

Trip report
Southern Africa
October 24 – November 18 2001
Lars Hansson & Göran Andersson
Sweden

Itinerary:

Oct 24 – Travel from Sweden, via London to Cape Town, RSA.
Oct 25 – Arriving Cape Town, Kirschtenbosch and Cape of Good Hope reserve.
Oct 26 – Daytrip into Karooport area.
Oct 27 – Sir Lawry's Pass, Grootvanderbosch, De Hoop area.
Oct 28 – Pelagic trip.
Oct 29 – Flight to Windhoek, Daan Viljoen
Oct 30 – Daan Viljoen, route to Swakopmund, Walvis mudflats and Walvis salt works.
Oct 31 – Guano platform, Rooibank, Welwitschia drive, Swakop salt works
Nov 1 – Spitzkoppe and Omaruru area.
Nov 2 – Erongo mountains, towards Etosha, Okaukuejo camp and western parts of Etosha.
Nov 3 – Okaukuejo , Gemsbokvlakte, Olifantsbad, Aus, Nebrownii, Rietfontein, Halali.
Nov 4 – Halali, Goas, Springbokfontein, Rietfontein, Goas
Nov 5 – Halali, Goas, Namutoni, Klein Namutoni, Dik-dik drive.
Nov 6 – Dik-dik drive, Ruacana, Omunjandi camp
Nov 7 – Ruacana area, Grootfontein
Nov 8 – To Rundu and Rundu Sewage Works
Nov 9 – Rundu SW, Miombo forest, Ngepi lodge, Popa Falls
Nov 10 – Ngepi, Mahango game drive, Popa Falls, Ngepi
Nov 11 – Ngepi, Miombo woodlands, Shakawe
Nov 12 – Shakawe, Okavango delta
Nov 13 – Shakawe, Miombo woodland, Otavi
Nov 14 – Otavi, Waterberg
Nov 15 – Waterberg
Nov 16 – Waterberg, Windhoek, Avis dam
Nov 17 – Avis dam, Windhoek, Cape Town
Nov 18 – landing Sweden.

Summary

3½ tremendous weeks in southern Africa with most of the time in Namibia. As the flight cost directly to Windhoek was as expensive as via Cape Town it was easy to add a few days extra there. Afterwards it can be said that we should have 1-2 days more in Cape.

No problem with air flights, the car worked without any male function, no flat tires. Very good food. Ice-cream almost every day. We camped 6 nights, some nights because nothing else was to get, some nights because the bungalows werw rented-out.

We drove 1400 km in Cape province and 5300 km in Namibia-Botswana.

We had a total of 454 species (including subspecies of Albatross etc).

Contact

Lars Hansson
lhansson@algonet.se
Snackvagen 1
SE-613 37 OXELOSUND
SWEDEN

Göran Andersson
goranxandersson@telia.com
Mosstorp Forsavägen
SE-642 93 FLEN
SWEDEN

Day per day

Oct 24-25 – cape of Good Hope day

After a 20 hours trip from our Swedish door to Cape Town with British Airways and South African Airways we picked up our rental car from National Car rental and headed to **Kirschtenbosch** for the first birding hours. There we met Claire Spottiswoode who was kind enough to meet us with her and Callan Cohen's birding guide to the Cape province. Together they run Birding Africa.

We walked the botanic garden for a couple of hours, mainly for **Cape sugarbird** and **Orangebreasted Sunbird**, that both took some time to locate. We also had sightings of **Lesser Double-collared Sunbird**, **Redwinged Starling**, **Cape Robin**, **Sombre Bulbul** and **Black Saw-Wing Swallow**, among many.

Claire told us about a good place for the **Knysna Warbler** just a few kilometers from Kirschtenbosch, so we headed there before going down to the coast. The warbler didn't answer to our tape but when a dog passed it started to sing. We didn't bother to try and see it and headed down to **Cape of Good Hope** instead. This place really fulfilled all expectations as a thrilling place – we had full storm, with the saltwater raining and the wind shook the car.

We saw our first **Sabine's Gull** and **Cape Gannets** and after some effort a pair of **African Oystercatchers**. In the last daylight we twitched the **Jackass Penguin** in the colony, near our hotel in Simon's Town. We stayed at the Central Hotel, a nice B&B hotel close to the pelagic meeting point.

Oct 26 – Karoo day

Started early when meeting Christian De Boix at Kirschtenbosch for a trip north into the Karoo scrubland and semi desert. This area is reachable for a daytrip if you stop around the **Karoopoort**. We had a few stops in the mountains and scrubland south-west for birds like **African Black Swift**, **Rufous-eared Warbler**, **Southern Red Bishop**, **Yellowrumped Widow**, **Cape Weaver** and also heard a **Rock Pipit** and saw 2 **Peregrine Falcons**. This was a very good start on learning larks and also pleasant sighting on **Southern Black Korhaan** in display flight.

In the area around Karoopoort and Eierkop we had splendid sightings of invading **Blackeared Finchlarks**, as well as a pair of **Ludwig's Bustards** and **Verreaux's Eagle**. Among others worth mentioned is **Karoo Robin**, **Cinnamonbreasted Warbler**, and **Greybacked Cisticola**. At **Eierkop** hill Christian was successful to bring 2 **Karoo Eremomelas** up-front with help from a tape recorder. Close to Eierkop is a rather large dam that included **Great Crested Grebe**, **Southern Pochard**, **Maccoa Duck**, **Yellow-billed Duck** and **Cape Shoveler**. We had lunch in the **Katbakkies** ravine where we had **African Marsh Warbler**, **Fairy Flycatcher**, **Layard's Titbabbler** and good sighting of **Rock Pipit**.

After a new run out on the plain we headed home over the mountains towards Ceres where in the last daylight we had a **Ground Woodpecker** and in the headlights of the car a **Cape Eagle-Owl**.

Oct 27 – Cape province day trip

Started bad. The planned pelagic trip was cancelled due to bad weather and the fact that the weather looks to be much better tomorrow. One of the organizers of the pelagic, John Graham, took us on a trip inland instead. We had originally planned this for tomorrow but you can't do anything about the weather. Due to this we missed 2-3 hours of morning birding. We headed up to **Sir Lawry's Pass** and were almost blown away ! It was difficult to move and even more to hear/see birds around the rocks. We moved onto the calm side of the rocks and after some 20 minutes we found a family of **Cape Rockjumper** with one juvenile.

That became it for us at Sir Lawry's, the wind was too much and we headed towards **Grootvanderbosch** instead. During the trip we stopped for birds like **Martial Eagle** and **Blue**

Crane. On the way up to the nature reserve we had **Yellow-billed Duck**, **Burchell's Coucal**, **African Black Sunbird**, **Cape Weaver**, **Southern Red Bishop** and **Yellowrumped Widow**. In the fields around the entrance we had **Sweet Waxbill** and **Greater Double-collared Sunbird**. Down in the forest we had good sightings of **Forest Buzzard** and **Olive Woodpecker** and heard several **Knysna Woodpeckers**. The forest also produced a ½ hour battle with a **Knysna Warbler** and finally 1 of 4 had seen half of the bird on a distance of 3-4 meters away. What a sculker ! That bird takes the price ! Other species in the forest were **Cape Batis**, **Olive Bushshrike**, **Forest Canary**, **Cape Siskin** and **Bluemantled Flycatcher**. Further on up in the reserve we managed to see **Victorin's Warbler**, **Yellowthroated Warbler** and **Southern Boubou**.

On the flatlands around *De Hoop* we had both **Stanley Bustard** and **Karoo Korhaan** later during the day.

The day also gave sightings of **White-throated Swallow** and **Pearl-breasted Swallow**. We headed home to Cape Town in a thunderstorm with heavy rain. Wonder what happens tomorrow with the pelagic...

Oct 28 – pelagic magic !!

Started better than 27th and got even better !! At 06:45 we met up at the pier for run-through before the boat trip. As John Graham said this was the first time in rain – and it was raining all the way through False Bay and way out at sea. We were greeted by **Cape Gannets** and a few **Bank Cormorants**. The first cry for ‘albatross’ was soon heard as a **Shy Albatross** came close, but it was still raining and the cameras were still under deck. We soon also had more and more **Greater Shearwaters** and **White-chinned Petrels** around the boat and it was estimated that we had approx. 6000 Greater Shearwaters during the day !! The first **European** and **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** were also around, as well as **Pintado Petrels** and **Subantarctic Skua**.

The skipper soon found a few trawlers on radar and we headed towards them, followed by many **Black-browed Albatross**, a few of both **Indian** and **Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross**, by the South Africans considered as separate species now. Both **Antarctic** and **Hall's Giant Petrel** came close during the day.

After a few hours we were heading towards a new trawler when Göran made the guides aware of a smaller shearwater that he saw as we passed it. He was sure it wasn't a **Manx Shearwater**, that we had seen 1-2 during the day, so the boat turned as it might be a **Yelkouan Shearwater**. It was a long shot for a very rare bird and to find it again. But after just a few minutes Trevor screamed from the top of his lungs; **YELKOUAN SHEARWATER !!!!!!!** - and the panic broke out among (most) the southern african birders. The majority onboard were from Europe and we knew it was a big rarity, but as it's quite common in the Mediterranean I guess most of us had seen it before. When it was better seen, it was confirmed as a **Balearic Shearwater**, one of the recent split from the nominant Yelkouan. This was the 3rd record for Southern Africa but the 2 before had been specimen recorded, so this was the first visual sighting ever.

After this rouse the skipper saw that a trawler was collecting the trawl so we headed there and just after a few minutes Trevor shouted again – and this time we Europeans enjoyed it more...A subadult **Northern Royal Albatross** came in and we saw this magnificent pelagic bird 2-3 times more around the trawlers.

During the way back we were greeted by a single **Dusky Dolphin** and **Oceanic Sunfish** and landed in Simon's Town harbor at 3.30pm with a pair of **African Oystercatchers** in the harbor.

Oct 29 – Hello Namibia !

Found us returning the rental car and flying to Windhoek in Namibia. It had been a long weekend of hectic birding with guides and friends but now we were on our own. We got the luggage and got out on a quite small airport and found ourself without any pick-up from the rental car agency. I called Jumbo Car Hire and said that we were at Eros, where is the pick-up ? And that explained it, Eros is a domestic airport inside Windhoek where the Cape Town flight also landed, the pick-up were at the international airport !

After picking up the car and filling up supplies we headed out to *Daan Viljoen nature reserve* where we raised our tent and birded along the hiking trails during the day. We had good sightings of many species but nothing that we didn't have further on, like **Rockrunner**. Also the first encounters of mammals like **Zebra, Eland and Kudu**.

Oct 30 – Plover day !

started early as our first experience of the Namibian night was quite cold. We drove the Game Drive at first light and had our first (of many) **Red-billed Hornbills**, **Great Sparrows**, as well as **Giraffe**. The drive was very nice with good photo opportunities and a good start on the Namibian bird life.

At 11 we started the trip on B2 towards *Swakopmund* where we found the Langstrand resort in between Swakop and *Walvis Bay*, where we arranged room for 2 nights.

As we headed down the main road towards Walvis 3 **Damara Terns** passed the road just in front of us. South of Walvis, as the mudflats begins, we had **Lesser Flamingo**, **Pied Avocet**, **White fronted Plover** and **Caspian Tern**. When we got to the salt works we took the road to the right that lead out on the mudflats/salinars. Drove many kilometers with **Little Stints** and quite long out the first group of **Chestnut-banded Plover**.

Oct 31 – desert larks day !

Started at the guano platform between Langstrand and Walvis Bay, a good stop in the morning light. We had trip-species like **Whimbrel** and **Ruddy Turnstone** as well as more sightings of **Damara Tern** and our only **Crowned Cormorants**.

But today was one of these lark-days and first on the list was **Dune Lark**, so we headed out of Walvis towards the airstrip and Rooidam. Turning off here towards *Rooibank* we had heard of bad road but it was under repair and had got much better so it was no problem to speed 60-70 with our 2WD the 20 km to the oasis. Parked the car and walked due south until the trees turned into bushes and scrubs and the desert dunes rose in front of us. There we soon had 3 Dune Larks close. It is wise to take this as soon as possible in the day, it was hot already at 09:30-10:00.

After breakfast we went touring on the *Welwitschia Drive* with stop at the moonlandscape before heading into the Welwitschia plains and the 1500 year old grand-welwitschia where we had lunch. Even though this is mostly desert there are birds here as well, this time very curious and "tame" Namibian race of **Tractrac Chat** that made the camera work. Our research show that they like tuna...

Second important lark on the list is the **Gray's Lark** and therefore we headed 50-60 km east of Swakop on the B2 where according to Danish trip reports from early '90 should be good for this lark. We had literally nothing in this area and we gave up around 5pm. I called a birder in Swakop that had given me his telephone number on e-mail to Sweden. I had tried the night before without luck but now he was at home and he described his best spot for us. At 6:15pm we were north of the salt work, north of Swakop and 6:40pm we left with 4 close sightings of the Gray's. Lark-day complete !! See stake-out section for info on this place.

Nov 1 – Herero day !

We left at 05 in mist and understood that we had had good weather in the Swakop area.

Headed up to the **Spitzkoppe** area and had heard that the road going in from B2 should be good for larks and **Rueppell's Korhaan**, so we were there around 7am. Found 2 korhaans as well as approx. 30 **Stark's Larks**. Arrived Spitzkoppe around 9am and it was already very hot and no wind at all. Primary target for this area is the **Herero Chat** and we walked the area my friend in Swakop had told me about and after some 20 min. we found 2 of them, as well as the only Namibian sightings of **Layard's Titbabbler**.

After some more birding before it got too hot we headed towards Omaruru on the main road and Hotel Staebe – the owners there should have knowledge about the Hartlaub's Francolin. To our disappointment the owners were on holiday and their substitute couldn't help us. We headed out on the C36 towards some rocks that looked good and we had good birding around the road but no chance of getting near the cliffs. Back at the hotel we discovered a stake-out in a 11 year old trip report and speeded out to check it in the last daylight. See stake-out section for info. The moral of this is to check older reports before entering an area...

Nov 2 – Hartlaub day !

Started again at 5am as you should be at the **Hartlaub's Francolin** place before sunrise. We found the place again and walked up as described in the stake-out section. It didn't take long before we heard the first group and soon we had fairly good sightings of 3 groups, that were "singing" well after sunrise. We also encountered our only group of **White-tailed Shrikes** here.

Back for a splendid breakfast before leaving Omaruru for the drive up to Etosha and the Okaukuejo camp where we were around 2pm and ready with the tent around 3pm, close to a big **Social Weaver** nest. Took a drive to the west plains that had many **Chestnut-backed** and **Gray-backed Finchlarks**, as well as **Spotted dikcops** and mammals like **springbok** in abundance.

Back for buffet dinner and down to the waterhole for **elephants**, **black rhinos**, **jackals** and over 100 **Double-banded Sandgrouse** coming in to drink and our first **Rufous-cheeked Nightjars**. We also saw 2 **Giant Eagle-Owls**, that apparently is stationary around this waterhole at night.

Nov 3 – lion day !

The gate opened at sunrise and we took a loop ride during the first hours with a close look at a **Secretary-bird** before collecting the tent and headed towards Halali, via many waterholes. Good birding that included a sighting of a **Rufous-eared Warbler** from the relict population in Etosha. The main attraction today must be the 3 female **lions** that rested under a big tree at Rietfontein waterhole. What a thrill !! Our first sighting of the magnificent **Kori Bustard** was at the same waterhole. Other mammals during the day were the endangered **Black-faced Impala** that is common in Etosha, as well as Africa's smallest antelope, the **Damara Dik-Dik**.

Found Halali camp much calmer than Okaukuejo and rented a bungalow for 2 nights. Found the camp waterhole much more thrilling and better for **black rhino** but not as good for the great amount of animals. We were told that Halali has the best chance for leopard/Cheetah at night waterhole. We also had a **Spotted Hyena** coming in to drink and a stationary **Marsh Owl**.

Nov 4 – Kori Bustard day !

Started the day with a walking trip around the camp and up on the hill close by. Didn't find any of the key species, the Southern Violet Woodhoopoe or the Blackfaced Babbler but did find a roosting **African Scops-Owl** with the help from a garden worker. Headed out to Goas WH where we had our only sighting of **Cape Teal**. Turned around at Springbokfontein WH and headed back to Rietfontein WH in search of the lions from yesterday.

They were gone but today it was vulture meeting with 7-8 **Lappet-faced Vulture** and quite many **African White-backed Vulture** and all of a sudden also a landing **Egyptian Vulture**, a quite rare bird in Namibia. It was a 2 calendar bird that stood at the waterhole for some 30 minutes and had gained height when we left the waterhole. We also had hunting **Little Sparrowhawk** and Lanner at this waterhole. Headed back on the Rhino drive without anything special and ended the day, again at Goas waterhole with a heard of **Elephants**. During the day we had 12 different individuals of **Kori Bustards** !!.

Another night at the Halali waterhole produced a calling **White-faced Owl**, the stationary **Marsh Owl**, 3 **black rhinos** and together with a **Spotted Hyena** a **African Wild Cat**.

Nov 5 – Lion day again !

Started as yesterday with a walking trip around Halali, now with a family of **Southern Violet Woodhoopoe**, up to 10 birds, mostly juveniles. Also a good friend from back home, **Eurasian Golden Oriole**. Again a garden warden approached me and showed a roosting **White-faced Owl**. I also checked the **African Scops-Owl** and it was still in the same tree. As the wardens know about the owls, my guess is that they have the same tree from day to day, see the stake-out section for info on these owls.

Headed to Goa waterhole and then towards **Namutoni** for another nights camping, now on grassy field. 5 **Blue Cranes** were seen at the Namutoni waterhole and 3 more at Klein Namutoni waterhole. At this waterhole we were approached by another car that told us that there were many **lions** under a tree nearby and that they would come to drink in a few hours. We say 1 female right away and took the dik-dik drive to “kill” some time. Nice drive but didn’t produce that much birds in the early afternoon. The area around Namutoni must be the most **giraffe** populated area in Etosha, we had 30 at the same time around the waterhole and at least 1 had watch out for the lions. After a 30 min wait a **Kudu** started “barking” and the giraffes became more nervous than ever and they were right – a young male Lion approached the waterhole and drank for 10 minutes. It returned to the tree and after 15 minutes more lions came down until it was 11 lions around the waterhole some 30 meters away. We also had a **spotted hyena** lying nearby, waiting for the lions to go away. During this time we also had a new experience – the thunderstorm that arise turned into a sandstorm with a visual sight of some 3-4 meters.

Nov 6 – Burchell day !

Started with a **dik-dik** drive that produced quite many birds, as **Crested Francolin** and the only sighting of a group of **Blackfaced Babblers** flying away. Not a very pleasant sighting. As we had a 400 km trip ahead we headed north towards the Andoni plains exit (Nehale) from Etosha and had **Burchell's Sandgrouse** and **Redbreasted Swallows** along the way. When we arrived we discovered that this exit had been closed for several years.

NOTE: Do not trust the official map that you can by in Etosha, there are only 2 gates to/from Etosha.

The road north towards Ruacana was good but with many cattle in the “3rd world”, i.e. when you have crossed the red line veterinary check you have to watch for cattle.

Bought supplies in **Ruacana** shop and BP station before heading out to **Omunjandi camp** at the Cunene river, on the Angolan border. We were alone in the nice campsite.

Before sunset we explored the Palm forest close by for the Rufous-tailed Palm-Thrush, without any luck but there were a single **Red-necked Francolin** as well as family groups of **Vervet monkey**.

Nov 7 – Cinderella day !

Started at the bigger palm forest without anything except a **Bluegrey Flycatcher** and a small grayish falcon that might have been the gray Falcon. Moved a couple of 100 meters to the more open palms, as described in the stake-out section. After almost 1 hour many birds started to call from a palm, might have been an owl there and among these birds where 3 **Rufous-tailed Palm-Thrushes**.

First of the key species was celebrated by breakfast before heading up the dry riverbed for **Cinderella Waxbill** – and our luck proceeded with a total of 8 individuals !! Also had a few **Olive Bee-eaters** here. After a photo session with the waxbills we headed down already at 10. Note: Both these key-species are probably easiest in the morning, especially the Thrush and it's very warm in this part of the country, so if you want both species and aren't as lucky as we were, be prepared to have 2 nights up here. It's a good birding area so it's not a waste of time to check out this area. The cliffs at the Cinderella should also be good for Hartlaub's Francolin, I've been told.

We left the northwest with an uninteresting trip down to Grootfontein an Hotel Club Med.

Nov 8 – Temminck's Courser day !

Arrived Rundu after a long drive and settled at Ngandu safari lodge before heading out to the Sewage works and golf club. It was quite hard to find along the old main road towards Caprivi strip as the golf club was demolished but when you have left Rundu and find water collections on the left, that is the sewage works. Here we had many waterbirds, as **Knob-Billed Duck, Hottentot Teal, Curlew Sandpiper, Greater Painted-snipe** and in the surrounding golf course **Swainson's Francolin, Temminck's Coursers, Senegal Coucal, Buffy Pipit** and **Shaft-tailed Whydahs**.

Nov 9 – Pratincole day !

Started at Rundu SW before supply shopping at Spar shop in Rundu, last major shopping before Caprivi and Botswana. The birds at SW where the same as yesterday. Drove the main road towards Divundu with a planned stop at the well-knowned radio mast for miombo woodland. We found the area just around the mast to be cultivated and full of villages so we headed on until we stopped at the 100 km to Divundo sign and walked in that untouched forest. Again, we had very warm and calm winds so you literally have to step on the birds to find them ! We had new species like **Black Cuckoo-shrike** and a pair of **Chinspot Batis** with female on egg.

We arrived at the nice and very friendly **Ngepi lodge** around 1pm and put up the tent for 2 nights and birded from the campsite over the Okavango river until 3pm with **Broad-billed Roller** and **Striped Cuckoo**.

The road from Divundu turnoff to Ngepi turnoff is very bad for a 2WD and Popa Falls is in between these two places. We birded the rest of the day at Popa Falls. We started at the badly signed reserve to go to the right along the fence to below the falls, with **African Pied Wagtails** and **Brown Firefinches**. Right away we had kids wanting to ship us over to the island in the middle of the falls for Rock Pratincole, they knew how to make money. They wanted N\$40 for 2 people but we said no and hoped to see them from land. You will probably see them much better from the island but remember that you then enter a breeding site for a bird that only breeds in very small numbers here. After this we birded on the tracks to the west side with birds like **White-faced Whistling-Duck, Arrow-marked Babbler, Orangebreasted bushshrike** and **Thickbilled Weaver** before standing at the top of the falls at 6pm and having 4 **Rock Pratincoles**.

O the small road leading to the Ngepi camp we had many **African Quailfinches** being flogged by a farmer, didn't see any on ground. See stake-out section for description.

Nov 10 – Crane day !

Started before sunrise at the tent. After some paperwork we entered the *Mahango reserve* at 7am as 1st car for today and during the first part of the drive we had mammals like a feeding **Hippo** on land and **Sabel**. Birds there where a few **African Openbilled Stork** and the first **Southern Carmine Bee-eaters** where seen, as well as a single **Long-toed Plover**. Had a stop at the large *Baobab tree* where we found the breeding pair of **Wattled Cranes** with it's juvenile !! Here also a few more **Brown Firefinches**. Headed towards the *Kwetché picnic site* where there were **Tsessebees** and up to 7 **Hippos** at the same time and one **Yellow-billed Stork**. As we sat outside the car, overlooking the river, al of a sudden a large **elephant** rushes down to the water just 20 meters from us ! Thrilling experience. Other birds during the trip were **Bearded Robin**, **Blackbacked Cisticola** and a pair of **Orangebreasted Waxbills**. Back at the camp for some hours during the day produces many species on the tent-list, among them the first **African Skimmers** , a single **Black Egret** and **Meyer's Parrot** and **Bradfield's Hornbill** in the trees.

Back to Popa Falls for another run at the **Rock Pratincoles**, this time with spotting scope and better but shorter views of another 4. **Orangebreasted Bushshrikes** again today. On the way home we managed to see a few **African Quailfinches** on ground at the same place as yesterday.

Nov 11 – Okavango night specials, not !!

Started with (among others) **Yellow-billed Stork** and a pair of **African Golden Oriole** from the camp, After checking out we headed to miombo woodlands close to the Mahango reserve station, where we had **Greater Honeyguide** and **Rufous-bellied Tit**.

No problem through the border and checked in at *Shakawe fishing lodge* around 12am.

Birded around the camp and before the night settled we found species like **Striated Heron**, **Little Bitterns**, **African Mourning Dove**, **Malachite Kingfisher**, **White-fronted Bee-eater**, **Wire-tailed Swallow**, **Banded Martin**, **Golden-Weaver**, **Yelloweyed Canary** and even more **Brown Firefinches**.

We had 3 course dinner at 7pm and as the time reached 7:40pm our boat guide became nervous. It seems that they usually head out around 7:30 and he was now nervous & uncertain about the owl and night-heron. We dipped both of them during a very hectic 40 min trip, although we had a **large-spotted Genet** instead. Very disappointed we went to bed that night...

Nov 12 – Okavango night specials, yes !!

Started with a Okavango boat trip at 7am. First up to a smaller **Southern Carmine Bee-eaters** and then in and out of channels and lagoons in search of **Pygmy goose**, that we found 2 pairs of and **Rufous-bellied Heron** that we didn't find. More birds that we did find were **White-faced Whistling-Ducks**, **Blue-cheeked Bee-eater**, **Gray-rumped Swallow**, **Chirping Cisticola** and **Redshouldered Widowbird**.

Very good sighting of the **fish-eagle** and in 10 knots a **Lesser Jacana** that after stopping could be viewed very good. Also **Yellow-billed Oxpecker**. Back at the lodge there where **Meyer's Parrot**, **Black Cuckoo**, **Cardinal Woodpecker**, **Collared Sunbird** and **Spottedbacked Weaver**. As the night came I had calls of a **Lesser Moorhen** for a short while before the night boat trip that this time was much better !! We started with a juvenile **White-backed Night-Heron** right at the sand brink of the camping. After a photo session we continued upstream and after just some 15 minutes encountered a **Pel's Fishing-Owl** and had splendid views for approx 1 minute at 2 different spots.

Very pleased we headed back for dinner with our new friend Mr. H, who is a **Hippo** who likes the flowers in the pond just 10 meters from the restaurant.

Nov 13 – Long drive day !

Started with a 2 hour walk on the fishing lodge premises. Very nice forest but not that many birds, the pair of **Black Cuckoos** from yesterday was around to day as well. After checking out and the border control to Namibia we stopped at the Miombo woodlands again, with **Tinkling Cisticolas** as main attraction.

After this birding we had a long drive down to Otavi where we spent the night.

Nov 14 – Parrot day !

After breakfast we headed towards Waterberg and at a stop along the road we encountered a **Yellow-bellied Eremomela**. In the camping site in Waterberg we soon found a sleeping **Rueppell's Parrot**, before climbing the top for a sunset view over the mountain where over 100 **Alpine Swifts** came in to roost. On the way up we had 2 **Bearded Woodpeckers**. In the car spotlight on the way down to dinner we had a **Spotted Eagle-Owl** that after dinner was found in our own backyard.

The game drive car was reported broke so all game drives are cancelled for the time being. Sounds very funny that they only have 1-2 vehicles for this ?!

Nov 15

Started with a 3km+ walk on the **Kambazembi Walk**. Fairly badly signed so we walked into a dead end at one point. Nice views of Hornbills, Warblers, Robins and Woodpeckers but nothing new for the trip. Did almost the same round in the afternoon and had our first nice views of Rose-faced Lovebirds and another **Rueppell's Parrot**. 2 **Monteiro's Hornbills** started some kind of display scene, sounding like a accelerating steam engine, finishing with the bird bouncing up and down on the branch. Looked very funny !

We where almost going to put this day to history as the first tick-free day until 2 **Freckled Nightjars** started to call. Puh ! that was close...

Nov 16

Left Waterberg at sunrise and birded along the gravel road out to main Windhoek road until 9am with 2 **Verreaux's Eagles** + **Kori Bustard** and **Secretary-bird** in the same tube field. Headed into Windhoek and found a hotel close to the road going out to Avis dam where we settled in before heading out to Avis. It was not easy to find but after some wrong turnes we found the water with almost 100 **Egyptian Geese** and a single **Maccoa Duck** among other common waterfowls. After 3 weeks in Namibia it's hard to find anything exiting on a place like Avis but if you start at this place it will be more fun !

We walked around to locate any good place for Orange River Francolin for the next morning and had 2 **Lanner Falcons** flying by at close range.

Nov 17 – last tick day !

With the big question – should we have a new species every day on the trip. We should leave the car around 10 so we where at Avis Dam at sunrise and walked up the slope on the east side of the dam, playing the sound of **Orange River Francolin** from time to time. On the down slope 1 answered and later another but they didn't call by them self. We had to play the tape for every call from them. Very sculky and hard to see.

From the top of the hill we also had our last trip specie, an **Osprey**.

So, pleased with the stay in southern Africa we returned the car to Jumbo Car Hire and were transported out to Eros, down to Cape Town (where we had 3 **Cape Gannets** from the airplane) and home to Sweden via Heathrow.

List of Bird species seen

The dates are all from 2001 and 25/10 means 25th October.
Names and order of species as in SASOL book.

455 species (should be) listed here, some are now by some considered separate species and therefore listed as such here, like Yellow-nosed Albatross.

94 species only seen in South Africa.
181 species only seen in Namibia.
25 species only seen in Botswana.

Jackass Penguin approx. 200 seen at penguin colony near Simon's Town 25/10 and 28/10.

Great Crested Grebe 2 in Karoo dam 26/10.

Blacknecked Grebe 30 Karoo dam 26/10 and 2 guano platform/Walvis Bay 31/10.

Little Grebe/Dabchick 1 in each day-tours in Cape province 26-27/10, seen and heard in Daan Viljoen 29-30/10, 2 Goas waterhole 4-5/11, up to 50 Rundu SW 8-9/11 and 1 Avis dam 16-17/11.

Northern Royal Albatross 1 subadult seen on pelagic trip 28/10.

This is a newly made split (by some) from the Royal Albatross, new name *Diomedea sanfordi*.

Shy Albatross Approx. 3000 seen on pelagic trip 28/10. In general our numbers written on that day was much lower on all pelagic species than our guides have noticed, it is very hard to guess numbers when your new at it.

Black-browed Albatross Approx. 1000 seen on pelagic trip 28/10.

Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross 5 seen on pelagic trip 28/10.

The two races (Indian and Atlantic) is splited by some and considered separate species. We also saw 2 juveniles that are impossible to tell apart.

Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross. 3 seen on pelagic trip 28/10.

Southern Giant Petrel 20 seen on pelagic trip 28/10.

Northern Giant Petrel 30 seen on pelagic trip 28/10.

White-chinned Petrel Approx. 2000 seen on pelagic trip 28/10.

Sooty Shearwater Approx. 500 seen on pelagic trip 28/10.

Great Shearwater Approx. 6000 seen on pelagic trip 28/10.

Belagic Shearwater 1 seen on pelagic trip 28/10.

1st field record for southern Africa.

Manx Shearwater 2 seen during pelagic trip 28/10.

Pintado Petrel Approx. 500 seen on pelagic trip 28/10.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel Approx. 200 seen on pelagic trip 28/10.

European Storm-Petrel 4 seen on pelagic trip 28/10.

Cape Gannet approx 50 round Cape Good Hope 25/10, around 1000 on pelagic trip 28/10, 3 from plane landing in Cape Town 17/11.

Great Cormorant Seen in Cape Town province 25,27-29/10, in Daan Viljoen and 30 at Guano Platform 31/10.

Bank Cormorant 2 on pelagic trip 28/10.

Cape Cormorant abundant in Cape province, over 1000 at Guano platform 31/10.

Reed Cormorant 2 on 29/10, seen daily in Rundu-Popa Falls-Ngepi-Mahango-Shakawe area, also 1 in Avis dam 16-17/11.

Crowned Cormorant 10 Guano platform 31/10.

Darter seen in small numbers in Cape province and northeast Namibia and Botswana.

Eastern White Pelican Over 100 around Guano platform 31/10, also in Walvis Bay mudflats, 1 in Avis dam 17/11.

Goliath Heron 1 Cunene river/Ruacana 7/11, 1-4 daily in Mahango/Shakawe area.

Purple Heron In Shakawe area 8 11/11 and 4 12/11.

Gray Heron small numbers close to water in Namibia, like Daan Viljoen, Etosha, Ruacana, Rundu and Okavango areas.

Black-headed Heron 2-3 each day in Cape province 26-27/10, 1 Etosha 2/11 and 7-8 Etosha 3/11.

Great Egret 1 each in Cunene river 7/11, Mahango 10/11 and Shakawe 13/11.

Little Egret 2-5 in Walvis area 30-31/10, 1 Etosha 3/11, 3-4 to and from Ruacana 6-7/11, 4-5 Ngepi 10/11 and some in Okavango waters 12/11.

Cattle Egret 1 Etosha 2/11, seen daily in numbers up to 50 from 7/11 to 13/11 in northern Namibia and Botswana.

Squacco Heron seen daily in numbers up to 30 from 8/11 to 13/11 in northern Namibia and Botswana.

Black Heron/Egret 1 Ngepi 10/11, 2 in Shakawe 12-13/11.

White-backed Night-Heron 1 juvenile on night trip Shakawe fishing lodge 12/11.

Black-crowned Night-Heron 2 close to Grootvanderbosch 27/10, 1 juv. Rundu SW 8/11, 3-6 around Shakawe 11-12/11.

Striated Heron seen daily in small numbers in Ngepi and Shakawe 11-13/11.

Little Bittern 2-4 daily in Shakawe 11-13/11.

Black Stork 1 Daan Viljoen 29/10.

Yellow-billed Stork 1 Mahango 10/11, 3 Ngepi 11/11, 1 Shakawe 12/11.

Marabou Stork 2 Etosha 5-6/11, 10 Mahango 10/11 and 2 Miombo woodland/Ngepi 13/11.

African Openbilled Stork 10 Mahango and 15 Ngepi 10/11.

Greater Flamingo 4 Karooport 26/10 and over 1000 Walvis Bay mudflats 30/10.

Lesser Flamingo around 20 Walvis Bay mudflats 30/10.

African Spoonbill 1 towards Grootvanderbosch 27/10, 5-6 in False Bay from boat 28/10 and 2 Ngepi 10/11.

Hamerkop 1-3 daily in Cunene river, Rundu SW 6-8/11 and 3-4 in Shakawe 12/11.

Hadada Ibis seen daily in small numbers in Cape province 26-29/10.

Sacred Ibis up to 6 in Cape province 26-27 and 29/10, 2-3 Ngepi 10-11/11.

Spur-winged Goose 10 Cape province 27/10, up to 20 daily in Mahango-Shakawe area 10-12/11.

Egyptian Goose seen daily in Cape province 25-27/10, 2 in Daan Viljoen 29-30/10, Etosha 3/11 and 5/11 and approx. 90 in Avis dam 16/11.

South African Shelduck 1 pair w/ juv in Karoo dam 26/10, 2 16/11 and 6 17/11 in Avis dam.

Knob-Billed Duck 2 Rundu SW 8/11.

White-faced Whistling-Duck 20 Popa Falls 9/11 and 20 Okavango boat trip 12/11.

Pygmy goose 2 pair Okavango boat trip 12/11.

Southern Pochard 2 pair Karoo dam 26/10.

Maccoa Duck 5 Karoo dam 26/10 and 1 Avis dam 16/11.

Yellow-billed Duck 3 Karoo dam 26/10 and 10 in cape province 27/10.

Cape Shoveler 2 Karoo dam 26/10.

Cape Teal 2-3 Goas WH/Etosha 4/11.

Red-billed Teal 20 Karoo dam 26/10 and 20 Daan Viljoen 29/10, daily in Etosha WH 4-6/11, up to 30 in Rundu SW 8-9/11 and 5-7 in Avis dam 16-17/11.

Hottentot Teal seen both days at Rundu SW 8-9/11.

Lappet-faced Vulture 7-8 Rietfontein WH 4/11 and 20-25 Namutoni 5/11, 2 Mahango 13/11.

White-headed Vulture 1 Klein Namutoni 5/11.

African White-backed Vulture 10-30 daily in Etosha 4-6/11, 20-30 around Mahango 10/11 and 13/11.

Egyptian Vulture 1 2nd calendar year at Rietfontein WH 4/11.
This was the rarest bird we saw in Namibia. According to 'Zest for birds' this waterhole has "produced" many Egyptian Vultures in the past.

African Fish-Eagle 5-6 Mahango and Ngepi 10/11, 10 Shakawe 12/11.

Osprey 1 Avis dam 17/11.

Bateleur 1 adult Etosha 3/11, 1 juvenile Etosha 4-6/11, 1 juv. Mahango area 10/11 and 13/11.

Black-breasted Snake-Eagle 1 Rooibank 31/10, 1 Spitzkoppe 1/11, 1 along road into Etosha 3/11, 1 Rundu SW 8/11.

Steppe Eagle 3 3/11 and 2 5/11 at Etosha waterholes, 1 subad. Along road to Waterberg 14/11.

Tawny Eagle 1-3 daily at Etosha waterholes 3-5/11.

Verreaux's Eagle 1 pair + 1 single in Karooport 26/10, 2 west Waterberg 16/11.

Martial Eagle 3 along road in Cape province 27/10.

African Hawk-Eagle 1 3/11 and 2 4/11 in Etosha, 2 each day in Waterberg 14-15/11.

Jackal Buzzard up to 5 each day in Cape province 26-27/10.

Augur Buzzard 2 Daan Viljoen 30/10, 3 Spitzkoppe 1/11, 1 Ruacana 7/11.

Forest Buzzard 1 Grootvanderbosch 27/10.

Eurasian Buzzard had just arrived to Cape province 26-27/10, 1 towards Swakopmund 30/10, 1 Miombo woodland 9/11, 1 Shakawe 11/11 and 2 13/11.

African Marsh-Harrier 1 female Rondeflei 25/10, 1 Mahango 10/11 and Shakawe 11/11, 2-3 Okavango boat trip 12/11.

Pale Chanting-Goshawk One of the most common raptors, common roadside bird in Cape and Namibia but not in Botswana.

Dark Chanting-Goshawk 1 Miombo woodlands 9/11 and 2 11/11.

Yellowbilled Kite 1 Kirschtenbosch 25/10, 1 Cape province 27/10, common in northeast Namibia and Botswana 7-13/11.

Black-shouldered Kite the most common raptor on the trip, mainly seen at roadside in all 3 countries.

Gabar Goshawk 1 Halali WH 3/11, 1 Etosha 5/11 and 2 Miombo woodland 9/11.

Little Sparrowhawk 1 Daan Viljoen 30/10 and 1 Etosha 4/11.

Lanner Falcon 1 Rietfontein WH 4/11, 1 Shakawe village 13/11 and 2 Avis dam 16/11.

Peregrine Falcon 2 in Karoopoort 26/10.

Eurasian Hobby 1 Ngepi 9/11 and 10/11, 1 Mahango 10/11.

Rock (Common) Kestrel 1 Good Hope reserve 25/10, some in Karoo area 26/10 and 1 Sir Lawry's pass 27/10, 1 Daan Viljoen 29/10 and 1-2 Spitzkoppe 1/11, 1-3 daily in Waterberg and Avis dam 14-17/11.

Greater Kestrel 1 Karoopoort 26/10, 1 Etosha 1/11, 3-4 Etosha 3-4/11.

Red-billed Francolin the most common Francolin in Namibia with numbers up to 30 every day when in good habitats.

Swainson's Francolin 3-4 Rundu SW 8/11 and 3-4 Mahango drive 10/11.

Red-necked Francolin 1 Cunene river/Ruacana 6/11.

Cape Francolin 2 Kirschtenbosch and 4 Good Hope 25/10, 1 in Cape province 26/10.

Orange River Francolin 2 in Avis dam 17/11.

Crested Francolin 10 Etosha on dik-dik drive 6/11.

Hartlaub's Francolin 15 Erongo mountains 2/11, see stake-out section.

Helmeted Guineafowl 1 Kirschtenbosch 25/10, seen around Namibia. The most stupid roadside bird, totally unpredictable.

Ostrich seen in small numbers in Cape province 25-27/10 but we didn't twitch the bird before Etosha where it was seen every day 2-4/11.

Red-knobbed Coot 1 in Karoo dam 26/10 and 1-2 in dam close to Grootvanderbosch 27/10, 1 Rundu SW 8/11 and 2 Avis dam 16-17/11.

Common Moorhen 1 Cape province 27/10, up to 40 Rundu SW 8-9/11, 5-6 Okavango boat trip 12/11.

Lesser Moorhen 1 heard calling for approx. 1 minute at dusk Shakawe lodge 12/11.

Purple Gallinule 5-6 Rundu SW 8-9/11.

Black Crake 4-5 Rundu SW 8/11, 1-3 daily in Shakawe/Mahango area 10-13/11.

African Jacana seen daily in numbers up to 10-15 from Rundu to Shakawe 8-13/11.

Lesser Jacana found in 10 knots on Okavango boat trip 12/11.

Wattled Crane 1 breeding pair with juvenile, Mahango drive 10/11.

Blue Crane approx 50 Cape province 27/10. up to 8 around Namutoni 5/11.

Secretary-bird 3 Etosha 3/11, 1 from Waterberg 16/11.

Kori Bustard seen daily in Etosha with up to 12 one day 3-6/11, 1 west Waterberg 16/11.

Stanley Bustard 1 pair close to De Hoop, Cape province 27/10.

Ludwig's Bustard 2 Karoopoort 26/10.

Rueppell's Korhaan 1 pair Spitzkoppe road 1/11.

Karoo Korhaan 1 pair close to De Hoop 27/10.

Red-crested Korhaan 2 Omaruru area 1/11, 1 Erongo mountains 2/11 and 6 Etosha 2/11, 1 Etosha 3-4/11 and 6/11, 1 towards Ruacana 7/11.

Northern Black Korhaan up to 10 in Etosha 2-4/11, 1 en route Ruacana 7/11 and 2 west Waterberg 16/11.

Southern Black Korhaan 3 seen and 3 heard in Karoopoort area 26/10.

African Oystercatcher 1 pair in Good Hope reserve 25/10, 1 pair Simon's Town harbor 28/10 and 2 Guano platform 31/10.

Black-winged Stilt 5-6 Karoopoort 26/10, 1 Daan Viljoen 29/10, 1 Etosha 5-6/11, 7-8 Rundu SW 8-9/11.

Pied Avocet 2 Walvis Bay 30/10.

Common Ringed Plover 30 Walvis Bay 30/10, 1 Rundu SW.

Three-banded Plover 1 Karooport dam 26/10, 2-3 Daan Viljoen 29/10, 1-2 Etosha 4-5/11, up to 10 Rundu SW 8-9/11, 1 Ngepi and Okavango 11-12/11.

Kittlitz's Plover 2 Karooport dam 26/10, 6-7 Walvis Bay 30/10, 5-6 Etosha 5/11.

Chestnut-banded Plover approx. 200 Walvis Bay 30/10.

White-fronted Plover 50 Walvis Bay 30/10.

Crowned Plover 7-8 Cape province 27/10, 1 Daan Viljoen 30/10, 1 en route and 2 Etosha 1/11, seen in western Etosha in small numbers 3-4/11 and in small numbers around Okavango river 9-11/11.

Long-toed Plover 1 Mahango game drive 10/11.

Wattled Lapwing 3-4 Ngepi 9-11/11.

Blacksmith Plover The most common plover seen in all 3 countries, with up to 100 on Okavango boat trip.

Grey (Blackbellied) Plover 10 Daan Viljoen 30/10 and 10 Guano Platform 31/10.

Ruff 1 Etosha 3/11 and up to 40 Rundu SW 8-9/11 and 30 on Okavango boat trip 12/11.

Curlew Sandpiper 1 Rundu SW 8/11.

Little Stint Very common Walvis Bay mudflats 30/10, some at Rundu SW 8-9/11 and 1 Okavango boat trip 12/11.

Common Sandpiper 1 Walvis Bay 30/10, 1 Etosha 3-5/11, 3-4 Rundu SW 8/11, 1-2 Okavango area 10-12/11, 1-2 Avis dam 16-17/11.

Wood Sandpiper 1 Daan Viljoen 29/10, small numbers daily in Etosha 3-6/11, 5-6 Rundu SW 8-9/11 and 1 Mahango 10/11.

Common Greenshank 10 Walvis Bay 30/10, a few daily 3-6/11, 1 Rundu SW 8/11, 2 Ngepi 10/11, 1 Okavango 12/11.

Marsh Sandpiper 3 Walvis Bay 30/10, 2 16/11 and 1 17/11 Avis Dam.

Whimbrel 3 Guano Platform 31/10.

Greater Painted-snipe 2 males Rundu SW 8/11.

Ruddy Turnstone 10 Guano Platform 31/10.

Collared Pratincole 200 Mahango and Ngepi 10/11, over 1000 Okavango boat trip and Shakawe 12/11.

Rock Pratincole 4 each day at Popa Falls 9-10/11.

Spotted Dikkop 2 Cape province 27/10, daily Etosha 2-4/11.

Water Dikkop 1 Mahango 10/11 and 3 Shakawe 12/11.

Temminck's Courser 1 pair + juv. Rundu golf course 8/11.

Double-banded Courser 7 west Etosha 2/11 and 4-5 Etosha 3/11.

Subantarctic Skua around 20 pelagic trip 28/10.

Kelp Gull common to abundant around Cape Town and Walvis Bay.

Caspian Tern 50 at Walvis Bay mudflats 30/10.

African Skimmer 8 Ngepi 10/11, 1 Ngepi and 2 Shakawe 11/11 and 30-40 Okavango boat trip 12/11.

Sabine's Gull 1 Good Hope reserve 25/10, 4-5 pelagic trip 28/10.

Hartlaub's Gull common in/around Cape Town and Walvis Bay.

Swift (Greater Crested) Tern 15 pelagic trip 28/10, 2 Guano Platform 31/10.

Sandwich Tern 4-5 Good Hope reserve 25/10, 10 pelagic trip 28/10, up to 10 around Walvis Bay 30-31/10.

Common Tern/Arctic Tern unidentified seen around Walvis Bay up to 50-60 30-31/10.

Arctic Tern 30 on pelagic trip 28/10.

Damara Tern 3 Walvis Bay 30/10, 2 Guano Platform 31/10 and 2 Swakop salt works 31/10.

White-winged Tern 20 Rundu SW 8-9/11 and 4 Ngepi 10/11.

Whiskered Tern 1 Rundu SW 8/11, 1 each at Ngepi and Mahango 10/11 and 2 Okavango 12/11.

Double-banded Sandgrouse over 100 Okaukuejo waterhole 2/11 and 12 Halali WH 5/11.

Namaqua Sandgrouse 20 Karooport 26/10, up to 200 in Etosha 2-4/11 and 6/11.

Burchell's Sandgrouse 2 northeast Etosha 6/11.

Rock Pigeon 5-6 Karooport 26/10, 40 Spitzkoppe 1/11 and a few Waterberg 14-15/11.

Rameron Pigeon 2-3 Cape province 27/10.

Rock Dove seen in larger cities around Cape province and Namibia.

African Mourning Dove probably many overlooked, 3-4 identified each day in Shakawe 11-12/11.

Red-eyed Dove 2-3 Grootvanderbosch 27/10, daily in Caprivi and Okavango area 10-13/11.

Cape Turtle Dove seen daily from start to Shakawe except on pelagic day. Together with Laughing Dove the most common dove.

Laughing Dove seen every day except first day and pelagic day.

African Green-Pigeon 3 Popa Falls 9/11 and 1 10/11, 10 Shakawe 12/11.

Green spotted Dove small numbers every day in Caprivi and Okavango area 9-12/11.

Namaqua Dove Seen in Karooport 26/10 and almost daily in Namibia and Botswana.

Meyer's Parrot 2 Ngepi 10/11, 2 Shakawe 12/11.

Rueppell's Parrot 1 Waterberg 14-15/11.

Rosy-faced Lovebird 10 Spitzkoppe 1/11, 10-12 Ruacana 7/11, heard and seen up to 30 Waterberg 14-16/11.

Gray Lourie 1 Erongo mountains 2/11, seen daily in numbers up to 15 from 5/11-17/11.

African Cuckoo 1 Halali 4/11, 2 heard Halali 5/11, 1 Ngepi 9-10/11.

Black Cuckoo 2 Shakawe 12-13/11.

Striped Cuckoo 1 Ngepi 9/11.

Jacobin (Pied) Cuckoo 1 Miombo woodlands 9/11, 2 Ngepi 11/11.

Dideric Cuckoo 1 heard Grootvanderbosch 27/10, 1 heard Miombo woodlands 9/11 and 1 seen Shakawe 13/11.

Coppery-tailed Coucal daily in Caprivi and Okavango area 9-13/11.

Burchell's Coucal 1 road towards Grootvanderbosch 27/10.

White-browed Coucal 1 seen+2 heard Ruacana 7/11 and 2 Popa Falls 9/11.

Senegal Coucal 1-2 Rundu SW 8/11.

Giant Eagle-Owl 2 Okaukuejo WH at night 2/11.

Pel's Fishing-Owl 1 Shakawe 12/11.

Cape Eagle-Owl 1 close to Ceres in Cape province 26/10.

Spotted Eagle-Owl 1 around Waterberg plateau bungalows at night 14/11.

Barn Owl 1 dead on road close to Otejo 2/11, 1 Namutoni camp 6/11, 1 Ngepi lodge 10/11, 1 heard Shakawe lodge 11/11.

Wood-Owl 2 Shakawe 12/11. Taped at night at the bungalows.

Marsh Owl 1 hunting at Halali waterhole 3-4/11.

White-faced Owl heard at Halali camp 4/11 and seen at roost 5/11.

Pearl-spotted Owlet the most common and most day active owl seen at night at Daan Viljoen 29/10, and on day 2 in Erongo mountains 2/11, 1 Halali camp 5/11, 1 Ruacana area 6-7/11 and 1 Waterberg 15/11.

African Scops-Owl 1 seen at roost Halali camp and 2 heard at night 4/11, seen at roost again 5/11, heard at Ruacana camp 6/11.

Freckled Nightjar 2 heard Waterberg 15/11.

Rufous-cheeked Nightjar the most common Nightjar at night game reserve waterholes with up to 15 in Etosha 2-4/11. Also heard in Ruacana 6/11.

Alpine Swift 3-4 Karooport 26/10, 2-3 around Omaruru 1-2/11 and over 100 from top of Waterberg plateau 14/11.

Bradfield's Swift The first Namibian twitch for me in Windhoek 29/10 (Göran was shopping...), 2-3 Erongo mountains 2/11, 5 Waterberg 14/11 and 3-4 Avis dam 17/11.

Common Swift some in western Etosha 2-3/11 and over 500 Rundu SW 9/11. Over 200 en route to Otavi 13/11.

African Black Swift very few seen in Karooport area 26/10.

Little Swift 30 Karooport area 26/10, 2-3 Ruacana 7/11 and up to 50 in Windhoek/Avis 16-17/11.

White-rumped Swift some seen in Cape province 26-27/10 and in Daan Viljoen 30/10. Over 100 en route to Rundu 8/11.

African Palm-Swift the most common swift in Namibia, especially close to settlements, seen almost daily.

Red-faced Mousebird 2 Karooport 26/10, 20 Spitzkoppe 1/11, 1 Popa Falls 9/11, 6-7 Shakawe 12/11.

Speckled Mousebird 3 each day in cape province 26-27/10, 2 on 28/10 after pelagic trip.

White-backed Mousebird 15 Karooport area 26/10, 2 Spitzkoppe 1/11.

Giant Kingfisher 1 Popa Falls 9-10/11, up to 5 daily Shakawe 11-13/11.

Pied Kingfisher seen daily from Rundu SW to Shakawe 8-13/11, up to 30 on boat trip.

Malachite Kingfisher seen daily in Shakawe 11-13/11, up to 6-7 per day.

Woodland Kingfisher 1 Rundu SW 8/11, 1-4 daily in Ngepi and Shakawe 10-13/11.

European Bee-eater seen in numbers over 10 in Karooport 26/10, Etosha 2/11 and 4-5/11, Ngepi 10/11 and Waterberg 14-15/11.

Blue-checked Bee-eater only 1 on Okavango boat trip 12/11.

Olive (Madagascar) Bee-eater 3-4 around Ruacana 7/11.

White-fronted Bee-eater common around Shakawe lodge with approx. 10 daily 11-13/11.

Southern Carmine Bee-eater apart from the small colony on Okavango boat trip with 50 birds on 12/11 we also had them around Shakawe and Mahango on 10-13/11.

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater 4-5 29/10 and 2 30/10 Daan Viljoen. Daily in Ruacana, Mahango and Waterberg areas.

Little Bee-eater 4-5 Rundu SW 8/11, approx 5 daily in Mahango-Shakawe area 10-13/11.

Lilac-breasted Roller some en route Swakopmund 30/10, 2-3 Rundu SW 8/11, 10 Mahango 10/11 and some on road towards Windhoek.

Many roadside Rollers was either this or Purple Roller.

Purple Roller 1 en route Swakopmund 30/10, daily in Etosha 2-5/11, some in Waterberg 14-16/11.

Broad-billed Roller a single bird seen from Ngepi tent place 9/11.

Bradfield's Hornbill a single bird seen from Ngepi 10/11.

Monteiro's Hornbill 1 Spitzkoppe and 3 Omaruru C28 1/11, 2 Erongo mountains 2/11, 5-6 Ruacana 7/11, 3-8 daily in Waterberg and Avis dam 15-17/11.

African Gray Hornbill a pair in Daan Viljoen 30/10, daily in Etosha with 3-4 3-5/11, also daily in Shakawe and Waterberg.

Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill seen at Spitzkoppe and Omaruru in small numbers, most common as roadside bird towards Ruacana, 1 in each Waterberg and Avis dam.

Red-billed Hornbill 1 pair+1 Daan Viljoen 30/10, 2 4/11 and 4-5 6/11 Etosha, daily in small numbers at Waterberg 14-16/11.

Redbilled Woodhoopoe 2 Rundu SW 8/11, 1 Ngepi 10/11 and 15 Shakawe lodge woodlands 13/11.

Southern Violet Woodhoopoe 10 Halali camp morning 5/11.

Greater Scimitar-bill 1 Daan Viljoen 29/10, 1-2 Spitzkoppe 1/11, 1 daily in Etosha 4-5/11 and Rundu SW 8/11. 2 Miombo woodlands 9/11 and 1-2 Waterberg 14-15/11.

African Hoopoo very common, seen daily in all 3 countries except on pelagic trip and around Windhoek.

Greater Honeyguide 1 Miombo woodland 11/11.

Black-collared Barbet 2 Ngepi 10/11 and 2 both days in Shakawe 11-12/11.

Crested Barbet 1-2 daily in Mahango and Shakawe 10-13/11.

Acacia Pied Barbet 1 pair + juv. Katbakkies 26/10, 1 Spitzkoppe 1/11, 1 Namutoni 6/11, 1 Rundu SW 8/11 and 1 Miombo woodlands 9/11. 1-2 Waterberg 15-16/11.

Ground Woodpecker 1 close to Ceres in Cape province 26/10.

Olive Woodpecker 3-4 calling and 1-2 seen in Grootvanderbosch 27/10.

Cardinal Woodpecker 1-2 Shakawe 12/11.

Golden-tailed Woodpecker 2-3 Halali 4-5/11 and 1-3 Waterberg 15-16/11.

Bearded Woodpecker 2 Waterberg 14/11.

Knysna Woodpecker 3-4 heard in Grootvanderbosch 27/10.

Clapper Lark 1-2 both Cape province days 26-27/10, 2-3 Etosha 6/11.

Dune Lark 3 Rooibank 31/10.

Sabota Lark 2 Daan Viljoen 30/10, common to some every day Etosha 1-6/11, 2-3 Avis dam 17/11.

Fawn-colored Lark 1 Etosha 3/11, 3-4 Mahango drive 10/11, 3-4 Waterberg 16/11.

Southern Thickbilled Lark 30 Karooport 26/10 and heard 27/10.

Rufous-naped Lark 5-6 Mahango drive 10/11 and 1 Avis dam 16/11.

Red-capped Lark 30 Karooport 26/10, some 27/10, 20 towards Rooibank 31/10, 20-40 in Etosha on 2-3/11 and 5/11.

Agulhas Longbilled Lark 2 seen, more heard in Cape province 27/10.

Stark's Lark 30 heading into Spitzkoppe 1/11.

Chestnut-backed Finchlark several in western Etosha 2/11, 4-5 Etosha 5/11.

Gray-backed Finchlark 10 Karooport 26/10, abundant in Etosha 2-3/11 and some in Etosha 5/11.

Blackeared Finchlark very common in Karooport 26/10 as this species had an invasion this year.

Gray's Lark 4 north Swakopmund salt works 31/10.

Spike-heeled Lark 20 Karooport 26/10, 5-6 towards Swakop 30/10, some in Etosha 2-4/11.

Redbreasted Swallow 2 Etosha 6/11, 3 en route Otavi 14/11.

Mosque Swallow 5-6 Rundu SW 8/11, 5-6 Mahango drive 10/11, 2 Miombo woodlands 13/11.

Greater Striped-Swallow few seen along roads in cape province, Daan Viljoen, Etosha and Waterberg. Many more striped swallows seen but not ID'd.

Lesser Striped-Swallow the only identified was 1 on Waterberg top 14/11 and 2 west Waterberg 16/11.

Barn Swallow the most common swallow seen daily in Daan Viljoen, Etosha and Okavango areas.

Wire-tailed Swallow 2-4 daily in Shakawe 11-13/11.

White-throated Swallow 4-5 Cape province 27/10.

Pearl-breasted Swallow 2-3 Cape province 27/10.

Black Saw-Wing Swallow 3 Kirschtenbosch 25/10 and 2 Cape province 27/10.

Gray-rumped Swallow 7-8 Okavango boat trip 12/11.

Banded Martin daily around Shakawe 11-13/11.

Brownthroated Martin 2-3 Cape province 27/10.

Rock Martin seen daily in Cape province, Daan Viljoen, Waterberg and Windhoek. Not that many in Etosha.

Fork-tailed Drongo seen daily except pelagic day and longer transport days.

Black Cuckoo-shrike 3 Miombo woodlands 9/11.

African Golden Oriole 1 pair in Ngepi and 1 in Mahango 11/11.

Eurasian Golden Oriole 2 Halali camp 5/11.

White-necked Raven seen in small numbers on the 3 land birding days around Cape Town.

Pied Crow seen in Cape province and Etosha in small numbers, occasionally along road in Namibia.

Black Crow some in Cape Town 25/10, common in Etosha with numbers up to 10 2-4/11.

House Crow approx. 15 in Cape province 27/10.

Ashy Tit 1 each in Daan Viljoen 30/10, Rooibank 31/10 and Spitzkoppe 1/11.

Rufous-bellied Tit 1 Miombo woodlands 11/11.

Southern Black-Tit 4 9/11 and 3 11/11 Miombo woodlands.

Carp's Tit 2 Okaukuejo 2/11, 2 pair Halali 4/11 and 1 Halali 5/11, 4-5 Ruacana 7/11 and 3 Waterberg 15/11.

The last in Waterberg had the grey-barred undertail coverts that is significant for the Southern Black-tit but this species shouldn't be in Waterberg.

Arrow-marked Babbler 3 Popa Falls 9/11.

Blackfaced Babbler 7-8 on dik-dik drive Etosha 6/11.

Hartlaub's Babbler 1 Ruacana 7/11, 10 Popa Falls 9/11, very common Okavango area 10-13/11.

Bare-cheeked Babbler 2-6 both days in Halali 4-5/11 and 2 Ruacana 7/11.

Southern Pied-Babbler 2 Etosha 4/11 and 7-8 Etosha 5/11, 1 en route to Waterberg 14/11.

Cape Bulbul all 3 days in Cape province 25-27/10, 1 Daan Viljoen 30/10.

African Redeyed Bulbul 2 -3 Rooibank 30/10, seen daily in Spitzkoppe-Etosha-Ruacana 31/10-8/11 and again in Waterberg and Windhoek area 14-17/11.

Common Bulbul replaced Redeyed Bulbul in Caprivi and Okavango area with more than 10, up to 30 daily 9-13/11.

Terrestrial Bulbul followed the common bulbul and seen in numbers between 2 and 10 daily 9-13/11.

Sombre Bulbul 2 Kirschtenbosch 25/10 and 1 Cape province 27/10.

African Yellow-bellied Bulbul 1 Ruacana 6-7/11, between 2 and 10 daily 9-13/11.

Olive Thrush 3-4 Kirschtenbosch 25/10, and 1 same place 26/10, 3-4 Cape province 27/10.

Groundscraper Thrush 1-2 both days in Daan Viljoen 29-30/10, 2 Halali 3-4/11, 1 Ruacana 6/11, 1 Waterberg 14/11.

Short-toed Rock-Thrush 1 both days in Daan Viljoen 29-30/10, 1 Erongo mountains 2/11, 4-5 Waterberg 15/11.

Cape Rockjumper 1 pair+1 juv. Sir Lawry's Pass 27/10.

Familiar Chat 10 Karooport 26/10, daily in small numbers 29/10-5/11 and again from 14-17/11.

Karoo Chat 20 Karooport 26/10.

Tractrac Chat 10 Karooport 26/10, 10 Welwitschia drive 31/10 and 2-3 Spitzkoppe 1/11. The Namibian records were of the paler Namibian race.

Mountain Chat 5 Karooport 26/10, seen in rocky habitats in Namibia like Daan Viljoen, Spitzkoppe, Waterberg and Avis dam.

Capped Wheatear 10 Karooport 26/10 and some in Cape province 27/10, 1 juv. Rundu SW 8/11 and 1 in Waterberg 15-16/11. 1 Cape int. Airport 17/11.

Common Stonechat 5-6 Cape province 27/10, 2 Mahango 10/11 and 1 Okavango 12/11.

Southern Anteater-Chat 3 Karooport 26/10, 1 western Etosha 2/11 and 2 Waterberg 16/11.

Herero Chat 2 Spitzkoppe 1/11.

Cape Robin 3 Kirschtenbosch 25/10.
Heuglin's Robin 4-5 Popa Falls 9/11 and 1 Shakawe 13/11.
Eastern Bearded Robin 2 Mahango drive 10/11.
Whitebrowed Robin 10-15 Etosha 6/11, daily in Okavango area 9-11/11.
Kalahari Robin 2-3 2/11 and 1 3/11 Etosha, 3-5 Waterberg 15-16/11.
Karoo Robin 15 Karoopoort 26/10.
Rufous-tailed Palm-Thrush 3 Ruacana 7/11.
Yellowthroated Warbler 1 Grootvanderbosch 27/10.
Willow Warbler small numbers Etosha 4-6/11 and around Rundu SW and Shakawe 8-11/11.
Burnt-neck Eremomela 3 Daan Viljoen 29/10, 1 Etosha 6/11 and 1 Waterberg 15/11.
Yellow-bellied Eremomela 1 single on road to Waterberg 14/11.
Karoo Eremomela 2 Karoopoort 26/10.
Cape Penduline -Tit 2 Miombo woodlands 9/11. Looked like the drawing in the book and description but according to map and habitat it should be the Gray Penduline-tit.
Knysna Warbler 1 singing close to Kirschtenbosch 25/10, 1 answering to tape in Grootvanderbosch 27/10.
Victorin's Warbler 1 seen + 3 heard Grootvanderbosch 27/10.
African Sedge Warbler 2-3 heard Karoopoort 26/10, 10 Okavango boat trip 12/11.
Cape Reed Warbler 3-6 daily in Rundu SW 8-9/11 and some heard in Mahango 10/11.
African Marsh Warbler 1 Katbakkies 26/10.
Greater Swamp-Warbler 5-6 Okavango boat trip 12/11 and 3-4 Shakawe 13/11.
Rockrunner 3 Daan Viljoen 29/10, 8 Waterberg 15/11 and 2 Avis dam 17/11.
Cinnamonbreasted Warbler 2 Karoopoort 26/10.
Greybacked Bleating Warbler common in good habitat areas like Erongo mountains, Etosha, Rundu SW, Miombo woodlands and Waterberg.
African Barred Warbler 1 Daan Viljoen 29-30/10, 3 Waterberg 16/11.
Fairy Flycatcher 5 Katbakkies 26/10.
Layard's Titbabbler 1 Katbakkies 26/10, 1 Spitzkoppe 1/11.
Chestnutvented Titbabbler 2 29/10 and 10 30/10 Daan Viljoen, 2-3 Rooibank 31/10, common at Spitzkoppe and Etosha, small numbers in Waterberg and Avis.
Longbilled Crombec 1 Karoopoort 26/10, 1-3 daily Etosha 4-6/11 and 1 Ruacana 7/11, 1 Miombo woodlands 9/11 and 1 daily in Waterberg 14-16/11.
Yellow-breasted Apalis 1 pair Mahango 10/11 and 1 pair Shakawe 11/11.
Barthroated Apalis 5-6 Cape province 27/10.
Zitting Cisticola heard Karoopoort 26/10, 4-5 Avis dam 16-17/11.
Desert Cisticola 2 Waterberg 16/11.
Neddicky heard Karoopoort 26/10 and 1 Sir Lawry's Pass 27/10.
Greybacked Cisticola 5 Karoopoort 26/10.
Tinkling Cisticola 2-3 Miombo woodlands 13/11.
Rattling Cisticola 1 Okaukuejo 2/11, 1 Rundu SW, 3-4 Mahango 10/11, 1 15/11 and 10-15 16/11 Waterberg, 2-3 Avis dam 17/11.
Blackbacked Cisticola 1 Mahango 10/11.
Chirping Cisticola 10 Okavango boat trip 12/11.
Levaillant's Cisticola 1 Cape province 27/10.
Namaqua Warbler 1 Karoopoort 26/10.
Rufous-eared Warbler common in Karoopoort area 26/10, 1 in Etosha from the relict population there 15/11.
Spotted Prinia common Kirschtenbosch 25/10 and some in Good Hope reserve 25/10 and Karoopoort 26/10.
Black-chested Prinia the most common prinia with daily sightings in Etosha 2-4/11 and also at Rundu SW 8/11, Miombo woodlands 9/11 and Waterberg 14-16/11.
Tawny-flanked Prinia 1 Ruacana 7/11, 2 Ngepi 11/11.
Dusky Flycatcher 2-3 Grootvanderbosch 27/10.
Bluegrey Flycatcher 1 Ruacana 7/11.
Spotted Flycatcher 1 Rundu SW 8/11, 1-2 Miombo woodlands 11/11, 1 Waterberg 15/11.
Fiscal Flycatcher 3 Cape province 27/10.
Chat Flycatcher 2-3 Karoopoort 26/10, 1 Daan Viljoen 30/10.

Marico Flycatcher 3 29/10 and 1 30/10 Daan Viljoen, some in western Etosha 2/11, 7 Rundu SW 8/11, both days 1-3 Avis dam 16-17/11.

Mousecollared Flycatcher 2 Miombo woodlands 9/11, 1 Popa Falls 10/11.

Bluemantled Flycatcher 1 Grootvanderbosch 27/10.

African Paradise-Flycatcher 2-3 Grootvanderbosch 27/10, daily except travel day 8/11 in northern Namibia + Botswana 6-14/11. Breeding pairs at Ngepi lodge.

Yellow White-eye 3-4 Popa Falls 10/10.

Cape White-eye common Kirschtenbosch 25/10, seen daily in Cape province 26-28/10.

Pirit Batis 1 pair + 1 juv. Katbakkies 26/10, 2 Daan Viljoen 30/10, 2 Spitzkoppe + 1 C28/Omaruru 1/11, 1 Okaukuejo 2/11, 5 Waterberg 15/11, 3 Avis Dam 16/11 and heard Avis Dam 17/11.

Cape Batis 2-3 Grootvanderbosch 27/10.

Chinspot Batis found breeding pair in Miombo woodlands 9/11.

Cape Wagtail small numbers around Cape Town 26-28/10, some in Daan Viljoen 30/10 and Walvis Bay 31/10, 2-3 Shakawe 12/11, 1 Eros airport 17/11.

African Pied Wagtail 5-6 Popa Falls 9-10/11, 4-5 Shakawe 12/11.

Long-billed Pipit 1 Karooport 26/10, 1-3 Daan Viljoen 29-30/10.

Rock Pipit 1 heard + 1 seen Karooport 26/10.

Grassveld (African) Pipit 2-3 Etosha 6/11, 1 Mahango 10/11, 1 Waterberg+5 Avis dam 16/11 and 4-5 Avis 17/11.

Plain-backed Pipit 1 Cape province 27/10.

Buffy Pipit 1 Rundu SW 8/11.

Crimson-breasted Shrike 2 Daan Viljoen 30/10, 1 Omaruru/C28 1/11, 10 Etosha 6/11, 2-3 Mahango 10/11, daily in small numbers Waterberg 14-16/11.

African Longtailed Shrike 3 w/ 2 juv. Rundu SW 8/11, 2-3 Ngepi 10-11/11 and 3-4 Okavango boat trip 12/12.

Red-backed Shrike 2-3 Etosha 6/11, 1 Rundu SW 8/11, some along road in Northern Namibia.

Lesser Gray Shrike up to 10 at Rundu SW 8/11, seen along roads in northern Namibia.

Common Fiscal Shrike some around Karooport 26/10, seen here and there as roadside bird. Common at Spitzkoppe 1/11.

Southern Boubou 1 Grootvanderbosch 27/10.

Swamp (Gabon) Boubou seen daily from Ruacana 7/11 to Shakawe 13/11, becoming more and more common.

Threestreaked Tchagra 3 Erongo mountains 2/11, 4-5 Ruacana 6/11, daily in Okavango area 9-11/11 and Waterberg 14-16/11.

Bokmakierie daily in Cape province 26-28/10, 1 Rooibank 31/10 and 1 Spitzkoppe 1/11.

Olive Bushshrike 2-3 Cape province 27/10.

Orangebreasted Bushshrike 1 Popa Fall 9/11 and 2 day after same place.

White Helmetshrike 7-8 Etosha 4/11 and 3 Halali 5/11, 10 Ruacana 7/11 and 5 Waterberg 15/11.

White-tailed Shrike 15 Erongo mountains 2/11.

Southern White-crowned Shrike 5-6 Erongo mountains 2/11, 1-2 daily Etosha 4-5/11, 2 Waterberg 14/11.

Brubru 1-2 daily Etosha 4-6/11, 2 Miombo woodlands 9/11.

Black-backed Puffback 2 Ruacana 7/11, 2 Ngepi 10-11/11 and 1 Mahango 10/11, 2 Shakawe 13/11 and Waterberg 14-15/11.

Glossy-Starling daily in small numbers to common from Daan Viljoen to Etosha 29/10-6/11, 1 single Botswana record 13/11 and some in Waterberg and Avis 15-17/11.

Plumcoloured Starling 1 female Etosha 3/11, 1 pair Miombo woodlands 9/11 and 1 female 11/11.

Burchell's Starling 1 Daan Viljoen 30/10, some Rundu SW 8-9/11, 2-5 Waterberg 14-15/11.

Meves' Longtailed Starling 1 Ruacana 7/11, some Mahango 10/11 and 1 Miombo woodlands 13/11.

Pale-winged Starling 5-6 Cape province 26/10, seen daily from Walvis Bay to Etosha 31/10-5/11 and becoming more common around Waterberg and Windhoek 13-17/11.

Redwinged Starling abundant in Kirschtenbosch and Good Hope reserve.

European Starling seen daily in and around Cape 25-27/10.

Wattled Starling 6-7 Karooport 26/10 and 10 Cape province trip 27/10, 4-5 Ruacana 7/11 and up to 20 Rundu SW 8/11, 40 en route 10/11 and 10 Waterberg 16/11.

African Pied Starling seen in Cape province 26-27/10.

Red-billed Oxpecker 2 Rundu SW 8/11, 3 Mahango 10/11.

Yellow-billed Oxpecker 1 Okavango boat trip 12/11.

Cape Sunbird 1 female Kirschtenbosch and Good Hope reserve 25/10.
Malachite Sunbird 10 Karooport 26/10 and 1 Cape province 27/10.
Orangebreasted Sunbird 1 pair Kirschtenbosch 25/10.
Scarlet-chested Sunbird 4-5 9/11, 2-3 10/11 and 1 11/11 Ngepi lodge, 2 Waterberg 15/11.
African Black Sunbird 2-3 Grootvanderbosch 27/10.
Collared Sunbird 1 pair Shakawe 12/11.
Whitebellied Sunbird seen daily from Etosha 5/11 to Ngepi 10/11 + 10 Otavi and Waterberg 14/11.
Dusky Sunbird 4-5 Rooibank 31/10, abundant Spitzkoppe 1/11, 1 Etosha 3/11 and 1-2 Avis 17/11.
Greater Double-collared Sunbird 1 Grootvanderbosch 27/10.
Lesser Double-collared Sunbird common Kirschtenbosch 25/10 and some on Karoo trip 26/10.
Marico Sunbird 1 Etosha 5/11, 2 Shakawe 12/11, 10 Otavi 14/11 and some in Waterberg 15-16/11.
Great Sparrow 30 Daan Viljoen 30/10, 2 Omaruru/C28 1/11, common in Etosha 2-6/11, 1 Avis dam 16/11.
House Sparrow seen in towns in South Africa, Walvis Bay and Windhoek.
Cape Sparrow (Mossie) common in Cape 26-27/10, 2 Walvis Bay 30/10, abundant Rooibank 31/10 and some at Spitzkoppe 31/10.
Southern Greyheaded Sparrow 1 Cape province 27/10, 2 Daan Viljoen 29-30/10, some every day in Etosha, Rundu and Ruacana 2-8/11 and in Waterberg 14-16/11.
Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver 2 Daan Viljoen 30/10, daily Etosha 4-6/11.
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver common in Daan Viljoen, Spitzkoppe, Etosha and Waterberg.
Thickbilled Weaver 1 pair Popa Falls 9/11.
Social Weaver abundant in Okaukuejo camp/Etosha 2-3/11, large nests seen along way into Etosha.
Spottedbacked Weaver 20-30 Okavango boat trip 12/11.
Southern Masked-Weaver some on Cape trips 26-27/10 and in Waterberg 15-16/11.
Lesser Masked-Weaver 10 Daan Viljoen 29-30/10, some Rooibank 31/10 d Etosha 2/11, 5-6 Waterberg 14/11.
Spectacled Weaver 2 Ruacana 7/11, some Okavango area 10-13/11.
Red-headed Weaver 1 male Ruacana 7/11.
Cape Weaver a few on Cape trips 26-27/10.
Southern Brown-throated Weaver 6-7 Shakawe 11/11, 20-30 Okavango boat trip 12/12 and 40 Shakawe 13/11.
Golden-Weaver 2 pairs Shakawe 11/11.
Red-billed Quelea 20-30 Daan Viljoen 29/10, abundant in Etosha 2-6/11 and in Ruacana 7/11.
Southern Red Bishop very common in correct habitats, Cape province 26-27/10.
Redshouldered Widow 10 Okavango boat trip 12/11 and 1 Shakawe 13/11.
Yellowrumped Widow 10 each day in Cape province 26-27/10.
Pin-tailed Whydah 1 en route towards Karooport 26/10, 3 Mahango 10/11, 30 Shakawe 12/11, 5-6 female Avis dam 16/11 and 1 male+5-6 female Avis 17/11.
Shaft-tailed Whydah 4-5 Rundu SW 8/11.
Jameson's Firefinch 1 pair Ruacana 7/11, 1 pair Shakawe 11/11 and 1 Shakawe 12-13/11.
Red-billed Firefinch 10 Rundu SW 8/11.
Brown Firefinch 20 Popa Falls 9/11, 2-3 Mahango 10/11, 2 pairs Shakawe 11/11 and up to 10 Shakawe 12/11.
Swee Waxbill roughly 50 Grootvanderbosch 27/10.
Violet-eared Waxbill 3 29/10 and 4 30/10 Daan Viljoen, 5-6 C28/Omaruru 1/11, 5-6 Etosha 4/11 and 6/11, 2-3 Mahango 10/11 and 2 Waterberg 15-16/11.
Black-cheeked Waxbill 7-8 29/10 and 1 30/10 Daan Viljoen, 1 Etosha 6/11, 2 Rundu SW 8/11, 5-6 Waterberg 15/11 and 10 Avis dam 16/11.
Common Waxbill 30 Karooport 26/10, 10 Rooibank 31/10.
Cinderella Waxbill 8 Ruacana 7/11.
Blue Waxbill 1 pair Namutoni camp 6/11, 1 Ruacana 7/11, 5 Rundu SW 8/11, 5-6 Mahango 10/11, 1-2 Ngepi 11/11.
Red-headed Finch 10 Omaruru/C28, daily in Etosha 2-6/11.
Scalyfeathered Finch 4-5 Spitzkoppe 1/11, 1-2 Etosha 2/11 and 6/11, 1 Waterberg 16/11.
Melba Finch 2 Daan Viljoen 29/10, 1-2 Namutoni 6/11, 1 pair Rundu SW 8/11, 1 daily in Okavango area 9-11/11, 1 male Waterberg 15/11 and 3 Avis dam 16/11.
African Quailfinch over 50 near Ngepi 9/11 and 10 same place evening after.
Orangebreasted Waxbill 1 pair Mahango 10/11.

Yellow Canary 5-6 26/10 and 1 27/10 around Cape, 3 Omaruru/C28 1/11.
Bully canary 1 Kirschtenbosch 25/10, 5-6 26/10 and 3-4 27/10 Cape province.
Yelloweyed Canary 2-3 Shakawe 11/11.
Black-throated Canary seen in large numbers in Etosha 3-5/11.
Forest Canary 2 Grootvanderbosch 27/10.
Cape Canary some Kirschtenbosch 25/10 and some 26/10.
White-throated Canary 1 Karoopoort 26/10, 10-15 29/10 and 5 30/10 Daan Viljoen, 10 Spitzkoppe 1/11.
Black-headed Canary 1 Karoopoort 26/10.
Cape Siskin 3 Grootvanderbosch 27/10.
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting 3 Daan Viljoen 30/10, 1 Etosha 3-4/11, 4-5 Etosha 5/11, 3-4 Ruacana 7/11 and 1 Miombo woodlands 11/11.
Golden-breasted Bunting 1 pair Daan Viljoen 29/10, 1 3/11 and 4-5 5/11 Etosha, 1 Okavango region 9-10/11 and 2 Miombo woodlands 11/11 and 1 13/11.
Lark-like Bunting 10 Karoopoort 26/10, 3-4 Spitzkoppe 1/11.
Cape Bunting 2-3 Good Hope 25/10, some Cape province 26-27/10 and 1 Waterberg 15/11.

Mammals

1 spotted deer in Shakawe goes unidentified as we can't find any in the books.

Bontebok A family seen in Cape of Good Hope reserve 25/10.
Cape Hare A few sightings in Karoopoort area 26/10 and 1 in Cape province 27/10.
Klipspringer 2 at Sir Lawry's Pass 27/10.
Bat-eared Fox 1 around De Hoop 27/10.
Yellow Mongoose 3-4 seen 27/10 on Grootvanderbosch-De Hoop loop. Waterberg 16/11.
Chacma baboon 1 seen along the road after Sir Lawry's Pass. Daan Viljoen 30/10. Common in Waterberg 14-15/11.
Cape Fur Seal many sightings in False Bay and out at the trawlers on pelagic trip 28/10.
Dusky Dolphin –surfing behind the boat on the way back from pelagic trip 28/10.
Bryde's Whale – on pelagic trip 28/10.
Humpback Whale – on pelagic trip 28/10.
Southern Right Whale – 4 on pelagic trip 28/10.
Rock Dassie – a small colony at the penguin colony 28/10, Daan Viljoen 29/10. Common Waterberg 14-15/11, Avis dam 17/11.
Zebra – 2 at Daan Viljoen 29/10 and 3 30/10, Etosha 3/11-6/11. Mahango drive 10/11.
Blue Wildebeest a few Daan Viljoen 29/10 & 30/10, Okaukuejo 2/11, Etosha 3/11-5/11
Warthog Daan Viljoen 29/10 & 30/10, in Namutoni camp 5/11, Waterberg 16/11.
Eland Daan Viljoen 29/10, Etosha 4/11.
Kudu Daan Viljoen 29/10 & 30/10, Etosha 3/11-5/11. Mahango drive 10/11, Waterberg 16/11.
Giraffe 3 Daan Viljoen 30/10, 2 Spitzkoppe area 1/11, Etosha 2/11-4/11, 30 at same time Klein Namutoni WH 5/11-6/11.
Gemsbok 3 Daan Viljoen 30/10, Okaukuejo 2/11, Etosha 3/11-6/11
Suricate – family group close to Spitzkoppe 1/11.
Springbok – Spitzkoppe 1/11, abundant in Etosha 2/11 – 6/11
Scrub Hare Spitzkoppe area 1/11.
Bushveld Elephant Waterberg 15-16/11.
Ground squirrel Spitzkoppe 1/11, Okaukuejo 2/11, Etosha 3/11. Waterberg 14/11.
African elephant 5 Okaukuejo 2/11, Etosha 3/11, 30 Goas WH 4/11, 30 Klein Namutoni WH 5/11 and a angry male Etosha exit 6/11. 1 close-up Mahango drive 10/11. Many heard trumpeting during night 10-11/11.
Black rhinoceros 2 Okaukuejo WH 2/11, 1 Halali WH 3/11 and 3 4/11.
Black-backed jackal Okaukuejo WH 2/11, Etosha 3/11, Halali WH 4/11, Etosha 5/11.
Spotted Hyena 2 Goas waterhole 3/11, 1 Halali WH 3/11, 2 Halali WH 4/11, 1 Klein Namutoni WH 5/11.
Red Hartebeest Etosha 3/11 – 5/11.
Blackfaced Impala 30 Etosha 3/11. Also seen 4/11

Lion 3 female Rietfontein WH 3/11, 11 Klein Namutoni WH 5/11.
Steenbok Etosha 3/11-5/11
Damara dik-dik 2 Etosha 3/11, 3-4 Waterberg 14-15/11.
Slender Mongoose 1 Goas WH 4/11. Waterberg 14/11.
African Wildcat Halali WH 4/11.
Vervet monkey Family groups around Omunjandi camp 6/11-7/11. Shakawe 12/11.
Tree squirrel some at Omunjandi camp 7/11.
Tsessebe Mahango drive 10/11.
Impala Mahango drive 10/11.
Buffalo Mahango drive 10/11.
Hippopotamus approx 10 in Okavango river/Mahango 10/11. Ngepi and Shakawe 11/11. Shakawe 12/11.
Sable Mahango drive 10/11.
Large-spotted Genet on night boat trip Shakawe 11/11.

Places we stayed at

Most of these places were found through trip reports or Lonely Planet. Generally prices was almost half to the stated in LP, mostly due to weak Namibian \$.

E-mails etc. have been typed off invoices etc. and are not tested. Hope they work !

Central Hotel/Simon's Town – very nice B&B, very close to the pelagic boat. They do breakfast packs for early birders. http://bbnet.co.za/central_hotel/welcome.htm

Daan Viljoen reserve – tented on grass. Nice and good food at the restaurant. Cold night.

Langstrand resort – well situated at the road between Swakopmund and Walvis Bay for a moderate price. Good restaurant but **cold** showers in our 2 bed bungalow. Own locked garage for the car. E-mail: bfernandez@walvisbaycc.org.na or gkruger@walvisbaycc.org.na

Hotel Staebe/Omaruru – pleasant German run hotel just outside town, marked in Lonely Planet. Good rooms, pleasant dinner and breakfast. Locked car park and we borrowed key for the 5am Francolin trip. Owners are said to know about the Hartlaub's Francolins.

Okaukuejo camp/Etosha – good camping facilities but on gravel and quite dusty. Buffet dinner is a good idea on a crowded place like this.

Halali camp/Etosha – the camping site looked like the Okaukuejo . Much less people here so we had a N\$300/night bungalow for 2 nights. Buffet dinner here as well.

Namutoni camp/Etosha – the best looked after site, with grassy camping. Buffet dinner here as well.

Omunjandi camp/west Ruacana – much better camp than the infamous Hippo pools camping. Sand/grassy campsite on the Cunene river and close to the Palm forest. N\$40/night with hot showers and WC. Tel: 067-22 18 15 (W) and 067-22 21 10. Expect to be alone on the camp !

Hotel Club Med/Grootfontein. Hotel with breakfast included and good restaurant & pub.

Ngandu safari lodge/Rundu. Bungalow for N\$320 with breakfast. Made breakfast package for us.

Ngepi lodge/Okavango river this backpacker place close to Popa Falls is a smashing place. Good birding and very pleasant people that does dinners on request. Grassy camping. 2 nights camping + 2 dinners and multipliable beers N\$400 for both of us.

Shakawe fishing lodge/Botswana is the place for the Botswana specialties, especially the night active birds. The guide is very experienced. If you camp you can't use the restaurant, that's why we stayed in bungalow. E-mail: t.wild@info.bw

Otavi Gardens Hotel/Otavi hotel for N\$200, including breakfast. Very large steak for dinner.

Waterberg plateau park 3 bed bungalow for N\$310 with self-catering facilities. Good restaurant.

Windhoek town lodge 2 bed rooms with CNN for N\$200. Close to O'Hagan's Irish Pub & Grill.

Stake-outs

Grey's Lark

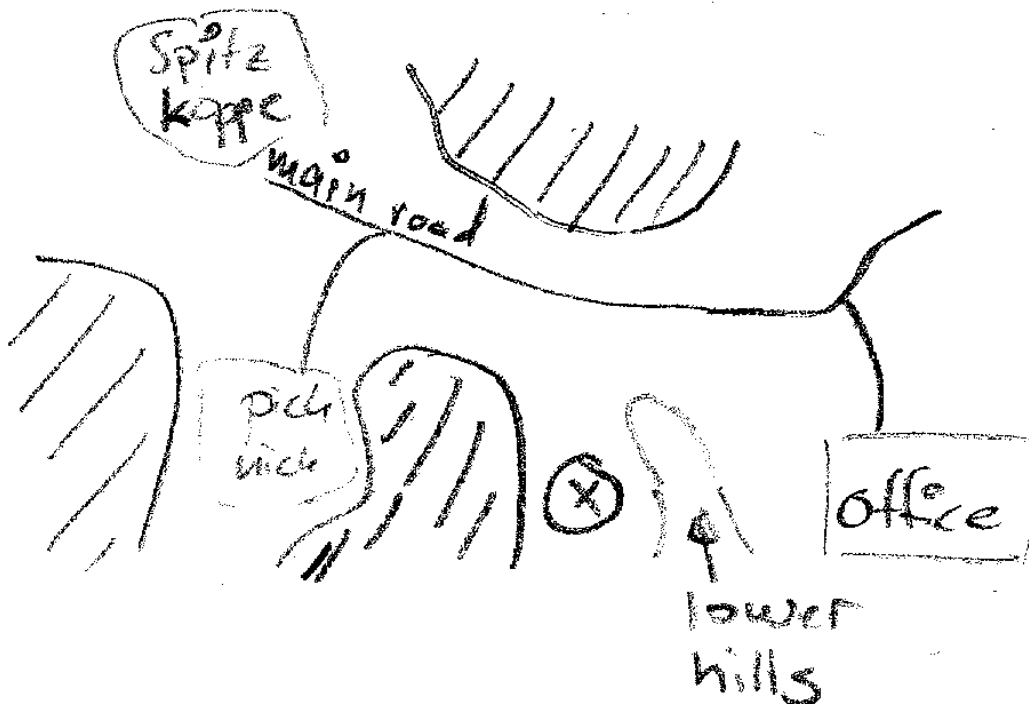
From Swakopmund head out on C34 towards Hentiesbay. 4-5 km north of Swakop, after passing the salt works you will see a satellite tracking station on the right with large parabolas and a smaller gravel road going parallel to the C34. There is also a power line going parallel to the roads. At the turn off to the tracking station turn right in on that road and immediately left on to the smaller parallel road that then slightly turns away from the C34. Drive 2.6 km on this road and we had 4 larks on the right hand side some 100 meters out on the gravel.

Hartlaub's Francolin

From Omaruru drive out on C33 towards Karibib. Just outside town turn right onto the C2315 that heads into the Erongo mountains. After 8.0 km you will pass a dry riverbed that some use to walk towards the rock outcrops. We drove 300 meters more and climbed the cattle fence and the cliffs. At this point you are quite close to the main (dry) riverbed. If you have checked the area in daylight you will, after climbing the cliff, find a plateau going in towards the cliff area. You can walk this plateau approx. 300 meters. From this view we heard and saw 3 groups of approx. 10-15 birds. Bring a scope if possible.

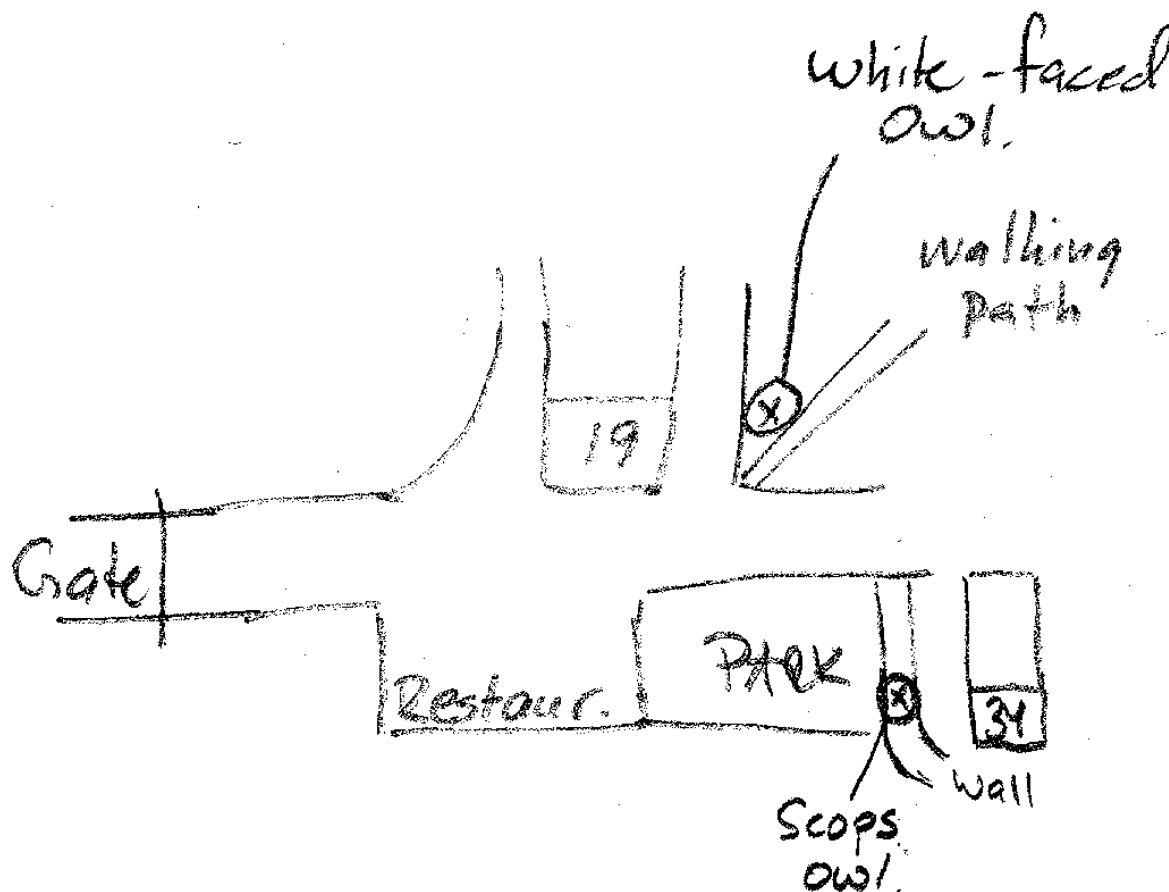
Herero Chat

From the main office drive to a t-junction and turn left towards Spitzkoppe. After a few 100 meters there is a smaller track on the right. Approx. 100 meters before the left turn off to first pick-nick site look for a gorge going into the left between two outcrops. We parked at the pick-nick site and walked around that outcrop and had 2 Chat's in this gorge.



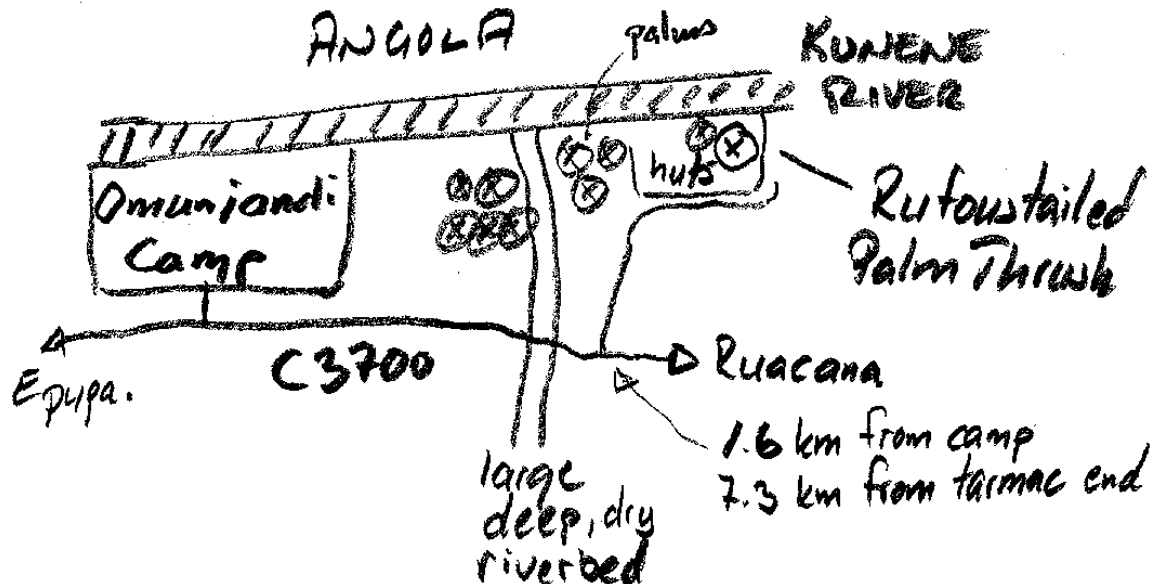
Halali owls

If you pack yourself with binoculars and even better a big camera lens you will (hopefully) after a walk in the Halali camp be approached by some of the friendly garden workers. They seems to have very good knowledge of there owls. Just outside bungalow #19 (where we stayed) is a large tree where we had a **White-faced Owl** and outside #34 a **African Scops Owl** in the first tree in the wall dividing the park from the bungalows. On the 2nd day I went back to this tree to see if the Scops still was there, didn't find it at the exact same branch so walked around the tree and immediately one of the workers run towards me and pointed out the bird, this time 2-3 meters higher up.

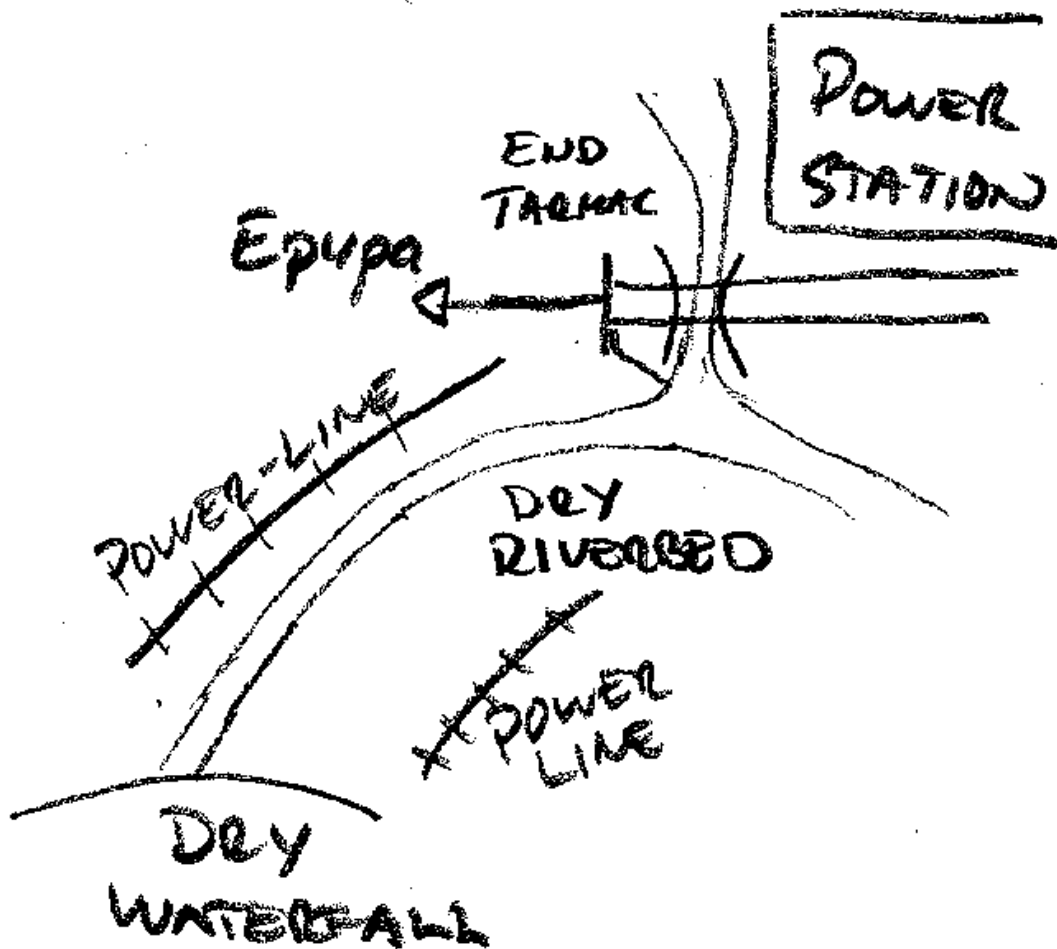


Ruacana area

Rufous-tailed Palm-Thrush: we walked in the palm forest west of the dry riverbed both at evening and the morning after without any result. My help when planning the trip who was here in August 01 had them around the huts east of the riverbed and when we birded there we also had 3. Drive down the gravel road, passing the huts and when the fence surrounding the huts park the car where the fence heads down towards the river. We found the birds in one of the big palms along the river. Should be best as early as possible.



Cinderella Waxbill is closer to the power station and Ruacana Falls. As you descend on the tarmac road from Ruacana and see the power station on the right, look to your left ahead and you will see a dry waterfall on the left slope. That's where you should be heading. When you pass on the bridge over the dry riverbed, park the car on a small dirt road going to the left down into the riverbed. Take the right riverbed and walk that upstream until you are in the area just under the waterfall. We first found them just up close to the fall but when we returned to the car we had them some 100-150 meters down as well, in trees looking like oaks. The walk down took approx. 30 minutes in very calm birding pace. It gets very warm in these riverbeds. Should be done as early as possible.



map for Cinderella Waxbill.

Popa Falls

From the reception the road divides into left and right. Take the right to come below the falls where we had a group of **Brown Firefinches**. If you stay at the sand beach here for more than 10 seconds you will have children offering boat trips to the island for **Rock Pratincole**. Cost N\$20. We refused this offer, if you join them note that you enter a breeding colony of very few birds.

The left road goes down into the huts area and after the huts you will find a bridge system going out towards the falls made of 5 iron bridges (for walking). There are many good tracks here and you will find a track that leads to a viewpoint looking over the upper falls where we both evenings saw 3-4 Pratincoles. Use scope.

Quail finch

3 km from the entrance & cattle fence to Ngepi there are large fields on your right when driving from Ngepi. Saw groups being flushed by farmer the first night and the next even sitting birds around 6pm.

Equipment

This is the main equipment we used and that might help you to plan the trip.

- * Madza 323 w/ 2 spare tires, water- and petrol-can. Good size for 2 birders.
- * Spotting scope; 1 Swarovski AT-80 and 1 20x. The 20x was a smaller scope, not in class with a modern scope but was useful in Etosha where you're not allowed to get out of the car.
- * Cameras; multiple lenses for Canon EOS series and Hi8 video camera.
- * Torches, small for night use at tents – tried headlamp for first time, useful. 1 big Maglight for owls etc.
- * Tent for 3 people.
- * Waterproof clothes, especially for pelagic but also in Namibia.
- * Lars used 1day contact lenses, for those with glasses/lenses that haven't tried this on a trip, do it !
- * Tape recorder, useful both to get owls/francolins etc. To respond and to recognize sounds.

Thank you

Christian De Boix, John Graham ,Trevor Hardaker and Claire Spottiswoode for all help before and during Cape Town visit.

Mark Boorman for the Swakop info.

Reinerd Visser for 2001 trip report and additional info.

Teet Sirotkin for trip report and additional info.

Book Reference:

- 1) ESSENTIAL BIRDING Western South Africa – Callan Cohen & Claire Spottiswoode. ISBN 1-86872-524-3
- 2) Zimbabwe, Botswana & Namibia – Lonely Planet, ISBN 0-86442-545-7. The better of the LP books for Namibia and Botswana.
- 3) Southern Africa – Lonely Planet,
- 4) SASOL Birds of Southern Africa 2nd edition, ISBN 1-86872-033-0
- 5) Southern Africa's Mammals – a field guide/Robin Frandsen, ISBN 0-9584212-1-8
- 6) Free maps that Namibian tourist board sends if you want.

Company reference

- 1) National Car Rental/Cape Town.
- 2) Birding Africa - <http://www.birding-africa.com/>
- 3) Sugarbirds tours <http://www.sugarbirdtours.com/>
- 4) Zest for birds <http://www.zestforbirds.co.za/>
- 5) Jumbo car hire/Windhoek <http://www.natron.net/tour/jumbo/carhiree.html>