



The wonderful Usambara Eagle Owl... our inevitable bird of the trip! (Pete Morris)

REMOTE TANZANIA

27 SEPTEMBER / 1 – 16 / 24 OCTOBER 2016

LEADER: PETE MORRIS

Our 2017 tour to 'Remote Tanzania' turned out to be a fantastic adventure that way-surpassed most of our expectations. And with the addition of a pre-tour Northern Tanzania endemics extension, and a post-tour Udzungwa Mountains extension, the tour really was converted to an 'Ultimate Tanzania'. For most of the tour we were accompanied by our ever reliable, super friendly and efficient local driver and excellent local guide, and were blessed with largely good weather, most importantly when we were camping up in the mountains. With such a good set up and conditions, there were few excuses, so we efficiently set about our task of hoovering up the endemics, whilst enjoying the other wonders that this great country has to offer.



The stunning Swynnerton's Robin... a highlight of the Udzungwa Extension (Pete Morris)

The pre-tour extension involved a whistle stop trek from Arusha to the Lariboro Plains and then down to Ndutu on the edge of the great Serengeti Plains and back via the amazing Ngorongoro Crater. Our task was to find the endemics: Grey-breasted Spurfowl, Yellow-collared and Fischer's Lovebirds, Beesley's Lark, Rufous-tailed Weaver and Ashy Starling all performed well alongside an excellent cast of other hoped-for birds and mammals. The main tour saw us travelling through arid plains and on to the South Pare Mountains, the East and West Usambaras, the attractive Pemba Island, the remote Uluguru and Ukaguru Mountains, the impressive Mikumi National Park and its surrounding miombo woodlands and the little explored Kilombero Plains. Here the good birds were almost too numerous to pick from, but special mention must go to the skulking Scaly Chatterers, the amazing Usambara Eagle Owls, gorgeous Green-headed Orioles, Long-billed and Red-capped Forest Warblers, Pemba Scops Owl (and all other endemics), colourful Böhm's Bee-eaters, the hulking Uluguru Bushshrike, the little-known Rubeho Akalat, the sneaky Spot-throat, both Winifred's and Rubeho Warblers, amazing displaying Racket-tailed Rollers, colourful Hofmann's Sunbirds and a delightful Lesser Seedcracker. Our post-tour extension to the Udzungwa mountains was also a superb experience. Although more arduous, both in terms of the physical effort and living conditions, the targets all fell. The near-mythical Udzungwa Forest Partridge was the obvious star, but the stunning Swynnerton's Robin, unique Rufous-winged Sunbird, White-winged Apalis and skulking Dapple-throat were just a small part of the excellent supporting cast! It was actually my first time around many of these sites, and I have to say I was very impressed with it as a birding destination and certainly relish the prospect of another visit to see my friends there... both avian and human!!

Those of us taking the pre-tour option assembled late morning in Arusha and made our way straight to the nearby Lariboro Plains. These somewhat degraded but important plains are home to the critically endangered Beesley's Lark, and fortunately, some effort has been made to protect this species and its habitat, and there's even local guides to help you find the birds! We arrived in the heat of the day, but it really wasn't too bad. Having met our local guides, we proceeded across the dry, dusty and sadly still overgrazed plains, finding Rufous-naped Lark and many Athi Short-toed and Red-capped Larks. It wasn't too long before we'd also found a smart party of diminutive Beesley's Larks – job done or kind of! We watched these diminutive larks for a while and then set about finding a few other targets. Foxy Lark proved easy and a Fischer's Sparrow-Lark popped up, whilst the interesting Short-tailed Lark took a little longer. A few other goodies included smart Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, White-bellied Go-away-birds, Abyssinian Scimitarbill, Von der Decken's Hornbill, a delightful Red-and-yellow Barbet and Taita Fiscals whilst a bit of owlet whistling lured in Red-fronted Warblers, Banded



Larks of the Lariboro plains... top the critically endangered Beesley's Lark, Athi Short-toed Lark (left) and Short-tailed Lark (Pete Morris)

Parisoma, White-browed Scrub Robins, Grey-capped Social Weavers and a couple of Mouse-coloured Penduline Tits. On the journeys we notched up Augur Buzzards, White-fronted Bee-eaters, tiny Pygmy Falcons, a small flock of Fischer's Lovebirds, a fine pair of Rosy-patched Bushshrikes, Superb, Hildebrandt's and a single Fischer's Starling, Schalow's Wheatears, and, a much appreciated Southern Grosbeak-Canary. Larked-out, we headed back to our very comfortable hotel for a well earned rest.

The following day, we were a little later than planned, but made the most of it by notching up an African Wood Owl in the lodge grounds. Once on our way, we were soon notching up more and more targets. Highlights of the journey included numerous stunning endemic Yellow-collared Lovebirds and flocks of Rufous-tailed Weavers and, once we arrived at Tarangire, several subtle endemic Ashy Starlings. Here we also found good numbers of Yellow-necked and Red-necked Spurfowls, Nubian and Eastern Grey Woodpeckers, Red-bellied Parrot and our first Blue-capped Waxbills. Moving on to Ngorongoro Crater, we paused to look at a few forest species including the stunning Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, Grey Cuckooshrike, Mountain Greenbuls, Thick-billed Seedeater and the scarce Brown-headed Apalis. We then made our way up to the crater rim where, as well as enjoying the spectacular view, we watched a distant Black Rhinoceros in the scopes. The journey from here down to Ndutu was a long and bumpy one, and at times the heavens opened! We did manage to find a good number of great birds including more Fischer's Lovebirds and the attractive endemic Grey-breasted Spurfowl. Smart Temminck's Coursers were appreciated and other goodies included our first Common Ostriches, raptors including our first vultures and Black-chested Snake-Eagles, Kori and White-bellied Bustards, a sleepy Verreaux's Eagle Owl, numerous colourful kingfishers, bee-eaters and rollers, Usambiro Barbets, various species

of shrikes, Rufous Chatterers, Black-lored Babblers, both species of oxpecker, stunning Silverbirds, Capped Wheatears and Jackson's and Red-collared Widowbirds. Plenty of ungulates were present on the plains as were iconic species such as African Elephant, Masai Giraffe and Common Zebra. Just before dusk, we settled in to the rather pleasant Ndutu Lodge.



North Tanzania endemic bonanza! Three of the targets, Ashy Starling, Yellow-collared Lovebird and Fischer's Lovebird (Pete Morris)

Our full day around Ndutu was an interesting one. We had few avian targets, and one of those that we did have, the sneaky White-tailed Lark took some tracking down. Whilst looking, we found numerous splendid Double-banded Coursers, Harlequin Quails, some superb Hartlaub's Bustards, a lovely pair of Red-throated Tits, colourful Pangani Longclaws and some playful Bat-eared Foxes and Black-backed Jackals. Back around the lodge, the bird bath was busy with visiting Fischer's Lovebirds, Grey-breasted Spurfowls, Blue-capped Cordon-bleus, some stunning Grey-headed Silverbills and even a Pearl-spotted Owllet. In the afternoon we took another drive out. Around some wetlands we found Cape Teals, both Lesser and Greater Flamingos, Marsh Sandpipers and lovely little Chestnut-banded Plovers, whilst back out on the plains we got some good looks at Secretarybirds, some confiding Common Buttonquails, Quailfinches, an impressive tree full of Black-winged Kites and a smart Marsh Owl. Mammal interest was added by a stunning Serval hunting mice and, just at dusk, an African Wild Cat.



The endemic Grey-breasted Spurfowl was common and showy...(Pete Morris)

Our final day of the extension saw us travelling back to Arusha. It was a fairly long and uneventful journey. We did stop often to admire the plentiful wildlife on the Serengeti plains, and found a few things to admire such as good numbers of Caspian Plovers, smart Greater Kestrels, and, in the Ngorongoro area, Lynes's and Hunter's Cisticolas, Moustached Tinkerbird and for a lucky member of the group, a Golden-winged Sunbird. Thanks to some rather bold driving, we managed to avoid much of the congestion in Arusha and completed our successful extension in time to have a breather before the main tour began!



Numerous delightful Double-banded Coursers entertained (Pete Morris)



Two more highlights of the Ndutu area... a superb male Hartlaub's Bustard, and the mammalian highlight, a fine Serval (Pete Morris)



We were up bright and early the following morning, enjoying several gems in our luxurious lodge's gardens! Goodies came thick and fast as our attentions moved from such goodies as stunning Taveta Golden Weavers, to scarce Brown-breasted Barbets and subtle Grey-olive Greenbuls. Gorgeous Rüppell's Robin-Chats chimed from the undergrowth and a roving flock of Retz's Helmetshrikes entertained. After a fine breakfast, it was time to meet our wonderful driver Exaud and superb guide Elia and board our Landcruiser which was to be our home for the next few weeks... We then made our way southeast towards Same, and spent some time exploring the Nyumba Ya Mungu area. The fairly hot conditions meant that working the arid scrub was fairly hard work, but even so, we soon began to find goodies such as White-headed Mousebird, tail-wiggling displaying D'Arnaud's Barbets, Slate-coloured Boubous and the diminutive Mouse-coloured Penduline Tit. Blue-naped Mousebirds sped past on whirring wings, Red-bellied Parrot showed up and other species noted included the striking Somali Bunting and Dodson's Bulbuls (or at least birds that resembled them!). Other species included Crested Francolins, a Buff-crested Bustard, subtle Pink-breasted Larks, Grey Wren-Warblers, Eastern Vio-



Highlights at Lake Daluti included brilliant Taveta Golden Weavers, Rüppell's Robin-Chats and Grey-olive Greenbuls (Pete Morris)



The often elusive Scaly Chatterer put in two performances in the Nyumba Ya Mungu area (Pete Morris)

let-backed Sunbirds and hulking Southern Grosbeak Canaries. As the temperatures rose, we sought sanctuary for our lunch, and whilst sheltering enjoyed Black Crakes, Pygmy, Malachite and Grey-headed Kingfishers, Pygmy Batises, Buff-bellied Warblers, Spotted Palm Thrushes, Northern Brownbills and Taveta Golden Weavers. The nearby reservoir held a good variety of common waterbirds, including Yellow-billed Storks and Water Thick-knees, and after lunch we explored more scrub, finding Red-fronted Warblers, localized Tsavo Sunbirds and, after quite a search, the elusive Scaly Chatterer which put on quite a show! It had been a long day, and the beers tasted good that evening!

The following day we decided to head up to the South Pare mountains. Although the distinctive form of Montane White-eye is not currently split, we decided to look for it anyway as it is highly distinctive! Making our way up, passing Woolly-necked Storks and Rufous Chatterers we began to climb a pretty rough road up into the hills. Silvery-cheeked Hornbills flapped lazily overhead, our only White-bellied Black Tit and Red-throated Twin-spot of the tour posed by the road, and as we climbed higher, the loud songs of Evergreen Forest Warblers belted out from the undergrowth. Our first of many White-starred Robins popped into views, and once we'd arrived at the plateau, it didn't take too long to find the endemic white-eye, and distinctive it was. Surely one in the bank! Also here was the attractive Usambara Double-collared Sunbird, our first Mountain Buzzards, Moustached Tinkerbirds and Hartlaub's Turacos, but overall the forest was fairly quiet and we decided to head back down, noting a fine roadside Striped Pipit as we went. We spent more time that afternoon searching the thorny scrub, finding yet more Scaly Chatterers, a couple of Blue-capped Cordon-bleus, a Fischer's Starling and some Olive Bee-eaters, but it was knocking on by the time we got to the very comfortable Müller's Mountain Lodge.

The next two days we spent exploring the West Usambaras, birding a productive logging road in the Magamba Forest Reserve. It wasn't all plain sailing, and some of the birds proved pretty tough, most notably the elusive Spot-throat which we only heard despite much effort! Early on we came across an amazing perched Crowned Eagle, Olive Woodpeckers and some distinctive but as yet undescribed drongos which seem not to be Fork-tailed Drongos but most likely a new species 'Usambara' Drongo. Over the couple of days we gradually amassed the other targets. Attractive Red-capped Forest Warblers were often confiding as were some smart Iringa Akalats around an antswarm which also hosted a shy but eventually showy White-chested Alethe and Fülleborn's Black Boubous, a species we were to hear often but see seldom! A smart pair of Usambara Weavers crept along epiphyte-laden limbs, and greenbills were a focus as we eventually got great views of



Desired birds in the West Usambaras included Red-capped Forest Warbler, Usambara Akalat and Usambara Double-collared Sunbird (Pete Morris)

subtle Montane Tiny Greenbuls as well as Shelley's, Stripe-faced and Cabanis's Greenbuls. One species that gave us a lot of trouble was the endemic Usambara Thrush, but eventually we gained some great views of several feeding in fruiting trees. Other more widespread species included the handsome Eastern Bronzetailed Pigeons, Green Barbet, Forest Batis, Black-fronted Bushshrike, Grey Cuckooshrike, showy Evergreen Forest Warblers, Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler and Waller's and Kenrick's Starlings. We also found the attractive endemic Lushoto Mountain Squirrel, along with some Angola Pied Colobus sporting their shaggy coats and pendulous tails.

The final morning an African Goshawk displayed overhead (as they did most mornings) and we found smart African Wood Owls in the hotel grounds, before making our way back down and on towards the close (geographically) yet distant East Usambaras. We paused in an interesting valley where we soon found several interesting species. A Cabanis's Bunting sang by the roadside, Blue-spotted Wood Doves and Tambourine Doves perched up, and the adjacent small stream was full of Eastern Golden Weavers. East Coast Boubou was new for some, Black-throated Wattle-eye obliged, Mountain Wagtails bobbed along a small stream and



Mocking Cliff Chat and East Coast Boubou - two birds seen near to Lushoto (Pete Morris)

showy Mocking Cliff Chats and White-browed Robin-Chats performed. Moving on we stopped at a small marsh that held the recently split Coastal Cisticola (which eventually showed very well) and a breeding plumaged male Zanzibar Red Bishop. We then made our way up in to the Amani Hills stopping for our first birding as we went, before making our way up to our well-situated base.

The East Usambaras are separated from the West by a broad valley and the mountains themselves rise to a somewhat lower altitude. We had just over two days to explore this bird-rich area, though the highlight ended up being right on our doorsteps! On two different evenings, we had simply unbeatable views of the brilliant Usambara Eagle Owl. On the first occasion an individual that posed for walk away views and on the second occasion a duetting pair! Well, that was bird of the trip sorted! For rarity value, the Long-billed Forest Warbler was perhaps top bird, for looks, the brilliant Green-headed Orioles and Fischer's Turacos took some beating! Other species at higher altitude included a smart Southern Banded Snake Eagle, Mottled and Böhm's Spine-tails, a gorgeous Half-collared Kingfisher, a really obliging Kretschmer's Longbill, Black-headed Apalises, and attractive Uluguru Violet-backed and Banded Green Sunbirds, though it took until the last morning before we



The wonderful Green-headed Oriole... common in the Amani Hills (Pete Morris)



A few birds from the East Usambaras: the rare Long-billed Forest Warbler, the stunning Fischer's Turaco and Half-collared Kingfisher (Pete Morris)

all got great views of a male Amani Sunbird. While looking for the latter, we also found our first African Broad-bill, twirling away, and some sneaky Pale-breasted Illadopsis of the distinctive local form (surely another good split). We also spent some time lower down in the foothill forest. This could be frustrating at times as it could go extremely quiet, but again, we managed to find our main targets. Pride of place went to the small parties of canopy-loving Usambara Hyliotas which showed well on a few occasions. A gorgeous male Plain-backed Sunbird was also much-appreciated, mixed flocks held Pallid Honeyguide, Lowland Tiny Greenbuls, Pale Batis and Ashy, Little Yellow and Grey Tit-Flycatchers, and other goodies included Scaly-throated Honeyguide, Narina Trogons, Black Cuckooshrikes, a roving flock of c50 Chestnut-fronted Helmetshrikes, and an all-too-brief Mombasa Woodpecker.

After what had been a productive final morning, we made our way down to Tanga Airport on the coast. From here we boarded our small plane and made the short hop over to the picturesque island of Pemba. Although relatively small, it still took quite some time to transit to the north of the island, adding a smart Mangrove Kingfisher and our first of many attractive Dickinson's Kestrels as we went. Once at the hotel, there was no time to waste and after a quick dinner we were immediately back out, armed with spotlights and a local guide under

strict instructions! Fairly soon we were watching our first Pemba Scops Owl, but annoyingly, it did not want to turn around, and soon flew off. A tense search then followed until eventually we found an owl that waived the little white flag and posed for us! Brilliant views of the owl in the bag we retreated.



Stunning Dickinson's Kestrels, Pemba Sunbirds and Pemba White-eyes were all common on Pemba Island (Pete Morris)



The following morning we were out early to look for the potentially elusive Pemba Green Pigeon. The initial site drew a blank, but soon after we struck gold, and admired several birds in the scope. We went on to see a few more as we explored the north of the island which also harboured numerous Pemba White-eyes and Pemba Sunbirds, completing the endemic line up. Some noisy Brown-headed Parrots showed well, the coast yielded a group of Crab-plovers, Dimorphic Egrets and a scattering of waders, and large groups of terns could be seen feeding offshore. Amongst these we were pleased to pick out a fine adult White-cheeked Tern as well as numerous Roseate Terns and a few Saunders's Terns. We potted around enjoying the island, adding more Mangrove Kingfishers, but really that was job done!

The following day we retraced our steps back to Chake Chake Airport and then flew across to Dar-Es-Salaam, via Zanzibar! Here we settled back in with Exaud and Elia, and started heading west! Our first port of call was a marshy area by the Ruvu River, for here lurks another mystery. Large flocks of Red-billed Queleas roamed,

though it took us a while to track down the mystery weaver! After a few rather unimpressive female types, a flash of brilliant gold led us to a male of the poorly-known 'Ruvu Weaver', a form that may yet be re-elevated to species status. Further along we made a short detour to the impressive bridge over the Wami River. Here we had another target in mind, and after a false start with some Little Bee-eaters, a flash of colour yielded some gorgeous Böhm's Bee-eaters, busy doing what they do best! Also here were Golden-tailed and Green-backed Woodpeckers, but as always, the clock was ever ticking and we needed to head for the rather pleasant Arc Hotel in Morogoro.



Gorgeous Böhm's Bee-eaters showed superbly by the Wami Bridge! (Pete Morris)

The following day we deviated slightly from the designated programme, and took a trip northwest to the remote Ukaguru Mountains. This proved to be an excellent plan! Almost upon arrival we found the little-known Rubeho Warbler calling from the roadside trees which it shared with a Chapin's Apalis and Oriole Finches! A nice start! We then made our way into the woods, soon finding Yellow-throated Greenbul and colourful Moreau's Sunbirds, two goodies for those not participating in the Udzungwa Extension! Then, as if by magic, the much-wanted Spot-throat popped into a bush for us and gave decent views. As it happened, this was the first of many seen, but at least it wiped out the frustration from the West Usambaras! A Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo obliged, Dark Batises moved stealthily through the undergrowth, and a little further on we struck gold with a showy little Rubeho Akalat... a Birdquest lifer! As we walked back to the vehicle for lunch, pretty little Red-faced Crimsonwings obliged, and just a little further down the road we found the distinctive Uhehe Fiscal, the attractive Bertram's Weaver and the hulking Black-lored Cisticola. With a long day ahead of us, we headed back to Morogoro at a sensible hour!

Well, for those that attempted it, the following day was a tough one. The hike above Tegetero in the Ulugurus, at least the one we attempted, was proper hardcore! And to be honest, for much of the day, it wasn't the most successful. A few open country birds were noted on the way up, the highlight of which was the localized and sometimes split White-lined Barbet. Other species such as Dark-capped Yellow Warbler and African Moustached Warbler were also seen, but we really had to keep going. Once in the forest proper we found a few nice

birds including our first Livingstone's Turacos, Bar-tailed Trogons, a lively pair of African Wood Owls and an Orange Ground Thrush. The endemics though were proving tough. The rather colourful Loveridge's Sunbird was the easiest, with several seen well. Sadly, Winifred's Warbler was only heard, and we may have heard Uluguru Greenbul. By the time we were heading back down, after a massive physical effort, we were feeling slightly forlorn. Then, it all changed in an instant. A hulking pair of Uluguru Bushshrikes were lured in above us, and smiles restored, at least temporarily! It was a long and very steep walk back down!



The hulking Uluguru Bushshrike - the main prize in the mountains (Pete Morris)

Not to be defeated, we gave the Ulugurus one final shot the following day, and this proved to be a partial success. A pair of Winifred's Warblers (looking and sounding suspiciously like Rubeho Warblers!!) gave great views, and we also enjoyed more views of many great birds such as Bar-tailed Trogons and Red-faced Crimsongings. Sadly though, the drab Uluguru Greenbul was determined to avoid us. Heading back down the rather narrow dirt roads, we then made our way through Mikumi National Park and on to an area of miombo woodland just near to the town there. This was to be our first of several visits, and although we did not find all of the targets, we did at least have a good introduction to the avifauna. Smart Arnott's Chats posed, flocks contained subtle Cinnamon-breasted Tits, Grey Penduline Tits and Yellow-bellied Hylionas, as well as larger species such as Speckle-throated Woodpecker and White-breasted Cuckooshrike, and a big bush fire attracted a number of species including the localized Pale-billed Hornbill. We then continued on to Hondo Hondo for the night.



Cinnamon-breasted Tit and Arnott's Chat - two of the miombo specialists (Pete Morris)



The Kilombero plains yielded (clockwise from top left) the undescribed White-tailed and Kilombero Cisticolas and Kilombero Weaver, whilst nearer to Hondo Hondo, we found this stunning male Lesser Seedcracker (Pete Morris)



The following morning we made our way further south to the isolated Kilombero Plains. This region is home to three relatively recently discovered species, though until now, two remain to be formally described. Kilombero Weaver (the one that has been described) was common, though it took some effort to track down a breeding plumaged male and these were joined by attractive little Orange-breasted (or Zebra) Waxbills and Red-billed Firefinches. Both 'Kilombero' and 'White-tailed' Cisticolas were also easy to track down and it was remarkable just how distinct these two species are. Also present were Coppery-tailed Coucals and some smart (Anchie-ta's) Marsh Tchagras as well as a variety of common waterbirds. As it began to warm up, we made our way back to Hondo Hondo, and explored an area of farmland near to our lodge. Here, we soon found plentiful Magpie Manakins, a couple of showy Collared Palm Thrushes and, after an exhaustive search, a gorgeous male Lesser Seedcracker. And, to round off a great morning, we sat down to a cracking cooked breakfast!

We then made our way back to Mikumi National Park, but sadly, so had half of Hyderabad! Thousands of jolly Indian tourists celebrating the Habari cultural festival had descended upon Mikumi, and it took many hours for us to get our permits! By the time we had, we just had time for a short game drive, ticking off our first Lion, Southern Ground Hornbills and a few common species before making our way to the pleasant Vuma Hills tented camp.



The gorgeous Hoffmann's Sunbird and Racket-tailed Rollers were two of the stars in the Mikumi miombo woodlands (Pete Morris)

The following morning we decided not to enter the park proper, but again focused on the miombo woodland north of town. We had a few very specific targets to track down. Amongst these, Miombo Blue-eared Starling proved the easiest as several chatty groups made their way through the woodland and it didn't take too long to find the attractive and extremely localized Hoffmann's Sunbird, a pair of which showed very well indeed. It took far longer to track down the scarce Racket-tailed Roller, but when we did, it was worth it! We watched the most incredible display as the male projected himself high above the canopy, screaming as he went, before acrobatically tumbling back down to a perch. Other more regular species included Crested Barbet and Stierling's Wren-Warblers. Heading back to the lodge for lunch, we paused to watch good numbers of vultures which included small numbers of Rüppell's, Hooded and Lappet-faced Vultures amongst the more regular White-backed Vultures.

That afternoon, we took a slightly longer trip into Mikumi National Park. Again it was fairly quiet bird wise, though we did manage to see a smart female Greater Painted-snipe and several Black-bellied Bustards. Mammals were also conspicuous, including a poor bull African Buffalo which appeared to be stuck in the mud of a drying pool that was covered in hungry Yellow-billed and Marabou Storks and Hamerkops. As we headed back to Vuma Hills, we paused to spotlight a fine African Scops Owl, and once back at base, enjoyed amazing views of a (Scheffler's) African Barred Owlet. Those that wanted also kept an eye on the feeding station. Here, Rusty-spotted Genets and African Civets were regular visitors, Honey Badgers (or Ratels) made numerous visits, Greater Galagos came for banana handouts, the localized Bushy-tailed Mongoose made a couple of appearances, and for one lucky observer, a Leopard passed by. In the early hours there was the bizarre sight of a huge Giant Pouched Rat, a species that is trained to be used as a mine detector!

The following morning we again visited Mikumi National Park. A couple of Grey Kestrels and Shikra were new for the list, and a return to the drying waterhole yielded several Lions, including a full-maned male, and a rather unfortunate buffalo. Somehow the stuck animal had been pulled out of the mud and was now being devoured. A sad sight and a reminder of just how harsh life on the plains is! We carried on, passing numerous giraffes



A sad tale of the African Buffalo. Stuck wallowing one afternoon... being eaten the next morning (Pete Morris)



and Eland and then paused where a Pearl Spotted Owlet had attracted in some Eastern Black-headed Batises! Further still, some productive waterholes were teeming with waterbirds, including a family of Saddle-billed Storks, numerous Knob-billed Ducks and some Collared Pratincoles. We made our back to Vuma Hills for a last lunch together, for this was the end of the 'main' tour. Well not quite the end. As people began to pack



An impressive Lion in Mikumi National Park (Pete Morris)



and shower a superb pair of Livingstone's Flycatchers were found from the restaurant veranda, and just as everyone had recovered from that, a fine pair of Orange-winged Pytilias did the same! A nice finale for those heading home.



A gorgeous Livingstone's Flycatcher in Mikumi National Park (Pete Morris)

Having dropped off those who had finished their holiday at Mikumi Airport, the rest of us continued on our way: destination Iringa! We did have a planned stop along the way. In a most bizarre setting, surrounded by colossal baobabs, we soon found several Ashy Starlings and a pair of pale-eyed Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbills, as well as several Meyer's Parrots and a colourful Swallow-tailed Bee-eater. Continuing on, passing numerous trucks moving at walking pace, we arrived at our lodge just before dusk, to be greeted by a Square-tailed Nightjar on the track.

The intrepid group left now had to face up to and prepare for what lay ahead: some relatively strenuous hiking and several nights of camping in the remote Udzungwa Mountains! So we all enjoyed a good dinner and set about re-organizing! Fully loaded the following morning, and with Purple-crested Turacos under the belt, we embarked on the short but long drive to Uluti! Short in distance but long in time as we needed to negotiate some pretty rough and remote tracks! We did make a few stops along the way, notably adding smart Forest



The stunning Red-faced Crimsonwing showed well on several occasions (Pete Morris)

Double-collared Sunbirds and some showy Red-faced Crimsonwings. Once at Uluti village, we were welcomed by hundreds of school children, all dressed in blue sweaters, and whilst completing the paperwork formalities, we had great fun entertaining them with the laser pointer!!

Ready to roll, we set off on our way. It wasn't a particularly tough walk, the first bit through open country where Angolan Swallows flitted over Churring Cisticolas. Once at the forest we were greeted by a huge sign and a barrier – quite what it could stop was anyone's guess!! We spent the rest of the afternoon walking slowly to our camp. Two very memorable sightings were made during this walk. Firstly, we had an intimate encounter with a gorgeous Swynnerton's Robin which glowed out from the dark undergrowth as it hopped around us! A little further, another of those holy grail birds popped up... the superb Rufous-winged Sunbird. Contrary to the popular field guide, this one turned out to be a deep blue bird, not green at all. We also got some great looks at our first Sharpe's Akalats. The camp was comfortable enough and the food great, and we settled down for our first night of camping in the Udzungwas.



The rarely seen Rufous-winged Sunbird was a highlight of our stay in the Udzungwas (Pete Morris)

None of us remembered setting an alarm, but right at the correct time, an African Broadbill did the job, right above our tents! We spent the next day and a half exploring the dense forests around our camp. Much of our time was spent chasing the elusive Dapple-throat, surely one of the shyest small passerines out there! After numerous attempts, everyone had secured at least some half decent views; the lucky ones, some very good views, but it had been hard work. Also near the camp, we found obliging Iringa Akalats and a couple of relatively showy Spot-throats, and a little further up, a gorgeous pair of White-winged Apalis obliged. Otherwise, diversity was fairly low. A couple more Swynnerton's Robins popped up, and other species included a couple of Lemon Doves, more Livingstone's Turacos, several Dark Batises and a couple of smart Orange Ground Thrushes. Heading back down, a pair of Brown-headed Apalises were most obliging, and driving back to Iringa we found some flocks of chunky-billed Fawn-breasted Waxbills and a couple of smart Yellow-browed Seed-eaters. It was great to have a hot shower, and whilst at the camp, we also saw yet more African Wood Owls and a tame Fiery-necked Nightjar, though no sign of the White-backed Night Herons seen by a lucky group member on the previous visit.

And so we set off again, this time on the relatively easy drive to Udekwa, in a different part of the Udzungwas. We paused for the first paperwork formalities, adding Trilling Cisticolas as we waited, and then headed out into the attractive acacia-clad lower slopes, ready for the long walk into the Luala Valley. We were soon off and walking... It wasn't long before we had paused to watch the first target of the morning, a showy Brown Parisoma lurking in an acacia, but then it was a pretty hard slog, up and down and up and down and up... Eventually we reached the forest, but the birding was pretty quiet, and although previously seen species such as Yellow-throated Greenbul were added, the goodies stayed hidden! Once we'd set up camp we headed into the gorgeous Luala Valley for a little spot of nightbirding. Ruwenzori (Usambara) Nightjars fairly quickly obliged and after a while, the ghostly shape of an African Grass Owl floated by. It promptly vanished, but then, to our delight, was found posing on top of a nearby bush, giving great views.



A wonderful African Grass Owl, rather unusually, perched in a tree! (Pete Morris)

The following day was memorable for all of the wrong reasons! We had a pretty horror march, through swamps and up and down narrow trails, but with little reward other than a pair of Usambara Weavers (new subspecies) and a very brief Kipengere Seedeater. On the way back we did enjoy some great views of a smart Olive-flanked Robin-Chat, but there was still work to do. We still had not even heard the mythical partridge!! So on our last full day we set off on a different course, and this time the partridges were at least vocal, even if they were proving near impossible to see! Our luck changed with the skulking but actually confiding Kipengere Seedeater, as a pair posed for all to see. Continuing on we heard more partridges, and then suddenly, there they were, scratching in the leaf litter. They were not overly shy, and by manoeuvring around, everyone managed decent looks. We'd achieved what seemed almost impossible just a few hours before, and headed back to the camp very happy, seeing another pair of partridges as we went!

The walk out was equally long, hot and sweaty! More partridges were heard and glimpsed but there was little else to report other than a few vocal Cinnamon Bracken Warblers, one of which was seen. We then made our way back to Mikumi, ready for a little luxury after the rigours of the camping! This we enjoyed, and celebrated a virtual clean sweep of the available endemics with a few ales!

Birders being birders, we couldn't just lie in bed for the last morning, so most of us returned to the miombo forest just north of Mikumi. It was a lovely final stroll in this great birding country. A few new species were added, including a Brown-backed Honeybird and Green-capped Eremomela, as well seeing two feisty African Barred Owlets, a smart male Greater Honeyguide and an array of previously seen species. After a hearty breakfast, we packed up for the final time and headed towards Dar-Es-Salaam. The traffic in Dar is legendary, and we wanted to leave ourselves plenty of time! Not long into the journey, the vehicle had some wobbly moments, and whilst trusty Exaud fixed it up, we took advantage and found a showy pair of Eastern Black-headed Batises; great news for one of the group who had not been present at the previous sighting!

We did get back to Dar in good time, and the traffic was pretty bad, but ultimately we made it to the airport with time to spare. We said fond farewells to our excellent and invaluable driver Exaud and equally great Elia, and that was about it. We used the time to sink a couple of cold ones and reflect back on what had genuinely been an epic adventure. An adventure that had far exceeded our expectations, through a beautiful country full of friendly people and brilliant birds! I really cannot wait to return to see my friends once more!



A couple of views in the gorgeous Luala Valley (Pete Morris)





The scarce Pemba Scops Owl can sometimes be tricky to see (Pete Morris)

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

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

Species which were only seen on the pre-tour Northern Endemics Extension are marked **(E)**

Species which were only seen on the post-tour Udzungwa Mountains Extension are marked **(U)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **2017. IOC World Bird List (v 6.4)**. This list is updated several times annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>. Please note, this was the current version when the report checklist was created. Some alternative names are given in parentheses.

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

Common Ostrich *Struthio camelus* (E) Plenty seen. First seen on the drive to Ndutu [*massaicus*].

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata* Good numbers seen in Mikumi NP.

Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor* Three seen at the Mwanambogo Waterhole in Mikumi NP.

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis* One seen at the Mwanambogo Waterhole in Mikumi NP. [nominate].

Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos* c15 seen well at the Mwanambogo Waterhole in Mikumi NP.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca* Small numbers seen in Mikumi NP.

Cape Teal *Anas capensis* (E) A few seen at the edge of Lake Masek, Ndutu.

Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhyncha* A few seen at the reservoir at Nyumba Ya Mungo.

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* Plenty seen. First seen on the drive to Ndutu [*mitratus*-group].

Coqui Francolin *Peliperdix coqui* (E) A few groups seen in the plains around Ndutu [*hubbardii*].

Crested Francolin *Dendroperdix sephaena* See note.

Hildebrandt's Francolin ◊ *Pternistis hildebrandti* (H) A pair heard in the Uмба Valley, near Lushoto [nominate]

Yellow-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis leucoscepus* (E) A few seen at Tarangire.

Grey-breasted Spurfowl ◊ *Pternistis rufopictus* (E) Very common around Ndutu with good numbers seen daily.

Red-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis afer* Two forms noted: *cranchii* at Tarangire; *melanogaster* in Mikumi NP.

Harlequin Quail *Coturnix delegorguei* (E) Three flushed on the plains near Ndutu [nominate].

Udzungwa Forest Partridge ◊ *Xenoperdix udzungwensis* (U) (EN) Great views in the Luāla Valley, Udzungas. Mega!

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Just a few seen, the first at the reservoir at Nyumba Ya Mungo [*capensis*].

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* (E) Small numbers seen at Lake Masek, Ndutu.

Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor* (E) (NT) Small numbers seen at Lake Masek, Ndutu.

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis* Widespread in small numbers. First seen near to Lake Manyara.

African Openbill *Anastomus lamelligerus* A few on the Kilombero Plains and in Mikumi NP [nominate].

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* A few in fields near the South Pare Mountains [*microscelis*=African Woollyneck].

Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis* A few seen in Mikumi NP, including a recently fledged juvenile.

Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumenifer* Widespread in small numbers. First seen near to Lake Manyara.



Marabou Storks and other large waterbirds were feasting on catfish in the drying pools at Mikumi National Park (Pete Morris)

African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus* c8 seen on the beach on Pemba Island. A few others later in the trip.

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash* Fairly common. First seen at the Lake Daluti Serena [*brevirostris*].

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* A handful at the reservoir at Nyumba Ya Mungo.

African Spoonbill *Platalea alba* A few seen, the first on the Kilombero Plains near to Ifakara.

White-backed Night Heron ◊ *Gorsachius leuconotus* (U(NL)) A pair seen at Masumbo Camp, Iringa.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* A few seen, the first at Nyumba Ya Mungo [nominate].

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* First heard at the reservoir at Nyumba Ya Mungo, then seen on Pemba [*atricapilla*].

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* Just one seen on the Kilombero Plains near to Ifakara.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Widespread in small numbers. First seen on the drive to Ndutu.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* Widespread in small numbers. First seen on the drive to Ndutu [nominate].

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala* Widespread in small numbers. First seen on the drive to Ndutu.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* One seen in flight at the reservoir at Nyumba Ya Mungo [nominate].

Great Egret *Ardea alba* Scattered sightings of small numbers [*melanorhynchos*=African G E].

Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia* Just one seen at the Mwanambogo Waterhole in Mikumi NP [*brachyrhyncha*].

Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca* A couple at the reservoir at Nyumba Ya Mungo.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* Scattered sightings of small numbers [nominate].

Dimorphic Egret *Egretta dimorpha* A few on Pemba's beaches including several dark morphs.

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta* Small numbers seen. First seen near to Ndutu [nominate].

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* c6 seen flying distantly on the Kilombero Plains near to Ifakara.

Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens* A few seen, the first near to Lake Manyara.

Reed Cormorant *Microcarbo africanus* Small numbers seen the first at Nyumba Ya Mungo [nominate].

White-breasted Cormorant *Phalacrocorax lucidus* Small numbers seen, the first at Nyumba Ya Mungo.

Secretarybird *Sagittarius serpentarius* (E) (VU) Plenty seen in the Ndutu area.

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* One seen at the reservoir at Nyumba Ya Mungo [nominate].

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* Widespread. Impressive was a large roost in an isolated acacia near to Ndutu.

African Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides typus* Small numbers seen at several sites [nominate].

Palm-nut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis* Small numbers seen at several sites, especially in the northeast.

European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* (U) c6 seen over the Udzungwas, and one along the Kilosa Road, Mikumi.

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus* (CR) A couple seen well at Mikumi NP.

White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus* (CR) Small numbers in the Serengeti area and some good flocks in Mikumi NP.

Rüppell's Vulture *Gyps rueppelli* (CR) A few seen well at Mikumi NP [nominate].



In Mikumi National Park, smaller numbers of vultures than usual were present, but they did include the critically endangered White-backed Vulture (left) and Rüppell's Vulture. In the Serengeti and in the plains around Ndutu, we were still able to find decent numbers of the strange and declining Secretarybird (Pete Morris)

Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos* (EN) A few seen well at Mikumi NP [nominate].

Black-chested Snake Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis* Just a few noted.

Brown Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinereus* Just a few, including good views of 1 in the miombo along the Kilosa Road, Mikumi.

Southern Banded Snake Eagle ◊ *Circaetus fasciolatus* (NT) Excellent views of a perched adult near to Emau Hills.

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus* (NT) Small numbers in the Serengeti area and at Mikumi NP.

Crowned Eagle *Stephanoaetus coronatus* (NT) Best was a perched bird along the Sawmill Road in the West Usambaras.

Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus* (E) (VU) Excellent views of a perched adult between Ndutu and Ngorongoro Crater.

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis* Several seen during the trip.

Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraaetus wahlbergi* Several seen well, including a perched adult at Masumbo Camp.

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* Small numbers in the Serengeti and at Mikumi NP [nominate].

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis* (EN) Good views of a young bird at Mikumi NP [orientalis].

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus* One seen in the miombo along the Kilosa Road, Mikumi [meridionalis].

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar* A few including a black adult with a grey one at Mikumi NP [aequatorius].

Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates* (E) (U) A few seen, the first near to Ndutu [nominate].

Eastern Chanting Goshawk *Melierax poliopterus* A few seen, the first near to Nyumba Ya Mungo.

African Goshawk *Accipiter tachiro* Common; heard almost daily! Many seen displaying and a few seen well [sparsimfasciatus].

Shikra *Accipiter badius* One seen well, in flight and perched at Mikumi NP [polyzonoides].

Little Sparrowhawk *Accipiter minullus* One scoped perched in the Miombo along the Kilosa Road, Mikumi.

Black Sparrowhawk *Accipiter melanoleucus* Just a few seen, the first couple on Pemba [melanoleucus].

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* (E) A male near to Ndutu was the only one.

Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius* Small numbers seen in the lowlands [parasitus].

African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer* A few seen, the first at Nyumba Ya Mungo.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* Just a couple noted [vulpinus = Steppe Buzzard].

Mountain Buzzard *Buteo oreophilus* (NT) Fairly common and widespread in the Eastern Arc. Many good views.

Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur* Common and widespread for the first part of the tour. Many smart colour phases.



An impressive Martial Eagle from the Serengeti and one of many Mountain Buzzards in the Eastern Arc Mountains (Pete Morris)



The huge Kori Bustard and numerous White-bellied Bustards were seen around Ndotu (Pete Morris)

- Kori Bustard** *Ardeotis kori* (E) (NT) Just a few seen in the Serengeti area [*struthiunculus*].
- White-bellied Bustard** *Eupodotis senegalensis* (E) Good views of several in the Serengeti/Ndotu area [*erlangeri*].
- Buff-crested Bustard** *Lophotis gindiana* Excellent views of birds near to Nyumba Ya Mungo.
- Black-bellied Bustard** *Lissotis melanogaster* Seen first near to Ndotu and good views of a few in Mikumi NP [nominate].
- Hartlaub's Bustard** ◇ *Lissotis hartlaubii* (E) Several seen well close to Ndotu, including some fine males.
- Black Crane** *Amaurornis flavirostra* One seen along the small river at Nyumba Ya Mungo.
- Common Buttonquail** *Turnix sylvaticus* (E) Several seen very well in the Serengeti/Ndotu area [*lepurana*].
- Water Thick-Knee** *Burhinus vermiculatus* Good views of a few including on Pemba [nominate].
- Spotted Thick-Knee** *Burhinus capensis* (E) Several seen well in the Serengeti/Ndotu area [nominate].
- Crab-Plover** *Dromas ardeola* Five seen in flight from the lighthouse at the northern tip of Pemba.
- Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus* Just seen at a couple of sites, first at Lake Masek, Ndotu.
- Blacksmith Lapwing** *Vanellus armatus* Seen on a number of occasions, first on the way into the Serengeti.
- Spur-winged Lapwing** *Vanellus spinosus* Seen on two dates, first at Nyumba Ya Mungo.
- Senegal Lapwing** *Vanellus lugubris* One seen well in Mikumi NP.
- Black-winged Lapwing** *Vanellus melanopterus* (E) c6 seen on the drive into the Serengeti (Ndotu) [*minor*].
- Crowned Lapwing** *Vanellus coronatus* Seen on a number of occasions [nominate].
- Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola* Three noted on Pemba Island [nominate].
- Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula* First seen at Nyumba Ya Mungo, and c50 on Pemba Island [*tundrae*].
- Kittlitz's Plover** *Charadrius pecuarius* Four at Lake Masek, Ndotu, and one at the reservoir at Nyumba Ya Mungo.
- Three-banded Plover** *Charadrius tricollaris* Seen a few times, the first near to Ndotu [nominate].
- Chestnut-banded Plover** ◇ *Charadrius pallidus* (E) (NT) Great looks at several at Lake Masek, Ndotu [*venustus*].
- Greater Sand Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultii* Just one noted along the beach on Pemba Island [*scythicus*].
- Caspian Plover** ◇ *Charadrius asiaticus* (E) Great views of an estimated 200 as we made our way from Ndotu.
- Greater Painted-Snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis* Brilliant views of a female in Mikumi NP.
- African Jacana** *Actophilornis africanus* Three seen at Nyumba Ya Mungo.
- Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica* (NT) Just one noted along the beach on Pemba Island [*taymyrensis*].
- European Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* c6 noted along the beaches on Pemba Island [nominate].
- Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis* Three at Lake Masek, Ndotu, and others at Nyumba Ya Mungo and Mikumi NP.
- Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* A few noted at Nyumba Ya Mungo and on Pemba Island.
- Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus* One noted in Mikumi NP.
- Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola* A few noted at Nyumba Ya Mungo and Mikumi NP.
- Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* Seen at a few sites. First noted at Nyumba Ya Mungo.



Three widespread but cracking waders all seen well during the tour: Greater Painted-snipe (female), Temminck's Courser and Spotted Thick-knee (Pete Morris)

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* c20 seen on Pemba Island [n nominate].

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* First seen at Lake Masek, Ndotu, and a few others at Nyumba Ya Mungu and Mikumi NP.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* c6 noted at Nyumba Ya Mungu.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* Small numbers at Lake Masek, Ndotu, and at Nyumba Ya Mungu.

Temminck's Courser *Cursorius temminckii* Great views of 4 Ndotu and two at Vuma Hills, Mikumi NP [*ruvanensis*].

Double-banded Courser *Rhinoptilus africanus* (E) Common around Ndotu, with brilliant views of 30+! [*gracilis*].

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* 6+ seen at the Mwanambogo Waterhole in Mikumi NP [*fuelleborni*].

Grey-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus* Five seen at Nyumba Ya Mungu [*poiocephalus*].

Sooty Gull *Ichthyaelus hemprichii* (NL) A couple seen by some of the beach at Pemba.



Good numbers of Caspian Plovers and Chestnut-banded Plovers were seen in the Ndutu area (Pete Morris)

- Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica* A couple noted at Nyumba Ya Mungu [nominate].
- Greater Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bergii* At least one seen from the beach on Pemba Island [*thalassinus*].
- Lesser Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bengalensis* At least four seen from the beach on Pemba Island [nominate].
- Saunders's Tern** ◇ *Sternula saundersi* Small numbers (3 and 1) seen on two dates from the beach on Pemba Island.
- Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii* 50+ seen from the beach on Pemba Island [*arideensis*].
- Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo* Good numbers (70+) seen from the beach on Pemba Island [nominate].
- White-cheeked Tern** ◇ *Sterna repressa* See note.
- Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida* c15 seen at Nyumba Ya Mungu [*delalandii*].
- White-winged Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus* Two seen at Nyumba Ya Mungu.
- Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** ◇ *Pterocles exustus* (E) Quite a few seen. First noted on the Lariboro Plains.
- Rock Dove (Feral)** *Columba livia* 'feral' Introduced nonsense!
- Speckled Pigeon** *Columba guinea* Common on the pre-tour extension, but just one on the main tour! [nominate].
- African Olive Pigeon** *Columba arquatrix* Seen at several locations, first in the West Usambaras.
- Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon** *Columba delegorguei* Seen well at several locations in the Eastern Arc [*sharpei*].
- Lemon Dove** *Columba larvata* (U) Several seen well at Uluti and the Luala Valley in the Udzungwa Mountains.
- Dusky Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia lugens* c5 seen at Ndongoro Crater and also seen in the West Usambaras.
- Mourning Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decipiens* A few seen near to Ndutu and one at Nyumba Ya Mungu [*perspicillata*].
- Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata* Common and widespread. First noted in Arusha.
- Ring-necked Dove** *Streptopelia capicola* Common and widespread. First noted in Arusha [*tropica*].
- Laughing Dove** *Spilopelia senegalensis* (E) Common and widespread on the pre-tour [nominate].
- Emerald-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur chalcospilos* Widespread in small numbers. First seen on the drive to Ndutu.
- Blue-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur afer* Seen in small numbers at several sites. First seen in the Uмба Valley, Lushoto.
- Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistris* Seen in small numbers at several sites. First seen at the Lake Daluti Serena.
- Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis* Common in the more arid areas early in the tour [nominate].
- African Green Pigeon** *Treron calvus* See note.
- Pemba Green Pigeon** ◇ *Treron pembaensis* (VU) Great views of at least nine on the north of Pemba Island.
- Livingstone's Turaco** *Tauraco livingstonii* Great views of many in the Ulugurus and Udzungwas [*reichenowii*]. **Schalow's Turaco** *Tauraco schalowi* (E) One seen badly from the vehicle at Ndongoro, and others heard there.
- Fischer's Turaco** ◇ *Tauraco fischeri* (NT) Great views of several in the Amani Nature Reserve, East Usambaras [nominate].
- Hartlaub's Turaco** ◇ *Tauraco hartlaubi* Great views of several in the Mugamba Forest Reserve, West Usambaras.
- Purple-crested Turaco** *Tauraco porphyreolophus* (U) A few noted with best views in Masumbo Camp, Iringa [*chlorochlamys*].
- Bare-faced Go-away-bird** *Corythaixoides personatus* One seen as we were leaving Mikumi NP [*leopoldi*].
- White-bellied Go-away-bird** *Corythaixoides leucogaster* First seen on the Lariboro Plains and also in the Same area.
- Coppery-tailed Coucal** *Centropus cupreicaudus* c5 seen well near Ifakara in the Kilombero Floodplain [*songweensis*].
- White-browed Coucal** *Centropus superciliosus* Pretty widespread in small numbers [*loandae*].

Green Malkoha *Ceuthmochares australis* A couple seen in the Amani Nature Reserve, East Usambaras.

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas* A few noted, the first in the Mugamba Forest Reserve, West Usambaras.

African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus* Just one seen in the Mugamba Forest Reserve, West Usambaras.

Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx montanus* Great views near Mandege in the Ukaguru Mountains [patulus].

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius* (H) One heard in the Mugamba Forest Nature Reserve, West Usambaras.

Western Barn Owl *Tyto alba* (H) Heard from the Muller's Mountain Lodge in the West Usambaras a couple of times.

African Grass Owl ◊ *Tyto capensis* (U) Brilliant spotlight views of one in the Luala Valley, Udzungwa Mountains.

African Scops Owl *Otus senegalensis* Great views of one at Vuma Hills, Mikumi NP [nominate].

Pemba Scops Owl ◊ *Otus pembaensis* (VU) At least two seen well and another 6+ heard in Ngezi Forest, Pemba Island.

Spotted Eagle-Owl *Bubo africanus* (U) (H) Heard at Masumbo Camp, Iringa [nominate].

Usambara Eagle-Owl ◊ *Bubo vosseleri* Brilliant views on two dates in the Amani Hills, East Usambaras. Real stunners!!

Verreaux's Eagle-Owl *Bubo lacteus* (E) A couple of excellent daytime sightings in the Ndotu area.

African Wood Owl *Strix woodfordii* Great views including several daytime sightings in the Eastern Arc Mountains [nigricantior].

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum* Several seen in the Ndotu area and another seen in Mikumi NP [licua].

African Barred Owlet *Glaucidium capense* Brilliant views of three in the Mikumi area [scheffleri = Spot-fronted].

Marsh Owl *Asio capensis* (E) Great views of one near to Ndotu [nominate].

Fiery-necked Nightjar *Caprimulgus pectoralis* (H) (U) Brilliant views of one at Masumbo Camp, Iringa [shelleyi].

Ruwenzori (Usambara) Nightjar ◊ *Caprimulgus [ruwenzorii] guttifer* (H) (U) Several seen in the Luala Valley, Udzungwas.

Square-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus fossii* One seen well on the road on the drive into Masumbo Camp, Iringa [welwitschii].



Verreaux's Eagle Owls and this Marsh Owl were further highlights around Ndotu. Below, Fiery-necked Nightjar was seen near Iringa (Pete Morris)





Several feisty little Pearl-spotted (above) and African Barred Owlets were seen well (Pete Morris)



Mottled Spinetail *Telacanthura ussheri* Small numbers seen well in the Amani Nature Reserve, East Usambaras [*stictilaema*].
Böhm's Spinetail *Neafrapus boehmi* At least four seen well in the Amani Nature Reserve, East Usambaras [*sheppardii*].
African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus* Common and widespread. First seen on the drive into the Serengeti [*parvus-group*].
Mottled Swift *Tachymarpis aequatorialis* A few, including at least 50 on the drive from Arusha to Ndutu [nominate].
Nyanza Swift ◊ *Apus niansae* (E) c40 noted in a thunder storm on the drive from Arusha to Ndutu [nominate].
Little Swift *Apus affinis* Fairly common and widespread. First seen at Nyumba Ya Mungu [*affinis-group*].
White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer* Just a handful seem, the first at the Lake Daluti Serena in Arusha.
Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus* Fairly common and widespread [*leucotis-group*].
White-headed Mousebird ◊ *Colius leucocephalus* At least 10 in the Nyumba Ya Mungu area. Many good views [nominate].
Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus* Common in the more arid areas early in the tour.
Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina* A few seen in lower areas of the Amani Hills and the foothills of the Ulugurus [*littorale*].
Bar-tailed Trogon *Apaloderma vittatum* Small numbers seen well at several sites in the Eastern Arc Mountains.
Racket-tailed Roller ◊ *Coracias spatulatus* Brilliant views of a superb pair in the miombo near Mikumi.
Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus* Fairly common and widespread in suitable habitat [nominate].
Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus* Good numbers seen, especially common on Pemba [*suahelicus*].
Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala* Quite a few seen. First noted on the drive from Arusha to Ndutu.
Brown-hooded Kingfisher *Halcyon albiventris* First seen well in the Amani Nature Reserve. A few others noted [*orientalis*].



Another common but attractive species, the Brown-hooded Kingfisher (Pete Morris)

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti* A few heard and just one seen on the drive to Masumbo Camp [nominate].
Mangrove Kingfisher ◊ *Halcyon senegaloides* Three seen and others heard on Pemba. The first near the airport.
African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta* A total of c8 noted, the first near to Ndutu.
Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus* A total of 8 noted, the first at Nyumba Ya Mungu [*galeritus*].
Half-collared Kingfisher *Alcedo semitorquata* Great views of one in the Amani Nature Reserve, East Usambaras.
Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima* Only seen at the Lake Daluti Serena in Arusha [nominate].
Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* A few noted, the first at Nyumba Ya Mungu [nominate].
Swallow-tailed Bee-Eater *Merops hirundineus* Good views in the Baobab Valley between Mikumi and Iringa [*furcatus*].

Little Bee-Eater *Merops pusillus* Good numbers seen in suitable habitat throughout [meridionalis].
Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater ◊ *Merops oreobates* Several at the Ngorongoro Crater and a couple in the East Usambaras.
White-fronted Bee-eater *Merops bullockoides* Small numbers noted, the first near to Arusha.
Böhm's Bee-eater ◊ *Merops boehmi* Brilliant views of c6 at the Wami Bridge on the journey from Dar es Salam to Morogoro.
Olive Bee-Eater *Merops superciliosus* c5 seen along the roadside between Same and Lushoto [nominated].
European Bee-Eater *Merops apiaster* Small flocks seen several times. First seen on the drive from Arusha to Nduvu.
African Hoopoe *Upupa africana* Just a handful noted, the first near to Arusha.
Green Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus* Small groups at a number of sites, the first at Nduvu Lodge [marwitzij].
Common Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas* A couple in the miombo north of Mikumi [schalowij].
Abyssinian Scimitarbill ◊ *Rhinopomastus minor* (E) Singles seen on the Lariboro Plains and near to Nduvu [cabanisij].
Southern Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus leadbeateri* (VU) Several seen well in and around Mikumi NP.
Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill ◊ *Tockus ruahae* Excellent views of three in the Baobab Valley between Mikumi and Iringa.
Northern Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus erythrorhynchus* A pair near Tarangire Lodge and also seen at Nyumba Ya Mungu.
Von Der Decken's Hornbill ◊ *Tockus deckeni* Plenty on the pre-tour and also seen around Nyumba Ya Mungu.
Crowned Hornbill *Lophoceros alboterminatus* Quite a few. First noted on the drive up to the South Pare Mountains.
African Grey Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus* One seen near to Nduvu and small numbers on the main tour [epirhinus].
Pale-billed Hornbill ◊ *Lophoceros pallidirostris* A few seen well in the miombo north of Mikumi [neumannij].
Trumpeter Hornbill *Bycanistes bucinator* Fairly common and widespread in small numbers.
Silvery-cheeked Hornbill *Bycanistes brevis* Very common and widespread.



More goodies, clockwise from top left: Bar-tailed Trogon; Mangrove Kingfisher; Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill and Pale-billed Hornbill (Pete Morris)

White-eared Barbet *Stactolaema leucotis* Fairly common. First seen in the South Pare Mountains [*kilimensis*].

White-eared (or White-lined) Barbet ◇ *Stactolaema [leucotis] leucogrammica* See note.

Green Barbet *Stactolaema olivacea* Fairly common and widespread by voice. First seen in the West Usambaras [nominated].

Green Tinkerbird ◇ *Pogoniulus simplex* One seen well between Hondo Hondo and Mikumi.

Moustached Tinkerbird ◇ *Pogoniulus leucomystax* Common and widespread (by voice!) in nearly all montane forest.

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird ◇ *Pogoniulus bilineatus* (H) Heard at several sites, first in the East Usambaras [*fischeri*].

Red-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus pusillus* A few heard and one seen in the miombo near Mikumi [*affinis*].

Red-fronted Barbet *Tricholaema diademata* (E) Just one seen near to Ndutu Lodge [*massaica*].

Spot-flanked Barbet ◇ *Tricholaema lacrymosa* Three in the Baobab Valley between Mikumi and Iringa [*radcliffei*].

Black-throated Barbet ◇ *Tricholaema melanocephala* Good views of three at Nyumba Ya Mungu [*stigmatothorax*].

Black-collared Barbet *Lybius torquatus* At least four seen on the drive up into the South Pare Mountains [*irroratus*].

Brown-breasted Barbet ◇ *Lybius melanopterus* Seen well at the Lake Daluti Serena, and two in the South Pare Mountains.

Crested Barbet *Trachyphonus vaillantii* Singles seen on two dates in the miombo north of Mikumi [*suahelicus*].

Red-and-yellow Barbet ◇ *Trachyphonus erythrocephalus* Nice views at the Lariboro Plains and South Pare journey [nominated].

D'Arnaud's Barbet ◇ *Trachyphonus darnaudii* A couple seen in the Nyumba Ya Mungu area [*boehmi*].

D'Arnaud's (Usambiro) Barbet ◇ *Trachyphonus [darnaudii] usambiro* (E) Several seen well on the pre-tour extension.

Green-backed Honeybird *Prodotiscus zambesiae* (U) (H) Heard a couple of times in the Luala Valley, Udzungwas.

Brown-backed Honeybird ◇ *Prodotiscus regulus* (U) One seen well on the last morning in the miombo near Mikumi.

Pallid Honeyguide ◇ *Indicator meliphilus* Good views of singles in mixed flocks below Sigi in the Amani Hills.

Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor* A few seen with good views in the Amani Hills [*teitensis*].

Scaly-throated Honeyguide *Indicator variegatus* Seen well a couple of times below Sigi in the Amani Hills.

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator* Seen twice, including a fine male, in the miombo north of Mikumi.

Speckle-throated Woodpecker ◇ *Campethera scriptoricauda* A few seen well in the miombo north of Mikumi.

Nubian Woodpecker ◇ *Campethera nubica* Best views were near to Tarangire NP. One for some on the main tour.

Golden-tailed Woodpecker *Campethera abingoni* First seen at the Wami Bridge. Also a few in the Mikumi area [*suahelica*].

Mombasa Woodpecker ◇ *Campethera mombassica* One seen briefly below Sigi in the Amani Hills. Others heard.

Green-backed Woodpecker *Campethera cailliautii* A fine male seen at the Wami Bridge [*loveridgei*].

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens* Those in the Eastern Arc were of the form *hartlaubii*.

Eastern Grey Woodpecker ◇ *Dendropicos spodocephalus* (E) A single near the entrance to Tarangire NP [*rhodeogaster*].

Olive Woodpecker *Dendropicos griseocephalus* Several along the Sawmill Road in the West Usambaras [*kilimensis*].

Pygmy Falcon *Polihierax semitorquatus* Several on the pre-tour extension, one on the main tour [*castanonotus*].

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* Just two noted: one at the Lariboro Plains; one in the Uмба Valley, Lushoto [*rufescens*].

Greater Kestrel *Falco rupicoloides* (E) Five noted in the Ndutu area [*arthurii*].

Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus* A couple seen well in Mikumi NP.

Dickinson's Kestrel ◇ *Falco dickinsoni* Great views of at least 7 on and a few around Mikumi NP. A real cracker!



A smart Greater Kestrel from Ndutu and a Dickinson's Kestrel from Pemba Island (Pete Morris)

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus* A pair on the drive to Muller's, and three more on the drive up to Uluti [nominate].

Meyer's Parrot *Poicephalus meyeri* Several seen well in the Baobab Valley between Mikumi and Iringa.

Brown-headed Parrot ◊ *Poicephalus cryptoxanthus* Great views of at least five on Pemba Island [*tanganyikae*].

Red-bellied Parrot ◊ *Poicephalus rufiventris* Seen near the entrance to Tarangire NP and near Nyumba Ya Mungu [nominate].

Fischer's Lovebird ◊ *Agapornis fischeri* (E) (NT) Best were the hundreds in the Ndutu area with many spectacular views.

Yellow-collared Lovebird ◊ *Agapornis personatus* (E) Brilliant views in the Tarangire area. 100s seen well.

African Broadbill *Smithornis capensis* First in the Amani Nature Reserve. Particularly common in the Udzungwas [*suahelicus*].

Black-and-white Shrike-Flycatcher *Bias musicus* A pair in the low elevation forest below Sigi in the Amani Hills [*changamwensis*].

Forest Batis *Batis mixta* First seen along the Sawmill Road in West Usambaras and several in the Amani Hills.

Dark Batis ◊ *Batis crypta* First seen well in the Ukaguru Mountains. Also seen in the Ulugurus and Udzungwas.

Chinspot Batis *Batis molitor* Just a few seen, the first at the Lariboro Plains. Also in the Uмба Valley [*puella*].

Pale Batis *Batis soror* Reasonably widespread in small numbers. First noted below Sigi in the Amani Hills.

Eastern Black-headed Batis *Batis minor* Great views of 3 in Mikumi NP, and a pair between Mikumi and Morogoro [*suahelica*].

Pygmy Batis *Batis perkeo* Fairly common in the Nyumba Ya Mungu area, with at least 10 noted.

Black-throated Wattle-Eye *Platysteira peltata* A male seen well in the Uмба Valley, near Lushoto [*cryptoleuca*].

White-crested Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus* See note.

Retz's Helmetshrike *Prionops retzii* See note.

Chestnut-fronted Helmetshrike ◊ *Prionops scopifrons* A shy and lively flock of 50+ seen well in Amani Hills, [*kiriki*].

Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti* Just a few noted, the first at Nyumba Ya Mungu.

Uluguru Bushshrike ◊ *Malaconotus alius* (CR) After much searching, brilliant views of a pair in the forest in the Ulugurus.

Black-fronted Bushshrike ◊ *Chlorophoneus nigrifrons* See note.



The attractive Black-fronted Bushshrike was seen on many occasions and came in many colours!! (Pete Morris)

Orange-breasted Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus* A few heard and one seen by some near Mikumi.

Rosy-patched Bushshrike ◊ *Telophorus cruentus* (E) Great views of a pair near the Lariboro Plains [*cathemagmenus* = Tsavo].

Marsh Tchagra *Bocagia minuta* Great views of a pair near to Ifakara in the Kilombero Floodplain [*reichenowi* = Anchieta's].

Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis* Small numbers noted, the first in the Ndutu area [*eminij*].

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus* Small numbers noted, the first at the Lariboro Plains [*armenus*].



The elusive Red-throated Twinspot was only seen in the South Pare Mountains (Pete Morris)

Black-backed Puffback *Dryoscopus cubla* Two forms: *nairobiensis* first near Ndotu; *hamatus* first in the Uмба Valley.

Pringle's Puffback ◊ *Dryoscopus pringlii* One seen by Elia at Nyumba Ya Mungu.

Fülleborn's Boubou *Laniarius fülleborni* See note.

Slate-coloured Boubou *Laniarius funebris* First on the drive to Ndotu and a few in the Nyumba Ya Mungu area .

Tropical Boubou *Laniarius major* Small numbers throughout [n nominate].

East Coast Boubou ◊ *Laniarius sublacteus* Excellent views of at least 3 in the Uмба Valley, near Lushoto.

Brubru *Nilauis afer massaicus* Two forms: *massaicus* on the Lariboro Plains, *nigritemporalis* near Mikumi.

Grey Cuckooshrike *Coracina caesia pura* A few noted, the first at the Ngorongoro Crater [*pura*].

White-breasted Cuckooshrike *Coracina pectoralis* Good views of a few in the miombo north of Mikumi.

Black Cuckooshrike *Campephaga flava* Several seen. First noted in the low elevation forest in the Amani Hills.

Magpie Shrike *Urolestes melanoleucus* (E) c6 seen near to the entrance to Tarangire NP [*aequatorialis*].

Northern White-crowned Shrike *Eurocephalus ruppelli* Common around Ndotu and in the Nyumba Ya Mungu area.

Red-tailed Shrike *Lanius phoenicuroides* (E) One seen briefly on a fence near to Arusha.

Grey-backed Fiscal *Lanius excubitoroides* (E) First seen on the drive from Arusha to Ndotu [*boehmi*].

Long-tailed Fiscal ◊ *Lanius cabanisi* A few noted. First seen near to Arusha and especially common in Mikumi NP.

Taita Fiscal ◊ *Lanius dorsalis* (E) Several seen well on the pre-tour where first seen at the Lariboro Plains.

Northern Fiscal *Lanius humeralis* Common and widespread in the north. First seen near to Arusha [n nominate].

Southern (Uhehe) Fiscal ◊ *Lanius [collaris] marwitzi* See note.

Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* First seen near Muller's Lodge. Six at the lighthouse on Pemba were notable!

African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus* A male seen well near Emau Hills in the Amani Hills [*notatus*].

Green-headed Oriole ◊ *Oriolus chlorocephalus* Several seen well in the Amani Hills and 1 in the Ulugurus. Stunner! [*amanii*].

Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus larvatus* A few seen. The first near Same and several in the Mikumi area.

Square-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus ludwigii* Several in the Amani Hills and a few more in the Udzungwas [*muenzneri*].

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis* Common and widespread. First seen near to Arusha [*fugax*].

'Usambara Drongo' ◊ *Dicrurus* sp. nov. See note.

African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis* A few seen, many of the form *ungujaensis*.

House Crow *Corvus splendens* First seen on the drive to Amani. A common introduction along the coast [n nominate].

Cape Crow *Corvus capensis* (E) One seen on the journey back from Ndotu [*kordofanensis*].

Pied Crow *Corvus albus* Common and widespread. First seen near to Arusha.

White-necked Raven *Corvus albicollis* Just a few noted, the first near to Arusha. Commonest in rocky areas.

White-tailed Blue Flycatcher *Elminia albicauda* (E) Just one seen at the Ngorongoro crater.

White-tailed Crested Flycatcher *Elminia albonotata* Common and widespread in the Eastern Arc Mountains [*subcaerulea*].

White-bellied Tit *Melaniparus albiventris* A single seen well on the drive up to the South Pare Mountains.

Cinnamon-breasted Tit ◇ *Melaniparus pallidiventris* Several seen brilliantly in the miombo near Mikumi [n nominate].

Red-throated Tit ◇ *Melaniparus fringillinus* (E) Excellent views of a pair near to Ndutu Lodge.

Acacia Tit (Northern Grey T) *Melaniparus thruppi* (H) Only heard in the Nyumba Ya Mungu area.

Mouse-colored Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus musculus* Excellent views on the Lariboro Plains, and at Nyumba Ya Mungu.

Grey Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus caroli* A few buff-vented birds seen in the miombo near Mikumi [*robertsi*].

Eastern Nicator *Nicator gularis* A few seen, others heard. First seen in the South Pare Mountains.

Beesley's Lark ◇ *Chersomanes beesleyi* (E) Brilliant views of at least nine on the Lariboro Plains.

Fischer's Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix leucopareia* First at the Lariboro Plains. Also Ndutu area and Nyumba Ya Mungu.

Pink-breasted Lark ◇ *Calendulauda poecilosterna* A few seen very well in the Nyumba Ya Mungu area.

Foxy Lark ◇ *Calendulauda alopecurus* (E) Seen very well on the Lariboro Plains and the Ndutu area [*intercedens*].

Rufous-naped Lark *Mirafraga africana* (E) First seen on the Lariboro Plains. Common in the Ndutu area [*tropicalis*].

Singing Bush Lark *Mirafraga cantillans* (E) A couple identified on the plains near to Ndutu Lodge [*marginata*].

White-tailed Lark ◇ *Mirafraga albicauda* (E) Excellent views of several (8+) in the stark plains near Ndutu Lodge.



The elusive White-tailed Lark at Ndutu - hiding in cover and dropping back in revealing the white tail! (Pete Morris)

Short-tailed Lark ◇ *Spizocorys fremantlii* (E) Excellent views of a pair on the Lariboro Plains [*delamerei*].

Red-capped Lark *Calandrella cinerea* (E) Common on the Lariboro Plains and the Ndutu area [*saturation*].

Athi Short-toed Lark *Alaudala athensis* (E) Seen on the Lariboro Plains and the Ndutu area. Many great views.

Dodson's Bulbul ◇ *Pycnonotus dodsoni* A few showing characters of this species at Nyumba Ya Mungu. Are they intergrades?

Dark-capped Bulbul *Pycnonotus tricolor* Common and widespread. First seen around Arusha [*layardi*].

Shelley's Greenbul ◇ *Arizelocichla masukuensis* Relatively common and widespread in the Eastern Arc Mountains [*roehli*].

Mountain (or Black-headed Mountain) Greenbul ◇ *Arizelocichla nigriceps* See note.

Yellow-throated Greenbul ◇ *Arizelocichla chlorigula* Two in the Ukaguru Mountains and common in the Udzungwas.

Stripe-faced Greenbul ◇ *Arizelocichla striifacies* Relatively common and widespread in the Eastern Arc Mountains.

Little Greenbul *Eurillas virens* More often heard than seen. First seen below Sigi in the Amani Hills [*zombensis*].

Sombre Greenbul *Andropadus importunus* Quite common and widespread, first at the Lake Daluti Serena [*insularis*].

Yellow-bellied Greenbul *Chlorocichla flaviventris* A few seen with best views in the Iringa area [*centralis*].

Northern Brownbul *Phyllastrephus strepitans* A group of c4 seen near to Nyumba Ya Mungu.

Grey-olive Greenbul ◇ *Phyllastrephus cerviniventris* Great views at Lake Daluti and at Masumbo Camp, Iringa [n nominate].

Placid Greenbul ◇ *Phyllastrephus placidus* A skulker, relatively widespread in the Eastern Arc Mountains.

Yellow-streaked Greenbul *Phyllastrephus flavostriatus* Two forms: *tenuirostris* (widespread) and *uzungwensis* (Udzungwas).

Lowland Tiny Greenbul ◇ *Phyllastrephus debilis* A couple below Sigi in the Amani Hills, East Usambaras [*rabai*].

Montane Tiny Greenbul ◇ *Phyllastrephus albigula* (NT) Brilliant views of at least four in the West Usambaras. Orange eyes!

Black Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne pristoptera* Reasonably common and widespread [*massaica*].

Grey-rumped Swallow *Pseudhirundo griseopyga* Three noted over the grasslands in Mikumi NP [n nominate].

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Fairly common and widespread. First seen near to Arusha [n nominate].

Angolan Swallow *Hirundo angolensis* (U) Only seen in small numbers in the Udzungwas. First seen at Diluti.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* Small numbers seen at a number of sites [nominate]

Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* Just small numbers, the first in the South Pare Mountains [nominate].

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum* (E) (U) At least ten at the Ngorongoro Crater, two at the Luala Valley.

Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica* Small numbers seen at a number of sites [unitatis].

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* First in the South Pare Mountains and several in the Usambaras [emini].

Moustached Grass Warbler *Melocichla mentalis* Singles near Tegetero in the Ulugurus and near Mikumi [orientalis].

Kretschmer's Longbill ◇ *Macrosphenus kretschmeri* Stunning views of a pair in the Amani Nature Reserve [nominate].

Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyura* Three seen in the thorn scrub in the Nyumba Ya Mungu area [leucopsis].

Red-faced Crombec *Sylvietta whytii* Small numbers seen at a number of sites [jacksoni].

Little Yellow Flycatcher ◇ *Erythrocerus holochlorus* A few in flocks below Sigi in the Amani Hills.

Livingstone's Flycatcher ◇ *Erythrocerus livingstonei* Stunning views of a pair at Vuma Hills [thompsoni].

Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler *Phylloscopus ruficapilla* Pretty common in the Eastern Arc forests [minullus].

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* Most sightings in the Udzungwas at the end of the trip [yakutensis].

Lesser Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus gracilirostris* One seen in the river at Nyumba Ya Mungu [leptorhynchus].

African Yellow Warbler *Iduna natalensis* Only seen well above Tegetero in the Ulugurus [natalensis].

Little Rush Warbler *Bradypterus baboecala* Great views of one in the Amani Nature Reserve [tongensis].

Cinnamon Bracken Warbler *Bradypterus cinnamomeus* Several heard, only seen in the Udzungwas [nyassae].

Evergreen Forest Warbler *Bradypterus lopezi* Pretty common by voice throughout the Eastern Arc. A few seen well [usambarae].

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops* A few seen and heard. First noted at the Ngorongoro Crater [sylvia].

Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans* (E) (U(H)) Seen at Ngorongoro Crater [pictipennis]; heard Luala Valley [muenzneri].

Trilling Cisticola *Cisticola woosnami* (U) Seen well and a couple of others heard near to the office at Udekwa [lufira].

'Kilombero' Cisticola ◇ *Cisticola sp. nov.* Excellent views of at least 6 near to Ifakara on the Kilombero Floodplain.

Hunter's Cisticola *Cisticola hunteri* (E) A few seen in forest edge around the Ngorongoro Crater.

Black-lored Cisticola ◇ *Cisticola nigriloris* Seen near Mandege in the Ukagurus and several in the Udzungwas. Shy!

Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola chiniana* Common in suitable habitat. First seen on the drive from Arusha to Ndotu.

Churring Cisticola ◇ *Cisticola njombe* (U) Excellent views on the walk into Uluti in the Udzungwas [nominate]

Lynes's Cisticola ◇ *Cisticola distinctus* (E) A couple of sneaky birds at the Ngorongoro Crater.

Coastal Cisticola ◇ *Cisticola haematocephalus* At least three seen well near to Hale and one at the Ruvu River.

'White-tailed' Cisticola ◇ *Cisticola sp. nov.* Excellent views of a pair near to Ifakara on the Kilombero Floodplain.

Croaking Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis* Just one seen in Mikumi NP [nominate].

Neddicky *Cisticola fulvicapilla* Fairly common in the miombo woodland near Mikumi [muelleri].

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* (E) First seen on the drive from Arusha to Ndotu [uropygialis].

Desert Cisticola *Cisticola aridulus* Common in the Ndotu area and also seen in Mikumi NP [tanganyika].

Pectoral-patch Cisticola *Cisticola brunnescens* (E) Several seen well in the Ndotu area.

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava* Pretty common and widespread.

Buff-bellied Warbler *Phyllolais pulchella* A few seen in the Ndotu area and a pair in the Nyumba Ya Mungu area.

Bar-throated Apalis *Apalis thoracica* See note.

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida* One in the Ndotu area and several in the Nyumba Ya Mungu area [caniceps].



Chapin's Apalis and Churring Cisticola were both seen very well (Pete Morris)



A particularly confiding Brown-headed Apalis at the Ngorongoro Crater (Pete Morris)

- White-winged Apalis** ◇ *Apalis chariessa* (U) (VU) Great views of a pair at Uluti in the Udzungwas. Real stunners [*macphersoni*].
- Black-headed Apalis** *Apalis melanocephala* Pretty common, by voice at least, throughout the Eastern Arc [*moschi*].
- Chapin's Apalis** ◇ *Apalis chapini* See note.
- Brown-headed Apalis** ◇ *Apalis alticola* (E) (U) Great views at the Ngorongoro Crater and at Uluti in the Udzungwas [nominate].
- Red-fronted Warbler** *Urorhipis rufifrons* One at the Lariboro Plains and another at Nyumba Ya Mungu [*smithi*].
- Green-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brachyura* First seen in the Amani Hills, and a few other sightings [*pileata*].
- Grey-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brevicaudata* First seen in the Ndotu area, and a few other sightings.
- Grey Wren-Warbler** *Calamonastes simplex* Common in the Nyumba Ya Mungu area, where several were seen well.
- Stierling's Wren-Warbler** *Calamonastes stierlingi* Excellent views in the miombo woodland near Mikumi [nominate].
- Winifred's Warbler** ◇ *Scepomycter winifredae* (VU) Excellent views in the Bunduki Forest Reserve, Ulugurus.
- Rubeho Warbler** ◇ *Scepomycter rubehoensis* At least five seen very well near Mandege in the Ukaguru Mountains.
- Long-billed Forest Warbler** ◇ *Artisornis moreaui* (CR) Stunning views of a in the Amani Nature Reserve [nominate].
- Red-capped Forest Warbler** ◇ *Artisornis metopias* Seen in the West Usambaras, Ukagurus, Ulugurus and Udzungwas [nominate].
- Yellow-bellied Eremomela** *Eremomela icteropygialis* Seen at Nyumba Ya Mungu area, and near Mikumi [*abdominalis*].
- Green-capped Eremomela** *Eremomela scotops* (U) Several seen well on the last visit to the miombo near Mikumi.
- Pale-breasted Illadopsis** ◇ *Illadopsis rufipennis* See note.
- Scaly Chatterer** ◇ *Turdoides aylmeri* Brilliant views of three in the Nyumba Ya Mungu area, and c6 the following day.
- Rufous Chatterer** ◇ *Turdoides rubiginosa* Two forms: *schnitzeri* near Ndotu; *heuglini* on the drive to South Pare.
- Black-lored Babbler** *Turdoides sharpei* (E) Small numbers seen in the Ndotu area [nominate].
- Arrow-marked Babbler** *Turdoides jardineii* Seen just a couple of times, the first time near to Ifakara [*kirkii*].
- Northern Pied Babbler** *Turdoides hypoleuca* Just two seen well in Mikumi NP [*rufuensis*].
- African Hill Babbler** *Pseudoalcippe abyssinica* See note.
- Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin* (NL) A couple seen on the way to the Luala Valley.
- Brown Parisoma** ◇ *Sylvia lugens* (U) Good views of 2+ in acacias in the Luala Valley.
- Banded Parisoma** *Sylvia boehmi* (E) Several on the pre-tour extension where first seen well at the Lariboro Plains.
- Abyssinian White-eye** *Zosterops abyssinicus* Several seen in the gardens of the Lake Daluti Serena [*flavilateralis*].
- African Yellow White-eye** *Zosterops senegalensis* Fairly common at a number of sites [*stierlingi*].
- Montane White-eye** ◇ *Zosterops poliogastrus* (E) c6 seen well on the pre-tour near to Gibbs Farm [*mbuluensis*].
- Montane (or South Pare) White-eye** ◇ *Zosterops [poliogastrus] winifredae* (VU) See note.

Pemba White-eye ◇ *Zosterops vaughani* Common on Pemba with many seen brilliantly. A nice bird!

Spot-throat ◇ *Modulatrix stictigula* See note.

Dapple-throat ◇ *Arcanator orostruthus* (U) (VU) We put in a huge effort for this species at Uluti in the Udzungwas!

Yellow-bellied Hyliota *Hyliota flavigaster* A group of four in a mixed flock in the miombo near Mikumi [*barbozae*].

Usambara Hyliota ◇ *Hyliota usambara* (EN) At least five seen very well in Amani Hills, East Usambaras.

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea* (E) First seen on the drive into the Serengeti (Ndotu).

Black-bellied Starling *Notopholia corrusca* Two forms: nominate in the East Usambaras; *vaughani* on Pemba Island.

Greater Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus* Several noted in and around Mikumi NP [*sycobius*].

Miombo Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis elisabeth* Reasonably common in the miombo woodland near Mikumi.

Superb Starling *Lamprotornis superbus* Common and widespread. First seen near to Arusha.

Hildebrandt's Starling ◇ *Lamprotornis hildebrandti* (E) Many seen well on the pre-tour extension.

Ashy Starling *Lamprotornis unicolor* (E) (U) Several seen at Tarangire NP and in the Baobab Valley west of Mikumi.

Fischer's Starling ◇ *Lamprotornis fischeri* Singles near the Lariboro Plains and in the Nyumba Ya Mungu area.

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* Small numbers seen at many sites [*verreauxi*].

Red-winged Starling *Onychognathus morio* Just a few seen, the first near to Lushoto in the West Usambaras.

Waller's Starling *Onychognathus walleri* Fairly widespread in most of the Eastern Arc forests [nominate].



Greater Blue-eared and Miombo Blue-eared (right) Glossy Starlings were common around Mikumi (Pete Morris)

Kenrick's Starling ◇ *Poeoptera kenricki* Fairly widespread though less common than Waller's Starling [nominate].

Sharpe's Starling ◇ *Poeoptera sharpii* Just small numbers in the Mugamba Forest Nature Reserve, West Usambaras.

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus* Small numbers seen around Ndotu and in Mikumi NP.

Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorhynchus* Small numbers seen around Ndotu and in Mikumi NP.

Red-tailed Ant Thrush *Neocossyphus rufus* A couple in the Amani Nature Reserve, East Usambaras.

Orange Ground Thrush *Geokichla gurneyi* Seen well in the Ulugurus, and at Uluti in the Udzungwas. Others heard [*otomitra*].

Bare-eyed Thrush *Turdus tephronotus* Just one seen, on the drive up to the South Pare Mountains.

Kurrichane Thrush *Turdus libonyana* Just a few seen, the first around Tegetero Village in the Ulugurus [*tropicalis*].

Usambara Thrush ◇ *Turdus roehli* (NT) Great views of at least three in the West Usambaras.

Abyssinian Thrush *Turdus abyssinicus* (E) (U(H)) *oldeani* seen at Ngorongoro, *nyikae* heard in the Luala Valley.

White-browed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas leucophrys* Several seen well.

Grey Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus plumbeus* Two forms: *orientalis* in the East Usambaras, *catoleucus* near Mikumi.

White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher *Melaenornis fischeri* Two forms: nominate at Ngorongoro; *nyikensis* in the Eastern Arc.

Southern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis pammelaina* A handful noted during the trip, first at Nyumba Ya Mungu [nominate].

Pale Flycatcher *Melaenornis pallidus* Singles seen at the Wami Bridge and near Mikumi [*subalaris*].

African Grey Flycatcher *Melaenornis microrhynchus* Fairly common in the north [nominate].

Silverbird ◇ *Empidonornis semipartitus* (E) First seen near to the Tarangire NP gate and several in the Ndotu area.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* Just one near to Mikumi [*striata*-group].

Ashy Flycatcher *Muscicapa caeruleascens* Just a couple in the low elevation forest in the Amani Hills.



Some Usambara rarities! Usambara Thrush, Usambara Hyliota and Usambara Weaver (Pete Morris)

- African Dusky Flycatcher** *Muscicapa adusta* Two at the Ngorongoro Crater [*pumila*] and in the Eastern Arc [*murina*].
- White-chested Alethe** ◇ *Pseudaethe fueelleborni* Brilliant views of one at an antswarm in the West Usambaras.
- Olive-flanked Ground Robin** ◇ *Cossypha anomala* Great views of one in the Luala Valley, Udzungwas.
- Cape Robin-Chat** *Cossypha caffra* First at the Ngorongoro Crater and several more seen on the main tour [*iolaema*].
- Rüppell's Robin-Chat** ◇ *Cossypha semirufa* Great views at Lake Daluti in Arusha. Also in the South Pare Mountains [*intercedens*].
- White-browed Robin-Chat** *Cossypha heuglini* First at the Ngorongoro Crater, and a few on the main tour [nominate].
- Swynnerton's Robin** ◇ *Swynnertonia swynnertoni* (U) (VU) Brilliant views including a stunning male at Uluti [*rodgersi*].
- White-starred Robin** *Pogonocichla stellata* Two forms: *helleri* in the South Pare Mountains; *orientalis* elsewhere.
- Sharpe's Akalat** ◇ *Sheppardia sharpei* (U) A few seen very well at Uluti in the Udzungwas.
- Rubeho Akalat** ◇ *Sheppardia aurantiithorax* (EN) Excellent views of a responsive bird in the Ukaguru Mountains. BQ lifer!
- Usambara Akalat** ◇ *Sheppardia montana* (EN) Brilliant views of several at an antswarm in the West Usambaras.
- Iringa Akalat** ◇ *Sheppardia lowei* (U) (VU) A couple seen very well at Uluti and also in the Luala Valley.
- Collared Palm Thrush** *Cichladusa arquata* A couple seen very well in farmland at Hondo Hondo.
- Spotted Palm Thrush** *Cichladusa guttata* Several vocal birds seen in the Nyumba Ya Mungu area [*rufipennis*].
- African Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus* Widespread in higher areas throughout the trip [*axillaris*].
- Mocking Cliff Chat** *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris* Great views of a pair near Lushoto [*subrufipennis*].
- Arnott's Chat** ◇ *Myrmecocichla arnotti* Great views of several in the miombo near Mikumi [nominate].
- Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe* Singles seen on the drive back from Ndutu and at Nyumba Ya Mungu area.
- Capped Wheatear** *Oenanthe pileata* Common on the Lariboro Plains and Ndutu area and also seen in Mikumi NP [*livingstonii*].
- Pied Wheatear** *Oenanthe pleschanka* (E) Just a single 1cy bird seen well near to Ndutu Lodge.



Rare sunbirds of the Eastern Arc: Amani Sunbird (above), Loveridge's Sunbird (left) and Moreau's Sunbird (Pete Morris)



- Abyssinian (or Schalow's) Wheatear** ◊ *Oenanthe [lugubris] schalowi* (E) Several seen well near the Lariboro Plains.
- Plain-backed Sunbird** ◊ *Anthreptes reichenowi* (NT) vBrilliant views of a male in the Amani Hills [yokanae].
- Western Violet-backed Sunbird** *Anthreptes longuemarei* Several seen in the miombo near Mikumi [nyassae].
- Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird** *Anthreptes orientalis* Seen well near to Tarangire NP and at Nyumba Ya Mungu.
- Uluguru Violet-backed Sunbird** ◊ *Anthreptes neglectus* Great views of several in the Amani Nature Reserve.
- Banded Green Sunbird** ◊ *Anthreptes rubritorques* (VU) A few seen well in the Amani Nature Reserve.
- Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris* Two forms: *garguensis* at Ngorongoro; *elachior* in the Eastern Arc.
- Amani Sunbird** ◊ *Hedydipna pallidigaster* (EN) After some effort, brilliant views of a male in the Amani Nature Reserve.
- Olive Sunbird** *Cyanomitra olivacea* Common and widespread [olivacea-group].
- Amethyst Sunbird** *Chalcomitra amethystina* Just a few including two in the gardens of Lake Daluti [kirkii].
- Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra senegalensis* Just a few, first in the Uмба Valley, near Lushoto [gutturalis].
- Hunter's Sunbird** *Chalcomitra hunteri* At least four in the Nyumba Ya Mungu area, with fine views of some males.
- Bronzy Sunbird** *Nectarinia kilimensis* (E) At least four seen in the gardens at Gibbs Farm by the Ngorongoro Crater.
- Malachite Sunbird** *Nectarinia famosa* (U) Small numbers seen in the Luála Valley in the Udzungwas [cupreonitens].
- Golden-winged Sunbird** ◊ *Drepanorhynchus reichenowi* (E(NL)) A male seen at Gibb's Farm near Ngorongoro.
- Eastern Double-collared Sunbird** *Cinnyris mediocris* (E) A couple seen around the Ngorongoro Crater.
- Usambara Double-collared Sunbird** ◊ *Cinnyris usambaricus* (NT) Great views in the South Pares and West Usambaras.
- Forest Double-collared Sunbird** ◊ *Cinnyris fuelleborni* (U) At least four seen well on the way to Uluti [fuelleborni].
- Moreau's Sunbird** ◊ *Cinnyris moreaui* (NT) Excellent views in the Ukagurus and in the Luála Valley in the Udzungwas.
- Loveridge's Sunbird** ◊ *Cinnyris loveridgei* (EN) Seen very well at two sites in the Ulugurus.
- Beautiful Sunbird** *Cinnyris pulchellus* Just a few. First near the Lariboro Plains, and a few in Mikumi NP [melanogastrus].
- Marico Sunbird** *Cinnyris mariquensis* (E) Just a single near to the Lariboro Plains [suahelicus].
- Hofmann's Sunbird** ◊ *Cinnyris hofmanni* Stunning views of a pair in the miombo near Mikumi.
- Black-bellied Sunbird** *Cinnyris nectarinioides* Just a couple seen in the Nyumba Ya Mungu area [nominat].
- Purple-banded Sunbird** *Cinnyris bifasciatus* Particularly common at Emau Hills [microhynchus].
- Tsavo Sunbird** ◊ *Cinnyris tsavoensis* At least five, including some fine males, in the Nyumba Ya Mungu area.

Pemba Sunbird ◇ *Cinnyris pembae* Common on Pemba with many seen brilliantly. A nice bird!

Rufous-winged Sunbird ◇ *Cinnyris rufipennis* (U) (VU) Great views of on all three days in Uluti Forest. Blue, not green!

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus* Scattered sightings throughout. First on the drive from Arusha to Ndutu [*falkensteini*].

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser mahali* Plenty in the north [*pectoralis*].

Rufous-tailed Weaver ◇ *Histurgops ruficauda* (E) A large flock seen near Tarangire NP, and plenty at Ndutu Lodge.

Grey-capped Social Weaver ◇ *Pseudonigrita arnaudi* (E) A few seen on the pre-tour extension [nominate].

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* A fairly common introduction.

Kenya Sparrow *Passer rufocinctus* (E) Common on the pre-tour extension. First seen near to the Lariboro Plains.

Swahili Sparrow ◇ *Passer suahelicus* See note.

Southern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer diffusus* Only seen with any certainty on Pemba Island.

Chestnut Sparrow ◇ *Passer eminibey* (E) Big numbers on the pre-tour extension. First seen near to Tarangire NP.

Yellow-throated Petronia *Gymnoris superciliaris* Fairly common in the Mikumi area [*bororensis*].

Yellow-spotted Petronia *Gymnoris pyrgita* Just one noted in the Nyumba Ya Mungu area [nominate].

Red-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis niger* Common on the pre-tour extension and in Mikumi NP [*intermedius*].

White-headed Buffalo Weaver *Dinemellia dinemelli* On the pre-tour extension and at Nyumba Ya Mungu [*boehmi*].

Speckle-fronted Weaver *Sporopipes frontalis* (E) First seen on the journey from Arusha to Ndutu [*emini*].

Thick-billed Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons* Most seen were in the gardens of the Lake Daluti Serena [*montana*].



The smart Bertram's Weaver was well seen at a couple of sites (Pete Morris)

Baglafaecht Weaver *Ploceus baglafaecht* Reasonable numbers seen in the north [*reichenowii*].

Bertram's Weaver ◇ *Ploceus bertrandi* A pair seen well in the Ukagurus Mountains, and at least four in the Ulugurus.

Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis* Fairly widespread in small numbers [*crocatus*].

Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis* Small numbers, mostly in the Nyumba Ya Mungu area [*melanoxanthus*].

Eastern Golden Weaver *Ploceus subaureus* Good numbers near Lushoto, and a handful of others noted [*aureoflavus*].

African Golden (or 'Ruvu') Weaver ◇ *Ploceus [subaureus] holoxanthus* See note.

Taveta Weaver ◇ *Ploceus castaneiceps* Great views at the Lake Daluti Serena and at Nyumba Ya Mungu.

Kilombero Weaver ◇ *Ploceus burnieri* (VU) Good numbers, including two males in plumage, near Ifakara.

Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus intermedius* One near Ndutu and a few at Nyumba Ya Mungu and Mikumi [nominate].

Vitelline Masked Weaver *Ploceus vitellinus* A few around Ndutu, and a couple at Nyumba Ya Mungu [*uluensis*].

Village (or Layard's) Weaver *Ploceus [cucullatus] paroptus* Just a few, first in South Pare Mountains [*nigriceps*].

Dark-backed Weaver *Ploceus bicolor* Several in mixed flocks in the Amani Nature Reserve and a few others [*kersteni*].

Usambara Weaver ◇ *Ploceus nicolli* (EN) See note.

Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes rubriceps* A couple of striking males in the miombo woodland near Mikumi.

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea* Good numbers at several open country sites [*aethiopica*].

Zanzibar Red Bishop ◇ *Euplectes nigroventris* A smart male seen at the marsh near to Hale was the best.

Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis* Singles between Hondo Hondo and Mikumi, and at Mikumi [*crassirostris*].

Fan-tailed Widowbird *Euplectes axillaris* c30 seen near to Ifakara on the Kilombero Floodplain [*zanzibaricus*].



The babbler-like Rufous-tailed Weaver was common on the pre-tour extension, as was the rather drab Swahili Sparrow (below right). In Mikumi National Park, we were pleased to find the elusive Orange-winged Pytilia (Pete Morris)



- White-winged Widowbird** *Euplectes albonotatus* c50 seen in Mikumi NP [nominat].
- Red-collared Widowbird** *Euplectes ardens* (E) Good numbers on the drive to Nduu [suahelicus].
- Jackson's Widowbird** *Euplectes jacksoni* (E) (NT) A few seen on the drive from the Ngorongoro Crater to Nduu.
- Orange-winged Pytilia** ◇ *Pytilia afra* Stunning views of a pair at Vuma Hills in Mikumi NP. Great birds.
- Green-winged Pytilia** *Pytilia melba* Small numbers seen around the Nyumba Ya Mungu area and in Mikumi NP.
- Cut-throat Finch** *Amadina fasciata* (E) Good numbers seen on the journey from Arusha to Nduu
- Red-faced Crimsonwing** ◇ *Cryptospiza reichenovii* Great views at four or five different sites [australis].
- Lesser Seedcracker** ◇ *Pyrenestes minor* Brilliant views of a fine male at Hondo Hondo. Took some searching!
- Red-throated Twinspot** ◇ *Hypargos niveoguttatus* Stunning views of a male on the drive to South Pare [macrospilotus].
- Red-billed Firefinch** *Lagonosticta senegala* A few seen en route to South Pare Mountains and near Ifakara [ruberrima].
- African Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rubricata* A few seen, the first in the Uмба Valley, near Lushoto [haematocephala].
- Jameson's Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rhodopareia* Just a few noted in Mikumi NP [jamesoni].
- Blue Waxbill** *Uraeginthus angolensis* Fairly common in the south of the country [niassensis].
- Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu** *Uraeginthus bengalus* A few seen in the north [ugogensis].
- Blue-capped Cordon-bleu** ◇ *Uraeginthus cyanocephalus* Common on the pre-tour and two at Nyumba Ya Mungu.
- Purple Grenadier** *Uraeginthus ianthinogaster* Small numbers seen in the Nyumba Ya Mungu area.
- Yellow-bellied Waxbill** *Coccyzygia quartinia* Small numbers at a few sites [kilimensis].



We were pleased to see Grey-headed Silverbills coming to drink with the Blue-capped Cordon-bleus at Ndutu (Pete Morris)

- Crimson-rumped Waxbill** *Estrilda rhodopyga* (NL) A couple for some near Lushoto.
- Fawn-breasted Waxbill** *Estrilda paludicola* (U) A flock of c20 on the drive back from Udekwa [*marwitzii*].
- Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild* Just small numbers noted, the first near Lushoto [*minor*].
- Black-faced Waxbill** *Estrilda erythronotos* (E) Up to 20 seen around Ndutu, especially coming to drink [*delamerei*].
- Orange-breasted Waxbill** *Amandava subflava* Good numbers seen near to Ifakara and a few in Mikumi NP [*clarkei*].
- (African) Quailfinch** *Ortygospiza atricollis* (E) Good numbers seen in the plains near to Ndutu [*muelleri*].
- African Silverbill** *Euodice cantans* (E) Two seen on the drive from Arusha to Ndutu [*orientalis*].
- Grey-headed Silverbill** ◇ *Odontospiza caniceps* (E) Excellent views of 5 coming to drink at Ndutu Lodge.
- Bronze Mannikin** *Lonchura cucullata* Seen at several sites, the first near to Arusha [*scutata*].
- Red-backed Mannikin** *Lonchura nigriceps* Fairly common and widespread.
- Maggie Mannikin** *Lonchura fringilloides* Best were the showy flock near to Hondo Hondo.
- Pin-tailed Whydah** *Vidua macroura* Seen in the Ndutu area and a couple near Emau Hills in the East Usambaras.
- Western Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava* (E) One (undetermined race) near to Ndutu Lodge.
- Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea* A single seen in the Amani Nature Reserve, East Usambaras
- Mountain Wagtail** *Motacilla clara* Three seen well near Lushoto, and two in the Amani Hills [*torrentium*].
- African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp* Widespread in small numbers. First seen near to Arusha [*vidua*].
- Pangani Longclaw** ◇ *Macronyx aurantiigula* (E) Great views of three near to Ndutu Lodge.
- African Pipit** *Anthus cinnamomeus* Several on the Lariboro Plains. Also seen well on Pemba Island [*cinnamomeus*-group].
- Plain-backed Pipit** *Anthus leucophrys* (E) Great views of several in the Ndutu Lodge area [*goodsoni*].
- Striped Pipit** *Anthus lineiventris* Just one seen well on the drive down from the South Pare Mountains.
- Oriole Finch** *Linurgus olivaceus* Small numbers seen at three sites in the Eastern Arc [*kilimensis*].
- Southern Citril** ◇ *Crithagra hyposticta* Small numbers at a number of sites. First seen at Gibb's Farm [nominate]
- Reichenow's Seedeater** ◇ *Crithagra reichenowi* (E) A few seen well near to Ndutu Lodge.
- Yellow-fronted Canary** *Crithagra mozambica* Noted at a few sites, first at the Lake Daluti Serena [*barbata*].
- White-bellied Canary** *Crithagra dorsostriata* Common on the pre-tour extension and in the Nyumba Ya Mungu area [nominate].
- Southern Grosbeak-Canary** ◇ *Crithagra buchanani* Seen on the Lariboro Plains and in the Nyumba Ya Mungu area.
- Thick-billed Seedeater** *Crithagra burtoni* (E) A few seen near the gate at the Ngorongoro Crater [*kilimensis*].
- Streaky Seedeater** *Crithagra striolata* Several seen around the Ngorongoro Crater and in the West Usambaras [nominate].
- Yellow-browed Seedeater** ◇ *Crithagra whytii* (U) Great views on the drive back from Udekwa and 2 in the Lua Valley.

Kipengere Seedeater *Crithagra melanochoera* (U) (NT) Brilliant views of a confiding pair in the Luala Valley.
Yellow-crowned Canary *Serinus flavivertex* (U) Small numbers seen in the Luala Valley, Udzungwas.
Somali Bunting *Emberiza poliopleura* Great views of three in the Nyumba Ya Mungu area.
Golden-breasted Bunting *Emberiza flaviventris* (E) Just three seen on the drive to Ndutu [Kalaharica].
Cabanis's Bunting *Emberiza cabanisi* A few seen well, the first in the Uмба Valley, near Lushoto.



Mountain Wagtail, Striped Pipit and Pangani Longclaw (Pete Morris)





One of many Bat-eared Foxes seen in the Ndotu area (Pete Morris)

MAMMALS

Iringa Red Colobus *Piliocolobus gordonorum* (U) A few in the Udzungwas but very shy.

Angola Pied Colobus *Colobus angolensis* This elegant primate was seen several times.

Olive Baboon *Papio anubis* (E) Good numbers on the pre-tour extension.

Yellow Baboon *Papio cynocephalus* Widespread on the main tour.

Vervet Monkey (Savanna M) *Cercopithecus pygerythrus* A few seen at scattered sites.

Gentle Monkey *Cercopithecus mitis* Many good looks in the Eastern Arc Mountains.

Greater Galago *Otolemur crassicaudatus* A noisy species that was seen well at several sites.

Usambara Galago (Mountain Dwarf G) *Galagoides orinus* (U(H)) Heard only at Uluti.

Pemba Flying Fox *Pteropus voeltzkowi* Several impressive individuals on Pemba.

Yellow-winged Bat *Lavia frons* (E) A few of these amazing bats seen in the daytime on the pre-tour extension.

Zanj Elephant Shrew (Black-and-rufous E S) *Rhynchocyon petersi* (U) A couple seen when looking for partridges!!

Cape Hare *Lepus capensis* (E) One in the plains on the drive back from Ndotu.

African Savanna Hare *Lepus victoriae* Four seen at widely scattered sites.

Tanganyika Mountain Squirrel *Paraxerus lucifer* A total of three in the Ulugurus and Udzungwas.

Lushoto Mountain Squirrel *Paraxerus vexillarius* A few of this impressive endemic were seen in the Usambaras.

Red-bellied Coast Squirrel *Paraxerus palliatus* Just a couple noted in the East Usambaras.

Ochre Bush Squirrel (Huet's B S) *Paraxerus ochraceus* A few seen in the north.

Zanj Sun Squirrel (Eastern S S) *Heliosciurus undulatus* A couple seen in the West Usambaras.

African Grass Rat *Arvicanthis niloticus* (E) A few seen in the Serengeti.

Giant Pouched Rat *Cricetomys gambianus* Great views of one at the feeder at Vuma Hills in Mikumi NP.

Common Jackal (Golden J) *Canis aureus* (E) Plenty seen in the Serengeti area.

Black-backed Jackal *Canis mesomelas* Best views were around Ndutu, but also on the main tour.

Bat-eared Fox *Otocyon megalotis* Brilliant views of c7 around Ndutu.

Ratel (Honey Badger) *Mellivora capensis* Great views at the feeder at Vuma Hills in Mikumi NP.

Slender Mongoose *Herpestes sanguinea* A couple seen in Mikumi NP.

Dwarf Mongoose *Helogale parvula* (NL) c6 for some near Nyumba Ya Mungu.

Banded Mongoose *Mungos mungo* Gangs seen in the Serengeti and at Mikumi NP.

Bushy-tailed Mongoose *Bdeogale crassicauda* Great views of one at the feeder at Vuma Hills in Mikumi NP.

Spotted Hyaena *Crocuta Crocuta* (E) Plenty seen in the Ndutu area.

Common Genet (Small-spotted G) *Genetta genetta* (E) Tame around Ndutu Lodge.

Rusty-spotted Genet *Genetta maculata* Great views at the feeder at Vuma Hills in Mikumi NP.

African Civet *Civettictis civetta* Great views at the feeder at Vuma Hills in Mikumi NP.

African Palm Civet *Nandinia binotata* Great views of several for some near our camp in the Amani Hills.

Wild Cat *Felis silvestris* (E) Good views of one near to Ndutu.

Serval Cat (Serval) *Felis serval* (E) Fantastic views of a hunting animal near to Ndutu.

Lion *Panthera leo* Several good looks in Mikumi NP. Particularly gruesome with the buffalo!!

Leopard *Panthera pardus* (NL) One seen briefly at Vuma Hills.

Black-necked Rock Hyrax *Procavia johnstoni* A few seen well near to Lushoto.

Eastern Tree Hyrax *Dendrohyrax validus* (U) Seen in the Udzungwas, by night and by day!

African Elephant *Loxodonta africana* A few around Ndutu and plenty in Mikumi NP.

Common Zebra *Equus quagga* Plenty around Ndutu and in Mikumi NP.



A very cute young Common Zebra in Mikumi National Park (Pete Morris)

Browse Rhinoceros (Black R) *Diceros bicornis* (E) A distant animal scoped in Ngorongoro Crater.

Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius* Small numbers seen near Ndutu and in Mikumi NP.

Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus* Good numbers seen near Ndutu and in Mikumi NP.



Masai Giraffe (Common G) *Giraffa [camelopardalis] tippelskirchi* Small numbers seen near Ndutu and in Mikumi NP.

African Buffalo (Cape B) *Syncerus caffer* Good numbers seen near Ndutu and in Mikumi NP.

Cape Bushbuck *Tragelaphus sylvaticus* A few seen in Mikumi NP.

Eland *Taurotragus oryx* Good numbers seen in Mikumi NP.

Cavendish's Dik-dik *Madoqua cavendishi* Plenty seen around the Ndutu area.

Kirk's Dik-dik *Madoqua kirkii* (NL) A few for some Nyumba Ya Mungu.

Bohor Reedbuck *Redunca bohor* A few seen in Mikumi NP.

Eastern Thomson's Gazelle *Eudorcas thomsonii* (NL) One seen on the Lariboro Plains.

Serengeti Thomson's Gazelle *Eudorcas nasalis* Good numbers seen on the Serengeti Plains.

Grant's Gazelle *Gazella granti* Good numbers seen on the Serengeti Plains.

Impala (Common I) *Aepyceros melampus* Good numbers seen on the Serengeti Plains and at Mikumi NP.

Kongoni (Coke's Hartebeest) *Alcelaphus cokii* (E) A few seen around Ndutu.

Eastern White-bearded Wildebeest *Connochaetes albojubatus* A few seen in Mikumi NP.

Serengeti White-bearded Wildebeest *Connochaetes mearnsi* (E) Just a handful seen around Ndutu.

Pantropical Spotted Dolphin *Stenella attenuata* A big pod scoped off Pemba Island.



Common Genets in the dining room at Ndutu! (Pete Morris)



Common Jackal (above) and Black-backed Jackal in the Serengeti, and Rusty-spotted Genet, Ratel and African Civet at Mikumi (Pete Morris)





Colourful Hildebrandt's Starlings were common on the pre-tour extension (Pete Morris)

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

The most up to date referenced taxonomic list referred to in the Tour Report is that of the IOC World Bird Names. (Gill, F and Donsker, D Eds). 2017. IOC World Bird Names v7.1. Available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>

Crested Francolin *Dendroperdix sephaena*

We saw two forms of this widespread species. On the pre-tour extension we saw a small group of the form *grantii* at Tarangire whilst a couple at Nyumba Ya Mungo were assumed to be *rovuma*, colloquially known as Kirk's Francolin.

White-cheeked Tern *Sterna repressa*

At least two including a well-watched moulting adult from the beach on Pemba Island. Great scope views, feeding in a mixed flock. Surprisingly distinctive wing pattern with a silver-grey venetian blind effect, not dissimilar to Whiskered Tern. Darker than the Common Terns, greyer rump, longish bill etc

African Green Pigeon (African) *Treron calvus*

Two forms (species groups) seen. A single near to Ndutu Lodge [*calvus*-group]. A few seen in the east of the country, the first near to Emau Hills in the East Usambaras were of the 'Grey-breasted' [*delalandii/granti*].

White-eared (or White-lined) Barbet *Stactolaema [leucotis] leucogrammica*

Good views of a pair above Tegetero in the Uluguru Mountains. A potential split, and split by Handbook of Birds of the World. The streaks and extensive white around the eye were both visible.

White-crested Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus*

Two forms were noted, both from the 'Yellow-eyed' group. c10 of the form *vinaceigularis* were seen on the journey to the South Pare Mountains, whilst several groups of the form *poliocephalus* were seen in the Mikumi area, the first in the miombo along the Kilosa Road north of Mikumi.

Retz's Helmetshrike *Prionops retzii*

Two forms were noted. The form *tricolor* was seen in the gardens of the Lake Daluti Serena in Arusha, whilst those in the low elevation forest below Sigi in the Amani Hills, East Usambaras were assumed to be the form *graculinus*.

Black-fronted Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus nigrifrons*

This attractive species was pretty common in the Eastern Arc forests with many of the various colour morphs seen well. First seen along the Sawmill Road in the Mugamba Forest Nature Reserve, West Usambaras.

Fülleborn's Boubou *Laniarius fülleborni*

Sneaky and more often heard than seen. A few seen well, the first along the Sawmill Road in the Mugamba Forest Nature Reserve, West Usambaras were of the form *usambaricus*. The form *fülleborni* was largely heard in the Udzungwas though one was seen well at Uluti.

Southern (Uhehe) Fiscal *Lanius [collaris] marwitzi*

Excellent views near Mandege in the Ukaguru Mountains, and another pair on the drive down from Uluti in the Udzungwas. A very distinctive form, probably meriting specific status.

'Usambara Drongo' *Dicrurus sp. nov.*

Common in the West Usambaras. First seen along the Sawmill Road in the Mugamba Forest Nature Reserve. This seems to be a distinct and new taxon, a forest species somewhat similar to Velvet-mantled Drongo. It has been known about for some time but has not yet been described.

Mountain (or Black-headed Mountain) Greenbul *Arizelocichla nigriceps*

A few of the nominate form were seen at Ngorongoro and then several 'Usambara' Mountain Greenbuls [*usambara*] seen in the South Pare Mountains and West Usambaras.

Bar-throated Apalis *Apalis thoracica*

We saw two forms in the Eastern Arc. In the South Pare Mountains, we had good views of one of the form *paraensis* whilst in the rest of the Eastern Arc forests, the form *murina* (Mouse Apalis) was pretty common, especially by voice.

Chapin's Apalis *Apalis chapini*

The nominate form was seen very well near Mandege in the Ukaguru Mountains, and also heard in the Ulugurus (this form?). A few of the form *straussae* were seen well at Uluti in the Udzungwa Mountains and also heard in the Luala Valley.



Two for the bank! The distinct 'Uhehe' Southern Fiscal and the yet-to-be-described Usambara Drongo! (Pete Morris)

Pale-breasted Illadopsis *Illadopsis rufipennis*

Great views of several of the form *distans* along the Mbomole Trail in the Amani Nature Reserve, East Usambaras. Also heard elsewhere. Very distinct voice. Surely a good species and indeed split in the recent HBW checklist as Grey-breasted Illadopsis.

African Hill Babbler *Pseudoalcippe abyssinica*

We saw two forms on the tour. On the pre-tour we saw the form *ansorgei* near to Gibbs Farm by the Ngorongoro Crater. On the main tour, the form *stierlingi* was often heard in the Eastern Arc and a few were seen. Best views were of a couple in the Bunduki Forest Reserve, Ulugurus. Distinctly streaked here making them look quite odd.

South Pare White-Eye *Zosterops [poliogastrus] winifredae*

Good views of at least four in the Chome Forest Reserve, South Pare Mountains. A surprisingly distinctive form, looking almost like an Oriental-type white-eye with a broader eyering! Split in the recently published HBW checklist, so hopefully the detour will prove worthwhile.

Spot-Throat *Modulatrix stictigula*

After a struggle, several showed well in the end! The first were seen near Mandege in the Ukaguru Mountains, with others seen well above Tegetero in the Ulugurus, and at both sites in the Udzungwas. A skulker but not too shy! The form at these sites is *pressa*. In the West Usambaras, we heard the nominate form in the Mugamba Forest Nature Reserve.

Swahili Sparrow *Passer suahelicus*

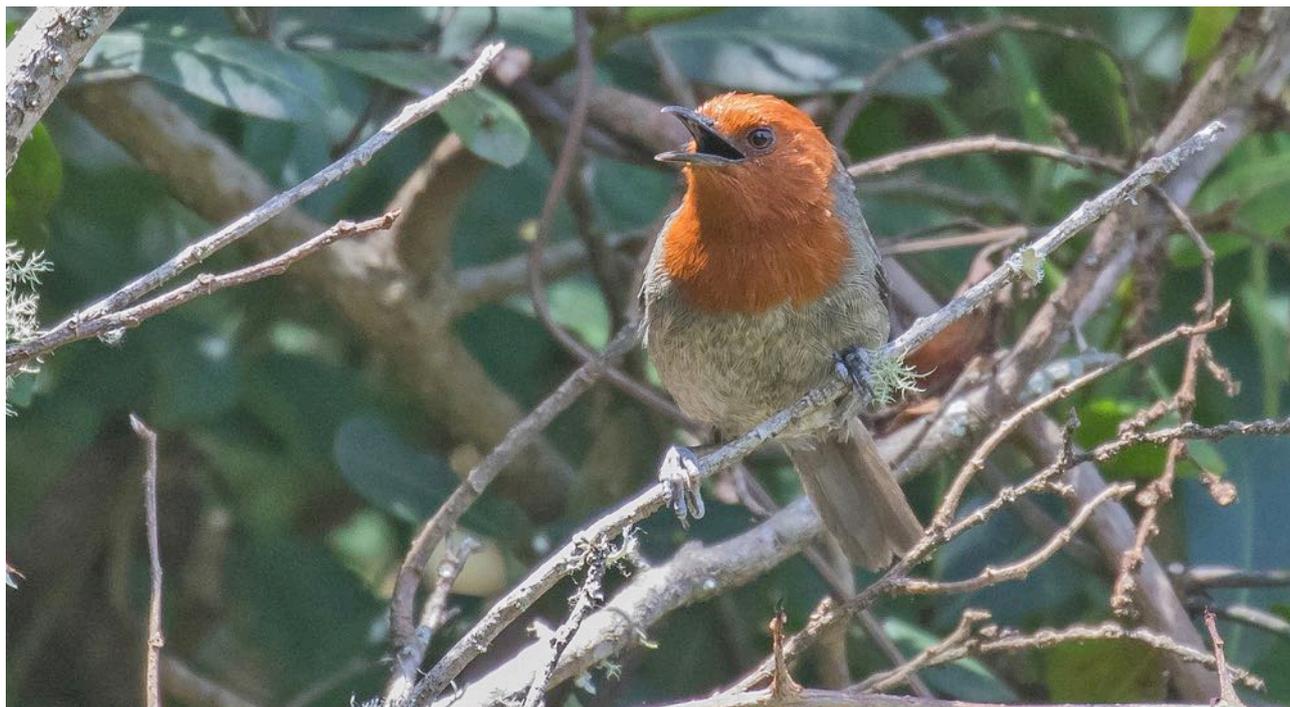
A complicated one... First seen on the pre-tour extension in the Ndotu area. A few in the Nyumba Ya Mungu area were probably this species though could be Parrot-billed Sparrow and were not studied in detail. Later, several seen well in the Baobab Valley between Mikumi and Iringa.

African Golden (or 'Ruvu') Weaver *Ploceus [subaureus] holoxanthus*

At least two males and a few females seen at the Ruvu River inland from Dar-Es-Salaam. The males were very bright! The taxonomic status of this form is not clear, and it may yet be elevated to full species status, which would make it a pretty range-restricted endemic.

Usambara Weaver *Ploceus nicolli*

We saw two rather similar subspecies during the tour. First we had brilliant views of a pair of the nominate form creeping along limbs in nuthatch-like fashion in the Mugamba Forest Nature Reserve, West Usambaras. On the Udzungwa extension, we saw a pair of the form *anderseni* in the Lua Valley.



The rare Rubeho Warbler (Pete Morris)



Our bird-of-the-trip! (Pete Morris)

APPENDIX 1

TOP 6 BIRDS OF THE TOUR

- 1st USAMBARA EAGLE OWL
- 2nd UDZUNGWA FOREST PARTRIDGE
- 3rd BOHM'S BEE-EATER
- 4th Uluguru Bush-shrike
- 5th Rufous-winged Sunbird
- 6th Spot-throat



One of many African Wood Owls seen on the tour, and a fine sunset at Mikumi as a finale! (Pete Morris)

