



## Naturalist Journeys & Caligo Ventures Botswana Bird, Mammal Species List September 16-27, 2017

With Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe Sept. 27/28

*Peg Abbott, tour host, with Ewan Masson and Peace Shamuka of Masson Safaris as local expert guides  
with 8 participants: Dottie, David, Nancy, Dan, Carol, Helen, Janice and Chuck*

*Species List compiled by Peg Abbott*

Summary: An extraordinary couple of weeks inserting ourselves into an immersion of animals. Having Hippos out the door and Elephants near camp, a pack of 23 Lion in the neighborhood kept us on our toes. We saw some difficult species well, Lesser Jacana, White-backed Night-Heron, both Slaty and Black Heron, Rufous-bellied Heron, Dwarf Bittern, Dickenson's Kestrel and Black Coucal. We saw the iconic species in beautiful light for photography with some of the wading birds in profusion: Yellow-billed Stork, African Openbill, Sarus Crane, Hamerkop, Kori Bustard, Secretary Bird, Little Bee-eater, Lilac-breasted Roller and Pied Kingfisher. We saw 17 species of raptors, 37 species of mammals, and were dazzled by Malachite Kingfishers and Carmine Bee-eaters. We saw Rain Trees and Sausage trees in bloom and watched Giraffe's parade at sunset. We had two amazing local guides and lodgings ranging from a cozy camp to a luxury lodge, all enjoyed by our companionable group. This trip is a fabulous introduction to birding and safari in Africa!

HO= Heard Only

LO = Seen by Leader only

(#) = number of species seen in family

(#) after name = # of days seen out of 12

HC-# = high count for any single game drive or outing

### **Birds (221 species):**

#### **Struthionidae: Ostriches (1)**

**Common Ostrich** *Struthio camelus*— (2) Maun, seen on the way in to Royal Tree Lodge from the airport and on our walks on the property there. In Moremi we found three large females one day in a grassy area. HC-2

#### **Anatidae: Ducks and Geese (7)**

**White-faced Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna viduata*— (11) Maun, seen both nights on the river walk, 12-17 individuals. Both evenings alerted by calls ahead of sightings as reed growth this well-watered year was high. They were present in most wetland areas of Moremi, numbering 30-100 at any given spot. At times the light played on their beautiful facial pattern and colors making our photographers happy. HC-400+

**Comb (Knob-billed) Duck** *Sarkidiornis melanotos* – (6) In Moremi seen at several more established water areas, large ponds, with one in the Third Bridge area having several males that showed off their knobs as they stood along the shoreline. We had

a lot of non-breeding or female individuals near the Baobab area we frequented in Xini in a larger lagoon, and then as we watched the Wild Dogs there were a dozen or so in that pond near Khwai. HC-20

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca*— (8) At Moremi they were present in all wetland areas, but with taller grass we did not have views of hundreds and hundreds as in other years. They were found in groups of 2-6, present among other waterfowl, a few pair had chicks. HC-200+

**Spur-winged Goose** *Plectropterus gambensis*— (10) We had fine views of Moremi and the water levels seemed good for them, we saw long lines of them flying, and at many ponds there were 6-20 of these large and colorful water birds. HC-80

**African Pygmy Goose** *Nettapus auritus*— (5) Seen on our first river walk, five individuals, feeding in the lily habitat of the river as we walked from Royal Tree. We had looks at lone individuals and pairs at a few locations in Moremi where we had adequate water lilies, just a few sightings. HC-14

**Yellow-billed Duck** *Anas undulata*— (2) We had one small group on one day in Moremi, in the Xini Lagoon area. Another was seen crossing the bridge just out of camp at Pom-Pom. HC-4

**Red-billed Duck** *Anas erythroryncha*— (1) A few sightings of a half dozen or fewer in Moremi, all on the same day, one area was by the Wild Dogs. HC-15

#### **Numididae: Guineafowl (1)**

**Helmeted Guineafowl** *Numida meleagris*— (9) This species is common everywhere but still commands attention when sunlight hits its vivid patterns, or when 100 or more of them are at waterholes cavorting. They are highly vocal and highly entertaining. HC-312

#### **Phasianidae: Quail, Partridges, and Pheasants (3)**

**Red-billed Francolin** *Pternistis adspersus*— (10) This was the most common of the three species of this family, by far. We heard them almost constantly, our guides using their strong alarm calls when tracking cats. Some had tiny chicks. We encountered groups of 2-6, sometimes more, regularly throughout the day. HC-70

**Swainson's Francolin** *Pternistis swainsonii*— (6) Less common but still present in the grassland areas, pairs and small groups, several encountered per day. HC-18

**Crested Francolin** *Fringillus sephaena*— (4) Seen in Maun, and again the Chobe area in small numbers. HC-17

#### **Podicipedidae: Grebes (1)**

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*— (2) Seen well in the large lagoon by old campsite 14 in the Xini area, high count of 4 individuals. HC-3

#### **Ciconiidae Storks (4)**

**African Openbill** *Anastomus lamelligerus*— (7) This species was regularly seen throughout the journey, most abundant in the deeper water areas of Pom Pom where they were nesting. We watched them feeding, attracted to snails, frogs and fish. HC-200+

**Saddle-billed Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*— (9) One of the most elegant species encountered, we found them in pairs, often a pair per large lagoon area, and often mixed with other wading species. Several pair could be seen in a day, especially along the linear habitat of the Khwai River. HC-7

**Marabou Stork** *Leptoptilos crumenifer*— (8) Encountered regularly and in good number at smaller waterholes, and roosting on trees near to these. Groups of a dozen or more individuals could be found at several locations in a day, and we also saw groups flying quite high as they changed feeding areas. The dry down ponds attracted them in good numbers. HC-12

**Yellow-billed Stork** *Mycteria ibis*— (10) We saw non-breeding and bright breeding individuals, attracted in good number to drying ponds throughout Moremi, and along the Khwai. Along the Chobe they were present but not in the larger groups we found in Moremi. HC-100+

#### **Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants (2)**

**Long-tailed (Reed) Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax africanus*— (12) First encountered along the river at Maun, they were common and found in good number, often perched up on lone snags along a wetland area, often swimming and feeding. One gave an African Fish Eagle a good tease but escaped on the Chobe. HC-1

**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*— (1) HC-35

#### **Anhingidae: Anhingas (1)**

**African Darter** *Anhinga rufa*— (9) This elegant bird was a regular species at all the larger wetland areas. We often found it with wings spread wide or swimming, only its long snake-like neck out of the water. HC-17

#### **Pelecanidae: Pelicans (1)**

**Pink-backed Pelican** *Pelecanus rufescens*— (6) We found this species in groups only at a few larger lagoons that must have concentrated the feed they were after. HC-60

#### **Scopidae: Hamerkop (1)**

**Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta*— (8) We were fortunate to see this species almost every day. In addition to their feeding (a great chance to see their head action) we watched them building big nests, carrying sticks into some large crotch of a tree, adding them to an already impossibly large dome-like structure. This species is doing well in areas visited. HC-3

#### **Ardeidae: Herons and Egrets (15)**

**Dwarf Bittern** *Ixobrychus sturmii*— (1) Peace and crew came back very happy to have found this species and had really good looks at it. The bird was fishing near a water crossing, flew up into a shrub to perch and look, and then continued into cover, not often that one gets this good a look at this furtive species. HC-1

**Gray Heron** *Ardea cinerea*— (10) Widespread. HC-11

**Goliath Heron** *Ardea goliath*— (5) A second good year for this species, it was present by many larger lagoons of Moremi in addition to the river bank areas of Chobe. HC-3

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*— (1) We found this species on our day of two boat trips on the Chobe River. It blended in beautifully with the dense reeds. One caught an eel as we watched it feed. Present in small numbers, perhaps a half dozen seen that day. HC-3

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*— (11) We saw good numbers of this species, and a couple of times Peg noted a dark bill. At Pom Pom we saw these breeding individuals at close range, with a deep black beak and Kelly-green cere they were really different from our North American variety, and striking. Less likely to group up than the storks or other herons, they were present in all mixed species feeding areas, regularly but not in high numbers. HC-11

**Intermediate (Yellow-billed) Egret** *Mesophyx intermedia*— (7) Widespread. HC-5

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*— (10) Found regularly in small numbers, typically lone individuals mixed in with other species. (6)

**Slaty Egret** *Egretta vinaceigula*— (6) Irregular in the wetland areas but there if we searched for them, really a lovely species. They were less abundant than other herons but not particularly shy. HC-3

**Black Heron** *Egretta ardesiaca*— (1) Seen only along the Chobe, high count of four in one area in the afternoon. In the morning we watched one do its “tenting” behavior, thrusting its wings out suddenly to encompass the head, a big shade rigged up to help it fish. We watched it walk and create the tent, walk again, at least a dozen times in quick succession, quite a show! HC-5

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*— (9) Present around a variety of mammals but particularly abundant near Buffalo, also Zebra.

**Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides*— (11) HC-80

**Rufous-bellied Heron** *Ardeola rufiventris*— (4) Secretive and a species we always had to look hard for, found in a few wetland areas of Moremi. HC-1

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striata*— (3) Not at all common, we found them on our last day in Moremi, then a few on the boat trips at Pom Pom and Chobe. HC-3

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*— (1) One group of a dozen or so was spooked off a roost by our mokoros on the ride from Pom Pom. A few perched giving us good looks. HC-12

**White-backed Night-Heron** *Gorsachius leuconotus*— (1) Fabulous to see this elusive species. We were surprised to find it, but our guide on the private boat trip knew of a nest, and took us under a thick tree canopy overhanging the shore for quick looks. Its big eye was immediately apparent, from the shore it was impossible to see even though right near our lodge! HC-2

#### **Threskiornithidae Ibis and Spoonbills (4)**

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*— (7) Present in good number, and frequently encountered, often 20 or more at a time. HC-42

**Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus*— (9) This species was less regularly encountered than other waders, but when seen was often there by the dozen or more, attracted to the dry down ponds across Moremi. HC-53

**Hadada Ibis** *Bostrychia hagedash*— (4) Often heard before being seen, we had them at several locations 3-4 at a time. HC-4

**African Spoonbill** *Platalea alba*— (6) Regularly seen, we marveled at its feeding style. High counts of a dozen or so would occur at the dry down pond areas. Also feeding along the main Chobe River. HC-48

Naturalist Journeys, LLC / Caligo Ventures PO Box 16545 Portal, AZ 85632 PH: 520.558.1146 / 800.426.7781

Fax 650.471.7667 [www.naturalistjourneys.com](http://www.naturalistjourneys.com) / [www.caligo.com](http://www.caligo.com) [info@caligo.com](mailto:info@caligo.com) / [naturalistjourneys@gmail.com](mailto:naturalistjourneys@gmail.com)

### **Sagittariidae: Secretarybird (1)**

**Secretarybird** *Sagittarius serpentarius*— (1) David's vote for favorite bird of the trip, Peg spotted this regal character amid a group of Giraffes. It turned out to be a pair, and we sped up to sit and wait for them to come across the road. They strode across and then through a grassland area, giving us good views. HC-2

### **Pandionidae: Osprey (1)**

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*— (1) One individual seen hovering, then flying by with a big fish as we traveled to Camp, just after we had found the baby Serval and before the stuck safari vehicle. HC-1

### **Acciptridae: Kites, Hawks and Eagles (17)**

**Black-shouldered Kite** *Elanus caeruleus* — (3) This species seemed to appear out of nowhere to hover close at hand, one came very close as we watched Hippos at a pool. HC-2

**African Harrier-Hawk** *Polyboroides typus*— (1) A lone individual was spotted by Ewan high in the trees as we returned from Horseshoe Bend, in the vicinity of Khwai Gate. HC-1

**Hooded Vulture** *Necrosyrtes monachus*— (2) Not common, both sightings were of lone individuals perched. HC-1

**White-backed Vulture** *Gyps africanus*— (8) Common but found in small number, we saw no big grouping of vultures during our stay. HC-8

**Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus*— (9) We saw a good number of juvenile birds, and a few sharp-plumaged adults, mostly in flight, and solo. HC-5

**Black-breasted Snake-Eagle** *Circaetus pectoralis*— (2) Seen perched and flying, Moremi and Khwai. HC-1

**Brown Snake-Eagle** *Circaetus cinereus*— (2) Probably the same bird, in the Khwai area, seen on two days. HC-1

**Martial Eagle** *Polemaetus bellicosus*— (1) Just one chance to see this stunning raptor, on our day into the park, not far from the entrance at South Gate. HC-1

**Wahlberg's Eagle** *Hieraetus wahlbergi* — (2) We had good looks on two occasions of lone individuals, both in Mopane woodland areas. HC-1

**Tawny Eagle** *Aquila rapax*— (3) This bird is reminiscent of our Golden Eagle, not common, encountered as lone individuals.

**African Hawk-Eagle** *Aquila spilogaster*— (1) Two were seen well our last day at Khwai. HC-2

**Dark-chanting Goshawk** *Melierax metabates*— (1) Just one stop for this handsome raptor, though it was a good one, quite close to the road just before we entered Moremi National Park. HC-1

**Gabar Goshawk** *Micronisus gabar*— (1) One view but what a view. We were resting in the shade at Camp mid-day when Peg noticed a bird commotion. She suspected a mating, but picking up the binoculars saw it was the dark, melanistic form of Gabar Goshawk, making a kill. It was a bird almost its size, a Green Pigeon. Meve's Starlings were squaking and dive-bombing it. The bird held on tight and fought for its prize. We kept motionless not to disturb it, but it was quite some time until the dove gave up. This feisty little raptor then had quite the feed. HC-1

**African Marsh-Harrier** *Circus ranivorus*— (2) Peace called on out coursing over the reeds and river across from the air strip at Khwai. We then saw another on our morning private boat trip on the Chobe. HC-1

**Ovambo Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter ovampenis*— (1) We had good looks at one individual, an immature, perched prominently on a dead snag at Moremi. HC-1

**Black (Yellow-billed) Kite** *Milvus migrans aegyptius*— (10) Very common, present most days one or two at a time. We watched several pair nest building. HC-4

**African Fish-Eagle** *Haliaeetus vocifer*— (11) Our icon of the trip! We saw and heard them every day, except while at Victoria Falls, and had them in great light for photos. We watched them fly, hunt, preen and perch. Stunning birds. HC-11

### **Otididae: Bustards (1)**

**Kori Bustard** *Ardeotis kori*— (2) We first spied this impressive species in the grasslands of Moremi, strutting about. We had another good look when all together in one vehicle as we made the game drive loop in Chobe National Park. HC-1

### **Rallidae: Rails and Crakes (3)**

**Black Crake** *Amaurornis flavirostra*— (6) Surprisingly common and regular, at lagoons with lush vegetation we found them, often 2-4 at a time, on large lagoons 6-8 individuals could be seen with rigorous scanning. HC-8

**Eurasian Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*— (2) Dottie and Ewan spied one in a lagoon at Moremi, Peg found another on the island of the Chobe River. HC-1

**Lesser Moorhen** *Gallinula angulate*— (1) Spotted a lone individual north of our camp near the Hippo Pools at Khwai. HC-1

### **Gruidae: Cranes (1)**

**Wattled Crane** *Bugeranus carunculatus*— (5) We were lucky at Khwai to have two active pairs with a chick each, of different ages, one quite tiny and hard to spot, the other two-thirds of their parents size. Stunning birds that kept their distance from our cameras but were a delight to watch. HC-4

### **Burhinidae: Thick-knees (1)**

**Water Thick-knee** *Burhinus vermiculatus*— (5) Seen as singles or pairs in a variety of settings, forest rest spots under trees near lagoons being the most common, and then several pair seen on the banks of the large Chobe River. HC-4

### **Recurvirostridae: Stilts and Avocets (1)**

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*— (5) These elegant waders were seen as singles or pairs in small number, particularly in the Xini Lagoons portion of our safari. HC-30

### **Charadriidae: Lapwings and Plovers (6)**

**Long-toed Lapwing** *Vanellus crassirostris*— (7) This species was nesting, pairs very territorial and vocal. HC-20

**Blacksmith Plover** *Vanellus ornatatus*— (11) One of the most common species, spaced at regular intervals all throughout the wetlands. At small lagoons one pair always commanded their territories. We saw several with chicks about a week old. HC-80

**White-headed Lapwing** *Vanellus albiceps*— (1) Four individuals seen on the short-grass habitat of the much-grazed island in the Chobe River. We got excellent looks and photos. HC-4

**Crowned Lapwing** *Vanellus coronatus*— (3) Encountered outside our camp near the Xini Lagoons of Moremi, in upland habitat, and then again on the drive through Chobe National Park. HC-4

**Kittlitz's Plover** *Charadrius pecuarius*— (1) Peg spied one as we paused on the Chobe River boat cruise to watch elephants and scan the myriad waterfowl. HC-1

**Three-banded Plover** *Charadrius tricollaris*— (2) Seen on two days, likely the same foursome, on the shore of one of the larger lagoons, a place terns were present as well. HC-4

### **Jacaniidae: Jacanas (2)**

**Lesser Jacana** *Microparra capensis*— (2) Peg was thrilled to find a pair on our first afternoon in Moremi, at the #14 large Lagoon. They were on a small peninsula fairly close to where we were stopped, so we got decent views. They were quite actively feeding, with the larger African Jacanas close by along with other larger wading bird species and Black Crake. We then had very good looks and a chance to photograph a lone individual when on the boat excursion from Pom Pom Camp.

**African Jacana** *Actophilornis africanus*— (11) Abundant, everywhere, great to watch and photograph. HC-2

### **Scolopacidae: Sandpipers and Allies (9)**

**Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*— (6) The most common shorebird encountered, widespread HC-40

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris minuta*— (1) Seen in good number, about 20, feeding around the short grass clipped by African Buffalo, right at the feet of a big herd on the island of the Chobe River. HC-20

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*— (1) One individual seen early on at a lagoon near our Xini Camp. HC-1

**African Snipe** *Gallinago nigripennis*— (1) Seen along the river in Maun, on our first evening walk there. We heard it first, watched it fly and circle overhead before landing out of site. HC-1

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*— (3) Widespread in small numbers HC-1

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*— (1) Just one seen early on in the Xini Lagoon areas. Shorebird numbers this year were a fraction of former years' visits. HC-1

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*— (5) Seen as lone individuals, they were very regular at all wetland locations. HC-2

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*— (2) We had to scan for these but could usually pick out one or two when we stopped to scan appropriate wetland areas. HC-2

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*— (4) More common than Marsh or Green, this year they took some looking, whereas last year trying to eBird was near impossible, high counts of 200 or more at the same view areas. Our guide reported seeing hoards of shorebirds out in the watered pans of the Kalahari, places they had not had water for years and were just exploding with invertebrates attractive as food is what we presumed. HC-20

### **Turnicidae: Buttonquail (1)**

**Small (Common) Buttonquail** *Turnix sylvaticus*— (LO – Ewan, 1) Ewan had quick looks at this elusive species, but it hid quickly and was not possible for the group to view. HC-1

#### **Glareolidae: Coursers and Pratincoles (1)**

**Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola*— (5) Seen in small numbers at Moremi and Khwai, then two at the airstrip of Pom Pom. They were at the island and river banks of Chobe in good number, forty or more seen on our morning and afternoon boat trips. HC-27

#### **Laridae: Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers (4)**

**Gray-hooded Gull** *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*— (1) Several individuals seen along the Chobe River. HC-3

**White-winged Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus*— (2) Seen at two different lagoons in Moremi as we explored, a few individuals in intermittent plumage. HC-3

**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrid*— (2) Seen at a small pond in Moremi and later along the Chobe River. HC-1

**African Skimmer** *Rynchops flavirostris*— (1) Seen roosting on a sand island and flying and feeding along the Chobe River. HC-8

#### **Pteroclididae: Sandgrouse (2)**

**Double-banded Sandgrouse** *Pterocles bicinctus*— (3) Seen in pairs and groups, sometimes very persistent on the road. We saw one VERY small chick that crouched to hide, immediately almost invisible. HC-17

**Burchell's Sandgrouse** *Pterocles burchelli*— (2) Encountered just a few times in Moremi. HC-4

#### **Columbidae: Pigeons and Doves (8)**

**Rock Dove** *Columba livia*— (2) Just two sightings, Kasane and Victoria Falls, mostly a Rock-Dove free wilderness we were in! HC-1

**Mourning Collared-Dove** *Streptopelia decipiens*— (2) Just one individual that hung out by the dining room and entry area of Pom Pom, it alerted Peg to its presence with a distinctive call. We could have missed a few in the hundreds of Ring-necked Doves encountered, but not if they were calling! HC-1

**Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata*— (9) Seen often early in the morning or at dusk, flying out from roosts, one or two at a time. HC-4

**Ring-necked (Cape Turtle) Dove** *Streptopelia capicola*— (12) Abundant. Their call was interpreted as “Botswana”, Work Harder (day version) and Drink Lager (Five-O’Clock Version). HC – 120+

**Laughing Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis*— (6) Not common, but seen in small groups – best looks were when they came in to water and we had a chance to look at size and plumage. HC-11

**Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove** *Turtur chalcospilos*— (8) Very common, in small groups throughout. HC-12

**Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*— (8) Pretty doves we all admired with their snazzy plumage and long tails. HC-40

**African Green-Pigeon** *Treron calvus*— (5) The first we saw died in the talons of a feisty Gabar Goshawk, news to us as we had not seen them around camp, though there were a few big shade-giving Sausage trees. We saw them in good number at Pom Pom where they feasted on figs along the lagoon shore and roosted in the large shade trees by our porches. HC-18

#### **Musophagidae: Turacos (2)**

**Gray Go-away-bird (Lourie)** *Corythaixoides concolor*— (10) Comical and vocal, seen frequently. HC-4

**Schalow's Turaco** *Tauraco schalowi*— (1) Victoria Falls, two individuals chasing each other across the gorge, then round the fig tree, coming back to land just above our heads! HC-2

#### **Cuculidae: Cuckoos and Allies (4)**

**Senegal Coucal** *Centropus senegalensis*— (2) We found this less common coucal species on two occasions, wanting good looks we may have missed a few more, one at Xini and the other Khwai. HC-1

**Coppery-tailed Coucal** *Centropus cupreicaudus*— (8) Common throughout. HC-5

**White-browed Coucal** *Centropus superciliosus*— (6) This species was calling which was helpful to spot them, we found them daily on the first days in the Xini Lagoons area, then had a few others at Khwai and Pom Pom. HC-2

**Black Coucal** *Centropus grillii*— (1) A great find at Pom Pom, we were alerted by the calling of a pair. They were seen at a distance, but good views from the first afternoon game drive on arrival. HC-2

#### **Strigidae: Owls (5)**

**African Scops Owl** *Otus senegalensis*— (HO-2) Heard from our camp at Moremi, and then again while having sundowners at Pom Pom, impossible with large predators about to go in search of them at night on foot. HC-1

**Verreaux's (Giant) Eagle-Owl** *Bubo lacteus*— (1) Seen on a nest with a large chick at Chobe National Park on the game drive. HC-1 adult

**Pel's Fishing Owl** *Scotopelia peli* — (1) This sighting was a bit like seeing a ghost, our guide was persistent with his flashlight but we were just a bit too far for a satisfying look. We could see its outline and at times an eyeshine, but not real detail on a dark night. It was perched on a dead snag by the river not far from where we had cocktails, waiting to hunt. HC-1

**Pearl-spotted Owlet** *Glaucidium perlatum*— (4) Each van had good looks while on a game drive, and we heard them at several other locations. HC-1

**African Barred-Owlet** *Glaucidium capense* — (HO-1) A pair was duetting early before dawn one morning at our Xini Camp in Moremi National Park. HC-2

#### **Caprimulgidae: Nightjars and Allies (1)**

**Fiery-necked Nightjar** *Caprimulgus pectoralis*— (1) Several heard and seen over the river while we had sundowners at Pom Pom Camp, also heard from the tent porches by early risers there. HC-2

#### **Apodidae: Swifts (2)**

**Little Swift** *Apus affinis*— (1) Seen at the border crossing to Zimbabwe, 30 or more flying above the exit booth. HC-80

**African Palm-Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus*— (8) Very common, associated with palms, seen at a wide variety of locations, 6-30 or more at each sighting. HC-65

#### **Coliidae: Mousebirds (1)**

**Red-faced Mousebird** *Urocolius indicus*— (4) Seen infrequently, in groups of 4-12, at Maun, Pom Pom and 2 individuals around the grounds at our hotel at Chobe. HC-11

#### **Upupidae: Hoopoes (1)**

**Eurasian (African) Hoopoe** *Upupa epops africana*— (7) We first met this species coming in on the watered lawn at Royal Tree Lodge in Maun. After that they were most common in the mopane wooded sections of our time at Khwai where we got some very good looks. We also saw them on game drives from Pom Pom. HC-4

#### **Phoeniculidae: Woodhoopoes (2)**

**Green Woodhoopoe** *Phoeniculus purpureus*— (8) Very common, we saw them daily, often in flight following one another like an aerial parade. At times we found them on tree trunks probing and poking for better views. HC-10

**Common Scimitar-bill** *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*— (2) Seen on just two days, one pair in Maun from Royal Tree on our first walk, then another on a game drive from Khwai. HC-2

#### **Bucorvidae: Ground-Hornbills (1)**

**Southern Ground-Hornbill** *Bucorvus leadbeateri*— (4) We had several occasions to watch these odd giants strut through the grass. We watched them feeding, and at times catch something and roll it down, someone said they were like a cross between a toucan and an ostrich. HC-4

#### **Bucerotidae: Hornbills (6)**

**Bradfield's Hornbill** *Lophoceros bradfieldi*— (4) Less common than the other hornbills, we saw them mostly as singles or pairs, and we did get good looks and photo opportunities. HC-2

**African Gray Hornbill** *Lophoceros nasutus*— (8) This bird had a distinct call that would alert us to its presence. They were also found mainly as singles or pairs, from 2-8 per day. HC-2

**Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill** *Tockus leucomelas*— (6) We saw them all days in Moremi. HC-10

**Southern Red-billed Hornbill** *Tockus rufirostris*— (11) Very common, often in clusters of 3 or more, sometimes quite numerous. HC-70

**Crowned Hornbill** *Lophoceros alboterminatus*— (1) This large hornbill came into the trees on the grounds of Victoria Falls hotel as we had breakfast our final morning, we were alerted by its call. HC-1

**Trumpeter Hornbill** *Bycanistes bucinator*— (1) Peg, Helen and Carol found them right away when reaching the rim at Victoria Falls, feeding in a fruiting tree. They crossed back and forth with the rushing falls behind them, impressive! A dozen strong. HC-12

#### **Alcedinidae: Kingfishers (4)**

**Malachite Kingfisher** *Corythornis cristatus*— (3) This was Helen's most wanted bird and she was the one to spot it first at Pom Pom, from the dining area. Our mokoro drivers then got several of us very good looks, and for any that missed it several were seen on the afternoon boat drive there, and also on the private boat trip from Chobe Safari Lodge across the river. HC-8

**Brown-hooded Kingfisher** *Halcyon albiventris*— (2) Peg found a pair down at the river our final morning, on the grounds of the Chobe Safari Lodge. Another was spotted from the breakfast area at Victoria Falls. HC-2

**Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti*— (1) Just one individual seen while on our game drive the first afternoon from Pom Pom.

**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*— (11) Very common, seen numerous times per day. HC-35

#### **Meropidae: Bee-eaters (4)**

**White-fronted Bee-eater** *Merops bullockoides*— (1) Victoria Falls hotel, just outside the grounds, perched on a wire our final morning. HC-1

**Little Bee-eater** *Merops pusillus*— (8) This little beauty was regularly encountered but the closest we came was watching a pair from the private boat on the Chobe, they perched together on a bending reed and sallied out to catch insects. HC-7

**Swallow-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops hirundineus*— (3) Not at all common, Ewan spied a few on an early day from Xini and then Peace came to a halt for us to watch one for some time on the day we transferred camp, this beautiful gem caused us to be late for lunch! HC-2

**Southern Carmine Bee-eater** *Merops nubicoides*— (10) Amazing to have this species as common, we saw them almost daily in good number. HC-12

#### **Coraciidae: Rollers (2)**

**Lilac-breasted Roller** *Coracias caudatus*— (12) Another roller... Very common, yet somehow even on day 11 we were stopping for their startling show of color. HC-20

**Rufous-crowned (Purple) Roller** *Coracias naevius*— (1) Seen on one day in the dry Mopane woodlands from Khwai. HC-1

#### **Lybiidae: Barbets (3)**

**Crested Barbet** *Trachyphonus vaillantii*— (5) First seen at Maun at Royal Tree at the waterhole and picking up crumbs off the porch, we saw them at Moremi and Chobe, typically one pair when seen. HC-2

**Pied Barbet** *Tricholaema leucomelas*— (1) This pretty small barbet was found in the camp area at Pom Pom. HC-1

**Black-collared Barbet** *Lybius torquatus*— (3) Seen on game drives and then around our luxury tents at Pom Pom Camp. HC-2

#### **Picidae: Woodpeckers (3)**

**Bennett's Woodpecker** *Campethera bennettii*— (2) Individuals seen on two days while doing game drives at Khwai. HC-1

**Cardinal Woodpecker** *Dendropicos fuscescens*— (2) Dottie and David had a pair working a tree by their tent at Pom Pom. Those arriving early also had one on the walk from Royal Tree in Maun. HC-1

**Bearded Woodpecker** *Dendropicos namaquus*— (5) The most common and widespread of the woodpecker species, usually seen as a single or one pair. HC-2

#### **Falconidae: Falcons and Kestrels (1)**

**Dickinson's Kestrel** *Falco dickinsoni*— (2) Seen distantly, sitting atop a palm that had no crown while we watched Lions at sunset at Moremi. Seen again on a similar no-top palm as we dashed to catch up to the van that had spotted a Leopard at Pom-Pom, quick looks! HC-1

#### **Psittacidae: Parrots (1)**

**Meyer's Parrot** *Poicephalus meyeri*— (8) Quite common, and vocal, easy to find. Groups were 2-20, and they were focused on feeding in the Sausage trees that had abundant flowers turning to fruits. HC-15

#### **Platysteiridae: Wattle-eyes and Batis (1)**

**Chinspot Batis** *Batis molitor*— (1) Carol spotted a nesting pair and we watched them for some time on a game drive from Xini Lagoon. HC-2

#### **Vangidae: Vangas and Helmetshrikes (1)**

**White Helmetshrike** *Prionops plumatus*— (1) A pair at Royal Tree came repeatedly to the water hole by the dining area, fun to observe. HC-2

**Malaconotidae: Bushshrikes (7)**

**Black-backed Puffback** *Dryoscopus cubla*— (4) Encountered as pairs, the best looks were by the rest area at the gate of Khwai. HC-2

**Black-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra senegalus*— (2) Seen on our first evening walk at Maun, and then right near the vehicle on one of our game drives at Pom Pom. HC-1

**Brown-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra australis*— (2) A few individuals seen in the Khwai area. HC-1

**Tropical Boubou** *Laniarius major*— (3) Chobe and Victoria Falls, Dottie spotted the first of this species. HC-2

**Gabon (Swamp) Boubou** *Laniarius bicolor*— (3) We heard them most often, especially at dawn, waking us up. They were bold in coming to the water hole at Maun, and we had several in view while at Pom Pom. HC-1

**Crimson-breasted Gonolek (Shrike)** *Laniarius atrococcineus*— (3) Maun and near the Xini Lagoons up to Third Bridge, bright and always fun to see. HC-4

**Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike** *Telophorus sulfureopectus*— (1) Peg, Janice and Chuck had views of this handsome species on their walk at Maun on the red and green loop trails. HC-1

**Laniidae: Shirkes (2)**

**Magpie Shrike** *Corvinella melanoleuca*— (7) We watched several display one day, and also found a pair nest building. This was a common species, seen often. HC-10

**White-crowned Shrike** *Eurocephalus anguitimens*— (2) We saw some near Ewan and Sally's home the first day, then had a couple sightings on game drives, not common. HC-2

**Oriolidae: Old World Orioles (1)**

**African Black-headed Oriole** *Oriolus larvatus*— (3) We heard this species but found them often high in the canopy, hard to lock onto for views, but flashes of color dashing by. Peg found two in good view on a flowering tree in Victoria Falls. HC-1

**Dicruridae: Drongos (1)**

**Fork-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus adsimilis*— (12) Very common throughout the journey. HC-60

**Corvidae: Crows and Jays (1)**

**Pied Crow** *Corvus albus*— (3) Seen in Maun, at the airport in Kasane, and at Victoria Falls. HC-4

**Alaudidae: Larks (1)**

**Rufous-naped Lark** *Mirafra americana* — (2) This species was seen near the airstrip at Pom Pom, calling. HC-2

**Hirundinidae: Swallows and Martins (6)**

**Plain Martin** *Riparia paludicola* — (1) Good views while on the game drive from Pom Pom, reminding us of Rough-winged Swallow. HC-2

**Banded Martin** *Riparia cincta*— (2) Seen around Khwai, multiple sightings but typically just a few individuals. HC-4

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*— (1) Two individuals on a game drive from Khwai. HC-2

**Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii*— (1) Very common and confiding along the Chobe River, seen best from the boats. HC-100+

**Lesser Striped-Swallow** *Cecropias abyssinica*— (1) Seen mixed in with the more abundant Wire-tailed Swallows on the Chobe. HC-20

**Rufous-chested (Red-breasted) Swallow** *Cecropias semirufa*— (1) We found this species when we paused to help some safari camp staff quite stuck in a water hole one day in Moremi. HC-2

**Paridae: Tits and Chickadees (2)**

**Southern Black-Tit** *Melaniparus niger*— (1) Peg found these with her van the final morning at Khwai. HC-2

**Southern Penduline Tit** *Anthoscopus minutus*— (1) Peg, Janice and Chuck noted this tiny species, much like our bushtits, on the walk into drier country at Maun. HC-2

**Pycnonotidae: Bulbuls (4)**

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Fax 650.471.7667 [www.naturalistjourneys.com](http://www.naturalistjourneys.com) / [www.caligo.com](http://www.caligo.com) [info@caligo.com](mailto:info@caligo.com) / [naturalistjourneys@gmail.com](mailto:naturalistjourneys@gmail.com)

**Yellow-bellied Bulbul** *Chlorocichla flaviventris*— (1) We saw three individuals perched and singing on our first night walk from Royal Tree in Maun. HC-3

**Terrestrial Bulbul** *Phyllastrephus terrestris*— (2) Seen at Maun at Royal Tree, and then on the grounds of our hotel at Chobe. HC-2

**Common (Dark-capped) Bulbul** *Pycnonotus barbatus tricolor*— (6) Common, vocal, widespread but not in large numbers. HC-8

**Black-fronted (African Red-eyed) Bulbul** *Pycnonotus nigricans*— (2) Less common than Dark-eyed in areas we visited. HC-3

#### **Macrosphenidae: African Warblers (1)**

**Cape (Long-billed) Crombec** *Sylvietta rufescens*— (2) Seen at Royal Tree in Maun, and then at our first lunch stop at the South Gate of Moremi. HC-1

#### **Acrocephalidae: Reed Warblers (1)**

**Edge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*— (1) Seen in thick rushes on our afternoon game drive from Pom Pom, near several Stonechat. HC-1

#### **Cisticolidae: Cisticolas and Allies (6)**

**Yellow-breasted Apalis** *Apalis flavida*— (1) Seen only at Maun, at Royal Tree. HC-2

**Green-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brachyura brevicaudata*— (8) Widespread, seen in small number, or often heard as we stopped for watching other species on game drives. HC-2

**Rattling Cisticola** *Cisticola chiniana*— (3) First seen by the river at Maun, and then noted a few other times in Moremi. HC-2

**Chirping Cisticola** *Cisticola pipiens*— (1) Seen at Pom Pom, photographed. HC-1

**Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*— (3) Maun along the river, Moremi and Pom Pom. HC-2

**Tawny-flanked Prinia** *Prinia subflava*— (2) Khwai and then seen very well, a pair from the private boat on the Chobe, close to where we found the Little Bee-eater pair. HC-2

#### **Sylviidae: Sylviid Warblers (1)**

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*— (1) Photographed in Maun at Royal Tree at the water hole. HC-1

#### **Leiothrichidae: Luaghingthrushes and Allies (3)**

**Hartlaub's Babbler** *Turdoides hartlaubi*— (9) Very common, vocal, numerous family groups seen daily. HC-26

**Southern Pied Babbler** *Turdoides bicolor*— (1) Just one individual seen on our morning walk from Royal Tree on the red and green loop trail. HC-1

**Arrow-marked Babbler** *Turdoides jardineii*— (6) We saw these more when in Mopane forest such as the drives from Khwai, and then around Chobe River Lodge. HC-12

#### **Muscicapidae: Chats and Old World Flycatchers (8)**

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*— (1) One individual seen in a mixed flock we stopped to view in Moremi. HC-1

**Southern Black Flycatcher** *Melaenornis pammelaina*— (2) We probably missed more of this species as there were so many drongos we quit looking. Noted on two occasions with verification. HC-1

**Kalahari Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas paeon*— (1) One individual, one morning from Xini Camp on a drive, singing. HC-1

**White-browed Robin-Chat** *Cossypha heuglini*— (3) A very pretty bird, confiding, we saw them at the lodge in Maun, Chobe, Victoria Falls. HC-2

**Collared Palm Thrush** *Cichladusa arquata*— (1) We went to the upper lodge at Chobe Bush Lodge around the pool and were successful at finding this species, two individuals. HC-2

**African Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus*— (5) We found several individuals while on game drives, and then from the boats at Pom Pom. HC-2

**White-headed Black Chat (Arnott's)** *Myrmecocichla arnotti*— (3) Seen in the Mopane during our time at Khwai. HC-2

**Capped Wheatear** *Oenanthe pileate*— (1) One pair, seen in an arid area we crossed through on the day we moved from Xini to Khwai. HC-2

#### **Turdidae: Thrushes (1)**

**Kurricane Thrush** *Turdus libonyana*— (1) Seen in the rest area by the Khwai gate, confiding. HC-2

### **Sturnidae: Starlings (7)**

**Wattled Starling** *Creatophora cinerea*— (5) We saw them in flocks at Khwai, Pom Pom and Chobe. HC-40

**Violet-backed Starling** *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*— (1) This bright jewel of a species was seen at Chobe where they were watering the grounds it bathed in pools, Chobe Bush Lodge across the street from Chobe Safari Lodge.

**Red-winged Starling** *Onychognathus morio*— (1) Seen only at Victoria Falls. HC-7

**Burchell's Starling** *Lamprotornis australis*— (10) Very common, everywhere. HC-100+

**Meves's Starling** *Lamprotornis mevesii*— (8) Very common, vocal, this is the species mobbing the Gabar Goshawk on its kill, and mobbing the tiny Serval cat. HC-100+

**Greater Blue-eared Starling** *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*— (6) Seen at Khwai in the wetter areas and at Chobe River. HC-26

**Cape (Glossy) Starling** *Lamprotornis nitens*— (7) *Common and gorgeous!* HC-40

### **Buphagidae: Oxpeckers (2)**

**Red-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*— (8) Common, industrious, fun to try to photograph at work! HC-15.

**Yellow-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus africanus*— (4) Less widespread than Red-billed, good views. HC-14.

### **Nectriniidae: Sunbirds (2)**

**Scarlet-chested Sunbird**— (1) Present in the large flowering trees of the adjacent campsite to our picnic on the travel day between camps in Moremi. HC-1

**White-breasted Sunbird** *Cinnyris talatala*— (2) Seen at Maun and then again at Chobe. HC-1

### **Motacillidae: Wagtails and Pipits (5)**

**Cape Wagtail** *Motacilla capensis*— (1) Just a few but good looks from the boat trips on the Chobe. HC-2

**African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp*— (2) Quite common along the Chobe River, and seen on the lawn of the Victoria Falls hotel, at the falls as well. HC-23

**African Pipit** *Anthus cinnamomeus*— (1) Seen from the boat along the Chobe River on the island. HC-2

**Plain-backed Pipit** *Anthus leucophrys*— (1) Seen at one of the larger lagoons of the Xini area. HC-2

**Buffy Pipit** *Anthus vaalensis*— (2) Encountered at Pom Pom. HC-2

### **Emberizidae: Old World Buntings (1)**

**Golden-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza flaviventris*— (2) Seen just twice around Khwai, one at a waterhole with other species. HC-1

### **Passeridae: Old World Sparrows (2)**

**Southern Gray-headed Sparrow** *Passer diffusus*— (4) Seen at each location, not common but regularly encountered. HC-6

**Yellow-throated Petronia (Sparrow)** *Petronia supercilialis*— (2) Seen at the end of our trip at Chobe River Lodge and in the park. HC-2

### **Ploceidae: Weavers (7)**

**Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver** *Bubalornis niger*— (5) First encountered on our evening walk at Maun, attending their massive nests. We then found them feeding in squadrons, or at times as singles, on our game drives. HC-18

**White-browed Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser mahali*— (7) Common and widespread, their ball-shaped nests hung like ornaments from the shrubs and they were attending them. HC-6

**Holub's Golden Weaver** *Ploceus xanthops*— (1) Seen at Pom Pom from the mokoros. HC-1

**Lesser Masked Weaver** *Ploceus intermedius*— (2) We saw these only at Maun, where two were working on a nest near the dining area of Royal Tree, and at Chobe, but the common threads there may have been more attention paid at close range to eye color for identification. HC-2

**Southern Masked-Weaver** *Ploceus velatus*— (2) Seen in flocks at Maun and Victoria Falls. We did see some distant weaver flocks in Moremi, but they had to remain *Ploceus*, sp. HC-20

**Red-billed Quelea** *Quelea quelea*— (10) Common and seen in flocks throughout. HC-100+

**Fan-tailed Widowbird** *Euplectes axillaris*— (1) Seen in flocks at Chobe in marsh grasses lining the river. HC-15

### **Estrildidae: Waxbills (6)**

**Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild*— (2) Good looks at Maun, on our walk and then two perched up in reeds at a wetland margin on the day we traveled between camps. HC-2

**Southern Cordonbleu (Blue Waxbill)** *Uraeginthus angolensis*— (8) Quite common and widespread. HC- 8.  
**Violet-eared Waxbill** *Granatina granatina*— (1) Seen at Maun, lovely! HC-4  
**Green winged Pytilia** *Pytilia melba*— (1) Seen at the watered area by the upper gift shop near Chobe Safari Lodge. HC-3  
**Red-billed Firefinch** *Lagonosticta senegala*— (2) Seen at Maun and then again around the grounds of our hotel at Chobe. HC-2  
**Jameson's Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rhodopareia*— (1) Seen on our first evening walk at Maun, a male and female in a mixed flock. HC-2

**Mammals (37 species):**

**African Elephant** *Loxodonta africana*— (10) We saw many elephants of mixed ages, herds of females with young, and many groups of bulls. We got very close to some, always respectful, they approached us at times, we gave way!  
**Chacma Baboon** *Papio ursinus*— (8) Seen often, a big male taking a break from his ladies up on a termite mound was memorable. Lots of rambunctious youngsters.  
**Vervet Monkey** *Chlorocebus pygerythrus*— (7) Common and seen in big troops.  
**(African) Scrub Hare** *Lepus saxatilis*— (2) One seen in the early morning at Royal Tree, another coming in to camp one evening at dusk while at Khwai.  
**Lion** *Panthera leo*— (5) We saw MANY lions, the huge group of 23 at Xini Lagoons, and several groups smaller, a lovely mom and cub at Pom Pom, a Young male and female along the game drive at Chobe. We saw the Xini group daily there and learned to recognize some individuals.  
**Leopard** *Panthera pardus*— (2) One sighting near the big lion group was memorable, a leopard at days end was totally tucked up in the branch of a flowering sausage tree, you could see its legs and tail dangling and with some work pick out an eye, an ear, a face. Remarkable camouflage! We then had stunning views of a known, ten-year old female and her yearling offspring on the morning game drive from Pom Pom.  
**Serval** *Leptailurus serval*— (1) This was the mystery of our trip, solved only when back to Internet and pictures to scan through. Janice and Chuck, Nancy and Dan ran into a TINY cub with Ewan, they noticed it as birds were mobbing it, vocal Meve's Starlings making such a fuss they investigated. Ewan expected a snake and instead they found this very wobbly young cat. It snuck off into dense marsh grass just as the second van caught up, but we did get a glimpse, wanting to leave it alone for the mother to return. Many conversations ensued about just what cat it was.  
**African Wildcat** *Felis silvestris lybica*— (1) One vehicle had a quick glimpse, Janice and a few others, early in the trip returning to camp at dusk.  
**Banded Mongoose** *Mungos mungo*— (5) We enjoyed watching these active groups, often numerous and often found with Vervet Monkeys or Baboons.  
**Dwarf Mongoose** *Helogale parvula*— (3) We found several groups of this small mongoose, feeding and moving through the forest.  
**Slender Mongoose** *Galerella sanguine*— (2) Seen near Maun, and then very good looks at one in Chobe National Park that was chewing on a bone.  
**Spotted Hyena** *Crocuta crocuta*— (4) With so many lions about Xini, the hyenas were being very cautious. We saw a couple bold ones one morning peering at the lions across a wetland area. We heard them several nights from, and in, our camp.  
**Black-backed Jackal** *Canis mesomelas*— (1) Not at all common, we had one sighting but a good one, not far from the large lion group at Xini.  
**Side-striped Jackal** *Canis adustus*— (2) We found a pair quite readily near the airstrip at Pom Pom.  
**African Wild Dog** *Lycaon pictus*— (1) Time with a resting pack near a waterhole was one of the most memorable sightings of our journey.  
**Honey Badger** *Mellivora capensis*— (3) Not an easy animal to see, we found them several evenings and mornings around our camp. One morning we found one digging furiously for a root, and Peg got video!  
**African Civet** *Civettictis civetta* — (1) Quick views of one running away as we put a spotlight on it on the night drive from Pom Pom.  
**Burchell's Zebra** *Equus quagga burchellii*— (9) Very common, large groups, some foals of 4-6 months that were playful, young stallions fighting and running, lots of behavior.  
**Common Warthog** *Phacochoerus africanus*— (11) Very common, we watched two bold ones walk through the group of Wild Dogs, they somehow must have known they were full! We watched them feed down on their knees, and wallow in mud, run with tails held high.

**Hippopotamus** *Hippopotamus amphibious*— (10) Not a one of us will ever forget their sounds, heard at close range from our tents perched on the wetland areas. Carol got some great footage with the sound. Dan had one right near his tent that left quite an impression. We waited for them to open their mouths and show huge teeth for our photos. We saw them in good number, all days in Moremi especially. At Chobe we had good numbers too. We also saw them fully out of the water, grazing. Chuck admired their myriad trails radiating out from the palm islands as we flew over Okavango Delta.

**Bushbuck** *Tragelaphus sylvaticus*— (5) Pom Pom, quite tame around the lodge, Chobe, also comfortable in the ravine between our rooms and the dining area, and at Victoria Falls.

**Southern (Common) Reedbuck** *Redunca arundinum*— (4) Seen as singles and pairs in dense marsh vegetation and on the islands of the wet area of Pom Pom.

**Springbok** *Antidorcas marsupialis*— (1) Seen only in the drier areas of Maun, edge of the Kalahari.

**Impala** *Aepyceros melampus*— (9) Very common throughout.

**Greater Kudu** *Tragelaphus strepsiceros*— (9) We found this species when in forested areas, in small groups, male groups and then females with young, sometimes mixed.

**Steenbok** *Raphicerus campestris*— (4) We found one on our first day into Moremi, then found both male and females

**Oryx (Gemsbok)** *Oryx gazella*— (1) Just one seen on the farm at Royal Tree.

**Waterbuck** *Kobus ellipsiprymnus*— (10) Seen very regularly, one buck at sunset was especially memorable. Often in small groups, in the lushest wet areas.

**Puku** *Kobus vardonii*— (2) Seen only along the Chobe River, a few individuals.

**Red Lechwe** *Kobus leche*— (10) Common to abundant, Okavango and Moremi is their realm!

**Tsessebe** *Damaliscus lunatus*— (9) This antelope looks polished, such a glossy coat. They were present most days, in groups of 4 to 8 typically, mixed in with the other grazing mammals.

**Wildebeest (Blue Gnu)** *Connochetes tourinus*— (4) We did not see Wildebeest often compared to Zebra or Red Lechwe, but they were present in mixed herds, grazing and resting.

**African Buffalo** *Syncerus caffer*— (6) While not common, we found small groups on our drives, and once in Chobe found a very large herd grazing on the island in the Chobe River.

**Southern Giraffe** *Giraffa camelopardalis*— (10) Beautiful and elegant, we watched them prune huge acacias, and bend down to drink. We got very close – enough to watch oxpeckers give them a grooming and to watch their long tongues curl up around tiny flowers.

**Smith's Bush Squirrel (Tree Squirrel)** *Paraxerus cepapi*— (9) Very common throughout our journey.

**Multimammate Mouse** *Mastomys coucha*— (1) A few of us got to see these up close and personal in our tents one night at Khwai, Ewan the mouse-wrangler chased them quickly away but not after giggles and commotion.

**Southern Lesser Gallago (Bushbaby)** *Galago moholi*— (1) Seen on the night drive from Pom Pom.

#### Reptiles and Amphibians (10 species):

**Water Monitor Lizard** *Varanus exanthematicus*— (4) Seen in Moremi but best views and photos along the Chobe River.

**Nile Crocodile** *Crocodylus niloticus*— (11) Everywhere, large and small!

**Painted Reed Frog** *Hyperolius marmoratus*— (1) Pom-Pom

**Boettger's Dainty Frog (Common Caco)** *Cacosternum boettgeri* (1) – Beautiful tiny green frog seen from Mokoro ride from Pom Pom.

**Ground Agama** *Agama aculeata*— (3) Moremi, various locations

**Striped Skink** *Trachylepis striata*— (3) Pom-pom on the grassy lawn by the dining area

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

Rain Trees -

Baobabs -

Mopane - Acacias, Hyphaene Palms -

Gomoti Figs -

Sycamore Fig –