

# Kalahari Raptors - Identification Sheet

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## RAPTOR I.D. SHEET

The most common raptors found on/around the reserve are shown with simplified markings as viewed from a distance/underneath.

DF = Distinctive features  
 FA = Flight aspect  
 CW = Commonly confused with ...  
 CMR = Common meerkat reaction

(largest → smallest + codes)

### ① LAPPET FACED VULTURE (LFV)



DF: BLACK BODY/WINGS, DISTINCT WHITE 'V' ON BODY, SHORT TAIL  
 FA: VISUALLY IN PAIRS  
 CW: N/A  
 SIZE: HUGE 115 CM  
 CMR: JUMPY, ALARM BUT RARELY GO BELOW, MAY MOVE TO BOLT HOLE

### ② WHITE BACKED VULTURE (WBV)



DF: BLACK FLIGHT FEATHERS, WHITE UNDERWING COVERTS - HIGH CONTRAST  
 FA: SOARS  
 CW: JUV. MARTIAL EAGLE  
 SIZE: BIG 90-98 CM  
 CMR: SMALL ONES ALARM AND LOOK BELIEFLY

### ③ MARTIAL EAGLE (MRE)



DF: BLACK HEAD, WHITE BODY, DARK BROWN WINGS  
 FA: V. HIGH, SOARS - NO FLAPPING  
 CW: BOB OR JUV. HAKES LIKE WBV  
 SIZE: BIG 78-83 CM  
 CMR: SHIT A BRICK AND BARK FROM BH

### ④ BROWN SNAKE EAGLE (BSE)



DF: DARK HEAD/BODY AND UNDERWING COVERTS  
 TAIL HAS FOUR CLEAR BANDS, CARE  
 FA: CAN HOVER BALANCELY  
 CW: N/A  
 SIZE: MED/LARGE 71-6 CM  
 CMR: QUITE SCARED BUT RELAX QUICKLY

### ⑤ TAWNY EAGLE (TAE)



DF: DARK BROWN, BLACK WING-TIPS, SML WHITE AREAS  
 FA: SOARS AT HEIGHT, OFTEN SEEN ON POSTS/TREES  
 CW: SCOPPE BUZZARD (BUT STB MUCH SMALLER)  
 SIZE: M/BIG 65-72 CM  
 CMR: SHIT A PEBBLE AND BARK FROM BH

### ⑥ BLACK BREASTED SNAKE EAGLE (BBSE)



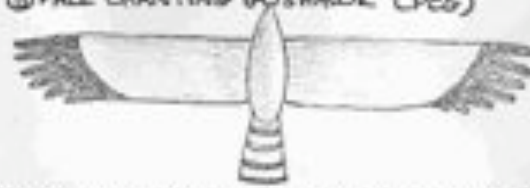
DF: USUALLY ONLY SEE BLACK HEAD + WHITE BODY  
 FA: FLIES HIGH  
 SIZE: M/BIG 65-8 CM  
 CMR: V. SCARED AND WATCH FROM BH

⑧ GATELEUR (BWT)



DF: STRONG BLACK/WHITE CONTRAST, VERY CHORE  
TAIL + BODY, RED BEAK + LEGS  
A: ACROBATIC FLIGHT OR FAST LOW CRUISE  
CW: UNMISTAKABLE  
SIZE: 55 - 70 cm  
MR: MOVE TO BH OR STAND AND WATCH

⑨ PALE CHANTING GOSHAWK (PCG)



DF: PALE GREY WITH BLACK WINGTIPS, BANDED  
TAIL, WINGS LOOK PLANKLIKE, WHITE PATCH  
FA: BIG FLAPPING MOTION WITH LONG WINGS  
CW: BSK POSSIBLY  
SIZE: 53 - 63 cm  
MR: GROWL AND MOVE TO BH OR PUPE

⑩ BLACK KITE (BLK)



DF: GENERALLY APPEARS BLACK WITH FORKED TAIL  
FA: WINGS ANGLED BACK IN FLIGHT, FLAPPY F.A.  
CW: YELLOW BILLED KITE (BUT THIS HAS, QUEST WHT...)  
SIZE: 55 cm  
MR: MEERKATS NERVOUS

⑪ STEPPE BUZZARD (STB)



DF: BLACK FLIGHT FEATHERS, BROWN BROWN  
STREAKS, WHITE PATCHES  
FA: CRUISES 100 - 300 m  
CW: 2v BSK BUT BSK HAS BANDED TAIL  
SIZE: 45 - 50 cm  
MR: AS FOR TAW

⑫ LANNER FALCON (LAF)



DF: APPEARS BROWN/BROWN ALONG UNDERNEATH  
BANES MOST VISIBLE ON TAIL  
FA: FLIES LOW 50 - 100 m, FAST FLAPS + GLIDES  
CW: PEREGRINE FALCON  
SIZE: 40 - 5 cm  
MR: MEERKATS WATCH/GROWL

⑬ BLACK SHOULDERS KITE (BSK)



DF: WHITE UNDERPARTS, BLACK WING TIPS  
FA: WINGS ANGLED FORWARD, FAST, WENES.  
CW: PCG  
SIZE: 35 cm  
MR: MEERKATS THINK IT'S A PCG

⑭ GABAR GOSHAWK (GAG)



DF: LOTS OF BANES OVER PALE WHITE BODY  
GREY THROAT/BREAST, WHITE RUMP  
SHORT STUMPY WINGS  
A: HUNTS IN LOW FLIGHT  
CW: PCG - HAS SIMILAR TAIL RUMP  
MR: WATCH

FURTHER DETAIL/INFO CAN BE FOUND  
IN BASH FIELD GUIDE OR  
NEWMAN'S BIRDS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA OR  
IN TOM'S BRAIN.

