A pair of fantastic Sokoke Scops Owls. (DLV). All photos taken by DLV during the tour.

ULTIMATE KENYA

1 – 20 / 25 APRIL 2017

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Kenya lived up to its reputation of being one of the most diverse birding destinations on our planet. Once again, our Ultimate Kenya recorded a mind-boggling total of more than 750 species. This was despite the fact that we were prioritizing Kenyan specialities (a task in which we were extremely successful) rather than going all out for a huge list!

The first leg of our epic adventure saw us focusing on the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest where the birding is tough but the rewards are great. Over the course of the two and a half days our talented local guide helped us find all of the main specialities, with the exception of the difficult Clarke's Weavers, which were presumably on their recently discovered breeding grounds in marshes to the north.

Crested Guineafowl and Northern Carmine Bee-eater.

We spent much time creeping along sandy tracks, gradually finding our targets one by one. We succeeded in getting great views of a number of skulkers, including a rather showy East Coast Akalat on our last afternoon, some reclusive Eastern Bearded Scrub Robins, a very obliging Red-tailed Ant Thrush and skulking Fischer's and Tiny Greenbuls. Once in the *Brachystegia* we kept our eyes and ears open for roving flocks of flock-leader Retz's and Chestnut-fronted Helmet Shrikes, and with these we found awkward Mombasa Woodpeckers and a single Green-backed Woodpecker, and a variety of smaller species including Black-headed Apalis, Green Barbet, Eastern Green Tinkerbird, dainty Little Yellow Flycatchers, Forest Batis, Pale Batis, cracking little Amani and Plain-backed Sunbirds and Dark-backed Weaver. Whilst hunting around we also found a much-appreciated male Red-throated (Peters´s) Twinspot out in the open, some Eastern Nicators, Yellow-bellied Greenbul and Black-bellied Starling. The recently split East Coast (from Tropical) Boubou showed well, whilst the amazing Fischer´s Turaco eventually gave great scope views on our second morning in the forest. We also tracked down a noisy pair of nervous Scaly Babblers that were persuaded to show, and high in a tree we scoped up a subtle Pallid Honeyguide, that took some time to find. Two of the best and most-desired species that we found in the forest were largely thanks to the help of our guide. The richly coloured Sokoke Pipit gave absolutely cracking views, both as it crept around in the leaf litter just metres away, and also quietly perched in a branch, allowing everyone splendid views of this lovely little (Pechora-like) pipit. On our first morning in the forest we had unbelievable views of a pair of cute Sokoke Scops Owls, of both color morphs, roosting just a few feet from us. One of the birds of the trip! In the owl front we also enjoyed excellent views of a trio of roosting African Wood Owls, but in spite of much effort, two calling Scheffler´s (African Barred) Owlets couldn´t be lured out of some very thick vegetation.

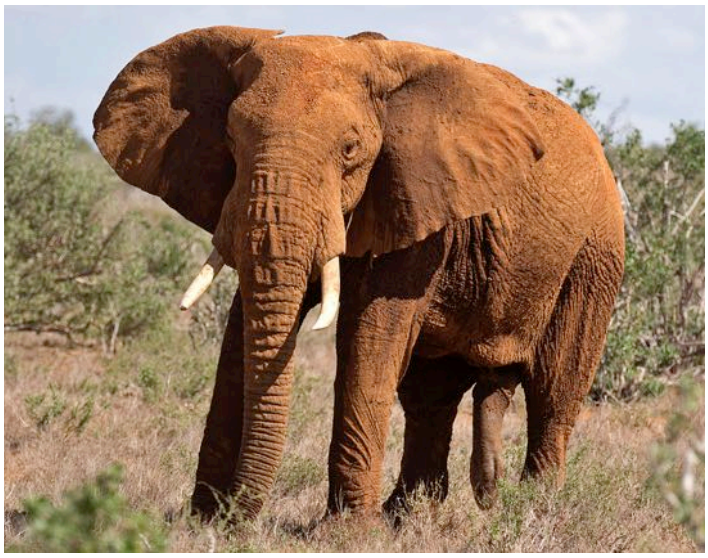
Sokoke Pipit.

We also made a few excursions outside the forest. In farmbush nearby we located the range-restricted Malindi Pipit, not far from a great-looking male Caspian Plover. A visit to the nearby Mida Creek yielded amazing Crab-Plovers amongst a host of other more widespread waders, and nearby we had fine views of the localized Collared Palm Thrush. On one afternoon we made an extended visit to the Sabaki River mouth. Here we focused our initial attention on the coastal scrub and sand dunes where highlights included some Zanzibar Red Bishops, Bare-eyed Thrushes, Rufous Bush Robins, Coastal Cisticolas, Golden Palm Weavers and breeding plumaged Purple-banded Sunbirds. Out on the estuary, good numbers of gulls and terns included numerous Sooty Gulls and a single Baltic Gull and we also picked out a few White-fronted Plovers from the assembled waders. Our hotel, overlooking the turquoise ocean, revealed some good birds as well, with large numbers of Northern Carmine Bee-eaters hawking for insects, a single Western Osprey, a pair of African Fish Eagles, and some terns.

The next day, we embarked upon a long drive through Tsavo East, which resulted in an endless list of highlights. We saw thousands, possibly tens of thousands, literally, of migrating European Rollers, occupying a very broad front, and together with them, many Common Cuckoos, as well as Amur Falcons and Eurasian Hobbies. The *cathemagmenus* form of Rosy-patched Bush-shrike gave great views, and some fantastic Golden Pipits were much appreciated by everyone. We found our first stunning Golden-breasted Starlings, huge Kori Bustards, Black- faced Sandgrouse and Yellow-necked Spurfowls, amongst many other birds. A pair of elegant Scissor-tailed Kites were a very welcome surprise, well south of their normal range, while a small group of Somali Coursers were the only ones of the trip. Red-winged and Pink-breasted Larks gave great views, and a Somali Bee-eater was a good find too. Plenty of mammals graced in the park, with the very best one being a lone Hirola, a critically endangered mammal, mostly restricted to Somalia, of which a couple of herds have been introduced in the park. We eventually made it to our lodge, where a Pearl-spotted Owlet showed nicely.

Golden-breasted Starling.

The following morning we set off to Ngangao Forest, a tiny patch of woodland in the Taita Hills that is home to some critically endangered species/subspecies depending on which taxonomy is followed. On our journey we stopped to look at a few new birds, that included Straw-tailed Whydah, Ashy Cisticola and Olive Bee-eater. We then proceeded to the hills, and at our first roadside stop, we found the uncommon Striped Pipit. A small patch of forest yielded a singing Taita Thrush, which was very skulking, as usual, and was not seen by everybody. On the other hand, Stripe-cheeked Greenbuls and Taita White-eyes were easier to see. Much of the rest of the day was taken up with searching for the critically endangered Taita Apalis. We heard two pairs, but both remained high in the canopy, and only Jonathan and I managed to get reasonable views. The stunning Hartlaub´s Turaco proved more obliging though, and several birds were seen well. Supporting cast in the forest included Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler, Olive Sunbird, Placid Greenbul and Starred Robin. In the late afternoon we enjoyed terrific views of the white-eyes coming to bathe at a small pond in the forest. On the journey back we made a short search for the attractive Brown-breasted Barbet, of which 4 were soon in the scope.



Tsavo Elephant and Golden Pipit.

Then next day we embarked on a long drive through the national park, via Lake Jipe, seeing a good variety of species, such as Common Ostrich, Crested Francolin, Southern Banded Snake Eagle, Grasshopper Buzzard, Hartlaub´s Bustard, White-bellied Go Away Bird and our only White-headed Mousebirds of the trip. Palearctic migrants were everywhere, and together with lots of Lesser Grey and Red-backed Shrikes and Common Rock Thrushes, we enjoyed several male White-throated Robins and a single Upcher´s Warbler. We eventually made it to the lake, right down by the Tanzanian border. Our target Taveta (Golden) Weavers were very common this year, and we enjoyed point-blank views of many attractive-looking males. A pair of smart Two-banded Coursers feeding chicks was a nice surprise too. The lake itself attracted a wealth of birds including several Black Herons. Other birds in the area included Spur-winged Goose, Glossy Ibis, Goliath Heron, Palm-nut Vulture, African Harrier Hawk, Tawny Eagle, African Swamphen, Water Thick-knee, Collared Pratincole, Diederik Cuckoo and Blue-cheeked Bee-eater. We then continued on the long drive to Ngulia. Birds were abundant, including White-bellied Bustard, African Hoopoe, Abyssinian Scimitarbill, Southern Ground Hornbill, D´Arnauds Barbet, Pygmy Falcon, Long-tailed Fiscal, White-necked Raven, Acacia Tit, Banded Martin, Rufous Chatterer, Hildebrandt´s and Fischer´s Starlings, Hunter´s Sunbird and Chestnut Sparrow, amongst others. The biggest surprise of the day, and perhaps of the trip, came in form of a mammal. We were driving in the late afternoon when we suddenly saw a small group of African Wild Dogs standing in the middle of the track! These fabulous animals are exceedingly rare in Kenya, and spending 20 minutes watching them, just by the vehicle, was surely one of the highlights of the trip. Dusk fell as we approached the hotel, and we started seeing nightjars on the road. Amongst the ones identified were a single Donaldson-Smith´s, several Plain and many European Nightjars.

One of the highligts of the trip, the rare African Wild Dog.

The following day was spent birding various habitats within the national park, not far from Ngulia. Our first main target was the uncommon Red-naped Bushshrike, and fortunately it didn´t take long to hear its distinctive calls. Even better, the pair we found was super obliging, and we had unbeatable views of them. In the same spot we also had Pale Prinia, Bare-eyed Thrush and Pygmy Batis, amongst others. New birds came thick and fast during the rest of the day, and these included Secretarybird, Martial Eagle, Gabar Goshawk, Eleonora´s Falcon, Montagu´s Harrier, Steppe Buzzard, Purple Roller, African Pygmy Kingfisher - well spotted by Alan-, Green Wood Hoopoe, Red-and-yellow Barbet, Cardinal Woodpecker, Red-bellied Parrots, White-crested Helmetshrike, Three-streaked Tchagra, Pringle´s Puffback and Tsavo Purple-banded Sunbird.

We left Ngulia early next morning, and spent a couple of hours driving through Tsavo West, until reaching the Mito Andei gate. The most interesting sighting was not a bird, but again a mammal. Soil coming out of a hole in the track turned out to be a Naked Mole-rat digging up a burrow. By carefully positionig the car next to it, we managed to actually lay our eyes on this very rarely seen species, as its head popped out of the hole a couple of times. Amazing! We saw a few good birds too, including our first and only Pangani Longclaw of the tour. A short stop by the road gave us a pair of Crowned Hornbills, a single Garden Warbler and our first Red-fronted Tinkerbird. We then had lunch at Hunter's Lodge and enjoyed the active colony of African Golden Weavers there, as well as a few waterbirds. The avian highlight was a pair of Jameson's Firefinches, and we also added Black Cuckooshrike and Northern Brownbul to our ever-growing lists. Most of the afternoon was spent birding acacia scrub near Lukenya, where we basically cleaned up. The highlights here were three Southern Grosbeak Canaries and a pair of showy Red-throated Tits. Whilst looking for them we saw a few other goodies including African Grey Hornbill, Buff-bellied Warbler, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Red-faced Crombec, Speke's Weaver, Banded Parisoma and Grey-capped Social-Weavers. Afterwards we drove towards Nairobi, where we stayed overnight.

A stunning Vulturine Guineafowl.

We headed towards Gatamaiyu Forest early next morning. A quick roadside stop at some ponds, which used to have White-backed Ducks, was not as productive as we had hoped for, as most of the waterside vegetation and water lilies had been cleared. We scoped a few ducks, shorebirds and Red-knobbed Coots, and carried on. Eventually we made it to Gatamaiyu, an easily accessible and productive remnant patch of montane forest. This was traditionally a good spot for the rare Abbott´s Starling, but the local rangers hadn´t seen any in recent months, the same result we obtained. Whilst wandering around, we were entertained by a number of common species including Mountain Thrush, Hunter's Cisticola, White-eyed Slaty and Dusky Flycatchers and colourful Collared, Variable and Northern Double-collared Sunbirds. A cracking Golden-winged Sunbird was a great bonus, while Brown Woodland Warbler and White-browed Crombec showed nicely too. Black Saw-wings buzzed over the canopy, and we began our acquaintance with the difficult greenbul group, noting Yellow-whiskered, Slender-billed and Olive-breasted Mountain Bulbuls. From the undergrowth, we teased out rich songsters and skulkers such as African Hill Babbler, (White) Starred Robin, Rüppell's Robin Chat, White-tailed Crested Flycatcher and Cinnamon Bracken Warbler. Higher up, we feasted our eyes on Chestnut-throated, Grey, Black-throated and Black-collared Apalises, Kikuyu White-eyes, White-bellied Tits, Thick-billed Weavers and a single Montane Oriole. A male Bar-tailed Trogon was

seen briefly inside the forest as well. Weavers were prominent around the clearing, where we studied Baglafecht, Brown-capped and Spectacled Weavers. After a picnic lunch, we started driving towards Naivasha, making a stop to look for the endemic and endangered Sharpe's Longclaw. After a short walk through some pastures we found a very obliging pair of longclaws, which gave excellent views. Pleased with our success, we continued our journey, until reaching our comfortable lodge by the lakeshore. A short walk in the garden area produced some Black-lored Babblers as well as a confiding Scaly-throated Honeyguide, as well as our first Giant Kingfisher.

The endangered endemic Sharpe´s Longclaw.

The following day we were out early and took a road, complete with Cape Rooks alongside it, that was to lead us high up into the Aberdares. An amazing 400 kilometre electrified fence now surrounds the Aberdare Conservation Area thus keeping animals in and people out and hopefully conserving this immense 'water tower' for the better and surely this is a sign of what will gradually happen to more and more areas as pressure on land and resources intensifies. Once inside the park gates we admired a stunning male Tacazze Sunbird, as well as some truly shiny Eastern Double-collared Sunbirds. Higher up we managed to find the endemic Aberdare Cisticola and perky Alpine Chats as well as a close Mountain Buzzard. A short walk to some impressive waterfalls gave us our only African Black Duck of the trip, as well as an adult male European Honey Buzzard. We proceeded throughout the park, eventually seeing some confiding Jackson´s Francolins –our main target here-, as well as our first Yellow-bellied Waxbills, feeding on the roadside. We carried on towards our accommodation near mount Kenya, stopping on the way at a spot, which used to host Hinde´s Babblers. We spent almost 2 hours here, working the entire suitable habitat, to no avail, in spite of all of our efforts. They were most likely not in the area anymore. While looking for the babblers we found some Red-collared Widowbirds, Grey-capped Warbler, African Citril, Red-faced and Singing Cisticolas and Green-backed Honeybird, amongst others. It was time to move on, and a stop before the hotel gave us some Red-fronted Parrots and a number of Golden-winged Sunbirds feeding in a flowering tree. We settled into our lovely rooms and headed up to the roof with just a bit of light left. A few mammals came to the saltlick, but overall it was quiet. After dark, a Montane Nightjar put on a good show for some of us, while a single Verreaux´s Eagle Owl was spotted sitting on a tree.

Long-tailed Paradise Whydah taking off.

There were no knocks on the door during the night - no significant mammals appeared and we re-convened on the roof the following morning, watching the resident pair of eagle owls eating a small rodent, and then flying to their daytime roost. The roof of the lodge was a splendid vantage place to watch from but the activity seemed lower than usual. The impressive peak of Mount Kenya towered up, allowing great views, and bird-wise we saw a pair of Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeons, brilliantly spotted by Jonathan, a few fly-by Olive Pigeons, some Slender-billed Greenbuls, a nice, albeit brief, Oriole Finch, a good flock of Yellow-crowned Canaries, a pair of Cape Wagtails, Montane Oriole, and an all too brief Kenrick´s Starling, notorious for its near absence in the area. Pat also photographed a Narina Trogon in the garden. After breakfast we retraced our steps and tried hard to pull more birds out of the quiet forest. The Golden-winged Sunbirds were still around the gate, and a nice trio of White-headed Wood Hoopoes performed in true Wood hoopoe fashion.

Adult male Amur Falcon.

Other goodies included some Scarce Swifts, White-eyed Slaty-Flycatchers, Hunter's Cisticolas, trimphone-like Chestnut-throated, Grey and smart Black-collared and Black-throated Apalises and Kikuyu White-eyes. Leaving the mountain behind, we found a pair of cracking Crowned Eagles, putting on an incredible aerial display, followed by a closer individual near its nest. A quick stop by the river gave us Yellow Bishop, found by James, a beautiful Red-headed Weaver and a single Green-headed Sunbird. We then carried on towards Shaba Game Reserve. Along the main road, we found some nice male Jackson ´ s Widowbirds – our first ones of the trip. Our next stop was to look for the endemic Boran Cisticola, and it didn't take long before we obtained excellent views of a singing bird. Not long after, we passed through a heavy storm, and all of a sudden, the sky was literally covered by falcons – hundreds of Eurasian Hobbies and Amur Falcons, as well as two terrific Sooty Falcons, together with thousands of swifts, all flying low down because of the storm. We stopped by the roadside and had a great time watching them, until they were all gone. We moved on and eventually reached our destination. We had three nights to enjoy the well-situated and impressive Sarova Lodge in Shaba Game Reserve, allowing us plenty of time to explore both Shaba and the adjacent Buffalo Springs and Samburu reserves. Indeed, much of our time was spent in the latter 2 areas, where we were richly entertained by both the diverse bird life and the excellent selection of mammals. Lack of rain in the last couple of years meant that the whole area was very, very dry, and as a result there weren´t as many birds or mammals as in the past. In spite of this, we saw more ore or less all of our realistic target species, ranging from the enormous Somali Ostriches to the diminutive Yellow-vented Eremomela. Black-faced and Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse were reasonably common, and occasionally we ran into flocks of bizarre-looking Vulturine Guineafowl, sporting the most intense blue in their plumage. We were pleased to find several smart Buff-crested Bustards, while Rosy-patched Bush-shrikes oozed brilliant red. We admired some more Golden-breasted Starlings, as well as single Magpie and good numbers of Bristle-crowned, while sunbirds were well represented, including Black-bellied, Eastern Violet-backed, Hunter's and a single male Shining Sunbirds.

Grévy´s Zebra and Doum Palm in Buffalo Springs.

A couple of Somali Bee-eaters posed for photos, drab-looking Brown-tailed Rock Chats performed and a pair of Red-fronted Warblers gave good views. We enjoyed excellent comparison views of Tawny and Steppe Eagles, sitting side by side, with the gape length differences being very obvious. While having lunch we found some Black-cheeked Waxbills, together with colourful Purple Grenadiers and Red-billed Firefinches. Out in the bush, White-headed Buffalo Weaver and Donaldson-Smith's Sparrow-weavers wheezed and

squabbled constantly, whilst also busy at their nests were Black-capped Social Weavers. Northern Red-billed, Eastern Yellow-billed, Von der Decken's and African Grey Hornbills all vied for our attention and when not completely distracted by the birds, we diverted our attention to the Grevy's Zebra, Desert Warthog, entertaining African Elephants and Southern Gerenuks amongst the large herds of game on the plains. As we were driving back, I was lucky to spot a pair of roosting Northern White-faced Owls from the moving vehicle, and we enjoyed terrific views of these cracking birds. And as we were arriving to our lodge, a Lichtenstein ´s Sandgrouse by the track was our last new bird of the day.

Black-faced Sandgrouse.

On our second full day we headed into the heart of Shaba National Reserve and drove straight to the lava-field plains. Once at the plains, it didn't take long to track down the endemic and little-known Williams's Lark. We found a pair of them, and although flighty, we eventually had good views of them in the scope. A detour through some taller woodland, where we had seen the rare Gambaga Flycatcher in the past, was successful, as we managed to find two of these precious birds, as they came to mob a Pearl-spotted Owlet. One of the best birds of the day was definitely Three-banded Courser, of which we found a pair sitting on eggs just by the track. What a bird! We had lunch at a natural spring, the only water available in the area, which attracted hundreds of birds, including many Bristle-crowned Starlings, Red-billed Queleas and Cut-throat Finches. Raptors were in evidence too, with a pair of Ggabar Goshawks, a Eurasian Marsh Harrier, Tawny Eagle and African Hawk-Eagle. A flock of Grey-headed Silverbills was much appreciated, as were a trio of tiny Mouse-colored Penduline TIts. Nearby, a Bearded Woodpecker gave good views too. Back at the lodge in the afternoon, we had some welcome cold drinks and then went for a walk. The highlight was a small flock of Grant ´s Wood Hoopoes, much to everyone´s delight.

Early next morning he headed to north, stopping in some thick deciduous woodland where we fairly quickly tracked down our target Somali Long-billed Crombec. Afterwards, a quick stop at Isiolo ponds gave us some Knob-billed Ducks, together with a good assortment of waders. We arrived to Naro Moru, at the foot of Mount Kenya, in the early afternoon. A stroll around the hotel was productive, with Common Scimitarbill, White-bellied Tit, a fantastic pair of Violet-backed Starlings, Yellow-whiskered Greenbul, White-browed Robin Chat, Bronzy Sunbird and Spectacled Weaver all on offer by our cabins.

Grey-headed Silverbill.

The following morning we headed to the nearby Solio Ranch. This once huge expanse of grassland for ranched game has now been severely diminished as 15,000 acres of land has been sold and given over to new settlements. The wide open grasslands of the ranch contained much (mainly introduced) game, but were also of interest to the birders as it was here that we finally obtained great views of Jackson's Widowbirds with males in breeding plumage. We scanned the area for more birds, successfully picking out Capped Wheatear, Pectoral-patch and Stout Cisticolas, Northern Anteater Chat and Black-winged Plovers, as well as some Lesser Kestrels, and a single male Amur Falcon. Further along the way we stopped at a site that is by now probably world famous as a location to see the Mackinder's version of Cape Eagle Owl.

Three-banded Courser.

We met up with the guardian of the owls and were taken to a cliff where we had great views of one adult and a small chick, starring at us. Not only that but there was also a pair of Little Rock Thrushes. Continuing on, we made a convenient stop which gave us Brown Parisoma and Eastern Grey Woodpecker. Further along, we made yet excellent stop en route that produced the uncommon Lynes's Cisticola. An hour later we arrived at the superb Lake Nakuru in time for some initial exploration. We had an afternoon and a morning to explore this great site, notching up a huge number of goodies. Water levels were high thus making the lake far less alkaline than usual and for this reason numbers of Lesser and Greater Flamingos were relatively low, though there were still plenty to keep us amused. Huge numbers of Great White Pelicans were certainly impressive, whilst smaller numbers of Pink-backed Pelicans, White-breasted Cormorants, Marabou, Yellow-billed Storks, stunning Grey Crowned Cranes, Little, Yellow-billed and Great Egrets, a single dark morph Western Reef Heron, Grey Heron and Hamerkop added to the impressive gathering. Hundreds of Little and a couple of Black-necked Grebes were dotted around the shallows, where ducks included White-faced Whistling Duck, Cape Teal, Hottentot Teal and a single Southern Pochard found by Jonathan. Large numbers of Grey-headed Gulls were accompanied by a single vagrant Slender-billed Gull and some Black-headed Gulls, and hundreds of White-winged Terns were seen alongside smaller numbers of Gull-billed Terns. A collection of Palearctic waders included Collared Pratincole, Common Ringed Plover, Little Stint, Ruff, Marsh, Green, Wood and Common Sandpipers, Common Greenshank, Pied Avocets and Black-winged Stilts, together with an unexpected Red-necked Phalarope, while other 'more African' shorebirds included African Jacana, Blacksmith and Spur-winged Plovers, Kittlitz's and Three-banded Plover. Pied Kingfishers buzzed around, Malachite Kingfishers lurked at the fringes and numerous hirundines (including Banded Martins) and swifts flew overhead - the whole lake was basically teeming, and quite a spectacle! Around the lake's fringes, and in scrubby areas, we found numerous species such as smart White-fronted Bee-eaters, Yellow-throated Longclaw, colourful White-browed Robin Chats, Northern Anteater Chats, Winding, Rattling and Pectoral-patch Cisticolas, Yellow-breasted Apalis, the acacia-loving Buff-bellied Warbler, Grey-backed and Northern Fiscals, Blue-eared, Rüppell's Long-tailed and Superb Starlings, Scarlet-chested Sunbird, the localized Reichenow's Seedeater and Brimstone Canary.

White Rhino, Lesser Flamingos and Cape Teal at Nakuru.

Much of our time was spent exploring the woodland that surrounds the lake, complete with impressively huge and ancient Yellow Fever Trees. Here we hoped to find the localized Grey-crested Helmet Shrike, and succeeded, finding a pure-looking bird within a party of helmet shrikes that showed hybrid characters. In the same area also noted Green Wood Hoopoes clinging to the hefty boughs that also provided good perching places for Long-crested Eagles. Striped Kingfishers foraged quietly by the track alongside colourful Lilac-breasted Rollers and Scaly-throated Honeyguides called from the canopy, which also held Nubian, Bearded and African Grey-headed Woodpeckers. We also found Hildebrandt´s Francolins, a cracking pair of Little Sparrowhawks, some Greater Painted Snipes, noisy Arrow-marked Babblers, a migrant Great Reed Warbler, a single Schallow´s Wheatear, African Thrush and gorgeous Golden-breasted Buntings. Mammals were also conspicuous. Both White and Black Rhinoceroses were much appreciated, Olive Baboons and Vervet Monkeys frequently scurried away, a couple of Black-backed Jackals were admired, and large numbers of game included Common Zebras, 100s of Cape Buffalos, Defassa Waterbucks, Eastern Thomson's and Grant's Gazelles and Common Impalas, and these were often accompanied by Red-billed Oxpeckers. After a full and action-packed morning, we quite literally battened down the hatches and headed for Lake Baringo. En route we saw a pair of stunning Silverbirds. Once at Baringo, we had an afternoon and a full day to explore this interesting area. A short walk around the hotel in the late afternoon produced good numbers of our target Northern Masked Weaver, as well as a confiding Greater Painted Snipe, amongst others.

Common Rock Thrush and Purple Roller.

While in Baringo we spent some time in the arid thorn bush close to town, along the impressive escarpment and around the very full lake which had flooded our intended accommodation! In the gardens by the lake, the near-endemic Jackson's Hornbill was easy to see, numerous Beautiful Sunbirds were present and Spotted Morning Thrushes sang loudly from the tangles. White-headed Buffalo Weavers were common and we were entertained by the antics of the numerous weaver species that came down to join the feeding frenzy when some bread was put out including Little, (Jackson's) Golden-backed, Village, Vitelline Masked, Lesser Masked and Chestnut Weavers. Other species here included African Mourning Doves, White-browed

Sparrow Weaver, Brown Babbler, a stunning white morph African Paradise Flycatcher and a pair of sleepy African Scops Owls giving great views at their roost. Along the escarpment we grilled another set of birds. Here, an unexpected migrant male Levant Sparrowhawk was a good bonus, bizarre-shaped Fan-tailed Ravens drifted along the cliffs, and a pair of distant Mocking Clliff Chats was scoped. Red-fronted Warblers showed nicely, as did a Brown-backed Scrub Robin. The unassuming Brown-tailed Rock Chat was watched flitting around in front of us, but in spite of a lot of time scanning, we couldn't find the hoped-for Hemprichs Hornbill. With the help of our excellent local guide, we looked for a series of nocturnal species in the daytime. We began with superb views of a roosting Greyish Eagle Owl, followed by a pair of Northern White-faced Owls. Then it was time for yet some more Three-banded Coursers, with at least 4 sheltering from the heat of the sun, followed by Slender-tailed Nightjar and a more diurnal Pearl Spotted Owlet. Not bad for a few hours' work! A steady procession of other birds followed as we enjoyed flocks of comical Blue-naped Mousebirds, striking Red-fronted Tinkerbirds, Red-fronted, Black-throated and gorgeous Red-and-yellow Barbets and colourful Eastern Violet-backed Sunbirds. White-bellied Go-away Birds sported outrageous topknots, Purple Rollers hawked for insects and Pygmy Batises played hide-and-seek with us, while drab African Grey Flycatchers, Grey Wren Warblers and Yellow-spotted Petronias rubbed shoulders with more colourful residents such as Northern White-crowned Shrike, Brubru and Green-winged Pytilia. Brown-tailed (split from Yellow-breasted) Apalis and Northern Crombec Tit all showed well.

Northern Masked Weaver.

Even after all this there was still time for a boat trip out on the lake. The highlight was a trio of showy Hemprich´s Hornbills in a small forested island, which showed extraordinary well. Afterwards, we went to the lake shore, where brightly coloured Malachite Kingfishers shot back and forth, Black Crakes and African Jacanas were sneaking around the fringes and a procession of waterbirds was led by the worlds largest heron, a very obliging and absolutely enormous photogenic Goliath Heron that refused to move, and we went on to see several others! African Darter and Squacco, Green-backed and Purple Herons were much admired. We also had time to admire a find a Dark Chanting Goshawk and a male Little Bittern.

Next day it was onwards to the Kerio Valley where we soon found several stunning White-crested Turacos, in the same tree as 4 attractive Ross´s Turacos! Also in the area we had a few Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-weavers, a single Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike and colourful Violet-backed Starlings. Another stop by the river gave us our first Black-headed Gonoleks and a single Lead-colored Flycatcher. As we climbed out of

the Rift Valley, we stopped at a small marsh, which produced Lesser Swamp and Highland Rush Warblers, Levaillant's Cisticola, Southern Citril and some stunning Orange-breasted (Zebra) Waxbills. We then continued the rest of the way to the heavenly Rondo Retreat in Kakamega Forest interrupted by a rather long stop to fix the brakes of our vehicle.

Scissor-tailed Kite.

With only one and a half days in the forest, and lots of targets in mind, we had to work had and gave it a good go, coming away with an excellent haul! The dawns broke with the wailing cries of enormous Black-and-white-casqued Hornbills and the growling of the Guereza Colobus. Kakamega Forest is predominantly secondary growth but it is nonetheless incredibly 'birdy' even if many of the targets need a bit of coaxing! Most of our time here was spent along the main road and a couple of side trails, where we were largely lucky. The main target species here is Turner's Eremomela, a dainty localized species not seen on any other Birdquest tour and this year we managed to find a couple of flocks which showed very well. Uganda Woodland Warblers are far easier to see here than in neighbouring Uganda and several were seen during our stay. Because the forest provided a very different habitat from anything else experienced on the tour until now, there was consequently an enormous rush of new species and the excitement of the first day here was perhaps one of the highlights of the tour. Large denizens of the forest canopy included amazing and cumbersome Great Blue Turacos that bounced from branch to branch a d a stunning Black-crested Turaco - a rarely seen species in Kakamega- singing from a tree that gave excellent scope views. Flocks of Stuhlmann's Starlings were often to be flying overhead and often chose to perch in the highest bare snags, and African Green Pigeons occasionally joined them, whilst Cinnamon-chested Bee-eaters foraged from the snags. Barbets and woodpeckers were well represented. Nasal-tufted Grey-throated Barbets, 'snoring' Yellow-spotted Barbets, Streaky throated and Yellow-billed Barbets all showed well while dead and rotting trunks were perfect places for Brown-eared and Yellow-crested Woodpeckers. Mixed flocks held Western Black-headed Orioles, Pink-footed Puffbacks and Square-tailed Drongos whilst one of the most stunning and popular species that sought the shelter of the vine tangles was Lühder's Bush Shrike, a habitat shared by Bocage's Bushshrike. Also in the canopy and midstorey were Buff-throated and Black-throated Apalises, and flocks that included unusually obliging Green Hylia as well as Dusky Tit and Yellow White-eye. Also in the canopy we were fortunate to see a fine Southern Hyliota - the rainforest dwelling race *slatini* of this bird is almost certainly a cryptic species and more research needs to be done on this sparsely distributed bird. Hard to spot Olive-green Camaropteras were seen well, while a pair of the rare Chapin´s Flycatchers, uttering their distinctive spitting call showed extraordinary well. The mid-storeys were also home to a wide array of

greenbuls that included brightly coloured Joyful Greenbuls as well as Cameroon Sombre, Ansorge's, Yellow-whiskered, Kakamega (split from Shelley's), Toro Olive (an unusually obliging pair), Cabanis's and leader-only Honeyguide Greenbuls and Red-tailed Bristlebill. We enjoyed great looks at the brilliant Jameson´s Wattle-eye, while the uncommon Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye was seen briefly by some. Foraging Black-necked Weavers gleaned in the foliage along with the Dark-backed Weavers, while Brown-capped Weavers foraged nuthatch-like. We had excellent opportunities to see several Red-headed Malimbes. Along the sides of the tracks we found the super Black-faced Rufous Warbler, Chubb's Cisticola, Black-faced (split from Banded) Prinia and White-chinned Prinia, whilst a Red-headed Bluebill showed briefly. In spite of trying at every known site, there was no sign of Blue-headed Bee-eater, anywhere. In the undergrowth skulked the hardest of all the birds to see but we managed to get great views of Brown, Mountain and, after a lot of effort and pacience, Grey-chested Illadopsises. Brown-chested Alethe also performed well, and the mouth-watering Blue-shouldered Robin Chat eventually gave excellent views to those who went for it in the late afternoon. The normally Equatorial Akalat was as obliging as ever, with 2 territorial birds fighting with each other, while the uncommon Grey-winged Robin Chat and the retiring Dusky Crested Flycatcher also performed. The retreat garden and their surroundings was a good place to relax and still see birds and these included an African Grey Parrot, African Thrush, Mackinnon's Fiscal, African Blue Flycatcher, Collared, Western Olive and Green-throated Sunbirds and Vieillot's Black Weaver. Some serious birding in the garden resulted in great views of the shy White-spotted Flufftail, and we also managed great views of a Snowy-headed Robin Chat.

Chapin´s Flycatcher and African Emerald Cuckoo.

Reluctantly we had to leave this haven in Kakamega Forest and our travels led us onwards through increasingly populated and cultivated countryside. We paused briefly in the sugarcane dominated countryside around Mumias, where we managed great views of Wire-tailed, Angola and Lesser Striped Swallows, Little Bee-eater, Red-faced Cisticola, and some magnificent Red-chested and Copper Sunbirds. We made a rather long detour towards Busia through what was once an area of rough grassland but which has now almost completely disappeared under cultivation. Here we scraped around for species that are perhaps more easily found in neighbouring Ugand. However we did come up trumps with a number of interesting species including several smart Black Bishops, Fan-tailed and Yellow-shouldered Widowbirds, Yellow-throated Leaflove, Fawn-breasted Waxbill, Bar-breasted Firefinch, some Compact Weavers, Blue-

headed Coucal, Siffling Cisticola, African Moustached Warbler, Slender-billed and Holub's Golden Weavers, Bronze Mannikin and Yellow-fronted and Brimstone Canaries.

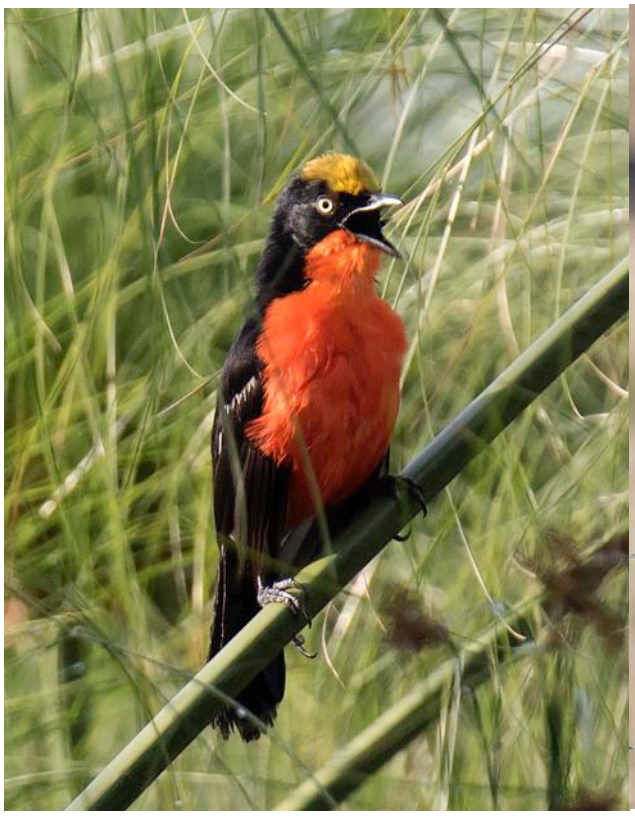
Saddle-billed Stork.

Early the following morning we started driving towards Kisumu, on the shores of Lake Victoria. Some stops on the way yielded Woodland Kingfisher, Greater Swamp Warbler and Marsh Tchagra. In the afternoon we went to look a number of specialities that exist in the remnants of the once ex-tensive papyrus swamps that surround Lake Victoria, but the fast-disappearing habitat makes access increasingly difficult every year, and the site is not aesthetically pleasing. It was very windy and things were quiet. Nonetheless we found a pair of congiding Papyrus Canaries, some Carruthers's Cisticolas, a few Swamp Flycatcherss, Broad-billed Roller and Northern Brown-throated Weavers, although Papyrus Gonolek was not even heard.

We went back to the same spot early next morning, and this time we were in luck, as a pair of intensely coloured Papyrus Gonoleks came straight away, calling loudly from the top of the impressive papyrus. Success! We then began the long journey to Kichwa Tembo. A stop at some rice fields produced some African Open-billed Storks, Fulvous and White-faced Whistling Ducks, Long-toed Plovers, Yellow-headed Wagtail, Plain Martin, and, best of all, some superb fire- ball-like Southern Red Bishops in breeding plumage. Little else was seen on the journey but we did pick up a nice Western Banded Snake Eagle, a few Dusky Turtle Doves, Mosque and Red-chested Swallows, Trilling Cisticola and as we rolled into the wonderful Mara West Camp, with the open plains of the Masai Mara below us in front of us, we began to see the big game that this region is famous for. During the night, the cries of several Spotted Hyenas were heard by the tents.

The following morning, we began our exploration of the area on the scrubby Oloolollo escarpment that rises behind Kichwa Tembo and affords magnificent vistas and some great birding opportunities. It was a busy morning, and bird activity was good. Characterful Usambiro Barbets entertained, close to the lodge, and soon we were on the escarpment tracking down Rock-loving Cisticola, a brief Red-tailed Chat, a pair of smart Southern Hyliotas and a singing Pale Wren-Warbler, that took a while to find. The rock strewn hill-sides were also perfect habitat to find Long-billed Pipit and we also enjoyed seeing several Sooty Chats, but perhaps the most impressive bird of the morning was Schalow's Turaco with its amazing crest and bright red wings. Overhead the skies were busy. We identified African White-backed, Rüppell's Griffon and Lappet-faced Vultures and other raptors included Black-chested Snake Eagle and Tawny Eagles and Bateleur. In the afternoon we ventured out onto the plains in search of big game and indeed it was all laid out there in

front of us and for a while the birds took second stage. There was everything from an impressive male Lion, seen at very close quarters, to troops of Olive Baboon and Banded Mongooses to herds of antelope including good numbers of Eland, Red-fronted (Thomson's) and Grant's Gazelles, Impala and Topi. Huge African Elephants and long-necked Masai Giraffes could not fail to impress and there were also plenty of Common Zebra and African Buffalo as well as Common Warthog, Bohor Reedbuck and Defassa Waterbuck, and these were accompanied by Yellow-billed Oxpeckers. In the bird front, Southern Ground Hornbills performed, and a male Black-bellied Bustard gave great views, whilst other interest in the grasslands was provided by Grey Kestrels and Rufous-naped Larks. Red-necked Spurfowls scurried from the track, while wetter areas held Saddle-billed Storks, ugly Spur-winged Geese and Crowned and African Wattled Plovers. A male Black-backed Cisticola was a good addition to our list, and then it was time to head back to our accommodation.



Papyrus Gonolek and Long-tailed Widowbird.

The following day we spent the entire day travelling in and across the Masai Mara. This was a true wildlife experience, as notable for the mammals as it was for the birds. Pride of place went to a fantastic Serval Cat, hunting by the track in the early morning, of which we had absolutely wonderful views. A roosting Leopard up in a small tree was good too. And the sight of several monster Nile River Crocodiles feasting on a dead huge male hippo in the river was also something to remember. A couple of sleepy Lions were seen too, as well as the usual impressive array of ungulates. As we travelled accross the plains we enountered a number of new birds too. Perhaps the rarest was Rufous-tailed Weaver, a recent coloniser from the Serengeti in Tanzania, which now breeds in a couple of small colonies. Some Rosy-breasted Longclaws in breeding plumage were much appreciated, whilst other new species added included several Temminck´s Coursers, 2 obliging White-tailed Larks - always a good bird to see-, a few Croaking Cisticolas and a tiny Long-tailed Cisticola, amongst others. Eventually we arrived at our accommodation in Siana Springs.

Serval Cat.

The next morning we birded in the bush near to the lodge and although it was a fine morning the birding progress was slow. We were told the area was now private property, so a local had to escort us. Nevertheless, we found our two targets, the uncommon Buff-bellied Pendulne Tit, and the smart Magpie Shrike. Having been ushered away, we began making our way across the Loita Plains. Here we found good numbers of Two-banded and Temminck´s Coursers, Capped Wheatears, Red-capped Larks and Fischer's Sparrow Larks. Highlight of the morning however resulted from a stop in some whistling thorn acacias, where we located a pair of Karamoja Apalis! Not the most impressive looking species, but smart nevertheless and a very rare species, being only the second time it was seen on a Birdquest tour! We then continued towards Nairobi, seeing our last new bird of the trip, Swahili Sparrows, before finally arriving to the city.

Red-throated Tit.

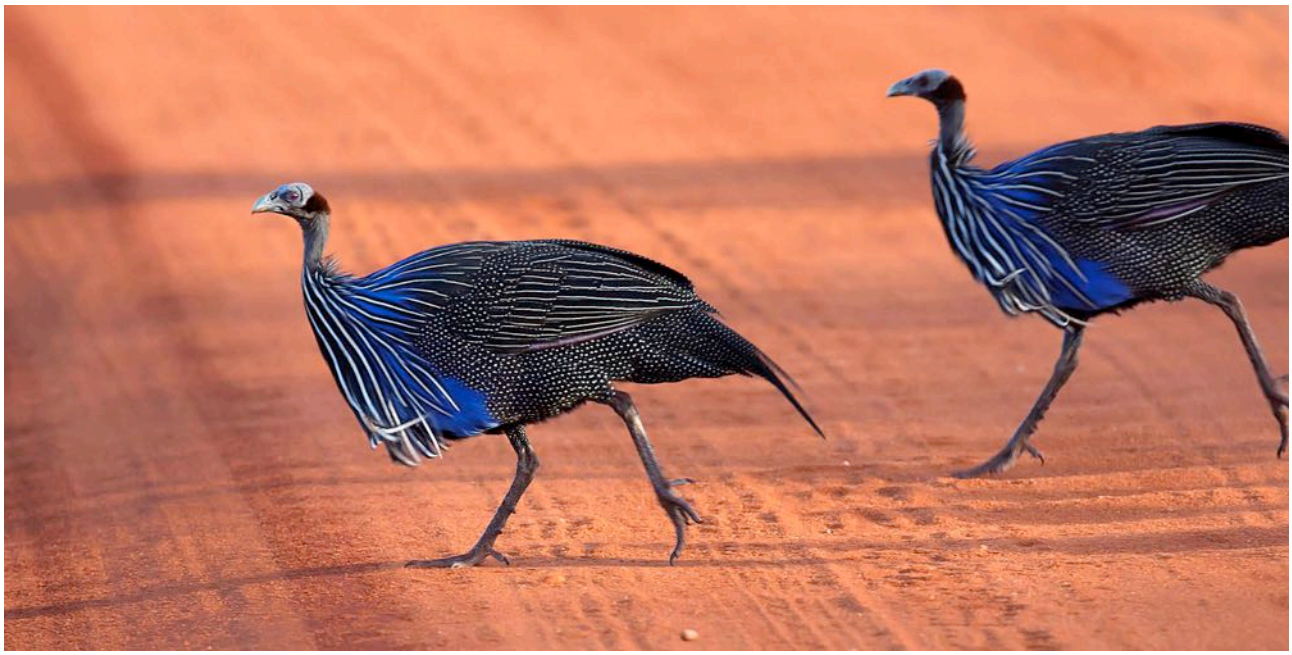
Our African adventure had ended and it was time to leave, so we headed for the airport with the memories of some amazing birds and mammals buzzing around our minds. As always, in Kenya, the birds had come at us fast and furious throughout the tour with a continuous stream of new species, and it was hard to take in such diversity in such a short space of time! There is absolutely no doubt about it Kenya provides a mega bird and wildlife experience! Thanks Zack for a wonderful trip.

Southern Red Bishop.

African Goshawk.

White-throated Bee-eater and European Roller.

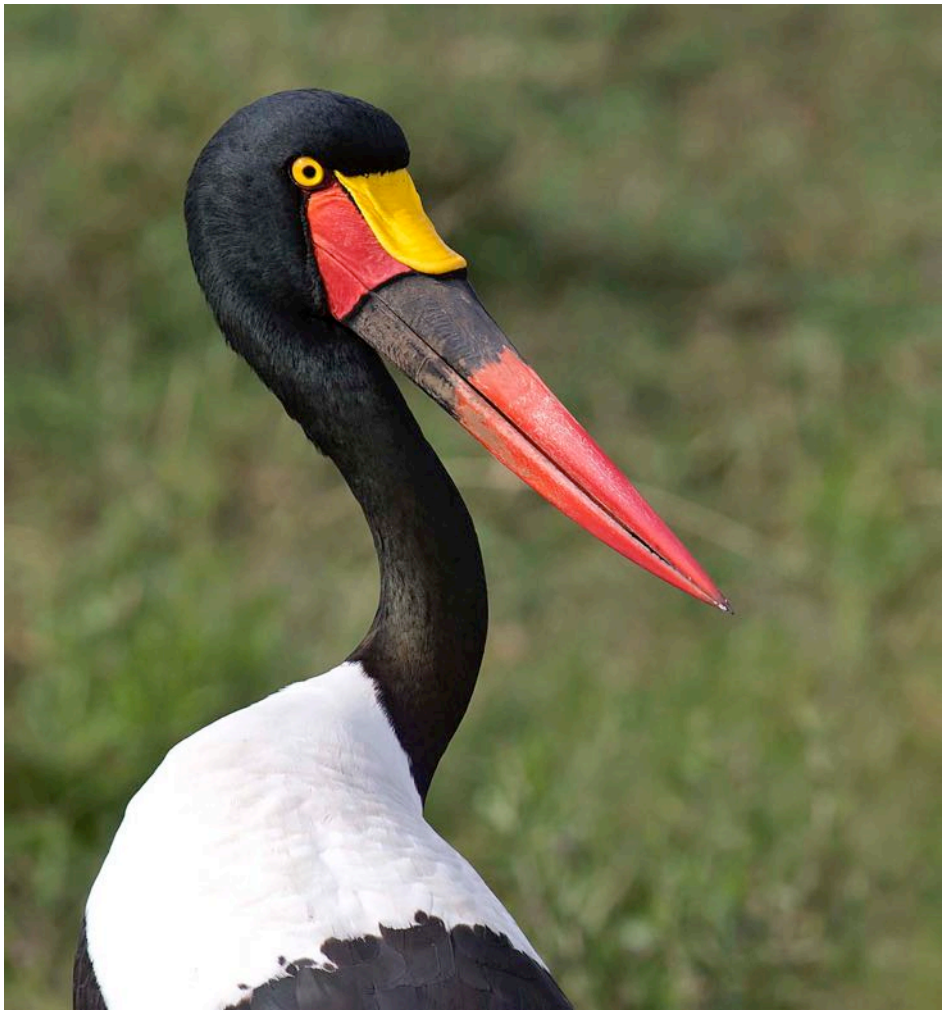
Lion and Vulturine Guineafowl.



Crab Plovers and Pygmy Falcon.

Jackson´s Francolin and Violet-backed Starling.

Tawny –left- and Steppe – right- Eagles, and Saddle-billed Stork.



African Wood Owl.

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **IOC World Bird Names**. This list is updated several times annually and is available at http://www.worldbirdnames.org.

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).
Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).
Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

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

Conservation threat categories and information are taken from *Threatened Birds of the World*, BirdLife International's magnificent book on the sad status of the rarest 10% of the world's avifauna, and updates on the BirdLife website: http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/home
CR = Critically Endangered**, E** = Endangered, **V** = Vulnerable, **NT** = Near Threatened, **DD** = Data Deficient.

Wandering Whistling Duck ***Dendrocygna arcuata*** Seen at Candaba and Bislig (nominate).
Common Ostrich ***Struthio camelus*** A handful of sightings.
Somali Ostrich ◊ ***Struthio molybdophanes*** Great views in Shaba.

Somali and Common Ostrich.

White-faced Whistling Duck ***Dendrocygna viduata*** Widespread.
Fulvous Whistling Duck ***Dendrocygna bicolor*** Seen on the way to Kisumu.
Spur-winged Goose ***Plectropterus gambensis*** Three records.
Knob-billed Duck ***Sarkidiornis melanotos*** A couple of sightings.
Egyptian Goose ***Alopochen aegyptiaca*** Common and widespread.
Cape Teal (C Wigeon) ***Anas capensis*** Widespread.
African Black Duck ***Anas sparsa*** Good looks at one in the Aberdares.
Yellow-billed Duck ***Anas undulate*** Several sightings.

White-bellied Bustard.

Red-billed Teal (R-b Duck) ***Anas erythrorhyncha*** A handful of sightings.
Hottentot Teal ***Anas hottentota*** Noted at three sites.
Southern Pochard ***Netta erythrophthalma*** Seen at Nakuru.
Maccoa Duck ***Oxyura maccoa*** One seen briefly on the way to Shaba.
Helmeted Guineafowl ***Numida meleagris*** Common and widespread.
Crested Guineafowl ***Guttera pucherani*** Great views at Sokoke.
Vulturine Guineafowl ◊ ***Acryllium vulturinum*** Excellent looks in Tsavo East and Buffalo Springs.
Crested Francolin ***Dendroperdix sephaena*** Widespread.
Scaly Francolin ***Pternistis squamatus*** One sighting.
Hildebrandt's Francolin ◊ ***Pternistis hildebrandti*** Great views at Nakuru.
Jackson's Francolin ◊ ***Pternistis jacksoni*** Excellent looks at several birds in the Aberdares.
Yellow-necked Spurfowl ***Pternistis leucoscepus*** Common in Tsavo.
Red-necked Spurfowl ***Pternistis afer*** Seen in Masai Mara.
Little Grebe ***Tachybaptus ruficollis*** A couple of records.

Black-necked Grebe (Eared G) ***Podiceps nigricollis*** Seen at Nakuru.
Greater Flamingo ***Phoenicopterus roseus*** A few hundred birds at Nakuru.
Lesser Flamingo ***Phoeniconaias minor*** A dozen in Nakuru.
Yellow-billed Stork ***Mycteria ibis*** Widespread.
African Openbill (A Open-billed Stork) ***Anastomus lamelligerus*** Several sightings.
Black Stork ***Ciconia nigra*** One record.
Abdim's Stork ***Ciconia abdimii*** A handful of sightings.
Woolly-necked Stork ***Ciconia episcopus*** Widespread.
Saddle-billed Stork ***Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*** Great views in Masai Mara.
Marabou Stork ***Leptoptilos crumenifer*** A few records.
African Sacred Ibis ***Threskiornis aethiopicus*** Widespread.
Hadada Ibis ***Bostrychia hagedash*** Common and widespread.
Glossy Ibis ***Plegadis falcinellus*** Small numbers noted.
African Spoonbill ***Platalea alba*** Several sightings.

African Harrier Hawk.

Little Bittern ***Ixobrychus minutus*** A male in Baringo.
Black-crowned Night Heron ***Nycticorax nycticorax*** Noted on 2 dates.
Striated Heron (Green-backed H) ***Butorides striata*** A handful of birds seen.

Squacco Heron ***Ardeola ralloides*** Several birds seen.
Western Cattle Egret ***Bubulcus ibis*** Widespread.
Grey Heron ***Ardea cinerea*** A few birds seen throughout the tour.
Black-headed Heron ***Ardea melanocephala*** Widespread.
Goliath Heron ***Ardea goliath*** Several birds noted.
Purple Heron ***Ardea purpurea*** A few birds seen.
Great Egret ***Ardea alba*** Widespread.
Intermediate Egret (Yellow-billed E) ***Ardea intermedia*** A few records.
Black Heron (B Egret) ***Egretta ardesiaca*** Seen at three sites this year, bigger numbers in Jipe.
Little Egret ***Egretta garzetta*** Widespread.
Western Reef Heron ***Egretta gularis*** A dark-morph bird at Nakuru.
Hamerkop ***Scopus umbretta*** Widespread.
Great White Pelican ***Pelecanus onocrotalus*** Seen in Nakuru.
Pink-backed Pelican ***Pelecanus rufescens*** A few sightings.

Palm-nut Vulture.

Reed Cormorant (Long-tailed C) ***Microcarbo africanus*** Widespread at wetland areas.
White-breasted Cormorant ***Phalacrocorax lucidus*** Large numbers in Nakuru.
African Darter ***Anhinga rufa*** Small numbers seen.
Secretarybird ***Sagittarius serpentarius*** Singles seen on several occasions.
Western Osprey ***Pandion haliaetus*** One at Watami.
Black-winged Kite ***Elanus caeruleus*** Widespread.
Scissor-tailed Kite (African Swallow-t K) ***Chelictinia riocourii*** Great views of two birds in Tsavo East.
African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene) ***Polyboroides typus*** Widespread.
Palm-nut Vulture (Vulturine Fish Eagle) ***Gypohierax angolensis*** Small numbers noted.
European Honey Buzzard (W) (Eurasian H B) ***Pernis apivorus*** An adult male seen in the Aberares.
Hooded Vulture ***Necrosyrtes monachus*** Only three sightings.
White-backed Vulture (African W-b V) ***Gyps africanus*** Small numbers seen, sadly decreasing at an alarming rate.
Rüppell's Vulture (R's Griffon V) ***Gyps rueppelli*** Singles seen on 4 dates.
Lappet-faced Vulture ***Torgos tracheliotos*** Seen in Masai Mara.

Black-chested Snake Eagle ***Circaetus pectoralis*** Singles seen on 4 dates.
Brown Snake Eagle ***Circaetus cinereus*** A few birds seen.
Southern Banded Snake Eagle ◊ ***Circaetus fasciolatus*** One sighting.
Western Banded Snake Eagle ***Circaetus cinerascens*** Great views near Kisumu.
Bateleur ***Terathopius ecaudatus*** Widespread.
Crowned Eagle (African C E) ***Stephanoaetus coronatus*** Excellent views near Mt Kenya.
Martial Eagle ***Polemaetus bellicosus*** Small numbers seen.
Long-crested Eagle ***Lophaetus occipitalis*** Seen in the west.
Wahlberg's Eagle ***Hieraaetus wahlbergi*** Small numbers noted.
Booted Eagle ***Hieraaetus pennatus*** Two sightings.
Tawny Eagle ***Aquila rapax*** Widespread.
Steppe Eagle ***Aquila nipalensis*** Two definite records.
Verreaux's Eagle ***Aquila verreauxii*** Good views near Ngulia.
African Hawk-Eagle ***Aquila spilogaster*** A handful of sightings.
Lizard Buzzard ***Kaupifalco monogrammicus*** Several birds seen.
Gabar Goshawk ***Micronisus gabar*** Widespread.
Dark Chanting Goshawk ***Melierax metabates*** One seen at Baringo.
Eastern Chanting Goshawk (E Pale C G) ***Melierax poliopterus*** Seen in the East.
African Goshawk ***Accipiter tachiro*** Great views in Sokoke.
Shikra ***Accipiter badius*** Small numbers.
Levant Sparrowhawk ***Accipiter brevipes*** One adult male in migration at Baringo.
Little Sparrowhawk ***Accipiter minullus*** A pair showed nicely at Nakuru.
Black Sparrowhawk (Great S) ***Accipiter melanoleucus*** A few sightings.
Western Marsh Harrier (Eurasian M H) ***Circus aeruginosus*** Singles seen on 4 dates.
Montagu's Harrier ***Circus pygargus*** A few seen in Tsavo.
Yellow-billed Kite ***Milvus aegyptius*** Common and widespread.
African Fish Eagle ***Haliaeetus* vocifer** One of Africa´s most iconic birds. Widespread near wetlands.
Grasshopper Buzzard ***Butastur rufipennis*** Seen in Tsavo.
Common Buzzard (Steppe B) ***Buteo [buteo] vulpinus*** A few migrants seen.
Mountain Buzzard ◊ ***Buteo oreophilus*** Great views in the Aberdares.
Augur Buzzard ***Buteo augur*** Widespread.
Kori Bustard ***Ardeotis kori*** Seen well a few times.
White-bellied Bustard ***Eupodotis senegalensis*** Close encounters in various reserves.
Buff-crested Bustard ***Lophotis gindiana*** Great views.
Black-bellied Bustard ***Lissotis melanogaster*** First seen in Nakuru.
Hartlaub's Bustard ***Lissotis hartlaubii*** Seen twice.
White-spotted Flufftail ***Sarothrura pulchra*** Mega views in Kakamega.
African Rail (A Water R) ***Rallus caerulescens*** *(H*) Heard only.
Black Crake ***Amaurornis flavirostra*** Widespread.
African Swamphen ***Porphyrio madagascariensis*** First seen at lake Jipe.
Common Moorhen ***Gallinula chloropus*** A few sightings.
Red-knobbed Coot (Crested C) ***Fulica cristata*** A few sightings.
Grey Crowned Crane ***Balearica regulorum*** Several birds noted.
Water Thick-knee (W Dikkop) ***Burhinus vermiculatus*** First seen at Jipe.
Spotted Thick-knee (S Dikkop) ***Burhinus capensis*** Seen once by some of us.
Crab-plover (W) ***Dromas ardeola*** Good numbers at Mida Creek.
Black-winged Stilt ***Himantopus himantopus*** Small numbers.
Pied Avocet ***Recurvirostra avosetta*** Seen in Nakuru.
Long-toed Lapwing (L-t Plover) ***Vanellus crassirostris*** Small numbers seen.
Blacksmith Lapwing (B Plover) ***Vanellus armatus*** Widespread.
Spur-winged Lapwing (S-w Plover) ***Vanellus spinosus*** Widespread.
Black-headed Lapwing (B-h Plover) ***Vanellus tectus*** First seen in Tsavo.
Senegal Lapwing (Lesser Black-winged Plover) ***Vanellus lugubris*** Seen near the coast.
Black-winged Lapwing (B-w Plover) ***Vanellus melanopterus*** Seen in Solio plains.

Crowned Lapwing (C Plover) ***Vanellus coronatus*** Widespread.
African Wattled Lapwing (A W Plover) **Vanellus senegallus** Seen in Masai Mara**.**
Grey Plover ***Pluvialis squatarola*** Seen at Mida creek.
Common Ringed Plover ***Charadrius hiaticula*** Seen at several wetlands and in the coast.
Kittlitz's Plover ***Charadrius pecuarius*** Small numbers seen.
Three-banded Plover ***Charadrius tricollaris*** Widespread.
White-fronted Plover ***Charadrius marginatus*** Seen in the coast.
Lesser Sand Plover ***Charadrius mongolus*** Seen at Mida.
Greater Sand Plover ***Charadrius leschenaultii*** Seen at Mida creek.
Caspian Plover ***Charadrius asiaticus*** One adult male near the coast.
Greater Painted-snipe ***Rostratula benghalensis*** Great views at 3 sites.
African Jacana ***Actophilornis africanus*** Widespread.
African Snipe ***Gallinago nigripennis*** Seen at the Sharpes Longclaw spot.
Whimbrel (Eurasian W) ***Numenius [phaeopus] phaeopus*** Seen in the coast.
Spotted Redshank ***Tringa erythropus*** One at Nakuru.
Common Redshank ***Tringa totanus*** One sighting.
Marsh Sandpiper ***Tringa stagnatilis*** Small numbers seen.
Common Greenshank ***Tringa nebularia*** Widespread.
Green Sandpiper ***Tringa ochropus*** A few seen.
Wood Sandpiper ***Tringa glareola*** Widespread.
Terek Sandpiper ***Xenus cinereus*** Good numbers in the coast**.**
Common Sandpiper ***Actitis hypoleucos*** Widespread in small numbers.
Ruddy Turnstone ***Arenaria interpres*** Seen in the coast.
Sanderling ***Calidris alba*** Seen in the coast.
Little Stint ***Calidris minuta*** Widespread.
Curlew Sandpiper ***Calidris ferruginea*** Common along the coast.
Ruff ***Philomachus pugnax*** Widespread.
Red-necked Phalarope ***Phalaropus lobatus*** One adult female at Nakuru.
Somali Courser ◊ ***Cursorius somalensis*** Seen in Tsavo East.
Temminck's Courser ***Cursorius temminckii*** Good numbers this year in Mara.
Double-banded Courser (Two-b C) ***Rhinoptilus africanus*** Great views on two dates.
Three-banded Courser (Heuglin's C) ***Rhinoptilus cinctus*** A chance sighting in Shaba, and 5 at Baringo.
Collared Pratincole ***Glareola pratincola*** Widespread.
Slender-billed Gull ***Chroicocephalus genei*** One adult at Nakuru.
Black-headed Gull ***Chroicocephalus ridibundus*** Several birds at Nakuru.
Grey-headed Gull ***Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*** Common in Nakuru.
Sooty Gull ◊ ***Ichthyaetus hemprichii*** A few along the coast.
Lesser Black-backed Gull (Baltic G) ***Larus [fuscus] fuscus*** One adult on the coast.
Gull-billed Tern ***Gelochelidon nilotica*** Good numbers in Nakuru.
Caspian Tern ***Hydroprogne caspia*** Some along the coast.
Greater Crested Tern ***Thalasseus bergii*** Common along the coast.
Lesser Crested Tern ***Thalasseus bengalensis*** Common along the coast.
Roseate Tern ***Sterna dougallii*** Two distant ones on the coast.
Common Tern ***Sterna hirundo*** Seen on the coast.
Whiskered Tern ***Chlidonias hybrida*** Good numbers in lake Victoria.
White-winged Tern (W-w Black T) **Chlidonias leucopterus** Common in Nakuru.
Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse ***Pterocles exustus*** A few seen.
Black-faced Sandgrouse ◊ ***Pterocles decorates*** Good views in Tsavo.
Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse ***Pterocles lichtensteinii*** Great views in Shaba.
Rock Dove (introduced) (Feral Pigeon) ***Columba livia***
Speckled Pigeon ***Columba guinea*** Widespread.
African Olive Pigeon ***Columba arquatrix*** Seen in Mt Kenya.
Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon ***Columba delegorguei*** Seen at Mountain Lodge**.**
Lemon Dove ***Columba larvata*** Good views in the forest**.**

Dusky Turtle Dove ***Streptopelia lugens*** A few sightings.
Mourning Collared Dove (African M D) ***Streptopelia decipiens*** Small numbers seen.
Red-eyed Dove ***Streptopelia semitorquata*** Widespread.
Ring-necked Dove ***Streptopelia capicola*** Common in dry habitats.

Mourning Collared Dove.

Laughing Dove ***Spilopelia senegalensis*** Widespread.
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove ***Turtur chalcospilos*** Widespread.
Blue-spotted Wood Dove ***Turtur afer*** Good views in the west.
Tambourine Dove ***Turtur tympanistria*** A few sightings.
Namaqua Dove ***Oena capensis*** Widespread in dry habitats.
African Green Pigeon ***Treron calvus*** Small numbers noted.
Great Blue Turaco ***Corythaeola cristata*** Good views of this stunning bird in Kakamega.
Schalow's Turaco ◊ ***Tauraco schalowi*** Great views in the Oloolo scarpment.
Black-billed Turaco ◊ ***Tauraco schuettii*** Excellent views in Kakamega.
Fischer's Turaco ◊ ***Tauraco fischeri*** Great views in Sokoke.
White-crested Turaco ***Tauraco leucolophus*** Great views in the Kerio valley.
Hartlaub's Turaco ◊ ***Tauraco hartlaubi*** Seen at several sites.
Ross's Turaco ◊ ***Musophaga rossae*** Seen in the Kerio Valley.
Bare-faced Go-away-bird ***Corythaixoides personatus*** Seen in the west.
White-bellied Go-away-bird ***Corythaixoides leucogaster*** A few sightings.
Eastern Plantain-eater (E Grey P-e) ***Crinifer zonurus*** Seen in the west.
Blue-headed Coucal ***Centropus monachus*** Seen near Busia.
White-browed Coucal ***Centropus superciliosus*** Widespread.
Great Spotted Cuckoo ***Clamator glandarius*** One seen.
Jacobin Cuckoo (Black-and-white C) ***Clamator jacobinus*** A few seen in the east.
Diederik Cuckoo (Didric C) ***Chrysococcyx caprius*** Widespread.
Klaas's Cuckoo ***Chrysococcyx klaas*** A few records.
African Emerald Cuckoo ***Chrysococcyx cupreus*** Finally great views in Kakamega.
Red-chested Cuckoo ***Cuculus solitaries*** Noted several times.

Lichtenstein´s Sandgrouse.

Common Cuckoo (W) (Eurasian C) ***Cuculus canorus*** Hundreds migrating in Tsavo.
Sokoke Scops Owl ◊ ***Otus ireneae*** Excellent views of a pair in Sokoke.
African Scops Owl ***Otus senegalensis*** Two roosting in Baringo.
Northern White-faced Owl ***Ptilopsis leucotis*** Roosting birds in Buffalo Springs and Baringo***.***
Cape Eagle-Owl ◊ **(Mackinder's E-O)** ***Bubo [capensis] mackinderi*** Adult and chick at the usual site.
Greyish Eagle-Owl ***Bubo cinerascens*** Roosting bird at Baringo.
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl ***Bubo lacteus*** Seen at Mountain Lodge and Nakuru.
African Wood Owl ***Strix woodfordii*** Seen in Sokoke.
Pearl-spotted Owlet ***Glaucidium perlatum*** Seen several times.
Red-chested Owlet ***Glaucidium tephronotum*** (H) Heard only at Kakamega.
African Barred Owlet ◊ **(Scheffler's O)** ***Glaucidium [capense] scheffleri*** (H) Frustratingly, only heard at Sokoke.
European Nightjar (W) (Eurasian N) ***Caprimulgus europaeus*** Fairly common.
Donaldson Smith's Nightjar ◊ ***Caprimulgus donaldsoni*** One seen on the road to Ngulia.
Fiery-necked Nightjar ***Caprimulgus pectoralis*** One on the coast.
Montane Nightjar ◊ **(Abyssinian N)** ***Caprimulgus poliocephalus*** Great views at Mt Kenya***.***
Plain Nightjar ◊ ***Caprimulgus inornatus*** Good numbers photographed on the road to Ngulia.
Slender-tailed Nightjar ◊ ***Caprimulgus clarus*** Great views at Baringo.
Scarce Swift ◊ ***Schoutedenapus myoptilus*** Good views at Mt Kenya.
Mottled Spinetail (Mottle-throated S) ***Telacanthura ussheri*** A couple of brief sightings.
Böhm's Spinetail (Bat-like S) ***Neafrapus boehmi*** Good views at Sokoke.
African Palm Swift ***Cypsiurus parvus*** Common.
Alpine Swift ***Tachymarptis melba*** A couple of sightings.
Mottled Swift ***Tachymarptis aequatorialis*** Good numbers seen.
Common Swift (W) (Eurasian S) ***Apus apus*** One sighting, presumably this species.
Nyanza Swift ***Apus niansae*** Good numbers over Nakuru.
African Black Swift ***Apus barbatus*** Seen on two days.
Little Swift ***Apus affinis*** Common.
Horus Swift (S) ***Apus horus*** Seen over Nakuru.
White-rumped Swift ***Apus caffer*** Widespread.

Speckled Mousebird ***Colius striatus*** Common.
White-headed Mousebird ◊ ***Colius leucocephalus*** Great views of 3 birds.
Blue-naped Mousebird ***Urocolius macrourus*** Widespread.

Ross´s Turaco.

Narina Trogon ***Apaloderma narina*** One at Mt Kenya for some.
Bar-tailed Trogon ***Apaloderma vittatum*** One male seen.
Purple Roller (Rufous-crowned R) ***Coracias naevius*** Widespread.
Lilac-breasted Roller ***Coracias caudatus*** Widespread.
European Roller (W) (Eurasian R) ***Coracias garrulus*** Large numbers seen, especially at Tsavo East.
Broad-billed Roller ***Eurystomus glaucurus*** A few birds on the west.
Grey-headed Kingfisher (Chestnut-bellied K) ***Halcyon leucocephala*** Widespread.
Striped Kingfisher ***Halcyon chelicuti*** Small numbers seen.
Woodland Kingfisher ***Halcyon senegalensis*** Seen in the west.
African Pygmy Kingfisher ***Ispidina picta*** A couple of sightings.
Malachite Kingfisher ***Corythornis cristatus*** Common.
Giant Kingfisher ***Megaceryle maxima*** Seen well at Baringo.
Pied Kingfisher ***Ceryle rudis*** Common.
Little Bee-eater ***Merops pusillus*** Common.
Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater ***Merops oreobates*** Widespread.
White-fronted Bee-eater ***Merops bullockoides*** Great views in Nakuru.
Somali Bee-eater ◊ ***Merops revoilii*** Excellent views in Tsavo and Samburu.
White-throated Bee-eater ***Merops albicollis*** Widespread.
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater ***Merops persicus*** Widespread.
Olive Bee-eater (S) (Madagascar B-e) ***Merops superciliosus*** Fairly common.
European Bee-eater (W) (Eurasian B-e) ***Merops apiaster*** Several flocks seen.
Northern Carmine Bee-eater ***Merops nubicus*** Good numbers along the coast.
Eurasian Hoopoe (Central African H) ***Upupa [epops] senegalensis*** Scattered sightings.
African Hoopoe ***Upupa Africana*** A few sightings.

Plain Nightjar.

White-headed Wood Hoopoe ***Phoeniculus bollei*** Seen at Mt Kenya and Kakamega.
Green Wood Hoopoe ***Phoeniculus purpureus*** A few sightings.
Grant's Wood Hoopoe ◊ ***Phoeniculus granti*** Great views in Shaba.
Common Scimitarbill ***Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*** A couple of birds seen.
Abyssinian Scimitarbill ***Rhinopomastus minor*** Seen well.
Southern Ground Hornbill ***Bucorvus leadbeateri*** Excellent views.
Northern Red-billed Hornbill ◊ ***Tockus erythrorhynchus*** Common.
Von der Decken's Hornbill ***Tockus deckeni*** Great views.
Jackson's Hornbill ◊ ***Tockus jacksoni*** Excellent views.
Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill ***Tockus flavirostris*** A few sightings.
Crowned Hornbill ***Lophoceros alboterminatus*** A couple of sightings.
Hemprich's Hornbill ◊ ***Lophoceros hemprichii*** Amazing views of a trio at Baringo.
African Grey Hornbill ***Lophoceros nasutus*** Widespread.
Trumpeter Hornbill ***Bycanistes bucinator*** Good views at Sokoke.
Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill ***Bycanistes subcylindricus*** Common at Kakamega.
Silvery-cheeked Hornbill ***Bycanistes brevis*** Great views at Taita.
Grey-throated Barbet ***Gymnobucco bonapartei*** Common in the forest.
Green Barbet ***Stactolaema olivacea*** Good views at Sokoke.
Green Tinkerbird ◊ **(Eastern G T)** ***Pogoniulus simplex*** One showed well at Sokoke.
Moustached Tinkerbird (M Green T) ***Pogoniulus leucomystax*** Seen twice.
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird (Golden-r T) ***Pogoniulus bilineatus*** Common.
Red-fronted Tinkerbird ***Pogoniulus pusillus*** Fairly common.
Yellow-spotted Barbet ***Buccanodon duchaillui*** Seen at Kakamega.
Hairy-breasted Barbet (Streaky-throated B) ***Tricholaema [hirsuta] flavipunctata*** Seen at Kakamega.
Red-fronted Barbet ***Tricholaema diademata*** Seen a few times.
Spot-flanked Barbet ***Tricholaema lacrymosa*** Widespread.
Black-throated Barbet ***Tricholaema melanocephala*** Several sightings.
White-headed Barbet ***Lybius leucocephalus*** Seen in Nakuru and Mara.
Brown-breasted Barbet ◊ ***Lybius melanopterus*** Great views on the way to Taita hills.
Double-toothed Barbet ***Lybius bidentatus*** Seen in Kisumu.
Yellow-billed Barbet ***Trachyphonus purpuratus*** Seen in Kakamega.

Northern White-faced Owl.

Red-and-yellow Barbet ◊ ***Trachyphonus erythrocephalus*** A few seen.
D'Arnaud's Barbet ◊ ***Trachyphonus darnaudii*** Great sightings.
D'Arnaud's Barbet ◊ **(Usmabiro B)** ***Trachyphonus [darnaudii] usambiro*** Seen in the southwest.
Green-backed Honeybird (Eastern H) ***Prodotiscus zambesiae*** Great views on the way to Mt Kenya.
Pallid Honeyguide ◊ **(Eastern H)** ***Indicator meliphilus*** Excellent views at Sokoke.
Thick-billed Honeyguide ***Indicator conirostris*** Seen briefly at Kakamega.
Lesser Honeyguide ***Indicator minor*** Widespread.
Scaly-throated Honeyguide ***Indicator variegatus*** Great views at Naivasha.
Greater Honeyguide (Black-throated H) ***Indicator indicator*** Widespread.
Red-throated Wryneck (Rufous-necked W) ***Jynx ruficollis*** Good views on 2 days.
Nubian Woodpecker ***Campethera nubica*** Widespread.
Mombasa Woodpecker ◊ ***Campethera mombassica*** Superb views at Sokoke.
Green-backed Woodpecker (Little-spotted W) ***Campethera cailliautii*** Seen at Sokoke.
Tullberg's Woodpecker ◊ **(Fine-banded W)** ***Campethera [tullbergi] taeniolaema*** (H)
Brown-eared Woodpecker ***Campethera caroli*** Seen at Kakamega.
Bearded Woodpecker ***Chloropicus namaquus*** Seen at Nakuru.
Yellow-crested Woodpecker ***Chloropicus xantholophus*** Seen at Kakamega.
Cardinal Woodpecker ***Dendropicos fuscescens*** Widespread.
African Grey Woodpecker ***Dendropicos goertae*** Seen twice.
Eastern Grey Woodpecker ◊ **(African G-headed W)** ***Dendropicos spodocephalus*** Great views.
Pygmy Falcon ***Polihierax semitorquatus*** Fantastic encounters.
Lesser Kestrel ***Falco naumanni*** A handful of sightings.

Common Kestrel ***Falco tinnunculus*** Only seen a couple of times.
Grey Kestrel ***Falco ardosiaceus*** Seen in Mara.
Red-necked Falcon ***Falco chicquera*** One briefly at Shaba.
Amur Falcon (W) (Eastern Red-footed F) ***Falco amurensis*** Fantastic views on several dates.
Eleonora's Falcon (W) ***Falco eleonorae*** An adult pale morph seen well at Ngulia.
Sooty Falcon (W) ***Falco concolor*** Great views of adults and immatures on our way to Shaba.
Eurasian Hobby (W) ***Falco subbuteo*** Widespread.
African Hobby ***Falco cuvierii*** One in the west.
Lanner Falcon ***Falco biarmicus*** A few seen.

Red-bellied Parrot.

Grey Parrot ***Psittacus erithacus*** Great views at Kakamega.
Red-fronted Parrot ***Poicephalus gulielmi*** Seen well at Mt Kenya.
Meyer's Parrot (Brown P) ***Poicephalus meyeri*** A couple of sightings.
Red-bellied Parrot (African Orange-b P) ***Poicephalus rufiventris*** Widespread.
Fischer's Lovebird ***Agapornis fischeri*** Seen at Naivasha and near Kisumu.
African Broadbil ***Smithornis capensis*** (H)
Forest Batis ◊ ***Batis mixta*** Seen at Sokoke.
Chinspot Batis ***Batis molitor*** Common.
Pale Batis (East Coast B) ***Batis soror*** Seen at Sokoke.
Pygmy Batis ***Batis perkeo*** Seen a few times.
Brown-throated Wattle-eye (Common W-e) ***Platysteira cyanea*** A few seen.
Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye ***Platysteira concreta*** One briefly at Kakamega for some.
Jameson's Wattle-eye ◊ ***Platysteira jamesoni*** Good views at Kakamega for most.
White-crested Helmetshrike ***Prionops plumatus*** A few birds.
Grey-crested Helmetshrike ◊ ***Prionops poliolophus*** Some hybrids and a pure-looking one at Nakuru.
Retz's Helmetshrike ***Prionops retzii*** Seen at Sokoke.
Chestnut-fronted Helmetshrike ***Prionops scopifrons*** Seen at Sokoke.
Grey-headed Bushshrike ***Malaconotus blanchoti*** Seen once.
Bocage's Bushshrike (Grey-green B-s) ***Chlorophoneus bocagei*** Good views at Kakamega.

Orange-breasted Bushshrike (Sulphur-b B-s) ***Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*** A couple of birds seen.
Gorgeous Bushshrike (Perrin's B) ***Telophorus viridis*** (H)
Rosy-patched Bushshrike ◊ ***Telophorus cruentus*** Great views in Tsavo and Shaba/Samburu.

White-crested Helmetshrike and Red-naped Bushshrike.

Marsh Tchagra ***Bocagia minuta*** Seen well near Kisumu.
Brown-crowned Tchagra (B-headed T) ***Tchagra australis*** A couple of sightings.
Three-streaked Tchagra ◊ ***Tchagra jamesi*** Good views
Black-crowned Tchagra (B-headed T) ***Tchagra senegalus*** Seen in Nakuru.
Pink-footed Puffback ***Dryoscopus angolensis*** Seen at Kakamega.
Black-backed Puffback ***Dryoscopus cubla*** Widespread.
Northern Puffback ***Dryoscopus gambensis*** (H)
Pringle's Puffback ◊ ***Dryoscopus pringlii*** Seen at Tsavo West.
Slate-colored Boubou ***Laniarius funebris*** Widespread.
Lühder's Bushshrike ***Laniarius luehderi*** Seen at Kakamega.
Red-naped Bushshrike ◊ ***Laniarius ruficeps*** Great views at Tsavo West.
Tropical Boubou ***Laniarius major*** Widespread.
East Coast Boubou ◊ ***Laniarius sublacteus*** Seen well along the coast.

Adult female Amur Falcon and adult Sooty Falcon.

Papyrus Gonolek ◊ ***Laniarius mufumbiri*** Excellent views at Kisumu.
Black-headed Gonolek ***Laniarius erythrogaster*** Widespread***.***
Brubru ***Nilaus afer*** A few sightings.
Grey Cuckooshrike ***Coracina caesia*** One briefly at Naro Moru.
Black Cuckooshrike ***Campephaga flava*** Scattered sightings.
Purple-throated Cuckooshrike ***Campephaga quiscalina*** One at Kakamega***.***
Magpie Shrike ***Urolestes melanoleucus*** Seen well at Siana Springs.
Northern White-crowned Shrike ***Eurocephalus ruppelli*** Widespread.
Red-backed Shrike ***Lanius collurio*** Large numbers seen.
Isabelline Shrike (Daurian S) ***Lanius isabellinus*** A handful seen.
Red-tailed Shrike (Turkestan) ***Lanius phoenicuroides*** Widespread.
Mackinnon's Shrike ***Lanius mackinnoni*** Seen at Kakamega.
Lesser Grey Shrike ***Lanius minor*** Fairly common.
Grey-backed Fiscal ***Lanius excubitoroides*** Great sightings.

Long-tailed Fiscal ◊ ***Lanius cabanisi*** Widespread.
Taita Fiscal ◊ ***Lanius dorsalis*** Seen a few times.

Somali and White-fronted Bee-eaters.

Northern Fiscal ***Lanius humeralis*** Fairly common.
Eurasian Golden Oriole (W) ***Oriolus oriolus*** Good numbers seen.
Western Oriole (W Black-headed O) ***Oriolus brachyrynchus*** Seen at Kakamega..
Mountain Oriole ◊ ***Oriolus percivali*** Seen well at Mt Kenya.
Black-headed Oriole (Eastern B-h O) ***Oriolus larvatus*** Widespread.
Square-tailed Drongo ***Dicrurus ludwigii*** Seen a couple of times.
Fork-tailed Drongo (Common D) ***Dicrurus adsimilis*** Common.
Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher ***Trochocercus cyanomelas*** (H)
African Paradise Flycatcher ***Terpsiphone viridis*** Common.
House Crow (introduced) ***Corvus splendens*** Common along the coast.
Cape Crow (C Rook) ***Corvus capensis*** Fairly common within range.
Pied Crow ***Corvus albus*** Fairly common.
Fan-tailed Raven ***Corvus rhipidurus*** A few at Shaba.
White-necked Raven (W-naped R) ***Corvus albicollis*** A couple of sightings.
African Blue Flycatcher ***Elminia longicauda*** Fairly common.
Dusky Crested Flycatcher ◊ ***Elminia nigromitrata*** Good views for most at Kakamega.
White-tailed Crested Flycatcher ***Elminia albonotata*** One sighting.
White-bellied Tit ***Melaniparus albiventris*** Widespread.
Dusky Tit ***Melaniparus funereus*** Seen in the forest.

Lilac-breasted Roller.

Red-throated Tit ◊ ***Melaniparus fringillinus*** Great views on the way to Nairobi.
Acacia Tit (Northern Grey T) ***Melaniparus thruppi*** A few sightings.
Mouse-colored Penduline Tit ***Anthoscopus musculus*** Seen well at Buffalo Springs.
Grey Penduline Tit ◊ **(Rungwe/Buff-bellied P T)** ***Anthoscopus [caroli] sylviella*** Seen at Siana Springs.
Eastern Nicator ***Nicator gularis*** Great views at Sokoke.
Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark ***Eremopterix leucotis*** Seen well at Tsavo East.
Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark ◊ ***Eremopterix signatus*** A few sightings.
Fischer's Sparrow-Lark ◊ ***Eremopterix leucopareia*** Widespread.
Pink-breasted Lark ◊ ***Calendulauda poecilosterna*** Fairly common.
Foxy Lark ◊ ***Calendulauda alopex*** Great views at Buffalo Springs.
Red-winged Lark ◊ ***Mirafra hypermetra*** Seen in Tsavo East.
Rufous-naped Lark ***Mirafra Africana*** Widespread.
Flappet Lark ***Mirafra rufocinnamomea*** A few seen.
Williams's Lark ◊ ***Mirafra williamsi*** Great views in Shaba.
White-tailed Lark ◊ ***Mirafra albicauda*** Seen well and heard in the Mara.
Red-capped Lark ***Calandrella cinerea*** Common.
Dodson's Bulbul ◊ ***Pycnonotus dodsoni*** Fairly common within range.
Dark-capped Bulbul ***Pycnonotus tricolor*** Common.
Kakamega Greenbul ◊ ***Arizelocichla kakamegae*** Seen well in Kakamega.
Olive-breasted Greenbul ◊ **(O-b Mountain G)** ***Arizelocichla kikuyuensis*** Seen well.
Stripe-faced Greenbul ◊ ***Arizelocichla striifacies*** Seen at Taita Hills.
Slender-billed Greenbul ***Stelgidillas gracilirostris*** Fairly common in the forest.
Little Grey Greenbul ***Eurillas gracilis*** Seen twice.
Ansorge's Greenbul ***Eurillas ansorgei*** Great views in Kakamega.
Plain Greenbul (Cameroon Sombre G) ***Eurillas curvirostris*** Seen in Kakamega.
Yellow-whiskered Greenbul ***Eurillas latirostris*** Common in the forest.
Sombre Greenbul (Zanzibar S G) ***Andropadus importunes*** Seen in Sokoke.
Honeyguide Greenbul ***Baeopogon indicator*** Seen briefly by some at Kakamega.
Joyful Greenbul ◊ ***Chlorocichla laetissima*** Great views at Kakamega.
Yellow-bellied Greenbul ***Chlorocichla flaviventris*** Seen in Sokoke.
Yellow-throated Leaflove ***Atimastillas flavicollis*** Seen well at Busia.

White-necked Raven.

Terrestrial Brownbul ***Phyllastrephus terrestris*** Seen by some at Sokoke.
Northern Brownbul ◊ ***Phyllastrephus strepitans*** Seen well.
Toro Olive Greenbul ◊ ***Phyllastrephus hypochloris*** Seen very well at Kakamega.
Fischer's Greenbul ◊ ***Phyllastrephus fischeri*** Seen well at Sokoke.
Cabanis's Greenbul ***Phyllastrephus cabanisi*** Seen well at Kakamega.
Placid Greenbul ◊ ***Phyllastrephus placidus*** Seen well at Taita hills.
Lowland Tiny Greenbul ◊ ***Phyllastrephus debilis*** Seen at Sokoke.
Red-tailed Bristlebill (Common B) ***Bleda syndactylus*** Seen at Kakamega.
White-headed Saw-wing ***Psalidoprocne albiceps*** Widespread.
Black Saw-wing ***Psalidoprocne [pristoptera] holomelas*** Fairly common.
Brown-throated Martin (Plain M) ***Riparia paludicola*** Fairly common.
Sand Martin ***Riparia riparia*** Good numbers seen.
Banded Martin ***Riparia cincta*** A few seen.
Barn Swallow (W) ***Hirundo rustica*** Large numbers seen.
Angolan Swallow ***Hirundo angolensis*** A few seen.
Ethiopian Swallow ***Hirundo aethiopica*** A few seen.
Wire-tailed Swallow ***Hirundo smithii*** Widespread.
Rock Martin ***Ptyonoprogne fuligula*** Widespread.
Common House Martin (W) ***Delichon urbicum*** A few.
Lesser Striped Swallow ***Cecropis abyssinica*** Fairly common.
Red-breasted Swallow (Rufous-chested S) ***Cecropis semirufa*** Seen in Mara.
Mosque Swallow ***Cecropis senegalensis*** A few.
Red-rumped Swallow ***Cecropis daurica*** Fairly common.
Moustached Grass Warbler (African M W) ***Melocichla mentalis*** Seen well in the west.
Northern Crombec ***Sylvietta brachyura*** Scattered sightings.
Red-faced Crombec ***Sylvietta whytii*** Seen a few times.
Somali Crombec ◊ **(S Long-billed C)** ***Sylvietta isabellina*** Great views north of Samburu.
White-browed Crombec ◊ ***Sylvietta leucophrys*** Seen well in the forest.
Little Yellow Flycatcher ◊ ***Erythrocercus holochlorus*** Seen in Sokoke.
Green Hylia ***Hylia prasina*** Seen well at Kakamega.
Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler ***Phylloscopus ruficapilla*** Good views in Taita.
Uganda Woodland Warbler ◊ ***Phylloscopus budongoensis*** Great views at Kakamega.
Brown Woodland Warbler ◊ ***Phylloscopus umbrovirens*** Seen well in the Aberdares.

Willow Warbler (W) ***Phylloscopus trochilus*** A few seen.
Greater Swamp Warbler ***Acrocephalus rufescens*** Good views.
Lesser Swamp Warbler ***Acrocephalus gracilirostris*** A few seen.

Bristle-crowned Starling.

Great Reed Warbler ***Acrocephalus arundinaceus*** One photographed at Nakuru.
Sedge Warbler ***Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*** Seen at Baringo.
Marsh Warbler ***Acrocephalus palustris*** One at Nakuru.
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler ***Iduna pallida*** A few seen.
Upcher's Warbler ***Hippolais languida*** Small numbers noted.
Highland Rush Warbler ***Bradypterus centralis*** ***Seen well.***
Cinnamon Bracken Warbler ***Bradypterus cinnamomeus*** Seen well.
Evergreen Forest Warbler ***Bradypterus [lopezi] mariae*** (H)
Fan-tailed Grassbird (Broad-tailed W) ***Schoenicola brevirostris*** Seen in the Mara.
Red-faced Cisticola ***Cisticola erythrops*** A few seen.
Singing Cisticola ***Cisticola cantans*** A few seen***.***
Trilling Cisticola ***Cisticola woosnami*** Seen near Mara.
Chubb's Cisticola ◊ ***Cisticola chubbi*** Seen at Kakamega.
Hunter's Cisticola ◊ ***Cisticola hunter*** Good views.
Rock-loving Cisticola (R C) ***Cisticola emini*** Great views in the Oloolo scarpment***.***
Rattling Cisticola ***Cisticola chiniana*** Common.
Boran Cisticola ◊ ***Cisticola bodessa*** Excellent views at one site.
Ashy Cisticola ***Cisticola cinereolus*** Small numbers noted.
Lynes's Cisticola ◊ ***Cisticola distinctus*** Seen North of nakuru.
Winding Cisticola ***Cisticola marginatus*** Common.
Coastal Cisticola ◊ ***Cisticola haematocephalus*** Seen well along the coast.
Carruthers's Cisticola ◊ ***Cisticola carruthersi*** Seen well at Kisumu.
Levaillant's Cisticola (Tinkling C) ***Cisticola tinniens*** Seen well.
Stout Cisticola ***Cisticola robustus*** First seen at Solio.
Aberdare Cisticola ◊ ***Cisticola aberdare*** Great views in the Aberdares.
Croaking Cisticola ***Cisticola natalensis*** Good views in the Mara.
Tiny Cisticola ***Cisticola nana*** Seen in Tsavo West.

Short-winged Cisticola (Siffling C) ***Cisticola brachypterus*** Seen in the west.
Long-tailed Cisticola (Tabora C) ***Cisticola angusticauda*** Great views near Siana Springs.
Zitting Cisticola ***Cisticola juncidis*** A few noted.

Straw-tailed Whydah.

Black-backed Cisticola ◊ ***Cisticola eximius*** Seen well in the Mara.
Pectoral-patch Cisticola ***Cisticola brunnescens*** A few seen.
Tawny-flanked Prinia ***Prinia subflava*** Common.
Pale Prinia ◊ ***Prinia somalica*** Seen in Tsavo West.
Black-faced Prinia ◊ ***Prinia melanops*** Seen at Kakamega.
White-chinned Prinia ***Schistolais leucopogon*** Seen at Kakamega.
Black-collared Apalis ◊ ***Oreolais pulcher*** Seel well in the forest.
Buff-bellied Warbler ***Phyllolais pulchella*** Seen in acacia scrub.
Taita Apalis ◊ ***Apalis fuscigularis*** Only poor views for some at Taita.
Yellow-breasted Apalis (Black-breasted A) ***Apalis flavida*** Seen a few times.
Yellow-breasted Apalis ◊ **(Brown-tailed A)** ***Apalis [flavida] viridiceps*** Seen a few times.
Black-throated Apalis ***Apalis jacksoni*** Seen well.
Black-headed Apalis ***Apalis melanocephala*** Seen a few times.
Chestnut-throated Apalis ◊ ***Apalis porphyrolaema*** Seen in the forest.
Buff-throated Apalis ***Apalis rufogularis*** Seen a few times.
Karamoja Apalis ◊ ***Apalis karamojae*** This mega rarity was seen very well as we left the Mara.
Grey Apalis ***Apalis cinerea*** Seen well.
Red-fronted Warbler ***Urorhipis rufifrons*** Good views at Buffalo Springs and Baringo.
Grey-capped Warbler ***Eminia lepida*** Common.
Grey-backed Camaroptera ***Camaroptera brevicaudata*** Common.
Olive-green Camaroptera ***Camaroptera chloronota*** Good views at Kakamega.
Grey Wren-Warbler ***Calamonastes simplex*** Fairly common.
Miombo Wren-Warbler (Pale W-w) ***Calamonastes undosus*** Good views in the Oloolo scarpment.
Black-faced Rufous Warbler ***Bathmocercus rufus*** Seen well in Kakamega.
Yellow-bellied Eremomela ***Eremomela icteropygialis*** Seen a few times.
Yellow-vented Eremomela ◊ ***Eremomela flavicrissalis*** Great views in Buffalo Springs.
Turner's Eremomela ◊ ***Eremomela turneri*** Seen very well at Kakamega.
Scaly-breasted Illadopsis ◊ ***Illadopsis albipectus*** Seen at Kakamega by some.
Brown Illadopsis ***Illadopsis fulvescens*** Great views at Kakamega.

White-headed Buffalo Weaver.

Mountain Illadopsis ◊ ***Illadopsis pyrrhoptera*** Seen very well at Kakamega.
Rufous Chatterer ***Turdoides rubiginosa*** Seen well a few times.
Black-lored Babbler ***Turdoides sharpei*** Seen well.
Brown Babbler ***Turdoides plebejus*** Seen a few times.
Arrow-marked Babbler ***Turdoides jardineii*** Seen a few times.
Scaly Babbler ◊ ***Turdoides squamulata*** Seen at Sokoke.
Northern Pied Babbler ◊ ***Turdoides hypoleuca*** Seen very well.
African Hill Babbler (Abyssinian H B) ***Pseudoalcippe abyssinica*** Great views in the forest.
Garden Warbler (W) ***Sylvia borin*** Seen twice.
Common Whitethroat (W) (Greater W) ***Sylvia communis*** Seen a few times.
Brown Parisoma ***Sylvia lugens*** Seen once.
Banded Parisoma ◊ ***Sylvia boehmi*** Great views.
Abyssinian White-eye (White-breasted W-e) ***Zosterops abyssinicus*** Seen several times.
African Yellow White-eye ***Zosterops senegalensis*** Seen well in the west.
Kikuyu White-eye ◊ ***Zosterops kikuyuensis*** Good views at various sites.
Taita White-eye ◊ ***Zosterops silvanus*** Seen well in Taita hills.
Grey-chested Babbler ◊ **(G-c Illadopsis)** ***Kakamega poliothorax*** After some effort, good views in Kakamega.
Yellow-bellied Hyliota ***Hyliota flavigaster*** Seen well at the Oloololo scarpment.
Southern Hyliota ◊ ***Hyliota australis*** One good sighting at Kakamega.
Wattled Starling ***Creatophora cinerea*** Good numbers.
Black-bellied Starling ***Notopholia corrusca*** Seen at Sokoke.
Greater Blue-eared Starling ***Lamprotornis chalybaeus*** Regular sightings.
Rüppell's Starling (R Long-tailed S) ***Lamprotornis purpuroptera*** Common.
Golden-breasted Starling ***Lamprotornis regius*** Great views of this mega starling.
Superb Starling ***Lamprotornis superbus*** Common.
Hildebrandt's Starling ◊ ***Lamprotornis hildebrandti*** A few seen.
Fischer's Starling ◊ ***Lamprotornis fischeri*** Some sightings.
Violet-backed Starling ***Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*** A few birds seen.
Red-winged Starling ***Onychognathus morio*** Widespread.
Bristle-crowned Starling ◊ ***Onychognathus salvadorii*** Excellent views in Shaba.
Stuhlmann's Starling ◊ ***Poeoptera stuhlmanni*** Seen in Kakamega.

Speke´s, Baglafecht and the localized Taveta Weavers.

Kenrick's Starling ◊ ***Poeoptera kenricki*** One briefly for some at Mt Kenya.
Magpie Starling ◊ ***Speculipastor bicolor*** Seen well in Shaba.
Yellow-billed Oxpecker ***Buphagus africanus*** Widespread.
Red-billed Oxpecker ***Buphagus erythrorynchus*** Widespread.
Red-tailed Ant Thrush ***Neocossyphus rufus*** Seen well in Sokoke***.***
White-tailed Ant Thrush ***Neocossyphus poensis*** Seen well in Kakamega.
African Thrush ***Turdus pelios*** A few seen.

Variable and Amani Sunbirds.

Bare-eyed Thrush (African B-e T) ***Turdus tephronotus*** Seen well along the coast.
Abyssinian Thrush (Mountain T, Northern Olive T) ***Turdus abyssinicus*** Fairly common.
Taita Thrush ◊ ***Turdus helleri*** One singing bird at Taita hills.
Bearded Scrub Robin (Eastern B S R) ***Cercotrichas quadrivirgata*** Seen at Sokoke.
Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin (W) (R Bush Chat) ***Cercotrichas galactotes*** Some migrants seen.
Brown-backed Scrub Robin ***Cercotrichas hartlaubi*** Seen in the west.
White-browed Scrub Robin ***Cercotrichas leucophrys*** A handful seen.
Grey Tit-Flycatcher (Lead-coloured F) ***Myioparus plumbeus*** One in the Kerio valley.
White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher ***Melaenornis fischeri*** Common.
Northern Black Flycatcher ***Melaenornis edolioides*** Good views.
Southern Black Flycatcher ***Melaenornis pammelaina*** A few seen.
Pale Flycatcher ***Melaenornis pallidus*** Fairly common.
African Grey Flycatcher ***Melaenornis microrhynchus*** Fairly common.
Silverbird ◊ ***Empidornis semipartitus*** Great views at two sites.
Spotted Flycatcher ***Muscicapa striata*** Good numbers.

Striped and Malindi Pipits.

Gambaga Flycatcher ◊ ***Muscicapa gambagae*** Great views.
Ashy Flycatcher (Blue-grey F) ***Muscicapa caerulescens*** A few.
Swamp Flycatcher ***Muscicapa aquatica*** Seen in the west.
Chapin's Flycatcher ◊ ***Muscicapa lendu*** Superb views of a pair at Kakamega.
African Dusky Flycatcher ***Muscicapa adusta*** Common.
Brown-chested Alethe ***Pseudalethe poliocephala*** Great views in Kakamega.
Cape Robin-Chat ***Cossypha caffra*** Fairly common.
Grey-winged Robin-Chat ***Cossypha polioptera*** Superb views in Kakamega.
Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat ◊ ***Cossypha cyanocampter*** Good views in Kakamega.
Rüppell's Robin-Chat ***Cossypha semirufa*** Seen well a few times.
White-browed Robin-Chat ***Cossypha heuglini*** Fairly common.
Red-capped Robin-Chat (S) ***Cossypha natalensis*** (H)
Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat ***Cossypha niveicapilla*** Good views in Kakamega.

Forest Batis and Silverbird.

White-starred Robin (W-s Forest R) ***Pogonocichla stellate*** Good views in the forest.
Equatorial Akalat ◊ ***Sheppardia aequatorialis*** Superb views in Kakamega.
East Coast Akalat ◊ ***Sheppardia gunning*** Great views in Sokoke.
Collared Palm Thrush ◊ ***Cichladusa arquat*** Great views along the coast.
Spotted Palm Thrush (S Morning T) ***Cichladusa guttata*** Fairly common.
Thrush Nightingale (W) (Sprosser) ***Luscinia luscinia*** Two sightings.
White-throated Robin (W) (Irania) ***Irania gutturalis*** Great views of several migrants.
Common Rock Thrush (W) (Rufous-tailed R T) ***Monticola saxatilis*** Fairly common.
Little Rock Thrush ◊ ***Monticola rufocinereus*** Good views of a pair at the Mckinders Eagle Owl site***.***
Whinchat (W) ***Saxicola rubetra*** A couple of migrants seen***.***
African Stonechat ***Saxicola torquatus*** Fairly common.
Moorland Chat ◊ ***Pinarochroa sordida*** Seen well in the Aberdares.
Mocking Cliff Chat (C C) ***Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*** ***Seen in Baringo.***
Sooty Chat ***Myrmecocichla nigra*** Seen in the Mara.
Anteater Chat (Northern A C) ***Myrmecocichla aethiops*** Fairly common.
Northern Wheatear (W) (Common W) ***Oenanthe oenanthe*** A few seen.
Capped Wheatear ***Oenanthe pileata*** Widespread***.***
Isabelline Wheatear (W) ***Oenanthe isabellina*** A handful.
Pied Wheatear (W) ***Oenanthe pleschanka*** Some nice males in the east.
Familiar Chat (Red-tailed C) ***Oenanthe familiaris*** One briefly at Oloololo scarpment.
Brown-tailed Rock Chat ◊ ***Oenanthe scotocerca*** Great views in Baringo.
Abyssinian Wheatear ◊ **(Schalow's W)** ***Oenanthe [lugubris] schalowi*** One in Nakuru.
Plain-backed Sunbird ◊ ***Anthreptes reichenowi*** Seen in Sokoke.
Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird (Kenya V-b S) ***Anthreptes orientalis*** A few seen.

Southern Grosbeak Canary and Scaly-throated Honeyguide.

Grey-chinned Sunbird (Green S) ***Anthreptes rectirostris*** Seen in Kakamega.
Collared Sunbird ***Hedydipna collaris*** Common.
Amani Sunbird ◊ ***Hedydipna pallidigaster*** Great views in Sokoke.
Green-headed Sunbird ***Cyanomitra verticalis*** A few seen.
Olive Sunbird ***Cyanomitra olivacea*** Seen in the forest.
Green-throated Sunbird ***Chalcomitra rubescens*** ***A*** few seen in the forest.
Amethyst Sunbird ***Chalcomitra amethystine*** Recorded several times.
Scarlet-chested Sunbird ***Chalcomitra senegalensis*** Good numbers seen.
Hunter's Sunbird ◊ ***Chalcomitra hunter*** Great views.
Tacazze Sunbird ◊ ***Nectarinia tacazze*** Excellent views in the Aberdares.
Bronzy Sunbird (Bronze S) ***Nectarinia kilimensis*** Widespread.
Malachite Sunbird ***Nectarinia famosa*** Superb views in the Aberdares.
Golden-winged Sunbird ◊ ***Drepanorhynchus reichenowi*** Stunning views on several occasions.
Olive-bellied Sunbird ***Cinnyris chloropygius*** Recorded.
Northern Double-collared Sunbird ◊ ***Cinnyris reichenowi*** A few sightings.
Eastern Double-collared Sunbird ◊ ***Cinnyris mediocris*** A few sightings.
Beautiful Sunbird ***Cinnyris pulchellus*** Great views.

Two good turacos, Schalow´s, above, and Fischer´s, below.

Marico Sunbird (Mariqua S) ***Cinnyris mariquensis*** A couple of sightings.
Red-chested Sunbird ◊ ***Cinnyris erythrocercus*** A few seen.
Black-bellied Sunbird ◊ ***Cinnyris nectarinioides*** Great views.
Purple-banded Sunbird (Little P-b S) ***Cinnyris bifasciatus*** Small numbers.
Tsavo Sunbird ◊ **(T Purple-banded S)** ***Cinnyris tsavoensis*** Great views in Tsavo.
Shining Sunbird ◊ ***Cinnyris habessinicus*** A male in Samburu.
Variable Sunbird ***Cinnyris venustus*** Widespread.
Copper Sunbird ***Cinnyris cupresu*** A few in the west.
White-browed Sparrow-Weaver ***Plocepasser mahali*** Common.
Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver ***Plocepasser superciliosus*** Seen in the Kerio valley.
Donaldson Smith's Sparrow-Weaver ◊ ***Plocepasser donaldsoni*** Good numbers in Samburu / Buffalo Springs.
Rufous-tailed Weaver ◊ ***Histurgops ruficauda*** This recent colonizer from Tanzania was seen well in the Mara.
Grey-capped Social Weaver (G-headed S W) ***Pseudonigrita arnaudi*** Good numbers seen.
Black-capped Social Weaver ***Pseudonigrita cabanisi*** Good numbers seen.
House Sparrow (introduced) ***Passer domesticus*** Widespread.
Kenya Sparrow ◊ **(K Rufous S)** ***Passer rufocinctus*** Widespread.
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow ***Passer griseus*** Small numbers seen.
Parrot-billed Sparrow ◊ ***Passer gongonensis*** Widespread within range.
Swahili Sparrow ◊ ***Passer suahelicus*** Only seen as we left the Mara.
Chestnut Sparrow ***Passer eminibey*** A few flocks seen.
Yellow-spotted Petronia ***Gymnoris pyrgita*** Scattered sightings.

White-billed Buffalo Weaver ***Bubalornis albirostris*** Onlye seen briefly in Baringo.
Red-billed Buffalo Weaver ***Bubalornis niger*** A few seen.
White-headed Buffalo Weaver ***Dinemellia dinemelli*** Widespread.
Speckle-fronted Weaver ***Sporopipes frontalis*** Good numbers at various locations.
Thick-billed Weaver (Grosbeak W) ***Amblyospiza albifrons*** Scattered sightings.
Baglafecht Weaver (Reichenow's W) ***Ploceus [baglafecht] reichenowi*** Common.
Slender-billed Weaver ***Ploceus pelze*** Seen near Kisumu.
Little Weaver ***Ploceus luteolus*** Small numbers.
Spectacled Weaver ***Ploceus ocularis*** Scattered sightings.
Black-necked Weaver ***Ploceus nigricollis*** A few birds seen.
Black-billed Weaver ***Ploceus melanogaster*** Seen in the forest.
Eastern Golden Weaver (African G W) ***Ploceus subaureus*** Widespread.
Holub's Golden Weaver ***Ploceus xanthops*** Scattered sightings.
Golden Palm Weaver ◊ ***Ploceus bojeri*** A few birds seen.
Taveta Weaver ◊ ***Ploceus castaneiceps*** Great views at Lake Jipe.
Northern Brown-throated Weaver ◊ ***Ploceus castanops*** Seen at Kisumu.
Northern Masked Weaver ◊ ***Ploceus taeniopterus*** Great views of breeding plumaged birds at Baringo.
Lesser Masked Weaver ***Ploceus intermedius*** Widespread.

Rufous-tailed Weaver, a recent colonizer from the Serengeti.

Vitelline Masked Weaver ***Ploceus vitellinus*** Good numbers seen.
Speke's Weaver ◊ ***Ploceus spekei*** Widespread.
Village Weaver (Black-headed W) ***Ploceus cucullatus*** Widespread within range.
Village Weaver (Layard's W) ***Ploceus [cucullatus] paroptus*** Widespread within range.
Vieillot's Black Weaver ***Ploceus nigerrimus*** Seen in kakamega.
Black-headed Weaver (Yellow-backed W) ***Ploceus melanocephalus*** Seen in the west.
Golden-backed Weaver ◊ **(Jackson's G-b W)** ***Ploceus jacksoni*** Seen in the west.
Chestnut Weaver ◊ ***Ploceus rubiginosus*** A few seen.
Compact Weaver ***Ploceus superciliosus*** Seen in Busia.
Dark-backed Weaver (Forest W) ***Ploceus bicolor*** Seen in the forest.
Brown-capped Weaver ***Ploceus insignis*** Seen in the forest.

Red-headed Malimbe ***Malimbus rubricollis*** Seen in Kakamega.
Red-headed Weaver ***Anaplectes rubriceps*** A few sightings.
Cardinal Quelea ***Quelea cardinalis*** Seen in Masai Mara.
Red-billed Quelea ***Quelea quelea*** Common and widespread.

Speckle-fronted Weaver and Green-winged Pytilia.

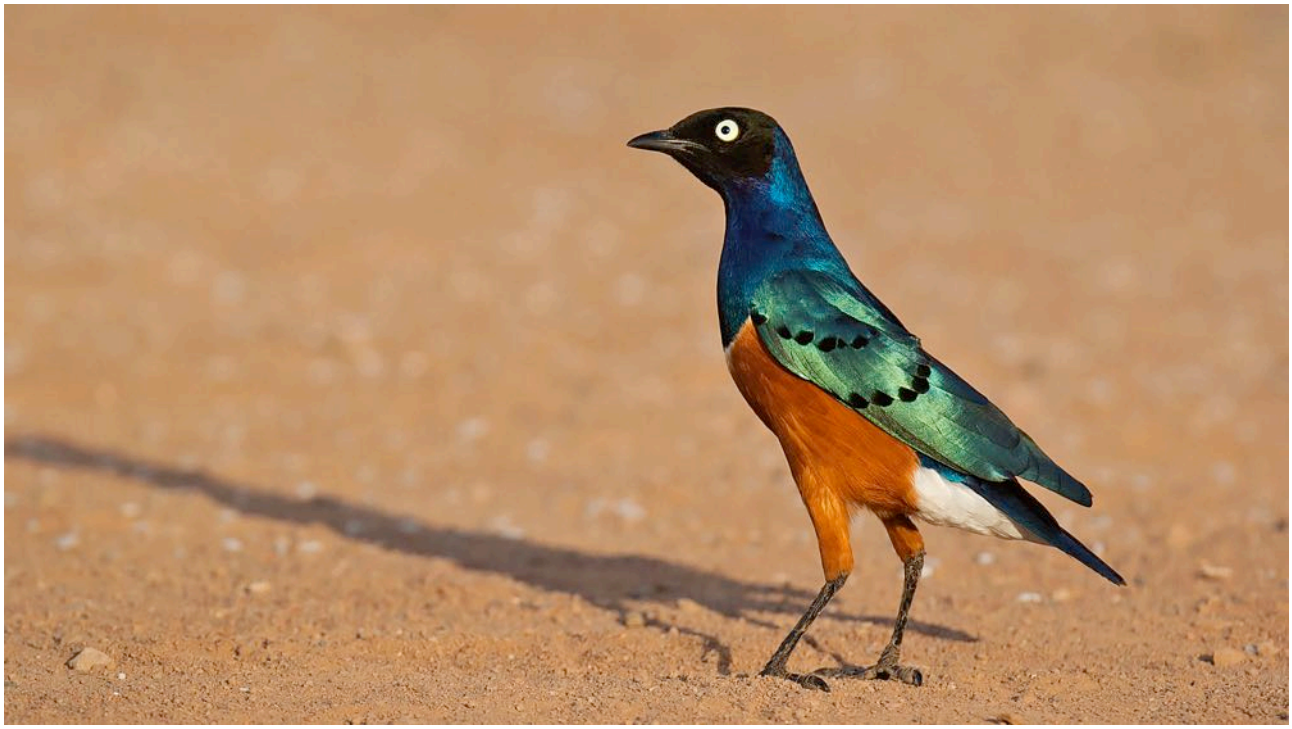
Black Bishop ***Euplectes gierowii*** Seen in Busia.
Zanzibar Red Bishop ◊ ***Euplectes nigroventris*** Seen along the coast.
Black-winged Red Bishop ***Euplectes hordeaceus*** One sighting.
Southern Red Bishop (R B) ***Euplectes orix*** Good numbers near Kisumu.
Yellow Bishop ***Euplectes capensis*** Scattered sightings.
Fan-tailed Widowbird (Red-shouldered W) ***Euplectes axillaris*** Widespread.
Yellow-mantled Widowbird (Yellow-shouldered W) ***Euplectes [macroura] macrocercus*** A few birds seen.
Yellow-mantled Widowbird ***Euplectes [macroura] macroura*** Seen in Masai Mara.
White-winged Widowbird ***Euplectes albonotatus*** Small numbers noted.
Red-collared Widowbird (R-naped W) ***Euplectes ardens*** Great views of males at various sites.
Long-tailed Widowbird ***Euplectes progne*** Incredible views of displaying males at two sites.
Jackson's Widowbird ◊ ***Euplectes jacksoni*** Good views at 3 sites.
White-breasted Nigrita (W-b Negrofinch) ***Nigrita fusconotus*** Seen in Kakamega.
Grey-headed Nigrita (G-crowned Negrofinch) ***Nigrita canicapillus*** First seen in Mt Kenya.
Green-winged Pytilia ***Pytilia melba*** Scattered sightings.
Cut-throat Finch ***Amadina fasciata*** Good numbers seen.
Red-headed Bluebill ◊ ***Spermophaga ruficapilla*** Good views for some in Kakamega.
Red-throated Twinspot (Peters's T) ***Hypargos niveoguttatus*** Great views in Sokoke.
Bar-breasted Firefinch ***Lagonosticta rufopicta*** Seen well in the west.
Red-billed Firefinch ***Lagonosticta senegala*** Common.
Jameson's Firefinch ***Lagonosticta rhodopareia*** Great views at Hunters Lodge.
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu ***Uraeginthus bengalus*** Common.
Blue-capped Cordon-bleu ◊ ***Uraeginthus cyanocephalus*** A few sightings.
Purple Grenadier ***Uraeginthus ianthinogaster*** Widespread.
Yellow-bellied Waxbill ***Coccopygia quartinia*** A few sightings.
Fawn-breasted Waxbill ***Estrilda paludicola*** Seen in Busia.
Crimson-rumped Waxbill ***Estrilda rhodopyga*** Scattered records.
Common Waxbill ***Estrilda astrild*** Common.
Kandt's Waxbill ◊ ***Estrilda kandti*** Good views.

Black-faced Waxbill ***Estrilda erythronotos*** Great views.
Black-cheeked Waxbill ◊ ***Estrilda charmosyna*** Good views at several sites.
Orange-breasted Waxbill (Zebra W) ***Amandava subflava*** Great views.
Quailfinch ***Ortygospiza atricollis*** Common in Masai Mara.
Grey-headed Silverbill ◊ ***Odontospiza caniceps*** Great views at 3 sites.
Bronze Mannikin ***Lonchura cucullata*** Widespread.
Black-and-white Mannikin ***Lonchura bicolor*** One sighting.
Red-backed Mannikin (Rufous-b M) ***Lonchura nigriceps*** A few sightings.
Village Indigobird ***Vidua chalybeate*** Widespread.
Pin-tailed Whydah ***Vidua macroura*** Widespread.

Foxy Lark and Rock-loving Cisticola.

Straw-tailed Whydah ◊ ***Vidua fischeri*** Many excellent sightings.
Long-tailed Paradise Whydah (Eastern P W) ***Vidua paradisaea*** Some great looks.
Western Yellow Wagtail (W) (Yellow-headed W) ***Motacilla [flava] lutea*** Good numbers.
Western Yellow Wagtail (W) (Blue-headed W) ***Motacilla [flava] flava*** One seen.
Western Yellow Wagtail (W) (Grey-headed W) ***Motacilla [flava] thunbergi*** Some birds seen.
Cape Wagtail ***Motacilla capensis*** First seen at Mt Kenya.
Mountain Wagtail ***Motacilla clara*** Great views in Kakamega.
African Pied Wagtail ***Motacilla aguimp*** Common.
Golden Pipit ◊ ***Tmetothylacus tenellus*** Many great views of this stunner.
Sharpe's Longclaw ◊ ***Macronyx sharpei*** Excellent studies.
Yellow-throated Longclaw ***Macronyx croceus*** A handful of sightings.
Pangani Longclaw ◊ ***Macronyx aurantiigula*** Good views in Tsavo West.
Rosy-throated Longclaw (R-breasted L) ***Macronyx ameliae*** Some great views in Mara.
African Pipit (Grassland P) ***Anthus cinnamomeus*** Widespread.
Long-billed Pipit ***Anthus similis*** Seen in the Oloolulo scarpment.
Plain-backed Pipit ***Anthus leucophrys*** Widespread.
Tree Pipit (W) ***Anthus trivialis*** A few sightings.
Striped Pipit ***Anthus lineiventris*** Excellent views at Taita hills.
Sokoke Pipit ◊ ***Anthus sokokensis*** Amazing views at Sokoke.
Malindi Pipit ◊ ***Anthus melindae*** Great looks at Sokoke.

Oriole Finch ***Linurgus olivaceus*** One brief bird at Mt Kenya.
African Citril ◊ ***Crithagra citrinelloides*** Some close sightings.
Western Citril ◊ ***Crithagra frontalis*** Seen at Kichwa Tembo. See Note.
Southern Citril ◊ **(East African C)** ***Crithagra hyposticta*** A couple of records around Kakamega.
Papyrus Canary ◊ ***Crithagra koliensis*** Great views at Kisumu.
Reichenow's Seedeater ◊ ***Crithagra reichenowi*** Fairly common.
Yellow-fronted Canary ***Crithagra mozambica*** Fairly common.
White-bellied Canary ◊ ***Crithagra dorsostriata*** A few seen very well.
Southern Grosbeak-Canary ◊ ***Crithagra buchanani*** Excellent views.
Brimstone Canary ***Crithagra sulphurata*** Small numbers recorded.
Thick-billed Seedeater ***Crithagra burtoni*** A few seen.
Streaky Seedeater ***Crithagra striolata*** Common.
Yellow-crowned Canary ***Serinus flavivertex*** Good views.
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting (C-b Rock B) ***Emberiza tahapisi*** Widespread.
Somali Bunting (S Golden-breasted B) ***Emberiza poliopleura*** Great sightings.
Golden-breasted Bunting (African G-b B) ***Emberiza flaviventris*** A few seen in the west.



Superb Starling.

MAMMALS

Guereza Colobus (Eastern Black-and-white C) ***Colobus guereza***
Olive Baboon ***Papio anubis***
Yellow Baboon ***Papio cynocephalus***
Vervet Monkey ***Cercopithecus pygerythrus***
Blue Monkey (Diademed Guenon) ***Cercopithecus mitis***
Sykes's Monkey (White-throated Guenon) ***Cercopithecus albogularis***
Red-tailed Monkey (Black-cheeked White-nosed M) ***Cercopithecus ascanius***
Silver Galago ***Otolemur argentatus***
Small-eared Galago (Northern Greater G) ***Otolemur garnetti***
Wahlberg's Epauletted Fruit Bat ***Epomophorus wahlbergi***
Yellow-winged Bat ***Lavia frons***
Golden-rumped Elephant Shrew (Yellow-r E S) ***Rhynchocyon chrysopygus***

Cape Hare ***Lepus capensis***
Scrub Hare ***Lepus saxatilis***
Unstriped Ground Squirrel ***Xerus rutilus***
Red-bellied Coast Squirrel (R Bush S) ***Paraxerus palliatus***
Ochre Bush Squirrel (Huet's B S) ***Paraxerus ochraceus***
Red-legged Sun Squirrel ***Heliosciurus rufobrachium***
African Giant Squirrel (G Forest S) ***Protoxerus stangeri***
African Grass Rat ***Arvicanthis niloticus***
Naked Mole-rat ***Heterocephalus glaber***
Black-backed Jackal ***Canis mesomelas***
Wild Dog (Hunting Dog) ***Lycaon pictus***
Common Dwarf Mongoose ***Helogale parvula***
Banded Mongoose ***Mungos mungo***
Spotted Hyaena ***Crocuta crocuta***
Serval Cat ***Felis serval***
Leopard ***Panthera pardus***
Lion ***Panthera leo***
Black-necked Rock Hyrax ***Procavia johnstoni***
Yellow-spotted Hyrax ***Heterohyrax brucei***
Southern Tree Hyrax ***Dendrohyrax arboreus***
African Savanna Elephant ***Loxodonta africana***
Common Zebra (Plains Z) ***Equus quagga***
Grevy's Zebra ***Equus grevyi***
Black Rhinoceros (Browse R) ***Diceros bicornis***
White Rhinoceros (reintroduced) ***Ceratotherium simum***
Hippopotamus ***Hippopotamus amphibius***
Common Warthog ***Phacochoerus africanus***
Desert Warthog ***Phacochoerus aethiopicus***
Masai Giraffe ***Giraffa [camelopardalis] tippelskirchi***
Reticulated Giraffe ***Giraffa [camelopardalis] reticulata***
Rothschild's Giraffe ***Giraffa [camelopardalis] rothschildi***
Cape Buffalo (African B) ***Syncerus caffer***
Cape Bushbuck ***Tragelaphus sylvaticus***
Southern Lesser Kudu ***Ammelaphus australis***
Hirola ***Beatragus hunteri***
Northern Greater Kudu ***Strepsiceros chora***
Eland ***Taurotragus oryx***
Bush Duiker (Common D) ***Sylvicapra grimmia***
Mountain Suni ***Neotragus kicherpaveri***
Steinbuck (Steinbok) ***Raphicerus campestris***
Kirk's Dikdik ***Madoqua kirki***
Guenther's Dikdik (Günther's D) ***Madoqua guentheri***
Bohor Reedbuck (Bohar R) ***Redunca bohor***
Ellipsen Waterbuck ***Kobus ellipsiprymnus***
Defassa Waterbuck ***Kobus defassa***
Serengeti Thomson's Gazelle ***Eudorcus nasalis***
Eastern Thomson's Gazelle ***Eudorcus thomsonii***
Grant's Gazelle ***Nanger granti***

Serval Cat.

Bright's Gazelle ***Nanger notatus***
Peter's Gazelle ***Nanger petersii***
Southern Gerenuk ***Litocranius walleri***
Common Impala ***Aepyceros melampus***
Serengeti Topi ***Damaliscus jimela***
Kongoni ***Alcelaphus cokii***
Lelwel Hartebeeste ***Alcelaphus lelwel***
Serengeti White-bearded Wildebeeste ***Connochaetes mearnsi***
Galla Oryx ***Oryx gallarum***
Fringe-eared Oryx ***Oryx callotis***

Leopard, the extremely rare Hirola, and a Masai Giraffe.

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

Rosy-patched Bush-shrike *Rhodophoneus cruentus*
We saw two distinct forms of this wonderful species on this tour. The first, *hilgerti* around Shaba/Buffalo Springs, and the distinctive *cathemagmenus* in the Tsavo National Parks. The latter is sometimes mooted as a potential split: Tsavo Bush- shrike.

Western Citril *Crithagra frontalis*
The black-faced birds at Kichwa Tembo resemble this form and are mapped as such for this area in *Birds of Africa*. However Zimmerman *et al* in *Birds of Kenya and Northern Tanzania* claims that the only form found in the northwest Mara Game Reserve is the grey-faced *hyposticta*.