl  *Scotopelia peli*
Two birds were seen well in the Okavango Panhandle.

African Wood Owl  *Strix woodfordii*
This charming owl showed well in the Okavango Panhandle and at our lodge near Mahango GP.

Pearl-spotted Owlet  *Glaucidium perlatum*
We first saw this species at Daan Viljoen NR and later at Eetosa NP.

African Barred Owlet  *Glaucidium capense*
We saw two birds in the Okavango Panhandle.

Marsh Owl  *Asio capensis*
We struck it lucky when cattle herders flushed two birds in damp grassland near Kalizo Lodge.

**Nightjars  Caprimulgidae**

Fiery-necked Nightjar  *Caprimulgus pectoralis*
Birds were seen in Eetosa NP and heard in the Okavango Panhandle.

Freckled Nightjar  *Caprimulgus tristigma*
Two birds showed well at Erongo Wilderness Lodge.

Square-tailed Nightjar  *Caprimulgus fossii*
Heard only, near Mahango GP.

**Swifts Apodidae**

*African Palm Swift*  
*Cypsiurus parvus*  
We saw this slender swift many times across the tour.  

*Alpine Swift*  
*Tachymarptis melba*  
We saw this distinctively pied swift around Windhoek and Daan Viljoen NR.  

*Common Swift*  
*Apus apus*  
We saw several birds at Livingstone SW.  

*Bradfield's Swift*  
*Apus bradfieldi*  
Seen at Avis Dam.  

*Little Swift*  
*Apus affinis*  
We saw this small swift around Avis Dam, Daan Viljoen NR and in Etosha NP.  

*White-rumped Swift*  
*Apus caffer*  
Seen near Katima Mulilo.

**Mousebirds Coliidae**

*White-backed Mousebird (NE)*  
*Colius colius*  
We saw this at Avis Dam and Spitzkoppe.  

*Red-faced Mousebird*  
*Urocolius indicus*  
This mousebird species was seen in the Khomas Hochland, Okavango Panhandle and Livingstone.

**Rollers Coraciidae**

*Purple Roller*  
*Coracias naevia*  
We saw this large roller at Daan Viljoen NR, near Erongo Wilderness Lodge and in Etosha NP.  

*Racket-tailed Roller*  
*Coracias spatulatus*  
We found a pair in *Mopane* woodland near Katima Mulilo.  

*Lilac-breasted Roller*  
*Coracias caudata*  
This gaudy roller was common in the latter half of the tour.  

*Broad-billed Roller*  
*Eurystomus glaucurus*  
We saw this beautiful bird in woodland near Katima Mulilo, and later in Livingstone.

**Kingfishers Alcedinidae**

*Brown-hooded Kingfisher*  
*Halcyon albiventris*  
We saw this dry-land kingfisher around Katima Mulilo.  

*Malachite Kingfisher*  
*Alcedo cristata*  
We saw a fair number along the Kavango River.  

*Giant Kingfisher*  
*Megaceryle maxima*  
We saw lots of birds along the Kavango and Zambezi Rivers.  

*Pied Kingfisher*  
*Ceryle rudis*  
Very common along the Kavango and Zambezi Rivers.

**Bee-eaters Meropidae**

*Swallow-tailed Bee-eater*  
*Merops hirundineus*  
This beautiful bee-eater was seen around Windhoek, Khomas Hochland and Etosha NP.  

*Little Bee-eater*  
*Merops pusillus*  
Common in the Okavango Panhandle, Katima Mulilo and Livingstone.  

*White-fronted Bee-eater*  
*Merops bullockoides*  
This species was common in the Okavango Panhandle and at Kalizo Lodge.  

*European Bee-eater*  
*Merops apiaster*  
We enjoyed sightings in Etosha NP.  

*Southern Carmine Bee-eater*  
*Merops nubicoides*  
We saw hundreds of birds in the Okavango Panhandle and later thousands at their breeding colony at Kalizo Lodge.
**Hoopoes Upupidae**

**African (Eurasian) Hoopoe** *Upupa africana*
Occasional birds were seen at Daan Viljoen NR, Walvis Bay, Erongo Wilderness Lodge, our lodge near Rundu and Mahango GP.

*NOTE: The Hoopoe complex has had a confusing taxonomic history, with one to four species being recognized by various authorities. Clements splits the group into two forms, Madagascar *U*. marginalis and Eurasian *U*. epops. The white-winged African forms are often split by other authorities as West African Hoopoe *U*. senegalensis with the fourth species being African Hoopoe *U*. africana (which we recorded). However, the most generally accepted treatment is that of three species, Madagascar, Eurasian and African.*

**Woodhoopoes Phoeniculidae**

**Green Wood Hoopoe** *Phoeniculus purpureus*
These cacophonous birds were seen in the Okavango Panhandle.

**Common Scimitarbill** *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*
We saw birds in Etosha NP, our lodge near Etosha NP and near Katima Mulilo.

**Hornbills Bucerotidae**

**Bradfield's Hornbill (NE)** *Tockus bradfieldi*
Three birds showed briefly in Mahango GP.

**African Grey Hornbill** *Tockus nasutus*
Seen at numerous open woodland sites across the tour.

**Monterio's Hornbill (NE)** *Tockus monteiri*
Some birds showed nicely in the Erongo Mountains.

**Damara Red-billed Hornbill (NE)** *Tockus erythrorhynchus*
Our best views were of birds around Halali in Etosha NP.

*NOTE: The Red-billed Hornbill complex has recently been split into several species, including the nominate *T. erythrorhynchus* and Damara Hornbill *T. damarensis* which occurs in Western Namibia.*

**Southern Red-billed Hornbill** *Tockus rufirostris*
Seen in Etosha NP and the Caprivi Strip.

**Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill** *Tockus leucomelas*
This conspicuous bird was seen near Omaruru, Etosha NP, Mahango GP and the Caprivi Strip.

**Trumpeter Hornbill** *Bycanistes bucinator*
We had great views of this large hornbill around Livingstone and Katima Mulilo.

*NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC, namely: Ceratogymna.*

**Ground Hornbills Bucocorvidae**

**Southern Ground Hornbill** *Bucorvus leadbeateri*
We saw a total of six birds over the last three days of tour near Katima Mulilo, Livingstone and in between.

**African Barbets Lybiidae**

**Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*
Seen near Katima Mulilo.

**Acacia Pied Barbet** *Tricholaema leucomelas*
We encountered this fairly often in dry woodland on the first half of the tour.

**Black-collared Barbet** *Lybius torquatus*
Seen daily in the Okavango Panhandle and the Caprivi Strip.

**Crested Barbet** *Trachyphonus vaillantii*
We saw this colourful bird around Kalizo Lodge and in the Okavango Panhandle.

**Woodpeckers & Allies Picidae**

**Bennett's Woodpecker** *Campethera bennettii*
Birds showed well near Katima Mulilo and in the Okavango Panhandle.

**Golden-tailed Woodpecker** *Campethera abingoni*
Trip Report - RBT Namibia, Okavango & Victoria Falls IV 2014

Seen in the Okavango Panhandle and Etosha NP.

Cardinal Woodpecker  
Dendropicos fusciceps
We saw birds at Daan Viljoen NR, Etosha NP and near Katima Mulilo.

Falcons & Kestrels Falconidae

Pygmy Falcon  
Polihierax semitorquatus
We had a marvellous sighting of three birds near Solitaire.

Rock (Eurasian) Kestrel  
Falco rupicolus
Seen a few times in Windhoek, Daan Viljoen NR, Spreetshoogte Pass and near Walvis Bay.  
NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Eurasian Kestrel F. tinnunculus. The IOC splits Rock Kestrel F. rupicolus, which was the race we observed.

Greater Kestrel  
Falco rupicoloides
Seen at the base of Spreetshoogte Pass and in Etosha NP.

Dickinson’s Kestrel  
Falco dickinsoni
A single bird showed nicely at Livingstone SW.

Red-necked Falcon  
Falco chicquera
We saw two birds in Etosha NP, with best views near where we saw our first lions.

Cockatoos, Parrots Psittacidae

Rosy-faced Lovebird (NE)  
Agapornis roseicollis
We saw a few near Avis Dam and many more at Erongo Wilderness Lodge.

Meyer’s Parrot  
Poicephalus meyeri
We saw this colourful parrot in Mahango GP.

Rüppell’s Parrot (NE)  
Poicephalus rueppellii
We had excellent views of birds at a lodge south of Etosha NP.

Wattle-eyes & Batises Platysteiridae

Chinspot Batis  
Batis molitor
Seen in broad-leaved woodland in the Caprivi Strip.

Pririt Batis  
Batis pririt
Seen a few times at Avis Dam, Spreetshoogte Pass, Spitzkoppe and Erongo Mountains.

White-tailed Shrike (NE)  
Lanioturdus torquatus
Three birds showed nicely in the Erongo Mountains.

Helmetshrikes Prionopidae

White-crested Helmetshrike  
Prionops plumatus
These characterful birds were seen near Halali, in the Caprivi Strip and in woodland near Katima Mulilo, where they were nesting.  
NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is White Helmetshrike.

Retz’s Helmetshrike  
Prionops retzii
Initially seen only by one guest in the Okavango Panhandle we were all very pleased to get great views in woodland near Katima Mulilo.

Bush-shrikes & Allies Malaconotidae

Grey-headed Bushshrike  
Malacanotus blanchoti
We had super views of a bird in woodland near Katima Mulilo.

Orange-breasted Bushshrike  
Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus
This stunner was seen in the Okavango Panhandle.  
NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC, namely: Telophorus and gives it the name Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike.

Bokmakierie (NE)  
Telophorus zeylonus
This beautiful southern African endemic was seen at Spreetshoogte Pass and heard near Rooibank and Spitzkoppe.

Brown-crowned Tchagra  
Tchagra australis
Sightings came from Daan Viljoen NR, Etosha NP and the Caprivi Strip.

**Black-backed Puffback** *Dryoscopus cubla*

Seen near Etosha NP and in Livingstone.

**Swamp (Gabon) Boubou** *Laniarius bicolor*

This bird was common in thick, riverine woodland along the Okavango and Zambezi rivers.

**Crimson-breasted Shrike (NE)** *Laniarius atrococcineus*

This gorgeous creature was happily seen a number of times at Avis Dam, Daan Viljoen NR, Etosha NP and other spots.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Crimson-breasted Gonolek.*

**Brubru** *Nilaus afer*

First seen at Daan Viljoen NR, it was recorded at scattered Acacia savanna sites thereafter.

*NOTE: This previously monotypic genus might be split 4 ways: Northern Brubru N. afer, Black-browed Brubru N. nigritemporalis, Angola Brubru N. affinis and Southern Brubru N. brubru. Only the Southern Brubru occurs in southern Africa. IOC does not accept these splits.*

**Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae**

**White-breasted Cuckooshrike** *Coracina pectoralis*

We had a marvellous sighting of two birds in woodland near Katima Mulilo.

**Shrikes Laniidae**

**Magpie Shrike** *Urolestes melanoleucus*

This conspicuous, long-tailed bird was common along the Caprivi Strip and in Mahango GP.

*NOTE: Clements places this species in the genus Corvinella.*

**Southern White-crowned Shrike** *Eurocephalus anguitimens*

Seen well in Etosha NP and later en route Katima Mulilo.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is White-crowned Shrike.*

**Southern Fiscal** *Lanius collaris*

A common bird from Windhoek to south of Etosha NP.

*NOTE: Common Fiscal has been split into two species, the nominate L. collaris, which we saw, and Northern Fiscal L. humeralis. The race which we observed during the tour is L. c. subcoronatus ("Latakoo Fiscal"), an arid zone race that has a strong white supercilium.*

**Figbirds & Orioles Oriolidae**

**Black-headed Oriole** *Oriolus larvatus*

We saw this species in woodland along the Caprivi Strip and just outside Katima Mulilo.

**Monarchs Monarchidae**

**African Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone viridis*

This energetic little species was seen in the Okavango Panhandle and the Caprivi Strip.

**Drongos Dicruridae**

**Fork-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus adsimilis*

We saw this species almost every day.

**Crows Corvidae**

**Cape Crow** *Corvus capensis*

Seen in Namib-Naukluft and Etosha NPs.

**Pied Crow** *Corvus albus*

We encountered this species over a wide range of habitats on most days of the tour.

**Tits Paridae**

**Southern Black Tit** *Melaniparus niger*

This species was seen at our lodge in the Okavango Panhandle.

**Carp’s Tit (NE)** *Melaniparus carpi*
We saw these guys very nicely at Erongo Wilderness Lodge and later near Etosha NP.

**Ashy Tit (NE)**
Melaniparus cinerascens

One showed nicely at Daan Viljoen NR.

### Penduline Tits Remizidae

**Cape Penduline Tit**
Anthoscopus minutus

These tiny birds were seen at Avis Dam and Daan Viljoen NR.

### Larks Alaudidae

**Rufous-naped Lark**
Mirafra africana

The pale form of this widespread Afrotropical species was seen on the Andoni Plain.

**Fawn-coloured Lark**
Calendulauda africanoides

One of these was seen in Etosha NP.

**Sabota Lark**
Calendulauda sabota

We saw many of the thick-billed form in Daan Viljoen Np and Etosha NP.

**NOTE:** Some authorities consider the thick-billed form, Bradfield’s Lark M. bradfieldi of Namibia a separate species. This is not widely accepted.

**Dune Lark (E)**
Calendulauda erythrochlamys

We had terrific views of five birds displaying at Rooibank.

**Karoo Long-billed Lark**
Certhilauda subcoronata

We found one these larks enjoying some shade in the midday sun near Spitzkoppe.

**Spice-heeled Lark**
Chersomanes albofasciata

Seen in the Khomas Hochland, near Spitzkoppe and in Etosha NP.

**Red-capped Lark**
Calandrella cinerea

This species was very common in Etosha NP.

**NOTE:** The African Red-capped Lark complex C. cinerea, was lumped within the Greater Short-toed Lark complex C. brachydactyla but is now considered distinct by most authorities. Several distinctive groupings have now been split off from Red-capped Lark, including Blanford’s Lark of Ethiopia C. blanfordi.

**Pink-billed Lark**
Spizocorys conirostris

We saw three of these lovely little larks in Etosha NP.

**Stark’s Lark (NE)**
Spizocorys starki

One was seen in Etosha NP.

**Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark**
Eremopterix leucotis

We saw this smart-looking lark in Etosha NP.

**Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark**
Eremopterix verticalis

Equally good-looking, this lark was also in Etosha NP.

### Bulbuls Pycnonotidae

**African Red-eyed Bulbul**
Pycnonotus nigricans

A common bird that we saw almost daily in the drier western half of Namibia.

**Dark-capped Bulbul**
Pycnonotus tricolor

This species took over from the previous one in the eastern half of the tour, from Rundu onwards.

**NOTE:** Another very confusing polytypic species complex. Several Asian and African forms have already been recognized as distinct species within the super-species Common Bulbul P. brachydactyla but is now considered distinct by most authorities. Several distinctive groupings have now been split off Dark-capped Bulbul by the IOC authority.

**Yellow-bellied Greenbul**
Chlorocichla flaviventris

We encountered this species in moist woodland in the Okavango Panhandle, Mahango GP, the Caprivi Strip and Livingstone.

**Terrestrial Brownbul**
Phyllastrephus terrestris

A few were seen at Popa Falls and Victoria Falls.

### Swallows & Martins Hirundinidae

**Grey-rumped Swallow**
Pseudhirundo griseopyga

A morning walk around our lodge near Mahango GP yielded this species.

**Brown-throated Martin**
Riparia paludicola
Trip Report - RBT Namibia, Okavango & Victoria Falls IV 2014

Seen near Kalizo Lodge.

**NOTE:** The Clements common name for this species is Plain Martin.

**Banded Martin**  
*Riparia cincta*

We recorded this species along the Okavango River.

**Barn Swallow**  
*Hirundo rustica*

We saw some early arrivals near Kalizo Lodge and at Livingstone SW.

**White-throated Swallow**  
*Hirundo albicollis*

Two birds showed nicely at Avis Dam.

**Wire-tailed Swallow**  
*Hirundo smithii*

This dainty swallow was common along the Okavango and Zambezi Rivers.

**NOTE:** This species complex may be split, based on the African nominate form that would become African Wire-tailed Swallow and the Asian Wire-tailed Swallow that would be *H. filifera*.

**Rock Martin**  
*Pytonoprogne fuligula*

Seen daily on the first half of the tour.

**NOTE:** This confusing polytypic complex is being reviewed for multi-species splitting. Within African populations, 3 potential species exist. The southern African nominate form *H. f. fuligula* remains Rock Martin, northern populations would become Red-throated Rock Martin *H. pusilla*. Palaearctic birds become Pale Crag Martin *H. obsoleta*.

**Common House Martin**  
*Delichon urbicum*

A single bird showed up in Etosha NP.

**Greater Striped Swallow**  
*Cecropis cucullata*

We saw this species at Daan Viljoen NR, Avis Dam and near Etosha NP.

**Lesser Striped Swallow**  
*Cecropis abyssinica*

First seen near Rundu, and then every day thereafter as we headed east.

**Red-breasted Swallow**  
*Cecropis semirufa*

We had good views of this impressive swallow in Etosha NP.

**NOTE:** The Clements common name for this species is Rufous-chested Swallow.

**Mosque Swallow**  
*Cecropis senegalensis*

We saw two birds near Divundu.

---

**Crombecs, African Warblers _Macrosphenidae_**

**Rockrunner (NE)**  
*Achaetops pycnopygius*

This lovely bird showed perfectly in the early morning light at Erongo Wilderness Lodge.

**Long-billed Crombec**  
*Sylvietta rufescens*

We saw this near-tailless species in Etosha NP and in woodland near Katima Mulilo.

**NOTE:** The Clements common name for this species is Cape Crombec.

---

**Reed Warblers & Allies _Acrocephalidae_**

**Greater Swamp Warbler**  
*Acrocephalus rufescens*

We eventually saw this skulking species on our last day in the Okavango Panhandle.

**Lesser Swamp Warbler**  
*Acrocephalus gracilirostris*

This species was much more accommodating, showing well in the Okavango Panhandle and at Livingstone SW.

**African Reed Warbler**  
*Acrocephalus baeticatus*

We saw this small warbler at Windhoek SW.

---

**Grassbirds & Allies _Megaluridae_**

**Little Rush Warbler**  
*Bradypterus baboeala*

Seen in along the Okavango River and at Livingstone SW.

---

**Cisticolas & Allies _Cisticolidae_**

**Red-faced Cisticola**  
*Cisticola erythrops*

We had good views of this species at the Livingstone Treatment Works.

**Rattling Cisticola**  
*Cisticola chiniana*

Surprisingly we only had one sighting, while waiting at the Zambian border post.

**Grey-backed Cisticola**  
*Cisticola subruficapailla*
Seen well at the top of Spreetshoogte Pass.

**Luapula Cisticola** *Cisticola luapula*
This rather smart-looking cisticola was seen near Kalizo Lodge.

*NOTE: The Okavango-Zambian race of the widespread Winding Cisticola* *C. galactotes*, has recently been accorded full species status as *Luapula Cisticola* *C. luapula*. *Clements does not recognize this split.*

**Chirping Cisticola** *Cisticola pipiens*
We all had great views of this papyrus-dwelling cisticola in the Okavango Panhandle.

**Neddicky** *Cisticola fulvicapilla*
We found two of these small cisticolas in woodland along the Caprivi Strip.

**Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*
A bird showed nicely at Livingstone SW.

**Desert Cisticola** *Cisticola aridulus*
This little cisticola was common on the dry open plains in Etosha NP.

**Tawny-flanked Prinia** *Prinia subflava*
We found this in the Okavango Panhandle and at the Zambian border post.

**Black-chested Prinia** *Prinia flavicans*
Recorded almost every day in dry woodland during the first half of the tour.

**Rufous-eared Warbler (NE)** *Malcorus pectoralis*
This delightful species was seen en route to Namibgrens.

**Grey-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brevicaudata*
We had scattered sightings of this widespread species throughout the tour.

*NOTE: The IOC now recognizes the nominate green-backed forms of this widespread African warbler as distinct from the grey-backed forms* *C. brevicaudata*. We encountered the grey-backed form during our tour. *Clements does not recognize this split.*

**Barred Wren-Warbler** *Calamonastes fasciolatus*
We saw two birds wonderfully well at Erongo Wilderness Lodge.

**Yellow-bellied Eremomela** *Eremomela icteropygialis*
We encountered this species at Avis Dam, Daan Viljoen NR and Erongo Wilderness Lodge.

**Burnt-necked Eremomela** *Eremomela usticollis*
We saw birds in Mahango GP.

---

### Babblers, Parrotbills Timaliidae

**Black-faced Babbler (NE)** *Turdoides melanops*
A dozen birds showed very nicely at our lodge just outside eastern Etosha NP.

**Arrow-marked Babbler** *Turdoides jardineii*
Common in the Okavango Panhandle and in the Caprivi Strip.

**Hartlaub’s Babbler** *Turdoides hartlaubii*
Seen almost daily in the Okavango Panhandle and Caprivi strip.

**Southern Pied Babbler** *Turdoides bicolor*
First seen while travelling from Erongo to Etosha NP, and later in Etosha NP itself.

### Sylviid Babblers Sylvidae

**Chestnut-vented Warbler** *Sylvia subcaerulea*
We found this bird at Daan Viljoen NR, Avis Dam, Etosha NP and Erongo Wilderness Lodge.

*NOTE: The Clements places the above species in the Parisoma genus and gives the common name of Rufous-vented Warbler.*

**Layard’s Warbler (NE)** *Sylvia layardi*
This bird showed at the Spitzkoppe Mountains, here at the northern limit of its range. The race in question is aridicola.

*NOTE: The Clements places the above species in the Parisoma genus.*

### White-eyes Zosteropidae

**African Yellow White-eye** *Zosterops senegalensis*
Seen on a few occasions in the Okavango Panhandle, Mahango GP and the Caprivi Strip.
Starlings Sturnidae

Wattled Starling  Creatophora cinerea
Seen in Etosha NP and in large numbers at Windhoek SW.

Cape Starling  Lamprotornis nitens
Seen almost daily for most of the tour, a common species.
NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Cape Glossy-Starling.

Greater Blue-eared Starling  Lamprotornis chalybeaus
A really stunning, if common bird, we saw it in the eastern Caprivi Strip.
NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Greater Blue-eared Gloss-Starling.

Meves's Starling  Lamprotornis mevesii
This graceful, long-tailed starling was common in the Okavango Panhandle.
NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Meves' Glossy-Starling.

Burchell's Starling  Lamprotornis australis
Seen often in moist woodland during the second half of the tour.
NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Burchell's Gloss-Starling.

Violet-backed Starling  Cinnyricinclus leucogaster
We saw this beautiful creature in the Okavango Panhandle and around Katima Mulilo and Kalizo Lodge.

Red-winged Starling  Onychognathus morio
This species showed well around Victoria Falls in Zambia.

Pale-winged Starling  Onychognathus nabouroup
We found this starling at Daan Viljoen NR, Spreetshoogte Pass and around Erongo Wilderness Lodge.

Oxpeckers Buphagidae

Yellow-billed Oxpecker  Buphagus africanus
The scarcer of the two oxpeckers, we found this one in the Okavango Panhandle.

Red-billed Oxpecker  Buphagus erythrorhynchus
Also seen in the Panhandle and near Katima Mulilo.

Thrushes Turdidae

Groundscraper Thrush  Psophocichla litsipsirupa
This good-postured species showed nicely at Daan Viljoen NR and Etosha NP.
NOTE: Ethiopian Thrush P. l. simensis is considered a distinct species by several authorities.

Kurrichane Thrush  Turdus libonyanus
We found a nesting pair at our lodge near Rundu.

Chats & Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

Karoo Scrub Robin (NE)  Cercotrichas coryphaeus
We had great views at Namibgrens.

Bearded Scrub Robin  Cercotrichas quadrirvigata
We saw this elegant scrub robin in Livingstone.

Kalahari Scrub Robin  Cercotrichas paena
Seen in Daan Viljoen NR and Etosha NP.

White-browed Scrub Robin  Cercotrichas leucophrys
We saw three birds in woodland along the Caprivi strip. These birds belong to the race ovamboensis, which has a plain breast, lacking the streaking of other races.
NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Red-backed Scrub-Robin.

Grey Tit-Flycatcher  Myioparus plumneus
We only heard this species in the Okavango Panhandle.

Southern Black Flycatcher  Melaenornis pammelaina
Seen in the Okavango Panhandle.

Pale Flycatcher  Bradornis pallidus
Seen in broad-leaved woodland in the Caprivi Strip.

Chat Flycatcher (NE)  Bradornis infuscatus
These large flycatchers were seen near Namibgrens and near Omaruru.

Marico Flycatcher  Bradornis mariquensis
A common and conspicuous species in Daan Viljoen NR, Etosha NP and around Erongo Wilderness Lodge.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striatus*
We found two birds in woodland in the Caprivi Strip.

**Ashy Flycatcher** *Muscicapa caerulescens*
One was seen in the Okavango Panhandle.

**White-browed Robin-Chat** *Cossypha heuglini*
This beautiful and vociferous species was common in riparian vegetation along the Caprivi Strip and the Okavango Panhandle.

**Collard Palm Thrush** *Cichladusa arquata*
We saw two birds in Livingstone.

**Short-toed Rock Thrush** *Monticola brevipes*
This colourful bird was seen at Avis Dam, Daan Viljoen NR and Erongo Wilderness Lodge.

**African Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus*
These were seen on floodplains around Kalizo Lodge.

**Karoo Chat** *Emarginata schlegelii*
One was seen near Spitzkoppe.

**Tractrac Chat** *Emarginata tractrac*
We saw the pale Namib form of this species along Welwitschia Drive and near Swakopmund.

**Ant-eating Chat** *Myrmecocichla formicivora*
We found a dozen birds north of Okaukuejo in Etosha NP.

**Mountain Wheatear (NE)** *Myrmecocichla monticola*
Seen daily in rocky habitats during the first few days of tour.

**Arnot’s Chat** *Pentholaea cinnamomeiventris*
We had great views of a pair in woodland near Katima Mulilo.

**Familiar Chat** *Oenanthe familiaris*
This drab species was encountered in Daan Viljoen NR, along the Spreetshoogte Pass and at Spitzkoppe.

### Sunbirds Nectariniidae

**Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris*
We saw this tiny sunbird almost daily in the Okavango Panhandle and eastern Caprivi Strip.

**Amethyst Sunbird** *Chalcomitra amethystina*
We lucked upon two sightings of this species in woodland along the Caprivi Strip and at Mahango.

**Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra senegalensis*
This gorgeous bird showed nicely at Avis Dam, the Okavango Panhandle and around Katima Mulilo, Livingstone and Kalizo Lodge.

**Marico Sunbird** *Cinnyris mariguensis*
This species dazzled us at Avis Dam, Etosha NP and Katima Mulilo.

**White-bellied Sunbird** *Cinnyris talatala*
First seen in Etosha NP and later at Katima Mulilo and Kalizo Lodge.

**Dusky Sunbird (NE)** *Cinnyris fusca*
A common species in the dry west of the tour.

**Copper Sunbird** *Cinnyris cupreus*
Two individuals of this scarce species showed well at Kalizo Lodge.

### Old World Sparrows Passeridae

**White-browed Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser mahali*
Seen in a wide variety of habitats on all but five days of tour.
Sociable Weaver (NE)  
*Philetairus socius*
This cute ‘n quirky bird was seen in good numbers in the Khomas Hochland and later in Etosha NP.

_Note: The Clements common name for this species is Social Weaver._

House Sparrow  
*Passer domesticus*
This species was common around Swakopmund and Walvis Bay.

Great Sparrow (NE)  
*Passer motitensis*
First seen in the Khomas Hochland, with daily sightings in Etosha NP.

_Note: The Clements common name for this species is Great Rufous Sparrow and some authorities including Clements split this African sparrow into five species. Shelley’s Rufous Sparrow P. shelleyi occurs largely in Ethiopia, Great Rufous Sparrow P. motitensis occurs in Southern Africa, Kenya Rufous Sparrow P. rufocinctus occurs in East Africa, Kordofan Rufous Sparrow P. cordofanicus occurs in Sudan and Socotra Sparrow is endemic to Socotra._

Cape Sparrow (NE)  
*Passer melanurus*
Seen well at Rooibank, Walvis Bay and Erongo Wilderness Lodge.

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow  
*Passer griseus*
We had a few at our hotel in Livingstone.

Southern Grey-headed Sparrow  
*Passer diffusus*
Seen daily in Etosha NP, also in Daan Viljoen NR and Katima Mulilo.

_Note: The Grey-headed Sparrow complex P. griseus has been split into five full species with the most southerly African form being classified as P. diffusus._

Yellow-throated Petronia  
*Gymnoris superciliaris*
Good views of this species in broad-leaved woodland east of Divundu.

_Note: Clements places this species in a different genus to the IOC nomenclature, namely: Petronia._

Weavers & Widowbirds  
*Ploceidae*

Red-billed Buffalo Weaver  
*Bubalornis niger*
Seen in Etosha NP and Mahango GP.

Scaly-feathered Weaver  
*Sporopipes squamifrons*
These little characters were seen in the Khomas Hochland and Etosha NP.

_Note: The Clements common name for this species is Scaly Weaver._

Spectacled Weaver  
*Ploceus ocularis*
Seen at our lodge near Rundu.

Holub’s Golden Weaver  
*Ploceus xanthops*
This attractively plain weaver was seen at our lodge near Rundu and in the Okavango Panhandle.

Southern Brown-throated Weaver  
*Ploceus xanthopterus*
Seen at our lodge near Rundu.

Lesser Masked Weaver  
*Ploceus intermedius*
Seen at our lodge near Rundu and in the Okavango Panhandle.

Southern Masked Weaver  
*Ploceus velatus*
This species was common in the first half of the tour.

Village Weaver  
*Ploceus cucullatus*
Seen near Kalizo Lodge.

Red-headed Weaver  
*Anaplectes melanotis*
This stunner was seen at Mahango GP and in woodland near Katima Mulilo.

Red-billed Quelea  
*Quelea quelea*
Seen at a few sites, with a couple thousand showing in Etosha NP.

Southern Red Bishop  
*Euplectes orix*
One bird was seen at Avis Dam.

_Note: The Clements common name for this species is Red Bishop._

Waxbills & Allies  
*Estrildidae*

Green-winged Pytilia  
*Pytilia melba*
What a beauty! We saw this at Daan Viljoen NR, Erongo Wilderness Lodge and in Etosha NP.

Red-headed Finch  
*Amadina erythrocephala*
This species was seen in Etosha NP and the Khomas Hochland.

Brown Firefinch  
*Lagonosticta nitidula*
We saw a number of these birds well at Kalizo Lodge and in the Okavango Panhandle.
Red-billed Firefinch  
*Lagonosticta senegala*

Seen in Livingstone, the Okavango Panhandle and Katima Mulilo.

Blue Waxbill  
*Uraeginthus angolensis*

This super-saturated little bird was seen at Daan Viljoen, Avis Dam, Etosha NP, Katima Mulilo and Mahango GP.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Blue-breasted Cordonbleu.*

Violet-eared Waxbill  
*Uraeginthus granatina*

First seen at Daan Viljoen NR, with daily sightings in Etosha NP.

Common Waxbill  
*Estrilda astrild*

Seen at Windhoek SW, Daan Viljoen NR, the Okavango Panhandle and Livingstone SW.

Black-faced Waxbill  
*Estrilda erythronotos*

We enjoyed fantastic views of this beautiful bird at Avis Dam and in Etosha NP.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Black-cheeked Waxbill.*

Orange-breasted Waxbill  
*Amandava subflava*

We were pleasantly surprised to find a single female bird at Livingstone SW.

Bronze Mannikin  
*Lonchura cucullata*

We saw this tiny species at Katima Mulilo.

**Indigobirds & Whydahs  Viduidae**

Pin-tailed Whydah  
*Vidua chalybeate*

We saw birds at Avis Dam and Mahango GP.

Shaft-tailed Whydah  
*Vidua regia*

We found a single non-breeding bird at Livingstone SW.

**Wagtails & Pipits  Motacillidae**

Western Yellow Wagtail  
*Motacilla flava*

A widespread species that was seen at Windhoek SW, Daan Viljoen NR, the Okavango Panhandle and other places.

**Finches  Fringillidae**

Black-throated Canary  
*Crithagra atrogularis*

This dry-country canary was common at Daan Viljoen NR, Avis Dam and Etosha NP.

*NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to the IOC nomenclature, namely: Serinus. This species complex is sometimes split with the South African form remaining in the Black-throated Canary group as opposed to Reichenow’s or Kenya Yellow-rumped Seed-eater S. reichenowi. Several endemic Ethiopian forms are sometimes lumped into the nominate S. atrogularis group including Yellow-throated Seed-eater S. flavigula, Salvadori’s Seed-eater S. xantholaemus and Yellow-rumped Seed-eater S. xanthopygius.*

Yellow-fronted Canary  
*Crithagra mozambica*

We saw birds at Avis Dam and near Katima Mulilo.

*NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to the IOC nomenclature, namely: Serinus.*
**Buntings Emberizidae**

Lark-like Bunting  
*Emberiza impetuani*
We had multiple sightings of birds at Daan Viljoen NR, Spreetshoogte Pass and Spitzkoppe.

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting  
*Emberiza tahapisi*
A lovely bird, we saw this at Daan Viljoen NR and in and near Etosha NP.

Cape Bunting  
*Emberiza capensis*
This species was common at Erongo Wilderness Lodge.

Golden-breasted Bunting  
*Emberiza flaviventris*
This gorgeous bird was seen at Daan Viljoen NR and daily in Etosha NP.

**Annotated List of Mammals recorded (46 Species)**

*Note: Names and taxanomical order of the land mammals follow that of ‘The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals’; additional names are given in parenthesis and are likely to appear in other popular field guides.*

**Vesper Bats Vespertilionidae**

Rüppell’s Pipistrelle  
*Pipistrellus rueppellii*
One of these scarce, tiny bats (among Africa’s smallest!) was seen at our lodge in the Okavango Panhandle.

**Dassie Rat Petromuridae**

Dassie Rat  
*Petromus typicus*
We saw this, the only living representative of the Petromuridae family, at Erongo Wilderness Lodge.

**Squirrels Sciuridae**

South African Ground Squirrel  
*Xerus inauris*
Seen near Avis Dam, the Namib Desert and Etosha NP.

Smith’s Bush Squirrel  
*Paraxerus cepapi*
This species was common near Etosha NP and the Okavango Panhandle.

**Hares and Rabbits Leporidae**

Cape Hare  
*Lepus capensis*
We saw three in the Khomas Hochland.

Scrub Hare  
*Lepus saxatilis*
We saw five on a night drive in Etosha NP.

**Hyraxes Procaviidae**

Rock Hyrax  
*Procavia capensis*
This grumpy-looking species was seen at Avis Dam, Daan Viljoen NR and Erongo Wilderness Lodge.

**Baboons and Monkeys Cercopithecidae**

Chacma Baboon  
*Papio cynocephalus ursinus*
We had various sightings in Windhoek, Daan Viljoen NR, the Okavango Panhandle and Livingstone.

Vervet Monkey  
*Cercopithecus pygerythrus*
This species was common in the Okavango Panhandle.

*NOTE: Some authors consider the Vervet Monkey in northern Namibia to be the Malbrouck Monkey [Chlorocebus cynosures] a spilt from the Vervet Monkey, which some authors consider conspecific with Vervet Monkey; furthermore some authors have 5 sub-species in Southern Africa with the one in Namibia being ngamienis.*

**Dogs and Allies Canidae**

Bat-eared Fox  
*Otocyon megalotis*
Those on the night drive in Etosha NP glimpsed two of these canines.
Trip Report - RBT Namibia, Okavango & Victoria Falls IV 2014

Black-backed Jackal
*Canis mesomelas*
We had numerous great sightings of this species in Etosha NP.

Mongoose *Herpestidae*

Banded Mongoose
*Mungos mungo*
These social mongooses were seen at Daan Viljoen NR and in Etosha NP.

Yellow Mongoose (RNE)
*Cynictis penicillata*
Seen at Windhoek SW and in Etosha NP.

Suricate (Meerkat)
*Suricata suricatta*
>>>Although not counting towards the trip total, these two tame guys deserve an honourable mention for their cuteness and the great experience we had seeing them up close at Spitzkoppe.

Hyaenas *Hyaenidae*

Spotted Hyaena
*Crocuta crocuta*
We had good sightings in Etosha NP.

Genets & Civets *Viverridae*

Small-spotted (Common) Genet
*Genetta genetta*
We had super sightings of this exquisite creature in Etosha NP.

Blotched Genet
*Genetta tigrina*
Equally breath-taking, an individual showed well as it visited our Rundu lodge for scraps.

Cats *Felidae*

African Wild Cat
*Felis sylvestris*
One was seen on the Etosha NP night drive.

Lion
*Panthera leo*
We saw a total of 19 of these great beasts in Etosha NP.

Leopard
*Panthera pardus*
Thanks to our eagle-eyed driver, Tuhafeni, we saw a beautiful leopard near a waterhole in Etosha NP.

Elephants *Elephantidae*

African Elephant
*Loxodonta africana*
We had many sightings in Etosha NP and the Okavango Panhandle.

Horses *Equidae*

Common (Plains/Burchell’s) Zebra
*Equus quagga burchelli*
We saw 13 animals, including one from just metres away, at the top of Spreetshoogte Pass.

Hartmann’s Mountain Zebra
*Equus zebra hartmannae*
We had good numbers of this aquatic mammal along the Kavango and Zambezi Rivers.

Rhinoceroses *Rhinocerotidae*

Black (Hooked-lipped) Rhinoceros
*Diceros bicornis*
We saw a total of 13 of these great animals in Etosha NP.

Hippopotamuses *Hippopotamidae*

Hippopotamus
*Hippopotamus amphibius*
We had good numbers of this aquatic mammal along the Kavango and Zambezi Rivers.

Pigs *Suidae*

Common Warthog
*Phacochoerus africanus*
We had scattered sightings in and outside of reserves throughout the tour.

Giraffes *Giraffidae*
**Giraffe**  
*Giraffa camelopardalis*  
The tallest land mammal was first seen at Daan Viljoen Nature Reserve and then later on numerous occasions in Etosha National Park.  
*Note: According to a paper by Brown et al. (see [http://www.biomedcentral.com/1741-7007/5/57](http://www.biomedcentral.com/1741-7007/5/57)) the Giraffe should be split into six separate species. Following this classification, the giraffe we saw would be called Angolan Giraffe.*

**Bovids and Horned Ungulates  Bovidae**

**African Buffalo**  
*Syncerus caffer*  
We had two sightings of up to 12 buffalo at Mahango GP.

**Eland**  
*Taurotragus oryx*  
We saw the largest antelope in the world at Daan Viljoen NR and at the base of Spreetshoogte Pass.

**Greater Kudu**  
*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*  
We had many sightings of this elegant antelope throughout the tour.

**Bushbuck**  
*Tragelaphus scriptus*  
We saw this antelope in the Okavango Panhandle.

**Lechwe**  
*Kobus Leche*  
We saw good numbers of this water-loving antelope in Mahango GP.

**Sable Antelope**  
*Hippotragus niger*  
We had two sightings of up to 25 of these magnificent animals in Mahango GP.

**Roan Antelope**  
*Hippotragus equinus*  
Also seen twice, with up to 20 animals on our second visit to Mahango GP.

**Gemsbok**  
*Oryx gazelle*  
We had daily sightings of this impressive antelope in Etosha NP.

**Sitatunga**  
*Tragelaphus spekei*  
A female was seen briefly in the Okavango Panhandle.

**Common Reebuck**  
*Redunca arundinum*  
We saw many individuals in Mahango GP.

**Blue Wildebeest**  
*Connochaetes taurinus*  
A common sight in Etosha NP, also seen in Daan Viljoen NR.

**Red Hartebeest**  
*Alcelaphus buselaphus*  
First seen in Daan Viljoen NR, and later in Etosha NP.

>>> **Blesbok**  
*Damaliscus dorcas*  
>>> Not counting towards the trip total, however we did see 10 of these beautiful antelope on a farm in the Khomas Hochland. Endemic to South Africa, these were obviously introduced animals.

**Tsessebe**  
*Damaliscus lunatus*  
We saw these fast antelope in Mahango GP.

**Impala**  
*Aepyceros melampus melampus*  
We saw these in Mahango GP and Livingstone SW.

**Black-faced Impala**  
*Aepyceros melampus petersi*  
Seen daily in Etosha NP.

**Springbok**  
*Antidorcas marsupialis*  
An abundant species in Etosha NP.

**Steenbok**  
*Raphicerus campestris*  
These small antelope were seen in Etosha NP.

**Damara Dik-dik**  
*Madoqua damarensis*  
This tiny creature was seen at Erongo Wilderness Lodge and in Etosha NP.

**Common (Grey) Duiker**  
*Sylvicapra grimmia*  
We had sightings at our lodge outside of Etosha NP.

**Fur Seals  Otariidae**

**Cape Fur Seal**  
*Arctocephalus pusillus*  
Three seals were seen in the lagoon at Walvis Bay.
### REPTILE SPECIES LIST (18 Species)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Namibian Rock Agama</td>
<td><em>Agama planiceps</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>These attractive agamas were seen around Avis dam and later at Erongo.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground Agama</td>
<td><em>Agama aculeata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One was seen in Etosha NP.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Etosha Agama</td>
<td><em>Agama etoshae</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seen – unsurprisingly! – in Etosha NP.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anchieta's Agama</td>
<td><em>Agama anchiietae</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seen in the Namib Desert.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped Skink</td>
<td><em>Mabuya striata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seen in Etosha NP.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variable Skink</td>
<td><em>Mabuya varia</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seen near Etosha NP.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainbow/Five-lined Skink</td>
<td><em>Mabuya quinquetaeniata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This beautiful skink was seen around Livingstone and Katima Mulilo.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wedge-snouted Skink/Mabuya</td>
<td><em>Mabuya acutliabis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seen in the Namib Desert.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotted Sand Lizard</td>
<td><em>Pedioplanis lineoocellata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seen in Etosha NP.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Dwarf Gecko</td>
<td><em>Lygodactylus capensis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seen in the Okavango Panhandle and at Kalizo Lodge.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Stripe-bellied Sand Snake</td>
<td><em>Psammophis subtaeniatus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One of these posed beautifully for us in woodland near Katima Mulilo.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-lipped Herald</td>
<td><em>Crotaphopeltis hotamboeia</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seen on two consecutive evenings in Katima Mulilo.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nile Crocodile</td>
<td><em>Crocodylus niloticus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We saw a few particularly large individuals along the Kavango River.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nile (Water) Monitor</td>
<td><em>Varanus niloticus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seen in the Okavango Panhandle and at Livingstone SW.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock (White-throated) Monitor</td>
<td><em>Varanus albigularis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We had a great sighting of one of these while en route from Omaruru to Etosha NP.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Olive Toad</td>
<td><em>Amietophrynus poweri</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seen in Katima Mulilo.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guttural Toad</td>
<td><em>Amietophrynus gutturalis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seen in Katima Mulilo.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharp-nosed Rocket/Grass Frog</td>
<td><em>Ptychadena oxyrhynchus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seen in Katima Mulilo.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>