



## **NORTHERN TANZANIA TOUR REPORT 2023**

**1 - 14 April 2023**

BY NIK BORROW

This incredible tour through Arusha and Tarangire National Parks, the Ngorongoro Crater and finally over the seemingly endless plains of the Serengeti surely has to be the ultimate wildlife travel experience out of anywhere in Africa if not indeed the whole world! The journey is simply one of those 'must-do' pilgrimages that all ecotourists should make at least once in their lifetimes. Our visit was planned to be in the wet season but this year the rains had come early and then stopped so that the tour was mainly dry throughout. This had produced lush vegetation and high grass everywhere so game viewing was sometimes not so easy. During just fourteen days in the field, we managed to record colourful endemics such as Grey-breasted Spurfowl, Fischer's and Yellow-collared Lovebirds, Ashy Starling, Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill and regional specialties such as Taveta and Rufous-tailed Weavers, the little-known Karamoja Apalis and the elusive Grey-crested Helmetshrike. To add to the bonanza of birds there was a wealth of mammals with cats featuring prominently during our game drives and we also gained a remarkable insight into the workings of this huge and almost untouched ecosystem. Under the panoramic skies and across the expansive plains of the Ngorongoro and Serengeti, we were able to witness one of the greatest concentrations of large mammals on earth. After all the wildlife documentaries that have been made on the area the first-time visitor feels a sort of familiarity with the place but no widescreen television or Imax cinema can ever recreate or replace the amazing jaw-dropping and absolutely astonishing experience of actually being there! The sheer spectacle of being surrounded by me-you-ing gnus and hee-hawing zebras combined with the obvious pleasures of a rich and vibrant avifauna, makes this tour a marvellous and deeply moving experience. Despite the huge number of tourists passing through the region it is still possible in this enormous space to escape the gaggles of vehicles that gather around sleepy lions, stealthy cheetahs or secretive leopards and set out in order to discover one's own wonders. It is indeed exhilarating to head off into the wide blue yonder in search of the next wildlife encounter travelling over huge tracts of country where one never sees another car or human being apart from perhaps the occasional Maasai warrior or cowherd draped in vivid red and striding purposefully across the apparently infinite landscape.

Our adventure began near Arusha at a lodge overlooking Lake Duluti. Those of us that arrived early were able to participate in some relaxed birding in the beautiful gardens that surround the lodge. A star find was a pair of Brown-breasted Barbets that were feeding in the fruiting trees and on occasions visiting a freshly excavated nest hole. A pair of Grey-olive Greenbuls put on a good show and there were regional endemic Taveta Golden Weavers nesting by the lake in the company of Golden-backed and Village Weavers. A Rüppell's Robin-Chat kept to the shadows but entertained us with its beautiful song and as we were heading back from our evening meal an African Wood Owl was spotted.

It was also a great base for visiting Arusha National Park where we found the near-endemic Broad-ringed White-eye as well as mouth-watering species such as Hartlaub's Turaco and Crowned Eagle. The Momella lakes held good numbers of Lesser and some Greater Flamingos and a selection of wildfowl.

A morning visit to the plains at Engikaret gave us the exceedingly rare Beesley's Lark gaining some prolonged views of this seriously threatened bird and we also found some Short-tailed Larks and even mammals such as Eastern White-bearded Wildebeest and Eastern Thomson's Gazelles both present. The unassuming Lynes's Cisticola was seen en route to Tarangire, a National Park dominated by its enormous Baobabs, impressive gatherings of African Elephants and endemic Ashy Starlings and Yellow-collared Lovebirds where a night drive produced bouncing Spring Hares, Northern Lesser Galago and Bronze-winged Coursers.

Once again, this year we were able to drive right through Lake Manyara National Park and found colourful Southern Red, Black and Yellow-crowned Bishops all in breeding dress as well as spectacular Purple-crested Turacos en route. In the park we saw our first Hippos but high-water levels meant that the hot springs and the actual hippo pools were completely submerged. At the end of the day, we climbed up the wall of the Great Rift Valley for an overnight stay and continued on to Ngorongoro where fortunately, the weather was clear for tremendous views of the crater and we managed to scope our first Black Rhinos from the crater rim! In the forests that cloak the slopes we found Brown-headed Apalis and on the high grasslands watched displaying Jackson's Widowbirds and glittering Malachite, Golden-winged and Tacaze Sunbirds. Down below we got closer to the rhinos and witnessed the mass of herbivores and attendant Lions which did not fail to impress and got extremely close views of near-endemic Rufous-tailed Weavers.

Descending from the crater rim the road led us down through stunted Whistling Thorn (*Vachellia drepanolobium*) and spiky wild Sisal (*Sansevieria ehrenbergii*) with amazing vistas towards the Serengeti itself where enormous numbers of Serengeti White-bearded Wildebeest and Plains Zebra were grazing. Our stay was split with three nights in the Seronera region in the heart the Serengeti and three nights at Ndutu on the borders with the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. We did well for cats generally and had multiple encounters with plenty of Lions, 2 Leopards and 4 Cheetahs! We also scored well with the bird specialties and found Karamoja Apalis, a family of Grey-crested Helmetshrikes, Melodious Lark and endemic Grey-breasted Spurfowl, Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill and Fischer's Lovebirds. Other noteworthy species seen during the tour included Hildebrandt's Spurfowl, Montane Nightjar, Nyanza Swift, Hartlaub's Bustard, Yellow-throated and Black-faced Sandgrouse, Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon (heard only), Chestnut-banded Plover, Dwarf Bittern, Abyssinian Scimitarbill, Von der Decken's Hornbill, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, Moustached Tinkerbird, Spot-flanked, Red-and-yellow, Emin's (sometimes split from D'Arnaud's) and 'Usambiro' Barbets, Eastern Grey Woodpecker, Greater Kestrel, Red-bellied Parrot, Black-fronted Bushshrike, Long-tailed and Taita Fiscals, Red-throated Tit, Fischer's Sparrow-Lark, Foxy Lark, Athi Short-toed Lark, Mountain, Stripe-faced and Grey-olive Greenbuls, Trilling and Hunter's Cisticolas, Bar-throated Apalis, Black-headed Apalis, Grey-capped Warbler, Banded Parisoma, Pale, Mbulu and Broad-ringed White-eyes, Rufous Chatterer, Black-lored and Northern Pied Babblers, Hildebrandt's and Kenrick's Starlings, Bare-eyed Thrush, Silverbird, Rüppell's Robin-Chat, 'Schalow's' Abyssinian Wheatear, Eastern Double-collared and 'Gorgeous' Beautiful Sunbirds, Yellow-throated Bush Sparrow, Chestnut, Kenya and Swahili Sparrows, Grey-capped Social Weaver, Speke's and Golden-backed Weavers, 'Layard's' Village Weaver, Abyssinian Crimsonwing, Blue-capped Cordon-bleu, Steel-blue and Straw-tailed Whydahs, Southern Citril and Southern Grosbeak-Canary.

The tour started at an extremely comfortable lodge overlooking the picturesque Lake Duluti, a small crater lake that nestles between the cultivation, busy towns and the peak of Mount Meru. Early arrivals were able to explore the garden where Brown-breasted Barbets at a nest hole and a pair of Grey-olive Greenbuls were seen. At night both African Wood Owl and Small-eared Galago could also be seen in the garden. On our first full day, we set out straight after breakfast boarding our sturdy Landcruisers with open top roof hatches that took us to the nearby Arusha National Park encompassing the volcanic slopes of Mount Meru, an impressive peak reaching some 4566m (14,979ft). It was a somewhat damp morning after overnight rain and we initially stopped nearby to admire a small colony of near-endemic Taveta Golden Weavers, a rather damp Rüppell's Robin-Chat, Trumpeter Hornbill and a Brown-hooded Kingfisher. We then spent some time at the entrance gate area familiarising ourselves with some of the birds. Here was Singing Cisticola, the first representative of a much-maligned group of birds, although we wondered at the species name, as this is certainly no diva of the bird world! During our visit we also added Trilling, Rattling, Winding and Short-winged Cisticolas to the list. Early morning rain had also brought some Scarce Swifts down low. Entering the park, we passed an area known as Serengeti Ndogo or 'Small' Serengeti where our first large mammals were grazing and included Plains Zebra, Common Warthog, Ellipsen Waterbuck, Bushbuck and many Olive Baboons.

Entering the forest zone all was initially quiet but we teased out a Moustached Tinkerbird and higher still at the Ngurdoto Crater rim, shaggy-coated Guereza Colobus gathered leaves in the treetops where enormous Silvery-cheeked Hornbills sailed overhead leaving us in no doubt that we were really in Africa! As was to be expected, the dark, damp forest did not reveal its secrets easily but we did manage to coax some superb Hartlaub's Turacos into view whilst looking

for the near-endemic Broad-ringed White-eye which initially played hard to get but ultimately, we all saw well. Other successes included a busy feeding flock of Kenrick's Starlings and White-eared Barbets, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, Stripe-faced Greenbul, Black-headed Apalis and a brightly-coloured Black-fronted Bushshrike. A huge Crowned Eagle glided just overhead and later a pair were watched displaying above us whilst a pair of African Marsh Harriers and a heard only Buff-spotted Flufftail were surprises!

The rest of the day was spent exploring the Momella lakes and their surrounds. Here we found a good group of Southern Pochard on the waters alongside numbers of Little Grebe with smaller numbers of Cape Teal. Most impressive however was the large gathering of pink Lesser Flamingos with smaller numbers of the larger, whiter Greater Flamingo and we spent some time marvelling at the tightly packed groups as they went about their business of siphoning algae and diatoms from the alkaline waters. Also on the lakes were a selection of Palearctic migrant waders including a handsome Marsh Sandpiper in breeding plumage whilst other waterbirds spotted included Blacksmith and Spur-winged Lapwings and the majestic African Fish Eagle. Colourful White-fronted Bee-eaters had gathered by the lake shore and two Green-backed Honeybirds was a good find.

After a welcome night's sleep, we departed early the next day and travelled north out of Arusha, gradually descending lower and lower until we reached our destination near the small settlement of Engikaret on the Lariboro Plains that is home to the incredibly rare endemic Beesley's Lark. One wonders how long this taxon will survive as perhaps only c.63 of these birds are thought to survive and sadly, despite evidence that supports the validity of the species (IOC have split it) this taxon is not currently recognised as such by BirdLife International.

The plains were green with recent rain and some Short-tailed Larks were present right by our car. At first the Maasai guide was nowhere to be seen until a distant figure bedecked with binoculars was seen striding towards us from the other side of the vast open plain. We walked towards and greeted him and he suggested a place to look which was fortuitously just a few yards away and sure enough there were a trio of the ultra-rare Beesley's Lark! Once found the birds were easy to follow and everyone had great views of this endangered bird. Following this great success, we were free to look for a series of other larks the most common of which appeared to be the Red-capped Larks that seemed to be absolutely everywhere. Another group of Beesley's Larks was spotted and eventually some Foxy Larks were also located and to complete this 'lark-fest' for the day we also scored with Fischer's Sparrow-Lark.

During our meanderings across the plains there were also other things to see; Small numbers of Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse were seen flying over and perky Capped Wheatears were common and some distant game dotted around proved to be Eastern White-bearded Wildebeest and Eastern Thomson's Gazelles.

The morning was advancing rapidly and we decided to spend some time birding the thorn scrub bordering the plains and this decision turned up a wealth of species. Typical acacia scrub species were seen such as White-bellied Go-away-bird, Buff-bellied Warbler, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Red-fronted Prinia, Banded Parisoma, Bare-eyed Thrush, White-browed Scrub Robin, African Grey Flycatcher, Beautiful (sometimes split as Gorgeous) Sunbird and Yellow-spotted Bush Sparrow.

It had been a highly successful morning but now we retraced our steps back towards Arusha stopping for numerous 'Schalow's' Abyssinian Wheatears, nesting Golden-backed Weaver and the unassuming Lynes's Cisticola which is named after the respected Rear-Admiral Hubert Lynes who was responsible for sorting out the taxonomy of this confusing group of warblers in a supplement to The Ibis way back in 1930 before continuing towards our next destination, Tarangire National Park.

At the entrance gate we easily found endemic Yellow-collared Lovebirds but there was much disturbance at this normally birdy spot due to recent construction work so we didn't linger for long. The park is particularly well-known for its healthy population of African Elephants and we soon saw our first feeding amongst the enormous Baobabs that are also a feature of this beautiful park. Other mammals included tail-twitching Impala, shaggy-coated Ellipsen Waterbuck, towering stately 'Maasai' Giraffes and tiny little 'Thomas's' Kirk's Dik-diks.

As time was pressing, we drove directly to our superb lodge with its 'awesome view' overlooking the Tarangire River in time for some relaxed birding with sundowners, surrounded by endemic Ashy Starlings before settling into our 'tents' which were more like huts made out of canvas for a two nights stay.

The Tarangire ecosystem covers an area of approximately 20,000 square kilometres and comprises Baobab and Acacia woodland, Commiphora bushland and open grassland dotted with Real Fan Palms (*Hyphaene petersiana*) with swamps dominating the southern section. We opted for a full day drive that took us through open savanna and then followed the Tarangire River southwards to Silale Swamp where we enjoyed a pleasant picnic lunch overlooking the vast swamp.

The day started with a tiny African Scops Owl that had chosen a convenient tree by the rooms as its roost site then as we set out for the day our first Common Ostrich were seen letting us know that we were truly in 'Safari Land' Africa! Black-faced Sandgrouse and Double-banded Coursers were observed on the dirt tracks but a greater surprise was no less than five Bronze-winged Coursers posing for us in broad daylight! Both Red-necked and Yellow-necked Spurfowl were easy to see by the roadsides, showy 'Black-faced' Bare-faced Go-away-birds were seen and other goodies included Saddle-billed Stork, Secretarybird, African Hawk-Eagle, Eastern Chanting Goshawk, numerous Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters, Red-necked Falcon, Northern Pied Babbler and Straw-tailed Whydah.

The park is a wonderful place for observing African Savanna Elephants and we enjoyed a number of great encounters although after recent heavy rains the vegetation was high and the Tarangire River which runs through the park wasn't quite the magnetic draw that it often is in the dry season.

At Silale Swamp some handsome Whiskered Terns in breeding plumage were seen and a White-winged Tern was also present quartering over the southern section which has now become an open water lake due to rising water levels in various places in East Africa and there were many breeding plumaged Fan-tailed and White-winged Widowbirds.

The endemic form of D'Arnaud's Barbet which is sometimes considered a separate species 'Emin's or Black-capped Barbet' was seen well along with the spectacular multicoloured Red-and-yellow Barbet.

At night Tarangire Safari Lodge was offering game drives for the somewhat extortionate sum of about \$100 per person (most of which is park fee!) but most of the group opted to take part. Fortunately, it was unanimously deemed well worth it as we had excellent views of at least 12 more Bronze-winged Coursers, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl and many Slender-tailed Nightjars as well as Northern Lesser Galago, African Savanna Hare, East African Spring Hare, Bat-eared Fox, Common Genet and an amazing Striped Hyaena!

The following morning it was time to continue our journey which took us out of Tarangire and towards Lake Manyara National Park. The road conditions were such that we were able to drive right through the park but we stopped first at some extensive rice fields where fantastic breeding plumaged Southern Red and Yellow-crowned Bishops were busy in the rice fields all fluffed up and buzzing around in great excitement whilst angry rice growers yelled at them trying to keep the numerous birds out of the crops. Also, at the rice fields we were pleased to see a distant Dwarf Bittern and a Rufous-bellied Heron was glimpsed whilst further on we found our first breeding plumaged Black Bishops of the colourful race *friederichseni* and a pair of Steel-blue Whydah.

Entering by the west gate of Lake Manyara National Park, we birded the attractive acacia woodlands that cover the base of the cliffs of the wall of the Great Rift Valley and enjoyed views of the intensely coloured Purple-crested Turaco. These forests are the haunt of 'tree-climbing' Lions although we did not manage to find them this time round. Instead, noisy Eastern Nicator sang from the thickets and although they also remained frustratingly invisible, we did see our first Usambiro Barbets, which is often treated as a separate species from D'Arnaud's and has somewhat different vocalisations.

The park itself stretches for 50 kilometres along the edge of the imposing Rift Valley escarpment and the lake was once the haunt of large numbers of flamingos and other waterbirds. However, for the past several years in common with other lakes in the East African Rift Valley water levels have been rising and this has now covered and killed much of the low-lying woodland that surrounded the lake. The famous 'hot springs' and 'hippo pools' were both underwater and it was also clear that the quality of the water wasn't favourable to birdlife for hardly any waterbirds except for a few Gull-billed Terns along the shores. Hildebrandt's Spurfowl and colourful Orange-breasted Bushshrikes were also seen.

At the end of the day, we exited the park at closing time and drove the short distance up the wall of the Great Rift Valley to our comfortable lodge perched on the edge of the escarpment itself which at night produced noisy Thick-tailed Greater Galagos in the garden.

We woke the following morning to fantastic views over the Rift Valley towards Lake Manyara. It was a slow birding start on a rather dull morning but Pale White-eye and Reichenow's Seedeater were added to our lists. After a hearty breakfast we continued onwards, ever onwards to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area entering by the Lodoare Gate. Once inside the park we managed to lure a pair of excitable Brown-headed Apalis into view and continued up along the winding road through montane forest eventually reaching a viewpoint on the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater where the first word on everyone's lips was a synchronised "WOW!" because for all of the media familiarity that one might feel for the crater, actually seeing it for the first time is simply awe inspiring! Stretching out down below us was the vast caldera itself, over 16 kilometres across, and even at that great distance we could make out Black (or Browse) Rhinoceros, elephants, buffalos and numerous Serengeti White-bearded Wildebeest wandering across the grasslands! We were lucky that our stop coincided with a visiting Mountain Greenbul.

We ate our picnic lunch in the company of some attentive Yellow-billed Kites that were waiting for an opportune moment to grab an unguarded picnic! Afterwards we went on to explore the open grasslands that surround the crater and although they seemed to be a little overgrazed these days, we soon found Hunter's Cisticola, striking Red-cowled Widowbirds and the desirable Jackson's Widowbird in breeding plumage which we watched performing their bizarre bouncing display rituals. Driving further we were on the lookout for stands of flowering Leonotis (or 'Lion's Paw') normally favoured by sunbirds. The lovely Malachite Sunbird was holding territory and eventually one isolated stand of flowers was busy with numbers of the much-wanted Golden-winged Sunbird. We also hunted out a pair of Brown Parisoma in their favoured flat-top Acacia trees.

Our two nights stay was at the Serena lodge perched upon the very rim of the crater with rooms that had a view to die for! With a little daylight left to our day a search in the garden produced colourful Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, Bar-throated Apalis, Tacazze and Eastern Double-collared Sunbirds and a super Abyssinian Crimsonwing.

The next morning, we were up early as the rising sun began to illuminate the expansive vista over the crater and after watching the near-endemic Mbulu White-eye as we left the lodge, we headed straight for the 'Descent Road'. Embarking

on the steep and narrow road down into the crater was a breath-taking experience and having reached the wide expanse of flat open grassland that spread over the floor of the crater we were even more aware of the space involved, as recognisable animals gradually diminished in size to dots that were scattered as far as the eye could see. Driving over the expansive grasslands where good numbers of Pectoral-patch Cisticolas made their little buzzing calls in display flight we discovered a stunning Rosy-throated Longclaws and dowdy Anteater Chats.

The shallow lake in the crater is called Lake Magadi which held a lot of water this year and this large expanse of open water was sprinkled with numerous Lesser Flamingos, some Greater Flamingos and a small variety of waterfowl included Blue-billed Teal and the pretty pink-billed Cape Teal and Kittlitz's and Chestnut-banded Plovers were also seen.

Big birds were a feature of the day with plenty of Common Ostrich, glorious Grey Crowned Cranes and stately Kori Bustards all puffed up in display mode, striding across the plains but of course, our day was also about the mammals and we found a Black Rhino that was relatively close to one of the tracks that criss-cross the crater floor at a time of day when heat haze was not a problem.

Some very large bull African Elephants were feeding around the plains but mainly kept their distance and there were large numbers of game and in particular Serengeti White-bearded Wildebeest, Serengeti Thomson's Gazelles, smaller numbers of Grant's Gazelles and Common Eland. Somewhat dishevelled African (or Cape) Buffalos were common and often infested with Yellow-billed and Red-billed Oxpeckers. There were also somewhat menacing Spotted Hyaenas and we saw our first Lions which included a very close young male chomping on the remains of its meal.

At the main picnic site, we were joined for lunch by the usual marauding Yellow-billed Kites and Rufous-tailed and Speke's Weavers, sneaking in for accidentally dropped scraps or even grabbing food from the hands of unsuspecting tourists unaware that being fed is strictly against the park rules! The day had passed only too quickly and it was sad to have to leave this magical place but at dusk a Montane Nightjar put in an appearance from our lodge.

The next morning, we woke to fine weather so we had another look at the lodge grounds before leaving and managed to see a splendid Schalow's Turaco that initially played hard to get but finally flaunted itself in front of us! It was then time to set forth towards the Serengeti and descending from the crater rim of Ngorongoro we watched the spectacular expanse of the plains unfolding before us until we reached the edge of the national park itself on a beautiful sunny day. We were really in luck as the migration had reached Oldupai and Nduvu and we drove past huge lines of wildebeest on our way to the park entrance. There are perhaps over 1.5 million wildebeest in the Serengeti and almost all of them flood into the southeast corner of the ecosystem between January and April when the heavy long rains arrive. In fact, it felt strange to have to leave this spectacle behind us but the rainy weather conditions seemed settled for the remainder of our stay and the promise of big cats and the migration seemed certain for the final stage of our adventure.

Approaching the lonely entrance to the Serengeti the short grass plains beyond were mostly empty apart from Kori Bustards and small numbers of Serengeti Thomson's and Grant's Gazelles. The name is derived from the word "Serengeti" in the Maa language, which means "Endless Plains" and we certainly experienced this incredible feeling of space as we journeyed on.

Naabi Hills was closed as a pride of lions had taken up residence and it was unsafe to walk but we still managed to watch pink-headed Mwanza Flat-headed Agamas and tame Black-lored Babblers and Red-headed Weavers and found the restricted range Red-throated Tit.

Entering into the Serengeti we drove for a short distance along the main road before heading out towards Gol Kopjes. Some Yellow-throated Sandgrouse flushed up along the way and as we reached the first rocky outcrops a Spotted Eagle-Owl was found and also some Spotted Thick-knees. We continued to add to our Lion experience and also found a female Cheetah with her cub during the course of the afternoon.

Heading across the grasslands on the black cotton soil, we were paying special attention to larks because in the past few years it had been discovered and now finally proven that not all of the White-tailed Larks are indeed that species and indeed most appear to be Melodious Lark, a species previously only known from central Zimbabwe and South Africa! First, we found several Athi Short-toed Larks which initially caused some confusion but eventually, at an apparently suitable area of habitat we heard some larks singing which sounded clearly like Melodious and we managed to see several birds, song flying above us. Sadly, time was pressing and we were still far from the lodge so we had to move more directly but had to pause for a splendid male Hartlaub's Bustard and even scored a large Leopard sitting by the roadside. It was a very rushed journey but it was essential that we had to get to our lovely accommodation for the start of a three nights stay in the heart of the Serengeti by closing time at seven o'clock - fortunately we just about made it!

The next day we headed straight out in the fresh morning air and found fortuitously quickly a flock of one of the very special birds of the Serengeti, the localised Grey-crested Helmetshrike. This scarce species is restricted to a small area stretching from northern Tanzania up into southern Kenya where it is particularly localised and also appears to hybridise there with White Helmetshrike thus perhaps making the future of this characterful bird doubtful. We watched these characterful creatures for as long as we wished, which was basically until the tsetse flies started waking up and prompted us to go on a bit further where another target, the Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill was located. We continued to an area of Whistling Thorn where we found after an agonisingly long search, the highly localised Karamoja Apalis. This species is strictly linked with stands of this particular thorn tree and didn't give itself up too easily at first but ultimately allowed

decent views. With this hat-trick of specialties complete we were free to look for other things. Singing Bush Larks were watched displaying and we then paid a visit to the Hippo pools where there were plenty of Hippopotamuses wallowing in the waters.

A picnic lunch at the visitor centre produced excellent views of White-headed Barbet, a glittering male Klaas's Cuckoo and tame Grey-capped Social Weavers. Driving out towards Maasai Kopjes we encountered a dapper Pangani Longclaw and a cluster of vehicles around a lone acacia meant only one thing – Leopard! A large male was comfortably wedged into the boughs alongside his meal of a male Bohor Reedbuck and after waiting impatiently for vehicles already in situ to move our turn eventually came and we were treated to some wonderful views of this handsome cat. Amongst more widespread species, the endemic Grey-breasted Spurfowl was also seen and we finished the day with a breeding plumaged Black Coucal.

Our remaining time in the Serengeti was mostly spent searching for White-tailed Lark without success but we did find a magnificent adult Martial Eagle, a dapper Red-necked Falcon and enjoyed a number of excellent close encounters with African Elephants.

The journey from the Serengeti to Ndutu where we were to spend our remaining three nights took us back across the Serengeti and as we neared Ndutu the empty plains began to fill with numbers of wildebeest and zebra. Long lines of Serengeti White-bearded Wildebeest were encountered and these animals would either turn to eye us quizzically or else suddenly break into a run for no apparent reason. We spent some quality time following the lines or breaking through their ranks before arriving at the lovely Ndutu Lodge in good time to settle in, explore the grounds and enjoy a sundowner. Ndutu itself is a delightful spot and we all came to love this simple lodge in the middle of nowhere, complete with its lithe and beautiful Common Genets that arrived silently along the roof beams of the lodge each evening to rendezvous with their nightly snacks!

As in the Serengeti, we had two full days to explore the Ndutu area and here we could partake in some exciting off-road driving excursions during our stay in search of cats and more for here one isn't limited to simply driving along the tracks but can also take off into the wide blue yonder creating a great sense of adventure. Our explorations took us out over the endless plains, through acacia woodlands and around the two lakes Ndutu and Masek that lie on the border of the Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.

There were plenty of Lions in the Ndutu area and sightings of the testosterone fuelled males were noteworthy as we watched a mating pair but perhaps most marvellous was our encounter with a pride in Hidden Valley where a female was watched moving her newly born cubs one by one from one bush to another near another female who was suckling her recently born youngsters both watched over by a handsome, hulking male.

The wildebeest were still present in ever-growing numbers and on our second day we were entertained by yet another Cheetah and a family of young elephants that had found a pool to bathe in and apparently were spending a little too long playing in the waters and upsetting the somewhat impatient matriarch. Their antics provoked a number of laugh out loud moments.

Numbers of endemic Fischer's Lovebirds had seemingly been a little on the low side but we found some nesting trees and enjoyed great views. Pretty little Harlequin Quails were flushed from the exceedingly wet short grass plains and some were actually seen at rest. The sighting of an enormous Verreaux's Eagle Owl was a wonderful bird to finish our stay with.

It was time to begin the long journey home and as we left Ndutu many of the animals that had become familiar to us were by the roadside to bid us farewell. However, we had one more stop to squeeze in and that was the famous Oldupai Gorge (named after the wild sisal that grows there), site of many important hominid discoveries by the Leakey family. At this historic place most of the group explored the interesting little museum now in a grand new building while birders were satisfied with views of the hulking Southern Grosbeak Canary. The journey back to Arusha now began and there was nothing else to do but baton down the hatches and head back carrying home with us a myriad of marvellous experiences both on numerous memory cards but better still in our own internal memories!

There are over 1.5 million wildebeest and 200,000 zebras in the Serengeti and almost all of them flood into the southeast corner of the ecosystem between January and April when the heavy long rains arrive and their calves and foals are born and numbers swell considerably and it felt that we must have seen a fair number of them! It had been a stunning fortnight packed full of amazing wildlife encounters and the amount of time spent at each location had actually helped us feel a part of the Ngorongoro and Serengeti rather than just visitors. Our talented driver/guides had manoeuvred the car over all manner of difficult terrain and without their driving skills we might never have had the marvellous views of the wildlife that we had enjoyed on this tour. The Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater is home to one of the greatest wildlife scenarios on this planet and we were privileged to have witnessed it for ourselves.

## **SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED**

### **BIRDS**

Common Ostrich *Struthio camelus*

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*

Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*

Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Blue-billed Teal *Spatula hottentota*

Cape Teal (C Wigeon) *Anas capensis*

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

Southern Pochard *Netta erythrophthalma*

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*

Crested Francolin *Ortygornis sephaena*

Coqui Francolin *Campocolinus coqui*

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix* Heard-only

Harlequin Quail *Coturnix delegorguei*

Hildebrandt's Spurfowl ◊ *Pternistis hildebrandti*

Yellow-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis leucoscepus*

Grey-breasted Spurfowl ◊ *Pternistis rufopictus* Endemic

Red-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis afer*

Montane Nightjar ◊ *Caprimulgus poliocephalus*

Slender-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus clarus*

Scarce Swift *Schoutedenapus myoptilus*

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

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*

Mottled Swift *Tachymarptis aequatorialis*

Nyanza Swift ◊ *Apus niansae*

African Black Swift *Apus barbatus*

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

Horus Swift *Apus horus*

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer*

Bare-faced Go-away-bird (Black-f G-a-b) *Crinifer [personatus] leopoldi*

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

Purple-crested Turaco (Violet-crested T) *Gallirex porphyreolophus*

Schalow's Turaco *Tauraco schalowi*

Hartlaub's Turaco ◊ *Tauraco hartlaubi*

Kori Bustard *Ardeotis kori*

White-bellied Bustard (Northern W-b B) *Eupodotis senegalensis*

Black-bellied Bustard *Lissotis melanogaster*

Hartlaub's Bustard ◊ *Lissotis hartlaubii*

White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus*

Black Coucal *Centropus grillii*

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius*

Levaillant's Cuckoo *Clamator levaillantii*

Jacobin Cuckoo (Black-and-white C) *Clamator jacobinus*

Diederik Cuckoo (Didric C) *Chrysococcyx caprius*

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*

African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus*. Heard-only

Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus*

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius*

African Cuckoo *Cuculus gularis*

Common Cuckoo (Eurasian C) *Cuculus canorus*

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus*

Yellow-throated Sandgrouse ◊ *Pterocles gutturalis*

Black-faced Sandgrouse ◊ *Pterocles decoratus*

Rock Dove (introduced) *Columba livia*

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea*

African Olive Pigeon (Rameron P) *Columba arquatrix*

Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon ◊ *Columba delegorguei*. Heard-only

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*

Buff-spotted Flufftail ◊ *Sarothrura elegans* Heard-only

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

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

African Swamphen *Porphyrio madagascariensis*

Black Crake *Zapornia flavirostra*

Grey Crowned Crane *Balearica regulorum*

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*

Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor*



Common Buttonquail (Small B) *Turnix sylvaticus*  
 Water Thick-knee *Burhinus vermiculatus*  
 Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis*  
 Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*  
 Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*  
 Long-toed Lapwing (L-t Plover) *Vanellus crassirostris*  
 Blacksmith Lapwing (B Plover) *Vanellus armatus*  
 Spur-winged Lapwing (S-w Plover) *Vanellus spinosus*  
 Senegal Lapwing (S Plover) *Vanellus lugubris*  
 Black-winged Lapwing (B-w Plover) *Vanellus melanopterus*  
 Crowned Lapwing (C Plover) *Vanellus coronatus*  
 Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*  
 Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius*  
 Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris*  
 Chestnut-banded Plover ♦ *Charadrius pallidus*  
 African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus*  
 Ruff *Calidris pugnax*  
 Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*  
 Little Stint *Calidris minuta*  
 Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*  
 Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*  
 Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*  
 Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*  
 Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*  
 Temminck's Courser *Cursorius temminckii*  
 Double-banded Courser (Two-b C) *Rhinoptilus africanus*  
 Bronze-winged Courser ♦ (Violet-tipped C) *Rhinoptilus chalcopterus*  
 Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*  
 Grey-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*  
 Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*  
 Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*  
 White-winged Tern (W-w Black T) *Chlidonias leucopterus*  
 Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis*  
 African Openbill (O-billed Stork) *Anastomus lamelligerus*  
 Abdim's Stork *Ciconia abdimii*  
 White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*  
 Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*  
 Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumenifer*

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*  
Dwarf Bittern ◊ *Ixobrychus sturmii*  
Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*  
Striated Heron (Green-backed H) *Butorides striata*  
Squacco Heron (Common S H) *Ardeola ralloides*  
Rufous-bellied Heron *Ardeola rufiventris*  
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*  
Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*  
Secretarybird *Sagittarius serpentarius*  
Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*  
African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene) *Polyboroides typus*  
Palm-nut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis*  
Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus*  
White-backed Vulture (African W-b V) *Gyps africanus*  
Rüppell's Vulture (R's Griffon V) *Gyps rueppelli*  
White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis*  
Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos*  
Black-chested Snake Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis*  
Brown Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinereus*  
Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus*  
Crowned Eagle (African C E) *Stephanoaetus coronatus*  
Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus*  
Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis*  
Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraetus wahlbergi*  
Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax*  
Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*  
African Hawk-Eagle *Aquila spilogaster*  
Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus*

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar*

Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates*

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

African Goshawk *Accipiter tachiro*

Little Sparrowhawk *Accipiter minullus* Non-leader

Western Marsh Harrier (Eurasian M H) *Circus aeruginosus*

African Marsh Harrier *Circus ranivorus*

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius*

African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer*

Common Buzzard (Steppe Buzzard) *Buteo [buteo] vulpinus*

Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur*

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum*

African Scops Owl *Otus senegalensis*

Spotted Eagle-Owl *Bubo africanus*

Verreaux's Eagle-Owl *Bubo lacteus*

African Wood Owl *Strix woodfordii*

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus*

Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus*

African Hoopoe *Upupa africana*

Green Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus*

Common Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*

Abyssinian Scimitarbill ◊ *Rhinopomastus minor*

Southern Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus leadbeateri*

Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill ◊ (Ruaha R-b H) *Tockus ruahae* Endemic

Northern Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus erythrorhynchus*

Von Der Decken's Hornbill ◊ *Tockus deckeni*

Crowned Hornbill *Lophoceros alboterminatus*

African Grey Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus*

Trumpeter Hornbill *Bycanistes bucinator*

Silvery-cheeked Hornbill *Bycanistes brevis*

Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus*

European Roller (Eurasian R) *Coracias garrulus*

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

Brown-hooded Kingfisher *Halcyon albiventris*

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti*

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis*

African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta*

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima*

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus*

Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater ◊ *Merops oreobates*

White-fronted Bee-eater *Merops bullockoides*

White-throated Bee-eater *Merops albicollis*

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus*

European Bee-eater (Eurasian B-e) *Merops apiaster*

White-eared Barbet *Stactolaema leucotis*

Moustached Tinkerbird ◊ (M Green T) *Pogoniulus leucomystax*

Red-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus pusillus*

Red-fronted Barbet *Tricholaema diademata*

Spot-flanked Barbet ◊ (Spotted-flanked B) *Tricholaema lacrymosa*

White-headed Barbet *Lybius leucocephalus*

Brown-breasted Barbet ◊ *Lybius melanopterus*

Red-and-yellow Barbet ◊ *Trachyphonus erythrocephalus*

D'arnaud's Barbet ◊ (Emin's B) *Trachyphonus [darnaudii] emini* Endemic

Usambiro Barbet ◊ *Trachyphonus usambiro*

Green-backed Honeybird *Prodotiscus zambesiae*

Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor*

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

Nubian Woodpecker *Campethera nubica*

Golden-tailed Woodpecker *Campethera abingoni*

Bearded Woodpecker *Chloropicus namaquus*

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens*

Eastern Grey Woodpecker ◊ *Dendropicos spodocephalus*

Pygmy Falcon *Polihierax semitorquatus*

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Greater Kestrel ◊ (White-eyed K) *Falco rupicoloides*

Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus*

Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera*

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

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

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

Fischer's Lovebird ◊ *Agapornis fischeri* Endemic

Yellow-collared Lovebird ◊ *Agapornis personatus* Endemic

Chinspot Batis *Batis molitor*

Black-throated Wattle-eye\* *Platysteira peltata*

Black-fronted Bushshrike ◊ *Chlorophoneus nigrifrons*

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

Rosy-patched Bushshrike *Telophorus cruentus*

Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis*

Black-backed Puffback *Dryoscopus cubla*

Slate-colored Boubou *Laniarius funebris*

Tropical Boubou *Laniarius major*

Brubru *Nilaus afer*

Grey-crested Helmetshrike ◊ *Prionops poliolophus*

Magpie Shrike *Urolestes melanoleucus*

Northern White-crowned Shrike *Eurocephalus ruppelli*

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Red-tailed Shrike (Rufous-tailed, Turkestan S) *Lanius phoenicuroides*

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*

Grey-backed Fiscal *Lanius excubitoroides*

Long-tailed Fiscal ◊ *Lanius cabanisi*

Taita Fiscal ◊ *Lanius dorsalis*

Northern Fiscal *Lanius humeralis*

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

Eurasian Golden Oriole (European G O) *Oriolus oriolus*

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

African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*

House Crow *Corvus splendens*

Cape Crow (C Rook, Black C) *Corvus capensis*

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*

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

Red-throated Tit ◊ *Melaniparus fringillinus*

Eastern Nicator *Nicator gularis* Heard-only

Beesley's Lark ◊ (Pygmy Spike-heeled L) *Chersomanes beesleyi*. Endemic

Fischer's Sparrow-Lark ◊ *Eremopterix leucopareia*

Foxy Lark ◊ *Calendulauda alopex*

Rufous-naped Lark *Mirafra africana*

Flappet Lark *Mirafra rufocinnamomea*

Melodious Lark ◊ *Mirafra cheniana*

Singing Bush Lark *Mirafra cantillans*

Short-tailed Lark ◊ *Spizocorys fremantlii*

Red-capped Lark *Calandrella cinerea*

Athi Short-toed Lark ◊ *Alaudala athensis*

Yellow-bellied Greenbul *Chlorocichla flaviventris*. Heard-only

Mountain Greenbul ◊ (Black-headed M G) *Arizelocichla nigriceps*

Stripe-faced Greenbul ◊ *Arizelocichla striifacies*

Little Greenbul *Eurillas virens*

Grey-olive Greenbul ◊ *Phyllastrephus cerviniventris*

Dark-capped Bulbul *Pycnonotus tricolor*

Black Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne [pristoptera] holomelas*

Banded Martin *Neophedina cincta*

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

Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis*

Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica*

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

Moustached Grass Warbler (African M W) *Melocichla mentalis*

Red-faced Crombec *Sylvietta whytii*

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Lesser Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna pallida*

Cinnamon Bracken Warbler *Bradypterus cinnamomeus* Heard-only

Little Rush Warbler *Bradypterus baboecala*

Highland Rush Warbler *Bradypterus centralis* Heard-only

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops*

Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans*

Trilling Cisticola ◊ *Cisticola woosnami*

Hunter's Cisticola ◊ *Cisticola hunteri*

Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola chiniana*

Lynes's Cisticola ◊ *Cisticola distinctus*

Winding Cisticola *Cisticola marginatus*

Croaking Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis*

Short-winged Cisticola (Siffling C) *Cisticola brachypterus*. Heard-only

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

Desert Cisticola *Cisticola aridulus*

Pectoral-patch Cisticola *Cisticola brunnescens*

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*  
 Red-fronted Prinia *Prinia rufifrons*  
 Buff-bellied Warbler *Phyllolais pulchella*  
 Bar-throated Apalis ◊ *Apalis thoracica*  
 Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida*  
 Black-headed Apalis ◊ *Apalis melanocephala*  
 Karamoja Apalis ◊ *Apalis karamojae*  
 Brown-headed Apalis ◊ *Apalis alticola*  
 Grey-capped Warbler ◊ *Eminia lepida*  
 Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicaudata*  
 Yellow-bellied Eremomela *Eremomela icteropygialis*  
 Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*  
 Banded Parisoma ◊ *Curruca boehmi*  
 Brown Parisoma *Curruca lugens*  
 Pale White-eye (P Scrub W-e) *Zosterops flavilateralis*  
 Mbulu White-eye ◊ *Zosterops mbuluensis*  
 Broad-ringed White-eye ◊ *Zosterops eurycricotus*  
 Rufous Chatterer ◊ *Argya rubiginosa*  
 Arrow-marked Babbler *Turdoides jardineii*  
 Black-lored Babbler ◊ *Turdoides sharpei*  
 Northern Pied Babbler ◊ *Turdoides hypoleuca*  
 Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea*  
 Rüppell's Starling *Lamprotornis purpuroptera*  
 Superb Starling *Lamprotornis superbus*  
 Hildebrandt's Starling ◊ *Lamprotornis hildebrandti*  
 Ashy Starling ◊ *Lamprotornis unicolor*  
 Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*  
 Red-winged Starling *Onychognathus morio*  
 Kenrick's Starling ◊ *Poeoptera kenricki*  
 Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus*  
 Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorynchus*  
 Bare-eyed Thrush ◊ (African B-e T) *Turdus tephronotus*  
 White-browed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas leucophrys*  
 White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher *Melaenornis fischeri*  
 Southern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis pammelaina*  
 African Grey Flycatcher *Melaenornis microrhynchus*  
 Silverbird ◊ *Empidonis semipartitus*  
 Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Ashy Flycatcher *Muscicapa caerulescens*

African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta*

Cape Robin-Chat *Cossypha caffra*

Rüppell's Robin-Chat ◊ *Cossypha semirufa*

White-browed Robin-Chat *Cossypha heuglini*

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

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

Common Rock Thrush (Rufous-tailed R T) *Monticola saxatilis* Non-leader.

African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*

Mocking Cliff Chat (Cliff C) *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*

Anteater Chat (Northern A C) *Myrmecocichla aethiops*

Capped Wheatear *Oenanthe pileata*

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*

Abyssinian Wheatear ◊ (Schalow's W) *Oenanthe [lugubris] schalowi*

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

Collared Sunbird *Hedydipna collaris*

Olive Sunbird *Cyanomitra olivacea*

Amethyst Sunbird *Chalcomitra amethystina*

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis*

Tacazze Sunbird ◊ *Nectarinia tacazze*

Bronzy Sunbird (Bronze S) *Nectarinia kilimensis*

Malachite Sunbird *Nectarinia famosa*

Golden-winged Sunbird ◊ *Drepanorhynchus reichenowi*

Eastern Double-collared Sunbird ◊ *Cinnyris mediocris*

Beautiful Sunbird ◊ (Gorgeous S) *Cinnyris [pulchellus] melanogastrus*

Marico Sunbird (Mariqua S) *Cinnyris mariquensis*

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus*

Yellow-spotted Bush Sparrow ◊ (Y-s Petronia) *Gymnoris pyrgita*

Chestnut Sparrow ◊ *Passer eminibey*

Kenya Sparrow ◊ (Rufous S) *Passer rufocinctus*

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus*

Swahili Sparrow ◊ *Passer suahelicus*

House Sparrow (introduced) *Passer domesticus*

Red-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis niger*

White-headed Buffalo Weaver *Dinemellia dinemelli*

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser mahali*

Rufous-tailed Weaver ◊ *Histurgops ruficauda*

Grey-capped Social Weaver ◊ (Grey-headed S W) *Pseudonigrita arnaudi*



Speckle-fronted Weaver *Sporopipes frontalis*  
Thick-billed Weaver (Grosbeak-W) *Amblyospiza albifrons*  
Baglafaecht Weaver *Ploceus baglafaecht*  
Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis*  
Taveta Weaver ◊ (T Golden W) *Ploceus castaneiceps*  
Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus intermedius*  
Vitelline Masked Weaver *Ploceus vitellinus*  
Speke's Weaver ◊ *Ploceus spekei*  
Village Weaver ◊ (Layard's W) *Ploceus cucullatus*  
Golden-backed Weaver ◊ *Ploceus jacksoni*  
Chestnut Weaver *Ploceus rubiginosus*  
Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes rubriceps*  
Cardinal Quelea *Quelea cardinalis*  
Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*  
Yellow-crowned Bishop *Euplectes afer*  
Black Bishop *Euplectes gierowii*  
Black-winged Red Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceus*  
Southern Red Bishop *Euplectes orix*  
Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis*  
Fan-tailed Widowbird (Red-shouldered W) *Euplectes axillaris*  
Yellow-mantled Widowbird *Euplectes macroura*  
White-winged Widowbird *Euplectes albonotatus*  
Red-cowled Widowbird (R-naped W) *Euplectes laticauda*  
Jackson's Widowbird ◊ *Euplectes jacksoni*  
Bronze Mannikin *Spermestes cucullata*  
Red-backed Mannikin (Rufous-backed M) *Spermestes nigriceps*  
Abyssinian Crimsonwing ◊ *Cryptospiza salvadorii*  
Black-faced Waxbill *Brunhilda erythronotos*  
Crimson-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda rhodopyga*  
Quailfinch *Ortygospiza atricollis*  
Cut-throat Finch *Amadina fasciata*  
Orange-breasted Waxbill *Amandava subflava*  
Purple Grenadier *Granatina ianthinogaster*  
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus bengalus*  
Blue-capped Cordon-bleu ◊ *Uraeginthus cyanocephalus*  
Green-winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba*  
Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*  
Village Indigobird (Red-billed Firefinch I) *Vidua chalybeata*

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*  
 Steel-blue Whydah ◊ *Vidua hypocherina*  
 Straw-tailed Whydah ◊ *Vidua fischeri*  
 Long-tailed Paradise Whydah (Eastern P W) *Vidua paradisaea*  
 Cuckoo-finch (Parasitic Weaver) *Anomalospiza imberbis*  
 Western Yellow Wagtail (Yellow-headed W) *Motacilla [flava] lutea*  
 Western Yellow Wagtail (Blue-headed W) *Motacilla [flava] flava*  
 Western Yellow Wagtail (Black-headed W) *Motacilla [flava] feldegg*  
 Western Yellow Wagtail (Grey-headed W) *Motacilla [flava] thunbergi*  
 Mountain Wagtail *Motacilla clara*  
 African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp*  
 Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus*  
 Pangani Longclaw ◊ *Macronyx aurantiigula*  
 Rosy-throated Longclaw (R- breasted L) *Macronyx ameliae*  
 African Pipit (Grassland P) *Anthus cinnamomeus*  
 Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys*  
 Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*  
 Southern Citril ◊ (East African C) *Crithagra hyposticta*  
 Reichenow's Seedeater ◊ (Kenya Yellow-rumped S) *Crithagra reichenowi*  
 Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica*  
 White-bellied Canary *Crithagra dorsostriata*  
 Southern Grosbeak-Canary ◊ *Crithagra buchanani*  
 Thick-billed Seedeater *Crithagra burtoni*  
 Streaky Seedeater *Crithagra striolata*  
 Yellow-crowned Canary *Serinus flavivertex*  
 Cinnamon-breasted Bunting (C-b Rock B) *Emberiza tahapisi*  
 Golden-breasted Bunting (African G-b B) *Emberiza flaviventris*

#### MAMMALS

Yellow-spotted Hyrax (Bush H) *Heterohyrax brucei*  
 African Elephant *Loxodonta africana*  
 Cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus*  
 Lion *Panthera leo*  
 Leopard *Panthera pardus*  
 Common Genet (Small-spotted G) *Genetta genetta*  
 Spotted Hyaena *Crocuta crocuta*  
 Striped Hyaena *Hyaena hyaena*  
 Common Dwarf Mongoose *Helogale parvula*

Egyptian Mongoose (Ichneumon) *Herpestes ichneumon*  
 Slender Mongoose *Herpestes sanguineus*  
 Banded Mongoose *Mungos mungo*  
 African Golden Wolf *Canis lupaster*  
 Black-backed Jackal *Lupulella mesomelas*  
 Bat-eared Fox *Otocyon megalotis*  
 Plains Zebra (Common Z) *Equus quagga*  
 Black Rhinoceros (Browse R) *Diceros bicornis*  
 Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus*  
 Masai Giraffe *Giraffa tippelskirchi*  
 Impala (Common I) *Aepyceros melampus*  
 Hartebeest (Coke's H, Kongoni) *Alcelaphus [buselaphus] cokii*  
 Harvey's Duiker *Cephalophus harveyi*  
 Common Wildebeest (Serengeti White-bearded W) *Connochaetes taurinus*  
 Eastern White-bearded Wildebeest *Connochaetes [taurinus] albojubatus*  
 Topi (Serengeti T) *Damaliscus [lunatus] jimela*  
 Thomson's Gazelle (Serengeti T G) *Eudorcas thomsonii*  
 Eastern Thomson's Gazelle *Eudorcas [thomsonii] thomsonii*  
 Waterbuck (Defassa W) *Kobus [ellipsiprymnus] defassa*  
 Waterbuck (Ellipsen W) *Kobus [ellipsiprymnus] ellipsiprymnus*  
 Kirk's Dik-dik (Thomas's D-d) *Madoqua [kirkii] thomasi*  
 Kirk's Dik-dik (Cavendish's D-d) *Madoqua [kirkii] cavendishi*  
 Grant's Gazelle *Nanger granti*  
 Steenbok (Steinbuck) *Raphicerus campestris*  
 Bohor Reedbuck *Redunca redunca*  
 African Buffalo (Cape B) *Syncerus caffer*  
 Common Eland *Tragelaphus oryx*  
 Bushbuck *Tragelaphus scriptus*  
 Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius*  
 Yellow-winged Bat *Lavia frons*  
 Wahlberg's Epauletted Fruit Bat *Epomophorus wahlbergi*  
 Mauritian Tomb Bat *Taphozous mauritanus*  
 Northern Lesser Galago (Senegal G) *Galago senegalensis*  
 Thick-tailed Greater Galago (G G) *Otolemur crassicaudatus*  
 Small-eared Greater Galago *Otolemur garnettii*  
 Blue Monkey (Sykes's M) *Cercopithecus [mitis] albogularis*  
 Vervet (Savanna Monkey) *Chlorocebus pygerythrus*  
 Guereza (Eastern Black-and-white Colobus) *Colobus guereza*

Olive Baboon *Papio anubis*

Cape Hare *Lepus capensis*

African Savanna Hare *Lepus victoriae*

Cape Porcupine *Hystrix africaeaustralis* Non-leader.

Huet's Bush Squirrel (Ochre B S) *Paraxerus ochraceus*

East African Spring-hare *Pedetes surdaster*

African Grass Rat *Arvicanthis niloticus*



Yellow-collared Lovebird (image by Nik Borrow)



*White-headed Barbet (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Pangani Longclaw (image by Nik Borrow)*



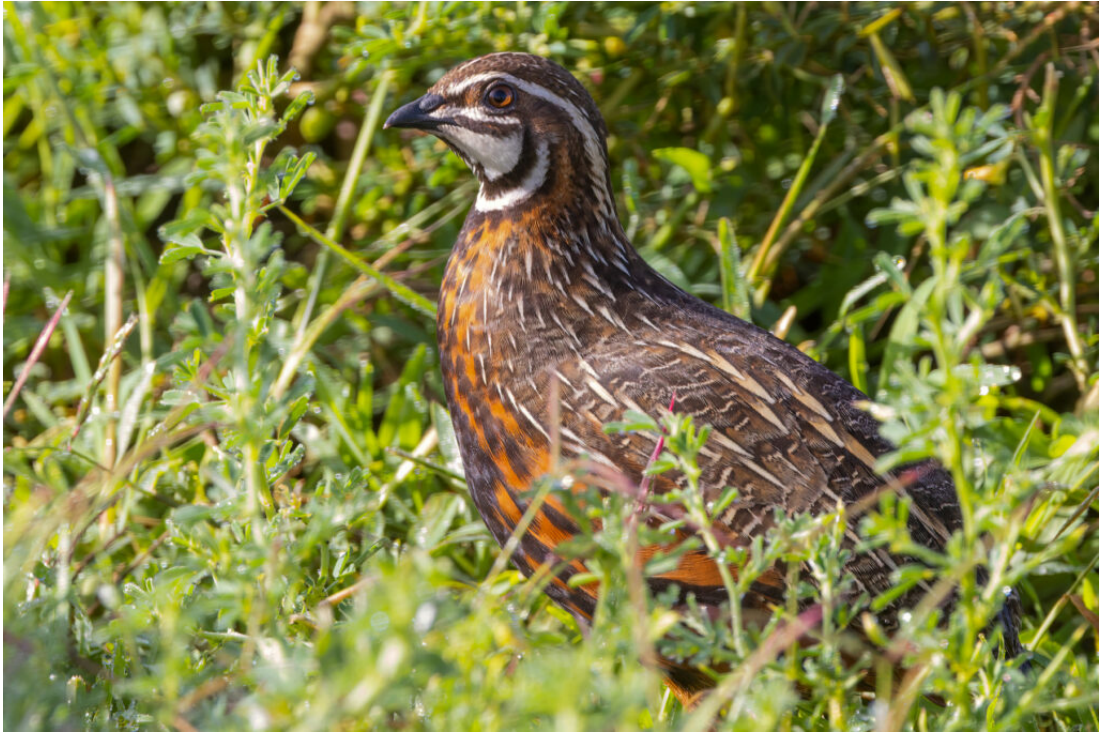


*Ngorongoro Crater (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Hartlaub's Bustard (image by Nik Borrow)*





*Harlequin Quail (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Brown-breasted Barbet (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Bronze-winged Courser (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Black Bishop (image by Nik Borrow)*





*Grey-crested Helmetshrike (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Martial Eagle (image by Nik Borrow)*





*Watching the migration (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Watching Beesley's Lark (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Malachite Sunbird (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Grey-crowned Crane (image by Nik Borrow)*





*Beesley's Lark (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Ashy Starling (image by Nik Borrow)*





*Golden-winged Sunbird (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Lioness and cub (image by Nik Borrow)*





*Taveta Golden Weaver (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Striped Hyena (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Lion (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Fischer's Lovebird (image by Nik Borrow)*





*African Savannah Elephant (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Emin's Barbet (image by Nik Borrow)*





*Leopard (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Short-tailed Lark (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Serengeti [Western] White-bearded Wildebeest (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Kori Bustard (image by Nik Borrow)*





*Chestnut-banded Plover (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Cheetah (image by Nik Borrow)*





*Hippopotamus (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Plains Zebra (image by Nik Borrow)*