



The trip highlight was certainly our wonderful encounter with the marvellous African Pitta in the Zambezi Valley. (Nik Borrow)

ZAMBIA (PITTA SPECIAL) with ZIMBABWE extension

5 - 16 DECEMBER 2018

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Zambia is a huge, and in terms of a birding trip, somewhat unwieldy country but this tour concentrated on the exciting and more accessible southwest with the aim of finding the migrant African Pitta which visits the region at this time of year to breed; Zambia's only true endemic the snowy Chaplin's Barbet and the delightful Black-cheeked Lovebird which is virtually a country endemic as in its pure and wild state the species is probably restricted to Zambia. We began our tour at Livingstone conveniently situated for a visit to see the dramatic Victoria Falls before transferring to our comfortable lodge on the banks of the mighty Zambezi River. An afternoon boat trip provided a gentle introduction to some Zambian birds and also produced the hoped for African Finfoot as well as Rock Pratincole. From here we explored the mopane

woodlands that border the Machile River where despite recent rain large numbers of Black-cheeked Lovebirds were found gathered around the drying pools. The next section of the tour took us eastwards to Choma where Sycamore Fig trees are scattered over the sprawling ranch-lands which provide the favoured food for the endemic Chaplin's Barbet. We successfully located family parties of these striking birds and then turned our attention to the miombo which is home to a number of woodland species including the attractive Racket-tailed Roller and Miombo Pied Barbet. On one of the ranch dams we found Lesser Jacana, Greater Painted Snipe and watched the spectacle of hundreds of Cuckoo-finches gathered at a roost site. Finally, we travelled to Siavonga on the shores of Lake Kariba which we used as our base to search for the elusive African Pitta. This species is an intra-African migrant 'wintering' in East Africa and coming to breed in the thickets in the Zambezi basin. A sighting of this bird is dependent on weather conditions for they only start to display when there has been recent heavy rain and even then the courtship period only lasts for a matter of weeks before the birds fall silent and disappear inside the dense bush. This year our tour hit it exactly right for as we drove to Siavonga there was literally a deluge of rain and the following morning after an hour of searching, the frog-like 'blip' of the pitta was heard and we had the bird firmly in our sights! The pretty Livingstone's Flycatcher was also seen here and we also managed views of Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo. The trip extension took us to the Vumba Mountains in Zimbabwe where we enjoyed terrific views of the pretty Swynnerton's Robin, Stripe-cheeked Greenbul and Barratt's Warbler, as well as the regional endemics; Roberts's Warbler and Chirinda Apalis. The imminent rains also made it possible to see Buff-spotted Flufftail. Other specialities seen during this very special trip included Natal Spurfowl, Southern Carmine Bee-eater, Cinnamon-breasted, Rufous-bellied (heard only) and Miombo Tits, Red-capped Crombec, Lazy Cisticola, Olive-tree Warbler, Stierling's Wren Warbler, Meves's and Burchell's Starlings, Miombo Rock Thrush, Eastern Miombo Sunbird and Reichard's and Black-eared Seedeaters.



The Victoria Falls were relatively dry at the time of our visit but even the scale of the gorge is impressive. (Nik Borrow)

The tour began in Livingstone and we immediately transferred to our vehicles which took us directly to the

simply amazing Victoria Falls where we were quite happy to do the 'tourist thing' and gaze alongside the angels of David Livingstone on the spectacle in front of us. Here the mighty Zambezi widens to nearly two kilometres broad in the wet season before plunging vertically downwards. As we approached the falls dense clouds of water vapour hung over the area on the Zimbabwean side and the sight of millions of tons of water dropping into chasms over 100 metres deep was awe-inspiring. Rainbows arched through the fine spray before vanishing into the gorges far below us. Not only that but there were also a few birds to be seen and it was good to start the tour with beautiful species such as Schalow's Turaco and the pretty little Red-throated Twinspot. More widespread species included Black-collared Barbet, Pied Crow, Dark-capped Bulbul, Terrestrial Brownbul, Wire-tailed Swallow, Rock Martin, Yellow-breasted Apalis, Grey-backed Camaroptera, African Yellow White-eye, Red-winged Starling, White-browed Robin-Chat, Collared Sunbird and Blue Waxbill and it was a bit of a surprise to see a Natal Spurfowl in this touristy place. We left the falls passing some roadside African Elephants and then stopped for a pleasant lunch in Livingstone itself before making the short journey to our pleasantly situated lodge some way upriver on the banks of the Zambezi itself.



A juvenile African Openbill delicately selects a snail during our 'sunset cruise' (left) and an obliging Bearded Scrub Robin in the garden of our comfortable lodge on the banks of the Zambezi River. (Nik Borrow)

We quickly settled into our rooms and spent the early afternoon exploring the garden where we were pleased to find a very obliging Bearded Scrub Robin hopping around in the open by the cabins and we were able to familiarise ourselves with some of the common birds of the area such as Red-eyed and Ring-necked Doves, Emerald-spotted Wood Dove, White-browed Coucal, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Orange-breasted Bushshrike, Black-crowned Tchagra, Black-backed Puffback, Tropical Boubou, Fork-tailed Drongo, African Paradise Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Greenbul, Lesser Swamp Warbler, Tawny-flanked Prinia, Arrow-marked Babbler, Ashy Flycatcher, Scarlet-chested Sunbird and Thick-billed, Holub's Golden and Village Weavers. In the late afternoon we boarded the lodge boat for a relaxing sunset cruise on the river. Sadly, the main thing that was missing was the sunset as it was rather a damp and gloomy afternoon but we sat back and enjoyed the gin and tonics and nibbles that were provided and watched a succession of common waterbirds. As we left the jetty a party of Natal Spurfowl were seen which meant that everyone had now caught up with that one and the main target of the afternoon was eventually found in the form of a female African Finfoot that hugged the shadows of the river banks and eventually skittered out of sight. Rock Pratincoles were present on the exposed rocks in the river and a Coppery-tailed Coucal showed itself well on the Zimbabwean side of the river where we also found a colony of White-fronted Bee-eaters. Other species seen during the trip included Spur-winged and Egyptian Geese, Knob-billed Duck, African Openbill, African Sacred and Hadada Ibises, Striated Heron, Western Cattle Egret, Purple Heron, Hamerkop, Reed Cormorant, Western Osprey, White-backed Vulture, Black Crake, Water Thick-knee, Black-winged Stilt, White-crowned Lapwing, African Jacana, Common Sandpiper, Lilac-breasted Roller, Pied Kingfisher, Little Bee-eater, African Grey and Trumpeter Hornbills, Eurasian Hobby and African Pied Wagtail. We even flushed a Western Barn Owl that was roosting in some overhanging dead vegetation.

We were primarily at Nkwazi as a base for seeing the next target bird: the virtually endemic and highly

restricted range Black-cheeked Lovebird that favours the mopane woodland to the north and west of this area. Our current visit was at the beginning of the rainy season but recent downpours had seemingly soaked straight into the parched land as surface water was still most certainly lacking. The lovebirds are known to congregate in large numbers around the dwindling water supplies in the Machile River area and we hoped that this would still be the case for our visit. We set off very early in the morning before dawn in our sturdy four wheel drive vehicles which we hoped would be perfect for combatting the sandy tracks that lead into the interior of some very remote country. A Square-tailed Nightjar was seen in the headlights but otherwise there was a singular lack of night birds. The journey is not completely straightforward as the maze of tracks interweave but eventually we arrived at the drinking pools where, as hoped for the lovebirds were ready and waiting for us. For the most part these pretty little parrots seemed to prefer feeding high in the trees and the large flocks were quite restless moving from one place to another but we enjoyed wonderful views of them once we had tracked them down to where they were feeding in a huge fruiting fig tree and were then able to watch them for as long as we wished. Listening to their shrill calls and studying them feeding was an amazing experience!



The gorgeous Black-cheeked Lovebird is virtually a Zambian endemic as records from outside of the country probably relate to wanderers or escapees. (Nik Borrow)

The journey to see this special bird was a long one and having spent some time in the area watching the lovebirds we began the return journey but took our time to stop and look at other birds en route. In the early morning Swainson's Spurfowl scattered from the roadsides and at a fortuitous breakfast stop a Cuckoo-finch seemed a good find at the time and we discovered a tiny Grey Penduline Tit at its beautiful nest. White-browed Sparrow-Weavers were abundant and Red-billed Buffalo Weavers and Meves's and Burchell's Starlings were also common birds along the way. Raptors were sparse but we noted Black-chested and Brown Snake Eagles, Bateleur, Wahlberg's Eagle and Yellow-billed Kite. Swallow-tailed, Blue-cheeked and Southern Carmine Bee-eaters provided suitable splashes of colour, long-tailed Magpie Shrikes and showy parties of Retz's and White-crested Helmetshrikes impressed and during the day we also added Helmeted Guineafowl, Grey and Black-headed Herons, Three-banded Plover, Wood Sandpiper, Namaqua Dove, Grey Go-away-bird, Black Cuckoo, African Palm Swift, Red-faced Mousebird, Woodland and Malachite Kingfishers, African Hoopoe, Green Wood Hoopoe, Common Scimitarbill, Southern Ground Hornbill, Southern Red-billed Hornbill, Crested Barbet, Bearded Woodpecker, Brubru, Black Cuckooshrike, Red-backed Shrike, African Golden Oriole, Mosque Swallow, Sedge Warbler, Red-faced Cisticola, Red-billed Oxpecker, White-browed Scrub Robin, Southern Black Flycatcher, Marico Sunbird, Southern Grey-headed Sparrow, Red-billed Quelea, Red-billed Firefinch, Bronze Mannikin, and fantastic Long-tailed Paradise Whydahs in breeding plumage. It had been a long day and that night the birds kept coming for we were entertained by a confiding pair of African Wood Owls before we went to bed.

The morning started in the extensive grounds of the lodge and associated campsite. This rich habitat gave us a number of new birds and a striking Collared Palm Thrush was a great way to start the morning and later both Golden-tailed Woodpecker and Green-backed Honeybird were much appreciated but perhaps the best sighting was of a super Olive-tree Warbler, a Palearctic migrant which is not particularly easy to see even on the breeding grounds. Other species noted during our walk included Red-chested Cuckoo, Broad-billed Roller, Brown-hooded Kingfisher, European Bee-eater, Cardinal Woodpeckers, Willow Warbler, Spectacled Weaver and Bronze Mannikin.



*Southern Carmine Bee-eater seen during our excursion to the Machile River IBA (left) and an African Wood Owl at our camp (right).
(Nik Borrow)*

Leaving Livingstone behind we travelled northeastwards towards Choma for our next stay at a ranch in the Nkanga River Conservation Area. We arrived at the delightful Masuku Lodge around lunchtime where the tame Arnot's Chats that frequented the garden have even nested in the lounge inside the house! The dam below the lodge held White-faced Whistling Duck, Little Egret, African Fish Eagle, African Wattled Lapwing and Giant Kingfisher whilst high overhead a Crowned Eagle was displaying. Also, around the garden were Lesser and Greater Honeyguides, Bennett's Woodpecker, Meyer's Parrot, Chinspot Batis, Black-crowned and Brown-crowned Tchagras, Miombo Blue-eared and Violet-backed Starlings, Yellow-throated Petronia, Pin-tailed Whydah and Yellow-fronted Canary.

In the afternoon we headed out into the Nkanga Conservation Area to an area where the scattered Sycamore Fig trees provide the favoured food for the barbet. Success however wasn't instantaneous and our first views of the barbets were disappointing. However, with patience we eventually sussed out a fruiting tree and our quarry surrendered itself for prolonged views. At least one family party with young was involved and we counted at least three adults and five juveniles although there could have been more birds involved. These strange snowy white barbets iced our cake for us and having had our fill at the end of the day we left them in peace. During our search numbers of Amur Falcons were drifting over and we also spotted a fine breeding plumaged Black Coucal whilst the grasslands also held Coqui Francolin, Senegal Coucal, Little Swift, Rufous-naped and Flappet Larks, Red-breasted Swallow, Rattling and Croaking Cisticolas, Sooty Chat, Wattled Starling, Yellow-mantled Widowbird and Plain-backed Pipit. At a nearby dam we found a

dapper Rufous-bellied Heron and some Blacksmith Lapwings.



An adult (left) and one of the juveniles (right) Chaplin's Barbets that we found in the Nkanga Conservation Area. (Nik Borrow)

We were still missing miombo birds and so the remainder of our time in the Nkanga area was spent searching the dry woodlands in search of the missing species but as always with this habitat it was tough going however persistence paid off as we found several Racket-tailed Rollers and enjoyed repeated viewings of these desirable birds. We also succeeded in finding several Miombo Pied Barbet and the roving bird parties also held Red-capped Crombec and Southern Black, Rufous-bellied (heard only) and Miombo Tits as well as Narina Trogon, White-breasted Cuckooshrike, Eurasian Golden and Black-headed Orioles, Long-billed Crombec, Neddicky, Stierling's Wren-Warbler, Green-capped Eremomela, Southern Hylia, Kurrichane Thrush, Pale, Spotted and Collared Flycatchers, Amethyst Sunbird, Reichard's and Black-eared Seedeaters and Cabanis's Bunting. Other sightings in these woodlands included European Honey Buzzard, Lizard Buzzard, Gabar Goshawk, Crowned Hornbill, Short-winged Cisticola and Wood and Tree Pipits.



Miombo Pied Barbet (left) and Racket-tailed Roller (right) showed particularly well for us in the Miombo. (Nik Borrow)

A visit to another dam in the afternoon was productive. A male Black-bellied Bustard en route was watched in the grasslands and the dam itself had a selection of waterfowl that added Hottentot and Red-billed Teals to our list and also Little Grebe, Squacco Heron, Great Egret, Common Moorhen, Crowned Lapwing, Ruff, Green Sandpiper, Yellow Bishop and White-winged Widowbird. Despite the low water levels, we were pleased to discover a lone Lesser Jacana and we also flushed a snipe that was probably African Snipe and also had good looks at a Greater Painted-snipe. however, the highlight of the afternoon had to be the

phenomenal roost of hundreds of Cuckoo-finches, which put our sighting of a lone bird the other day to shame!

It was a pity to leave such a delightful place but our next destination was much further east back in the Zambezi valley and held the lure of African Pitta which hot news had reliably informed us had already arrived on the breeding quarters and was at least sporadically in display mode. The long journey that afternoon was slowed down by an absolute deluge of rain and then as we were descending into the valley itself the road was blocked by a bad truck accident and we had to wait for a while as it was cleared from the road so it wasn't until after dark that we finally reached Siavonga by the shores of Lake Kariba.

We had to leave well before dawn the following morning because we needed to be on site early in the darkness straining our ears for the frog-like 'blip' of the pitta but as the grey light of dawn permeated the skies and the dawn chorus started up there was no sound from the bird that we so wanted to hear. We descended into a dry river bed that could lead us through the dense thickets and located the place where the bird had been seen two days previously but still nothing. It seemed that despite playing the game to the rule book the bird was not co-operating but then for no reason at all after an hour of trying to provoke an aural response an African Pitta suddenly flew up onto a perch in front of us in full view but as rapidly it disappeared from sight but fortunately proceeded to call from deeper in the thicket. There were some tense moments until we had relocated the bird but we need not have worried for the bird continued to call intermittently for the next couple of hours and we had some excellent views when it chose to come closer and were able to watch the bird leap on its perch spreading the wings and cocking the tail with each jump. Our success had been total and absolute and so quickly when we had timetabled three mornings to find the bird and it was done and dusted before breakfast!



Livingstone's Flycatcher is an interesting species in the Erythrocercidae, a family comprising of just three African species. (Nik Borrow)

With the major attraction safely under the belt we were free to look for one or two other goodies and everyone was keen to see Livingstone's Flycatcher, a rather strange and very pretty little bird of uncertain affinities somewhere between warbler and flycatcher but this species gave us no problems and was soon also tucked safely under the belt. Cuckoos featured prominently during our visit due to the imminent rains and we saw Levillant's, Jacobin, Klaas's, African Emerald, Black and ultimately Barred Long-tailed Cuckoos. Popular species also came in the form of the stunning Purple-crested Turaco which performed well for us and in the dense tangle of vines and lianas we also watched a shy African Broadbill and Eastern Nicator. In the skies above, we managed good sightings of both African Cuckoo-Hawk and Western Banded Snake Eagle and Woolly-necked and Marabou Storks, Black-winged Kite, Horus Swift and Lesser Striped Swallow were also seen. Palearctic migrants also featured and we saw another Olive-tree Warbler as well as Marsh Warbler, Garden Warbler, Common Whitethroat and Thrush Nightingale. Other birds of this impenetrable bush country included Red-capped Robin-Chat, Purple-banded Sunbird, White-bellied Sunbird, Southern Masked Weaver, Green-winged Pytilia, African Firefinch and Common Waxbill. One afternoon we opted to take a relaxing boat trip out on Lake Kariba itself which is the world's largest man-made lake and reservoir. This vast expanse of water was relatively birdless with only Grey-headed Gull and Golden-breasted Bunting (!) being added to our list but it was an interesting cultural experience as we visited the fish farms and watched the boats going about their business.



Fishing boats on Lake Kariba. (Nik Borrow)

We returned to Lusaka the capital of Zambia where for one of our group it was the end of this trip targeting the Zambian specials whilst for the rest of us it was an easy transfer to the airport where we caught a morning flight to Harare in Zimbabwe. Sadly, we suffered an hour's delay due to a technical fault but we arrived safely in the capital and met up with local guide Peter Magosvongwe and our driver who drove us down to the Vumba Mountains on the countries eastern border.

We had arrived in Zimbabwe at a time when the country was facing a number of shortages, most notably fuel but somehow our local guide made sure that we had enough for the journey. We were staying at the well-known White Horse Inn which is like setting foot into a time warp as it has scarcely changed in the thirty odd years that Nik has known it and the lush and beautifully kept gardens are a haven for birdwatchers. However, we woke to a rather dull and windy morning and bird activity was at a minimum although there

were Silvery-cheeked Hornbills and colourful Livingstone's Turacos to be seen. After breakfast we headed to higher altitudes and we started our birding with a bang enjoying superb close up views of the lovely Swynnerton's Robin in the remnant forest patches. This attractive bird has a very localised distribution being only found here and in neighbouring Mozambique and also in some remote Tanzanian mountains. An Orange Ground Thrush was singing sweetly and we obtained excellent views, Olive Bushshrikes were equally noisy but put up more of a fight before we saw them as did a pair of highly mobile Blue-mantled Crested Flycatchers. White-tailed Crested Flycatchers were also seen as well as the pretty White-starred Robin and Cape Batis. Stripe-cheeked Greenbul is another species that has a restricted distribution only occurring away from these eastern highlands on Mount Mulanje in Malawi and it was seen well in these forests during this extension.



Two species are endemic to the highlands that straddle the border between eastern Zimbabwe and Mozambique; Roberts's Warbler (left) and Chirinda Apalis (right). (Nik Borrow)

On the edge of the forest it was somewhat easier to see the birds and our next target was the Chirinda Apalis which is a species that only occurs in these highlands that straddle Zimbabwe and neighbouring Mozambique. We had heard it many times but finally managed to see a pair on the edge of the forest and soon after this success we were watching a group of Roberts's Warblers, another target species that is endemic to this same region. On a small pond we were lucky enough to find three African Black Duck and also, in this area we found White-eared Barbet, Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird, Square-tailed Drongo, Black Saw-wing, Bar-throated Apalis, Grey Tit-Flycatcher, African Dusky Flycatcher, Cape Robin-Chat, Olive Sunbird, Dark-backed Weaver, Yellow-bellied Waxbill and Cape Canary. Our focus now changed to track down another tricky species; the skulking and secretive Barratt's Warbler. We tried to see several singing birds before we managed to coax one into the open but eventually we found a responsive bird and everyone had some good views. It was by now getting late in the afternoon so we turned our attention to birds of more open country and the scrubby grasslands where we found Augur Buzzard, Speckled Mousebird, Cape Grassbird, Southern Fiscal, African Yellow Warbler, Singing and Wailing Cisticolas, African Stonechat and Bronzy Sunbird before it started to rain thus ending a successful day.

We could scarcely believe our luck when the next morning started with a mega sighting of a Buff-spotted Flufftail running around at our feet followed by good views of our only Yellow-streaked Greenbul. The flufftail was a real bonus for we had not even heard one calling as the rains had not really started here in the mountains so we hoped that our luck would hold for the rest of the day.

After breakfast, we visited an area of miombo which proved to be quite productive and a busy bird party gave us a number of good sightings; an African Spotted Creeper crept along the branches of a nearby tree and a very fine Miombo Rock Thrush posed in the uppermost branches. We were pleased to find some Cinnamon-breasted Tits in the same flock and Lazy Cisticola and Striped Pipit were also present. Eastern Miombo Sunbird was spotted and a beautiful Gorgeous Bushshrike was a popular find whilst other highlights were Little Sparrowhawk, Palearctic migrant 'Steppe' Common Buzzard, Sombre Greenbul, Familiar Chat,

Variable Sunbird, Red-collared Widowbird and Streaky-headed Seedeater. Driving back through Mutare we stopped for a roadside flock of Abdim's Stork and there were also Greater Blue-eared Starling, House and Northern Grey-headed Sparrows, and introduced Crested Mynas. After lunch we returned to the Vumba where we managed to tease out a few more species. We glimpsed Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon, only Nik managed to see Black-fronted Bushshrike but we all saw some Red-faced Crimsonwings feeding in the canopy. Over the forest were small numbers of African Black and White-rumped Swifts and Common House Martin.



The beautiful Vumba Mountains produced an excellent selection of specialties of this region. (Nik Borrow)

The drive back to Harare was uneventful but we managed to tick off Greater Striped Swallow on the way and still got back to the airport in good time. This had been a very specialised trip covering two countries and geared up to search out the notoriously elusive African Pitta and some of the endemics and specialties of the region which we currently do not see on other tours. We had been extremely successful in tracking down some of these remarkable birds even though the miombo had been hard work as it often can but we had persevered enough to make sure that we had seen the best of what these countries had to offer.



Part of a flock of Abdim's Storks in Mutare. (Nik Borrow)



The gorgeous little Swynnerton's Robin is one of the star attractions in the Vumba Mountains in Zimbabwe. (Nik Borrow)

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).

BIRDS

Total of bird species recorded: 321

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata* Good numbers were seen at Nkanga, Zambia.

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis* Large numbers at Camp Nkwazi, Zambia.

Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos* Large numbers at Camp Nkwazi and a few at Nkanga, Zambia.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca* Large numbers at Camp Nkwazi, Zambia.

Hottentot Teal *Spatula hottentota* 4 were at Nkanga, Zambia.

African Black Duck *Anas sparsa* 3 were seen in the Vumba Mountains, Zimbabwe.

Red-billed Teal (R-b Duck) *Anas erythrorhyncha* 70+ at Nkanga, Zambia.

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* Easily seen in Zambia.

Coqui Francolin *Peliperdix coqui* A male was seen well at Nkanga, Zambia.

Natal Spurfowl *Pternistis natalensis* Seen at Victoria Falls and Camp Nkwazi, Zambia.

Red-necked Spurfowl (R-n Francolin) *Pternistis afer* Common at Nkanga, Zambia and 1 in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.

Swainson's Spurfowl (S Francolin) *Pternistis swainsonii* Seen in the Machile area and Nkanga, Zambia.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* 5 at Nkanga, Zambia.

African Openbill (A O Stork) *Anastomus lamelligerus* Small numbers at Camp Nkwazi, Zambia.

Abdim's Stork *Ciconia abdimii* An intra-African migrant seen well at Mutare and outside of Harare in Zimbabwe.

Woolly-necked Stork (African Woollyneck) *Ciconia [episcopus] microscelis* 1 at Mutulunganga, Zambia.

Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumenifer* 2 sightings in the Siavonga area, Zambia.
African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus* Small numbers at Camp Nkwazi, Zambia.
Hadada Ibis (Hadedda I) *Bostrychia hagedash* Small numbers at Camp Nkwazi, Zambia.
Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* (NL) 2 at Camp Nkwazi, Zambia.
Striated Heron (Striated H) *Butorides striata* Widespread sightings in Zambia.
Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*. 10 at Nkanga, Zambia.
Rufous-bellied Heron *Ardeola rufiventris* 2 at Nkanga, Zambia.
Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Widespread sightings in Zambia.
Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* Widespread sightings in Zambia.
Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala* Small numbers and widespread sightings in Zambia and Zimbabwe.
Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* 1 at Camp Nkwazi, Zambia.
Great Egret *Ardea alba* A few sightings at Nkanga and Siavonga in Zambia.
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* A few sightings at Nkanga and Siavonga in Zambia.
Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta* Seen at Camp Nkwazi and Nkanga in Zambia.
Reed Cormorant (Long-tailed C) *Microcarbo africanus* Widespread sightings in Zambia.
African Darter *Anhinga rufa*. Seen at Camp Nkwazi and Nkanga in Zambia.
Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* 3 sightings of this Palearctic migrant in Zambia.
Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* A few widespread sightings in Zambia.
African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene) *Polyboroides typus* (NL) Just 1 sighting in the Mutulunganga area, Zambia.



Swainson's Francolins (left) were quite easy to see along the Machile IBA road. A European Honey Buzzard (right) in the Nkanga Conservation area. (Nik Borrow)

European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*. 1 of these Palearctic migrants was seen at Nkanga, Zambia.
African Cuckoo-Hawk *Aviceda cuculoides* A pair were seen in the Mutulunganga area, Zambia.
White-backed Vulture (African W-b V) *Gyps africanus* Widespread sightings in Zambia.
Black-chested Snake Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis* 3 in the Machile area and 1 at Nkanga, Zambia.
Brown Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinereus* 3 widespread sightings in Zambia.
Western Banded Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinerascens* 1 sighting in the Mutulunganga area, Zambia.
Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus* 1 sighting in the Machile area, Zambia.
Crowned Eagle (African C E) *Stephanoaetus coronatus* 1 over Masuku, Zambia.
Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraetus wahlbergi* Widespread sightings in Zambia.
Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus* 2 sightings at Nkanga, Zambia.
Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar* 2 sightings at Nkanga, Zambia.
Little Sparrowhawk *Accipiter minullus* 1 at Cecil Kop, Zimbabwe.
Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius* Common throughout Zambia but absent in Zimbabwe.
African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer* A few seen at Masuku and Lake Kariba, Zambia.
Common Buzzard (Steppe B) *Buteo [buteo] vulpinus* 1 of these Palearctic migrants in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur* (NL) 1 was seen in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Black-bellied Bustard *Lissotis melanogaster* 1 male at Nkanga, Zambia
Buff-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura elegans* Wonderful views of a male in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
African Finfoot *Podica senegalensis* Great views of a female at Camp Nkwazi, Zambia.
Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostra* Small numbers at Camp Nkwazi and Nkanga in Zambia.
Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* 1 at Nkanga, Zambia.
Water Thick-knee *Burhinus vermiculatus* Seen well on the Zambezi at Nkwazi, Zambia.
Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* Small numbers at Camp Nkwazi and Nkanga in Zambia.

Blacksmith Lapwing *Vanellus armatus* Seen at Nkanga in Zambia.
White-crowned Lapwing *Vanellus albiceps* Easily seen during the Zambezi boat trip.
Crowned Lapwing *Vanellus coronatus* 2 at Nkanga, Zambia.
African Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus* Easily seen at Nkanga, Zambia.
Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris* 1 in the Machile area and 5 at Nkanga in Zambia.
Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* 1 at Nkanga in Zambia.
Lesser Jacana *Microparra capensis* 1 at Nkanga in Zambia.
African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus* 1 in the Machile area and more at Nkanga in Zambia.
Ruff *Calidris pugnax* 6 at Nkanga in Zambia.
African Snipe *Gallinago nigripennis* 1 flushed at Nkanga was probably this species rather than Common Snipe.
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Widespread sightings of this Palearctic migrant in Zambia.
Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* 1 of these Palearctic migrants at Nkanga, Zambia.
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* 3 in the Machile area and more these Palearctic migrants at Nkanga, Zambia.
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* A few of these Palearctic migrants at Nkanga, Zambia.
Rock Pratincole *Glareola nuchalis* Easy to see during the Zambezi boat trip.
Grey-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus* 25+ on Lake Kariba, Zambia.
Rock Dove (introduced) (Feral Pigeon) *Columba livia* Domestic or 'table' birds.
Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon *Columba delegorguei* Brief views in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata* Common and widespread in Zambia but absent from Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Ring-necked Dove (Cape Turtle D) *Streptopelia capicola* Widespread sightings in Zambia.
Emerald-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur chalcospilos* Widespread sightings in drier areas in both countries.
Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis* Numerous in the Machile area, Zambia.
Livingstone's Turaco *Tauraco livingstonii* Easily seen in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Schalow's Turaco *Tauraco schalowi* Widespread sightings in Zambia.
Purple-crested Turaco *Tauraco porphyreolophus* Seen well at Mutulanganga, Zambia and Cecil Kop, Zimbabwe.
Grey Go-away-bird *Corythaixoides concolor* Common in the Machile area and again at Nkanga, Zambia.



Water Thick-knees (left) were seen during the Zambezi boat trip. Grey Go-away-birds (right) in the Machile River area. (Nik Borrow)

Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis* Small numbers seen at Nkanga, Zambia.
Coppery-tailed Coucal *Centropus cupreicaudus* 1 seen during the Zambezi boat trip on the Zimbabwe side.
White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus* Widespread sightings in Zambia.
Black Coucal *Centropus grillii* 2 at Nkanga, Zambia.
Levaillant's Cuckoo *Clamator levaillantii* Heard in the Machile Area and seen at Mutulanganga, Zambia.
Jacobin Cuckoo (Black-and-white C) *Clamator jacobinus* 4 at Mutulanganga, Zambia.
Diederik Cuckoo (Didric C) *Chrysococcyx caprius* Heard more than seen in Zambia.
Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas* Heard more often than seen in both countries.
African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus* Heard more than seen in Zambia.
Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo *Cercococcyx montanus* 1 seen at Mutulanganga, Zambia.
Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus* 2 sightings in the Machile area and Mutulanganga, Zambia.
Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius* Heard more often than seen in both countries.
African Cuckoo *Cuculus gularis* (H) Possibly seen in the Machile area but heard at Nkanga in Zambia.
Western Barn Owl *Tyto alba* At least 2 if not 3 at Camp Nkwazi, Zambia.
African Wood Owl *Strix woodfordii* A pair seen well at night at Camp Nkwazi, Zambia.
Square-tailed Nightjar (Gabon N) *Caprimulgus fossii* Seen on the roads at night in Zambia.
African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus* Common, with widespread sightings in both countries.

Common Swift (Eurasian S) *Apus apus* Palearctic migrants noted en route to and from Siavonga.

African Black Swift *Apus barbatus* Seen over the Vumba in Zimbabwe.

Little Swift *Apus affinis* A few sightings in both countries.

Horus Swift *Apus horus* Small numbers seen over Mutulanganga, Zambia.

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer* 2 seen over the Vumba, Zimbabwe.

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus* 1 seen in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.

Red-faced Mousebird *Urocolius indicus* Small numbers seen in the Machile and Mutulanganga areas, Zambia.

Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina* Seen well in Zambia and heard in Zimbabwe.

Racket-tailed Roller *Coracias spatulatus* Excellent views of a pair at Nkanga, Zambia.

Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus* Widespread sightings in Zambia.

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus* Widespread sightings in Zambia.

Brown-hooded Kingfisher *Halcyon albiventris* Widespread sightings in both countries.

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis* A few seen in the Machile and Nkanga areas, Zambia.

Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus* A few seen in the Machile and Nkanga areas, Zambia.

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima* A brief view at Nkanga, Zambia.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* Widespread sightings in Zambia.

Swallow-tailed Bee-eater *Merops hirundineus* A few seen in the Machile and Nkanga areas, Zambia.

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus* Widespread sightings in Zambia.

White-fronted Bee-eater *Merops bullockoides* At least 15 during the Zambezi boat trip on the Zimbabwe side.

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus* 10+ at Camp Nkwazi, Zambia.

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* Palearctic migrants in the Nkanga and Mutulanganga areas, Zambia.

Southern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicoides* Stunning birds seen well in the Machile and Mutulanganga areas.

African Hoopoe *Upupa africana* A few seen in the Machile and Nkanga areas, Zambia.

Green Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus* Widespread sightings in Zambia.

Common Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas* Seen well at Machile, Zambia and Cecil Kop, Zimbabwe.

Southern Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus leadbeateri* 3 in the Machile area, Zambia.

Southern Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus rufirostris* Common in the Machile area, Zambia.

Crowned Hornbill *Lophoceros alboterminatus* Widespread from Nkanga to Mutulanganga, Zambia.

African Grey Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus* Seen in the Machile and Nkanga areas, Zambia.

Trumpeter Hornbill *Bycanistes bucinator* Widespread sightings in Zambia.

Silvery-cheeked Hornbill *Bycanistes brevis* Easily seen in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.

White-eared Barbet *Stactolaema leucotis* 2 seen in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird (Golden-r T) *Pogoniulus bilineatus* Easily seen in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.

Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus chrysoconus* Widespread encounters in Zambia.

Miombo Pied Barbet *Tricholaema frontata* At least 3 were seen at Nkanga, Zambia.

Chaplin's Barbet *Lybius chaplini* Wonderful views of Zambia's endemic barbet. 3 adults and 5 juveniles at Nkanga.

Black-collared Barbet *Lybius torquatus* Widespread encounters in both countries.

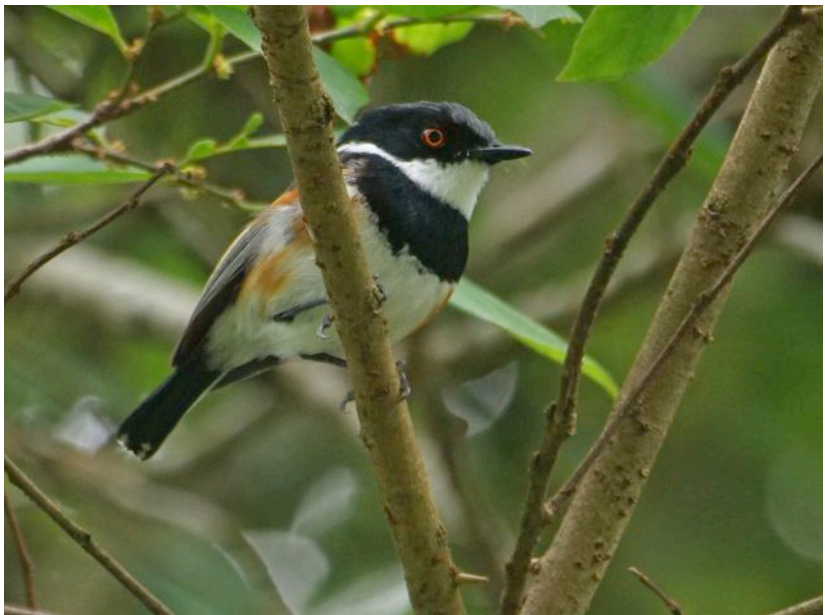
Crested Barbet *Trachyphonus vaillantii* Widespread encounters in both countries.

Green-backed Honeybird (Eastern H) *Prodotiscus zambesiae* 1 was seen at Camp Nkwazi, Zambia.

Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor* Widespread encounters in both countries.

Greater Honeyguide (Black-throated H) *Indicator indicator* (NL) 1 at Masuku, Zambia.

Bennett's Woodpecker *Campethera bennettii* 3 at Nkanga, Zambia.



Male Bennett's Woodpecker at Masuku Lodge (left) and Cape Batis (right) in the Vumba Highlands. (Nik Borrow)

Golden-tailed Woodpecker *Campethera abingoni* 1 was seen at Camp Nkwazi, Zambia.

Bearded Woodpecker *Chloropicus namaquus* 1 in the Machile area and 2 at Mutulanganga, Zambia.
Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens* Widespread sightings in Zambia.
Amur Falcon (Eastern Red-footed F) *Falco amurensis* Good numbers at Nkanga, Zambia.
Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo* 3 sightings of this Palearctic migrant in Zambia.
Meyer's Parrot (Brown P) *Poicephalus meyeri* Small numbers at Nkanga, Zambia.
Black-cheeked Lovebird *Agapornis nigrigenis* 100+ seen well in the Machile River area, Zambia.
African Broadbill *Smithornis capensis* 1 seen well at Mutulanganga, Zambia.
African Pitta *Pitta angolensis* A dream come true! 2 birds were seen at Mutulanganga, Zambia.
Cape Batis *Batis capensis* Easily seen in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Chinspot Batis *Batis molitor* Widespread sightings in both countries.
Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti* (H) Heard at Cecil Kop, Zimbabwe.
Black-fronted Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus nigrifrons* Heard by all but only seen by Nik in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Olive Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus olivaceus* A few seen and others heard in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Orange-breasted Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus* Widespread encounters in Zambia.
Gorgeous Bushshrike (Perrin's B) *Telophorus [viridis] viridis* Excellent views at Cecil Kop, Zimbabwe.
Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis* Widespread encounters in Zambia.
Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus* Seen in the Machile and Nkanga areas in Zambia.
Black-backed Puffback (Southern P) *Dryoscopus cubla* A very common bird in both countries.
Tropical Boubou *Laniarius major* Widespread sightings in Zambia.
Brubru *Nilaus afer* Seen in the Machile and Nkanga areas in Zambia.
White-crested Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus* Flocks at Camp Nkwazi and Nkanga in Zambia.
Retz's Helmetshrike *Prionops retzii* Flocks at Camp Nkwazi and Nkanga in Zambia.
White-breasted Cuckooshrike *Cebilepyris pectoralis* Seen at Nkanga, Zambia and Cecil Kop, Zimbabwe.
Black Cuckooshrike *Campephaga flava* Widespread sightings in both countries.
Magpie Shrike *Urolestes melanoleucus* Small numbers in the Machile and Nkanga areas, Zambia.
Southern Fiscal *Lanius collaris* 1 seen in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* Palearctic migrants seen at Nkanga and Mutulanganga, Zambia.
African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus* Seen in the Machile and Nkanga areas, Zambia.
Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus larvatus* Small numbers at Nkanga in Zambia.
Square-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus ludwigii* Small numbers in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis* Widespread sightings in both countries.
Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher *Trochocercus cyanomelas* A pair seen in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis* Widespread sightings in both countries.
Pied Crow *Corvus albus* Widespread sightings in both countries.
White-necked Raven *Corvus albicollis* (H) Heard in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
White-tailed Crested Flycatcher *Elminia albonotata* Small numbers seen in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Southern Black Tit *Melaniparus niger* Seen at Nkanga and Mutulanganga, Zambia and Cecil Kop, Zimbabwe.
Rufous-bellied Tit *Melaniparus rufiventris* (H) Heard only at Nkanga, Zambia.
Cinnamon-breasted Tit *Melaniparus pallidiventris* Seen well at Cecil Kop, Zimbabwe.



Magpie Shrike along the Machile road (left) and Cinnamon-breasted Tit at Cecil Kop (right). (Nik Borrow)

Miombo Tit (M Grey T) *Melaniparus griseiventris* Seen in miombo in both countries.
Grey Penduline Tit (African P T) *Anthoscopus caroli* At the nest in the Machile area and seen at Nkanga, Zambia.
Eastern Nicator *Nicator gularis* Seen well at Mutulanganga, Zambia.
Rufous-naped Lark *Mirafra africana* Seen well at Nkanga, Zambia.

Flappet Lark *Mirafr rufocinnamomea* Seen at Nkanga, Zambia.
Dark-capped Bulbul (Common B) *Pycnonotus tricolor* A very common bird in both countries.
Stripe-cheeked Greenbul *Arizelocichla milanjensis* Small numbers seen well in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Sombre Greenbul *Andropadus importunus* 2 seen at Cecil Kop, Zimbabwe.
Yellow-bellied Greenbul *Chlorocichla flaviventris* Widespread sightings in Zambia.
Terrestrial Brownbul *Phyllastrephus terrestris* Widespread sightings in both countries.
Yellow-streaked Greenbul *Phyllastrephus flavostriatus* Just 1 sighting in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Black Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne pristopectera* The form *orientalis* in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Widespread sightings of this Palearctic migrant in Zambia.
Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* Widespread sightings in Zambia.
Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* Seen at Victoria Falls and in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum* Sightings of these Palearctic migrants in Zimbabwe.
Greater Striped Swallow *Cecropis cucullata* 1 seen en route back to Harare, Zimbabwe.
Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica* Widespread sightings in both countries.
Red-breasted Swallow (Rufous-chested S) *Cecropis semirufa* Small numbers at Nkanga, Zambia.
Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis* A few seen in the Machile and Mutulunganga areas, Zambia.
Cape Grassbird *Sphenoeacus afer* 1 was seen in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Long-billed Crombec *Sylvietta rufescens* Widespread sightings in both countries.
Red-capped Crombec *Sylvietta ruficapilla* Seen well at Nkanga, Zambia.
Livingstone's Flycatcher *Erythrocercus livingstonei* Good views at Mutulunganga, Zambia.
Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* Widespread sightings of this Palearctic migrant in both countries.
Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler *Phylloscopus ruficapilla* Seen in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Lesser Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus gracilirostris* Seen at Camp Nkwazi and Nkanga, Zambia.
Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*. 2 sightings of this Palearctic migrant at Camp Nkwazi, Zambia.
Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* 2 sightings of this Palearctic migrant at Mutulunganga, Zambia.
African Yellow Warbler *Iduna natalensis* 1 in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Olive-tree Warbler *Hippolais olivetorum* A Palearctic migrant seen well at Camp Nkwazi and Mutulunganga, Zambia.
Barratt's Warbler *Bradypterus barratti* 1 seen well in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops* Heard more often than seen at widespread localities in Zambia.
Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans* Seen well in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Lazy Cisticola *Cisticola aberrans* 3+ seen at Cecil Kop, Zimbabwe.



Grey Penduline Tit at its wonderful nest (left) in the Machile River area and Lazy Cisticola (right) at Cecil Kop in Zimbabwe. (Nik Borrow)

Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola chiniana* Seen well at Nkanga and Mutulunganga area, Zambia.
Wailing Cisticola *Cisticola lais* 1 seen in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Croaking Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis* Small numbers seen at Nkanga in Zambia.
Short-winged Cisticola (Siffling C) *Cisticola brachypterus* Small numbers seen at Nkanga in Zambia.
Neddicky (Piping Cisticola) *Cisticola fulvicapilla* Just 1 was seen at Nkanga, Zambia.
Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava* Widespread sightings in both countries.
Roberts's Warbler *Oreophilais robertsi* Easily seen in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Bar-throated Apalis *Apalis thoracica* Easily seen in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida* Widespread sightings in both countries.
Chirinda Apalis *Apalis chirindensis* Easily seen in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicaudata* Widespread sightings in Zambia.
Stierling's Wren-Warbler *Calamonastes stierlingi* Good views at Nkanga, Zambia.

Green-capped Eremomela *Eremomela scotops* Small numbers seen at Nkanga in Zambia.
Arrow-marked Babbler *Turdoides jardineii* Groups at Camp Nkwazi and the Machile area, Zambia.
Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* 1 of these Palearctic migrants at Mutulanganga, Zambia.
Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* 2 of these Palearctic migrants at Mutulanganga, Zambia.
African Yellow White-eye (Southern Y W) *Zosterops [senegalensis] anderssoni* Widespread sightings throughout.
Southern Hyliota *Hyliota australis* 3 seen at Nkanga, Zambia.
African Spotted Creeper *Salpornis salvadori* 1 seen well at Cecil Kop in Zimbabwe.
Common Myna (Introduced) *Acridotheres tristis* Seen in Mutare, Zimbabwe.
Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea* 10+ at Nkanga, Zambia.
Greater Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus* Just 1 noted at Mutare in Zimbabwe.
Miombo Blue-eared Starling (Southern B-e S) *Lamprotornis elisabeth* Numerous at Nkanga, Zambia.
Meves's Starling *Lamprotornis mevesii* Common in the Machile area, Zambia.
Burchell's Starling *Lamprotornis australis* Common in the Machile area, Zambia.
Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* Seen at Nkanga, Zambia and Cecil Kop, Zimbabwe.
Red-winged Starling *Onychognathus morio* Common at Victoria Falls and in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorhynchus* Small numbers seen in southwestern Zambia.
Orange Ground Thrush *Geokichla guneyi* Excellent views in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.



African Spotted Creeper (left) at Cecil Kop and Orange Ground Thrush (right) in the Vumba Highlands, both in Zimbabwe. (Nik Borrow)

Kurrichane Thrush *Turdus libonyana* Seen at Nkanga, Zambia and Cecil Kop, Zimbabwe.
Bearded Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas quadrivirgata* Good views at Camp Nkwazi and Nkanga, Zambia.
White-browed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas leucophrys* Widespread encounters in both countries.
Grey Tit-Flycatcher (Lead-coloured F) *Myioparus plumbeus* 2 seen in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Southern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis pammellina* Widespread sightings in both countries.
Pale Flycatcher *Melaenornis pallidus* A few seen at Nkanga in Zambia.
Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* Small numbers of this Palearctic migrant in both countries.
Ashy Flycatcher *Muscicapa caerulea* Widespread sightings in both countries.
African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta* Just seen in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Cape Robin-Chat *Cossypha caffra* 1 seen in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
White-browed Robin-Chat *Cossypha heuglini* Widespread sightings in both countries.
Red-capped Robin-Chat *Cossypha natalensis* Seen at Mutulanganga, Zambia and again in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Swynnerton's Robin *Swynnertonia swynnertonii* Wonderful views of this beauty in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
White-starred Robin *Pogonocichla stellata* Excellent views in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Collared Palm Thrush (C Morning T) *Cichladusa arquata* Good views at Camp Nkwazi, Zambia.
Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia* Many Palearctic migrants heard and some seen at Mutulanganga, Zambia.
Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis* 1 of these Palearctic migrants at Nkanga, Zambia.
Miombo Rock Thrush *Monticola angolensis* A pair at Cecil Kop in Zimbabwe.
African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus* A male in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Sooty Chat *Myrmecocichla nigra* Easily seen at Nkanga, Zambia.
Arnot's Chat (White-headed Black C) *Myrmecocichla arnotti* Easily seen at Nkanga, Zambia.
Familiar Chat (Red-tailed C) *Oenanthe familiaris* 2 seen at Cecil Kop in Zimbabwe.
Collared Sunbird *Hedydipna collaris* Seen at Victoria Falls, Zambia and the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Olive Sunbird *Cyanomitra olivacea* Seen easily in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Amethyst Sunbird *Chalcomitra amethystina* Small numbers at Nkanga, Zambia.
Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis* Widespread sightings in Zambia.
Bronzy Sunbird *Nectarinia kilimensis* 1 male seen in the Vumba Highlands, Zimbabwe.
Eastern Miombo Sunbird (M Double-collared S) *Cinnyris manoensis* Seen well in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Marico Sunbird *Cinnyris mariquensis* A pair seen in the Machile area, Zambia.
Purple-banded Sunbird *Cinnyris bifasciatus* Seen well at Mutulanganga, Zambia.
White-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris talatala* Seen well at Mutulanganga, Zambia.

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus* Seen in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.

House Sparrow (introduced) *Passer domesticus* Seen in urban areas in Zimbabwe.

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus* Small numbers seen at Sivaonga, Zambia and in Zimbabwe.

Southern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer diffusus* A couple seen in the Machile area, Zambia.

Yellow-throated Petronia *Gymnoris superciliaris* Easily seen at Nkanga, Zambia.

Red-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis niger* Very common in the Machile area, Zambia.

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser mahali* Abundant in the Machile area, Zambia.

Thick-billed Weaver (Grosbeak W) *Amblyospiza albifrons* Nesting at Camp Nkwazi, Zambia.

Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis* Widespread encounters in both countries.

Holub's Golden Weaver *Ploceus xanthops* Pairs seen at Camp Nkwazi, Zambia.

Southern Masked Weaver *Ploceus velatus* Seen at Mutulanganga, Zambia.

Village Weaver (Black-headed W) *Ploceus cucullatus* Widespread sightings in Zambia.

Dark-backed Weaver (Forest W) *Ploceus bicolor* Small numbers seen in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea* Abundant in non-breeding plumage in the Machile area, Zambia.

Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis* Seen in breeding plumage at Nkanga, Zambia and Cecil Kop, Zimbabwe.

Yellow-mantled Widowbird *Euplectes macroura* In moult at Nkanga in Zambia.

White-winged Widowbird *Euplectes albonotatus* A male in non-breeding plumage at Nkanga, Zambia.

Red-collared Widowbird (R-naped W) *Euplectes ardens* In non-breeding plumage at Cecil Kop, Zimbabwe.

Green-winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba* Seen at Mutulanganga, Zambia.

Red-faced Crimsonwing *Cryptospiza reichenovii* Seen in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.

Red-throated Twinspot *Hypargos niveoguttatus* Widespread encounters in both countries.

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala* Seen in the Machile area and Nkanga, Zambia.

African Firefinch *Lagonosticta rubricata* Small numbers at Mutulanganga, Zambia and in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.

Blue Waxbill *Uraeginthus angolensis* Widespread encounters in both countries.

Yellow-bellied Waxbill *Coccothraustes quartinia*. Seen well in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild* Small numbers seen at Mutulanganga, Zambia.

Bronze Mannikin *Lonchura cucullata* Widespread sightings in both countries.

Village Indigobird *Vidua chalybeata* Small numbers in the Machile area, Zambia.

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura* Small numbers in both countries.

Long-tailed Paradise Whydah *Vidua paradisaea*. Good numbers in breeding plumage in the Machile area, Zambia.

Cuckoo-finch (Parasitic Weaver) *Anomalospiza imberbis* 1 at Machile and 200+ at Nkanga, Zambia.

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp* Widespread sightings in both countries.

Wood Pipit *Anthus nyassae* 3 seen well at Nkanga, Zambia.

Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys* Small numbers at Nkanga, Zambia.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*. 2 sightings of Palearctic migrants at Nkanga and Mutulanganga, Zambia.

Striped Pipit *Anthus lineiventris* Great views of pairs at Cecil Kop and in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.

Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica* Widespread sightings in both countries.

Reichard's Seedeater (Stripe-breasted S) *Crithagra reichardi* 1 was seen well at Nkanga, Zambia.

Streaky-headed Seedeater *Crithagra gularis*. 2 seen at Cecil Kop, Zimbabwe.

Black-eared Seedeater *Crithagra mennelli*. 1 at Nkanga, Zambia.

Cape Canary *Serinus canicollis* Good numbers in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.

Golden-breasted Bunting (African G-b B) *Emberiza flaviventris* 1 by Lake Kariba, Zambia.

Cabanis's Bunting *Emberiza cabanisi* 2 at Nkanga, Zambia and heard at Cecil Kop, Zimbabwe.



Arnot's Chats are easy to see at Nkanga Conservation Area. (Nik Borrow)

MAMMALS

Total of mammal species recorded: 21

African Elephant *Loxodonta africana* Seen just outside of Livingstone itself.
Bush Hyrax *Heterohyrax brucei* Seen on the Machile Road and at Nkanga, Zambia.
Sykes's Monkey *Cercopithecus albogularis* Also known as Samango Monkey, easy to see in the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Vervet (V Monkey, Savanna M) *Chlorocebus pygerythrus* Seen at Camp Nkwazi, Zambia.
Chacma Baboon *Papio ursinus* Widespread sightings in both countries.
Smith's Bush Squirrel *Paraxerus cepapi* Seen in the Machile and Nkanga areas, Zambia.
Mutable Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus mutabilis* Sightings at Mutulanganga, Zambia and the Vumba, Zimbabwe.
Slender Mongoose *Herpestes sanguineus* (NL) 2 sightings in Zambia.
Spotted Hyaena *Crocuta crocuta* (H) Heard at night at Camp Nkwazi.
Plains Zebra (Common Z) *Equus quagga* 'Ranch' animals only at Nkanga, Zambia.
Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius* Easy to see on the Zambezi.
Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus* Easy to see at Nkanga, Zambia.
Impala *Aepyceros melampus* Small numbers on the Zimbabwe side of the Zambezi.
Sable Antelope *Hippotragus niger* 'Ranch' animals only, Nkanga, Zambia.
Puku *Kobus vardonii* Probably 'Ranch' animals only at Nkanga, Zambia.
Oribi *Ourebia ourebi* 'Ranch' animals only at Nkanga, Zambia.
Common Duiker (Bush D) *Sylvicapra grimmia* A few seen at Nkanga, Zambia.
Common Eland *Tragelaphus oryx* 'Ranch' animals only, Nkanga, Zambia.
Bushbuck *Tragelaphus scriptus* Seen on Zimbabwe side of the Zambezi and at Nkanga, Zambia.
Greater Kudu *Tragelaphus strepsiceros* Probably 'Ranch' animals only at Nkanga, Zambia.
Tsessebe *Damaliscus lunatus* 'Ranch' animals only at Nkanga, Zambia.



Flap-necked Chameleon seen along the Machile Road, Zambia. (Nik Borrow)