



Naturalist Journeys & Caligo Ventures Botswana Bird, Mammal & Other Species List September 4-16, 2016

*Peg Abbott, tour host, with Ewan Masson and Mr. Fish Mothokawabo as local expert guides
with 9 participants: Andrea, Bud, Gingy, Les, Trina, Ed, Beth, Pam, and Tere*

List compiled by Peg Abbott

Birds (214 species):

Struthionidae: Ostriches (1)

Common Ostrich *Struthio camelus*— Maun, we had 3 individuals seen on the farm at Royal Tree; Moremi, seen on 3 days, males and females, but no small young

Anatidae: Ducks and Geese (7)

White-faced Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*— Maun, we spotted them on our river walks in good number, 200 or more. Moremi, seen in good numbers, 50 or more along wetlands of the Khwai River, Pom-Pom, present as small groups, 6-12 in the wetlands, Chobe, seen on both river trips, loafing and feeding on the islands, 40-50 noted at a time

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*— Maun, a few seen along the river; Moremi, seen daily, several pair at small wetlands, 70 or more in the vast Khwai River wetland, Chobe, seen daily – a dozen or more

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*— Moremi, seen on four days, typically one or two pair; Pom-Pom, mostly lone pairs, Chobe, 1-2 pair along the river

African Pygmy Goose *Nettapus auritus*— Maun, a pair along the river; Pom-Pom, numerous, 17-30 seen on our boat rides, and many pair in view from the porches of our tents, feeding on bulbs of water lilies

Yellow-billed Duck *Anas undulata*— Moremi only, 3 individuals seen at one stop from Xini Camp on two days

Red-billed Teal *Anas erythroryncha*— Moremi only, seen on five days in groups of 7-8

Hottentot Teal *Anas hottentota*— Moremi only, seen on two days, each day one pair only

Numididae: Guineafowl (1)

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*— Moremi, seen daily in groups of 10-30, several groups encountered per day, with a day count high of 160. At sunset they often moved into clearings and ran about, we called it soccer time for them. Pom-Pom we encountered them only on our final morning drive when we were searching for Leopard; Chobe, seen in small groups 6-12 on our game drives

Phasianidae: Quail, Partridges, and Pheasants (3)

Red-billed Spurfowl (Francolin) *Pternistis adspersus*— Maun, our first sightings were here, several groups of 2-12 on the farm of Royal Tree. Moremi, seen daily, very regularly, and a few had young chicks. The day count high in Moremi was 75. Chobe, small numbers seen on our game drives, 2-6 with several groups spotted

Swainson's Spurfowl (Francolin) *Pternistis swainsonii*— Moremi, less common than Red-billed Spurfowl but present on five days, usually seen in pairs, or small groups of less than six; Pom-Pom, present on the game drives, again pairs or small groups. Chobe, just a few individuals seen on game drives

Crested Francolin *Francolinus sephaena*— Maun, a few seen at the farm; Moremi, pairs seen on three days; Chobe, a small group seen on our afternoon game drive

Ciconiidae Storks (4)

African Openbill *Anastomus lamelligerus*— Maun, first seen along the Thamalakane River at Royal Tree. Moremi, 3-4 seen regularly in wetlands from our Khwai Camp; Pom-Pom, present daily, we'd seen 10-12 feeding in the lagoon, and at dusk long lines of them going to roost, up to 200 birds; Chobe, seen on both river trips

Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*— Maun, first one and then two seen on our river walks at the Royal Tree Lodge; Moremi, seen daily along the Khwai, several pair; Pom-Pom we got very close views from our boats, able to sort out male and female at eye-level

Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumenifer*— Maun, we had a few in flight near the farm; Moremi, seen just one day when we also had vulture sightings; Pom-Pom, seen on the way from the airport to the Camp, then in trees around the Camp; Chobe, seen on our first game drive by the buffalo carcass

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis*— Maun, a couple individuals by the Thamalakane River; Moremi, seen just our last afternoon along the Khwai wetlands; Pom-Pom, stunning and memorable views of this species in breeding plumage, Andrea described them as being cloaked in a beautiful mantle. Chobe, we were again able to get very close viewing, including them feeding by mantling with one wing

Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants (1)

Long-tailed (Reed) Cormorant *Phalacrocorax africanus*— Maun, seen along the river on our first walks, 2-3 individuals; Moremi, seen at larger wetlands and daily along the Khwai; Pom-Pom, seen daily, and at close range from our mokoro canoes, Chobe, common on both river trips; V. Falls, a couple of individuals fishing above the falls

Anhingidae: Anhingas (1)

African Darter *Anhinga rufa*— Moremi, fairly common along the Khwai River; Pom-Pom, numerous in the lagoon; Chobe, regularly encountered on the river, including several perched on the same snags overhanging the river as Reed Cormorants for close comparison

Pelecanidae: Pelicans (1)

Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens*— Moremi, a few individuals at one waterhole our first day between South Gate and Xini Camp, our guides said many more had been there the week previous; Pom-Pom, seen on the flight out to Camp, a pair with huge wingspans over the Delta wetlands

Scopidae: Hammerkop (1)

Hammerkop *Scopus umbretta*— Moremi, seen on six days, several per day, often hunting actively. One eating a frog on the Khwai River as we watched elephants was memorable. Pom-Pom, we found them daily, Chobe, less common but 1-3 individuals seen along the river margin on our game drives and boat trips; V. Falls, one individual seen in flight

Ardeidae: Herons and Egrets (13)

Gray Heron *Ardea cinerea*— Maun, 1-2 individuals seen on our first river walks. Moremi, 1-2 present at almost every wetland area large or small; Pom-Pom, 1-5 individuals per day, Chobe, 1-2 spotted on each river trip

Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath*— Maun, we were surprised to see one so close to town, along the river on our walks. Moremi, Ewan commented on how much more common they seemed this year, we noted at least one on six days, and at the Horseshoe Bend area of Khwai there were at least three working the area. Chobe, several seen well from both of our river trips

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*— Moremi, seen on just one day, quite secretive, one individual. Chobe, we had multiple individuals, at least four, on our final river trip in a quiet channel of the river

Great Egret *Ardea alba*— Maun, Moremi, Pom-Pom, Chobe: seen every day except going to Vic. Falls, widespread, and at appropriate wetlands there by the dozen

Intermediate (Yellow-billed) Egret *Mesophyx intermedia*— Moremi, present along wetlands of the Khwai; Pom-Pom, a few individuals; Chobe, 2-4 were seen daily along the river

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*— Moremi, first seen along the Khwai where we had them daily; Pom-Pom, present in the lagoon; Chobe, 2-12 seen on each river trip; V. Falls, one individual hanging out below the falls in a quiet side channel

Slaty Egret *Egretta vinaceigula*— Moremi only, we had repeated and excellent looks at this specialty of the region, with multiple individuals seen on six days. The daily high count was 12.

Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca*— Chobe only, 2-3 individuals seen on each of our boat trips, secretive. We did see two hunting by mantling their wings

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*— Maun, present around the grazing mammals; Moremi, not common, seen on two days around buffalo; Pom-Pom, a few present around buffalo and other grazing animals; Chobe, twenty or more in the big herd of buffalo using the large island of the river; V. Falls, seen around village cattle

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*— Maun, 3-4 seen along the river; Moremi, seen on six days, numerous especially at the Khwai wetlands where we had over twenty at a scan with a daily high count of 44; Pom-Pom, seen daily, a dozen or more; Chobe, less common but present among the other wading birds

Rufous-bellied Heron *Ardeola rufiventris*— Moremi, seen in small numbers, 2-6 on three days; Chobe, Peg spied one individual in the quiet channel of the river we visited our last morning

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*— Maun, one individual along the river; Pom-Pom, a couple seen on our motorized outing; Chobe, a couple seen along the river

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*— Pom-Pom, a few individuals seen by one of the vehicles returning from the Night Drive; Chobe, one seen near shore on a dead snag leaning over the river our final morning

Threskiornithidae Ibis and Spoonbills (4)

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*— Moremi, Chobe

(African) Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*— Moremi, Chobe

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash*— Moremi only, much less frequently encountered than our 2010 tour when they occurred at all locations. Seen or heard on four days, a pair or group of 6 or fewer

African Spoonbill *Platalea alba*— Moremi, Chobe

Sagittariidae: Secretary-bird (1)

Secretary-bird *Sagittarius serpentarius*— Moremi, one individual seen by one of the vehicles our first day at a distance

Acciptridae: Kites, Hawks and Eagles (18)

African Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides typus*— Moremi, seen at the rest stop by the Khwai Gate, two individuals in flight

White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis*— Moremi, one individual in with a group of Lappet-faced Vultures on a hyena kill we spotted in a dry area known to be frequented by Wild Dogs, which had left their den near here the week before

Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos*— Moremi, several individuals seen on a Hyena kill near a recently-used Wild Dog den; Chobe, six or more individuals on a buffalo carcass along the river

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus*— Moremi, just a few seen in flight on one day; Chobe, scores of them seen on a buffalo carcass along the river

White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus*— Our most frequently seen vulture, observed on ten days of the journeys. Moremi, seen on five days with a high count of 8, Chobe, seen daily, with over 50 on the buffalo carcass

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus*— Frequently encountered as pairs, a group favorite after one vehicle had superb photo moments. Moremi, spotted on six of the days, seen also from Pom-Pom but strangely missing for us at Chobe

Black-breasted (Black-chested) Snake-Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis*— Chobe, one individual seen by a few of our group on the sunset boat ride we took from our lodge

Brown Snake-Eagle *Circaetus cinereus*— Moremi only, seen on two days, high count of two

Banded Snake- Eagle *Circaetus cinerascens*— Pom-Pom, we had super looks at the same lone individual on two days, both times from boats out in the open marsh

Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus*— Moremi, just one individual seen perched by one of the vehicles returning to camp from a morning game drive. We were awed by this regal bird!

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax*—Moremi, *seen on five or our days, normally just one individual and occasionally a pair*; Pom-Pom, seen on the flight in, passing between our two planes! Chobe, one or two individuals seen daily, both light and dark phase birds. Vic Falls, one spotted at the border crossing

African Hawk-Eagle *Aquila spilogaster*— Moremi, seen on two days, one pair spied as we drove to the airstrip, one facing us, the other showing off the dark back plumage, nice!

Dark-chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates*— Vic Falls, seen as we entered the town at the gate for the national park, perched in a large tree on an exposed limb, seen from the bus

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar*— Moremi only, one individual, a dark phase bird swept into a tree as it hunted, perched briefly (Peg got one photo), and left. Handsome species

African Marsh-Harrier *Circus ranivorus*— Moremi, seen on one day; Chobe, seen as we boarded the sunset boat cruise, coursing over the rushes that lined the shore

Little Sparrowhawk *Accipiter minullus*— Moremi, we got great views of a perched and then flying bird, but looked hard and long as it is unusual there at this time of year

Black (Yellow-billed) Kite *Milvus migrans aegyptius*— Moremi, the first of the season was spied on Day 4, then seen every day afterwards, 1 to 4 individuals

African Fish-Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer*— An icon of the region, we enjoyed watching them throw their heads back to utter that signature call. Maun, the first one spotted by Andrea; Moremi, Pom-Pom and Chobe, seen daily, sometimes 3 or 4 pair. We watched them fly, preen, court but not often fishing – this bird has a lot of leisure time!

Otididae: Bustards (1)

Kori Bustard *Ardeotis kori*— Moremi, seen on two days, two the first day and one the second, the first in tall grass and the second in an area that seemed barren, chance encounters

Rallidae: Rails and Crakes (3)

Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostra*— Moremi, Pom-Pom, Chobe, seen on five days with a high count of 6, not difficult to see, and when one was spotted you could watch it feeding in and out of vegetation

African Swampphen *Porphyrio madagascariensis*—Chobe, two individuals seen in a quiet part of the river, a small vegetation-clad channel; our local boatman knew the location but it can only be accessed by small boat

Eurasian Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*— Moremi, one individual seen in the marsh, the afternoon with Mr. Fish just before our Hippo altercation

Gruidae: Cranes (1)

Wattled Crane *Bugeranus carunculatus*— Moremi, we saw them on several days, at Horseshoe Bend we passed an individual that did not seem to move much, and on closer inspection we noticed its mound and egg. High count of two pair. Pom-Pom, a pair was seen on an island from our boats

Burhinidae: Thick-knees (2)

Water Thick-knee *Burhinus vermiculatus*— Moremi, Pom-Pom, Chobe, surprisingly regular, 1 to four individuals seen at a time, normally along a water channel and on the larger Chobe River

Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis* (HO) — Moremi only, heard from our Camp at Khwai after dark

Recurvirostridae: Stilts and Avocets (1)

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*— Moremi only, common in water habitats, we saw them each time we stopped to scan, 30 or more on some days

Charadriidae: Lapwings and Plovers (8)

Long-toed Lapwing *Vanellus crassirostris*— Moremi and Chobe, less numerous than the Blacksmith Plover, but a dozen or more seen on several days. Seen on seven days in total, this pair was nesting and several times we witnessed incubating adults or adults with very small chicks

Blacksmith (Plover) Lapwing *Vanellus armatus*— Maun, Moremi, Pom-Pom, Chobe, the most abundant shorebird seen, huge numbers – at times over 100 were seen as we'd stop to scan the wetlands

White-headed (White-crowned) Lapwing *Vanellus albiceps*— Chobe only, one pair in different locations, seen on two days along the river

Crowned Lapwing *Vanellus coronatus*— Moremi only, dry habitats, one pair seen on two days at different locations

Wattled Lapwing (African) *Vanellus senegallus*— Moremi, uncommon, we spied individuals on two days

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius*— Moremi, just two individuals seen the morning we spied the White-sided Jackal on the far side of Horseshoe Bend by Khwai

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*— Moremi, quite unusual, we have photos, two were on a mud bar on the large waterhole we had the Pink-backed Pelican at between South Gate and Xini

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris*— Moremi, pairs seen on four days, never common but a plover with striking markings that caught our attention

Jacanidae: Jacanas (2)

Lesser Jacana *Microparra capensis*— Pom-Pom only, we spied them from our boat rides, four from our quiet canoes and one on the faster speed boats

African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus*— Another signature species of the Okavango, present everywhere there was water, vocal, active, at this season nesting. Maun, seen along the river on our walks; Moremi, common everywhere, 50 to 100 some days; Pom-Pom, we found a nest with four eggs and had great views at eye-level from our mokoro canoes; Chobe, less common except in quiet waters but present

Scolopacidae: Sandpipers and Allies (8)

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*— Moremi and Chobe, seen along water areas one or two at a time

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*— Moremi only, probably under-counted, Peg noticed the first one going through her photos, looking more closely in the field found another, but if present, much less so than Wood and Marsh sandpipers.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*— Moremi, Pom-Pom, Chobe, lone individuals seen often with Common Sandpiper, seen on 7 days

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*— Moremi, individuals seen on five days, starting with a few, from Khwai numbers went up to a dozen to thirty or more per day

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*— Moremi, seen on the same five days we spied Marsh Sandpiper but less common than Marsh, a few individuals seen well from Horseshoe bend feeding

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*— Moremi, seen when we got to the extensive wetlands associated with the Khwai River, from Horseshoe Bend and other viewing sites, we had a half-dozen or so in each scan

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*— Moremi, eight individuals seen on only one day, at the same pond we had the Common Ringed Plover at between South Gate and Xini

African Snipe *Gallinago nigripennis*— Pom-Pom, a lightning-quick look at one individual we put into flight as our boat came back through the open water pathway at fairly high speed – seen in flight only

Turnicidae: Buttonquail (1)

Small (Common) Buttonquail *Turnix sylvaticus*— Moremi, thanks to Ewan we found this elusive species, he spied one crossing a small track, circled the vehicle around immediately and we watched it from above, then it ran mouse-style through thick grass and was gone

Glareolidae: Coursers and Pratincoles (1)

Collared (Red-winged) Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*— Moremi, seen on five days, with up to 20 individuals. Seen perched and flying, close enough for photography and to hear their vocalizations

Laridae: Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers (3)

Gray-hooded (Grey-headed) Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*— Chobe, individuals regular along the river, though less than a dozen in any given day

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrid*— Chobe only, seen on both our boat rides, several along the main river channel but more in the quiet backwater channel where we had African Swamphen

African Skimmer *Rynchops flavirostris*— Chobe only, seen on both river trips, numbers up to 30, mainly on very small sand islands where they are not disturbed by elephants and other herbivores

Pteroclididae: Sandgrouse (2)

Double-banded Sandgrouse *Pterocles bicinctus*— Moremi, seen on three days, typically 1 - 3 pairs; Pom-Pom, small group in flight on the first afternoon game drive

Burchell's Sandgrouse *Pterocles burchelli*— Moremi, one individual in with two pair of Double-banded at waterhole, found by Mr. Fish

Columbidae: Pigeons and Doves (8)

Rock Dove *Columba livia*— Maun, Kasane, just a few individuals

Mourning Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decipiens*— Maun, Moremi, Pom-Pom, Chobe, present but they seemed much less abundant than Ring-necked by about 10:1, we got admittedly lazy about doves by the latter part of the tour. This species seemed more numerous at Pom-Pom and around water areas, often identified by call as well as tail pattern

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Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata*— Maun, Moremi, Chobe, seen regularly with numbers of 2 – 12, large dark doves easy to tell from the smaller species

Ring-necked (Cape Turtle) Dove *Streptopelia capicola*— All locations, abundant, singing “Botswana”, “Work Harder, Drink Lager” depending on the day’s translation

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*— Maun, seen at water hole during our walk, Moremi, seen on five days, often coming in to drink at water features where we got good looks; Chobe, a few noted for the record **Emerald Spotted Wood-**

Dove *Turtur chalcospilos*— All locations, seen well and in regular but small numbers, best views by water features Moremi

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*— Moremi only, a regular sighting on our drives through Mopane woodland

African Green-Pigeon *Treron calvus*— Pom-Pom only, gregarious flocks were common in the fig trees around our tents, we saw them from our boat trips and on our game drive the first afternoon

Musophagidae: Turacos (2)

Gray Go-away-bird (Lourie) *Corythaixoides concolor*— Moremi, Pom-Pom, Chobe and Vic Falls, we noted this species on all but one day, after the first sighting in Moremi. Lots of personality. The one we won’t forget is the one we were oohing over at close range when a bull elephant gave a low rumbling tone all too close – in Africa one must look all directions!

Schalow’s Turaco *Tauraco schalowi*—Victoria Falls, an exciting find for Andrea and Peg on a quick walk back to try for this and the Trumpeter Hornbill after our walk and lunch in the morning. Success as it came in to a fruiting fig tree!

Cuculidae: Cuckoos and Allies (2)

Coppery-tailed Coucal *Centropus cupreicaudus*— Maun, we found both coucals on our first river walks and were able to compare the wing coloration and other features. They stayed near the ground making for easy inspection. Moremi, this species was seen every day, often sunning itself on vegetation clusters in the early morning as we’d leave camp. Several pairs seen daily. Pom-Pom, they were less common but present, a pair or two a day. Chobe, we noted them only on our last morning boat trip, less common here, one pair.

Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis*— Maun, one pair. Moremi, seen on three days, one pair only, less common than their Coppery-tailed cousin.

Strigidae: Owls (5)

African Scops Owl *Otus senegalensis (HO)*— Moremi only, heard nightly from our Xini Camp, and one night from Khwai. At times close, the presence of elephants, hippos, and nearby lions discouraged roaming about at night in search of owls!

Southern White-faced Owl *Ptilopsis granti (HO)* — Moremi, heard just one early morning from our Camp at Khwai.

Verreaux’s (Giant) Eagle-Owl *Bubo lacteus*— Moremi, we had super views when one flushed from a shade tree we parked by for tea time. We were able to get grand views when it perched in an adjacent large tree. An imposing owl!

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum*— Maun, Peg spotted our first one on the walk in the dryer forest area of Royal Tree Lodge, we had a great time viewing it and all had super looks. Moremi, seen on one day and heard all others, 1 -2 individuals. Pom-Pom, heard on both days

African Barred-Owlet *Glaucidium capense (HO)* — Moremi, heard on two nights from our camp at Khwai.

Caprimulgidae: Nightjars and Allies (2)

Fiery-necked Nightjar *Caprimulgus pectoralis*— Maun, we heard them at night, and Peg flushed one walking to breakfast. Moremi, one spied on the road returning to camp at dusk, heard nightly. Pom-Pom, also heard nightly, including from our night drive

Square-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus fossii*— Pom-Pom, we had excellent looks and Bud got photos of this species returning from our Night Drive

Apodidae: Swifts (2)

Little Swift *Apus affinis*—Victoria Falls and the Botswana / Zimbabwe border, about a dozen overhead there; Vic Falls, three at the rim

African Palm-Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*— Moremi, seen on four days, typically above forested riverine habitats; Pom-Pom, quite common, groups of 4-6 seen several times a day above palms on the delta islands

Coliidae: Mousebirds (1)

Red-faced Mousebird *Urocolius indicus*— Maun, seen in vegetation around Royal Tree Lodge; Moremi, seen on three days from our Xini Camp; Pom-Pom, we had better views here around the camp and on our outings; Chobe, again present around the hotel, singles and small groups observed; Vic Falls, a small group sighted

Upupidae: Hoopoes (1)

Eurasian (African) Hoopoe *Upupa epops africana*— Maun, we had the first ones feeding on the ground on our river walk, a great first day species! Moremi, we saw individuals or a pair on two days in the Mopane woodlands; Pom Pom, a pair was hanging out by the lodge.

Phoeniculidae: Woodhoopoes (2)

Green Woodhoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus*— Mr. Fish named these the “giggling ladies”, a perfect description. Always in groups, they announced their presence readily. Seen at all locations except Chobe and Vic Falls, we encountered at least one group per day, sometimes multiples. The day high count was 14. At Maun one group stayed quite awhile by the waterhole and surrounding vegetation.

Common Scimitar-bill *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*— Moremi, just one individual, seen by one vehicle, on the day we transferred from Xini to Khwai, near Third Bridge

Bucorvidae: Ground-Hornbills (1)

Southern Ground-Hornbill *Bucorvus leadbeateri*— Moremi, seen on six days, family groups of three or four, one group per day. We had great looks, and Andrea noted their chameleon-like eyes. Vic Falls, we had a group by the roadside feeding as we drove from the border to the Falls

Bucerotidae: Hornbills (5)

Bradfield's Hornbill *Lophoceros bradfieldi*— Moremi only, typically 1-2 individuals seen once or twice a day, not common

African Gray Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus*— All locations, seen daily. Typically one or two at a time, but although we had numerous sightings per day, total numbers were under a dozen

Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill *Tockus leucomelas*— Moremi only, regular but not numerous, seen each day there, 2-6 a day

Southern Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus rufirostris*— All locations, seen almost daily, and on some days over 50 individuals. At times they were in small groups of up to 6, more often 2-3 seen steadily

Trumpeter Hornbill *Bycanistes bucinator*— Victoria Falls, Andrea and Peg found 2 individuals seen in a fruiting fig tree. Peg ran back to get Les and Trina – too spectacular to miss!

Alcedinidae: Kingfishers (5)

Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus*— Pom-Pom, this was a “want to see” species for most of the group so we were really pleased to have good close looks on the boat trips. Even saw the malachite tips of the crown feathers. Very tame, they perched within a few feet; Chobe, in the small quiet channel off the main river we encountered several again. High count of 10 at Pom-Pom.

Brown-hooded Kingfisher *Halcyon albiventris*— Chobe, one individual seen on the Chobe River our final morning

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti*— Pom-Pom, our first sighting was right at the dining area at lunch. We found several on our boat trips there as well

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima*— Chobe, seen by Ed, Beth, Bud and Gingy their final morning with Michael on a small boat cruise, a great find. Vic Falls, seen by Peg only, flying across the Zambezi River

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*— All locations, we did not see them in any number during our days at Xini, but once we moved to Khwai, and stayed along water habitats, they were common the rest of the trip, some days we had twenty or more, hover-feeding, rattling, diving for fish, courting – a great common bird!

Meropidae: Bee-eaters (4)

White-fronted Bee-eater *Merops bullockoides*— Chobe, Vic Falls, we had a few individuals repeatedly flying over us as we waited for our Visas at the border crossing to Vic Falls – this was our only sighting

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus*— Maun, we found a flock on our first river walk, colorful and easy to observe as they sallied for insects. On the second morning walk we watched one eating a large mantid. Moremi, they were sighted regularly in small groups or pairs on five days, Pom Pom, we had a couple on the drive our first afternoon; Chobe, small numbers as well

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater *Merops hirundineus*— Moremi, seen on two days, individuals. The best sighting was at tea time when one flew around and then gobbled up a dragonfly before us

Southern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicoides*— Moremi, we seemed to catch the wave of those returning. We had good numbers at Horseshoe Bend at Khwai, where they seemed to decorate the shrubs, twenty or more at a time. We saw them at Pom-Pom and Chobe infrequently and in smaller numbers (1-10)

Coraciidae: Rollers (2)

Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus*— Moremi, from our first day in the park onward, this icon of Africa was with us daily, we saw 40 or more some days, and had a good laugh at Ewan's "ABR" short name (another bloody roller). Our photographers waited patiently for flight shots to record the amazing colors. Pom Pom, Chobe, and Vic Falls, small numbers each day

Rufous-crowned (Purple) Roller *Coracias naevius*— Moremi, just one individual, perched at close range, seen by one of the vehicles on one day. Vic Falls, one present at the border crossing as we returned late in the day

Lybiidae: Barbets (3)

Crested Barbet *Trachyphonus vaillantii*— Maun, a pair first spotted by the waterhole, their great colors causing a commotion among our birders. Moremi we heard their constant note calling on two days; Pom-Pom they appeared at the breakfast bread crumb fest each day and were encountered on outings; Chobe, we had them on the grounds of the hotel on two days, 2-4 per day

Pied (Acacia Pied) Barbet *Tricholaema leucomelas*— Maun, we spied this little dynamo on our walk around the dry forest area of Maun, where we are just on the edge of Kalahari fauna. Our only sighting for the trip

Black-collared Barbet *Lybius torquatus*— Maun, first recorded here in tall trees around Royal Tree Lodge, then at Pom-Pom they were quite common, seen around the lodge and on outings, 2-3 pair per day. Single pairs noted on two days at Chobe

Indicatoridae: Honeyguides (1)

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator*— Maun, one individual came to the waterhole one morning as we waited for breakfast at the waterhole bird show

Picidae: Woodpeckers (3)

Bennett's Woodpecker *Campethera bennettii*— Moremi only, we started to pick them up our final days around the Khwai camp, where on the final morning we got very good views. Individuals noted on those three days.

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens*— Maun only, we had a pair at Royal Tree Lodge frequently feeding around the lodge and waterhole

Bearded Woodpecker *Dendropicos namaquus*— Maun, a pair seen on our river walk; Moremi, individuals seen on three days; Pom-Pom, one individual spied on our first afternoon game drive

Falconidae: Falcons and Kestrels (1)

Dickinson's Kestrel *Falco dickinsoni*— Moremi, a pair seen feeding on one drive from our Xini Camp, we had super views of them perched, and preying on large invertebrates

Psittacidae: Parrots (1)

Meyer's Parrot *Poicephalus meyeri*— Moremi, seen on six days, numbers 1-12 with one flock active near our Xini Camp. Pom-Pom, they were feeding down on vegetation of the lagoon, finding curved beans of good size. We were able to observe them at eye-level from our mokoro canoes, not your standard parrot views! Chobe, we had a large group of 25 or more on the game drive

Platysteiridae: Wattle-eyes and Batis (1)

Chinspot Batis *Batis molitor*— Moremi, seen by Mr. Fish's group on one afternoon returning to camp, one pair in a mixed flock with other species. Chobe, Peg picked one up on our first afternoon game drive, when we were intent to find Leopard so did not linger

Vangidae: Vangas and Helmetshrikes (1)

White (-crested) Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus*— Maun only, there were quite a few active in the dry scrub vegetation and taller trees between our tents. Gingy found the first ones and came in to describe this "incredibly cute bird..."

Malaconotidae: Bushshrikes (9)

Brubru *Nilaus afer*— Moremi only, at our Khwai camp or near it, heard one day and seen our final outing

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Black-backed Puff back *Dryoscopus cubla*— Maun, we had a pair frequenting the lodge grounds and waterhole; Moremi a pair encountered one afternoon game drive. Chobe, one seen in a flock at the hotel our final morning

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus*— Moremi, seen on one day, and then Chobe, we had another individual seen by a fallen log as we stopped ashore on our final boat ride, in with other species ground feeding

Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis*— Maun, Peg and Andrea had good looks at one that was singing in thick vegetation just outside the lodge at the end of our longer dry forest walk. We had another on one outing from Khwai.

Tropical Boubou *Laniarius major*— Chobe only, present all days and often vocal. On game drives we found 2-6 each day

Gabon (Swamp) Boubou *Laniarius bicolor*— Maun, present at the waterhole throughout the day, singing regularly, several individuals around the lodge grounds. Moremi and Pom-Pom, heard on several days

Crimson-breasted Gonolek (Shrike) *Laniarius atrococcineus*— Maun, good views at the waterhole by the dining area and on our walks. Moremi, seen on two days in the Mopane forests

Sulphur-breasted (Orange-breasted) Bushshrike *Telophorus sulfureopectus*— Chobe only, seen our final morning walking back from the boat trip, in a mixed flock

Gray-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti*— Vic Falls only, Seen well at the fruiting fig tree that brought in the hornbills and turaco

Laniidae: Shirkes (2)

Magpie Shrike *Corvinella melanoleuca*— Maun, seen on our drive into the lodge. Moremi, seen daily, often in groups of 5-8, we watched them courting with wings held high, vocalizations strong. Groups seen throughout the day.

White-crowned Shrike (Southern) *Eurocephalus anguitimens*— Maun, seen on our dry forest walk, and Bud got some photos. Moremi, two individuals seen on one day, not common

Oriolidae: Old World Orioles (1)

African Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus larvatus*— Moremi, spied at the Khwai gate in the rest area where we stopped for tea. Pom-Pom, one seen on the afternoon game drive

Dicruridae: Drongos (1)

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis*— All locations, seen daily. They were evenly spaced through the forested areas, seen frequently perched solo or in pairs, twenty or more a day was not an uncommon count

Corvidae: Crows and Jays (1)

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*— Chobe, Vic Falls, one individual flew over us at the border crossing en route to Vic Falls – our only sighting of the tour

Hirundinidae: Swallows and Martins (5)

Banded Martin *Riparia cincta*— Moremi, a small group seen on one afternoon

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*— Vic Falls, a few seen flying as we walked trails of the rim

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*— Chobe, quite common along the river, twenty or more seen on each boat ride and we had them perched on tree snags at the river's edge

Lesser Striped-Swallow *Cecropias abyssinica*— Pom-Pom, seen on our first afternoon there. Chobe, seen again at the border crossing collecting mud for nests and flying, 15-20 individuals

Rufous-chested (Red-breasted) Swallow *Cecropias semirufa*— Moremi, two individuals seen at the large pond on day one where we had the pelican and the Common Ringed Plover, on the back side at a distance, flying and hunting insects

Paridae: Tits and Chickadees (1)

Southern Black-Tit *Melaniparus niger*— Maun, a pair seen at the Royal Tree Lodge waterhole. Moremi, an individual encountered on two days with other species; Pom-Pom, a pair worked the row of fig trees by our spacious tents

Pycnonotidae: Bulbuls (4)

Yellow-bellied Bulbul *Chlorocichla flaviventris*— Maun only, a pair seen around the lodge grounds, and coming into the water fountain at the front entrance

Terrestrial Bulbul *Phyllastrephus terrestris*— One pair at Royal Tree working the leaf litter like our North American towhees

Common (Dark-capped) Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus tricolor*— Maun, seen around the lodge; Pom-Pom, present at the breakfast area and on outings, Chobe, quite common around the hotel

Black-fronted (African Red-eyed) Bulbul *Pycnonotus nigricans*— Moremi, seen on three days; Pom-Pom, present along with Dark-capped around the lodge; Chobe, seen in good number (20+) around the lodge)

Macrosphenidae: African Warblers (1)

Cape (Long-billed) Crombec *Sylvietta rufescens*— Maun, one of our first passerine species seen, several individuals seen in the dry forest scrub around the lodge; Moremi, seen on two days in Mopane forest; Chobe, one individual seen in a mixed flock by the lodge

Cisticolidae: Cisticolas and Allies (8)

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida*— Moremi, two individuals seen in small flock on one day

Green-backed (Gray-backed) Camaroptera *Camaroptera brachyura brevicaudata*— Maun, a pair seen around our lodges, often vocal to alert its presence. Moremi, seen on two days, one around the tents of our Khwai camp, vocal as we rested before the afternoon safari. Chobe, seen our final morning in a mixed flock near the hotel. Vic Falls, one individual present as we explored the area.

Winding (Luapulia) Cisticola *Cisticola galactotes luapula*— Moremi, we had good looks on two days, first one individual then a pair, in the same area near Xini Camp where we crossed dense bulrushes en route to a thin peninsula surrounded by water

Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola chiniana*— Maun, seen on the first afternoon river walk, vocalizing. Moremi, Seen on one day, Vic Falls, two individuals calling at close range on our walk there. *Likely more about but on these we took time for certain i.d.*

Tinkling Cisticola *Cisticola rufilatus*— Moremi, seen and heard well one day outside our Xini camp in lush vegetation

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*— Moremi, seen on two outings, individuals vocalizing and perched

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*— Moremi, noted on one day; Pom-Pom, noted on our final morning

Black-chested Prinia *Prinia flavicans*— Moremi, seen by Mr. Fish's vehicle one afternoon returning to Xini Camp, one individual in with mixed flock. Vic Falls, one seen well as we walked around with our guide, this individual was in non-breeding plumage

Zosteropidae: White-eyes (1)

African Yellow White-eye *Zosteropos senegalensis*— Chobe, one individual seen at close range in bougainvillea brush, lovely!

Leiothrichidae: Luaghingthrushes and Allies (3)

Harlaub's Babbler *Turdoides hartlaubi*— Maun, present in good number (12+) around Royal Tree Lodge; Moremi, seen on four days as small groups of six or so; Pom-Pom, one group hung out near the dining area and others were encountered on various islands we stopped at on our canoe rides and along game drives

Southern Pied Babbler *Turdoides bicolor*— Maun, seen as we drove into camp, a group of four on the entry road; Moremi, seen as we first headed into the park near the South Gate, at picnic lunch there

Arrow-marked Babbler *Turdoides jardineii*— Moremi, seen every day, their funny noises make one laugh. Present around our camps, and on outings, going through the low brush actively feeding

Muscicapidae: Chats and Old World Flycatchers (5)

Mariqua (Marico) Flycatcher *Bradornis mariquensis*— Moremi, two individuals encountered at the same rest stop we found our first Southern Carmine Bee-eaters

Southern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis pammelaina*— Mr. Fish pointed this out, 3 were seen together on one day at Moremi

White-browed Robin-Chat *Cossypha heuglini*— Maun, present for great views at the small waterhole by our dining area; Pom-Pom, a pair seen just outside of camp; Chobe, several pair active around the grounds of our hotel, Vic Falls, a pair by the café

Collared Palm Thrush *Cichladusa arquata*— Chobe, Trina was the first to report this dapper bird, we then saw it regularly around our hotel, as pairs or trios

African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*— Moremi, seen on five days, one family of four confused us as we found the youngsters first, near Horseshoe Bend; Chobe, several seen from our last boat ride

Turdidae: Thrushes (1)

Groundscraper Thrush *Turdus litsitsirupa*— Moremi, found on three days, normally as a pair, often in the riverine corridor, best seen along the Khwai

Sturnidae: Starlings (6)

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea*— Chobe only, our final morning we had a flock at the back of the quiet lagoon
Red-winged Starling *Onychognathus morio*— Vic Falls, several flying below the rim so we looked down upon them
Burchell's Starling *Lamprotornis australis*— All locations, daily, arguably the most abundant species seen on our journey and much more numerous than all the other starlings. Daily counts were typically in the 100's
Meves's Starling *Lamprotornis mevesii*— Maun, good looks our first walks at groups of six or so; Moremi, seen daily but in numbers of 6-30 for a daily total, Pom-Pom, regular around our camp, groups of six to ten
Greater Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*— Moremi, often along the water margin of lagoons or the Khwai River, groups of 6-20 sighted regularly; Pom-Pom, quite common with so much water edge all around
Cape (Glossy) Starling *Lamprotornis nitens*— All locations, the second most numerous starling, seen almost daily

Buphagidae: Oxpeckers (2)

Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*— All locations, seen daily, riding their various herbivore hosts
Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus*— Moremi, first seen here, with Red-billed Oxpecker as they were often found together. Seen daily in Moremi where they seemed to be more common, not noted at Pom-Pom and just one small group seen on giraffe in Chobe

Nectariniidae: Sunbirds (2)

Collared Sunbird *Hedydipna collaris*— Maun, good looks at 2 individuals near our lodge, the only sighting of the trip; Vic Falls, one individual
White-breasted (White-bellied) Sunbird *Cinnyris talatala*— Maun, one singing individual near the lodge; Moremi, seen on one day in Mopane forest; Pom-Pom, several individuals feeding on small white flowers of the paths to the dining area from our tents; Chobe, singing and present in shrubs around the lodge

Motacillidae: Wagtails and Pipits (3)

Cape Wagtail *Motacilla capensis*— Moremi, one individual seen on one day from Xini
African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp*— Moremi, a couple spotted as we scoped from Horseshoe Bend; Chobe, seen on both river trips along the river margin, 2-4 individuals
African Pipit *Anthus cinnamomeus*— Moremi, seen on two days, 1-2 individuals each time; Chobe, seen from our boat trip on one of the islands

Emberizidae: Old World Buntings (1)

Golden-breasted Bunting *Emberiza flaviventris*— Moremi, Peg found one at our tea time stop at Khwai Bridge, very good looks

Passeridae: Old World Sparrows (3)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*— Moremi, seen on two days, once by Khwai Gate and once in Mopane forest near Khwai Camp
Southern Gray-headed Sparrow *Passer diffusus*— Small numbers seen on four days at Moremi, groups up to a dozen
Yellow-throated Petronia (Sparrow) *Petronia supercilialis*— Moremi, a few individuals seen on two days of our stay in Moremi from Xini

Ploceidae: Weavers (7)

Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver *Bubalornis niger*— Maun, seen on our walks; Moremi seen daily, counts of 40 or more occurred
Scaly Weaver (Scaly-feathered Finch) *Sporopipes squamifrons*— Moremi, two individuals seen with a much larger group of feeding Red-billed Quelea on one day in dry area
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser mahali*— Maun, seen on the way into the lodge; Moremi, seen on two days, 2-10 individuals
Holub's Golden Weaver *Ploceus xanthops*— Maun, a pair was nest building near the small waterhole at the lodge, we watched the male pluck material from several palm leaves; Chobe, several nesting pair active building as we watched from our mokoro canoes
Southern Masked-Weaver *Ploceus velatus*— Moremi, we watched several on one outing; Chobe, two individuals seen around the lodge
Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*— Moremi, seen on one day from Xini Camp

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*— Maun, seen in shrubbery on the road and on our dry Forest walk, 20-40 at a time. Moremi, seen daily, in the early morning at dusk we saw thousands, Little clouds of quelea against painted skies. We often encountered a flock by day, feeding.

Estrildidae: Waxbills (5)

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*— Vic Falls, small feeding group of four at close range

Southern Cordonbleu (Blue Waxbill) *Uraeginthus angolensis*— Maun, first seen at our lodge waterhole, the lovely blue color evident in the male. Moremi, seen on four days, typically in small groups in brush or fallen timber in the Mopane, 4-8 at a time; Chobe, seen around the lodge, Vic Falls, a half-dozen or so encountered

Green winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba*— Moremi, seen on two days, typically when we were stopped for something else, their beautiful patterns were easy to identify as they were most often with Southern Cordonblue and feeding

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*— Maun, a small flock came into the Royal Tree lodge waterhole, our only sighting of this species

Brown Firefinch *Lagonosticta nitidula*— Moremi, Mr. Fish found us a small flock as we went out one afternoon, the same day we had the hippo encounter. Pom-Pom, Peg spied a small group feeding on the trail between our tents and the dining area

Mammals (40 species):

Peter's Epulet Fruit Bat *Epomophorus crypturus*—Pom-Pom, we watched them our second night at sunset and as they lit the campfire, coming out of the large figs and going off to feed

African Elephant *Loxodonta africana*— Botswana has MANY elephants, and to spend time with them daily, intimately (sometimes a bit too much so!) was a highlight of the trip. We had great respect for them but at times they would come to us, parked in what seemed like very small vehicles in comparison. They craved water and mudbaths, and each day we would watch their processions. We saw many small babies, active teenagers, groups of females of varied ages, and a few very large males. We saw them every day at Moremi, Pom-Pom, and Chobe. At Pom-Pom they feed almost immersed in water, and also worked the shoreline, coming so close to the porches of our tents Beth says she could have reached out to touch one (she did not).

Chacma Baboon *Papio ursinus*— Moremi, we had them on four days, one night near our camp in which we did not appreciate their screaming. At Pom-Pom they were pests, a huge troop seemed to delight in bouncing from fig tree to tent and onward, they were everywhere! At Chobe we saw them on game drives.

Vervet Monkey *Chlorocebus pygerythrus*— We saw them in Moremi, Pom-Pom and Chobe on six days, small groups here and there, not nearly as common as the baboons. At Vic Falls they hung around the entry and café.

(African) Scrub Hare *Lepus saxatilis*— One individual seen one morning as we left the camp at Khwai

Lion *Panthera leo*— Hands down I think all of us will remember the days with lions and cubs we encountered from Xini, perhaps as a recent burn had drawn so much prey to the area. We had three different prides all with cubs. One had five, Strong, fat females with 14 cubs – we watched them reunite one afternoon as sunlight turned them gold – just amazing time with lions! We also had a few fabulous males, one looking old and a bit worn out, ear mites really bothering him. Another was robust, but scarred, likely some rearrangement of males was occurring.

Leopard *Panthera pardus*— At Moremi we had only a distant view across the Khwai River, unusual Ewan and Mr. Fish told us as they normally see several in areas we worked. This evened out at Pom-Pom where we had one very full and fat adult in a tree above its impala kill. Then in Chobe we heard one was on the move, our local guide left other vehicles to go on the search and we lucked out, watching an adult for some time with just one other vehicle. On that same drive we found a young one, likely just separated from its mom, next to the road, fairly oblivious to us!

African Wildcat *Felis silvestris lybica*— We had this species in the spotlight on our night drive at Pom-Pom, neat to see this wild species that gave rise to our domestic cats!

Yellow Mongoose *Cynictis penicillata*— Moremi, seen only our first day going into the park

Banded Mongoose *Mungos mungo*— We had this species one day each at Moremi and Pom-Pom, but then at Chobe they were habituated around the lodge and we could watch them in some detail

Dwarf Mongoose *Helogale parvula*— Groups spotted on two different days in Moremi and on one game drive in Chobe, we could park and watch them at length, big groups and fun to observe

Slender Mongoose *Galerella sanguine*— Seen on four days, two in Moremi, one Pom-Pom, and one Chobe, typically one or a pair when we found them

Large Gray Mongoose *Herpestes ichneumon*— Just one sighting, in Moremi, when we had first spotted lions. It ran across the marsh area but we got good views

Spotted Hyena *Crocuta crocuta*— Strangely absent from day time observation in Moremi, we heard them most nights from our camp, including one night they came into camp and made a fuss. We found one dead one by the former Wild Dog den but then along the Chobe, we had a pack working the buffalo carcass and had time to watch them interact

Black-backed Jackal *Canis mesomelas*— Seen on two days in Moremi, the first day we had a group of four, then a lone one along the wetland corridor of the Khwai

Side-striped Jackal *Canis adustus*— *This was an exciting find along the Khwai River, we spooked one out of her daytime hidey-hole in a round of dead marsh vegetation. She got up but obviously wanted to return so we retreated, wondering if her belly bulge was being full, or being very pregnant*

Honey Badger *Mellivora capensis*— We spotted this elusive species three times from our camp at Khwai, we seemed to have a pair perhaps out feeding near a den, and then another pair at some distance. Always seen at dusk, Tere and Pam found the first just as we drove in from our day's safari and we all hopped out for grand views

Small Spotted Genet *Genetta genetta*— Pam saw this beautiful carnivore cross the deck at Royal Tree in Maun, acclimated but wild, we were thrilled to see it!

African Crested Porcupine *Hystrix cristata*— Only one vehicle got to see this very rare to see mammal, indeed it was a first for Mr. Fish, who was driving. Bud got some awesome photos and we were all happy (okay, envious) for this find

Burchell's Zebra *Equus quagga burchellii*— Seen daily in Moremi, herds grazing, some four or five month old foals. We also had them on game drives from Pom-Pom.

Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus*— Seen daily at all locations, we encountered several groups a day including white-moustache teenagers they explained gave them the appearance of tusks before they could grow them.

Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibious*— Like elephants, the Okavango is lush with hippos, we had them everywhere. We went to sleep against their "hrump-hrump" calls, we cowered in our tents as they walked by, we drove around them respectfully when they were out of the water, and on one occasion we had an all too close look at the inside of a large male's mouth who did not want to share his peninsula. Mr. Fish in his calm way, said afterwards, "it was okay, we were here first". Seeing so many out of the water as we did along the Khwai was a first – they are enormous! And they proved useful to judge whether one could drive across a particular channel, up to the back of the hippo – NO.

Bushbuck *Tragelaphus sylvaticus*—We had them around the lodge at Royal Tree, and again at Pom-Pom and Chobe, they seem to sense that people will not harm them but other larger predators will and the lush grazing of treed areas also was appealing, typically a pair at each site

Blesbuck *Damaliscus pygargus phillipsi*— We had one at the farm at Royal Tree, while open to wild animals, this one is more at home in South Africa, and perhaps not truly free. It was lovely to spot in the dry scrub forest and wary

Southern (Common) Reedbuck *Redunca arundinum*—Seen on two days in Moremi, and on our final morning game drive at Pom-Pom, just a few at a time in deeper water areas

Springbok *Antidorcas marsupialis*— We had a small group on our drive from the Maun Airport to Royal Tree, more at home in the Kalahari and arid areas that Maun sits at the edge of, we did not see them again.

Impala *Aepyceros melampus*— Seen at all locations, one of the most abundant herbivores, fewer than Lechwe but always present and very common in the Mopane woodlands

Greater Kudu *Tragelaphus strepsiceros*— Seen daily when in Moremi, we would happen onto a group – sometimes males, sometimes females, a few times mixed, not common but regularly encountered. We had a few on our game drive at Pom-Pom as well

Steenbok *Raphicerus campestris*— Moremi, individuals seen on four days, one sitting in the shade of a small shrub was just about the first mammal we encountered entering the park. Secretive, we delighted in finding each one

Sable Antelope *Hippotragus niger*— Moremi, small groups seen on two days near Horsehoe Bend on the Khwai, then a larger group seen on our afternoon game drive in Chobe, perhaps a dozen in that group

Roan Antelope *Hippotragus equinus*— A rare find, we watched them on two days in Moremi, in the back corner of Horseshoe Bend of the Khwai

Oryx (Gemsbok) *Oryx gazella*— Seen only from Maun at Royal Tree, a good size group with young that we encountered on our dry forest walk

Waterbuck *Kobus ellipsiprymnus*— Seen on all days in the lush watered areas of the Khwai, and then again at Pom-Pom, and Chobe, typically 2-6 in a group

Puku *Kobus vardonii*— Chobe only, we saw them on both river trips and our game drive there

Red Lechwe *Kobus leche*— Abundant, we saw them in big numbers daily. We had two out of season very small young, one awfully close to a resting crocodile, and we watched them numerous times leaping over marshy channels, so limber and quick!

Tsessebe *Damaliscus lunatus*— First seen at Maun, several individuals, then daily at Moremi, small groups of up to a dozen. We had them on the first and final game drives at Pom-Pom as well

Brindled Gnu (Blue Wildebeest) *Connochaetes taurinus*— Seen daily in Moremi, herds of 2-25 or so, not that common but regularly seen. We also saw them on game drives from Pom-Pom in small numbers

African Buffalo *Syncerus caffer*— Seen on five days at Moremi, interesting to see them interact with elephants and hippos, all massive animals. There was a large herd on a tree island at Pom-Pom, and then another huge herd on a river island at Chobe

Giraffe (Southern Reticulated) *Giraffa camelopardalis*— Seen daily but always a favorite, we would stop to watch them lumber along. They were feeding on fresh flowers, and on one day we encountered three very young ones with their mothers

Smith's Bush Squirrel (Tree Squirrel) *Paraxerus cepapi*— Present on almost all days, we had them around camp, and often birds would alarm call when they scampered by, very common

Reptiles and Amphibians (10 species):

Water Monitor Lizard *Varanus exanthematicus*— Moremi, Pom-Pom, and Chobe – numerous individuals seen

Rock Monitor *Varanus albigularis*— Moremi, one individual, our first vehicle (Mr. Fish) had views of it crossing the road and heading into cover, they gave the rest a call and all got to see this very beaded-looking reptile well, wow!

Nile Crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus*—common to abundant, seen at Moremi, Pom-Pom, and Chobe on daily basis, dozens, some VERY large!

African Rock Python *Python sebae*— There was a hole of one near our Xini Camp, and with repeated tries we encountered it out sunning, and watched it pour its very huge body back in

African Leopard Tortoise *Stigmochelys pardalis*— One vehicle encountered this species in Moremi one day

Western Green Snake *Philothammus angolensis*— Chobe, on our final morning outing we had two sunning themselves on reeds

Painted Reed Frog *Hyperolius marmoratus*— A highlight of our mokoro canoe ride at Pom-Pom, lovely small frog sunning itself on a reed

Southern Tree Agama *Acanthocercus atricollis*—Moremi, several sightings in the Mopane woodlands

Ground Agama *Agama aculeata*— Pom-Pom, common around the lodge

Gecko, sp. — our housekeepers!

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

Rain Trees - covered with beautiful purple flowers, just starting to 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 including the Camelthorn so popular with herbivores

Hyphaene Palms - tall palms of the delta region

Gomoti Figs - trees of the islands

Sycamore Fig – large white-barked figs near water, the tree of life