



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

# **ZAMBIA: AFRICAN PITTA SPECIAL**

**5 - 12 DECEMBER 2019**

**LEADER: NIK BORROW**

Zambia is a huge and (in terms of a birding trip) somewhat unwieldy country but this tour concentrated on the exciting and more accessible south and southwest with the aim of finding the intra-African migrant African Pitta which visits the region at this time of year to breed as well as 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 (even though there was only a small amount of water flowing) before transferring to our comfortable lodge on the banks of the mighty Zambezi River. The garden held Bearded Scrub Robin and Collared Palm Thrush as well as a surprise African Crake and two Slaty Egrets were seen from the lodge whilst enjoying sundowners and a boat trip provided a gentle introduction to some Zambian birds and also produced the hoped for African Finfoot as well as Rock



Pratincole. From this base we explored the mopane woodlands that border the Machile River where despite recent rain small numbers of Black-cheeked Lovebirds were found gathered around the strangely dry pools. The next section of the tour took us back to Livingstone to twitch a Black-winged Pratincole and then 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. By one of the ranch dams we found Fülleborn's Longclaw and watched the spectacle of hundreds of Cuckoo-finches gathered at a roost site. Finally, we travelled to the mouth of the Kafue River and Siavonga on the shores of Lake Kariba which we used as bases to search for the elusive African Pitta. This species is a 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 may only last 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 the rains had come somewhat early and at our first stop the pitta sites were already staked out and active and as soon as we heard the frog-like 'blip' of the pitta it wasn't long before we had the bird firmly in our sights! As we drove to Siavonga we tried another site and enjoyed success there too. The pretty Livingstone's Flycatcher was also seen here. Other specialities seen during the tour included Shelley's Francolin, Natal Spurfowl, Southern White-faced Owl, Southern Carmine Bee-eater, Brown-necked Parrot, Olive-tree Warbler, Luapula Cisticola, Stierling's Wren-Warbler, Hartlaub's Babbler, Meves's and Burchell's Starlings, Shelley's Sunbird and Black-eared Seed eater.



*The Victoria Falls were relatively dry at the time of our visit but even the scale of the gorge is impressive and Chacma Baboons have the right of way! (Nik Borrow)*

The tour began in Livingstone and we immediately transferred to our 4WD vehicle which took us past some introduced Common Mynas in the town 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. Even though it was the dry season and the flow of water was at its lowest, as we approached the falls we could see the dense clouds of water vapour that 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 some brief views of a pair of Verreaux's Eagles as well as more widespread species that included Reed Cormorant, Yellow-billed Kite, Trumpeter Hornbill, Broad-billed Roller, Chinspot Batis, Black-backed Puffback, African Paradise Flycatcher, Pied Crow, Dark-capped Bulbul, Yellow-bellied Greenbul, Terrestrial Brownbul, Rock Martin, Violet-backed and Red-winged Starlings, Collared Sunbird and Blue Waxbill before making the short journey to our pleasantly situated lodge some way upriver on the banks of the Zambezi itself.



*We enjoyed great views of an obliging Bearded Scrub Robin (left) in the garden of our comfortable lodge on the banks of the Zambezi River and an African Crake (right) was much more unexpected! (Nik Borrow)*

We quickly settled into our rooms and spent the afternoon exploring the grounds where we were pleased to find the beautiful Schalow's Turaco, the striking Collared Palm Thrush and a very obliging Bearded Scrub Robin. We were also able to familiarise ourselves with some of the common birds of the area such as Red-eyed Dove, Emerald-spotted Wood Dove, Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird, Black-collared Barbet, Lesser Honeyguide, Orange-breasted Bushshrike, Tropical Boubou, Red-faced Cisticola, Yellow-breasted Apalis, Grey-backed Camaroptera, Arrow-marked Babbler, Ashy Flycatcher, White-browed Robin-Chat, Copper Sunbird and Spectacled, Holub's Golden and Village Weavers. A small lagoon runs through the camp where Thick-billed Weavers were busy at their beautifully constructed compact nests. African Openbill and Hadada Ibis perched on the dead snags and Black Crakes skittered through the reeds. More surprising here was the discovery of an African Crake that allowed great views as it foraged amongst the rank grasses.

As the day was drawing to a close it seemed that the sensible thing to do would be to relax on the decking overlooking the mighty Zambezi River with a sundowner in hand. From this viewpoint we were able to watch Rock Pratincoles hawking over the waters and an African Skimmer also passed by. Some Natal Spurfowl started calling raucously and with patience we finally spotted a single bird on the sandy bank just in front of us. Other species seen included Pink-backed Pelican, Helmeted Guineafowl, White-browed Coucal, Water Thick-knee, White-crowned Lapwing, Striated and Squacco Herons, Western Cattle and Little Egrets, Hamerkop, Lizard Buzzard, African Fish Eagle, African Grey Hornbill, Pied Kingfisher, White-fronted Bee-eater, Eurasian Hobby, Barn and Wire-tailed Swallows and African Pied Wagtail but finally evening rain brought the day to a close and we enjoyed a really fine evening meal in this tranquil spot.

We were primarily at Nkwazi as a base for seeing the next target bird: the (probably) endemic and highly localised Black-cheeked Lovebird that favours the mopane woodland to the north and west of this area. The lovebirds are known to congregate in large numbers around the dwindling water supplies along 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



well before dawn in our sturdy four wheel drive vehicle which we hoped would be perfect for combatting the sandy tracks that lead into the interior of some very remote country. Our current visit was at the beginning of the rainy season and overnight rain meant the puddles along the road were full but elsewhere the rain had seemingly soaked straight into the parched land as surface water was still most certainly lacking. It was a long drive on tarmac which progressively deteriorated somewhat alarmingly and slowed our progress considerably. White-browed Sparrow-Weavers were abundant and Ring-necked and Namaqua Doves, Red-billed Buffalo Weavers and Meves's and Burchell's Starlings were also common birds along the way. After a couple of hours, we reached the turnoff and broke our journey for a picnic breakfast and the opportunity to watch a few birds. Grey Go-away-birds were conspicuous, long-tailed Magpie Shrikes impressed and other birds noted included Red-backed Shrike, Fork-tailed Drongo, Southern Black Tit, Red-breasted Swallow, Long-billed Crombec, Burnt-necked Eremomela, Hartlaub's Babbler, White-browed Scrub Robin, Green-winged Pytilia, Jameson's Firefinch and the gorgeous Violet-eared Waxbill.

Continuing on our way the journey was not completely straightforward as the maze of tracks interweave often confusingly. Occasional Swainson's Spurfowl were seen and Swallow-tailed, Little, Blue-cheeked and Southern Carmine Bee-eaters provided suitable splashes of colour. Raptors were sparse but we noted Brown Snake Eagle, Wahlberg's Eagle and Shikra whilst other species seen during the journey included White-faced Whistling Duck, Spur-winged Goose, Little and White-rumped Swifts, African Green Pigeon, Red-faced Mousebird, African Hoopoe, Common Scimitarbill, Southern Red-billed Hornbill, Lilac-breasted Roller, Woodland Kingfisher, Meyer's Parrot, Brown-crowned Tchagra, Brubru, White-crested Helmetshrike, African Golden Oriole, Willow Warbler, Rattling Cisticola, Tawny-flanked Prinia, Red-billed Oxpecker, Spotted Flycatcher, Scarlet-chested and White-bellied Sunbirds, Southern Grey-headed Sparrow, Southern Masked Weaver, Cut-throat Finch, Red-billed Firefinch and Black-throated Canary.



*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)*

Eventually we arrived at the drinking pools where, as hoped for the lovebirds were ready and waiting for us. However, on arrival the skies were leaden, the pools were dry and there was no sight or sound of the parrots themselves until a few calls alerted us to their presence and we soon located them feeding in one of the huge fig trees and were then able to watch the birds for as long as we wished. Listening to their shrill calls and studying them feeding was an amazing experience!

Due to the rain cuckoos were noisy and some Arrow-marked Babblers were very distressed by the presence of a pair of Levillant's Cuckoos. Diederik and Black Cuckoos were also seen and a Western Banded Snake Eagle posed nicely but perhaps the best bird was a male Shelley's Sunbird that put in a brief appearance. After our success there was little to do but make the long journey back to base and we got back fortuitously not only to enjoy sundowners during the evening river watch but also to view a Half-collared Kingfisher and two Slaty Egrets that passed by and the day was brought to a successful conclusion by the appearance of the camp's resident African Wood Owls.



*Western Banded Snake Eagle (left) at the Machile River and an African Wood Owl at our camp (right). (Nik Borrow)*

The morning started with a relaxing cruise on the river which enabled us to get better views of Rock Pratincoles and African Skimmer as well as adding Knob-billed Duck, Egyptian Goose, Black-winged Stilt, Blacksmith Lapwing, African Jacana, Ruff, Common and Wood Sandpipers, Common Greenshank, White-winged Tern, African Darter, African Sacred and Glossy Ibises, Grey Heron, Western Osprey, White-backed Vulture and Malachite, Brown-hooded, Giant and Pied Kingfishers. To top it all a female African Finfoot was spotted that hugged the shadows of the river banks and eventually skittered out of sight.

After this session a first class breakfast was much welcomed and then it was time to retrace our steps to Livingstone where a visit to the sewage farm produced the Black-winged Pratincole that had been hanging around in the area for some days and we also added African Swamphen and Long-toed Lapwing to the growing list.

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 were even nesting in the lounge inside the house! There had been a severe lack of rain in this area and despite recent showers a number of the dams were dry or almost so. 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. This tour we were fortunate as an active nesting tree was known for the barbets so our success with seeing them was almost instantaneous! These strange snowy white barbets iced our cake for us and having had our fill we turned to looking around for other birds. The surrounding grasslands held Flappet Lark, Croaking Cisticola, Wattled and Miombo Blue-



eared Starlings, Sooty Chat, Northern Grey-headed Sparrow, Yellow Bishop, Yellow-mantled Widowbird, Bronze Mannikin, Village Indigobird, Pin-tailed Whydah and Plain-backed Pipit. A Little Sparrowhawk dashed through and as the afternoon wore on numbers of Amur Falcons were watched drifting over.



*The day began with Black-winged Pratincole (left) at Livingstone sewage farm and ended with a family of endemic Chaplin's Barbets (right) in the Nkanga Conservation Area. (Nik Borrow)*

The remainder of the afternoon was spent at a reedy marsh filled by a hot spring where we saw our first Fülleborn's Longclaws as well as the much-wanted Rufous-bellied Heron, African Black Duck, Red-billed Teal, African Palm Swift, Crowned and African Wattled Lapwings, Green Sandpiper, Lesser Swamp Warbler and the unassuming Luapula Cisticola. Red-chested Flufftail and African Water Rail could be heard in the swamp but neither could be persuaded to come out but the highlight of the afternoon had to be the phenomenal roost of hundreds of Cuckoo-finches that dropped into the reeds in front of us. We drove back to the lodge in the dark and managed fine views of both Fiery-necked Nightjar and a splendid Southern White-faced Owl.

The next morning, we concentrated on finding some of the miombo birds and much time in the Nkanga area was spent searching the dry woodlands 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 flushed a female Pennant-winged Nightjar, succeeded in finding a Miombo Pied Barbet and the roving bird parties also held Narina Trogon, Green Wood Hoopoe, Black Cuckooshrike, Eurasian and African Golden Orioles, Grey Penduline Tit, Neddicky, Stierling's Wren-Warbler, Green-capped Eremomela, Southern Hyliota, Kurrichane Thrush, Southern Black Flycatcher, Pale and Collared Flycatchers, Amethyst Sunbird, Yellow-throated Bush Sparrow, Red-headed Weaver, Tree Pipit, Yellow-fronted Canary and Cabanis's Bunting. Driving along the forest tracks we stopped for a Wood Pipit and found ourselves opportunistically right next to a Shelley's Francolin. A great selection of woodpeckers included Bennett's, Golden-tailed, Bearded and Cardinal Woodpeckers and other birds included Red-chested, African and Common Cuckoos, European Honey Buzzard, Gabar Goshawk, Steppe (Common) Buzzard, Striped Kingfisher, African Pygmy Kingfisher, European Bee-eater and Black-crowned Tchagra.

In the afternoon we visited another dam and found another pair of Fülleborn's Longclaws that showed far better than the previous day's birds. A hulking Coppery-tailed Coucal sat up on a bush hooting out its sonorous calls and a dapper pair of Red-necked Falcons was watched terrorising the lakeside birds which also included Kittlitz's Plover, Northern Fiscal, Little Rush Warbler, African Stonechat and Common Waxbill. Our plans to stay out till dark were sadly thwarted by an oncoming and quite explosive electrical storm and it was quite clear the drought was coming to an end for these parched lands. Fearsome bolts of lightning descended from the blackened sky and struck the ground a little too close for comfort! We delayed our

departure and left it as long as we could in the hope that the storm would pass us by but bad weather was clearly approaching quite rapidly and so finally we beat a hasty retreat which sadly wasn't fast enough and we ended up getting wet driving back in our open topped vehicle!



*Racket-tailed Roller (left) is one of the major target species in the miombo woodlands of the Nkanga Conservation Area. Fülleborn's Longclaws (right) may be found around the dams. (Nik Borrow)*

The following morning the skies were still leaden and heavy but we tried once again in the by now sodden miombo although we were frustrated in our attempts to add more species because of more rain and we got a repeat good soaking for our troubles! The bad weather eased a little as we left and we managed to salvage a few species in the form of a pair of Shelley's Francolins, Crowned Hornbill, Miombo Tit, Icterine Warbler and Black-eared Seedeater but ultimately it was time to count our losses and move on.

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 in display mode. We made good time on the road to our next lodge which was a new locality for the pitta. The beauty of this lodge was that it had at least two pairs of the bird actually within the grounds so we were able to make our first attempt for the pittas on arrival! It was just a short walk to the blinds that had been erected but the skies were still overcast and we hardly expected to see the pitta displaying in such conditions but as luck would have it the bird was indeed there but exceedingly difficult to see in the tangle of dark vegetation. Certainly, views had been had for most of us and the pressure was somewhat relieved but the sky-punching joy of the sighting had not been achieved yet...

With dawn we were out again and this time tried for another pair and what we were told was the better site. Certainly, the viewing conditions were more open and we optimistically waited for the bird to start displaying on its perch situated only metres away from us. We waited and waited but the bird never showed much to the surprise of the guide and to our certain dismay! We could only conjecture that due to heavy rain, the birds had arrived and started displaying somewhat earlier this year and this particular pair which had apparently been showing exceedingly well to other guests had by now tired and settled down to breed. The *longipennis* race of African Pitta is an intra-African migrant wintering in coastal regions of East Africa and coming to breed in the dense thickets of the Zambezi Valley at the beginning of the rainy season. The display of arriving pairs can be intense and short-lived and is totally dependent on the appropriate weather conditions. Sun after heavy rain seems to be a key catalyst in firing up the display but up to now we had only had the rain and no sun.

By way of compensation we were able to watch a pair of African Broadbills gathering nesting material and although it was fairly late in the morning we decided to return to the pair that we had seen the previous



afternoon in the hope that they might be more obliging. Sure enough this time round we were lucky with the male bird returning to the same rather obscured perch that he had used the previous day but this time we were better placed to watch him and we were treated to a lengthy performance as he stood on suitable low lianas and branches from where he would leap into the air almost in slow motion, spreading his wings and making the mechanical frog-like 'blip' sound whilst doing so. This time everyone had good views and the only things that could be complained about were the lack of sunlight and the restricted viewing. However, the bird was well and truly in the bag!



*Dull days with rain didn't make our quest to see African Broadbill (left) here carrying nesting material and the African Pitta (right) any easier but these first views of the bird were certainly good enough to tick! (Nik Borrow)*

During the rest of our day we explored the countryside surrounding the lodge where we found the delightful little Livingstone's Flycatcher and during the day we also added African Emerald Cuckoo, Laughing Dove, Eastern Nicator, Sombre Greenbul, Lesser Striped and Mosque Swallows, African Reed Warbler, Lesser Masked Weaver and White-winged Widowbird.

Having agreed that we had managed satisfactory views of the pitta, the following morning we took a boat trip down the Kafue River and out onto the mighty Zambezi with sunny skies brightening our day for a change. A breeding colony of Southern Carmine Bee-eaters was probably the big highlight of the excursion but other birds added to the list included Common Swift, Jacobin Cuckoo, Marsh Sandpiper, Collared Pratincole, Little Bittern, Black-crowned Night Heron, Purple Heron, Intermediate Egret, Black Heron and a Red-capped Robin-Chat back at the lodge.

After lunch we drove down to Siavonga but made one stop where we had seen African Pitta during our last tour but unfortunately the birds had apparently not returned to the same site. With time to spare we went in search of other birds but we did not find anything new and the day was drawing to a close. However, we were still in likely pitta territory and an experimental blast of playback elicited an immediate response! The problem was that the noise came from inside a seemingly impenetrable thicket. With nothing to lose we pushed through the thorns and briars to get inside the bush ourselves expecting all the time that the bird would swiftly depart but amazingly it continued to display and did so until we were all happily in sight of it. We watched it continuously as the sun sank lower and lower, illuminating the bird so the magic colours glowed beyond belief. It is one thing to see an African Pitta at a known site but to find one's own was the icing on the cake and a fitting finale to our very special tour. Having had our fill and with light fading fast there was little left to do but head for our next hotel and a celebratory last night meal!

After this success, the journey back to Lusaka could be nothing but an anti-climax but we still managed to squeeze out a few birds along the way including Marabou Stork, Black-headed Heron, Brown-necked Parrot,



Retz's Helmetshrike, Olive Tree Warbler, Southern Yellow White-eye and Cinnamon-breasted Bunting.



*A breeding colony of Southern Carmine Bee-eaters seen during our boat trip along the Kafue and Zambezi Rivers was a colourful experience! (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: 279**

**Helmeted Guineafowl** *Numida meleagris* Most numerous in the Nkanga Conservation Area.

**Shelley's Francolin** *Scleroptila shelleyi* 3 were seen in the Nkanga Conservation Area.

**Crested Francolin** *Dendroperdix sephaena* (H) Heard in the Nkanga Conservation Area and Kafue River.



**Natal Spurrow** *Pternistis natalensis* Seen well at Camp Nkwazi.  
**Swainson's Spurrow** (S Francolin) *Pternistis swainsonii* Seen in the Machile area and Nkanga Conservation Area.  
**White-faced Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna viduata* Widespread sightings during the tour.  
**Spur-winged Goose** *Plectropterus gambensis* Small numbers at Camp Nkwazi and Kafue/Zambezi rivers.  
**Knob-billed Duck** *Sarkidiornis melanotos* Large numbers at Camp Nkwazi and Kafue/Zambezi rivers.  
**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca* Small numbers at Camp Nkwazi, Nkanga and Kafue/Zambezi rivers.  
**African Black Duck** *Anas sparsa* 1 was seen in the Nkanga Conservation Area.  
**Red-billed Teal** (R-b Duck) *Anas erythrorhyncha* 2 were seen in the Nkanga Conservation Area.  
**Fiery-necked Nightjar** *Caprimulgus pectoralis* At least 4 seen well in the Nkanga Conservation Area.  
**Pennant-winged Nightjar** *Caprimulgus vexillarius* Only females seen at Nkanga during the day and near Siavonga.  
**African Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus* Common, with widespread sightings.  
**Common Swift** (Eurasian S) *Apus apus* Palearctic migrants noted over the Kafue/Zambezi rivers.  
**Little Swift** *Apus affinis* Widespread sightings.  
**White-rumped Swift** *Apus caffer* 6+ seen en route to Machile River.  
**Schallow's Turaco** *Tauraco schallowi* Widespread sightings and seen well.  
**Grey Go-away-bird** *Corythaixoides concolor* Common in the Machile area and again at Nkanga Conservation Area.  
**Black-bellied Bustard** *Lissotis melanogaster* (NL) 1 for some after we left Nkanga.  
**Coppery-tailed Coucal** *Centropus cupreicaudus* 1 seen well in the Nkanga Conservation Area.  
**White-browed Coucal** *Centropus superciliosus* Just 2 sightings at Nkwazi and Kafue River.  
**Levaillant's Cuckoo** *Clamator levaillantii* Seen well in the Machile area terrorising Arrow-marked Babblers.



Coppery-tailed Coucal (left) was seen well in the Nkanga Conservation Area and a Levaillant's Cuckoo (right) was apparently trying to lay eggs in an Arrow-marked Babbler nest. (Nik Borrow)

**Jacobin Cuckoo** (Black-and-white C) *Clamator jacobinus* 3 along the Kafue River  
**Diederik Cuckoo** (Didric C) *Chrysococcyx caprius* Commonly encountered but heard more than seen.  
**African Emerald Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx cupreus* Heard more than seen in Zambia.  
**Black Cuckoo** *Cuculus clamosus* 2 seen in the Machile area and heard elsewhere.  
**Red-chested Cuckoo** *Cuculus solitarius* Heard more often than seen throughout the tour.  
**African Cuckoo** *Cuculus gularis* Seen in the Nkanga Conservation Area.  
**Common Cuckoo** (Eurasian C) *Cuculus canorus* 1 was identified in the Nkanga Conservation Area.  
**Rock Dove** (introduced) (Feral Pigeon) *Columba livia* Domestic or 'table' birds.  
**Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata* Common and widespread.  
**Ring-necked Dove** (Cape Turtle D) *Streptopelia capicola* Widespread sightings.  
**Laughing Dove** *Spilopelia senegalensis* 2 sightings in the Kafue/Siavonga area.  
**Emerald-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur chalcospilos* Widespread sightings in drier areas.  
**Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis* Just 3 in the Machile area and 1 at the Kafue River.  
**African Green Pigeon** *Treron calvus* Widespread sightings.  
**Red-chested Flufftail** *Sarothrura rufa* (H) 1 heard in the Nkanga Conservation Area.  
**African Finfoot** *Podica senegalensis* Great views of a female at Camp Nkwazi.  
**African Rail** (A Water R) *Rallus caerulescens* (H) 1 heard in the Nkanga Conservation Area.  
**African Crake** *Crex egregia* Excellent views of 1 at Camp Nkwazi.  
**Black Crake** *Amaurornis flavirostra* Widespread sightings.  
**African Swampen** *Porphyrio madagascariensis* 2 were seen at Livingstone Sewage Farm.  
**Water Thick-knee** *Burhinus vermiculatus* Seen well on the Zambezi at Nkwazi and Kafue.  
**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus* Small numbers in appropriate habitat.  
**Long-toed Lapwing** *Vanellus crassirostris* 2 at Livingstone sewage farm.  
**Blacksmith Lapwing** *Vanellus armatus* Seen at Nkwazi, Nkanga and Kafue/Zambezi Rivers.  
**White-crowned Lapwing** *Vanellus albiceps* Easily seen during the Zambezi boat trips.  
**Crowned Lapwing** *Vanellus coronatus* 2 at Nkanga, Zambia.  
**African Wattled Lapwing** *Vanellus senegallus* Easily seen at Nkanga.



**Kittlitz's Plover** *Charadrius pecuarius* 1 at Nkanga and 2 at Kafue/Zambezi Rivers.  
**Three-banded Plover** *Charadrius tricollaris* 2 at Livingstone sewage farm and 5 at Nkanga.  
**African Jacana** *Actophilornis africanus* Easily seen in watery habitats.  
**Ruff** *Calidris pugnax* A Palearctic migrant seen at Nkwazi, Nkanga and Kafue/Zambezi Rivers.  
**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* Widespread sightings of this Palearctic migrant.  
**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus* 1 of these Palearctic migrants at Nkanga.  
**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis* 1 of these Palearctic migrants on the Kafue/Zambezi Rivers.  
**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola* Palearctic migrants numerous at Nkwazi and Nkanga.  
**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* A few Palearctic migrants at Nkwazi, Nkanga and Kafue/Zambezi Rivers.  
**Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola* 6 on the Kafue/Zambezi Rivers.  
**Black-winged Pratincole** *Glareola nordmanni* 1 seen well at Livingstone sewage farm.  
**Rock Pratincole** *Glareola nuchalis* Easy to see during the Zambezi boat trip.  
**African Skimmer** *Rynchops flavirostris* At least 3 adults with 3 juveniles at Camp Nkwazi.  
**White-winged Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus* Good numbers of this Palearctic migrant at Camp Nkwazi.  
**African Openbill (A O Stork)** *Anastomus lamelligerus* Small numbers at Nkwazi and 1 at Kafue/Zambezi Rivers.



African Wattled Lapwing at Nkanga (left) and African Openbill at Nkwazi (right). (Nik Borrow)

**Marabou Stork** *Leptoptilos crumenifer* Seen on journeys to and from the Siavonga area.  
**Reed Cormorant (Long-tailed C)** *Microcarbo africanus* Widespread sightings in appropriate habitat.  
**African Darter** *Anhinga rufa* 2 at Camp Nkwazi.  
**African Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus* 2 at Camp Nkwazi.  
**Hadada Ibis (Hadedda I)** *Bostrychia hagedash* Small numbers at Camp Nkwazi.  
**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* Flocks seen at Camp Nkwazi and Livingstone sewage farm.  
**Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus* A male of the African race *payesii* at Kafue River.  
**Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* 1 at Kafue/Zambezi Rivers.  
**Striated Heron (Striated H)** *Butorides striata* Widespread sightings.  
**Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides* Widespread sightings.  
**Rufous-bellied Heron** *Ardeola rufiventris* 4 at Nkanga.  
**Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* Widespread sightings and abundant in places.  
**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea* Widespread sightings.  
**Black-headed Heron** *Ardea melanocephala* Just 1 near Lusaka airport.  
**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea* 2 at Kafue/Zambezi Rivers.  
**Great Egret** *Ardea alba* A few widespread sightings.  
**Intermediate Egret (Yellow-billed E)** *Ardea [intermedia] brachyrhyncha* 1 at Kafue/Zambezi Rivers.  
**Black Heron (B Egret)** *Egretta ardesiaca* 1 at Kafue/Zambezi Rivers.  
**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* Small numbers and widespread sightings.  
**Slaty Egret** *Egretta vinaceigula* 2 flew past Camp Nkwazi in the late afternoon with flights of other egrets.  
**Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta* Small numbers and widespread sightings.  
**Pink-backed Pelican** *Pelecanus rufescens* Good numbers on the Zambezi River at Nkwazi.  
**Western Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* 2 sightings of this Palearctic migrant at Nkwazi and Nkanga.  
**Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus* A few widespread sightings.  
**European Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus* 1 of these Palearctic migrants was seen at Nkanga.  
**White-backed Vulture (African W-b V)** *Gyps africanus* 2 sightings at Nkwazi and Kafue/Zambezi Rivers.  
**Brown Snake Eagle** *Circaetus cinereus* 2 sightings en route to Machile and Kafue/Zambezi Rivers.  
**Western Banded Snake Eagle** *Circaetus cinerascens* 3 sightings at Machile and Kafue/Zambezi Rivers.

**Wahlberg's Eagle** *Hieraaetus wahlbergi* Widespread sightings en route to Machile and at Nkanga.  
**Verreaux's Eagle** *Aquila verreauxii* A pair was seen briefly at Victoria Falls.  
**Lizard Buzzard** *Kaupifalco monogrammicus* Widespread sightings.  
**Gabar Goshawk** *Micronisus gabar* 2 sightings at Nkanga.  
**Shikra (Little Banded Goshawk)** *Accipiter badius* 1 in the Kazungula area.  
**Little Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter minullus* 1 briefly at Nkanga.  
**Yellow-billed Kite** *Milvus aegyptius* Commonly encountered throughout the tour.  
**African Fish Eagle** *Haliaeetus vocifer* A few seen at Nkwazi and Nkanga.  
**Common Buzzard (Steppe B)** *Buteo [buteo] vulpinus* 1 of these Palearctic migrants at Nkanga.  
**Western Barn Owl** *Tyto alba* (H) Heard at night at Camp Nkwazi.  
**Southern White-faced Owl** *Ptilopsis granti* Great views at night at Nkanga.  
**African Wood Owl** *Strix woodfordii* A pair seen well at night at Camp Nkwazi.  
**Red-faced Mousebird** *Urocolius indicus* Small numbers seen at widespread localities throughout.  
**Narina Trogon** *Apaloderma narina* 1 male seen at Nkanga.  
**African Hoopoe** *Upupa africana* Small numbers seen at widespread localities throughout.  
**Green Wood Hoopoe** *Phoeniculus purpureus* Seen well at Nkanga.  
**Common Scimitarbill** *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas* Small numbers seen at Machile and Nkanga.  
**Southern Red-billed Hornbill** *Tockus rufirostris* Common in the Machile area, Zambia.  
**Crowned Hornbill** *Lophoceros alboterminatus* Widespread from Nkanga to Siavonga.  
**African Grey Hornbill** *Lophoceros nasutus* Seen in the Machile and Nkanga areas.  
**Trumpeter Hornbill** *Bycanistes bucinator* Widespread sightings throughout.  
**Racket-tailed Roller** *Coracias spatulatus* At least 4 at Nkanga.  
**Lilac-breasted Roller** *Coracias caudatus* Widespread sightings and commonly encountered.  
**Broad-billed Roller** *Eurystomus glaucurus* Widespread sightings throughout.  
**Brown-hooded Kingfisher** *Halcyon albiventris* Widespread sightings throughout.  
**Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti* 2 seen at Nkanga.  
**Woodland Kingfisher** *Halcyon senegalensis* A few seen in the Machile and Nkanga areas.  
**African Pygmy Kingfisher** *Ispidina picta* 1 seen briefly at Nkanga.  
**Malachite Kingfisher** *Corythornis cristatus* 1 seen at Nkwazi and more at the Kafue River.  
**Half-collared Kingfisher** *Alcedo semitorquata* 1 seen at Nkwazi.



A Shikra (left) was watched bathing in a roadside puddle near Kazungula. Half-collared Kingfisher (right) was seen at Camp Nkwazi.  
 (Nik Borrow)

**Giant Kingfisher** *Megaceryle maxima* Singletons at Nkwazi and Kafue River.  
**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis* Widespread sightings in appropriate habitat.  
**Swallow-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops hirundineus* 2 seen in the Machile area.  
**Little Bee-eater** *Merops pusillus* Widespread sightings throughout the tour.  
**White-fronted Bee-eater** *Merops bullockoides* Seen well during both of the Zambezi boat trips.  
**Blue-cheeked Bee-eater** *Merops persicus* Seen well during both of the Zambezi boat trips.  
**European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster* 12+ of these Palearctic migrants at Nkanga.  
**Southern Carmine Bee-eater** *Merops nubicoides* In the Machile area and a colony at Kafue/Zambezi Rivers.  
**Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus chrysoconus* Widespread encounters in Zambia.  
**Miombo Pied Barbet** *Tricholaema frontata* After a struggle 1 was seen well at Nkanga.  
**Chaplin's Barbet** *Lybius chaplini* Wonderful views of Zambia's endemic barbet. At least 4 seen well at Nkanga.  
**Black-collared Barbet** *Lybius torquatus* Widespread sightings throughout the tour.



Crested Barbet *Trachyphonus vaillantii* (H) Only heard at Nkanga.  
 Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor* 1 was seen at Camp Nkwazi.  
 Greater Honeyguide (Black-throated H) *Indicator indicator* (H) 1 at Kafue River.  
 Bennett's Woodpecker *Campethera bennettii* Easily seen at Nkanga.  
 Golden-tailed Woodpecker *Campethera abingoni* A pair was seen at Nkanga.  
 Bearded Woodpecker *Chloropicus namaquus* Several at Nkanga and 1 at Mutulunganga.  
 Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens* 1 female at Nkanga.  
 Red-necked Falcon *Falco [chicquera] ruficollis* A pair was watched hunting at Nkanga.  
 Amur Falcon (Eastern Red-footed F) *Falco amurensis* 150+ at Nkanga.  
 Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo* A number of sightings of this Palearctic migrant from Nkwazi to Nkanga.  
 Brown-necked Parrot (Grey-headed P) *Poicephalus [fuscicollis] suahelicus* Seen near Lusaka airport.  
 Meyer's Parrot (Brown P) *Poicephalus meyeri* Small numbers at Machile River and Nkanga.  
 Black-cheeked Lovebird *Agapornis nigrigenis* 20+ seen well in the Machile River area, Zambia.  
 African Broadbill *Smithornis capensis* 2-3 seen well at Kafue River.  
 African Pitta *Pitta angolensis* A dream come true! 1-2 birds were seen at Kafue River and 1 at Mutulunganga.  
 Chinspot Batis *Batis molitor* Widespread sightings from Victoria Falls to Nkanga.  
 Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti* (H) Heard at Mutulunganga.  
 Orange-breasted Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus* Widespread encounters more often heard than seen.  
 Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis* Seen in the Machile area and heard elsewhere.  
 Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegalus* Seen in the Nkanga area and heard elsewhere.  
 Black-backed Puffback (Southern P) *Dryoscopus cubla* A common bird during this tour.  
 Tropical Boubou *Laniarius major* Widespread encounters but more often heard than seen.  
 Brubru *Nilaus afer* Seen in the Machile and Nkanga areas.  
 White-crested Helmetshrike *Prionops plumatus* Flocks at Machile, Nkanga and Siavonga area.  
 Retz's Helmetshrike *Prionops retzii* A flock seen on the Zambezi escarpment.  
 Black Cuckooshrike *Campephaga flava* Easily seen at Nkanga and again near Siavonga.  
 Magpie Shrike *Urolestes melanoleucus* Small numbers in the Machile and Nkanga areas, Zambia.  
 Northern Fiscal *Lanius humeralis* Singletons at Nkanga and Siavonga.  
 Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* Palearctic migrants seen at Nkanga and Kafue River.  
 African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus* Seen at widespread localities throughout.  
 Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis* Widespread sightings throughout the tour.  
 African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis* Widespread sightings from Livingstone to Kafue River.  
 Pied Crow *Corvus albus* Widespread sightings.  
 Southern Black Tit *Melaniparus niger* Widespread sightings in appropriate habitat.



Retz's Helmetshrike (left) was seen well on our journey back to Lusaka. Southern Black Tit (right) was nesting at Masuku. (Nik Borrow)

Miombo Tit (M Grey T) *Melaniparus griseiventris* Just 1 at the last minute at Nkanga.  
 Grey Penduline Tit (African P T) *Anthoscopus caroli* 4 seen at Nkanga.  
 Eastern Nicator *Nicator gularis* Seen well at Kafue River.  
 Rufous-naped Lark *Mirafra africana* (H) Heard at Nkanga, Zambia.  
 Flappet Lark *Mirafra rufocinnamomea* Seen at Nkanga, Zambia.  
 Dark-capped Bulbul (Common B) *Pycnonotus tricolor* A very common bird seen every day  
 Sombre Greenbul *Andropadus importunus* Easily seen at Kafue River.  
 Yellow-bellied Greenbul *Chlorocichla flaviventris* Widespread sightings throughout the tour.  
 Terrestrial Brownbul *Phyllastrephus terrestris* Widespread sightings throughout the tour.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* Widespread sightings of this common Palearctic migrant.  
**Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii* Widespread sightings often along waterways.  
**Rock Martin** *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* Easily seen at Victoria Falls.  
**Lesser Striped Swallow** *Cecropis abyssinica* Just 2 seen at Kafue River.  
**Red-breasted Swallow (Rufous-chested S)** *Cecropis semirufa* Seen from Machile to Nkanga.  
**Mosque Swallow** *Cecropis senegalensis* A pair seen at Kafue River.  
**Long-billed Crombec** *Sylvietta rufescens* Widespread sightings throughout the tour.  
**Livingstone's Flycatcher** *Erythrocercus livingstonei* Good views at Kafue River.  
**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus* Widespread sightings of this Palearctic migrant.  
**Lesser Swamp Warbler** *Acrocephalus gracilirostris* Seen at Nkanga and Kafue River.  
**Great Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* (H) Heard along the Kafue River.  
**African Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus baeticatus* Seen along the Kafue River.  
**African Yellow Warbler** *Iduna natalensis* (H) Heard along the Kafue River.  
**Olive-tree Warbler** *Hippolais olivetorum* A Palearctic migrant heard en route to Machile and seen at Mutulunganga.  
**Icterine Warbler** *Hippolais icterina* Singletons of this Palearctic migrant at Nkanga and Kafue River.  
**Little Rush Warbler** *Bradypterus baboecala* 1 seen at Nkanga and heard at Kafue River.  
**Red-faced Cisticola** *Cisticola erythrops* Heard more often than seen at widespread localities during the tour.  
**Rattling Cisticola** *Cisticola chiniana* Heard more often than seen at widespread localities during the tour.  
**Luapula Cisticola** *Cisticola luapula* Seen well at Nkanga.  
**Croaking Cisticola** *Cisticola natalensis* Small numbers seen at Nkanga.  
**Neddicky (Piping Cisticola)** *Cisticola fulvicapilla* Just 2 were seen at Nkanga.  
**Zitting Cisticola (Fan-tailed C)** *Cisticola juncidis* (H) Heard at Kafue River.  
**Tawny-flanked Prinia** *Prinia subflava* Widespread sightings throughout.  
**Yellow-breasted Apalis** *Apalis flavida* Seen well at Nkwazi and Kafue River.  
**Grey-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brevicaudata* Widespread sightings but more often heard than seen.  
**Stierling's Wren-Warbler** *Calamonastes stierlingi* Good views at Nkanga.  
**Green-capped Eremomela** *Eremomela scotops* A pair was seen at Nkanga.  
**Burnt-necked Eremomela** *Eremomela usticollis* 2 seen en route to Machile River.  
**Arrow-marked Babbler** *Turdoides jardineii* Groups at Camp Nkwazi and the Machile area  
**Hartlaub's Babbler** *Turdoides hartlaubii* Seen well en route to Machile River, Nkanga and Kafue River.



Arrow-marked Babbler (left) at Machile River and Hartlaub's Babbler (right) at Nkanga. (Nik Borrow)

**Southern Yellow White-eye (African Y W)** *Zosterops anderssoni* A pair seen near Lusaka airport.  
**Southern Hyliota** *Hyliota australis* Small numbers seen well at Nkanga.  
**Common Myna (Introduced)** *Acridotheres tristis* Seen in Livingstone.  
**Wattled Starling** *Creatophora cinerea* 6+ at Nkanga.  
**Miombo Blue-eared Starling (Southern B-e S)** *Lamprotornis elisabeth* Numerous at Nkanga.  
**Meves's Starling** *Lamprotornis mevesii* Common in the Machile area and seen again in the Kafue River area.  
**Burchell's Starling** *Lamprotornis australis* Small numbers in the Machile area.  
**Violet-backed Starling** *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* Widespread sightings throughout.  
**Red-winged Starling** *Onychognathus morio* Common at Victoria Falls.  
**Red-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus erythrorhynchus* Small numbers seen in the Machile area.  
**Kurrichane Thrush** *Turdus libonyana* Small numbers at Nkanga.  
**Bearded Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas quadrivirgata* Good views at Camp Nkwazi and Kafue River.  
**White-browed Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas leucophrys* Widespread sightings throughout.



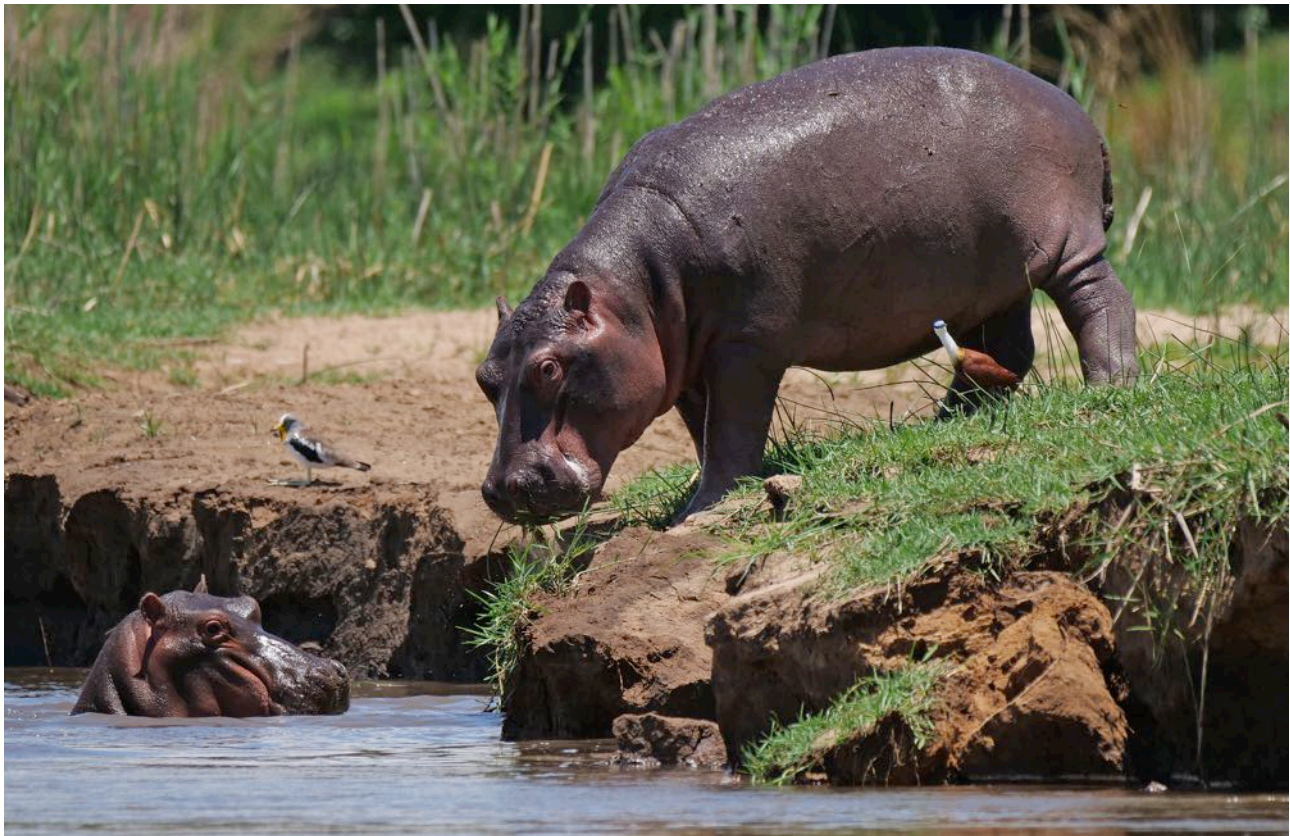
Grey Tit-Flycatcher (Lead-coloured F) *Myioparus plumbeus* (H,LO) Heard by Nik at Nkanga.  
 Southern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis pammelaina* Small numbers seen at Nkanga.  
 Pale Flycatcher *Melaenornis pallidus* Just 1 seen at Nkanga.  
 Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* Small numbers of this Palearctic migrant at widespread localities throughout.  
 Ashy Flycatcher *Muscicapa caerulea* Seen well at Nkwazi and Kafue River.  
 White-browed Robin-Chat *Cossypha heuglini* Widespread sightings from Nkwazi to Kafue River.  
 Red-capped Robin-Chat *Cossypha natalensis* Seen at Kafue River and Mutulunganga.  
 Collared Palm Thrush (C Morning T) *Cichladusa arquata* Good views at Camp Nkwazi.  
 Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia* (H) A Palearctic migrant heard en route to Machile River.  
 Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis* Small numbers of these Palearctic migrants at Nkanga.  
 African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus* A pair at Nkanga.  
 Sooty Chat *Myrmecocichla nigra* Easily seen at Nkanga.  
 Arnot's Chat (White-headed Black C) *Myrmecocichla arnotti* Easily seen at Nkanga and nesting inside the lodge.



Ashy Flycatcher (left) at Nkwazi and Arnot's Chat (right) at Masuku Lodge. (Nik Borrow)

Collared Sunbird *Hedydipna collaris* Seen at Victoria Falls, Nkwazi and Kafue River.  
 Amethyst Sunbird *Chalcomitra amethystina* Easily seen at Nkanga.  
 Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis* Widespread sightings during the tour.  
 Shelley's Sunbird *Cinnyris shelleyi* A male was seen at Machile River.  
 White-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris talatala* Widespread sightings during the tour.  
 Copper Sunbird *Cinnyris cupreus* Seen well at Nkwazi and Machile River.  
 House Sparrow (introduced) *Passer domesticus* Seen in urban areas on journeys.  
 Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus* Small numbers seen from Nkanga to Sivaonga.  
 Southern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer diffusus* Good numbers seen in the Machile area.  
 Yellow-throated Bush Sparrow (Y-t Petronia) *Gymnoris superciliaris* Easily seen at Nkanga.  
 Red-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis niger* Very common in the Machile area, Zambia.  
 White-browed Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser mahali* Common in the Machile and Kafue River areas.  
 Thick-billed Weaver (Grosbeak W) *Amblyospiza albifrons* Nesting at Camp Nkwazi.  
 Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis* Most easily seen at Camp Nkwazi.  
 Holub's Golden Weaver *Ploceus xanthops* Pairs seen at Camp Nkwazi.  
 Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus intermedius* 1 seen at Kafue River.  
 Southern Masked Weaver *Ploceus velatus* Common in the Machile and Kafue River areas.  
 Village Weaver (Black-headed W) *Ploceus cucullatus* Widespread sightings throughout.  
 Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes rubriceps* Breeding at Nkanga.  
 Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea* Commonly encountered from Machile to Siavonga.  
 Southern Red Bishop *Euplectes orix* Seen at Nkanga and Kafue River.  
 Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis* Small numbers in breeding plumage at Nkanga.  
 Yellow-mantled Widowbird *Euplectes macroura* In breeding plumage at Nkanga.  
 White-winged Widowbird *Euplectes albonotatus* Males in breeding plumage at Kafue River and near Siavonga.  
 Green-winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba* Seen at Machile and Kafue Rivers.  
 Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala* Seen in the Machile area and Kafue River.  
 Jameson's Firefinch *Lagonosticta rhodopareia* Seen well in the Machile area and at Mutulunganga.  
 Blue Waxbill *Uraeginthus angolensis* Widespread encounters.  
 Violet-eared Waxbill *Uraeginthus granatinus* A superb male seen well in the Machile area.  
 Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild* Small numbers seen at Nkanga and Kafue River.  
 Bronze Mannikin *Lonchura cucullata* Common at Nkanga and also seen at Kasisi.  
 Village Indigobird *Vidua chalybeata* In breeding plumage at Nkanga.  
 Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura* Males in breeding plumage at Nkanga.  
 Paradise Whydah sp. *Vidua sp.* Non-breeding males at Nkanga and near Siavonga.  
 Cuckoo-finch (Parasitic Weaver) *Anomalospiza imberbis* Hundreds coming to roost at Nkanga.

**African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp* Widespread sightings in appropriate habitat.  
**Fülleborn's Longclaw** *Macronyx fülleborni* 2 pairs seen well at Nkanga.  
**Wood Pipit** *Anthus nyassae* 2 seen well at Nkanga, Zambia.  
**Plain-backed Pipit** *Anthus leucophrys* Small numbers at Nkanga.  
**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*. Small numbers of Palearctic migrants at Nkanga.  
**Black-throated Canary** *Crithagra atrogularis* A small flock of about 12 in the Machile area.  
**Yellow-fronted Canary** *Crithagra mozambica* Widespread sightings from Nkanga to Siavonga.  
**Black-eared Seedeater** *Crithagra mennelli* 2 at Nkanga.  
**Cinnamon-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza tahapisi* A pair seen near Siavonga.  
**Cabanis's Bunting** *Emberiza cabanisi* seen well at Nkanga.



*Hippopotamus are easy to see on the river cruises. (Nik Borrow)*

## MAMMALS

Total of mammal species recorded: 23

**Lion** *Panthera leo* (H) Heard calling from the Zimbabwe side of the river at Kafue River.  
**Yellow-spotted Hyrax** *Heterohyrax brucei* Seen at Nkanga.  
**Southern Lesser Galago** *Galago moholi* Seen at night at Nkanga.  
**Thick-tailed Greater Galago** *Otolemur crassicaudatus* (H) Heard at night at Nkwazi.  
**Vervet (V Monkey, Savanna M)** *Chlorocebus pygerythrus* Seen at Camp Nkwazi, Nkanga and Kafue River.  
**Chacma Baboon** *Papio ursinus* First encountered at Victoria Falls.  
**Scrub Hare (African Savanna H)** *Lepus saxatilis* Seen at night at Nkanga.  
**Smith's Bush Squirrel** *Paraxerus cepapi* Seen in the Machile area.  
**Slender Mongoose** *Herpestes sanguineus* (NL) 1 seen by Dave at Siavonga.  
**Spotted Hyaena** *Crocota crocuta* (H) Heard at night at Camp Nkwazi.  
**African Buffalo** *Syncerus caffer* 10+ on the Zimbabwe side of the Zambezi at Nkwazi.  
**Plains Zebra (Common Z)** *Equus quagga* 'Ranch' animals only at Nkanga, Zambia.  
**Common Warthog** *Phacochoerus africanus* Easy to see in the Machile area and at Nkanga.  
**Hippopotamus** *Hippopotamus amphibius* Easy to see on the Zambezi.  
**Impala** *Aepyceros melampus* Small numbers on the Zimbabwe side of the Zambezi and at Nkanga.  
**Sable Antelope** *Hippotragus niger* 'Ranch' animals only, Nkanga.  
**Puku** *Kobus vardonii* Common at Nkanga.  
**Common Duiker (Bush D)** *Sylvicapra grimmia* 2 seen at Nkanga.  
**Common Eland** *Tragelaphus oryx* 'Ranch' animals only, Nkanga.  
**Bushbuck** *Tragelaphus scriptus*. Seen at Nkanga.  
**Greater Kudu** *Tragelaphus strepsiceros* Probably 'Ranch' animals only at Nkanga, Zambia.  
**Ellipsen Waterbuck** *Kobus ellipsiprymnus* 1 on the Zimbabwe side of the Zambezi at Kafue River.  
**Giraffe (South African G)** *Giraffa [camelopardalis] giraffa* (NL) 1 seen by the group in Mosi-oa-Tunya.