



Botswana: Wildlife Safari and Birding August 31 – September 11, 2019

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List compiled by Greg Smith



We arrived right at the very beginning of the Southern Hemisphere's spring avian migration and were poised for the incoming migrants that had spent the winter months further north. We had no swallows or swifts the first few days of the tour, but watched as bee-eaters and the other winged insectivores increased in numbers on a daily basis. A treat for all of us to experience this aspect of migration. The ongoing drought concentrated wildlife and birds, even though some normally wet areas like Pom Pom were left with less in the way of water holes. We topped out with 231 bird species for the trip and an amazing forty-seven mammal species. We were able to locate all of Africa's Big Five species on this trip, with the white rhinoceros definitely being the highlight. Scroll through the listed species and you will see just how varied the wildlife and birds were that we got to experience this year.

BIRDS: 231 species recorded

OSTRICHES: Struthionidae (1)

Common Ostrich *Struthio camelus*— Seen just about every day on the trip, both on safari and at the lodges

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae (8)

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White-faced Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*— Best looks were at groups down near Khwai along the pools adjacent to the river

Fulvous Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*— Seen only once early on during our safari

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*— Every day and everywhere, on rivers, farm ponds and ephemeral pools of water

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*— Huge goose seen perched on power towers and on the ground near ponds, but not common

Cape Teal *Anas* — Seen on larger pools of water on just a couple of days on the tour. Very common elsewhere, but not so much on this trip

Hottentot Teal *Anas hottentota*— Seen on just a couple of mornings with small on 6-8 individuals for the trip

Yellow-billed Duck *Anas undulata*— Very common, actually one of the more common ducks on the tour

Red-billed Duck *Anas erythroryncha*— Seen three times, usually only one or two pairs per sighting

GUINEAFOWL: Numididae (1)

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*— Every day and everywhere, probably one of the top two species observed on the trip

PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS AND ALLIES: Phasianidae (2)

Red-billed Francolin *Pternistis adspersus*— The other of the top two species on the trip, seen in mostly grassy savannah

Swainson's Francolin *Pternistis swainsonii*— Only seen three times on the trip, and only in pairs

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (8)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*— Seen in Maun, Kasane and in Johannesburg

Mourning Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decipiens*—Seen on the first day in Maun around the Royal Tree Lodge

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata*— The big, big dove of Botswana environs

Ring-necked Dove *Streptopelia capicola*— The most common dove of the trip, hundreds seen daily

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*— Not at all common, but usually in areas that had limited development

Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove *Turtur chalcospilos*—Best view was of a pair landing for a drink at the pool the lions were feeding on the Cape Buffalo

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*— Sporadic at best, usually seen feeding on dirt roads in groups of two to four

African Green-Pigeon *Treron calvus*— Seen on the first day at the Royal Tree Lodge

SANDGROUSE: Pteroclididae (3)

Namaqua Sandgrouse *Pterocles Namaqua* – Seen on our drive into Moremi Game Reserve

Double-banded Sandgrouse *Pterocles bicinctus*— The most common of the three sandgrouse species, seen on most days

Burchell's Sandgrouse *Pterocles burchelli*— This spotted sandgrouse was seen on only two days, but very tame

BUSTARDS: Otididae (2)

Kori Bustard *Ardeotis kori*— We saw the Kori in Chobe National Park on one of the game drives

Black-bellied Bustard *Lissotis melanogaster*— Seen on our morning drive at Pom Pom

TURACOS: Musophagidae (1)

Gray Go-away-bird *Corythaixoides concolor*— Seen on most days in small groups atop trees

CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: Cuculidae (3)

Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis*— Seen on three days in more short-grass habitats

Coppery-tailed Coucal *Centropus cupreicaudus*—Seen every day of the safari part of our journey

White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus*— Only seen once by some of the group up near the dried pond with loads of Marabou

NIGHTJARS AND ALLIES: Caprimulgidae (2)

Fiery-necked Nightjar *Caprimulgus pectoralis*— Seen and heard at Pom Pom on our after dark drives

Square-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus fossii*— We had this species only once, and that was at Pom Pom

SWIFTS: Apodidae (3)

African Swift *Apus barbatus*— Second most common swift of the trip. All black and large

Little Swift *Apus affinis*— Seen foraging over the Dombo Hippo Pool at our first campsite

African Palm-Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*— Certainly the most common swift on this trip. Usually near water

RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae (2)

African Swamphe *Porphyrio madagascariensis*— We had only one of these, and this was in a wetland where the two male lions went swimming

Black Crake *Zapornia flavirostra*— Seen by a few in the Paradise Pools area of our safari

CRANES: Gruidae (1)

Wattled Crane *Bugeranus carunculatus*— We had pairs of this stately bird on numerous days throughout the trip, and always very close to ponds or rivers

THICK-KNEES: Burhinidae (2)

Water Thick-knee *Burhinus vermiculatus*— Most larger bodies of water had this species, and always in pairs

Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis*— Only seen once, and again this was a pair, but not near a body of water. This is a dryland species

STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae (2)

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*— Seen around moderate to larger bodies of water with some emergent vegetation

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* – This species always seemed to prefer slightly deeper water as compared to the stilt

LAPWINGS AND PLOVERS: Charadriidae (7)

Long-toed Lapwing *Vanellus crassirostris*— Best seen feeding along the banks of the Chobe River in grass

Blacksmith Lapwing *Vanellus armatus*—Easily the most common of the lapwings, and easily the noisiest. Somewhat like our Killdeer when it came to making a racket

White-headed Lapwing *Vanellus albiceps*—Chobe

Crowned Lapwing *Vanellus coronatus*—More terrestrial than the other lapwing species

Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus*—Seen mostly along the Chobe River on sandy floodplains

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius*— We only saw this species on short grass floodplains along the Khwai River

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris*— Sporadic at best, no rhyme or reason as to when we would find it as there was plenty of habitat, but all of a sudden it would appear

JACANAS: Jacanidae (1)

African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus*— Sharp look bird that was very common. Always adjacent to water

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (7)

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*—There always seemed to be between 1- 3 birds whenever there was shallow water with mud and emergent vegetation

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*— Only place we saw this small pep was along the Khwai River

African Snipe *Gallinago nigripennis*— Seen flying along the Chobe River, not exactly the best look. But definitive picture

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*—We probably had six of this species, always distinguished by its teeter-tooter walk

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*— Not many of this species, but easy to distinguish by its size & bill shape

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*— Seen mostly along the Chobe River, but also twice in the Okavango Delta

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*— Seen every day in small numbers where there were muddy puddles of water

BUTTONQUAILS: Turnicidae (1)

Small Buttonquail *Turnix sylvaticus*— Seen at the Royal Tree Lodge in Maun

COURSERS AND PRATINCOLES: Glareolidae (1)

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*— Much more common than last year, and in more varied habitats

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (4)

Gray-hooded Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*— Only seen on the Chobe River and on the Dombo Hippo Pool

White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*— A few were seen on both the Dombo Hippo Pool and along the Chobe River

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*— Again on the Chobe River and the Dombo Hippo Pool

African Skimmer *Rynchops flavirostris*— Only one pair was seen on the entire trip and that was a copulating pair on a sandy island in the Chobe

STORKS: Ciconiidae (4)

African Openbill *Anastomus lamelligerus*—Huge flocks were seen circling over the Chobe River

Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*— Sporadic at best, but not easily overlooked when they were around

Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumenifer*— Drying ponds seemed to be the habitat where we would find these birds cleaning up on the fish that were stranded

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis*— Not as common as last year, and seen mostly along the Chobe River

ANHINGAS: Anhingidae (1)

African Darter *Anhinga rufa*— The Chobe River was certainly the place to find this species, very common

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (2)

Long-tailed Cormorant *Phalacrocorax africanus*— The primary freshwater species for Botswana, seen daily

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*— Seen only once and that was along the Chobe River

PELICANS: Pelecanidae (2)

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*— A few at the onset of the trip as we drove into Moremi

Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens*— Scattered throughout the trip where there was sufficient water to forage

HAMMERKOP: Scopidae (1)

Hammerkop *Scopus umbretta*—More common than expected, usually with multiple birds present

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (12)

Gray Heron *Ardea cinerea*— The common heron on the trip and always associated with water

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala*— Not as common as the Gray, and usually found in fields

Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath*— We only saw about a half dozen and they were in varied water habitats

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*— Just a few, and all were in the Chobe River

Great Egret *Ardea alba*— The least common of the egrets along with the Little, and usually along deeper water
Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia*—We saw more along the coast than in inland areas
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*— Only a few were seen, and usually along river courses
Slaty Egret *Egretta vinaceigula*—More common than Littles, and usually on the edge of reed-lined channels
Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca*— On our drive east through Bodamatau we saw our only Black
Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*—Scattered, and not necessarily common. Usually with Cape Buffalo
Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*— Tall grasses and the edge of reeds seemed to be it favored habitat
Rufous-bellied Heron *Ardeola rufiventris*—We saw at least a half-dozen, all were hiding in taller grass

Ibis and Spoonbills: Threskiornithidae (4)

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*—The least common of the three ibis with less than twelve birds sighted
Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*—Usually in small flocks along water course or in flooded fields
Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash*—Can't for this raucous naysayer
African Spoonbill *Platalea alba*—Best looks were at a small group near the Domo Hippo Pond

Secretary-bird: Sagittariidae (1)

Secretary-bird *Sagittarius serpentarius*— Seen twice on the trip, by the same vehicle on the same day

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (18)

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*— More common than was to be expected, usually in open areas
African Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides typus*— This bird, also called Gymnogene was seen on a few occasions investigating nesting holes looking for prey
White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis*— What a stunning bird, with our only sighting be of one that flew over our camp
Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus*— Best views were of the two hanging around the fresh Cape buffalo carcass near Khwai
White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus*—Certainly the common vulture in the Okavango Delta
Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus*— So many of these B-17's buzzing around, and very handsome
Black-breasted Snake-Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis*—Both vehicles saw different birds on our last night near the Dombo Hippo Pool
Brown Snake-Eagle *Circaetus cinereus*—The more common of the snake-eagles, see just about every other day
Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus*—Great views on the camping safari and along the Chobe
Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis* – A beautiful adult on a snag in the early morning light of the Chobe was stunning
Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraetus wahlbergi*— Fairly common, second only to the Tawny in numbers seen
Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax*—Seen every day, usually perched in the top of a tree
African Hawk-Eagle *Aquila spilogaster*—Seen on our drive into Moremi and on other day
Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar*—We got very good looks at a bird on a dead snag in the Okavango
African Marsh-Harrier *Circus ranivorus*— Seen a few times, usually over reed beds
African Goshawk *Accipiter tachiro*—We had an immature perched on a snag quite near the Cape Buffalo kill
Shikra *Accipiter badius*—We saw three of these birds, mostly in dry forest bordering the delta
African Fish-Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer*— We saw lots of these birds, with our best sighting being near a drying pond – over a hundred of them

OWLS: Strigidae (5)

African Scops-Owl *Otus senegalensis*—Calling every night at camp, and seen near the Khwai entrance gate
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl *Bubo lacteus*—Seen a number of times, both during the day and at dusk
Pel's Fishing-Owl *Scotopelia peli*— Spectacular sighting at the Pom Pom Safari Lodge
Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum*—Seen a couple of times, mostly in tangled forest
Marsh Owl *Asio capensis* — We saw this species 3-4 times in our early morning outing on the Chobe

MOUSEBIRDS: Coliidae (1)

Red-faced Mousebird *Urocolius indicus*—Seen on our first two days of the trip, mostly near the Maun-side of things

HOOPOES: Upupidae (1)

African Hoopoe *Upupa epops*—usually seen on the ground tossing leaves and sticks while foraging

WOODHOOPES: Phoeniculidae (2)

Green Woodhoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus*— Small family groups were everywhere, and seen 2-3 times a day

Common Scimitar-bill *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*—Seen only once during this trip, not nearly as common as the name implies

GROUND-HORNBILLS: Bucorvidae (1)

Southern Ground-Hornbill *Bucorvus leadbeateri*—Numerous sightings of this walking pterodactyl

HORNBILLS: Bucerotidae (5)

Bradfield's Hornbill *Lophoceros bradfieldi*— Best look was of a bird next to the road along the Chobe River

African Gray Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus*—Seen one in three days, not as common as the next two species

Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill *Tockus leucomelas*—Everywhere...

Southern Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus rufirostris*— Everywhere again///

Trumpeter Hornbill *Bycanistes bucinator*— A pair was heard and seen from our late evening boat ride on the Chobe

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (5)

Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus*— Most every patch of reeds along the Chobe had one of these stunners

Brown-hooded Kingfisher *Halcyon albiventris*— Best looks were in the early morning light on a snag next to the Chobe River Lodge

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti*—Seen perched five feet from our vehicle in the Moremi area

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima*— Best looks were of a bird perched over our docked boat on the Chobe

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*— Everywhere on the Chobe, and a few other places too

BEE-EATERS: Meropidae (4)

White-fronted Bee-eater *Merops bullockoides*— We only got to see this bird once and that was on Dead Tree Island

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus*— Just starting to show up on their southward migration

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater *Merops hirundineus*— Only once did we get to see this, and that was out on the delta

Southern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicoides*— With every day their numbers increased. Great shows on the Chobe

ROLLERS: Coraciidae 2)

Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus*—Everywhere and always a delight to see. Just stunning

Rufous-crowned Roller *Coracias naevius*—Only one seen was on one of the major roads of Maun

AFRICAN BARBETS: Lybiidae (4)

Crested Barbet *Trachyphonus vaillantii*— During a long stop at the headwaters of the River Kwhai. We watched a pair build a nest

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus chrysoconus*— Seen and heard around our fist camp in Moremi

Pied Barbet *Tricholaema leucomelas*— A bird near the headwaters of the River Kwhai passed thru our stop

Black-collared Barbet *Lybius torquatus*— The second most common of the barbets on this strip after Crested

HONEYGUIDES: Indicatoridae (2)

Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor*— Both the Lesser and the Greater gave us great looks at the Royal Tree water feature

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator*—As above with the Lesser, rare to get these two this easy

WOODPECKERS: Picidae(3)

Bearded Woodpecker *Chloropicus namaquus*— Seen just about every day of the trip

Bennett's Woodpecker *Campethera bennettii*— Seen best on our drive to our second campsite by the Dombo Hippo Pool

Golden-tailed Woodpecker *Campethera abingoni*— Best looks were at our stay at the Royal Tree Lodge

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (2)

Greater Kestrel *Falco rupicoloides*—We got good looks at this bird a number of times out in the drier areas of the Okavango

Dickinson's Kestrel *Falco dickinsoni*— This small kestrel was usually seen up on a dead limb in wide-open areas of the delta

PARROTS: Psittacidae (1)

Meyer's Parrot *Poicephalus meyeri*—More common than last year, and usually seen in the Sausage Trees

WATTLE-EYES AND BATIS: Platysteiridae (1)

Chinspot Batis *Batis molitor*—Striking looking bird that always managed to find its way into our viewshed

VANGAS AND HELMETSHRIKES: Vangidae (2)

White Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus*— That striking yellow around the eye always grabbed our attention when a flock put in an appearance

Red-billed Helmetshrike *Prionops retzii*—We only saw them once, not an easy bird to find

BUSHSHRIKES: Malaconotidae (7)

Brubru *Nilaus afer*—Only seen once during the trip and that was a short distance from our first camp

Black-backed Puffback *Dryoscopus cubla*—Seen just about every other day

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus*—We had one feeding right next to the vehicle during mixed flock feeding frenzy

Tropical Boubou *Laniarius major*—Only seen once during our drive to Botamadau

Gabon Boubou *Laniarius bicolor*—Seen twice on the trip, once at the Royal Tree Lodge, and then while we were waiting for our flight to Pom Pom

Crimson-breasted Gonolek *Laniarius atrococcineus*— Our best looks were at a single individual feeding out near the big wild dog pack

Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike *Telophorus sulfureopectus*— Formerly called the Orange-breasted, we saw this species well during a rest break at the Kwhai River headwaters

SHRIKES: Laniidae (4)

Crimson-breasted Shrike *Laniarius atrococcineas* – Our best look was of a bird feeding on the open ground near the Cape Buffalo herd

Magpie Shrike *Corvinella melanoleuca*— We usually ran into 2-3 family group a day of this long-tailed demon

White-crowned Shrike *Eurocephalus anguitimens*—Seen twice on the trip, with both sightings up by the third Bridge

Common Fiscal Shrike *Lanius collaris* — Seen every day of the trip, very common

OLD WORLD ORIOLES: Oriolidae (1)

African Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus larvatus*— Perched right over our head at our first camp. This happened twice

DRONGOS: Dicruridae (1)

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis*—Everywhere in small family groups for the most part. Always good looks at this species

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (2)

Cape Crow *Corvus capensis*—Seen sporadically, usually near some sort of habitation

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*—In more open areas of the trip, usually with some large rocks or cliffs nearby

LARKS: Alaudidae (2)

Sabota Lark *Calendulauda sabota*—Both lark species were seen in short grass floodplains of the River Khwai

Rufous-naped Lark *Mirafra africana*— Seen only once foraging along the River Khwai

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (7)

Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola*— Seen along the Chobe River, just arriving from the north

Banded Martin *Riparia cincta*— Seen from the boat on our first afternoon along the Chobe River

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*—We had our best views on the Chobe River, where they seemed to be a little more common

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*— Our best sightings were in the early morning on the Chobe River

Greater Striped Swallow *Cecropias cucullata*— We saw this species only once on the second day as we drove to camp

Lesser Striped-Swallow *Cecropias abyssinica*— This was the common aerial flycatcher of the trip seen on most days

Common House Martin *Delicon urbicum*— This species put in an appearance during our first afternoon at Pom Pom

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae (1)

Southern Black-Tit *Melaniparus niger*— Seen just a couple of times, both with small mixed flocks

BULBULS: Pycnonotidae (3)

Terrestrial Brownbul *Phyllastrephus terrestris*—Seen foraging in the understory of the Royal Tree Lodge

Common Bulbul *Pycnonotus barbatus*—Common is the appropriate descriptor for this species. It seemed that every third bird was a Common Bulbul

Black-fronted Bulbul *Pycnonotus nigricans*—Not as common as the Common, but still abundant during the trip

AFRICAN WARBLERS: Macrosphenidae (1)

Cape Crombec *Sylvietta rufescens*—These tailless-wonders would pop up in any sort of treed habitat and were usually very confiding

REED-WARBLERS: Acrocephalidae (2)

African Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus baeticatus*—Brief look as they skulked around the reeds at the edges of the delta

Lesser Swamp-Warbler *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*— We only got brief looks at this species too, as they seemed even more reticent to make an appearance

CISTICOLAS AND ALLIES: Cisticolidae (4)

Green-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brachyura*— We took a drive north of the Domo Hippo Pond and found this species in trees adjacent to grassy meadows

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida*—Not as striking as some of the other Apalis', but this one gave us great looks

Black-chested Prinia *Prinia flavicans*—Prinias are pretty much in your face birds, and the Black-chested didn't disappoint

Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola chiniana*—Lots of cisticolas in the southern part of Africa, but this is the only one we encountered

SYLVIID WARBLERS: Sylviidae (2)

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*—Seen on our one day at Royal Tree Lodge during our afternoon walk

Chestnut-vented Warbler (Titbabbler) *Sylvia subcaeruleum* – This species was also only seen at the Royal TreeForest Lodge

LAUGHINGTHRUSHES AND ALLIES: Leiothrichidae (3)

Hartlaub's Babbler *Turdoides hartlaubii*—Not as common as the Arrow-marked, and not seen near any habitation

Southern Pied-Babbler *Turdoides bicolor*—Seen once on safari and once at Pom Pom

Arrow-marked Babbler *Turdoides jardineii*—Small family groups seemed to be more prevalent around campsites or lodges

OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS AND CHATS: Muscicapidae (7)

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*—Not a stunner by any means, but we got to see a number of these individuals in low scrub

Kalahari Scrub-Robin *Cercotrichas paean*—In the more arid regions of the trip, similar to the Kalahari

White-browed Robin-Chat *Cossypha heuglini*—Common, or at least more easily seen in areas with habitation

Collared Palm-Thrush *Cichladusa arquata*—Another visitor to the Rain Tee water feature

African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*—In a mix of habitats, and seen numerous times during each day

Arnot's (White-headed Black)-Chat *Myrmecocichla arnotti*—On one afternoon drive during safari, we found a mixed migrant flock of both genders that were foraging right next to the road

Capped Wheatear *Oenanthe pileata*—Usually we spotted this species in short grass habitats, floodplains, farm fields etc.

THRUSHES: Turdidae (2)

Groundscraper Thrush *Psophocichla litsitsirupa*—Found sometimes in scrubby habitats and then other times in open meadows

Kurrichane Thrush *Turdus libonyana*— A stunning bird, that would pop up almost anywhere in non-watered habitat

STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae (6)

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea*—Our first view was of a small flock at Paradise Pools in the Okavango Delta

Red-winged Starling *Onychognathus morio*—This species bonds for life, so when we saw them, there was always a minimum two

Burchell's Starling *Lamprotornis australis*— The "common" starling for the entire trip, seen most every day

Meves's Starling *Lamprotornis mevesii*—This long-tailed starling was far more common on this year's trip than last year's

Greater Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*—Seen only once while we were waiting for our flight at Khwai to Pom Pom

Cape Starling *Lamprotornis nitens*— Seen every day of the trip except the very first, stunning bird

OXPECKERS: Buphagidae (2)

Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*— The common oxpecker of the trip, seen every day but the first
Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus*—This is certainly the rarer of the two species and was only at our first campsite on safari

SUNBIRDS: Nectariniidae (3)

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis*— We saw this bird only once on the fourth day of our camping safari. Stunning ruby red

Mariqua Sunbird *Cinnyris bifasciatus*— Best looks were in the yard of the Royal Tree Lodge in Maun

White-breasted Sunbird *Cinnyris talatala*— Our first campsite had something that attracted this species as we didn't see it anywhere else on the trip

WAGTAILS AND PIPITS: Motacillidae (6)

Cape Wagtail *Motacilla capensis*—A common species further south, we got looks at this bird at Royal Tree and one day on the delta

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp*—A single individual fed along the water's edge just east of Khwai

Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis* — Only seen one day on our final drive along the Khwai airstrip floodplain

African Pipit *Anthus cinnamomeus*— Seen on our afternoon outing at Pom Pom Safari Lodge on what was wetlands the year before

Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys*—Seen only one day in the grasslands north of the Dombo Hippo Pool

Buffy Pipit *Anthus vaalensis*— Seen three days total, all at our first campsite while on safari

FINCHES: Fringillidae (2)

Yellow-fronted Canary *Serinus mozambicus*—Both canary species were seen on the first day at Royal Tree Lodge and sporadically after that

Yellow Canary *Serinus flaviventris*—The more common of the two canary species we saw

OLD WORLD BUNTINGS: Emberizidae (1)

Golden-breasted Bunting *Emberiza flaviventris*— Seen very well at the water feature at the Royal Tree Lodge

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae(3)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*—Only seen on the first in the town of Maun, and that is a good thing

Southern Gray-headed Sparrow *Passer diffusus*— Common in small flocks seen watering along the River Khwai

Yellow-throated Petronia *Petronia superciljaris*— Seen on two days with our best looks at small flocks in the tops of trees

WEAVERS: Ploceidae (4)

Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver *Bubalornis niger*— There always seemed to be a small flock of these weavers seen every other day

Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectus rubriceps*— This stunning species was only seen one day on the trip, that was while driving to our second mobile campsite

Southern Masked-Weaver *Ploceus velatus*— Also seen only one day, and that in the village of Khwai

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*— Small intermittent flocks are the best way to describe views of this species

WAXBILLS: Estrildidae (5)

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*— Seen on our break along the headwaters of the River Khwai

Southern Cordonbleu *Uraeginthus angolensis*— The most "common" of the waxbills for the trip, seen almost daily

Green-winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba*— Seen on the ground once on the day we found the lion buffalo kill

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*— We had this species three days, with two of those at Pom Pom

Brown Firefinch *Lagonosticta nitidula*— Only seen once on drive to the north Khwai entrance station

MAMMALS: 45 species recorded (Incredible!)

- Peters' Epauletted Fruit Bat** *Epomophorus crypturus*— We had very good looks at one in the eaves of the Khwai North Entrance Station
- African Elephant** *Loxodonta africana*—With 130,000 in Botswana, we saw them every day and every hour
- Chacma Baboon** *Papio ursinus*— Best looks were from the boat on the Chobe River
- Vervet Monkey** *Chlorocebus pygerythrus*—Probably the closest looks were around the Moremi entrance stations
- Scrub Hare** *Lepus saxatillis*— Only seen a few times, and Pom Pom seemed to have more than a few
- Lion** *Panthera leo*—W saw at least 23 different lions with the buffalo carcass being the more interesting of the views
- Leopard** *Panthera pardus*— We had a total of three leopards for the trip with the best view of a patient female waiting for a male Red Lechwe to wander her way
- African Civet** *Civetticus civetta*— Seen on our night time drive at Pom Pom Safari Lodge
- Small Spotted (Common) Genet** *Genetta genetta*— The genet was also seen on the night time drive
- Yellow Mongoose** *Cynictis penicillata*— The common mongoose of the trip with every other day appearances
- Banded Mongoose** *Mungos mungo*— Seen a couple of times on the trip, and usually in relatively large troops
- Dwarf Mongoose** *Helogale parvula*— Tiny and quick, but their inquisitiveness always gave time to get a longer look
- Slender Mongoose** *Galerella sanguine*— That black-tipped tail was the last thing we saw of this, the shyest member of the mongooses
- Large Gray (Egyptian) Mongoose** *Herpestes ichneumon*— Wily to say the least given that the three Wild Dog pups couldn't take one down when they had it trapped out in the open
- Spotted-necked Otter** *Hydrictis maculicollis* —Not sure during our sighting of this animal on the River Khwai if the African Fish Eagle was hunting this or just taking advantage of the fish it was stirring up
- Cape Clawless Otter** *Aonyx capensis* — Early morning looks at this animal on the Chobe River were our best
- Spotted Hyena** *Crocuta crocuta*— The nursing female at the communal den with her two pups and another's older pup were easily the best view view – in so many ways
- Brown Hyena** *Hyaena brunnea* —One on our afternoon game drive in Chobe National Park was a rare sighting for the park
- Side-striped Jackal** *Canis adustus*— The pair under the shrub on our last safari day were very tolerant and also feeling a little frisky
- Black-backed Jackal** *Canis mesomelas*— W got watch an individual try to figure out a way to get a nibble of the Cape buffalo carcass
- African Wild Dog** *Lycaon pictus*— The group of 25 was an amazing experience, from when they woke up until we left them perplexed about how to get to the other side of the pond without a Nile crocodile interaction
- Honey Badger** *Mellivora capensis*— It took a while, but we finally caught up with a female and her solo young munching on a dove
- Burchell's Zebra** *Equus quagga burchellii*— Everywhere and every day
- Common Warthog** *Phacochoerus africanus*— These lean pieces of bacon were always putting in appearances, and usually with either their tails held high or down on their forelimbs
- Hippopotamus** *Hippopotamus amphibious*— On our boat cruises on the Chobe it was not to find a hippo in your viewshed
- White Rhinoceros** *Ceratotherium sinum* – What a surprise to find one of these at the Pom Pom Safari Lodge
- (Southern Reticulated) Giraffe** *Giraffa camelopardalis*— Stunning to see an animal this tall moving gracefully over the savanna
- Blue Wildebeest (Brindled Gnu)** *Connochaetes taurinus*— Not as common as last year, and in much smaller groups
- Tsessebe** *Damaliscus lunatus*— We saw this animal in groups of 2 – 5 loosely associating with other grazers
- Springbok** *Antidorcas marsupialis*— We only got to see Springbok twice, both on the first two days of the trip

Steenbok *Raphicerus campestris*— Drier areas always seemed to have one or two of these small antelope around

African Buffalo *Syncerus caffer*— Every third or fourth day we would find a large herd of these bovines

Bushbuck *Tragelaphus scriptus*— The bushbuck barely gets down in northern Botswana, with our best look at a break along the headwaters of the River Khwai

Greater Kudu *Tragelaphus strepsiceros*— Lots of sightings with the most-wild one being the Lion that chased a small group while using our safari vehicles as cover

Sable Antelope *Hippotragus niger*— A good trip for sighting these scimitar-horned denizens of the drier lands

Roan Antelope *Hippotragus equinus*— First trip in a while where we got to see multiple numbers of these

Common Eland *Taurotragus oryx*— Seen only on our first and second day at the Royal Tree Lodge in Maun

Gemsbok *Oryx gazella*— Seen only on the second day of our safari

Impala *Aepyceros melampus*— Everywhere and every day, and with their ability to graze or browse most every habitat

Waterbuck *Kobus ellipsiprymnus*— The need for grasslands associated with water made it easy to predict where and when we would find this species

Puku *Kobus vardonii*— Seen only one day on our boat outing on the Chobe River

Red Lechwe *Kobus leche*— Floodplains in the Delta and along the Chobe always had numbers of this species

Southern Reedbuck *Redunca arundinum*— Usually what we saw were only the heads of these animal when they were bedded down in reeds

Cape (Crested) Porcupine *Hystrix africae australis*— Seen on our night drive at Pom Pom Safari Lodge

Smith's Bush Squirrel *Paraxerus cepapi*— Everywhere there were trees or large shrubs, we would find these tidbits

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS: 4 species recorded:

Rock Monitor Lizard *Varanus albigularis*— Seen sunning itself on a tree limb on our day drive of the safari

Striped Skaapsteker *Psammophylax tritaeniatus* — We had this snake crossing the trail in the Bodamatau area

Olive Grass Snake *Psammophis mossambicus* — We saw this snake just recently deceased in the beak of a Southern Red Hornbill

Nile Crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus*— Everywhere there was a pool of water there was a more than a handful