



**TROPICAL  
BIRDING** 

**NAMIBIA:**  
**SOSSUSVLEI TO ETOSHA**  
A Tropical Birding Custom Trip

**August 8 – 20, 2010**  
**Guide: Ken Behrens**

All photos taken on this trip. All  
except one are by Ken Behrens.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Namibia offers a remarkable combination of beautiful landscapes, unique birds, and some of the best mammal viewing in the world. All of these can be experienced while based in excellent accommodation and enjoying great food. This custom trip was designed to take in Namibia's near-endemic birds, the mammals of Etosha National Park, plus the red dunes of Sossusvlei and the rock engravings of Twyfelfontein. Unlike our normal tours, it did not visit northern Namibia's Caprivi Strip or the Okavango 'panhandle' of Botswana. Throughout the trip, we were based in fantastic lodges that are a real feature of this country. Many people seem to think that the combination of opulent lodges and fantastic landscapes and mammals is endemic to East Africa, but this is far from the truth, as this trip certainly demonstrated!

## **TOUR SUMMARY**

The aim of this tour was to see scenery, cultural attractions, mammals, and the near-endemic birds, and we were very successful in achieving all of this. We saw every Namibian near endemic with the exception of the two species found only along the Kunene River along the Angolan border. Also encountered was the full set of Kalahari birds, plus a few localized specialties like Black-faced Babbler. The mammals were excellent throughout, with good diversity overall and incredible numbers in Etosha National Park. Although this time of year does not offer a huge bird species list, it features perfect weather and world-class mammaling, and the specialty birds can still be found.

The tour began at the Cape Town airport, where we checked in for our flight to Windhoek via Walvis Bay. This flight was quite a treat, allowing an aerial view of 100s of miles of the Namib Desert's 'dune sea', providing a preview of things to come later in the tour. Although our late arrival didn't allow much birding, we did see a nice group of Red-headed Finches at the airport.

Daan Viljoen is a fine game reserve near the capital city of Windhoek, and that was where we started birding and mammaling in earnest. As usual, the morning was crisp, the sky blue, and it was

simply a pleasure to be alive in this beautiful country. The mammals were good, and we saw most of the large species in the park, including giraffe and Hartmann's mountain zebra. Avian highlights included Monteiro's Hornbill, Violet-eared Waxbill, and a beautiful pair of starkly black and white African Hawk-Eagles that circled by almost at eye level.



**We saw good numbers of Greater Kestrels between Sossusvlei and Walvis Bay**

The journey down from Windhoek, which lies in the highlands, to the coast, is always interesting. The rugged gravel roads and equally rugged and stunningly beautiful scenery both contribute to an understanding of this vast, dry country. Birding was particularly good on this journey, with Pygmy Falcon, Karoo Long-billed Lark, Karoo Chat, Chat Flycatcher, Namaqua Sandgrouse, Crimson-breasted Shrike, Martial and Verreaux's Eagles, and many more. Much scanning had

failed to reveal bustards, but just before arriving at Sossusvlei, we spotted a pair of Rueppell's Korhaans. As we watched these birds, I picked out a distant but clearly larger bustard: Ludwig's Bustard, a beautiful bird that can be difficult to find at this time of the year. After settling into our luxurious lodge, we enjoyed a fascinating astronomy program run by an American professor who was visiting for a couple of weeks. This area of Namibia, with its unpolluted, clear skies is among the best in the world for astronomy, and our lodge boasted the second largest telescope in Namibia, which opened up the indescribable wonders of the sky to our appreciation. As we marveled at the sinews of the Milky Way, and gasped at the intricacy of mind-blowing star clusters, we truly understood what has been lost in parts of the world where electric light stains the sky and obscures the vast theater of the firmament that inspired countless preceding generations.

The red dunes of the Sossusvlei portion of Namib-Naukluft national park are one of Namibia's most popular tourist attractions, and were our next day's destination. After an early start, we arrived in the national park to find a tremendous sand storm roaring through the



**Rueppell's Korhaan in the Namib grasses.**

Sossosvlei valley. As we drove on, the road became more and more obscure, and eventually it became nearly impossible to progress. We stopped and ate breakfast in the car, with the eerie sound of wind-blown gravel rattling against the vehicle. Even the sun overhead sometimes disappeared during this barrage. Though it was disappointing to miss a view of the dead vlei and other sights at the end of the road, this storm was a remarkable and memorable experience that none of us will ever forget. Retreating to the east, we were happy to find a more sheltered area, where the red dunes and deep blue sky could be fully enjoyed. Scrambling across the sand, we enjoyed sightings of some of the unique creatures of this harsh area, including



The top of this red dune was being blown seaward by the roaring winds.

Namibia's only political endemic, the Dune Lark. Back at our lodge we enjoyed a long desert walk, where we came to close quarters with a herd of oryx, and enjoyed an amazing sunset. A pre-dinner visit to the observatory acquainted us again with unimaginable astronomical wonders.

From Sossusvlei, we traveled north to Walvis Bay, an odd town set on the stark coast of the Namib Desert. The biological highlight of this area is the Walvis lagoon, whose rich waters contrast with the barren land that they abut. A kayaking expedition was the perfect way to experience



Greater Flamingos take flight at Walvis Bay.  
This species surely has one of the strangest profiles of any bird in flight.

this area, and we were lucky to make this trip on a rare day of blue skies and sunshine, a rarity in this area where mist off the cold ocean usually obscures the air. Heaviside's and common bottlenose dolphins put on a great show, splashing all around our kayaks. The large Cape fur seal colony was spectacular as always, and we enjoyed an intimate experience of these beautiful and inquisitive animals. As we enjoyed a cup of coffee and some sandwiches on the beach afterwards, a White-chinned Petrel zoomed by at close range several times. Birding expeditions at Walvis Bay turned up amazing numbers of



Monteiro's Hornbill is a near-endemic that we saw near Spitzkoppe and elsewhere.

Chestnut-banded Plovers, plus both of the specialist desert plains larks: Stark's and Gray's.

A pre-dawn departure from Walvis saw an early arrival at Spitzkoppe, where the morning sun was just beginning to light up this striking red rock mountain. After the barren Namib, the scattered trees at the base of the mountain seemed almost a lush jungle, and it was here that we searched for Herero Chat, one of the more difficult Namibian specialty birds. Although it took some searching we eventually came to grips with a handsome pair of these inconspicuous chats. We ate a well-deserved packed breakfast while soaking in the grandeur of the inselberg towering above us.

By lunchtime, we had arrived at Erongo Wilderness Lodge, in the foothills of the ancient Erongo Mountains. This mountain range lies near the center of the range of most of Namibia's near-endemic birds, and is the premier place to find several of them. The lodge provides a comfortable and unique base from which to search for these birds. In fact, its dining room may be the premier birding spot in Namibia! A range of birds comes here for food and water, including Hartlaub's Francolin, Rosy-faced Lovebird, and many more. The night shift goes to a family of porcupines, an animal that is difficult to see in most of Africa, but almost guaranteed here. On top of its good birds, Erongo Wilderness is a remarkably well-designed lodge that blends perfectly into its environment. Wooden walkways wind between huge boulders, while the hillside tented chalets offer great views of

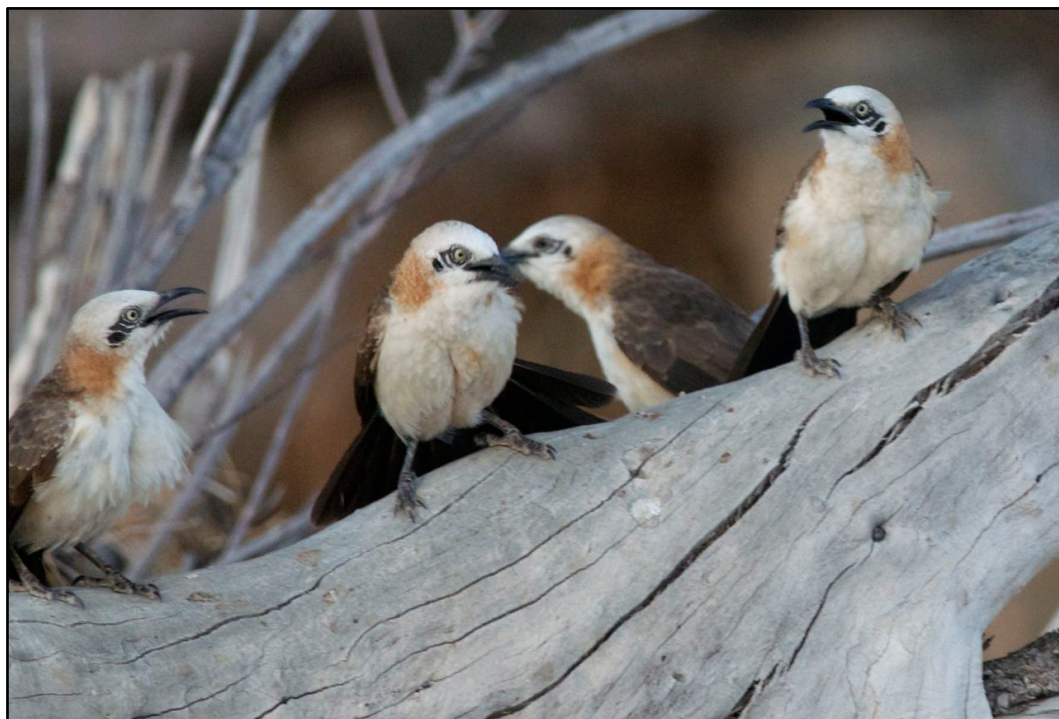
the glorious rising and setting of the sun. Although most of our desired birds were right around the lodge, we had to bird a riverbed below to find Rueppell's Parrot, Violet Woodhoopoe, and Southern Pied Babbler, which all cooperated nicely.



One of Erongo's perfectly placed chalets.

On the way to Twyfelfontein, we did a little birding, searching for and finding Benguela Long-billed Lark, a near endemic with an odd distribution along the coast of northern Namibia. Once again, we had arrived at our luxurious lodge by lunchtime. As we dined, we kept a careful eye on a small pool of water, which was visited by Bokmakierie, White-throated Canary, Black-faced Waxbills, and others. The main

attraction of Twyfelfontein is a huge aggregation of rock engravings made by its ancient inhabitants. The whole set of big mammals present in the area is represented in stone with remarkable accuracy, from spotted hyena to giraffe. Many of the engravings represent desert waterholes, with indications of their permanent or ephemeral nature, and the animals that frequent them. Although it is not a frequent feature of our birding tours, Twyfelfontein is a fascinating site, and well worth a visit. And we did manage to do some birding at a nearby riverbed the following morning. Highlights there were two groups of the very local Bare-faced Babbler, and a pair of



One of the groups of Bare-faced Babblers that we saw near Twyfelfontein.

Scops-Owls on a day roost. Huge piles of scat testified to the presence of 'desert' elephants, though we did not sight this rare animal. We did see this region's most famous plant, the welwitschia, one of the most bizarre and singular plants in the world.

A fairly long drive brought us to Etosha National Park. This park is justly famous as one of the premier mammal viewing parks in Africa. Although it does not hold great diversity of mammals, it offers huge numbers of mammals in a remarkable and beautiful setting, and we were visiting at the perfect time, late in the dry season, when tremendous concentrations of mammals occur around the waterholes. We had three full days to explore the wonders of Etosha, allowing a bit of relaxation after the fast-paced earlier portion of the trip. The landscape is a mix of dry savanna, vast expanses of grass, and the even more vast stretches of the Etosha pan, the 'great white place' for which the park was named. We traveled from waterhole to waterhole, the best way to see mammals during this part of the year. Every one was different, and they all offered something interesting. On our first day, an early visit to a waterhole turned up nearly 100 Burchell's Sandgrouse, but no mammals. Returning later in the day, the sandgrouse had been replaced by a large herd of elephants, an unusually large group of over 40 kudu, plus several other mammal species. At another waterhole, that often hosts a pride of lions, we had a glimpse of a larger story. No mammals were initially present, and one oryx that came in seemed extremely wary, eventually choosing to walk on rather than water at this hole. The presence of lions seemed almost tangible, but we never managed



**A southern oryx in the foreground of the immense open spaces of Etosha.**

to spot them in the thick surrounding grass. We had better success seeing lions at another waterhole, in fact the same one where I had seen a lion kill last year. A whole pride appeared to be hunting in concert, though we weren't lucky enough to see them successfully take an animal. The air was full of dust due to recent windy weather, some of which we had witnessed during our Sossusvlei sand storm. One result was spectacular sunsets, in which the sun turned deep purple then disappeared even before it reached the horizon. There can be no more African experience than seeing vast herds of antelope dotting a plain with such a waning sun burning in the background.

Although the mammals were the focus, we did find lots of great birds, including Bateleur, Red-necked Falcon, Lappet-faced and White-headed Vultures, Namaqua Sandgrouse, Burchell's Courser, Kori Bustard, Secretarybird, African Scops-Owl, Meyer's Parrot, Pink-billed Lark, Black-faced and Southern Pied Babblers, Barred Wren-Warbler, Violet-eared and Black-faced Waxbills, and Golden-breasted Bunting. Though we weren't privileged to see a large predator make a kill, we saw something almost as interesting on a smaller scale. Returning to our lodge just after dusk, I spotted a Pearl-spotted Owlet sitting in the road. This seemed odd behavior, but a scorpion also in the road explained it – the owlet was after this treacherous prey. It bobbed around the scorpion a couple of times before making a lightning-fast strike in which it knocked off the tail and ate the body



**A pair of Secretarybirds hunting in Etosha.**

broke up the drive. We arrived at tiny Windhoek airport to find it swamped with three flights leaving simultaneously. The resulting long waits in queues and late departures were annoying, and brought us back to the 'realities' of society after our sojourn in the peaceful and uncrowned expanses of Namibia.

in almost the same instant. The tiny owl departed into the night, leaving only a poison-laden barb lying in the dust of the road. Many who have seen lions kill many times have never witnessed such a thing.

On our final day, we made a quick morning 'game drive' in Etosha before heading back to Windhoek for departing flights. A stop at an excellent and newly discovered pizza restaurant on the way back

## ITINERARY

<b>August 8</b>	Arrival in Windhoek.
<b>August 9</b>	Daan Viljoen Reserve; drive to Sossusvlei.
<b>August 10</b>	Sossusvlei.
<b>August 11</b>	Sossusvlei to Walvis Bay.
<b>August 12</b>	Walvis Bay.
<b>August 13</b>	Walvis Bay to Spitzkoppe to Erongo.
<b>August 14</b>	Erongo Mountains.
<b>August 15</b>	Erongo to Twyfelfontein.
<b>August 16</b>	Twyfelfontein to Etosha National Park.
<b>August 17</b>	Etosha National Park.
<b>August 18</b>	Etosha National Park.
<b>August 19</b>	Etosha National Park.
<b>August 20</b>	Etosha National Park to Windhoek. Departure from Windhoek.



Rosy-faced Lovebirds swarm for food in the early morning at Erongo.



## GALLERY

*Follows chronology of trip*



**Crimson-breasted Shrike (left) on our way from Windhoek down to the coast.  
We also saw a pair of Rueppell's Korhaans (right) on this journey.**



**An Ostrich sprints across the bare plain below the red dunes of Sossusvlei.**



Although a sandstorm was booming up the valley, we found some sheltered dunes (left). These Pied Crows found shelter from the storm behind a stout clump of grass (right).



The ghostly outline of a dead tree in the Sossusvlei sand storm.



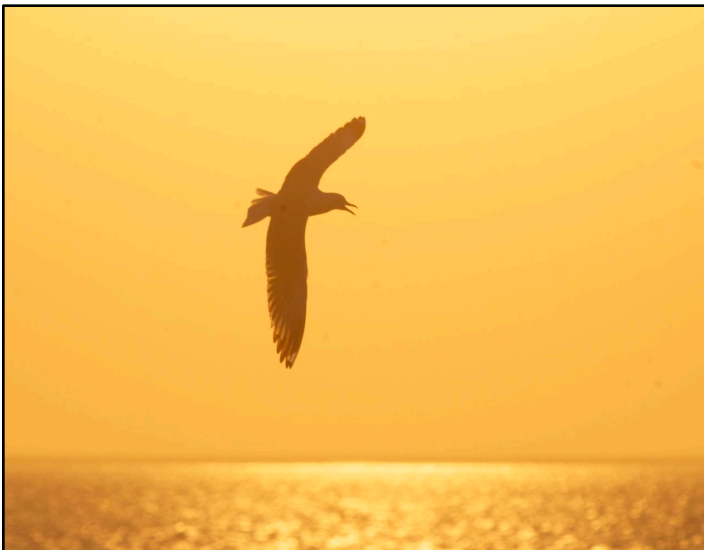
Littoral sights around Walvis Bay. The lighthouse (left) and a beautiful though doomed beached jellyfish (right).



Kayaks allow amazingly close encounters with Cape fur seals. Photo by Jeanne Meintjes.



A White-fronted Plover takes to the wing at the Walvis saltworks, a fantastic location for shorebirds.



Spring was in the air, and Hartlaub's Gulls (left) were aggressively defending their territories. On the tern front, we had Swift Tern (right) along with recently returned Damara Terns.



**Greater Flamingos at sunset in Walvis Bay.**



**Namibia is a land of contrasts. A couple of hours driving from Walvis brought us from salt water and dunes to the red rock and arid savanna woodland of Spitzkoppe.**



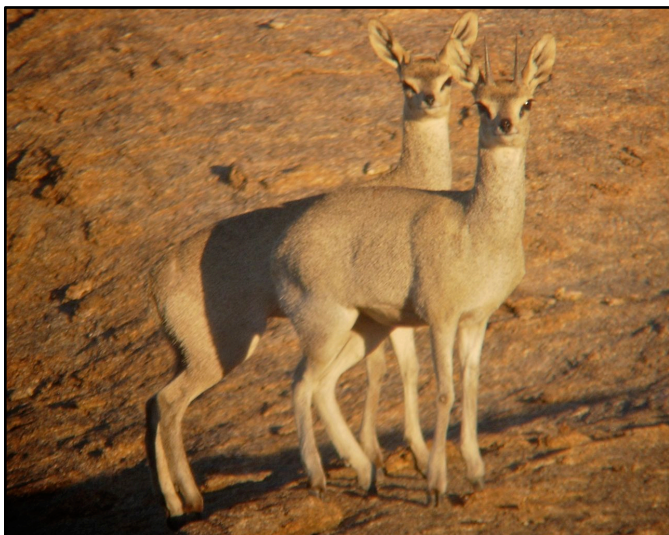
Two Namibian near-endemics that we found near Erongo: White-tailed Shrike (left) and Rockrunner (right).



The idyllic setting of Erongo Wilderness Lodge.



Near Erongo, we witnessed two bands of Violet Woodhoopoes facing off, an amazing experience.



The rocks of Erongo held klipspringer (left) and the scarce Hartlaub's Francolin (right).



White-throated Canary (left) came to the pool near our Twyfelfontein lodge's dining room, while Southern Yellow-billed Hornbills (right) were abundant in some nearby riparian habitat.



This is the famous 'lion man' rock engraving of Twyfelfontein. The lion has a fist at the tip of its tail, and probably represents someone in a trance.





**Another dining room with an amazing view, this time at our lodge near Twyfelfontein.**



**Black-faced Waxbill was a common sight from the balcony shown above.**



Purple Roller (left) and Southern White-faced Scops-Owl (right) were sighted near Twyfelfontein.



Welwitschia near Twyfelfontein: perhaps the strangest plant in the world; a relic of a past age.



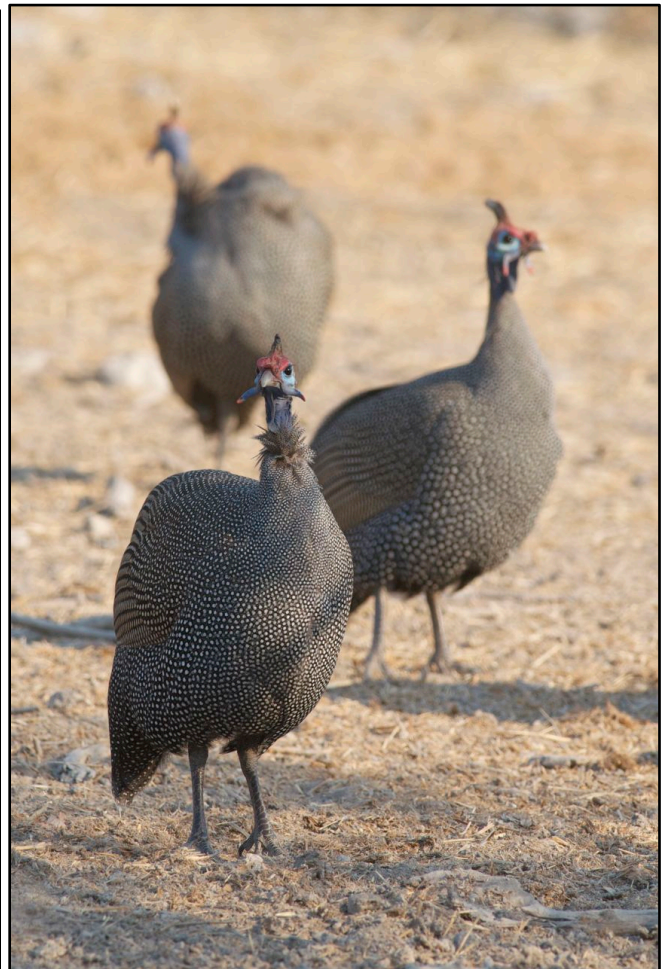
Hair and tail sweep back as a young warthog tries to keep up with its parent in the grasses of Etosha.



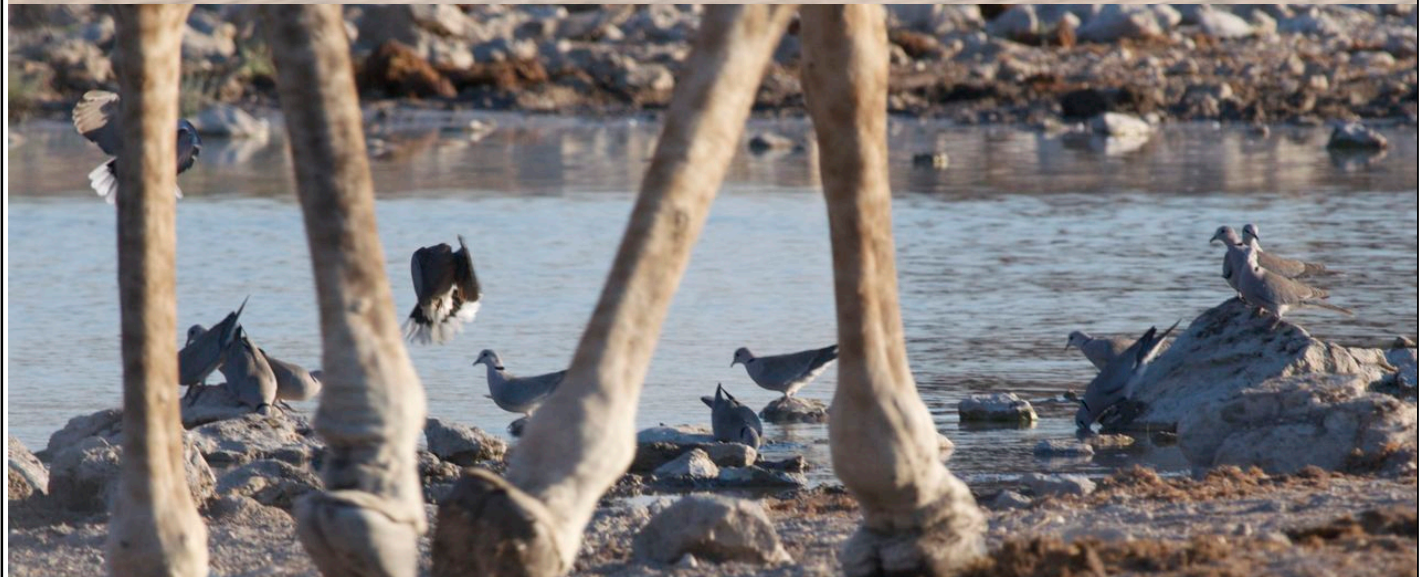
Crowned Lapwings (left) and Damara dik-dik (right) were common near our lodge on the eastern side of Etosha.



A typical Etosha waterhole sight: elephants and kudu shoulder to shoulder as queleas circle.



Gray Go-away-birds (left) and Helmeted Guineafowl (right) are both abundant in Etosha.



A stunning variety of sights greet a visitor to an Etosha waterhole: from Black-faced Babblers (top) to a rowdy herd of banded mongoose (middle) to Cape Turtle-Doves watering under a towering giraffe (bottom).



Southern Pale Chanting-Goshawk.



At this time of year *Acacia nebroni* dominates the landscape. This remarkable plant manages to bloom months before the rains, at a time when the landscape is otherwise barren.



*Acacia nebroni* provides a desperately needed and tasty food source for mammals late in the dry season, and is eaten by most of the herbivores in Etosha, such as springbok (left) and steenbok (right).



**Black rhinos munch *Acacia nebroni*... thorny stems and all.**



**Lions eat the *Acacia nebroni* eaters, which are easily hunted when they come to drink.**





There are birds in Etosha too... Golden-breasted Bunting (left) and Lappet-faced Vulture (right).



A roosting African Scops-Owl (left), and a pugnacious troop of White-crested Helmetshrikes (right).



The utterly unique and marvelous giraffe.



A Red-billed Francolin gets some air (left), while an Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove catches some sun (right).



In Etosha, we had both Dark (left) and Southern Pale (right) Chanting-Goshawks



Large flocks of Red-billed Queleas were present around most waterholes.



A Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill with the setting sun lighting up its semi-transparent bill.



Spotted Thick-knee (left) and black-backed jackal (right).



**Adult and young red hartebeest, one of the less common antelope species in Etosha.**



South African galagos, also known as bushbabies. We had an amazing diurnal sighting of these cute little primates at our lodge on the east side of Etosha.



The sun burns orange as it sinks into the Etosha dust.

## BIRD LIST

Based on *The Clements checklist of birds of the world: Version 6.4* (2009).

Southern Africa and Namibia / Angola shared endemics in **bold**  
Near endemics in *italics*

**H** = Heard only

**G** = Guide only

English Name	Scientific Name	
Common Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>	
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	
White-chinned Petrel	<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>	
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	
<i>Cape Gannet</i>	<i>Morus capensis</i>	
White-breasted Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	
<b>Cape Cormorant</b>	<b><i>Phalacrocorax capensis</i></b>	
African Darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>	
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	H
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	
Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus minor</i>	
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>	
<b>South African Shelduck</b>	<b><i>Tadorna cana</i></b>	
Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>	
Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>	
<i>Cape Shoveler</i>	<i>Anas smithii</i>	
Secretarybird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>	
White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>	
Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>	
White-headed Vulture	<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>	
Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	
Verreaux's Eagle	<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>	
Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>	
Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Aquila wahlbergi</i>	
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	
African Hawk-Eagle	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>	
Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>	
Black-chested Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>	
Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>	
Augur Buzzard	<i>Buteo augur</i>	
Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	
Gabar Goshawk	<i>Melierax gabar</i>	
<i>Southern Pale Chanting-Goshawk</i>	<i>Melierax canorus</i>	
Dark Chanting-Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>	
Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	
Red-necked Falcon	<i>Falco chicquera</i>	

Rock Kestrel	<i>Falcorupicolus</i>	
Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>	
African Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>	
Crested Francolin	<i>Francolinus sephaena</i>	
Red-billed Spurfowl	<i>Pternistes adspersus</i>	
<b>Hartlaub's Spurfowl</b>	<b><i>Pternistes hartlaubi</i></b>	
Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	
Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>	
Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>	
Ludwig's Bustard	<i>Neotis ludwigii</i>	
<b>Ruppell's Korhaan</b>	<b><i>Eupodotis rueppellii</i></b>	
<i>Red-crested Korhaan</i>	<i>Eupodotis ruficrista</i>	
<b>Northern Black Korhaan</b>	<b><i>Eupodotis afrooides</i></b>	
African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africana</i>	
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	
White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>	
Chestnut-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius pallidus</i>	
Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>	
Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>	
Crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>	
Blacksmith Lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>	
Common Sandpiper	<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>	
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	
Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>	
<i>Burchell's Courser</i>	<i>Cursorius rufus</i>	
Double-banded Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus africanus</i>	
Parasitic Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	
Kelp Gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	
<b>Hartlaub's Gull</b>	<b><i>Larus hartlaubii</i></b>	
Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	
Swift Tern	<i>Sterna bergii</i>	
Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	
Damara Tern	<i>Sterna balaenarum</i>	
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	
<i>Namaqua Sandgrouse</i>	<i>Pterocles namaqua</i>	
<b>Burchell's Sandgrouse</b>	<b><i>Pterocles burchelli</i></b>	
Double-banded Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles bicinctus</i>	
Rock (Feral) Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	
Cape Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	
Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>	



Emerald-spotted Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>	
Meyer's Parrot	<i>Poicephalus meyeri</i>	
<b>Ruppell's Parrot</b>	<b><i>Poicephalus rueppellii</i></b>	
<b>Rosy-faced Lovebird</b>	<b><i>Agapornis roseicollis</i></b>	
Grey Go-away Bird	<i>Corythaixoides concolor</i>	
African Scops-Owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>	
S. White-faced Scops Owl	<i>Otus leucotis</i>	
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>	
Fiery-necked Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus pectoralis</i>	
Freckled Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus tristigma</i>	
<i>Bradfield's Swift</i>	<i>Apus bradfieldi</i>	
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>	
African Palm-Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	
<b>White-backed Mousebird</b>	<b><i>Colius colius</i></b>	
Red-faced Mousebird	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>	H
Swallow-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundinaceus</i>	
Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudata</i>	
Purple (Rufous) Roller	<i>Coracias naevia</i>	
African Hoopoe	<i>Upupa africana</i>	H
<b>Violet Woodhoopoe</b>	<b><i>Phoeniculus damarensis</i></b>	
Common Scimitar-bill	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>	
African Grey Hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>	
Southern Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>	
<b>Damara Hornbill</b>	<b><i>Tockus damarensis</i></b>	
<i>Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill</i>	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>	
Monteiro's Hornbill	<i>Tockus monteiri</i>	
<i>Acacia Pied Barbet</i>	<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>	
Lesser Honeyguide	<i>Indicator minor</i>	G
Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>	
Bearded Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos namaquus</i>	
Fawn-colored Lark	<i>Calendulauda africanoides</i>	
<i>Sabota Lark</i>	<i>Mirafra sabota</i>	
<b>Karoo Long-billed Lark</b>	<b><i>Certhilauda subcoronata</i></b>	
<i>Benguela Long-billed Lark</i>	<i>Certhilauda benguelensis</i>	
<b>Dune Lark</b>	<b><i>Certhilauda erythrochlamys</i></b>	
<i>Spike-heeled Lark</i>	<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>	
Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>	
<i>Pink-billed Lark</i>	<i>Spizocorys conirostris</i>	
<b>Stark's Lark</b>	<b><i>Eremalauda starki</i></b>	
<b>Gray's Lark</b>	<b><i>Ammomanes grayi</i></b>	
<i>Grey-backed Sparrowlark</i>	<i>Eremopterix verticalis</i>	
Red-breasted Swallow	<i>Hirundo semirufa</i>	
Greater Striped-Swallow	<i>Hirundo cucullata</i>	
<b>South African Cliff Swallow</b>	<b><i>Petrochelidon spilodera</i></b>	
Rock Martin	<i>Hirundo fuligula</i>	
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>	
Cape Crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>	
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	
<i>Ashy Tit</i>	<i>Parus cinerascens</i>	
Southern Black Tit	<i>Parus niger</i>	
<b>Carp's Black Tit</b>	<b><i>Parus carpi</i></b>	

<i>Cape Penduline-Tit</i>	<i>Anthoscopus minutus</i>	
<i>Black-faced Babbler</i>	<i>Turdoides melanops</i>	
<b>Southern Pied Babbler</b>	<b><i>Turdoides bicolor</i></b>	
<b>Bare-cheeked Babbler</b>	<b><i>Turdoides gymnogenys</i></b>	
<i>African Red-eyed Bulbul</i>	<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>	
Groundscraper Thrush	<i>Psophocichla litsipsirupa</i>	
<i>Short-toed Rock-Thrush</i>	<i>Monticola brevipes</i>	
<i>Mountain Wheatear</i>	<i>Oenanthe monticola</i>	
Capped Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>	
Familiar Chat	<i>Cercomela familiaris</i>	
<b>Tractrac Chat</b>	<b><i>Cercomela tractrac</i></b>	
<b>Karoo Chat</b>	<b><i>Cercomela schlegelii</i></b>	
<b>Anteating Chat</b>	<b><i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i></b>	
White-browed Scrub-Robin	<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>	
<i>Kalahari Scrub-Robin</i>	<i>Cercotrichas paena</i>	
<b>Herero Chat</b>	<b><i>Namibornis herero</i></b>	
<i>Chestnut-vented Titbabbler</i>	<i>Sylvia subcaeruleum</i>	
Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>	
Long-billed (Cape) Crombec	<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>	
Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>	
Grey-backed Cameroptera	<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>	
<i>Barred Wren Warbler</i>	<i>Calamonastes fasciolatus</i>	
<b>Rockrunner</b>	<b><i>Achaetops pycnopygius</i></b>	
Desert Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aridulus</i>	
Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chinianus</i>	
Black-chested Prinia	<i>Prinia flavicans</i>	
<i>Marico Flycatcher</i>	<i>Bradornis mariquensis</i>	
<i>Chat Flycatcher</i>	<i>Bradornis infuscatus</i>	
Chinspot Batis	<i>Batis molitor</i>	
<i>Pirit Batis</i>	<i>Batis pirit</i>	
Cape Wagtail	<i>Motacilla capensis</i>	
African Grassveld Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>	
Long-billed Pipit	<i>Anthus similis</i>	
Common Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>	
<i>Crimson-breasted Shrike</i>	<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>	
Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>	
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>	
Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>	
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegala</i>	
<b>Bokmakierie</b>	<b><i>Telophorus zeylonus</i></b>	
<b>White-tailed Shrike</b>	<b><i>Lanioturdus torquatus</i></b>	
White-crested Helmetshrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>	
Southern White-crowned Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus anguitemens</i>	
<i>Burchell's Starling</i>	<i>Lamprotornis australis</i>	
Cape Glossy Starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>	
Greater Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>	
Pale-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus naboroupp</i>	
Marico Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia mariquensis</i>	
White-bellied Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia talatala</i>	
<i>Dusky Sunbird</i>	<i>Nectarinia fusca</i>	
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia senegalensis</i>	
<b>Orange River White-eye</b>	<b><i>Zosterops capensis</i></b>	

Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>	
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>	
<b>Sociable Weaver</b>	<b><i>Philetairus socius</i></b>	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	
<i>Great Sparrow</i>	<i>Passer motitensis</i>	
<i>Cape Sparrow</i>	<i>Passer melanurus</i>	
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer diffusus</i>	
<i>Scaly-feathered Finch</i>	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>	
Southern Masked-Weaver	<i>Ploceus velatus</i>	
Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>	
Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>	
Blue Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>	
Violet-eared Waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus granatina</i>	
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>	
Black-faced Waxbill	<i>Estrilda erythronotos</i>	
<b>Red-headed Finch</b>	<b><i>Amadina erythrocephala</i></b>	
Long-tailed Paradise-Whydah	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>	
Black-throated Canary	<i>Serinus atrogularis</i>	
<i>Yellow Canary</i>	<i>Serinus flaviventris</i>	
<i>White-throated Canary</i>	<i>Serinus albogularis</i>	
Golden-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>	
<i>Cape Bunting</i>	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>	
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>	
<i>Lark-like Bunting</i>	<i>Emberiza impetuani</i>	



Southern Pied Babbler can be tough to find, but we saw many on this trip.

## MAMMAL LIST

This list follows *The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals* (2003) by Jonathan Kingdon.

English Name	Scientific Name
Striped Mouse (Four-striped)	<i>Rhabdomys pumilio</i>
South African Porcupine	<i>Hystrix africaeaustralis</i>
Dassie Rat	<i>Petromus typicus</i>
Cape Fur Seal	<i>Actophilornis pusillus</i>
Common Bottlenose Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>
Heaviside's Dolphin	<i>Cephalorhynchus heavisidii</i>
Chacma Baboon	<i>Papio ursinus</i>
South African Galago	<i>Galago moholi</i>
Mountain Squirrel (Damara)	<i>Xerus princeps</i>
Tree Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>
Scrub Hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i>
Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>
Spotted Hyaena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>
Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>
Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>
Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>
Giraffe	<i>Camelopardus giraffa</i>
Burchell's Zebra	<i>Equus burchelli</i>
Hartmann's Mountain Zebra	<i>Equus hartmannae</i>
Black Rhino	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>
Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>
Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>
Gemsbok (Southern Oryx)	<i>Oryx gazella</i>
Springbok	<i>Antidorcas marsupialis</i>
Eland	<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>
Duiker	<i>Cephalophus harveyi</i>
Steenbuck	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>
Klipspringer	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>
Damara Dikdik	<i>Madoqua kirkii</i>
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>
Red Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>
Blue Wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>
Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguinea</i>
Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>
Yellow Mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>



Lion and acacia tree, icons of the African savanna.