



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Trip Report Kenya & Tanzania: Birds & Big Game I

22th April to 9th May 2011



Blue Wildebeest & Plain's Zebra coming in to drink by Adam Riley

Trip report compiled by tour leader: Gavin Lautenbach

Our East African adventure started off early in the morning in the tranquil surrounds of our lodge just outside of Arusha. Even after long travels for some, the thought of a new continent and new birds and animals had everyone up early and rearing to go. We started off with a few locals in the form of Guereza Colobus, their intriguing call allowing us to find them as they watched us in return from the safety of the canopy. We also found Hadada Ibis, Silvery-cheeked Hornbill, Pied Wagtail, Red-winged Starling, Thick-billed Weaver, Common Moorhen and Little Grebe all before breakfast.

Soon after our morning meal we headed for Tarangire National Park, a lush paradise with a variety of different habitats at the heart of which is the Tarangire River. Birding here is fantastic and as soon as we arrived we were already into some great birds, including Yellow-collared Lovebird, Spotted Palm Thrush, Red-and-yellow Barbet, Dideric's Cuckoo, striking Purple Grenadier and Ashy Starling. The highlight of the afternoon, however, was definitely a beautiful leopard lounging on an enormous limb of a Baobab Tree. The following morning we again had a fresh start and just after leaving the lodge we saw a Golden Pipit fly next to the car and then land in the road right in front of us. And then, a little while later, we had the most incredible sighting of elephants. We

waited patiently on the road for them to come a little closer, and after some time they willingly obliged, walking right onto the road and straight towards us. It was a family group with the youngest being only around 5-6 months old. The herd stopped just meters away from us at which point the tiny calf started suckling from its mother. It was amazing to think that this herd actually felt sufficiently comfortable to share this precious moment with us; a truly unforgettable experience!



In the afternoon we then drove towards Silale Swamps, an incredible wetland that stretches for miles. Here we found huge herds of buffalo and elephant, a large raft of hippo sunning themselves out of the water, and great flocks of Openbilled Storks rising and landing in the reed beds. We also saw Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, Flappet Lark and Squacco Heron.

The following morning we left early so we could enjoy the awesome scenery on the rim of the fabulous Ngorongoro Crater. Ngorongoro has to be one of the greatest wildlife spectacles in the world; arriving at the rim and looking down, one has no idea of the magnitude of the event until descending the 600 meters to the crater floor and actually experiencing it for one's self. We had great birding on this drive down, including Brown Parisoma, Dusky Turtle Dove, and Bronzy, Golden-winged, Tacazze, Malachite and Eastern Double-collared Sunbirds.

In the crater itself we had numerous Lion sightings, the prides and enormous males mostly doing what they do best – which is sleeping of course! We also had good numbers of hyenas, elephants, buffalo and a few sightings of the endangered Black Rhino. During our lunch stop we were then joined by a few very accomplished thieves, and several of the participants shared (unwillingly, I might add!) some of their precious food items with a Black Kite and some Vervet Monkeys. Their timing and precision was exemplary and quite amusing for some of the guests. Other crater highlights were Kori Bustard, Grey-crowned Crane, Rosy-throated Longclaw, Banded Martin and White-headed Barbet.

Leaving the crater we headed into the Serengeti where we would be based for a few days. As it turned out, we couldn't have asked for a better experience! After being in the park for only a short while our game viewing started with a Lioness perched right on top of the appropriately named Simba "Lion" Koppies. Our second cat sighting was of a gorgeous male Leopard sleeping in the top of a tree. We spent some time admiring this well camouflaged animal before heading towards our lodge for the night. We had timed the migration absolutely perfectly as there were hundreds of thousands of Wildebeest and Zebra literally right outside our accommodations. In fact, we could hardly sleep with all the commotion that evening, what with the constant sound of Gnu's, roaring Lions, Hyena's fighting over a carcass and a Pearl-spotted Owlet to start the dawn chorus. We spent a few wonderful days exploring the area and found a number of Lion prides, most of which were perched rather uncomfortably up Sausage Tree's trying to evade the heat and swarms of irritating flies. One highlight in particular was finding a lioness on the top of a koppie; and then, after waiting a few minutes, four tiny cubs made their way towards her and started suckling. Another highlight was finding a half-eaten wildebeest



skull in the middle of the road that was in the process of being gleaned by a Tawny Eagle. Within a few minutes we also had White-backed and Rüppell's Vultures pitch up to share in the spoils. And then, while we were sitting there, some Crowned Lapwings harassed an African Wildcat that ran in a zig zag fashion trying to hide from the mob, eventually taking cover behind a termite mound. The birding was equally as great and we found Grey-breasted Spurfowl, Martial Eagle, Fischer's Lovebird, Meyer's Parrot, beautiful Narina Trogon, Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill, Silverbird, Swahili Sparrow, Golden-backed Weaver, Black-faced Waxbill, White-tailed Lark, Red-throated Tit and Grey-headed Silverbill

Our last morning was the perfect send off with a slight deviation as our driver Steven made one



final attempt to locate us a Cheetah. While searching we found a large pride of Lions absolutely satiated, some of which were draped in the branches of a Sausage Tree while others were enjoying the shade on the ground, their huge heaving stomachs indicating the success of the previous night. Leaving them we came across a clan of about 12 Hyenas and spent some time watching them. They seemed to be finishing off the remains of a Wildebeest carcass. We were just soaking up the moment when Steven whispered "Cheetah"; and then, a few moments later and a little bit louder, "Cheetah!" again. The vehicle erupted, high fives everywhere, and we raced off to

see two magnificent male Cheetahs that were picture perfect on top of termite mounds in the full glory of the morning sun! While this was happening we also had African Quail Finch, Green-backed Heron and a stunning Yellow-throated Sandgrouse in a small stream that separated us from these splendid felines.

Our next stop was Gibb's Farm where there never seems enough time to relax and enjoy the lodge's fabulous surroundings. We therefore made the most of the afternoon and went for a stroll in the forest behind the lodge, where we were soon into some great birds. These included Black-fronted Bushshrike, White-tailed Blue Flycatcher, Tropical Boubou, Schalow's Turaco, Yellow-bellied Waxbill, Rüppell's Robin-Chat and the very vocal Grey-capped Warbler. The food was absolutely delicious as usual and everyone enjoyed the farm fresh vegetables, fruits and salads, which we then finished off with a strong brew of home grown coffee.

The next day we were up early for a bit of birding, and although things were a little slow we managed to tick a few new species. Green-headed Sunbird was a great find as was Spectacled Weaver, and then we were off down the hill to take a short walk through the village of Karatu. Here we added Straw-tailed Whydah, Blue-naped Mousebird, Bronze Manikin, Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird and managed great views of a stunning Eastern Paradise Whydah in full breeding plumage. Then it was through the Namanga border post and into Kenya where we headed straight for Amboseli in order to enjoy some afternoon birding.



Amboseli has by far the best view of Mt Kilimanjaro; it is simply breathtaking! Here we managed to find a few different species, and with this magnificent mountain in the background making for some brilliant photography. We had good numbers of water birds including Long-toed Lapwing, Glossy Ibis, Hottentot Teal, Reed



Cormorant, African Darter, African Spoonbill, African Jacana, Kittlitz's Plover, Collared Pratincole and a beautiful Black Heron mantling over the water. We also found Grey-headed Kingfisher, Pangani Longclaw, Harlequin Quail, Ashy Cisticola and the spectacular Taveta Golden Weaver. On our second afternoon we stopped at a roadside puddle and had Chestnut-bellied, Yellow-throated and Black-faced Sandgrouse come down to drink – a truly wonderful sighting!

Moving on, we thoroughly enjoyed our time at Mount Kenya where the forest birding was simply spectacular. We arrived in the afternoon and commenced our birding close to our accommodations, soon notching up Hartlaub's Turaco, Chestnut-throated and Black-throated Apalis, Kenrick's and



Sharpe's Starling and Northern Double-collared Sunbird. The following morning we were lucky to have a herd of buffalo come down to drink at the waterhole right in front of the camp. After breakfast we then went on a long walk through the forest where we had outstanding views of Abyssinian Crimsonwing, Red-fronted Parrot, African Hill Babbler, Crowned Eagle, Emerald Cuckoo, Crested Flycatcher and Yellow-whiskered Greenbul. And then, while sitting and overlooking the water hole in the afternoon, a herd of elephants came to drink alongside some buffalo, and what a fantastic spectacle it was to watch the elephants swimming

and playing in the water right in front of us! We also had African Green Pigeons, White-headed Wood Hoopoe and a Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk fly past as the light was fading.

Then it was onto the dry country of Samburu, Buffalo Springs and Shaba; a semi-arid habitat that provided some spectacular scenery and excellent birds and wildlife to match. At Shaba we started in the late afternoon and soon found Beisa Oryx, Reticulated Giraffe, Grevy's Zebra, Gerenuk and Günther's Dik Dik, which were all wonderful additions to our already extensive mammal list. Bristle-crowned Starling, White-throated Bee-eater, Red-winged lark and the beautiful Rosy-patched Bushshrike were also found in between the scattered thunder showers.

Leaving Shaba in the early morning, we made a few stops collecting Giant Kingfisher, Shikra, Yellow-billed Hornbill, Grants Wood Hoopoe, Brown-tailed Rock Chat, Pink-breasted Lark, Hunters, Eastern Violet-backed and Tsavo Sunbirds, and Somali Bunting. We then crossed over into Buffalo Springs where we had a phenomenal day in the hot African sun. Some of the great birds we found here included Somali Courser, African Hawk-Eagle, Donaldson-Smith's Sparrow-Weaver, Red-necked Falcon, Northern Crombec, Pygmy Batis, Buff-crested Bustard, Steppe Eagle, Vulturine Guinea fowl and Somali Bee-eater. After a long, hot and very productive day we finally drove to our luxurious accommodations where we were met by two of our target birds – White-headed Mousebird and Golden Palm Weaver. What a welcome!

The following day we found some more great birds, including Somali Ostrich, Northern Puffback, Rufous Chatterer, Tawny-flanked Prinia, Magpie Starling, Black-bellied Sunbird, Parrot-billed Sparrow, Black-capped Social Weaver and African Silverbill, before finishing the day with a wonderful evening sighting of a Slender-tailed Nightjar.



Lake Nakuru was just fantastic as usual. Arriving in the late afternoon, we headed straight for the water where the number of pelicans was absolutely astonishing, and we watched as thousands of them engaged in all sorts of pelican activities. Driving along the shoreline we also stopped for some brilliant photographic opportunities, including buffalo with the lake and pelicans behind them, and then two massive White Rhinos with a double rainbow and the lake behind them – a spectacular sight indeed! We also had a few Broad-billed Rollers, displaying Long-tailed Widows and the range-restricted Rothschild's Giraffe before making our way back to camp.

Our final morning was equally impressive, and we added Wahlberg's Eagle, Black and Red-chested Cuckoo's, White-bellied Tit and Eurasian Hoopoe to our list. The birding was excellent but unfortunately we had to get to the airport, and so our last stop was for Sharp's Longclaw, which we fortunately found with relative ease. All in all, it was a very successful trip covering the most magnificent wilderness areas that both Tanzania and Kenya have to offer. We had some really spectacular sightings, wondrous scenery and a great camaraderie in which to share it all. A special thank you to Steven, John and Benson who helped make this trip so memorable for all of us – we really appreciate your time and effort!

Photo credits: Ashy Starling by Adam Riley, Grey-headed Silverbill by Keith Valentine, Cheetah by Markus Lilje, Taveta Golden Weaver by David Shackelford, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse & White-headed Mousebird by Cuan Rush.

Annotated List of Bird Species seen

Taxonomy used is based on: Gill, F. and M. Wright. 2006. Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press. Notes indicate differences with the Clements Taxonomy.

Ostriches Struthionidae

[Common] Ostrich

Struthio camelus

Our first sightings were at Tarangire.

Somali Ostrich

Struthio molybdophanes

These sought-after arid country birds were recorded in Buffalo Springs National Reserve.

Guineafowl Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl

Numida meleagris

Good numbers were seen on most days during the tour first seen in Tarangire N.P.

Vulturine Guineafowl

Acryllium vulturinum

These incredibly beautiful birds were observed in Buffalo Springs NR.

Francolins & Quails Phasianidae

NOTE: Clements places all francolins and spurfowls into the genus Francolinus and does not use the common name Spurfowl for the larger francolins.

Coqui Francolin

Peliperdix coqui

We were very fortunate to get such a good view on the road at Tarangire.

Shelley's Francolin

Scleroptila shelleyi

Not normally recorded on our route, we had good views of these striking birds in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Crested Francolin

Dendroperdix sephaena

Good numbers on our first afternoon in Tarangire.

Hildebrandt's Francolin

Pternistis hildebrandti

It was seen daily along the Ngorongoro Crater rim, and also in Lake Nakuru National Park.

Yellow-necked Spurfowl (Francolin)

Pternistis leucoscepus

First recorded in Tarangire NP, they were seen daily in Buffalo Springs.

Grey-breasted Spurfowl (Francolin)

Pternistis rufopictus



This localised Serengeti endemic was seen daily in the national park.

Red-necked Spurfowl (Francolin) *Pternistis afer*

This attractive bird, it was seen only in Tarangire NP.

Harlequin Quail *Coturnix delegorguei*

We flushed a few birds in Tarangire however we had cracking views of a bird in Amboseli N.P

Ducks & Geese Anatidae

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*

This duck was recorded in Tarangire and Lake Nakuru NP's.

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*

We had a few at Silale Swamp and a few more in Ngorongoro.

Knob-billed (Comb) Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

We only found 2 of these birds in Tarangire NP.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

By far the most common waterfowl, it was seen on most days of the tour.

African Black Duck *Anas sparsa*

We had a pair in the early evening at Mount Kenya.

Yellow-billed Duck *Anas undulata*

First seen on the way to Mount Kenya at a small road side dam and then again at Lake Nakuru NP.

Red-billed Teal (Duck) *Anas erythrorhyncha*

It was observed at wetlands/water bodies in Tarangire, the Ngorongoro Crater, Serengeti and Lake Nakuru.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Red-billed Duck.

Hottentot Teal *Anas hottentota*

A few of this beautiful ducks were seen in Amboseli.

Grebes Podicipedidae

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Our first sighting was at Ngare Sero, we had good numbers at Lake Nakuru

Flamingos Phoenicopteridae

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*

The saline waters of Lake Nakuru yielded sightings of these birds.

Lesser Flamingo *Phoenicopterus minor*

By far the most impressive of our sightings of this gorgeous bird was at Lake Nakuru. Here we observed thousands upon thousands of this species, creating a pink hue on the lake.

Storks Ciconiidae

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis*

We had good numbers in the Tarangire where they were feeding in the shallow water, huge numbers were also found at Lake Nakuru.

African Openbill *Anastomus lamelligerus*

Huge flocks were recorded at Silale Swamp in Tarangire N.P.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

This Palearctic migrant species was first seen circling overhead in Tarangire; a few birds were seen in the agricultural fields passing Mount Kenya.

Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

Certainly one of the most stunning storks in the world, we saw and immature in Tarangire and a few adults were found in Buffalo Springs.

Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*



This fantastic looking bird was seen throughout the tour, our first sighting was in the Tarangire River.

Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

[African] Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

This widespread species was seen at various wetland sites throughout the trip.

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash*

Had our first group in the early morning at Ngare Sero

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

The Ngorongoro Crater and Amsoseli is where we had sightings of this species.

African Spoonbill *Platalea alba*

We had a few sightings of this interesting looking bird at Amboseli and Lake Nakuru N.P's

Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns Ardeidae

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

This widespread species was seen in the Ngorongoro and again in Buffalo Springs.

Striated (Green-backed) Heron *Butorides striatus*

First seen in the Serengeti, we had a younger bird in Buffalo Springs.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

We had a few at Silale Swamp in Tarangire and further sightings in Amboseli N.P.

[Western] Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Another common and widespread bird, it was recorded on a number of days during the tour.

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

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

This widespread old-world heron was seen at most wetland sites during the tour.

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala*

Another common African heron, it was seen in suitable grassland habitat throughout the tour, we had a number of birds on our first morning on the Arusha Airstrip.

[Western] Great (White) Egret *Ardea alba*

Fairly common we found a few birds in Tarangire and Amboseli.

Note: Clements does not yet recognise the split of the Great Egret complex as yet.

Intermediate (Yellow-billed) Egret *Egretta intermedia*

We had a single bird at Ngare Sero.

Note: The Clements common name for this species is Intermediate Egret.

Black Egret *Egretta ardesiaca*

We had a wonderful sighting in Amboseli where we were able to watch the bird's mantling.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

This common wetland species was recorded first in the Tarangire River.

Hamerkop Scopidae

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*

This unique African species was recorded on most days of the tour. We had a group of 3 in Tarangire good numbers in Buffalo Springs.

Pelicans Pelecanidae

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

First seen in Ngorongoro, we had incredible numbers at Lake Nakuru NP.

Pink-backed Pelican *Pelicanus rufescens*

Lake Nakuru produced our only sightings of this species.

Cormorants & Shags Phalacrocoracidae



Reed (Long-tailed) Cormorant*Phalacrocorax africanus*

Amboseli is where this bird was found.

Great (White-breasted) Cormorant*Phalacrocorax lucidus*

Good numbers were seen at Lake Nakuru.

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

We observed this special bird in the Ngorongoro Crater, the Serengeti and the arid reserves of north central Kenya. We had a brilliant sighting a bird with a snake stuck around its neck, it battled for a minutes before removing it and swallowing the meter long creature whole.

Ospreys Pandionidae**[Western] Osprey***Pandion haliaetus*

We had scope views of a bird on the Tarangire River.

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

Small numbers were seen in Tarangire NP, Serengeti, Samburu and on the way to Lake Nakuru.

*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.***Black (Yellow-billed) Kite***Milvus migrans*

First encountered en route to the Crater, it was then seen fairly regularly in over the towns of north central Kenya.

*Note: Some authorities split this complex into Black Kite M. migrans and Yellow-billed Kite M. aegyptius. We observed the yellow-billed form on this tour. The IOC does not yet recognise this split.***African Fish Eagle***Haliaeetus vocifer*

This stunning raptor was recorded at most sites with appropriate habitat.

Hooded Vulture*Necrosyrtes monachus*

This small vulture was seen in the central part of the Serengeti, it led us to find that spectacular lion pride on the koppie.

(African) White-backed Vulture*Gyps africanus*

Good numbers of this, the most common vulture in Africa, was seen at most savanna/woodland sites.

Rüppell's Vulture (Griffon)*Gyps rueppellii*

An attractive species (by vulture standards), it was encountered in Tarangire and the Serengeti. We had a wonderful opportunity to observe these birds at the wildebeest skull which was in the middle of the road.

*Note: The Clements common name for this species is Rueppell's Griffon.***White-headed Vulture***Trionoceph occipitalis*

This uncommon vulture was found in Ngorongoro Crater and in the Serengeti.

Lappet-faced Vulture*Torgos tracheliotus*

Small numbers were recorded in the Serengeti on a daily basis.

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

We first had an immature bird in Tarangire as well as in the Serengeti and Buffalo Springs GR.

*NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Black-breasted Snake-Eagle.***Brown Snake Eagle***Circaetus cinereus*

Small numbers seen at scattered woodland localities during the trip, we had a number of sightings in Tarangire.

Bateleur*Terathopius ecaudatus*

This low lever flyer was seen well in Tarangire, Serengeti and in Buffalo Springs.

African Marsh Harrier*Circus ranivorus*

A single bird was found quartering a wetland in Ngorongoro Crater.

African Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides typus*

We had a lovely sighting of a pair in the Serengeti.

Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates*

We had a few sightings in the southern Serengeti.

Eastern Chanting Goshawk *Melierax poliopterus*

Our first sighting was in Tarangire NP, we had a number of sightings in Samburu and Buffalo Springs

Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur*

We observed this bird at most forested/higher altitude sites on the tour.

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax*

Regularly encountered in savanna/woodland habitats on the tour, our first few sightings were in Tarangire

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*

We had a single sighting of this massive bird in Buffalo Springs.

Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraaetus wahlbergi*

Only a single bird was seen at Lake Nakuru on our last morning.

African Hawk-Eagle *Aquila spilogaster*

We had good sightings of this raptor in Buffalo Springs; we had a single bird harassing a Tawny Eagle and pair that tormented a Martial Eagle.

Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus*

We had wonderful sightings in the Serengeti and again in Buffalo Springs.

Ayres's Hawk Eagle *Hieraaetus ayresii*

We had a brief sighting in the forests of Mount Kenya.

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis*

A number of sightings of this regal bird were had in Tarangire, Ngorongoro and Lake Nakuru.

Crowned (Hawk-) Eagle *Stephanoaetus coronatus*

On the slopes of Mt. Kenya this massive eagle flew right over our heads which was just incredible.

We also had a pair flying over Thompsons Falls

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Crowned Hawk-Eagle.

Falcons & Kestrels Falconidae

Pygmy Falcon *Polihierax semitorquatus*

We had lovely views usually at the tops of trees in Tarangire, Serengeti, Amboseli and Buffalo Springs.

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*

Hundreds of these birds were seen through the trip. These records represent this species on its northerly migration.

Greater Kestrel *Falco rupicoloides*

We recorded this bird in the Serengeti.

Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus*

A bird was seen close to Silale Swamps in Tarangire NP with better views in the Serengeti.

Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera*

This magnificent bird was seen extremely well in Buffalo Springs N.P

Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis*

We had a good number of birds in Tarangire.

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

We had a nice view overhead in Tarangire N.P. and again in the Serengeti.

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*

We had a great sighting in Tarangire N.P.

Bustards Otididae



Kori Bustard*Ardeotis kori*

First seen en route to Tarangire. Our best views of this massive bird were in the Ngorongoro Crater.

White-bellied Bustard*Eupodotis senegalensis*

As we were leaving the Serengeti we recorded our first sighting, more were found in Amboseli and Buffalo Springs.

NOTE: This species represents the northern form of White-bellied Bustard. Clements lumps the northern form of White-bellied Bustard E. senegalensis with the Southern African endemic Barrow's or Southern White-bellied Bustard E. barrowi.

Buff-crested Bustard*Lophotis (Eupodotis) gindiana*

This species was seen in both Samburu and Buffalo Springs.

NOTE: The Clements scientific name for this species is Eupodotis gindiana.

Black-bellied Bustard*Lissotis melanogaster*

We had good views of this attractive bustard in the Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti.

Rails, Gallinules & Coots Rallidae**Black Crake***Amaurornis flavirostra*

The reed beds in Ngorongoro, Serengeti and Buffalo Springs produced great sightings of this "bold" rallid.

Common Moorhen*Gallinula chloropus*

First seen in the small pond below Ngare Sero and then again in the wetlands of Tarangire and the Ngorongoro Crater.

Red-knobbed Coot*Fulica cristata*

We observed this common bird in the Ngorongoro Crater and in Amboseli.

Cranes Gruidae**Grey Crowned Crane***Balearica regulorum*

Seen at a number of sites, we had wonderful views at most parks we visited.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Gray Crowned-Crane.

Thick-knees Burhinidae**Water Thick-knee (Dikkop)***Burhinus vermiculatus*

Good sightings in the Serengeti, Samburu and Buffalo Springs.

Stilts & Avocets Recurvirostridae**Black-winged Stilt***Himantopus himantopus*

First seen in the Serengeti, huge numbers were found in Lake Nakuru.

Plovers & Lapwings Charadriidae**Long-toed Lapwing***Vanellus crassirostris*

We had good numbers of this species in Amboseli.

Blacksmith Lapwing (Plover)*Vanellus armatus*

A common and widespread African bird, it was regularly recorded during the tour.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Blacksmith Plover.

Spur-winged Lapwing (Plover)*Vanellus spinosus*

First seen in Serengeti, it was later observed in the arid reserves of north central Kenya.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Spur-winged Plover.

Black-winged Lapwing*Vanellus melanopterus*

We caught up with these birds on the way from Buffalo Springs to Lake Nakuru.

Crowned Lapwing*Vanellus coronatus*

Seen well on the way too and in Tarangire, commonly recorded thereafter.

Common Ringed Plover*Charadrius hiaticula*

The shores of Lake Nakuru held sightings of this migrant shorebird.



Kittlitz's Plover*Charadrius pecuarius*

Good numbers were found in Amboseli and in Lake Nakuru NP.

Three-banded Plover*Charadrius tricollaris*

This small plover was recorded at most wetland sites during the tour.

Chestnut-banded Plover*Charadrius pallidus*

We were very fortunate to get a sighting in the Crater; the bird we were watching was almost trampled by some wildebeest.

Jacanas Jacanidae**African Jacana***Actophilornis africanus*

We managed to see a number of these lily trotters in Amboseli.

Sandpipers & Allies Scolopacidae**Marsh Sandpiper***Tringa stagnatilis*

A single bird was seen working the mudflats of Lake Nakuru.

Common Greenshank*Tringa nebularia*

Just one sighting in the Serengeti.

Wood Sandpiper*Tringa glareola*

It was recorded at most wetland sites; our first sighting was while we watch an Impala drinking in Tarangire.

Common Sandpiper*Actitis hypoleucos*

We managed to find one at a small river crossing in the Serengeti close to our lodge.

Little Stint*Calidris minuta*

This Palearctic shorebird was seen in the Ngorongoro Crater, Serengeti and Lake Nakuru.

Curlew Sandpiper*Calidris ferruginea*

This shorebird was recorded at Amboseli.

Ruff*Philomachus pugnax*

Good numbers were found at most wetland sights, the birds at Lake Nakuru were moving closer to breeding plumage.

Courser & Pratincoles Glareolidae**Somali Courser***Cursorius somalensis*

We recorded several of these arid country coursers on the dusty plains of Buffalo Springs NR.

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*

Small numbers were observed on the degraded plains in the Serengeti and Amboseli.

Note: Clements places this species in a different genus to the IOC nomenclature, namely Smutsornis.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae**Grey-hooded (-headed) Gull***Larus cirrocephalus*

We recorded this species on Lake Magadi in the Ngorongoro Crater and in Lake Nakuru NP.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Gray-headed Gull.

Whiskered Tern*Chlidonias hybrida*

Recorded at a few wetland areas including Silale Swamp in Tarangire, Amboseli and Lake Nakuru

White-winged Tern*Chlidonias leucopterus*

Lake Nakuru produced good sightings of this tern species.

Sandgrouse Pteroclididae**Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse***Pterocles exustus*

Our first views were in the Serengeti, however at Amboseli we had wonderful sightings of these birds coming to the water.



Yellow-throated Sandgrouse*Pterocles gutturalis*

Such a spectacular bird, we had a single bird in the Serengeti and then good numbers coming in for a drink in Amboseli.

Black-faced Sandgrouse*Pterocles decoratus*

We found these lovely birds on the road in Tarangire NP

Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse*Pterocles lichtensteinii*

We had a pair in the early morning sun close to our lodge in the Serengeti and again in Buffalo Springs.

Doves & Pigeons Columbidae**Speckled (Rock) Pigeon***Columba guinea*

First seen in Tarangire NP, and many other scattered localities throughout Tanzania and Kenya.

African Olive (Rameron) Pigeon*Columba arquatrix*

This attractive pigeon was observed in Mount Kenya and Lake Nakuru.

Eastern Bronze-naped (Delegorgue's) Pigeon*Columba delegorguei*

We observed good numbers at our lodge on the slopes of Mt. Kenya, and were fortunate to have 3 birds out in the open at the water hole.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Delegorgue's Pigeon.

Dusky Turtle Dove*Streptopelia lugens*

The forested rim of the Ngorongoro Crater produced sightings of this bird.

Mourning Collared (African Mourning) Dove*Streptopelia decipiens*

Good numbers were seen in Tarangire.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is African Mourning Dove.

Red-eyed Dove*Streptopelia semitorquata*

This widespread & common dove was seen well at our lodge at the Crater.

Ring-necked (Cape Turtle) Dove*Streptopelia capicola*

Good numbers seen throughout the tour, our first sighting were in Tarangire

Laughing (Palm) Dove*Streptopelia senegalensis*

Some lovely sightings in Tarangire.

Emerald-spotted (Green-spotted) Wood Dove*Turtur chalcospilos*

This bird was seen in Arusha NP and Buffalo Springs NR.

Namaqua Dove*Oena capensis*

This attractive, long-tailed dove was recorded in drier woodland during the tour first encountered at Tarangire.

African Green Pigeon*Treron calva*

We had a great sighting of a bird that came down to the water hole at Mount Kenya.

Parrots & Allies Psittacidae**Fischer's Lovebird***Agapornis fischeri*

These gorgeous birds were seen on most days in the Serengeti. It is an East African endemic.

Yellow-collared Lovebird*Agapornis personatus*

This stunning bird was seen very well and in good numbers in Tarangire NP.

Red-fronted Parrot*Poicephalus gulielmi*

Good numbers of this forest dwelling species were seen exceptionally well in the forests of Mt. Kenya.

Meyer's (Brown) Parrot*Poicephalus meyeri*

We had a number of great sightings of this beautiful bird in the Serengeti NP.

Red-bellied (African Orange-bellied) Parrot*Poicephalus rufiventris*

First seen in Tarangire NP where we had brilliant sightings of both perched and flying birds.

Turacos Musophagidae**Schalow's Turaco***Tauraco schalowi*

A few of these stunning birds were seen on the forested rim of the Ngorongoro Crater.

Hartlaub's Turaco*Tauraco hartlaubi*

Good views were had in the forests of Mt. Kenya.

Bare-faced Go-away-bird*Corythaixoides personatus*

We encountered this species in Tarangire and Serengeti

White-bellied Go-away-bird*Corythaixoides leucogaster*

Seen daily in Tarangire, Samburu and Buffalo Springs.

Cuckoos Cuculidae**White-browed Coucal***Centropus superciliosus*

We had a number of great sightings in Tarangire; the overcast weather really brought them out. They were seen at most areas we visited.

Black Coucal*Centropus grillii*

We were very fortunate to have such a great sighting of this wonderful bird in the Serengeti.

Great Spotted Cuckoo*Clamator grandarius*

We had one land right in front of us in the southern Serengeti and another on the way to Mt. Kenya.

Jacobin Cuckoo*Clamator jacobinus*

We had to separate sightings one in Tarangire and another in the other in the Crater.

Dideric's Cuckoo*Chrysococcyx caprius*

We first got a view at the entrance to Tarangire, then again in Serengeti and lastly in Buffalo Springs.

African Emerald Cuckoo*Chrysococcyx cupreus*

We had two memorable sightings on our walk at Mt. Kenya.

Black Cuckoo*Cuculus clamosus*

The woodland at the edge of Lake Nakuru NP held a sighting of this cuckoo.

Red-chested Cuckoo*Cuculus solitarius*

We had a great sighting in the Fever Tree forests of Lake Nakuru.

African Cuckoo*Cuculus gularis*

The woodland of Tarangire NP produced a few sightings of this intra African migrant.

Owls Strigidae**Cape (Mackinder's) Eagle-Owl***Bubo capensis (mackinderi)*

We spotted this attractive owl with her youngster at a day roost in central Kenya. Thanks to Paul who has been looking after these birds for the last 16 years.

Note: The local race in East Africa is known as Mackinder's Eagle-Owl, B. c. mackinderi, however, the IOC does not yet recognise this as a full species.

Verreaux's Eagle-Owl*Bubo lacteus*

We had a wonderful sighting of a bird sitting on a nest in Tarangire N.P. It was surrounded by some very noisy Red-billed Buffalo Weavers.

African Wood Owl*Strix woodfordii*

We only heard this bird in the early morning whilst staying at Ngare Sero

Pearl-spotted Owlet*Glaucidium perlatum*

This largely diurnal owl was recorded at several woodland sites during the tour.

Nightjars Caprimulgidae**Montane Nightjar***Caprimulgus poliocephalus*

Unfortunately, we only managed to record this species as a "heard" bird at Mt. Kenya.

Freckled Nightjar*Caprimulgus tristigma*

We heard this bird from our lodge in Tarangire NP.

Slender-tailed Nightjar*Caprimulgus tristigma*

From our lodge in Buffalo Springs we managed to get 4 birds in the early evening hawking insects around the flood lights.



Swifts Apodidae

- Mottled Spinetail** *Telacanthura ussheri*
We had a wonderful sighting around some Baobabs in Tarangire.
- African Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus*
Encountered in suitable habitat during the tour, especially in Tarangire & Buffalo Springs.
- African [Black] Swift** *Apus barbatus*
We had a few birds on the rim of the Crater.
- Nyanza Swift** *Apus barbatus*
We had several great views in the Serengeti.
- Little Swift** *Apus affinis*
By far the most common swift on tour, it was seen on a number of days in good numbers.
- Horus Swift** *Apus horus*
We had a mixed flock of Swifts in Tarangire and managed to get good views.
- White-rumped Swift** *Apus caffer*
We had two separate sightings in Tarangire and again in Amboseli.

Mousebirds Coliidae

- Speckled Mousebird** *Colius striatus*
This common and widespread bird was observed on a number of days of the tour.
- White-headed Mousebird** *Colius leucocephalus*
This uncommon species which inhabits arid & semi-arid woodland was recorded at our lodge in Buffalo Springs.
- Blue-naped Mousebird** *Urocolius macrourus*
The fast-flying, dry savanna cousin of the Speckled Mousebird was seen at Samburu and Buffalo Springs.

Trogons Trogonidae

- Narina Trogon** *Apaloderma narina*
What a great spot by Joyce as we were entering our lodge in the Serengeti, a magnificent bird.

Rollers Coraciidae

- Purple (Rufous-crowned) Roller** *Coracias naevia*
This species was found in Tarangire, Serengeti and Buffalo Springs.
NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Rufous-crowned Roller.
- Lilac-breasted Roller** *Coracias caudata*
This gorgeous bird was recorded on most days of the tour.
- European Roller** *Coracias garrulus*
We had great numbers on their northward bound journey in Buffalo Springs.
- Broad-billed Roller** *Eurystomus glaucurus*
This species was seen on the edge of the Fever Tree forest at Lake Nakuru.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

- Grey-headed (-hooded) Kingfisher** *Halcyon leucocephala*
We had our first sighting of this stunning bird lose to our lodge in Tarangire.
- Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti*
We recorded this species on the way into Tarangire, in the Serengeti and again at Samburu.
- Woodland Kingfisher** *Halcyon senegalensis*
This stunning species was encountered daily in Tarangire NP.
- Malachite Kingfisher** *Alcedo cristata*
This little gem was first seen in Ngorongoro and again in Amboseli.
- Giant Kingfisher** *Megaceryle maxima*



First seen around our lodge in Shaba, then we had a great sighting on the shore of Lake Nakuru.

Pied Kingfisher*Ceryle rudis*

We had a number of sightings along the Tarangire River.

Bee-eaters Meropidae**Little Bee-eater***Merops pusillus*

This beauty was observed at scattered woodland sites throughout; our first sighting was in Tarangire.

Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater*Merops oreobates*

Our first sighting was on the road up to Ngorongoro Crater again at Mt. Kenya

White-fronted Bee-eater*Merops bullockoides*

A brief glimpse as we left Lake Nakuru.

Somali Bee-eater*Merops revoilii*

We were extremely fortunate to find this outstanding little bird in Buffalo Springs.

White-throated Bee-eater*Merops albicollis*

Good numbers of these birds were observed daily in the arid reserves of north central Kenya.

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater*Merops persicus*

We had a few perched and flying over at Silale Swamp in Tarangire NP and again in Amboseli.

European Bee-eater*Merops apiaster*

Only a brief sighting in Tarangire NP.

Hoopoes Upupidae**Eurasian Hoopoe***Upupa epops*

We found this species in Lake Nakuru NP.

NOTE: The Hoopoe complex has had a confusing taxonomic history, with one to four species being recognised by various authorities. The IOC recognises three species, Madagascar (U. marginalis), Eurasian (U. epops) and African (U. africana). Clements does not consider African Hoopoe a full species, he lumps it with Eurasian Hoopoe.

African Hoopoe*Upupa africana*

Great views of this unique looking bird in Tarangire, Serengeti and Lake Nakuru.

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

We were very fortunate to get a sighting in the late afternoon from the lookout at our lodge in Mt Kenya.

Green Wood Hoopoe*Phoeniculus purpureus*

Flocks of these noisy, iridescent birds were first encountered at Tarangire, later we had a wonderful view in Lake Nakuru.

Grant's Wood Hoopoe*Phoeniculus granti*

We were extremely lucky to find a pair in Shaba.

Common Scimitarbill*Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*

Only one sighting in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Abyssinian Scimitarbill*Rhinopomastus minor*

We had a number of great sightings, from the Serengeti and Shaba.

Hornbills Bucerotidae**Crowned Hornbill***Tockus alboterminatus*

We had good view during our stay around Mt Kenya.

African Grey Hornbill*Tockus nasutus*

Regularly spotted in suitable open woodland habitats during our time in Tanzania.

Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill*Tockus ruahae*

We had a number of sightings of this localised bird in the Serengeti.

Northern Red-billed Hornbill*Tockus erythrorhynchus*

This species was encountered almost daily in Tarangire NP and the arid reserves of Kenya.

Northern (Eastern) Yellow-billed Hornbill *Tockus flavirostris*

We had to wait till we were in Samburu to eventually see the last of the hornbills for the tour.

Von der Decken's Hornbill *Tockus deckeni*

This bird was found in good numbers in Tarangire NP and Serengeti.

Silvery-cheeked Hornbill *Bycanistes brevis*

This magnificent hornbill was seen at Ngare Sero and at Mt Kenya.

Note: Clements places this species in a different genus to the IOC nomenclature, namely Ceratogymna.

Ground Hornbills Bucorvidae

Southern Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus leadbeateri*

We had fantastic sightings of this endangered species in Tarangire N.P. and Serengeti.

African Barbets Lybiidae

Yellow-rumped (Golden-rumped) Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus*

We had sensational views of this little gem on our walk at Mt. Kenya.

Red-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus pusillus*

We managed to find one at the Cape Eagle Owl site.

Red-fronted Barbet (Pied Barbet) *Tricholaema diademata*

We had two separate sightings in the Serengeti.

Note: The Clements common name for this species is Pied Barbet.

White-headed Barbet *Lybius leucocephalus*

We only had a single sighting of this great bird in the Leraï Forest in the Crater.

Red-and-yellow Barbet *Trachyphonus erythrocephalus*

Tarangire NP yielded views of this colourful and comical species.

D'Arnaud's Barbet *Trachyphonus darnaudii*

This species was found in Tarangire NP and Amboseli.

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, but Clement's does.

Honeyguides Indicatoridae

Eastern Honeyguide *Prodotiscus regulus*

We were very fortunate to find this bird during a quick stop on our way to Mt Kenya.

Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor*

We had two separate sightings, one at a bee hive in the Serengeti, the other at the Cape Eagle Owl site

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator*

We had two adults and a juvenile around a bee hive in the Serengeti.

Woodpeckers & Allies Picidae

Nubian Woodpecker *Campethera nubica*

This common woodland species was recorded at regular intervals in suitable habitat.

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens*

Sightings at Tarangire, Serengeti, Amboseli and Buffalo Springs.

Bearded Woodpecker *Dendropicos namaquus*

We struggled for good views in Tarangire NP eventually got great views in Buffalo Springs.

[African] Grey Woodpecker *Dendropicos goertae*

This species was recorded in Tarangire NP.

NOTE: This species is lumped by IOC with Gray-headed Woodpecker (D. spodocephalus).

Wattle-eyes, Batises & Allies Platysteiridae



Chinspot Batis*Batis molitor*

We had a lovely sighting on our last morning in Tarangire and seen well a few times in the Serengeti.

Pygmy Batis*Batis perkeo*

We found this great little bird in Buffalo Springs.

Bushshrikes Malaconotidae**Black-fronted Bushshrike***Malanconotus blanchoti*

We had fantastic views on our afternoon walk around Gibbs Farm.

Rosy-patched Bushshrike*Rhodophoneus cruentus*

This beautiful species was seen in Shaba and Buffalo Springs NR.

Brown-crowned (Three-streaked) Tchagra*Tchagra australis*

Great sightings in Tarangire and Serengeti.

Black-crowned Tchagra*Tchagra senegala*

Best views were had on our last day at Lake Nakuru.

Black-backed Puffback*Dryoscopus cubla*

We found this bird in Tarangire and Serengeti.

Northern Puffback*Dryoscopus gambensis*

We had one come into a bird party in Buffalo Springs.

Slate-colored Boubou*Laniarius funebris*

We had a number of sightings in Tarangire.

Tropical Boubou*Laniarius aethiopicus*

This very vocal bird was eventually seen at Gibbs Farm.

Brubru*Nilaus afer*

This pied woodland species was observed well in the Serengeti.

Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae**Grey Cuckooshrike***Coracina caesia*

We had sightings of this bird in the forests of Mt. Kenya.

Black Cuckooshrike*Campephaga flava*

We had a good look at a female at Mt Kenya.

Shrikes Laniidae**Red-backed Shrike***Lanius collurio*

There were good numbers seen in Tarangire, Serengeti and Buffalo Springs.

Magpie (Long-tailed) Shrike*Urolestes (Corvinella) melanoleucus*

Good numbers of this bird were seen in the Serengeti and Tarangire NP.

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

Northern White-crowned Shrike*Eurocephalus rueppelli*

It was commonly encountered at most woodland sites on tour.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is White-rumped Shrike.

Lesser Grey Shrike*Lanius minor*

We observed this migrant species on route Tarangire and again in Buffalo Springs

Grey-backed Fiscal*Lanius excubitoroides*

We had a number of sightings in Serengeti and Amboseli.

Long-tailed Fiscal*Lanius cabanisi*

First seen en route to Tarangire from Arusha, we had several in the national park and more en route to the Crater.

Taita Fiscal*Lanius dorsalis*

Good numbers were found in the dry reserves of Kenya.

Common Fiscal*Lanius collaris*

This very common bird was recorded regularly on the trip except in very arid areas.

Old World Orioles Oriolidae

Mountain (Montane/Black-tailed) Oriole *Oriolus percivali*

This species was observed in the forests on the slopes of Mt. Kenya.

(African) Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus larvatus*

We had a great sighting on our way out of Tarangire.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is African Black-headed Oriole.

Drongos Dicruridae

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis*

This common and widespread species was seen on most days on the trip.

Monarchs Monarchidae

African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*

We had numerous sightings of this attractive intra-African migrant.

Crows, Jays & Magpies Corvidae

Cape (Black) Crow *Corvus capensis*

The central plateau of Kenya produced sightings of this corvid, with initial views in Arusha.

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*

The urban areas and rural settlements attract this species; peak numbers spotted over Arusha.

Fan-tailed Raven *Corvus rhipidurus*

3 birds descended on our lunch stop in Buffalo Springs NR.

White-necked Raven *Corvus albicollis*

First seen in Arusha NP, they were then observed en route to Tarangire and along the forested rim of the Ngorongoro Crater.

Tits Paridae

White-bellied Tit *Parus (Melaniparus) albiventris*

We had a sighting on our last morning at Lake Nakuru N.P.

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

Red-throated Tit *Parus (Melaniparus) fringillinus*

This East Africa endemic was recorded in the woodland close to our lodge in the Serengeti and again at Naabi Hill.

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

Penduline Tits Remizidae

Grey (African) Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus caroli*

We only had one sighting outside our lodge in Amboseli N.P.

Larks Alaudidae

White-tailed Lark *Mirafra albicauda*

The sparsely grassed areas of the Serengeti held our sighting of this difficult-to-locate bird.

Rufous-naped Lark *Mirafra africana*

One of the more common larks of the trip, it was recorded on most days in suitable grassland habitat.

Red-winged Lark *Mirafra hypermetra*

This fairly large-sized lark was found on the lava plains in Shaba NR.

Flappet Lark *Mirafra rufocinnamomea*



We first encountered this species at Silale Swamp in Tarangire.

Foxy (Fawn-colored) Lark *Calendulauda alopex*

A single sighting in Tarangire.

NOTE: This species is treated as a race of Fawn-coloured Lark (M. africanoides) by some authorities. Clements places this species in a different genus to the IOC nomenclature, namely Calendulauda.

Pink-breasted Lark *Mirafra poecilosterna*

This very vocal species was encountered daily in the drier parks of Kenya.

Red-capped Lark *Calandrella cinerea*

A lark that is fond of dry, patchy grassland, it was seen in the Ngorongoro Crater, and Amboseli.

Short-tailed Lark *Pseudalaemon fremantlii*

We found a small group of birds in Amboseli.

Fischer's Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix leucopareia*

Numerous throughout the tour, it was recorded on most days in arid/broken ground areas.

Bulbuls Pycnonotidae

[Dodson's] (Common) Bulbul *Pycnonotus dodsoni*

This arid-country species was seen in Buffalo Springs and Shaba NR's.

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 does not and lumps the above as Common Bulbul (P. barbatus).

[Dark-capped] (Common) Bulbul *Pycnonotus tricolor*

This ubiquitous species was seen on most days of the trip.

(Eastern) Mountain Greenbul *Andropadus nigriceps*

We obtained sightings of this bird along the forested rim of the Ngorongoro Crater and again at 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 S Kenya & N Tanzania, Yellow-throated Greenbul (A. chlorigula) endemic to S Tanzania and Black-browed Greenbul (A. fusciceps) endemic to Malawi, N Mozambique & extreme S Tanzania.

Slender-billed Greenbul *Andropadus gracilirostris*

A single bird was recorded in the forest of Mt. Kenya.

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul *Eurillas latirostris*

We had great views at Mt Kenya and again at the Cape Eagle-Owl site.

Cabanis's Greenbul *Phyllastrephus cabanisi*

We had numerous sightings in the forests of Mt Kenya.

Martins & Swallows Hirundinidae

Black Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne pristoptera*

This species was observed at all higher altitude forested sites on the tour.

NOTE: The Black Sawwing (P. pristoptera complex) was split into 8 full species, which caused extreme confusion with regard to their distributions and field identification; however, all authorities including IOC have now accepted one species.

Brown-throated (Plain) Martin *Riparia paludicola*

We had a single bird as we were leaving Lake Nakuru.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Plain Martin.

Banded Martin *Riparia cincta*

The grasslands of the Ngorongoro Crater held views of this large hirundine.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

This Palearctic migrant was observed on most days during the first half of the tour.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

We found individuals and pairs along most water bodies during the tour.

Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

It was seen on most days during the trip.

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

We had sightings of this species around our lodge on the Ngorongoro Crater rim.



Lesser Striped Swallow*Cecropis abyssinica*

This intra-African migrant was recorded regularly during our time spent in Tanzania, with great sightings in the southern Serengeti near Sopa Lodge.

Mosque Swallow*Cecropis senegalensis*

First seen in Tarangire, we also had views of this great bird in Lake Nakuru.

Red-rumped Swallow*Cecropis daurica*

Seen daily in the Ngorongoro Conservation area, the Serengeti and then in Buffalo Springs NR.

Family Uncertain Incertae sedis**Northern Crombec***Sylvietta brachyura*

We enjoyed good views of this bird in Buffalo Springs NR.

Red-faced Crombec*Sylvietta whytii*

We had a number of sightings, best view were in Serengeti and Amboseli.

White-browed Crombec*Sylvietta eucophrys*

We had a wonderful view of a pair of birds in the forest of Mt Kenya.

Leaf warblers and allies Phylloscopidae**Brown Woodland Warbler***Phylloscopus umbrovirens*

His stunning little bird was seen well on our forest walk at Mt Kenya.

Willow Warbler*Phylloscopus trochilus*

This migrant was seen in the Fever Trees in Amboseli.

Common Chiffchaf*Phylloscopus Warblers*

We recorded a single bird on the forest of Mt Kenya.

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler*Iduna pallida*

Two separate sightings, one in the Serengeti and the other at Buffalo Springs.

Reed Warblers and Allies Acrocephalidae**Sedge Warbler***Acrocephalus warbler*

We had great views at our lodge in Mt Kenya.

Cisticolas and Allies Cisticolidae**Hunter's Cisticola***Cisticola hunteri*

This sociable and highly vocal bird was observed on the forested rim of the Crater & at Mt. Kenya.

Rattling Cisticola*Cisticola chiniana*

This common woodland bird was recorded Tarangire and Serengeti.

Ashy Cisticola*Cisticola cinereolus*

We had a few sightings in Amboseli.

Winding Cisticola*Cisticola marginatus*

We found this species at scattered wetland/moist grassland sites in Tarangire 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.

Croaking Cisticola*Cisticola natalensis*

An inhabitant of moist grassland, we had good views of this rather drab cisticola in Tarangire.

Zitting Cisticola*Cisticola juncidis*

The Serengeti and grasslands of Ngorongoro produced views of this widespread species.

Pectoral-patch Cisticola*Cisticola brunnescens*

During our day in the Crater we had numerous sightings of this diminutive bird.

Tawny-flanked Prinia*Prinia subflava*

We had two sighting in Buffalo Springs.



Buff-bellied Warbler*Phyllolais pulchella*

We recorded this delightful little warbler in Serengeti and Amboseli.

Bar-throated Apalis*Apalis thoracica*

This forest species was seen as we descended the Ngorongoro Crater rim.

Yellow-breasted Apalis*Apalis flavida*

Several birds were recorded in woodland habitat during the trip.

NOTE: This widespread polytypic African species may be split into two or more species. The split most widely accepted is that of Brown-tailed Apalis (A. f. viridiceps) of Somalia and adjacent Ethiopia. IOC does not as yet recognise this split.

Black-throated Apalis*Apalis jacksoni*

We had fantastic views of this stunning bird in the forests of Mt. Kenya.

Black-headed Apalis*Apalis melanocephala*

We had a single bird on our last morning at Mt Kenya.

Chestnut-throated Apalis*Apalis porphyrolaema*

We had a number of fantastic sightings in the forest of Mt Kenya.

Grey Apalis*Apalis cinerea*

We managed to get a number of views in the forests of Mt Kenya.

Brown-headed Apalis*Apalis alticola*

A little afternoon stroll at the back of our lodge on the Crater rim produced a few sightings.

Grey-capped Warbler*Eminia lepida*

We enjoyed excellent, close-up views of this attractive bird at Gibbs Farm.

Grey-(Green) backed Camaroptera*Camaroptera brevicaudata*

The first half of the tour had many sightings of this common woodland bird.

Yellow-bellied Eremomela*Eremomela icteropygialis*

This species was recorded in the arid woodland in Buffalo Springs.

Laughingthrushes Leithrichidae**Rufous Chatterer***Turdoides rubiginosa*

We had great views from our lodge in Buffalo Springs.

Black-lored Babbler*Turdoides sharpei*

Naabi Hill in the Serengeti produced a sighting of these vocal birds.

Arrow-marked Babbler*Turdoides jardineii*

This species was seen in Tarangire and again at Lake Nakuru.

Northern Pied Babbler*Turdoides hypoleuca*

Good numbers of these attractive East African endemics were observed in Tarangire NP.

Sylvid Babblers Sylviidae**African Hill Babbler***Pseudoalcippe abyssinica*

We found a pair of these birds in the forested slopes of Mt. Kenya.

Common Whitethroat*Sylvia communis*

Another Palaearctic migrant, it was seen at our accommodation at Mt Kenya.

Brown Warbler (Parisoma)*Sylvia (Parisoma) lugens*

We had sensational views of this species out in the open on the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater.

Banded Warbler (Parisoma)*Sylvia (Parisoma) boehmi***White-eyes Zosteropidae****Kikuyu (Broad-ringed/Montane) White-eye***Zosterops poliogastrus*

The forests of the Crater rim, Gibbs Farm and Mt Kenya held this bird.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Broad-ringed White-eye.

Starlings Sturnidae**Wattled Starling***Creatophora cinerea*

Good numbers were seen often in association with animals.

Greater Blue-eared (Glossy-) Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*

Good numbers were seen in Lake Nakuru.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling.

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

This sleek starling was observed almost daily in the Serengeti & Lake Nakuru.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Rueppell's Glossy-Starling.

Superb Starling *Lamprotornis superbus*

This ubiquitous, yet attractive bird was seen in good numbers on most tour days.

Hildebrandt's Starling *Lamprotornis hildebrandti*

This gorgeous bird was found in Tarangire, the Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti.

Ashy Starling *Lamprotornis unicolor*

This Tanzanian endemic was only recorded in Tarangire NP, where it was abundant.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC, namely: Spreo.

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

This magnificent bird was seen exceptionally well at the Cape Eagle Owl site.

Red-winged Starling *Onychognathus morio*

It was commonly recorded, especially around habitation area and Tarangire with fewer sightings in the Serengeti and central Kenya.

Slender-billed Starling *Onychognathus tenuirostris*

We found a pair at Thompson's Falls just after lunch.

Bristle-crowned Starling *Onychognathus salvadorii*

Another arid-country bird with a funky "hair-do", it was seen in Shaba NR.

Kenrick's Starling *Poeoptera kenricki*

We found a few birds on the way into Mt Kenya.

Sharpe's Starling *Poeoptera (Pholia) sharpii*

Good numbers of these attractive birds were seen in the canopy of the forests of Mt. Kenya.

Magpie Starlings *Speculipastor bicolor*

We had a number of flocks in Buffalo Springs.

Oxpeckers Buphagidae

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus*

We recorded this species in the Serengeti and Amboseli

Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*

Much more common than the aforementioned species, it was seen on most days.

Thrushes & Allies Turdidae

African Thrush *Turdus pelios*

We found our first bird at the Cape Eagle Owl site and had another sighting in Lake Nakuru.

[Abyssinian] (Olive) Thrush *Turdus olivaceus abyssinicus*

This higher altitude species was seen on the slopes of Mt. Kenya.

NOTE: The Olive Thrush complex may be split into a range of up to 10 full species. The form which we recorded is Abyssinian Thrush (T. o. abyssinicus) would be recognised as distinct within this confusing complex. Clements does not as yet recognise these splits.

Chats, Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

White-starred Robin *Pogonocichla stellata*

An absolute beauty, we had two great sightings on our walk at Mt Kenya.

Cape Robin-Chat *Cossypha caffra*

Good views were had of this bird in d Ngorongoro Crater, Gibbs Farm and Mt Kenya.

Rüppell's Robin-Chat *Cossypha semirufa*

Occurring at higher altitudes, it was seen well at Gibb's Farm.



White-browed Robin-Chat*Cossypha heuglini*

First heard in the Serengeti we eventually caught up with this bird at Lake Nakuru.

Spotted Palm (Morning-) Thrush*Cichladusa guttata*

Our initial sighting was in Tarangire, followed by good views in Amboseli.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Spotted Morning-Thrush.

African Stonechat*Saxicola torquatus*

We recorded this species along the forested rim of the Crater.

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

Capped Wheatear*Oenanthe pileata*

En route to the Serengeti we had numerous sightings of this species which thrives in disturbed arid habitat.

Brown-tailed Rock Chat*Cercomela scotocerca*

We found this rather drab-looking bird on the black lava flows near Shaba G.R.

Note: The Clements common name for this bird is Brown-tailed Chat.

(Northern) Anteater Chat*Myrmecocichla aethiops*

We observed this species in the grasslands of the Crater, Lake Nakuru and the central plateau of Kenya.

Note: The Clements common name for this bird is Northern Anteater-Chat.

Little Rock Thrush*Monticola rufocinereus*

Our first sighting was at the Cape Eagle Owl Site and a further sighting at Lake Nakuru.

Mocking Cliff Chat*Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*

The Serengeti produced a sighting of this beautiful bird.

White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher*Dioptrornis (Melaenornis) fischeri*

This higher altitude flycatcher was commonly recorded along forest edge

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

Northern Black Flycatcher*Melaenornis edoliodes*

We had a few sightings in Buffalo Springs.

Southern Black Flycatcher*Melaenornis pammelaina*

We had a single sighting in the Serengeti.

Pale Flycatcher*Bradornis pallidus*

We spotted this rather drab-looking bird in Tarangire NP.

African Grey Flycatcher*Bradornis microrhynchus*

Regularly recorded in drier woodland during the trip; being very common in the Serengeti.

Silverbird*Empidonax semipartitus*

This stunning species was found in the Serengeti.

Spotted Flycatcher*Muscicapa striata*

This Palearctic migrant was seen along the Western Corridor in the Serengeti.

African Dusky Flycatcher*Muscicapa adusta*

We observed this tiny Flycatcher in the Ngorongoro Crater & Mt. Kenya.

Sunbirds Nectarinidae**Eastern (Kenya) Violet-backed Sunbird***Anthreptes orientalis*

First recorded in Karatu, it was later seen in Kenya's arid northern reserves.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Kenya Violet-backed Sunbird.

Collared Sunbird*Hedydipna collaris*

The forests around Gibb's Farm held views of this pretty species.

Green-headed Sunbird*Cyanomitra olivacea*

We were very lucky to get a view in the gardens of Gibbs Farm

(Eastern) Olive-Sunbird*Cyanomitra olivacea*

This species was recorded in Ngare Sero and again at Mt Kenya.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird*Chalcomitra senegalensis*

This beauty was regularly encountered in the Serengeti.



Hunter's Sunbird*Chalcomitra hunteri*

Several spectacular birds were found in Buffalo Springs and Shaba NR's in Kenya.

Tacazze Sunbird*Nectarinia tacazze*

The forests around the rim of Ngorongoro Crater held sightings of this stunner.

Bronzy (Bronze) Sunbird*Nectarinia kilimensis*

We recorded this species at higher altitude forested sites throughout the tour at Ngorongoro and Mt Kenya

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Bronze Sunbird.

Malachite Sunbird*Nectarinia famosa*

We found this absolutely magnificent species in the scrubby habitat along the Crater rim.

Golden-winged Sunbird*Drepanorhynchus reichenowi*

Another stunning bird, it was seen well along the Ngorongoro Crater Rim.

Northern Double-collared Sunbird*Cinnyris reichenowi*

We had a few sightings in the forested area of Mt. Kenya.

Eastern Double-collared Sunbird*Cinnyris mediocris*

It was fairly common at the forest edge of the Crater and on the slopes of Mt. Kenya.

Beautiful Sunbird*Cinnyris pulchella*

The drier woodland en route to Tarangire, within the park and near the Serengeti held views of this beauty.

Marico Sunbird*Cinnyris mariquensis*

We had great views in the Serengeti.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Mariqua Sunbird. In addition, some authorities split this complex into 2 full species. The C. m. Osiris, which is recorded in N Kenya & Uganda to Eritrea, would become Swahili Sunbird as opposed to the nominate form which would remain as Marico Sunbird.

Black-bellied Sunbird*Cinnyris nectarinioides*

Half-a-dozen birds were seen in the riparian forest in Buffalo Springs.

Tsavo Sunbird*Cinnyris nectariniodes*

We had brilliant views of this species in Buffalo Springs.

Variable Sunbird*Cinnyris venusta*

This species was seen along the forest edge of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and at Gibbs Farm.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae**White-browed Sparrow-Weaver***Plocepasser mahali*

Seen daily in the arid reserves of north central Kenya.

Donaldson-Smith's Sparrow-Weaver*Plocepasser donaldsoni*

Buffalo Springs NR's yielded good numbers of this species.

Rufous-tailed Weaver*Histurgops ruficauda*

The Serengeti and Tarangire NP held views of this East African endemic. Interestingly enough, it was once considered a Tanzanian endemic but was recently discovered in the Maasai Mara in Kenya.

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

This very cute, diminutive bird was seen at close quarters in the Serengeti.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Gray-headed Social-Weaver.

Black-capped Social Weaver*Pseudonigrita cabanisi*

Good numbers of this gregarious species were seen in Buffalo Springs NR.

House Sparrow*Passer domesticus*

Small numbers of this introduced species was seen at urban sites during the tour.

Kenya (Rufous) Sparrow*Passer rufocinctus*

We recorded this attractive sparrow as we were leaving Lake Nakuru.

NOTE: Some authorities including Clements split this African sparrow into five species. Shelley's Rufous Sparrow (P. shelleyi) occurs largely in Ethiopia, Great Rufous Sparrow (P. motitensis) occurs in Southern Africa, Kenya Rufous



Sparrow (*P. rufocinctus*) occurs in East Africa, Kordofan Rufous Sparrow (*P. cordofanicus*) occurs in Sudan and Socotra Sparrow which is endemic to Socotra.

[Northern] Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus*

The first week of the trip produced many views of this widespread species.

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

Parrot-billed Sparrow *Passer gongonensis*

An arid country species, it was observed daily in the national reserves of Kenya.

Swahili Sparrow *Passer suahelicus*

This bird was seen in small numbers in the Serengeti.

Chestnut Sparrow *Passer eminibey*

We had very good views of this bird in drier woodland of Buffalo Springs NR.

Yellow-spotted Petronia *Gymnoris (Petronia) superciliaris*

First seen in the arid woodland en route to the Serengeti, it was later observed in Buffalo Springs and Shaba NR's.

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

Weavers & Allies Ploceidae

Red-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis niger*

Another gregarious species, we found them in Tarangire NP, the Serengeti & north central Kenya.

NOTE: This species complex might be split into two, the nominate group would become Southern Red-billed Buffalo Weaver and the form in Ethiopia would become Northern Red-billed Buffalo Weaver (*B. intermedius*). IOC does not as yet recognize this split.

White-headed Buffalo Weaver *Dinemellia dinemelli*

This colourful bird was seen in most woodland sites throughout the trip.

Speckle-fronted Weaver *Sporopipes frontalis*

Tarangire NP and the Serengeti produced this species.

Thick-billed (Grosbeak) Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons*

This weaver was recorded at Ngare Sero..

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Grosbeak Weaver.

Baglaffeht Weaver *Ploceus baglaffeht*

We recorded this species at forested sites during the tour.

Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis*

We got good views of a male on our early morning stroll in Gibbs Farm.

Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis*

At the entrance of Tarangire is where we first discovered this attractive Weaver.

Golden Palm Weaver *Ploceus bojeri*

We were fortunate to find this magnificent weaver at our lodge in Buffalo Springs NR.

Taveta (Golden-) Weaver *Ploceus castaneiceps*

Another gorgeous species, we had excellent sightings in Buffalo Springs.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Taveta Golden-Weaver.

Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus intermedius*

The woodland of Tarangire is where we first had a sighting of this bird.

Vitelline Masked Weaver *Ploceus vitellinus*

Our first sighting was in Tarangire.

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*

On route to Tarangire we stopped at a small group of buildings and found a small colony.

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

We had great views of these stunning weavers close to Moru Koppies.

Chestnut Weaver *Ploceus rubiginosus*

Large numbers were seen in the arid reserves of north central Kenya.

Brown-capped Weaver *Ploceus insignis*

We had sighting of this species in the forests of Mt. Kenya.

Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes melanotis (rubriceps)*



This female was seen in Shaba and the male was seen well at Lake Nakuru.

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.

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*

Large flocks of these birds were seen in Tarangire NP.

[Southern] Red Bishop *Euplectes orix*

This striking species was recorded in the grasslands en route from Tarangire and the Ngorongoro Crater.

Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis*

The Ngorongoro Crater and Lake Nakuru all yielded sightings of this bird.

Fan-tailed (Red-shouldered) Widowbird *Euplectes axillaris*

We found this species in the Ngorongoro Crater and southern Serengeti.

Red-collared Widowbird *Euplectes ardens*

The Ngorongoro Crater produced views of this handsome species.

Long-tailed Widowbird *Euplectes progne*

We had phenomenal views of this magnificent species displaying in Lake Nakuru NP.

Waxbills & Allies Estrildidae

Grey-headed Nigrita (Negrofinch) *Nigrita canicapillus*

We had incredible sightings in the forests of Mt. Kenya.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Gray-headed Negrofinch.

Green-winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba*

Our only views of this gorgeous species were in Tarangire.

Cut-throat [Finch] *Amadina fasciata*

We had small flocks in Shaba and Buffalo Springs.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is just Cut-throat.

Abysinian Crimsonwing *Cryptospiza salvadori*

Wow, we had such amazing sightings in the forests of Mt Kenya what an absolute stunner.

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*

This common & widespread Firefinch was seen in Serengeti, Amboseli and Buffalo Springs.

Blue Waxbill (Blue-breasted Cordon-bleu) *Uraeginthus angolensis*

Another little gem, it was found in the Serengeti.

Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus bengalus*

Tarangire, Serengeti, Buffalo Springs and Lake Nakuru produced sightings of this attractive species.

Blue-capped Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus cyanocephalus*

We spotted this little beauty in Tarangire and the Serengeti.

Purple Grenadier *Uraeginthus (Granatina) ianthinogaster*

This stunning species was recorded at the entrance of Tarangire.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC, namely: Granatina.

Yellow-bellied Waxbill *Estrilda quartinia*

The forests of Gibbs farm was where we first found this beautiful bird.

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

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*

Mt. Kenya yielded views of this bird.

Black-faced Waxbill *Estrilda erythronotos*

Several of these birds were recorded in the Serengeti, seen harassing a Pear-spotted Owllet

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Black-cheeked Waxbill.

Black-cheeked Waxbill *Estrilda erythronotos*

We had a pair in Buffalo Springs.

African Quail-Finch *Ortygospiza fuscocrissa*

We were treated to good sightings in the Ngorongoro Crater and Amboseli of this striking bird.



African Silverbill*Eudice cantans*

We were extremely fortunate to have a number of close-up sightings in Buffalo Springs.

Grey-headed Silverbill*Lonchura griseicapilla*

We had a wonderful flock in the Serengeti.

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

Bronze Mannikin*Lonchura (Spermestes) cucullata*

We had a nice sighting on our little stroll through the small town of Karatu.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC, namely: Spermestes.

Red-backed Mannikin*Lonchura (Spermestes) nigriceps*

Arusha NP and the forests at Gibb's Farm produced sightings of this species.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC, namely: Spermestes.

Indigobirds Viduidae**Village Indigobird***Vidua chalybeata*

We had a breeding male in Tarangire.

Pin-tailed Whydah*Vidua macroura*

First seen en route to Tarangire NP with further sightings in the Serengeti and Amboseli.

Steel-blue Whydah*Vidua hypocherina*

Unfortunately only one was seen briefly on our way to Tarangire.

Straw-tailed Whydah*Vidua fischeri*

We had a great look at a bird on the side of the road in Karatu.

Long-tailed (Eastern) Paradise Whydah*Vidua paradisaea*

This attractive bird was seen en route to and within Tarangire NP and again in Karatu.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Eastern Paradise-Whydah.

Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae**Mountain (Long-tailed) Wagtail***Motacilla clara*

We had a great view during the time we spent at Mt Kenya.

African Pied Wagtail*Motacilla aguimp*

This pied species was recorded regularly throughout the trip.

Golden Pipit*Tmetothylacus tenellus*

This spectacular bird was first seen in Tarangire, we had a group of 6 in Buffalo Springs.

Sharpe's Longclaw*Macronyx sharpei*

After a little search we found a number of beautiful endemics on the way from Lake Nakuru to Nairobi.

Yellow-throated Longclaw*Macronyx croceus*

This species was recorded in the Serengeti and in Lake Nakuru NP.

Pangani Longclaw*Macronyx aurantiigula*

A midday stroll around our accommodations produced a wonderful sighting of this species.

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

This gorgeous species was observed in the moist grasslands of the Crater and the Serengeti.

African Pipit*Anthus cinnamomeus*

It was seen in the Crater, Serengeti and Lake Nakuru.

NOTE: African pipit taxonomy is in rather disarray and much further research is required in the phylogeny of this grouping. Several forms which are considered subspecies are likely to become full species in their own rights and several new forms are surely still to be described. The identification of two new species of pipits from an urban hockey field in Kimberley, South Africa, provides an excellent illustration regarding how little is known about African pipits and how little attention has been paid to them.

Long-billed Pipit*Anthus similis*

Moru Koppie's produced a solitary sighting of this species.

Plain-backed Pipit*Anthus leucophrys*

On our drive from Buffalo Springs some short grassland along the way is where we found a number of these birds.



Bush Pipit*Anthus caffer*

We had a pair in the Serengeti they moved off the road in a nearby tree.

Finches Fringillidae**Western Citril***Crithagra (Serinus) frontalis*

We observed this species on roadside vegetation as we passed the scenic Mt. Kenya.

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

Southern Citril*Crithagra (Serinus) hyposticta*

Gibb's Farm and the forested rim of the Ngorongoro Crater held sightings of this bird.

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

Reichenow's Seed-eater*Crithagra (Serinus) reichenowi*

This species was recorded on our stroll through Karatu.

Yellow-fronted Canary*Crithagra (Serinus) Mozambica***White-bellied Canary***Crithagra (Serinus) dorsostriata*

It was recorded almost daily in the Serengeti and frequently in the arid reserves of north central Kenya.

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

Yellow-crowned Canary*Crithagra (Serinus) canicolis*

We found a pair in the forested slopes of Mt Kenya.

Streaky Seedeater*Crithagra (Serinus) striolata*

These birds were numerous on the road that runs along the rim of the Crater.

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

Thick-billed Seedeater*Crithagra (Serinus) burtoni*

It was encountered on the forested rim of the Crater and again at Mt Kenya.

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

Buntings Emberizidae**Cinnamon-breasted Bunting***Emberiza tahapisi*

We found one at Olduvai Gorge and had good numbers in Buffalo Springs.

Somali Bunting*Emberiza poliopleura*

Our only records of this arid-country bird were from Buffalo Springs NR.

Annotated List of Mammal Species

Taxonomy and nomenclature follows 'The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals' by Jonathan Kingdon, Academic Press, 1997.

Large-winged Bats Megadermatidae**Yellow-winged Bat***Lavia frons*

This attractive bat was recorded at the entrance to Tarangire NP.

Colobid Monkeys Colobidae**Guereza (Black-and-white) Colobus***Colobus guereza*

We had a wonderful sighting in the early morning at Ngare Sero and Mt Kenya.

Cheek-Pouch Monkeys Cercopithecidae**Olive Baboon***Papio [hamadryas] anubis*

Large troops of this shaggy-haired creature were recorded throughout the tour.

Yellow Baboon*Papio [Hamadryas] cynocephalus*

We managed to see a number of troops, some with new-found skills of opening doors to guests'



rooms, which was very entertaining to watch!

Blue (White-throated/Sykes's) Monkey *Cercopithecus nictitans mitis*

We had a great sighting of a troop on the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater, more were found at Mt Kenya.

Vervet Monkey *Cercopithecus aethiops*

This widespread African monkey was observed at most woodland/savanna sites during the tour.

Galagos Galagonidae

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

This species was seen in the gardens of Gibb's Farm.

Hares Leporidae

African Savanna (Scrub) Hare *Lepus victoriae*

We had a number of daytime sightings in Amboseli and Buffalo Springs.

Squirrels Sciuridae

Striped Ground Squirrel *Xerus erythropus*

We found a few individuals in Tarangire.

Unstriped Ground Squirrel *Xerus rutilus*

First observed in Tarangire NP, it was then regularly recorded in Kenya's arid reserves.

Red Bush Squirrel *Paraxerus palliatus*

We spotted this squirrel in the forested slopes of Mt. Kenya.

Dogs & Allies Canidae

Golden Jackal *Canis aureus*

We had a brief sighting on way from the Crater to the Serengeti, a better view on the drive from Buffalo Springs to Lake Nakuru.

Black-backed Jackal *Canis mesomelas*

We had a few good sightings, some were in the Ngorongoro and some were feeding on carcasses that we saw in the Serengeti.

Mongoose Herpestidae

Marsh Mongoose *Atilax paludinosus*

This species was seen under the flood lights at our lodge on Mt. Kenya

Dwarf Mongoose *Helogale parvula*

We recorded these amusing little creatures in Tarangire, Serengeti and Buffalo Springs.

Banded Mongoose *Mungos mungo*

A gregarious species, it was encountered in in Tarangire.

Hyaenas Hyaenidae

Spotted Hyena *Crocuta crocuta*

This magnificent and underrated predator was seen well Ngorongoro Crater, the Serengeti and at Nakuru.

Genets & Civets Viverridae

Large-spotted Genet *Genetta maculata*

We had superb views of this beautifully patterned genet on both evenings at our lodge on the slopes of Mt. Kenya.

Cats Felidae



African Wild Cat*Felis silvestris*

We had one being harassed by some Crowned Lapwings in the Serengeti.

Lion*Panthera leo*

We had a number of sightings through in the various parks. One of the most memorable was around Moru Koppies where we found a lioness and four two and a half month old cubs on the top of a Koppie. We had a number of prides up in Sausage Trees as well as a mating pair.

Leopard*Panthera pardus*

We did very well on our first afternoon to see a beautiful Leopard in a Baobab tree and then another in the Serengeti, sleeping in a tree.

Hyraxes Procaviidae**Yellow-spotted Hyrax***Heterohyrax brucei*

Good numbers of these hyraxes were seen in the Serengeti and also in Tarangire NP.

Elephants Elephantidae**African Elephant***Loxodonta africana*

We had the most fabulous experience with a herd of Elephants in Tarangire, where we had a breeding herd only a few meters away. We watched a 6 month old baby suckle right in front of the vehicle.

Horses Equidae**Common (Burchell's /Plain's) Zebra***Equus burchelli*

Great sightings in Tanzania, we had exceptional numbers in the Crater and Serengeti.

Grevy's Zebra*Equus grevyi*

This magnificent animal was seen in Buffalo Springs NR. This species is under threat due to loss of grazing land, access to water and competition with increasing herds of domestic livestock.

Rhinoceroses Rhinocerotidae**White Rhinoceros***Ceratotherium simum*

During our stay in Lake Nakuru NP we recorded this massive animal.

Black Rhinoceros*Diceros bicornis*

We had a good sighting of this critically endangered species in Ngorongoro Crater.

Hippopotamuses Hippopotamidae**Hippopotamus***Hippopotamus amphibious*

Arusha NP, the Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti yielded views of this species.

Pigs Suidae**Giant Forest Hog***Hylochoerus meinertzhageni*

We observed this incredible animal from our lodge on the slopes of Mt. Kenya.

Common Warthog*Phacochoerus africanus*

This species was seen on most days of the trip in the grassland/savanna habitats.

Giraffes Giraffidae**Reticulated Giraffe***Giraffa camelopardalis reticulata*

This magnificent animal was seen in Shaba and Buffalo Springs NR's in north central Kenya.

Rothchild's Giraffe*Giraffa camelopardalis cottoni*

During our visit to Lake Nakuru NP we spotted a couple of these range restricted giraffe.

Maasai Giraffe*Giraffa camelopardalis tippelskirchi*

It was recorded on almost all days when in Tanzania.

Bovids & Horned Ungulates Bovidae

Thompson's Gazelle*Gazella thomsonii*

This delicate looking animal was seen well in Tarangire, Crater and Serengeti.

Grant's Gazelle*Gazella granti*

In addition to the aforementioned sites, we also found this antelope in Kenya's arid northern reserves.

Gerenuk*Litocranius walleri*

Shaba and Buffalo Springs NR's produced sightings of this bizarre-looking animal.

Guenther's Dik-dik*Madoqua guentheri*

We found a few in Shaba N.P.

Kirk's Dik-dik*Madoqua kirkii*

This tiny antelope was seen in Tarangire National Park and the Serengeti.

African Buffalo*Syncerus caffer*

We were very fortunate to have a number of great sightings in Tarangire, Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti.

Bushbuck*Tragelaphus scriptus*

We had good numbers around the water hole at Mt Kenya.

Eland*Taurotragus oryx*

The largest antelope in Africa, we had a lovely herd in Ngorongoro Crater

Bohor Reedbuck*Redunca reduncawe*

We did well to find this beautiful antelope in Tarangire NP.

Common Waterbuck*Kobus ellipsiprymnus ellipsiprymnus*

We had good numbers in Tarangire N.P and again in Amboseli.

[Defassa Waterbuck]*Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa*

We had great sighting of this species of Waterbuck in the Serengeti

Beisa Oryx*Oryx gazella beisa*

Good numbers of this incredibly beautiful animal in Shaba and Buffalo Springs.

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

We recorded this large antelope on a daily basis in Tarangire and the Serengeti.

Blue Wildebeest*Connochaetes taurinus*

We had such an incredible day in the Serengeti close to our lodge where we had hundreds and thousands all on the move right outside our lodge. It was a truly fantastic experience one we shall never forget.

Topi (Tsessebe)*Damaliscus lunatus*

One of the fastest antelope over long distance, a few were seen in the Serengeti.

Impala*Aepyceros melampus*

Tarangire, the Serengeti, Lake Nakuru and Buffalo Springs yielded this species.

Reptiles**Marsh Terrapin***Pelomedusa subrufa*

We had one or two sightings in Buffalo Springs as the creatures were moving from one water body to the next.

Leopard Tortoise*Geochalone pardalis*

We were able to get a number of good looks in Tarangire.

Variable Skink*Mabuya varia*

We found a few on a rock in Buffalo Springs.

Red-headed Rock Agama*Agama agama*

Good numbers of this impressive looking reptile were found in the Serengeti.

Nile Monitor*Varanus niloticus*

A youngster was found at our lodge in Shaba.

Nile Crocodile*Crocodylus niloticus*

We found few individuals in the Serengeti and Buffalo Springs



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