



NORTHERN TANZANIA TOUR REPORT 2026

1 - 15 April 2026

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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 got 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 had been plenty of early 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) so game viewing was sometimes not so easy. Fortunately, it was mostly dry during the tour and access to all areas was not a problem. 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 featured some exciting chases and even a kill! 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 where regional endemic Taveta Golden Weavers were nesting and Brown-breasted Barbets were seen.

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' Fawn-coloured, Short-tailed, Red-capped and 'Athi' Somali Short-toed Larks. A sighting of Southern Grosbeak Canary was an early bonus and 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, Yellow-collared Lovebirds and near-endemic Rufous-tailed Weaver. A night drive produced Northern Lesser Galago, Slender-tailed Nightjars, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl and good numbers 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 pools and rice fields. 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 Rhinos 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. At least nine 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 lush forests, we scored with near-endemic Mbulu White-eye, Brown-backed Woodpecker, Montane Nightjar, glorious Schalow's Turacos and a pretty Abyssinian Crimsonwing.

Our time in the Serengeti was divided between stays in the Seronera area in the heart of the Serengeti and at Ndutu in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area where enormous numbers of Serengeti White-bearded Wildebeest and Plains Zebra were grazing and migrating. We did well for cats generally and had multiple encounters with plenty of Lions as well as two Leopards and 13 Cheetahs! We also scored well with the bird specialties and found Maasai (recently split from Karamoja) Apalis, a family of Grey-crested Helmetshrikes, 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, as well as the rarely seen Abbott's Starling, Sentinel Lark and mouth-watering species such as Hartlaub's Turaco. Other noteworthy species seen during the tour included Hildebrandt's Spurfowl, Hartlaub's Bustard, Yellow-throated and Black-faced Sandgrouse, Chestnut-banded Plover, Nyanza Swift, Abyssinian Scimitarbill, Von der Decken's Hornbill, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, Red-and-yellow, Emin's and Usambiro Barbets (both sometimes split from D'Arnaud's Barbet), Moustached Tinkerbird, Spot-flanked Barbet, Pallid Honeyguide, Eastern Grey Woodpecker, Greater Kestrel, Red-bellied Parrot, Long-tailed and Taita Fiscals, Red-throated Tit, Fischer's Sparrow-Lark, Rufous-naped Lark, Grey Wren-Warbler, Bar-throated Apalis, Black-headed Apalis, Grey-capped Warbler, Trilling and Hunter's Cisticolas, Black-headed Mountain Greenbul, Olive-headed (sometimes split as Stripe-faced) and Grey-olive Greenbuls, Banded Parisoma, Pale White-eye, Rufous Chatterer, Black-lored and Northern Pied Babbler, Kenrick's and Hildebrandt's Starlings, Bare-eyed Thrush, Silverbird, Rüppell's Robin-Chat, 'Schalow's' Abyssinian Wheatear, Tacazze, Eastern Double-collared and Gorgeous Sunbirds, Grey-capped Social Weaver, Speke's and Golden-backed Weavers, Steel-blue and Straw-tailed Whydahs, Grey-headed Silverbill, Blue-capped Cordon-bleu, Yellow-spotted Bush Sparrow, Swahili, Chestnut and Kenya Sparrows, 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 a pair of Brown-breasted Barbets was 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 Landcruiser with its 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 (Avibase has split it) this taxon is not currently recognised as such by some others.

The plains were green with recent rain and Fawn-coloured (sometimes split as Foxy) Larks were in full song and a pair of beautiful Rosy-patched Bushshrikes and a Southern Grosbeak Canary were there to greet us. Our Maasai guide was waiting for us out on the vast open plain to show us the Beesley's Lark but as it happened, we found a pair before we reached him! The birds were easy to follow and everyone had great views of this endangered species. 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 'Athi' Somali Short-toed Lark, 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 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, Eastern Chanting Goshawk, Pygmy Batis, Taita Fiscal, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Red-fronted Prinia, Banded Parisoma, Bare-eyed Thrush, White-browed Scrub Robin, African Grey Flycatcher and Gorgeous Sunbird and we also saw Jacobin and Black Cuckoos and a small number of migrant Eastern Olivaceous Warblers, Northern Wheatear and a female Common Rock Thrush.

It had been a highly successful morning but we now retraced our steps back towards Arusha stopping for '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 there was much disturbance at this formally birdy spot due to recent construction work so we didn't linger for long although an Upcher's Warbler here was a great bonus. 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 a superb evening meal and finally 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 where we were to see our first Lioness; a collared individual which came out to drink in front of us and then sauntered right by our vehicle.

As we set out for the day Crested Francolins and both Red-necked and Yellow-necked Spurfowl were easy to see by the roadsides and a Common Buttonquail appeared in front of the car on the road. Some ridiculously well-endowed Knob-billed Ducks were seen on pools and dams, showy 'Black-faced' Bare-faced Go-away-birds were seen and other goodies included spectacular Grey Crowned Cranes, Saddle-billed Stork and Goliath Heron. Richly coloured Lilac-breasted Rollers, our first Common Ostrich and a selection of vultures including Lappet-faced, Hooded, White-backed and Rüppell's were seen letting us know that we were truly in 'Safari Land' Africa! We did well for raptors generally with Martial, Steppe and Tawny Eagles, Gabar Goshawk, African Fish Eagle and some pretty little Pygmy Falcons. Enormous Southern Ground Hornbills fluttered their long eyelashes at us, Pearl-spotted Owlet showed well and Red-bellied Parrots were often seen as they screeched by. Magpie Shrikes and tail-wagging Long-tailed Shrikes were common and Northern Pied Babblers were also encountered along with Bearded, Eastern Grey and Cardinal Woodpeckers. Impressive flocks of swirling Red-billed Quelea flattened the grasslands and breeding plumaged Southern Red Bishops, White-winged Widowbirds and Cardinal Queleas were also numerous. 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 babbler-like, near-endemic Rufous-tailed Weavers frequented the picnic site. The endemic Yellow-collared Lovebird can normally be seen by their hundreds in the park at this time of year but this tour they were puzzlingly absent. In fact, it was a challenge to find one but finally we succeeded in tracking down a single bird towards the end of the day!

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 White-tailed Mongoose as well as Northern Lesser Galago and Bat-eared Fox. The nightbirds excelled with wonderful repeated views of Slender-tailed Nightjar, Verreaux's Eagle-Owl, Spotted Thick-knee, Three-banded Courser and certainly no less than a dozen 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. A Little Sparrowhawk and a family of Hildebrandt's Spurfowl delayed our departure and a small pool outside of the park held some brightly coloured Yellow-crowned Bishops buzzing round in breeding plumage like some giant bumble-bees. Manyara National 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. Sadly, this year the road conditions were such that we were unable to drive right through the park and our visit was limited to the northern section only where Orange-breasted Bushshrike, Yellow-bellied Greenbul and plenty of breeding plumaged Black Bishops of the colourful race *friederichseni* were found. At the end of the day, 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 over the Rift Valley towards Lake Manyara. The garden was quite productive with amazing views of a Bearded Scrub Robin in particular and some Grey-olive Greenbuls whilst a pair of African Hawk-Eagles circled overhead.

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. 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! Birding here was surprisingly good with some glorious Schalow's Turacos, Waller's Starling, White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher and Yellow-bellied Waxbill.

The weather closed in after our picnic lunch which we ate up on the crater rim but eventually the heavy downpour 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 performing their crazy leaping displays somewhat reminiscent of the Maasai warriors! Driving further we were on the lookout for stands of flowering *Leonotis* (or 'Lion's Paw') normally favoured by sunbirds. Sadly, there was not a single flower in sight but we finally found our quarry; the much-wanted Golden-winged Sunbird, feeding on honeysuckle instead. We watched them for some time sharing the flowers with Bronze Sunbirds and then we went on to find some lovely Malachite Sunbirds holding territory in a different area.

Our attractive lodge was idyllically situated with fantastic views overlooking the crater. We settled into our rooms and as dusk fell, we enjoyed great views of a Montane Nightjar although it took two attempts!

The next morning, we were up early and made our way to the descent road. New rules have been introduced banning open rooves on cars whilst on the crater rim but we still managed to find a 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.

Shafts of sunlight played over the crater floor and 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. 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 dots that were scattered as far as the eye could see gradually became recognisable animals.

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 Anteater 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 seven 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 ever present large numbers of game and in particular Serengeti White-bearded Wildebeest, Serengeti Thomson's Gazelles, Grant's Gazelles and Common Eland. Somewhat dishevelled African (or Cape) Buffalos were common but kept their distance. There was also a distant Serval, menacing Spotted Hyaenas and of course Lions. One female was obviously hungry and decided to hunt a family of Common Warthog while we were watching. She broke into a mad dash for them but was too slow to catch any however one of the hoglets had become separated from its siblings but was still chasing after them and comically behind the lioness which looked like it in turn was being chased by the tiny creature. By the time the cat had realised that it was missing a great opportunity and performed a 180 degree turn the young hog ducked and dived and made good its escape. This live event unfolded in front of our eyes and was most definitely a good watch!

The following morning, we spent our time birding the forested lodge grounds and our productive search yielded a fine Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk, Brown-backed Woodpecker, the near-endemic Mbulu White-eye, Bar-throated Apalis, Tacazze and Eastern Double-collared Sunbirds, Thick-billed Seedeater and a super 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 Babbler 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 just driven through the broad swathes of game the plains further north were pretty much devoid of mammals although this is where we spotted our first cheetahs (six in total!) 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 some appear to be Melodious Lark, a species previously only known from central Zimbabwe and South Africa! No larks were singing anywhere and flushed birds were difficult to identify. Eventually we came across several that we could identify as White-tailed Lark and then it was onwards, ever onwards! A few resident Greater Kestrels were seen and we enjoyed good looks at Hartlaub's Bustard and our first Secretarybirds. 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 soon 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 but 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. Flappet Larks were displaying above our car as we continued 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 bird 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 close views. A Singing Bush Lark was found, pretty Grey-headed Silverbills were seen and we improved on views of Steel-blue and Straw-tailed Whydahs.

Lunchtime at the Seronera picnic area allowed opportunities to see and photograph some common birds that included a pair of Black-necked Weavers. 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 a little distant so we resumed lark-quest and headed back towards our lodge. 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. Back in the bush country a pair of endemic Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill posed nicely for us.

With most of our targets already seen we had a full day to search for the errant lark but again had no luck although we did find Meyer's Parrot that had up to this point been mysteriously absent and also numerous endemic Fischer's Lovebirds were seen.

Our Melodious Lark sightings arrived at last the following day as we left the Serengeti. A singing bird was seen well and just in the nick of time. We had lunch again at Naabi Hills where, returning to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area a Red-headed Weaver was seen along with Black-faced Waxbill and a pair of the regional endemic Red-throated Tit. We spent our next three nights at the charming Ndotu Safari Lodge. Entering the park we chanced across a pair of Bronze-winged Courser and this time in broad daylight.

We had two full days to explore the Ndotu 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; Ndotu 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 Ndotu area and we were entertained by some wonderful Cheetahs. Particularly memorable will be an individual that had just managed to catch a Thomson's Gazelle and was gorging rapidly on it. We had just missed the kill itself but that was going to change the following day when we revisited a hungry female and her two well-grown cubs. We found the animals early on and were able to witness the entire build up to the chase. A small group of Thomson's Gazelles were feeding a little too close for comfort and slowly the female moved in closer and closer. The gazelles spooked a little but didn't move far enough away as she hunkered down behind a ridge that hid her from view. The attentive cubs were not far behind watching every move. Having deemed the distance was close enough she bolted forward and the gazelles scattered in panic. She had singled out one individual and never lost sight of it but never caught up with it either. What she did manage to do was force the animal to double back on its tracks just as she grew weary of the chase and this was its downfall as it headed straight back into the waiting cubs who wasted no time in bringing the gazelle to the ground and rapidly dispatched it so that all three could enjoy the meal.

At the end of the first day in the Ndotu area we had just been watching a lioness trying unsuccessfully to hunt wildebeest and had turned around to head back and get back to the lodge before closing time when we hit a hole with some force and broke two of the leaf springs on a rear wheel. Our driver was well equipped with spares and he quickly set to work to fix the problem. A rescue vehicle was arranged for us and as we waited, we were witness to a spectacular sunset as the wildebeest gazed back at us warily. As dusk fell, we could see the eyeshine of a herd of zebra and we wondered if indeed the lioness was out there in the darkness waiting for an opportunity to grab an unwary tourist! Fortunately, we were soon rescued and some were lucky to see an African Wild Cat on their impromptu night drive!

During the days endemic Grey-breasted Spurfowl were common and offered numerous viewing opportunities. Pretty little Harlequin Quails were flushed from the short grass plains and some were actually seen at rest. Secretarybird was a much-wanted species during this tour and Ndotu probably gave us our best encounters with this strange raptor. By this stage of the tour, we had seen most of the new bird species likely so our time at Ndotu enabled us to improve on views and photographs but a few new ones were seen including Rufous Chatterer.

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, Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird and also Pale White-eye.

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 heavy overnight rain and first we visited a site where we found nesting Grosbeak Weavers and a colony of near-endemic Taveta Golden Weavers.

At the park entrance we watched Scaly Spurfowl, Spot-flanked Barbet, Trilling Cisticola and Rüppell's Robin-Chat. Entering the park, we headed inwards and upwards to the forest where we spent all of the morning. Initially all was quiet but birds were becoming active after the rain. We saw Mountain Wagtail on the road and a pair of White-backed Ducks on a flooded pool. Our first stop produced some Kenrick's Starlings and White-eared Barbets but then perhaps the trickiest bird of the tour was spotted and we could hardly believe our eyes as two male Abbott's Starlings settled on the top of some dead snags and stayed long enough to get some decent scope views. This difficult bird is restricted to mountain forests in northern Tanzania and Kenya and is seldom seen. Flushed with success we drove higher to the Ngurdoto Crater rim, where shaggy-coated Guereza Colobus gathered leaves in the treetops. Some superb Hartlaub's Turacos popped into view, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eaters wheeled back and forth and the near-endemic Broad-ringed White-eye was seen well and other successes included African Goshawk, Moustached Tinkerbird, Narina Trogon, Pallid Honeyguide, Retz's Helmetshrike, Olive-headed (aka Stripe-faced) Greenbul, Black-headed Apalis, Ashy Flycatcher and Olive Sunbird.

In the afternoon we headed down to the surprisingly empty Momella lakes where Brown-hooded Kingfisher, White-headed Barbet, Moustached Grass Warbler and Short-winged Cisticola, were found as well as the recently split Sentinel Lark.

Back at our hotel overlooking Lake Duluti after breakfast and when the rain had stopped, we all managed views of the handsome Brown-breasted Barbet and also added Giant Kingfisher to our list.

The tour 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/guide had manoeuvred the car over all manner of difficult terrain and without his driving and mechanical 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 follows Avilist v2025 (Avilist Core Team 2025. *Avilist: The Global Avian Checklist v2025*)

Common Ostrich *Struthio camelus*

White-backed Duck *Thalassornis leuconotus*

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*

Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*

Maccoa Duck *Oxyura maccoa*

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

Southern Pochard *Netta erythrophthalma*

Blue-billed Teal *Spatula hottentota*

Cape Teal *Anas capensis*

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

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*

Coqui Francolin *Campocolinus coqui*

Crested Francolin *Ortygornis sephaena*

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix* (H) Heard only

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*

Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor*

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Black-necked Grebe (Eared G) *Podiceps nigricollis*

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

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

Schalow's Turaco *Tauraco schalowi*

Hartlaub's Turaco ◇ *Tauraco hartlaubi*

Kori Bustard *Ardeotis kori*

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

Hartlaub's Bustard ◇ *Lissotis hartlaubii*

Black-bellied Bustard *Lissotis melanogaster*

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* (H) Heard only

Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus*

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius*

Common Cuckoo (Eurasian C) *Cuculus canorus*

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus*

Yellow-throated Sandgrouse ◇ *Pterocles gutturalis*

Black-faced Sandgrouse ◇ *Pterocles decoratus*

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis*

Dusky Turtle Dove *Streptopelia lugens*

Ring-necked Dove *Streptopelia capicola*

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata*

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

African Olive Pigeon (Rameron P) *Columba arquatrix*

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea*

Rock Dove (introduced) *Columba livia*

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*

Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistria*

Blue-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur afer*

Emerald-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur chalcospilos*

African Green Pigeon *Treron calvus* (NL) Non leader

Grey Crowned Crane *Balearica regulorum*

African Rail (A Water R) *Rallus caerulescens*

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

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

Purple Swamphen (African S) *Porphyrio [porphyrio] madagascariensis*

Black Crane *Zapornia flavirostra*

Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis*

Water Thick-knee *Burhinus vermiculatus*

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Three-banded Plover *Thinornis tricoloris*

Long-toed Lapwing (L-t Plover) *Vanellus crassirostris*

Blacksmith Lapwing (B Plover) *Vanellus armatus*

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*

Common Buttonquail (Small B) *Turnix sylvaticus*

Double-banded Courser (Two-b C) *Smutsornis africanus*

Bronze-winged Courser ♦ **(Violet-tipped C)** *Rhinoptilus chalcopterus*

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*

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

African Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia microscelis*

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

Great Cormorant (White-breasted C) *Phalacrocorax [carbo] lucidus*

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash*

African Spoonbill *Platalea alba*

African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

Black Heron (Black E) *Egretta ardesiaca*

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Little Heron (Green-backed H) *Butorides atricapilla*

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

Great Egret (Western G E) *Ardea [alba] melanorhynchos*

Yellow-billed Egret *Ardea brachyrhyncha*

Western Cattle Egret *Ardea ibis*

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala*

Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath*

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Montane Nightjar ◊ *Caprimulgus poliocephalus*

Slender-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus clarus*

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*

Scarce Swift *Schoutedenapus myoptilus*

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer*

Horus Swift *Apus horus*

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

Nyanza Swift ◊ *Apus niansae*

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum*

African Scops Owl *Otus senegalensis*

Verreaux's Eagle-Owl *Ketupa lactea*

African Wood Owl *Strix woodfordii*

Secretarybird *Sagittarius serpentarius*

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene) *Polyboroides typus*

Palm-nut Vulture *Gypohierax angolensis* (NL) Non-leader

White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis*

Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos*

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus*

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

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

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus*

Black-chested Snake Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis*

Brown Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinereus*

Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus*

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis*

Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax*

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*

Little Sparrowhawk *Tachyspiza minulla*

Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk *Accipiter rufiventris*

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

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

Black Kite (Yellow-billed K) *Milvus [migrans] aegyptius*

African Fish Eagle *Icthyophaga vocifer*

Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur*

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

Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus*

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus*

Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina*

Common Hoopoe (African H) *Upupa [epops] africana*

Common Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas* (H) Heard only

Abyssinian Scimitarbill ◊ *Rhinopomastus minor*

Green Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus*

Southern Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus leadbeateri*

Crowned Hornbill *Lophoceros alboterminatus*

African Grey Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus*

Von der Decken's Hornbill ◊ *Tockus deckeni*

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

Northern Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus erythrorhynchus*

Silvery-cheeked Hornbill *Bycanistes brevis*

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

Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus*

European Roller (Eurasian R) *Coracias garrulus*

White-fronted Bee-eater *Merops bullockoides*

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus*

Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater ◊ *Merops oreobates*

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

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus*

African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta*

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima*

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis*

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti*

Brown-hooded Kingfisher *Halcyon albiventris*

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

Red-and-yellow Barbet ◊ *Trachyphonus erythrocephalus*

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

D'Arnaud's Barbet ◊ (Usambiro B) *Trachyphonus [darnaudii] 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*

White-headed Barbet *Lybius leucocephalus*

Green-backed Honeybird *Prodotiscus zambesiae*

Pallid Honeyguide ♦ (Eastern H) *Indicator meliphilus*

Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor*

Nubian Woodpecker *Campethera nubica*

Bearded Woodpecker *Chloropicus namaquus*

Brown-backed Woodpecker *Dendropicos obsoletus*

Eastern Grey Woodpecker ♦ *Dendropicos spodocephalus*

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens*

Pygmy Falcon *Polihierax semitorquatus*

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*

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

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus*

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*

Black Cuckooshrike *Campephaga flava*

Brubru *Nilaus afer*

Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis*

Grey-headed Bushshrike *Malaconotus blanchoti*

Black-backed Puffback *Dryoscopus cubla*

Rosy-patched Bushshrike *Rhodophoneus cruentus*

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

Tropical Boubou *Laniarius major*

Slate-coloured Boubou *Laniarius funebris*

Chinspot Batis *Batis molitor*

Pygmy Batis *Batis perkeo*

Grey-crested Helmetshrike ♦ *Prionops poliophilus*

Retz's Helmetshrike *Prionops retzii*

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*

Magpie Shrike *Urolestes melanoleucus*

Long-tailed Fiscal ♦ *Lanius cabanisi*

Grey-backed Fiscal *Lanius excubitoroides*

Taita Fiscal ♦ *Lanius dorsalis*

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*

Northern Fiscal *Lanius humeralis*

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

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

Northern White-crowned Shrike *Eurocephalus ruppelli*

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

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

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*

House Crow (introduced) *Corvus splendens*

Red-throated Tit ♦ *Melaniparus fringillinus*

Beesley's Lark ♦ **(Pygmy Spike-heeled L)** *Chersomanes beesleyi*

Fischer's Sparrow-Lark ♦ *Eremopterix leucopareia*

Fawn-coloured Lark ♦ **(Foxy L)** *Calendulauda [africanoides] alopex*

White-tailed Lark ♦ *Mirafra albicauda*

Melodious Lark ♦ *Mirafra cheniana*

Singing Bush Lark *Mirafra javanica*

Flappet Lark *Amirafra rufocinnamomea*

Rufous-naped Lark ♦ *Corypha africana*

Sentinel Lark ♦ *Corypha athi*

Short-tailed Lark ◊ *Spizocorys fremantlii*

Red-capped Lark *Calandrella cinerea*

Somali Short-toed Lark ◊ **(Athi S-t L)** *Alaudala [somalica] athensis*

Eastern Nicator *Nicator gularis* (H) Heard only

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

Red-faced Crombec *Sylvietta whytii*

Yellow-bellied Eremomela *Eremomela icteropygialis*

Grey Wren-Warbler ◊ *Calamonastes simplex*

Bleating Camaroptera (Grey-backed C) *Camaroptera brachyura*

Buff-bellied Warbler *Phyllolais pulchella*

Bar-throated Apalis ◊ *Apalis thoracica*

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida*

Black-headed Apalis ◊ *Apalis melanocephala*

Brown-headed Apalis ◊ *Apalis alticola*

Maasai Apalis ◊ *Apalis stronachi*

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*

Red-fronted Prinia *Prinia rufifrons*

Grey-capped Warbler ◊ *Eminia lepida*

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*

Upcher's Warbler *Hippolais languida*

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna pallida*

African Yellow Warbler (Dark-capped Y W) *Iduna natalensis*

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* (H) Heard only

Lesser Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*

Cinnamon Bracken Warbler *Bradypterus cinnamomeus* (H) Heard only

Little Rush Warbler *Bradypterus baboecala*

Black Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne [pristoptera] holomelas*

Banded Martin *Neophedina cincta*

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

Red-throated Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne rufigula*

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Western House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica*

Red-breasted Swallow (Rufous-chested S) *Cecropis semirufa*

Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis*

African Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis melanocrissus*

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Black-headed Mountain Greenbul ♦ *Arizelocichla nigriceps*

Olive-headed Greenbul ♦ **(Stripe-faced G)** *Arizelocichla striifacies*

Yellow-bellied Greenbul *Chlorocichla flaviventris*

Grey-olive Greenbul ♦ *Phyllastrephus cerviniventris*

Common Bulbul (Dark-capped B) *Pycnonotus [barbatus] tricolor*

Banded Parisoma ♦ *Curruca boehmi*

Brown Parisoma *Curruca lugens*

Common Whitethroat *Curruca communis* (NL) Non leader

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*

Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythroryncha*

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus*

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea*

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

Red-winged Starling *Onychognathus morio*

Waller's Starling *Onychognathus walleri*

Abbott's Starling *Arizelopsar femoralis*

Kenrick's Starling ♦ *Poeoptera kenricki*

Hildebrandt's Starling ♦ *Lamprotornis hildebrandti*

Rüppell's Starling *Lamprotornis purpuroptera*

Ashy Starling ♦ *Lamprotornis unicolor*

Superb Starling *Lamprotornis superbus*

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

Bare-eyed Thrush ♦ (African B-e T) *Turdus tephronotus*

Bearded Scrub Robin *Tychaedon quadrivirgata*

White-browed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas leucophrys*

Ashy Flycatcher *Fraseria caerulescens*

Silverbird ♦ *Empidonis semipartitus*

White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher *Melaenornis fischeri*

African Grey Flycatcher *Bradornis microrhynchus*

African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta*

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Rüppell's Robin-Chat ♦ *Cossypha semirufa*

White-browed Robin-Chat *Cossypha heuglini*

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 *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris*

Anteater Chat (Northern A C) *Myrmecocichla aethiops*

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Capped Wheatear *Oenanthe pileata*

Familiar Chat (Red-tailed C) *Oenanthe familiaris*

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*

Tacazze Sunbird ♦ *Nectarinia tacazze*

Bronze Sunbird (Bronze S) *Nectarinia kilimensis*

Malachite Sunbird *Nectarinia famosa*

Golden-winged Sunbird ♦ *Drepanorhynchus reichenowi*

Amethyst Sunbird *Chalcomitra amethystina*

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis*

Eastern Double-collared Sunbird ♦ *Cinnyris mediocris*

Gorgeous Sunbird ♦ *Cinnyris melanogastrus*

Marico Sunbird (Mariqua S) *Cinnyris mariquensis*

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus*

Thick-billed Weaver (Grosbeak-W) *Amblyospiza albifrons*

Rufous-tailed Weaver ♦ *Histurgops ruficauda*

Speckle-fronted Weaver *Sporopipes frontalis*

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

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser mahali*

White-headed Buffalo Weaver *Dinemellia dinemelli*

Red-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis niger*

Baglafaecht Weaver *Ploceus baglafaecht*

Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis*

Holub's Golden Weaver *Ploceus xanthops*

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*

Cardinal Quelea *Quelea cardinalis*

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*

Southern Red Bishop *Euplectes orix*

Black-winged Red Bishop *Euplectes hordeaceus*

Black Bishop *Euplectes gierowii*

Yellow-crowned Bishop *Euplectes afer*

Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis*

White-winged Widowbird *Euplectes albonotatus*

Red-cowled Widowbird (R-naped W) *Euplectes laticauda*

Fan-tailed Widowbird (Red-shouldered W) *Euplectes axillaris*

Jackson's Widowbird ♦ *Euplectes jacksoni*

Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes rubriceps*

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

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*

Steel-blue Whydah ♦ *Vidua hypocherina*

Straw-tailed Whydah ♦ *Vidua fischeri*

Village Indigobird (Red-billed Firefinch I) *Vidua chalybeata*

Grey-headed Silverbill ♦ *Spermestes griseicapilla*

Bronze Mannikin *Spermestes cucullata*

Black-and-white Mannikin (Red-backed M) *Spermestes [bicolor] nigriceps*

Yellow-bellied Waxbill *Coccygia quartinia*

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-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala*

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

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus*

Swahili Sparrow ♦ *Passer suahelicus*

Chestnut Sparrow ♦ *Passer eminibey*

Kenya Sparrow ♦ **(Rufous S)** *Passer rufocinctus*

House Sparrow (introduced) *Passer domesticus*

Mountain Wagtail *Motacilla clara*

Western Yellow Wagtail (Yellow-headed W) *Motacilla [flava] lutea*

Western Yellow Wagtail (Grey-headed W) *Motacilla [flava] thunbergi*

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp*

Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus*

Pangani Longclaw ♦ *Macronyx aurantiigula*

Rosy-throated Longclaw (R-breasted L) *Macronyx ameliae*

Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys*

African Pipit (Grassland P) *Anthus cinnamomeus*

Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica*

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*

Streaky Seedeater *Crithagra striolata*

Thick-billed Seedeater *Crithagra burtoni*

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*

Afro-Asiatic Wildcat *Felis lybica* (NL) Non leader

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*

Natal Red Duiker (Harvey's D) *Cephalophorus [natalensis] harveyi*

Blue Wildebeest (Eastern White-bearded W) *Connochaetes [taurinus] albojubatus*

Blue Wildebeest (Serengeti White-bearded W) *Connochaetes [taurinus] mearnsi*

Tsessebe (Topi) *Damaliscus [lunatus] jimela*

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

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

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

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

Cavendish's Dik-dik *Madoqua cavendishi*

Thomas's Dik-dik *Madoqua thomasi*

Grant's Gazelle *Nanger granti*

Suni *Nesotragus moschatus*

Cape Buffalo (African B) *Syncerus caffer*

Common Eland *Tragelaphus oryx*

Northern 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* (H) Heard only

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 microtis*

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

Unstriped Ground Squirrel *Xerus rutilus*

African Grass Rat *Arvicanthis niloticus*



Beesley's Lark (image by Nik Borrow)



Three-banded Courser (image by Nik Borrow)



Cheetahs (image by Nik Borrow)



Yellow-throated Sandgrouse (image by Nik Borrow)



Hildebrandt's Starling (image by Nik Borrow)



Yellow-crowned Bishop (image by Nik Borrow)



Southern Ground Hornbill (image by Nik Borrow)



White-headed Vulture (image by Nik Borrow)



White-fronted Bee-eater (image by Nik Borrow)



Secretarybird (image by Nik Borrow)



White-backed Duck (image by Nik Borrow)



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



Malachite Sunbird (image by Nik Borrow)



Spotted Hyaena (image by Nik Borrow)



Spotted Hyaena (image by Nik Borrow)



Spotted Thick-knee (image by Nik Borrow)



Lappet-faced Vultures (image by Nik Borrow)



Black-faced Sandgrouse (image by Nik Borrow)



Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill (image by Nik Borrow)



Coqui Francolin (image by Nik Borrow)



Southern Red Bishop (image by Nik Borrow)



Black-chested Snake Eagle (image by Nik Borrow)



Serengeti Wildebeests and Plains Zebras (image by Nik Borrow)



Serengeti Wildebeests and Plains Zebras (image by Nik Borrow)



Serengeti White-bearded Wildebeests (image by Nik Borrow)



Magpie Shrike (image by Nik Borrow)



Sentinel Lark (image by Nik Borrow)



Cheetah (image by Nik Borrow)



Lynes's Cisticola (image by Nik Borrow)



Little Rock Thrush (image by Nik Borrow)



Lion (image by Nik Borrow)



Lions (image by Nik Borrow)



Secretarybird (image by Nik Borrow)



Variable Sunbird (image by Nik Borrow)



Leopard (image by Nik Borrow)



Hartlaub's Bustard (image by Nik Borrow)



Hildebrandt's Spurfowl (image by Nik Borrow)



Impalas (image by Nik Borrow)



Jackson's Widowbird (image by Nik Borrow)



Kittlitz's Plover (image by Nik Borrow)



Grey-crested Helmetshrike (image by Nik Borrow)



Grey-breasted Spurfowl (image by Nik Borrow)



European Roller (image by Nik Borrow)



Eastern Double-collared Sunbird (image by Nik Borrow)



Black-backed Jackal (image by Nik Borrow)



Double-banded Courser (image by Nik Borrow)



Brown-backed Woodpecker (image by Nik Borrow)



Cheetahs (image by Nik Borrow)



Chestnut Weaver (image by Nik Borrow)



Chestnut-banded Plover (image by Nik Borrow)



Bronze-winged Courser (image by Nik Borrow)



Black-winged Kite (image by Nik Borrow)



Black Rhinoceros (image by Nik Borrow)



Scaly Spurfwail (image by Nik Borrow)



Ruppell's Vulture (image by Nik Borrow)



Ruppell's Vulture (image by Nik Borrow)



Rufous-tailed Weaver (image by Nik Borrow)



Rosy-patched Bushshrike (image by Nik Borrow)



Martial Eagle (image by Nik Borrow)



Maasai Giraffe (image by Nik Borrow)



Maasai Apalis (image by Nik Borrow)