

Grand Namibia: Birds, Wildlife and Landscapes Species List | October 4-18, 2026 with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by guide Greg Smith with local guide Timothy Smith. Our clients included Alice, Avril, Cathy & Deb and Jill & James.

We started our tour in Namibia at the onset of the Austral spring migration, As the tour progressed, we continued to see a growth in the diversity and density of migrant species moving down from the north. Resident species were in good numbers, and there were courtships displays going on as well as some nest building, especially after to disparate rainstorms. Some of the highly sought after species were found, while others were not. But the most unexpected bird found was a diurnal roosting Bat Hawk on our second day of the tour!

Mammal species were in great shape, with abundant numbers of most, along with several species that weren't expected. We had a total of thirty-six different mammal species, a very respectable complement of Namibian wildlife. We had a surprisingly good total of eighteen reptile species.

BIRDS: 241 species were recorded of which 5 were heard only and 2 were introduced. Details are included below.

The eBird link below details the 241 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

Link to the eBird Trip Report where all of our checklists can be found:

[Grand Namibia: Birds, Wildlife and Landscapes | October 4-18, 2026 | eBird Trip Report](#)



Following is a list of the mammals, reptiles and amphibians we were fortunate to observe during the trip.

MAMMALS: — (36)

Rock Hyrax *Procavia capensis* — Common in rocky places of course, especially Onguma Wilderness Camp and Grootberg

African Elephant *Loxodonta africana* — The first half of the trip in Etosha and surrounding areas is where we had most of our sightings. But the desert elephants of the Huab River were very special

Smith's Bush Squirrel *Paraxerus crepapi* — Only seen a couple of times in camps that were well treed

South African Ground Squirrel *Geosciurus inauris* — Certainly not as common as our US ground squirrels, but that tail made for some great shade

Chacma Baboon *Papio ursinus* — The best sighting had to be of the troupes that spent the nights on the huge granite ridge behind Onguma

Yellow Mongoose *Cynictis penicillata* — Our best view was of a single individual alongside the road that kept one eye on us and the other eye on the jackal bedded down about twenty-feet away

Banded Mongoose *Mungos mungo* — We saw this species twice, but probably the same group in the same place on two different days at Okonjima

Common Slender Mongoose *Herpestes sanguineus* - Seen on multiple occasions throughout Namibia's termite mounds

Bat-eared Fox *Otocyon megalotis* - Best and only look was of a pair sunning themselves along the Okonjima Road

Brown Hyena *Parahyaena brunnea* — We had an exceptional night drive in Okonjima where we had at least fourteen different individuals including four cubs in a natal den

Spotted Hyena *Crocuta crocuta* — Surprisingly low numbers of this common predator throughout the tour

Cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus* — Only had one sighting and that was on our first morning in Etosha. Two brothers were lounging in the shade of a mopane tree, and when that got too warm they headed a little further back to deeper shade

Lion *Panthera leo* — We had close to fifteen different individuals in various settings, and it seemed that the males in Namibia were larger than most

Common Genet *Genetta genetta* - Seen on a night walk in Ondudu, searching the grasses for rodents

African Wild Cat *Felis lybica* - Totally serendipitous sighting as we drove out of Deadvlei Lodge and watched one slowly cross the road in front of us

Black-backed Jackal *Lupulella mesomelas* — Daily sightings were the norm no matter what habitat we were in. Seemed at home everywhere

Brown Fur Seal *Arctocephalus pusillus* — The former Cape fur seal was seen in multiple groups along the sandspit on the outside of Walvis Bay

Plains Zebra *Equus quagga* — Almost non-existent on the second half of the trip, but seen almost everywhere on the first part of the trip

White Rhinoceros *Ceratotherium simum* — We saw both White & Black rhinos three times and one sighting was of

Black Rhinoceros *Diceros bicornis* — two different individuals at the same waterhole at the same time

Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus* — Again, like the zebra, only seen during the first half of the trip in the non-desert areas

Giraffe *Giraffa camelopardalis* — The Angolan subspecies is common in Namibia and we got to view numerous individuals

Damara Dik-Dik *Madoqua damarensis* — Only seen a half-dozen times, and always by the side of the road

Common Duiker *Sylvicapra grimmia* - Only seen once and that was at Etosha

Steenbok *Raphicerus campestris* — Fairly regular in areas abundant shrubs and trees

Impala *Aepyceros melampus* — Only the black-faced impala is found in Namibia, a more xeric adjusted species

Springbok *Antidorcas marsupialis* — The white-faced denizen of Namibia's deserts

Greater Kudu *Tragelaphus strepsiceros* — We saw numerous individuals daily until we left Grootberg. Never after that

Gemsbok *Oryx gazella* — Oryx can handle a lot more habitat types from deserts to open savannah with trees. Not in large numbers, but seen on most days

Hartebeest *Alcelaphus buselaphus* — Only seen on our night drive at Okonjima

Common Wildebeest *Connochaetes taurinus* —

Mountain (Damara) Ground Squirrel *Geosciurus princeps* - Seen twice, and quite unexpected. And of course both sightings were in Damaraland

Four-striped Grass Mouse *Rhabdomys pumilio* - Seen three times, at Avis Dam, Spitzkoppe and in Sossusvlei. But given the diversity of habitat of those three places, we should've seen them daily

Jameson's Red Rock Hare *Pronolagus randensis* - We got great looks of an individual out and about during the daytime in granite boulders

Cape Scrub Hare *Lepus saxatilis* — Seen on a number of days, but even more so on our Okonjima night drive

South African Springhare *Pedetes capensis* — Only seen on our Okonjima night drive

Peter's Epauletted Fruit Bat *Epomophorus crypturus* — Roosting in a palm tree at Onguma Bush Camp

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS: — (23)

Leopard Tortoise *Stigmochelys pardalis* — We saw a couple of these on the backroads from Safari Lodge heading to Grootberg

Ground Agama *Agama aculeata* — Best views were of a habituated individual at the gate to Okonjima Bush Camp

Namib Rock Agama *Agama planiceps* — Ondudu had loads of these colorful individuals basking on the granite boulders

Anchaita's Agama *Agama anchietae* — Most were seen on boulders at our lodge in Grootberg

Bradfield's Dwarf Gecko *Lygodactylus bradfieldi* — Climbing a tree adjacent to our dinner table at Okonjima Bush Camp

Fischer's Thick-toed Gecko *Condodactylus laevigatus* — Seen during our night walk at Ondudu

Carp's Barking Gecko *Ptenopus carpi* — Heard and seen during our stay at Deadvlei Lodge. Calling all night long...

Kalahari Tree Skink *Trachylepis spilogaster* — Seen on many days, but our first sighting was at Avis Dam

Western Rock Skink *Trachylepis sulcata* — Also seen at Avis Dam in leaf litter at Avis Dam

Variegated Skink *Trachylepis variegata* — First seen at the Huab River while we were searching for the desert elephants

Wahlberg's Striped Skink *Trachylepis wahlbergii* — Best looks were during our stay at Okonjima Bush Camp

Western Sand Lizard *Pedioplanis undata* — Quite common especially during our drive thru the edge of the sand dunes in Western Etosha

Namaqua Sand Lizard *Pedioplanis namaquensis* — This one we saw in the same place as the Western sand lizard

Common Namib Day Lizard *Rhoptropus afer* — Best views were during our first Namibian hike at Avis Dam

Bradfield's Namib Day Lizard *Rhoptropus bradfieldi* — Seen during our pre-dinner hike at Okonjima Bush Camp

Wedge-snouted Desert Lizard *Meroles cuneirostris* — This was one of the two lizards we saw that would burrow under the sands at Sossusvlei

Shovel-snouted Lizard *Meroles anchietae* — And this was the other burrower we got to see

Giant Plated Lizard *Matobosaurus maltzahnii* — Great looks at the beast of a lizard on our last evening at Ondudu

Namaqua Chameleon *Pachydactylus rangei* — The 2-year old we saw on the outskirts of Swakopmund was just the best

Flap-necked Chameleon *Chamaeleo dilepis* — Found up high in a tree by James one night at Ondudu

Namib Sand Snake *Psammophis leitoni* — Seen on the side of the road on our drive from Grootberg to the Huab River

Stripe-bellied Sand Snake *Psammophis subtaeniatus* — In the talons of a Greater Kestrel alive and writhing

Marbled Robber Frog *Pristimantis marmoratus* — We had a few males in the pool calling right after a nighttime downpour at Ondudu