

KENYA SPECIALITIES TOUR REPORT 2022

1 - 19 April 2022

by János Oláh

MaskThis was only the second time we run our Kenya Specialities tour and we had a few itinerary changes from last year, such as visiting the remote Dida Galgalu desert in the far north. I guess there will be a few more minor changes in the future as well, which is inevitable when you targeting scarce and difficult birds. Our tour this year was yet an amazing journey in this legendary country with many special birds but it was in stark contrast with last year's tour as the weather was very different. The rainy season should have started by the time we arrived but in reality it did not. The coastal area especially, but generally the entire tour was in very dry conditions. In fact I have never seen Arabuko-Sokoke forest in such a state and it was a very sad site. It was really silent and instead of the dawn chorus you could hear the rustling leaves falling from heat-stressed trees. It was awful and made birding very difficult. This part of Africa has definitely less rain than usual in the last few years. Climate change is obvious in this part of the World and it's a good idea to see these birds as soon as you can! Nevertheless we worked hard and managed to see a long list of goodies and our bird species total was 600 recorded species but we also had an impressive mammal total of 63 species!

There were many highlights on this tour such as several pipits such as the fantastic Golden Pipit, Pangani Longclaw, the near-endemic Sokoke and Malindi Pipits and the localised Striped Pipit. Definitely major highlights were the Black (Manda) Boubou and the Violet-breasted Sunbird near Lamu, the amazing Heuglin's Bustard in Tsavo East National Park and the fantastic Masked Lark – which was also voted the 'Bird of the trip' – as well as the localised Somali Sparrow in the Dida Galgalu desert. We also seen several Kenyan endemics like the Taita trio: Apalis, Thrush and White-eye, the endangered Sharpe's Longclaw, the vulnerable Hinde's Babbler and Aberdare Cisticola as well as Williams's Lark and Kikuyu White-eye. Other near-endemic and 'diamond' special birds were also numerous and included Somali Ostrich, Vulturine Guineafowl, Jackson's Spurfowl, Black-billed, Fischer's and Hartlaub's Turacos, Black-faced Sandgrouse, Lesser Jacana, Somali Coruser, Sooty Gull, Bat Hawk, Sokoke Scops Owl, Mackinder's Eagle-Owl, White-headed Mousebird, Grant's Wood Hoopoe, Jackson's Hornbill, Mangrove Kingfisher, Somali Bee-eater, Red-and-yellow Barbet, Mombasa and Fine-banded Woodpeckers, African Broadbill, Forest Batis, Jameson's Wattle-eye, Dusky-crested Flycatcher, Somali Crombec, Uganda Woodland Warbler, Hunter's Cisticola, Turner's Eremomela, Scaly Babbler, Fischer's, Stuhlmann's, Slender-billed, Sharpe's and Magpie Starlings, Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat, Equatorial and East Coast Akalats, Collared Palm Thrush, Amani, Tsavo and Golden-winged Sunbirds, Golden Palm Weaver and Jackson's Widowbird just to name but a few! All in all it was a great trip with many fantastic birds and mammals!

The tour started at Lamu airport on the Kenya coast and from the airport we took a boat to our seaside hotel seeing many Sooty Gulls along the short journey. We have wasted no time and started to explore the dry bush country. We managed to track down our main target, a fine Black or Manda Boubou. It was special to see it doing its display flights, certainly a great start of the tour! Next morning we wake up for a singing Mangrove Kingfisher which was quickly found and the morning was very birdy with really good activity. Goodies included several parties of Scaly Babblers, a few Grey-headed Bushshrikes, two Three-streaked Tchagras, Northern Brownbills, Coastal Cisticolas, Rufous Chatterers, a few Eastern Black-headed Batis, Bare-eyed Thrush, Spotted Morning Thrush and stunning male Golden Palm Weavers! We even got more looks of two more Black Boubous. After the busy morning we packed up and left Manda Island seeing waders along the low tide shoreline as we took our boat to the mainland. Our main target for the afternoon was to find Violet-breasted Sunbird and luckily a fine male was quickly found just south of Lamu. There were about 60 White-throated and 30 Northern Carmine Bee-eaters, 50 European Rollers and a good selection of waterbirds on the drive south. Late afternoon just before Malindi we had a short stop at the Sabaki River estuary where we found a wide selection of Palearctic waders. Perhaps the most notable sightings were about 2000 Greater Flamingos, a few White-fronted Plovers, both Lesser and Greater Sand Plovers, Terek Sandpiper and hundreds of Sooty Gulls and Lesser Crested Terns. Breeding plumaged White-winged Terns were also very showy!

Early next morning we arrived to Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and met with our local guide David Ngala. He has been helping Birdquest for many years and knows the forest as the back of his hand. A few weeks after our tour I received the very sad news that David has passed away after a fatal accident. Rest in peace my friend! But back in early April he was just as enthusiastic as ever and we started to explore the forest together. He told us that because of the droughts there are many African Elephants in the vicinity of the waterhole and it is not permitted to stay in the park after sunset. So we had to arrange our plans accordingly. We started in mixed forest habitat and later concentrated in the *Brachystegia* woodland and finished the day in a remote part of the national park. Despite the drought we had a great selection of specialities on our first day such as Fiery-necked Nightjar, Bat Hawk, a roosting pair of grey morph Sokoke Scops Owls, Green Barbets, Mombasa Woodpeckers, Forest and Pale Batises, East Coast Boubou, Chestnut-fronted Helmetshrike, Fischer's Greenbills, Red-tailed Ant Thrush, Plain-backed and Amani Sunbirds and the tricky to find Malindi Pipit. But the first full day drew a blank in the search of Sokoke Pipit or Clarke's Weaver.

In the next two days we were after the Sokoke Pipit, trying every single locations David knew but we never had a sniff. We also spent a lot of time in Clarke's Weaver habitat though we knew our chances are very little when its dry in this forest and none of the park rangers has seen any for a long time. They usually arrive with the rains. All in all we had to work very hard for every special bird in the extremely dry forest. Slowly but steadily we found Fischer's Turaco, Mottled Spinetails Little Spotted Woodpecker, Gorgeous Bushshrike, Retz's Helmetshrike, Blue-mentled Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Nicator, Lowland Tiny Greenbul, Little Yellow Flycatcher, Black-headed Apalis, Eastern Bearded Scrub Robin, East Coast Akalat, Collared Palm Thrush as well as the amazing Golden-rumped Sengi. We have even found the first Black-faced Sandgrouse for the national park by a waterhole where up to 44 Tambourine Doves were also drinking. Our stay at Sokoke came to an end but next day we returned for a last early morning session to try for the pipit before leaving the coast behind. After three days trying I don't think anybody had much hope, but persistence usually pays off and bang, we spotted a displaying Sokoke Pipit in the sky! Not much

later we also found it on the ground and our best looks were on some close branches on a tree. Wow! We were all very happy to see this special bird and somewhat relieved we left for Tsavo East National Park.

Just before reaching the park we spotted Madagascar Pratincoles and as soon as we entered the park birds were coming thick and fast! In the drier region we soon found several Somali Coursers, a migrant Pallid Harrier and best of all a totally unexpected male Heuglin's Bustard just a few meters from us. A real mega and one of our main targets for the far north – at this point we had no idea that this will be the only single observation of the species on the tour! We spent the entire day in the park until dusk when we had to leave. It was very different and very birdy after the dry coastal forest, and we saw a lot of species! Other highlights included the huge Somali Ostrich, the vivid Vulturine Guinea-fowl, several Black-faced Sandgrouses, a flock of Abdim's Storks, Southern Ground Hornbill, the scarce Somali Bee-eater, Taita Fiscal, Chestnut-headed Sparrow Lark, Red-winged and Pink-breasted Larks, Golden-breasted and Fischer's Starlings, several male Tsavo Sunbirds, the stunning Golden Pipit and the localised Pangani Longclaw. After leaving this famous national park we drove to the nearby Taita Hills.

Our next day was to explore the remnant patches of mountain forest in the top of the Taita Hills in search for some of the rarest endemic birds of the country. The so-called Taita trio consist of the increasingly rare tree gap specialist Taita Apalis, the very shy Taita Thrush and the relatively common Taita White-eye. On our way to a forest patch we had a few stops and managed to find two Brown-breasted Barbets and a small flock of Taita White-eyes. They gave prolonged good looks and some of them were even seen feeding on a roadside bush at eye level. A very good start of the day! Our next target was to find the apalis and this took some time. Finally we managed to locate a singing bird but seeing it well in the impenetrable vine tangles they live was a bit of a challenge. However after some nervous minutes we all had excellent looks. So by late morning we had only one task left: to locate a thrush! It sounds easy but it is not. It took us the rest of the day to get good looks of this shy bird for every participants but we did it! While we were birding in the mountain forest we came across Hartlaub's Turacos, Silvery-cheeked Hornbills, Stripe-faced and Placid Greenbuls, Yellow-throated Woodland Warblers, Evergreen Forest Warbler, White-starred Robins and even Striped Pipits were seen on rocky outcrops along the forest edge. It was a great day!

Next day we had a long drive ahead of us and from the Taita Hills we drove all the way to the slopes of Mount Kenya. We had various short birding and leg stretching stops and had great looks of European Honey Buzzard, Brown and Black-chested Snake Eagles, 133 European Rollers, Red-and-yellow Barbets, a pair of Fischer's Sparrow-Larks, Northern Pied Babblers and a fine male Straw-tailed Whydah just to name but a few. It was dark when we rolled into our hotel. Next day we quickly tracked down a party of endemic Hinde's Pied Babblers and were soon on our way towards the Shaba Game Reserve. The luxury lodge and its garden was an oasis for birds and mammals. This area was also extremely dry just as the coast but we had almost two days to find the special birds. In these game reserves (Shaba, Buffalo Springs and Samburu) birding is always supplemented by mammals too, an exciting adventure! Albeit the land was parched we managed to find a great set of goodies such as several Somali Coursers, the highly localised Williams's Lark, the shiny Grant's Wood Hoopoe, gaudy Red-and-yellow Barbets, lovely Red-necked Falcon, Pygmy Batis, a fine pair of Pringle's Puffback, noisy Acacia Tits, subtle Pink-breasted Larks, the long-billed Somali Crombec, a group of Scaly Chatterers, Bristle-crowned Starling, the scarce Gambaga Flycatcher, a dull coloured Brown-tailed Rock Chat, stunning male Black-bellied Sunbird, many Donaldson Smith's Sparrow-Weavers, fine Black-cheeked Waxbill and Northern

Grosbeak-Canary. We also had many sought-after mammals and our highlights included a mother and two fully grown Cheetah cubs, Grew's Zebras, Desert Warthogs, Gerenuks, Bright's Gazelles, Small-eared Greater Galagos, Somali Grass Rats and even a skulking Kellen's African Dormouse.

After leaving this remarkable and birdy area behind us we embarked on a longish drive towards Marsabit, the gateway to the Dida Galgalu desert. Driving north was uneventful but seeing young shepherd boys on the roadside asking for water was a sad sight. After the first two hundred kilometres the first Somali Crows started to appear and our lunch break area produced African Cuckoo, Somali Bee-eaters, Pale and Red-fronted Prinias and Golden-breasted Starlings. After arriving to Marsabit we checked into our hotel and drove towards the lava desert to some specific spots we have seen Somali Sparrows on previous tours. The last hour of the day was a good time to look for birds but we had no sign of Somali Sparrows anywhere, though found a nice flock of Magpie Starlings and a Somali Fiscal. Seeing Crested and Thekla Larks was also a bonus for those keen on their Kenya lists! Looking at the amazing habitat our expectations were building up for the next day when we were hoping for some really sought-after and rarely encountered birds. It was an early start and by dawn we were on the edge of the Dida Galgalu black lava desert. Temperature was very pleasant and we quickly managed to find a few Somali Sparrows and White-crowned Starlings were unexpected bonuses! We drove deeper and deeper into this inhospitable habitat and kept looking for larks. Eventually two Masked Larks were spotted in flight but when they landed only some of us got proper looks. Unfortunately by the time we scoped them up they flew off. We kept searching. We spotted a huge flock of birds in a distance and they turned out to be Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouses, thousands of them! We drove closer and had a magical hour with the huge flock coming to drink at a waterhole. There were lots and lots of larks around too and we kept scanning. A Peregrine was also harassing the sandgrouses, it was an unforgettable morning in the desert. After an hour we concluded there are no Masked Larks in this area so we kept searching...and searching, all day. A few other birds were seen in the lava desert but not much. Notable birds included Somali Courser, a migrant Montagu's Harrier, a few Egyptian Vultures, Northern Wheatear and a Striolated Bunting. Eventually when we almost gave up our driver Zach found two Masked Lark and this time we could watch them as long as we wanted. A happy end to a long and hot day!

Our next day was yet another longish drive back south. We left early and had various birding stops on our way to Nyahururu. A good number of new birds were tracked down throughout the day and special mention should go to Black-winged Lapwing, White-headed Vulture, Cape (Mackinder's) Eagle Owl, smart looking White-headed Mousebird, Abyssinian Scimitarbill, Rosy-patched Bushshrike, Boran Cisticola, Yellow-vented Eremomela, Banded Parisoma and gorgeous Golden-winged Sunbird. It was late when we arrived to our hotel ready for some highland birding the next morning. Our pre-breakfast walk in the hotel grounds produced Mountain Nighthawk and we were soon birding in the lovely Marmanet Forest. It was a new habitat for us on the tour so there were lots of new birds throughout the morning. Perhaps the most notable goodies were Scarce Swift, stunning Hartlaub's Turacos, African Cuckoo-Hawk, a displaying Crowned Eagle, Mountain Buzzard, Moustached Tinkerbird, Red-throated Wryneck, Fine-banded and Eastern Grey Woodpeckers, Olive-breasted Greenbul, White-browed Crombec, Hunter's Cisticola, Chestnut-throated Apalis, Kikuyu White-eye, Slender-billed, Wallers and Sharpe's Starlings as well as a pair of Abyssinian Crimsonwing. Not a bad morning birding indeed. Our departure was somewhat delayed by some problems with our land cruiser but it was solved and we were on our way to Lake Bogoria. A small hidden wetland gave us Lesser Jacana and White-backed Duck while near Lake Bogoria we managed to find Jackson's Hornbill. It was an action-packed day!

Our pre-breakfast walk around the hotel grounds was really great with fantastic breeding plumaged Golden-backed and Northern Masked Weavers, while the grassy area held Grey-headed Silverbills and Crimson-rumped Waxbills. A few migrant Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters were hunting overhead and a perched Western Banded Snake Eagle was the icing on the cake.

We were soon on our way to Western Kenya gradually climbing out of the Rift Valley and all the way through the Kerio Valley. A nice birdy lunch stop gave us White-crested and Ross's Turacos, Black-headed Gonolek, Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver and Long-billed Pipit. Finally we arrived to the famous Kakamega forest. A roadside stop before we arrived to the heavenly Rondo Retreat produced Buff-throated Apalis and the range-restricted Turner's Eremomela. In the last ray of light around in the hotel garden we saw Yellow-crested Woodpeckers, a fine Mackinnon's Fiscal and stunning White-chinned Prinias.

Our next day and half was spent in the forest. Well, those who know how African forest birding ... it is often rewarding, but usually slow and hard work is required! Kakamega forest is a great birding location but the forest is going in an alarming rate and we could experience this even on our very short visit. This forest holds a few top birds and we worked hard to see as much as possible! Many forest trails were explored and we eventually found our main target, the mighty Blue-headed Bee-eater. We connected two times with this superb bird this year and it was especially welcome after missing this specialty on our last two tours. We also found a good selection of goodies such as Black-billed and Great Blue Turacos, Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon, Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill, African Broadbill, Chestnut, Brown-throated, Jameson's and Yellow-bellied Wattle-eyes, Pink-footed Puffback, Lühder's and Bocage's Bushshrikes, Western Oriole, Dusky Crested Flycatcher, Joyful and Kakamega Greenbuls, Green Hylia, Uganda Woodland Warbler, Chubb's Cisticola, Black-faced Prinia, Black-collared Apalis, Olive-green Camaroptera, Scaly-breasted Illadopsis, White-tailed Ant Thrush, Grey-winged, Snowy-crowned and Blue-shouldered Robin-Chats and Equatorial Akalat. On our last pre-breakfast walk we even had great looks of Lord Derby's Anomalures but our stay at Kakamega swiftly came to an end and we were on our way back to the Rift Valley.

We arrived to the famous Nakuru National Park in the late afternoon. This is a famous park but it is also a classic Rift Valley NP with severe human pressure all around and an electric fence to divide human habitat from nature. Nevertheless it has many birds and we could certainly experience this on our rainy afternoon but especially the next morning. We were based in one of the luxurious lodges inside the park, so game and bird viewing was superb. Unfortunately we never saw a single helmetshrike on our stay this year, so the rare Grey-crested Helmetshrike slipped away. We had great looks of Hildebrandt's and Coqui Francolins, Black-bellied Bustard, thousands of flamingos (mostly Lesser), Little Rock Thrush and even found a flock of 13 Scissor-tailed Kites! A great rarity this far south and must have been pushed south by the severe drought. After the morning birding at Lake Nakuru we drove to the Kinangop Plateau stopping for Lynes's Cisticola on the way. We were soon birding in a nice grassland area which is disappearing fast from the highlands. After some search we managed to get great looks of several Sharpe's Longclaws which is an endangered Kenya endemic and we also found the first male Jackson's Widowbird of the season! They were very late to arrive to the breeding grounds perhaps because the rain was late too.

On our last morning birding we visited the Aberdare National Park in search of more special birds! After a bumpy ride we arrived to this high elevation national park and we were greeted by male Tacaze Sunbird by the gate (at around 3100 meter asl) and also had great looks of the near-endemic Jackson's Spurfowls. Entering the park proper we drove to our usual site for the endemic

Aberdare Cisticola and we soon got excellent close looks of this often elusive bird. We saw a few more notable birds like African Olive Pigeon, White-headed Wood Hoopoe, Eurasian Hobby, Cinnamon Bracken Warbler, Moorland Chat, Golden-winged and Eastern Double-collared Sunbirds and Yellow-crowned Canary but it was all too soon we had to turn around and head towards the airport. A short stop by the national park gate was rewarding as we found a Von Höhnel's Chameleon. After leaving the park behind all we had to do is to negotiate through the Nairobi traffic but we did and arrived to the airport just in time. Kenya is a great country for birding and we had an action-packed tour with many special birds! It was certainly a tour to remember!

BIRDS OF THE TOUR

1st: Masked Lark

2nd: Williams's Lark

3rd: Sokoke Pipit

4th: Blue-headed Bee-eater

5th: Vulturine Guineafowl

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED

BIRDS

Somali Ostrich ♦ *Struthio molybdophanes*

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*

White-backed Duck *Thalassornis leuconotus*

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*

Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Blue-billed Teal (Hottentot T) *Spatula hottentota*

Yellow-billed Duck *Anas undulata*

Cape Teal *Anas capensis*

Red-billed Teal (R-b Duck) *Anas erythrorhyncha*

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*

Vulturine Guineafowl ♦ *Acryllium vulturinum* Fantastic looking beast which was seen regularly.

Crested Francolin (Kirk's F) *Ortygornis sephaena*

Coqui Francolin *Campocolinus coqui*

Jackson's Spurfowl ♦ *Pternistis jacksoni* Many great looks in the Aberdare NP.

Hildebrandt's Spurfowl ♦ *Pternistis hildebrandti* A total of six were seen at Lake Nakuru.

Yellow-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis leucoscepus*

European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Fiery-necked Nightjar *Caprimulgus pectoralis*

Montane Nightjar *Caprimulgus poliocephalus*

Slender-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus clarus*

Scarce Swift ♦ *Schoutedenapus myoptilus* A few were seen in the Aberdare NP.

Mottled Spinetail (Mottle-throated S) *Telacanthura ussheri*

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*

Mottled Swift *Tachymarptis aequatorialis*

Common Swift *Apus apus*

Nyanza Swift *Apus niansae*

African Black Swift *Apus barbatus*

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

Horus Swift *Apus horus*

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer*

Great Blue Turaco *Corythaeola cristata* Seen at Kakamega, fantastic.

White-bellied Go-away-bird *Crinifer leucogaster*

Ross's Turaco *Tauraco rossae* Six were seen on our way to Kakamega.

White-crested Turaco ♦ *Tauraco schuettii* Great looks in the Kerio Valley.

Black-billed Turaco ♦ *Tauraco schuettii* Seen in Kakamega Forest.

Fischer's Turaco ♦ *Tauraco fischeri* Finally one was tracked down in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Hartlaub's Turaco ♦ *Tauraco hartlaubi* Fairly common in highland forests.

Kori Bustard *Ardeotis kori*

Heuglin's Bustard ♦ *Neotis heuglinii* Great looks of this special bird in Tsavo East NP.

White-bellied Bustard *Eupodotis senegalensis*

Buff-crested Bustard *Lophotis gindiana*

Black-bellied Bustard *Lissotis melanogaster*

White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus*

Diederik Cuckoo (Didric C) *Chrysococcyx caprius*

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius*

Lesser Cuckoo *Cuculus poliocephalus* One was seen at Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

African Cuckoo *Cuculus gularis*

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus*

Black-faced Sandgrouse ♦ *Pterocles decoratus* A few were seen at Tsavo East NP.

Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse *Pterocles lichtensteinii*

Rock Dove (introduced) *Columba livia*

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea*

African Olive Pigeon *Columba arquatrix*

Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon *Columba delegorguei*

Dusky Turtle Dove *Streptopelia lugens*

Mourning Collared Dove (African M D) *Streptopelia decipiens*

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata*

Ring-necked Dove *Streptopelia capicola*

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis*

Emerald-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur chalcospilos*

Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistria*

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*

African Green Pigeon *Treron calvus*

White-spotted Flufftail *Sarothrura pulchra*

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Red-knobbed Coot (Crested C) *Fulica cristata*

African Swamphe *Porphyrio madagascariensis*

Black Crake *Zapornia flavirostra*

Grey Crowned Crane *Balearica regulorum* Endangered.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*

Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor*

Water Thick-knee (W Dikkop) *Burhinus vermiculatus*

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Blacksmith Lapwing (B Plover) *Vanellus armatus*

Spur-winged Lapwing (S-w Plover) *Vanellus spinosus*

Black-headed Lapwing (B-h Plover) *Vanellus tectus*

Senegal Lapwing (Lesser Black-winged Plover) *Vanellus lugubris* Great find at Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Black-winged Lapwing (B-w Plover) *Vanellus melanopterus*

Crowned Lapwing (C Plover) *Vanellus coronatus*

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius*

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris*

White-fronted Plover *Charadrius marginatus*

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus*

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

Lesser Jacana *Microparra capensis* Great looks near Nyahururu.

African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus*

Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

African Snipe *Gallinago nigripennis*

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Crab-plover *Dromas ardeola* A total of 341 was counted at Mida Creek.

Somali Courser ♦ *Cursorius somalensis*

Madagascar Pratincole *Glareola ocularis* A few late migrants over Tsavo East NP.

Grey-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*

Sooty Gull ♦ *Ichthyaetus hemprichii*

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus [fuscus] fuscus*

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus [fuscus] heuglini*

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

Greater Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*

Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis*

White-winged Tern (W-w Black T) *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis*

African Openbill (A Open-billed Stork) *Anastomus lamelligerus*

Abdim's Stork *Ciconia abdimii*

Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus*

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumenifer*

African Darter *Anhinga rufa*

Reed Cormorant (Long-tailed C) *Microcarbo africanus*

White-breasted Cormorant *Phalacrocorax lucidus*

African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash*

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

African Spoonbill *Platalea alba*

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Striated Heron (Green-backed H) *Butorides striata* Non-leader.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala*

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Intermediate Egret (Yellow-billed E) *Ardea [intermedia] brachyrhyncha*

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Dimorphic Egret *Egretta dimorpha*

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens*

Secretarybird *Sagittarius serpentarius* Endangered.

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

Scissor-tailed Kite (African Swallow-t K) *Chelictinia riocourii* An amazing observation of 13 birds at Lake Nakuru. Vulnerable.

African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene) *Polyboroides typus*

Palm-nut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis*

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* Endangered.

European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

African Cuckoo-Hawk *Aviceda cuculoides* Great looks at Marmanet Forest.

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus* Critically endangered.

White-backed Vulture (African W-b V) *Gyps africanus* Critically endangered.

Rüppell's Vulture (R's Griffon V) *Gyps rueppelli* Critically endangered.

White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis* Critically endangered.

Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos* Endangered.

Black-chested Snake Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis*

Brown Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinereus*

Western Banded Snake Eagle ♦ *Circaetus cinerascens* One was seen at Lake Bogoria.

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus* Endangered.

Bat Hawk *Macheiramphus alcinus*

Crowned Eagle (African C E) *Stephanoaetus coronatus* A displaying bird was seen over Marmanet Forest.

Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus* Endangered.

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis*

Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraaetus wahlbergi*

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* Vulnerable.

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar*

Eastern Chanting Goshawk (E Pale C G) *Melierax poliopterus*

African Goshawk *Accipiter tachiro*

Shikra *Accipiter badius*

Little Sparrowhawk *Accipiter minullus*

Black Sparrowhawk (Great S) *Accipiter melanoleucus*

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* Non-leader.

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* A female of this scarce migrant was seen at Tsavo East NP.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius*

African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer*

Grasshopper Buzzard *Butastur rufipennis*

Mountain Buzzard ♦ *Buteo oreophilus* Three were seen in the Marmanet Forest and one in the Aberdare NP.

Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur*

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum*

African Barred Owlet ♦ (Scheffler's O) *Glaucidium [capense] scheffleri* Heard-only.

Sokoke Scops Owl ♦ *Otus ireneae* Fantastic looks of a roosting pair in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest. Endangered.

Cape Eagle-Owl ♦ (Mackinder's E-O) *Bubo [capensis] mackinderi* A breeding female was seen well near Nyahururu.

Verreaux's Eagle-Owl *Bubo lacteus* Two were seen at Shaba Game Reserve.

African Wood Owl *Strix woodfordii* Roosting birds were seen at Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus*

White-headed Mousebird ♦ *Colius leucocephalus* Excellent looks on our way back from Marsabit.

Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus*

Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina*

Bar-tailed Trogon *Apaloderma vittatum* Heard-only.

African Hoopoe *Upupa africana*

White-headed Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus bollei*

Green Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus*

Grant's Wood Hoopoe ♦ *Phoeniculus granti* One was seen in the Shaba GR.

Common Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*

Abyssinian Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus minor*

Southern Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus leadbeateri* Vulnerable.

Northern Red-billed Hornbill ◊ *Tockus erythrorhynchus* Common.

Von der Decken's Hornbill *Tockus deckeni*

Jackson's Hornbill ◊ *Tockus jacksoni* We had good looks at Lake Bogoria.

Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill *Tockus flavirostris*

Crowned Hornbill *Lophoceros alboterminatus*

African Grey Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus*

Trumpeter Hornbill *Bycanistes bucinator*

Black-and-white-casqued Hornbill *Bycanistes subcylindricus*

Silvery-cheeked Hornbill *Bycanistes brevis*

Purple Roller (Rufous-crowned R) *Coracias naevius*

Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus*

European Roller *Coracias garrulus*

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus*

Grey-headed Kingfisher (Chestnut-bellied K) *Halcyon leucocephala*

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti*

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis*

Mangrove Kingfisher ◊ *Halcyon senegaloides* Great looks of a singing bird on Manda Island.

African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta*

Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus*

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

Blue-headed Bee-eater ◊ *Merops muelleri* A total of six were seen at Kakamega Forest this year!

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus*

Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater *Merops oreobates*

White-fronted Bee-eater *Merops bullockoides*

Somali Bee-eater ◊ *Merops revoilii* Three different sightings this year, the first in Tsavo East NP.

White-throated Bee-eater *Merops albicollis*

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus*

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

Northern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicus*

Grey-throated Barbet *Gymnobucco bonapartei*

Green Barbet *Stactolaema olivacea*

Moustached Tinkerbird (M Green T) *Pogoniulus leucomystax*

Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird (Golden-r T) *Pogoniulus bilineatus*

Red-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus pusillus*

Yellow-spotted Barbet *Buccanodon duchaillui*

Hairy-breasted Barbet *Tricholaema hirsuta*

Red-fronted Barbet *Tricholaema diademata*

Spot-flanked Barbet *Tricholaema lacrymosa*

Black-throated Barbet *Tricholaema melanocephala*

Brown-breasted Barbet ♦ *Lybius melanopterus* Two were seen in the Taita Hills.

Yellow-billed Barbet *Trachyphonus purpuratus*

Red-and-yellow Barbet ♦ *Trachyphonus erythrocephalus* First seen on our drive to Mount Kenya.

D'Arnaud's Barbet ♦ *Trachyphonus darnaudii* First seen on our drive to Mount Kenya.

Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor*

Greater Honeyguide (Black-throated H) *Indicator indicator*

Red-throated Wryneck (Rufous-necked W) *Jynx ruficollis*

Buff-spotted Woodpecker *Pardipicus nivosus*

Brown-eared Woodpecker *Pardipicus caroli*

Nubian Woodpecker *Campethera nubica*

Mombasa Woodpecker ♦ *Campethera mombassica* About six were seen at Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Little Spotted Woodpecker (Little-spotted W) *Campethera cailliautii*

Fine-banded Woodpecker ♦ *Campethera taeniolaema* One was seen at Marmanet Forest.

Bearded Woodpecker *Chloropicus namaquus*

Yellow-crested Woodpecker *Chloropicus xantholophus*

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens* Also the distinct *lepidus* race was seen in the Kenya highlands.

Eastern Grey Woodpecker ♠ (African G-headed W) *Dendropicos spodocephalus* We saw a pair in Marmanet Forest.

Pygmy Falcon *Polihierax semitorquatus*

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera*

Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis*

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Red-fronted Parrot *Poicephalus gulielmi*

Meyer's Parrot (Brown P) *Poicephalus meyeri*

Red-bellied Parrot (African Orange-b P) *Poicephalus rufiventris*

Fischer's Lovebird *Agapornis fischeri*

Yellow-collared Lovebird *Agapornis personatus*

African Broadbill *Smithornis capensis*

Forest Batis ♠ *Batis mixta* Several sightings in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Chinspot Batis *Batis molitor*

Pale Batis (East Coast B) *Batis soror*

Eastern Black-headed Batis *Batis minor*

Pygmy Batis *Batis perkeo*

Chestnut Wattle-eye *Platysteira castanea* Three were seen at Kakamega Forest.

Black-throated Wattle-eye *Platysteira peltata*

Brown-throated Wattle-eye (Common W-e) *Platysteira cyanea*

Yellow-bellied Wattle-eye *Platysteira concreta* A fine male was seen at Kakamega Forest.

Jameson's Wattle-eye ♠ *Platysteira jamesoni* A pair was seen at Kakamega Forest.

Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti*

Bocage's Bushshrike (Grey-green B-s) *Chlorophoneus bocagei*

Orange-breasted Bushshrike (Sulphur-b B-s) *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*

Gorgeous Bushshrike *Telophorus viridis*

Rosy-patched Bushshrike ◊ *Telophorus [cruentus] hilgerti* A few seen in the north.

Rosy-patched Bushshrike ◊ (Tsavo B) *Telophorus [cruentus] cathemagenus* We saw this beauty in Tsavo East NP.

Three-streaked Tchagra ◊ *Tchagra jamesi* Two were seen very well on Manda Island.

Black-crowned Tchagra (B-headed T) *Tchagra senegalus*

Pink-footed Puffback *Dryoscopus angolensis*

Black-backed Puffback *Dryoscopus cubla*

Northern Puffback *Dryoscopus gambensis*

Pringle's Puffback *Dryoscopus pringlii*

Slate-colored Boubou *Laniarius funebris*

Lühder's Bushshrike *Laniarius luehderi*

Black Boubou ◊ (Manda B) *Laniarius nigerrimus* Several seen on Manda Island including a displaying male.

Tropical Boubou ◊ *Laniarius major* First seen well in Marmanet Forest.

East Coast Boubou ◊ *Laniarius sublacteus* We had good looks in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Black-headed Gonolek *Laniarius erythrogaster* Seen in the Kerio Valley.

Brubru *Nilaus afer*

White-crested Helmetshrike ◊ *Prionops plumatus* Regularly seen in the Shaba GR.

Retz's Helmetshrike *Prionops retzii*

Chestnut-fronted Helmetshrike *Prionops scopifrons*

Grey Cuckooshrike *Ceblepyris caesius*

Black Cuckooshrike *Campephaga flava*

Purple-throated Cuckooshrike *Campephaga quiscalina*

Northern White-crowned Shrike *Eurocephalus ruppelli*

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus*

Red-tailed Shrike *Lanius phoenicuroides*

Mackinnon's Shrike *Lanius mackinnoni* A singleton was seen at Kakamega Forest.

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*

Grey-backed Fiscal *Lanius excubitoroides*

Long-tailed Fiscal ♦ *Lanius cabanisi*

Taita Fiscal ♦ *Lanius dorsalis* Great looks in Tsavo East NP.

Somali Fiscal ♦ *Lanius somalicus* Regularly seen in the far north.

Northern Fiscal *Lanius humeralis*

Western Oriole (W Black-headed O) *Oriolus brachyrynchus*

Black-headed Oriole (Eastern B-h O) *Oriolus larvatus*

Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

Fork-tailed Drongo (Common D) *Dicrurus adsimilis*

Common Square-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus ludwigii*

Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher *Trochocercus cyanomelas*

Red-bellied Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone rufiventer*

African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*

House Crow (introduced) *Corvus splendens*

Cape Crow (C Rook) *Corvus capensis*

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*

Somali Crow ♦ *Corvus edithae* Common in the far north.

Fan-tailed Raven *Corvus rhipidurus*

White-necked Raven (W-naped R) *Corvus albicollis*

African Blue Flycatcher *Elminia longicauda*

Dusky Crested Flycatcher ♦ *Elminia nigromitrata* Several were seen in Kakamega Forest.

White-bellied Tit *Melaniparus albiventris*

Dusky Tit *Melaniparus funereus*

Acacia Tit (Northern Grey T) *Melaniparus thruppi*

Eastern Nicator *Nicator gularis*

Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark ◊ *Eremopterix signatus* Our best encounters were in the Dida Galgalu desert.

Fischer's Sparrow-Lark ◊ *Eremopterix leucopareia* A fine pair was seen on our drive to Mount Kenya.

Pink-breasted Lark ◊ *Calendulauda poecilosterna* Regularly seen in Shaba GR.

Red-winged Lark ◊ *Mirafra hypermetra* Regularly seen in Tsavo East NP.

Rufous-naped Lark *Mirafra africana*

Williams's Lark ◊ *Mirafra williamsi* Endemic. A special bird which we tracked down in the Shaba GR. The 9000th species for Suel!

Masked Lark ◊ *Spizocorys personata* After much search we had superb looks. Voted bird of the trip!

Thekla Lark *Galerida theklae* Seen in the north: *huriensis*.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata* Seen in the north: *somaliensis*.

Red-capped Lark *Calandrella cinerea*

Sombre Greenbul (Zanzibar S G) *Andropadus importunus*

Slender-billed Greenbul *Stelgidillas gracilirostris*

Red-tailed Bristlebill (Common B) *Bleda syndactylus* Heard-only.

Yellow-throated Leaflove *Atimastillas flavicollis*

Joyful Greenbul ◊ *Chlorocichla laetissima* Common in Kakamega Forest.

Yellow-bellied Greenbul *Chlorocichla flaviventris*

Kakamega Greenbul ◊ *Arizelocichla kakamegae* A few were seen in Kakamega Forest.

Olive-breasted Greenbul ◊ (O-b Mountain G) *Arizelocichla kikuyuensis* We had good looks in Marmanet Forest.

Stripe-faced Greenbul ◊ *Arizelocichla striifacies* Several encountered in the Taita Hills.

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul *Eurillas latirostris*

Plain Greenbul (Cameroon Sombre G) *Eurillas curvirostris*

Ansorge's Greenbul *Eurillas ansorgei*

Lowland Tiny Greenbul ◊ *Phyllastrephus debilis* A rather shy bird of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Northern Brownbul ◊ *Phyllastrephus strepitans* We had many good looks at Manda Island.

Fischer's Greenbul ◊ *Phyllastrephus fischeri* Several were seen in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest. Shy!

Cabanis's Greenbul *Phyllastrephus cabanisi*

Placid Greenbul ♦ *Phyllastrephus placidus* About five were seen in the Taita Hills.

Dodson's Bulbul ♦ *Pycnonotus dodsoni* Common.

Dark-capped Bulbul *Pycnonotus tricolor*

Black Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne pristopectera*

White-headed Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne albiceps*

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Brown-throated Martin (Plain M) *Riparia paludicola*

Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Angolan Swallow *Hirundo angolensis*

Ethiopian Swallow *Hirundo aethiopica*

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis*

Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica*

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyura*

Red-faced Crombec *Sylvietta whytii*

Somali Crombec ♦ (S Long-billed C) *Sylvietta isabellina* A singleton was tracked down near Shaba Game Reserve.

White-browed Crombec ♦ *Sylvietta leucophrys* A singleton was seen at Marmanet Forest.

Little Yellow Flycatcher ♦ *Erythrocerus holochlorus* Core member of mixed flocky in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Green Hylia *Hylia prasina*

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler *Phylloscopus ruficapilla*

Brown Woodland Warbler ♦ *Phylloscopus umbrovirens* Several seen in Marmanet Forest.

Uganda Woodland Warbler ♦ *Phylloscopus budongoensis* Several sightings of this canopy-loving bird at Kakamega Forest.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

Eurasian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus [scirpaceus] fuscus*

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna pallida*

Evergreen Forest Warbler *Bradypterus [lopezi] mariae*

Cinnamon Bracken Warbler *Bradypterus cinnamomeus*

Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans* Heard-only.

Hunter's Cisticola ♦ *Cisticola hunter* First seen well in Marmanet Forest.

Chubb's Cisticola ♦ *Cisticola chubbi* We had good looks in Kakamega Forest.

Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola chiniana*

Boran Cisticola ♦ *Cisticola bodessa* This cryptic species was seen on the lower slopes of Mount Kenya.

Ashy Cisticola *Cisticola cinereolus*

Lynes's Cisticola ♦ *Cisticola distinctus* Two were seen near Nakuru NP.

Winding Cisticola *Cisticola marginatus*

Coastal Cisticola ♦ *Cisticola haematocephalus* We had many good looks on Manda Island.

Levaillant's Cisticola (Tinkling C) *Cisticola tinniens*

Aberdare Cisticola ♦ *Cisticola aberdare* Endemic. Seen in the Aberdares NP. Endangered.

Desert Cisticola *Cisticola aridulus*

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*

Pale Prinia ♦ *Prinia somalica* A few seen in the far north.

Black-faced Prinia ♦ *Prinia melanops* A smart looking bird seen well in Kakamega Forest.

Red-fronted Prinia (R-f Warbler) *Prinia rufifrons*

White-chinned Prinia *Schistolais leucopogon*

Black-collared Apalis ♦ *Oreolais pulcher* Another stunner seen well in Kakamega Forest.

Buff-bellied Warbler *Phyllolais pulchella*

Taita Apalis ♦ *Apalis fuscigularis* Endemic. Great looks of this rare bird. Critically endangered.

Yellow-breasted Apalis ♦ (Brown-tailed A) *Apalis flavida* Several seen well on the coast and in the north.

Black-headed Apalis *Apalis melanocephala*

Chestnut-throated Apalis ♦ *Apalis porphyrolaema* Several seen well in Marmanet Forest.

Buff-throated Apalis *Apalis rufogularis*

Grey Apalis *Apalis cinerea*

Grey-capped Warbler *Eminia lepida*

Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicaudata*

Olive-green Camaroptera *Camaroptera chloronota*

Grey Wren-Warbler *Calamonastes simplex*

Black-faced Rufous Warbler *Bathmocercus rufus*

Yellow-vented Eremomela ♦ *Eremomela flavicrissalis* Two were tracked down on our way back from Marsabit.

Turner's Eremomela ♦ *Eremomela turneri* Several seen in Kakamega Forest.

Banded Parisoma ♦ *Curruca boehmi* A pair was tracked down on our way back from Marsabit.

Common Whitethroat *Curruca communis* Non-leader.

Pale White-eye *Zosterops flavilateralis*

Kikuyu White-eye ♦ *Zosterops kikuyuensis* Endemic. A few seen at Marmanet Forest.

Taita White-eye ♦ *Zosterops silvanus* Endemic. We got many great looks this year in the Taita Hills. Endangered.

Northern Yellow White-eye *Zosterops senegalensis*

Scaly-breasted Illadopsis ♦ *Illadopsis albipectus* Good looks at Kakamega Forest.

Rufous Chatterer *Argya rubiginosa*

Scaly Chatterer ♦ *Argya aylmeri* Great looks near Shaba Game Reserve.

Hinde's Babbler ♦ *Turdoides hindei* Endemic. A party of six were seen very well. Vulnerable.

Scaly Babbler ♦ *Turdoides squamulata* Many great looks at Manda Island.

Arrow-marked Babbler *Turdoides jardineii*

Black-lored Babbler *Turdoides sharpei*

Northern Pied Babbler ♦ *Turdoides hypoleuca* First seen well on our drive to Mount Kenya.

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea*

Black-bellied Starling *Notopholia corusca*

Greater Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*

Rüppell's Starling (R Long-tailed S) *Lamprotornis purpuroptera*

Golden-breasted Starling *Lamprotornis regius* Really smart looking bird!

Superb Starling *Lamprotornis superbus*

Fischer's Starling ♦ *Lamprotornis fischeri* Common at Tsavo East NP.

White-crowned Starling ♦ *Lamprotornis albicapillus* Great surprise in the Dida Galgalu desert: *horrensis*.

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

Red-winged Starling *Onychognathus morio*

Slender-billed Starling ♦ *Onychognathus tenuirostris* First seen in Marmanet Forest.

Waller's Starling *Onychognathus walleri* A singleton in Marmanet Forest.

Bristle-crowned Starling ♦ *Onychognathus salvadorii* Several seen in the north.

Stuhlmann's Starling ♦ *Poeoptera stuhlmanni* A few were seen at Kakamega Forest.

Sharpe's Starling ♦ *Poeoptera sharpii* We had several great looks in Marmanet Forest.

Magpie Starling ♦ *Speculipastor bicolor* Excellent looks at the edge of the Dida Galgalu desert.

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus*

Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*

White-tailed Ant Thrush *Neocossyphus poensis*

Red-tailed Ant Thrush *Neocossyphus rufus*

African Thrush *Turdus pelios*

Abyssinian Thrush (Mountain T, Northern Olive T) *Turdus abyssinicus*

Taita Thrush ♦ *Turdus helleri* Endemic. Shy and skulking bird but we managed good looks this year in the Taita Hills. Endangered.

Bare-eyed Thrush (African B-e T) *Turdus tephronotus* Seen well at Manda Island.

Bearded Scrub Robin (Eastern B S R) *Cercotrichas quadrivirgata*

Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin (W) *Cercotrichas galactotes*

White-browed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas leucophrys*

White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher *Melaenornis fischeri*

Northern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis edolioides*

Southern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis pammelaina*

Pale Flycatcher *Melaenornis pallidus*

African Grey Flycatcher *Melaenornis microrhynchus*

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Gambaga Flycatcher ♦ *Muscicapa gambagae* Excellent looks in the Shaba Game Reserve.

African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta*

Brown-chested Alethe *Chamaetylas poliocephala*

Cape Robin-Chat *Cossypha caffra*

Grey-winged Robin-Chat *Cossypha polioptera*

Blue-shouldered Robin-Chat ♦ *Cossypha cyanocampter* Seen very well in Kakamega Forest.

Rüppell's Robin-Chat *Cossypha semirufa*

White-browed Robin-Chat *Cossypha heuglini*

Snowy-crowned Robin-Chat *Cossypha niveicapilla*

White-starred Robin (W-s Forest R) *Pogonocichla stellata*

Equatorial Akalat ♦ *Sheppardia aequatorialis* Several seen in Kakamega Forest.

East Coast Akalat ♦ *Sheppardia gunning* Tricky bird and it took some time in the parched Arabuko-Sokoke Forest to find.

Collared Palm Thrush ♦ *Cichladusa arquata* Beautiful bird. We had good looks neat Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Spotted Palm Thrush (S Morning T) *Cichladusa guttata*

Common Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis*

Little Rock Thrush ♦ *Monticola rufocinereus* A few noted at Lake Nakuru.

African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*

Moorland Chat ♦ *Pinarochroa sordida* Common in the Aberdare NP.

Anteater Chat (Northern A C) *Myrmecocichla aethiops*

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*

Brown-tailed Rock Chat ♦ *Oenanthe scotocerca* One was seen in the Shaba GR.

Abyssinian Wheatear ♦ (Schalow's W) *Oenanthe [lugubris] schalowi* Great looks in the Rift Valley near Lake Nakuru.

Plain-backed Sunbird ♦ *Anthreptes reichenowi* Good looks in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird (Kenya V-b S) *Anthreptes orientalis*

Collared Sunbird *Hedydipna collaris*

Amani Sunbird ♦ *Hedydipna pallidigaster* Good looks in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest. Endangered.

Green-headed Sunbird *Cyanomitra verticalis*

Olive Sunbird *Cyanomitra olivacea*

Grey Sunbird ♦ (Mouse-coloured S) *Cyanomitra veroxii* One was seen on Manda Island by some.

Amethyst Sunbird *Chalcomitra amethystina*

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis*

Hunter's Sunbird ♦ *Chalcomitra hunter* Fairly common in dry country.

Tacazze Sunbird ♦ *Nectarinia tacazze* Stunning species! Our best looks of male was in the Aberdare's NP.

Bronzy Sunbird (Bronze S) *Nectarinia kilimensis*

Malachite Sunbird *Nectarinia famosa*

Golden-winged Sunbird ♦ *Drepanorhynchus reichenowi* Fantastic bird and we had great looks!

Northern Double-collared Sunbird ♦ *Cinnyris reichenowi* First seen in Marmaneet Forest.

Eastern Double-collared Sunbird ♦ *Cinnyris mediocris* We had our best looks in the Aberdare NP.

Beautiful Sunbird *Cinnyris pulchellus*

Marico Sunbird (Mariqua S) *Cinnyris mariquensis*

Black-bellied Sunbird ♦ *Cinnyris nectarinioides* Stunning bird, seen well in the Shaba GR.

Tsavo Sunbird ♦ (T Purple-banded S) *Cinnyris tsavoensis* Several seen in the Tsavo East NP.

Violet-breasted Sunbird ♦ *Cinnyris chalcomelas* A fine male was seen south of Lamu.

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus*

Yellow-spotted Bush Sparrow *Gymnoris pyrgita*

Chestnut Sparrow *Passer eminibey*

Kenya Sparrow ♦ (K Rufous S) *Passer rufocinctus* Common in the Rift Valley.

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus*

Parrot-billed Sparrow ♦ *Passer gongonensis* First seen well on Manda Island.

House Sparrow (introduced) *Passer domesticus*

Somali Sparrow ♦ *Passer castanopterus* Three were seen in the Dida Galgalu desert.

White-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis albirostris*

Red-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis niger*

White-headed Buffalo Weaver *Dinemellia dinemelli*

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser mahali*

Chestnut-crowned Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser superciliosus* Good looks in the Kerio Valley.

Donaldson Smith's Sparrow-Weaver ♦ *Plocepasser donaldsoni* First seen at Shaba Game Reserve.

Black-capped Social Weaver *Pseudonigrita cabanisi*

Baglafaecht Weaver (Reichenow's W) *Ploceus [baglafaecht] reichenowi*

Little Weaver *Ploceus luteolus*

Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis*

Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis*

Black-billed Weaver *Ploceus melanogaster*

Eastern Golden Weaver (African G W) *Ploceus subaureus*

Golden Palm Weaver ♦ *Ploceus bojeri* We got our best looks at Manda Island.

Northern Masked Weaver ♦ *Ploceus taeniopterus* A few were seen at Lake Bogoria.

Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus intermedius*

Vitelline Masked Weaver *Ploceus vitellinus*

Speke's Weaver ♦ *Ploceus spekei* We have visited a colony in the Rift Valley.

Village Weaver (Black-headed W) *Ploceus cucullatus*

Vieillot's Black Weaver *Ploceus nigerrimus*

Golden-backed Weaver ♦ *Ploceus jacksoni* A few were seen at Lake Bogoria.

Chestnut Weaver ♦ *Ploceus rubiginosus* Large numbers were seen at Lake Nakuru.

Dark-backed Weaver (Forest W) *Ploceus bicolor*

Brown-capped Weaver *Ploceus insignis*

Red-headed Malimbe *Malimbus rubricollis*

Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes rubriceps*

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*

Long-tailed Widowbird *Euplectes progne*

Jackson's Widowbird ♦ *Euplectes jacksoni* We were very lucky to see the first displaying male of the season.

Grey-headed Silverbill ♦ *Spermestes griseicapilla* A few were seen at Lake Bogoria.

Bronze Mannikin *Spermestes cucullata*

Black-and-white Mannikin *Spermestes bicolor*

Abyssinian Crimsonwing ♦ *Cryptospiza salvadorii* A pair was seen at Marmaret Forest: *kilimensis*.

Grey-headed Nigrita (G-crowned Negrofinch) *Nigrita canicapillus*

Black-cheeked Waxbill ♦ *Brunhilda chamosyna* One was seen at Shaba GR.

Crimson-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda rhodopyga*

Cut-throat Finch *Amadina fasciata*

Purple Grenadier *Granatina ianthinogaster*

Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus bengalus*

Blue-capped Cordon-bleu ♦ *Uraeginthus cyanocephalus* Three were seen near Shaba GR.

Red-headed Bluebill ♦ *Spermophaga ruficapilla* A female was seen at Kakamega Forest.

Green-winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba*

Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*

African Firefinch *Lagonosticta rubricata*

Village Indigobird *Vidua chalybeata*

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*

Straw-tailed Whydah ♦ *Vidua fischeri* Superb male on our drive to Mount Kenya.

Long-tailed Paradise Whydah (Eastern P W) *Vidua paradisaea*

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla [flava] flava*

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla [flava] thunbergi*

Cape Wagtail *Motacilla capensis*

Mountain Wagtail *Motacilla clara*

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp*

Golden Pipit ♦ *Tmetothylacus tenellus* Excellent looks in Tsavo East NP.

Sharpe's Longclaw ♦ *Macronyx sharpie* Endemic. Great looks of several birds. Endangered.

Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus*

Pangani Longclaw ♦ *Macronyx aurantiigula* Excellent looks in Tsavo East NP.

African Pipit (Grassland P) *Anthus cinnamomeus*

Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis*

Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys*

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Striped Pipit ♦ *Anthus lineiventris* Great looks in the Taita Hills.

Sokoke Pipit ♦ *Anthus sokokensis* It was really hard work to see this year! Great looks finally! Endangered.

Malindi Pipit ♦ *Anthus melindae* Excellent looks near Arabuko-Sokoke Forest. Tricky bird.

African Citril ♦ *Crithagra citrinelloides* A few were seen in Marmanet Forest.

Southern Citril ♦ (East African C) *Crithagra hyposticta* A few were seen in Kakamega Forest.

Reichenow's Seedeater ♦ *Crithagra reichenowi* We had our first good looks in the Taita Hills.

Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica*

Northern Grosbeak-Canary ♦ *Crithagra donaldsoni* Superb looks near Shaba GR.

Brimstone Canary *Crithagra sulphurata*

Thick-billed Seedeater *Crithagra burtoni*

Streaky Seedeater *Crithagra striolata*

Yellow-crowned Canary *Serinus flavivertex*

Striolated Bunting *Emberiza striolata* One was seen in the Dida Galgalu in the north: *saturator*.

Somali Bunting (S Golden-breasted B) *Emberiza poliopleura*

MAMMALS

Yellow-spotted Hyrax *Heterohyrax brucei*

Common Rock Hyrax (Black-necked R H) *Procavia capensis*

African Elephant *Loxodonta africana*

Golden-rumped Sengi (Yellow-r Elephant Shrew) *Rhynchocyon chrysopygus* Superb mammal, seen well in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Four-toed Hedgehog *Atelerix albiventris*

Cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus* A mother with two fully grown cubs was a highlight in Shaba GR.

Common Dwarf Mongoose *Helogale parvula*

African Golden Wolf (Common J) *Canis lupaster*

Black-backed Jackal *Lupulella mesomelas*

Grevy's Zebra *Equus grevyi* Great looks in Shaba GR.

Plains Zebra (Common Z) *Equus quagga*

Desert Warthog *Phacochoerus aethiopicus*

Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus*

Giraffe (Northern G) *Giraffa camelopardalis*

Masai Giraffe *Giraffa tippelskirchi*

Impala (Common I) *Aepyceros melampus*

Hartebeest (Kongoni) *Alcelaphus [buselaphus] cokii*

Black-fronted Duiker (Mount Kenya D) *Cephalophus [nigrifrons] hooki* One was seen in the Aberdare NP.

Thomson's Gazelle (Eastern T G) *Eudorcas [thomsonii] thomsonii*

Waterbuck (Defassa W) *Kobus [ellipsiprymnus] defassa*

Waterbuck (Elipsen W) *Kobus [ellipsiprymnus] ellipsiprymnus*

Gerenuk *Litocranius walleri*

Günther's Dikdik *Madoqua guentheri*

Kirk's Dikdik *Madoqua kirkii*

Grant's Gazelle (Peter's G) *Nanger [grantii] petersi*

Bright's Gazelle *Nanger notatus*

Suni *Nesotragus moschatus*

Beisa Oryx (Galla O) *Oryx [beisa] gallarum*

Beisa Oryx (Fringe-eared O) *Oryx [beisa] callotis*

Mountain Reedbuck (Chanler's R) *Redunca [fulvorufula] chanleri*

Bohor Reedbuck *Redunca redunca*

Common Duiker (Bush D) *Sylvicapra grimmia*

African Buffalo (Cape B) *Syncerus caffer*

Common Eland *Tragelaphus oryx*

Bushbuck (East Coast B) *Tragelaphus [scriptus] fasciatus*

Bushbuck (Cape B) *Tragelaphus c sylvaticus*

Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius*

Heart-nosed False Vampire Bat *Cardioderma cor*

Yellow-winged Bat *Lavia frons*

Minor Epauletted Fruit Bat *Epomophorus minor*

Wahlberg's Epauletted Fruit Bat *Epomophorus wahlbergi*

Striped Leaf-nosed Bat *Macronycteris vittatus* Thousands were seen near Gede Ruins by some who visited a cave at siesta time.

Cape Roundleaf Bat *Hipposideros caffer* Three were seen near Gede Ruins by some who visited a cave at siesta time.

African Sheath-tailed Bat *Coleura afra* Thousands were seen near Gede Ruins by some who visited a cave at siesta time.

Least Bent-winged Bat *Miniopterus minor* Hundreds were seen near Gede Ruins by some who visited a cave at siesta time.

Kenya Coast Dwarf Galago *Paragalago cocos* One was seen near Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Small-eared Greater Galago (Northern Greater G) *Otolemur garnettii*

Red-tailed Monkey (Black-cheeked White-nosed M) *Cercopithecus ascanius*

Blue Monkey (Sykes's M) *Cercopithecus [mitis] albogularis*

Vervet *Chlorocebus pygerythrus*

Guereza (Eastern Black-and-white C) *Colobus guereza*

Olive Baboon *Papio anubis*

Yellow Baboon *Papio cynocephalus*

Cape Hare *Lepus capensis*

Lord Derby's Anomalure *Anomalurus derbianus* A pair was seen at Kakamega Forest.

Zanj Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus undulatus*

Huet's Bush Squirrel *Paraxerus ochraceus*

Striped Ground Squirrel *Xerus erythropus*

Unstriped Ground Squirrel *Xerus rutilus*

Somali Grass Rat *Arvicanthis [neumannii] somalicus* A colony by the gate at Shaba GR.

Zena's Brush-furred Rat (Yellow-spotted B-f R) *Lophuromys zena* Seen in Kakamega Forest feeding on fallen fruits. IUCN lists this as a synonym with *L. flavopunctatus*.

Acacia Rat (Sundevall's Thallomys) *Thallomys paedulus* It was seen well at Shaba GR.

Kellen's African Dormouse *Graphiurus kelleni* One was seen at Shaba Game Reserve.