



# Rockjumper Birding Tours

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## NAMIBIA, BOTSWANA & ZAMBIA

*26<sup>th</sup> September - 13<sup>th</sup> October 2009*



**Tour Leaders: Keith Valentine & Jan Pienaar**  
**Trip report compiled by Keith Valentine**

**Top 10 birds as voted for by participants:**

1. Southern Carmine Bee-eater
2. Pel's Fishing Owl
3. White-backed Night Heron
4. Schalow's Turaco
5. Herero Chat

6. Secretarybird
7. Caspian Plover
8. Southern White-faced Owl
9. Slaty Egret
10. Dune Lark

## Tour Summary

Windhoek was the starting point of our exciting overland adventure that would see us travel through the seemingly endless Namib Desert, explore the vastness of the protected woodlands and savanna surrounding Etosha Pan, enjoy the wonders of the Okavango Delta in Botswana, and finish off at the mighty Victoria Falls in Zambia.

Vast areas of Acacia woodland dominate the central plateau surrounding Windhoek, and birding around Avis Dam and the local treatment works gave us an excellent introduction to the wealth of birding that this region has to offer. One of the signature calls of the acacia woodland here is that of the Pearl-spotted Owlet. This charismatic bird often receives the attention of many bird species, and those that we encountered at both sites included White-backed Mousebird, the striking Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, Acacia Pied Barbet, Pirit Batis, the stunning Crimson-breasted Shrike, Barred Wren-Warbler, Burnt-necked Eremomela, Chestnut-vented Warbler, huge numbers of Wattled Starling, Groundscraper Thrush, Kalahari Scrub-Robin, Scarlet-chested and Marico Sunbirds, the beautiful Green-winged Pytilia, Red-billed Firefinch, Blue, Common and Black-faced Waxbills, Black-throated Canary and Cape Bunting. We finished the day in style at Avis Dam with a superb encounter with a pair of Rockrunner. This species has a particularly melodic call, and watching a pair singing at such close range was one of the undoubted highlights of the tour. The open water of the treatment ponds produced a good selection of waterfowl, and specials for this habitat were Knob-billed Duck, Cape Teal, Cape Shoveler and Hottentot Teal, while many other species of shorebird and waterfowl were also located. Our accommodations in Windhoek were a good place for a few of the more common bird species; in particular the flock of swifts that we saw cavorting about above our heads in the mornings and afternoons. Species in the flock included the huge Alpine Swift, while the near endemic Bradfield's Swift was also present in good numbers together with African Palm and Little Swift.

Daan Viljoen Game Reserve was unfortunately closed as the parks board were busy with maintenance and upgrading. However, our drive through to Hochland Nest proved to be very good and we enjoyed a fabulous lunch at this remote farm in the Khomas Hochland. Just outside Windhoek we were immediately rewarded with incredible views of Monteiro's Hornbill, a sign of good things to come! A little further on a pair of Black Stork caught the eye and at this stop we recorded White-rumped Swift, Greater Striped Swallow, Short-toed Rock Thrush, Violet-eared Waxbill and Golden-breasted Bunting. Toward the



farm we located the gorgeous Lilac-breasted and Purple Rollers, as well as Anteater Chat, African Hoopoe and Ashy Tit. Continuing with the drive to Namibgreens we enjoyed a perched Brown Snake Eagle and later found Fawn-coloured Lark and a superb male Pygmy Falcon. Closer to

Namibians we also enjoyed our first Hartmann's Mountain Zebra, Gemsbok, Steenbok and Springbok.

A short morning walk around Namibians produced the target Karoo Scrub Robin, while other species included the charming White-tailed Shrike, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Kittlitz's Plover and Dusky Sunbird. Spreetshoogte Pass was unfortunately very windy and birds were simply non-existent. However, further down on the desert flats heading towards Walvis Bay we located Booted Eagle, Lappet-faced Vulture, Greater Kestrel, the stately Ludwig's Bustard, Rüppell's Korhaan, incredibly close views of both Stark's and Gray's Lark, Grey-backed Sparrowlark, Karoo and Tractrac Chats, Chat Flycatcher, Red-headed Finch, Yellow Canary and Larklike Bunting.

The morning began early as our day's agenda included an appointment with one of Namibia's lovely endemic larks. We walked for a while through its beautiful dune habitat before having fine views of a few birds running and feeding in the dune fields. The gorgeous Bokmakierie also put on an excellent performance. With many of our other target endemics having been seen the previous day, we took some time to enjoy birding the superb Walvis Bay Lagoon where some good birds were on show. A highlight for the region was a single Red-necked Phalarope that showed very well at one of the ponds. We located Greater and Lesser Flamingos, Great White Pelican, Cape Gannet flying out at sea, brilliant Chestnut-banded Plover among the horde of other migrant waders, Hartlaub's Gull, the special Damara Tern and, later on between Swakopmund and Walvis Bay, we enjoyed views of the threatened Crowned Cormorant. The late afternoon was spent at the Welwitschia Plains inland from Swakopmund where we observed these ancient plants in their desolate environment.

We were up super early this morning as we struck out for the grand Spitzkoppe (also known as the "Matterhorn of Namibia"). Here we began our search for one of Namibia's toughest endemics, and after a few hours of searching and sightings of many other special birds we finally located our target, a lovely pair of Herero Chat. Other good birds included White-throated Canary, Layard's Warbler and White-tailed Shrike. Our lunch stop at the Khan River was highly productive even during the sweltering midday heat, and we managed to get great looks of the range restricted Rüppell's Parrot as well as the localized Violet Wood Hoopoe, Damara Red-billed Hornbill and Brubru. Our afternoon was spent birding the beautiful Erongo Mountains with the star sighting going to a covey of Hartlaub's Francolin; seen at extremely close range for an extended period of time. The lodge here is blessed with a superb setting and this made for fine wining and dining as we were entertained by Freckled Nightjar and Western Barn Owl.

The early risers were again rewarded with views of Hartlaub's Francolin and Rockrunner. We then covered a fair bit of ground before tracking down our target bird for the morning, Carp's Black Tit, only to find a lovely pair coming in to drink at the bird bath right in front of the breakfast table! The small water troughs here are a real spectacle in the morning, and we watched Green-winged Pytilia, White-browed Sparrow-weaver, Rosy-faced Lovebird, Pale-winged Starling, Great Sparrow and Speckled Pigeon at close range, while the endearing Dassie Rat was also sighted. The drive out produced a wonderful pair of African Hawk Eagle that circled directly above our heads. A quick stop outside the Okaukuejo entrance gate to Etosha National Park had the desired result as we ran into a friendly group of Bare-cheeked Babbler, our final regional endemic, giving us a full house on the possibilities! Thereafter, it was onto our final leg of Namibia's arid zone with a five-night stay in one of Africa's great national parks – Etosha.

Etosha National Park provided us with some amazing highlights on both the birding and mammal front. Over the five days we spent in the reserve we covered the entire width of the park from



Okaukuejo in the west to Namutoni in the east. The Okaukuejo area provided us with an excellent introduction to the park's many specials, and we racked up superb views of Namaqua Sandgrouse, the nomadic Burchell's and Double-banded Coussers, Kori Bustard, Northern Black Korhaan, Secretarybird, White-backed Vulture, Bateleur, Tawny Eagle, Red-necked Falcon, Spotted Thick-knee, Eastern Clapper, Pink-billed and Red-capped Larks, Chestnut-backed Sparrowlark and the charming Rufous-eared Warbler. The ideally located waterholes at each camp, especially Okaukuejo, produced many good mammal

sightings, including several herds of African Elephant, good numbers of Black Rhino in the late evening, Giraffe and herds of Springbok and Burchell's Zebra coming down to quench their thirst. Another attraction was viewing hundreds of Double-banded Sandgrouse coming down to drink just after sunset, together with Rufous-cheeked Nightjar feeding around the floodlit area. We then ventured to the central camp, Halali, which is mostly dominated by Mopane woodland. The camp environs provided us with extraordinary views of Southern White-faced and African Scops Owl, Marabou Stork, Southern White-crowned Shrike, Carp's Black Tit, Common House Martin, Red-breasted Swallow and Cinnamon-breasted Bunting. After a one night stop here we proceeded east to the Namutoni area. Here we stayed at a lovely lodge on the park's perimeter. Drives in this part of the reserve produced Crested and Swainson's Francolins, Fulvous Whistling Duck, Southern Pochard, African Spoonbill, Red-crested Korhaan, the elegant Blue Crane, Greater Painted Snipe, Whiskered Tern, Burchell's Sandgrouse, African Cuckoo, Bearded Woodpecker, the localized Black-faced and Southern Pied Babbler, African Quailfinch and Yellow Wagtail. On the mammal front we had daily sightings of Lion (26 encountered over the 5 days), good numbers of African Elephant, many antelope species, including the dainty Kirk's Dikdik and Red Hartebeest. We also found a White Rhinoceros with a small calf coming down to drink at the Okaukuejo waterhole one night – a real rarity for Etosha!

After leaving Etosha, we journeyed to the northern border of Namibia. Here we had views right into Angola from our lodge on the banks of the Okavango River. The dry acacia savanna and open desert plains are replaced here by large stands of broad-leaved woodland together with large perennial river systems and their adjacent riverine woodlands. In the late afternoon we birded a nearby sewerage works that yielded Hottentot Teal, Yellow-billed Stork, Rufous-bellied Heron, Black Crake, Mourning Collared Dove, Coppery-tailed and White-browed Coucal, Swamp Boubou, Magpie Shrike, Pearl-breasted Swallow and Lesser Swamp Warbler.

Up early the next morning we strolled around the lodge grounds that teemed with many excellent species. Here we were enthralled with sightings of Lanner Falcon, Senegal Coucal, Lesser Honeyguide, White-crested Helmetshrike, Kurrichane Thrush, Yellow-billed Oxpecker, White-browed Robin-Chat, noisy groups of Hartlaub's and Arrow-marked Babblers, and both African Golden and Southern Brown-throated Weavers. We left our lodge in good spirits ready for



our adventure into Botswana. During our drive across the Caprivi we slowly birded as many mixed flocks along the road as we could, and this produced sightings of Striped Kingfisher, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Brown-crowned Tchagra, Willow and Icterine Warblers, Southern Black Tit, African Yellow White-eye, Pale Flycatcher and Red-headed Weaver. Our border crossing into Botswana was uneventful, just the way we like it, and we were on our way to our lodge in no time. Roadside birding was something we had become very familiar with during our time in Namibia and Botswana was to be no exception. Almost immediately we located the outrageous Southern Carmine Bee-eater, African Harrier Hawk, Gabar Goshawk and Bradfield's Hornbill from the bus before being whisked away by motorized boat down the Okavango River to our beautifully located lodge on the banks of the Okavango; paradise indeed! While boating downstream we had close looks at the colourful Malachite Kingfisher, the huge and noisy Giant Kingfisher, breeding White-fronted Bee-eater and Banded Martin.

The Okavango Delta was indeed one of the highlight destinations for everyone on the tour, and a winning combination of walking the lodge grounds and boat cruises on the Okavango River yielded many new and exciting birds. Excellent views of White-backed Night Heron, Little Bittern, the scarce Slaty Egret, Black Heron, African Marsh Harrier, Water Thick-knee, Long-toed Lapwing, the elegant African Skimmer with a tiny chick, African Green Pigeon, Dideric Cuckoo, incredible Pel's Fishing Owl, African Wood Owl, African Barred Owlet, Broad-billed Roller, Crested Barbet, Greater Honeyguide, Bennett's, Golden-tailed and Cardinal Woodpeckers, Retz's Helmetshrike, Grey-headed and Orange-breasted Bushshrikes, Chirping Cisticola, Greater Swamp Warbler, Meves's Starling, Grey Tit-Flycatcher and Brown Firefinch, all of which made for an extremely memorable experience. From here it was unfortunately back to the bus, back into Namibia and into Mohango Game Reserve for the afternoon. This proved to be a good move as we located a pair of the rare and endangered Wattled Crane, had additional views of Slaty Egret, and also located African Pygmy Goose, Goliath Heron, the rare African Hobby, Collared Pratincole, Fawn-coloured Lark and Capped Wheatear. Several mammal highlights included large herds of the richly-colored Red Lechwe and Common Reedbuck, with close views of Hippo also being enjoyed on the floodplain of this reserve.



Next up was the drive across the Caprivi Strip; however, before we could begin birding the woodlands we located a wonderful pair of Rock Pratincole. The drive across the Caprivi took us most of the day, yet we nonetheless managed to locate Tinkling Cisticola, Green-capped Eremomela, Black Cuckooshrike, Mosque Swallow, Neddicky and Arnot's Chat. A couple of small rivers and wetlands were also crossed, and at these stops we located the impressive Saddle-billed Stork and African Wattled Lapwing. We arrived at Kalizo Lodge, on the banks of the Zambezi River, in the late evening. During the

next day and a half we had great fun birding the variety of habitat that Kalizo offers. Small ponds, seasonal wetlands, woodland and grassland in the general area of the lodge produced a number of exciting birds such as Harlequin Quail, African Pygmy Goose, African Openbill, Western Banded Snake Eagle, Lizard Buzzard, Wahlberg's Eagle, Black-bellied Bustard, Kurrichane Buttonquail, White-crowned Lapwing, Greater Painted Snipe, the scarce Caspian Plover, Temminck's and Bronze-winged Coursers, Brown-hooded Kingfisher, the uncommon Racket-tailed Roller, Meyer's Parrot, Luapula Cisticola and Copper Sunbird. On one evening we went out in search of nightjars

and our efforts were richly rewarded with Square-tailed Nightjar as well as an incredible view of a Swamp Nightjar. A visit to a nearby, better forested section of the Zambezi produced the much desired Schalow's Turaco.

We always knew that entering into Zambia was going to be 'fun', but we were ready for it tackling every obstacle with precision. Our drive to Livingstone was largely uneventful; however a nice perched Long-crested Eagle was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. The afternoon was spent admiring Victoria Falls and birding the woodland adjacent to the Zambezi River. This produced Natal Spurfowl, Trumpeter Hornbill, Tropical Boubou, Eastern Bearded Scrub-Robin and Red-winged Starling. Our last morning was spent searching for Half-collared Kingfisher and Collared Palm Thrush along the Zambezi River. This proved to be successful, together with good views of Red-faced Cisticola. Finally we made a quick stop at a treatment works in Livingstone that produced our final birds for the tour, Hooded Vulture and a superb roosting Marsh Owl.

What a fantastic time we had exploring the wonders of these three remarkable countries. The numbers make for impressive reading: we recorded all the possible endemics on the route, 397 species of birds and 39 species of mammals. What a tour!!!

## Annotated List of Birds

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows the IOC List of Birds of the World Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press. Please cite the authors: Gill, F. and Wright, M. 2006 when you use their publication.

**Key:** (E) = Endemic to Namibia and (NE) = Near-endemic to Namibia.

### Ostrich *Struthionidae*

#### **Common Ostrich**

*Struthio camelus*

Common throughout the dry Namibian section of the tour and particularly widespread in Etosha National Park.

*NOTE: IOC now considers this species Somali Ostrich S. molybdophanes of dry East Africa, two distinct species.*

### Guineafowl *Numididae*

#### **Helmeted Guineafowl**

*Numida meleagris*

First recorded on the sparsely vegetated plains of the Namib Desert, we also had daily sightings in Etosha NP and Mohango GR.

### Pheasants, Fowl & Allies *Phasianidae*

#### **Crested Francolin**

*Dendroperdix sephaena*

A pair was initially sighted in the Namutoni area of Etosha NP and a further two were seen briefly crossing the road near Kalizo Lodge.

#### **Hartlaub's Spurfowl (NE)**

*Pternistis hartlaubi*

One of the main targets in Namibia, we had unbelievable views of five birds near our lodge in the Erongo Mountains on our first evening while a small covey were enjoyed the next morning running between the rocks near our lodgings.

*NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus, namely Francolinus and gives it the common name Hartlaub's Francolin.*

#### **Red-billed Spurfowl**

*Pternistis adspersus*

This attractive bird was seen in good numbers throughout the tour.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus, namely *Francolinus* and gives it the common name Red-billed Francolin.

**Natal Spurfowl***Pternistes natalensis*

A localized species on the route and only found at Victoria Falls in Zambia where we found a single bird.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus, namely *Francolinus* and gives it the common name Natal Francolin.

**Swainson's Spurfowl***Pternistis swainsonii*

A single bird was sighted near Namutoni Camp, Etosha NP and later seen in Mahango GR and near Kalizo Lodge.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus, namely *Francolinus* and gives it the common name Swainson's Francolin.

**Harlequin Quail***Coturnix delegorguei*

We were extremely fortunate to locate a single male bird in short grass in the Kalizo area. This is a rather uncommon and extremely sporadic visitor to the region.

**Ducks & Geese Anatidae****White-faced Whistling Duck***Dendrocygna viduata*

We found good numbers along the Okavango River in Botswana and Namibia in the panhandle region.

**Fulvous Whistling Duck***Dendrocygna bicolor*

A single bird was first seen at Klien Okevi Waterhole in Etosha NP while a further group of seven were sighted at the Rundu Treatment Works.

**Spur-winged Goose***Plectropterus gambensis*

This large goose was recorded in the Okavango Panhandle and on the dambos in the Kalizo area.

**Knob-billed Duck***Sarkidiornis melanotos*

Two birds were sighted at Gamams Treatment Works in Windhoek with a further sighting of six birds seen in the Kalizo area.

**Egyptian Goose***Alopochen aegyptiacus*

It was found at scattered wetland/waterbodies sites during the tour.

**African Pygmy Goose***Nettapus auritus*

We observed a single bird in Mohango GR and later admired good numbers on the wetlands near Kalizo Lodge.

**Cape Teal***Anas capensis*

An attractive teal, which was first seen at Gamams Treatment Works in Windhoek and again at Walvis Bay Lagoon and in Etosha NP.

**Mallard***Anas platyrhynchos*

A single female bird was sighted at Avis Dam, a rather unusual sighting.

**Cape Shoveler***Anas smithii*

A pair was sighted at Gamams Treatment works in Windhoek on the first day of our tour.

**Red-billed Teal***Anas erythrorhyncha*

This fairly common teal was observed at Gamams Treatment Works and in Etosha NP.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Red-billed Duck.

**Hottentot Teal***Anas hottentota*

This good-looking species was seen at Gamams Treatment Works, Etosha NP and near Kalizo Lodge.

**Southern Pochard***Netta erythrophthalma*

Two male birds were a welcome surprise at Klein Namutoni waterhole in Etosha NP.

**Grebes Podicipedidae****Little Grebe***Tachybaptus ruficollis*

This common and widespread grebe was seen at a number of fresh-water localities.

**Black-necked Grebe***Podiceps nigricollis*

A small group of these birds was seen on Walvis Bay Lagoon, most of which were in non-breeding plumage.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Eared Grebe.

**Flamingos Phoenicopteridae****Greater Flamingo***Phoenicopterus roseus*

Large numbers of these pretty birds were seen at Walvis Bay.

**Lesser Flamingo***Phoeniconaias minor*

Good numbers of these gorgeous birds were sighted at Walvis Bay.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus, namely Phoenicopterus.

**Storks Ciconiidae****Yellow-billed Stork***Mycteria ibis*

We had a pair of birds in flight at the Rundu Treatment Works and another sighting along the Okavango and in the Kalizo area.

**African Openbill***Anastomus lamelligerus*

First seen along the Okavango River and was later observed in large flocks near Kalizo.

**Black Stork***Ciconia nigra*

A pair were scoped on some power lines outside Windhoek.

**Saddle-billed Stork***Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

This beautiful species was seen at extremely close range while driving through the Caprivi Strip.

**Marabou Stork***Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

Sightings were had by some of the group at the waterhole in Halali Camp, Etosha NP and again in Mohango GR.

**Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae****African Sacred Ibis***Threskiornis aethiopicus*

This pied ibis was seen in Mohango GR and at the Livingstone Treatment Works.

**Hadada Ibis***Bostrychia hagedash*

Strangely a scarce bird on the route and we were fortunate to view two birds at dawn flying over our accommodations at Xaro Lodge.

**Glossy Ibis***Plegadis falcinellus*

We had good numbers on our departure day at the Livingstone Treatment Works.

**African Spoonbill***Platalea alba*

Uncommonly observed during the trip, it was seen very well when four birds were located at Klein Namutoni Waterhole in Etosha NP and again at Mohango GR.

**Bitterns & Herons Ardeidae****Little Bittern***Ixobrychus minutus*

Seen on a number of occasions in flight during our time spent on the Okavango River.

**White-backed Night Heron***Gorsachius leuconotus*

Exceptional views were enjoyed of this skulking and often tricky to find species along the Okavango River.

**Black-crowned Night Heron***Nycticorax nycticorax*

Birds were recorded at the Gamams and Rundu Treatment Works, along the Okavango River and at Kalizo Lodge.

**Striated Heron***Butorides striatus*

Seen well along the Okavango and Zambezi Rivers.

**Squacco Heron***Ardeola ralloides*

Fairly numerous at most wetlands in the north of the country with incredible numbers on a particular afternoon boat cruise through one of the channels along the Okavango River.

**Rufous-bellied Heron***Ardeola rufiventris*

This uncommon and richly-colored heron was first seen at Rundu Treatment Works and then observed along the Okavango River and especially the flooded areas around Kalizo.

**Western Cattle Egret***Bubulcus ibis*

It was seen at scattered sites during the tour, usually in close association with large herbivores.

*NOTE: The IOC splits Cattle Egret into 2 species, the nominate form Western Cattle Egret and the Asian/Australasian Eastern Cattle Egret E. coromanda.*

**Grey Heron***Ardea cinerea*

Another widespread heron, it was found at scattered wetlands and other water bodies on tour.

**Black-headed Heron***Ardea melanocephala*

This species was sighted in the grasslands surrounding Kalizo Lodge.

**Goliath Heron***Ardeea purpurea*

This species, the world's largest heron, was recorded at Mohango GR.

**Purple Heron***Ardea purpurea*

This bird was seen daily along the Okavango and Zambezi Rivers.

**Western Great Egret***Ardea albus*

This elegant egret was recorded on the floodplains of the Okavango and Zambezi Rivers.

*NOTE:*

**Intermediate Egret***Egretta intermedia*

We found this similar species to Great Egret only twice, once long the Okavango River and again at the Kalizo wetlands.

**Black Heron***Egretta ardesiaca*

A number of these birds were seen in the Okavango Panhandle in Botswana.

**Slaty Egret***Egretta vinaceigula*

We had good luck with this often tricky species as we secured good views in the Okavango Panhandle in Botswana and in Mohango GR in Namibia with a final sighting in the Kalizo area.

**Little Egret***Egretta garzetta*

Small numbers of this egret were seen along the Okavango and Zambezi River systems, our first views were at Gamams Treatment Works in Windhoek.

**Hamerkop Scopidae****Hamerkop***Scopus umbretta*

First seen at Avis Dam and later recorded daily on the Okavango and Zambezi River systems.

**Pelicans Pelecanidae****Great White Pelican***Pelecanus onocrotalus*

We observed this species at Walvis Bay Lagoon.

**Gannets & Boobies Sulidae****Cape Gannet***Morus capensis*

We observed a few birds out at sea while in the Walvis Bay area.

**Cormorants Phalacrocoracidae****Reed Cormorant***Phalacrocorax africanus*

This species was encountered firstly at Avis Dam and then later seen in good numbers from the Okavango and Zambezi systems.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Long-tailed Cormorant.*

**Crowned Cormorant***Phalacrocorax coronatus*

We found a total of three birds along the cold Atlantic coastline between Walvis Bay and Swakopmund.

**White-breasted Cormorant***Phalacrocorax lucidus*

Uncommonly recorded during the trip and only sighted at Walvis Bay and Avis Dam.

*NOTE: The IOC splits the white-breasted African subspecies into a full species from the widely distributed Great Cormorant P. carbo. Clements does not accept this split.*

**Cape Cormorant***Phalacrocorax capensis*

Large numbers were seen in the Walvis Bay area.

**Anhingas Anhingidae****African Darter***Anhinga melanogaster*

Commonly sighted on the Okavango River in Botswana.

*NOTE:*

**Secretarybird Sagittaridae****Secretarybird***Sagittarius serpentarius*

This elegant and unique species was seen on a number of occasions while driving in Etosha NP.

**Kites, Hawks, Eagles & Vultures Accipitridae****Black-winged Kite***Elanus caeruleus*

This widespread raptor was seen at many localities throughout the tour.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Black-shouldered Kite.*

**Black Kite***Milvus migrans*

This migrant was first recorded near Rundu and then daily thereafter throughout northern Namibia and the Okavango Panhandle.

*NOTE: This race we observed during the tour is considered by some authorities to be a full species, namely: Yellow-billed Kite M. m. aegyptius.*

**African Fish Eagle***Haliaeetus vocifer*

This classic African raptor was seen on numerous occasions along the Okavango and Zambezi Rivers in Northern Namibia and Botswana.

**Hooded Vulture***Necrosyrtes monachus*

A single bird was sighted flying above the Livingstone Treatment Works on our final day.

**White-backed Vulture***Gyps africanus*

A widespread and common vulture in sub-saharan Africa, it was seen on many occasions in Etosha and again in Mohango GR.

**Lappet-faced Vulture***Torgos tracheliotus*

This globally threatened species was seen well in Etosha NP.

**Black-chested Snake Eagle***Circaetus pectoralis*

We enjoyed a total of six sightings of this smart raptor, mostly in flight with our first sighting coming from near the Erongo Mountains.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Black-breasted Snake-Eagle.*

**Brown Snake Eagle***Circaetus cinereus*

Our first sightings were near Windhoek and we had further views of a pair in the Eastern Caprivi.

**Western Banded Snake Eagle***Circaetus cinerascens*

This smart species is rather uncommon, here at its southern distributional limit, and we enjoyed three fabulous sightings in the Eastern Caprivi and Zambia.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Banded Snake Eagle.*

**Bateleur***Terathopius ecaudatus*

This stunning bird of prey was seen on numerous occasions in Etosha and the Caprivi region.

**African Marsh-Harrier***Circus ranivorus*

Small numbers were seen quartering over reedbeds in the Okavango Panhandle and near Kalizo Lodge.

**African Harrier-Hawk** *Polyboroides typus*

Our first sighting was of a juvenile bird just as we entered Botswana while we also enjoyed a further great view of an adult in Mohango GR.

**Pale Chanting Goshawk** *Melierax canorus*

This species was commonly recorded during the first half of our trip in the drier regions of Namibia.

**Gabar Goshawk** *Micronisus gabar*

We had an excellent sighting of a single bird just after crossing the Botswana border post while a single melanistic bird was also seen briefly by some of the group in the Kalizo area.

*NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus, namely Melierax.*

**Lizard Buzzard** *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

Two birds were sighted in the Caprivi Strip.

**Tawny Eagle** *Aquila rapax*

This large brown eagle was found in Etosha NP and along the Caprivi Strip.

*NOTE: The nominate form African Tawny Eagle A. r. rapax may be split from the Asian Tawny Eagle A. r. vindhiana.*

**Wahlberg's Eagle** *Aquila wahlbergi*

This intra-african migrant was observed twice in woodland along the Zambezi River.

**African Hawk-Eagle** *Hieraaetus spilogaster*

Fabulous views were had of this smart species, firstly in flight near the Erongo Mountains and then a pair in woodland just outside Etosha NP in the Namutoni area.

**Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus*

A single bird was sighted near Solitude after descending Spreetshoogte Pass and was easily identified by the 'landing lights' present on shoulders of the bird as it turned towards the observer.

**Martial Eagle** *Polemaetus bellicosus*

A single bird was sighted just as we entered the Okaukuejo entrance gate of Etosha NP.

**Long-crested Eagle** *Lophaetus occipitalis*

Just after entering Zambia we came across this elegant species perched in tall woodland.

### Falcons & Kestrels Falconidae

**Pygmy Falcon** *Polihierax semitorquatus*

Just outside Namibgrens we found a single male of this tiny falcon.

**Rock Kestrel** *Falco rupicolus*

This species was regularly recorded in Central Namibia, during the first week of the tour.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Eurasian Kestrel F. tinnunculus. The IOC splits Rock Kestrel F. rupicolus, which was the race we observed.*

**Greater Kestrel** *Falco rupicoloides*

Small numbers of these attractive birds were seen *en route* to Walvis Bay and in Etosha NP.

**Red-necked Falcon** *Falco chicquera*

We found a total of 3 of these good-looking raptors at the Okaukuejo and Namutoni areas in Etosha NP.

**African Hobby** *Falco cuvierii*

This is a very uncommon raptor in Southern Africa and we were extremely fortunate to find a single bird in flight while in Mohango NP.

**Lanner Falcon** *Falco biarmicus*

Initially sighted at great distance while birding in the Spitzkoppe, we later had excellent flight views of a single bird near our lodge in Rundu.

### Bustards Otididae

**Kori Bustard** *Ardeotis kori*

Good numbers were recorded daily in Etosha National Park.

**Ludwig's Bustard** *Neotis ludwigii*

A total of 4 of these handsome birds were spotted on the desert plains after our descent down the Spreetshoogte Pass.

**Rüppell's Korhaan (NE)** *Eupodotis rueppelli*

Small numbers of this attractive near-endemic were observed on the desert plains *en route* to Walvis Bay and later another pair was sighted in the Spitzkoppe area.

**Red-crested Korhaan** *Lophotis ruficrista*

This species was sighted on three occasions in the Namutoni area of Etosha NP.

*NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus, namely Eupodotis and the scientific name is Eupodotis ruficrista.*

**Northern Black Korhaan** *Afrotis afraoides*

We enjoyed numerous good sightings of this beautifully-patterned bird almost daily in Etosha NP.

**Black-bellied Bustard** *Lissotis melanogaster*

A single female was sighted at close range in the sandy grasslands near Kalizo Lodge.

### Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae

**African Rail** *Rallus caerulescens*

On our final day of the tour we heard a number of these birds at the Livingstone Treatment Works.

**Black Crake** *Amaurornis flavirostris*

This atypical crake (with regards to behavior) was recorded on the Okavango River system and then in large numbers at the Livingstone Treatment Works.

**African Swamphen** *Porphyrio madagascariensis*

Apparently a treatment works specialist as the Gamams, Rundu and Livingstone Treatment Works provided us with our only sightings of this brightly plumaged bird on tour.

**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

This common and widespread species was recorded at the three treatment works that were visited on the tour.

**Red-knobbed Coot** *Fulica cristata*

This species was seen at Gamams and Rundu Treatment Works.

### Cranes Gruidae

**Blue Crane** *Anthropoides paradiseus*

One of Southern Africa's most elegant species and always a good find in Namibia where the population is small and far removed from the South African population. We found a pair in the Namutoni area of Etosha NP.

**Wattled Crane** *Grus carunculata*

This much desired species is also the regions rarest and was observed on the floodplains in the Mahango Game Reserve.

### Buttonquail Turnicidae

**Kurrichane Buttonquail** *Turnix sylvaticus*

One of the many great surprises during our first mornings birding in the Kalizo area. A single bird was flushed and seen well at the edge of one of the dambos.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Small Buttonquail.*

### Thick-knees Burhinidae

**Water Thick-knee** *Burhinus vermiculatus*

The Okavango River provided us with views of this bird.

**Spotted Thick-knee** *Burhinus capensis*

We found this attractive-marked species in the Okaukuejo area of Etosha NP.

### Stilts & Avocets Recurvirostridae

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*

Recorded first at Walvis Bay Lagoon and then at Rundu and Mohango GR..

**Pied Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*

A few birds were seen at the Walvis Bay Lagoon.

### Plovers & Lapwings Charadriidae

**Long-toed Lapwing** *Vanellus crassirostris*

This very attractive wetland species was recorded in the Okavango Panhandle, on the Mahango GR floodplain and at Livingstone Treatment Works.

**Blacksmith Lapwing** *Vanellus armatus*

A common and widespread southern African lapwing, it was seen on most days of the trip.

**White-crowned Lapwing** *Vanellus albiceps*

The sandbanks of the Zambezi River yielded good sightings of this handsome lapwing.

**Crowned Lapwing** *Vanellus coronatus*

This common dry west species was recorded on many days of the tour.

**African Wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus senegallus*

Our only sighting came from a small wetland in the Caprivi where a pair was located.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Wattled Lapwing.*

**Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

This non-breeding migrant to the region was recorded in the Walvis Bay Lagoon.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Black-bellied Plover.*

**Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Single birds were noted from Walvis Bay, Rundu Treatment Works and Livingstone Treatment Works.

**Kittlitz's Plover** *Charadrius pecuarius*

Recorded widely in Etosha NP with our initial sighting coming from Namibgrens.

**Three-banded Plover** *Charadrius tricollaris*

We recorded this species at scattered wetland sites during the tour.

**White-fronted Plover** *Charadrius marginatus*

Small numbers of these aggressive little plovers were seen in the Walvis Bay area.

**Chestnut-banded Plover** *Charadrius pallidus*

The Walvis Bay Saltworks produced excellent sightings of three handsome birds.

**Caspian Plover** *Charadrius asiaticus*

A very scarce species that provided excellent views when two birds were located in short grass while birding the Kalizo area.

### Painted Snipes Rostratulidae

**Greater Painted Snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis*

This secretive bird was seen at very close range when located in the Kalizo area, along the banks of the Zambezi River and initially at one of the waterholes in Etosha NP.

### Jacanas Jacanidae

**African Jacana** *Actophilornis africanus*

This attractive species was found on a daily basis on the Okavango & Zambezi River systems.

### Sandpipers, Snipes Scolopacidae

**Bar-tailed Godwit***Limosa lapponica*

A single was sighted feeding in the shallows of the Walvis Bay Lagoon.

**Whimbrel***Numenius phaeopus*

A few were seen on the tidal mudflats at Walvis Bay.

**Marsh Sandpiper***Tringa stagnatilis*

A single of this slimly-built wader was sighted at Rundu Treatment Works.

**Common Greenshank***Tringa nebularia*

First seen at Avis Dam, we also had sightings at Walvis Bay and on the Okavango River.

**Wood Sandpiper***Tringa glareola*

Small numbers were seen at various wetland areas in Namibia, Botswana and Zambia during the tour.

**Common Sandpiper***Actitis hypoleucos*

A few individuals noted at Etosha NP, along the Okavango River and in the Kalizo area.

**Ruddy Turnstone***Arenaria interpres*

A richly-colored wader in breeding plumage, it was observed at Walvis Bay Lagoon.

**Sanderling***Calidris alba*

Small numbers were found among the large numbers of waders present on Walvis Bay lagoon.

**Little Stint***Calidris minuta*

Good numbers sighted in the Walvis Bay area and at Rundu.

**Curlew Sandpiper***Calidris ferruginea*

Large numbers of these shorebirds were recorded on the mudflats of Walvis Bay Lagoon and again at Rundu.

**Ruff***Philomachus pugnax*

The Walvis Bay Lagoon, Etosha NP and Rundu provided us with sightings of this wader species.

**Red-necked Phalarope***Phalaropus lobatus*

We were fortunate to find a single bird on the Walvis Bay Lagoon on the way out to Paaltjies. This Palearctic migrant is a southern African rarity, although they do tend to be seen most summers in the Walvis Bay area.

**Coursers & Pratincoles Glareolidae****Burchell's Courser (NE)***Cursorius rufus*

These erratic and unpredictable birds were found in good numbers this year. First we enjoyed two sightings of a total of seven birds in the Okaukuejo area of Etosha NP and then later a further flock of five birds were found in the Namutoni area of Etosha NP.

**Temminck's Courser***Cursorius temminckii*

Two pairs of birds together with young were located in short grassland near Kalizo Lodge giving us superb views.

**Double-banded Courser***Rhinoptilus africanus*

This species was commonly recorded in Etosha National Park.

*NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus, namely Smutsornis.***Bronze-winged Courser***Rhinoptilus chalcopterus*

This scarce species is mostly nocturnal and we were very surprised to stumble across a single bird while walking through tall Mopane woodland in the Kalizo area.

**Collared Pratincole***Glareola pratincola*

Small numbers were seen in the Okavango Panhandle and Zambezi River with our first looks coming from Mohango GR.

**Rock Pratincole***Glareola nuchalis*

A pair was sighted on some rocks in the Okavango River upstream of Mohango GR.

**Gulls, Terns, Skimmers Laridae**

**African Skimmer***Rynchops flavirostris*

These stunning birds, which exhibit a unique feeding method, were recorded on the Okavango and Zambezi Rivers in flight and perched at close range, we even managed a sighting of a single fluffy juvenile bird while boating in the delta region.

**Grey-hooded Gull***Larus cirrocephalus*

We recorded this bird at Etosha NP and again along the Zambezi river, this is our only inland gull species.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Gray-headed Gull.

**Hartlaub's Gull (NE)***Larus hartlaubii*

This southern African near endemic was seen in large numbers in the Walvis Bay area.

**Kelp Gull***Larus dominicanus*

Good numbers of this gull species seen in the Walvis Bay area.

NOTE: Recent work suggests that the Kelp Gull complex *L. dominicanus* may be split into as many as four species. The African form we observed has been proposed as Cape Gull *L. vetula*.

**Caspian Tern***Sterna caspia*

We had good views of this large tern species while birding the Walvis Bay Lagoon.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus, namely *Hydroprogne*.

**Swift Tern***Sterna bergii*

The Walvis Bay Lagoon yielded multiple sightings of this tern species.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus, namely *Thalasseus*.

**Sandwich Tern***Sterna sandvicensis*

Good numbers were sighted in a tern roost at Walvis Bay Lagoon.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus, namely *Thalasseus*.

**Damara Tern***Sterna balaenarum*

This is the regions most sought-after tern species and we found three birds in the Walvis Bay Lagoon area.

**Common Tern***Sterna hirundo*

Good numbers seen at Walvis Bay.

**Whiskered Tern***Chlidonias hybridus*

This fresh water tern species was seen at Namutoni Waterhole in Etosha NP and again from the boat trip on the Okavango River.

**Sandgrouse Pteroclididae****Namaqua Sandgrouse (NE)***Pterocles namaqua*

Our first records were on the desert plains of the Namib and later we had large numbers of these elegant birds in Etosha NP.

**Double-banded Sandgrouse (NE)***Pterocles bicinctus*

Flocks of these sandgrouse were seen drinking at dusk at Okaukuejo in Etosha, a truly memorable site indeed! We enjoyed further looks at Mohango GR and in the Kalizo area during the day.

**Burchell's Sandgrouse (NE)***Pterocles bicinctus*

We had fantastic sightings of this beautifully-patterned species coming in to drink at a waterhole north of Namutoni.

**Doves & Pigeons Collumbidae****Common Pigeon***Columba livia*

This exotic species was seen in small numbers around human settlements.

**Speckled Pigeon***Columba guinea*

We recorded this bird at dry, rocky locations with best views at Erongo Wilderness Lodge.

**Mourning Collared Dove***Streptopelia decipiens*

This bird was found in small numbers in north-eastern Namibia.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is African Mourning Dove.

**Red-eyed Dove***Streptopelia semitorquata*

The moist woodland of northern Namibia and Botswana yielded repeated views of this common species.

**Ring-necked Dove***Streptopelia capicola*

This common and widespread species was recorded on almost every day throughout the tour.

**Laughing Dove***Streptopelia senegalensis*

It was also seen on most days in small numbers during the tour.

**Emerald-spotted Wood Dove***Turtur chalcospilos*

This pretty woodland dove was recorded on most days in northern Namibia and Botswana.

**Namaqua Dove***Oena capensis*

A common dry-country species, it was seen on most days during the tour.

**African Green Pigeon***Treron calvus*

The riverine forests along the Okavango and Zambezi Rivers yielded sightings of these gorgeous birds.

**Cockatoos, Parrots Psittacidae****Rosy-faced Lovebird (NE)***Agapornis roseicollis*

First recorded in Windhoek, we enjoyed further sightings near Solitaire *en route* to Walvis Bay and again at Erongo Wilderness Lodge.

**Meyer's Parrot***Poicephalus meyeri*

This parrot was seen in North-eastern Namibia on a few days with especially good looks at Kalizo Lodge.

**Rüppell's Parrot (NE)***Poicephalus rueppellii*

At our lunch stop *en route* to the Erongo Mountains we found an total of nine birds perched and calling in the tall acacias that gave excellent views.

**Turacos Musophagidae****Schalow's Turaco***Tauraco schalowi*

During the heat of the day we came up trumps with this gem along the Zambezi River. A superb sighting indeed! We found this species again at Victoria Falls when four birds were seen.

**Grey Go-away-bird***Corythaixoides concolor*

This distinctive species was seen on almost every day of the tour.

**Cuckoos Cuculidae****Senegal Coucal***Centropus senegalensis*

A single bird was found near Rundu.

**Coppery-tailed Coucal***Centropus cupreicaudus*

We enjoyed numerous views (in flight and on the ground) of this heavy-tailed coucal, which included sightings throughout the Okavango Panhandle and on the dambos near Kalizo Lodge.

**White-browed Coucal***Centropus superciliosus*

This coucal was seen well at Rundu Treatment Works.

*NOTE: Clements still lumps White-browed Coucal C. superciliosus with Burchell's Coucal C. burchelli which occurs in eastern southern Africa.*

**Dideric Cuckoo***Chrysococcyx caprius*

The woodland at Xaro Lodge gave us a lovely sighting of a calling individual.

**Klaas's Cuckoo***Chrysococcyx klaas*

This species was heard calling in the tall woodland in the Caprivi between Rundu and Divundu.

**Black Cuckoo***Cuculus clamosus*

This species was heard calling at close range at our lodge near Rundu.

**African Cuckoo***Cuculus gularis*

Great views were obtained at Namutoni Camp in Etosha NP with further views at Rundu and again in the Caprivi woodlands.

### Barn Owls Tytonidae

#### **Western Barn Owl**

*Tyto alba*

This widespread species was sighted at Erongo and again at Halali Camp in Etosha NP.

### Typical Owls Strigidae

#### **African Scops Owl**

*Otus senegalensis*

We had close-up views of this master camouflage-artist in the Halali Camp in Etosha NP.

#### **Southern White-faced Owl**

*Ptilopsis granti*

Halali Camp provided us with a great sighting of this gorgeous owl.

#### **Pel's Fishing Owl**

*Scotopelia peli*

A mega highlight of any visit to the Okavango Panhandle, we found two roosting birds during our time spent in the area.

#### **African Wood Owl**

*Strix woodfordii*

We had an excellent encounter with this superb owl at our lodge in the Okavango Panhandle.

#### **Pearl-spotted Owlet**

*Glaucidium perlatum*

Individual birds were recorded at scattered woodland sites during the tour, seen on many occasions with other passerines jumping around above its head.

#### **African Barred Owlet**

*Glaucidium capense*

We had excellent views of this species during the day at our lodge in the Okavango Panhandle.

#### **Marsh Owl**

*Asio capensis*

Our initial view was a mere shape flying across a wetland after dusk in the Kalizo area, however we were treated to outrageous scope views of a single bird at rest in reedbeds at Livingstone Treatment Works.

### Nightjars Caprimulgidae

#### **Rufous-cheeked Nightjar**

*Caprimulgus rufigena*

A few birds were seen just after dusk at Okaukuejo and Halali waterholes in Etosha NP.

#### **Fiery-necked Nightjar**

*Caprimulgus pectoralis*

Excellent views were enjoyed at our lodge near Rundu.

#### **Freckled Nightjar**

*Caprimulgus tristigma*

We obtained good views of a single bird at our lodge in the Erongo Mountains.

#### **Square-tailed Nightjar**

*Caprimulgus fossii*

We had a superb encounter with a single bird in the Kalizo area.

#### **Swamp Nightjar**

*Caprimulgus natalensis*

One of the outstanding highlights of our time spent in the Kalizo area was a sighting of this uncommon species flying around above our heads in full voice.

### Swifts Apodidae

#### **African Palm Swift**

*Cypsiurus parvus*

Present at most sites during the tour where there was suitable habitat.

#### **Alpine Swift**

*Tachymarptis melba*

Easily identifiable by its large white belly patch, this large swift was recorded in the Erongo Mountains and in Windhoek.

#### **Common Swift**

*Apus apus*

This migrant was sighted at Okaukuejo in Etosha NP.

#### **Bradfield's Swift (NE)**

*Apus bradfieldi*

This large brown swift was seen around Windhoek and again at Spitzkoppe where we had good close flight views.

**Little Swift** *Apus affinis*

A common and widespread swift, it was seen on most days of the tour.

**White-rumped Swift** *Apus caffer*

Namibgrens gave us a couple of pairs of this Intra-African migrant.

### Mousebirds Coliidae

**White-backed Mousebird (NE)** *Colius colius*

First recorded at Tamboti Guest House in Windhoek, we enjoyed further views at Namibgrens and in the Erongo mountains.

**Red-faced Mousebird** *Urocolius indicus*

This species was seen on a daily basis in north-eastern Namibia and Botswana.

### Rollers Coraciidae

**Purple Roller** *Coracias naevia*

Two birds were seen en route to Namib Grens, followed by multiple views in Etosha and the Caprivi region.

**Racket-tailed Roller** *Coracias spatulatus*

Whilst exploring the Mopane woodlands near Katima Mulilo we came across a single of this special bird.

**Lilac-breasted Roller** *Coracias caudata*

This quintessential African species was seen in good numbers during the tour.

**Broad-billed Roller** *Eurystomus glaucurus*

Excellent views of this brightly coloured species were enjoyed in riverine vegetation in the Okavango panhandle area.

### Kingfishers Alcedinidae

**Brown-hooded Kingfisher** *Halcyon albiventris*

This species was recorded in moist woodland along the Zambezi River. Our first sighting was at Kalizo Lodge near Katima Mulilo.

**Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti*

A single bird was seen at our lodge in Botswana.

**Malachite Kingfisher** *Alcedo cristata*

Large numbers of these jewel-like birds were found along the Okavango River system.

**Half-collared Kingfisher** *Alcedo semitorquata*

This tricky species was seen only in flight near Victoria Falls along the Zambezi River.

**Giant Kingfisher** *Megaceryle maxima*

A vocal and boldly-marked kingfisher, it was recorded on the Okavango and Zambezi Rivers.

**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis*

North-eastern Namibia and the Okavango Panhandle yielded numerous sightings of this common species.

### Bee-eaters Meropidae

**Swallow-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops hirundineus*

First seen at Gamams in Windhoek, thereafter it was seen on most days of the tour in dry woodland habitats.

**Little Bee-eater** *Merops pusillus*

This good looking species was found daily along the Okavango and Zambezi Rivers.

**White-fronted Bee-eater***Merops bullockoides*

Another stunning bee-eater, it was observed daily along the Okavango and Zambezi Rivers in good numbers.

**European Bee-eater***Merops apiaster*

Two large groups were encountered while in Etosha NP.

**Southern Carmine Bee-eater***Merops nubicoides*

This drop-dead gorgeous bird was one of the major highlights of the tour! Special mention must go to the nesting colony at Kalizo Lodge where we were awed by huge numbers of these birds *en masse* as they began nest tunnelling and as they took to the air in unison in a riot of color!

**Hoopoes Upupidae****African Hoopoe***Upupa africanus*

This classic species of the African savanna was seen widely on the tour.

*NOTE: The Hoopoe complex has had a confusing taxonomic history, with one to four species being recognized by various authorities. Clements splits the group into two forms, Madagascar U. marginalis and Eurasian U. eops. The white-winged African forms are often split by other authorities as West African Hoopoe U. senegalensis with the fourth species being African Hoopoe U. africana (which we recorded). However, the most generally accepted treatment is that of three species, Madagascar, Eurasian and African.*

**Woodhoopoes Phoeniculidae****Green Wood Hoopoe***Phoeniculus purpureus*

This attractive species was regularly recorded in the riverine woodland along the Okavango and Zambezi Rivers.

**Violet Wood Hoopoe (NE)***Phoeniculus damarensis*

We enjoyed excellent views of three birds during the heat of the day in the Khan Riverbed near Omaruru.

*NOTE: IOC recognises two distinct species of this form, namely: the nominate form in Namibia and Angola Violet Wood Hoopoe P. damarensis and the Kenyan form P. granti known as Grant's Wood Hoopoe.*

**Common Scimitarbill***Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*

Good numbers of these woodland birds were observed during the tour.

**Hornbills Bucerotidae****Bradfield's Hornbill (NE)***Tockus bradfieldi*

Two of these localized hornbills were seen near the village of Shakawe in northern Botswana and we were entertained by another single bird in Mohango GR.

**African Grey Hornbill***Tockus nasutus*

This widespread species was regularly seen throughout the tour.

**Monteiro's Hornbill (NE)***Tockus monteiri*

A near-endemic to Namibia, it was encountered just outside Windhoek for the first time and then again in the Erongo Mountains and on the drive north to Okaukuejo.

**Damara Red-billed Hornbill (NE)***Tockus erythrorhynchus*

First seen in Khan Riverbed, it was then observed in Etosha NP where certain birds show definite traits of both species.

*NOTE: The Red-billed Hornbill complex has recently been split into several species, including the nominate T. erythrorhynchus and Damara Hornbill T. damarensis which occurs in Western Namibia. We observed both of these forms during the tour. The IOC, on which our checklist and trip report is based, accepts these splits.*

**Southern Red-billed Hornbill***Tockus rufirostris*

Good views were enjoyed in the tall Mopane woodlands of the eastern Caprivi near Katima Mulilo.

*NOTE: Please see the species above.*

**Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill***Tockus leucomelas*

Commonly sighted at most woodland sites during the tour.

**Trumpeter Hornbill***Bycanistes bucinator*

At the Victoria Falls near Livingstone we had good views of these vocal hornbills.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC, namely: *Ceratogymna*.

**Barbets Capitonidae****Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird***Pogoniulus chrysoconus*

A total of three birds were sighted in mixed feeding flocks in the Teak woodlands to the east of Rundu.

**Acacia Pied Barbet***Tricholaema leucomelas*

First seen around the Gamams Treatment Works, it was then found at many dry woodland sites throughout the tour.

**Black-collared Barbet***Lybius torquatus*

The Okavango Panhandle produced several sightings of this striking species. It was also recorded at Kalizo.

**Crested Barbet***Trachyphonus vaillantii*

Brightly coloured and smartly plumaged. It was seen in the grounds of our Lodge in the Okavango Panhandle and again at Kalizo.

**Woodpeckers & Allies Picidae****Bennett's Woodpecker***Campethera bennettii*

A single male was sighted in the woodland near our lodge in Botswana with further views of a single bird in the dry Mopane woodland south of Katima Mulilo.

**Golden-tailed Woodpecker***Campethera abingoni*

First seen at Namibgrens and then again in Etosha NP, the riverine forest of the Okavango Panhandle and the woodland of the eastern Caprivi.

**Cardinal Woodpecker***Dendropicus fuscescens*

This widespread African woodpecker was seen at scattered localities in north-eastern Namibia.

**Bearded Woodpecker***Dendropicus namaquus*

Our first views were at Mokuti Lodge on the outskirts of Etosha NP with further flocks at our lodge in Botswana and in the woodlands of the Caprivi.

**Wattle-eyes & Batises Platysteiridae****Chinspot Batis***Batis molitor*

We recorded this batis in the Teak woodlands near Katima Mulilo in the Caprivi region.

**Pirit Batis***Batis pririt*

This delightful species was found in dry *Acacia* woodland during the first week of the tour.

**White-tailed Shrike (NE)***Lanioturdus torquatus*

A striking Namibian near-endemic, it was first located at namibgrens and then again in the Erongo Mountains.

**Helmetshrikes Prionopidae****White-crested Helmetshrike***Prionops plumatus*

Small flocks were observed in the Teak woodlands near Rundu and at Kalizo Lodge.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is *White Helmetshrike*.

**Retz's Helmetshrike***Prionops retzii*

A brief flock went flying by in the woodlands to the east of Rundu however we had stunning looks at a single bird in the woodland near our lodge in the Okavango Swamp.

### Bush-shrikes & Allies Malaconotidae

#### **Grey-headed Bushshrike**

*Malaconotus blanchoti*

This can be a very tough bird to find on the route and we were fortunate to locate a single bird that was very well seen in the gardens of our lodge in Botswana.

#### **Orange-breasted Bushshrike**

*Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*

This beauty was seen at our lodge in Botswana and again at a lodge along the Zambezi River.

*NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC, namely: Telophorus and gives it the name Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike.*

#### **Bokmakierie**

*Telophorus zeylonus*

Excellent views were enjoyed near Walvis Bay at Rooibank and then again at Spitzkoppe.

#### **Brown-crowned Tchagra**

*Tchagra australis*

Seen on a few occasions in mixed species flocks in the teak woodlands of the Caprivi.

#### **Black-crowned Tchagra**

*Tchagra senegalus*

A single bird was sighted in the Kalizo area.

#### **Black-backed Puffback**

*Dryoscopus cubla*

We had several sightings of this widespread species in north-eastern Namibia.

#### **Tropical Boubou**

*Laniarius aethiopicus*

The Victoria Falls in Zambia produced wonderful views of this localized species on the route.

#### **Swamp Boubou**

*Laniarius bicolor*

Rundu Treatment Ponds yielded the first sighting of this bird. Thereafter, it was seen on many occasions in the riparian vegetation alongside the Okavango and Zambezi Rivers.

#### **Crimson-breasted Shrike**

*Laniarius atrococcineus*

This absolutely stunning species was observed at most dry woodland sites.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Crimson-breasted Gonolek.*

#### **Brubru**

*Nilaus afer*

Small numbers of this shrike were seen during the tour, with good sightings in the Khan Riverbed.

*NOTE: This previously monotypic genus might be split 4 ways: Northern Brubru N. afer, Black-browed Brubru N. nigritemporalis, Angola Brubru N. affinis and Southern Brubru N. brubru. Only the Southern Brubru occurs in Southern Africa. None of the leading taxonomies accept this view at present.*

### Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae

#### **Black Cuckooshrike**

*Campephaga flava*

We located a single male bird showing a rather bright yellow shoulder in the woodland of the Caprivi area.

### Shrikes Laniidae

#### **Magpie Shrike**

*Urolestes melanoleucus*

This striking species was seen around Rundu, the Okavango and near Kalizo Lodge.

*NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC, namely: Corvinella and the scientific name is Corvinella melanoleuca.*

#### **Southern White-crowned Shrike**

*Eurocephalus anguitimens*

This striking shrike was plentiful in the Halali and Namutoni areas of Etosha NP.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is White-crowned Shrike.*

#### **Common Fiscal**

*Lanius collaris*

We had frequent sightings during the first week on tour.

*NOTE: The race which we observed during the tour is L. c. subcoronatus, an arid zone race that has a strong white supercilium.*

### Drongos Dicruridae

#### **Fork-tailed Drongo**

*Dicrurus adsimilis*

This widespread African species was recorded on almost every day during the tour.

### Crows Corvidae

#### **Cape Crow**

*Corvus capensis*

10 odd birds were seen on the plains of the Namib and good numbers were observed throughout Etosha.

#### **Pied Crow**

*Corvus albus*

Scattered sightings of this common species were had on tour, initially seen over the golden grasslands of the Namib.

### Tits Paridae

#### **Carp's Black Tit (NE)**

*Parus carpi*

We found this Namibian near-endemic at Erongo Wilderness Lodge and then again at Halali Camp in Etosha NP.

*NOTE: The Clements common name is Carp's Tit and he also places this species in a different genus to IOC, namely: Melaniparus.*

#### **Southern Black Tit**

*Parus niger*

The Teak woodlands south of and to the east of Rundu produced sightings of this species.

*NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC, namely: Melaniparus.*

#### **Ashy Tit**

*Parus cinerascens*

We had good views of this bird on our drive to Namibgreens and again in dune scrub near Walvis Bay.

*NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC, namely: Melaniparus.*

### Larks Alaudidae

#### **Rufous-naped Lark**

*Mirafra africana*

Single birds were sighted in the Halali area of Etosha NP and in the Kalizo area.

#### **Eastern Clapper Lark**

*Mirafra apiata*

We enjoyed great views of this species in the Okaukuejo area of Etosha NP.

#### **Fawn-colored Lark**

*Mirafra africanoides*

Good views were had of this species on the drive to Namibgreens and again in Mohango GR.

*NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC, namely: Calendulauda.*

#### **Sabota Lark**

*Mirafra sabota*

A regularly recorded lark during the first half of the tour, we had outstanding sightings in Etosha.

*NOTE: Some authorities consider the thick-billed form, Bradfield's Lark M. bradfieldi of Namibia a separate species. This is not widely accepted.*

#### **Dune Lark (E)**

*Certhilauda erythrochlamys*

One of Namibia's true endemics, we had fantastic views of this species in the dunes south of Walvis Bay.

#### **Spike-heeled Lark**

*Chersomanes albofasciata*

Found in small groups, this social species was observed on the gravel plains in the Namib and also in the Okaukuejo area of Etosha NP.

#### **Gray's Lark (NE)**

*Ammomanes grayi*

This scarce desert species was found in very inhospitable terrain *en route* to Walvis Bay.

*NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC, namely: Ammomanopsis.*

#### **Red-capped Lark**

*Calandrella cinerea*

Etosha National Park produced many sightings of this distinctive looking lark species.

*NOTE: The African Red-capped Lark complex C. cinerea, was lumped within the Greater Short-toed Lark complex C. brachydactyla but is now considered distinct by most authorities. Several distinctive groupings have now been split off from Red-capped Lark, including Blanford's Lark of Ethiopia C. blanfordi.*

#### **Pink-billed Lark**

*Spizocorys conirostris*

During our game drives in the Okaukuejo area of Etosha NP we found several of these smart larks.

**Stark's Lark (NE)** *Eremalauda starki*

We obtained outrageously close views of this species on the gravel plains of the Namib.

*NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC, namely: Spizocorys.*

**Chestnut-backed Sparrowlark** *Eremopterix leucotis*

Good numbers were found in Etosha NP of this rather nomadic species.

**Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark** *Eremopterix verticalis*

Good sightings of this species were had in Etosha NP after initially seen on the plains of the Namib.

### Bulbuls Pycnonotidae

**African Red-eyed Bulbul** *Pycnonotus nigricans*

This species was seen every day until we departed Etosha NP.

**Dark-capped Bulbul** *Pycnonotus tricolor*

This widespread bulbul was seen daily from Rundu onwards.

*NOTE: Another very confusing polytypic species complex. Several Asian and African forms have already been recognized as distinct species within the super-species Common Bulbul P. barbatus. The form that we saw in Southern Africa, P. tricolor has been split as Dark-capped Bulbul by the IOC authority.*

**Yellow-bellied Greenbul** *Chlorocichla flaviventris*

Small numbers of this attractive greenbul were observed in the Okavango Panhandle and eastern Namibia.

**Terrestrial Brownbul** *Phyllastrephus terrestris*

This undergrowth skulker was recorded in the Okavango Panhandle and eastern Namibia.

### Swallows & Martins Hirundinidae

**Brown-throated Martin** *Riparia paludicola*

Small numbers were noted along the Okavango River in the delta area.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Plain Martin.*

**Banded Martin** *Riparia cincta*

A few birds were recorded during our boat rides on the Okavango River.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

Seen occasionally on the final week of the tour with our first sighting coming from Hochland Nest.

**White-throated Swallow** *Hirundo albigularis*

Uncommon in Namibia, we were fortunate to locate a pair of birds at the Gamams Treatment Works near Windhoek

**Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii*

Pairs and individual birds were seen often along the Okavango and Zambezi Rivers.

*NOTE: This species complex may be split, based on the African nominate form that would become African Wire-tailed Swallow and the Asian Wire-tailed Swallow that would be H. filifera.*

**Pearl-breasted Swallow** *Hirundo dimidiata*

We were fortunate to record this uncommon species at the Rundu Treatment Works.

**Rock Martin** *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

This species was seen on a daily basis for the first week of the tour.

*NOTE: This confusing polytypic complex is being reviewed for multi-species splitting. Within African populations, 3 potential species exist. The southern African nominate form H. f. fuligula remains Rock Martin, northern populations would become Red-throated Rock Martin H. pusilla. Palearctic birds become Pale Crag Martin H. obsoleta.*

**Common House Martin** *Delichon urbicum*

A large flock of at least fifty birds were sighted feeding low over the Halali waterhole in camp.

**Greater Striped Swallow** *Cecropis cucullata*

Small numbers were sighted at the start of the tour from Namibgrens and around Windhoek.

**Lesser Striped Swallow** *Cecropis abyssinica*

It was seen daily from the Rundu area onwards, usually close to water.

**Red-breasted Swallow***Cecropis semirufa*

An attractive large hirundine, it was observed in Halali and Namutoni areas of Etosha NP.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Rufous-chested Swallow.

**Mosque Swallow***Cecropis senegalensis*

An elegant species that was seen in the Caprivi east of Divundu.

**Leaf Warblers & Allies Phylloscopidae****Willow Warbler***Phylloscopus trochilus*

A few birds were sighted in the broad-leaved woodlands of the Caprivi usually associated with mixed feeding flocks.

**Reed Warblers & Allies Acrocephalidae****Greater Swamp Warbler***Acrocephalus rufescens*

The Okavango Panhandle yielded good sightings of this secretive papyrus warbler.

**Lesser Swamp Warbler***Acrocephalus gracilirostris*

Seen well at the Rundu Treatment Works where its call was a distinctive background sound.

**African Reed Warbler***Acrocephalus baeticatus*

This species was easily seen in the vegetation around the Gamams waterworks and in the Okavango Delta.

**Icterine Warbler***Hippolais icterina*

A single bird was seen very well in the broad-leaved woodland east of Divundu.

**Grassbirds & Allies Megaluridae****Little Rush Warbler***Bradypterus baboecala*

This species was unfortunately only heard in the Okavango Delta area.

**Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae****Red-faced Cisticola***Cisticola erythrops*

We enjoyed good views of this species along the Zambezi River on our final morning in Zambia.

**Rattling Cisticola***Cisticola chiniana*

We recorded this common species regularly throughout the tour.

**Tinkling Cisticola***Cisticola rufilatus*

This is a very uncommon species and we had excellent views of a single bird calling from a vantage point in the woodlands to the east of Divundu.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Gray Cisticola.

**Luapula Cisticola***Cisticola luapula*

This smart looking cisticola was seen very well at Kalizo Lodge.

NOTE: The Okavango-Zambian race of the widespread Winding Cisticola *C. galactotes*, has recently been accorded full species status as *Luapula Cisticola C. luapula*. Clements does not recognize this split.

**Chirping Cisticola***Cisticola pipiens*

Small numbers of this Okavango specialist were observed in the reedbeds of the Panhandle.

**Neddicky***Cisticola fulvicapilla*

At least 2 of these diminutive birds were found in the woodlands east of Divundu.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Piping Cisticola.

**Zitting Cisticola***Cisticola juncidis*

Common in moist grasslands around dambos in the Kalizo area.

**Desert Cisticola***Cisticola aridulus*

Etosha National Park produced several sightings of this small cisticola.

**Rufous-eared Warbler (NE)***Malcorus pectoralis*

We had great views of this attractive warbler on our drive from Okaukuejo to Halali camp in Etosha NP.

**Tawny-flanked Prinia***Prinia subflava*

Commonly sighted in the woodlands of the Caprivi.

**Black-chested Prinia***Prinia flavicans*

This arid-zone species was regularly recorded during the first half of the tour.

**Yellow-breasted Apalis***Apalis flavida*

This attractive small species was sighted in the eastern Caprivi with our initial sightings coming from Mokuti Lodge.

**Grey-backed Camaroptera***Camaroptera brevicaudata*

Avis Dam produced our first looks at this widespread species with further views at Erongo Wilderness Lodge, thereafter it was seen fairly regularly, especially in north-eastern Namibia and Botswana.

*NOTE: The IOC now recognizes the nominate green-backed forms of this widespread African warbler as distinct from the grey-backed forms C. brevicaudata. We encountered the grey-backed form during our tour.***Barred Wren-Warbler***Calamonastes fasciolatus*

An individual responded very well to playback at Avis Dam.

**Yellow-bellied Eremomela***Eremomela icteropygialis*

Namibgreys produced our first records of this species, followed by multiple sightings in Etosha NP.

**Burnt-necked Eremomela***Eremomela usticollis*

These little birds were observed at Gamams Treatment Works on our first day.

**Green-capped Eremomela***Eremomela scotops*

This rather uncommon species was well seen when a group of four were found in mixed species flock in the Caprivi woodlands east of Divundu.

**Family Uncertain Incertidae Sedis****Rockrunner (NE)***Achaetops pycnopygius*

This localized Namibian near-endemic was seen exceptionally well at Avis Dam in Windhoek and later again in the Erongo Mountains.

*NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC, namely: Chaetops and the common name is Damara Rockjumper.***Long-billed Crombec***Sylvietta rufescens*

This short-tailed species was regularly encountered in various woodland habitats on the trip.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Cape Crombec.***Babblers Timaliidae****Black-faced Babbler (NE)***Turdoides melanops*

This scarce species was seen well when four birds were located in a mixed flock at Mokuti Lodge.

**Arrow-marked Babbler***Turdoides jardineii*

N'kwazi Lodge near Rundu and Kalizo Lodge in north-east Namibia produced views of this babbler.

**Hartlaub's Babbler***Turdoides hartlaubii*

These babblers were seen on a daily basis from Rundu onwards until we reached Zambia.

**Southern Pied Babbler***Turdoides bicolor*

We saw a flock of these striking southern African endemics on our drive to between Halali and Namutoni in Etosha NP.

**Bare-cheeked Babbler (NE)***Turdoides gymnogenys*

A flock of around eight birds were located in the Mopane woodlands outside Okaukuejo Camp giving fantastic views.

**Sylviid Babblers Sylviidae****Chestnut-vented Warbler***Parisoma subcaeruleum*

Initially, we had good views at Avis Dam; thereafter it was seen at most woodland sites up to the Caprivi region.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Rufous-vented Warbler.

**Layard's Warbler (NE)** *Parisoma layardi*

This species was briefly sighted at the Spitzkoppe.

### White-eyes Zosteropidae

**African Yellow White-eye** *Zosterops senegalensis*

Small numbers of these attractive birds were seen in the Okavango area and in the Caprivi.

### Starlings Sturnidae

**Wattled Starling** *Creatophora cinerea*

Encountered regularly throughout the tour and often in huge numbers particularly at Gamams Treatment works.

**Cape Starling** *Lamprotornis nitens*

This common species was recorded on most days of the tour.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Cape Glossy-Starling.

**Greater Blue-eared Starling** *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*

Probably one of the most stunning southern African starlings, we had views of this species from the Mahango area onwards.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling.

**Meves's Starling** *Lamprotornis mevesii*

As for the aforementioned species, it was regularly seen in north-eastern Namibia and the Panhandle.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Meves' Glossy-Starling.

**Burchell's Starling** *Lamprotornis australis*

Our initial sighting was *en route* to the Erongo Mountains, followed by multiple views thereafter.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Burchell's Glossy-Starling.

**Violet-backed Starling** *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

These gorgeous birds were spotted in the Teak woodlands east of Rundu and again in the Mahango area and *en route* to Katima Mulilo.

**Red-winged Starling** *Onychognathus morio*

During our visit to Victoria Falls we found good numbers of these starlings.

**Pale-winged Starling** *Onychognathus naboroupp*

This dry western species was first seen in Windhoek, followed by sightings in the Namib Desert, Spitzkoppe and the Erongo Mountains.

### Oxpeckers Buphagidae

**Yellow-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus africanus*

We had good views of this species throughout the Caprivi area.

### Thrushes Turdidae

**Groundscraper Thrush** *Psophocichla litsipsirupa*

We enjoyed superb views of this species at many widely scattered localities.

NOTE: Ethiopian Thrush *P. l. simensis* is considered a distinct species by several authorities.

**Kurrichane Thrush** *Turdus libyanus*

This woodland species was seen well at our lodge near Rundu.

### Chats & Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

**White-browed Robin-Chat** *Cossypha heuglini*

An impressive songster and good-looking bird, it was recorded in riverine vegetation along the Okavango and Zambezi Rivers.

**Collared Palm Thrush** *Cichladusa arquata*

Our sightings of this attractive species came from along the Zambezi River in Livingstone.

**Bearded Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas quadrivirgata*

We had a fabulous encounter with a single bird at Victoria Falls.

**White-browed Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas leucophrys*

Only sighted at Erongo Wilderness Lodge, in Etosha NP and in the eastern Caprivi.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Red-backed Scrub-Robin. Furthermore, this widespread African complex is being reviewed for a 3-way split, the Southern African C. l. leucophrys group would remain as White-browed Scrub-Robin, the Central African C. l. zambesiana would become Red-backed Scrub-Robin and the Northern African C. l. leucoptera would become White-winged Scrub-Robin.*

**Kalahari Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas paena*

A spritely species that was seen at Avis Dam, at Namibgrens and in Etosha NP.

**Karoo Scrub Robin (NE)** *Cercotrichas coryphaeus*

We had great views of this scrub robin in the gardens of Namibgrens.

**Herero Chat (NE)** *Namibornis herero*

One of the most highly desired of Namibia's near-endemics, we obtained unrivalled views at Spitzkoppe, this wasn't without a fair bit of effort though

**African Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus*

Several birds were spotted during our stay at Kalizo Lodge with our first sightings coming from the Okavango Delta.

*NOTE: Clements recognizes the split of African S. torquata and Common S. rubicola Stonechats (the latter a Palaearctic species), which is not followed by all authorities. Further splitting may occur in both groups including the highland Ethiopian form S. t. albofasciata that may become Ethiopian Stonechat.*

**Capped Wheatear** *Oenanthe pileata*

During an afternoon game drive in Mohango GR we encountered this striking bird.

**Mountain Wheatear** *Oenanthe monticola*

This near-endemic to southern Africa was regularly recorded during the first week of the tour.

**Karoo Chat** *Cercomela schlegelii*

A few pairs of birds were seen on our drive through the barren Namib Desert to Walvis Bay.

**Tractrac Chat** *Cercomela tractrac*

On the barren gravel plains near Swakopmund we encountered this interesting species.

**Familiar Chat** *Cercomela familiaris*

Our first sightings were from around the outskirts of Windhoek; thereafter we had good views in the Erongo Mountains.

**Ant-eating Chat** *Myrmecocichla formicivora*

We found this southern African endemic species in open grasslands habitat near Hochland Nest and in Etosha NP.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Southern Anteater-Chat.*

**Arnot's Chat** *Myrmecocichla arnoti*

This can be a tricky species however we were extremely fortunate to obtain a number of views in the Mopane woodland around Katima Mulilo.

**Short-toed Rock Thrush** *Monticola brevipes*

Small numbers of this attractive species were seen at various sites on the first week of the tour.

*NOTE: The South African isolate race M. b. pretoriae is sometimes split as Pretoria Rock Thrush.*

**Southern Black Flycatcher** *Melaenornis pammelaina*

Several of these delicate all-black flycatchers were observed in the woodland of the Caprivi Strip.

**Pale Flycatcher** *Bradornis pallidus*

The well-developed Teak woodlands of the Caprivi Strip produced a couple of sightings of this species.

**Chat Flycatcher** *Bradornis infuscatus*

This near-endemic to southern Africa was recorded on the way to the Walvis Bay from Namib Grens and near the Spitzkoppe.

**Marico Flycatcher***Bradornis mariquensis*

Our initial views were at Avis Dam, followed by multiple sightings thereafter at scattered dry woodland sites.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Mariqua Flycatcher.*

**Spotted Flycatcher***Muscicapa striata*

Singles of this widespread migrant flycatcher were sighted in the Caprivi woodlands.

**Ashy Flycatcher***Muscicapa caerulescens*

We obtained views of this species in the riverine woodland of the Delta area and again at Kalizo Lodge.

**Grey Tit-Flycatcher***Myioparus plumbeus*

A single bird was sighted at our lodge in the Okavango where we watched it doing its typical tail wagging and fanning.

**Sunbirds Nectariniidae****Collared Sunbird***Hedydipna collaris*

Small numbers of this small but beautiful sunbird were seen at our lodge in Botswana and in the Kalizo area.

**Amethyst Sunbird***Chalcomitra amethystine*

Seen on a few occasions in the Caprivi.

**Scarlet-chested Sunbird***Chalcomitra senegalensis*

This absolutely stunning species was seen at Gamams Treatment Works near Windhoek and in the Caprivi woodlands.

**Marico Sunbird***Cinnyris mariquensis*

Pairs and singletons were seen at scattered woodland sites during the tour.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Mariqua Sunbird. Secondly, some authorities split this complex into 2 full species, namely: the race C. m. suahelicus which occurs in East Africa would become Swahili Sunbird and the nominate form which would remain as Marico Sunbird.*

**White-bellied Sunbird***Cinnyris talatala*

Our first record on the trip was at Mokuti Lodge, thereafter, it was seen on most days in woodland habitat including good sightings east of Rundu.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is White-breasted Sunbird.*

**Dusky Sunbird***Cinnyris fusca*

This common arid-zone species was found on most days during the first week of the tour.

**Copper Sunbird***Cinnyris cupreus*

A very uncommon species here at its southern distribution limit. We were extremely fortunate to find a lovely showy male in the gardens of Kalizo Lodge.

**Old World Sparrows Passeridae****White-browed Sparrow-Weaver***Plocepasser mahali*

This common species was regularly encountered during our tour at most drier woodland sites.

**Sociable Weaver***Philetairus socius*

Small numbers of this southern African endemic were seen during the crossing of the Namib Desert from Windhoek to Walvis Bay, followed by numerous, close-up sightings in Okaukuejo Camp, Etosha NP.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Social Weaver.*

**House Sparrow***Passer domesticus*

This introduced species was found in urban areas on the trip.

**Great Sparrow***Passer motitensis*

A good-looking sparrow, it was observed well in the Erongo Mountains and Etosha NP.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Great Rufous Sparrow and some authorities including Clements split this African sparrow into five species. Shelley's Rufous Sparrow *P. shelleyi* occurs largely in Ethiopia, Great Rufous Sparrow *P. motitensis* occurs in Southern Africa, Kenya Rufous Sparrow *P. rufocinctus* occurs in East Africa, Kordofan Rufous Sparrow *P. cordofanicus* occurs in Sudan and Socotra Sparrow is endemic to Socotra.

**Cape Sparrow** *Passer melanurus*

First seen crossing the Namib Desert and then found in Walvis Bay.

**Southern Grey-headed Sparrow** *Passer diffusus*

This common southern African sparrow was commonly sighted on the tour.

NOTE: The Grey-headed Sparrow complex *P. griseus* has been split into five full species with the most southerly African form being classified as *P. diffusus*.

**Yellow-throated Petronia** *Gymnoris superciliaris*

The Teak woodlands of the Caprivi Strip produced several sightings of this bird.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to the IOC nomenclature, namely: *Petronia*.

### Weavers & Widowbirds Ploceidae

**Red-billed Buffalo Weaver** *Bubalornis niger*

This bird was found in Etosha NP, and originally at the Khan Riverbed.

**Scaly-feathered Weaver** *Sporopipes squamifrons*

These delightful little birds were seen in the dry west of Namibia.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Scaly Weaver.

**Spectacled Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis*

A single male was well seen by a few participants at our lodge in the Okavango.

**African Golden Weaver** *Ploceus xanthops*

We had great views at N'Kwazi Lodge, Xaro Lodge and Kalizo Lodge.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Holub's Golden-Weaver.

**Southern Brown-throated Weaver** *Ploceus xanthopterus*

Excellent views of a full plumaged male were a highlight at our lodge near Rundu one morning before breakfast.

**Lesser Masked Weaver** *Ploceus intermedius*

A few birds in non-breeding dress were encountered in the Caprivi.

**Southern Masked Weaver** *Ploceus velatus*

The most common weaver of the trip, it was found on a regular basis.

**Red-headed Weaver** *Anaplectes melanotis*

Singles were picked out on two occasions in mixed feeding flocks in the Caprivi area.

**Red-billed Quelea** *Quelea quelea*

A widespread African species, it was seen on most days of the tour, with memorable views at waterholes in the Namutoni area when thousands came in to drink.

**Southern Red Bishop** *Euplectes orix*

Small flocks of non-breeding birds were spotted near Kalizo Lodge, in Etosha NP and at Gamams Treatment Works.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Red Bishop.

**Fan-tailed Widowbird** *Euplectes axillaris*

A few birds in non-breeding plumage were picked out along the Okavango River and in the Kalizo area.

### Waxbills & Allies Estrildidae

**Green-winged Pytilia** *Pytilia melba*

Good views were enjoyed on the first day of our tour at Avis Dam with especially memorable views at the bird bath at Erongo.

**Red-headed Finch** *Amadina erythrocephala*

Small numbers of this attractive finch were seen crossing the Namib and in Etosha NP.

**Brown Firefinch***Lagonosticta nitidula*

This highly localized species was found along the Okavango River and in the Kalizo area.

**Red-billed Firefinch***Lagonosticta senegala*

This brightly coloured species was sighted at Rundu and initially at Gamams Treatment Works.

**Blue Waxbill***Uraeginthus angolensis*

Small numbers of these little gems were found in Etosha NP and almost daily thereafter.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Blue-breasted Cordonbleu.*

**Violet-eared Waxbill***Uraeginthus granatina*

Dry thornveld outside Windhoek yielded our first sighting of this gorgeous bird, followed by excellent views in Etosha NP.

**Common Waxbill***Estrilda astrild*

It was commonly seen at scattered sites during the tour.

**Black-faced Waxbill***Estrilda erythronotos*

Small numbers of these gorgeous arid-country birds were found during the first week of the tour, with our first sighting at Gamams Treatment Works.

**African Quail-Finch***Ortygospiza fuscocrissa*

This diminutive species is very tricky to see on the ground and we had scope views with plenty of hard work at Andoni Waterhole, Etosha NP.

**Bronze Mannikin***Lonchura cucullata*

This tiny species was found in Zambia close to the Zambezi River.

*NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to the IOC nomenclature, namely: Spermestes.*

**Indigobirds & Whydahs Viduidae****Shaft-tailed Whydah***Vidua regia*

Non-breeding birds were seen at Gamams Treatment Works and Avis Dam.

**Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae****Yellow Wagtail***Motacilla flava*

This summer visitor was sighted at a waterhole in the Namutoni area.

**Cape Wagtail***Motacilla capensis*

This common species was seen at Gamams, Avis Dam and at Walvis Bay.

**African Pied Wagtail***Motacilla aguimp*

These striking black-and-white birds were seen on most days along the Okavango & Zambezi Rivers.

**African Pipit***Anthus cinnamomeus*

We recorded this species at many sites throughout the tour.

*NOTE: African pipit taxonomy is in disarray and much further research is required in the phylogeny of this grouping. Several forms which are considered subspecies are likely to become full species in their own rights and several new forms are surely still to be described.*

**Long-billed Pipit***Anthus similes*

A number of sightings were had in the hills around Windhoek, Namibgrens and Sreetshoogte Pass.

**Plain-backed Pipit***Anthus leucophrys*

This species of pipit was seen on the edge of dambos in the Kalizo and Mohango areas.

**Finches Fringillidae****Black-throated Canary***Crithagra atrogularis*

Small numbers of these birds were seen at most sites until we exited Etosha NP.

*NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to the IOC nomenclature, namely: Serinus. This species complex is sometimes split with the South African form remaining in the Black-throated Canary group as opposed to Reichenow's or Kenya Yellow-rumped Seed-eater S. reichenowi. Several endemic Ethiopian forms are sometimes*

*lumped into the nominate S. atrogularis group including Yellow-throated Seed-eater S. flavigula, Salvadori's Seed-eater S. xantholaemus and Yellow-rumped Seed-eater S. xanthopygius.*

**Yellow-fronted Canary** *Crithagra mozambica*

Usually a very common species; we only found a few birds in the woodlands to the east of Rundu.

*NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to the IOC nomenclature, namely: Serinus.*

**Yellow Canary** *Crithagra flaviventris*

This brightly-colored species was found at the bottom of Spreetshoogte Pass and again in Etosha NP.

*NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to the IOC nomenclature, namely: Serinus.*

**White-throated Canary** *Crithagra albogularis*

This dry-country species was recorded at Spitzkoppe.

*NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to the IOC nomenclature, namely: Serinus.*

### Buntings Emberizidae

**Lark-like Bunting** *Emberiza impetuani*

First recorded at Solitaire, it was then observed in good numbers crossing the Namib Desert and at the Spitzkoppe and Erongo.

**Cinnamon-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza tahapisi*

A single bird at Halali waterhole was our only sighting on the tour.

**Cape Bunting** *Emberiza capensis*

Small numbers of these rocky habitat birds were seen during the first week of the tour.

**Golden-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza flaviventris*

This beauty was found at scattered localities on tour, with good views in Etosha NP and the woodlands of the Caprivi region.

## MAMMALS

Note: Names and taxonomical order of the land mammals follow that of 'The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals', additional names are given in parenthesis and are likely to appear other popular field guides.

(39 species recorded)

### Rodents Rodentia

**Striped Mouse** *Rhabdomys pumilio*

This charming species was initially sighted at Avis Dam while everyone enjoyed this little critter in Etosha NP.

### Dassie Rat Petromuridae

**Dassie Rat** *Petromys typicus*

This unique species was excellently seen at Erongo where they are fairly tame around the lodge environs.

### Squirrels Sciuridae

**South African Ground Squirrel** *Xerus inauris*

These animals, with their comical behaviour, were seen on our drive through the Namib and later in Etosha NP.

**Smith's Bush Squirrel** *Paraxerus cepapi*

Commonly sighted in the Caprivi area, in the Okavango Panhandle and north-eastern Namibia.

**Hares & Rabbits Leporidae****Scrub Hare***Lepus saxatilis*

A single was sighted after viewing nightjars just outside Kalizo Lodge.

**Hyraxes Procavidae****Rock Hyrax***Procavia capensis*

First seen at Avis Dam, it was then observed *en route* to Walvis Bay.

**Kaokoveld Rock Hyrax***Procavia capensis welwitschii*

Large numbers of these rock-dwelling creatures were found at Erongo Wilderness Lodge.

**Yellow-spotted Rock Hyrax***Procavia*

We had good close views of this species while viewing the Victoria Falls.

**Rats & Mice Cricetidae & Muridae****Tree Rat***Thallomys paedulus*

We found this species in Okaukuejo Camp, Etosha NP. An interesting fact is that this creature feeds on the sap of Acacia trees and leads an almost total arboreal existence.

**Baboons & Monkeys Cercopithecidae****Chacma Baboon***Papio ursinus*

Troops of these baboons were seen at Hochland Nest, Erongo and in Mahango GR.

**Vervet Monkey***Cercopithecus aethiops*

Small numbers were seen in the Okavango Panhandle.

**Dogs & Allies Canidae****Black-backed Jackal***Canis mesomelas*

These scavengers were plentiful in Etosha NP while our initial sightings came from Walvis Bay.

**Mongoose Herpestidae****Black Mongoose**

This rare and localized subspecies of Slender Mongoose was briefly sighted in the Erongo Mountains.

**Slender Mongoose***Herpestes sanguinea*

Singles were sighted as we crossed the Namib, in the Namutoni area of Etosha NP and in Mahango GR

**Banded Mongoose***Mungos mungo*

These mongooses are always located in small to large groups and we enjoyed sightings in the Namutoni area of Etosha NP.

**Yellow Mongoose***Cynictus penicillata*

Good views were obtained in the Okaukuejo area of Etosha NP.

**Cats Felidae****Lion***Panthera leo*

All our sightings of the "king of the jungle" were had in Etosha. We recorded 26 individuals in total with sightings on every day in the park.

**Elephants Elephantidae****African Elephant***Loxodonta africana*

Good numbers were seen in Etosha NP, with further sightings in Mahango GR.

**Horses Equidae****Burchell's Zebra***Equus burchellii*

Etosha National Park yielded sightings of this distinctive species.

**Hartmann's Mountain Zebra***Equus zebra zebra*

We had good views of this near-endemic sub-species at Namibgrens and while driving through the Namib Desert.

**Rhinoceroses Rhinocerotidae****Black Rhinoceros***Diceros bicornis*

Nocturnal visits to the waterhole in Okaukuejo Camp yielded great sightings of this difficult-to-see, endangered animal.

**White Rhinoceros***Ceratotherium simum*

This is an extremely rare species in Etosha NP and we were incredibly fortunate to have an outstanding view of a mother and young at the Okaukuejo waterhole one night.

**Hippopotamuses Hippopotamidae****Hippopotamus***Hippopotamus amphibius*

It was recorded along the Okavango River and in Mahango Game Reserve.

**Pigs Suidae****Common Warthog***Phacochoerus africanus*

Scattered sightings were had of these beasts in all Game Reserves.

**Giraffes Giraffidae****Giraffe***Giraffa camelopardalis*

We observed them regularly in Etosha NP and Mahango GR.

**Bovids & Horned Ungulates Bovidae****African Buffalo***Syncerus caffer*

A single bull was sighted in Mahango GR, a scarce species on the route.

**Eland***Taurotragus oryx*

This is the largest antelope in the world and we enjoyed a small herd of six in the Namib and a fantastic encounter with a large family group in Etosha NP.

**Greater Kudu***Tragelaphus strepsiceros*

These impressive animals were seen at most dry-country sites, with outstanding views in Etosha.

**Bushbuck***Tragelaphus scriptus*

Singles were sighted in riparian woodland along the Okavango River.

**Gemsbok (Oryx)***Oryx gazelle*

Another attractive creature, it was recorded at Hochland Nest, in the Namib and in Etosha NP.

**Red Lechwe***Kobus leche*

These richly-colored antelope were found in the floodplains of Mahango Game Reserve.

**Common Reedbuck***Redunca arundinum*

At least 20 were recorded on the floodplain of Mahango GR

**Blue Wildebeest***Connochaetes taurinus*

We observed them in good numbers in Etosha NP.

**Red Hartebeest***Alcelaphus buselaphus*

The areas of mopane woodland in Etosha NP produced sightings of these animals.

**Impala***Aepyceros melampus melampus*

We spotted these common and widespread antelope in Mahango GR.

**[Black-faced Impala]***Aepyceros melampus petersi*

This race of Impala is found only in Etosha NP and we had good views here.

**Springbok***Antidorcas marsupialis*

An arid-zone animal, it was seen on most days during the tour, but not after we departed Etosha National Park

**Kirk's Dik-Dik***Madoqua kirkii*

These delightful, diminutive antelope were seen in the Erongo Mountains and in the Namutoni area of Etosha NP. This race is sometimes split from Kirk's as Damara Dik-dik.

**Steenbok***Raphicerus campestris*

This tiny antelope was seen daily in Etosha NP.

## REPTILES

**Namibian Rock Agama***Agama planiceps*

Individuals and pairs were seen in dry, rocky areas during the first week of the tour.

**Namaqua Sand Lizard***Pedioplanis namaquensis*

This agama was recorded during the Namib crossing *en route* to Walvis Bay.

**Striped Skink***Mabuya striata*

This common and widespread reptile was observed in Etosha NP.

**Nile Monitor***Varanus niloticus*

Several of these attractive, water-associated creatures were found in the Okavango and Zambezi River systems.

**Marsh Terrapin***Pelomedusa subrufa*

A total of four of these odd looking creatures were seen at waterholes in Etosha NP.

**Nile Crocodile***Crocodylus niloticus*

Small numbers of these ancient reptiles were seen along the Okavango and Zambezi Rivers.

Photo Credits: Bare-cheeked Babbler, White-tailed Shrike, Blue Crane, Giant Kingfisher and Southern Carmine Bee-eater all by Keith Valentine.

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