

Total kilometers travelled: 2536

Total bird species: 328

Total mammal species: 41

Total reptile species: 13

Saturday, 26 February

Neil and Robbie met the group at the Windhoek International airport. We left the airport before 15:00 after some people exchanged some currency to local Namibian dollars. We explained that the day would be a traveling day. Numerous birds along the roadside en route to Waterberg Platue Park. Tawny Eagle, Monteiro's Hornbill, Yellow billed and Black shouldered Kites, numerous Steppe Buzzards, Eurasian Bee-eaters, Cape Turtle, Laughing and Namaqua Dove. Lilac breasted, Eurasian and Purple Roller. We all had a good meal at the Waterberg restaurant and retired to our rooms. (320 km's)

Sunday, 27 February

We had a very successful morning walk and then continued on to breakfast. Birds that were seen in the walk included Yellow billed Hornbill, Grey, Monteiros and Bradfield's Hornbills, Ruppels Parrot, Paradise Flycatcher, Violet Wood hoopoe, stunning views of Rockrunner, Scarlet chested, Marico, White bellied and Dusky Sunbirds. We then drove off to Etosha, Halali. En-route we saw Tawny Eagle, Steppe Buzzard, Seceretary bird, Northern Black Korhaan and Kori Bustard. Mammals included Springbok, Burchell's Zebra, Greater Kudu, Steenbok, Southern Giraffe, Gemsbok, Wildebeest, Black faced Impala, Red Hartebeest as well as Klipspringer in Waterberg before we left. Inside the park we all had excellent views of Rufous eared Warbler, Red footed Kestrel, African Hobby, Pale Chanting Goshawk, Greater Kestrel, Red necked and Lanner Falcon. It started raining around 6pm, just before we reached Halali. (310 km's)

Monday, 28 February

Breakfast at 07:00, morning game drive at 08:00 till 12:00. The day started off with good views of Springbok, Red Hartebeest, Black faced Impala, Steenbok and Gemsbok. Birds included, Brown Snake eagle, Rock Kestrel, Pale Chanting Goshawk, Chestnut banded plover, Kitlitz plover, Cape and Red billed Teal, Sabota's, Red capped and Rufous naped larks. We were treated to a very nice White faced scops owl that was perched in a Mopane tree in the Halai camp grounds. The afternoon game drive included a sighting of a black rhinoceros, about 200 Abdims Storks as well as a group of around 2000 Springbok. (110 km's)

Tuesday, 1 March

Game drive at sunrise. We had a very successful morning with good views of several Hyenas as well as a male lion that had just killed a Black faced Impala ram. Other mammals included, Red Hartebeest, Springbok, Oryx, Greater Kudu, Black faced Impala and Yellow Mongoose. Birds seen included Glossy Ibis, Ostrich, White Storks, Eurasian Bee-eaters, Brown hooded Kingfisher, Western red footed and Greater Kestrel, Tawny

Eagle and a very nice sighting of three Pale Chanting Goshawks. Gabar Goshawk, Shikra and several Lark species were also seen. We also found an African Scops owl just after breakfast.

The afternoon game drive started at 16:00. Lion, Hyena, Black faced Impala, Steenbok, Banded Mongoose were some of the mammals seen. Birds included African Hawk Eagle, Grey, Damara and Yellow-billed Hornbills, Pearl spotted Owl, Longbilled Crombec, Swainsons Francolin, White crowned and White helmet Shrikes, Namaqua and Cape turtle Doves. We had good views of Marsh Terrapin, Flap necked Chameleon and Etosha Agama.

(131 km's)

Wednesday, 2 March

We packed our bags and left Halali after breakfast. We traveled via most of the waterholes along the route to Namutoni and arrived at the camp at mid-day, in time for lunch. Birds en route: Blue Crane, Secretary Bird, Bateleur, Tawny Eagle, Steppe Buzzard, White backed and Lapped faced Vultures, Pale chanting and Gabar Goshawk, Western red footed Kestrel, Sabota's, Rufous naped and Red capped Larks, Red billed and Swainson's Francolin, Striped Kingfisher, Three streaked Tchagra, Northern Black and Red crested Korhaan, Red billed and Cape Teal, African Spoonbil, Yellow-billed and little Egret, Grey Heron, Macoa duck, Southern Potchard and Cape Shovellers, Greenshank, Marsh, Common and Wood Sandpipers, Ruff, Three banded and Kitlitz plovers, Blacksmith and Crowned Lapwings. Mammals en-route included, Blue Wildebeest, Red hartebeest, Springbok, Zebra, Gemsbok, Greater kudu, Southern Giraffe. The highlight of the day was a sighting of a Cheetah with a cub seen close to the road lying under an Acacia. We left the park at 16:30 and continued our journey to !Uris Lodge. Just before the lodge we had Red, Damara and Yellow-billed Hornbills, Ashy and Carp's Tit, Paradise and Shaft tailed Wydah's, Willow Warbler and Green winged Pitylia. (270 km's)

Thursday, 3 March

Coffee and tea @ 07:00. Birdwalk around the grounds and what an exciting morning it turned out to be! Good views for the whole group of Bare cheeked Babbler, Carp's Tit, Grey go away bird, Red eyed Bulbul, Spotted Flycatcher, Pearl spotted Owlet, Green winged Pitylia, Ashy Tit, Violet eared and Blue Waxbills, Paradise and Shaft tailed Wydah's. We had breakfast and started with our long drive to Kaisosi River Lodge lodge near Rundu. We had a quick stop at Rundu, Painted Snipe, Common and Wood Sandpipers, Jacobon Cuckoo, Wahlberg's Eagle and Steppe Buzzard were seen along the road. We stopped near Rundu and drove off into the bush to an area that was know to the guides to look for Rufous bellied Tit. We had excellent views of the following birds: Black Sunbird, White Yellow White eye, Yellow eyed Canaries, Blue and Violet eared Waxbills, Violet backed Starling, Golden breasted Bunting, Pale (mouse coloured) Flycatcher. The water works at Rundu was exciting with good views of Black Heron, Little Egret, Cattle Egret, Rufous bellied Heron, African Jacana, Common Sandpiper, Green backed Heron, Hottentot teal, Cape teal, Red Bishop, Pied Kingfisher, Village Indigo bird, Cut-throat Finch, Little and Blue cheeked Bee-eaters, Coppery tailed Coucal,

White crowned, Red backed, Lesser grey and Magpie shrikes, Red eyed, Cape turtle, Laughing and Namaqua Doves, Open billed Stork and Reed Cormorants. Arrived at Kaisosi Lodge at 18:00 and received a welcome drink and the good news that we were having a braai for dinner! All checked into our rooms and gathered at the main building on the riverside deck for 19:30. A great day with a great ending on the banks of the Kavango River, looking over Angola for sunset (370 km's)

Friday, 4 March

Coffee @ 06:30 with a short stroll on the property. Giant and Woodland Kingfishers, Reed Cormorants, Yellow-billed and Cattle Egrets, Rufous bellied and Green backed Herons, Village Weavers, Open billed Storks, Swamp Bou-bou, Hartlaub's Babblers, Osprey and Black Crake. Other birds seen along the road to Mahango Safari Lodge included, Kurrichane Thrush, Black faced Babblers, Blue cheeked, Carmine and Little Bee-Eaters, Magpie, White crowned and Red backed Shrikes, Yellow billed Kites, Dark Chanting and Gabar Goshawk, Steppe Buzzards, Black Herons, Red billed and Cape Teal, Common Moorhen, African Jacana, Lesser Moorhen, Wood, Common and Marsh Sandpipers, Golden weaver, Malachite and Pied Kingfishers, Red billed Oxpecker, African pied Wagtail, White fronted Bee-eaters, Red faced Mousebirds, Coppery tailed Coucal. We arrived at Mahango Safari Lodge at 16:00, after having lunch at Poppa Falls. Late afternoon we did a bird walk on the property covering three different habitats. Purple Banded Sunbird, Common Sandpiper, Greenbacked and Squaco Heron, Northern Grey-Headed Sparrow, Black Cuckoo, Open-Billed Stork, Meyer's Parrot, Long-Tailed- & Burchells Starling, Coppery Tailed Coucal, Pin tailed Wydah, Brown fire Finch, Water Thick-knee, Stone Chat, Pied and woodland Kingfisher, White faced duck, Pygmy Geese, Golden and Spectacled Weaver and Terrestrial Brownbul. We also saw some Hippo in the river from the wooden deck. Dinner was served on the deck, overlooking the Okovango River. (250 km's)

Saturday, 5 March

An early morning start (06:00) to be at the entrance of Mahango Game Reserve. We entered the park just after sunrise and the first mammal for the day was Impala, followed by Red lechwe, Zebra, Blue Wildebeest, Southern Giraffe, Roan Antelope, Sable Antelope, Waterbuck, Hippopotamus, Greater Kudu, Warthog, Chacma Baboons and Vervet Monkeys. Birds seen on the morning drive included, Saddle-billed Stork, Blue Grey flycatcher, Luapula Cisticola, African Pipit, Pygmy Goose, Spurwinged Goose, Rattling and Tinkling Cisticola's, Golden Weavers, African fish Eagle, Wahlberg's Eagle, Pied, Giant, Woodland and Grey hooded Kingfishers, Blacksmith and Wattled Lapwings, Hammerkop, Red backed and Crimson breasted Shrikes, Dark Chanting Goshawk, Yellow-billed, Great white, Cattle and Little Egrets, Green backed and Squaco Herons, Open billed Storks, Yellow-billed and Red-billed Oxpeckers. We returned to the lodge for a late breakfast at 09:30. Lunch was served on the deck at 13:00 and we departed to Mahangu Park (Bwabwata National Park) at 15:00 for another game drive. New birds seen were Black Tit, Marico Sunbird, Slaty Egret, Black Cuckoo Shrike, Orange breasted Bush Shrike, Yellow breasted Apalis, African Crake. We also had good views of African Rock Python, Leopard Tortoise and Kalahari Tortoise. (80 km's)

Sunday, 6 March

Breakfast at 07:00. Depart to Botswana via Shakawe arriving at the lodge for lunch.

The early morning treated us to excellent views of 2 Lesser Jacana's as we left Mahangu Safari Lodge. Yellow fronted Tinkerbird, Arrow marked Babblers, White browed Scrub Robin, White browed Robin Chat, White bellied, Scarlet chested and Marico Sunbirds, Black collared barbet, Lesser striped and Grey rumped Swallows, Bataleur, Martial and Lesser spotted Eagles, Black chested snake Eagle. African Oriole, Green winged Pytilia, White fronted, Little and Carmine Bee-eaters, Woodland, Giant and Pied Kingfishers, Magpie shrike, Lilac breasted and Thick billed Rollers, Impala, Reedbuck and Bushbuck were the only mammals of the morning. Afternoon boat trip delivered Fish Eagle, Osprey, Black shouldered Kite, African Marsh Harrier, Black Crake, White winged and Fantailed Widow birds, Golden weaver, Coppery tailed coucal, White fronted, Little and Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters, Pied and Malachite Kingfishers. The highlight of the day was the absolute brilliant views we had of the Pel's Fishing Owl. A thundershower was building up and we decided to head back to the lodge. We met at 19:00 to do the checklist and had our dinner.

(50 km's)

Monday, 7 March

Early morning bird walk at 06:30 followed by breakfast on the banks of the Okavango River. We hoped to see Narina Trogon and Wood Owl but had no luck. We did however have great views of Bushbuck, Collared sunbird, Green pigeon, Hartlaub's babbler, Little Sparrowhawk and Paradise Flycatcher. We leave @ 09:00 and see Woodland and Pied Kingfishers, Martial Eagle, Brown snake Eagle, Wahlberg's Eagle, Bataleur and Tawny eagle, Shikra, Dark chanting Goshawk, Steppe Buzzard, African Golden Oriole, Carmine, Little and Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters, Pygmy Goose, Red Bishop, Golden Weaver, Purple and Lilac breasted Rollers, Red billed, Yellow billed and Bradfield's hornbills, Magpie, Lesser grey and Red backed Shrikes, Red crested Korhaan, Yellow billed Kite, Grey go-away bird, Tawney flanked Prinia, Lesser striped, Eurasian and Grey rumped Swallows. We filled up the vehicles at Divundu and took the long straight road to Katima Mulilo. We had a picnic lunch at Bum hill. Arrived at Katima Mulilo and checked in at Zambezi River lodge at 17:00.

(380 km's)

Tuesday, 8 March

The group met at 6:30 for a pre-breakfast walk. We had good views of Bronze Manikin, Hammerkop, Black eyed Bulbul, Giant Kingfisher, Collared and Shelley's Sunbird, White crowned Lapwing, Northern grey headed Sparrow. The group had breakfast at 08:00 and we left Zambezi River Lodge at 09:30. We received good news that Schalow's Turaco was seen and photographed by one of the clients.

En route to the Mohembo borderpost we saw several Bataleur, Wahlbergs Eagle, Dark chanting Goshawk, Martial Eagle, Steppe Buzzard, Yellow billed Kite, Lilac breasted, Purple and Thick billed Roller, Yellow billed, Red and Bradfield's Hornbill, Red billed buffalo Weavers, Magpie Shrike, Green Wood-hoopoe, Brown hooded and woodland Kingfisher and several Flapped necked Cameleon's. Just after exiting Namibia we saw a

group of about 50 Black Herons, all feeding together, Little, Yellow billed, Great white and Cattle Egrets. We also saw our first Elephants, a herd of about 20 come down to the water for a drink as well as a single Cape buffalo. Entering Botswana we saw a herd of 30 Sable Antelope, Warthog, Impala, Chacma Baboons, Vervet Monkeys and Southern Giraffe. We had a group of 5 Ground Hornbills feeding next to the road and stunning views for both vehicles. More Bataleur were seen as well as a good fly by view of a Martial Eagle. We arrived at our lodge for lunch. An optional game drive into Chobe National Park was done by 6 clients. The remainder of the group went on a nature drive with the guides through Kasane and the surrounding area. We saw a herd of 50 Elephants. At one stage we were surrounded by the Elephants and they were only a few meters away from our vehicle. We spent about an hour with the elephant herd. Warthog, Chacma Baboon, Vervet Monkey, Impala and Tree Squirrel was also seen. Great views of a Black Heron "hunting" with its typical and unique umbrella method. Other birds included African Spoonbill, Sacred Ibis, Kitlitz Plover, Great white, Little and Cattle Egrets, Comb billed Duck, Egyptian and Spur winged Geese, Jameson's fire Finch, Lesser masked and Golden Weaver, White winged Widow bird, Levaillant's Cuckoo, Green Wood-Hoopoe, Southern grey headed Sparrow, African Jacana, Hartlaub's and Arrow marked Babblers, Red faced Mousebirds, African Paradise Flycatcher, African Fish Eagle, Marabou and Open billed Storks, Shelly's, Scarlet chested and Collared Sunbirds, Green winged Pytilia. The clients that went on the game drive arrived back at the lodge at 19:10. We all met for dinner at 20:00. The game drive group managed to add Puku antelope, Yellow wagtail as well as Yellow billed stork to the checklist. They had a great experience with over 200 Elephants.

(140 km's)

Wednesday, 9 March

Breakfast was served at 07:00. Our morning boat cruise into Chobe National Park started at 08:00 departing from the lodge. We had a good start to the morning with brilliant views of Yellow, Cape and Pied Wagtails, Thick billed and Lilac breasted Rollers, Grey hooded, Pied, Woodland, Giant and Malachite Kingfishers, Black throated Canary, Spectacled Weaver, Reed Cormorants, Darter, Pygmy Geese, Egyptian Geese, Open billed Stork, African Fish Eagle, Marabou Storks, Ground Hornbill, Blue cheeked, White fronted and Carmine Bee Eaters. Water Thick knee, White crowned Lapwings, Violet back Starling, Red bishop and Fan tailed Widowbirds were seen very close to our boat. Other waders included Wood and Common Sandpipers, Ruff and Blacksmith Lapwings. We also had close range views of Impala, Greater Kudu, Hippo, Chacma Baboons, Vervet Monkeys, Puku and a herd of about 20 African Elephants came down to the river to have a drink. We were only a couple of meters away from the elephants in the safety from our boat. What a wonderful experience to be facing the drinking elephants at ground or water level! Water Monitor and numerous Nile Crocodiles were also seen. The group met at the foyer at 15:20 for another afternoon boat cruise into the Chobe park. More Elephants were seen and they treated us with excellent views and photo opportunities while they were drinking water and bathing. Greater Kudu, Waterbuck and Impala were also seen. Both Water Monitors and Nile crocodile were seen again. Birds seen in the afternoon included Black crowned night Heron, Tawny-Flanked Prinia, Brown-Hooded

Kingfisher, Cattle, Little, and Yellow billed Egrets, Open-Billed Stork, Blacksmith & White Crowned Lapwings, Water Thick-Knee, Hartlaub's Babblers.

We took a lot of pictures of White-Fronted Bee-Eaters at their nesting site in an embankment. Blue-Cheeked Bee-Eaters, African Stone Chats, Wire-tailed Swallows were flying all around us and occasionally settled on our boat for great and close up views. A beautiful sky with an even more beautiful rainbow was seen as we drove back to our lodge. The group met at 19:45 to do our checklist and to have a real African buffet dinner.

Thursday, 10 March

We had breakfast at 07:00 and did a bird walk within the property at 08:00. We departed after breakfast for Zambia. We crossed the border/river by ferry from Botswana to Zambia. After lunch we visited one of the Seven Wonders of the World – Victoria Falls. Although the river is much higher than normal, we experienced the Zambezi in full force! We had excellent views of the falls, whilst getting totally soaked from the spray. New birds for our list was Golden tailed Woodpecker, Crested Barbet, Red winged Starling and Trumpeter hornbill. (120 km's)

Friday, 11 March

Before breakfast some people were on the wooden deck overlooking the Maramba River and we added White browed Coucal and Red billed helmet Shrikes to our list. After breakfast, we traveled to the Victoria falls area and did a very nice bird walk on the Victoria falls hotel premises. We saw Yellow breasted Apalis, Village Weavers, Open billed Stork, Terrestrial Brownbul, Booted Eagle, Hooded Vulture, White backed Vultures. A drive to the local "ponds" produced Little, Cattle and Yellow billed Egrets, Black headed and Grey herons, Sacred Ibis, African Jacana, Long toed, Black smith and White crowned Lapwings, Common Moorhen and Paradise Wych. After lunch we did a sunset cruise on the Zambezi River. Hippopotamus, Nile crocodile, Hadeda ibis, Water Thick-knee, Common and Wood Sandpipers, Open billed Storks and Wire tailed Swallows. We ended our boat cruise on a high with extremely good views of 2 African Finfoot. We had dinner on the boat as the African sun was setting over the mighty Zambezi River.

Saturday, 12 March

We had breakfast at 08:00 and left the lodge at 09:30. A visit to the Livingstone museum before we made our way to the airport.

On behalf of Robbie and myself, I would like to thank each and every-one for their input and for making this safari a wonderful experience and a great trip!

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