



## **NORTHERN TANZANIA TOUR REPORT 2025**

**1 - 15 April 2025**

### **Nik Borrow**

This incredible tour through the 'lark plains' at Engikaret, Tarangire National Park, Ngorongoro Crater, the seemingly endless grasslands of the Serengeti, and finally Arusha National Park 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 in the wet season and this year there was plenty of rain! However, it didn't impinge on our birding and perhaps even enhanced it. There was lush vegetation and high grass everywhere (good for breeding weavers, bishops and whydahs) and waterlogged land 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, Beesley's Lark, Ashy Starling, Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill and regional specialties such as Taveta and Rufous-tailed Weavers, the little-known and recently split Maasai 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 virtually 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 or take a hike around the lake itself where regional endemic Taveta Golden Weavers were nesting, Grey-olive Greenbuls were seen whilst colourful Rüppell's Robin-Chats kept to the shadows but entertained us with its beautiful song full of mimicry.

A morning visit to the plains at Engikaret gave us the exceedingly rare, endemic Beesley's Lark gaining some prolonged views of this seriously threatened bird and we also found Foxy, Short-tailed and Red-capped Larks. Sightings of Southern Grosbeak Canary and Scaly Chatterer were a bit of a bonus and even mammals such as Eastern White-bearded Wildebeest and Eastern Thomson's Gazelles were both present. A Little Rock Thrush 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 and near-endemic Rufous-tailed Weaver. We also managed our best views of Leopard in this park. A night drive produced Northern Lesser Galago, Serval, Slender-tailed Nightjars and a number of Three-banded and Bronze-winged Coursers.

Sadly, this year we were unable to drive right through Lake Manyara National Park due to rising water levels and a river that had burst its banks. However, we still found colourful Southern Red, Black and Yellow-crowned Bishops all in breeding dress in nearby rice fields where Dwarf Bittern and Highland Rush Warbler were also present and managed to access the southern sector of the park to see spectacular Purple-crested Turacos. At the end of the day, we climbed up the wall of the Great Rift Valley for an overnight stay before continuing into the Ngorongoro Conservation Area where fortunately, the weather was clear for tremendous views of the crater and we managed to scope our first Black Rhino from the crater rim! In the forests that cloak the slopes we found Brown-headed Apalis and on the high grasslands we watched displaying Jackson's Widowbirds and glittering Malachite and Golden-winged Sunbirds.

Our day in the phenomenal Ngorongoro Crater which because of all the rain was greatly flooded thus provided a spectacular flamingo experience and enabled views of African Rail. Five Black Rhinos were seen and included a rather close sighting of one particular individual. The unassuming Lynes's Cisticola was found on the crater rim and in the forests, we scored with near-endemic Mbulu White-eye and a pair of pretty Abyssinian Crimsonwing.

Our time in the Serengeti was divided between stays at Ndotu and the Seronera area in the heart the Serengeti where enormous numbers of Serengeti White-bearded Wildebeest and Plains Zebra were grazing. We did well for cats generally and had multiple encounters with plenty of Lions as well as a distant Leopard and 8 Cheetahs! We also scored well with the bird specialties and found Maasai (recently split from Karamoja) Apalis, a family of Grey-crested Helmetshrikes, Athi Short-toed, Melodious and White-tailed Larks and endemic Grey-breasted Spurfowl, Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill and Fischer's Lovebirds.

Returning via the fascinating museum at Oldupai Gorge we ultimately visited Arusha National Park where we found the near-endemic Broad-ringed White-eye, Sentinel Lark and mouth-watering species such as Hartlaub's Turaco. 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, Chestnut-banded Plover, Abyssinian Scimitarbill, Von der Decken's Hornbill, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, Red-and-yellow, Emin's (sometimes split from D'Arnaud's) and Usambiro Barbets, Moustached Tinkerbird, Spot-flanked Barbet, Brown-breasted Barbet, Eastern Grey Woodpecker, Greater Kestrel, Amur Falcon, Red-bellied Parrot, Black-fronted Bushshrike (heard only), Long-tailed and Taita Fiscals, Red-throated Tit, Fischer's Sparrow-Lark, Rufous-naped Lark, Black-headed Mountain Greenbul, Olive-headed (sometimes split as Stripe-faced) and Placid Greenbuls, Trilling and Hunter's Cisticolas, Bar-throated Apalis, Black-headed Apalis, Grey-capped Warbler, Grey Wren-Warbler, Banded Parisoma, Pale White-eye, Rufous Chatterer, Black-lored and Northern Pied Babbler, Hildebrandt's and Kenrick's Starlings, Bare-eyed Thrush, Silverbird, 'Schalow's' Abyssinian Wheatear, Tacazze, Eastern Double-collared and Gorgeous Sunbirds, Yellow-spotted Bush Sparrow, Chestnut, Kenya and Swahili Sparrows, Grey-capped Social Weaver, Speke's and Golden-backed Weavers, Grey-headed Silverbill, Blue-capped Cordon-bleu, Steel-blue and Straw-tailed Whydahs, Pangani Longclaw, Southern Citril and Reichenow's Seedeater.

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 and the lake itself where Trumpeter Hornbill, Brown-hooded Kingfisher, Golden-tailed Woodpecker and for some exquisite Red-throated Twinspots were seen. At night both

African Wood Owl and Garnett's Greater (or Small-eared) Galago frequented the garden.

After a welcome night's sleep, we departed early the next day and set out straight after breakfast boarding our sturdy Landcruisers with their open top roof hatches. Travelling north out of Arusha, we gradually descending lower and lower until we reached our first 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.62 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 and others.

The plains were green with recent rain and Fawn-coloured (sometimes split as Foxy) Larks were in full song. Our Maasai guides were waiting for us out on the vast open plain and it wasn't long before they led us into the area where at least 4 Beesley's Larks were seen easily. They 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 but with some searching we also found Short-tailed Lark and our first Fischer's Sparrow-Larks. During our meanderings across the plains there were also other things to see; large numbers of Chestnut-bellied and Yellow-throated Sandgrouse were seen flying over and coming down to land, 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, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Red-fronted Prinia, Banded Parisoma, Bare-eyed Thrush, White-browed Scrub Robin, African Grey Flycatcher and Gorgeous Sunbird. An Upcher's Warbler and a pair of Scaly Chatterers here was a great bonus.

It had been a highly successful morning but now we retraced our steps back towards Arusha stopping for numerous 'Schalow's' Abyssinian Wheatears, colourful White-fronted Bee-eaters and a male Little Rock Thrush before continuing towards our next destination, Tarangire National Park.

At the entrance gate our first endemic Yellow-collared Lovebirds were spotted but there was much disturbance at this normally birdy spot due to recent construction work so we didn't linger for long. As time was pressing, we drove directly to our superb lodge with its 'awesome view' overlooking the Tarangire River just in time for a roosting African Scops Owl and 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.

As we set out for the day our first Common Ostrich were seen letting us know that we were truly in 'Safari Land' Africa! Crested Francolins and 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 spectacular Grey Crowned Cranes, Saddle-billed Stork and our first Secretarybirds. We did well for raptors generally with a selection of vultures, Long-crested Eagle, Eastern Chanting Goshawk, some high-flying Amur Falcons and for a lucky few a juvenile Little Sparrowhawk. Pearl-spotted Owlets showed well, some Southern Ground Hornbills were seen, Meyer's and Red-bellied Parrots were often seen as they screeched by, Magpie Shrikes and tail-wagging Long-tailed Shrikes were common and Flappet Larks and Northern Pied Babblers were also often encountered. The regional endemic Red-throated Tit put in its first appearance and the endemic form of D'Arnaud's Barbet which is sometimes considered a separate species 'Emin's or Black-capped Barbet' was seen incredibly well. At Silale Swamp Long-toed Lapwings, Black Coucals and Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters were plentiful and two African Crakes were flushed!

The park is a wonderful place for observing African Savanna Elephants and we enjoyed some 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. Other mammals included tail-twitching Impala, shaggy-coated Ellipsen Waterbuck, towering stately 'Maasai' Giraffes and tiny little 'Thomas's' Kirk's Dik-diks.

At night Tarangire Safari Lodge was fortunately still offering game drives. It turned out to be an absolutely mega experience with close encounters with Serval as well as Northern Lesser Galago and Bat-eared Fox. The nightbirds excelled with wonderful repeated views of

Slender-tailed Nightjar and Three-banded Courser and no less than ten Bronze-winged Coursers.

The following morning it was time to continue our journey which took us out of Tarangire and towards Lake Manyara National Park. Sadly, this year the road conditions were such that we were unable to drive right through the park and were limited to the southern section only but we stopped first at some extensive rice fields where a Dwarf Bittern was scoped and fantastic breeding plumaged Golden-backed Weaver, Southern Red and Yellow-crowned Bishops and Fan-tailed and White-winged Widowbirds 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. A displaying Highland Rush Warbler showed pretty well and along the way we found our first breeding plumaged Black Bishops of the colourful race *friederichseni*.

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. Our attempts were almost thwarted by an elephant that had decided to push a tree down across the road and was there happily munching on the spoils of its plunder. Happily, it didn't linger too long and our drivers were able to hack obstructing branches away so that we could go further into the park where after a little effort, we ultimately enjoyed great 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 White-bellied Tit and our first Usambiro Barbets were seen.

The park itself stretches for 50 kilometres along the edge of the imposing Rift Valley escarpment. The lake was once a famous 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 once famous 'hot springs' and 'hippo pools' are both underwater and it was also clear that the quality of the water wasn't favourable to birdlife for there were hardly any waterbirds along the shores. At the end of the day, we retraced our steps back out of the park only to find a truck stuck in a gully blocking the road. It seemed for a while that we were going to be spending the night in the cars but our fearless drivers were not going to be defeated and after some digging and winching (yes, we got stuck as well!) we managed to get round the hapless vehicle and we were on our way again. It had been a tough day for our drivers! Somewhat later than anticipated we drove 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 somewhat marred by the dull grey weather conditions over the Rift Valley towards Lake Manyara. It was a slow birding start on a rather damp morning but it certainly brightened up when a pair of Verreaux's Eagles and an Ayres's Hawk Eagle sailed over.

After a hearty breakfast we continued onwards, ever onwards to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area entering by the Lodoare Gate where we managed to lure Brown Parisoma, Grey-capped Warbler and 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. Low cloud obscured our view but miraculously it cleared and 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!

The weather closed in again while we ate a picnic lunch but once again it cleared and 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. 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 stand of flowers was busy with small numbers of the much-wanted Golden-winged Sunbird.

Our attractive lodge was idyllically situated overlooking the crater. We settled into our rooms and as dusk fell, we enjoyed great views of a Montane Nightjar.

The next morning, we were up early but were met with low cloud that hugged the crater rim. It wasn't a very auspicious start to the day but in the gloom we still managed to find a rather damp 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.

Despite the poor visibility we headed straight for the 'Descent Road' and embarked on the steep and narrow road down into the crater which was a breath-taking experience as we managed to drive below the rain clouds to find the sun poking shafts of light through from the other side of the crater! 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 a network of tracks that criss-crossed the caldera floor we were accompanied by good numbers of Pectoral-patch Cisticolas making their little buzzing calls in display flight and we also discovered stunning Rosy-throated Longclaws and dowdy Ant eater Chats with flashing white wings. The shallow lake in the crater is called Lake Magadi which held an abundance of water this year and was deeply bordered with numerous wing-flapping, grunting Lesser Flamingos, many Greater Flamingos and a small variety of waterfowl included Blue-billed Teal and the pretty pink-billed Cape Teal.

Big birds were a feature of the day with glorious Grey Crowned Cranes and stately Kori Bustards striding across the plains but of course, our day was also about the mammals and we succeeded in finding no less than five Black Rhinos including one that was quite close to one of the tracks. As a large portion of the crater bottom appeared to be a marsh it was perhaps no surprise that Little Rush and Lesser Swamp Warblers were found and African Rails were noisy and several were seen.

Some very large solitary bull African Elephants were feeding around the plains as well as family groups and there were large numbers of game and in particular Serengeti White-bearded Wildebeest, Serengeti Thomson's Gazelles, numbers of Grant's Gazelles and Common Eland. Somewhat dishevelled African (or Cape) Buffalos were common but kept their distance. There were also somewhat menacing Spotted Hyaenas and our first Lions.

After heavy rain overnight, the next morning, we woke to fine weather which had provoked a swarm of winged termites that birds were feasting on. We spent our time birding the forested lodge grounds and our productive search yielded a fine Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk, the near-endemic Mbulu White-eye, colourful Cinnamon-chested Bee-eaters, Bar-throated Apalis, Tacazze and Eastern Double-collared Sunbirds, Thick-billed Seedeater and a super pair of Abyssinian Crimsonwing to name but a few.

It was time to leave the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and approaching the lonely entrance to the Serengeti the short grass plains beyond offered us our first glimpse of the great migration as there was a huge line of wildebeest with many more dotted over the sea of grass as far as the eye could see.

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 and although we were witnessing just a fraction of them, it was still absolutely awe-inspiring. The name is derived from the word "Serengit" in the Maa language, which means "Endless Plains" and we certainly experienced this incredible feeling of space as we journeyed on.

At Naabi Hills we ate our picnic lunch in the company of pink-headed Mwanza Flat-headed Agamas and tame Black-lored Babblers and Red-headed Weavers but we didn't linger too long because we had a long way to go as our route took us through the picturesque Gol Kopjes. Having driven through the broad swathe of game the plains further north were pretty much devoid of mammals although this is where we spotted our first two cheetahs and of course more lions. Driving onwards 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 population of White-tailed Larks are indeed that species and many appear to be Melodious Lark, a species previously only known from central Zimbabwe and South Africa! We found Athi Short-toed Lark fairly quickly but no larks were singing anywhere and flushed birds were difficult to identify. Eventually we came across a little pocket of what we could identify as White-tailed Lark and then it was onwards, ever onwards! Flocks of migrant Lesser Kestrels were moving through and a few resident Greater Kestrels were seen. It was a somewhat 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. We were in good time and made it safely.

The next day we headed straight out in the fresh morning air and fortuitously quickly found 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 enjoyed excellent views of this characterful species and couldn't believe our luck that we had found it so quickly. A little further on a pair of endemic Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill posed nicely for us which left us with one more special bird to see so it seemed fitting to continue to an area of Whistling Thorn (*Vachellia drepanolobium*) where we discovered a pair of the highly localised Maasai Apalis recently split from 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 after some persistent effort ultimately allowed decent views.

Lunchtime at the Seronera picnic area allowed opportunities to see and photograph some common birds which included some pretty Grey-headed Silverbills. It is also a good place to pick up news of where something good might be and in this case, it was a Leopard so we got back in our vehicles and headed out to the area where it had last been seen. We indeed found the animal sprawled out along the branches of a spreading acacia but unfortunately it was quite distant so we resumed lark-quest and headed back towards our lodge taking in a very fine male Hartlaub's Bustard along the way. Some more White-tailed Larks were seen but still no sign of the missing Melodious and it still seemed like most of the larks were silent, presumably having already bred, and the grasslands very empty.

With most of our targets already seen we had a full day to search for the errant lark and we decided to return to the previous day's leopard spot in the hope (which sadly turned out to be in vain) that it might be rediscovered. However, today was the day that we had a simply incredible experience with a large pride of lions which may have contained as many as 20 animals of all ages and were quite active, the pride being dominated by a mating pair that enlivened the proceedings. After having enjoyed this spectacle, we were even more pleased to finally connect with a few Melodious Larks which were suitably secretive as they dived into cover but also chose to sing, thus confirming the identification. Two more Servals were another highlight of the day. Both seen for close and prolonged views. To cement our Melodious Lark sighting, the following day we saw another well as we left the Serengeti, returning to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area where we spent our next three nights at the charming Ndutu Safari Lodge.

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 where and Kittlitz's and Chestnut-banded Plovers were seen.

There were even more Lions in the Ndutu area and we were entertained by two wonderful Cheetahs which were clearly interested in hunting but the line of game was just that little bit too far away. The following day we saw three more individuals and then on the next day we found our fourth Serval of the tour and a sneaky African Wildcat too.

Numbers of endemic Fischer's Lovebirds were perhaps a little on the low side but we found some colourful groups and also enjoyed great views of the endemic Grey-breasted Spurfowl which was common and offered numerous viewing opportunities. Pretty little Harlequin Quails were flushed from the exceedingly wet short grass plains and some were actually seen at rest.

Secretarybird was a much-wanted species during this tour and Ndutu probably gave us our best encounters with this strange raptor with pairs watched hunting and at their nests on top of acacias. By this stage of the tour, we had seen most of the new bird species likely so our time at Ndutu enabled us to improve on views and photographs but a few new ones were seen including Rufous Chatterer and Spotted Eagle-Owl.

Leaving Ndutu we paid a visit to Oldupai Gorge (named after the wild sisal *Sansevieria ehrenbergii* that grows there), site of many important hominid discoveries by the Leakey family and now home to a fascinating museum to visit and learn a number of things about the "cradle of mankind". Outside we found Southern Grosbeak Canary and also Pale White-eye. Back at our hotel overlooking Lake Duluti we all managed views of the handsome Brown-breasted Barbet.

Our final day was spent in Arusha National Park that encompasses the volcanic slopes of Mount Meru, an impressive peak reaching some 4566m (14,979ft). It was a damp morning after overnight rain and we found near-endemic Taveta Golden Weavers by the gate. Entering the park, we headed inwards and upwards to the forest where we spent all of the morning. Initially all was quiet and as was to be expected, the dark, dripping forest did not reveal its secrets easily. We saw Scaly Spurfowl and Mountain Wagtail on the road and Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon, African Goshawk and Kenrick's Starlings before climbing higher to the Ngurdoto Crater rim, where shaggy-coated Guereza Colobus gathered leaves in the treetops. Some superb Hartlaub's Turacos popped into view and the near-endemic Broad-ringed White-eye was seen well and other successes included many White-eared Barbets, Olive-headed (aka Stripe-faced) and Placid Greenbuls, Black-headed Apalis and Olive Sunbird.

In the afternoon we headed down to the surprisingly empty Momela lakes where Brown-hooded Kingfisher and Moustached Grass Warbler, Short-winged Cisticola, African Firefinch, Long-billed Pipit and Southern Citril were found as well as the recently split Sentinel Lark.

The day was over 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 cars 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 DURING THE TOUR

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

The species names and taxonomy used in the bird list follow Gill, F., Donsker, D., & Rasmussen, P.(Eds). **2025. IOC World Bird List (v15.1)**.

### 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** *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*  
**Harlequin Quail** *Coturnix delegorguei*  
**Hildebrandt's Spurfowl** ◊ *Pternistis hildebrandti*  
**Scaly Spurfowl** *Pternistis squamatus*  
**Yellow-necked Spurfowl** *Pternistis leucoscepus*  
**Grey-breasted Spurfowl** ◊ *Pternistis rufopictus*  
**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*  
**Common Swift (Eurasian S)** *Apus apus*  
**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*  
 Buff-crested Bustard *Lophotis gindiana*  
 Black-bellied Bustard *Lissotis melanogaster*  
 Hartlaub's Bustard ◊ *Lissotis hartlaubii*  
 White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus*  
 Black Coucal *Centropus grillii*  
 Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius*  
 Jacobin Cuckoo (Black-and-white C) *Clamator jacobinus*  
 Diederik Cuckoo (Didric C) *Chrysococcyx caprius*  
 Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*  
 African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus*  
 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*  
 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*  
 African Rail (A Water R) *Rallus caerulescens*  
 African Crake *Crecopsis egregia*  
 Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*  
 Red-knobbed Coot (Crested C) *Fulica cristata*  
 Black Crake *Zapornia flavirostra*  
 Grey Crowned Crane *Balearica regulorum*  
 Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*  
 Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*  
 Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor*  
 Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis*  
 Water Thick-knee *Burhinus vermiculatus*

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*  
Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*  
Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*  
Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris*  
Long-toed Lapwing (L-t Plover) *Vanellus crassirostris*  
Blacksmith Lapwing (B Plover) *Vanellus armatus*  
Spur-winged Lapwing (S-w Plover) *Vanellus spinosus*  
Black-winged Lapwing (B-w Plover) *Vanellus melanopterus*  
Crowned Lapwing (C Plover) *Vanellus coronatus*  
Kittlitz's Plover *Anarhynchus pecuarius*  
Chestnut-banded Plover ◊ *Anarhynchus pallidus*  
African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus*  
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*  
Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*  
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*  
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*  
Ruff *Calidris pugnax*  
Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*  
Little Stint *Calidris minuta*  
Double-banded Courser (Two-b C) *Rhinoptilus africanus*  
Bronze-winged Courser ◊ (Violet-tipped C) *Rhinoptilus chalconotus*  
Three-banded Courser (Heuglin's C) *Rhinoptilus cinctus*  
Temminck's Courser *Cursorius temminckii*  
Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*  
Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*  
Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*  
White-winged Tern (W-w Black T) *Chlidonias leucopterus*  
Grey-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*  
African Openbill (A O-billed Stork) *Anastomus lamelligerus*  
Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumenifer*  
Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis*  
Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*  
Abdim's Stork *Ciconia abdimii* Non-leader  
White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*  
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 ◊ *Botaurus sturmii*  
Little Bittern *Botaurus minutus*  
Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*  
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*  
Striated Heron (Green-backed H) *Butorides striata*  
Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*  
Great Egret (Western G E) *Ardea [alba] melanorhynchos*  
Yellow-billed Egret *Ardea brachyrhyncha*  
Western Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*  
Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*  
Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala*  
Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath*  
Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*  
Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*  
Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens*  
Secretarybird *Sagittarius serpentarius*  
Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*  
African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene) *Polyboroides typus*  
Palm-nut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis*  
European Honey Buzzard (Eurasian H B) *Pernis apivorus*  
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*  
Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus*  
Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis*  
Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraaetus wahlbergi*  
Ayres's Hawk-Eagle *Hieraaetus ayresii*  
Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*  
Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax*  
Verreaux's Eagle (Black E) *Aquila verreauxii*  
African Hawk-Eagle *Aquila spilogaster*  
Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar*  
Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates*  
Eastern Chanting Goshawk (E Pale C G) *Melierax poliopterus*  
African Goshawk *Aerospiza tachiro*  
Shikra *Tachyspiza badia* Non-leader  
Little Sparrowhawk *Tachyspiza minulla*  
Ovambo Sparrowhawk (Ovambo S) *Accipiter ovampensis*  
Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk *Accipiter rufiventris*  
Black Sparrowhawk (Great S) *Astur melanoleucus* Non-leader  
Western Marsh Harrier (Eurasian M H) *Circus aeruginosus*  
African Marsh Harrier *Circus ranivorus*  
Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*  
Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius*  
African Fish Eagle *Icthyophaga vocifer*  
Common Buzzard (Steppe Buzzard) *Buteo [buteo] vulpinus*  
Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur*  
Western Barn Owl *Tyto alba* Non-leader  
Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum*  
African Scops Owl *Otus senegalensis*  
Spotted Eagle-Owl *Bubo africanus*  
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl *Ketupa lactea*  
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*  
 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*  
 Purple Roller (Rufous-crowned R) *Coracias naevius*  
 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*  
 Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus*  
 Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima*. Non-leader  
 Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*  
 Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus*  
 Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater ◊ *Merops oreobates*  
 White-fronted Bee-eater *Merops bullockoides*  
 Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus*  
 European Bee-eater (Eurasian B-e) *Merops apiaster*  
 Red-and-yellow Barbet ◊ *Trachyphonus erythrocephalus*  
 D'Arnaud's Barbet ◊ (Emin's B) *Trachyphonus [darnaudii] emini*  
 Usambiro Barbet ◊ *Trachyphonus usambiro*  
 White-eared Barbet *Stactolaema leucotis*  
 Moustached Tinkerbird ◊ (M Green T) *Pogoniulus leucomystax*  
 Northern Red-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus uropygialis*  
 Red-fronted Barbet *Tricholaema diademata*  
 Spot-flanked Barbet ◊ *Tricholaema lacrymosa*  
 Brown-breasted Barbet ◊ *Pogonornis melanopterus*  
 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*  
 Amur Falcon ◊ (Eastern Red-footed F) *Falco amurensis*

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*  
 Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*  
 Meyer's Parrot (Brown P) *Poicephalus meyeri*  
 Red-bellied Parrot ◊ (African Orange-bellied P) *Poicephalus rufiventris*  
 Fischer's Lovebird ◊ *Agapornis fischeri*  
 Yellow-collared Lovebird ◊ *Agapornis personatus*  
 Chinspot Batis *Batis molitor*  
 Pygmy Batis *Batis perkeo*  
 Black-throated Wattle-eye *Platysteira peltata* Non-leader  
 Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti*  
 Black-fronted Bushshrike ◊ *Chlorophoneus nigrifrons* Heard only  
 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 poliophus*  
 Grey Cuckooshrike *Cebilepyris caesius*  
 Black Cuckooshrike *Campephaga flava*  
 Black-headed Oriole (African B-H O, Eastern B-h O) *Oriolus larvatus*  
 Fork-tailed Drongo (Common D) *Dicrurus adsimilis*  
 African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*  
 Northern White-crowned Shrike *Eurocephalus ruppelli*  
 Magpie Shrike *Lanius melanoleucus*  
 Long-tailed Fiscal ◊ *Lanius cabanisi*  
 Grey-backed Fiscal *Lanius excubitoroides*  
 Taita Fiscal ◊ *Lanius dorsalis*  
 Northern Fiscal *Lanius humeralis*  
 Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*  
 Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*  
 Red-tailed Shrike (Rufous-tailed, Turkestan S) *Lanius phoenicuroides*  
 House Crow (introduced) *Corvus splendens*  
 Cape Crow (C Rook, Black C) *Corvus capensis*  
 Pied Crow *Corvus albus*  
 White-necked Raven (W-naped R) *Corvus albicollis*  
 White-bellied Tit *Melaniparus albiventris*  
 Red-throated Tit ◊ *Melaniparus fringillinus*  
 Eastern Nicator *Nicator gularis* Heard only  
 Beesley's Lark ◊ (Pygmy Spike-heeled L) *Chersomanes beesleyi*  
 Fischer's Sparrow-Lark ◊ *Eremopterix leucopareia*  
 Fawn-colored Lark ◊ (Foxy L) *Calendulauda [africanooides] alopex*  
 Melodious Lark ◊ *Mirafra cheniana*  
 White-tailed Lark ◊ *Mirafra albicauda*  
 Flappet Lark *Amirafra rufocinnamomea*  
 Rufous-naped Lark ◊ *Corypha africana*  
 Sentinel Lark ◊ *Corypha athi*  
 Short-tailed Lark ◊ *Spizocorys fremantlii*  
 Red-capped Lark *Calandrella cinerea*

Athi Short-toed Lark ◊ *Alaudala athensis*  
 Yellow-bellied Greenbul *Chlorocichla flaviventris*  
 Black-headed Mountain Greenbul ◊ *Arizelocichla nigriceps*  
 Olive-headed Greenbul ◊ (Stripe-faced G) *Arizelocichla striifacies*  
 Little Greenbul *Eurillas virens* Non-leader  
 Grey-olive Greenbul ◊ *Phyllastrephus cerviniventris*  
 Placid Greenbul ◊ *Phyllastrephus placidus*  
 Dark-capped Bulbul *Pycnonotus tricolor*  
 Black Saw-wing (Blue S) *Psalidoprocne [pristoptera] holomelas*  
 Banded Martin *Neophedina cincta*  
 Brown-throated Martin (Plain M) *Riparia paludicola*  
 Sand Martin (Common S M, Bank Swallow) *Riparia riparia*  
 Red-throated Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne rufigula*  
 Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*  
 Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*  
 Western House Martin *Delichon urbicum*  
 African Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis melanocrissus*  
 Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica*  
 Red-breasted Swallow (Rufous-chested S) *Cecropis semirufa*  
 Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis*  
 Moustached Grass Warbler (African M W) *Melocichla mentalis*  
 Northern Crombec (Eastern C) *Sylvietta brachyura*  
 Red-faced Crombec *Sylvietta whytii*  
 Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*  
 Lesser Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*  
 Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*  
 Common Reed Warbler (African R W) *Acrocephalus [scirpaceus] cinnamomeus*  
 African Yellow Warbler (Dark-capped Y W) *Iduna natalensis* Non-leader  
 Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna pallida*  
 Upcher's Warbler *Hippolais languida*  
 Cinnamon Bracken Warbler *Bradypterus cinnamomeus*  
 Little Rush Warbler *Bradypterus baboecala*  
 Highland Rush Warbler ◊ *Bradypterus centralis*  
 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*  
 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*  
 Maasai Apalis ◊ *Apalis stronachi*  
 Brown-headed Apalis ◊ *Apalis alticola*  
 Grey-capped Warbler ◊ *Eminia lepida*  
 Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicaudata*  
 Grey Wren-Warbler ◊ *Calamonastes simplex*  
 Yellow-bellied Eremomela *Eremomela icteropygialis*  
 Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* Non-leader  
 Banded Parisoma ◊ *Curruca boehmi*  
 Brown Parisoma *Curruca lugens*  
 Common Whitethroat *Curruca communis*  
 Pale White-eye ◊ (P Scrub W-e) *Zosterops flavilateralis*  
 Mbulu White-eye ◊ *Zosterops mbuluensis*  
 Broad-ringed White-eye ◊ *Zosterops eurycricotus*  
 Rufous Chatterer ◊ *Argya rubiginosa*  
 Scaly Chatterer ◊ *Argya aylmeri*  
 Arrow-marked Babbler *Turdoides jardineii*  
 Black-lored Babbler ◊ *Turdoides sharpei*  
 Northern Pied Babbler ◊ *Turdoides hypoleuca*  
 Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea*  
 Greater Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*  
 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*  
 Abyssinian Thrush (Mountain or Northern Olive T) *Turdus abyssinicus*  
 Bare-eyed Thrush ◊ (African B-e T) *Turdus tephronotus*  
 White-browed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas leucophrys*  
 Ashy Flycatcher *Fraseria caerulescens*  
 White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher *Melaenornis fischeri*  
 Southern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis pammelaina*  
 Silverbird ◊ *Empidonax semipartitus*  
 African Grey Flycatcher *Bradornis microrhynchus*  
 African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta*  
 Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*  
 White-browed Robin-Chat *Cossypha heuglini*  
 Rüppell's Robin-Chat ◊ *Cossypha semirufa*  
 Spotted Palm Thrush (S Morning T) *Cichladusa guttata*  
 Cape Robin-Chat *Dessonornis caffer*  
 Little Rock Thrush *Monticola rufocinereus*  
 Common Rock Thrush (Rufous-tailed R T) *Monticola saxatilis*  
 Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*  
 African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*  
 Mocking Cliff Chat *Thamnodia cinnamomeiventris*  
 Anteater Chat (Northern A C) *Myrmecocichla aethiops*

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*  
 Capped Wheatear *Oenanthe pileata*  
 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*  
 Bronze Sunbird (Bronze S) *Nectarinia kilimensis*  
 Malachite Sunbird *Nectarinia famosa*  
 Golden-winged Sunbird ◊ *Drepanorhynchus reichenowi*  
 Eastern Double-collared Sunbird ◊ *Cinnyris mediocris*  
 Gorgeous Sunbird ◊ *Cinnyris melanogastrus*  
 Marico Sunbird (Mariqua S) *Cinnyris mariquensis*  
 Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus*  
 Yellow-spotted Bush Sparrow ◊ (Y-s Petronia) *Gymnoris pyrgita*  
 Chestnut Sparrow ◊ *Passer emini*  
 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*  
 Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis*  
 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*. Non-leader  
 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*  
 White-winged Widowbird *Euplectes albonotatus*  
 Red-cowled Widowbird (R-naped W) *Euplectes laticauda*

Jackson's Widowbird ◊ *Euplectes jacksoni*  
 Grey-headed Silverbill ◊ *Spermestes griseicapilla*  
 Bronze Mannikin *Spermestes cucullata*  
 Black-and-white Mannikin (Red-backed M) *Spermestes [bicolor] nigriceps*  
 Abyssinian Crimsonwing ◊ *Cryptospiza salvadorii*  
 Grey-headed Nigrita (G-h Negrofinch) *Nigrita canicapillus*  
 Black-faced Waxbill *Brunhilda erythronotos*  
 Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*  
 Crimson-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda rhodopyga*  
 Quailfinch *Ortygospiza atricollis*  
 Cut-throat Finch *Amadina fasciata*  
 Purple Grenadier *Granatina ianthinogaster*  
 Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus bengalus*  
 Blue-capped Cordon-bleu ◊ *Uraeginthus cyanocephalus*  
 Green-winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba*  
 Red-throated Twinspot ◊ *Hypargos niveoguttatus* Non-leader  
 Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*  
 African Firefinch *Lagonosticta rubricata*  
 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*  
 Western Yellow Wagtail (Grey-headed W) *Motacilla [flava] thunbergi*  
 Western Yellow Wagtail (Blue-headed W) *Motacilla [flava] flava*  
 Western Yellow Wagtail (Yellow-headed W) *Motacilla [flava] lutea*  
 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*  
 Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis*  
 Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys*  
 Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*  
 Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* Heard only Non-leader  
 Southern Citril ◊ (East African C) *Crithagra hyposticta*  
 Reichenow's Seedeater ◊ (Kenya Yellow-rumped S) *Crithagra reichenowi*  
 White-bellied Canary *Crithagra dorsostriata*  
 Southern Grosbeak-Canary ◊ *Crithagra buchanani*  
 Thick-billed Seedeater *Crithagra burtoni*  
 Streaky Seedeater *Crithagra striolata*  
 Yellow-crowned Canary *Serinus flavivertex*  
 Golden-breasted Bunting (African G-b B) *Emberiza flaviventris*

#### MAMMALS

Bush Hyrax (Bush H) *Heterohyrax brucei*  
 Rock Hyrax (Black-necked R H) *Procavia capensis*  
 African Savanna Elephant *Loxodonta africana*  
 Cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus*

African Wildcat *Felis lybica*  
 Serval *Leptailurus serval*  
 Lion *Panthera leo*  
 Leopard *Panthera pardus*  
 Common Genet (Small-spotted G) *Genetta genetta*  
 Spotted Hyena *Crocuta crocuta*  
 Common Dwarf Mongoose *Helogale parvula*  
 Common Slender Mongoose *Herpestes sanguineus*  
 White-tailed Mongoose *Ichneumia albicauda*  
 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*  
 Maasai Giraffe *Giraffa tippelskirchi*  
 Impala (Common I) *Aepyceros melampus*  
 Hartebeest (Coke's H, Kongoni) *Alcelaphus [buselaphus] cokii*  
 Harvey's Duiker *Cephalophus harveyi*  
 Blue Wildebeest (Serengeti White-bearded W) *Connochaetes taurinus*  
 Blue Wildebeest (Eastern White-bearded W) *Connochaetes albojubatus*  
 Tsessebe (topi) (Serengeti Topi) *Damaliscus [lunatus] jimela*  
 Eastern Thomson's Gazelle *Eudorcas [t.] thomsonii*  
 Serengeti Thomson's Gazelle *Eudorcas [thomsonii] nasalis*  
 Waterbuck (Defassa W) *Kobus [ellipsiprymnus] defassa*  
 Waterbuck (Ellipsen W) *Kobus [ellipsiprymnus] ellipsiprymnus*  
 Kirk's Dik-dik (Thomas's D-d) *Madoqua [kirkii] thomasi*  
 Cavendish's Dik-dik *Madoqua cavendishi*  
 Grant's Gazelle *Nanger granti*  
 Steenbok (Steinbuck) *Raphicerus campestris*  
 Suni *Neotragus moschatus*  
 Bohor Reedbuck *Redunca redunca*  
 Cape Buffalo (African B) *Syncerus caffer*  
 Common Eland *Tragelaphus oryx*  
 Common Bushbuck *Tragelaphus scriptus*  
 Common Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius*  
 Yellow-winged False-vampire (Y-w Bat) *Lavia frons*  
 Minor Epauletted Fruit Bat *Epomophorus minor*  
 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*  
 Garnett's Greater Galago (Small-eared G G) *Otolemur garnettii*  
 Blue Monkey (Sykes's M) *Cercopithecus [mitis] albogularis*  
 Vervet Monkey (Savanna M) *Chlorocebus pygerythrus*  
 Guereza (Eastern Black-and-white Colobus) *Colobus guereza*  
 Olive Baboon *Papio anubis*  
 African Savanna Hare *Lepus victoriae*  
 Ochre Bush Squirrel (Huet's B S) *Paraxerus ochraceus*

Unstriped Ground Squirrel *Xerus rutilus*

African Grass Rat *Arvicanthis niloticus*

Loring's Thallomys (L's Acacia Rat) *Thallomys loringi*



Yellow-collared Lovebird (image by Nik Borrow)



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



*Verreaux's Eagle Owl (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Three-banded Courser (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Tarangire Rainbow (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Streaky Seedeater (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Southern Red Bishop (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Serval (image by Nik Borrow)*



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



*Secretarybird (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Scaly Spurfowl (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Saddle-billed Stork (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Rufous-tailed Weaver (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Rosy-throated Longclaw (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Red-necked Falcon (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Red-and-yellow Barbet (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Purple Grenadier (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Pangani Longclaw (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Northern Pied Babbler (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Ngorongoro Crater (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Mbulu White-eye (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Maasai Apalis (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Long-tailed Paradise Whydah (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Little Bittern (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Lions (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Lioness (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Lion (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Lake Ndutu with Cheetahs (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Knob-billed Duck (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Kilimanjaro from Arusha National Park (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Jackson's Widowbird (image by Nik Borrow)*



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



*Grey-headed Silverbill (image by Nik Borrow)*



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



*Grey-capped Warbler (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Grey-breasted Spurfowl (image by Nik Borrow)*



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



*Flappet Lark (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Cheetah (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Cheetah (image by Nik Borrow)*



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



*Black Rhinoceros (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Black Coucal (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Black Bishop (image by Nik Borrow)*



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



*Bat-eared Fox (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Ashy Starling (image by Nik Borrow)*



*African Wood Owl (image by Nik Borrow)*



*African Scops Owl (image by Nik Borrow)*



*African Savannah Elephant (image by Nik Borrow)*



*African Savannah Elephant (image by Nik Borrow)*



*African Golden Wolf (image by Nik Borrow)*



*Abyssinian Crimsonwing (image by Nik Borrow)*