



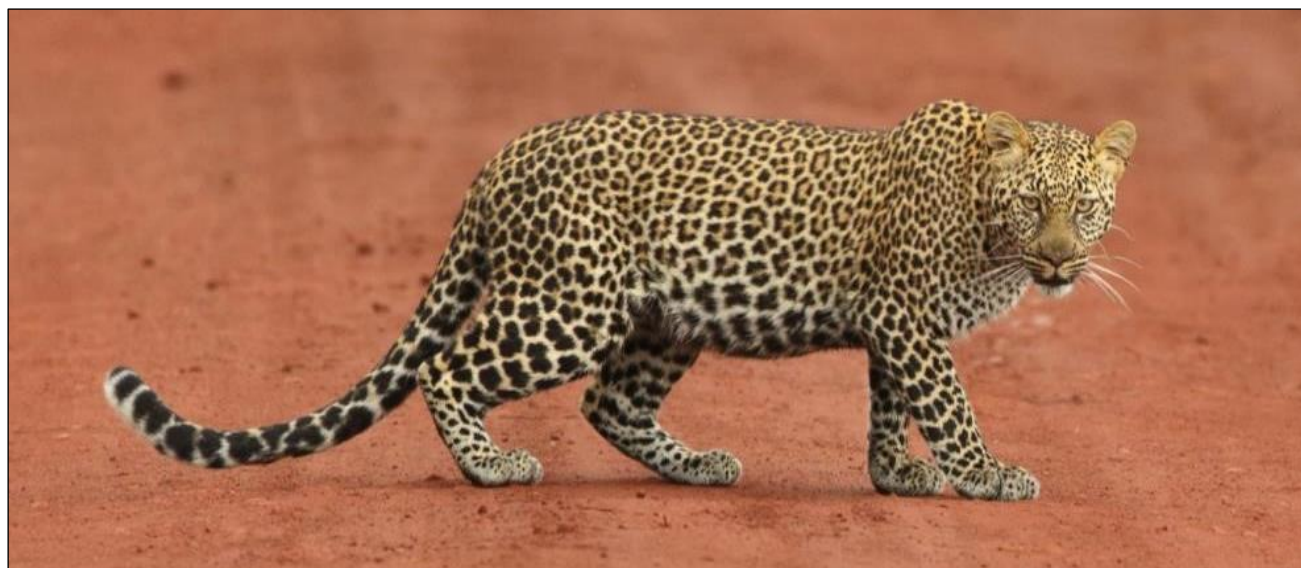
# ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

## Kenya & Tanzania

### Birds & Big Game II

*27<sup>th</sup> April to 14<sup>th</sup> May 2016 (18 days)*



Leopard by Markus Lilje

#### Top 10 birds as voted for by participants

- |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Golden-breasted Starling | 6. Straw-tailed Whydah   |
| 2. Heuglin's Bustard        | 7. Red-and-yellow Barbet |
| 3. Jackson's Widowbird      | 8. Grey Crowned Crane    |
| 4. Chestnut Weaver          | 9. Three-banded Courser  |
| 5. Schalow's Turaco         | 10. Vulturine Guineafowl |

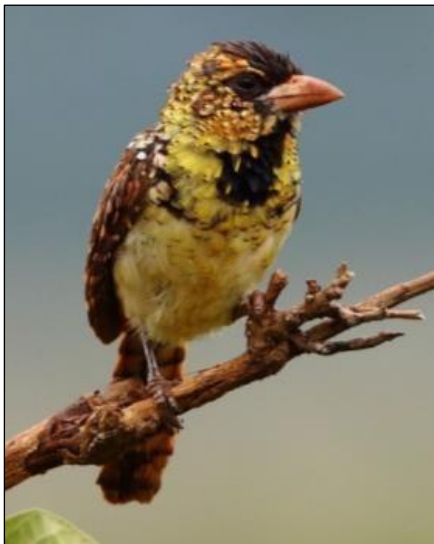
#### Top 5 mammals as voted for by participants

- |            |                        |
|------------|------------------------|
| 1. Leopard | 4. Reticulated Giraffe |
| 2. Cheetah | 5. Grevy's Zebra       |
| 3. Lion    |                        |

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**Trip report compiled by Tour leader Markus Lilje**

*There can hardly be a wildlife destination on the planet that can compete with the sheer number and diversity of large mammals in combination with attractive and easy-to-see birds. During the course of this brief exploration of Tanzania and Kenya, we managed to cover a wide diversity of habitats as we amassed well over 500 different bird species and many wonderful mammals, providing great viewing and photographing opportunities. The highlights are really too diverse to mention briefly, but included watching African Elephant under Baobabs and in front of Mount Kilimanjaro, thunderstorms over the Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti while covered in Wildebeest, walking the forest on the slopes of Mount Kenya and exploring the dry Doum Palm and Acacia savannah of the dry northern reserves. Some wildlife included flocks of Vulturine Guinea fowl, a Leopard with 2 adult cubs, very close Cheetah playing and surveying their surroundings, 3 species of Courser, Heuglin's Bustard, Saddle-billed Stork, the dazzling Golden-breasted Starling, Hartlaub's Turaco, diverse waxbills, barbets, hornbills, raptors, bee-eaters and so, so much more...*

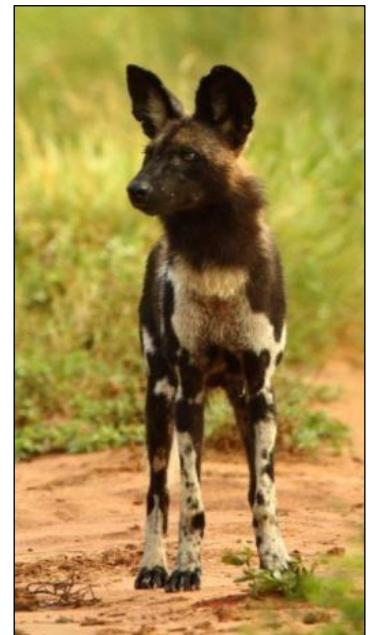


**d'Arnaud's Barbet by  
Markus Lilje**

We started off in a slightly wet garden on the slopes of Mt Meru, where we had all spent between one and three of the previous nights. The short period of time we spent in the garden proved very productive as we found African Black Duck, Taveta Weaver, Giant Kingfisher and Mountain Wagtail around the water and Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon, Southern Fiscal, White-eared Barbet, Klaas's Cuckoo, Little Sparrowhawk and African Goshawk, Black Cuckooshrike and stunning African Hawk-Eagle around the forested grounds. After a fantastic breakfast we were collected for our safari – our safari vehicle, a capable stretched Toyota Land Cruiser, would be perfect for our upcoming adventures. As we headed off in a westerly direction we could observe the vegetation becoming progressively drier and sparser. Our relatively short journey to Tarangire National Park progressed quickly - the

often overwhelming array of birdlife was just too diverse not keep us interested. The roadside selection included Southern Red Bishop, Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu, Augur Buzzard, the ubiquitous Superb and similar Hildebrandt's Starling, African Grey Flycatcher, Reichenow's Seedeater, White-bellied Canary, Golden-breasted Bunting, Red-throated Tit, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Grey-headed Silverbill and Scarlet-chested Sunbird – some of which we found on a surprisingly productive short walk in the area.

We spent the next 48 hours in the diverse and exciting Tarangire National Park, most famous for its vast population of African Elephants and large number of Baobab Trees dotting the landscape. Right at the gate we had a great start during our lunch break, with amazing views of Yellow-



**African Wild Dog by  
Markus Lilje**



collared Lovebird, Von der Decken's Hornbill, endemic Ashy Starling, Buff-bellied Warbler, Woodland Kingfisher and White-headed Buffalo Weaver.



**Golden-winged Sunbird**  
by Markus Lilje

Thanks to a variety of habitats, we recorded an astonishing number of species inside the park too, with Southern Ground Hornbill being a favourite and others including a pair of Three-banded Courser, Yellow-collared Lovebird, Northern Pied Babbler, Beautiful Sunbird, Mosque Swallow, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, Bearded Woodpecker, Black Bishop, Northern White-crowned and Magpie Shrikes, Grey Kestrel, Levaillant's and Red-chested Cuckoos, Bateleur, Northern Red-billed and African Grey Hornbills, Brown-crowned Tchagra, White-bellied and Kori Bustards, Martial and Brown Snake Eagles, Purple Grenadier, Secretarybird, Red-bellied and Meyer's Parrots, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Banded Parisoma, Steel-blue Whydah, Red-and-yellow and D'Arnaud's Barbets, African Marsh Harrier, Long-toed Lapwing and four species of Francolin/Spurfowl (Coqui, Crested, Red-necked and Yellow-necked) among many others. After getting spoilt with a Cheetah on the first afternoon, we were unsure if the mammal sightings could be improved as we headed out for a long morning drive during our full

day in the park. This drive proved to be exceptional as we enjoyed a pack of around 10 African Wild Dogs on and around the road in front of us with no other vehicles around! This area had quite a lot of water and supported a good diversity of species, including Lesser Moorhen, White-backed Duck, Hottentot Teal and Southern Pochard. Other mammals in the park included African Buffalo, numerous large herds of African Elephant at close range, trumpeting while in full charge, Giraffe, Kirk's Dik-dik and Banded and Dwarf Mongoose colonies. Both Freckled Nightjar and African Scops Owl were seen in the lodge grounds.

From the savannah woodland of Tarangire we moved west to the often misty highland forest lining the Ngorongoro Crater rim. On the way to the lodge we had some heavy rain before reaching the entrance to the Ngorongoro Conservation area. At Hero's Point, the crater opened up below us, after our ascent we stopped to take in the magnificent vista before the final stretch to our lodge. Before we could enjoy the beautiful sunset over the Crater, we still had a fair number of birds to look out for at the higher altitude in the area. Some of the species we found here included scarce Brown-backed Woodpecker, a colourful flock of Crested Guineafowl, Peregrine Falcon, Streaky and Thick-billed Seedeaters, African Olive Pigeon, Baglaffeht Weaver, African Stonechat, Ayres's Hawk-Eagle, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater and White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher in lovely afternoon light.



**Lion cubs** by Markus Lilje







**Abyssinian White-eye by Markus Lilje**

The following morning we descended 600m to the primeval Eden of the crater floor, undoubtedly one of the most amazing places for any wildlife enthusiast to spend some time. Not only are there a number of great species to search for, but the density of large mammals and atmosphere of being in a complete caldera, make this unforgettable. We started well, finding Malachite and numerous Bronzy and Golden-winged Sunbirds, Augur Buzzard, Lynes's and Singing Cisticolas, Anteater Chat, Rufous-naped Lark, Quailfinch and Rosy-throated Longclaw as we made our way down to the crater floor. Our first of many Lion sightings for

the day was a pair walking towards us in a sea of yellow flowers. Down on the crater floor, herds of African Buffalo and a mixed group of Zebra and Wildebeest set the tone for a mammal filled day. Other four-legged creatures seen on this day included Golden Jackal, Spotted Hyena, 3 Black Rhino – possibly the biggest target of the day, although none showed very well, Hippopotamus, African Elephant, Thompson's and Grant's Gazelles and the distinctive Coke's Hartebeest, otherwise known by its colloquial name; Kongoni.

Along with the big game we saw a number of big birds – Common Ostrich, stunning Grey Crowned Crane, many African Openbill and numerous Kori Bustard. Smaller species that shared the grassland included Red-capped Lark, Pectoral-patch Cisticola and three species of widowbird (Fan-tailed, Red-collared and bouncing Jackson's). Lake Magadi held a pink haze of flamingos and a slew of waders and waterfowl along its edges, including Pied Avocet, Black-winged Stilt and Cape Teal. Raptor-wise Black-winged Kite, Lappet-faced and White-backed Vultures, African Marsh Harrier and Bateleur were all encountered. A few other birds that were also recorded include Speke's and Rufous-tailed Weavers, Malachite Kingfisher, more Long-toed Lapwing, Banded Martin, Grey-rumped Swallow and Little Rush Warbler at one of the small waterbodies. We slowly headed up again towards the rim of the crater, hoping to catch up with some of the species we still needed in the area – after enjoying a few more sightings we headed back to our lodge for the night. What an incredible day, with some great clouds to compliment the animal sightings and general scenery.

After a good breakfast, enjoying the view of the Crater, we headed for our next major destination of the trip: the fabulous Serengeti National Park. During a fairly quick partial circumnavigation of the Crater rim, we enjoyed great views of our first Leopard! What a surprise to see this huge target suddenly on the road ahead – and not just one, but 3, when 2 big cubs joined their mother. After watching them for a while these cats snuck into the forest and we set off into the ever-drier habitat. The environment became markedly different,



**Saddle-billed Stork by Markus Lilje**



with stunted trees and open grasslands – the top bird we found here was Straw-tailed Whydah, a fantastic species that showed off its breeding plumage right beside the road. Next up was Oldupai Gorge, the world-famous archaeological site where a brief talk introduced the area's millennia-spanning history and small but interesting museum. A quick birding session turned up Southern Grosbeak-Canary, Vitelline Masked Weaver, Red-fronted Barbet, Black Bishop, Mottled Swift, Abyssinian White-eye, White-bellied Canary and White-browed Scrub Robin. We then finally made our way into the endless plains and woodlands of the southern Serengeti, our home base for the next three nights.



**Karamoja Apalis by Markus Lilje**

As our safari vehicle vibrated us along the long, straight and severely corrugated dirt road, the plains slowly opened up on either side. Due to unusual conditions this year the migrating Blue Wildebeest had been hard to predict. Fortunately, large numbers were seen dotted across the plains to the horizon in response to recent rains, so we considered ourselves very lucky to have witnessed this incredible spectacle. During our forays into the open grasslands in the south of the park, we managed to find a good variety of other species too; Grant's and Thompson's Gazelles and Plain's Zebra were all around while Spotted Hyena also showed well in the company of Marabou Stork, Lapped-faced and Rüppell's Vultures around recent kills. Spotted Thick-knee, Black-winged Lapwing, Yellow-

throated and Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, a few Greater Kestrel, Hartlaub's, Black-bellied, White-bellied and Kori Bustards, White-tailed Lark and Zitting and Pectoral-patch Cisticolas all put in appearances. One of the top sightings here was a fantastic Cheetah surveying its grassy surrounds (while we had a lion beside the vehicle) just before we were about to leave the park!

During our time in the southern woodlands of the park, we were treated to many lovely sightings, with the recently-split Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill, Grey-breasted Spurfowl and many more widespread birds of the area being some of the bigger targets. Nearby woodlands were also very productive as we found tail-wagging Karamoja Apalis, Fischer's Lovebird, Bushveld Pipit, Striped Kingfisher, Yellow-spotted Petronia, Little Weaver, Grey Penduline Tit, Purple Roller, Cardinal Woodpecker, Three-banded and Double-banded Coursers, Purple Grenadier, Black-lored Babbler, Hildebrandt's Starling, Dark Chanting Goshawk, Silverbird, Red-throated Tit and Bare-faced Go-away-bird. A couple of productive wetlands gave us views of Temminck's and breeding-plumage Little Stints, Cape Teal, Three-banded Plover and Black Crake near a Black-headed heron breeding colony. A Saddle-billed Stork provided another highlight – standing just a few metres from us, seemingly unperturbed and totally relaxed! Mammals are of course always a highlight of the Serengeti and we were certainly not disappointed as we continued



**Purple-throated Cuckooshrike  
by Markus Lilje**



our run of great sightings that included a female Leopard in a tree that then crossed the road in front of the car, a Cheetah quickly disappearing in the tall grass and numerous other memorable moments, like the ever-active Dwarf Mongoose and a number of Topi.



**Fire-fronted Bishop by  
Markus Lilje**

After three days we departed the remarkable Serengeti, ascended and descended the outer slopes of Ngorongoro, and came to rest at the luxurious Gibb's Farm. Some did indeed rest that afternoon, choosing to soak up the atmosphere of this incredible guest farm and coffee plantation. Those not relaxing headed out for an afternoon walk into the Ngorongoro Conservation area along the Endoro Forest Trail, in search of a variety of forest species. We managed to chalk up excellent sightings of some beautiful forest birds including Schalow's Turaco, Yellow-bellied Waxbill, Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, Black-fronted Bushshrike, Grey-capped Warbler, White-tailed Blue Flycatcher, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, Moustached Tinkerbird, Green-backed Honeybird, African Paradise Flycatcher, Mountain Greenbul, Collared Sunbird, Abyssinian Crimsonwing and, very luckily, the exquisite Black-throated Wattle-eye, unobtrusive Oriole Finch and Common Scimitarbill! Birds around the garden included Green-headed, Bronzy and Eastern Double-collared Sunbirds, Thick-billed and Baglaffeht Weavers, and African Green Pigeon. That night we watched a Greater Galago cautiously nibble on fruit off-cuts near the restaurant, making

it onto our mammal list.

Soon after leaving this special place we stopped at a flooded grassland to enjoy some great views of male Yellow-crowned Bishop buzzing around. Considering this was a driving day we managed to add a surprising number of new birds to our list throughout the day! As the habitat changed again, drying out as we headed towards and crossed into Kenya, we again had numerous additions that we found during short walks or from the vehicle. A few of these included White-fronted Bee-eater, Tiny Cisticola, Black-throated Barbet, Pygmy Batis, Red-fronted Warbler, Scaly Chatterer, Fischer's Starling and Buff-crested Bustard. On the way, the border crossing went very smoothly and was fortunately not a big delay in us getting to our first destination in Kenya, namely Amboseli National Park. The final few kilometres before we reached our lodge were incredibly productive, with us finding a huge colony of Chestnut Weaver, Golden Pipit, Fire-fronted Bishop, White-headed Mousebird, the tiny Mouse-coloured Penduline Tit and Athi Short-toed Lark.



**Elephant and Kilimanjaro by Markus Lilje**





Throughout the afternoon, as we approached the national park, we were watching as the base of the mighty Mt Kilimanjaro started to peep out from below a cover of grey cloud, eventually clearing on the next morning for a long time.



**Cheetah by Markus Lilje**

The mountain's presence was tangible during our short stay in Amboseli; with such flat terrain surrounding it, it was always a focal point, even when obscured by clouds. And when the clouds dissipated its white cap cast a striking backdrop for a variety of game including numerous African Elephant and other plains game as well as the mammal highlight here when we watched a group of 3 male Cheetah during an afternoon drive. Another mammal highlight was watching 2 male Thompson's Gazelle battle it out very seriously on the short grass, before one finally gave up, bloodied and running from the victor! The level landscape and snowy mountain

combined to form extensive shallow wetlands, which held wheeling flocks of both species of flamingo, Greater Painted-snipe, Long-toed and Spur-winged Lapwings, African Jacana, Collared Pratincole, Goliath, Purple and Squacco Herons, African Fish Eagle, Grey Crowned Crane, Glossy Ibis, Little Bittern, White-faced Whistling Duck, Red-billed Teal, Winding Cisticola, Malachite and Pied Kingfishers, Goliath Heron, Bohor Reedbuck and Hippopotamus. Endemic Taveta Weaver, Fischer's Sparrow-Lark, Hartlaub's Bustard, Pangani Longclaw, Common Buttonquail, Grey Wren-Warbler and Zanzibar Red Bishop were some of the other species we recorded around the park.

After our time in the dry Amboseli, with its view of Kilimanjaro, we left one great mountain for another: Africa's second-highest peak; but not before braving the hectic traffic of the country's busiest highway, connecting the port city of Mombasa to the capital Nairobi as well as much of central Africa. We were very lucky during our lunch break to add Western Citril to our list, while a little further north we added the sought-after Hinde's Babbler as well as Violet-backed Starling and Red-backed Mannikin. Finally we approached the lower slopes of the mountain, trying to add species here while the weather was good, as it is never clear what it will be like on the next day! We were successful too, managing to find Chestnut-throated and Grey Apalises, Tullberg's Woodpecker, Brown-capped Weaver, Mountain Oriole, numerous Hartlaub's Turaco and Silvery-cheeked Hornbill. After a long day, we were glad to arrive at our log-cabin-like lodge that quietly overlooks a waterhole on the forested slopes of Mt Kenya.

During our time in this very different habitat we had the opportunity to bird from our vehicle as well as during a very pleasant guided walk through the dense



**Hinde's Babbler by Markus Lilje**



undergrowth, not to mention, a lot of time we spent just looking around the waterhole and the surrounding forest from the lodge itself. Some of the new and special species included Black-throated Apalis, Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon, White-bellied Tit, Grey Cuckooshrike, White-tailed Crested Flycatcher, Cinnamon Bracken Warbler, White-headed Wood Hoopoe, Kikuyu White-eye, Oriole Finch, Yellow-whiskered, Placid, Olive-breasted and Slender-billed Greenbuls, while African Yellow Warbler and Blue-headed Coucal were seen at the edge of a more open wetland clearing.



**Golden-breasted Starling by Markus Lilje**

While mammals are not as plentiful here as they are on some other parts of this tour, we did still see fantastic African Elephant, African Buffalo, Defasa Waterbuck, Guereza Colobus, White-throated Monkey, Bushbuck and even a Leopard darting across the road. While the waterhole was a little quiet during the 2 nights we spent here, we did see Blotched Genet and 2 wonderful Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, while some we fortunate enough to see a Giant Forest Hog. The relatively quiet night was punctuated only by the comically blood-curdling call of Southern

Tree Hyraxes.

During the drive north, there was little that delayed our progress, although the Spot-flanked Barbet and Long-tailed Widowbird were notable exceptions, showing off on the roadside for us. Otherwise we were able to gradually watch the landscape change once again, as we dropped in altitude and got into ever-more arid *Acacia* dominated woodland – although it was all wonderfully green after the recent good rains.

As always getting into a new habitat promises a number of new species, and again we were not disappointed. Already on the drive into Shaba National Reserve we enjoyed the very scarce Somali and White-throated Bee-eaters, Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill, Parrot-billed Sparrow, Shining Sunbird, Red-headed Weaver, Grant's Wood Hoopoe and Dodson's Bulbul. An afternoon and morning drive in this dry bushveld reserve yielded sought-after Magpie and Fischer's Starlings, Somali Bunting, Grey Wren-Warbler, Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark, Rosy-patched Bushshrike, Black-bellied and Hunter's Sunbirds, Bristle-crowned Starling, Buff-crested Bustard, Brown-tailed Rock Chat, Blue-naped Mousebird and our first Vulturine Guineafowl. After a recent shower, pools on the road attracted many Black-faced, Chestnut-bellied and the very special Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse, Cut-throat Finch and Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu. A big target here is the highly-restricted Williams's Lark, which we managed to see well, along with Donaldson Smith's Sparrow-weaver, great Somali Courser, and the pale-eyed Somali Ostrich



**Heuglin's Bustard by Markus Lilje**





with a dozen chicks. The area is known for its great mammals too and we managed sightings of the stunning Reticulated Giraffe, dizzying Grevy's Zebra, Beisa Oryx, Desert Warthog, Güenther's Dik-dik and Gerenuk. All this, coupled with Shaba's thorny savannah, Doum palms and rocky backdrop, made for some great birding and wildlife viewing!



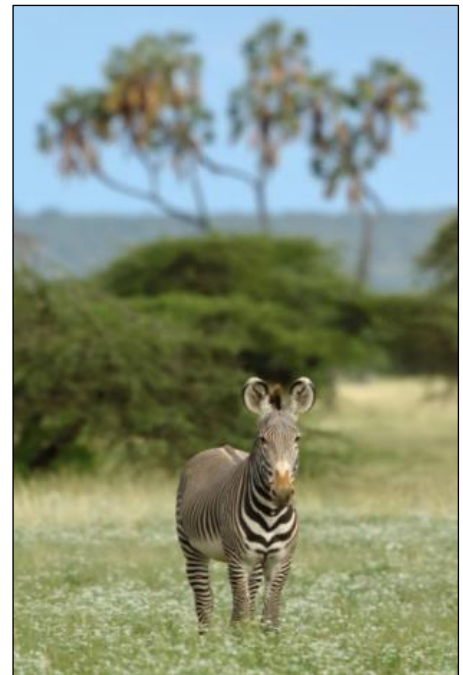
**Steel-blue Whydah by Markus Lilje**

Crossing the highway to Buffalo Springs National Reserve we settled in for our last two-night stay of the trip. Although the area seems very similar to Shaba, we encountered a number of new species here and on the neighbouring Samburu National Reserve. We were delighted to find many wonderful Vulturine Guinea fowl flocks and Golden-breasted Starling, scarce Somali Crombec and Somali Tit, White-headed Mousebird, Slate-coloured Boubou, Black-capped Social Weaver, Yellow-vented

Eremomela, Golden Palm Weaver, Pale Prinia, Fantailed Raven, Spotted Palm Thrush, Rufous Chatterer, Steel-blue Whydah, Gabar Goshawk, calling Red-winged Lark and finally the big surprise of the tour: a female Heuglin's Bustard walking around near its bigger Kori cousin. The reserves also held a good number of mammals; we were impressed by a wonderful Leopard that gave us extended views and also had Common Genet and a pair of the very shy Bat-eared Fox.

The penultimate day began with the long journey south to fabulous Lake Nakuru National Park. We crossed the equator a few times, traversing a variety of habitats en route. We met up with a local guide on the way, who showed us the local race of the impressive Cape Eagle-Owl, sometimes known as McKinder's Eagle-Owl – he does a great job in the area, trying to convince local people that these birds are not a bad omen for them and their families. Other stops along the way during the day produced some more additions and good views for everyone, including Brimstone Canary, Slender-billed Starling, Long-billed Pipit, Red-fronted Tinkerbird, Boran and Levaiant's Cisticolas and Long-tailed Widowbird. We made it to the lodge in the ever-more flooded Lake Nakuru National Park in the late afternoon, where we took some time to walk the gardens and see an array of sunbirds including Amethyst Sunbird as well as African Thrush.

The final day had arrived and with our total already over 500 species, we were just hoping to fill a few gaps we still had remaining. A rather large gap was filled by a close group of White Rhino, while the only other new mammal sighting of the area was



**Grevy's Zebra by Markus Lilje**



the local race of Giraffe – namely Rothschild's, although a Black Rhino also put in a show at closer range than we had seen it before. On the birding front we were also not disappointed, enjoying Great White Pelican with a few shorebirds and Cape and Hottentot Teals near them. Exploring the Fever Tree forest around Lake Nakuru we enjoyed Broad-billed Roller, Greater Blue-eared Starling, Brown-backed Honeybird and Pale Flycatcher as well as large flocks of our first Horus and African Swifts and Stout Cisticola. At a lake viewpoint we were further rewarded with Mocking Cliff-Chat and Pink-backed Pelican and a fabulous view of the swollen Lake.

As we headed to the capital, the Rift Valley deepened dramatically to our right, as the population density steadily increased. We took time out to search for the now very scarce Sharpe's Longclaw in an open wet field, where we obtained fantastic views on the ground and in flight. Our final stop, at the Limuru ponds on the edge of the capital, was very productive with many waterbirds around after the recent good rains. The one of most interest to us was a male Maccoa Duck – very well picked out by a sharp-eyed participant! With the birding officially complete, all that was left for us was to head through a surprisingly quiet Nairobi and embark on our journeys home. What an absolutely fantastic and memorable journey it had been!

## Annotated List of Birds recorded

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows the IOC 5.3 list of: Gill, F. and Wright, M. Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press.

NR = National Reserve

NP = National Park

### Total species recorded: 514 (512 seen, 2 heard only)

#### Ostriches Struthionidae

##### **Common Ostrich**

*Struthio camelus*

This species was common in savannah habitats throughout Tanzania and southern Kenya.

##### **Somali Ostrich**

*Struthio molybdophanes*

We enjoyed wonderfully close views of numerous birds, including a group of 14 chicks – all in Shaba, Samburu and Buffalo Springs NRs.

*Note: Clements does not accept this species and lumps it with Common Ostrich S. camelus.*

#### Ducks & Geese Anatidae

##### **White-faced Whistling Duck**

*Dendrocygna viduata*

These slender ducks were seen in Ngorongoro Crater and in Amboseli NP. **Fulvous**

##### **Whistling Duck**

*Dendrocygna bicolor*

We were quite pleased with our sighting of good numbers of these uncommon ducks in Tarangire NP.

##### **White-backed Duck**

*Thalassornis leuconotus*

We had around four birds in Amboseli NP.



**Spur-winged Goose** *Plectropterus gambensis*

This very hefty bird - showed in a number of wetlands.

**Knob-billed Duck** *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

A female and 3 young were recorded in Tarangire NP.

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

A very common species, seen almost daily.

**Cape Teal** *Anas capensis*

This pale waterfowl was seen in the Ngorongoro Crater and southern Serengeti.

**African Black Duck** *Anas sparsa*

We had two birds on the first morning at Ngare Sero.

**Yellow-billed Duck** *Anas undulata*

Good numbers were seen near Mt Kenya and on the final day.

**Red-billed Teal (Duck)** *Anas erythrorhyncha*

A commonly encountered waterbird in various wetlands.

**Hottentot Teal** *Anas hottentota*

This tiny duck was first seen in the Tarangire NP and then at Lake Nakuru NP.

**Southern Pochard** *Netta erythrophthalma*

At least 3 birds were seen very well in Tarangire NP.

**Maccoa Duck** *Oxyura maccoa*

A single male was seen distantly on the Limuru Ponds.

### Guineafowl Numididae

**Helmeted Guineafowl** *Numida meleagris*

A common open-country species which was recorded nearly every day. **Crested**

**Guineafowl** *Guttera pucherani*

A common open-country species which was recorded nearly every day.

**Vulturine Guineafowl** *Acryllium vulturinum*

We were very happy with a number of great sightings in Buffalo Springs NR and the surrounding parks.

### Francolins & Quails Phasianidae

**Coqui Francolin** *Peliperdix coqui*

These characterful little gamebirds were seen and commonly heard in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

**Crested Francolin** *Dendroperdix sephaena*

Another small Francolin, this species appeared in Tarangire NP and Shaba NR.

**Scaly Francolin** *Pternistis squamatus*

Seen on the road on Mount Kenya.

**Hildebrandt's Francolin** *Pternistis hildebrandti*

Seen initially a few times along the Ngorongoro Crater rim and near our Serengeti Lodge.

**Yellow-necked Spurfowl (Francolin)** *Pternistis leucoscepus*

This bold Spurfowl was common in Tarangire and Amboseli NPs, and Buffalo Springs and Shaba NRs.

**Grey-breasted Spurfowl (Francolin)** *Pternistis rufopictus* This

Serengeti endemic was common within its small range.





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**Red-necked Spurfowl (Francolin)** *Pternistis afer*

A striking Spurfowl that was seen well in Tarangire NP.

**Common Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*

Heard only in the Ngorongoro Crater.

**Harlequin Quail** *Coturnix delegorguei*

2 birds were seen briefly in flight in the Serengeti grasslands.

**Grebes Podicipedidae**

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Seen at scattered waterbodies throughout the tour.

**Flamingos Phoenicopteridae**

**Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus ruber*

Fairly large numbers in both Ngorongoro Crater and good views in Amboseli NP.

**Lesser Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus minor*

Large numbers of this were also seen at the same locations as the previous species.

**Storks Ciconiidae**

**Yellow-billed Stork** *Mycteria ibis*

Our best sighting was of hundreds of birds on and near their nests near Lake Manyara.

**African Openbill** *Anastomus lamelligerus*

Huge numbers of well over 150 birds were seen at Silale Swamps in Tarangire NP.

**White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*

First birds were seen on the way to Tarangire NP, with a few elsewhere in Tanzania.

**Saddle-billed Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

This striking species was seen incredibly well in the Serengeti NP, where we had a bird just metres away.

**Marabou Stork** *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

We saw this fascinating species in Serengeti NP, also in Amboseli and Lake Nakuru NPs.

**Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae**

**African Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

We saw this species at scattered wetlands, mostly in Kenya.

**Hadada Ibis** *Bostrychia hagedash*

Fairly common, mostly on the Kenyan side of the border, we also had a small group near Arusha on day one.

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

Good numbers in Tarangire NP and Amboseli, scattered elsewhere.

**African Spoonbill** *Platalea alba*

We enjoyed really good views of birds at Amboseli and Lake Nakuru NPs.

**Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns Ardeidae**

**Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus*



Around 4 birds were seen well in flight and perched at a large Amboseli wetland.

**Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*

A young bird was observed in Buffalo Springs in the early morning.

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striatus*

This attractive little heron was seen in Serengeti NP.

**Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides*

Seen in Amboseli in huge numbers, as well as in Tarangire NPs.

**Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*

A common species throughout the tour.

*Note: Clements does not yet recognise the split of the Cattle Egret complex.*

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

Seen at various wetlands throughout the tour.

**Black-headed Heron** *Ardea melanocephala*

A commonly seen heron in grasslands throughout.

**Goliath Heron** *Ardea goliath*

We enjoyed good sightings in Amboseli NP.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*

At least 2 birds were seen in Amboseli NP.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba*

Tarangire and Amboseli NPs both provided sightings, as did the Ngorongoro Crater.

**Intermediate Egret** *Egretta intermedia*

Seen mostly in Tarangire, at Silale swamps and in the very wet Amboseli NP.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

A single bird was found in Tarangire NP; also in Amboseli and Lake Nakuru NP.

### **Hamerkop Scopidae**

**Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta*

This quirky species was seen often in water-associated habitats on tour.

### **Pelicans Pelecanidae**

**Great White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

We had some good views while at Lake Nakuru NP.

**Pink-backed Pelican** *Pelecanus rufescens*

Seen nicely at the colony near Lake Manyara, a single birds showed later in Amboseli NP.

### **Cormorants & Shags Phalacrocoracidae**

**Reed (Long-tailed) Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax africanus*

Seen mainly in Tarangire, the far north and Lake Nakuru NPs.

**White-breasted Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax lucidus*

A few were seen making nests near Lake Manyara, while there were many in Lake Nakuru NP.

*Note: Clements still regards this species as part of the Great Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo).*



**Anhingas, Darter Anhingidae****African Darter***Anhinga rufa*

A single bird in the Amboseli NP, a few more at Lake Nakuru NP. NOTE: Clements lumps this species with Oriental and Australasian Darters as Darter *A melanogaster*.

**Secretarybird Sagittariidae****Secretarybird***Sagittarius serpentarius*

We had many wonderful sightings of this fantastic bird in various grasslands, seen on 10 days of the tour!

**Hawks, Eagles & Kites Accipitridae****Black-winged (-shouldered) Kite***Elanus caeruleus*

A frequent raptor of open grassland and agricultural habitats throughout Tanzania.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Black-shouldered Kite. Some authorities lump this species with Australian Kite *E. axillaris* and the American *E. leucurus* White-tailed Kite.

**African Harrier-Hawk***Polyboroides typus*

One bird showed well in Tarangire NP, another in Samburu NR.

**Hooded Vulture***Necrosyrtes monachus*

This small vulture was seen in flight in Buffalo Springs NP.

**White-backed Vulture***Gyps africanus*

The commonest savannah vulture, seen daily in Tanzania.

**Rüppell's Vulture (Griffon)***Gyps rueppellii*

Seen very well in the Serengeti ecosystem.

**White-headed Vulture***Trionoceph occipitalis*

2 in Tarangire and a young bird in the Serengeti.

**Lappet-faced Vulture***Torgos tracheliotus*

This huge scavenger was fairly common mainly in the Serengeti, where we also saw a leucistic individual

**Black-chested(-breasted) Snake Eagle***Circaetus pectoralis*

This dapper raptor was best seen in Amboseli NP after a first view in Serengeti NPs.

**Brown Snake Eagle***Circaetus cinereus*

Seen very well in Tarangire NP and the northern Kenya reserves.

**Bateleur***Terathopius ecaudatus*

A beautiful eagle that was recorded most days over savannah habitat – perched and on a nest in Tarangire NP.

**Crowned Eagle***Stephanoaetus coronatus*

We had sightings of this massive monkey-hunter over the Mount Kenya forest before getting close perched views from the vehicle in the same area.

**Martial Eagle***Polemaetus bellicosus*

We had sightings of this huge eagle in flight over Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

**Long-crested Eagle***Lophaetus occipitalis*

Single birds were seen at Naabi Hills Gate, during our Gibb's Farm walk and at close range in Lake Nakuru NP.

**Booted Eagle***Hieraaetus pennatus*



A light morph bird showed well in flight in Shaba NR.

**Ayres's Hawk-Eagle** *Hieraaetus ayersii*

One sub-adult was seen circling over the forest at the Ngorongoro viewpoint.

**Tawny Eagle** *Aquila rapax*

The common brown eagle in most savannah areas, seen in good numbers throughout the tour.

**African Hawk-Eagle** *Aquila spilogaster*

After first views in the Ngare Sero garden, we had 2 more pairs in Tarangire NP and another later in Shaba NR.

**Lizard Buzzard** *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

A single bird was seen on the first morning as we left the Ngare Sero area.

**Gabar Goshawk** *Micronisus gabar*

Seen on 5 days of the tour, including great views in Tarangire NP.

**Dark Chanting Goshawk** *Melierax metabates*

Much less common than the following species, with great views in the central Serengeti NP - found in less arid areas.

**Eastern Chanting Goshawk** *Melierax poliopterus*

Much more common here than the previous species – encountered regularly in dry woodland, throughout the tour.

**African Goshawk** *Accipiter tachiro*

We had superb scope views of a single bird on the first morning in Ngare Sero garden.

**Shikra** *Accipiter badius*

A single bird was seen briefly in flight in Tarangire NP.

**Little Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter minullus*

2 birds were seen and scoped during breakfast on the first morning of the tour.

**African Marsh Harrier** *Circus ranivorus*

Two birds were seen quartering over moist grassland and wetlands in Tarangire NP.

**Pallid Harrier** *Circus macrourus*

A single female was seen well over open grasslands in the southern Serengeti NP.

**Yellow-billed Kite** *Milvus aegyptius*

Seen near Karatu, on the way to Mt Kenya and a few times during the last days of the tour.

*Note: Some authorities split this complex into Black Kite M. migrans and Yellow-billed Kite M. aegyptius. The IOC now recognises this split.*

**African Fish Eagle** *Haliaeetus vocifer*

Seen in Tarangire, Serengeti and Amboseli NPs.

**Augur Buzzard** *Buteo augur*

A striking raptor that was encountered often along the road; both dark and light morphs.

### **Bustards Otididae**

**Kori Bustard** *Ardeotis kori*

We saw a total of around 34 of these impressive birds, mainly in the Crater, Serengeti and the northern Kenya reserves.

**Heuglin's Bustard** *Neotis heuglinii*



A huge surprise! This scarce and highly sought-after species was seen very well in the open grassland in Buffalo Springs. We had great close views of this female bird!

**White-bellied Bustard**

*Eupodotis senegalensis*

This colourful bustard was not uncommon in the Serengeti and northern Kenyan reserves.

**Buff-crested Bustard**

*Lophotis gindiana*

We had brief looks just outside Amboseli NP, followed by a few more in Shaba and Buffalo Springs NRs.

**Black-bellied Bustard**

*Lissotis melanogaster*

We obtained excellent views of a few birds in Serengeti NP – mainly on the final morning.

**Hartlaub's Bustard**

*Lissotis hartlaubii*

A scarce and sought-after species that we found on a few occasions in grasslands of the Serengeti and Amboseli NP.

**Rails, Gallinules & Coots Rallidae**

**Black Crake**

*Amaurornis flavirostra*

This relatively bold crake was seen on many occasions at various sites during the tour.

**Common Moorhen**

*Gallinula chloropus*

A few birds were seen in Tarangire NP and at the Limuru Ponds.

**Lesser Moorhen**

*Gallinula angulata*

At least 2 birds were seen well at Silale Swamps in Tarangire NP.

**Red-knobbed Coot**

*Fulica cristata*

A few birds were seen near Mt Kenya and on the last 2 days of the tour.

**Cranes Gruidae**

**Grey Crowned Crane**

*Balearica regulorum*

This exquisite species was common in the Ngorongoro Crater and Amboseli NP, a few were seen around wetlands on the last few days.

**Thick-knees Burhinidae**

**Water Thick-knee (Dikkop)**

*Burhinus vermiculatus*

Seen briefly in the Serengeti and later well in Buffalo Springs.

**Spotted Thick-knee**

*Burhinus capensis*

This cryptic species was found in Serengeti NP on two occasions and later in Amboseli NP and Buffalo Springs NR.

**Stilts & Avocets Recurvirostridae**

**Black-winged Stilt**

*Himantopus himantopus*

Good numbers were recorded in Ngorongoro Crater, the Serengeti, Amboseli and Lake Nakuru NPs.

**Pied Avocet**

*Recurvirostra avosetta*

Small numbers were seen distantly in the Ngorongoro Crater.



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### Plovers & Lapwings Charadriidae

- Long-toed Lapwing** *Vanellus crassirostris*  
Seen first in Tarangire NP and Ngorongoro, with amazing close-up views later in Amboseli NP.
- Blacksmith Lapwing (Plover)** *Vanellus armatus*  
Recorded on most days on tour, usually in association with water.
- Spur-winged Lapwing (Plover)** *Vanellus spinosus*  
Best seen in the northern Kenya reserves, with first sightings in Amboseli NP.
- Black-winged Lapwing** *Vanellus melanopterus*  
Many were seen short grass in Serengeti NP.
- Crowned Lapwing** *Vanellus coronatus*  
Seen on most days of the tour in open grassland.
- African Wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus senegallus*  
A single bird showed well in moist grasslands as we left the Serengeti.
- Kittlitz's Plover** *Charadrius pecuarius*  
This striking little plover was seen in Ngorongoro Crater and in large numbers around Amboseli NP.
- Three-banded Plover** *Charadrius tricollaris*  
A firm favourite, this attractive wader was recorded along wetlands and rivers throughout the tour.
- Chestnut-banded Plover** *Charadrius pallidus*  
A firm favourite, this attractive wader was recorded along wetlands and rivers throughout the tour.

### Painted Snipes Jacanidae

- Greater Painted-snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis*  
We enjoyed 3 wonderful birds in flooded wetlands of Amboseli NP over 2 days we had there.

### Jacanas Jacanidae

- African Jacana** *Actophilornis africanus*  
Seen mainly in Tarangire and Amboseli NPs.

### Sandpipers & Allies Scolopacidae

- Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis*  
Two birds were seen in Amboseli NP.
- Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*  
Seen on 4 days of the tour at scattered wetlands.
- Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*  
The most often encountered sandpiper, with sightings from various waterbodies throughout the tour.
- Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*  
Seen fairly regularly on the tour, with breeding-plumage birds in the Serengeti, also in Amboseli NP.
- Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*  
We found three birds in Serengeti NP.
- Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*  
A few birds, including some in brick-red breeding plumage, were seen in Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti NP.





**Ruff**

*Philomachus pugnax*

Seen in the Ngorongoro, Serengeti and Amboseli reserves.

**Courser & Pratincoles Glareolidae**

**Somali Courser**

*Cursorius somalensis*

Seen well on 3 consecutive days in the Shaba-Buffer Springs Reserves. *Note: Clements does not recognise this species as a true species. He lumps the bird with Cream-coloured Courser C. cursor.*

**Double-banded Courser**

*Rhinoptilus africanus*

Seen on an amazing 8 different days: in Tarangire, Serengeti and Amboseli NPs.

**Three-banded Courser**

*Rhinoptilus cinctus*

On the final morning in Tarangire we had a first encounter with this lovely species, before getting great views in the southern Serengeti.

**Collared Pratincole**

*Glareola pratincola*

A few dozen birds were seen well on 2 days in Amboseli NP.

**Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae**

**Grey-headed Gull**

*Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*

2 birds were seen well in the Ngorongoro Crater.

**Gull-billed Tern**

*Sterna nilotica*

This large, pale tern was seen at a distance in the Ngorongoro Crater and well on the Lake Nakuru shoreline.

**Whiskered Tern**

*Chlidonias hybrida*

A mix of striking breeding and non-breeding birds were seen in Tarangire, Amboseli and Lake Nakuru NPs.

**White-winged Tern**

*Chlidonias leucopterus*

A single breeding-plumage bird was seen among a flock of non-breeding individuals in the southern Serengeti NP.

**Sandgrouse Pteroclididae**

**Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse**

*Pterocles exustus*

First seen en route to the Serengeti, we had great views of these birds later in Amboseli NP and Buffalo Springs NR.

**Yellow-throated Sandgrouse**

*Pterocles gutturalis*

This large sandgrouse was finally seen beautifully as we were leaving the Serengeti, after just flight views to that point.

**Black-faced Sandgrouse**

*Pterocles decoratus*

This well-marked sandgrouse was commonly encountered on roads in Tarangire and Amboseli NPs and the northern reserves in Kenya.

**Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse**

*Pterocles lichtensteinii*

A dry-zone specialty – we found 4 of these cryptically-marked birds in the dry woodland in Shaba NR.



## Doves & Pigeons Columbidae

### **Rock Dove**

*Columba livia*

Recorded near towns.

### **Speckled Pigeon**

*Columba guinea*

This large pigeon was widespread throughout the tour, more so in Kenya.

### **African Olive Pigeon**

*Columba arquatrix*

Our first views of this purple pigeon was on the Ngorongoro Crater rim, other views later at Mt Kenya.

### **Eastern Bronze-naped (Delegorgue's) Pigeon**

*Columba delegorguei*

One was observed on the first morning, with others recorded in the forest at Mt Kenya.

### **Lemon Dove**

*Columba larvata*

A young bird gave amazing views as it walked on the road through the Mount Kenya forest.

### **Dusky Turtle Dove**

*Streptopelia lugens*

Good views of a few birds around the Ngorongoro Crater.

### **Mourning Collared Dove**

*Streptopelia decipiens*

Seen and heard regularly at many of the parks we visited during the tour.

### **Red-eyed Dove**

*Streptopelia semitorquata*

This species was seen in areas of tall woodland throughout the tour.

### **Ring-necked Dove**

*Streptopelia capicola*

A prolific species, we saw and heard it almost every day in savannah and lower-lying areas.

### **Laughing Dove**

*Streptopelia senegalensis*

Almost as common as the previous species, and often found alongside it in smaller numbers.

### **Emerald-spotted Wood Dove**

*Turtur chalcospilos*

This little bush dove was mainly seen in Tarangire NP and the northern Kenyan reserves.

### **Tambourine Dove**

*Turtur tympanistria*

This difficult forest-dwelling dove was seen a few times in flight only – Gibb's Farm and the Eagle-Owl site.

### **Namaqua Dove**

*Oena capensis*

These elegant long-tailed doves were seen often in drier, open woodland; highest numbers in the far north.

### **African Green Pigeon**

*Treron calva*

Seen and scoped on 3 days, with best views near Gibb's Farm.

## Turacos Musophagidae

### **Schalow's Turaco**

*Tauraco schalowi*

A single stunner was seen along the Endoro Forest Trail.

### **Hartlaub's Turaco**

*Tauraco hartlaubi*

We managed a number of good views of this species in the Mt Kenya forest.

### **Bare-faced Go-away-bird**

*Corythaixoides personatus*

Quite common in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

### **White-bellied Go-away-bird**

*Corythaixoides leucogaster*

Found in biggest numbers in Tarangire NPs, and Shaba and Buffalo Springs NRs.



### Cuckoos Cuculidae

#### **Blue-headed Coucal**

*Centropus monachus*

A single bird was seen well before it slunk back into a bush on the lower slopes of Mt Kenya.

#### **White-browed Coucal**

*Centropus superciliosus*

We enjoyed many sightings of this skulker throughout the tour.

#### **Black Coucal**

*Centropus grillii*

We enjoyed a number of great sightings in the Serengeti after first distant views in Tarangire NP.

#### **Great Spotted Cuckoo**

*Clamator glandarius*

A single young bird was seen as we got to Naabi Hills Gate in the Serengeti!

#### **Levaillant's Cuckoo**

*Clamator levaillantii*

2 showed well in the southern parts of Tarangire NP.

#### **Jacobin (Pied) Cuckoo**

*Clamator jacobinus*

Single birds were seen in the Ngorongoro Crater and the southern Serengeti.

#### **Diederik Cuckoo**

*Chrysococcyx caprius*

Best views were of a stunning close male one afternoon in the central Serengeti.

#### **Klaas's Cuckoo**

*Chrysococcyx klaas*

A gorgeous male was seen on the first morning near Ngare Sero Lodge.

#### **African Emerald Cuckoo**

*Chrysococcyx cupreus*

A male and a female were seen by some from our Mt Kenya Lodge.

#### **Black Cuckoo**

*Cuculus clamosus*

Our only view was a good one just south of the Namanga Border.

#### **Red-chested Cuckoo**

*Cuculus solitarius*

Our only view was a good one at the entrance to Tarangire NP.

#### **African Cuckoo**

*Cuculus gularis*

A single bird was seen fairly briefly in Tarangire NP, another heard on the final morning.

### Owls Strigidae

#### **African Scops Owl**

*Otus senegalensis*

We had a lovely bird on its day roost in our lodge grounds in Tarangire NP.

#### **Cape Eagle Owl**

*Bubo capensis*

With the help of a local guide we located a male of these owls, of a subspecies sometimes called McKinder's Eagle Owl – a beautifully marked species scoped on a cliff ledge.

#### **Verreaux's Eagle-Owl**

*Bubo lacteus*

We were lucky with this species on the tour, finding 2 pairs on a morning in Tarangire NP, 2 that showed very well around the lights on Mt Kenya and finally an adult and a young bird in large Buffalo Springs *Acacias*.

#### **Pearl-spotted Owlet**

*Glaucidium perlatum*

This feisty little owl showed nicely in Tarangire NP and once in the Serengeti.

### Nightjars Caprimulgidae

#### **Montane Nightjar**

*Caprimulgus poliocephalus*

Seen on the road on the Crater rim by some participants in the early morning.





**Freckled Nightjar** *Caprimulgus tristigma*

Seen in flight at Amboseli NP.

**Slender-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus tristigma*

Seen well in flight in Buffalo Springs NR.

### Swifts Apodidae

**Scarce Swift** *Schoutedenapus myoptilus*

Birds were seen very well in the Ngorongoro Crater and on Mt Kenya.

**Mottled Spinetail** *Telacanthura ussheri* We

had good sightings over three days in Tarangire NP.

**African Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus*

Usually found in association with palms, they were common in Tarangire NP and in the northern Kenyan parks.

**Mottled Swift** *Tachymarptis aequatorialis*

A huge swift that was first seen near Oldupai Gorge and later in Buffalo Springs.

**Nyanza Swift** *Apus niansae*

One bird was seen well over the Hippo Pool in the Serengeti.

**African Black Swift** *Apus barbatus*

Big numbers were flying over the grasslands in Lake Nakuru NP on the final morning.

**Little Swift** *Apus affinis*

The most frequently encountered swift, seen on many days in good numbers.

**Horus Swift** *Apus affinis*

A lot of birds were seen well in 2 different areas around Lake Nakuru NP.

**White-rumped Swift** *Apus caffer*

Fairly widespread, with sightings on at least 5 days, including at Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

### Mousebirds Coliidae

**Speckled Mousebird** *Colius striatus*

Widespread and seen on many days of the tour.

**White-headed Mousebird** *Colius leucocephalus*

Seen very well on either side of the Namanga Border and as we left our Buffalo Springs NR lodge.

**Blue-naped Mousebird** *Urocolius macrourus*

Seen well on every day we had in the northern Kenyan reserves.

### Rollers Coraciidae

**Purple (Rufous-crowned) Roller** *Coracias naevia*

Unusually common on this tour, with scattered sightings on 7 days, most in the northern Kenyan reserves.

**Lilac-breasted Roller** *Coracias caudata*

This common multi-coloured species was more often seen than not in savannah habitats in both countries – always a favourite!

**Broad-billed Roller** *Eurystomus glaucurus*

At least 3 birds were seen on the final morning in Lake Nakuru NP.



### **Kingfishers Alcedinidae**

**Grey-headed Kingfisher***Halcyon leucocephala*

Some great views, including many close encounters of this stunner – recorded on 8 days.

**Striped Kingfisher***Halcyon chelicuti*

Singles were seen in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs and Buffalo Springs NR.

**Woodland Kingfisher***Halcyon senegalensis*

This beautiful bird was encountered daily in Tarangire NP.

**Malachite Kingfisher***Alcedo cristata*

Best views of this jewel by far coming from Amboseli NP.

**Giant Kingfisher***Megaceryle maxima*

A single bird was seen very well by some on the first morning at Ngare Sero.

**Pied Kingfisher***Ceryle rudis*

A distinctive and widespread kingfisher that was seen a few times at scattered locations.

### **Bee-eaters Meropidae**

**Little Bee-eater***Merops pusillus*

We found this lovely small bee-eater in every park we visited during the tour!

**Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater***Merops oreobates*

We saw this super-sized version of the previous species in highland forest mainly at Ngorongoro, Gibb's Farm and Mt Kenya.

**White-fronted Bee-eater***Merops bullockoides*

Another stunning bird, it showed along the road to the Namanga borderpost and beautifully on the final morning.

**Somali Bee-eater***Merops revoilii*

A sought-after species - we had birds in Shaba NR and Samburu-Buffalo Springs on 2 days.

**White-throated Bee-eater***Merops albicollis*

This supremely elegant member of the bee-eater family was common in Shaba, Samburu and Buffalo Springs NRs.

**Olive Bee-eater***Merops supercilliosus*

An exquisite bird that was seen on the way to Amboseli NP.

### **Hoopoes Upupidae**

**African Hoopoe***Upupa africana*

A striking and charismatic species that was found in open woodland at various sites, mainly Tarangire and northern Kenya.

### **Wood Hoopoes Phoeniculidae**

**White-headed Wood Hoopoe***Phoeniculus bollei*

We were very fortunate to find two groups, with a total of 7 birds on Mt Kenya – often a tricky species.

**Green Wood Hoopoe***Phoeniculus purpureus*

Small groups of 3-4 birds were seen frequently mainly in Tanzania's woodland reserves.



**Grant's (Violet) Wood Hoopoe***Phoeniculus granti*

3 birds were seen nicely near the entrance to Shaba NR. *NOTE:*

*Clement's lumps this species with Violet Woodhoopoe P. damarensis.*

**Common Scimitarbill***Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*

This Scimitarbill is fairly uncommon in east Africa, where we recorded it in Gibb's Farm and Lake Nakuru NP.

**Abyssinian Scimitarbill***Rhinopomastus minor*

Seen on at least 5 days, with best views in Tarangire NP.

**Ground Hornbills Bucorvidae****Southern Ground Hornbill***Bucorvus leadbeateri*

An impressive bird that we saw on 2 days in Tarangire NP, before enjoying fantastic views of a group of 3 on the final morning in Lake Nakuru NP.

**Hornbills Bucerotidae****Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill***Tockus rauhae*

A relatively recent split, this species was seen a few times within its confined range of the Serengeti.

**Northern Red-billed Hornbill***Tockus erythrorhynchus*

A very common species in Tarangire NP and Shaba, Samburu and Buffalo Springs NRs.

**Von der Decken's Hornbill***Tockus deckeni*

An unusually strongly dimorphic hornbill that was common in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs and seen a few times in northern Kenya.

**Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill***Tockus flavirostris*

We had great sightings of this character in Shaba NR.

**African Grey Hornbill***Tockus nasutus*

Fairly common in savannah and grassland habitat in Northern Tanzania

**Silvery-cheeked Hornbill***Bycanistes brevis*

This large hornbill was seen well in forest around Mt Kenya. *Note: Clements places this species in a different genus to the IOC nomenclature, namely Ceratogymna.*

**African Barbets Lybiidae****White-eared Barbet***Stactolaema leucotis*

Seen at our lodge near Arusha on the first day.

**Moustached Tinkerbird***Pogoniulus leucomystax*

Fantastic views on the Endoro Forest Trail near Gibb's Farm.

**Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird***Pogoniulus bilineatus*

A single one of these cute little birds were seen in Mt Kenya forest.

**Red-fronted Tinkerbird***Pogoniulus pusillus*

We finally managed a great sighting of this species during our travels to Lake Nakuru NP.

**Red-fronted Barbet***Tricholaema diademata*

Generally a bird of *Acacia* savannah – seen in Oldupai Gorge and the Serengeti.

**Spot-flanked Barbet***Tricholaema lacrymosa*

A single bird showed well soon after we left the Mt Kenya Reserve.

**Black-throated Barbet** *Tricholaema melanocephalus*

Numerous birds were seen during walks near Namanga, another was seen later in the north.

**White-headed Barbet** *Lybius leucocephalus*

3 birds were recorded in the Ngorongoro Crater, one of which was seen very well.

**Red-and-yellow Barbet** *Trachyphonus erythrocephalus*

It's always a pleasure to see this beauty – we had sightings in Tarangire NP and in Shaba and Samburu NRs.

**D'Arnaud's Barbet** *Trachyphonus darnaudii*

We recorded many of the Usambiro form in Serengeti NP and a few “normal” forms in Tarangire NP and Amboseli and Samburu in Kenya.

*NOTE: The drabber sub-species, Usambiro Barbet (T. d. usambiro), that we recorded in the Serengeti is sometimes treated as a full species. This is due to larger size, greyer bill, and greenish tone to the head and a darker breast band. IOC does not recognize this split, however Clement's does.*

### Honeyguides Indicatoridae

**Green-backed Honeybird** *Prodotyscus zambesiae*

A scarce species that we were lucky with, recording it on the way up to the Ngorongoro Crater rim and around Gibb's Farm.

**Brown-backed Honeybird** *Prodotyscus regulus*

Often missed – this bird was seen twice on the tour, in Buffalo Springs and Lake Nakuru NP.

**Lesser Honeyguide** *Indicator minor*

A single bird was seen well during a short walk at a stop near the Tana River in Kenya.

**Scaly-throated Honeyguide** *Indicator variegatus*

We were disappointed to just get brief distant views during the Endoro Forest Walk.

**Greater Honeyguide** *Indicator indicator*

Young birds were seen on 2 days in Tarangire NP.

### Woodpeckers & Allies Picidae

**Nubian Woodpecker** *Campethera nubica*

We found this medium-sized woodpecker on 5 days of the tour – some great views!

**Tullberg's Woodpecker** *Campethera tullbergi*

One pair was seen high in the canopy on Mt Kenya on the first afternoon there.

**Cardinal Woodpecker** *Dendropicos fuscescens*

This diminutive woodpecker was best seen as we arrived in the southern Serengeti near our lodge.

**Bearded Woodpecker** *Dendropicos namaquus*

We had a pair of this large woodpecker in Tarangire NP and then great views in Buffalo Springs NR.

**African Grey Woodpecker** *Dendropicos goertae*

Seen well in Serengeti NP.

**Eastern Grey Woodpecker** *Dendropicos spodocephalus*

Seen in Tarangire NP.

**Brown-backed Woodpecker** *Dendropicos obsoletus*

Seen in Tarangire NP.





### Falcons & Kestrels Falconidae

#### **Pygmy Falcon**

*Polihierax semitorquatus*

We enjoyed some good sightings of these little guys in savannah habitats throughout the tour; seen on 11 days!

#### **Common (Eurasian) Kestrel**

*Falco tinnunculus*

A single bird was seen in grasslands of the southern Serengeti.

*NOTE: Some authorities split this species into Common Kestrel, F. tinnunculus which we observed (occurring in East and West Africa and the Palaearctic region) and Rock Kestrel, F. rupicolis which occurs in Southern Africa. Clements does not as yet recognize this split, while IOC does.*

#### **Greater Kestrel**

*Falco rupicoloides*

We had wonderful views of this pale-eyed beauty in Serengeti and Amboseli NPs.

#### **Grey Kestrel**

*Falco ardosiaceus*

2 birds were seen in Tarangire NP, where one showed very well.

#### **Red-necked Falcon**

*Falco chicquera*

2 birds were seen at close range on a dead tree in Shaba NR.

#### **Lanner Falcon**

*Falco biarmicus*

A single bird was seen on the first morning before we had an amazing close fly-by in Samburu NR.

#### **Peregrine Falcon**

*Falco peregrinus*

We recorded this species on the Ngorongoro Crater rim, where we enjoyed views in beautiful light.

### African & New World Parrots Psittacidae

#### **Red-fronted Parrot**

*Poicephalus gulielmi*

Most views were of flocks flying overhead, but we did get a few perched views in Mount Kenya.

#### **Meyer's (Brown) Parrot**

*Poicephalus meyeri*

Seen well in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

#### **Red-bellied (African Orange-bellied) Parrot**

*Poicephalus rufiventris*

We had a number of good views of this bird in Tarangire, with later views in the northern Kenya reserves.

### Old World Parrots Psittacidae

#### **Fischer's Lovebird**

*Agapornis fischeri*

This delightful parrot was fairly common in Serengeti NP.

#### **Yellow-collared Lovebird**

*Agapornis personatus*

An East African endemic that was common in Tarangire NP.

### Wattle-eyes, Batises & Allies Platysteiridae

#### **Chinspot Batis**

*Batis molitor*

We had our best views of this little guy in the forest at Mt Kenya and in Oldupai Gorge.

#### **Pygmy Batis**

*Batis perkeo*

A fairly scarce species that we found on either side of the Namanga border and in Samburu NR.

#### **Black-throated Wattle-eye**

*Platysteira peltata*

Another tricky species that we found very nicely in the forest near Gibb's Farm.



**Bushshrikes Malaconotidae**

- Grey-headed Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*  
We had a fairly responsive pair in Shaba NR that showed well in an area of Acacia savannah.
- Black-fronted Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus nigrifrons*  
Seen very well on the Endoro Forest walk near Gibb's Farm.
- Orange-breasted Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*  
A single bird showed well briefly in the Ngorongoro Crater.
- Rosy-patched Bushshrike** *Telophorus cruentus*  
Another lovely member of the family, most views were in the trio of reserves in northern Kenya.
- Brown-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra australis*  
Individuals were seen well in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.
- Black-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra senegala*  
A single bird was recorded in the Ngorongoro Crater's Lerai Forest.
- Black-backed Puffback** *Dryoscopus cubla*  
Seen briefly at the entrance to the Ngorongoro Crater and then on the walk at Gibb's Farm.
- Slate-coloured Boubou** *Laniarius funebris*  
This matt black bird was common in dry woodland thicket throughout the tour.
- Tropical Boubou** *Laniarius aethiopicus*  
The forest equivalent of the previous species, and seen well around the Ngorongoro Crater rim.
- Brubru** *Nilaus afer*  
This small shrike was seen or heard giving its characteristic call at various savannah woodland sites.

**Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae**

- Grey Cuckooshrike** *Coracina caesia*  
Seen exceptionally well in the Mt Kenya forest.
- Black Cuckooshrike** *Campephaga flava*  
A pair was seen on the first morning near our lodge.
- Purple-throated Cuckooshrike** *Campephaga quiscalina*  
At least a single male was seen very well during our walk near Gibb's Farm.

**Shrikes Laniidae**

- Magpie (Long-tailed) Shrike** *Urolestes melanoleucus*  
A very common and gregarious resident of Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.
- Northern White-crowned Shrike** *Eurocephalus rueppelli*  
As abundant as the previous species and found in similar areas, plus in northern Kenya. *NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is White-rumped Shrike.*
- Lesser Grey Shrike** *Lanius minor*  
Very late for this migrant in east Africa – we were happy to find a single bird in Shaba NR.
- Grey-backed Fiscal** *Lanius excubitoroides*  
This distinctive gregarious shrike was seen in Serengeti NP.
- Long-tailed Fiscal** *Lanius cabanisi*



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Encountered often in Tarangire NP, and also Amboseli NP.

**Taita Fiscal** *Lanius dorsalis*

We had good views of birds near Oldupai Gorge and in the northern Kenyan NRs.

**Northern Fiscal** *Lanius humeralis*

A common roadside species in Kenya and Tanzania.

**Southern Fiscal** *Lanius collaris*

This recent split is represented by a population in the moister area around Arusha on our route.

### **Old World Orioles Oriolidae**

**Mountain Oriole** *Oriolus percivali*

Seen wonderfully well in Mt Kenya NR on 3 days.

**Black-headed Oriole** *Oriolus larvatus*

Seen well in and near Tarangire NP and later in the Serengeti.

### **Drongos Dicruridae**

**Fork-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus adsimilis*

Widespread and seen at scattered localities throughout the trip.

### **Monarchs Monarchidae**

**African Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone viridis*

We encountered this on the first morning, at Gibb's Farm and Mt Kenya.

### **Crows, Jays & Magpies Corvidae**

**Cape (Black) Crow** *Corvus capensis*

We saw this species a few times in higher altitude areas near Ngorongoro, Mt Kenya and Lake Nakuru.

**Pied Crow** *Corvus albus*

A common and widespread corvid, often found near human habitation.

**Fan-tailed Raven** *Corvus rhipidurus*

Often very scarce, we had very good views on 3 days in the north of Kenya.

**White-necked Raven** *Corvus albicollis*

This impressive corvid was seen around the Ngorongoro Crater rim.

### **Fairy Flycatchers Stenostiridae**

**White-tailed Blue Flycatcher** *Elminia albicauda*

Seen well during our afternoon at and around Gibb's Farm.

**White-tailed Crested Flycatcher** *Elminia albonotata*

Seen briefly in the forest during our walk on Mt Kenya.

### **Tits Paridae**

**White-bellied Tit** *Melaniparus albiventris*

A number of birds were watched in the forest at Mt Kenya and in Lake Nakuru NP.



**Red-throated Tit***Melaniparus fringillinus*

This delightful East African endemic was seen on the first morning near Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

**Acacia Tit***Melaniparus thruppi*

2 birds were seen in dry woodland in Samburu NR.

**Penduline Tits Remizidae****Mouse-coloured Penduline Tit***Anthoscopus musculus*

Single birds were seen in Amboseli NP and Buffalo Springs later – a tiny species of this dry zone.

**Grey Penduline Tit***Anthoscopus caroli*

We did well with this species; one of our sightings brief in Tarangire NP, while the other was in the Serengeti. This form is sometimes called Buff-bellied Penduline Tit.

**Larks Alaudidae****Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark***Eremopterix signatus*

We had wonderful close views of about 8 birds in the dry woodland of Shaba NR.

**Fischer's Sparrow-Lark***Eremopterix leucopareia*

Very common and seen almost everywhere except in forest habitat.

**Pink-breasted Lark***Mirafraga poecilosterna*

This fairly distinctive lark was common in the drier reserves of Shaba, Samburu and Buffalo Springs.

**Foxy Lark***Calendulauda alopex*

This attractive lark was seen in Tarangire NP, the Serengeti and Buffalo Springs NR.

**Red-winged Lark***Mirafraga hypermetra*

A very large species that we saw in Amboseli NP, while we had another 4 birds in Buffalo Springs NR.

**Rufous-naped Lark***Mirafraga africana*

This lark provided a constant aural backdrop to our time in Serengeti NP and especially the Ngorongoro Crater.

**Flappet Lark***Mirafraga rufocinnamomea*

We heard very well in Tarangire NP bushland. Serengeti gave great perched views.

**William's Lark***Mirafraga williamsi*

In a lava field in Shaba NR we had a bird in display flight and were even lucky enough to get views on the ground as it landed on a large rock.

**Singing Bush Lark***Mirafraga cantillans*

4 birds were seen in the late afternoon in Buffalo Springs – on the ground and in display flight.

**White-tailed Lark***Mirafraga albicauda*

A few birds were seen briefly over the southern Serengeti grasslands, while we also had one on the road.

**Red-capped Lark***Calandrella cinerea*

Good views were had in Ngorongoro Crater, the Serengeti and Amboseli NP.

**Athi Short-toed Lark***Alaudala athensis*

2 birds were found in Amboseli NP where they were in display flight.

**Bulbuls Pycnonotidae****Dodson's Bulbul***Pycnonotus dodsoni*



This dry-country bulbul was found in Shaba, Samburu and Buffalo Springs NR, with some particularly bold individuals at our dining area in the latter!

*NOTE: Part of another very confusing polytypic species complex. In Africa the IOC nomenclature recognises the following good species: Common Bulbul (P. barbatus), Dark-capped Bulbul (P. tricolor), Somali Bulbul (P. somaliensis) and Dodson's Bulbul (P. dodsoni). Clement's lumps all of the above as Common Bulbul (P. barbatus).*

#### **Dark-capped Bulbul**

*Pycnonotus tricolor*

This forest and moist woodland counterpart of the previous species was found in Tarangire, Serengeti and Lake Nakuru NPs, among other places. *NOTE: See above species.*

#### **Olive-breasted Greenbul**

*Arizelocichla kikuyuensis*

This brightly coloured Greenbul was seen well on Mt Kenya.

*NOTE: IOC splits the Mountain Greenbul complex into several species: including the nominate Mountain Greenbul (A. nigriceps) endemic to the highland forests of southern Kenya and northern Tanzania, Yellow-throated Greenbul (A. chlorigula) endemic to southern Tanzania and Black-browed Greenbul (A. fusciceps) endemic to Malawi, northern Mozambique & extreme S Tanzania as well as this species from central Kenya and Uganda.*

#### **Mountain Greenbul**

*Andropadus nigriceps*

Another beautiful Greenbul, this was seen around the Ngorongoro area.

#### **Slender-billed Greenbul**

*Stelgidillas gracilirostris*

This species was seen very well on a few occasions around Mt Kenya.

#### **Yellow-whiskered Greenbul**

*Eurillas latirostris*

2 birds were seen briefly in Mt Kenya forest.

#### **Northern Brownbul**

*Phyllastrephus strepitans*

Seen well in Samburu NR near the River where one showed well.

#### **Placid Greenbul**

*Phyllastrephus placidus*

Very responsive, yet difficult to get to see very well, we had a few in Mt Kenya forest.

### **Martins & Swallows Hirundinidae**

#### **Black Saw-wing**

*Psalidoprocne pristoptera*

Seen often in forest and moist woodland sites throughout the tour.

#### **Grey-rumped Swallow**

*Pseudhirundo griseopyga*

4 of these uncommon swallows were seen very well in the Ngorongoro Crater.

#### **Brown-throated (Plain) Martin**

*Riparia paludicola*

We saw this small swallow around water a few times, including in Tarangire NP and on the last 2 days.

#### **Banded Martin**

*Riparia cincta*

Seen very well in the Ngorongoro Crater.

#### **Barn Swallow**

*Hirundo rustica*

Recorded on 7 days – these were probably about to head north on migration.

#### **Wire-tailed Swallow**

*Hirundo smithii*

This petite little swallow was regular; recorded on most days of the tour in a variety of habitats.

#### **Rock Martin**

*Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

Widespread, preferring rocky habitats around which it was usually found easily.

#### **Lesser Striped Swallow**

*Cecropis abyssinica*

A very attractive swallow that was common in Tarangire and was seen in the Serengeti and Amboseli NPs.

#### **Mosque Swallow**

*Cecropis senegalensis*



This large swallow was seen in Tarangire, the Serengeti and Lake Nakuru NPs.

**Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica*

We saw this species, common in the area, at numerous sites; more common at higher altitude.

### **Crombecs, African Warblers Macrosphenidae**

**Northern Crombec** *Sylvietta brachyura*

A single bird was seen fairly well in Lake Nakuru woodland.

**Red-faced Crombec** *Sylvietta whytii*

The moister area equivalent of the previous species – common in Tanzania woodland.

**Somali Crombec** *Sylvietta isabellina*

A very good but brief sighting in the woodland in Samburu, where it is a scarce resident.

### **Leaf warblers & allies Phylloscopidae**

**Brown Woodland Warbler** *Phylloscopus umbrovirens*

A few birds were seen well on Mt Kenya.

### **Reed Warblers & Allies Acrocephalidae**

**Lesser Swamp Warbler** *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*

2 birds were recorded at a wetland site in the Ngorongoro Crater.

**African Yellow Warbler** *Iduna natalensis*

2 birds showed very well in scrubby habitat on Mt Kenya.

**Mountain Yellow Warbler** *Iduna similis*

A single bird was seen by one participant at our Ngorongoro Crater lodge.

### **Grassbirds & Allies Locustellidae**

**Little Rush Warbler** *Bradypterus baboecala*

Heard on the first morning near Arusha, seen well in the Ngorongoro Crater.

**Cinnamon Bracken Warbler** *Bradypterus cinnamomeus*

A very hard bird to see – we were lucky to secure fantastic views of one bird in a thicket at the foothills of Mt Kenya NP.

### **Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae**

**Red-faced Cisticola** *Cisticola erythrops*

Seen well around the Ngorongoro Crater.

**Singing Cisticola** *Cisticola cantans*

Two birds were seen during our descent in to the Ngorongoro Crater.

**Hunter's Cisticola** *Cisticola hunteri*

This montane forest Cisticola was common around Ngorongoro and Mt Kenya.

**Rattling Cisticola** *Cisticola chiniana*

Common in savannah habitat everywhere.

**Boran Cisticola** *Cisticola bodessa*



2 birds were seen at a roadside stop during the drive to Lake Nakuru NP.

**Ashy Cisticola** *Cisticola cinereolus*

Birds were seen in Amboseli NP and Shaba NR in the north.

**Lynes's Cisticola** *Cisticola distinctus*

2 birds were seen on the way down into the Ngorongoro Crater.

**Winding Cisticola** *Cisticola marginatus*

Seen in moist grassland in the Ngorongoro Crater, the Serengeti and at Amboseli NP.

*NOTE: The IOC nomenclature has split this widespread African group into five species. Winding Cisticola (C. galactotes) that we observed is now C. marginatus and occurs in East, Central and West Africa. The other four species are Coastal Cisticola (C. haematocephalus) that occurs in coastal East Africa, Luapula Cisticola (C. luapula) occurring largely in Zambia, Rufous-winged Cisticola (C. galactotes) of coastal Southern Africa and Ethiopian Cisticola (C. lugubris) endemic to Ethiopia. Clements does not as yet recognise these splits.*

**Levaillant's Cisticola** *Cisticola tinniens*

Scarce in East Africa, where we recorded it near the Thompson Falls.

**Stout Cisticola** *Cisticola robustus*

4 birds were seen well in scrubby habitat in Lake Nakuru NP.

**Croaking Cisticola** *Cisticola natalensis*

Three of these large Cisticolas showed very nicely in Tarangire NP, another later in the Serengeti.

**Tiny Cisticola** *Cisticola nana*

We had birds on the Kenyan side of Namanga in dry woodland.

**Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*

Seen and heard in grassland, mainly in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

**Desert Cisticola** *Cisticola aridulus*

Heard in Serengeti NP before we had brief views in Buffalo Springs.

**Pectoral-patch Cisticola** *Cisticola brunnescens*

This small Cisticola was very common in the Ngorongoro Crater and seen in Serengeti NP.

**Tawny-flanked Prinia** *Prinia subflava*

First seen en route to Tarangire NP and on 2 other days.

**Pale Prinia** *Prinia somalica*

We had great views in Buffalo Springs.

**Buff-bellied Warbler** *Phyllolais pulchella*

Fairly often encountered around Tarangire NP, the Serengeti and in Lake Nakuru as we left.

**Bar-throated Apalis** *Apalis thoracica*

We had great views of some of the 3 birds we recorded around the Ngorongoro Crater rim.

**Yellow-breasted Apalis** *Apalis flava*

Seen a few times in the *Acaia* woodland on 6 days of the tour.

**Black-throated Apalis** *Apalis jacksoni*

This beauty gave great views on two occasions during our time at Mt Kenya.

**Chestnut-throated Apalis** *Apalis porphyrolaema*

We found a total of 5 birds, including during the forest walk in Mt Kenya.

**Karamoja Apalis** *Apalis karamojae*

We enjoyed wonderful views of this highly localised little bird in Serengeti NP, where a pair responded wonderfully to playback.

**Grey Apalis** *Apalis cinerea*



Small numbers were seen well on 2 days around Mt Kenya.

**Brown-headed Apalis** *Apalis alticola*

A single bird showed well on the Ngorongoro Crater rim – many more were heard.

**Red-fronted Warbler** *Urorhipis rufifrons*

A bird showed well in the Namanga area, before we had another one later in Buffalo Springs NR.

**Grey-capped Warbler** *Eminia lepida*

This stunning warbler was seen very well on the Crater rim and later near Gibb's Farm garden.

**Grey-(Green)backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brevicaudata*

This bleating warbler was often seen or heard in thickets at various sites.

**Grey Wren-Warbler** *Calamonastes simplex*

A few birds were seen, first briefly and later well near Namanga and in the northern Kenya reserves.

**Yellow-bellied Eremomela** *Eremomela icteropygialis*

We enjoyed great views of this little bird on a short walk on the first morning, in Tarangire NP and finally in Shaba and Buffalo Springs NRs.

**Yellow-vented Eremomela** *Eremomela flavicrissalis*

A tricky bird that was seen very well when we a single bird at close range in Shaba NR.

### **Laughingthrushes Leithrichidae**

**Scaly Chatterer** *Turdoides aylmeri*

A very scarce bird that is shy and hard to find – we briefly had a small group just south of the Namanga Border.

**Rufous Chatterer** *Turdoides rubiginosa*

These lovely orange characters were first seen at Oldupai Gorge and were later surprisingly common in Samburu NR.

**Black-lored Babbler** *Turdoides sharpei*

This Serengeti special was seen over four days in the park after first views in the Crater.

**Arrow-marked Babbler** *Turdoides jardineii*

This widespread species was seen well in Gibb's Farm and Lake Nakuru NP.

**Hinde's Babbler** *Turdoides hindei*

A vulnerable species with a very small range – we were thrilled with a group of 3 near the Tana River in Kenya.

**Northern Pied Babbler** *Turdoides hypoleuca*

This East African endemic was common in Tarangire NP; also seen in Kenya.

### **Sylvid Babblers Sylviidae**

**African Hill Babbler** *Pseudoalcippe abyssinica*

Three separate sightings were had: Gibb's Farm and twice at Mt Kenya.

**Brown Parisoma** *Sylvia lugens*

A pair was seen well in the open forest on the Ngorongoro Crater rim during our descent.

**Banded Parisoma** *Sylvia boehmi*

We had views of a bird in Tarangire NP and a few others near the Namanga Border.





### White-eyes Zosteropidae

**Abyssinian White-eye** *Zosterops abyssinicus*

Unusually common around Oldupai Gorge woodland.

**Montane White-eye** *Zosterops poliogastrus*

Quite common in the forest around Gibb's Farm and on the Crater rim.

*NOTE: Clements does not split this and the following species, and instead names them Broad-ringed White-eye Z. poliogastrus.*

**Kikuyu White-eye** *Zosterops kikuyuensis*

A Kenyan endemic that we had great views of around Mt Kenya.

### Starlings Sturnidae

**Wattled Starling** *Creatophora cinerea*

Seen almost daily on the first half of the tour, including some males getting into breeding plumage. **Greater Blue-eared (Glossy-) Starling** *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*. These gorgeous birds were common around Lake Nakuru.

**Rüppell's (Glossy-) Starling** *Lamprotornis purpuroptera*

These long-tailed indigo-coloured starlings were common in Serengeti NP and seen again on the final morning.

**Golden-breasted Starling** *Lamprotornis regius*

A spectacular bird of the dry north – we had great views in Shaba, Buffalo Springs and Samburu Reserves!

**Superb Starling** *Lamprotornis superbus*

This beauty was only missed on one day of the tour!

**Hildebrandt's Starling** *Lamprotornis hildebrandti*

This East African endemic was seen almost daily during the first half of the tour in small numbers.

**Ashy Starling** *Lamprotornis unicolor*

This drab yet elegant endemic starling was seen daily in Tarangire NP. *NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC, namely: Spreo.*

**Fischer's Starling** *Lamprotornis fischeri*

This smart dry-country starling was seen near Amboseli NP and later in the northern reserves.

**Violet-backed Starling** *Cinnnyricinclus leucogaster*

4 birds were seen near the Tana River in Kenya during a short walk.

**Red-winged Starling** *Onychognathus morio*

We had close views of this starling at our lodge in Tarangire NP.

**Slender-billed Starling** *Onychognathus tenuirostris*

2 pairs showed very well in a town we drove through during the trip to Lake Nakuru NP.

**Waller's Starling** *Onychognathus walleri*

A dozen birds were seen in flight from the Ngorongoro viewpoint, while we had another pair in the Mt Kenya forest.

**Bristle-crowned Starling** *Onychognathus salvadorii*

This large starling impressed us at Shaba NR, where it was seen around the lodge.

**Kenrick's Starling** *Poeoptera kenricki*

4 birds were seen in the lodge garden on the first morning of the tour.



**Magpie Starling** *Speculipastor bicolor*

We had sightings of a total of around 14 birds on 2 consecutive days in Shaba NR – often a scarce species!

**Oxpeckers Buphagidae**

**Yellow-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus africanus*

Seen in Tarangire, the Crater and in the Serengeti NP, with a few later in Amboseli NP.

**Red-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*

Much more common than the above species, especially common in parts of Tanzania.

**Thrushes & Allies Turdidae**

**African Thrush** *Turdus pelios*

This bird was seen in Lake Nakuru NP.

**Abyssinian (Olive) Thrush** *Turdus abyssinicus*

Seen a few times in forest along the crater rim and very well at Mt Kenya. *NOTE: The Olive Thrush complex has been split into 6 full species. Clements does not as yet recognise these splits.*

**Chats, Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae**

**White-browed Scrub Robin** *Erythropygia leucophrys*

Seen well in the Oldupai Gorge area and later in Samburu NR.

**White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher** *Melaenornis fischeri*

A common and conspicuous species in forest along the crater rim, Gibb's Farm, Mt Kenya and Lake Nakuru NP.

*NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to the IOC nomenclature, namely Melaenornis.*

**Southern Black Flycatcher** *Melaenornis pammelaina*

We just saw a single bird well in Samburu NR.

**Pale Flycatcher** *Melaenornis pallidus*

Seen well on the final morning in Lake Nakuru NP.

**African Grey Flycatcher** *Bradornis microrhynchus*

A common species in east Africa that was seen at most woodland areas.

**Silverbird** *Empidonis semipartitus*

This beautiful flycatcher was seen well on numerous occasions during our time in Tanzania.

**African Dusky Flycatcher** *Muscicapa adusta*

We had great views of these very tame little birds along the crater rim, Gibb's Farm and Mt Kenya.

**Cape Robin-Chat** *Cossypha caffra*

This species was common in higher-lying forests on Ngorongoro Crater rim and Mt Kenya.

**Rüppell's Robin-Chat** *Cossypha semirufa*

A single bird was seen by some at our Mt Kenya lodge, where many were heard.

**White-browed Robin-Chat** *Cossypha heuglini*

This stunning species was seen on the first morning, at Gibb's Farm and in Amboseli NP.

**White-starred Robin** *Pogonocichla stellata*

We had a few wonderful sightings of this beauty at Mt Kenya.



**Spotted Palm (Morning-) Thrush***Cichladusa guttata*

This eloquent songster was noted a few times, including in good numbers around Buffalo Springs NR.

**African Stonechat***Saxicola torquatus*

Quite common around the Ngorongoro Crater rim, with a few more sightings near Mt Kenya.

NOTE: Clement's does not recognise this as a full species and lumps it with Eurasian Stonechat.

**Mocking Cliff Chat***Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*

On the final morning we had great views of a female in Lake Nakuru NP.

**(Northern) Anteater Chat***Myrmecocichla aethiops*

This was common in the Ngorongoro Crater and at Lake Nakuru NP.

**Capped Wheatear***Oenanthe pileata*

We encountered species often in and en route to Serengeti NP.

**Brown-tailed Rock Chat***Oenanthe scotocerca*

This species was seen well on the dark volcanic rock it prefers near and in Shaba NR.

**Mourning Wheatear***Oenanthe lugens schalowi*

We saw birds alongside the road near the Ngorongoro Crater and a few later south of Namanga.

NOTE: The form we saw is sometimes split as Schalow's Wheatear *O. schalowi*, however this treatment is not followed by IOC or Clements.

### Sunbirds Nectarinidae

**Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird***Antheptes orientalis*

Most sightings we had of this species were in the northern Kenya Reserves, first seen near Amboseli NP.

**Collared Sunbird***Hedydipna collaris*

Seen on 3 days, with great sightings in and around Gibb's Farm.

**Green-headed Sunbird***Cyanomitra verticalis*

As we were about to leave Gibb's Farm, we had good views of a female in the garden.

**Amethyst Sunbird***Chalcomitra amethystina*

We were fortunate to get a good male in Lake Nakuru NP.

**Scarlet-chested Sunbird***Chalcomitra senegalensis*

This gorgeous bird was seen a few times, especially in Tanzania.

**Hunter's Sunbird***Chalcomitra hunteri*

The dry-country version of the previous species was seen well in fairly good numbers in Shaba, Samburu and Buffalo Springs NRs.

**Bronzy (Bronze) Sunbird***Nectarinia kilimensis*

Seen well along the Crater rim, at Gibb's Farm and at our Lake Nakuru lodge.

**Malachite Sunbird***Nectarinia famosa*

2 males were seen well on the Crater rim around some flowers.

**Golden-winged Sunbird***Drepanorhynchus reichenowi*

We had really good numbers along the road down into the Ngorongoro Crater.

**Northern Double-collared Sunbird***Cinnyris reichenowi*

Single birds were seen on 2 days in the forest at Mount Kenya.

**Eastern Double-collared Sunbird***Cinnyris mediocris*

Quite common in highland forest along the slopes and rim of Ngorongoro and Mt Kenya.

**Beautiful Sunbird***Cinnyris pulchella*

This aptly-named species was common in savannah habitat, mainly in Tarangire NP but also in the Serengeti and Amboseli NPs.

**Marico Sunbird***Cinnyris mariquensis*

Encountered in a number of different woodland reserves, including Tarangire NP, Serengeti NP and Buffalo Springs.

**Black-bellied Sunbird***Cinnyris nectarinioides*

We watched a few males in Shaba and Buffalo Springs in northern Kenya.

**Shining Sunbird***Cinnyris habessinicus*

This very scarce species in the area was seen very well in Shaba NR, where it was seen on our first afternoon.

**Variable Sunbird***Cinnyris venusta*

We saw the yellow-bellied form of this sunbird at various localities including the Ngorongoro Crater rim and the base of Mt Kenya.

### Old World Sparrows Passeridae

**White-browed Sparrow-Weaver***Plocepasser mahali*

Very common in the dry north (Amboseli NP and Buffalo Springs and Shaba NRs) **Donaldson-Smith's**

**Sparrow-Weaver***Plocepasser donaldsoni*

This range-restricted species was common in Shaba, Samburu and Buffalo Springs NRs.

**Rufous-tailed Weaver***Histurgops ruficauda*

This East African endemic was common in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs and was seen at very close range in Ngorongoro Crater.

**Grey-capped (headed) Social Weaver***Pseudonigrita arnaudi*

These cute little birds were seen mainly in Serengeti NP but also around the Namanga area.

**Black-capped Social Weaver***Pseudonigrita cabanisi*

Seen very well in large numbers in the trio of northern reserves we visited.

**House Sparrow***Passer domesticus*

Only recorded around a few times in northern Tanzania when we drove through towns there.

**Kenya (Rufous) Sparrow***Passer rufocinctus*

This attractive sparrow was seen a few times, including in the Ngorongoro, Oldupai, Serengeti and Lake Nakuru NP.

*NOTE: Some authorities including Clements split this African sparrow into five species. Shelley's Sparrow (P. shelleyi) occurs largely in Ethiopia, Great Sparrow (P. motitensis) occurs in Southern Africa, Kenya Sparrow (P. rufocinctus) occurs in East Africa, Kordofan Sparrow (P. cordofanicus) occurs in Sudan and Socotra Sparrow (P. insularis) which is endemic to Socotra.*

**Northern Grey-headed Sparrow***Passer griseus*

The commonest sparrow on our Tanzanian portion of the tour. *NOTE:*

*The Clements common name for this species is Gray-headed Sparrow.*

**Parrot-billed Sparrow***Passer gongonensis*

Common in the northern Kenya reserves.

**Swahili Sparrow***Passer suahelicus*

Seen well and in fairly good numbers in Serengeti NP.

**Chestnut Sparrow***Passer eminibey*

Recorded on 6 days with best views in the Shaba and Buffalo Springs Reserves.





**Yellow-spotted Petronia***Gymnoris (Petronia) superciliaris*

We found this drab sparrow in Serengeti NP before we had more frequent views in Shaba and Samburu reserves.

**Weavers & Allies Ploceidae****Red-billed Buffalo Weaver***Bubalornis niger*

This species was found in Tarangire, Serengeti and Amboseli NPs as well as in Shaba, Samburu and Buffalo Springs NRs

**White-headed Buffalo Weaver***Dinemellia dinemelli*

This striking species was common throughout the tour and found in the same reserves as its Red-billed cousin.

**Speckle-fronted Weaver***Sporopipes frontalis*

This stout, small weaver was seen mainly in Tarangire and the Serengeti.

**Thick-billed (Grosbeak) Weaver***Amblyospiza albifrons*

Seen on the first morning near Arusha, before we had very close views of birds in Gibb's Farm gardens and Amboseli NP.

**Baglafaecht Weaver***Ploceus baglafaecht*

This highland forest species was recorded on half the tour days, including along the Ngorongoro Crater rim and at Mt Kenya.

**Little Weaver***Ploceus luteolus*

Scarce on the route, where we had a male feeding along *Acacia* branches in the southern Serengeti.

**Spectacled Weaver***Ploceus ocularis*

We enjoyed a number of birds around the Crater rim, with good views in the Mt Kenya area.

**Black-necked Weaver***Ploceus nigricollis*

A striking species - we had decent views of a single bird on the Kenyan side of the Namanga border.

**Holub's Golden Weaver***Ploceus xanthops*

Single birds were seen in Ngorongoro Crater and near the Tana River in Kenya.

**Golden Palm Weaver***Ploceus bojeri*

This bright yellow weaver was seen very well in Buffalo Springs NR.

**Taveta Weaver***Ploceus castaneiceps*

This East African endemic was seen at and near our lodge near Arusha and on Observation Hill in Amboseli NP.

**Lesser Masked Weaver***Ploceus intermedius*

This little weaver was seen a number of times in Tanzania, with most in the dry woodland west of Amboseli NP, where they bred in a huge Chestnut Weaver colony.

**Vitelline Masked Weaver***Ploceus vitellinus*

Seen in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs and at Oldupai Gorge where they were breeding.

**Speke's Weaver***Ploceus spekei*

A dozen birds were seen in the Ngorongoro Crater and we had a number of scattered colonies elsewhere including in Lake Nakuru.

**Village Weaver***Ploceus cucullatus*

We saw the *bohndorffi* subspecies at Buffalo Springs NR after a few breeding birds in the central Serengeti.



**Golden-backed (Jackson's) Weaver** *Ploceus jacksoni*

2 birds were seen fairly briefly on the first morning of the tour.

**Chestnut Weaver** *Ploceus rubiginosus*

We had a wonderful sighting of a huge colony of these birds near Amboseli NP, where the noise and action around the nests was fantastic to watch for a while.

**Brown-capped Weaver** *Ploceus insignis*

This forest weaver gave us a few good views around the forest on Mt Kenya.

**Red-headed Weaver** *Anaplectes melanotis*

We had a wonderful and relaxed male at the Serengeti NP entrance, a few more near Mt Kenya as we drove north.

*NOTE: This species complex might be split into two, the southern nominate group would remain Red-headed Weaver and the northern black-faced form which we recorded in Tanzania would become Red-winged Weaver (A. leuconotos). IOC does not as yet recognize this split.*

**Cardinal Quelea** *Quelea cardinalis*

A handful of birds were seen in Tarangire NP, the Ngorongoro Crater and in good numbers around Amboseli NP.

**Red-billed Quelea** *Quelea quelea*

Biggest numbers in the Crater, near Amboseli NP, and in the northern Kenyan Reserves.

**Yellow-crowned Bishop** *Euplectes afer*

We had very good views near Lake Manyara and then larger numbers at an Amboseli NP wetland.

**Fire-fronted Bishop** *Euplectes diadematus*

This scarce species was seen very well in and near Amboseli NP.

**Black Bishop** *Euplectes gierowii*

A few were seen in Tarangire NP before we enjoyed great views at Oldupai Gorge.

**Zanzibar Red Bishop** *Euplectes nigroventris*

After some effort we finally found 2 birds in Amboseli NP wetlands – very hard to find on the route.

**Southern Red Bishop** *Euplectes orix*

This bright little pom-pom of a bird showed nicely on the first morning on the drive to Tarangire NP, with a few others later.

**Yellow Bishop** *Euplectes capensis*

4 birds showed very well on the way down into the Ngorongoro Crater.

**Fan-tailed Widowbird** *Euplectes axillaris*

Tall moist grasslands supported these birds in the Ngorongoro and Serengeti and Amboseli NPs.

**White-winged Widowbird** *Euplectes albonotatus*

A few good male birds were seen well in Tarangire NP and later near Amboseli NP.

**Red-collared Widowbird** *Euplectes ardens*

We saw some stunning birds in and around the Ngorongoro Crater, and later near Lake Nakuru NP.

**Long-tailed Widowbird** *Euplectes progne*

This striking widowbird with its impossibly extravagant tail was seen in highland grassland near Mt Kenya and Lake Nakuru.

**Jackson's Widowbird** *Euplectes jacksoni*

We found this species in the Ngorongoro Crater and near the equator, where they entertained us with their funny jumping display.



### Waxbills & Allies Estrildidae

**Green-winged Pytilia***Pytilia melba*

We saw this species briefly in Tarangire NP, where a male was seen.

**Cut-throat Finch***Amadina fasciata*

A first sighting was in Tarangire NP, later we had some good views in the northern Kenya reserves.

**Abyssinian Crimsonwing***Cryptospiza salvadorii*

These scarce and shy birds were seen during the walk near Gibb's Farm and on Mt Kenya.

**Red-billed Firefinch***Lagonosticta senegala*

We had best sightings in the northern Kenya reserves after numerous scattered sightings before this.

**African Firefinch***Lagonostica rubricata*

Around 3 birds were seen near Gibb's Farm during our walk.

**Jameson's Firefinch***Lagonostica rhodopareia*

2 birds were seen in thickets on the last morning; Lake Nakuru.

**Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu***Uraeginthus bengalus*

This little stunner was seen well on 8 days, including in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

**Blue-capped Cordon-bleu***Uraeginthus cyanocephalus*

This little bird was seen well on a few occasions, including in Tarangire and near Amboseli NP.

**Purple Grenadier***Uraeginthus (Granatina) ianthinogaster*

Although we managed to get views of this bird an incredible 9 days on the trip – they are very often tough to get close to.

**Yellow-bellied Waxbill***Coccothraustes quartinia*

Seen very well during our walk on the Endoro Forest Trail at Gibb's Farm.

**Crimson-rumped Waxbill***Estrilda rhodopyga*

Best views were near the Solio Ranch on the penultimate day, with first views in Tarangire NP.

**Common Waxbill***Estrilda astrild*

4 birds were seen in the Ngorongoro Crater, a few others near Mt Kenya and in Buffalo Springs.

**Black-faced Waxbill***Estrilda erythronotos*

Seen well at Oldupai Gorge and in the Serengeti NP.

**Black-cheeked Waxbill***Estrilda charmosyna*

The northern version of the previous species - seen briefly in Buffalo Springs NR.

**Quailfinch***Ortygospiza fuscocrissa*

We had great sightings of birds in the Ngorongoro Crater, where they landed on the road and many were seen in flight.

**Orange-breasted Waxbill***Amandava subflava*

A very scarce bird that is hard to find throughout its range – we had decent views of a single bird in Tarangire NP.

**African Silverbill***Eudice cantans*

We had numerous great views of birds near the roadside in Buffalo Springs NR after first views in Amboseli NP.

**Grey-headed Silverbill***Odontospiza caniceps*

A sought-after bird that was seen well on the first morning and later in the central Serengeti and in Shaba NR.

**Bronze Mannikin**

*Lonchura cucullata*

10 birds were seen on the first morning before we enjoyed good views at a number of other sites.

**Red-backed Mannikin**

*Lonchura nigriceps*

A pair was seen near Ngare Sero on the first morning before we had other birds near the Tana River on the way to Mt Kenya.

**Magpie Mannikin**

*Lonchura fringilloides*

A first record for Rockjumper on this route – also seen on the first morning where we had a pair that showed well in a dead tree.

### **Indigobirds Viduidae**

**Village Indigobird**

*Vidua chalybeata*

Seen a few times; this tiny blackish species was found in Tarangire NP and Samburu NR.

**Pin-tailed Whydah**

*Vidua macroura*

The most common of the whydahs, most encountered around the Amboseli NPs.

**Steel-blue Whydah**

*Vidua hypocherina*

A very tough bird to find – we had a bird in Tarangire NP and a fantastic sighting in Samburu NP.

**Straw-tailed Whydah**

*Vidua fischeri*

We had a number of these stunning males between the Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti.

**Long-tailed Paradise Whydah**

*Vidua paradisaea*

A single bird was seen distantly and in flight in the Tarangire NP.

### **Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae**

**Cape Wagtail**

*Motacilla capensis*

We saw a number of these birds around Mt Kenya and on the way to Lake Nakuru.

**Mountain Wagtail**

*Motacilla clara*

Two of these stunning wagtails were seen at our lodge near Arusha on the first day.

**African Pied Wagtail**

*Motacilla aguimp*

A common wagtail that was recorded on more than half of the tour days.

**Golden Pipit**

*Macronyx sharpei*

A single bird on the outskirts of Amboseli NP was still in lovely plumage, while a number of the birds were seen in drabber plumage on the north of the tour.

**Sharpe's Longclaw**

*Macronyx sharpei*

A few birds were recorded on the Kinangop Plateau, the second-last new bird we found for the tour.

**Yellow-throated Longclaw**

*Macronyx croceus*

We had some great views of these bright birds in the Serengeti NP and on the last day in Lake Nakuru.

**Pangani Longclaw**

*Macronyx aurantiigula*

This beauty was seen well a few times in Amboseli NP.

**Rosy-throated (Pink-throated) Longclaw**

*Macronyx ameliae*

This exquisite bird was seen in the Ngorongoro Crater and again in Serengeti NP.



**African Pipit***Anthus cinnamomeus*

We recorded this pipit most often in the Serengeti and in Amboseli NP.

**Long-billed Pipit***Anthus similis*

2 birds were seen on the morning of our long drive to Lake Nakuru NP.

**Plain-backed Pipit***Anthus leucophrys*

This bird was very well seen in the Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti NP, where we had around 8 birds in total.

### **Finches Fringillidae**

**Oriole Finch***Linurgus olivaceus*

A single female was seen at close range near Gibb's Farm, while we had a fantastic male in the forest of Mt Kenya.

**Western Citril***Crithagra frontalis*

A fairly common bird around the foothills of Mt Kenya after first views at lunch on the day we drove to Mt Kenya.

**Southern Citril***Crithagra hyposticta*

This canary showed well around the Ngorongoro entrance and Gibb's Farm.

**Reichenow's (Yellow-rumped) Seed-eater***Crithagra reichenowi*

Seen in small numbers on the first day and later in Amboseli NP and Lake Nakuru.

**White-bellied Canary***Crithagra dorsostriata*

A dry country species that we encountered on 5 days of the tour, including around Oldupai Gorge.

**Southern Grosbeak-Canary***Crithagra buehleri*

3 birds were seen very well in the dry woodland at Oldupai Gorge.

**Brimstone (Bully) Canary***Crithagra sulphurata*

Seen very well on the final 2 days of the tour.

**Thick-billed Seed-eater***Crithagra burtoni*

This is a rather plain canary; seen along the Endoro Forest Trail near Gibb's Farm and again at Mt Kenya – more common on this tour than is usual.

**Streaky Seed-eater***Crithagra striolata*

A common species in the highland forest of Ngorongoro Crater rim and Mt Kenya.

**Yellow-crowned Canary***Serinus flavivertex*

We had very good views below the rim inside the Ngorongoro Crater; later there was a flock at the waterhole on Mt Kenya.

### **Buntings Emberizidae**

**Cinnamon-breasted Bunting***Emberiza tahapisi*

A single bird was seen in the Serengeti, before we had good looks at a few birds that came in to water near Shaba NR.

**Somali Bunting***Emberiza poliopleura*

We found this dry-country bunting in the northern reserves of Shaba and Samburu NRs.

**Golden-breasted Bunting***Emberiza flaviventris*

Another stunning bunting that was seen well on a first-morning walk, in the Serengeti and near Mt Kenya.





## Annotated List of Mammals recorded

Note: Names and taxonomical order of the land mammals follow that of “The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals”; additional names are given in parenthesis and are likely to appear in other popular field guides.

### Total species and forms recorded: 64

#### Fruit Bats Pteropodidae

**East African Epauletted Fruit Bat** *Micropterus minimus*

These foxy bats were seen at our lodge in Serengeti NP and Shaba NR. Possibly a different species...

#### Large-winged Bats Megadermatidae

**Yellow-winged Bat** *Lavia frons*

A single bat was seen briefly in the Serengeti NP.

**Heart-nosed Bat** *Cardioderma cor*

One was seen well on a wall in Oldupai Gorge.

#### Colobid Monkeys Colobidae

**Guereza (Black-and-white) Colobus** *Colobus guereza*

This beautiful monkey was seen in forest in Arusha and later at Mt Kenya.

#### Cheek-Pouch Monkeys Cercopithecidae

**Olive Baboon** *Papio anubis*

This baboon was common and widespread in woodland and forest edge.

**Yellow Baboon** *Papio cynocephalus*

This slender, more ochre coloured species replaced the previous one in Amboseli NP.

**Blue Monkey** *Cercopithecus mitis kolbi*

These monkeys were seen along the Ngorongoro Crater rim and near the entrance to this park.

**White-throated/Sykes's Monkey** *Cercopithecus mitis albogularis*

Individuals of this species were seen around our Mt Kenya lodge.

*NOTE: The taxonomy of Blue and Syke's monkeys is a little uncertain. Some authorities consider the latter a subspecies of the former, while others place both as subspecies within the Gentle Monkey C. nictitans complex. Current opinion suggests that they are actually separate species.*

**Vervet Monkey** *Cercopithecus aethiops*

A common primate on tour, seen almost daily.

#### Galagos Galagonidae

**Greater Galago (Thick-tailed Bushbaby)** *Otolemur crassicaudatus*

At least 2 of these large nocturnal primates were seen at Gibb's Farm.

**Senegal Galago (Lesser Bushbaby)** *Galago senegalensis*

Some participants got views of these tiny little creatures near our lodge in the Serengeti.



### Hares Leporidae

#### **African Savanna (Scrub) Hare**

*Lepus victoriae*

Seen well as we left the Buffalo Springs NR on the penultimate day.

### Squirrels Sciuridae

#### **Unstriped Ground Squirrel**

*Xerus rutilus*

We had first good sightings in Tarangire NP, before many were seen in the dry northern Kenya reserves.

#### **Ochre Bush Squirrel**

*Paraxerus ochraceus*

Sometimes called Huet's Bush Squirrel, we saw this species mainly in Tarangire NP.

### Rats & Mice Muridae

#### **Zebra Mouse**

*Lemniscomys sp*

A single well-marked individual was seen briefly on stairs at Gibb's Farm.

#### **African Grass Rat**

*Arvicanthis niloticus*

We saw a few individuals at Naabi Hill and Seronera in the Serengeti NP.

### Cane rats Thryonomyidae

#### **Greater Cane Rat**

*Thallomys paedulus*

We had good views of two of these, resting and grooming in a small pond in the highlands near Lake Nakuru.

### Dogs & Allies Canidae

#### **African Wild Dog**

*Lycaon Pictus*

Very seldom recorded on this route! We were extremely lucky to see a group of about 10 of these beautifully marked and very active canids. We had them on the road and in the tall grass near the Silale Swamp in southern Tarangire NP.

#### **Golden Jackal**

*Canis aureus*

We had excellent views of some around the Ngorongoro Crater and in the open southern Serengeti.

#### **Black-backed Jackal**

*Canis mesomelas*

Encountered on just 2 days in the Serengeti, where we had good close views in tall grass.

#### **Bat-eared Fox**

*Otocyon Megalotis*

Unfortunately we only a brief sighting of 2 animals running away in Samburu NR.

### Mongoose Herpestidae

#### **Slender Mongoose**

*Galerella sanguinea*

One was seen in a tree in the Serengeti before one crossed the road near Isiolo during our drive north.

#### **Somali Dwarf Mongoose**

*Helogale hirtula*

At least 3 animals were seen, showing their bushy tails, in Buffali Springs NR.

#### **Common Dwarf Mongoose**

*Helogale parvula*



Seen on 4 days: in Tarangire, joining us for lunch in the Serengeti NPs and in Samburu/Buffalo Springs National Reserves.

**Banded Mongoose**

*Mungos mungo*

Tough in the tall grass at this time of year - we saw 2 small bands of this gregarious mongoose: in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

**Hyaenas Hyaenidae**

**Spotted Hyena**

*Crocuta crocuta*

Seen on over half the days of the tour! We saw good numbers of these hyenas in the Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti and Amboseli NPs. Our first view was on the Crater rim and we also had sightings around the Mt Kenya waterhole.

**Genets & Civets Viverridae**

**Small-spotted (Common) Genet**

*Genetta genetta*

We saw at least two of these beauties on consecutive nights at our lodge in Buffalo Springs NR. Some participants had brief views at the lodge in the Serengeti.

**Blotched (Large-spotted) Genet**

*Genetta maculata*

Two of these slinky genets appeared at a feeding station at our lodge at Mt Kenya.

**Cats Felidae**

**Cheetah**

*Acinonyx jubatus*

An exceptional tour for these cats! We were treated to 3 separate individual animals in Tanzania – first in Tarangire NP and later in the Serengeti, before we were very lucky to find a trio of young males that we could watch for a long time in Amboseli NP.

**Lion**

*Panthera leo*

We ended up with a total of 40 of the king of the beasts during our tour, including some memorable sightings. In the Ngorongoro Crater we had a stalking lioness and one with tiny playing cubs, while the Serengeti also provided some fantastic males and mating animals.

**Leopard**

*Panthera pardus*

Again we were incredibly lucky with this large cat; getting a first sighting on the Crater rim, where we played cat and mouse with a mother and 2 near-adult cubs. We then enjoyed fantastic sightings at close range in a tree and crossing the road in the Serengeti. A brief sighting on Mt Kenya was followed by a very relaxed animal that lay in the shade just meters from us in Samburu NP.

**Hyraxes Procaviidae**

**Rock Hyrax**

*Procavia capensis*

These large and brown hyraxes were seen in the Seronera area of Serengeti NP and at Lake Nakuru.

**Yellow-spotted Hyrax**

*Heterohyrax brucei*

This species, smaller and paler than the previous, was abundant around our Tarangire lodge.

**Southern Tree Hyrax**

*Heterohyrax arboreus*

3 were seen, showing very obligingly for us along the Ngorongoro Crater rim.



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### **Elephants Elephantidae**

**African Elephant***Loxodonta africana*

We only missed the largest land animal on 2 days of tour! We had some great close-up views, particularly memorable in Tarangire, Serengeti, Amboseli and Mount Kenya NPs.

### **Horses Equidae**

**Plain's (Common) Zebra***Equus quagga*

Also only missed on four days, this zebra was common in mixed groups with wildebeest in Serengeti NP. NOTE: We saw the subspecies *E. q. boehmi*.

**Grevy's Zebra***Equus grevyi*

We were unusually lucky to get very good numbers of these stunning large zebras in both Shaba and Buffalo Springs, where they had clearly arrived after the good recent rains.

### **Rhinoceroses Rhinocerotidae**

**White Rhinoceros***Ceratotherium simum*

We saw six of these behemoths very well on our final day of tour, in Lake Nakuru NP.

**Black Rhinoceros***Diceros bicornis*

We had some distant views of these browsers in the Ngorongoro Crater. Another was seen very well on the final morning in Lake Nakuru NP.

### **Hippopotamuses Hippopotamidae**

**Hippopotamus***Hippopotamus amphibious*

These huge, ungainly creatures were seen well first in the Ngorongoro Crater before we had numerous great sightings in Serengeti NP.

### **Pigs Suidae**

**Giant Forest Hog***Hylochoerus meinertzhageni*

Some participants were fortunate to see one of these huge beasts at Mt Kenya, feeding near the waterhole.

**Common Warthog***Phacochoerus africanus*

A common species of savannah areas, where it was seen well on most days.

**Desert Warthog***Phacochoerus aethiopicus*

We found a number of these less common warthogs in the dry habitat of the northern Kenyan reserves.

### **Giraffes Giraffidae**

**Reticulated Giraffe***Giraffa camelopardalis reticulata*

Absolutely beautiful – we saw big numbers of these dry-zone giants in Shaba, Samburu and Buffalo Springs NRs.

**Rothschild's Giraffe***Giraffa camelopardalis rothschildi*

This rare, “white-socked” subspecies of giraffe was seen very well at Lake Nakuru NP.

**Maasai Giraffe***Giraffa camelopardalis tippelskirchi*

This giraffe was common in the Tanzanian reserves and Amboseli NP.



## **Bovids & Horned Ungulates Bovidae**

**Thomson's Gazelle***Gazella thomsonii*

We found this small gazelle in the Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti, Amboseli and Lake Nakuru NPs.

**Grant's Gazelle***Gazella granti*

This larger gazelle was also widespread and seen in the Ngorongoro Crater, Serengeti, Amboseli and northern Kenyas reserves.

**Gerenuk***Litocranius walleri*

Our first sightings were outside Amboseli NP and we saw many more in Shaba, Samburu and Buffalo Springs NRs.

**Steenbok***Raphicerus campestris*

We saw a single small antelope in short grassland on the edge of the Ngorongoro Crater.

**Güenther's Dik-dik***Madoqua guentheri*

4 animals were seen in Shaba and Buffalo Springs NR, where they can be hard to distinguish from the following species.

**Kirk's Dik-dik***Madoqua kirkii*

This delicate little species was seen on 13 days of the tour, including good numbers in the Serengeti NP.

**African Buffalo***Syncerus caffer*

This huge bovid was seen in big numbers in the Ngorongoro Crater, Serengeti and Lake Nakuru NPs.

**Bushbuck***Tragelaphus scriptus*

This forest antelope was common at Mt Kenya after first views in Serengeti NP.

**Lesser Kudu***Tragelaphus imberbis*

A scarce and shy dry-zone species – we had a fantastic male near Amboseli NP.

**Eland***Taurotragus oryx*

We saw this, the largest antelope in the world just once, when we had a herd in the open grasslands of the southern Serengeti.

**Bohor Reedbuck***Redunca redunca*

We saw around 10 in Amboseli NP, including some good close views.

**Common Waterbuck***Kobus ellipsiprymnus ellipsiprymnus*

We found these waterbuck, with their white-ringed buttocks in Tarangire NP and Shaba, Samburu and Buffalo Springs NRs.

**Defassa Waterbuck***Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa*

This entirely white-buttocked waterbuck subspecies was seen at Mt Kenya, in the Serengeti and along the Crater rim road and Lake Nakuru NP.

**Beisa Oryx***Oryx beisa*

Many were seen in Shaba, Samburu and Buffalo Springs NRs.

**Coke's Hartebeest (Kongoni)***Alcelaphus buselaphus cokei*

This antelope was seen in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

**Blue Wildebeest***Connochaetes taurinus*

We were fortunate to get tens of thousands of these animals in the short grasslands in the south-east of the Serengeti system – an incredible natural spectacle with animals as far as the eye could see in all directions. Others were seen in the Ngorongoro Crater and at Amboseli NP. *NOTE: We saw the subspecies White-bearded Gnu/Wildebeest C. t. albojubatus.*

**Topi/Tsessebe***Damaliscus korrigum jimela*



This antelope was seen very well in Serengeti NP. *NOTE: This antelope is sometimes treated as conspecific with Tsessebe D. lunatus in which case it would be D. lunatus jimela.*

**Impala** *Aepyceros melampus*

A very widespread antelope that was seen in almost all savannah areas – only missed on 3 days!

**Blue Duiker** *Philantomba monticola*

A miniscule forest antelope that was seen exceptionally well during our walk near Gibb's Farm.

## Annotated List of Reptiles and Amphibians recorded

### Total species recorded: 9

**Helmeted Terrapin** *Pelomedusa subrufa*

A few animals were seen in Tarangire NP as well as in the rainpuddles in Shaba NR.

**Leopard Tortoise** *Stigmochelys pardalis*

We had good sightings of well-marked animals in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs, before a huge brown one was seen in Lake Nakuru NP on the last day.

**African Striped Skink** *Trachylepis striata*

A few were seen in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

**Red-headed Rock Agama** *Agama agama*

This colourful lizard was found mainly in Tarangire NP.

**Mwanza Flat-headed Agama** *Agama mwanzae*

Seen on 4 days in pretty good numbers on rocks in Serengeti NP. **White-throated**

**Savanna (Rock) Monitor** *Varanus albigularis*

We saw one of these large lizards in Shaba NR in a large termite mound.

**Nile Monitor** *Varanus niloticus*

Around 6 animals were seen in and around rivers and pools in Tarangire NP.

**Nile Crocodile** *Crocodylus niloticus*

We saw these massive reptilians in Serengeti NP and Samburu and Buffalo Springs NRs.

**Common Reed Frog** *Hyperolius viridiflavus*

We saw one of these calling frogs outside the Lake Nakuru restaurant – showing well with throat-pouch extended.

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