



Botswana Species List

September 6-19, 2010

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*With 2N ad-hoc add-on to Victoria Falls Sept. 19-21
Peg Abbott, with Ewan Masson, and Mr. Fish Mothokawabo and
Sallie Masson & eight participants*

List compiled by Peg Abbott

Our tour began and ended in Kasane, which we flew in to after a week-long journey in the Western Cape region of South Africa as a pre-trip extension. Species lists for that extension follow this main tour list. We also had a very short, ad-hoc add-on to Victoria Falls at the end of our journey. Masson Safaris was our local company and they did a superlative job!

C = Chobe River, Chobe National Park and areas of the river near Kasane

S = Savuti segment of Chobe National Park, newly watered after a thirty-year dry spell, it offers great variety with wet and dry sections, the southern portion being quite dry

M = Moremi Game Reserve which we accessed by driving south from Savuti. We had two camps, one quite wooded with Mopane Forest all around, near the Hippo Pools.

Md = Moremi Game Reserve, Delta and southern wetter sections with palms and a lot of open water including a day trip by boat to the papyrus beds and fig tree islands

N = Nxai Pan National Park

Z = Zambia, the Zambezi River and Victoria Falls

Birds (251 species):

Common Ostrich - *S, N* Savuti, several very large males usually solo and seen at a distance. Nxai Pan, seen on several occasions, a single and then a band of six young (adult size but young plumage) birds

Little Grebe - *Md* A pair seen in an isolated pond en route to our final camp in so. Moremi, then a few others seen on ephemeral ponds there and one at our final roadside lunch stop outside the park. Two of the sightings included good sized chicks.

Great White Pelican - *C, Md* In Chobe, huge numbers (several hundred) were clustered in small areas in Chobe, along the river in distinct parts of the river. In so. Moremi, two individuals then seen roosting atop a tree in so. Moremi and another flew over a lone male elephant, a novel combination.

Reed Cormorant - *C, S, M, Md, Z* numerous (several dozen on any one wetland area) in Chobe, occasional in Savuti (3-10 in a given wetland) and our first Moremi camp, then more abundant in the extensive wet areas of so. Moremi.

White-breasted Cormorant - *C, Z* In Chobe, one sighting of an individual flying, along the river. In Zambia, starting to nest on islands of the river, above the falls

African Darter - *C, S, M, Md, Z* numerous in Chobe, a few in Savuti, more numerous in Moremi in wet areas of both locations. Picturesque perched on termite mounds. Seen nesting (a dozen or more pair) out in the papyrus area of the Delta, used islands above Victoria Falls for nesting

Slaty Egret - C,M, Md Easy to find. Several individuals seen on our boat trip on the Chobe, Seen very close at the Khwai River lunch stop. Very common in Moremi and then in so. Moremi where we found them in almost every wetland visited. Usually singles or up to six or so in one wetland, but not grouped. They were not seen “hooding” as we often saw the Black Egrets doing, a dramatic and unusual method of capturing prey.

Black Heron - C,M Md great views of this bird, not numerous but seen as singles or in small groups throughout the days in Chobe, and then in Moremi (both locations) in water areas. Near our Hippo Pools camp we found groups of up to 8-10 birds, and then scattered individuals in so. Moremi. On several stops we observed them hooding, which they do with great repetition in some feeding areas.

Little Egret - C,M,Md In Chobe, fairly regular, Moremi both areas very regular as singles or in mixed species feeding groups. Some had breeding color in beak and a few had regal plumes.

Grey Heron - C,S, Md Common in Chobe where they occurred with regular spacing, less common but occurring in Savuti and present in so. Moremi area though not in particularly high number, just a regular presence of one or two at various ephemeral water holes

Black-headed Heron - Z Breeding individuals on islands of the river above the Falls

Goliath Heron - C one enormous individual seen in Chobe, on the river trip - all were happy to find the world’s largest heron, which stood higher than the neighboring lechwe!

Purple Heron - Md Seen only on one day, in Moremi, three individuals seen in reed and papyrus beds that bordered the delta, from our boat trip from Mboma Boat Station, then in beautiful morning light we watched a couple agitated individuals chasing each other along reed banks of the Chobe River from our lodge

Great Egret - C,S,M, Md, Z present at all locations, best numbers in Chobe and so. Moremi, also well along in breeding (nests, incubating adults)) in rookeries of the Delta, a few individuals on the river in Zambia

Yellow-billed Egret - C,M, Md In Chobe, at times grouped up in good number where food was abundant. We first noticed red bill of breeding condition at Moremi, where they were quite regular in spacing. Also found in groups of mixed species and as scattered individuals in so. Moremi

Cattle Egret - C, Md, Z Chobe, Moremi Delta (also distribution of buffalo, though we saw them often with zebra as well) Present in Zambia

Squacco Heron - C,S,M, Md In Chobe first seen on our boat trip, then a few scattered others in river area vegetation, at Savuti while we were watching lions, Moremi at Hippo Pools and other wetlands, and we found them to be numerous in so. Moremi with so many ephemeral wetlands. Some displayed breeding plumage

Rufous-bellied Heron - M, Md first seen in flooded areas of our first Moremi Camp, several individuals, then two or three others, in the so. part of Moremi at our second camp there

Green-backed Heron - C, Md, Zambia In Chobe - one individual from the boat trip, Moremi again one individual, a couple of individuals at Chobe Marina Lodge, seen on the river in Zambia

Black-crowned Night-Heron - Md one individual in wetland by our so. Moremi camp, returning at dusk

***Little Bittern - Md** wonderful sighting from our Mbomba boat ride as the waters of the delta opened up, in occurred in reed beds where small trees created one of the first of many islands, seen perched and flying

Hamerkop - C,M, Md, Z In Chobe, several seen attending their giant nests, others feeding along the river shore. Seen regularly in Moremi and very commonly, sometimes in small groups in so. Moremi. A couple were seen carrying nest material up to their huge, well-attended nests. We had ample time to watch them feed. River in Zambia - five or six individuals

Yellow-billed Stork - C,M, Md Chobe, common, Savuti, a group feeding in the early morning the day we left, common in the wetlands of so. Moremi and breeding in rookeries of the Delta

African Openbill - C,M, Md, Z Chobe, very numerous (our guides tell us increasing a lot in recent years), seen close at our Khwai River lunch spot, Moremi a few feeding in wetland areas of both camps and large numbers were seen soaring over the reed beds where we observed them on nests at the Delta’s rookeries, several flying up and down river in Zambia

***Saddle-billed Stork - C, S, M, Md** Chobe, one very bright male seen on the boat trip, a young bird near our river camp in Chobe, a group seen at the marsh in Savuti on two days. Two or three pair observed along the main wetland near our first Moremi camp, one an adult with a youngster, and again in so. Moremi we saw both adults and one youngster, perhaps 3 or 4 pair

Maribou Stork - C, S, Md Very common in Chobe, individuals seen in Savuti, scattered in southern Moremi but in good number (100+) breeding in reed channels and island rookeries of the delta, several very large chicks observed

Glossy Ibis - C, Md Very common in Chobe, groups of large size, one individual seen in initially in ephemeral wetland of so. Moremi, then a dozen or more were spotted in drier grass and reed areas as we were searching for a lioness and cub

Hadada Ibis - C, M, Md, Z Chobe, common, Moremi a few scattered individuals, more encountered in so. Moremi. Their loud calls are very much a part of the experience

African Sacred Ibis - C, M, Md, Z Chobe, common, Moremi a few at Hippo Pools, so. Moremi at most wetlands areas, in some clustered in mixed species groups avidly feeding

African Spoonbill - C, Md Chobe, common, a few individuals at one ephemeral wetland in so. Moremi, then as we were leaving our last camp, a group of six in flight

White-faced Duck - C, S, M, Md Chobe in good number, Savuti a scattered few, Moremi, both locations good numbers (groups of a dozen or more quite common). Mr. Fish says in Setswana their name is their call Me wee wee...

Egyptian Goose - C, M, Md, Z abundant in Chobe, we watched a young elephant displace a pair with a large brood of young. Pairs were so regular we began to ignore them until we'd spot a few with large broods of adorable chicks, though not yet many of those. Pairs on the river in Zambia

Spur-winged Goose - C, M, Md, Z numerous in Chobe, a pair at Khwai River lunch stop, regular spaced at Moremi and so. Moremi, not grouped, usually pairs here and there

Comb Duck - C uncommon in Chobe, a few parked the first night by our river camp

African Pygmy Goose - M, Md lovely birds, seen first at Hippo Pool in Moremi, then in small numbers at so. Moremi, a few pair on our boat trip into the Delta, feeding on water lilies

Yellow-billed Duck - Md small numbers in southern Moremi

Red-billed Teal - C, S, Md seen in small groups, small numbers in both Savuti and Chobe, a few at one spot in so. Moremi

Hottentot Teal - M David spotted one pair for us, seen in wetland area of Moremi

Southern Pochard - Md a small group seen in one pond in so. Moremi, at one of our coffee breaks

Bat Hawk - Md We had a very quick study of this unusual profiled raptor as it erupted out of a tight group of branches, chased off by starlings. It flew low enough for us to see its pattern, but we would have loved more of a look at this fascinating raptor

Black-shouldered Kite - M, Z Seen on travel day between Savuti and Moremi, one individual. Judy and David saw this species on their birding outing in Zambia as well

Black (Yellow-billed) Kite - C, Md Chobe and on our travel day between Chobe and Savuti, this generalist was seen feeding on snails at the river edge as well as hovering over mud and thatch huts of the villages. We encountered it again in small numbers in so. Moremi. Travel day and Nxai Pan seen throughout the day in small numbers. All days in Nxai Pan and in Zambia

African Fish Eagle - C, S, M, Md, Z very common and very regal throughout, a real signature of the trip, a few individuals in Savuti, carrying nest material in Moremi and fairly common in so. Moremi. Heard or seen on all days except while in Nxai Pan

Hooded Vulture - Md not seen until so. Moremi, then seen in fair number, esp. around the lion kill but also at scattered locations in flight

White-backed Vulture - C, S, M, Md Chobe and Savuti, seen commonly, several times on travel day to Moremi, at both Moremi locations fairly common though in general here we did not find vultures in any good number, just sightings here and there, and maybe 25 or so around one lion kill observed, that was a group of mixed species of vultures. Nxai Pan, great looks coming in to the waterhole, and seen perched around our group of lions.

Lappet-faced Vulture, C (southern), M, N huge, condor like bird soaring near the gate leaving Chobe on the southern end before crossing to Khwai villages, in Moremi another seen on morning game drive where we had leopard and lion - what a day! Five coming in close to the waterhole at Nxai Pan with a Bateleur was a thrill

White-headed Vulture - S, Md In Savuti, we all gasped when this giant came in to land and drink in front of our vehicle in Savuti - it's a really stunning vulture, one you can consider beautiful. Its massive wingspan was

obvious as it took off to circle back over a small group of feeding lions. We encountered one other individual waiting for a lion to finish eating its zebra in so. Moremi

Black-chested Snake Eagle - C Chobe NP on travel day south from Savuti

Brown Snake Eagle - C, M Chobe, we saw a few individuals, Mopane forest perched for views day the travel day to Moremi

Bateleur - C,S,M, Md, N Chobe, the section we passed through on our travel day and Savuti, both immature and adult plumaged birds, causing a stir amongst the starlings and finches trying to land to drink water, outside southern gate of Chobe on travel day into Moremi, good study of male vs. female in Moremi. In the long run, this was our most regularly seen raptor. Nxai Pan we had them in flight, and also one adult coming into the waterhole

African Marsh-Harrier - M,Md Seen coursing over fields and wetlands of Moremi, both locations

Lizard Buzzard - Z seen by David and Judy on their birding outing, also likely the small gray raptor we watched coming back mid-day in Nxai Pan, not 100% satisfactory sighting but likely

Dark-chanting Goshawk - C, Md Mr. Fish spotted this bird with his group on our travel day between Chobe and Savuti. We saw another individual in an area of elephant-browsed mopane trees where it was being chased by a Lilac-breasted Roller

Southern Pale-chanting Goshawk - M, N arid woodlands of first Moremi camp area, perched long enough for us to examine. Nxai Pan more commonly seen, several individuals and one coursing over the waterhole, landing on termite mounds

Gabar Goshawk - C,S good study of an immature on our travel day between Chobe and Savuti, also a quick flyby at lunch at the rest stop in Chobe one in flight on travel day to Moremi

Tawny Eagle - C,S,M. our most regularly sighted bird of prey in Chobe and Savuti, several on nests, Moremi

Lesser Spotted Eagle - M we parked under one individual with time for a study in our first Moremi camp area, I.d. aided by our photos

Tawny Eagle - C,S,M, Md our most regularly seen larger eagle, perched, flying, on nests

African Hawk Eagle - M First saw an individual perched, then a pair flying as a lioness threaded her way between them, a second pair later in the same game drive, and another morning, one flying out quite near to our camp

Martial Eagle - C several of our group in Chobe got to see this massive bird swoop down and successfully capture a Helmeted Guinea Fowl, then pluck and devour it before their eyes, wow! Seen also in Mopane Forest travel day to Moremi

Greater Kestrel - N Nxai Pan, good views, esp. a lone bird at the waterhole, seen on two days

Dickenson's Kestrel - Md one of our vans spotted this handsome small raptor feeding on a frog, getting quite good photos. With luck our second van was also able to spot the bird though sans its gourmet item.

Lanner Falcon - C seen hunting in Chobe

Crested Francolin- C,S seen well in both Chobe and Savuti, morning drives in particular

Red-billed Spurfowl - C,S,M, Md, N abundant in Chobe and present in Savuti, abundant again in Moremi at both locations. Nxai Pan, infrequent

Swainson's Spur fowl - C,S,M, Md less common than Red-billed but present in both Chobe and Savuti, Moremi both locations

Common Quail - Md seen on one of the tree islands of the Okavango delta area, on the day of our boat trip

Helmeted Guineafowl - C,S,M, Md, N abundant in Chobe, scattered individuals, mainly around camp in Savuti, scattered at our first Moremi camp, mainly near camp and then numerous in so. Moremi. Towards night they would run around on hippo-mowed lawns that Peg described as soccer games which they resembled from a distance. Nxai Pan they were common and easy to see on short grass of the pan.

Wattled Crane - M two birds, dancing at a distance in Moremi the first afternoon by one van, wow! Then the afternoon drives revealed they had moved closer to the road and we spent sunset watching them in awe

Black Crake - C,M, Md two seen on our boat trip in Chobe, one van saw five the first afternoon in Moremi, one with a chick at Hippo Pools, Judy picked up one while we watched hippos and elephants one sunset night in so. Moremi

African Fin foot - Z Hard to miss the BRIGHT orange, thick legs of this bird. We saw a male first, then a female along the shores of the Zambezi above the falls, while on the sunrise boat trip

Kori Bustard - *C,S, Md, N* a group of three seen on both days in Chobe, then a good number seen in Savuti, esp. on the dry end of the terrain. Uncommon (two) in so. Moremi. Nxai Pan, once again as in Savuti, common - sometimes four or more in view around our Land Rovers. One coming in to drink at the waterhole was a treat to observe at close range.

Red-crested Korhaan - *C,M* a great spot by David, very close to the vehicle in Savuti, Moremi, dry areas between river crossings

Northern Black Korhaan - *S, N* a VERY striking bird, males were common and displaying, calling in the dry area of Savuti, many females. Nxai Pan common, sometimes a dozen or more in view, males bright and calling, lots of females

White-fronted Plover - *N* Two birds spotted at the waterhole

Black-bellied Bustard - *S* this handsome tall bustard was another one of David's keen-eye finds - excellent looks close to the vehicles in Savuti our first afternoon

African Jacana - *C,S,M, Md* numerous along the Chobe, seen especially well from our boat trip, and present in Savuti, Khwai River at lunch, common in Moremi, common in so. Moremi and some immatures were sighted there

Kittlitz's Plover - *S* a small group seen on the dry pan area of Savuti, breeding plumage. Ewan tells us they bury their eggs with sand when they want to go out to feed, and Peg replied, "how reptilian!"

Three-banded Plover - *C* seen by one of the vehicles group in Chobe

White-fronted Plover - *N* Peg spotted two of this species as others watched sand grouse, elephants and more!

Caspian Plover - *S, N* two birds seen in the same area we found Kittlitz's Plover in the dry area of Savuti. Nxai Pan we had a group of 8-10 birds feeding in the short grass of this fossil pan

Long-toed Lapwing - *C, M, Md* a pair seen very well from the boat in Chobe, and another at a long distance in Savuti. Seen well, with four chicks in Moremi at Hippo Pools and a few pair in so. Moremi, their porcelain undersides showing off well even at a distance

Blacksmith (Plover) Lapwing - *C,S,M, Md* numerous in Chobe, fairly common in Savuti, adults and immatures, Khwai River, Moremi very common again both locations. New precious young chicks seen in so. Moremi

White-crowned Lapwing - *C* one pair seen in Chobe, shown to us by Lebs, our keen-eyed boat driver, seen again, and photographed in Zambia along the river on the sunset boat trip and from shore

African Wattled Lapwing - *C,M, Md* one pair seen in Chobe from the boat, Moremi a few pair near Hippo Pools camp and one pair at wonderful coffee break, our second of the trip with hippos our last full day in the park

Crowned Lapwing - *C,S,M, Md* present in Chobe but numerous in Savuti, Moremi at both locations they were regular, seen on all days, but not numerous

African Snipe - *Md* one van had good looks at two in flight, with their long beaks and rapid flight, the other van had one fly up for a similar display

Marsh Sandpiper - *C,M, Md* a few individuals in Chobe, more abundant in Moremi at both locations

Common Greenshank - *C, M, Md* Chobe and Moremi, the latter location in good number, less common at ephemeral pools in so. Moremi but present

Green Sandpiper - *S* one individual seen well in Savuti, feeding near a lone Marsh Sandpiper

Wood Sandpiper - *C,S,M, Md* scattered individuals in both Chobe and Savuti, very common at both locations Moremi - by far the most common sandpiper (non-plover) species encountered

Common Sandpiper - *C, M, Z* Chobe along the river, and a few in Moremi days of Hippo Pools camp, Zambia along the river islands

Ruff - *C,S,M, Md* one group seen at close range in Savuti, other groups seen in flight, also Chobe, Moremi in wetland areas small groups and then seen on one morning in so. Moremi

Black-winged Stilt - *C,S,M, Md* very common throughout, beautiful photo opportunities in the soft light of dawn and dusk, with reflections on the river mirroring their natural elegance

Water Thick-knee - *C, M, Z* two pair seen along the Chobe River cruise, both nesting, one individual from platform at Hippo Pools in Moremi, one calling revealed a pair in so. Moremi on a small island of one of the larger wetland pools, several seen on last morning cruise on the Zambezi

Spotted Thick-knee - *N* Mr. Fish made a special effort for our diligent birders, trekking around the Baobab loop where we found one pair of this species

Double-banded Courser - *S* a lovely bird, a lone sighting on the pans of Savuti

Collared Pratincole - *M, Md* this impressive bird with its long wings was a great find and new to many of the group in Moremi, seen on one other location near our second camp in southern Moremi

Grey-headed Gull - *C* abundant in Chobe, fun to watch them fish, many hauled out on shore

African Skimmer - *C, Z* we were fortunate to see several of these in flight and a pair on the sandy shore. We were thrilled to have several pair feeding close to our boat on the sunset boat ride on the Zambezi River and then found 35+ resting on one river island sandbar!

Yellow-throated Sand Grouse - *S* seen in flight our first full morning in Savuti

Double-banded Sandgrouse - *C, M, Md* seen on the dirt track we drove in Savuti, then on several occasions there, in flight and feeding in dry areas, Moremi. In southern Moremi we saw as many as thirty or so sitting in the soft sand tracks one night as we headed home

Burchell's Sandgrouse - *Md, N* one seen with chicks and photographed - gorgeous bird! At Nxai Pan we found them more common, heard them chirping, and watched them come and go at the waterhole.

Rock Doves - Maun

Laughing Dove - *Md, Z* so. Moremi in small number

Cape Turtle Dove - *C, S, M, Md, N, Z* abundant in Chobe and Savuti, Khwai River, Moremi. Its call can be likened to "work harder", "drink lager" or "Botswana", the repetition of all was relentless! Nxai Pan, back to the chants of "Botswana" with large numbers flying around the waterhole. Heard one last time serenading our last riverside coffee break in Zambia

Red-eyed Dove - *S, M, Md, Z* several individuals seen in Savuti, more commonly in Moremi, so Moremi, never in large number but regular. Uncommon in Nxai Pan, common around towns, some in Zambia around villages and falls

Emerald Spotted Wood Dove - *C, S, M, Md, Z* seen in good number, though small flocks or scattered individuals in Chobe and Savuti, Moremi both locations and at Victoria Falls

Namaqua Dove - *S, M, Md* first seen in Savuti, good views as they drank water, Mopane woods on travel day to Moremi, fairly common in Moremi

African Green Pigeon - *Md, Z* Two sightings, the first a group of 8 or so birds, seen feeding on African ebony trees near camp. Day glow colors - wow! Also seen on birding outing in Zambia

Meyer's Parrot - *C, M, Md* two individuals seen on our last morning drive along the river in Chobe, one over hippo pools at Moremi first afternoon for one van, one van again saw them well one morning in Moremi, then daily in small numbers in so. Moremi. Usually we were alerted by their calls, but the flash of their turquoise colors was always a reward for our searchings

Grey Go-away-bird (Lourie) - *C, S, Md* common Chobe and present in Savuti, again fairly common in so. Moremi

Coppery-tailed Coucal - *C, M, Md, Z* seen from the boat trip in Chobe, then again in Savuti on our morning drive, very obvious from their large size and bold pattern, Khwai River at bridges, Hippo Pools Moremi, fairly common so. Moremi, call has an owl-like quality, often near water

Senegal Coucal - *S, M, Md* we checked tail pattern carefully in so. Moremi so know that we had this species of small coucal in good number, here. We saw several at close range in Chobe which we first called Burchell's but checking range maps we err on the side of caution here and list with Senegal's which we checked later in the trip - good to note those upper tail coverts next time!

White-browed Coucal - *M* one individual, near Moremi Third Bridge campground and gate

African Scops Owl - *M, Md* David called up this little cutie as it occurred both nights at our first Moremi camp, fun! It also called in the early morning hours at our second camp

Spotted Eagle Owl - *N* One bird that flew alongside our van at dusk, then perched for us to observe, wow!

Giant (Verreaux's) Eagle-Owl - *C, S, M, Md* Jane found this great bird RIGHT over our heads where we parked and prepared our picnic lunch on the travel day between Chobe and Savuti. We then found another at dawn in Savuti, perched picturesquely on a large dead snag. Seen a couple of times, one drinking water early in the morning, in so. Moremi

Pel's Fishing Owl - Md found on a tree island of the Delta, scope views and photos, an incredible memory and lucky sighting for all.

Pearl-spotted Owllet - S,M, Md Savuti, seen at dusk, then two birds seen at dawn emerging from a hole in a large tree, our last morning leaving we saw again. Great photos on one of our game drives in Moremi, heard several times in so. Moremi

African Barred Owllet - M great views of one near Hippo Pools, Moremi

Fiery-necked Nightjar - N great night sounds all around our camp, with quick glimpses of the bird in flight. Great to wake to at dawn.

African Palm Swift - C, M, N a few individuals in Chobe, then again around palms in so. Moremi. We saw them in town in Maun, on the travel day and taking on water at the waterhole in Nxai Pan

Red-faced Mousebird - M, Md, Z small group seen in flight on two occasions, and on one of the islands of the river on our cruise in Zambia

Narina Trogon - C *Heard Only*, in Chobe - calling in the thick trees at our campsite in the early hours of morning

Giant Kingfisher - C, Z Seen along the Chobe our final stop at the lodge, and then in Zambia

Pied Kingfisher - C,S,M, Md, Z - numerous in Chobe, great views as it plunged after fish or called to mates and young along the river. A few individuals seen in Savuti, Khwai River bridge and Moremi - both locations, very common and photogenic, including from our boat trip. Seen in good number on the river in Zambia

Brown-hooded Kingfisher - C, Z First picked up in trees around Chobe Marina Hotel, then in the woods around the Zambezi River

Malachite Kingfisher - M, Z seen by one of the van groups on our final morning, spent mainly with the lion and her small six-week old cub, in so. Moremi. We looked at length for this one so it was a great find! Luckily, we picked a few more on the Zambezi

White-fronted Bee-eater - C, Z one individual in Chobe, southern gate Chobe and Moremi, and then a group nesting in holes of a high part of the river bank in Zambia

Little Bee-eater - C,S, Md seen in both Chobe and Savuti, at their nest holes in piled sand in the dry area of Savuti, scattered pairs and evidence of nesting in so. Moremi

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater - C,M,N what a lovely bird, seen well in Chobe in small numbers, also on our travel day and perched for inspection on several game drives in Moremi from our first camp, Nxai Pan, a few seen while on game drives scattered individuals

Southern Carmine Bee-eater - C,M, Md incredible numbers (1000's) in Chobe, decorating branches of dead trees along the river, and settling in to nest on sand islands of the river, Khwai River lunch spot, Moremi and so. Moremi - a favorite of our photographers. Seen over town in Kasane

Lilac-breasted Roller - C,S,M, Md, N, Z numerous, regular, spectacular, esp. with full sunlight. Less common in Nxai Pan than other locations.

Purple Roller - C one individual seen on our travel day between Chobe and Savuti

African Hoopoe - C, M Heard only in Chobe, then a glimpse on first afternoon in Moremi, then seen well twice in extensive Mopane woodlands leaving Moremi first camp to second

Green Wood Hoopoe - C,S,M seen at the entrance station in Chobe, then very well one morning on a small tree, probing for insects with purpose, in Savuti, Moremi in good number. Mr. Fish describes their calls as the "giggling women."

Common Scimitarbill - C,S, N seen on our travel day in the Chobe section, then very well in a flowering acacia tree where it fed alongside two species of woodpeckers. One seen on the Baobab Loop drive in Nxai Pan

Red-billed Hornbill - C,S,M, Md common and tame around camps, in the countryside Chobe and Savuti, all locations of travel day into Moremi, so. Moremi. Everywhere one of our most regular and numerous birds - beating Lilac-breasted Roller and Fork-tailed Drongo by a good margin, though all three very common throughout all locations, all days.

Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill - C, S, M, Md, N a few individuals in Chobe, numerous in Savuti, esp. bold at our camp, travel day into Moremi, and both locations Moremi. The most common hornbill in Nxai Pan

Bradfield's Hornbill - C,S, N seen in small number at both Chobe and Savuti and then later at Nxai Pan

African Grey Hornbill - C,S,M, Md, Z seen in small number but regularly Chobe and Savuti, travel day to Moremi, then in fair number at both Moremi locations. Boat trip on the Zambezi

Trumpeter Hornbill - Z one can only say WOW, this large, vocal bird feeding in fruiting trees of a steep ravine of Victoria Falls was a highlight. Good size group with lots of photo opportunity and behavior

Southern Ground-Hornbill - M, Md group of five or six at lunch stop on the Khwai River, great to watch feed as they would toss their bills to the sky then swallow certain prey items. Several family groups seen on each day in Moremi and so. Moremi, we were pleased to see them doing well.

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird - Md one bird spotted by Judy for all of us to admire on our island lunch spot in the Okavanga Delta.

Acacia Pied Barbet - N First encountered at the Baines Baobob lunch stop, then again in small shrubs en route to the waterhole at Nxai Pan, seen on two days

Black-collared Barbet - Md, Z two sightings during our time in so. Moremi, one on a tree island in the Delta. Seen well on steep ravine trail in Victoria Falls

Crested Barbet - Md, Z Great flashy bird, seen on two occasions, on the bird outing in Zambia

Bennett's Woodpecker - C., M, Md between Khwai river and southern gate Chobe, near Hippo Pools Moremi and several other locations Moremi and so. Moremi

Cardinal Woodpecker - S, M, Md a female seen in flowering acacia tree, Savuti, nesting in Savuti, fun to watch the female excavating and male displaying. Our most commonly seen woodpecker

Bearded Woodpecker - S two individuals and some tussling and display seen, Savuti, then another on travel day to Moremi

Rufous-naped Lark - S western form seen well in our scopes at Savuti

Fawn-colored Lark - N Nxai Pan, a few individuals

Sabota Lark - M, N David and Judy and Mr. Fish had this bird on the travel day to Moremi, then we all had time to study and find a few in Nxai Pan

Spike-heeled Lark - N Seen in good number the first day going in to Baines Baobob

Chestnut-backed Sparrow Lark - S, N small flock seen in Savuti, others at the waterhole in Nxai Pan, lovely bird!

Red-capped Lark - N numerous in Nxai Pan, the most common lark, bright in plumage, seen all three days

Pink-billed Lark - N one individual seen in Nxai Pan

Sand Martin - C seen on the boat trip in Chobe

Banded Martin - Md Seen over a small pool near one of our lion sightings, in between Mr. Lion's activities...

Grey-rumped Swallow - M Moremi

Barn Swallow - Kasane, seen by a couple of the group

Wire-tailed Swallow - C seen on the boat trip in Chobe

Lesser Striped Swallow - C, Md one individual seen with other swallows on the boat trip in Chobe, scope views of several perched on tree island of the delta, fairly common over the waters of the delta

African Pied Wagtail - C, Z one landed on our boat in Chobe, at our hotel in Kasane after the trip, and in Zambia on the river

Cape Wagtail - Md several seen from boat trip on the delta

African Pipit - S, N travel day from Savuti to Moremi and then again quite close to the Land Rovers in Nxai Pan. Likely one of the more common species, having a mixed interest group we did not linger over every pipit, though our 'non-birders' would likely not confer!

Buffy Pipit - S this one took some work and close inspection, the pink coloration on the lower mandible helped us confirm, we then saw others

Black Cuckoo Shrike - C several individuals seen in Chobe

Dark-capped Bulbul - C, Md, Z best looks at boat dock in Chobe, but fairly common there. Very common in Victoria Falls

African Red-eyed Bulbul - C, Md, N seen in one area of Chobe, then again on our boat ride day at so. Moremi, less common than Dark-capped. Common around our camp in Nxai Pan, lovely song and seen all days there

Magpie Shrike - C, M, Md travel day through Chobe and fairly common in Savuti, in groups, travel day to Moremi

Southern White-crowned Shrike - *S, Md* Savuti, good numbers on our first afternoon drive, travel day to Moremi, travel day to Maun

Brubru - *S* travel day, one bird perched high in a tree for our inspection with the scopes from the vehicle

Black-backed Puff back - *S, M, N, Z* lunch stop break in Savuti and also by our camp, harassing the hornbills, in Savuti, Khwai River, Baines Baobob lunch stop, Victoria Falls

Brown-crowned Chagra - *S, Md, N* Savuti and so. Moremi, just single sightings each at these two locations. More common (2-3 per day) in Nxai Pan

Tropical Boubou - *C, S, Z* we loved this birds calls (duets) at dawn and saw them in Chobe, Savuti, Victoria Falls

Swamp Boubou - *Md* pairs dueting greeted us at our camp, on the island we had lunch on the day of our boat trip and finally a third for those that missed it on our last morning game drive in so. Moremi

Crimson-breasted Shrike - *S, Md, N* Judy found our first one in Savuti, then we all caught up and had great looks and photo opportunities our day leaving Savuti. Seen well in Nxai Pan on several days

Orange-breasted Bush-Shrike - *C* Peg spotted this striking beauty at our lunch stop in the trees at Chobe

White-crested Helmet Shrike - *S, M* Savuti, seen well on our first afternoon drive, several individuals in days following, travel day to Moremi

Retz's Helmet Shrike - Maun, at our hotel, spotted by David and Judy

Kurrichane Thrush - *M* good views of a single bird in Moremi

Huegla's Thrush (White-browed Robin-Chat) - *C, Md, Z* HO at our Chobe camp spot, it held tight up in dense trees, singing... then heard again in a dense shrub patch in so. Moremi and at our so. Moremi camp early mornings. Stunning song but nice to see them at Kasane and Victoria Falls

Kalahari Scrub Robin - *N* This cute little bird with its cocky tail was seen around our camp and while on game drives, quite endearing. 2-5 individuals seen per day.

Capped Wheatear - *N* Fairly common, some courting, seen flying, feeding, perched on spring hare holes and termite mounds.

Ant-eating Chat - *N* quite common and visible in Nxai Pan, often perched on small shrubs and around spring hare burrows where they locate their nests

African Stonechat - *C, M, Md* a pair in Chobe, along the river seen from our cruise, and on our boat trip near Mbomba in Moremi, a few other scattered individuals in so. Moremi

Capped Wheatear - *N* These beauties, in bright breeding plumage were common in Nxai Pan and setting up to nest, often perched on springhare or termite mounds

Arnot's Chat - *M* common, a great woodland bird seen right away upon entering mature mopane forest in Moremi

Harlaub's Babbler - *M, Md* noisy flocks, Moremi and so. Moremi, at this time less common than Arrow-marked which was a surprise to our guides

Southern Pied Babbler - *S, N* large flock our first full morning at Savuti - fun to watch their wild antics. At Nxai Pan they loved investigating around our camp and tried to get water from the shower buckets. Noisy and striking!

Arrow-marked Babblers - *C, S, M, Md* fairly common both Chobe and Savuti, less so but present in Moremi

Rattling Cisticola - *C, N* Chobe, and at Nxai Pan where we had a good subject to study at close range

Tinkling Cisticola - *Md* boat trip in Moremi out into reed grasses of the Delta, great to have views and song

Chirping Cist cola - *Md* boat trip in Moremi, with its long ragged tail and strong habitat association with the reeds makes it a more distinct Cisticola!

Desert Cist cola - *N*. Time here to study these little ones, got field marks to note them in Nxai Pan, where we noted them on two days

Tawny-flanked Prinia - *C* lunch spot at Chobe

Black-chested Prinia - *N* one individual seen with some other birds in a small mixed group in Nxai Pan

Yellow-breasted Apalis - *C, Z* lunch spot at Chobe, mother feeding young in the nest at Victoria Falls

Gray-backed Camaroptera - *C, M, N* seen skulking around shrubs at our lunch spot, Chobe, again at another thick-brush area, lovely call, morning coffee stop in southern Chobe and Moremi. Singing at our camp and seen in several spots and both days in Nxai Pan.

Barred Wren Warbler - N This busy skulker, hopping around the base of shrubs acting like one of our towhees but with a cocky tail took some work, as only the Robert's guide has them painted with the cocked tail, which it held throughout feeding as we watched it. Close to the jizz of scrub robins, this one is a sleeper but well worth the effort to find. One excellent guide on this species is the photographic guide. We were lucky to have good digital images to review leg color, tail color and barring.

Long-billed Crombec -C, M, N, Z lunch spot Chobe, then at the flowering acacias and other shrubs in Savuti, Moremi, a couple of spots in Nxai Pan

Chestnut-vented Tit-babbler - N seen in small shrubs at a couple locations in Nxai Pan

Garden Warbler - N One individual in small shrubs going into Baines Baobab

Chat Flycatcher - N Fairly common in Nxai Pan.

Marico Flycatcher - M, N several seen in shrub habitat of Moremi, fairly common in Nxai Pan where they occur with the similar Chat Flycatcher

Southern Black Flycatcher - C,S, M, Z travel day Chobe to Savuti, in a small mixed flock, Moremi woodlands

Spotted Flycatcher - C sparse shrubbery along the river in Chobe, and on our travel day while still in Chobe

Chinspot Batis - C travel day Chobe, mixed flock near entrance, morning coffee stop in southern Chobe

Southern Black Tit - C, M, Md travel day Chobe, mixed flock near entrance, then at several locations where we were near thicker shrubs or woodlands

Collared Sunbird - C Thick vegetation around our hotel in Kasane

Amethyst Sunbird - Z Birding outing, David and Judy spotted this beauty

White-bellied Sunbird - C,S, Md Chobe, common at our rest stops, singing often, Savuti and Moremi, the most common and widespread of sunbirds we encountered

Marico Sunbird - Md several at the boat launch in flowering trees in Moremi

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting - C Chobe

Golden-breasted Bunting - C, N lovely bird, seen in Moremi, out from our Hippo Pools camp area only. Then another seen in a small flock of mixed species in Nxai Pan

Yellow Canary - Kasane, in large trees by the pool of our hotel

Yellow-fronted Canary - N, Md seen well, several individuals in groups at Nxai Pan, though first spotted in southern Moremi

Green winged Pytilia - C, M, N great bird seen well in the scope on our morning coffee break, southern Chobe and then again in arid shrubs of our final lunch spot leaving Moremi, in flocks at Nxai Pan, often with Blue Waxbills

Brown Firefinch - Md small flock observed on the island of our lunch stop on the boat trip into Okavango

Red-billed Firefinch - C, N Chobe, then on our travel day to Nxai Pan

Jameson's Firefinch - Z Victoria Falls on the major trail to photo viewpoints, near the bus stop for those returning to Zimbabwe

Blue Waxbill - C, S, N, Z common, lovely! Chobe and Savuti, coffee stop southern Chobe and woodlands Moremi, fairly common Nxai Pan and at Victoria Falls

Violet-eared Waxbill - S, N great views close to the ground on travel day into Savuti, southern Chobe, Nxai Pan in small shrubs, seen both days in Nxai Pan

Black-faced Waxbill - N seen well at the closing of the day as we watched sleeping lions near the waterhole

Village Indigobird - towns and travel days near villages, highly social

Shaft-tailed Whydah - C, S females seen, single birds and small numbers in flocks of mixed species, Chobe and Savuti - though no fancy breeding plumes yet....

Red-billed Buffalo Weaver - S, Md, N noisy and common, with their signature HUGE nests, Savuti, travel day to Moremi, a few in Nxai Pan on the Baobab Loop

Southern Grey-headed Sparrow - C, M, Md, N, Z flock seen at our travel day lunch Chobe, same location as our first Giant Eagle-Owl, morning coffee break southern Chobe, bathing elephant pool inside Moremi. Then seen on most days, common in towns

Yellow-throated Sparrow (Petronia) - C, M Chobe, flocks and on our travel day at the "owl" lunch stop, then on occasion in Moremi

Scaly-feathered Finch - *S, N* entertained us while we watched lions in Savuti marsh, also in mixed species flocks in Nxai Pan

White-browed Sparrow Weaver - *S, M, Md, N* singing and preparing nests in Savuti, then common and vocal throughout

Lesser Masked Weaver - *S, Md* Seen in Savuti and on the tree island in Okavango delta

Golden Weaver - *M* Moremi only one location

Southern Masked Weaver - *C, S, N* Chobe and Savuti, again in Nxai Pan

Village Weaver - *Z* nest building, Zambezi River

Spectacled Weaver - *Z* Seen in steep ravine trail collecting nest material

Red-headed Weaver - *M, Md* beautiful bird, seen first in Moremi building nests, then again on travel day drive between camps of Moremi

Red-billed Quelea - *M, Md, N* Moremi, so. Moremi, large flocks both places, also present in Nxai Pan

Red-winged Starling - *Z* Victoria Falls, in fruiting trees with Trumpeter Hornbills

Cape Glossy Starling - *N* Nxai Pan, darker color drew our eye to this, as starlings became so numerous we forgot to always check them!

Greater Blue-eared Starling - *C, S, M, Md* Chobe, travel day to Moremi, Moremi long lines seen going to roost, southern Moremi abundant

Burchell's Starling - *S, M, Md* large size and brilliant colors common in Savuti, travel day into Moremi, so. Moremi, in flight often suggests a crow with its size and flight style...

Meves's Starling - *C, Md* Chobe and locations forward, in so. Moremi at times in good number with mixed groups

Wattled Starling - *C, M* Chobe, Hippo pools first afternoon in Moremi

Yellow-billed Oxpecker - *S, M, Md* Chobe, Moremi, so. Moremi on hippos, giraffes, impala

Red-billed Oxpecker - *M, Md* common on giraffes and buffaloes, Chobe and Savuti, hippos in Moremi too

African Golden Oriole - *M, Z* Moremi, Zambia on the birding outing

(Eastern) Black-headed Oriole - *M* great looks at one individual on a game drive out from our first Moremi camp

Fork-tailed Drongo - *C, S, M, Md, N* common Chobe and Savuti, next most regular to Lilac-breasted Roller, travel day into Moremi, both locations, still very common, all three days seen at Nxai Pan

Cape Crow - *N* seen as we left the gate of Nxai Pan our final day there

Pied Crow - *S, N, Z* travel day outside Savuti, Nxai Pan and Zambia

Mammals (34 species):

Most mammals we had repeated opportunity to observe at our various locations. We enjoyed a real “indulgence of animals!”

Chacma Baboon – all locations, some very large troops, lots of behavior to watch, many young

Vervet Monkey – all locations except Nxai Pan, common

Elephant – Seen at all locations, in very large numbers at times, bathing, feeding, young frolicking in the water. Spending time with these huge mammals was amazing, a real signature of this particular trip

Black-backed Jackal – seen in small number until Nxai Pan where we saw several packs and wandering individuals throughout the day

Wild Dog - Savuti – a pack of five with very full bellies, we watched the rest, seek soft sand, and then at dusk, play and greet

Lion – we saw lone males, a duo of males, a male eating a zebra, a lioness with one young cub and a group of four robust lionesses with their two healthy cubs – great times with lion watching!

Leopard - one in Chobe and two sightings in Moremi, what a thrill!

African Wild Cat - Jessie's Pool, Xakanaka, Moremi

Spotted Hyena - at several of our camps, a few got to see them at dusk or by looking out with flashlights as they would call, they did not stay around long if disturbed

Giraffe (Southern Reticulated) – all locations

Springbok - Nxai Pan only

Impala – the most abundant antelope of our journey, seen with Springbok in Nxai Pan in small number
Greater Kudu – most locations of the main journey, in small number
Red Lechwe – All locations of main tour
Steenbok – Nxai Pan and near the Rock Art site of Moremi
Sable Antelope – Chobe
Roan Antelope – Chobe
Klipspringer - Rock art site in Savuti, two nosing each other on the ridgeline
Oryx (Gemsbok) - Nxai Pan only
Waterbuck – Chobe and Savuti
Puku - only one sighting, from boat trip in Chobe
Tsessebe - a few in Chobe, more in Moremi but never as common as other antelope species for us
Brindled Gnu (Blue Wildebeest) – all locations
Buffalo - seen mainly in Chobe, there in large number
Hippopotamus – all locations of main journey (not Nxai Pan), but particularly in southern Moremi they seemed like our bedfellows and we saw two out of the water
Burchell's Zebra – all locations
Warthog – all locations
Yellow Mongoose - dry areas of Savuti only
Banded Mongoose – several troops seen and photographed, we saw them quite readily in Savuti and then again at most locations
Dwarf Mongoose - Khwai River – just the one sighting
Slender Mongoose – we saw these at several locations of the main journey, but very regularly in southern Moremi. One kept peeking out at us from a termite mound on our route to and from camp
Honey Badger – one spotted very early morning by one of our vehicles near the Hippo Pools in Moremi and another got in to our camp one night, breaking open a tin of Sallie's homemade cookies!
African Scrub Hare - Nxai Pan
Tree Squirrel – seen daily, one being chased by a Leopard was exciting to watch

Reptiles and Amphibians (3 species):

Tree Monitor Lizard - one sighting in Moremi, climbing a tree
Water Monitor Lizard - Chobe and Zambezi River
Nile Crocodile – common, some VERY large!

Trees of Note (*among many fascinating plants to numerous to list...*)

Rain Trees - covered with beautiful purple flowers, everywhere in bloom
Baobabs, - some of the large ones likely over 1000 years in age
Mopane - numerous, a favorite food of elephants, they provided shade for camp and interesting habitat to explore
Acacias, various species, several in bloom
Hyphaene Palms - tall palms of the delta region
Gomoti Figs - trees of the islands where we found Pel's Fishing Owl

