



*The gorgeous endemic Braun's Bushshrike narrowly missed being crowned our bird of the trip! (Pete Morris)*

# ANGOLA

**30 AUGUST – 17 SEPTEMBER 2014**

**LEADER:** PETE MORRIS

**GROUP MEMBERS:** PAUL HYLAND, RICHARD NEWTON, PETER SMITH, STEVE WEBB and BARRY WRIGHT

This was our first tour to Angola for nine years, and as such, was quite an adventure. Much had changed in the intervening period, some for the better, some for the worse! The infrastructure had improved no end since our last visit, and in particular, the roads were generally good and comfortable to travel on. Our outfitters did us proud, and looked after us admirably: tents were spacious; meals copious and tasty; and we even had access to 24 hour electricity and a hot shower! On the downside, perhaps the saddest thing to see was the pace of habitat destruction. Despite being resource rich, and Luanda being one of the most expensive cities in the world, Angola is essentially a very poor country, and this is apparent as one travels around, witnessing the poverty that the average Angolan endures. As a result, pressures on natural habitats are extremely high! Many areas are burnt to produce fresh grass, trees are cut for charcoal and anything living is hunted for the pot. All of this means that the unique wildlife of this country is under extreme pressure. With this in mind, we were very happy to travel around and find all of the Angolan endemics and nearly all of the hoped for specialities. It wasn't always plain-sailing, but the spirit of the group prevailed and overall the birding was great. Amongst the group's



*Non-endemics that caused excitement included Forest Scrub Robin and Thick-billed Cuckoo (Barry Wright)*

favourites, special mention should go to the wonderful Braun's, Gabela and Monteiro's Bushshrikes, a classy and colourful trio! Other endemics and specialities that impressed included Swierstra's, Finsch's, Grey-striped and Hartlaub's Francolins, Pale-billed Hornbill, the gorgeous Red-crested Turaco, a fine Thick-billed Cuckoo, smart Angolan and Margaret's Batises, showy White-fronted Wattle-eyes, Gabela and Bocage's Akalats, lovely Miombo and Forest Scrub Robins and stunning White-headed Robin Chats and Angolan Cave Chats. There were many, many more, too many to list here.



*The splendid Angolan Cave Chat has made its home in a very scenic area! (Pete Morris)*



*The incredible Tundavala Escarpment (Pete Morris)*

We began our tour in Luanda from where we took a flight to the southern city of Lubango where we arrived after dark. A quick stop was then made at a supermarket where we were able to stock-up with essential supplies, before making our way up to our first camp on the Tundavala Escarpment. Here we were introduced to our superb ground crew, and settled into our routine. Our spacious tents were decked out with full camp beds and bed rolls, hot water was warmed by the camp fire and used in the shower tent, complete with electric shower, and on the tables and chairs beneath the gazebo, we were served our first of many tasty meals. Under starry skies, we settled in for a first night's sleep, excited by what lay ahead.

We had a whole day and a morning to explore the area around the Tundavala Escarpment, with the intervening day to explore the area between Lubango and Namibe. Setting off in the cool air, it took a while to get going, but we soon unearthed many great birds. Pride of place went to the superb Angolan Cave Chats, which frequently entertained us here as they hopped around on the attractive rock structures. By walking a couple of dry valleys and exploring the edge of the spectacular escarpment, we found a number of other much appreciated birds which included some stunning Freckled Nightjars, numerous endemic Red-backed Mousebirds, the endemic Angolan Slaty Flycatcher, lovely Short-toed and Miombo Rock Thrushes, colourful Ludwig's Double-collared Sunbirds, some less impressively-plumaged Oustalet's Sunbirds, numerous Jameson's Firefinches and several sweet endemic Angolan Waxbills. More widespread goodies here included Augur Buzzard, our first Spotted Eagle Owl, smart Bradfield's Swifts, a rather drab-looking pair of Malachite Kingfishers, Black-collared Barbet, Greater Honeyguide, Lanner, smart Spike-heeled and Rufous-naped Larks, Grey-rumped Swallow (including some interesting-looking juveniles), Wailing Cisticola, our first Red-capped Crombec, Buffy Pipit and hordes of Cinnamon-breasted Buntings as well as a couple of drab Lark-like Buntings. On a nearby lake we found our first African Black Duck and Three-banded Plover, whilst in the adjacent scrub we found colourful Green-winged Pytilias and Violet-eared Waxbills.

During our day excursion from the camp, we set off early and made our way to the top of the Lebe Escarpment. Here we enjoyed spectacular views and then wound our way down the incredible road, that virtually descends down the cliff! We paused at a likely looking area and were delighted to find not only the hoped-for Rockrunner (which showed beautifully) but also a most unexpected trio of Grey-striped Francolins which fed unconcernedly, just a few metres from us. A southerly range extension, and one of the toughest endemics to boot! We



*This Grey-striped Francolin was a very lucky find, and actually represented a range extension! (Pete Morris)*

continued on, stopping at various dry rivers where we found goodies such as Schalow's Turaco, Red-faced Mousebird, Monteiro's and Southern Yellow-billed Hornbills, Acacia Pied Barbet, stunning Rüppell's Parrots, African Red-eyed Bulbuls, a female Pirit Batis, gorgeous White-tailed Shrikes (like a giant terrestrial batis!), Southern Fiscal, White-bellied Sunbird and cracking Rufous-tailed Palm Thrushes. As we drove we picked up Brown Snake Eagle and Pale Chanting Goshawk, before arriving on the arid coastal plain. Here we found more special birds. Pride of place went to some amazing Rüppell's Korhaans and localized Benguela Long-billed Larks, but again we found other localized species including Sabota Lark, Black-chested Prinia, smart Kalahari Scrub Robins, Chat Flycatcher, pallid Tractrac Chats, Dusky Sunbird and White-throated Canary.



*White-tailed Shrikes never fail to entertain (Pete Morris)*



*The arid landscapes towards Namibe produced several goodies including Rüppell's Korhaan and Benguela Long-billed Lark (Pete Morris)*



By the time we upped camp and moved on, we were pretty content with our haul, and made our way towards Benguela, further north on the coast. The journey was fairly uneventful, though we did pause a few times along the way, picking up our first Crowned Hornbills and Meves's Starlings, an unexpected Western Banded Snake-Eagle (scoped-up perched) and, as we neared Benguela, several Damara Red-billed Hornbills and our first Southern White-crowned Shrikes and Purple Rollers of the tour. We found a good camp site, and while the camp was prepared we set about finding a few new birds, the best of which were a very confiding Cape Penduline Tit, Carp's Tit and some smart Mottled Spinetails.

We awoke to the distinctive calls of Hartlaub's Francolins echoing down from the rocky kopjes, and soon had these beauties fixed in the scope. A party of smart Bare-cheeked Babblers were also much-appreciated, and a feisty Pearl Spotted Owlet assisted us in tracking down a few other smaller birds. Soon we packed up camp and moved on and headed for the coast where we made a productive stop at some roadside lagoons. These turned out to be packed with Greater and Lesser Flamingos and Great White Pelicans as well as a great se-



*Hartlaub's Francolins, Pearl-spotted Owlet and Cape Penduline Tit all showed well near to Benguela (Pete Morris)*

lection of common ducks and waders. These included numerous Cape Teal, a pair of Hottentot Teal, delightful Water Thick-knees, Kittlitz's and Three-banded Plovers, Wood and Curlew Sandpipers, Little Stint and, best of all, some very smart Chestnut-banded Plovers. A Black-necked Grebe lurked in a channel, an African Marsh Harrier patrolled the marsh, and a large group of Grey-headed and Cape (Kelp) Gulls were also appreciated. Eventually we tore ourselves away, and made a fortuitous lunch stop where we were pleased and surprised to find a smart pair of Angolan Batises and some very showy Pale-olive Greenbuls, which combined to make lunch taste even better! The rest of the day was spent making our way to our campsite at Mt Moco which we arrived at just as the moon began illuminating the night sky, though we did pause for a fine Marsh Owl on the way.

We had two full days to explore Mt Moco and its remnant fragments of Afro-montane forest. Sadly, cutting and constant burning has led to the destruction of nearly all of the native forest, and consequently, just a few fragments remain. In order to reach some of the larger fragments, quite a walk is involved, and indeed, on one



*Good numbers of Lesser (top) and Greater Flamingos (above) were found around Lobito, and later in the day we found our first endemic Pale-olive Greenbuls (Pete Morris)*





*The view from one of the forest fragments down to Kanjonde Village and beyond to our camp (Barry Wright)*

of our full days, we did undertake quite a walk! In fact it was one of those walks that you'd probably only do once!! When not trying to explore these forest remnants, we also explored the grasslands and damp areas at the base of the mountain. It was generally very dry and windy (windy enough to nearly blow the tents down before the windbreak was constructed!), but in the end we were reasonably rewarded for our exploits! The various forest patches provided us with a number of rarities. Perhaps best of these was the rare Swierstra's Francolin which proved hard to get but showed itself in the end! Margaret's Batis was another key bird, here at its type locality, and a small group of gold and black Black-chinned Weavers were a complete surprise. Exquisite Bocage's Akalats showed a number of times, Black-backed Barbets entertained, a Ruwenzori Nightjar was found in the daytime, and other species of interest included more impressive Schalow's Turacos, Red-chested and Klaas's Cuckoos, White-fronted Bee-eaters, smart Red-throated Wrynecks, our first Black-throated Wattle-eyes, a stunning Gorgeous (or Perrin's) Bush-shrike, White-tailed Blue-Flycatcher, our only White-winged



*Two of the stars at Mt Moco: Finsch's Francolin (Pete Morris) and Margaret's Batis (Barry Wright)*



*Our camp at Mount Moco (Barry Wright), a smart Black-collared Bulbul (Barry Wright) and a sleepy-looking Spotted Eagle Owl (Pete Morris)*

Black Tit of the tour, a noisy party of Cabanis's Greenbuls, the common Grey Apalis, an amazing Evergreen Forest Warbler that gave walk-away scope views (yes scope!), a fabulous African Spotted Creeper, numerous Bronzy Sunbirds, a male Oustalet's Sunbird in decent plumage, and plenty of fabulous Dusky Twinspots. In the more open areas we found another set of species. After a bit of effort we found a brilliant Finsch's Francolin which we admired at length in the scope, and we also admired numerous Angolan Larks, complete with their fancy songs. In the wetter areas we found the superb Black-collared Bulbul (looking for all the world like a miniature bush-shrike!), stunning and poorly-named Black-and-rufous Swallows (they're actually iridescent blue!!), Moustached Grass Warbler, Fan-tailed Grassbird, Fawn-breasted and Orange-breasted Waxbills and Quailfinch, whilst in the drier and rockier areas we admired a fine Spotted Eagle Owl, as well as Mountain and Capped Wheatears and Plain-backed Pipits.

We left the mountain behind and explored a few areas of miombo and a river on the way out, though this proved to be rather quiet, though we did see a few nice things including African Wattled Lapwing, African Golden Oriole, a small party of Green-capped Eremomelas, Lepe (Red-faced) Cisticola and a smart Groundscraper Thrush. We then headed for our next destination, Kumbira Forest. This proved to be a little more tortuous than

expected, and it was well after dark when we reached our next football pitch campsite! We did make a few stops along the way, adding Grey Kestrel and a few other bits and bobs, but overall it had been a long day!



*The poorly-known and poorly-illustrated Pulitzer's Longbill (Pete Morris)*

We had two full days and a morning to explore the remnant forest at this key site! Much land has been cleared and replaced with coffee and eucalypts, but there are still some good patches of forest remaining. Our aim was of course to track down a series of three very localized endemics, and we achieved this admirably on the first morning! First to fall was the rather drab but confiding Gabela Akalat, which snook around in the undergrowth like a *Ficedula* flycatcher! Next was a fabulous pair of Gabela Bushshrikes, which showed at length and reminded some of a stocky Woodchat Shrike. The third of the trio was the rather strange-looking Pulitzer's Longbill which, after a bit of a fight, gave superb views, confirming that it looked nothing like the picture in the book!! This gave us plenty of time to focus on the other specialities found in the forest. Displaying African Broadbills twizzled and twirled around their perches, stunning Red-crested Turacos bounded through the canopy, and sweet-singing Forest Scrub Robins delighted in the undergrowth. Other favourites here included more Grey-striped Francolins (though the views weren't up to our first encounter!), several vocal African Goshawks, our only Black Sparrowhawk of the tour, a fantastic Ayres's Hawk Eagle that soared over our heads, numerous speedy Mottled Swifts, a huge and brilliant pair of Gabon Coucals, several sneaky Blue Malkohas, a vociferous pair of African Wood Owls, numerous speedy Mottled Swifts, smart Narina Trogons, lots of noisy Trumpeter Hornbills, Hairy-breasted and Yellow-billed Barbets, a singing Lesser Honeyguide, Brown-eared and Olive Woodpeckers, Chestnut and fabulous Yellow-bellied Wattle-eyes, more aptly-named Gorgeous Bushshrikes, Blue-headed Crested Flycatchers, a pair of Bates's Paradise Flycatchers, Fraser's Rufous Thrush, noisy Yellow-throated Nicators, Falkenstein's Greenbuls, more endemic Pale-olive Greenbuls, numerous buff-faced Green Crombecs, a few Green Hylas, our first endemic Bubbling Cisticolas and Hartert's Camaropteras, sneaky Brown Illadopsises, attractive Black-faced Canaries, and Orange-cheeked and a lovely pair of Grey Waxbills. Mixed canopy flocks held goodies such as Pink-footed Puffbacks, Petit's and Purple-throated Cuckooshrikes, Southern Hyliotas, Dusky Tits and Black-necked Weavers, whilst flowering trees attracted a range of sunbirds which included Green-headed, Superb, Carmelite, Olive-bellied and the diminutive Little Green Sunbird.

After a final morning in the forest, we again upped camp and moved on. It was another longish and relatively uneventful drive and we arrived at Tombingo Forest just before dark. Finding a good place to camp proved tricky initially, but fortunately we were given permission to camp at the spanking new fire station. Ironically, we were not allowed to have a camp fire (name a safer place?!), and some local entertainment driven in was a bit of a surprise!

We spent a few hours the following morning exploring a small patch of roadside scarp forest. As well as a number of old favourites, we also added several new species, most of which were widespread African forest species. Of note were African Pied and Piping Hornbills, a large flock of Naked-faced Barbets, a trio of impressive Yellow-crested Woodpeckers, several Red-fronted Parrots, our first Black-winged Orioles, a fine pair of Yellow Longbills, a small group of attractive Rufous-crowned Eremomelas, fine Splendid Starlings, hirundine-like Sooty Flycatchers, Green-throated Sunbirds, attractive Red-headed Malimbos and smart Yellow-mantled Weavers.



*The wonderful Calandula Falls (Pete Morris)*

After a reasonably productive morning, we headed on through the slow traffic in N'dalatando, and on to Calandula Falls. This proved to be a more spectacular lunch stop than we'd imagined, as the curtain of waterfalls cascaded over high cliffs with no other tourists in view! We also found a few birds including our first Giant Kingfisher, a dust-bathing Peregrine and even a couple of Plain Greenbills attending a fruiting tree. Moving on further, we had our first tense road-block situation (when the 'ordinary' visas were first discovered) and then stopped at the busy Lucala River. Here we admired the hordes of hirundines, which included impressive numbers of Red-throated Cliff Swallows, as well as our first Chirping Cisticolas and Yellow-throated Leafloves, before moving on to our camp. By now it was getting on, but we still had time to squeeze in some fine views of the very attractive and impressive White-headed Robin Chat (we went on to get further great views). Then, after dark, we fired up our spotlights for fine views of first Fiery-necked Nightjar and then a very cute African Scops Owl.

We spent much of our time the following day exploring the miombo forest close to our camp. Soon after daybreak we were watching a fine African Barred Owlet, a great start, and we put in a full morning and late afternoon session to find a whole series of specialities. Pale-billed Hornbills and Thick-billed Cuckoo were two of the most prized sightings, and anything with Anchieta's in its name was certainly worth a look as we enjoyed the smart Anchieta's Barbet and cute Anchieta's Sunbird. Other goodies included smart groups of Retz's Helmetshrikes, several White-breasted Cuckooshrikes, an endearing pair of Red-capped Crombecs, several smart Yellow-bellied Hyliotas, good numbers of localized Sharp-tailed Starlings and splendidly obliging Miombo Scrub Robins, whilst more widespread species noted included smart Ross's Turacos, Black Scimitar-



Three stars of the Calandula area: *White-headed Robin-Chat* (Pete Morris), *Anchieta's Barbet* and *Grey-winged Robin-Chat* (both Barry Wright)

bills, Bearded Woodpeckers, Meyer's Parrot, Whistling Cisticola, Neddicky, a rather uniform-looking Miombo Wren-Warbler, a noisy flock of Arrow-marked Babblers, Southern Black Flycatcher and Western Violet-backed Sunbirds. We also spent more time in the gallery forest where as well as the fabulous robin-chats we found a brilliant pair of White-spotted Flufftail, though the pair of Bannerman's Sunbirds we located were a little difficult to pin down, and we also found a rather brown and barred Black Cuckoo, a cute African Pygmy Kingfisher that was intent on hassling a pair of colourful Red-headed Robin Chats, superb Grey-headed Bushshrikes, Square-tailed Drongos, a single singing Brown-headed Apalis, and some reasonably showy Landana Firefinches.

With the work done here, we paused once again at the Lucala River, but added little new, and then made our way onto our next destination, Damengola Forest. This was once again a rather long journey, and we encountered our first rain of the tour in the form of a torrential thunderstorm! We were also not helped by some rather unwanted attention at various checkpoints, and as a result, it was pretty late when we rolled into our next camp site.

The late finish was soon forgotten the following morning when we had our number one target fixed in our gaze. A mesmerizingly beautiful pair of Braun's Bushshrikes put on a wonderful display for us, allowing us plenty of time to enjoy the other avian highlights of the area. These included a fine displaying Afep Pigeon, gorgeous Guinea Turacos, colossal Great Blue Turacos, a gorgeous pair of African Piculets attending a nest, and a tiny



*A colossal Great Blue Turaco (Pete Morris)*

Tit-Hylia as well as more widespread species such as a fine Blue-throated Roller, a gorgeous pair of Black Bee-eaters, huge Black-casqued Hornbills, several Bristle-nosed Barbets, African Shrike and Black-and-white Shrike Flycatchers, some smart Bocage's Bushshrikes, a couple of Rufous-vented Paradise-Flycatchers, Simple Greenbuls, some lovely Banded Prinias, smart Lowland Masked and Black-throated Apalises, Dusky-blue Flycatchers, Blue-throated Brown Sunbird, numerous White-breasted Negritas and a busy flock of Chestnut-winged Starlings at a fruiting tree. We also had a little look at a nearby lake which yielded a few surprises such as Striated Heron, a pair of African Black Ducks, a most unlikely White-backed Duck, Black Crakes, a male Greater Painted-snipe and a couple of African Jacanas, whilst in nearby scrubby grasslands we found more Black-collared Bulbuls, a singing Brown-backed Scrub-Robin and a couple of Brown Twinspots.



*The colourful Black Bee-eater and Blue-throated Roller. Just a shame about the light! (Pete Morris)*



*This tiny African Piculet was trying to nest in a suspended branch that was no more than a twig! (Pete Morris)*

We decided to gain a little time and leave camp a day early, thus ensuring that we had plenty of time to find the remaining endemics and specialities. It was once again a rather long drive, and we were once again hassled by police checkpoints, but, having rounded Luanda, we made our way out (with fresh supplies!) to Kissama National Park. The odd stop on the way produced little other than Narrow-tailed Starlings and some endearing Southern Talapoins, a cute little species of monkey. As we neared camp, a pair of Spotted Thick-knees were flushed from the road, but it was late by the time we snuggled into our bed rolls that night.

As it transpired, a morning was all that was required to find the birds we were after. Chunky Monteiro's Bushshrikes gave stunning views, a flock of the rare Gabela Helmetshrikes entertained and a magical pair of White-fronted Wattle-eyes entertained at close range. Nearby several Golden-backed Bishops in their fortunately distinctive non-breeding plumage showed well, and that was just about job done. We had another day to



*The rare endemic Gabela Helmetshrike and Monteiro's Bushshrike - two of the Kissama National Park targets! (Pete Morris)*

explore the park, and as well as getting more views of the special birds we saw a number of other interesting species. A flock of 11 smart Crested Guinea fowl were most unexpected, and other new species for the tour or goodies included, African Openbill, Purple and Squacco Herons, amazing numbers of Palm-nut Vultures, a juvenile Martial Eagle, a perched Little Sparrowhawk, whacky looking Böhm's and Mottled Spinetails, Swallow-tailed and Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters, noisy Green Wood Hoopoes, numerous Golden-tailed Woodpeckers, a dashing African Hobby, more Pale-olive Greenbuls, several Yellow-breasted Apalises, our only Pale Flycatcher and several more obliging Rufous-tailed Palm Thrushes.

With just one night left, we decided to head some of the way back towards Luanda. As we headed out through the park we found many Lilac-breasted Rollers and Southern Yellow-billed Hornbills as well as our only Red-billed Buffalo Weavers of the trip, and nearer to the Kuanza River, we added Goliath Heron, Namaqua Dove and Zitting Cisticola. We were beginning to scrape the bottom of the barrel! However, as it was late in the afternoon, we decided to explore the mouth of the Kuanza River and this proved productive. As an African Fish Eagle looked on, we found good numbers of waders including some smart White-fronted Plovers, an unexpected group of Cape Cormorants, and a large flock of Cape Gulls and terns, Scrutiny of the terns revealed many smart Royal Terns, several Common and Sandwich Terns and, best of all, at least four cute Damara Terns! The best was still to come though...

As we walked to our last camp, it became apparent that the vehicles had not been unloaded. I'd been keeping a little trick up my sleeve, and after nearly three weeks of camping, albeit 'comfortable camping', I'd managed to secure us rooms at a lovely lodge overlooking the Kuanza River. Our South African hostess was a scream, and we all ate and drank late into the night. It was a great way to wind down and reflect on what had been a great trip to this little-explored country. Needless to say, we weren't at our most lively the following morning, and after a substantial cooked breakfast, we made our way back into Luanda for our flights home. Having thanked our crew for looking after us so admirably, it was time to get through immigration authorities one last time and make our way home!



*The wonderful White-fronted Wattle-eye gave us an intimate performance! (Pete Morris)*



Does anyone tire of seeing owls? African Scops Owl at Kinjila Village (Pete Morris)

## SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

Conservation threat categories and information are taken from *Threatened Birds of the World*, BirdLife International's magnificent book on the sad status of the rarest 10% of the world's avifauna, and updates on the BirdLife website: <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/home>

**(CR)**= Critically Endangered, **(E)**= Endangered, **(V)** = Vulnerable, **(NT)** = Near Threatened.

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

For polytypic species, the subspecies seen on the tour, where known (or at least where I am fairly sure), is placed in parentheses at the end of the species comment. Generally, species listed with trinomials are not currently split by the IOC.

**White-backed Duck** *Thalassornis leuconotus* Surprising to see 1 on the crater lake at Damengola Forest [nominate].

**Cape Teal** *Anas capensis* c30 on the lagoons at Lobito.

**African Black Duck** *Anas sparsa* Pairs on the dam at Tundavala and at the crater lake at Damengola Forest [*leucostigma*].

**Red-billed Teal** *Anas erythrorhyncha* c20 on the lagoons at Lobito.

**Hottentot Teal** *Anas hottentota* Two on the lagoons at Lobito.



This flock of Crested Guineafowl in Kissama National Park were a major surprise! (Pete Morris)

- Crested Guineafowl** *Guttera pucherani* Great views of a flock of 11 in Kissama NP [verreauxi].
- Finsch's Francolin** ◊ *Scleroptila finschi* One flushed and then brilliant scope views of another at Mt Moco.
- Grey-striped Francolin** ◊ *Pternistis griseostriatus* Great views of 3 on the Lebe Escarpment. A real surprise here!
- Swierstra's Francolin** ◊ *Pternistis swierstrai* (EN) Seen a few times at Mt Moco, but generally shy. A Birdquest lifer!
- Hartlaub's Spurfowl** ◊ *Pternistis hartlaubi* Best were the great views of a pair at the camp near to Benguela.
- Red-necked Spurfowl** *Pternistis afer* (H) Surprising only heard, first by the camp at Damengola Forest.
- Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Seen a few times, first on the dam at Tundavala.
- Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis* An adult on the lagoons at Lobito [gurneyi].
- Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus roseus* c100 on the lagoons at Lobito.
- Lesser Flamingo** *Phoeniconaias minor* (NT) 1000+ on the lagoons at Lobito and a juv on the outskirts of Luanda.
- African Openbill** *Anastomus lamelligerus* A couple seen at Muxima, on the Kuanza River [nominate].
- African Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus* A few scattered, first seen on the lagoons at Lobito.
- African Spoonbill** *Platalea alba* c5 on the lagoons at Lobito.
- Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus* One seen briefly flying across the Lucala River, north of Calandula [payesii].
- Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* One seen at the Kwanza River Lodge [nominate].
- Striated Heron** *Butorides striata* First seen at the crater lake at Damengola Forest [atricapilla].
- Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides* (LO) One seen at Muxima, on the Kuanza River, Kissama NP.
- Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* Seen at scattered sites, often looking a bit grubby!
- Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea* First seen at the bottom of the Lebe Escarpment, and plenty more later in the trip [nominate].
- Black-headed Heron** *Ardea melanocephala* Scattered sightings of this attractive dry country heron.
- Goliath Heron** *Ardea goliath* Just one seen, by the Kuanza River.
- Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea* A couple at Muxima, on the Kuanza River in Kissama NP, were the only ones.
- Great Egret** *Ardea alba* Common on the lagoons at Lobito and just a few others [melanorhynchos].
- Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* Common on the lagoons at Lobito, and at the Kuanza River [nominate].
- Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta* Seen briefly on the Lebe Escarpment and at Muxima, on the Kuanza River.
- Great White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus* 100+ on the lagoons at Lobito. Impressive creatures!
- Reed Cormorant** *Microcarbo africanus* Several on the lagoons at Lobito and just a few others.
- Cape Cormorant** ◊ *Phalacrocorax capensis* (EN) Several seen at the mouth of the Kuanza River. A nice surprise.
- African Darter** *Anhinga rufa* Singles on the lagoons at Lobito and at the crater lake at Damengola Forest.
- Western Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* Several seen along the Kuanza River [nominate].
- Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus* c10 seen during the tour. First seen on the drive towards Benguela.
- African Harrier-Hawk** *Polyboroides typus* Several at Kumbira Forest and Kissama NP [nominate].

**Palm-nut Vulture** *Gypohierax angolensis* Common in the north, and especially so in Kissama NP.  
**White-backed Vulture** *Gyps africanus* (EN) Just one on the drive from Kinjila to Uige.  
**Black-chested Snake Eagle** *Circaetus pectoralis* One seen well at the camp southeast of Benguela.  
**Brown Snake Eagle** *Circaetus cinereus* Two seen on the trip to Namibe and a few others later in the trip.  
**Western Banded Snake Eagle** *Circaetus cinerascens* An adult seen well perched near to Quilengues.  
**Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus* (NT) Small numbers. First seen on the drive towards Benguela.  
**Martial Eagle** *Polemaetus bellicosus* (VU) An adult near Namibe and a juvenile in Kissama NP.  
**Long-crested Eagle** *Lophaetus occipitalis* Five or six during the tour. First seen at Kumbira Forest.  
**Wahlberg's Eagle** *Hieraaetus wahlbergi* Just two, including one seen well at Mt Moco.  
**Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus* A dark phase adult seen well at Tundavala.  
**Ayres's Hawk-Eagle** *Hieraaetus ayresii* Brilliant views of an adult at Kumbira Forest.



*Palm-nut Vulture in Kissama National Park and a splendid Ayres's Hawk-Eagle over Kumbira Forest (Pete Morris)*

**Tawny Eagle** *Aquila rapax* One seen at the camp southeast of Benguela [nominat].  
**Verreaux's Eagle** *Aquila verreauxii* A pair seen distantly from our lunch picnic spot near Biopio.  
**African Hawk-Eagle** *Aquila spilogaster* An adult at the camp southeast of Benguela was the only one.  
**Lizard Buzzard** *Kaupifalco monogrammicus* Several at Kumbira Forest and Kumbira NP [*meridionalis*].  
**Gabar Goshawk** *Micronisus gabar* One between Mt Moco and Ussoque and 1 the next day for some of the group.  
**Pale Chanting Goshawk**  $\diamond$  *Melierax canorus* Seen well on the day excursion from Lubango towards Namibe.  
**African Goshawk** *Accipiter tachiro* Several seen well at Kumbira Forest, and a few later in the trip [*sparsimfasciatus*].  
**Shikra** *Accipiter badius* (NL) One for most of the group on the day excursion from Lubango towards Namibe.  
**Little Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter minullus* Just two, including 1 seen near to Mungolo in Kissama NP.  
**Black (or Great) Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter melanoleucus* A single seen well over Kumbira Forest [nominat].  
**African Marsh Harrier** *Circus ranivorus* One seen at the lagoons at Lobito, and a couple of others later in the trip.  
**Yellow-billed Kite** *Milvus aegyptius* First seen on the drive towards Benguela. Not as common as in some areas.  
**African Fish Eagle** *Haliaeetus vocifer* An adult at the mouth of the Kuanza River.  
**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo* A single Steppe Buzzard between Mt Moco and Ussoque [*vulpinus*].



Red-necked Buzzard and African Goshawk, both at Kumbira Forest (Pete Morris)

- Red-necked Buzzard** *Buteo auguralis* Especially good views at Mt Moco and Kumbira Forest.
- Augur Buzzard** ◊ *Buteo augur* Great views of a few around the Tundavala Escarpment and elsewhere in the south.
- Rüppell's Korhaan** ◊ *Eupodotis rueppellii* Great views of 6 near to Namibe, including a wonderful pair at close range.
- Black-bellied Bustard** *Lissotis melanogaster* Great views of a male on the way into Mt Moco [nominate].
- White-spotted Flufftail** ◊ *Sarothrura pulchra* Great views of a pair near to Kinjila Village, north of Calandula. Stunners!
- Red-chested Flufftail** *Sarothrura rufa* (H) One heard by Kanjonde, on Mt Moco [nominate].
- Black Crake** *Amaurornis flavirostra* Three seen at the crater lake at Damengola Forest.
- African Swamphen** *Porphyrio madagascariensis* One on the lagoons at Lobito.
- Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* One on the lagoons at Lobito [*meridionalis*].
- Red-knobbed Coot** *Fulica cristata* Three on the lagoons at Lobito.
- Water Thick-Knee** *Burhinus vermiculatus* Seen on the lagoons at Lobito and at the Kuanza River in Kissama NP [nominate].
- Spotted Thick-Knee** *Burhinus capensis* A pair flushed from the road on the drive into Kissama NP.
- Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus* Common on the lagoons at Lobito, and 2 others on a journey.
- Pied Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta* One on the lagoons at Lobito.
- African Wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus senegallus* One seen well between Mt Moco and Ussoque.
- Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula* Two seen at the mouth of the Kuanza River [*tundrae*].
- Kittlitz's Plover** *Charadrius pecuarius* A few on the lagoons at Lobito.
- Three-banded Plover** *Charadrius tricoloris* Singles at Tundavala, Lobito and on the lake at Damengola Forest [nominate].
- White-fronted Plover** *Charadrius marginatus* Four seen at the mouth of the Kuanza River [*mechowij*].
- Chestnut-banded Plover** *Charadrius pallidus* (NT) Great views of a pair on the lagoons at Lobito [*pallidus*].
- Greater Painted-Snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis* A male at the crater lake at Damengola Forest was a surprise!
- African Jacana** *Actophilornis africanus* Two at the crater lake at Damengola Forest.
- European Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* A couple on the lagoons at Lobito, and several at the Kuanza River [nominate].
- Eurasian Curlew** *Numenius arquata* (NT) Two seen at the mouth of the Kuanza River.
- Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis* First seen on the lagoons at Lobito, and a few others noted.
- Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* Seen on the lagoons at Lobito, and several at the Kuanza River.
- Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola* A couple on the lagoons at Lobito.
- Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* First seen on the lagoons at Lobito, and several at the Kuanza River.
- Sanderling** *Calidris alba* 3+ seen at the mouth of the Kuanza River [nominate].
- Little Stint** *Calidris minuta* c15 on the lagoons at Lobito, and one at the mouth of the Kuanza River.
- Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea* c12 on the lagoons at Lobito.
- Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax* Six on the lagoons at Lobito, 3/9.



Some lovely Chestnut-banded Plovers at Lobito were much-appreciated (Pete Morris)

**Grey-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus* c30 on the lagoons at Lobito.

**Cape Gull**  $\diamond$  *Larus [dominicanus] vetula* c30 seen well at Lobito, and plenty at the mouth of the Kuanza River.

**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia* One on the lagoons at Lobito and several at the mouth of the Kuanza River.

**Royal Tern** *Thalasseus maximus* c70 seen well at the mouth of the Kuanza River [*albididorsalis*].

**Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis* Good numbers seen at the mouth of the Kuanza River.

**Damara Tern**  $\diamond$  *Sternula balaenarum* (NT) Good scope views of 4 smart birds at the mouth of the Kuanza River.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo* Good numbers seen at the mouth of the Kuanza River [nominata].

**Rock Dove Feral** *Columba livia 'feral'* Introduced. Also known as Beaman's Pigeon!

**Afep Pigeon** *Columba uncinata* Two seen superbly well, puffing out their necks, at Damengola Forest.



Two showy pigeons! African Green Pigeon and Afep Pigeon (Pete Morris)

**Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata* Common. First seen on the excursion from Lubango towards Namibe.

**Ring-necked Dove** *Streptopelia capicola* Two forms noted: *tropica* in the north, *onguati* in the south .

**Laughing Dove** *Spilopelia senegalensis* A few in the north, especially around Luanda.

**Emerald-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur chalcospilos* Common! First seen on the excursion from Lubango to Namibe.

**Blue-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur afer* A single seen well at Mt Moco, then common at Kumbira Forest and other sites.

**Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistria* First seen at Tombingo Forest. Also seen around Kinjila Village, Calandula.

**Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis* Two seen on the drive from Kissama NP to the Kwanza River Lodge [nominate].

**African Green Pigeon** *Treron calvus* Particularly common and showy at Kumbira Forest [nominate].

**Great Blue Turaco** *Corythaeola cristata* Several seen well at Damengola Forest. Impressive!

**Guinea (or Green) Turaco** *Tauraco persa* A few seen well at Damengola Forest, south of Quitexe.

**Schalow's Turaco** *Tauraco schalowi* A couple seen on the Lebe Escarpment and several at Mt Moco.

**Red-crested Turaco** ♦ *Tauraco erythrolophus* Several seen. First seen at Kumbira Forest. A real stunner!

**Ross's Turaco** *Musophaga rossae* Five noted, the first a pair near to Kinjila Village.

**Grey Go-away-Bird** *Corythaixoides concolor* First seen on the day trip from Lubango towards Namibe [*pallidiceps*].

**Gabon Coucal** ♦ *Centropus anelli* After a bit of effort, great views of an impressive pair in Kumbira Forest.

**Blue-headed Coucal** *Centropus monachus* (H) Heard near to Kinjila Village, north of Calandula.

**Coppery-tailed Coucal** *Centropus cupreicaudus* A single seen well at Mt Moco and just one other.

**White-browed Coucal** *Centropus superciliosus* One seen on the drive to Luanda Airport [*loandae*].

**Black Coucal** *Centropus grillii* (NL) One for Paul in long grass near to the Kuanza River.

**Blue Malkoha** *Ceuthmochares aereus* Plenty of chances to see this cracker well in the scarp forests [nominate].

**Thick-billed Cuckoo** ♦ *Pachycoccyx audeberti* Excellent scope views of an adult near to Calandula [*validus*].

**Klaas's Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx klaas* Fairly common after our first one on Mt Moco.

**African Emerald Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx cupreus* (H) A couple heard in Kumbira Forest.

**Black Cuckoo** *Cuculus clamosus* A few, including a rather brown, barred bird near to Kinjila Village.

**Red-chested Cuckoo** *Cuculus solitarius* A single seen well at Mt Moco. Others heard and another seen at Kinjila.

**Western Barn Owl** *Tyto alba* (LO, H) Heard briefly at Kumbira Forest.

**African Scops Owl** *Otus senegalensis* Great views of one spotlighted near to Kinjila Village, north of Calandula [nominate].

**Spotted Eagle-Owl** *Bubo africanus* One briefly at Tundavala, and great views of 1 at Mt Moco [nominate].

**African Wood Owl** *Strix woodfordii* First heard at Kumbira Forest, and mostly heard only, though seen by Richard [*nuchalis*].

**Pearl-spotted Owlet** *Glaucidium perlatum* Great views of one at the camp southeast of Benguela [*licua*].

**African Barred Owlet** ♦ *Glaucidium capense* Great views of 1 near to Kinjila Village [*ngamiense* – Ngami Owlet].



An angry-looking African Barred Owlet near to Kinjila Village (Pete Morris)

**Marsh Owl** *Asio capensis* One seen on the way into Mount Moco [nominate].  
**Fiery-necked Nightjar** *Caprimulgus pectoralis* Great views of a male near to Kinjila Village. Others heard.  
**Ruwenzori Nightjar** ◊ *Caprimulgus ruwenzorii* Excellent views of one in the daytime at Mt Moco [*koesteri*].  
**Freckled Nightjar** ◊ *Caprimulgus tristigma* Excellent views of a pair in daylight at the Tundavala Escarpment [*lentiginosus*].  
**Mottled Spinetail** *Telacanthura ussheri* Great views at the camp near Benguela and at Kumbira Forest [*benguellensis*].  
**Böhm's Spinetail** *Neafrapus boehmi* Best were the showy birds at Kissama NP. Weird shape [nominate].  
**African Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus* Common and widespread in small numbers [*brachypterus*].  
**Alpine Swift** *Tachymarptis melba* Excellent views around the Tundavala Escarpment [*africanus*].  
**Mottled Swift** *Tachymarptis aequatorialis* See Note.



Mottled Swifts (left) were common over Kumbira Forest; several Böhm's Spinetails were seen in Kissama National Park (Pete Morris)

**Common Swift** *Apus apus* Several assumed to be this species near Kissama NP at the end of the tour.  
**Bradfield's Swift** ◊ *Apus bradfieldi* Great views at the Tundavala Escarpment. Also two near Mt Moco.  
**Little Swift** *Apus affinis* Seen well on a few occasions, especially at the Lucala River [*theresae*].  
**White-rumped Swift** *Apus caffer* Seen a few times, first at the camp southeast of Benguela.  
**Speckled Mousebird** *Colius striatus congicus* Just a couple seen at Damengola Forest [*congicus*].  
**Red-backed Mousebird** ◊ *Colius castanotus* Perhaps the commonest and most widespread of the endemics.  
**Red-faced Mousebird** *Urocolius indicus* Some big flocks seen on the day trip from Lubango to Namibe [*acteifrons*].  
**Narina Trogon** *Apaloderma narina* Two seen and another heard at Kumbira Forest [nominate].  
**Purple Roller** *Coracias naevius* Just a few, first seen near the camp southeast of Benguela, 2/9.  
**Lilac-breasted Roller** *Coracias caudatus* First seen on the drive towards Benguela. Common at Kissama NP.  
**Blue-throated Roller** *Eurystomus gularis* Great views of one at Damengola Forest, south of Quitexe [*neglectus*].  
**Broad-billed Roller** *Eurystomus glaucurus* Just three seen, the first near to Kinjila Village [*suahelicus*].  
**Grey-headed Kingfisher** *Halcyon leucocephala* One seen near to Kinjila Village [*pallidiventris*].  
**Brown-hooded Kingfisher** *Halcyon albiventris* First seen on the day trip from Lubango to Namibe [*prentissgrayi*].  
**Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti* (H) First heard near to Kinjila Village [nominate].  
**Woodland Kingfisher** *Halcyon senegalensis* First seen at Damengola Forest, and a few others seen [*cyanoleuca*].  
**African Pygmy Kingfisher** *Ispidina picta* First seen at Kumbira Forest and several near to Kinjila Village [*ferrugina*].  
**Malachite Kingfisher** *Corythornis cristatus* See note.  
**Giant Kingfisher** *Megaceryle maxima* One seen at Calandula Falls, and another along the Kuanza River [nominate].  
**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis* First seen at the Lucala River, north of Calandula, and a few others [nominate].  
**Black Bee-Eater** *Merops gularis* Great views of a couple at Damengola Forest, south of Quitexe.  
**Swallow-tailed Bee-Eater** *Merops hirundineus* A couple of sightings in the southeast of Kissama NP.  
**Little Bee-Eater** *Merops pusillus* First seen at the Tundavala Escarpment, then quite a few others [*argutus*].  
**Blue-breasted Bee-eater** *Merops variegatus* One seen distantly at the Lucala River, north of Calandula [nominate].

**White-fronted Bee-Eater** *Merops bullockoides* A few seen during our walk on Mt Moco.  
**Blue-cheeked Bee-Eater** *Merops persicus* One or two seen over the camp in Kissama NP.  
**European Bee-Eater** *Merops apiaster* Just four over Kinjila Village, north of Calandula.  
**African Hoopoe** *Upupa africana* Scarce, with 1 in roadside forest on the drive to Benguela, and another heard.  
**Green Wood Hoopoe** *Phoeniculus purpureus* A few seen well in the southeast of Kissama NP [*angolensis*].  
**Black Scimitarbill** *Rhinopomastus aterrimus* A few seen near to Kinjila Village, and a few in Kissama NP [*anchietae*].  
**Common Scimitarbill** *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas* One seen at the camp southeast of Benguela [n nominate].  
**Crowned Hornbill** *Tockus alboterminatus* Fairly common and widespread. First seen on the drive to Benguela [n nominate].  
**African Pied Hornbill** *Tockus fasciatus* A pair at Tombingo Forest, and common at Damengola Forest [n nominate].  
**Pale-billed Hornbill** ◊ *Tockus pallidirostris* Excellent views of three in the miombo woodland near to Kinjila [n nominate].  
**Monteiro's Hornbill** ◊ *Tockus monteiri* Good views of a pair on the day excursion from Lubango towards Namibe.  
**Damara Red-billed Hornbill** ◊ *Tockus damarensis* Several seen well at and near to the camp southeast of Benguela.  
**Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill** *Tockus leucomelas* Seen on the trip to Namibe and in Kissama NP [*elegans*].  
**Piping Hornbill** *Bycanistes fistulator* Good numbers noted at Tombingo Forest, south of N'dalatando [*sharpii*].  
**Trumpeter Hornbill** *Bycanistes bucinator* Common at Kumbira Forest.



*Pale-billed Hornbill (left, Pete Morris), Trumpeter Hornbill (top right, Barry Wright) and African Pied Hornbill (Pete Morris)*

**Black-casqued Hornbill** *Ceratogymna atrata* A few seen well at Damengola Forest, south of Quitexe.  
**Bristle-nosed Barbet** *Gymnobucco peli* Several at Damengola Forest, south of Quitexe.  
**Naked-faced Barbet** *Gymnobucco calvus* A flock of 20+ at Tombingo Forest, and a few south of Damengola Forest [*congius*].  
**Anchieta's Barbet** ◊ *Stactolaema anchietae* Great views of a few in miombo near to Kinjila Village.  
**Speckled Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus scolopaceus* Seen well at Tombingo and Damengola Forests [*flavisquamatus*].  
**Western Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus coryphaea* (H) Heard briefly at Mt Moco [*angolensis*].  
**Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus bilineatus* Common in the scarp forests, first seen at Kumbira Forest [*leucolaemus*].  
**Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus chrysoconus* Most common around the Tundavala Escarpment [*extoni*].  
**Hairy-breasted Barbet** *Tricholaema hirsuta* A very drab race, first seen at Kumbira Forest [*angolensis*].  
**Acacia Pied Barbet** *Tricholaema leucomelas* First seen on the day trip to Namibe, and also one at Kissama [*centralis*].  
**Black-collared Barbet** *Lybius torquatus* Common around the Tundavala Escarpment and towards Namibe [*bocagei*].  
**Black-backed Barbet** ◊ *Lybius minor* Excellent views of at least three at Mt Moco. Smart birds [*minor*].

**Yellow-billed Barbet** *Trachyphonus purpuratus* Seen very well at Kumbira and Damengola Forests [nominate].

**Lesser Honeyguide** *Indicator minor* See note.

**Greater Honeyguide** *Indicator indicator* Seen at the Tundavala Escarpment, near Mt Moco and at Kinjila.

**Red-throated Wryneck** *Jynx ruficollis* A few in the montane forest at Mt Moco.

**African Piculet** ◊ *Sasia africana* Brilliant views of a pair at a nest in Damengola Forest .

**Golden-tailed Woodpecker** *Campethera abingoni* Several seen well in the southeast of Kissama NP [nominate].

**Brown-eared Woodpecker** *Campethera caroli* Excellent views at Kumbira Forest [nominate].

**Cardinal Woodpecker** *Dendropicos fuscescens* Two forms seen: *centralis* in the south, *sharpii* in the north.

**Bearded Woodpecker** *Dendropicos namaquus* Good views of a few near Kinjila Village [nominate].

**Yellow-crested Woodpecker** *Dendropicos xantholophus* Three seen well at Tombingo Forest.

**Olive Woodpecker** *Dendropicos griseocephalus* Three seen at Kumbira Forest [*ruwenzori*].

**Rock Kestrel** *Falco rupicolus* Small numbers at widely scattered sites..

**Grey Kestrel** *Falco ardosiaceus* A couple seen in the outskirts of Sumbe, and another in Kissama NP.

**African Hobby** *Falco cuvierii* One seen well hunting over Muxima, on the Kuanza River in Kissama NP.

**Lanner Falcon** *Falco biarmicus* Surprisingly just 3 sightings, the first seen at the Tundavala Escarpment [nominate].

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus* Best was the one dustbathing at Calandula Falls [*minor*].

**Red-fronted Parrot** ◊ *Poicephalus gulielmi* Several, mostly in flight, at Tombingo Forest, and 2 at Damengola Forest.

**Meyer's Parrot** *Poicephalus meyeri* Several seen near to Kinjila Village, north of Calandula [*matschiei*].

**Rüppell's Parrot** ◊ *Poicephalus rueppellii* A cracker! Seen well on the trip to Namibe and southeast of Benguela.

**African Broadbill** *Smithornis capensis* Common by voice at Kumbira Forest and several seen well there [*albigularis*].

**African Shrike-Flycatcher** *Megabyas flammulatus* A male seen very well at Damengola Forest [*aequatorialis*].

**Black-and-white Shrike-Flycatcher** *Bias musicus* A smart pair seen well at Damengola Forest [nominate].

**Margaret's Batis** ◊ *Batis margaritae* Great views of a male, after considerable effort, at Mt Moco [nominate].

**Chin-spot Batis** *Batis molitor* Seen at the Tundavala Escarpment and near to Kinjila Village [*palliditergum*].

**Pririt Batis** ◊ *Batis pririt affinis* A female seen well on the day trip from Lubango towards Namibe [*affinis*].

**Angolan Batis** ◊ *Batis minulla* First seen at our picnic spot near Biopio, and several later in the trip.

**White-tailed Shrike** ◊ *Lanioturdus torquatus* A stunner! Seen well on the trip to Namibe and southeast of Benguela.

**Chestnut Wattle-Eye** *Platysteira castanea* A male was at Kumbira Forest and a female at Damengola Forest.

**Black-throated Wattle-Eye** *Platysteira peltata* Great looks on Mt Moco and near to Kinjila Village [*mentalis*].

**White-fronted Wattle-Eye** ◊ *Platysteira albifrons* (NT) Fantastic views of a pair and another male briefly, in Kissama NP.



Some of us birding in Kumbira Forest (Barry Wright)

**Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye** *Platysteira concreta* Several beauties seen well at Kumbira Forest [*ansorgei*].

**White-crested Helmetshrike** *Prionops plumatus* Lovely flocks on the way to Benguela and near Kinjila Village [*poliocephalus*].

**Retz's Helmetshrike** *Prionops retzii* A couple of flocks seen well near to Kinjila Village [*nigricans*].

**Gabela Helmetshrike** ◊ *Prionops gabela* (EN) Fantastic views of a flock of 3 in Kissama NP. Crackers!

**Monteiro's Bushshrike** ◊ *Malaconotus monteiri* (NT) Brilliant views of 3+ on each day in Kissama NP [nominate].

**Grey-headed Bushshrike** *Malaconotus blanchoti* Excellent views near to Kinjila Village, [*interpositus*].

**Bocage's Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus bocagei* Singles seen in Damengola Forest on two dates [nominate].

**Gorgeous (or Perrin's) Bushshrike** ◊ *Telophorus viridis* Excellent views at Mt Moco, and Kumbira and Tombingo Forests.

**Brown-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra australis* A few. First seen at the Tundavala Escarpment.

**Black-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra senegalus* Fewer than the previous, also first at the Tundavala Escarpment [*kalahari*].

**Pink-footed Puffback** *Dryoscopus angolensis* Fairly common at Kumbira Forest, and several seen well.

**Black-backed Puffback** *Dryoscopus cubla* Two forms seen: *okavangensis* in the south, *hamatus* in the north.

**Braun's Bushshrike** ◊ *Laniarius brauni* (EN) A stunning pair seen superbly at Damengola Forest. VERY bright!

**Gabela Bushshrike** ◊ *Laniarius amboimensis* (EN) Excellent views of a cracking pair at Kumbira Forest.

**Tropical Boubou** *Laniarius major* Heard regularly at Mt Moco, and seen briefly there [nominate].

**Swamp Boubou** ◊ *Laniarius bicolor* First seen on the Lebe Escarpment and good views at the camp near Benguela [*sticturus*].

**White-breasted Cuckooshrike** *Coracina pectoralis* Brilliant views of males and a female near to Kinjila Village.

**Black Cuckooshrike** *Campephaga flava* First seen at Tombingo Forest, also seen near to Kinjila Village.

**Petit's Cuckooshrike** *Campephaga petiti* A few seen well at Kumbira Forest.

**Purple-throated Cuckooshrike** *Campephaga quisqualina* Many great views on this trip, especially in Kumbira [*sticturus*].

**Southern White-crowned Shrike** *Eurocephalus anguitimens* Seen on the drive to Benguela and in Kissama NP [nominate].

**Northern Fiscal** *Lanius humeralis* First seen at the Tundavala Escarpment and a few others on journeys etc [*capelli*].

**Southern Fiscal** *Lanius collaris* One seen on the day trip to Namibe, white supercilium apparent [*subcoronatus*].

**African Golden Oriole** *Oriolus auratus* One seen briefly in the miombo between Mt Moco and Ussoque [*notatus*].

**Black-headed Oriole** *Oriolus larvatus* Fairly widespread. First seen on the day to Namibe [*angolensis*].

**Black-winged Oriole** *Oriolus nigripennis* A few seen well in Tombingo and Damengola Forests.

**Square-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus ludwigii* A few in the gallery forest near Kinjila and also seen at Damengola Forest.

**Fork-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus adsimilis* Common in open country. First seen near to Lubango [*apivorus*].

**Velvet-mantled Drongo** *Dicrurus modestus* Good views of a pair at Damengola Forest [*coracinus*].

**Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher** *Trochocercus nitens* A few seen and more heard at Kumbira Forest. Smart birds.

**Rufous-vented Paradise Flycatcher** ◊ *Terpsiphone rufocinerea* A male seen well at Damengola Forest.

**Bates's Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone batesi* A pair seen well at Kumbira Forest [*bannermani*].

**African Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone viridis* First seen at Mt Moco, and a few others seen [*plumbeiceps*].

**Pied Crow** *Corvus albus* Common and widespread throughout most of the tour.

**African Blue Flycatcher** *Elminia longicauda* Seen well at Kumbira and Damengola Forests [*teresita*].

**White-tailed Blue Flycatcher** *Elminia albicauda* One seen well at Mt Moco.

**White-winged Black Tit** *Melaniparus leucomelas* Good views of one at Mt Moco – the only one of the tour [*insignis*].

**Carp's Tit** ◊ *Melaniparus carpi* Great views of a couple at our camp near Benguela, and 3 near Kissama NP.

**Dusky Tit** *Melaniparus funereus* Several seen well at Kumbira Forest [*gabela*]. Best not to comment further...



Dusky Tit (though not the popular pair) in Kumbira Forest (Barry Wright) and Bocage's Bushshrike at Damengola Forest (Pete Morris)

**Cape Penduline Tit** *Anthoscopus minutus* Great views near to the camp southeast of Benguela [*damarensis*].  
**Yellow-throated Nicator** ◊ *Nicator vireo* Fairly common at Kumbira Forest, and heard at Damengola Forest.  
**Spike-heeled Lark** *Chersomanes albofasciata* Three seen well by the camp at the Tundavala Escarpment [*obscurata*].  
**Benguela Long-billed Lark** ◊ *Certhilauda benguelensis* Several seen very well in the semi-desert near to Namibe [nominate].  
**Sabota Lark** *Sabota Calendulauda sabota* A heavy-billed bird seen well on the day trip to Namibe [*ansorgei*].  
**Rufous-naped Lark** *Mirafra africana* A couple seen well at the Tundavala Escarpment, others heard.  
**Flappet Lark** *Mirafra rufocinnamomea* One seen 'flappeting' between Mt Moco and Ussoque [*ffischeri*].  
**Angolan Lark** ◊ *Mirafra angolensis* Quite common at Mt Moco with many seen well. Great song [nominate].



Angolan Lark sounds better than it looks! (Pete Morris)

**Red-capped Lark** *Calandrella cinerea* Several seen well at Mt Moco [*saturator*].  
**African Red-eyed Bulbul** *Pycnonotus nigricans* Common during the day trip from Lubango to Namibe [nominate].  
**Dark-capped Bulbul** *Pycnonotus tricolor* Common, first seen at the Tundavala Escarpment [nominate].  
**Slender-billed Greenbul** *Stelgidillas gracilirostris* Several seen at Tombingo and Damengola Forests [nominate].  
**Little Greenbul** *Eurillas virens* Common by voice, but elusive. Best views at Kinjila Village [nominate].  
**Plain Greenbul** *Eurillas curvirostris* A couple seen well in a small fruiting tree near to Calandula Falls.  
**Yellow-whiskered Greenbul** *Eurillas latirostris* A few seen at Kumbira Forest [nominate].  
**Honeyguide Greenbul** *Baeopogon indicator* A few heard and 2 seen briefly at Tombingo and Damengola Forests [nominate].  
**Yellow-bellied Greenbul** *Chlorocichla flaviventris* Common around Lubango and in Kissama NP [*occidentalis*].  
**Falkenstein's Greenbul** ◊ *Chlorocichla falkensteini* Common at Kumbira Forest, and a few at Damengola Forest.  
**Simple Greenbul (or Leaflove)** *Chlorocichla simplex* Good views of one at Damengola Forest.  
**Yellow-throated Leaflove** *Atimastillas flavicollis* Several seen, near to the Lucala River and Kinjila [*flavigula*].  
**Pale-olive Greenbul** ◊ *Phyllastrephus fulviventris* Great views on several occasions. A smart and distinctive endemic.  
**Cabanis's Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus cabanisi* Excellent views of 4 or 5 at Mt Moco, and 2 near to Kinjila Village.  
**Red-tailed Bristlebill** *Bleda syndactylus* (H) Heard only at Tombingo Forest [*woosnamii*].  
**Black-collared Bulbul** ◊ *Neolestes torquatus* Great views at Mt Moco and near to Damengola Forest. Smart!  
**Black Saw-Wing** *Psalidoprocne pristopectera* Fairly common at Kumbira and the other scarp forests [*reichenowii*].  
**Grey-rumped Swallow** *Pseudhirundo griseopyga* See note.  
**Banded Martin** *Riparia cincta* Three seen over grassland by Damengola Forest [*parvula*].  
**Angolan Swallow** *Hirundo angolensis* Widespread in small numbers. First seen at the Tundavala Escarpment.  
**African Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii* Seen at several sites, usually near to water.  
**Black-and-rufous Swallow** ◊ *Hirundo nigrorufa* Great views of a few over grassland near Mt Moco. A beautiful swallow.  
**Rock Martin** *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* Greatest numbers were around the Tundavala Escarpment.

**Greater Striped Swallow** *Cecropis cucullata* First seen at the Tundavala Escarpment, only really seen in the south.

**Lesser Striped Swallow** *Cecropis abyssinica* Two forms seen: *ampliformis* in the south, *unitatis* in the north.

**Red-throated Cliff Swallow** ◊ *Petrochelidon rufigula* Great views of a huge colony at the Lucala River.



*Red-throated Cliff Swallow (Pete Morris), and a strangely-plumaged juvenile Grey-rumped Swallow (Barry Wright)*

**Moustached Grass Warbler** *Melocichla mentalis* First seen at Mt Moco, also near to Kinjila Village [nominate].

**Rockrunner** ◊ *Achaetops pycnopygius* Excellent views of a singing bird on the Lebe Escarpment [nominate].

**Yellow Longbill** *Macrosphenus flavicans* Great views at Tombingo Forest and heard at Damengola Forest [nominate].

**Pulitzer's Longbill** ◊ *Macrosphenus pulitzeri* (EN) See note.

**Long-billed Crombec** *Sylvietta rufescens* Good views of on the Tundavala Escarpment and near Benguela [*fleckij*].

**Red-capped Crombec** ◊ *Sylvietta ruficapilla* See note.

**Green Crombec** *Sylvietta virens* Fairly common, first at Kumbira Forest. The form seen, *tando*, is very rufous faced.

**Green Hylia** *Hylia prasina* One seen well at Kumbira Forest, 7/9, others heard here and elsewhere [nominate].

**Tit Hylia** ◊ *Pholidornis rushiae* Great views of one foraging in nuthatch fashion at Damengola Forest. Brilliant!

**Lesser Swamp Warbler** *Acrocephalus gracilirostris* Heard and seen by some at the Lucala River [*winterbottomi*].

**African Yellow Warbler** *Iduna natalensis* Seen well at several sites. The form *major* has no dark cap and amazing song!

**Little Rush Warbler** *Bradypterus baboecala* A singing bird seen between Calandula and Luinga [*msirij*].

**Evergreen Forest Warbler** *Bradypterus lopezi* Unbelievable scope views for all on Mt Moco [*boultonij*].

**Fan-tailed Grassbird** *Schoenicola brevirostris* One seen well at Mt Moco [*alexinae*].

**Lepe [Red-faced] Cisticola** ◊ *Cisticola [erythrostris] lepe* Many heard and a few seen well in the northern sector.

**Whistling Cisticola** *Cisticola lateralis* Several seen in the miombo woodland near to Kinjila Village [*modestus*].

**Bubbling Cisticola** ◊ *Cisticola bulliens* Great views at Kumbira and Damengola Forests and Kissama NP [nominate].

**Rock-loving Cisticola** *Cisticola emini* One seen, but not for long, at Mt Moco [*bailunduensis*].

**Rattling Cisticola** *Cisticola chiniana* Only really noted on the day trip from Lubango towards Namibe [*smithersij*].

**Tinkling Cisticola** ◊ *Cisticola rufilatus* A pair seen on the day trip from Lubango towards Namibe. Very terrestrial.

**Wailing Cisticola** ◊ *Cisticola lais* Common at the Tundavala Escarpment and Mt Moco.

**Chirping Cisticola** ◊ *Cisticola pipiens* Seen at the Lucala River, though generally quite secretive [*congo*].

**Croaking Cisticola** *Cisticola natalensis* A few seen well in the grasslands at Mt Moco [*huambo*].

**Short-winged Cisticola** *Cisticola brachypterus* See note.

**Neddicky Cisticola** *Cisticola fulvicapilla* Good views of a few in the miombo woodland near to Kinjila Village [*dispar*].

**Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis* One seen in grassland by the Kuanza River [*terrestris*].

**Wing-snapping Cisticola** *Cisticola ayresii* (H) Heard on a couple of occasions at Mt Moco.

**Tawny-flanked Prinia** *Prinia subflava* See note.

**Black-chested Prinia** ◊ *Prinia flavicans* Seen well on the day excursion from Lubango towards Namibe [*ansorgeij*].

**Banded Prinia** *Prinia bairdii* Great views at Damengola Forest.

**Yellow-breasted Apalis** *Apalis flavida* Several seen in the southeast of Kissama NP [*flavida*].

**Lowland Masked Apalis** *Apalis binotata* Great views of one at Damengola Forest.

**Black-throated Apalis** *Apalis jacksoni* A pair seen well at Damengola Forest.

**Buff-throated Apalis** *Apalis rufogularis* See note.

**Grey Apalis** *Angola Apalis cinerea* Pretty common at Mt Moco where many were seen well [*grandis*].



*Grey Apalis was common at Mt Moco (Barry Wright)*

**Brown-headed Apalis** *Apalis alticola* One seen quite well near to Kinjila Village, north of Calandula.

**Grey-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brevicaudata* Two forms: *sharpei* first seen near Lubango, *intercalata* at Damengola.

**Hartert's Camaroptera** ◊ *Camaroptera harterti* Common at Kumbira Forest, where green tail noted! Heard elsewhere.

**Miombo Wren-Warbler** *Calamonastes undosus* See note.

**Yellow-bellied Eremomela** *Eremomela icteropygialis* Seen on the day trip towards Namibe, and southeast of Benguela.

**Green-capped Eremomela** *Eremomela scotops* Three seen between Mt Moco and Ussoque.

**Rufous-crowned Eremomela** *Eremomela badiceps* Great views at Tombingo and Damengola Forests. Smart [*pulchra*].

**Brown Illadopsis** *Illadopsis fulvescens* Fairly common by voice and seen well at Kumbira Forest. Heard elsewhere.

**Arrow-marked Babbler** *Turdoides jardineii* A flock near to Kinjila Village, and 1 seen at Damengola Forest.

**Bare-cheeked Babbler** ◊ *Turdoides gymnogenys* Great views of three belters at our camp near Benguela [nominate].

**African Yellow White-eye** *Zosterops senegalensis* Quite a few seen. First seen at Mt Moco [*quanzae*].

**Yellow-bellied Hyliota** *Hyliota flavigaster* A few seen in the miombo woodland near to Kinjila Village [*barbozae*].

**Southern Hyliota** *Hyliota australis* See note.

**African Spotted Creeper** *Salpornis salvadori* Great views of a singing bird at Mt Moco [nominate].

**Wattled Starling** *Creatophora cinerea* Just one seen, near to Ussoque on the way out from Mt Moco.

**Cape Starling** *Lamprotornis nitens* The common and widespread starling, first seen near to Lubango.

**Splendid Starling** *Lamprotornis splendidus* Great views of smart birds at Tombingo and Damengola Forests [nominate].

**Meves's Starling** ◊ *Lamprotornis mevesii* Two seen in roadside forest between Lubango to Benguela [nominate].

**Sharp-tailed Starling** ◊ *Lamprotornis acuticaudus* Quite common in the miombo woodland near Kinjila Village [nominate].

**Violet-backed Starling** *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* Quite common, first seen at the Tundavala Escarpment [*verreauxi*].

**Chestnut-winged Starling** *Onychognathus fulgidus* c8 seen well in a fruiting tree at Damengola Forest [*intermedius*].

**Pale-winged Starling** ◊ *Onychognathus naboroupp* (NL) Richard saw one on the trip to Namibe.

**Narrow-tailed Starling** *Poeoptera lugubris* A few seen on the drive south from Damengola Forest.

**Yellow-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus africanus* Seen briefly on the drive to our camp near Benguela [nominate].

**Fraser's Rufous Thrush** *Stizorhina fraseri* A few seen including great views in Kumbira Forest [*rubicunda*].

**Groundscraper Thrush** *Turdus litsitsirupa* One seen well near to Ussoque [*stierlingi*].

**African Thrush** *Turdus pelios* A few in the scarp forests. First seen at Kumbira Forest, [*bocagei*].

**Forest Scrub Robin** ◊ *Cercotrichas leucosticta* Brilliant views at Kumbira and Damengola Forests. Fabulous song [*reichenowi*].

**Miombo Scrub Robin** ◊ *Cercotrichas barbata* Great views of a few in the miombo woodland near to Kinjila Village.  
**Kalahari Scrub Robin** ◊ *Cercotrichas paena* Several seen well on the day trip towards Namibe [*benguellensis*].  
**Brown-backed Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas hartlaubi* Great views of one in a grassy area near to Damengola Forest.  
**White-browed Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas leucophrys* See note.  
**Angolan Slaty Flycatcher** ◊ *Melaenornis brunneus* Great views at the Tundavala Escarpment and at Mt Moco [*bailunduensis*].



The rare endemic Gabela Akalat (top left), the endemic Angolan Slaty Flycatcher (right) and Miombo Scrub Robin (Pete Morris)

**Southern Black Flycatcher** *Melaenornis pammelaina* A couple in the miombo woodland near to Kinjila Village [*diabolicus*].  
**Pale Flycatcher** *Melaenornis pallidus* One seen near to Mungolo, in the southeast of Kissama NP [*murinus*].  
**Chat Flycatcher** *Melaenornis infuscatus* Several seen well on the day trip towards Namibe [*benguellensis*].  
**Ashy Flycatcher** *Muscicapa caerulescens* A few seen including good views at Kumbira Forest [*impavida*].  
**Dusky-blue Flycatcher** *Muscicapa comitata* A few seen well at Damengola Forest [nominate].  
**Sooty Flycatcher** *Muscicapa infuscata* Seen at Tombingo and Damengola Forests. Hirundine-like!  
**Angolan Cave Chat** ◊ *Cossypha ansorgei* Great views of several at the Tundavala and Lebe Escarpments.  
**Grey-winged Robin-Chat** *Cossypha polioptera* Great views of a singing bird between Calandula and Luinga [nominate].  
**White-browed Robin-Chat** *Cossypha heuglini* Quite a few seen, first seen at the Tundavala Escarpment [*subrufescens*].  
**Red-capped Robin-Chat** *Cossypha natalensis* Best were the fabulous pair at Kinjila Village [*larischii*].  
**White-headed Robin-Chat** ◊ *Cossypha heinrichi* (VU) Great views of a pair in the gallery forest near to Kinjila Village.  
**Bocage's Akalat** ◊ *Sheppardia bocagei* Brilliant birds, several seen well at Mt Moco. Stunners! [nominate].  
**Gabela Akalat** ◊ *Sheppardia gabela* (EN) Excellent views of three at Kumbira Forest. Like a non-descript *Ficedula*!  
**Rufous-tailed Palm Thrush** ◊ *Cichladusa ruficauda* Several chances to see this lovely species well.  
**Short-toed Rock Thrush** ◊ *Monticola brevipes* Several at the Tundavala Escarpment and on the trip to Namibe [nominate].



A splendid male Miombo Rock Thrush at the Tundavala Escarpment (Pete Morris)

- Miombo Rock Thrush** ◇ *Monticola angolensis* Brilliant views of at least 4 at the Tundavala Escarpment. Great birds [nominate].
- African Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus* First seen at the Tundavala Escarpment, abundant at Mt Moco [*stonei*].
- Tractrac Chat** ◇ *Emarginata tractrac* Several seen well on the day trip from Lubango towards Namibe [*hoeschi*].
- Sooty Chat** *Myrmecocichla nigra* Just a handful. First seen at Mt Moco.
- Mountain Wheatear** *Myrmecocichla monticola* Great views of a family party at Mt Moco [*nigricauda*].
- Capped Wheatear** *Oenanthe pileata* A few seen well at Mt Moco, including a recently fledged family [*neseri*].
- Familiar Chat** *Oenanthe familiaris* A few. First seen at the Tundavala Escarpment [*angolensis*].
- Anchieta's Sunbird** ◇ *Anthreptes anchietae* Great views of 2 or 3 fine males in the miombo woodland near to Kinjila Village.
- Western Violet-backed Sunbird** *Anthreptes longuemarei* Best views in the miombo woodland near to Kinjila Village.
- Little Green Sunbird** *Anthreptes seimundi* Quite a few at Kumbira Forest, including a large tree full of 20+ of them [*minor*].
- Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris* Fairly common in the scarp forests. First seen at Kumbira Forest [*somereni*].
- Green-headed Sunbird** *Cyanomitra verticalis* Seen at Kumbira and Damengola Forests, and on the drive to Luinga [*bohndorffi*].
- Bannerman's Sunbird** ◇ *Cyanomitra bannermani* Brief views of a pair in the gallery forest near Kinjila Difficult to see well.
- Blue-throated Brown Sunbird** *Cyanomitra cyanolaema* A distinctive female seen well at Damengola Forest [*octaviae*].
- [Western] Olive Sunbird** *Cyanomitra [olivacea] obscura* Fairly common at Kumbira and other scarp forests [*cephaelis*].
- Carmelite Sunbird** ◇ *Chalcomitra fuliginosa* Several smart males seen well at Kumbira Forest [nominate].
- Green-throated Sunbird** *Chalcomitra rubescens* Several seen at Tombingo Forest, south of N'dalatando [nominate].
- Amethyst Sunbird** *Chalcomitra amethystina* Several, first seen in miombo between Mt Moco and Ussoque [*deminuta*].
- Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra senegalensis* A few, first seen at the Tundavala Escarpment [*saturator*].
- Bronzy Sunbird** *Nectarinia kilimensis* Common at Mt Moco where several seen well [*gadowi*].
- Olive-bellied Sunbird** *Cinnyris chloropygius* Fairly common at Kumbira and other scarp forests.
- Ludwig's Double-collared Sunbird** ◇ *Cinnyris ludovicensis* Common in the Lubango area and Mt Moco [nominate].
- Marico Sunbird** *Cinnyris mariquensis* A few seen at our camp near Benguela [*ovamboensis*].
- Purple-banded Sunbird** *Cinnyris bifasciatus* Quite common and widespread [nominate].
- Superb Sunbird** *Cinnyris superbus* Several, including some stunning males at Kumbira and Damengola Forests [nominate].
- Oustalet's Sunbird** ◇ *Angola Cinnyris oustaleti* 3 seen at the Tundavala Escarpment, and a decent male at Mt Moco.
- White-bellied Sunbird** *Cinnyris talatala* Several seen well on the day excursion from Lubango to Namibe [nominate].
- Variable Sunbird** *Cinnyris venustus* A few, first seen at the Tundavala Escarpment. The form *falkensteini* is yellow-bellied.
- Dusky Sunbird** ◇ *Cinnyris fuscus* Common in the sparsely vegetated areas towards Namibe [*inclusus*].
- Copper Sunbird** *Cinnyris cupreus* A few seen, first seen at Calandula Falls [*chalceus*].
- White-browed Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser mahali* First seen on the day trip from Lubango to Namibe [*ansorgei*].
- House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* Introduced and established in many of the towns we passed through.



Our camps, such as this one near Benguela, were nearly all under wide starry skies! The ever changing face of the moon kept us illuminated at night and entertained. The right hand picture shows the setting moon being illuminated by the rising sun! (Pete Morris)

- Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus*** A few noted in the north [*ugandae*].
- Southern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer diffusus*** Just one on the day trip from Lubango towards Namibe [nominate].
- Yellow-throated Petronia *Gymnoris superciliaris*** Just a few at scattered sites. First seen near Ussoque [*rufitergum*].
- Red-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis niger*** A couple seen on the drive out of Kissama NP [nominate].
- Thick-billed Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons*** One at Kumbira Forest, c20 near Kinjila Village, and lots at Damengola Forest [*tandae*].
- Black-chinned Weaver *Ploceus nigrimentus*** See note.
- Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis*** Just one seen on the tour at Mt Moco [*crocatus*].
- Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis*** Fairly common at Kumbira and Damengola Forests [nominate].
- Holub's Golden Weaver *Ploceus xanthops*** Quite common. First seen at the Tundavala Escarpment, 31/8.
- Southern Masked Weaver *Ploceus velatus*** A couple of non-breeding plumaged birds on the day trip to Namibe [nominate].
- Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*** Some good colonies. First seen at Kumbira Forest, the mottled form is *collaris*.
- Vieillot's Black Weaver *Ploceus nigerrimus*** Many great views. First seen at Kumbira Forest [nominate].
- Yellow-mantled Weaver *Ploceus tricolor*** Good views of this smart bird at Tombingo and Damengola Forests.
- Dark-backed Weaver *Ploceus bicolor*** Several after our first at the picnic spot near Biopio [*amaurocephalus*].
- Red-headed Malimbe *Malimbus rubricollis*** Excellent views of several at Tombingo and Damengola Forests [*praedi*].
- Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*** A few flocks First seen on the drive to our camp near Benguela [*lathamii*].
- Black-winged Red Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceus*** First identified in grassland near to Damengola Forest [nominate].
- Golden-backed Bishop** ♦ *Euplectes aureus* See note.

**Yellow Bishop** *Euplectes capensis* Common in the grasslands at Mt Moco [*angolensis*].  
**Yellow-mantled Widowbird** *Euplectes macroura* First identified in grassland near to Damengola Forest [nominate].  
**Marsh Widowbird (Hartlaub's M W)** *Euplectes hartlaubi* (NL) Seen by some at the Lucala River.  
**Red-collared Widowbird** *Euplectes ardens* A couple of flocks in the Mt Moco area [nominate].  
**White-breasted Nigrita** *Nigrita fusconotus* Best were the several that showed well at Damengola Forest [nominate].  
**Chestnut-breasted Nigrita** *Nigrita bicolor* (NL) Barry saw one in Kumbira Forest.  
**Grey-headed Nigrita** *Nigrita canicapillus* Also known as Invisible Nigrita, several seen well [*angolensis*].  
**Green-winged Pytilia** *Pytilia melba* A few of these smart estrildids, first at the Tundavala Escarpment [nominate].  
**Red-headed Bluebill** ♦ *Spermophaga ruficapilla* A male seen briefly at Kumbira Forest [nominate].  
**Brown Twinspot** ♦ *Clytospiza monteiri* A couple seen reasonably in grassland near to Damengola Forest.  
**Dusky Twinspot** ♦ *Euschistospiza cinereovinacea* Common in the Mt Moco area with many excellent views [nominate].  
**Red-billed Firefinch** *Lagonosticta senegala* Many seen well on the day trip from Lubango to Namibe [*rendalli*].  
**Landana (Pale-billed) Firefinch** ♦ *Lagonosticta landanae* Seen at Calandula Falls, Kinjila Village and Damengola Forest.  
**Jameson's Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rhodopareia* Good numbers seen at the Tundavala Escarpment [*ansorgei*].  
**Blue Waxbill** *Uraeginthus angolensis* Quite common and widespread, first seen at the Tundavala Escarpment.  
**Violet-eared Waxbill** *Uraeginthus granatinus* A few seen well in the Lubango area. Smart things!  
**Angolan Waxbill** ♦ *Coccyzygia bocagei* Seen well at the Tundavala Escarpment and at Mt Moco.



Angolan Waxbill and Striped Pipit at the Tundavala Escarpment (Pete Morris)

**Grey Waxbill** ♦ *Estrilda perreini* Lovely views of a smart pair at Kumbira Forest [nominate].  
**Fawn-breasted Waxbill** *Estrilda paludicola* First seen well in the Mt Moco area.  
**Orange-cheeked Waxbill** *Estrilda melpoda* Great looks in Kumbira and Damengola Forests.  
**Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild* Two forms: *angolensis* in the south; *rubriventris* in the north.  
**Orange-breasted Waxbill** *Amandava subflava* Small groups seen at Mt Moco and near to Ussoque [*niethammeri*].  
**Quailfinch** *Ortygospiza atricollis* A small flock of 'African' Quailfinches flushed at Mt Moco [*muelleri*].  
**Bronze Mannikin** *Lonchura cucullata* Several flocks seen. First seen near to Ussoque [*scutata*].  
**Cape Wagtail** *Motacilla capensis* Seen twice at the Tundavala Escarpment [*simplicissima*].  
**African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp* (NL) Seen by Paul below the Calandula Falls.  
**African Pipit** *Anthus cinnamomeus* Several sightings. First seen at the Tundavala Escarpment [*cinnamomeus-group*].  
**Buffy Pipit** *Anthus vaalensis* A few seen at the Tundavala Escarpment [*neumannii*].  
**Plain-backed Pipit** *Anthus leucophrys* A pair assumed to be this species in a burnt area at Mt Moco [*bohndorffi*].  
**Striped Pipit** *Anthus lineiventris* Great views of a singing bird on the Tundavala Escarpment.  
**Black-faced Canary** *Crithagra capistrata* Great views at Kumbira and Damengola Forests. The male's a cracker! [nominate].

**Black-throated Canary** *Crithagra atrogularis* A singing bird seen well near to Ussoque [Iwenarum].  
**Yellow-fronted Canary** *Crithagra mozambica* A few seen at scattered sites [vansonij].  
**Brimstone Canary** *Crithagra sulphurata* Seen at the Tundavala Escarpment and at Mt Moco [sharpil].  
**White-throated Canary** *Crithagra albogularis* Seen well on the day trip to Namibe, and near Benguela [crocopygia].  
**Yellow-crowned Canary** *Serinus flavivertex* Small flock seen at the Tundavala Escarpment and Mt Moco [huillensis].  
**Lark-like Bunting** ◊ *Emberiza impetuani* A couple scoped at the Tundavala Escarpment [eremica].  
**Cinnamon-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza tahapisi* Especially common at the Tundavala Escarpment [nivenorum].

## MAMMALS

**Black Mangabey** *Lophocebus aterrimus* A single seen at Tombingo Forest.  
**Southern Talapoin** *Miopithecus talapoin* Seen well at Kumbira Forest, and south of Damengola Forest. Tiny.  
**Vervet Monkey** *Cercopithecus pygerythrus* Just a few in the Kissama NP area.  
**Gentle Monkey** *Cercopithecus mitis* Seen a few times, first on the Lebe Escarpment.  
**Thomas's Galago** *Galagoides thomasi* The small galago in Kissama NP was assumed to be this species.  
**Scrub Hare** *Lepus saxatilis* The hares seen were thought to be this species, though identification is tricky!  
**Congo Rope Squirrel** *Funisciurus congicus* Several seen, especially obvious on the trip to Namibe.  
**Gambian Sun Squirrel** *Heliosciurus gambianus* A few noted in the wetter scarp forests.  
**African Giant Squirrel** *Protoxerus stangeri* A few seen at Tombingo Forest.  
**Western House Mouse** *Mus domesticus* (NL) Seen by Richard.  
**Common Genet** *Genetta genetta* A couple around our camp in Kissama NP.  
**African Civet** *Civettictis civetta* (NL) Seen by Richard at the camp at Kissama NP.  
**Yellow-spotted Hyrax** *Heterohyrax brucei* A couple in typical rocky habitat in the Lubango area.  
**Greater Kudu** *Tragelaphus strepsiceros* One for Richard briefly near the Lucala River. It was lucky to be alive!



The endemic Red-backed Mousebird (Pete Morris)



*A super pair of Rufous-tailed Palm Thrushes (Pete Morris)*

## NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

The most up to date referenced taxonomic list referred to in the Tour Report is that of the IOC World Bird Names. Gill, F and Donsker, D Eds. 2014. IOC World Bird Names v4.3. Available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>

### **Mottled Swift** *Tachymarptis aequatorialis*

The many birds studied and photographed over Kumbira Forest certainly much resembled this species and had a rasping chattering call. This does not seem at odds with Mottled Swift, but were these the so-called 'Kumbira Swifts'?

### **Malachite Kingfisher** *Corythornis cristatus*

We noted two forms of this widespread species. A pair in the valley at the Tundavala Camp, were presumably nominate birds. They were surprisingly dark and dull however. In the north, the lake at Damengola Forest, we saw brighter, more typical-looking birds, of the form *galeritus*.

### **Lesser Honeyguide** *Indicator minor*

A singing honeyguide at Kumbira Forest, was this species. Although quite pale (subspecies *teitensis*) the song was clearly of this species. Although others have reported Pallid Honeyguide here, this seems unlikely, and a source for the error could be that one of the widely used commercial recordings of Pallid Honeyguide is actually Lesser Honeyguide!

### **Grey-rumped Swallow** *Pseudhirundo griseopyga*

Surprisingly common and widespread, with sightings referring to the nominate subspecies. First seen well at the Tundavala Escarpment, including an amazing juv with big white subterminal spots on the flight and tail feathers and white tips to the coverts. This is a plumage not illustrated well in the literature.

### **Pulitzer's Longbill** *Macrosphenus pulitzeri*

Great views of a responsive pair at Kumbira Forest. Poorly illustrated in most guides. More like a small greenbul than a longbill! Bill not very long and extensively pale, fairly long-tailed and basically a drab olive bird with a pale grey-blue eye! Song distinctive.

### **Red-capped Crombec** *Sylvietta ruficapilla*

We saw two forms of this smart little bird. First we had excellent scope views of a singing nominate bird at the Tundavala Escarpment, whilst in the north we had excellent views of a pair of the form *mackayii* in the miombo woodland near to Kinjila Village, north of Calandula.

**Short-winged Cisticola** *Cisticola brachypterus*

This species is one which I thought I was pretty familiar with but which caused me a few headaches at the start of the tour. Surprisingly, it was commonly seen on the ground and in the grassland at Mt Moco, where, presumably because they were not breeding, they were silent and longer-tailed looking than I expected. Later, we saw singing birds, and again the rather weak song was different to that which I've heard elsewhere. The form concerned is *loanda*. Nik refers to these birds as resembling 'Teke' Cisticola, a proposed possible new species from Gabon.

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

Two forms were seen. In the south we saw the form *bechuanae* which we first saw at the Tundavala Escarpment. In the north we saw the form *graueri* which was first seen near to Kinjila Village. These birds seemed to show noticeably rufescent tails.

**Buff-throated Apalis** *Apalis rufogularis*

Two forms were noted. The form *brauni* was fairly common at Kumbira Forest whilst the form *angolensis* was first seen at Tombingo Forest, south of N'dalatando, and was also seen at Damengola Forest, south of Quitexe.

**Miombo Wren-Warbler** *Calamonastes undosus*

The bird resembling a Grey Wren-Warbler in the miombo woodland near to Kinjila Village, north of Calandula, was assumed to be the *cinereus* form of this species. Virtually plain grey, slightly paler on the underparts, eye reddish and the bird appeared completely unbarred. There is a photo of a very similar looking bird from the DRC on the IBC/Lynx website at the following link: <http://ibc.lynxeds.com/photo/miombo-wren-warbler-calamonastes-undosus/tape-responsive-adult>

**Southern Hyliota** *Hyliota australis*

Fairly common at Kumbira Forest, where plenty were seen well. Interestingly, many were quite yellow/buff on the underparts, but the white in wings was restricted to the coverts, unlike Yellow-bellied Hyliota where the white extends on to the tertials [*inornata*].

**White-browed Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas leucophrys*

We saw two different forms, both classified in the 'Red-backed' group. The form *ovamboensis* was first seen on the day excursion from Lubango towards Namibe. The form seen further north, *munda*, quite resembled Brown-backed Scrub Robin, but was more heavily streaked on the breast.



Another view of the popular Angolan Cave Chat (Pete Morris)

**Black-chinned Weaver** *Ploceus nigrimentus*

Perhaps the most unexpected sighting of the trip. Seen well but briefly around the forest patch above Kanjonde Village on Mt Moco. A stunning, yellow-eyed black and gold male was seen twice, once in the scopes, though sadly, they seemed to be in a pretty fast moving group and didn't stay in one place for long! This is apparently typical behaviour of the species.

**Golden-backed Bishop** *Euplectes aureus*

Great views of at least six near to Mungolo, in the southeast of Kissama NP. Although in non-breeding plumage, they were very distinctive. Showed a strong yellow wash to the supercilium, ear coverts and throat and were generally very richly coloured and well-marked. Slightly larger, though shorter-tailed, than the accompanying Red-billed Queleas.

**APPENDIX 1**

**TOP FIVE BIRDS OF THE TOUR**

- 1<sup>st</sup> **MONTEIRO'S BUSHSHRIKE**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> **BRAUN'S SHRIKE**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> **RED-CRESTED TURACO**
- 4<sup>th</sup> **Angolan Cave Chat**
- 5<sup>th</sup> **White-headed Robin-Chat**



*The marvellous Red-crested Turaco (Pete Morris)*