



The endangered Uluguru Bushshrike was one of the many rare and exciting endemics seen on this tour. (Dani Lopez-Velasco)

TANZANIA: ULTIMATE EASTERN ARC

3 – 16/24 OCTOBER 2018

LEADER: DANI LOPEZ-VELASCO

Our 2018 “Tanzania: Ultimate Eastern Arc” tour, including an Udzungwa Mountains extension, turned out to be a fantastic adventure that way-surpassed our expectations. 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, except for a couple of days in the Udzungwas. 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 main tour saw us first visiting the attractive Pemba Island and then travelling through the East and West Usambaras, the remote Uluguru and Ukaguru Mountains, the impressive Mikumi National Park and its surrounding miombo woodlands and the little explored Kilombero Plains. The good birds were almost too numerous to pick from, but special mention must go to the amazing Usambara Eagle Owl, gorgeous Green-headed Orioles, Long-billed and Red-capped Forest Warblers, Pemba Scops Owl (and all other Pemba endemics), colourful Böhm's Bee-eaters and striking Racket-tailed Rollers, the hulking Uluguru Bushshrike, the little-known Rubeho Akalat, the sneaky Spot-throat, the rare Usambara Weaver, both Winifred's and Rubeho Warblers, 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, delightful 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!!



Rubeho Warbler in the Ukaguru Mountains. (DLV)

The tour started early in the morning at Dar-Es-Salaam 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 attractive Dickinson's Kestrel as we went. Once at the hotel, there was no time to waste and after a quick lunch and some birding in the garden, which already produced 2 endemics in the form of delightful Pemba White-eye and Pemba Sunbird, we headed to the forest. Here, the potentially elusive Pemba Green Pigeon was our target, and after a bit of searching, our local ranger eventually located a pair, which gave excellent scope views. Afterwards, we went for a walk around a small lake, where we added White-faced Whistling Duck, Little Grebe, some Brown-headed Parrots and Black-bellied Starling to our list. Once dusk fell, and armed with spotlights, we waited for the endemic scops owl to start calling. It didn't take long before we

heard its distinctive voice, and after a bit of playback and some tense moments, given at first it was in a very thick area, I finally spotlighted it sitting quietly on an open branch, where we had great views. So with our last of the 4 endemic Pemba species safely secured in the bag in just under half a day, we retreated to our hotel.

The following morning we did a bit of birding around our accommodation, which gave us superb views of the endemic *pembaensis* subspecies of African Goshawk, a likely future split, as well as a most-wanted Crab-Plover. We then explored the north of the island, where large numbers of terns included numerous Roseate Terns and a few Saunders's Terns, as well as a couple of Sooty Gulls and several Black Sparrowhawks. It was then time to retrace our steps back to Chake Chake Airport and then flew across to Tanga, via Zanzibar! Here, we were met by our excellent and friendly drivers and our super knowledgeable local guide, Elia, and started the fairly long drive towards the East Usambaras. We eventually made it to the Amani Hills forest camp, and after a well-deserved dinner we went to sleep.



Pemba Green Pigeons. (DLV)

The East Usambaras are separated from the West Usambaras 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 one of the highlight ended up being right on our doorsteps. However, it played hard to get until the very last moment, when, alerted by the night guard, who heard it calling, we finally got excellent views of the little-known and impressive Usambara Eagle Owl. 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 Mottled Spinetails and Scarce Swifts, a gorgeous Half-collared Kingfisher, some distinctive but as yet undescribed drongos which seem not to be Fork-tailed Drongos but most likely a new species 'Usambara' Drongo, a really obliging Kretschmer's Longbill, Black-fronted Bushshrike, Black-headed Apalis and attractive Uluguru Violet-backed and Banded Green Sunbirds. 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 pair of canopy-loving Usambara Hyliotas which eventually showed well on our last morning. A couple of gorgeous male Plain-backed Sunbirds were also much-appreciated, mixed flocks held Pallid Honeyguide, Pale Batis and Ashy, Little Yellow and Grey Tit-Flycatchers, and other goodies included a pair of cracking Crowned Eagles,

Moustached Tinkerbird, Black Cuckooshrikes, Eastern Nicator, a large flock of Chestnut-fronted Helmetshrikes, a pair of Green-backed Woodpeckers, Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher, Yellow-streaked Greenbul, Red-tailed Ant Thrush, a brief Red-capped Robin Chat, Dark-backed Weaver and a Green Twinspot for Gerry.



Some of our highlights in the Usambaras: Long-billed Tailorbird, Usambara Blade-horned Chameleon and Red-capped Forest Warbler.

Having greatly succeeded in seeing our targets here, we headed towards the city of Lusotho, our base for the next 3 nights. On the way, we made a quick stop on a valley where a couple of new birds were found, including a nice Striped Pipit and a pair of Mocking Cliff Chats. Once in our hotel, a Little Sparrowhawk was found in the garden. The next two days were spent exploring the West Usambaras, mostly birding a productive logging road in the Magamba Forest Reserve. It wasn't all plain sailing, as some of the birds proved pretty tough, but with persistence and effort they finally gave themselves up. Attractive Red-capped

Forest Warblers were often confiding, but It took quite a while before everyone got decent views of the drab Usambara Akalat. Fülleborn's (Black) Boubous were heard often, and a couple eventually showed well. The rare Usambara Weaver gave good, albeit brief, views, and greenbuls were a focus as we eventually got great views of subtle Shelley's, Stripe-faced and Cabanis's Greenbuls. A couple of Usambara Thrushes were found feeding in a fruiting trees, and the smart but skulking Red-faced Crimsonwing was a good find too. Other more widespread species included the handsome Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon, Hartlaub's Turaco, Green Barbet, Forest Batis, Grey Cuckooshrike, showy Evergreen Forest Warblers, Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler and Waller's and Kenrick's Starlings. Some had a brief view of the endemic Lushoto Mountain Squirrel, along with a troop of Angola Pied Colobus sporting their shaggy coats and pendulous tails. We also found several cracking chameleons, including West Usambara Blade-horned Chameleon, expertly identified by Nick. Thanks to the tip off by my good friend Charley, we explored a short trail, at a lower elevation, that ventured into some good forest. This proved an excellent move, as the place was full of Spot-throats, and everyone enjoyed great views of this notorious skulker, and Dave also got excellent recordings. Montane Tiny Greenbuls were also found here, while the elusive White-chested Alethe gave us a hard time, and required no less than 3 visits to the spot, before all of us saw it perched. Persistence pays off! Having done so well here, we happily left towards our next base. We again paused in the dry valley where we soon found Eastern Golden Weavers, East Coast Boubou, Black-throated Wattle-eye and, best of all, a pair of showy Grey-olive Greenbuls. Moving on we stopped at a small grassy that held the recently split Coastal Cisticola. Further along we had lunch by the impressive bridge over the Wami River. Here we had another target in mind, and soon a flash of colour yielded some gorgeous Böhm's Bee-eaters, busy doing what they do best! What a cracking bird, and the last of the world's bee-eaters for more than one participant. Rob was a very happy man indeed! Also here we had a soaring Ayres's Hawk Eagle. It took a couple more hours before we reached our hotel in Morogoro.



A gorgeous Böhm's Bee-eater at Wamu bridge.

The next day was mostly devoted in searching for the rare and critically endangered Uluguru Bushshrike, and luckily it turned out to be less demanding than what we had anticipated. We hiked above Tegetero in the Ulugurus, uphill, for a couple of hours, until we finally reached good forest. A few open country birds were noted on the way up, including a pair of Bertram's Weavers, as well as brief Dark-capped Yellow Warbler, African Moustached Warbler and Red-throated Twinspot for John. Once in the forest proper we found a few

nice birds including our first Livingstone's Turacos, Bar-tailed Trogons and the rather colourful Loveridge's Sunbird. We finally reached the spot suggested by Elia, and, much to our surprise, in no time we heard the characteristic voice of our target. Soon after, a hulking pair of Uluguru Bushshrikes were lured in above us, giving excellent views. What a bird! We enjoyed them for a while, and from the same spot, a pair of desired White-winged Apalises were seen up (too high up..!) in the canopy, while Chapin's Apalis was heard. Our first Dark Batis and Orange Ground Thrush were seen in the vicinity too, and then we started walking back, having lunch on a nice spot inside the forest. We finally made it to the vehicles, tired but very happy, and drove back to our hotel.



The localized Bertram's Weaver. (DLV)

The following day we 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 Chapin's Apalis –of the nominate form- and Oriole Finches! A great start! A Yellow-throated Greenbul was also seen from the road, together with several colourful Moreau's Sunbirds, two goodies for those not participating in the Udzungwa Extension. Dark Batises moved stealthily through the undergrowth, and a little further on we spent a lot of time searching for the rare Rubeho Akalat. It proved rather elusive, but most of us obtained decent views. Spot-throats were also around, and some of us had good looks at them again. On the way back, a Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo obliged. Already on the road we found a Green Twinspot and a seemingly out of place Green Sandpiper on a tiny forest pond. It was then time to head back to the hotel, seeing Swahili Sparrow, Laughing Dove and Crimson-rumped Waxbill on the way.

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 Loveridge's Sunbird, but the drab Uluguru Greenbul was determined to avoid us, as we didn't have enough time to make the long hike up in order to reach the elevation where it is normally found. Heading back down the rather narrow dirt roads, we then made our way through Mikumi National Park, seeing a few vultures feeding on a carcass just by the road, and on to an area of miombo woodland just near to the town there. This was to be our first of 2 visits, and we found almost all of our targets. Smart Arnott's Chats posed, groups of Miombo Blue-eared Starlings moved around, flocks contained subtle Cinnamon-breasted Tits as well as larger species such as Speckle-throated and Golden-tailed Woodpeckers. Other more regular species included Green Wood Hoopoe, Common Scimitarbill,

Crested Barbet and Stierling's Wren-Warbler. The localized Pale-billed Hornbill gave brief views, and a stunning male Hoffmann's Sunbird, an extremely localized endemic, was scoped on top of a tree. As we were driving back we found a pair of cracking Racket-tailed Rollers, much to everyone's delight, and the last world roller for some, too! We then continued on to Hondo Hondo for the night.



Moreau's and Loveridge's Sunbird and Chapin's Apalis. (DLV)

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, 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 was a brief Coppery-tailed Coucal and a smart male (Anchieta's) Marsh Tchagra as well as a variety of waterbirds, including an unexpected Rufous-bellied Heron and a male Greater Painted Snipe. As it began to warm up, we went to the nearby river, where some of us went on a pirogue ride, highlighted by a couple of stunning White-crowned Lapwings. The others decided to stay in dry land, and improved their views of Coppery-tailed Coucal. We then made it back to Hondo Hondo, where we had lunch. Afterwards, we explored an area of farmland near to our lodge. Here, we soon found some Magpie Mannikins and, after an exhaustive search, a gorgeous, but very shy, female Lesser Seedcracker, found by Jürgen. And then it was time to drive towards Mikumi National Park, making a stop en route to see (Eastern) Green Tinkerbird. Once we arrived to the park, we got our permits and went on a short drive before it was time to head to the pleasant Vuma Hills tented camp.



The cracking and uncommon Racket-tailed Roller is usually found in miombo forest. (DLV)

We spent the whole next day doing a game drive through Mikumi National Park, seeing lots of new birds and mammals. In the bird front, highlights included Helmeted Guineafowl, Red-necked Spurfowl, Black-chested and Brown Snake Eagles, Bateleur, Martial Eagle, African Hawk-Eagle, Gabar Goshawk, Shikra, a brief Pygmy Falcon, Rüppell's, Hooded and Lappet-faced Vultures amongst the more regular White-backed Vultures, a small flock of Caspian Plovers, Senegal and Crowned Lapwings, Temminck's Courser, Black-bellied Bustard, African Hoopoe, Southern Ground Hornbill, Spot-flanked Barbet, White-crested Helmetshrike, Fischer's Sparrow-Lark, Flappet Lark, Great Reed Warbler, Rattling Cisticola, Neddicky, Green-capped Eremomela, Wattled Starling, both Yellow-billed and Red-billed Oxpeckers, Pale Flycatcher, Eastern Black-headed Batis, Amethyst Sunbird, White-browed Sparrow Weaver, Lesser Masked Weaver, Fan-tailed and White-winged Widowbirds, Zanzibar Red Bishop, a pair of Orange-winged Pytilias, Jameson's Firefinch, Broad-tailed Paradise Whydah, Yellow-throated Longclaw and Golden-breasted Bunting. Mammals were also conspicuous, with large numbers of Impalas, Masai Giraffe, Eland, African Buffalos, African Elephants, Common Warthogs and, best of all, a couple of Lions and a Black-backed Jackals. After dinner back at the lodge, we spotlighted a Fiery-necked Nightjar, although a calling African Barred Owlet remained hidded, in spite of all of our efforts.

The following morning we again visited Mikumi National Park, but before that we did some birding around Vuma hills, seeing a couple of groups of Crested Guineafowls and a brief Crested Francolin, amongst other things. Once in the park, we saw similar species to the previous day, and added Steppe Eagle, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Three-banded Plover, Northern Pied Babbler, Lesser Grey Shrike, Beautiful Sunbird, Croaking Cisticola and Northern and Capped Wheatears to our list. We then made our back to Vuma Hills for a last lunch together, for this was the end of the 'main' tour. Having dropped off those who had finished their holiday at Mikumi airfield, 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 a singing male of the uncommon Purple Indigobird. Continuing on, passing numerous trucks moving at walking pace, we arrived at our lodge just before dusk, to be greeted by a Spotted Eagle Owl on the track.



Southern Ground Hornbill at Mikumi NP. (DLV)

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 decent dinner and set about re-organizing! Fully loaded the following morning, and with Purple-crested Turaco and Yellow-bellied Greenbul 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 Double-collared Sunbirds and both Churring and Black-lored Cisticolas, as well as Yellow-browed Seedeater. Once at Uluti village, we were welcomed by hundreds of school children, all dressed in blue sweaters. 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 flew over us. 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. A particularly memorable sighting was made during this walk. One of those holy grail birds popped up... the superb and very little-known Rufous-winged Sunbird. Contrary to the popular field guide, and already noted by Pete on an earlier trip report, the male turned out to be a deep blue bird, not green at all. We also got some brief looks at our first Sharpe's Akalats, while a pair of White-winged Apalis obliged. The camp was comfortable enough and the food great –definitely much better than at the last lodge-, and we settled down for our first night of camping in the Udzungwas. Listening to some great stories by "intrepid" Alan was a highlight too. None of us remembered setting an alarm, but right at the

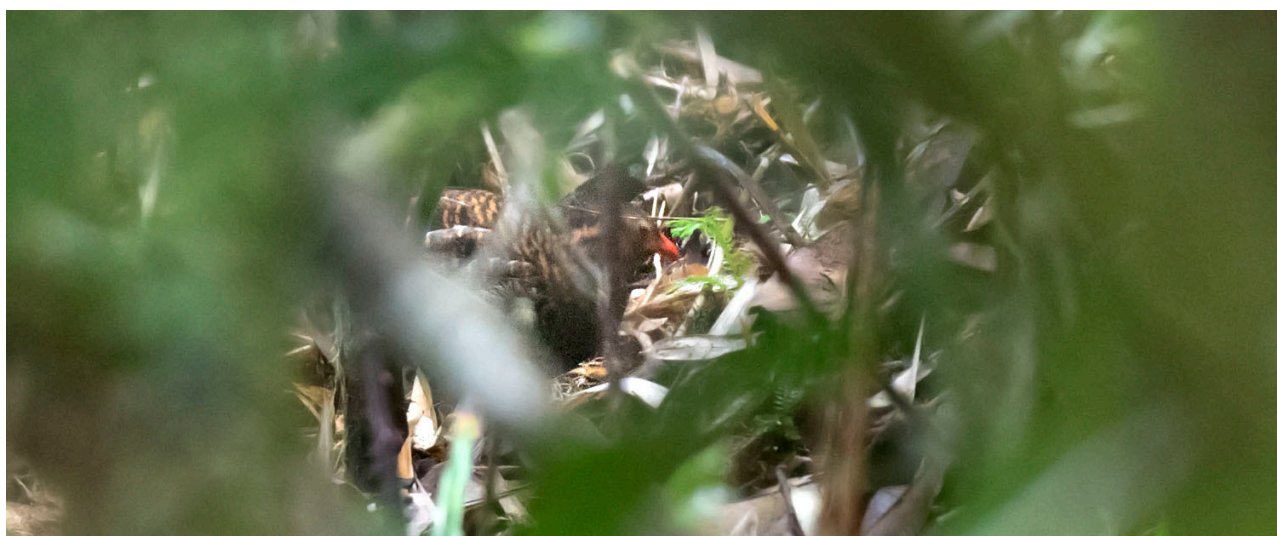
correct time, an African Broadbill did the job, right above our tents! We spent the next day and a half exploring the dense forests around our camp. Much of our time was spent chasing the elusive Dapple-throat, surely one of the shyest small passerines out there! After numerous attempts, everyone had secured at least some half decent views. Also near the camp, we found obliging Swynnerton's Robins, *Iringa Akalats* and a couple of relatively showy Spot-throats. Other species included a Lemon Dove in the nest, more Livingstone's Turacos, several Dark Batises and some shy Orange Ground Thrushes. During the night, African Wood Owls called above our tents. Heading back down, we saw the same pair of Rufous-winged Sunbirds from the first day, and further down, a pair of Brown-headed Apalises were most obliging. We spent the night in the same cabins by the river, where, yet again, food was really poor.



Two of the highlights of our stay near Uluti, Udzungwa Mts: Rufous-winged Sunbird and Swynnerton's Robin.

Anyway... next morning we set off again, this time on the relatively easy drive to Udekwa, in a different part of the Udzungwas, seeing an Eurasian Hobby on the way. We paused for the first paperwork formalities, 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 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, although previously seen species such as Yellow-throated Greenbul were added, the goodies stayed hidden, except for a Kipengere Seedeater seen by Jürgen. Weather started to deteriorate, and then it started to rain heavily. After a while, it more or less stopped, and we carried on. Exhausted, we finally made it our camp. We rested for a while, and then walked a short distance into the the gorgeous Luala Valley for a little spot of nightbirding. What an amazing place, and the lack of human signs anywhere on sight was a highlight for everyone! Ruwenzori (Usambara) Nightjars fairly quickly obliged but the resident African Grass Owl didn't make an appearance. We had a great dinner –given where we were- and happily hit the sacks.



A poor record shot of one of the birds of the trip, the near mythical Udzungwa Forest Partridge. (DLV)

The plan for the following morning was to look for the near mythical Udzungwa Forest Partridge. Once we reached a territory known by Elia, who was actually the discoverer of the partridges, it didn't take long to hear their loud voices. However, in spite of some careful approach, the birds didn't come close enough to be seen, and after a while, went silent. We carried on in search of more birds. After a while we heard some more, but again they remained very elusive, and we didn't even glimpse them. We didn't give up, of course, kept on searching and finally got lucky on our third attempt. A calling bird was lured into view, and then it spent quite some time foraging and scratching in the leaf litter, giving great views to everyone present. Success! Pressure off, now we could just relax and enjoy the birding here, although the bad weather didn't really help... During the afternoon we found a pair of Usambara Weavers (new subspecies), and added a smart Olive-flanked Robin-Chat and Scaly Francolin to our list, although no seedeaters could be found. Another attempt at the usually easy grass owl at dusk, and again at dawn, left us empty-handed. It seemed the birds simply weren't there.

It rained most of next day, which made birding rather challenging. However, we managed more views of the forest partridge, much to Peter's delight, and heard a Kipengere Seedeater just near the camp, but that was about it.

The walk out was equally long, very wet at first, which made our seedeater attempts fruitless, then hot and sweaty! There was little to report other than a few vocal Cinnamon Bracken Warblers, one of which was seen. We finally made our way back to Mikumi, met up with Dave, who had seen African Finfoot during his time back at the camp, and were all ready for a little luxury after the rigours of the camping! The hotel, and especially the restaurant, were, to put it mildly, not top class, and definitely not very luxurious, but... TIA ("this is Africa").



The uncommon Usambara Weaver showed very well. (DLV)

Birders being birders, we couldn't just lie in bed for the last morning, so we returned to the miombo forest just north of Mikumi for a short time. It was a lovely final stroll in this great birding country. A couple new species were added, most notably a trio of rare Brown-necked Parrots, showing extremely well (we had only had a very brief view of them last time), as well as a fine African Scops Owl expertly found by Bob, a party of Yellow-bellied Hyliotas and a pair of confiding Bearded Woodpeckers, while a pair of Racket-tailed Rollers, much to Alan's delight, gave terrific views, and as we were leaving, a fine Pale-billed Hornbill obliged. It was then time to head towards Dar-Es-Salaam. The traffic on the road to Dar is legendary, and we wanted to leave ourselves plenty of time! Still, we encountered heavy traffic and an endless lane of trucks, and we made it to the airport just in time for our flights. We said fond farewells to our excellent and invaluable driver Exaud and equally great Elia, and that was about it. It surely had genuinely been an epic adventure, and one 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!

Brown-necked Parrot in miombo woodland north of Mikumi. (DLV)



SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

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

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

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

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

Species which were seen only on the Udzungas extension are marked by the symbol (U).

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

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

CR = Critically Endangered, **E** = Endangered, **V** = Vulnerable, **NT** = Near Threatened, **DD** = Data Deficient.

BIRDS

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata* Only seen in Pemba.

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* Plenty seen in Mikumi. [mitratus-group].

Crested Guineafowl ◊ (Eastern C G) *Guttera [pucherani] pucherani* Over 20 in 2 groups at Vuma Hills, Mikumi.

Crested Francolin *Dendroperdix sephaena* One flushed in Mikumi.

Scaly Francolin *Pternistis squamatus* (U) Two seen in the Udzungwas.

Red-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis afer* Ssp melanogaster in Mikumi NP.

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

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Seen in Pemba. [capensis].

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis* Seen in the Kilombero floodplain.

African Openbill *Anastomus lamelligerus* A few on the Kilombero Plains. [nominate].

Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumenifer* Seen in Mikumi.

African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus* Seen in the Kilombero floodplain.

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash* Fairly common. (brevirostris).

African Spoonbill *Platalea alba* Seen on the Kilombero Plains near to Ifakara.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* Seen on the Kilombero floodplain.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* Seen on the Kilombero floodplain.[nominate].

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* First seen on Pemba [atricapilla].

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* A few on the Kilombero Plains near to Ifakara.

Rufous-bellied Heron *Ardeola rufiventris* Seen very well on the Kilombero floodplain.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Widespread in small numbers.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* Widespread in small numbers.

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala* Widespread in small numbers.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* Seen a couple of times. [nominate].

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

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.[nominate].

Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens* A few seen on the Kilombero plain.

Reed Cormorant *Microcarbo africanus* Small numbers seen on the Kilombero plain. [nominate].

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* Just one in Mikumi.

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.

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

White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus* (CR) Some good flocks in Mikumi NP.
Rüppell's Vulture *Gyps rueppelli* (CR) A few seen well at Mikumi NP [nominate].
Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos* (EN) A few seen well at Mikumi NP [nominate].
Black-chested Snake Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis* 1 seen in Mikumi.
Brown Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinereus* Just a few in Mikumi.
Southern Banded Snake Eagle ◊ *Circaetus fasciolatus* (NT) One bird briefly in flight in the Usambaras.
Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus* (NT) Small numbers at Mikumi NP.
Crowned Eagle *Stephanoaetus coronatus* (NT) Recorded on 7 dates.
Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus* (VU) Seen well in Mikumi.
Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis* Several seen during the trip.
Ayres's Hawk-Eagle *Hieraetus ayresii* Seen well at Wamu bridge.



Hooded, Lappet-faced and White-backed Vultures at Mikumi NP. Ayres's Hawk-Eagle over Wamu bridge. (DLV)

Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraetus wahlbergi* Several seen well.
African Hawk-Eagle *Aquila spilogaster* One seen in Mikumi.
Cassin's Hawk-Eagle *Aquila africana* One adult, seemingly this species, in the Ulugurus.

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis* (EN) One in flight at Mikumi NP [orientalis].

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar* Seen at Mikumi NP [aequatorius].

African Goshawk *Accipiter tachiro* Fairly common in the mainland. Also the endemic ssp in Pemba, likely future split



Crowned Eagle and "Pemba" African Goshawk. (DLV and John Drummond)

Shikra *Accipiter badius* Seen at Mikumi NP [polyzonoides].

Little Sparrowhawk *Accipiter minullus* One in the garden of our hotel in Lushoto.

Black Sparrowhawk *Accipiter melanoleucus* Widespread, the first few on Pemba [melanoleucus].

Western Marsh Harrier (Eurasian M H) *Circus aeruginosus* One on the Kilombero plain.

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

African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer* Only one in Mikumi.

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

Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur* A few seen. Many smart colour phases.

Black-bellied Bustard *Lissotis melanogaster* A few in Mikumi NP [nominate].

Black Crane *Amaurornis flavirostra* One sighting.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* Seen in Pemba.

Water Thick-Knee *Burhinus vermiculatus* Good views of a few including heard on Pemba [nominate].

Crab-Plover *Dromas ardeola* 1 seen well from our hotel in Pemba.

Blacksmith Lapwing *Vanellus armatus* Seen in Mikumi

Senegal Lapwing *Vanellus lugubris* A few in Mikumi NP.

White-crowned Lapwing (W-headed Plover) *Vanellus albiceps* 3 seen very well in the Kilombero floodplain.

Crowned Lapwing *Vanellus coronatus* Seen on a number of occasions [nominate].

African Wattled Lapwing (A W Plover) *Vanellus senegallus* Seen in Mikumi

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* 2 noted on Pemba Island [nominate].

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* A few on Pemba Island [tundrae].

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris* Seen at Mikumi. [nominate].

Caspian Plover ♦ *Charadrius asiaticus* (E) Great views of 5 in Mikumi.
Greater Painted-Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* Brilliant views of a male in the Kilombero floodplain.
African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus* Seen in Mikumi.
European Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* c5 noted along the beaches on Pemba Island [nominate].
Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* c6 noted in Pemba Island.
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* 3 seen.



White-crowned Lapwing. (DLV)

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* A total of 4 seen.
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* One at Mikumi NP.
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Seen at a few sites.
Temminck's Courser *Cursorius temminckii* Great views at Mikumi NP [ruvanensis].
Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* 3+ seen at Kilombero [fuelleborni].
Sooty Gull *Ichthyaeetus hemprichii* A couple seen at Pemba.
Greater Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii* 4 seen on Pemba Island [thalassinus].
Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis* A few seen from the beach on Pemba Island [nominate].
Saunders's Tern ♦ *Sternula saundersi* 5 seen from the lighthouse on Pemba Island.
Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* 10+ seen from the lighthouse on Pemba Island [arideensis].
Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* Good numbers seen from the beach on Pemba Island [nominate].
Rock Dove (Feral) *Columba livia* 'feral' Introduced nonsense!
African Olive Pigeon *Columba arquatrix* Seen at several locations, first in the East Usambaras.
Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon *Columba delegorguei* Seen well at several locations in the Eastern Arc [sharpei].
Lemon Dove *Columba larvata* (U) One seen well in the Udzungwa Mountains.
Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata* Common and widespread.
Ring-necked Dove *Streptopelia capicola* Common and widespread.[tropica].
Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis* A couple of sightings. [nominate].
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur chalcospilos* Widespread in small numbers.
Blue-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur afer* Seen in small numbers at several sites.
Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistria* Seen in small numbers at several sites.

African Green Pigeon *Treron calvus* See note.

Pemba Green Pigeon ♦ *Treron pembaensis* (VU) Great views on the north of Pemba Island.

Livingstone's Turaco *Tauraco livingstonii* Great views of many in the Ulugurus and Udzungwas [reichenowii].

Fischer's Turaco ♦ *Tauraco fischeri* (NT) Great views in Amani Nature Reserve, East Usambaras [nominat].

Hartlaub's Turaco ♦ *Tauraco hartlaubi* Great views in the West Usambaras.

Purple-crested Turaco *Tauraco porphyreolophus* (U) Best views in Masumbo Camp, Iringa [chlorochlamys].

Coppery-tailed Coucal *Centropus cupreicaudus* Seen well near Ifakara in the Kilombero Floodplain [songweensis].

White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus* Pretty widespread in small numbers [loandae].

Green Malkoha *Ceuthmochares australis* Recorded in the Amani Nature Reserve, East Usambaras.

Diederik Cuckoo (Didric C) *Chrysococcyx caprius* (H)

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas* A few noted, mostly heard.

African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus* (H) Heard a couple of times, first in the West Usambaras.

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



Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo. (DLV)

Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus* (NL)

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius* 2 seen.

African Scops Owl *Otus senegalensis* Great views of one at Mikumi NP [nominat].

Pemba Scops Owl ♦ *Otus pembaensis* (VU) One seen well in Ngezi Forest, Pemba Island.

Spotted Eagle-Owl *Bubo africanus* 1 on the way to the Ulugurus. One near Masumbo Camp, Iringa [nominat].

Usambara Eagle-Owl ♦ *Bubo vosseleri* Great views on our final night in the Amani Hills, East Usambaras.

African Wood Owl *Strix woodfordii* Seen briefly in the Udzungwas, heard elsewhere [nigricantior].

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum* Seen in Mikumi NP [licua].

African Barred Owlet *Glaucidium capense* (H) Heard only in the Mikumi area, in spite of some hard work [scheffleri].

Fiery-necked Nightjar *Caprimulgus pectoralis* Brilliant views in Mikumi [shelleyi].

Ruwenzori (Usambara) Nightjar ♦ *Caprimulgus [ruwenzorii] guttifer* (U) Several seen in the Luula V, Udzungwas.

Scarce Swift *Schoutedenapus myoptilus* Small numbers seen in the Usambaras.

Mottled Spinetail *Telacanthura ussheri* Small numbers in Amani Nature Reserve, East Usambaras [stictilaema].

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus* Common and widespread.[parvus-group].

Mottled Swift *Tachymarpis aequatorialis* (U) Only seen in the extension [nominate].



Spotted Eagle Owl and African Scops Owl. (DLV)

Common Swift (Eurasian S) *Apus apus* Some, presumably of this species, seen.

African Black Swift *Apus barbatus* Small numbers recorded.

Little Swift *Apus affinis* Fairly common and widespread [affinis-group].

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer* Just a handful seen.

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus* Fairly common and widespread [leucotis-group].

Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus* Just 2 seen.

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 2 superb pairs 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].

Brown-hooded Kingfisher *Halcyon albiventris* First seen well in Amani. A few others noted [orientalis].

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti* Seen in Mikumi. [nominate].

Mangrove Kingfisher ♦ *Halcyon senegaloides* 2 seen and others heard on Pemba.

African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta* 3 seen.

Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus* A total of 6 noted [galeritus].

Half-collared Kingfisher *Alcedo semitorquata* Great views of one in the Amani Nature Reserve, East Usambaras.

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima* Only 2 seen. [nominate].

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* A few noted. [nominate].

Little Bee-Eater *Merops pusillus* Good numbers seen in suitable habitat throughout [meridionalis].

Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater ♦ *Merops oreobates* Several in the Usambaras.

White-fronted Bee-eater *Merops bullockoides* Just seen on the Kilombero floodplain.

Böhm's Bee-eater ♦ *Merops boehmi* Brilliant views of c3 at the Wami Bridge, between Dar es Salam and Morogoro.

European Bee-Eater *Merops apiaster* Small flocks seen several times.

African Hoopoe *Upupa africana* Just a handful noted.

Green Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus* Small groups seen a couple of times in Mikumi. [marwitzii].

Common Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas* A couple in the miombo north of Mikumi [schalowi].
Southern Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus leadbeateri* (VU) Several seen well in and around Mikumi NP.
Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill ♦ *Tockus ruahae* Excellent views in the Baobab Valley between Mikumi and Iringa.
Von Der Decken's Hornbill ♦ *Tockus deckeni* Seen in the Baobab Valley.



Mangrove Kingfisher in Pemba. (DLV)

Crowned Hornbill *Lophoceros alboterminatus* Quite a few. First in Pemba.
African Grey Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus* Small numbers on the main tour [epirhinus].
Pale-billed Hornbill ♦ *Lophoceros pallidirostris* A couple well in the miombo north of Mikumi [neumanni].
Trumpeter Hornbill *Bycanistes bucinator* Fairly common and widespread in small numbers.
Silvery-cheeked Hornbill *Bycanistes brevis* Very common and widespread.
White-eared Barbet *Stactolaema leucotis* Fairly common in the Usambaras. [kilimensis].
Green Barbet *Stactolaema olivacea* Fairly common and widespread. First seen in the Usambaras [nominate].
Green Tinkerbird ♦ *Pogoniulus simplex* One seen well between Hondo Hondo and Mikumi.
Moustached Tinkerbird ♦ *Pogoniulus leucomystax* Common and widespread (by voice!) in 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].
Spot-flanked Barbet ♦ *Tricholaema lacrymosa* Scattered sightings [radcliffei].
Black-collared Barbet *Lybius torquatus* One at Wamu bridge for some. [irroratus].
Crested Barbet *Trachyphonus vaillantii* Seen on two dates in the miombo north of Mikumi [suahelicus].
Pallid Honeyguide ♦ *Indicator meliphilus* Good views in the Amani Hills.
Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor* (H) Recorded in the Amani Hills [teitensis].
Scaly-throated Honeyguide *Indicator variegatus* Recorded in the Ulugurus.
Speckle-throated Woodpecker ♦ *Campethera scriptoricauda* A few seen well in the miombo north of Mikumi.
Golden-tailed Woodpecker *Campethera abingoni* A few in the Mikumi area [suahelica].
Green-backed Woodpecker *Campethera cailliautii* Seen in lower Amani. [loveridgei].
Bearded Woodpecker *Chloropicus namaquus* A pair in the miombo north of Mikumi.
Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens* Those in the Eastern Arc were of the form hartlaubii.

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

Pygmy Falcon *Polihierax semitorquatus* One briefly in Mikumi. [castanonotus].

Dickinson's Kestrel ♦ *Falco dickinsoni* Great views of 3 on Pemba and 1 around Mikumi NP. A real cracker!

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo* One on the drive to the Udzungwas.

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus* 2 sightings [nominate].

Brown-necked Parrot ♦ (Grey-headed P) *Poicephalus [fuscicollis] suahelicus* Great views north of Mikumi.

Meyer's Parrot *Poicephalus meyeri* Seen near Mikumi.

Brown-headed Parrot ♦ *Poicephalus cryptoxanthus* Great views on Pemba Island [tanganyikae].

African Broadbill *Smithornis capensis* Particularly common in the Udzungwas [suahelicus].

Forest Batis *Batis mixta* First seen along the Sawmill Road in West Usambaras.

Dark Batis ♦ *Batis crypta* First seen well in the Ulugurus. Also Ukagurus and Udzungwas.

Chinspot Batis *Batis molitor* Just a couple seen. [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 in Mikumi NP. [suahelica].

Black-throated Wattle-Eye *Platysteira peltata* One sighting near Lushoto. [cryptoleuca].

White-crested Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus* Seen in Mikumi.

Chestnut-fronted Helmetshrike ♦ *Prionops scopifrons* A few seen in the East Usambaras. [kiriki].

Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti* Just 1 noted north of Mikumi.

Uluguru Bushshrike ♦ *Malaconotus alius* (CR) Brilliant views of a pair in the forest in the Ulugurus.

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

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

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

Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis* (U) Just 1 seen in the extension. [emini].

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus* Small numbers noted. [armenus].



Marsh ("Anchieta's") Tchagra. (DLV)

Black-backed Puffback *Dryoscopus cubla* Widespread.

Fülleborn's Boubou *Laniarius fuelleborni* See note.

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

East Coast Boubou ♦ *Laniarius sublacteus* Excellent views in the Uмба Valley, near Lushoto.

Brubru *Nilaus afer* Recorded in Mikumi.

Grey Cuckooshrike *Coracina caesia* A few noted. [pura].

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

Long-tailed Fiscal ♦ *Lanius cabanisi* A few noted. Especially common in Mikumi NP.

Northern Fiscal *Lanius humeralis* Common and widespread in the north.[nominate].

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor* One in Mikumi.

Southern (Uhehe) Fiscal ♦ *Lanius [collaris] marwiti* See note.

Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* Seen on Pemba.

Green-headed Oriole ♦ *Oriolus chlorocephalus* Several seen well in the Amani Hills and in the Ulugurus.[amani].

Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus larvatus* A couple seen.

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.[fugax].

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

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

Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher *Trochocercus cyanomelas* A pair seen well in the East Usambaras.

House Crow *Corvus splendens* A common introduction along the coast [nominate].

Pied Crow *Corvus albus* Common and widespread.

White-necked Raven *Corvus albicollis* Just a few noted.

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

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

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

Eastern Nicator *Nicator gularis* A couple seen, others heard.

Fischer's Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix leucopareia* Seen in Mikumi.

Flappet Lark *Mirafraga rufocinnamomea* Seen in Mikumi.

Dark-capped Bulbul *Pycnonotus tricolor* Common and widespread. [layardi].



Grey-olive Greenbul. (DLV)

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

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

Yellow-throated Greenbul ♦ *Arizelocichla chlorigula* 4 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.[zombensis].

Sombre Greenbul *Andropadus importunus* A couple of sightings.[insularis].

Yellow-bellied Greenbul *Chlorocichla flaviventris* A couple seen. [centralis].

Grey-olive Greenbul ♦ *Phyllastrephus cerviniventris* Great views near to Lushoto [nominate].

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

Yellow-streaked Greenbul *Phyllastrephus flavostriatus* Tenuirostris (widespread) and uzungwensis (Udzungwas).

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

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

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Fairly common and widespread. [nominate].

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

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

Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* Just small numbers. [nominate].

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum* Small numbers seen.

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

Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis* Just one sighting.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* Several in the Usambaras [emini].

Moustached Grass Warbler *Melocichla mentalis* A couple of sightings. [orientalis].

Kretschmer's Longbill ♦ *Macrosphenus kretschmeri* Great views in the Amani Nature Reserve [nominate].

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

Little Yellow Flycatcher ♦ *Erythrocercus holochlorus* A few in flocks below Sigi in the Amani Hills.

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

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* Seen near the Ukagurus [yakutensis].

Lesser Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus gracilirostris* Seen in the Kilombero floodplain. [leptorhynchus].

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* One photographed in Mikumi.

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

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

Cinnamon Bracken Warbler *Bradypterus cinnamomeus* Several heard, seen a couple of times [nyassae].

Evergreen Forest Warbler *Bradypterus lopezi* Common by voice. A few seen well [usambarae].

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops* A few seen and heard.[sylvia]



"Kilombero" and "White-tailed" Cisticolas, still awaiting formal description! (DLV)

Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans* (U) Seen briefly by some and heard in the Udzungwas. [muenzneri].

Trilling Cisticola *Cisticola woosnami* (U) Heard near to the office at Udekwa [lufira].

'Kilombero' Cisticola ♦ *Cisticola sp. nov.* Excellent views of 2 near to Ifakara on the Kilombero Floodplain.

Black-lored Cisticola ♦ *Cisticola nigriloris* (U) Seen in the Udzungwas.

Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola chiniana* Common in Mikumi.

Churring Cisticola ♦ *Cisticola njombe* (U) Excellent views in the Udzungwas [nominate]
Coastal Cisticola ♦ *Cisticola haematocephalus* At least three seen near to Hale.
'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 *Cisticola fulvicapilla* Fairly common in the miombo woodland near Mikumi [muelleri].
Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* Recorded in Pemba. [uropygialis].



Black-lored and Churring Cisticolas, and Bar-throated Apalis. (DLV)

Desert Cisticola *Cisticola aridulus* Seen in Mikumi NP [tanganyika].

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

Bar-throated Apalis *Apalis thoracica* See note.

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flava* Seen in Mikumi. [caniceps].

White-winged Apalis ♦ *Apalis chariessa* (VU) Seen in the Ulugurus and at Uluti in the Udzungwas. Stunner!

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 in the Udzungwas [nominate].

Green-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brachyura* First seen in the Amani Hills, and a few other sightings.

Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicaudata* A few sightings.

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* A pair seen very well near Mandege in the Ukaguru Mountains.

Long-billed Forest Warbler ♦ *Artisornis moreau* (CR) Stunning views in the Amani Nature Reserve [nominate].

Red-capped Forest Warbler ♦ *Artisornis metopias* Seen in the Usambaras, Ukagurus, Ulugurus and Udzungwas.

Yellow-bellied Eremomela *Eremomela icteropygialis* Seen near Mikumi [abdominalis].

Green-capped Eremomela *Eremomela scotops* A pair seen well in the miombo near Mikumi.



Ashy Starling. (DLV)

Pale-breasted Illadopsis ♦ *Illadopsis rufipennis* A singing bird proved very difficult in the Udzungwas, glimpsed only.

Arrow-marked Babbler *Turdoides jardineii* Seen in Mikumi. [kirkii].

Northern Pied Babbler *Turdoides hypoleuca* 4 seen well in Mikumi NP [rufuensis].

African Hill Babbler *Pseudoalcippe abyssinica* See note.

African Yellow White-eye *Zosterops senegalensis* Fairly common at a number of sites [stierlingi].

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) Seen well (for a dapple-throat), after a lot of effort at Uluti/Udzungwas!

Yellow-bellied Hyliota *Hyliota flavigaster* A group in the miombo near Mikumi [barbozae].

Usambara Hyliota ♦ *Hyliota usambara* (EN) A pair seen very well in Amani Hills, East Usambaras.

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea* Seen in Mikumi.

Black-bellied Starling *Notopholia corrusca* 2 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* Seen in Mikumi.

Ashy Starling *Lamprotornis unicolor* (U) Several seen in the Baobab Valley west of Mikumi.

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].

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 West Usambaras.

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

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

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

Orange Ground Thrush *Geokichla gurneyi* Seen in the Ulugurus and the Udzungwas. [otomitra].

Kurrichane Thrush *Turdus libonyana* Seen in the miombo north of Mikumi. [tropicalis].

Usambara Thrush ♦ *Turdus roehli* (NT) Great views in the West Usambaras.

Abyssinian Thrush *Turdus abyssinicus* Seen in the Ukagurus by some.

White-browed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas leucophrys* One for some in the Baobab valley..

Grey Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus plumbeus* Seen in the Usambaras.

White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher *Melaenornis fischeri* nyikensis in the Eastern Arc mountains.



Sharpe's and Iringa Akalat and Arnott's Chat. (DLV)

Southern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis pammelaina* A couple noted during the trip. [nominate].

Pale Flycatcher *Melaenornis pallidus* A handful of sightings [subalaris].

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

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

African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta* Widespread. [murina].

White-chested Alethe ♦ *Pseudaethe fuelleborni* After a lot of effort, seen in the West Usambaras. Also Udzungwas.

Olive-flanked Ground Robin ♦ *Cossypha anomala* Great views in the Luala Valley, Udzungwas.

Cape Robin-Chat *Cossypha caffra* A few sightings. [iolaema].

White-browed Robin-Chat *Cossypha heuglini* Widespread. [nominate].

Swynnerton's Robin ♦ *Swynnertonia swynnertonii* (U) (VU) Brilliant views at Uluti [rogersi].

White-starred Robin *Pogonocichla stellata* Widespread.

Sharpe's Akalat ♦ *Sheppardia sharpei* (U) 3 seen very well at Uluti in the Udzungwas.

Rubeho Akalat ♦ *Sheppardia aurantiithorax* (EN) Seen in the Ukaguru Mountains, after some effort. Shy bird!

Usambara Akalat ♦ *Sheppardia montana* (EN) Eventually good views in the West Usambaras.

Iringa Akalat ♦ *Sheppardia lowei* (U) (VU) A couple seen very well at Uluti.

Spotted Palm Thrush *Cichladusa guttata* A couple of sightings in dry habitat. [rufipennis].

Common Nighthale *Luscinia megarhynchos* One sighting.

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* One in Mikumi.

Capped Wheatear *Oenanthe pileata* Seen in Mikumi NP [livingstonii].

Plain-backed Sunbird ♦ *Anthreptes reichenowi* (NT) Brilliant views of several males in the Amani Hills [yokanae].

Western Violet-backed Sunbird *Anthreptes longuemareii* (LO) 1 seen in the miombo near Mikumi [nyassae].

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* Widespread.

Olive Sunbird *Cyanomitra olivacea* Common and widespread [olivacea-group].

Amethyst Sunbird *Chalcomitra amethystina* Just a couple. [kirkii].

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis* Just a few. [gutturalis].

Malachite Sunbird *Nectarinia famosa* (U) Small numbers seen in the Luala Valley in the Udzungwas [cupreonitens].

Usambara Double-collared Sunbird ♦ *Cinnyris usambaricus* (NT) Great views in the West Usambaras.

Forest Double-collared Sunbird ♦ *Cinnyris fuelleborni* (U) At least 2 seen well on the way to Uluti [fuelleborni].

Moreau's Sunbird ♦ *Cinnyris moreaui* (NT) Excellent views in the Ukagurus and in the Luala Valley in the Udzungwas.

Loveridge's Sunbird ♦ *Cinnyris loveridgei* (EN) Seen very well at two sites in the Ulugurus.

Beautiful Sunbird *Cinnyris pulchellus* A few in Mikumi NP [melanogastrus].

Hofmann's Sunbird ♦ *Cinnyris hofmanni* Great views of a male in the miombo near Mikumi.

Purple-banded Sunbird *Cinnyris bifasciatus* Particularly common at Emau Hills [microrhynchus].

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

Rufous-winged Sunbird ♦ *Cinnyris rufipennis* (U) (VU) Great views of a pair in Uluti Forest. Blue, not green!

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus* Seen in the Udzungwas. [falkensteini].

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

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* A fairly common introduction.

Swahili Sparrow ♦ *Passer suahelicus* Seen a few times, best in Mikumi.

Southern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer diffusus* A couple of sightings.

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

Red-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis niger* Common in Mikumi NP [intermedius].

Thick-billed Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons* Just one sighting. [montana].

Baglaffeche Weaver *Ploceus baglaffeche* Just a pair seen. [reichenowi].

Bertram's Weaver ♦ *Ploceus bertrandi* Seen very well in the Ulugurus.

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

Eastern Golden Weaver *Ploceus subaureus* Good numbers near Lushoto. [aureoflavus].

Kilombero Weaver ♦ *Ploceus burnieri* (VU) Good numbers near Ifakara.

Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus intermedius* One male at Mikumi [nominate].
Village (or Layard's) Weaver *Ploceus [cucullatus] paroptus* Just a few. [nigriceps].
Dark-backed Weaver *Ploceus bicolor* Several in the Amani Nature Reserve and a few others [kersteni].
Usambara Weaver ♦ *Ploceus nicolli* (EN) See note.
Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea* Good numbers in Mikumi. [aethiopica].
Zanzibar Red Bishop ♦ *Euplectes nigroventris* A couple of smart males seen well.
Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis* Just one sighting. [crassirostris].
Fan-tailed Widowbird *Euplectes axillaris* Seen on the Kilombero Floodplain and Mikimi. [zanzibaricus].
White-winged Widowbird *Euplectes albonotatus* c50 seen in Mikumi NP [nominate].
Orange-winged Pytilia ♦ *Pytilia afra* Good views of a pair in Mikumi NP.



The rare Lesser Seedcracker. (DLV)

Green-winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba* Seen in Mikumi NP.
Green Twinspot *Mandingoa nitidula* A couple of brief sightings.
Red-faced Crimsonwing ♦ *Cryptospiza reichenovii* Great views in the Usambaras, more at other sites. [australis].
Lesser Seedcracker ♦ *Pyrenestes minor* Brilliant views of a female at Hondo Hondo. Took some searching!
Red-throated Twinspot ♦ *Hypargos niveoguttatus* (NL) 2 for John in the Ulugurus. [macrospilotus].
Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala* A few seen. [ruberrima].
African Firefinch *Lagonosticta rubricata* A couple of sightings. [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 pair seen. [ugogensis].
Yellow-bellied Waxbill *Coccyzygia quartinia* Small numbers at a few sites [kilimensis].
Crimson-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda rhodopyga* 5 on the way to the Ukagurus.
Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild* Just small numbers noted, the first near Lushoto [minor].
Orange-breasted Waxbill *Amandava subflava* Good numbers seen near to Ifakara. [clarkei].
Bronze Mannikin *Lonchura cucullata* Seen at several sites. [scutata].
Red-backed Mannikin *Lonchura nigriceps* Fairly common and widespread.
Magpie Mannikin *Lonchura fringilloides* A small flock seen very well near to Hondo Hondo.
Purple Indigobird ♦ *Vidua purpurascens* 2 seen well and heard in the Baobab valley.
Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura* A few seen.

Broad-tailed Paradise Whydah *Vidua obtusa* A few, including males, in Mikumi.
Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* One in the Ulugurus.
African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp* Widespread in small numbers. [vidua]
Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus* Seen in Mikumi.
African Pipit *Anthus cinnamomeus* Scattered sightings, first on Pemba. [cinnamomeus-group].
Striped Pipit *Anthus lineiventris* One seen well near Lushoto.
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. [nominate]
Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica* Noted at a few sites. [barbata].
Yellow-browed Seedeater ♦ *Crithagra whytii* (U) Great views in the Udzungwas.
Yellow-crowned Canary *Serinus flavivertex* (U) Small numbers seen in the Luala Valley, Udzungwas.
Golden-breasted Bunting *Emberiza flaviventris* Seen in Mikumi. [kalaharica].
Cabanis's Bunting *Emberiza cabanisi* A few seen well, the first in the Usambaras.

MAMMALS

Iringa Red Colobus *Piliocolobus gordonorum* Seen by some of us at the base of the Udzungwas.
Angola Pied Colobus *Colobus angolensis* This elegant primate was seen several times.
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.
Small-eared Greater Galago *Otolemur gamettii* A noisy species that was seen at Vuma Hills by some.
Pemba Flying Fox *Pteropus voeltzkowi* Several impressive individuals on Pemba.
Zanj Elephant Shrew (Black-and-rufous E S) *Rhynchocyon petersi* (U) Seen by some when looking for partridges.
African Savanna Hare *Lepus victoriae* A couple of sightings.
Black-and Red Bush Squirrel (Tanganyika) Mountain Squirrel *Paraxerus lucifer*
Lushoto Mountain Squirrel (Swynnerton's Bush S) *Paraxerus vexillarius* Seen in the Usambaras.
Zanj Sun Squirrel (Eastern S S) *Heliosciurus undulatus* A couple seen in the Usambaras.
Gambian Rat *Cricetomys gambianus* A couple of sightings..
Black-backed Jackal *Canis mesomelas* Seen in Mikumi.
Slender Mongoose *Herpestes sanguinea* 1 seen in Mikumi NP.
Dwarf Mongoose *Helogale parvula* Seen in Mikumi.
Banded Mongoose *Mungos mungo* Gangs seen in Mikumi NP.
Lion *Panthera leo* A pair in Mikumi NP.
Eastern Tree Hyrax *Dendrohyrax validus* (U) Recorded in the Udzungwas.
African Elephant *Loxodonta africana* Plenty in Mikumi NP.
Common Zebra *Equus quagga* Plenty around Mikumi NP.
Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius* Small numbers seen in Mikumi NP.
Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus* Good numbers seen in Mikumi NP.
Masai Giraffe (Common G) *Giraffa [camelopardalis] tippelskirchi* Small numbers seen in Mikumi NP.
African Buffalo (Cape B) *Syncerus caffer* Good numbers seen in Mikumi NP.
Cape Bushbuck *Tragelaphus sylvaticus* A few seen in Mikumi NP.
Eland *Taurotragus oryx* Good numbers seen in Mikumi NP.
Bohor Reedbuck *Redunca bohor* A few seen in Mikumi NP.
Impala (Common I) *Aepyceros melampus* Good numbers seen at Mikumi NP.
Suni *Neotragus moschatus* A couple of sightings in the Udzungwas.
Kirk's Dik-Dik *Madoqua kirkii* One sighting.
Eastern White-bearded Wildebeest *Connochaetes albojubatus* A few seen in Mikumi NP.

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>

African Green Pigeon *Treron calvus*

The birds seen were of the 'Grey-breasted' [delalandii/granti].

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 in the East Usambaras.

Fülleborn's Boubou *Laniarius fuelleborni*

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 *fuelleborni* was largely heard in the Udzungwas though one or two were seen well at Uluti.

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

Excellent views on the drive down to Uluti in the Udzungwas. A very distinctive form, probably meriting specific status.



'Usambara Drongo' *Dicrurus sp. nov.*

Common in the Usambaras. 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*

'Usambara' Mountain Greenbuls [*usambarae*] were seen in the West Usambaras.

Bar-throated Apalis *Apalis thoracica*

The form *murina* (Mouse Apalis) was pretty common, especially by voice, on most forested areas visited .

Chapin's Apalis *Apalis chapini*

The nominate form was seen very well near Mandege in the Ukaguru Mountains. Those in the Udzungwa Mountains - like the one depicted below - were supposed to belong to the *strausae* ssp, but they actually looked like *chapini* on plumage...



African Hill Babbler *Pseudoalcippe abyssinica*

The form *stierlingi* was often heard in the Eastern Arc and a few were seen. Best views were in the forest trail in the West Usambaras.

Spot-Throat *Modulatrix stictigula*

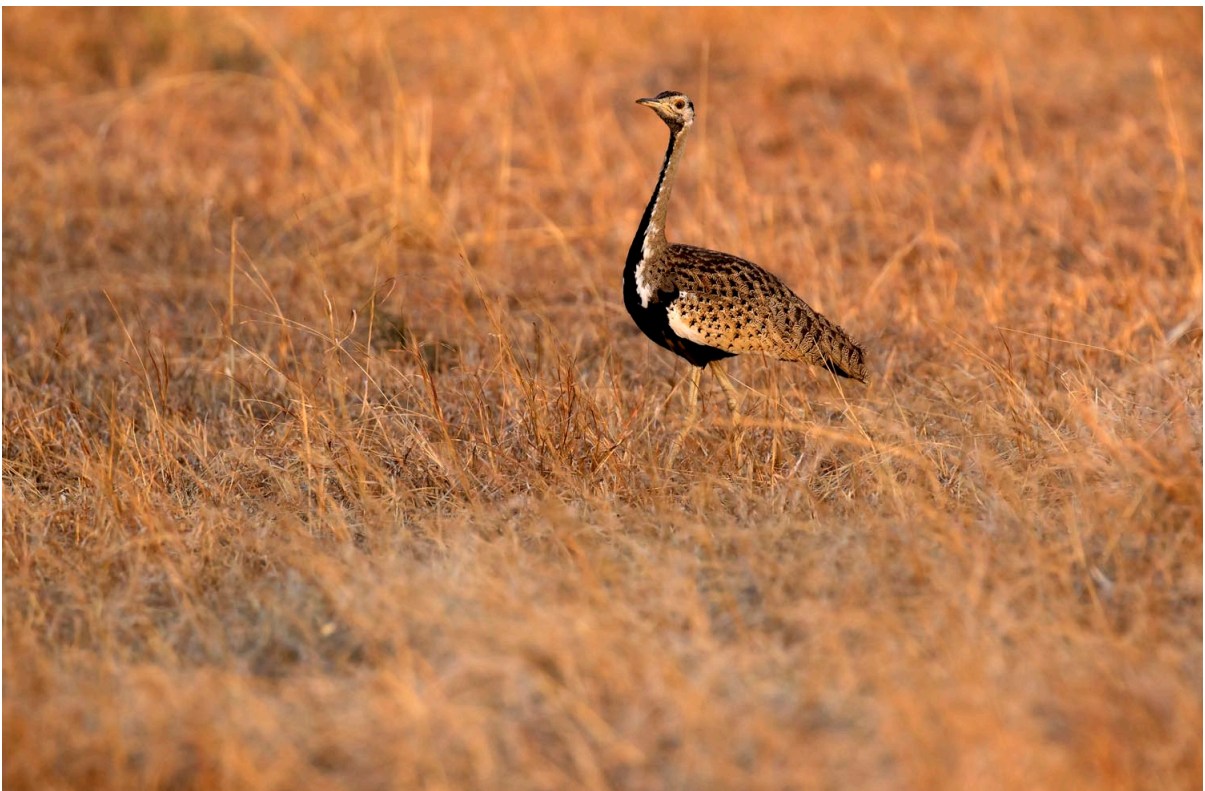
The first, of the nominate form, were seen very well in the in the forest trail in the West Usambaras. Then, *pressa* was seen near Mandege in the Ukaguru Mountains, with others seen well above Tegetero in the Ulugurus, and at both sites in the Udzungwas. A skulker but not too shy!

Usambara Weaver *Ploceus nicolli*

We saw two rather similar subspecies during the tour. First we had good views of a bird of the nominate in the Mugamba Forest Nature Reserve, West Usambaras. On the Udzungwa extension, we saw a pair of the form *anderseni* in the Luala Valley.



Pemba White-eye and Black-bellied Bustard. (DLV)





Dark Batis and White-crowned Lapwing. (DLV)



