

# Ultimate Namibia-Botswana Combo | Species List

## July 23 – August 15, 2022 | with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled and photographs by: Greg Smith



Karoo Eremomela

### **SUMMARY: 307 species**

*This was a tour in the middle of the Austral winter and as such, most of the birds that nested in the Northern Hemisphere had not made it this far south quite yet. But we did very well in finding 70% (mostly resident species...) of the 440 species on the tour checklist. Nesting would start in late August for a lot of the resident species, so we were here at a time when there were plenty of mixed flocks. The area had been suffering a ten-year drought thru the end of 2020, but the Okavango Delta and surrounding rivers had plenty of water during our tour. As with more water, it is certainly easier for the wildlife to survive, but it does allow for the wildlife to disperse to into more areas with the abundant water.*

### **Family or Species Common Name Scientific Name**

#### **OSTRICHES: Struthionidae**

**Common Ostrich** *Struthio camelus*— Our first sighting in Sossusvlei of a pair was our best sighting of very many

#### **DUCKS, GEESE, AND SWANS: Anatidae (12)**

**White-faced Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna viduata*—Quite a number seen on our first morning on the Namibian side of the Kavango River

**Fulvous Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna bicolor*— Five outside of Swakopmund was a find, even for locals

**White-backed Duck** *Thalassornis leuconotus*—

**Knob-billed Duck** *Sarkidiornis melanotos*—A few early morning flocks along the Kavango were the only ones we saw

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca*— One walking the dunes and foraging at Deadvlei was in an interesting location. Seen most places there was water

**South African Shelduck** *Tadorna cana*— Seen out on the water behind Avis Dam in Windhoek at the start of the dam

**Spur-winged Goose** *Plectropterus gambensis*— First closeup sightings were on an sunset boat ride at Xaro Lodge on the Kovango

**African Pygmy-Goose** *Nettapus auritus*—Two pair on the Okavango while at Xaro were stunning

**Blue-billed Teal** *Spatula hottentota*— First seen on the Walvis Bay Wetlands

**Cape Shoveler** *Spatula smithii*— Walvis Bay has huge wetlands created by their wastewater treatment plant and used by many water-dependent speices. The shoveler was just one of them

**Yellow-billed Duck** *Anas undulata*—

**Cape Teal** *Anas capensis*— Common on most every large body of fresh water

**Red-billed Duck** *Anas erythrorhyncha*— Just a couple were seen on the Walvis Bay wetlands

**Southern Pochard** *Netta erythrophthalma*—

**Maccoa Duck** *Oxyura maccoa*— A single male at a pond at the same location as the Fulvous WD outside of Swakopmund

#### **GUINEAFOWL: Numididae (1)**

**Helmeted Guineafowl** *Numida meleagris*— A huge flock was seen along the base of the escarpment as we dropped down into the Namib and all over the place in Botswana

#### **PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS, AND ALLIES: Phasianidae (5)**

**Crested Francolin** *Ortygornis sephaena*— Seen in the Caprivi Strip in Namibia and while watching lions in the KwaiuRiver area

**Orange River Francolin** *Scleroptila gutturalis*— We were within 15' of this species as it was calling at Avis Dam, but could just barely make it out thru the brush

**Hartlaub's Francolin** *Pternistis hartlaubi*— Only time seen and heard were at Erongo before sunrise

**Red-billed Francolin** *Pternistis adspersus*— Fairly common once away from the coast and out of the Namib

**Swainson's Francolin** *Pternistis swainsonii*— A few were seen in both Namibia and Botswana

#### **FLAMINGOS: Phoenicopteridae (2)**

**Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus roseus*—We saw both species at Walvis Bay wetlands, this species was in the minority

**Lesser Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus minor*—At the Walvis Bay wetlands in significant numbers compared to the Greater

#### **GREBES: Podicipedidae (2)**

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*— First seen at Avis Dam and then later, on most large freshwater impoundments

**Eared Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*— A few were seen on our arrival at the Walvis Bay wetlands and in large pools of water in Botswana

#### **PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (9)**

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia*— Seen most everytime we passed thru a small town or city

**Speckled Pigeon** *Columba guinea*— We did find our first looks around the outskirts of Windhoek

**Mourning Collared-Dove** *Streptopelia decipiens*— All over the place in the interior of both countries

**Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata*—Common in the Kovango and Okavango areas

**Ring-necked Dove** *Streptopelia capicola*— Seemed to be the common species in both Namibia and Botswana

**Laughing Dove** *Streptopelia senegalensis*—Common in both Namibia and Botswana

**Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove** *Turtur chalcospilos*— Regular but not common in the Kovango and Okavango areas  
**Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*—This diminutive dove prefers more arid regions and we saw a number on our drive from Windhoek to Sossusvlei. Seen in the drier regions near Nxai Pan in Botswana  
**African Green-Pigeon** *Treron calvus*—Heard along the Kovango River and then seen well feeding in a fig tree near Xaro

#### **SANDGROUSE: Pteroclididae (3)**

**Namaqua Sandgrouse** *Pterocles namaqua*— Not uncommon and we managed to always see a few in open areas winging about as well as foraging along the roadways

**Double-banded Sandgrouse** *Pterocles bicinctus*— Numbers were always seen at waterholes in both Namibia and Botswana

**Burchell's Sandgrouse** *Pterocles burchelli*—Probably the least common of the three sandgrouse in both countries

#### **BUSTARDS: Otididae (5)**

**Kori Bustard** *Ardeotis kori*—The biggest of the bustards and common in the grasslands of both Namibia and Botswana

**Ludwig's Bustard** *Neotis ludwigii*—Seen along the road into Sossusvlei in the open flats

**Ruppell's Bustard** *Eupodotis rueppellii*— Our late afternoon drive up the valley towards Sossusvlei we had two pair right next to the roadway

**Red-crested Bustard** *Eupodotis ruficrista*— Common along the roadsides of sand veldt in Namibia

**Northern Black Korhaan** *Afrotis afraoides*— The most common of the bustards for sure in both countries

#### **TURACOS: Musophagidae (1)**

**Gray Go-away-bird** *Corythaixoides concolor*—Seen most days of the trip outside of desert areas

#### **CUCKOOS: Cuculidae (1)**

**Coppery-tailed Coucal** *Centropus cupreicaudus*— First seen along the Kovango and the Okavango River areas

#### **NIGHTJARS: Caprimulgidae (4)**

**Fiery-necked Nightjar** *Caprimulgus pectoralis*— Serenaded at dinner by this species at both Erongo and Xaro lodges

**Swamp Nightjar** *Caprimulgus natalensis*— Heard one evening from the papyrus along the Okavango at Xaro

**Freckled Nightjar** *Caprimulgus tristigma*— Seen and heard at Erongo Wild Lodge and also at Xaro in Botswana

**Square-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus fossii*— Heard on our first night of camping in Botswana

#### **SWIFTS: Apodidae (5)**

**Alpine Swift** *Apus melba*— A few were mixed in with a large flock of low-flying Bradfield's Swifts in Namibia

**Bradfield's Swift** *Apus bradfieldi*— Just a huge number of these birds foraging low along the roadway on our drive to Sossusvlei

**Little Swift** *Apus affinis*—Seen flying over the buildings on the east side of Etosha

**White-rumped Swift** *Apus caffer*— Seen just once in Namibia at Halali Camp in Etosha National Park

**African Palm-Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus*—Common around Etosha where there were thatch-roofed buildings

#### **RAILS, CRAKES, AND ALLIES: Rallidae (4)**

**African Rail** *Rallus caerulescens*— Heard while we were morning birding at Mahangu Safari Lodge

**Eurasian Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*—Seen at a number of waterholes, but only those with a contingent of reeds

**Red-knobbed Coot** *Fulica cristata*— First seen on the waters behind the Avis Dam and once or twice in the Kwai River drainage

**Black Crake** *Zapornia flavirostra*— Seen at a number of reed-lined waterholes in both countries

### **CRANES: Gruidae (1)**

**Wattled Crane** *Bugerus carunculatus*—Seen along the Kovango and then again along the Kwai River

### **THICK-KNEES: Burhinidae (2)**

**Water Thick-knee** *Burhinus vermiculatus*—A number seen along both the Kovango and the Okavango Rivers

**Spotted Thick-knee** *Burhinus capensis*—Seen at Nxai Pan on one of the safari vehicle drives

### **STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae (2)**

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*— A few were on the Walvis Bay wetlands, in stunningly crisp plumage and then in flooded wetlands of Moremi

**Pied Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*— A few were mixed in the with the stilts at Walvis Bay, and two sightings in Botswana

### **PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (8)**

**Long-toed Lapwing** *Vanellus crassirostris*— Uncommon, but seen daily in the Okavongo Delta

**Blacksmith Lapwing** *Vanellus armatus*— Seen most everywhere there was sufficient freshwater

**Crowned Lapwing** *Vanellus coronatus*—A pair was foraging right outside the Dead Valley Lodge after our departure breakfast, and then daily for the remainder of the trip

**Wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus senegallus*—Seen in the Kwai River area of northern Botswana

**Kittlitz's Plover** *Charadrius pecuarius*—Individuals were very confiding as we birded the Walvis Bay wetlands

**Three-banded Plover** *Charadrius tricollaris*—Out first sightings were as we walked along the shore of the Avis Dam waters

**White-fronted Plover** *Charadrius marginatus*—Just a few at the Walvis Bay wetlands and the salt pools north of Swakopmund

**Chestnut-banded Plover** *Charadrius pallidus*— We did have six early migrants of this common summer nester

### **PAINTED-SNIPES: Rostratulidae (1)**

**Greater Painted-Snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis*— A good look at a pair of these sharp-looking birds in Moremi

### **JACANAS: Jacanidae (2)**

**Lesser Jacana** *Microparra capensis*—Seen late one afternoon along the Kwai River in Botswana

**African Jacana** *Actophilornis africanus*—Fairly common along water courses in both countries

### **SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (4)**

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* – Seen on the coastline north of Swakopmund

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*—We had three along the rocky shoreline north of Swakopmund

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*—Two were seen, one very well of this common summer visitor

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*—One was seen just south of Swakopmund in the coastal lagoon

### **PRATINCOLES AND COURSERS: Glareolidae (3)**

**Burchell's Courser** *Cursorius rufus*—Definitely not east to find, but the flats along Sossusvlei gave us a few

**Double-banded Courser** *Smutornis africanus*— A pair a day in Namibia was our average

**Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincole* – Only one seen was on a gravel bar on Kovango River at Hakusembe

### **GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (6)**

**Grey-hooded Gull** *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*— Two were seen flying around Bridge 3 in the Moremi area

**Hartlaub's Gull** *Chroicocephalus hartlaubii*—First seen at the Walvis Bay wetlands, and then further north along the



coast

**Kelp Gull** *Larus dominicanus*—As above with the Hartlaub's, limited to coastal areas

**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*— Our first was one individual flying by along the Walvis Bay coast

**Great Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bergii*— Seen along the coast of Namibia, mostly just north of Swakopmund

**African Skimmer** *Rynchops flavirostris*— Seen on the Okavango River during outings from Xaro Lodge

#### **STORKS: Ciconiidae (4)**

**African Openbill** *Anastomus lamelligerus*— Seen sporadically on inland bodies of water in both Namibia and Botswana

**Saddle-billed Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*—One pair was seen on our first outing in the Moremi area

**Marabou Stork** *Leptoptilos crumenifer*—Sporadic, but only seen on the mobile safari part of the tour

**Yellow-billed Stork** *Mycteria ibis*—Not quite common in the early part of the season but great looks along the Kwai

#### **ANHINGAS: Anhingidae (1)**

**African Darter** *Anhinga rufa*— Seen daily in Botswana and on two days in the Captiva Strip

#### **CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (5)**

**White-breasted Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax lucidus* – Seen along the coast north of Swakopmund

**Long-tailed Cormorant** *Microcarbo africanus*—Seen along the Caprivi Strip in Namibia and a few on the Kwai River

**Crowned Cormorant** *Microcarbo coronatus*—A few were seen along the Namibian coast between Walvis Bay and Swakopmund

**Cape Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax capensis*—Seen along the coast near Swakopmund

**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*—Also seen along the coast near Swakopmund

#### **PELICANS: Pelecanidae (2)**

**Great White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus*— We had a few of these in the salt ponds north of Swakopmund and also in the Moremi area of Botswana

**Pink-backed Pelican** *Pelecanus rufescens*— We only had these on one day on a pond driving from Moremi to Kwai

#### **HAMERKOP: Scopidae (1)**

**Hamerkop** *Scopus umbrette*— Seen a couple of times in Namibia and daily in Botswana

#### **HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (16)**

**Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus*— Seen on the Kovango at Hakusembe and on the Okavongo at Xaro

**Gray Heron** *Ardea cinerea*—Seen sporadically in both countries on alternating days

**Black-headed Heron** *Ardea melanocephala*— Mostly seen around watering holes and calmer waters

**Goliath Heron** *Ardea goliath*— Very common on both the Kovango and Okavongo Rivers

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*— Seen once in Namibia and a couple of times in Botswana, uncommon

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*— Seen numerous times in both countries, primarily along rivers

**Intermediate Egret** *Ardea intermedia*—Only seen a couple of times in each country, mostly along rivers

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*—Certainly the most common wader on the trip, most water locations always had a few

**Slaty Egret** *Egretta vinaceigula*—Seen once in Namibia and usually 3-4 a day in the Moremi/Khwai area

**Black Heron** *Egretta ardesiaca*—Seen only once and that was in the Khwai River area

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*—Scattered in areas with herds of game or on cattle farms in both countries

**Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides*—Very common on both the Kovango and Okavongo Rivers

**Rufous-bellied Heron** *Ardeola rufiventris*—Seen once on the drive from Muhangu to Xaro in Namibia and once adjacent to the Khwai River in Botswana

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striata*—Seen regularly on both rivers in both countries

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*— Seen once in Namibia and twice in Botswana

**White-backed Night-Heron** *Gorsachius leuconotus*—At Hakusembe Safari Lodge in Namibia and Xaro in Botswana

#### **IBIS AND SPOONBILLS: Threskiornithidae (4)**

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*— Seen once on the drive from Muhangu to Xaro in Namibia and once adjacent to the Khwai River in Botswana

**African Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus*—Seen in flooded lands in both countries, usually in small flocks

**Hadada Ibis** *Bostrychia hagedash*—Surprisingly uncommon based on past tours to the area. Seen in both countries

**African Spoonbill** *Platalea alba*—Not at all common on this tour, but seen in both countries

#### **SECRETARYBIRD: Sagittariidae (1)**

**Secretarybird** *Sagittarius serpentarius*— A pair was seen foraging in a mowed field, great views

#### **HAWKS, KITES, AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (19)**

**Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*—Seen numerous times perched atop a tree in both countries

**White-headed Vulture** *Trigonoceps occipitalis*— Seen in both countries with the best view being on an elephant skull in the Khwai River area

**Lappet-faced Vulture** *Torgos tracheliotos*— Two different nesting pairs in Nxai Pan gave us our best looks

**Hooded Vulture** *Necrosyrtes monachus*—Three of the slender-billed vultures were hanging around the lion killed African Buffalo in Moremi

**White-backed Vulture** *Gyps africanus*—Seen soaring in both countries and a number on a carcass in Khwai

**Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus*— Numerous sightings of soaring birds, seen on most days of the tour

**Black-chested Snake-Eagle** *Circaetus pectoralis*—Seen on the road to Solitaire and in Sossuvlei

**Brown Snake-Eagle** *Circaetus cinereus*— Fairly common on the Botswana days of the tour

**Martial Eagle** *Polemaetus bellicosus*—Best views were of a couple of birds perched at sunset in Sossusvlei

**Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus*—Seen on our drive to Walvis Bay from Sossusvlei

**Tawny Eagle** *Aquila rapax*—Seen in Etosha near a waterhole and again in Botswana on a nest tree

**Verreaux's Eagle** *Aquila verreauxii*—Only view was near Erongo in Namibia sitting on a nest

**African Hawk-Eagle** *Aquila spilogaster*—Seen in Botswana at Xaro Lodge over the island

**Dark Chanting-Goshawk** *Melierax metabates*—We saw this raptor on the last two days in Namibia and twice in Botswana

**Pale Chanting-Goshawk** *Melierax canorus*—Probably the most common raptor on the tour

**Gabar Goshawk** *Micronisus gabar*—Usually seen patrolling various waterholes in both countries

**African Marsh-Harrier** *Circus ranivorus*— Seen in the crepuscular hours while on a boat ride on the Okavongo

**Shikra** *Accipiter badius*— Seen on a few days near the end of the Namibia part of the tour

**African Fish-Eagle** *Haliaeetus vocifer*—Common anytime we were near a river

#### **BARN OWLS: Tytonidae (1)**

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*—Seen in a baobab tree in Nxai Pan, not much in the way of any cover

#### **OWLS: Strigidae (6)**

**African Scops-Owl** *Otus senegalensis*—Heard at Hakusembe Safari Lodge and our campsite on the Khwai River

**Southern White-faced Owl** *Ptilopsis granti*—Heard at Xaro Lodge on our second evening while dining

**Spotted Eagle-Owl** *Bubo africanus*—Seen flying in the crepuscular hours at Erongo Wild

**Pel's Fishing-Owl (B)** *Scotopelia peli*—A nesting pair at Xaro Lodge was a great find

**Pearl-spotted Owlet** *Glaucidium perlatus*—Seen quite well and photographed on our first full tour day

**African Wood-Owl** *Strix woodfordii*— Seen at roost right next to the Xaro Lodge office

### **MOUSEBIRDS: Coliidae (2)**

**White-backed Mousebird** *Colius colius*— Seen at Avis Dam and on the road to Sossusvlei

**Red-faced Mousebird** *Urocolius indicus*—Seen on a number of days at the tail end of the Namibia tour portion

### **HOOPOES: Upupidae (1)**

**Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*—A little flighty when we saw them, which was about every other day

### **WOODHOOPOES AND SCIMITARBILLS: Phoeniculidae (3)**

**Green Woodhoopoe** *Phoeniculus purpureus*—Best looks by far were at Xaro, but seen on multiple days

**Violet Woodhoopoe** *Phoeniculus damarensis*—A family group at Numitoni were quite tame

**Common Scimitarbill** *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*— Seen on both countries but only three times total

### **GROUND-HORNBILLS: Bucorvidae (1)**

**Southern Ground-Hornbill** *Bucorvus leadbeateri*— Seen on our second day of the mobile safari in Moremi

### **HORNBILLS: Bucerotidae (6)**

**Bradfield's Hornbill** *Lophoceros bradfieldi*—Seen from the vehicle in numerous places on our last two days in Namibia

**African Gray Hornbill** *Lophoceros nasutus*— Probably the best sighting was a flock of fifty or so birds all perched in trees

**Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill** *Tockus leucomelas*—Everywhere and on almost everyday we saw numerous individuals

**Monteiro's Hornbill** *Tockus monteiri*—Best looks were during the morning on the veranda of Erongo Wild

**Southern Red-billed Hornbill** *Tockus damarensis*—Not quite as common as the Yellow-billed, but certainly common

**Damara Red-billed Hornbill** *Tockus damarensis*— Best looks were in the morning at the River Crossing Lodge

### **KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (4)**

**Malachite Kingfisher** *Corythornis cristatus*—A stunning bird and they were all around Xaro Lodge

**Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti*— Only one was seen and that was perched

**Giant Kingfisher** *Megaceryle maxima*—Seen at Mahangu Safari Lodge and along the river at Xaro

**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*— The most common kingfisher in both countries

### **BEE-EATERS: Meropidae (4)**

**White-fronted Bee-eater** *Merops bullockoides*— Colonies along the Okavango near Xaro Lodge had loads of birds

**Little Bee-eater** *Merops pusillus*—The most common of the bee-eaters on the trip

**Swallow-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops hirundineus*—Only a few seen in Botswana with many more in

**Southern Carmine Bee-eater** *Merops nubicoides*— A little too early in the season for these, but we saw two in the air near Hakusembe

### **ROLLERS: Coraciidae (2)**

**Lilac-breasted Roller** *Coracias caudatus*—Pretty common in both countries, but more so in Botswana

**Rufous-crowned Roller** *Coracias naevius*— Only saw this roller in Namibia, maybe too early for Botswana

### **AFRICAN BARBETS: Lybiidae (3)**

**Crested Barbet** *Trachyphonus vaillantii*—Best looks were in the morning at Mahuanga Safari Lodge

**Pied Barbet** *Tricholaema leucomelas*—River Crossing Lodge is where we got our best looks at this barbet

**Black-collared Barbet** *Lybius torquatus*—Best looks were Tsodilo Hills near Xaro Lodge

### **HONEYGUIDES: Indicatoridae (1)**

**Greater Honeyguide** *Indicator indicator*—Seen on our drive from Mahanga Safari Lodge to Xaro

**WOODPECKERS: Picidae (3)**

**Cardinal Woodpecker** *Chloropicus fuscescens*—We had this woodpecker foraging overhead at the Halili waterhole

**Bennett's Woodpecker** *Campethera bennettii*—The most common of the three woodpecker species we saw

**Golden-tailed Woodpecker** *Campethera abingoni*—Seen on the morning we drove to the eastern side of Etosha NP

**FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae (4)**

**Pygmy Falcon** *Polihierax semitorquatus*— Only one sighting of a female that was very tame on our first day in Etosha

**Rock Kestrel** *Falco rupicolus*—Probably the second most common raptor on the trip

**Greater Kestrel** *Falco rupicoloides*—Wonderful view of two different pairs in their respective nest trees

**Lanner Falcon** *Falco biarmicus*—Only seen once in Namibia in flight over a waterhole in Etosha

**PARROTS: Psittacidae (3)**

**Rosy-faced Lovebird** *Agapornis roseicollis*—Wonderful and long looks at River Crossing Lodge on our first morning

**Meyer's Parrot** *Poicephalus meyeri*—Seen in both countries with a flock of forty on our second day of the mobil safari

**Ruppell's Parrot** *Poicephalus rueppellii*—Great looks from the veranda of Erongo Wild in the early morning

**CUCKOOSHRIKES: Campephagidae (1)**

**White-breasted Cuckooshrike** *Campephaga pectoralis*— Only one was seen and it was a brief look early in the morning at Mahuanga Safari Lodge

**OLD WORLD ORIOLES: Oriolidae (1)**

**African Black-headed Oriole** *Oriolus larvatus*— Seen in the same fig near Xaro where we had African Fruit Pigeons

**WATTLE-EYES AND BATISES: Platysteiridae (3)**

**White-tailed Shrike** *Lanioturdus torquatus*—Two birds on the morning drive from Erongo were along the roadside

**Chinspot Batis** *Batis molitor*—Only seen on our drive to Xaro as we crossed the Namibia/Botswana border

**Pririt Batis** *Batis pririt*—Fairly common and approachable during our stay at River Crossing Lodge

**VANGAS AND HELMETSHRIKES: Vangidae (2)**

**White Helmetshrike** *Prionops plumatus*—Seen three different times in Namibia, but we missed them in Botswana

**Retz's Helmetshrike** *Prionops retzii*— A small group of four gave us great looks on our morning walk at Xaro

**BUSHSHRIKES AND ALLIES: Malaconotidae (6)**

**Brubru** *Nilaus afer*—It took about ten days to start finding and seeing this species, but by the time we got to the Kovango River they were pretty common

**Black-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra senegalus*—We saw both of the tchagras on Day 12 of the tour in the national park Namibia that borders Botswana

**Brown-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra australis*— We saw both of the tchagras on Day 12 of the tour in the national park Namibia that borders Botswana

**Gabon Boubou** *Laniarius bicolor*—Previously known as the Swamp Boubou, this species was pretty common in wood thickets near the big rivers

**Crimson-breasted Gonolek** *Laniarius atrococcineus*—A stunning bird to run across with our best looks on the national park that borders the two countries

**Bokmakierie** *Telophorus zeylonus*— Only seen once and heard a few more time in the same area we were looking for the Herero Chat



### **DRONGOS: Dicruridae (1)**

**Fork-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus adsimilis*—Common, conspicuous and seen a number of times every day

### **SHRIKES: Laniidae (3)**

**Magpie Shrike** *Lanius melanoleucus*—Hard to miss a bird like this with a tail that long. More common in the south of Namibia and Botswana

**Southern Fiscal** *Lanius collaris*—Less common this tour than on previous tours, but their handiwork of impaling prey was obvious

**Souza's Shrike** *Lanius souzae* – Heard only on our drive into the Caprivi Strip

**White-crowned Shrike** *Eurocephalus anguitimens*—Small family groups were seen regularly with the best view near the dining area around Halili

### **CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (2)**

**Cape Crow** *Corvus capensis*—Very sporadic and maybe only one sighting every other day

**Pied Crow** *Corvus albus*— More common around areas frequented by people, & more common than the Cape Crow

### **TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae (2)**

**Carp's Tit** *Melaniparus carpi*—Heard only on the west side of Etosha National Park

**Ashy Tit** *Melaniparus cinerascens*—Seen well only once on the backroads to Deadvlei

### **PENDULINE-TITS: Remizidae (1)**

**Southern Penduline-Tit** *Anthoscopus minutus*—Seen on the all-day outing at Nxai Pan Lodge

### **LARKS: Alaudidae (12)**

**Spike-heeled Lark** *Chersomanes albofasciata*—We got very good views of birds sitting on rocks next to the road in Etosha

**Gray's Lark** *Ammomanopsis grayi*—Seen on the coastal plains north of Swakopmund just inland from the ocean

**Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark** *Eremopterix leucotis*—Seen both days while we were at the Erongo Wild Lodge

**Gray-backed Sparrow-Lark** *Eremopterix verticalis*—Seen daily until we got to the Kovango River

**Sabota Lark** *Calendulauda sabota*—Also seen daily, but away from the Kovango River habitats

**Dune Lark** *Calendulauda erythrochlamys*—Seen in those wonderful red dunes of Deadvlei

**Eastern Clapper Lark** *Mirafra fasciolata*—seen near the pans of Etosha National Park

**Red-capped Lark** *Calandrella cinerea*—Only seen at a waterhole in the north parts of Etosha NP

**Stark's Lark** *Spizocorys starki*—Seen in Sossusvlei on in the plains east of Walvis Bay

**Pink-billed Lark** *Spizocorys conirostris*—We only got views of this species in the central part of Etosha

### **AFRICAN WARBLERS: Macrosphenidae (2)**

**Cape Crombec** *Sylvietta rufescens*—Seen in a number of locations, the first being at River Crossing Lodge in Windhoek

**Rockrunner** *Achaetops pycnopygius*—Sean called one out of the rocks at a roadside stop just south of Solitaire

### **CISTICOLAS AND ALLIES: Cisticolidae (11)**

**Yellow-bellied Eremomela** *Eremomela icteropygialis*—One or two of these would pop up about every third day on the trip

**Burnt-neck Eremomela** *Eremomela usticollis*—Best looks were on the last day when we were crossing into Botswana

**Karoo Eremomela** *Eremomela gregalis* – Great looks and photos of this hard to find endemic on our Welwitchia day

**Green-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brachyura*—Along the Kavongo River gave us some great looks and increased numbers

**Yellow-breasted Apalis** *Apalis flavida*—The only one we got a look at was on our last day in Namibia in Bwabwata National Park

**Black-chested Prinia** *Prinia flavicans*—Very common and in a number of varied habitats

**Rufous-eared Warbler** *Malcorus pectoralis*—Seen on our early morning drive out towards the east side of Etosha

**Rattling Cisticola** *Cisticola chiniana*—Seen on our last two days in the northeast section of Namibia

**Tinkling Cisticola** *Cisticola rufilatus*—Seen on our last two days in the northeast section of Namibia

**Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*—Seen in some flooded grassy fields near Mahangu Safari Camp

**Desert Cisticola** *Cisticola aridulus*—Seen only on our days in Etosha

#### **REED WARBLERS: Acrocephalidae (1)**

**African Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus baeticatus*—Only sighting was during our drive from Sossusvlei to Swakopmund

#### **SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (9)**

**Rock Martin** *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*—Pretty common and pretty docile around human habitation

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*—Seen in Bwabwata National Park foraging over the floodplains of the Kovango River

**Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii*—Common in and around the Kovango and Okavango Rivers

**Pearl-breasted Swallow** *Hirundo dimidiata*—Again, common near the two big rivers along the Caprivi Strip

**Greater Striped Swallow** *Cecropis cucullata*—Those rivers had a hold on most all of the swallows

**Lesser Striped Swallow** *Cecropis abyssinica*—Best looks were of a pair gathering nest material on the ground at Xaro

**Rufous-chested Swallow** *Cecropis semirufa*—Only one look and that was on our drive from Etosha to Rundu

**South African Cliff Swallow** *Petrochelidon spilodera*—The Kovango River was the only sighting for this species on the trip

**Gray-rumped Swallow** *Pseudhirundo griseopyga*—Up along the rivers within the Caprivi Strip

#### **BULBULS: Pycnonotidae (3)**

**Yellow-bellied Greenbul** *Chlorocichla flaviventris*—Seen in the riparian strip along the Kovango in northeast Namibia

**Common Bulbul** *Pycnonotus barbatus*—This less flashy cousin of the Black-fronted was in the Kovango River areas

**Black-fronted Bulbul** *Pycnonotus nigricans*—Very common along inland areas away from the coast

#### **SYLVIID WARBLERS: Sylviidae (1)**

**Chestnut-vented Warbler** *Curruca subcoerulea*—The very best look was at a habituated bird in the Deadvlei area

#### **WHITE-EYES: Zosteropidae (1)**

**Southern Yellow White-eye** *Zosterops anderssoni*—Seen only at Mahangu Safari Camp, a small flock

#### **LAUGHINGTHRUSHES AND ALLIES: Leiothrichidae (3)**

**Arrow-marked Babbler** *Turdoides jardineii*—Most lodges in the wild places had a resident squad of these detectives

**Southern Pied-Babbler** *Turdoides bicolor*—Striking in their bold, pied pattern, you never tire of seeing these beauties

**Hartlaub's Babbler** *Turdoides hartlaubii*—Mostly up along the Caprivi strip is where we would see them daily

#### **OXPECKERS: Buphagidae (2)**

**Red-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*—Seen in Namibia and Botswana, but more times in Botswana

**Yellow-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus africanus*—Seen just once in Botswana on a Southern giraffe

#### **STARLINGS AND MYNAS: Sturnidae (8)**

**Wattled Starling** *Creatophora cinerea*—Not in their outlandish breeding nuptials, but still readily identifiable

**Violet-backed Starling** *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*—Never got to see one perched, but we did have plenty fly over us

**Pale-winged Starling** *Onychognathus nabouroupp*—They always seemed to be in groups of 10-15 when we saw them

**Burchell's Starling** *Lamprotornis australis*—These big starlings were seen about every three days during our tour  
**Meves's Starling** *Lamprotornis mevesii*—Very common up along the Caprivi Strip  
**Sharp-tailed Starling** *Lamprotornis acuticaudus*—Only seen twice, both on our morning birding session in Namibia's northeast corner  
**Greater Blue-eared Starling** *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*—Only one sighting on the trip of three birds at Mahangu  
**Cape Starling** *Lamprotornis nitens*—One of the few birds we saw on all 23 days

#### **THRUSHES: Turdidae (2)**

**Groundscraper Thrush** *Psophocichla litsitsirupa* – Seen on every day up in Etosha National Park  
**Kurrichane Thrush** *Turdus libonyana*—Seen on two different days up along the Caprivi Strip

#### **OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS AND CHATS: Muscicapidae (16)**

**Mariqua Flycatcher** *Bradornis mariquensis*—This drab-colored flycatcher was one of the regulars we would almost daily  
**Pale Flycatcher** *Agricola pallidus*—Only seen up in the area of the Caprivi Strip  
**Chat Flycatcher** *Agricola infuscatus*—One of the most befriending flycatchers on the trip, always approachable  
**Ashy Flycatcher** *Fraseria caerulescens*—Only seen on one day and that was in Bwabwata National Park  
**Southern Black Flycatcher** *Melaenornis pammelaina*—Seen once on our morning bird walk at Mahangu Safari Lodge  
**Kalahari Scrub-Robin** *Cercotrichas paena*—Seen up at one of the restroom breaks in the middle of Etosha  
**White-browed Robin-Chat** *Cossypha heuglini*—We had one sighting and that was along the road into Etosha's west side  
**Short-toed Rock-Thrush** *Monticola brevipes*—A very confiding pair at River Crossing Lodge gave us great looks  
**Karoo Chat** *Emarginata schlegelii*—Seen at Sossusvlei on our three days in that area  
**Tractrac Chat** *Emarginata tractrac*—The dunes just outside of Swakopmund allowed for some great photos of this bird  
**Southern Anteater-Chat** *Myrmecocichla formicivora*— Perched up in the morning sun in Etosha, made for great looks  
**Mountain Wheatear** *Myrmecocichla monticola*—Viewed daily on the first eight days of our tour  
**Arnot's Chat** *Myrmecocichla arnotti*—A small flock put in an appearance while looking for Souza's Shrike  
**Capped Wheatear** *Oenanthe pileata*—Seen once and that was on our drive to Sossusvlei  
**Familiar Chat** *Oenanthe familiaris*—They seemed to be everywhere on the first eight days of the tour and then none

#### **SUNBIRDS: Nectariniidae (5)**

**Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris*—We got to see this species twice, both times up by the Caprivi strip  
**Mariqua Sunbird** *Cinnyris mariquensis*—The most common of the sunbirds that we saw, with some starting to set up territories  
**White-breasted Sunbird** *Cinnyris talatala*—We got views on two different days up by the Caprivi Strip  
**Variable Sunbird** *Cinnyris venustus* – Nice close looks feeding on the Aloes at Xaro  
**Dusky Sunbird** *Cinnyris fuscus*—Seen only during our time at Sossusvlei

#### **WEAVERS: Ploceidae (10)**

**Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver** *Bubalornis niger*—Seen during our lunch break at Halili in Etosha  
**Scaly Weaver** *Sporopipes squamifrons*—We regularly saw these small weavers, but our best looks were of small flocks outside of our lodging at Dead Valley Lodge  
**White-browed Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser mahali*—A common weaver that were found in small flocks on most days in Namibia  
**Sociable Weaver** *Philetairus socius*—We always found them doing a little housekeeping on their huge nest structures  
**Holub's Golden-Weaver** *Ploceus xanthops*—Only seen once and that was on our morning bird walk at Mahangu  
**Southern Masked-Weaver** *Ploceus velatus*—All over Namibia and in parts of Botswana also  
**Village Weaver** *Ploceus cucullatus*—Only seen on our drive into Botswana from Namibia  
**Chestnut Weaver** *Ploceus rubiginosus*—We got to see this species once and that was in Erongo Wild

**Red-billed Quelea** *Quelea quelea*—Fairly common throughout most of the trip and always in flocks  
**Southern Red Bishop** *Euplectes orix*—We viewed this summer-time gaudy weaver in the reeds at Avis Dam

#### **WAXBILLS AND ALLIES: Estrildidae (10)**

**Black-faced Waxbill** *Brunhilda erythronotos*—Really great looks at River Crossing Lodge in Windhoek  
**Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild*—Also seen in small flocks around Avis Dam  
**Cut-throat** *Amadina fasciata*—A group of three feeding along the roadside in Rundu were very confiding  
**Red-headed Finch** *Amadina erythrocephala*—We this species only twice, and both were while we were in Etosha  
**Violet-eared Waxbill** *Granatina granatina*—What a great looking bird and we had our first flock feeding on the ground 15-feet away from us at Avis Dam  
**Southern Cordonbleu** *Uraeginthus angolensis*—Scattered throughout the trip and always associated with a flock  
**Green-winged Pytilia** *Pytilia melba*—Our first was feeding alongside the Violet-eared Waxbills at Avis Dam  
**Red-billed Firefinch** *Lagonosticta senegala*—Only seen in the wet fields that surrounded Mahangu Safari Lodge  
**Jameson's Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rhodopareia*—Seen on our first full on the mobile safari  
**Brown Firefinch** *Lagonosticta nitidula*—Seen as we drove out to the dock where we picked up our ride to Xaro Lodge

#### **INDIGOBIRDS: Viduidae (2)**

**Pin-tailed Whydah** *Vidua macroura*—A short-tailed winter bird was found on our morning walk at Mahangu  
**Eastern Paradise-Whydah** *Vidua paradisaea*—Seen while birding in the AM at Hakusembe Lodge

#### **OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (5)**

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*—Unfortunately this species was too common  
**Great Rufous Sparrow** *Passer motitensis*—Seen only during our time in Etosha National Park  
**Cape Sparrow** *Passer melanurus*—Seen regularly on our trip in both wild and urban habits  
**Southern Gray-headed Sparrow** *Passer diffusus*—This drab sparrow was still foraging in winter flocks during our tour  
**Yellow-throated Bush Sparrow** *Gymnoris supercilialis*—Seen at the feeders at Mahangu Safari Lodge

#### **PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae (4)**

**Cape Wagtail** *Motacilla capensis*—Seen anywhere there a pool of water or a stream  
**African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp*—Great looks at Hakusembe lodge in Namibia and at Nxai Pan  
**African Pipit** *Anthus cinnamomeus*—Not common, but always great views with this species  
**Nicholson's Pipit** *Anthus nicholsoni*—Seen in Namibia in the Herero Chat habitat

#### **FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae (4)**

**Yellow-fronted Canary** *Crithagra mozambica*—Seen on our morning bird walk at Mahangu Safari Lodge  
**Black-throated Canary** *Crithagra atrogularis*—We had flocks of these birds during our time along the Caprivi Strip  
**Yellow Canary** *Crithagra flaviventris*—Only seen once and that was during our drive to Sossusvlei at the beginning  
**White-throated Canary** *Crithagra albogularis*—Viewed twice with the best looks at a roadside bird in Solitaire

#### **OLD WORLD BUNTINGS: Emberizidae (4)**

**Golden-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza flaviventris*—A few sightings of individuals on our drive from Etosha to Hakusembe  
**Cape Bunting** *Emberiza capensis*—Only seen once and that was on our drive into Etosha  
**Lark-like Bunting** *Emberiza impetuani*—Flocks all along the sides of the roads, lots of them  
**Cinnamon-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza tahapisi*—Certainly our best views were at the River Crossing Lodge in Windhoek

#### **MAMMALS**

### **ELEPHANT SHREWS: Macroscelidea (1)**

**Bushveld Elephant Shrew (Singi)** *Elephantulus intufi*—Seen running across the road on our way to Erongo

### **HYRAXES: Hyracoidea (1)**

**Rock Hyrax** *Procavia capensis*—Very in rocky locations (of course...), with loads of them around Avis Dam

### **ELEPHANTS: Proboscidea (1)**

**African Bush Elephant** *Loxodonta Africana*—Common, more so in Botswana than Namibia

### **PRIMATES: Primates (2)**

**Vervet Monkey** *Chlorocebus pygerythrus*— Not as common as last tour, but still plenty to be seen in both countries

**Chacma Baboon** *Papio ursinus*—Another common sighting in both countries with large troops out and about

### **RODENTS: Rodentia (4)**

**Dassie Rat** *Petromus typicus*—Common in a lot of the same locations as the rock hyrax

**South African Springhare** *Pedetes capensis*— Lots of evidence of their presence, but only seen one time

**South African Ground Squirrel** *Xerus inauris*—Very uncommon compared to past tours, not sure why

**Smith's Bush Squirrel** *Paraxerus cepapi*— Much more common this than ones in the past

### **HARES AND RABBITS: Lagomorphan (1)**

**Scrub Hare** *Lepus saxatilis*—Seen only once and that was in Botswana at our first night's mobile camp

### **CANINES, FELINES, AND ALLIES: Carnivora (10)**

**Cheetah** *Acinonyx jubatus*—Wonderful view of a brother and sister coalition walking alongside the road in Etosha

**Lion** *Panthera leo*—Having two lions walk over to lay in the shade of our safari vehicle was pretty cool

**Leopard** *Panthera pardus*—Seen both in Namibia in Etosha and in the Khwai River area

**Yellow Mongoose** *Cynictis penicillata*—Seen in Etosha and in Nxai Pan areas

**Common Slender Mongoose** *Herpestes sanguineus*—One in the morning sun alongside a termite mound was very photogenic

**Banded Mongoose** *Mungos mungo*—Our first sighting on the mobile safari was of a group of 25-30 of these characters

**Spotted Hyena** *Crocuta crocuta*—Seen in both countries and always on the move

**Side-striped Jackal** *Lupulella adusta*—Seen near the rivers during our mobile safari times

**Black-backed Jackal** *Lupulella mesomelas*—Very, very common in Namibia, not nearly as common in Botswana

**Bat-eared Fox** *Otocyon megalotis*—Nxai Pan had dozens during our morning drive, with most laying against a termite mound soaking in the morning sun

**African Wild Dog** *Lycaon pictus*—Seen in Botswana during our mobile safari

### **HORSES, RHINOS, AND TAPIRS: Perissodactyla (3)**

**Plains Zebra (Burchell's)** *Equus quagga*—Plenty of these in both countries, and not so challenged by people

**Mountain Zebra** *Equus zebra*—Seen in the distance in Namibia in grasslands adjacent to rocky hills

**Black Rhinoceros** *Diceros bicornis*—Twelve together at night at the Etosha watering hole was exceptional

### **DEER, ANTELOPE, AND ALLIES: Artiodactyla (16)**

**Common Warthog** *Phacochoerus africanus*—Not too many in Namibia until we got close to the Botswana border, lots in Botswana though

**Hippopotamus** *Hippopotamus amphibius*—Common in the right habitat, but the male feeding along the shore of the Okavango during daylight was exceptional



**Giraffe** *Giraffa camelopardalis*—Plenty in both countries

**Hartebeest** *Alcelaphus buselaphus*—Not very common, but mostly in Etosha

**Blue Wildebeest** *Connochaetes taurinus*— Always in small groups, mostly a single bull with meandering cows

**Tsessebe (Topi)** *Damaliscus lunatus*—Not seen in Namibia, but this, the fastest antelope, was easy on the mobile safari

**Springbok** *Antidorcas marsupialis*—More arid areas of the tour had plenty of these and it was the beginning of the rut

**Steenbok** *Raphicerus campestris*—This tiny antelope was seen along roadsides foraging in both countries

**African Buffalo** *Syncerus caffer*—Mostly seen in Botswana with just a few in Etosha, Namibia

**Bushbuck** *Tragelaphus scriptus*—Seen on the mobile safari up in the Khwai River area

**Sitatunga** *Tragelaphus spekii*—Not seen well, but seen a few times along the Okavongo River

**Greater Kudu** *Tragelaphus strepsiceros*—Not uncommon at all, and always acting cautious

**Roan Antelope** *Hippotragus equinus*—A small herd was seen at a waterhole while we lunched in Botswana

**Sable Antelope** *Hippotragus niger*—A solitary bull cross the river in Angola at Mahangu was the only sighting we had

**Gemsbok** *Oryx gazella*—More xerix regions were home to thus spectacular looking animal

**Impala** *Aepyceros melampus*—We saw the larger black-faced impala in Namibia and the smaller common impala in Botswana

**Waterbuck** *Kobus ellipsiprymnus*—One of the first antelope we saw on our mobile safari

**Lechwe** *Kobus leche*—Lots of these marsh loving animals in the flooded areas of the Okavonga

**Southern Reedbuck** *Redunca arundinum*—Seen in lightly forested areas with nearby water

## **REPTILES (11)**

**Namib Rock Agama** *Agama planiceps*—Erongo is part of a granite ridge filled with boulders the perfect place for us to find this species

**Jordan's Girdled Lizard** *Karusasaurus jordani*- It was a cool, blustery day as we descended the escarpment into the Namib Desert, so finding one of these unusual looking lizards basking was truly a find

**Wedge-snouted Lizard** *Meroles cuneirostris*-We found this dune-loving lizard out by Deadvlei, which still had some water in the basin

**Namaqua Chameleon** *Chamaeleo namaquensis*—We found a lone male up in a shrub taking in the world on our way from the coast to Erongo

**Bvradfield's Namib Day Gecko** *Rhoptropus bradfieldi*—Also seen on our drive from the coast to Erongo

**Namib Sand Snake** *Psammophis namibensis*-A sun set stop on one of the Sossusvlei dunes turned up this lizard hunter

**Peringuey Adder** *Bitis peringueyi*-The granite dunes near the coast had the tracks on one of these adders that led us to his hiding place under the sand

**Nile Monitor** *Varanus niloticus*—Only one seen was on the edge of the Okavongo River at Xaro Lodge

**Nile Crocodile** *Crocodylus niloticus*—And the Okavongo River near Xaro lodge had plenty of these hungry crocs



Namib Sand Snake