

Namibia and Kgalagadi Transfrontier National Park

24 July – 26 August 2010

Steve Babbs

I've produced this list of mammals seen in the hope it will be of some use to others. It's worth noting that this was not an intense mammal 'collecting' trip. I'm also a birder and I was with my wife (who is interested, but far from fanatical) and children, which meant not every minute was spent looking for wildlife. They were fairly tolerant though and my five year old daughter now has a cat list of five. For three weeks we also teamed up with a birding (but not really into mammals) friend and his wife and son. Also I never intended to produce this list so it has been done from going through my notes. I probably forgot to write some of the commoner things down as this is was my third trip to southern Africa and I've got a bit blasé about some of the birds and mammals.

If you want more information please don't hesitate to contact me:

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Some pictures can be found on my website:

<http://stevebabbs.webs.com/southernafrica2010.htm>

To save money, we flew to Johannesburg, with Egypt Air and then drove to Namibia. This saved us about £1000 and enabled us to have a few days in Cairo on the return trip. It was a long drive but not much longer than some we did during the main part of the trip. The trans-Kalahari highway is almost empty and straight; this sounds great but makes it unbelievably boring and staying awake was a problem.

Itinerary:

24/7 – arrive J'burg drive to Kanye, Botswana

25/7 – drive to Gobais, Botswana

26/7 Drive to Waterberg

27 – 28/7 Waterberg

29/7 Drive to Etosha

30/7 – 2/8 Etosha

3/8 Drive to Ruacana

4/8 Ruacana

5/8 Drive to Hobatere

6/8 Drive to Walvis Bay

7/8 Walvis Bay

8/8 Walvis Bay

9/8 drive to Spitzkoppe

10/8 Drive to Uis

11/8 Drive to Hentis Bay, visit Cape Cross

12/8 Drive to Gross Barmen Hot Springs

13/8 Gross Barmen Hot Springs

14/8 Drive to Hardap Dam

15/8 Hardap Dam

16/8 Drive to Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park

17-22/8 Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park

23/8 Head to J'Burg, with over night stops at Upington and Barberspan

Chacma Baboon – Kanye Botswana, common Gross Barmen Hot Springs
Vervet Monkey – Ruacana falls
Cape Hare – night drive Twin Rivieren. Kgalagadi
Scrub Hare – Waterberg
South African Ground-squirrel – common and widespread
Tree (Smith’s Bush) Squirrel - Halali, Etosha
Congo rope squirrel – Ruacana falls
Spring Hare – 2+ seen on sunset drive from Mata Mata and seen on night drive Twin Rivieren
Black-backed Jackal – common Etosha and Kgalagadi
Bat-eared Fox - 4+ seen on sunset drive from Mata Mata, Kgalagadi 6+ on night drive Twin Rivieren, Kgalagadi
Honey Badger – 2 Halali, Etosha, listen for bins being over-turned
Banded Mongoose – common Waterberg, especially around restaurant, Etosha
Black Mongoose – small group seen around restaurant at Waterberg
Yellow Mongoose – common at Hardap Dam and Kgalagadi
Slender Mongoose – several around Waterberg, Kgalagadi
Spotted Hyena – paced up and down outside Mata Mata campsite, Kgalagadi NP
Small Spotted Genet – night drive Twin Rivieren
African Wildcat – 5 sightings at Kgalagadi
Caracal – 1 gave superb views at the Dertiende Boorgat waterhole, Kgalagadi
Lion – 3 seen Etosha, heard Hobatere, 8 seen Kgalagadi
Cheetah – 3 Gemsbokptein waterhole, Kgalagadi, 1 seen at same place plus another sighting near Twin Rivieren
Leopard – ad with cub near Twin Rivieren, Kgalagadi
Elephant Shrew sp., rather frustrating, brief views at Spitzkoppe and in a dry river valley north of Uis
Rock Hyrax – common Waterberg and abundant at Hardap Dam
Elephant – fairly common etosha
Common Zebra – very common Etosha
Mountain zebra – c.20 Hobatere
Black Rhino – max of 7 at Okaukuejo waterhole, Etosha, 1 Halali
Warthog – common on approach roads to Waterberg, only 2 Etosha
Giraffe – f. common Etosha, 1 seen Kgalagadi (where it has been introduced)
Kudu – f common Etosha, Hobatere
Steenbok – a few Etosha, scattered individuals around the country and Kgalagadi
Klipspringer - 3 Sptizkoppe
Damara Dik-dik – a few at Waterberg, Naumutoni, Etosha
(‘black-faced’) Impala – common Etosha
Hartebeest – group of 20 between Halali and Naumtoni, Etosha
Blue Wildebeest – common Etosha and
Gemsbok – common in reserves
Springbok – common in reserves
Bottle-nosed Dolphin – 2 boat trip from Walvis Bay
Cape Fur Seal – common Walvis Bay, hundreds at Cape Cross colony
Heaviside Dolphin – at least 2 seen from Boat trip, Walvis Bay
Southern Right Whale – dead Walvis Bay