



The stunning Angolan Cave Chat was one of the stars of the tour, and also about the first bird we saw! (Pete Morris)

ANGOLA

7 – 24 SEPTEMBER 2019

LEADER: PETE MORRIS

This was our third visit to Angola in recent years, and wow, things have changed! I'd like to say all for the better, and from a travel comfort point of view, it was all for the better. The visa was easy to get, immigration was easy to navigate, and we did not experience a single police checkpoint delay. On top of that, we stayed in comfortable air conditioned hotels throughout, and were expertly driven round in a converted landcruiser on largely good roads! So what was not to like? Well sadly, the only downside was the environmental devastation which we witnessed throughout the trip. So many fires, so many new charred clearings, so much land clearance. A depressing but all-to-common theme throughout much of the planet, and one has to wonder how much longer the unique wildlife of Angola will survive for. Fortunately enough of it had survived for our visit, and we had an extremely successful trip. We managed to get great views of all of the currently recognized endemics as well as most of the other specialities that we had a chance of, in an impressive total of around 525 species! Of course the star birds were the hoped for specials such as Angola Cave Chat, Monteiro's, Braun's and Gabela Bushshrikes, Gabela Helmetshrike, Swierstra's and Grey-striped Francolins, the strange Pulitzer's Longbill,



Brazza's Martin showed brilliantly - a Birdquest Lifer!! (Pete Morris)

the delightful White-headed Robin Chat and the dinky little Cinderella Waxbill. We were pleased to collect the one potential Birdquest lifer, in the form of the poorly-known Brazza's Martin, and found an array of unexpected bonuses including Egyptian Plover, Grey Pratincole (probably the first Angolan record outside of Cabinda) and a fine summer-plumaged Franklin's Gull which likely represented the second national record after a bird earlier this year! All in all, it was a highly successful and enjoyable visit, if tainted with a little sadness!

Due to airline schedule changes, we began the tour a few hours earlier than anticipated as our flights to Lubango were brought forward to the morning flight. This gave us time to get organized, have lunch at our comfortable lodge, and have a first run out to the Tundavala Escarpment. Although it was not an overly birdy start to the tour, we did have sensational views of our first pair of Angolan Cave Chats, an undoubted highlight of the tour, as well as our first Wailing Cisticolas, Angolan Slaty Flycatchers and Jameson's Firefinches, and swirling flocks of Alpine and Bradfield's Swifts.

The way things had worked out, it made sense for us to have our long day out to Namibe the following day, and this proved to be an extremely interesting and birdy start to the tour, despite the very dry conditions. We passed over the impressive Lebe Pass shortly after dawn, and were soon birding along the roadside. Here, Schalow's Turacos and Short-toed Rock Thrushes soon got our attention, and roadside shrubbery held vocal Swamp Boubous, Carp's Tits, the localized Ludwig's Double-collared Sunbird, Southern Yellow White-eye and a number of other more widespread species. Heading on down we paused at a very dry riverbed that was almost devoid of water. Here, a Pearl-spotted Owlet attracted in a tree full of impressive White-tailed Shrikes (a.k.a. Ground Batis) as well as Pririt Batis, a pair of Bare-cheeked Babblers, a Yellow-bellied Eremomela and a number of more widespread species. Also here were Red-backed and speedy Red-faced Mousebirds, Groundscraper Thrushes, Damara Red-billed and Yellow-billed Hornbills, White-bellied Sunbirds, African Red-eyed Bulbuls, Yellow-bellied Greenbuls, smart Yellow-breasted Apalises, confiding Rufous-tailed Palm Thrushes, and White-browed Sparrow-Weavers. We searched hard for estrildids, but other than a few Green-winged Pytilias and Blue Waxbills few were on offer. Indeed, it looked as though we were going to walk away without the main prize when suddenly a little group of much-wanted Cinderella Waxbills popped into view and delighted us for several minutes! Things were now looking up!

We then continued west towards the coast, encountering more and more arid situations. At one wooded watercourse, we found some Meves's Starlings, Rosy-faced Lovebirds, a fine Crimson-breasted Shrike, a colourful Orange-breasted Bushshrike, Southern White-crowned Shrikes, a pair of Golden-tailed Woodpeckers and an unexpected pair of African Grey Hornbills. As we headed in to more rocky areas, we found a Monteiro's Hornbill, Southern Fiscals and a Kalahari Scrub Robin, Pale-winged Starlings became apparent and Mountain Wheatears hopped amongst the boulders. In the more open desert nearby, we found our first impressive Benguela Long-billed Larks, Sabota Lark, Black-chested Prinias and surprisingly pallid Karoo Chats. Areas of shrubs held Dusky Sunbirds, Chat Flycatchers and mixed flocks of Cape Sparrows and White-throated Canaries, but it was not until we were right out in the desert that we found a delicate Tractrac Chat, Spike-heeled Larks and a small flock of Rüppell's Korhaans, a nice end to our explorations. Speeding back, we paused for a Pale Chanting Goshawk, but really we were eager to get back!



Cinderella Waxbill showed brilliantly and was a star on our first day out (Pete Morris)

The following day we returned to the Tundavala Escarpment, and spent much of our time skulking around looking for rare francolins. The gale force winds really did not help, and soon we had to change plan. We visited a couple of small valleys where birds were not that easy to come by, but we did find some goodies. A pair of Fülleborn's Longclaws were much appreciated, and numerous Oustalet's and Ludwig's Double-collared Sunbirds entertained. Miombo Rock Thrush was another star bird, and we also managed our first Wing-snapping Cisticolas and Angolan Waxbills, as well as Sooty and Familiar Chats, Violet-eared Waxbills, Lark-like Buntings and Buffy Pipits. A stop at a small dam added a smart pair of African Black Ducks and a Three-banded Plover, before we returned to the lodge for a break. Here Red-backed Mousebirds and Hartlaub's Babblers were present in the garden. In the afternoon we had another fruitless francolin search (though we did at least hear one at dusk), though we did find many of our by now familiar friends, and, after dusk, we managed to find both Rufous-cheeked and Freckled Nightjars.

We had one final attempt on the escarpment the following morning. The winds had abated somewhat, but the francolins remained well concealed. A fine Rockrunner singing in the scope was the highlight of our early morning before we headed back for a lavish breakfast! There then followed a rather long drive to the Benguela area, though we did pause for lunch and pick up our first Angolan Batis, and find our first Grey Kestrels. We arrived



Magnificent scenery at the Tundavala Escarpment (Pete Morris)



late in the afternoon in time to explore a couple of areas. At the first, we were delighted to find an obliging pair of Cape Penduline Tits as well as some smart Rüppell's Parrots and a confiding pair of Acacia Pied Barbets. At a nearby area, we scoured some rocky slopes, and here we managed some good scope views of the often tricky Hartlaub's Francolins, sitting high and proud atop the rocks!



Cape Penduline Tit showed superbly near to Benguela (Pete Morris)

We left our pleasant base, to the south of Benguela, early the following morning, and explored some nearby scrubby areas. Here, new birds came thick and fast, as flocks of Scaly-feathered Weavers, Red-billed Queleas, and Lark-like Buntings lined the roadsides. Calls coming from the scrub revealed the presence of a fine male Red-crested Korhaan. Further exploration yielded a couple of Gabar Goshawks, White-browed Coucal, and our first Bubbling Cisticolas, as well as more Kalahari Scrub-Robin and Monteiro's Hornbills. We then set about exploring a series of salt pans and wetlands between Benguela and Lobito. Now this really was list padding at its best! Star of the show was a small group of delicate Chestnut-banded Plovers, but the supporting cast was long and varied! Large flocks of Kelp Gulls were joined by Grey-headed Gulls and (African) Royal and Sandwich Terns, whilst a good variety of waders included a few smart Marsh Sandpipers, groups of Pied Avocets, delightful Water Thick-knees, Kittlitz's and Three-banded Plovers, Wood and Curlew Sandpipers and Little Stint. Greater and Lesser Flamingos were both present in good numbers and Great White Pelicans showed well. Unexpected Southern Pochards popped up and a variety of large waterbirds included African Darters, Yellow-billed and Openbill Storks, Intermediate Egrets, and Black and Squacco Herons. All in all, it was very birdy, providing a significant boost to our already growing bird list!



A fine male Red-crested Korhaan was a surprise near to Benguela (Pete Morris)



Great White Pelicans and a Lesser Flamingo from Lobito (Pete Morris)





The endemic Hartert's Camaroptera is perhaps not the most exciting of the specialities! (Pete Morris)

We then cut back inland, pausing in some thickets where we found our first Pale-olive Greenbuls and Hartert's Camaropteras before continuing on towards Mt Moco. We did make a stop along the way and made a first search along a floodplain where we found a number of Bronze, Copper and Variable Sunbirds as well as African Wattled Lapwings, White-fronted Bee-eaters, more Fülleborn's Longclaws, our first African Yellow and Moustached Grass Warblers, Fawn-breasted and Orange-breasted Waxbills, Black-faced Canaries, an unexpected Dusky Indigobird, and even a Blue Quail for a lucky few. Grey-rumped Swallows were conspicuous and our first stunning Black-and-rufous Swallow was a bonus.

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. On our first day, we explored the lower slopes of the mountain and the small forest patches above Kanjonde village. Heading through the grasslands we soon found smart Black-collared Bulbuls and fabulous Dusky Twinspots, whilst Horus Swifts circled overhead. Reaching the lower forest fragments, we soon found a number of montane forest species. Grey Apalis and White-tailed Blue Flycatchers were conspicuous and we also found our first Black-throated Wattle-eyes, African Hill Babbler, Northern Yellow White-eye, gaudy gold and black Black-chinned Weavers, delightful Bocage's Akalats and a Thick-billed Seedeater. We were also entertained by the clearly very different Rock-loving (Huambo) Cisticolas – a species in waiting! Sadly



Bocage's Akalat and the secretive Finsch's Francolin were both seen well at Mt Moco (Pete Morris)

though, although we could hear Swierstra's Francolins, they refused to budge from the dense undergrowth! We headed back to more open areas where after a bit of effort we found a superb pair of Finsch's Francolins which showed well in the scope, and we also admired Angolan Lark, complete with its fancy song.

In order to reach some of the larger fragments, quite a walk is involved, and indeed, on our second full day, on the mountain, we did undertake quite a walk, made somewhat worse by the incessant near gale force wind! Our aim was to reach the top forest to look for the uncommon Margaret's Batis. Well we got there, seeing a Spotted Eagle Owl on the way, but once there, exploring the steep woodland patch was extremely difficult, and seeing anything from the edge was even more difficult! It was never likely to be a success! We did add a few bits and bobs such as a fabulous African Spotted Creeper and a pair of Olive Woodpeckers, but not a peep from the batis! Slightly disappointed, we headed back down, adding new species such as Plain-backed and Striped Pipits as we went. Fortunately our efforts were not completely wasted! We decided to make a concerted effort for the difficult Swierstra's Francolin, and this time it paid off, as a male bird snook through the forest just a few metres away from us! It was quite a relief! We also found a few interesting species on the drives in and out of Mt Moco, including smart Black-bellied Bustards, an amazing male Pennant-winged Nightjar and several Square-tailed Nightjars.

We also had a day and a half to explore various miombo forest patches and grasslands in the Mt Moco area. As always the miombo woodland could be slow, and hard going, but over the course of several visits to different patches we added some great birds! Perhaps the best of them all were some smart groups of gaudy Black-necked Eremomelas, looking for all the world like some excitable North American wood warbler! Souza's



We enjoyed some great miombo birds near Mt Moco, including stunning Black-necked Eremomemolas, Miombo Pied Barbet and the subtle Souza's Shrike (Pete Morris)





More miombo goodies! Miombo Scrub Robin, Grey Penduline Tit and the delightful Western Miombo Sunbird (Pete Morris)



Shrike was an unexpected bonus and other good species included a fine hooting Miombo Pied Barbet, the localized Pale-billed Hornbill, fine Miombo Scrub Robins, subtle Wood Pipits, gorgeous Orange-winged Pytilias, and, quite unexpectedly in the woodland, some fine Bocage's Weavers. More widespread species found in the various woodlands included Brubru (the interesting form here has no rufous on the flanks), Petit's Cuckoo-shrike, White-winged Black Tit, African Penduline Tit, the cute Red-capped Crombec, Tinkling Cisticola, Miombo Wren-Warbler, flocks of Green-capped Eremomelas, Yellow-bellied Hyliota, Pale Flycatcher, Western Violet-backed and Amethyst Sunbirds and attractive Golden-breasted Buntings.

The grasslands and rivers held a different selection of birds, and here we found one of the highlights of the tour in the shape of the Birdquest lifer, Brazza's Martin. We enjoyed some fine views of this little-known hirundine whilst eating breakfast one morning. In fact it was hirundine heaven as we recorded more than ten species in a day, with other species including Banded Martin and Black-and-rufous, White-throated and Pearl-breasted Swallows! Other new species in these open areas included Coppery-tailed Coucal, an unexpected perched African Cuckoo-Hawk, African Marsh Harrier, good numbers of Red-capped Larks, singing Little Rush Warblers, distinctive Chirping Cisticola, numerous Quailfinches and distinctive Marsh Widowbirds in non-breeding plumage, and we also saw more Bocage's Weavers.



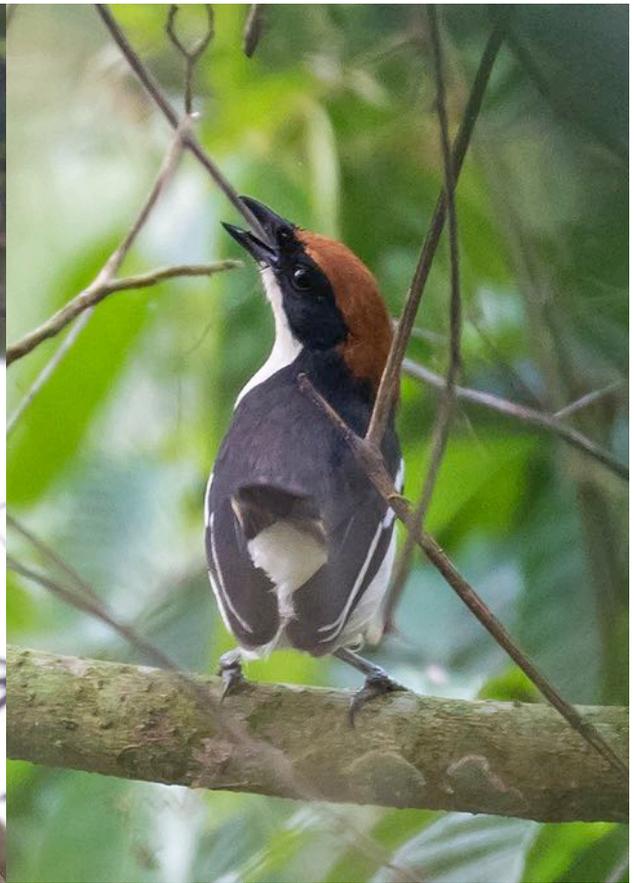
The fine Black-and-rufous Swallow and the Angolan form of Naked-faced Barbet, sometimes split as Pale-throated Barbet (Pete Morris)

We moved from the Mt Moco area to Conda, further north, but managed to squeeze in a visit to Mt Namba on the way. This remote mountain is deserving of more attention as it houses the largest patches of Afro-montane forest remaining in Angola. Sadly our time here was short but we did manage a few good sightings including a pair of the endemic form of Naked-faced Barbet (sometimes split as Pale-throated Barbet), a bird that is seldom seen. The forests held a number of more widespread forest species such as an attractive Western Green Tinkerbird, Purple-throated Cuckooshrikes and skulking Evergreen Forest Warblers and Red-tailed Bristlebills. Walking back down from the forest we flushed a pair of Finsch's Francolins and found a few hulking Croaking Cisticolas, but we needed to move on. We did have time to make a quick stop in some miombo woodland, though it seemed particularly quiet, and other than some smart Western Miombo Sunbirds, little was going on.

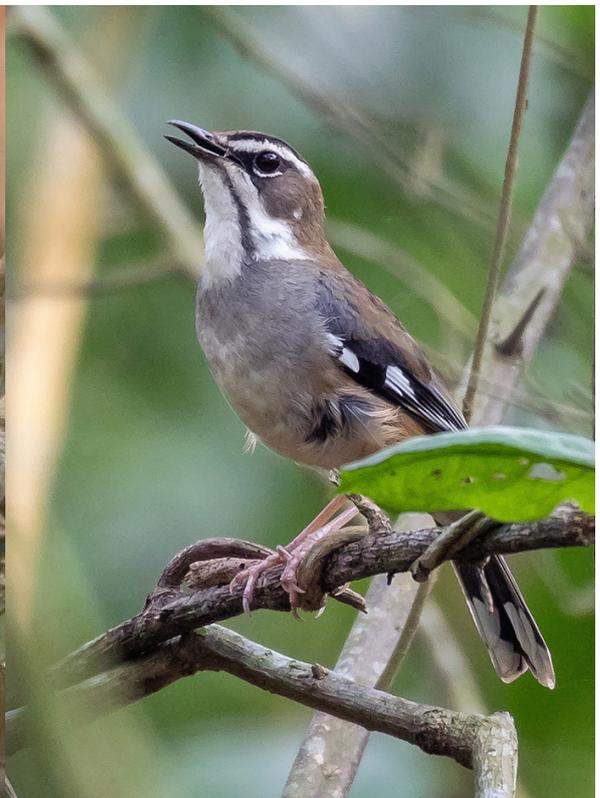
From our base near to Conda, we had a full day and a morning to explore the remnant forest patches in the Kumbira Forest area. Sadly, these central scarp forests have suffered worse habitat destruction than most of the country, and areas that were forest just a few years ago have been reduced to smouldering piles of ash in what is now a terribly depressing landscape! Fortunately, we found just enough trees to find the birds we wanted, but it's desperately worrying that there will be nothing left before too long. Fortunately we still found the three key endemics! We found a couple of pairs of superb Gabela Bushshrikes, a really stunning endemic, almost reminiscent of a stocky Woodchat Shrike. The rather interesting Pulitzer's Longbill gave superb



The interesting blue-eyed Pulitzer's Longbill showed very well (Pete Morris)



Some of the delights of the Kumbira Forest area: The stunning Munteiro's (left) and Gabela Bushshrikes, the incredible Red-crested Turaco and the sweet-singing Forest Scrub Robin (Pete Morris)



views on a number of occasions and we also found a few rather drab but confiding Gabela Akalats, which snook around in the undergrowth like *Ficedula* flycatchers! The supporting cast in this area was pretty good too! Pride of place went to a couple of large 'cuckoo' allies, namely the stunning Red-crested Turaco and the hulking Gabon Coucal, both of which delighted us. A sweet-singing Forest Scrub Robin showed well, and a pair of Monteiro's Bushshrikes were particularly showy and impressive, and we saw several endemic Landana



The other side to Kumbira Forest: sadly much of it looks like this these days and the destruction is continuing at a very high pace! (Pete Morris)

Firefinches which showed very well. Amongst a long list of other species added were several vocal African Goshawks, a confident Red-necked Spurfowl, a showy Tambourine Dove, several sneaky Blue Malkohas, just a single noisy Trumpeter Hornbills, African Pygmy Kingfishers, Brown-backed Honeybirds (giving their weird metallic calls!), more Angolan Batises, Fraser's Rufous Thrush, noisy Yellow-throated Nicators, Falkenstein's Greenbuls, more endemic Pale-olive Greenbuls, numerous buff-faced Green Crombecs, Buff-throated and smart Black-throated Apalises, a few Green Hylia and Hartert's Camaropteras, sneaky Brown Illadopsises, a Red-capped Robin-Chat, a surprise pair of Bocage's Akalats, Black-and-white Mannikins, smart Brown Twinspots, and Orange-cheeked and lovely Grey Waxbills. Mixed canopy flocks held goodies such as more Purple-throated Cuckooshrikes, Southern Hylotias, Dusky Tits and Black-necked Weavers, whilst flowering trees attracted a range of sunbirds which included Collared, Green-headed, Superb, Carmelite, Purple-banded and Olive-bellied Sunbirds.

After what had been a relatively successful, if somewhat depressing visit to the Kumbira Forest area, we were once again on our way, this time heading towards the metropolis of N'dalatando. A roadside stop yielded one of several African Hobbies during the trip as well as a pair of Giant Kingfishers, our only Yellow-billed Ducks of the tour and a Greater Swamp Warbler.

We spent a late afternoon and morning exploring remnant forest patches in Tombingo Forest, close to N'dalatando. This proved to be reasonably productive in the often grey and overcast conditions, and we kept on adding new birds. A fruiting tree was stuffed full of Naked-faced Barbets and also attracted smaller numbers of Speckled Tinkerbirds and Slender-billed and Plain Greenbuls, whilst nearby we found impressive Hairy-breasted and Yellow-billed Barbets. Searching the canopy we found colourful Yellow-mantled Weavers and Red-headed and Crested Malimbés, and several noisy Red-fronted Parrots flew over. Stunning Rufous-vented Paradise Flycatchers were much appreciated and other species of interest included Klaas's Cuckoo, our first Narina Trogon, numerous African Pied Hornbills, our first of many (Eastern) Piping Hornbills, Woodland Kingfisher, Cassin's Honeybird, Lesser Honeyguide, a smart pair of Brown-eared Woodpeckers, a trio of Yellow-crested Woodpeckers, a male Chestnut Wattle-eye, Pink-footed Puffback, numerous Black-winged Orioles, a tuneful Honeyguide Greenbul, spritely Rufous-crowned Eremomelas, our first Splendid Starlings, tree top Sooty Flycatchers, and Little Green, Green-throated and Blue-throated Brown Sunbirds.



A visit to the stunning Calandula Falls was obligatory! (Pete Morris)

After a substantial buffet breakfast, we were on our way again. We paused long enough to enjoy some Rock Pratincoles and a Cassin's Flycatcher, before continuing on to Calandula. We made a brief stop before arriving at Calandula, finally laying eyes on a stunning Gorgeous (or Perrin's) Bushshrike. Here we also began our fascination with the local Green-headed Sunbirds, which look like and react to the calls of Bannerman's Sunbird. We spent some time over the course of the next couple of days trying to get to the bottom of this mystery without much success. Sadly we could only ever find Green-headed Sunbirds (see the text for this species in the checklist notes section).



Gorgeous Bushshrike and Green-headed Sunbird from Calandula (Pete Morris)



Two highlights from the gallery forest at Kinjila, a displaying African Broadbill and the splendid White-headed Robin-Chat (Pete Morris)

The next day and a half we spent searching the gallery forests, miombo woodlands and open grasslands north of Calandula, and specifically around the small village of Kinjila. The gallery forests held our main target, and it did not take too long to track down the gorgeous White-headed Robin-Chat, which serenaded us from the canopy. Also in these dark forests we found some Grey-winged Robin-Chats and a striking male White-spotted Flufftail, and early in the morning we watched a displaying African Broadbill twizzling on its perch.

The miombo held a different set of species, and we spent much of our time exploring the forest close to the village. Highlights included a fine African Barred Owlet and a Pennant-winged Nightjar, two good daytime night-birds! Also here were smart Anchieta's Barbets, more Pale-billed Hornbills and a flyover Thick-billed Cuckoo. We tried hard to find Anchieta's Sunbird, but without success, and whilst looking found a number of other goodies including Bearded Woodpeckers, Meyer's Parrot, more smart Narina Trogons, Retz's and White-crested Helmetshrikes, several White-breasted Cuckooshrikes, Whistling Cisticola, Neddicky, good numbers of localized Sharp-tailed Starlings, flocks of Arrow-marked Babblers, Southern Black Flycatcher and more Western Violet-backed and Amethyst Sunbirds.



A somewhat scruffy looking male Pennant-winged Nightjar from Kinjila (Pete Morris)



African Barred Owlet, Brown-headed Apalis and Anchieta's Barbet were three more goodies from Kinjila (Pete Morris)



Nearby, around the village we found some other goodies such as the stunning Ross's Turacos, the much-wanted Black-backed Barbet, a smart Black Cuckoo, Black Scimitar-bills and a single singing Brown-headed Apalis. We also stayed on until after dark on one evening and soon achieved fine views of a Fiery-necked Nightjar and some very cute African Scops Owls.

We also stopped at a couple of rivers, and here we admired the hordes of hirundines, which included impressive numbers of Red-throated Cliff Swallows. The nearby grasslands held other species such as Blue-headed Coucal, smart Marsh Tchagras, Chirping Cisticolas and Yellow-throated Leafloves, and we also managed to identify Red-headed Queleas and Yellow-mantled Widowbirds amongst the flocks of seed eating birds. In the rivers we came across Black Crakes, Striated Heron and Malachite Kingfishers.

On our final day we headed back into Calandula, and made a stop at the highly impressive Calandula Falls, giving us time to admire this natural wonder. After lunch and packing up, we were soon moving on again, and made a couple of roadside stops in more miombo woodland. We managed to add a couple more new species including the attractive Rufous-bellied Tit and a singing Greater Honeyguide. By the time we got to Uige it was already late in the day, and our half-hearted efforts to explore some scrubby forest on the outskirts of town proved quite fruitless.



Several superb Marsh Tchagras showed well in the north (Pete Morris)

We then had the following two days to explore the northern scarp forests from our base in Uige. We spent most of that time in some forest patches south of Quitexe, known as Damengola Forest where our main target was the delightful Braun's Bushshrike. Fortunately it did not take us too long to find this wonderful species, and we enjoyed great views of a few pairs of this stunner! It was a pretty birdy area, and during the course of our birding, we added a good number of West African forest species. The scope was busy, as we soon had Afep and Western Bronze-naped Pigeons lined up. On the dead snags we found Bristle-nosed Barbets and Narrow-tailed and Chestnut-winged Starlings, alongside delightful Black Bee-eaters. Gorgeous Guinea Turacos and colossal Great Blue Turacos both showed well, and a Bat Hawk flew by which was quite a surprise!. On one morning we watched in awe as two huge Black-casqued Hornbills flew about, and other good species seen here included African Emerald Cuckoos, a fine Buff-spotted Woodpecker, African and Black-and-white Shrike Flycatchers, smart Bocage's Bushshrikes, Velvet-mantled Drongos, some lovely Banded and White-chinned Prinias, smart Lowland Masked Apalises, a confiding Yellow Longbill (eventually!), Blue-headed Crested Flycatchers, Dusky-blue Flycatcher, and Grey-headed, White-breasted and Chestnut-breasted Nigritas. In the



The amazing Yellow Longbill showed brilliantly in Damengola Forest (Pete Morris)



A couple of highlights from the northern scarp: the stunning Braun's Bushshrike and a fine Red-rumped Tinkerbird (Pete Morris)

adjacent scrubby grasslands we found a few goodies including more Black-collared Bulbuls, a singing Brown-backed Scrub Robin and a Fan-tailed Grassbird. In another patch of forest nearer to Uige, which was being cleared rapidly, we added a fantastic Ayres's Hawk Eagle, a really fine Red-rumped Tinkerbird and a most unexpected Yellow-spotted Barbet!

Heading on south, we made a few roadside stops, though it was pretty warm. We did however add the much-wanted Gabela Helmetshrike, a flock of which showed very well indeed. We then skirted around Luanda and headed down towards Kissama National Park. We had time for one last stop, and were very surprised to find a Grey Pratincole hawking along the river by the bridge. Apparently this represents the first record for Angola south of Cabinda, so quite a rarity!



Our first flock of Gabela Helmetshrikes were great to see! (Pete Morris)



Obliging roadside Grey-striped Francolins were a welcome bonus (Pete Morris)

Well the following day we set off into the dry forests of Kissama National Park with a relatively small hit list! We required three more major targets, one of which was likely to prove pretty tricky... We set off just before dawn, and 30mins later we were watching the tricky one, as a pair of excellent Grey-striped Francolins performed at length for us. Smiles all round! Golden-backed Bishop caused no problems at all, as flocks seemed to be everywhere. They were in non-breeding dress, but at least this one is a distinctive one with its pale yellow supercilium and almost chestnut crown in some individuals. So we were down to our last endemic! Now I would not have anticipated White-fronted Wattle-eye being our final endemic, and I would not have anticipated it putting up such a struggle. More gangs of Gabela Helmetshrikes passed through, and every other likely bird seemed to appear, and then eventually, after one false start, a piping song attracted our attention. A little careful manoeuvring and there they were... a fine pair of White-fronted Wattle-eyes. A lovely way to round off our



Böhm's Spinetail and Golden-backed Bishop were both common in Kissama National Park (Pete Morris)



These lovely White-fronted Wattle-eyes represented our final endemics whilst Egyptian Plover was a fine bonus bird! (Pete Morris)



endemic quest! But we were far from done... there was some serious list padding to be done! Straight from breakfast we were watching a stunning pair of Egyptian Plovers, and we then turned our attention more to the skies and the wetlands! Collared Pratincoles drifted overhead, an African Hobby mobbed an Ayres's Hawk Eagle, Böhm's and Mottled Spinetails sped by, and wetlands held an array of new species including numerous Knob-billed Ducks amongst the hordes of White-faced Whistling Ducks, an unexpected White-backed Duck, a few diddy African Pygmy Geese, groups of Spur-winged Geese, a couple of hulking Marabou Storks, hundreds and hundreds of African Jacanas, a few unexpected Long-toed Lapwings and a couple of huge Goliath Herons, Purple and Squacco Herons, a few vocal African Fish Eagles, Pied Kingfishers and loads of Olive Bee-eaters.



Lunch in Damengola Forest... though not for us thankfully!! (Pete Morris)

With one final day to enjoy ourselves, we decided to see how many species we could add on the final day of the tour. We made our way slowly through Kissama National Park, eyes peeled for anything new. We began the day on 509 species, and we had that distant goal of 520! We're not usually purely after numbers, but with our major targets under the belt, it seemed like fun. As we drove through the park, scattering Grey-striped Francolins as we went, new birds were slow to come. Several Brown Snake Eagles sat sentinel, and we laid eyes on Long-billed Crombec (having heard them previously), and then finally some smart Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters popped up and we were up and running with new birds! As we went on, the habitat changed, and we began to see more Lilac-breasted Rollers, Southern Yellow Hornbills and some Rüppell's Parrots. Large nests gave away the presence of Red-billed Buffalo Weavers, and a small flock of Wattled Starlings were another addition. As we continued, a large flock of the interesting West African subspecies of Helmeted Guineafowl were scattered from the road. We arrived at the Kwanza River, and soon found a flock of Lesser Masked Weavers and a trio of Long-legged Pipits, and in the nearby mangroves we found a fine Blue-breasted Kingfisher and a subtle Mangrove Sunbird. We were advancing and the key to our 520 lay at the Kuanza Rivermouth...

Or so we thought. We arrived at the river mouth to find a very high tide and few birds. We did add Western Osprey, Sanderling and Common Tern, but we were still two short. We waited a while and as the tide dropped, the numbers of (African) Royal Terns increased slowly, but little else appeared. Plan B was required, and we decided to head up to, and explore, Mussulo Bay, south of Luanda. This proved to be a good call as the bay was full of flamingos, waders, gulls and terns. Quick scans soon revealed several White-fronted Plovers and then a check of some distant Great White Pelicans revealed the presence of some Bar-tailed Godwits and 520 was in the bag! We were now on bonus time. Our next stop revealed the biggest surprise of the tour as a black-hooded gull had me leaping out the car saying something to the effect of "bl**dy hell, that looks like a Franklin's Gull". And sure enough, that's exactly what it was, a fine adult Franklin's Gull in full breeding finery. Apparently the second for Angola after a record in May this year, and a decent 'bonus' bird!

We continued just a few kilometres further and decided to end the tour with a seawatch. This looked promising as within a couple of minutes of setting up, a Sooty Shearwater powered south and a Humpback Whale breached! We stuck at it for a little while and added plenty more shearwaters, half a dozen Wilson's Storm Petrels and a few Cape Gannets, and turning our attention to the terns, we were delighted to find good numbers of smart Damara Terns on the beach! Bonus time had taken us up to 525 species and provided an exciting end to an excellent tour. We had pushed our time in the field to the limit, and made our way back to Luanda for a final meal on the beach, before heading to the airport and our flights home. My second tour to Angola had been very different to my first. Much more comfortable, and much easier in many ways, with even more and better birds! Just that tinge of sadness thinking of all of those plumes of smoke and orange glows everywhere we looked. There is local awareness, so let's just hope something is done before it's all too late!



A surprise adult Franklin's Gull and Damara Terns... two of our final species! (Pete Morris)



African Scops Owl from Kinjila, with a friend on his shoulder!! (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).

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

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

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

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>

(EW) = Extinct in the wild, **(CR)** = Critically Endangered, **(EN)** = Endangered, **(VU)** = Vulnerable, **(NT)** = Near Threatened, **(DD)** = Data Deficient.

For polytypic species, the subspecies seen on the tour, where known, is placed in parentheses at the end of the species comment. Generally, species listed with trinomials are not currently split by the IOC.

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **2019. IOC World Bird List (v 9.2)**. This list is updated twice annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>. Please note, this was the current version when the report checklist was created. Some alternative names are given in parentheses.

All of our checklists are powered by our partner iGoTerra (www.igoterra.com) who provide web and mobile applications for bird and wildlife enthusiasts and businesses. Their suite of services cover observations, rankings, lists, photos and trip management tools.

BIRDS

- Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* See note.
- Finsch's Francolin ◊ *Scleroptila finschi* Excellent views of a pair with two young on Mt Moco. Also seen at Mt Namba.
- Grey-striped Francolin ◊ *Pternistis griseostriatus* Excellent views of several in Kissama NP.
- Swierstra's Francolin ◊ *Pternistis swierstrai* (EN) We eventually got excellent views of one on Mt Moco – after much effort!
- Hartlaub's Spurfowl ◊ *Pternistis hartlaubi* Several, including young, scoped inland from Benguela.
- Red-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis afer* See note.
- Blue Quail ◊ *Excalfactoria adansonii* (NL) One flushed by some near to Mt Moco.
- White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata* Thousands seen in the wetlands in Kissama NP.
- White-backed Duck *Thalassornis leuconotus* Good scope views of one in the wetlands south in Kissama NP [nominate].
- Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis* c 25 seen at dusk in the wetlands in Kissama NP [nominate].
- Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos* 20+ seen in the wetlands in Kissama NP.
- African Pygmy Goose *Nettapus auritus* Reasonable scope views of six in the wetlands in Kissama NP.
- Hottentot Teal *Spatula hottentota* (LO) Two seen in flight at the pools in Lobito.
- African Black Duck *Anas sparsa* A pair on the dam near the Tundavala Escarpment [*leucostigma*].
- Yellow-billed Duck *Anas undulata* Four seen at a wetland on the drive from Gabela to N'dalatando [nominate].
- Cape Teal *Anas capensis* Good numbers seen at the pools in Lobito.
- Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhyncha* One on the dam near the Tundavala Escarpment. Also seen near Lobito.
- Southern Pochard *Netta erythrophthalma* A pair seen at the pools south of Lobito [*brunnea*].
- Rufous-cheeked Nightjar *Caprimulgus rufigena* A male in the plain at Tundavala appeared to be this species [*damarensis*].
- Fiery-necked Nightjar *Caprimulgus pectoralis* Good spotlight views of one near Kinjila village [*shelleyi*].
- Freckled Nightjar *Caprimulgus tristigma* One seen at dusk at the Tundavala Escarpment [*lentiginosus*].
- Square-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus fossii* Best views were near to Mt Moco [*welwitschii*].
- Pennant-winged Nightjar *Caprimulgus vexillarius* A fine male at Mt Moco, and another in the miombo near to Kinjila.
- Mottled Spinetail *Telacanthura ussheri* Best views were in Kissama NP [*benguellensis*].
- Böhm's Spinetail *Neafrapus boehmi* Best views were in Kissama NP.
- African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus* First seen on the journey from Lubango to Benguela [*brachypterus*].
- Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* First seen at the Tundavala Escarpment [*africanus*].
- Mottled Swift *Tachymarptis aequatorialis* Seen a number of times.
- Common Swift *Apus apus* Plenty seen well, the first conclusively on the journey to Calandula.
- Bradfield's Swift *Apus bradfieldi* Seen in numbers at the Tundavala Escarpment, and at the Lebe Pass [nominate].
- Little Swift *Apus affinis* Seen a number of times. Often at buildings, bridges etc [*theresae*].
- Horus Swift *Apus horus* Great views of a flock of c8, above Kanjonde on Mt Moco [nominate].
- White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer* Several seen, the first on the journey to Calandula.
- Great Blue Turaco *Corythaeola cristata* Good views of several in Damengola Forest, south of Quitexe.
- Guinea Turaco *Tauraco persa* Good views of one and others heard in Damengola Forest, south of Quitexe [*zenkeri*].
- Schalow's Turaco *Tauraco schalowi* Nest views were at the Lebe Pass on the day trip from Lubango to Namibe.
- Red-crested Turaco ◊ *Tauraco erythrolophus* Best views were in the Kumbira Forest area.
- Ross's Turaco *Musophaga rossae* Good views of one near Kinjila village.
- Grey Go-away-bird *Corythaixoides concolor* Very common on the day trip to Namibe and in Kissama NP [*pallidiceps*].
- Rüppell's Korhaan ◊ *Eupodotis rueppelii* Great views of six on the day trip from Lubango to Namibe.
- Red-crested Korhaan *Lophotis ruficrista* Great views of one or two males near to Benguela.
- Black-bellied Bustard *Lissotis melanogaster* A few seen well along the entrance road to Mt Moco [nominate].
- Gabon Coucal ◊ *Centropus anelli* Good views of one, and others heard, in the Kumbira Forest area.
- Blue-headed Coucal *Centropus monachus* One scoped up near to Kinjila village [*occidentalis*].
- Coppery-tailed Coucal *Centropus cupreicaudus* Just one seen in the Mt Moco area [nominate].
- White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus* A few seen, the first near to Lobito [*loandae*].
- Blue Malkoha *Ceuthmochares aereus* A few seen well, the first in the Kumbira Forest area [nominate].
- Thick-billed Cuckoo ◊ *Pachycoccyx audeberti* One seen in flight near to Kinjila village [*validus*].
- Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas* Commonly heard, and several seen well.
- African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus* A couple of females seen and others heard in Damengola Forest.
- Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus* Good views of a couple around Kinjila village [nominate].
- Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius* A few heard and a couple seen around Kinjila village.
- African Cuckoo *Cuculus gularis* Good views of one perched up on the drive from Calandula to Uige.
- Rock Dove (Feral) *Columba livia* (introduced)



A fine Black-bellied Bustard at Mt Moco and Rüppell's Korhaans from the Namibe Desert (Pete Morris)



- Afep Pigeon** *Columba uncinata* Excellent views of a couple perched up in Damengola Forest, south of Quitexe.
- African Olive Pigeon** *Columba arquatrix* One seen at the Tundavala Escarpment.
- Western Bronze-naped Pigeon** ♦ *Columba iriditorques* Good scope views of a singing bird in Damengola Forest.
- Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata* First seen on the day trip from Lubango to Namibe.
- Ring-necked Dove** *Streptopelia capicola* Very common. First seen in Lubango [onguatj].
- Laughing Dove** *Spilopelia senegalensis* Common. First seen on the day trip from Lubango to Namibe [noinate].
- Emerald-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur chalcospilos* First seen on the day trip from Lubango to Namibe.
- Blue-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur afer* A few seen well, especially in the Calandula area.
- Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistria* First seen well in the Kumbira Forest area. A few others seen in the north.
- Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis* Small numbers seen, the first on the day trip from Lubango to Namibe.
- African Green Pigeon** *Treron calvus* Two forms noted: *ansorgei* in the south, nominate in the north..

White-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura pulchra* Good views of a male in the gallery forest at Kinjila village [*centralis*].

Black Crane *Amaurornis flavirostra* A pair seen well at the river near to Kinjila village.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* A few seen, first at the pools in Lobito [*meridionalis*].

Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata* One seen at the pools south of Lobito. Also in the southern outskirts of Luanda.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* c10 at the dam near to Tundavala. A few others subsequently [*capensis*].

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* Small numbers around Benguela and Lobito and 100s in Mussulo Bay.

Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor* (NT) Thousands at the pools south of Benguela and around Lobito.

Common Buttonquail *Turnix sylvaticus* A single flushed and seen briefly at the Tundavala [*lepurana*].

Water Thick-knee *Burhinus vermiculatus* 40+ at the pools in Lobito were impressive [nominate].

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* Good numbers at the pools south of Benguela and around Lobito.

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* 50+ at the pools in Lobito. Also seen in Mussulo Bay.

Long-toed Lapwing *Vanellus crassirostris* At least four seen in the wetlands in Kissama NP.

African Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus* First seen along the river along the road to Mt. Moco [*lateralis*].

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* A single seen at the pools in Lobito. A few on the last day [nominate].

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* Small numbers at the pools near Benguela and in Mussulo Bay [*tundrae*].

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius* Small numbers at the pools near Benguela and in Mussulo Bay.

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris* A few seen the first on the dam near to the Tundavala Escarpment [nominate].

White-fronted Plover *Charadrius marginatus* Good numbers seen in Mussulo Bay [*mechowi*].

Chestnut-banded Plover *Charadrius pallidus* (NT) Six (including smart males) seen well at south of Benguela [nominate].

Egyptian Plover ♠ *Pluvianus aegyptius* Brilliant views of a pair on the Kwanza River in Kissama NP!



Another view of the cracking Egyptian Plover from Kissama NP (Pete Morris)

African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus* 100s in the wetlands south of Muxima in Kissama NP.

Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius [phaeopus] phaeopus* Three seen at the pools in Lobito. Plenty more on the last day.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* (NT) A single seen at the pools in Lobito. At least one more on the last day.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* (NT) Several seen in Mussulo Bay [*taymyrensis*].

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* Three seen at the pools in Lobito and a few in Mussulo Bay [nominate].

Ruff *Calidris pugnax* A few seen at the pools south of Benguela.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* (NT) Several around Benguela and Lobito and many more in Mussulo Bay.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* Six at the Kwanza river mouth and several in Mussulo Bay [nominate].

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* Plenty around Benguela and Lobito and many more in Mussulo Bay.
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Small numbers, the first on the dam near to the Tundavala Escarpment.
Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* A few seen at the pools south of Benguela and around Lobito.
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* A single south of Lobito and a few in the wetlands in Kissama NP.
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* A few seen the first at the pools south of Benguela and around Lobito.
Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* A few seen around Muxima in Kissama NP.
Rock Pratincole *Glareola nuchalis* c6 seen nicely at the Lucala river crossing [nominate].
Grey Pratincole ◊ *Glareola cinerea* One seen well feeding over the Kwanza River. The first for Angola outside Cabinda!
Grey-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus* A few seen at the pools in Lobito and in Mussulo Bay.
Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan* A stunning adult in full breeding plumage in Mussulo Bay. Second for Angola!
Kelp Gull (Cape G) *Larus [dominicanus] vetula* Common around Benguela, Lobito, the Kuanza river and Mussulo Bay.
Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* Common around Benguela, Lobito, the Kuanza river and Mussulo Bay.
Royal Tern (African R T) *Thalasseus [maximus] albidorsalis* Seen near Benguela, Kwanza River and Mussulo Bay.
Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis* 150+ seen at the pools south of Benguela. Also a few in Mussulo Bay.
Damara Tern ◊ *Sternula balaenarum* (VU) Great views of 50+ on the beach off Mussulo Bay. Crackers.
Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* A few at the Kwanza Rivermouth and many more on the beach off Mussulo Bay [nominate].
White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* A single moulting adult seen at the pools in Lobito.
Wilson's Storm Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* Five plus seen heading south from the beach off Mussulo Bay.
Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea* (NT) At least 10 seen heading south from the beach off Mussulo Bay.
Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis* 10+ seen at pools south of Lobito.
African Openbill *Anastomus lamelligerus* c5 seen near to Lobito and 100s in the wetlands in Kissama NP [nominate].
Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumenifer* Two or three seen in the wetlands in Kissama NP.
Cape Gannet *Morus capensis* (EN) At least three seen from the beach off Mussulo Bay.
Reed Cormorant *Microcarbo africanus* Plenty seen, the first at the pools south of Benguela [nominate].
White-breasted Cormorant *Phalacrocorax lucidus* Good numbers at the pools in Lobito and in Mussulo Bay.
African Darter *Anhinga rufa* 10+ seen at pools south of Lobito [nominate].
African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus* A few seen at the pools south of Lobito.
African Spoonbill *Platalea alba* Several seen at the pools south of Benguela and around Lobito.
Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* (NL) One seen by Bob in the wetlands in Kissama NP.
Striated Heron *Butorides striata* One seen at the river near Kinjila village [atricapilla].
Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* Small numbers near Lobito and plenty in the wetlands in Kissama NP.
Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Fairly common... first seen near to Lubango.
Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* Small numbers. First seen at the pools south of Benguela and around Lobito [nominate].
Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala* A few, first seen near to Lubango.
Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath* A couple seen in the wetlands in Kissama NP.
Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* A few seen, mostly in the wetlands in Kissama NP [nominate].
Great Egret *Ardea alba* First seen at the pools south of and around Lobito [melanorhynchos].
Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia* Two fully-plumed birds at the pools near Lobito. Also seen in Kissama NP [brachyrhyncha].
Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca* Good numbers (50+) seen at the pools south of Lobito.
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* First seen at the pools south of Benguela and around Lobito [nominate].
Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* Great views, especially at the pools in Lobito.
Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* Just one seen, at the Kwanza Rivermouth [nominate].
Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* Common in open country [nominate].
African Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides typus* Widespread, first seen on the day trip to Namibe [nominate].
Palm-nut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis* First seen over the pools in Lobito. Many more seen.
African Cuckoo-Hawk *Aviceda cuculoides* Good scope views of a perched bird in the Mt Moco area [verreauxii].
Black-chested Snake Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis* One seen on the day trip from Lubango to Namibe.
Brown Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinereus* A few, most conspicuous in Kissama NP.
Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus* (NT) Several, including one feeding on a road kill galago.
Bat Hawk *Macheiramphus alcinus* One seen flying by at Damengola Forest, south of Quitexe [anderssoni].
Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis* A few seen, the first on the journey from Lobito to Mt Moco.
Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraaetus wahlbergi* A dark morph adult seen at Damengola Forest.
Ayres's Hawk-Eagle *Hieraaetus ayresii* Adults seen well over forest near to Uige, and another in Kissama NP.
Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* (VU) One seen soaring over Kinjila [nominate].
Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus* A few seen, the first in the Mt Moco region [meridionalis].
Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar* Two immature birds seen near to Benguela [nominate].



Pale Chanting Goshawk showed superbly on our day trip to Namibe (Pete Morris)

- Pale Chanting Goshawk** *Melierax canorus* Great views of one on the day trip from Lubango to Namibe [*argentior*].
- African Goshawk** *Accipiter tachiro* A few seen, the first near to Gabela [*sparsimfasciatus*].
- Little Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter minullus* Seen between Lubango to Namibe and near Muxima. Tiny! [nominate].
- African Marsh Harrier** *Circus ranivorus* A few in the Mt Moco and Calandula areas.
- Yellow-billed Kite** *Milvus aegyptius* Of note, were the many feeding on termites around Kinjila [*parasitus*].
- African Fish Eagle** *Haliaeetus vocifer* Several seen well in the wetlands in Kissama NP.
- Red-necked Buzzard** *Buteo auguralis* First seen along the entrance road to Mt Moco. Plenty more seen.
- Augur Buzzard** *Buteo augur* First seen at the Lebe Pass on the day trip to Namibe. Several more noted.
- Western Barn Owl** *Tyto alba* One seen briefly one morning on the way to Mt Moco [*poensis*].
- African Scops Owl** *Otus senegalensis* Great views of a couple near Kinjila village [nominate].
- Spotted Eagle-Owl** *Bubo africanus* Daytime views of one in a forest patch on Mt Moco [nominate].
- Pearl-spotted Owlet** *Glaucidium perlatum* One in a dry river on the day trip to Namibe, another in Kissama NP [*licua*].
- African Barred Owlet** ◊ *Glaucidium capense* Excellent views of one (more heard) in the near to Kinjila [*ngamiense*].
- Speckled Mousebird** *Colius striatus* Several in the north, first seen above Kanjonde on Mt Moco [*nigricollis*].
- Red-backed Mousebird** ◊ *Colius castanotus* First seen at Casper Lodge in Lubango. Many more seen well.
- Red-faced Mousebird** *Urocolius indicus* First seen on the day trip to Namibe. Plenty more seen well [*lactefrons*].
- Narina Trogon** *Apaloderma narina* One seen at Tombingo Forest, and a couple seen well near to Kinjila [*narina*].
- African Hoopoe** *Upupa africana* Most seen were in the miombo near to Kinjila village.
- Green Wood Hoopoe** *Phoeniculus purpureus* A group of three seen well in the miombo near to Kinjila [*angolensis*].
- Black Scimitarbill** *Rhinopomastus aterrimus* Best views were in the miombo near to Kinjila village [*anchietae*].
- Common Scimitarbill** *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas* Three seen on the day trip from Lubango to Namibe [nominate].
- Damara Red-billed Hornbill** ◊ *Tockus damarensis* Several on the day trip to Namibe and around Benguela.
- Monteiro's Hornbill** *Tockus monteiri* Good views of one on the day trip to Namibe and two near Benguela. Huge bills!
- Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill** *Tockus leucomelas* A pair on the day trip to Namibe and loads in Kissama NP [*elegans*].
- Crowned Hornbill** *Lophoceros alboterminatus* First seen in Lubango. Common in the central scarp forests.

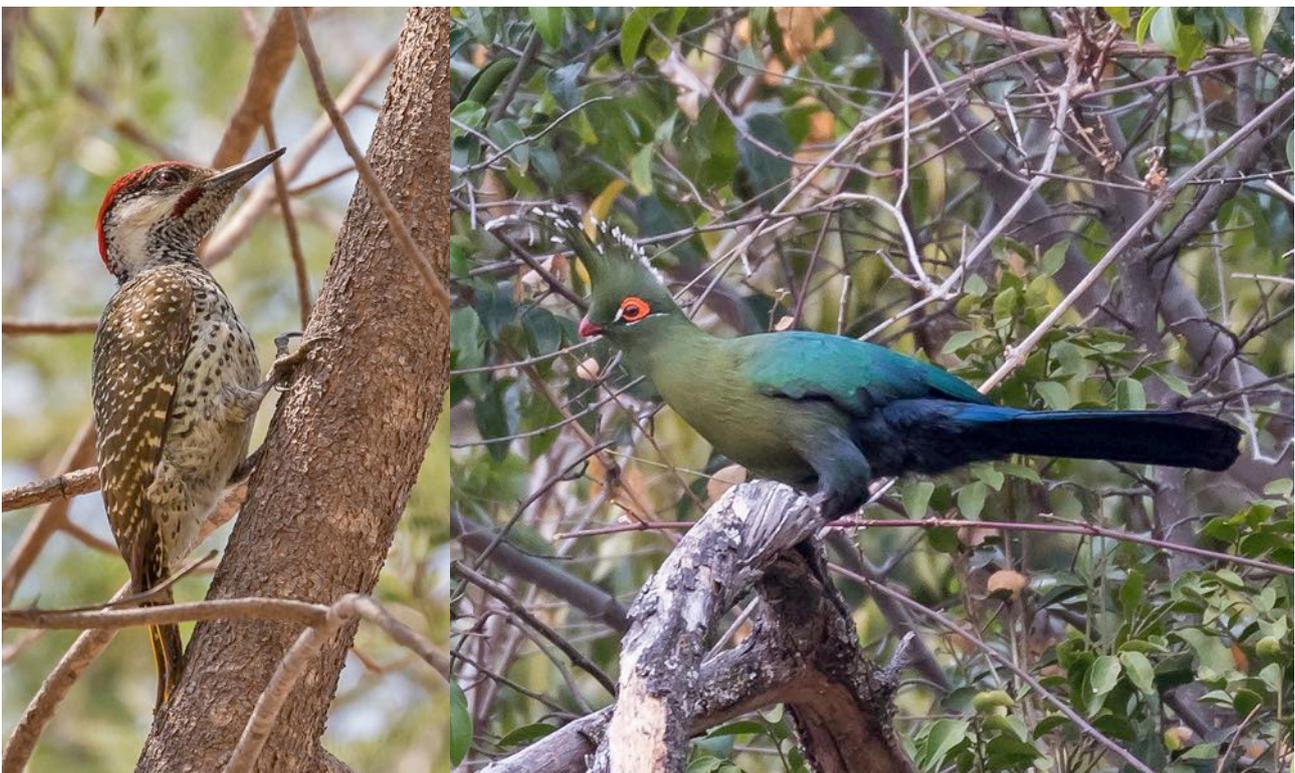


Red-backed Mousebirds were common in the south and west. We also enjoyed good looks at a few Pale-billed Hornbills and smart Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters (Pete Morris)



- African Pied Hornbill (Congo P H) *Lophoceros [fasciatus] fasciatus*** Common around Kumbira Forest and Uige area.
- African Grey Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus*** A pair seen at on the day trip from Lubango to Namibe [*epirhinus*].
- Pale-billed Hornbill** ♦ *Lophoceros pallidirostris* Great views near Mt Moco and near to Kinjila village [nominate].
- Piping Hornbill (Eastern P H) *Bycanistes [fistulator] sharpii*** Plenty seen in the north.
- Trumpeter Hornbill *Bycanistes bucinator*** One seen in what is left of Kumbira Forest.
- Black-casqued Hornbill *Ceratogymna atrata*** Nice views of an impressive pair in Damengola Forest.
- Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus*** First seen at Mt. Moco. Plenty seen as we drove through Kissama NP [nominate].
- Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus*** First seen near Kinjila, and plenty more later in the tour [*suahelicus*].
- Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala*** Just one seen near to Mt Moco [*pallidiventris*].
- Brown-hooded Kingfisher *Halcyon albiventris*** A few seen, the first near to Mt Moco [*prentissgrayii*].
- Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti*** First seen on the trip to Namibe, and particularly common in Kissama NP [nominate].
- Blue-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon malimbica*** Heard and glimpsed at Kinjila; great looks on the Kwanza River [nominate].
- Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis*** First seen at Tombingo Forest. Plenty more seen well later [*fuscopileus*].
- African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta*** Several seen, especially in the Kumbira Forest area [*ferrugina*].
- Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus*** Good views of one near Kinjila village [nominate].
- Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima*** A pair seen at a wetland on the drive to N'dalatando. A few others seen [nominate].
- Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*** A few seen, especially around Calandula, Kissama NP and along the coast [nominate].
- Black Bee-eater *Merops gularis*** Great views of several in Damengola Forest, south of Quitexe [*australis*].
- Swallow-tailed Bee-eater *Merops hirundineus*** Great views of a pair in Kissama NP and a few others briefly [nominate].
- Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus*** Two forms noted: *argutus* in the south, *meridionalis* in the north.
- White-fronted Bee-eater *Merops bullockoides*** Several seen along the river near to Mt. Moco.

Olive Bee-eater *Merops superciliosus* Common in Kissama NP and along the coast [*alternans*].
 European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* A few seen, the first in Damengola Forest, south of Quitexe.
 Bristle-nosed Barbet ◊ *Gymnobucco peli* Great views of a few in Damengola Forest, south of Quitexe.
 Naked-faced Barbet *Gymnobucco calvus* Dozens seen well at Tombingo and Damengola Forests [*congicus*].
 Naked-faced Barbet ◊ (Pale-throated B) *Gymnobucco [calvus] vernayi* Excellent views of 2 at Mt Namba.
 Anchieta's Barbet ◊ *Stactolaema anchietae* A few seen well, especially in the miombo near Kinjila village [*katangae*].
 Speckled Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus scolopaceus* First seen well at Tombingo Forest [*flavisquamatus*].
 Western Tinkerbird (W Green T) *Pogoniulus coryphaea* Heard at Mt Moco, then great views at Mt Namba [*angolensis*].
 Red-rumped Tinkerbird ◊ *Pogoniulus atroflavus* Brilliant views of one in forest near to Uige. A smart bird!
 Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus bilineatus* Common in the northern forests, first in the Kumbira Forest area [*leucolaimus*].
 Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus chrysoconus* A few on the day trip to Namibe, and several in miombo sites [*extoni*].
 Yellow-spotted Barbet *Buccanodon duchailloi* One seen well (singing) in the forest near Uige. A surprise!
 Hairy-breasted Barbet (Brown-streaked B) *Tricholaema [hirsuta] angolensis* See note.
 Miombo Pied Barbet ◊ *Tricholaema frontata* Stunning views of a singing bird in the Mt Moco area.
 Acacia Pied Barbet *Tricholaema leucomelas* A pair seen well inland from Benguela [*centralis*].
 Black-collared Barbet *Lybius torquatus* Two forms: *bocagei* in the south; *congicus* in the north.
 Black-backed Barbet (Brown-faced B) *Lybius [minor] minor* See note.
 Yellow-billed Barbet (Eastern Y-b B) *Trachyphonus [purpuratus] purpuratus* Several heard; seen in Tombingo Forest.
 Cassin's Honeybird *Prodotiscus insignis* A few in flight calling, and one scoped at Tombingo Forest [nominate].
 Green-backed Honeybird *Prodotiscus zambesiae* One seen in miombo in the Mt Moco area [*lathburyi*].
 Brown-backed Honeybird *Prodotiscus regulus* See note.
 Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor* Seen well at Tombingo Forest, just west of N'dalatando. Others heard [*teitensis*].
 Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator* One seen well in miombo on the drive from Calandula to Uige.
 Red-throated Wryneck *Jynx ruficollis* One seen in the forest patch above Kanjonde on Mt Moco [nominate].
 Golden-tailed Woodpecker *Campethera abingoni* See note.
 Buff-spotted Woodpecker *Campethera nivosa* Excellent views of one in Damengola Forest [nominate].
 Brown-eared Woodpecker *Campethera caroli* Good scope views of a pair at Tombingo Forest [nominate].
 Bearded Woodpecker *Chloropicus namaquus* Good views of one in the miombo near to Kinjila village [nominate].
 Yellow-crested Woodpecker *Chloropicus xantholophus* Good views of 3 at Tombingo Forest.
 Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens* Two forms: *loandae* in the south, *sharpii* in the north.
 Elliot's Woodpecker *Dendropicos elliotii* (NL) A pair seen by some near to Gabela.
 Olive Woodpecker *Dendropicos griseocephalus* One seen in the highest forest patch on Mt Moco [*ruwenzori*].



A couple of goodies from our first day out... Golden-tailed Woodpecker and Schalow's Turaco (Pete Morris)

Rock Kestrel *Falco rupicolus* A few, first seen at the Tundavala Escarpment.
Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus* Several seen on journeys and in Kissama NP.
African Hobby *Falco cuvierii* Several good looks, including one mobbing an Ayres's Hawk Eagle in Kissama NP.
Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* One with prey over Kanjonde village on Mt Moco [*minor*].
Red-fronted Parrot ◊ *Poicephalus gulielmi* Nine over Tombingo Forest, and two over Damengola Forest [nominate].
Meyer's Parrot *Poicephalus meyeri* A few seen well in the miombo near to Kinjila village [*matschiei*].
Rüppell's Parrot ◊ *Poicephalus rueppellii* Great views of near Benguela and also seen in Kissama NP.
Rosy-faced Lovebird ◊ *Agapornis roseicollis* Seen on the trip to Namibe, near Benguela and at the Kuanza river [*catumbella*].
African Broadbill *Smithornis capensis* Great views of a displaying bird in the gallery forest at Kinjila [*albigularis*].
Chinspot Batis *Batis molitor* Two forms seen: *palliditergum* in the south; *pinto* in the north.
Pririt Batis *Batis pririt* A couple seen on the trip to Namibe and several near to Benguela [*affinis*].
Angolan Batis ◊ *Batis minulla* A few seen well, the first on the journey from Lubango to Benguela. Nice song.



A smart male Angolan Batis and female Black-throated Wattle-eye (above) and White-crested and Retz's Helmetshrikes (below) (Pete Morris)



White-tailed Shrike *Lanioturdus torquatus* Plenty on the day trip to Namibe, including c15 mobbing a Pearl-spotted Owlet!
Chestnut Wattle-eye *Platysteira castanea* Nice views in Tombingo Forest and Damengola Forests.
Black-throated Wattle-eye *Platysteira peltata* Seen especially well in the Calandula area [*mentalis*].
White-fronted Wattle-eye ◊ *Platysteira albifrons* (NT) Great views of a pair in Kissama NP after a search!
Monteiro's Bushshrike ◊ *Malaconotus monteiri* (NT) Brilliant views of a pair in the Kumbira Forest area [nominate].

Bocage's Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus bocagei* Good views of one and others heard in Damengola Forest [nominate].
Orange-breasted Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus* A few seen during the tour and many more heard [*similis*].
Gorgeous Bushshrike (Perrin's B) *Telophorus [viridis] viridis* Best were the brilliant views south of Calandula.
Marsh Tchagra ◊ (Anchieta's T) *Bocagia [minuta] anchietae* A few seen well north of Calandula Smart birds!
Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis* Two forms: *damarensis* in the south, *souzae* in the north.
Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus* Several seen, the first at the Tundavala Escarpment. Many more heard.
Pink-footed Puffback *Dryoscopus angolensis* A male at Tombingo Forest, and one in Damengola Forest [nominate].
Black-backed Puffback *Dryoscopus cubla* Two forms noted: *okavangensis* in the south; *hamatus* in the north.
Braun's Bushshrike ◊ *Laniarius brauni* (EN) Great views of three pairs, one with a washed out juv., in Damengola Forest.
Gabela Bushshrike ◊ *Laniarius amboimensis* (EN) Great views of a couple of pairs in the Kumbira Forest area. Stunners!



Another view of the sneaky, endangered, endemic Gabela Bushshrike (Pete Morris)

Tropical Boubou *Laniarius major* Plenty heard and a few seen, the first on Mt Moco.
Swamp Boubou ◊ *Laniarius bicolor* First seen below the Lebe Pass. Particularly common in Kissama NP [*guttatus*].
Crimson-breasted Shrike *Laniarius atrococcineus* One seen well on the day trip to Namibe.
Brubru *Nilaus afer* Seen in miombo in the Mt Moco area. The form concerned, *affinis*, lacks the rusty flanks.
White-crested Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus* Seen at various sites, with plenty seen well in Kissama NP [*talacoma*].
Retz's Helmetshrike *Prionops retzii* Great views of a small flock in the miombo near to Kinjila [*nigricans*].
Gabela Helmetshrike ◊ *Prionops gabela* (EN) Great views of 8 in forest near Caxito, and 12 more in Kissama NP.
African Shrike-Flycatcher *Megabyas flammulatus* One seen in Damengola Forest [*aequatorialis*].
Black-and-white Shrike-Flycatcher (Vanga F) *Bias musicus* A pair seen well in Damengola Forest [*aequatorialis*].
White-breasted Cuckooshrike *Cebilepyris pectoralis* A couple seen well in the miombo near to Kinjila village.
Black Cuckooshrike *Campephaga flava* A female seen well in Damengola Forest, south of Quitexe.
Petit's Cuckooshrike *Campephaga petiti* Seen in miombo near Mt Moco and Kinjila, and a female in Damengola Forest.
Purple-throated Cuckooshrike *Campephaga quisqualina* Seen at a few forest sites, the first at Mt Namba [nominate].
Southern White-crowned Shrike *Eurocephalus anguitimens* A few, first seen on the day trip to Namibe.
Souza's Shrike ◊ *Lanius souzae* Cracking views of an assumed female in the Mt Moco area [nominate].
Northern Fiscal *Lanius humeralis* Several seen, the first seen near to Lubango [*capellii*].
Southern Fiscal *Lanius collaris* See note.
Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus larvatus* Reasonably common and widespread [*angolensis*].
Black-winged Oriole *Oriolus nigripennis* First seen well at Tombingo Forest. Also seen in Damengola Forest.
Common Square-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus ludwigii* See note.
Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis* Fairly common. First seen on the day trip to Namibe [*apivorus*].
Velvet-mantled Drongo *Dicrurus modestus* First seen in Damengola Forest; also seen in Kissama NP [*coracinus*].
Blue-headed Crested Flycatcher *Trochocercus nitens* Good views of a male in Damengola Forest [nominate].
Rufous-vented Paradise Flycatcher ◊ *Terpsiphone rufocinerea* A few, including great views of at Tombingo Forest.
African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis* Fairly common and widespread in small numbers [*plumbeiceps*].
Pied Crow *Corvus albus* Very common. First seen in Lubango.

African Blue Flycatcher *Elminia longicauda* A few seen, the first in the Kumbira Forest area [teresita].
White-tailed Blue Flycatcher *Elminia albicauda* A few seen on Mt Moco, especially above Kanjonde village.
White-winged Black Tit *Melaniparus leucomelas* A few seen in the Mt Moco area [insignis].
Carp's Tit ◊ *Melaniparus carpi* Seen well below the Lebe Pass, on the day trip to Namibe.
Dusky Tit *Melaniparus funereus* Several seen well in the Kumbira Forest area [gabela].
Rufous-bellied Tit ◊ *Melaniparus rufiventris* Good views of one in a miombo patch on the drive to Uige [nominate].
Grey Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus caroli* Excellent views of a male in miombo in the Mt Moco area [ansorgei].
Cape Penduline Tit ◊ *Anthoscopus minutus* Great views of a pair near to Benguela [damarensis].
Yellow-throated Nicator *Nicator vireo* Plenty seen well, the first in the Kumbira Forest area. More heard than seen!
Spike-heeled Lark *Chersomanes albofasciata* A few seen well on the day trip from Lubango to Namibe [obscurata].
Benguela Long-billed Lark ◊ *Certhilauda benguelensis* Several seen well in the desert near to Namibe [nominate].
Sabota Lark *Calendulauda sabota* One seen well on the day trip to Namibe [ansorgei].
Rufous-naped Lark *Mirafra africana* A few seen at the Tundavala Escarpment [pallida].
Flappet Lark *Mirafra rufocinnamomea* A couple heard and seen displaying at height in the Mt Moco area [fischeri].



Some larks from our first day out to Namibe: Benguela Long-billed Lark, Spike-heeled Lark (below right) and Sabota Lark (Pete Morris)





Angolan Lark showed very well at Mt Moco (Pete Morris)

- Angolan Lark** ◊ *Mirafraga angolensis* Great views of several in the Mt Moco area. Great song [*angolensis*].
- Red-capped Lark** *Calandrella cinerea* Good numbers in grasslands in the Mt Moco area [*spleniata*].
- African Red-eyed Bulbul** *Pycnonotus nigricans* Common on the day trip from to Namibe. Also at Tundavala.
- Dark-capped Bulbul** *Pycnonotus tricolor* Very common and widespread. First seen in Lubango [nominate].
- Slender-billed Greenbul** *Stelgidillas gracilirostris* First seen well in Tombingo Forest. Also in Damengola Forest [nominate].
- Little Greenbul** *Eurillas virens* Common and easy to see in the north the first at Kinjila village [nominate].
- Plain Greenbul** *Eurillas curvirostris* Great views of a couple at a fruiting tree in Tombingo Forest [nominate].
- Yellow-whiskered Greenbul** *Eurillas latirostris* First seen in what is left of Kumbira Forest [nominate].
- Honeyguide Greenbul** *Baeopogon indicator* One scoped high up at Tombingo Forest. Others heard.
- Yellow-bellied Greenbul** *Chlorocichla flaviventris* First seen on the day trip to Namibe, also in Kissama NP [*occidentalis*].
- Falkenstein's Greenbul** ◊ *Chlorocichla falkensteini* Common at several sites, first in the Kumbira Forest area.
- Yellow-throated Leaflove** *Atimastillas flavicollis* A few seen, the first in the Mt Moco area [*flavigula*].
- Pale-olive Greenbul** ◊ *Phyllastrephus fulviventris* First seen well on the journey to Mt Moco. A few elsewhere.
- Cabanis's Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus cabanisi* Seen well at Mt Namba, and near Kinjila village.
- Red-tailed Bristlebill** *Bleda syndactylus* Heard, and seen by Bob, on Mt Namba [*woosnami*].
- Black-collared Bulbul** ◊ *Neolestes torquatus* Great views on Mt Moco, at Mt Namba and Damengola Forest.
- Black Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne pristopectera* Small numbers at several sites. First at the Tundavala [*reichenowii*].
- Grey-rumped Swallow** *Pseudhirundo griseopyga* Plenty seen well, the first along near Mt Moco [nominate].
- Brazza's Martin** ◊ *Phedina brazzae* Brilliant views of at a pair in the Mt Moco area. Birdquest Lifer!!
- Brown-throated Martin** *Riparia paludicola* Two seen at the pools south of Benguela [nominate].
- Banded Martin** *Riparia cincta* Several seen in the Mt Moco area and in Kissama NP.
- Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* A few seen in the Mt Moco area [nominate].
- Angolan Swallow** *Hirundo angolensis* A few at scattered sites. First seen near to Lubango.
- White-throated Swallow** *Hirundo albigularis* At least a pair seen very well in the Mt Moco area.
- Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii* Fairly common, first seen on the journey from Lubango to Benguela [nominate].



Another look at the two star hirundines... Black-and-rufous Swallow and Brazza's Martin, and below, the smart Red-throated Cliff Swallow (Pete Morris)



- Black-and-rufous Swallow** ◇ *Hirundo nigrorufa* Great views, perched and in flight, in the Mt Moco area. Blue not black!
- Pearl-breasted Swallow** *Hirundo dimidiata* A few seen, including nesting in a well in the Mt Moco area [*marwitzii*].
- Rock Martin** *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* First seen at the Tundavala Escarpment [*anderssoni*].
- Common House Martin** *Delichon urbicum* A couple seen feeding over fields below Mt Namba.
- Greater Striped Swallow** *Cecropis cucullata* Seen at various sites in small numbers, the first at Tundavala.
- Lesser Striped Swallow** *Cecropis abyssinica* Two forms: *ampliformis* in the south; *unitatis* elsewhere.
- Mosque Swallow** *Cecropis senegalensis* A few seen, the first at Kanjonde on Mt Moco [*monteiri*].
- Red-throated Cliff Swallow** ◇ *Petrochelidon rufigula* Amazing numbers at the bridge between Calandula and Kinjila!
- Moustached Grass Warbler (African M W)** *Melocichla mentalis* A few seen, the first near Mt Moco [nominate].
- Rockrunner** ◇ *Achaetops pycnopygius* A few seen/heard in the Tundavala area including one scoped [*spadix*].
- Yellow Longbill** *Macrosphenus flavicans* Eventually, great views of one in Damengola Forest [nominate].

Pulitzer's Longbill *Macrosphenus pulitzeri* (EN) Luckily we got great views of plenty of these vine-loving endemics!

Long-billed Crombec *Sylvietta rufescens* Great views at a couple of spots in Kissama NP [*ansorgei*].

Red-capped Crombec *Sylvietta ruficapilla* Great views of a couple in miombo in the Mt Moco area [nominate].

Green Crombec *Sylvietta virens* Fairly common in the north, especially by voice! Buff more than green! [*tando*].

Green Hylia *Hylia prasina* A few heard, and seen at Tombingo Forest [nominate].

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* A couple seen, the first near to Kinjila.

Greater Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus rufescens* Seen at wetlands on the drive to N'dalatando and near to Kinjila [*ansorgei*].

African Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus baeticatus* One seen singing in the garden of our lodge in Lubango [*hallae*].

African Yellow Warbler *Iduna natalensis* A few seen, especially in the Mt Moco area [*major*].

Fan-tailed Grassbird *Catriscus brevirostris* A couple of sightings in the grassland in Damengola Forest [*alexinae*].

Evergreen Forest Warbler *Bradypterus lopezi* A few heard on Mt Moco and Mt Namba; glimpsed by some [*boultoni*].

Little Rush Warbler *Bradypterus baboecala* Great views of a couple in the Mt Moco area [*benguellensis*].

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola [erythroptus] lepe* A few seen and more heard! First seen well at Mt Moco.

Whistling Cisticola *Cisticola lateralis* Some good views of groups in the miombo near to Kinjila [*modestus*].

Bubbling Cisticola *Cisticola bulliens* A few seen well near Benguela, and plenty late in the tour [nominate].

Rock-loving Cisticola *Cisticola [emini] bailunduensis* See note.

Tinkling Cisticola *Cisticola rufilatus* One bird seen very well in the miombo in the Mt Moco area.

Wailing Cisticola *Cisticola lais* Very common at Tundavala and Mt Moco [*namba*].

Chirping Cisticola *Cisticola pipiens* Several seen well, the first in the Mt Moco area [nominate].

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

Short-winged Cisticola *Cisticola brachypterus* See note.

Neddicky *Cisticola fulvicapilla* A few seen well, especially in the miombo.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* (H) Heard at the pools south of Lobito [*terrestris*].

Wing-snapping Cisticola *Cisticola ayresii* A few seen well at Tundavala and in the Mt Moco area [nominate].



A Wing-snapping Cisticola from the Tundavala Escarpment (Pete Morris)

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava* First seen at the lodge in Lubango [*bechuanae*].

Black-chested Prinia *Prinia flavicans* A few seen well near to Namibe [*ansorgei*].

Banded Prinia *Prinia bairdii* Great views a couple of times in Damengola Forest [*heinrichi*].

White-chinned Prinia *Schistolais leucopogon* Great views of a pair in Damengola Forest [nominate].

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida* First seen well on the day trip from Lubango to Namibe [nominate].

Lowland Masked Apalis *Apalis binotata* Good views in Damengola Forest, and on the drive to Luanda.

Black-throated Apalis *Apalis jacksoni* Excellent views of a pair of this smart species in the Kumbira Forest area [nominate].

Buff-throated Apalis *Apalis rufogularis* First seen well in the Kumbira Forest area [*angolensis*].



Grey Apalis was one of the more common species in the montane forest patches (Pete Morris)

- Grey Apalis** *Apalis cinerea* First heard at the Tundavala escarpment. Great views of many at Mt Moco [*grandis*].
- Brown-headed Apalis** ◊ *Apalis alticola* Excellent views of a pair at the edge of the gallery forest at Kinjila [nominate].
- Grey-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brevicaudata* Two forms noted: *sharpei* in the south; *tincta* in the north.
- Hartert's Camaroptera** ◊ (Green-tailed C) *Camaroptera harterti* Great views several times, the first in land from Lobito.
- Miombo Wren-Warbler (Pale W-W)** *Calamonastes undosus* Several seen well, the first in the Mt Moco area [*huilae*].
- Yellow-bellied Eremomela** *Eremomela icteropygialis* One seen mobbing a Pearl-spotted Owlet on trip to Namibe [*puellula*].
- Green-capped Eremomela** *Eremomela scotops* Common and seen well at all miombo stops in the Mt Moco area [*pulchra*].
- Rufous-crowned Eremomela** *Eremomela badiceps* Good views of groups at Tombingo and Damengola Forests [nominate].
- Black-necked Eremomela** ◊ *Eremomela atricollis* Brilliant views in miombo in the Mt Moco area. Absolute belters!
- Brown Illadopsis** *Illadopsis fulvescens* Great views of a pair in the Kumbira Forest area [*dilution*].
- Bare-cheeked Babbler** ◊ *Turdoides gymnogenys* A pair seen well on the day trip to Namibe [nominate].
- Arrow-marked Babbler** *Turdoides jardineii* A couple of flocks seen well in the miombo near to Kinjila [*hyposticta*].
- Hartlaub's Babbler** ◊ *Turdoides hartlaubii* Excellent views in Lubango and seen at the Tundavala Escarpment.
- African Hill Babbler** *Pseudoalcippe abyssinica* One on Mt Moco, and a pair seen well on Mt Namba [*ansorgei*].
- Southern Yellow White-eye** *Zosterops anderssoni* A couple seen below the Lebe Pass [nominate].
- Northern Yellow White-eye** *Zosterops senegalensis* Two forms: *quanzae* in the Mt Moco area; *heinrichi* in the north.
- Yellow-bellied Hyliota** *Hyliota flavigaster* Good views of a couple in miombo in the Mt Moco area [*barbozae*].
- Southern Hyliota** *Hyliota australis* See note.
- African Spotted Creeper** *Salpornis salvadori* One seen in the top forest patch at Mt Moco [nominate].
- Wattled Starling** *Creatophora cinerea* A group of c8 seen as we drove through Kissama NP.
- Cape Starling** *Lamprotornis nitens* Very common on the day to Namibe, elsewhere in the south and in Kissama NP.
- Splendid Starling** *Lamprotornis splendidus* A few, the first scoped at Tombingo Forest, N'dalatando.
- Meves's Starling** ◊ *Lamprotornis mevesii* Great views of a few on the day to Namibe [*benguelensis*].
- Sharp-tailed Starling** ◊ *Lamprotornis acuticaudus* First seen near Mt Namba. Common in the miombo near Kinjila [nominate].
- Violet-backed Starling** *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* Plenty seen well. First seen below the Lebe Pass [*verreauxi*].
- Chestnut-winged Starling** *Onychognathus fulgidus* A pair seen well in Damengola Forest [*intermedius*].
- Pale-winged Starling** ◊ *Onychognathus nabouroup* Several seen well on the day trip to Namibe.
- Narrow-tailed Starling** *Poeoptera lugubris* Good views in Damengola Forest, and in the forest southwest of Uige.
- Yellow-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus africanus* Several seen well on the day trip from Lubango to Namibe [*langi*].
- Fraser's Rufous Thrush** *Stizorhina fraseri* Several in the central and northern scarp forests [*rubicunda*].
- Groundscraper Thrush** *Turdus litsitsirupa* Two forms noted: *pauciguttatus* in the south; *stierlingi* near Mt Moco.
- African Thrush** *Turdus pelios* A few, the first in the Mt Moco area [*bocagei*].
- Kurrichane Thrush** *Turdus libonyana* A couple seen, the first at Tombingo Forest [*verreauxii*].



Above, a Hartlaub's Babbler from Lubango, below, Mountain Wheatear and Bare-cheeked Babbler from our trip to Namibe (Pete Morris)



Forest Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas leucosticta* Excellent views of one in the Kumbira Forest area. Others heard

Miombo Scrub Robin ◊ *Cercotrichas barbata* Seen very well in miombo forests near Mt Moco. A few others heard.

Kalahari Scrub Robin ◊ *Cercotrichas paena* One seen near to Namibe and a pair southwest of Benguela.

Brown-backed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas hartlaubi* Good views of one in the open areas in Damengola Forest.

White-browed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas leucophrys* Two forms: *ovamboensis* in the south; *munda* further north.

Grey Tit-Flycatcher (Lead-coloured F) *Myioparus plumbeus* Seen well near Kinjila.

Angolan Slaty Flycatcher ◊ *Melaenornis brunneus* A few seen at the Tundavala Escarpment and on Mt Moco [*bailunduensis*].

Southern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis pammelaina* Just one seen in the miombo near to Kinjila [*diabolicus*].

Pale Flycatcher *Melaenornis pallidus* A few seen, the first in miombo near Mt Moco [*murinus*].

Chat Flycatcher *Melaenornis infuscatus* Several seen well on the day trip to Namibe [*benguellensis*].

Ashy Flycatcher *Muscicapa caeruleascens* Seen well at Tombingo Forest, Kinjila, Damengola Forest and Kissama NP.

Cassin's Flycatcher *Muscicapa cassini* Seen at the river crossing just east of Lucala, and at Damengola Forest.

Dusky-blue Flycatcher *Muscicapa comitata* One seen well in Damengola Forest, south of Quitexe [nominate].

Sooty Flycatcher *Muscicapa infuscata* A few scoped, the first at Tombingo Forest.

Angolan Cave Chat ◊ *Cossypha ansorgei* Great views at Tundavala, and another pair below the Lebe Pass.

Grey-winged Robin-Chat ◊ *Cossypha polioptera* A couple seen in the gallery forest at Kinjila village [nominate].

White-browed Robin-Chat *Cossypha heuglini* Several seen, the first seen well in Lubango [*subrufescens*].

Red-capped Robin-Chat *Cossypha natalensis* One seen in the forest patch near to Gabela [*larischi*].

White-headed Robin-Chat ◊ *Cossypha heinrichi* (VU) Great views of a pair and a single in the gallery forest at Kinjila.

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat ◊ *Cossypha niveicapilla* (NL) One briefly south of Quitexe.

Bocage's Akalat ◊ *Sheppardia bocagei* A few seen well on Mt Moco. Surprisingly, a pair also seen near to Gabela!

Gabela Akalat ◊ *Sheppardia gabela* (EN) A pair and another individual seen well in the Kumbira Forest area.

Rufous-tailed Palm Thrush ◊ *Cichladusa ruficauda* Several seen well in the south, the first on the trip to Namibe.

Short-toed Rock Thrush ◊ *Monticola brevipes* Seen very well below the Lebe Pass and at the Tundavala Escarpment.

Miombo Rock Thrush ◊ *Monticola angolensis* Great views of a male at Tundavala. Also two females at Mt Moco.



Two smart male rock thrushes from the Tundavala Escarpment: Short-toed Rock Thrush on the left, and Miombo Rock Thrush (Pete Morris)

African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus* Very common in the high grasslands [*stonei*].

Karoo Chat ◊ *Emarginata schlegelii* See note.

Tractrac Chat ◊ *Emarginata tractrac* Great views of one near to Namibe. Short-tailed and distinctive tail pattern [*hoeschi*].

Sooty Chat *Myrmecocichla nigra* A few seen at Tundavala and around Mt Moco. One at Kinjila was a surprise!

Mountain Wheatear *Myrmecocichla monticola* Two forms: *albipileata* near to Namibe and *nigricauda* on Mt Moco.

Capped Wheatear *Oenanthe pileata* Just two seen briefly on Mt Moco [*neseri*].

Familiar Chat *Oenanthe familiaris* A few seen, the first at the Tundavala Escarpment [*angolensis*].

Mangrove Sunbird ◊ *Anthreptes gabonicus* Great views of one in the mangroves on the Kwanza River.

Western Violet-backed Sunbird *Anthreptes longuemareii* A few seen at various miombo sites [*angolensis*].

Little Green Sunbird *Anthreptes seimundi* A few scoped at Tombingo Forest, just west of N'dalatando [*minor*].

Collared Sunbird *Hedydipna collaris* Fairly common and widespread after the first in the Kumbira Forest area [*somereni*].

Green-headed Sunbird *Cyanomitra verticalis* See note.

Blue-throated Brown Sunbird *Cyanomitra cyanolaema* Several in the north, the first at Tombingo Forest [*octaviae*].

Olive Sunbird *Cyanomitra olivacea* Fairly common, first seen in the Kumbira Forest area [*cephaelis*].

Carmelite Sunbird ◊ *Chalcomitra fuliginosa* A couple of females seen well in what is left of Kumbira Forest [nominated].

Green-throated Sunbird *Chalcomitra rubescens* Seen well at Tombingo and Damengola Forests [nominated].

Amethyst Sunbird *Chalcomitra amethystina* Common in miombo, first seen in the Mt Moco area [*deminuta*].

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis* First seen well on the trip to Namibe. Plenty more seen [*saturation*].

Bronzy Sunbird *Nectarinia kilimensis* Quite common in the Mt Moco area, with many seen well [*gadawi*].

Olive-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris chloropygius* Common in the central and northern scarp forests [nominated].

Western Miombo Sunbird ◊ *Cinnyris gertrudis* Excellent views of a fine male and a couple of others in the Mt Moco area.

Ludwig's Double-collared Sunbird ◊ *Cinnyris ludovicensis* Great views at the Lebe Pass, Tundavala and on Mt Namba.

Purple-banded Sunbird *Cinnyris bifasciatus* First seen near to Benguela. Many more; abundant in Kissama NP [nominated].

Superb Sunbird *Cinnyris superbus* Plenty seen well in what is left of Kumbira Forest [nominated].

Oustalet's Sunbird ◊ *Cinnyris oustaleti* Several good views, best were at the Tundavala Escarpment.

White-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris talatala* A few seen on the day trip to Namibe.

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus* Fairly common. First seen in Lubango [*falkensteini*].

Dusky Sunbird *Cinnyris fuscus* A few seen near to Namibe and again southwest of Benguela [*inclusus*].

Copper Sunbird *Cinnyris cupreus* Several, the first seen along the river c2km along the road to Mt Moco [*chalceus*].



Two quality sunbirds... Mangrove Sunbird and the smart Ludwig's Double-collared Sunbird (Pete Morris)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (introduced) Small numbers in various towns.

Cape Sparrow ◊ *Passer melanurus* 100s seen near to Namibe. A very smart sparrow [*damarensis*].

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus* First seen near to Gabela. Just a few others noted [*ugandae*].

Southern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer diffusus* First seen at Casper Lodge in Lubango [nominated].

Yellow-throated Bush Sparrow *Gymnoris superciliaris* A few in miombo, the first in the Mt Moco area.

Red-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis niger* A few around their nests as we drove through Kissama NP [nominated].

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser mahali* First seen on the day trip from Lubango to Namibe [*ansorgei*].

Scaly-feathered Weaver ◊ *Sporopipes squamifrons* Quite a few seen well near to Benguela, and around Lobito.

Thick-billed Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons* A single female bird seen feeding in the canopy in Damengola Forest [*tandae*].

Black-chinned Weaver ◊ *Ploceus nigrimentus* Great views of a male a couple of times above Kanjonde on Mt Moco.

Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis* A few, first seen in Lubango.

Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis* Several seen the first in the Kumbira Forest area [*crocatius*].

Bocage's Weaver ◊ *Ploceus temporalis* Brilliant views at a couple of spots in the Mt Moco area.

Holub's Golden Weaver *Ploceus xanthops* First seen on the day trip to Namibe, and plenty more subsequently.

Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus intermedius* Several at the Kwanza River, including a male in breeding plumage.

Southern Masked Weaver *Ploceus velatus* Good numbers seen near to Benguela.

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus* Some good colonies. First seen in Lubango, the mottled form is *collaris*.

Viellot'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 Forests.

Dark-backed Weaver *Ploceus bicolor* A few seen around Kinjila [*amaurocephalus*].

Red-headed Malimbe *Malimbus rubricollis* Excellent views of several at Tombingo and Damengola Forests [*praedij*].

Crested Malimbe *Malimbus malimbicus* One seen at Tombingo Forest and a male seen well in Damengola Forest [nominate].

Red-headed Quelea *Quelea erythrops* Seen a couple of times in the Calandula area - birds with red on their faces.

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea* Good numbers seen, the first southwest of Benguela [*lathamii*].

Black-winged Red Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceus* A flock seen near to Kinjila village.

Golden-backed Bishop ◇ *Euplectes aureus* See note.

Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis* Fairly common, first seen near to Mt Moco [*angolensis*].

Fan-tailed Widowbird *Euplectes axillaris* A male in non-breeding plumage at a river crossing near Mt Moco [*bocagei*].

Yellow-mantled Widowbird *Euplectes macroura* A few non-breeding males seen in the Calandula area [nominate].

Marsh Widowbird *Euplectes hartlaubi* Several males in non-breeding plumage in the Mt Moco area.

White-winged Widowbird *Euplectes albonotatus* Non-breeding plumaged males near Mt Moco and Kissama NP [*asymmetrus*].

Red-collared Widowbird *Euplectes ardens* Lots of around Mt Moco and in Damengola Forest, where one had a long tail.

White-breasted Nigrita *Nigrita fusconotus* Great views in Damengola Forest [nominate].

Chestnut-breasted Nigrita *Nigrita bicolor* One in Damengola Forest, and two in forest near Uige [*brunnescens*].

Pale-fronted Nigrita *Nigrita luteifrons* (H) One heard singing in the forest near Uige [nominate].

Grey-headed Nigrita *Nigrita canicapillus* Several, first seen at Tombingo Forest [*angolensis*].

Orange-winged Pytilia ◇ *Pytilia afra* Excellent views of c6 in miombo forest near to Mt Moco.

Green-winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba* Several, the first on the day trip to Namibe [nominate].

Red-headed Bluebill *Spermophaga ruficapilla* One seen briefly near to Gabela [nominate].

Brown Twinspot ◇ *Clytospiza monteiri* Great views of several in the Kumbira Forest area.

Dusky Twinspot ◇ *Euschistospiza cinereovinacea* Fairly common in the Mt Moco area. One near Kinjila was a surprise.

Landana Firefinch ◇ (Pale-billed F) *Lagonosticta landanae* First seen in the Kumbira Forest area, and others in the north.



The endemic Landana Firefinch was common in the north, Lesser Masked Weaver a surprise at the Kuanza River (Pete Morris)

Jameson's Firefinch *Lagonosticta rhodopareia* Common on the Tundavala Escarpment and below Lebe Pass [*ansorgei*].

Blue Waxbill *Uraeginthus angolensis* First seen in Lubango, and seen at many more sites [*cyanopleurus*].

Violet-eared Waxbill *Uraeginthus granatinus* A couple seen at the Tundavala Escarpment and near Benguela.

Angolan Waxbill ◇ *Coccygia bocagei* A few seen at the Tundavala Escarpment, Mt Moco, and on Mt Namba.

Grey Waxbill ◊ (Black-tailed W) *Estrilda perreini* Great views of several near to Gabela.
Cinderella Waxbill ◊ *Estrilda thomensis* Brilliant views of a group of four feeding, on the day trip to Namibe.
Fawn-breasted Waxbill *Estrilda paludicola* Good views on Mt Moco and near to Kinjila [*benguellensis*].
Orange-cheeked Waxbill *Estrilda melpoda* Several seen near to Gabela, and others further north.
Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild* Several flocks in the Mt Moco region [*angolensis*].
Orange-breasted Waxbill *Amandava subflava* A few, the first seen along the river near Mt Moco [*clarkei*].
Quailfinch (African Q) *Ortygospiza atricollis* Several seen well, in flight and on the deck in the Mt Moco area [*muelleri*].
Bronze Mannikin *Lonchura cucullata* Common. First seen in Lubango [*scutata*].
Black-and-white Mannikin *Lonchura bicolor* Seen a couple of times in the Kumbira Forest area [*poensis*].
Dusky Indigobird ◊ *Vidua funerea* See note.
Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura* (NL) A few seen in the Kumbira Forest area.
Cape Wagtail *Motacilla capensis* A few, the first in the Mt Moco area [*simplicissima*].
African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp* One at the Calandula Falls, and another on the drive from Uige to Luanda [*vidua*].
Fülleborn's Longclaw ◊ *Macronyx fülleborni* Great views at the Tundavala Escarpment and in the Mt Moco area [*ascensis*].
African Pipit *Anthus cinnamomeus* First seen near to Benguela, and also seen around Mt Moco [*bocagii*].
Wood Pipit ◊ *Anthus nyassae* Several seen very well in miombo in the Mt Moco area [*schoutedeni*].
Buffy Pipit *Anthus vaalensis* Fairly common on the burnt ground at the Tundavala Escarpment [*neumanni*].
Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys* A few seen well in the Mt Moco area. Others later in the trip [*bohndorffi*].
Long-legged Pipit ◊ *Anthus pallidiventris* Great views of three near to the Kwanza River.
Striped Pipit *Anthus lineiventris* At least three seem well on the horror walk to the top forest on Mt Moco.
Black-faced Canary ◊ *Crithagra capistrata* See note.
Black-throated Canary *Crithagra atrogularis* A few seen in the south, especially in the Benguela area [*deserti*].
Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica* First seen in miombo in the Mt Moco area. Also in Kissama NP [*tando*].
Brimstone Canary *Crithagra sulphurata* One at the Tundavala Escarpment. Also seen in the Mt Moco area [*sharpii*].
White-throated Canary ◊ *Crithagra albogularis* Several seen near to Namibe [*crocopygia*].
Thick-billed Seedeater *Crithagra burtoni* One seen well above Kanjonde on Mt Moco [*tanganjicae*].
Yellow-crowned Canary *Serinus flavivertex* A few seen well at Tundavala. Also seen well on Mt Moco [*huillensis*].
Lark-like Bunting ◊ *Emberiza impetuani* Good numbers seen at Tundavala and near to Benguela.
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting *Emberiza tahapisi* Several seen well at the Tundavala. Also on Mt Moco [*nivenorum*].
Golden-breasted Bunting *Emberiza flaviventris* Quite common in miombo woodland in the Mt Moco area [*kalaharica*].



The smart Fülleborn's Longclaw was a much-appreciated speciality (Pete Morris)



Lesser Angolan Epauletted Fruit Bats in Lubango (Pete Morris)

MAMMALS

Yellow-spotted Hyrax *Heterohyrax brucei* A couple in typical rocky habitat in the Lubango area.

Blue Monkey *Cercopithecus mitis* Seen a few times, first in the Kumbira Forest area.

Malbrouck Monkey *Chlorocebus cynosuroides* Just a few in Kissama NP area.

Southern Talapoin Monkey *Miopithecus talapoin* Best views were in Kissama NP.

African Savanna Hare *Lepus microtis* I think this was the hare we saw in the Mt Moco area.

Congo Rope Squirrel *Funisciurus congicus* Several seen, especially obvious on the trip to Namibe.

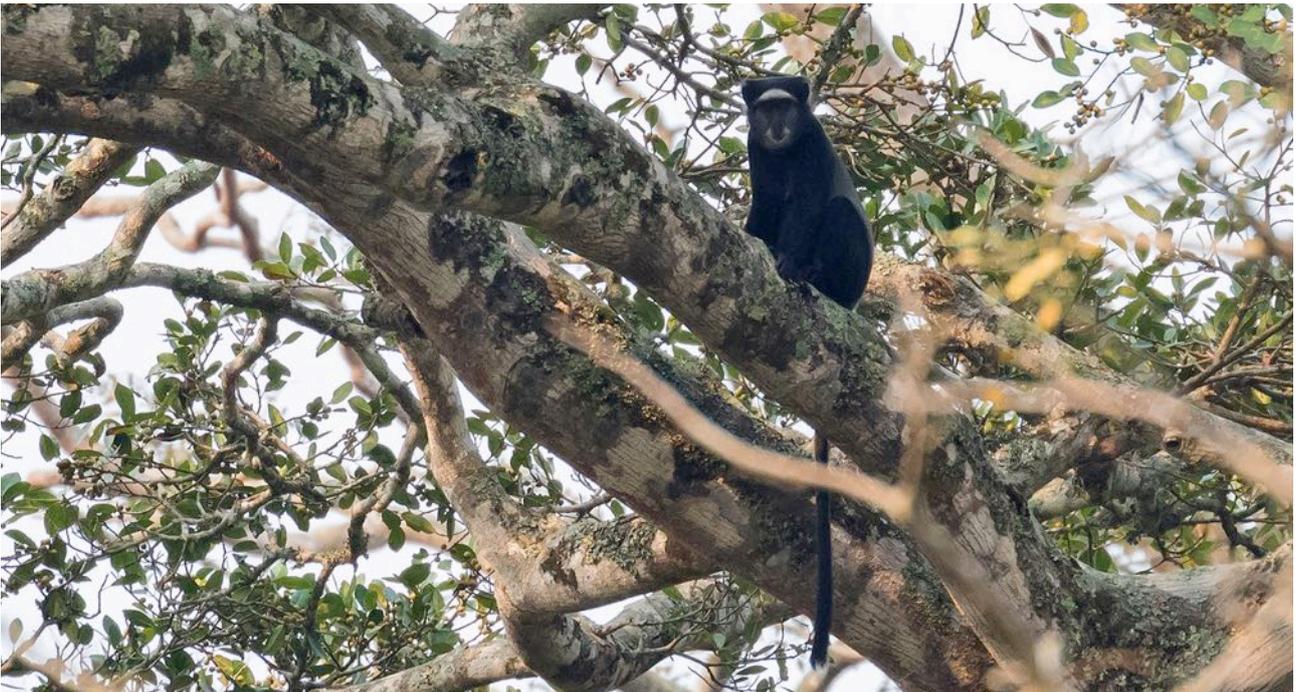
Gambian Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus gambianus* A few noted in the wetter scarp forests.

African Giant Squirrel *Protoxerus stangeri* A few seen at Tombingo Forest.

Common Genet *Genetta genetta* One spotlighted at the Tundavala Escarpment.

Southern Reedbuck *Redunca arundinum* (NL) A couple seen by some on Mt Moco.

Lesser Angolan Epauletted Fruit Bat *Epomophorus grandis* Great views in Lubango.



A smart-looking Blue Monkey from the Kumbira Forest area (Pete Morris)



Some other smart creatures... A fine Red-headed Rock Agamid, a lovely Crimson Speckled Moth and a Mocker Swallowtail (Pete Morris)





Some of the very attractive flora seen in Angola, and the Keweseki... the chinese-made favourite transport brand! (Pete Morris)





Tractrac Chat (above) is quite scarce in the Namibe Desert, and is often confused with the far more common pale form of Karoo Chat that resides there (see below) (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). 2019. IOC World Bird Names v9.2. Available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*

Two flushed off the road near to Uige, then good looks at a flock of c25 as we drove through Kissama NP. The birds seen were the distinctive West African form *marungensis* which show chestnut on the crown, red on the face and no spiky helmet! Very different to more Eastern populations.

Red-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis afer*

We saw too quite different forms, which will soon be recognized as separate species. In the south and on the coast we saw nominate *afer* which remains as Red-necked Spurfowl, whereas further north, such as around Mt Moco and Gabela, we saw the form *cranchii* which will be split as Cranch's Spurfowl.

Hairy-breasted Barbet (Brown-streaked B) *Tricholaema [hirsuta] angolensis*

Good scope views of an adult and juvenile at Tombingo Forest, and also seen in the forest a few kilometres southwest of Uige. The Hairy-breasted Barbet is an extremely variable species which may constitute as many as four different species, this form potentially being known as Brown-streaked Barbet.

Black-backed Barbet (Brown-faced B) *Lybius [minor] minor*

Excellent views of a couple of pairs in the Kinjila area. I believe that they are this form. Although the illustrations could suggest otherwise, the two forms are not as different as always illustrated, and several photos of Brown-faced closely resemble the birds we saw. And on range, I believe that *minor* should be the expected form.

Brown-backed Honeybird *Prodotiscus regulus*

Two were seen flying around giving their strange metallic calls over a forest patch near Gabela, and another was seen well close to Kinjila village.

Golden-tailed Woodpecker *Campethera abingoni*

We saw two different forms of this widespread woodpecker. We saw a pair of the form *anderssoni* on the day trip from Lubango to Namibe, and later saw a few of the nominate form, the first in the miombo near to Kinjila village.

Southern Fiscal *Lanius collaris*

Several white-browed birds of the form *aridicolus* were seen well on the day trip from Lubango to Namibe. Interestingly, one was also seen at the Tundavala Escarpment, where some other species, such as African Red-eyed Bulbul seemed to be sneaking up the escarpment.

Common Square-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus ludwigii*

We had some confusion with Square-tailed Drongos in Angola. As far as I can work out, all of the birds we saw were of the form *saturnus*. HBW do not split Sharpe's Drongo, but include *saturnus* in the same group as *sharpei*. IOC include the form *saturnus* in Common Square-tailed Drongo, hence the confusion.

Rock-loving Cisticola ◊ (Huambo C) *Cisticola [emini] bailunduensis*

Brilliant views of singing birds on two dates on Mt Moco and again at Mt Namba. A very distinctive and musical song! This form clearly represents a new species and is probably not even close to Rock-loving Cisticola.

Short-winged Cisticola *Cisticola brachypterus*

First seen in the Mt Moco area. Many others seen, and watched displaying. The birds here (subspecies *loanda*) were watched displaying and giving their complex high-pitched song. They really seem quite different to East African birds!!

Southern Hyliota *Hyliota australis*

One or two were seen in what is left of Kumbira Forest. This form here is apparently *slatini*, also known as Forest Hyliota.

Karoo Chat *Emarginata schlegelii*

Several seen well on the day trip from Lubango to Namibe. The form concerned *benguellensis* is confusingly pale and shows a white rump. It is very different from birds further south and may even represent a separate species, and this has led to confusion between this species and the scarcer Tractrac Chat in this area.

Green-headed Sunbird *Cyanomitra verticalis*

First seen near to Gabela. Plenty of Green-headed Sunbirds were seen responding well to the recordings of Bannerman's Sunbird in the Calandula/Kinjila area. The form concerned is *bohndorffi* which is distinctly blue-headed, thus resembling Bannerman's Sunbird and adding to the confusion. All the males we saw showed bills that were too long for Bannerman's, and the females seen showed the distinctive head pattern of Green-headed. Quite what is going on is hard to know, and how two species that sound virtually the same, and look virtually the same, co-exist is hard to comprehend. Nearly all (or all?) published photos of supposedly Bannerman's Sunbirds in this area appear to depict Green-headed Sunbirds in my opinion. Both species are known from the general area from specimens, and Bannerman's Sunbird may have been out-competed in recent times by Green-headed Sunbird for some reason, but this is simple speculation.

Golden-backed Bishop *Euplectes aureus*

Great views of good numbers in Kissama NP. Although in non-breeding plumage, they were very distinctive, showing a strong yellow wash to the supercilium, ear coverts and throat, and were generally very richly coloured and well-marked. Some were even slightly chestnut on the crown. Slightly larger, though shorter-tailed, than the accompanying Red-billed Queleas.

Dusky Indigobird *Vidua funerea*

Excellent scope views of a moulting male along the river c2km along the road to Mt Moco. Several female types with it were also likely to be this species. The male, with a white beak and pinkish legs, can only be this species on range! Note there is a population on Mt Moco, known to parasitize Dusky Twinspot [*nigerrima*].

Black-faced Canary *Crithagra capistrata*

We saw two different subspecies of this attractive little finch. In the Mt Moco area we saw the form *hildegardae* whilst elsewhere we saw the nominate form. Most impressive was the flock of 60+ seen from the bridge over the Kwanza River at Cabala.



Our friendly African Scops Owl (Pete Morris)



Angolan Cave Chat... our bird-of-the-trip? Probably! (Pete Morris)