

VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS
NORTHERN TANZANIA
“The Greatest Wildlife Spectacle on Earth”

23 FEBRUARY – 11 MARCH 2007



Tour Report Compiled by Peter Roberts

VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS INC.
2525 WALLINGWOOD DRIVE
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Daily Itinerary

Friday, 23 February. Setting out from USA: Although this was the "official start day" from the USA, everyone had left ahead of time and had arrived in Arusha either yesterday or (most of the group) tonight on the plane the first group departed on. I met everyone on arrival at Arumeru River Lodge at 10.30pm and arranged some activities for the "extra/free" day tomorrow.

Saturday, 24 February. In Arusha: We all wandered in at leisure for breakfast, depending on what stage of jetlag people were at. The local agents provided a short tour of Arusha from 10am until lunchtime. Arusha isn't the "swankiest" town I've been in and apart from getting a feel for how the locals live, looking at their shops and markets, there isn't a great deal to see. We visited the big shopping stop of Cultural Heritage and got an idea of what is on offer for our return on the last day, visited the ATMs to stock up on local currency and returned for lunch to the pleasant sanctuary of our lodge by 12.30pm. In the afternoon, after hail storms the weather brightened on cue for a 4m bird-walk. This, along with some wanderings this morning and on our own got us a good start into the commoner bird species. Localised Taveta Golden Weavers were on good form, Brown-breasted Barbet showed in the morning, then other birds of interest such as Winding and Singing Cisticolas, Back-backed Puffback, Lesser Honeyguide and African Black-headed Oriole in the afternoon.

Sunday, 25 February. Arusha National Park: We had a brief optional pre-breakfast birding walk around the lodge grounds from 6.30- 7am, not finding anything particularly special except a Yellow-fronted Canary which seems a bit out of range here. We set off at 8am for a full day in Arusha National Park - always masses of birds to see and always difficult to get people to concentrate on what is "special" and "unusual" when everything is totally new! We had lovely looks at bright purple iridescent Violet-backed Starlings on the way and at the gate Pat and Jim caught up with us after their visit to Sunday morning mass at the local church in Usa. While the formalities were being dealt with some of us found first good birds - a few noisy Singing Cisticolas, and a Moustached Grass Warbler being a particularly good record. Some of the ladies found first African Stonechats while queuing for the loo - never a dull moment! We made some first stops and photos during the day of Giraffes, Zebras, Cape Buffalo and Olive Baboons on the promise of lots more to come at a leisurely pace later. We did make a point of stopping for several good looks of groups of Black & White Colobus and Blue Monkeys, Harvey's (Red) Duikers and Bushbucks - species we might not see again. Gratuitous stops for large herds of Cape Buffalo were made on the basis of finding localised Saddle-billed Stork and Mountain Buzzard! We were aiming for the wooded slopes of Mt. Meru in our sturdy vehicles and had several good birding stops on the way amidst all that amazing thick forest with strangler figs before reaching our turn around point at the Fig Tree Arch. At one point we encountered a little mixed bird party moving through including African Yellow Warbler, Cabanis' (Placid) Greenbul, Northern Brownbul and Eastern Olive Sunbird the latter two species both "firsts" for this tour. At the Fig Tree Arch we stopped for a good while and had our picnic to give the birds a chance to show up. We tried hard and failed to locate Bar-tailed Trogon that I'd seen well here just two weeks earlier. However there were several minor consolations such as Hartlaub's Turaco with its flashy red wings, good looks at Brown Woodland Warbler, White-starred Robin, Eastern Mountain Greenbul and Montane White-eyes. After a good long time trying to pry out the special forest birds we headed out to do a circuit of the Momella Lakes. Here with water levels high and the lake flushed with fresh rain the usual masses of Flamingos and other waterbirds were greatly reduced. However a few Lesser Flamingos were present along with 2 African Spoonbills, a pair of Water Thick-knees (or were they "wattled pygmies"?), Spur-winged Plovers and Cape Teal, Southern Pochard and

Maccoa Ducks. It was by now late afternoon and we were heading back towards the exit, the trailing bus "happily doing its own thing" far behind us and turning up their own birds. The 2nd bus also had a significant sighting of a troop of Olive Baboons making off with a dead Harvey's (Red) Duiker. Whether they'd killed it or not we'll never know, but either way it is an extremely unusual record and one which highlights the Baboon's enormously catholic taste in food and potential as a predator. We all reconvened at the last little freshwater lake where an African Marsh Harrier was quartering the reeds and papyrus, and African Jacanas, Black Crakes and a single Hippo pretending to be a piece of floating pond-weed were out on the lake itself. We were back at the Arumeru River Lodge after a very good, full and interesting day by 6.30pm. Supper and birdlist were at 7.30pm, during which it rained heavily, but eased off for us to get to our beds early for a 6am breakfast tomorrow.

Monday, 26 February. Flying to Lake Victoria: We were ready to leave the hotel by 6.45am, had separated out some luggage that could go into store during the tour and were watching a young Red-chested Cuckoo perched inside in the bar area. The run into Arusha and on to the domestic airport was straightforward and we were all checked in (with no excess baggage - they didn't bother to weigh anything this time!) ready for our departure by 8am., though it was delayed until 8.30am. This didn't matter too much as we were on a direct flight to Seronera with no stops. In fact we were in two planes, 5 in one, 7 in the other, with an interesting flight passing over the Ngorongoro Crater highlands and the full length of the Serengeti. We were scheduled to go to the far western edge of the Serengeti at Grumeti airstrip, but the rains had made the river a torrent and bridges washed away or impassable. A real shame as it added 2-3 hours driving time to our day's journey, but this was beyond our control and besides, we were packed and into our Landcruisers with our main driver/guides, Alex and Pokea by 10am. From this time to just after 3pm we headed fairly swiftly west along the straight dirt road through the immense plains of the Serengeti. We managed numerous birding stops for a large range of regular Serengeti birds that we were finding for the first time and 1-2 mammal halts too, for our first Topi and Wildebeest. It was inspiring to be out in the vastness of the Serengeti plains. Gray-backed Fiscals, White-rumped Shrikes, Superb, Long-tailed and Wattled Starlings, Rufous-tailed Weavers and much more was briefly recorded as we sped along. We had to clock-watch much of the way to ensure some time along the riverine forest of the Grumeti River and for time on foot birding Speke's Bay in the late afternoon. Raptors included many Dark Chanting Goshawks and tiny Pygmy Falcons. Woodland and Striped Kingfishers, Green Woodhoopoe, absurdly close Ostriches and an amazing great Secretary Bird on a nest in a low acacia bush all added a touch of the exotic to our journey. At the Grumeti River we got lucky and called in Eastern Plantain-eater. The river was such a high torrent that many of the tracks nearby were impossible and we certainly could not have crossed over the river had we flown into Grumeti. At the Exit Gate near Lake Victoria, we paused and strolled for a break of the journey finding Arrow-marked Babblers. From here it was a short run to Speke's Bay arriving by 3.40pm. We quickly checked in, met up with our host Melanie and were out on the lake-front veranda bar area with a cool beer watching the terns, gulls, herons and African Fish Eagles go by at 4pm. We then took a pleasant slow ramble, birding the lovely, natural and extensive grounds until 6.15pm. The place was alive with great birds. We quickly found some of the localised, Lake Victoria specials such as Yellow-backed and Slender-billed Weavers, Swamp Flycatcher and Red-chested Sunbird. The gaudy Black-headed Gonolek was quickly called out, but I couldn't find the Heuglin's Coursers that were so obliging two weeks earlier. We did manage to muster brief looks at Slender-tailed Nightjar though. Out on the shore there weren't that many shorebirds, but 5 small plovers were immediately of interest and turned out to be White-fronted - a species well out of range and never seen on this tour before. Pied Kingfishers were numerous and the papyrus was alive with nesting weavers. We finally managed to call it a day at 6.15pm, with an hour to brush up before bird list and supper.

Tuesday, 27 February. Lake Victoria and back to the central Serengeti: Most of us were early birding in the extensive lodge grounds by dawn. The reeds and papyrus fringing the lake were full of weavers and we coaxed out African Reed and Great Reed Warblers. After breakfast we made another, longer excursion before vacating rooms at 11am. The shoreline didn't hold many birds, but there were 2 Terek Sandpipers, first seen on this tour only a fortnight ago on the previous trip. Also here were Curlew Sandpiper, Ruff, Little Stint, Common Greenshank and Marsh Sandpiper, while hidden amongst the

many terns was a lone adult Lesser Black-backed Gull. We headed off inland to check weaver breeding trees for Northern Brown-throated, but didn't find any; the female seen last night would be our only record this year. However, there were stunning looks at the intricate nest-building activities of Yellow-backed, Golden-backed and Slender-billed, side-by-side. While watching these a huge, immature Lanner Falcon zipped by, while we also delighted in scope views of D'Arnaud's Barbets, Yellow-throated Longclaws (the Meadowlark look-alike) Red-backed Shrike and the fabulous Winding Cisticola. A little further along and an African Pygmy Kingfisher put in an all too brief appearance. Others such as Grey-headed were more obliging. We returned to vacate our rooms then some of us went out again until an early lunch at midday. Birds still kept on coming. We wandered to the huge trees full of Village Weavers nesting and along the way there found Spotted Thick-knees and on our return, finally after three or more careful searches, found the secretive little Heuglin's Courser where it usually hangs out. Other "odds and ends" literally "hanging out" included Yellow-winged Bat. While doing this last walk, others enjoyed the view from the veranda on to the lake, greatly enhanced by a group of African Skimmers - another species never before recorded on this trip. I was very envious on our return for lunch, but got lucky just before we left at 1pm, when they flew back and showed off quite well.

After lunch we were away back through the National Park towards Seronera and having to travel fairly fast and direct, but pausing at times for Wildebeest with calves, Impalas, Topi and an assortment of birds rare and common, but all new to most. Dark Chanting Goshawks, Bateleurs and Pygmy Falcons were duly noted and photographed. Roadside Coqui Francolins and Wattled Lapwings were nice finds as were Eurasian Hoopoe and Levallant's Cuckoo. We arrived at Seronera by 5.50pm to find an elephant had apparently broken the water pipe and there was no hot shower due until 6.30pm!

Wednesday, 28 February. The Central Serengeti: A noisy start as vehicles set out early, ensured we were up for breakfast and some early birding! We set off for a morning's game drive at 8am, leaving it up to Alex and Pokea to decide the best route to take with Leopard at the top of the "want list" - especially as the previous tour last fortnight had missed them. The drive took us along the winding line of trees including many Yellowbark Acacia (Fever) Trees on the Seronera River. After the dashing about of the previous two days it was pleasant to take a leisurely pace and be able to stop for photo opportunities when Giraffes and Warthogs popped up. The vast areas of open grassland held many interesting cisticolas, with good looks at Croaking, Rattling, Zitting and Pectoral-patch. A far more exciting LBJ was a pair of Fan-tailed Grassbirds (Broad-tailed Warblers), another new record for this tour. It was catch-up time for many of us to have a good look at some of the species we'd raced past yesterday. White-rumped and Gray-backed Fiscal Shrikes, Rufous-tailed Weavers, Rufous-naped Larks and Wattled and Superb Starlings were all given their due 3 minutes of glory. There was an interesting encounter with a huge Saddle-billed Stork on an acacia, which flew off with a twig - nesting material? It then returned with the twig and disturbed a Goliath Heron sitting hidden in the same tree. However, it wasn't long before the driving sped up a bit and I suspected we were "on a mission". As we neared a whole cavalcade of landcruisers I knew we were onto something - and there it was, a beautiful Leopard curled up asleep in a very comfy looking tree! At first all we could see was a large patch of spotted fur, but with patience (we stayed and watched for about 45 minutes) this gorgeous animal got up stretched, yawned, sat and stared at us and settled down again for a nap. Everyone was elated and whatever we saw for the rest of the morning could only be a bonus. We set out for the Maasai Kopjes across further open grass turning up many more new species such as Black Coucal, Black-bellied Bustard, Two-banded Coursers Fan-tailed Widowbirds (Redwinged-Blackbird look-alikes), bright Rosy-throated Longclaws, Montagu's Harriers, lots of migrant Lesser Kestrels and buzzing Flappet Larks. At the Kopjes we found a distant but very finely posed Lioness high on the ridge of one of these massive granite boulder outcroppings. Later we saw her cub too. It had been a great morning, with pleasantly cool, cloudy weather. During lunch the wildlife viewing continued with something for all tastes: a huge band of delightful Banded and Dwarf Mongooses on the lawn below and Black-breasted Snake-Eagle soaring overhead.

Then ensued some brief downtime until an optional bird-walk in the grounds at 3.15pm followed by another game drive at 4pm. The wander in the grounds produced Purple Grenadiers, Red-cheeked Cordonbleus, Cardinal Woodpecker and glimpsed Icterine Warbler. By 4pm the skies were blackening

and occasional lightning sparking off in the distance, creating quite a cool, dull and moody setting for our drive along other stretches of the Seronera River acacias. The river itself produced Nile Crocodiles and Hippopotami, Three-banded Plovers and Lesser Masked Weavers. We weaved for a long while through the grasslands having a fairly quiet time, but just as we'd turned towards home a group of 19 Elephants - our first - were sighted. We watched as they lazily grazed and mooched along, all ages from small babies to huge matriarchs - a very fine sight and finale to an excellent day.

Thursday, 1 March. To Ndutu through the Serengeti: A brief look at the overview before breakfast produced Common Nightingale and Red-backed (White-browed) Scrub-Robin. After breakfast we were away promptly at 8am towards the S.E. Serengeti. Alex and Pokea wanted to take us up into the Gol Kopjes area beyond the National Park boundary at Naabi Gate, so we didn't hang about the Seronera area too long. We watched the Hippos wallowing and rolling in the muddy water at the pools before a fairly fast drive along the main road eastwards. This journey was punctuated with a few short but relevant stops for catch-up photos of common game animals and a few bird sightings. Greater Kestrels showed up first here, with excellent subsequent views later in the day. The longest, unplanned halt was for a pair of Lionesses intent on stalking 3 Topi in the long grass out on the wide, open plains. We watched for over half an hour as they did a pincer movement around them, creeping steadily, slowly and lowly in the grass towards the unsuspecting prey. The prey in the end did suspect and their cover was blown and it was all over, but exciting to watch nonetheless. Further along towards Naabi another unexpected delight awaited us in the form of an elegant little Serval nonchalantly walking along the roadside rather than hunting in the thick adjacent grass where he/she would be totally invisible. We watched for ages and some of us even saw it do one of its famously high leaps onto prey (which it missed). At Naabi after loo stops we did the usual little walking circuit around the hill and had a fantastic viewpoint across the short grass plains disappearing for miles beyond the horizon in every direction. We tried the owl call and had fairly good results with Yellow-breasted Apalis and Scarlet-chested Sunbird coming in. Out onto the open plains we began driving past increasingly large numbers of Abdim's and White Storks, both on the plains and in thermals high in the air. Eventually we came towards what we were here for - huge herds of mixed Zebra and Wildebeest. It may not have been the full dense herds (and few of these had calves) but it was still hugely impressive to scan 180 degrees of plains to the horizon and see endless lines and groups of game animals. Of course it wasn't long before we began turning up some of the predators. A total of 10 more Lions were found, mostly lurking on the rock Kopjes - obvious on the tops or more hidden in the shade of trees or rock crevices. Better still were sightings of 3 superb Cheetahs on the way to our picnic stop and another single on the way out. All were laying low in the grass not far from large gatherings of their lunch - Grant's and Thompson's Gazelle. There were also plenty of other new birds but the star attraction of the day was surely the big game and the super array of cats. Alex and Pokea drove us cross-country towards Ndutu in the mid-afternoon, going fast to avoid sticking in muddy sections. We passed many Spotted Hyenas, all fat on the food surplus and looking very scruffy and muddy. The weather was building into huge distant storms and we raced ahead to Ndutu trying to stay ahead of the downpours. One vehicle got lucky close to Ndutu with a brief sighting of African Wildcat, making 4 species of cats for the day! It was lovely to be back at Ndutu and we had an hour or so for wandering the grounds catching up on birds, finding Pearl-spotted Owlets and discovering the Gift Shop before a leisurely and excellent supper. The Genets of course were a major source of distraction and interest.

Friday 2 March. Ndutu: Breakfast was at 7am after a brief pre-breakfast stroll. The morning's weather stayed fair and pleasantly cool as we made a drive along the edges of Lake Ndutu, weaving along the shore and inland. It was a brilliant and very productive morning. The flamingos were fewer than two weeks ago, but still plenty on parade in their unreal pink hues. Soon after setting out I spotted "something" out of the corner of my eye that turned out to be a superb Caracal. We all got great looks at this very rarely seen cat for many minutes before it shot off into thick grass and anonymity. With that, the 6th and final cat possible for the tour seen, anything else was a bonus - and there were plenty of those. A nice range of shorebirds included fine Kittlitz's and Wattled Plovers. This area of lakeshore with soft volcanic ash banks is consistently good for Bat-eared Fox and this morning was no exception. We watched a single animal at the entrance to its burrow, the huge ears twitching as it watched our

movements closely. A couple of large bull Elephants showed up and we were close enough to one as it meticulously dusted itself all over to get a fair covering ourselves. Spotted Hyenas were also present, washing in the fresh water where groups of various antelopes and game animals came and went. The morning passed pleasantly by, with Cheryl finding a splendid Verreaux's Eagle-Owl up in a tall acacia. While watching this (plus a youngster) I heard African Cuckoo and called it in, then Michael noticed a Great Spotted Cuckoo too, and that was duly lured closer. With all these distractions our progress was much slower than on the previous tour. We barely reached the swamp that was our goal, and in the end had no time to search it properly for birds because as we approached, a magnificent pair of very sleepy male Lions were seen - right out in the open and begging for their photos to be taken. It was gone midday now and we were running out of time and memory cards! Turning for home, cutting across the savanna/acacia grasslands we then came across what was perhaps the most memorable spectacle of the morning - a huge densely-packed herd of mixed Zebra and Wildebeest numbering many thousands. They were so thick across our track that we slowed down to a walking pace to gently part a way through them for many hundreds of yards. The noise, sight and atmosphere was magical, and exactly what I think we had all come to Tanzania to experience.

After the excitement of the morning, the afternoon game drive around Lake Masek was quiet by comparison. African Hoopoes were displaying well and various other regular species, now becoming commonplace were seen again and photographed, but the clouds were building up, typical of the ensuing rains, and light was low at times. One vehicle saw a nice group of 5 Bat-eared Foxes on the way back.

Saturday 3 March. Ndotu: It was a bright, clear sunny day, yet not too blisteringly hot. A Gray-headed (Gray) Woodpecker put in appearance before breakfast and we were away on a game drive by 8.15am. We drove back to the swamp area where yesterday's Intermediate Egret and African Spoonbill waited patiently for our return, along with a variety of shorebirds including Common Snipe, Collared Pratincole and Yellow-throated Sandgrouse. Then we continued through the short bushy acacia clumps out onto the truly vast open grass plains where we met up with several small, but considerable herds of mixed Wildebeest and Zebra. Some had calves and there was a certain amount of carnage to be observed. A grisly group of Griffons on a dead Zebra, a dying Wildebeest and a poor little lost orphan all made it a truer, less "cutesy" reality than Disney or the Lion King would have us believe. Various cisticolas were duly recorded, but no particularly startling bird finds were made. On our return we witnessed further grand sights of large mixed herds with Giraffe groups as a towering backdrop in a haze of dust as the Wildebeest skittishly ran to and fro across the dusty lake-bed.

After lunch and a break in the early afternoon when people took siestas or wandered about doing some extra birding and photography, we went out on our final Ndotu game drive. We were back in roughly the same area as this morning of open grass plains, but well to the south. It was pleasant to be the only vehicles in sight for many miles as we carefully off-roaded across endless miles of flat grass through herd after herd of Wildebeest. Again there was nothing startlingly new, but it was wonderful just to be in it. A flock of Black-winged Plovers showed up and a couple of Bat-eared Foxes were spotted by Linda. Towards the end of our afternoon in gorgeous light it was magical to see large lines and flocks of Cattle Egrets flying low over the Serengeti to roosts and to muse on what might go on out there after we were safely tucked away back in the lodge.

Sunday, 4 March. To Ngorongoro: We sadly left lovely Ndotu Lodge by 8.am, eastwards across the short-grass plains to Olduvai Gorge. It was a bright sunny day and a productive and inspiring drive as we passed miles after miles of scattered herds of gazelles, Zebra and Wildebeest. In one area to the north of us were classic scenes of horizons crammed with Wildebeest justifying the claim to this being the "Greatest Wildlife Spectacle On Earth". Some of the highlights travelling through here this morning were great studies of African Harrier-Hawk shortly after leaving Ndotu Views of Red-capped Larks, many Capped Wheatears, a few Spotted Hyenas and both Silver-backed and Golden Jackals, some with cubs. There were also good flocks of Yellow-throated Sandgrouse up close. We had opted to visit a Maasai village along the way and we thought we'd have too tight a schedule to fit in going the more interesting "long way" round to Olduvai. But Alex and Pokea made it possible. This is a route I'd not done in years -

via the lone shifting barchan sand dune out on the plains to the SE - until the previous tour 2 weeks back. We'd found African Penduline Tit at a nest then so were keen to try and relocate it. This Alex did with ease and the cute little bird popped in very quickly, disappearing into the spherical nest of fluff with a hanging entrance tube. Along the way we also found Isabelline Wheatear before arriving at the odd, isolated dune where enterprising Maasai made some quick sales of jewellery. At Olduvai we spent some time in the Visitor Center and Museum pondering the discoveries that Leakey and others have made over many years here since the 1930s, including those amazing early hominid footprints in the volcanic ash. That ash has made such a huge impression on the landscape and ecosystem - if it wasn't for the hardpan of ash west of Ngorongoro there wouldn't be the short-grass plains and thus no congregation of Wildebeest here for calving! We did a spell of quite productive birding here and found several new species. A White-throated Bee-eater was most spectacular, with a supporting cast including Foxy (Fawn-colored) Larks, Red-backed Scrub-Robins and Black-cheeked Waxbills. We then had our picnic and proceeded a short distance down the road to visit a Maasai village where the group were entertained, shown how the Maasai live and of course sold things! Then on to Ngorongoro Crater, passing up into the lovely cool Crater highlands and then down into the Crater itself for the scenic "short-cut" to our lodge. Further good birds were found doing this such as Northern Anteater Chat and Mourning Wheatear on the descent then a good range of wetland birds in the marshes as we passed through the Crater floor. Shorebirds, ducks and other waterbirds such as Red-billed and Hottentot Teals, Fulvous Whistling-ducks, Glossy Ibis, Curlew Sandpipers and Pied Avocets were viewed in great light up close. As we ascended the Crater on the other side into the cool moss-laden Acacia forest we began finding plenty of Common Fiscals, African Stonechat and, best of all, single Scaly Francolin and a Red-collared Widowbird called in. We were checked in to the Sopa Lodge with time for some initial birding around the Lodge grounds finding several of the expected highland birds such as Cape Robin-Chat, Streaky Seedeater, White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher and most notably Tacazze and Golden-winged Sunbirds. Our evening meal was enlivened by some local singing by the staff and we went to our beds escorted by guards to protect us from roaming Buffalo and went to sleep with the sound of thunder in the skies.

Monday, 5 March. A day in Ngorongoro Crater: A great start to the day with clear skies and a full moon still up as we popped out into the grounds for some pre-breakfast birding. Lots of the "usual" stuff showed up - pert duetting Hunter's Cisticolas, Streaky (squeaky) Seedeaters, Cape Robin-Chats, White-eyed Slaty Flycatchers and Baglafaecht Weavers. 1-2 more interesting species included a flock of Waller's Starlings, but we tried playback to no avail with a range of other hoped for birds. The sun rising over the viewpoint where Golden-winged and Eastern Double-collared Sunbirds were warming up was a pleasant finale before the aroma of bacon lured us in. We were heading down to the Crater by 8.30am. to spend much of the day there. A couple of brief bird pauses on the descent through the lovely moss-laden flat-top acacia forest produced a few further good finds, most notably reviews of Red-collared Widow, plus really fine looks at Red-faced Cisticola. Yellow-bellied Waxbills and a beautifully posed Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater were somewhat brighter finds. Once on the crater floor we got into photo mode and spent some valuable time getting definitive portraits of many of the game animals which we'd seen previously, but which are particularly confiding here. We drove slowly through the throngs of Zebra, Wildebeest, gazelles and antelopes with the prime aim of locating Rhino. Our first false alarm was homing in on a group of vehicles stopped and concentrating hard. But these were just "beginners" admiring their first Lions! We continued on towards the Hippo Pools, but then found the real thing - three huge, archaic Black Rhinoceros, but a long way off and inaccessible. We admired from afar, then continued again towards the mythical Hippo Pools. By now it was mid-morning sunny and hot. We came upon another distraction in the magnificent form of a large, lone, male Lion. We duly stopped to admire it, but it was admiring the shade we offered and it strolled up to the Landcruiser and plonked itself down against the rear wheels in the cool shadow. We had our 5 minutes of fame as every other vehicle gathered took our photo. We then did the dirty on the Lion and drove off! The Hippo Pools were still inaccessible due to the rains, but another larger pool had been made viewable and we finally reached our goal of watching Hippos wallowing in the glorious cooling mud and water. A few waterbirds were here too, but the shores of the alkaline Lake Magadi that we went to next were a bit quiet. Pied Avocets and Blacksmith Plovers, both Flamingos and a huge pair of Great White Pelicans brightened things up, but

nothing outstanding was noted - or were we just becoming blase'? The number of Spotted Hyenas lounging on the lakeshore was impressive.

We made it to the picnic site by 12.45pm and ran the gauntlet of the usual Black Kites, Cheryl being the only one to be relieved of part of her lunch. We enjoyed the sunny break out of the vehicles watching Speke's Weavers while we ate and calling in Lesser Swamp Warbler easily after lunch. We tried to continue down the eastern tracks to the Lerai Forest after lunch, but the tracks were still impassable and we instead retraced our steps up to the Rhinos. They were a little closer and we had our farewell looks and photos before heading north out of the Crater, with just a few stops on the way for photos of Ostriches and other photogenic stuff. Once back on the Crater rim having seen further Scaly Francolins en route, we split into two groups. One vehicle headed back to take an early, relaxed finish to the day. The rest of us drove with Pokea out along the Olmoti road through the high grasslands just for a "look-see". The weather was still fine, the views great: open grassland dotted with Maasai bomas, but birdlife quiet. However after a few miles we got what we wanted and found a fantastic lek of Jackson's Widowbirds. To see the species would have been good, but we found a load of males flying about, then an actual lek with six or more males in thick grass leaping up and down as if on elastic. This was comical, bizarre and unique, their huge floppy bustles of tails flapping in the breeze - a great point to turn about and return to the lodge. Some of us continued in the grounds for a little more birding, finally calling in a flashy Schalow's Turaco before calling it a very full and productive day.

Tuesday 6 March. Birding at Gibbs Farm: Some pre-breakfast birding again around the Sopa Lodge gained us further views of Schalow's Turaco. We also saw Mountain Greenbuls, the duetting Hunter's Cisticolas, and other regulars, though still no joy from some playback for Cinnamon Bracken Warbler (heard only). We left at about 8.40am and then paused at the little pool just along the start of the Crater Rim road in hopes of pulling some further birds. Of course it is very lush now, so birds are less attracted to this as a watering hole and we didn't see a great deal. Montane White-eyes popped in and an African Hill Babbler called back but wouldn't show itself. At the final viewpoint over the Crater I scoped a distant Rhino before we continued on our way, out of the Conservation area by 10.30am. It was novel to be on a smooth paved road again down to Karatu before turning onto the rough 5km track up to Gibbs Farm. It was a hot late morning and we lounged in the grounds and assaulted the gift shop big-style before lunch at 12.30pm. Lunch was, as usual, voted "best in Tanzania" and the walk from 1.45pm-6pm in the afternoon up through the Conservation Area forest helped work off some of the excesses. Some thoroughly enjoyed the walk, others enjoyed the birds, but found it a test in the heat, and at the pace required to get to the Elephant Caves and back. We notched up a good selection of new and exciting birds and it was very pleasant to be birding out of the vehicles for a change. The main goal was to see the highly localised White-tailed Blue Flycatcher and we had several great looks at this little gem. There is so much potential here and every visit brings up different species seen and missed, but always a good selection of very special birds. On this visit we found Brown-headed Apalis, Mountain Greenbul, Black and White Mannikin, Thick-billed Seedeater, Blackcap, a lovely pair of Grey-headed Negrofinches and, on the way back, spectacular looks at a seldom seen forest bird; Peter's Twinspot. Overhead we also found Mountain Buzzards, a brief display from a pair of Crowned Eagles and another "first" for the tour - a dark phase migrant Booted Eagle. Meanwhile, Cheryl and Gail had found excellent looks at Green-headed Sunbird and Jameson's Firefinch in the grounds; the latter another first and an unusual sighting here. We watched the Thick-tailed Bushbabies feeding at dusk, but failed to call in Montane Nightjar before or after a good supper.

Wednesday 7 March. Lake Manyara: Early-morning birding at Gibb's Farm produced a few good birds such as Rueppell's and White-browed Robin-chats, a called in Tambourine Dove and African Citrils in the garden. After an excellent breakfast and final assault on the gift shop for some, we departed at 8.45am, joining the wonderful new smooth paved road going eastwards down the Rift Valley escarpment and on to Lake Manyara National Park where we arrived by about 10.30am. We made a brief shop-stop at the "T Shirt Shack" with its many good designs on reasonably priced T Shirts, then Pokea noticed a slow puncture which required a wheel change. The stop at a small filling station serendipitously produced several good new birds for the trip - 3-4 lifers for some; such is the nature of birding in Africa!

We found fine little Cutthroat Finches, Village Indigobirds, Yellow-rumped Seedeaters and Variable Sunbird. Lake Manyara was much more full of water after the recent heavy rains and much of the rest of the day was spent here in a mix of birding, wildlife viewing and photography. Baboons are everywhere here, and despite having seen plenty before, the antics and behaviour was too photogenic to ignore for some. We also came across Elephants at various times, often very close to the track, with some splendid mud-bathing, dust-bathing individuals demanding our attention. At one such pause I called in a bright male Narina Trogon, and at another in the lovely groundwater forest with its huge trees we came across several huge Silvery-cheeked Hornbills. Manyara is always good for birding and we found a fine selection here today. At the Hippo Pools we looked out across the marshy freshwater inlet of the alkaline Lake Manyara itself. Masses of Hippos wallowed and cooled off here, and with them many birds. Both Pelican species were side-by-side and close-up. Lots of the usual terns, herons and shorebirds were present (including Long-toed Plover on a second brief call in here on the way out in the afternoon). Other goodies included a couple more Saddle-billed Storks and first good looks at many brightly breeding-plumaged Yellow-billed Storks. Red and Yellow Barbets were popular at the picnic site where we also found our first Nubian Woodpecker of the trip. The afternoon was hot and it became too much for Laura, whose vehicle made a slightly earlier start to Eunoto Retreat. The rest of us tried again in the gorgeous forest areas for Purple-crested Turaco on the way out and finally got lucky with a couple of good long looks at this very local species before heading out ourselves, reaching the lodge by about 5.45pm. We all recuperated with cool drinks by the pool, looking out over the adjacent farmland, scrub and papyrus-fringed pool below us and the towering Rift Valley escarpment above us. The Palmnut Vulture seen on the previous tour was (at least briefly) in exactly the same tree as last visit as we sipped cold beers and munched popcorn! After a surprisingly elaborate supper (considering the way-out location of this lodge) most were too tired to stay long for the local Maasai dances and acrobatics. We fell asleep to the sound of the drums beating and the singers chanting.

Thursday, 8 March. On to Tarangire: We did a pre-breakfast bird walk for an hour, with Mathew our Maasai "butler" tagging along. It was an easy meander down the main track with the spectacular backdrop of the Rift escarpment behind, where the first of the day's line of locals was winding down the steep incline to fetch water to the village above - a half-day job at least! A few good birds were found and some better views of other commoner species giving people a chance to catch up; always easier when on foot and at a more relaxed pace. Tawny-flanked Prinias perched up and gave scope views. An Isabelline Shrike was new for us and did the same. We had fleeting views of a pair of Giant Kingfishers zipping by that Mike saw better and perched back at the Lodge shortly afterwards. During our *al fresco* breakfast the view over to the lake and papyrus swamp below the lodge was tempting and I had the telescope set up to see what might be down there. The Palmnut Vulture appeared from time to time and three lovely White-headed Barbets were a surprise. Babs spotted a distant small heron lurking in the thick of the fringing papyrus which turned out to be this tour's first ever Little Bittern. Thankfully, Laura was a little better this morning as we departed at 9am for Tarangire National Park. Going back to the main road we managed to relocate for the whole group several Taita Fiscal Shrikes seen by some of us yesterday evening. Then it was a fairly swift run along the wonderfully smooth road to Tarangire, reaching the entrance by 10.30am. We had a walk about the visitor area at the Tarangire entrance finding Mottled Spinetail and of course our first endemic Ashy Starlings. We had time on the way to the Soda Lodge to make a few judicious stops for Waterbuck photos, first Mosque Swallows and White-bellied Go-away - birds and the many bizarre Baobabs with elephant-holes through their middles and scars up their sides. We were checked in by 12.45pm and having lunch by the pool soon afterwards, with some welcome down time until 3.15pm optional birding for the hardy few. It was very hot in mid-afternoon and not much was moving. However, we did find a couple of pairs of nest-building Holub's Golden Weavers close to the pool which was quite an unusual sighting.

Just after 4pm we set out on a gentle game drive with no specific aim other than to take things slowly, and enjoy what we came across: and it turned out to be a very pleasant afternoon. Groups of Elephants were ambling by quietly feeding. Every Francolin in Tarangire was out on the roadside taking a dust-bath along with every other bird from sparrows and hornbills to starlings and Hoopoes. We saw a few good birds such as Black Bishop, Northern Pied-Babbler and only the second ever African Golden Weaver for

this tour. The scene was very tranquil with lovely light and slowly building storm clouds cooling the afternoon down. Lots of photos were taken. Even the lowly Rattling Cisticola provided entertainment as it performed its odd scolding display of flapping wings furiously as it gripped the branch it was on, making it look as if it were trying to take off, but had forgotten to let go of the perch! No other big game animals were found, but we found a Slender Mongoose investigating a tree hole and had very close studies of Dik-Dik.

Friday, 9 March. Tarangire: Despite gathering clouds last night, today was another bright, sunny scorcher. Some of us had a brief, but productive pre-breakfast birding session in the grounds. A singing, but very typically skulking Thrush Nightingale was unexpected. Fly-by Orange-bellied Parrots were the first of several brief views during the day. While watching the abundant and gaudy Yellow-collared Lovebirds perched up in the lovely morning light an equally brilliant male Eurasian Golden Oriole popped in beside them. Finally, while peering at the rocky outcrops for non-existent Cliffchats a pair of Francolins showed up. Instead of the expected bare brightly coloured neck skin they were a couple of Hildebrandt's - again a little unexpected here.

After breakfast, with now two of our team down with upset stomachs, we set off by 8am and headed for Silale Swamp. Although it was poor for waterbirds, there was still plenty of birding to keep us going and lots of chances for photos. An immature Martial Eagle was impressive, while it was interesting to find our first Brown Snake Eagle flying off with a small snake. Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters were one of a range of flashy appearances including nesting Jackson's (Golden-backed) Weavers, Chestnut Sparrows, Eurasian Hoopoes, both Rollers and more. The track itself as always, attracts wildlife and apart from masses of francolins there were a pair of White-bellied Bustards, several Namaqua Doves, a lovely Bat-eared Fox and various Steenbok and Dik-Dik along our route. A bit of owl call brought in Banded Parisoma and Yellow-breasted Apalis as well as Beautiful Sunbird. A brief stop was made mid-morning at the picnic/loo site, then it was turn-about and a late arrival back at the lodge after numerous worthwhile stops for everything from large Elephant groups, through migrating Black Storks, to Grey Kestrel and a sleepy Lion.

We did some birding around the lodge for a while before going out at 4.30pm, but didn't find too much. The weather started out hot and sunny, but quickly changed just before setting out this afternoon as storm clouds brewed and thunder and lightning threatened. The temperature plummeted, wind picked up and shortly after leaving the lodge it began to rain. We continued with roof down and windows steamed up, not seeing much but making the best of this, our last safari of the tour. We amused ourselves watching hundreds of Yellow-collared Lovebirds dropping into the wet grass; to feed or some reason that eluded us. We parked by the river and watched troupes of Baboons in sausage trees overhead, eating the hard fruits, bickering with one another and leaping from tree to tree. On our return we did see a group of 5 Black-backed Jackals in the gloomy, cloudy evening. I'd heard Freckled Nightjar last night, so on our return to the lodge went fairly quickly to try calling the bird in. They were already out and about making their distinctive "wow-wow" call and one zipped past briefly to "put itself on the official list". Today was Linda's birthday, so towards the end of supper there was a "surprise" procession of the staff singing and chanting and bringing out a cake in celebration.

Saturday, 10 March. Back to Arusha and homeward: What fantastic timing! We awoke to the first serious and schedule-altering rain of the tour this morning giving everyone a chance to stay in bed a little longer. The drive back through Tarangire towards the exit did not incorporate the planned last short dalliance with the wildlife as it was roof down and sliding our way through the muddy tracks arriving at the exit by 10am. We felt very smug that we were finishing now and not losing precious days to poor weather at the start of a tour. It had dried up enough to allow a brief bit of birding at the exit, though nothing remarkable was found. With our last Giraffes glimpsed through steamy windows, we continued back along the main road to Arusha and into increasingly pleasant weather again. Reaching the shopping emporium at Cultural Heritage a little earlier than usual at midday was no big hardship as we had a good, early buffet lunch then set about some serious shopping before continuing to our day-rooms at the Ilboru Lodge. Here we sorted ourselves out and had time for a quick bit of final birding in

the grounds where a Red-chested Cuckoo appeared briefly and African Emerald Cuckoo called but did not appear at all. However, the main goal and hoped-for species, the Moustached Tinkerbird did eventually respond to my calls and was keenly spotted by Jim. The cute little thing sat and called away while we scoped all its pertinent details - species # 401 for the tour.

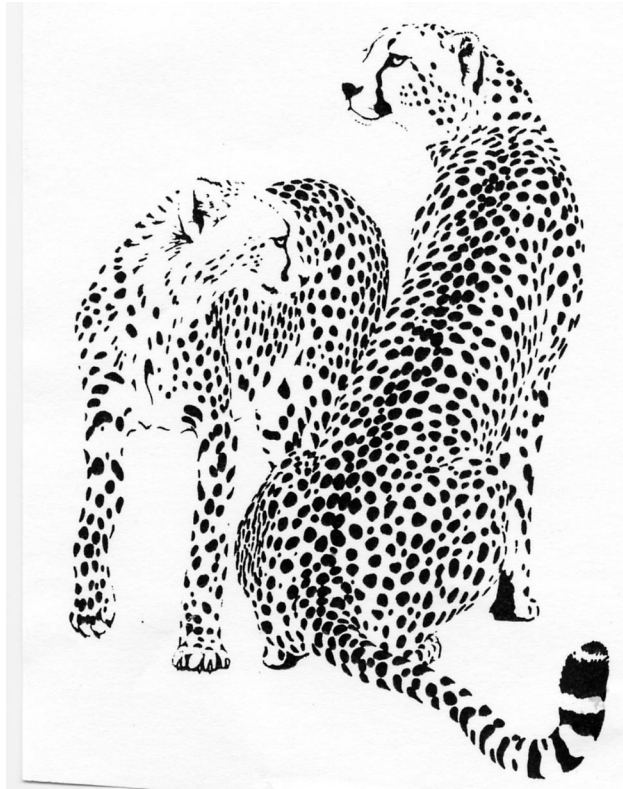
An early evening snack meal at 5.30pm was followed by farewells to Mike, Laura and Barbara who were staying overnight and flying out tomorrow. We set off for the airport at 6.30pm and boarded our evening flight via Dar Es Salaam to Amsterdam at the appropriate time.

Sunday 24 March. Home: We arrived on time into Amsterdam, said our farewells and set off in different directions for our connecting homeward flights. I trust all arrived safely home in timely fashion.

Footnote: This was my 16th northern Tanzanian tour, having just completed the 15th back-to-back with this one. It is always exciting being in Tanzania and my enthusiasm for the places, the people, the birds and wildlife seems undiminished. It is always a bonus to travel with a keen and interested group of people who get along, and I think this certainly applied well to our full tour. It was fun finding so many birds and having you all so keen to join in in your own ways – whether it be studying LBJs (thanks for your “interest” in the cisticolas) to watching big game or the excitement of filling up all those many gigabytes of memory cards. We were very lucky the weather, the earlier heavy rains holding off until our departure day.

The following bird and animal checklist gives details of which species were seen. Approximate numbers are given, but “*” = seen commonly, but not counted, and “h” = heard only. Common and Scientific Names for birds are those used in the World Checklist of Birds by J. Clements. Mammal nomenclature is taken from Kingdon’s guide to African Mammals. Reptile nomenclature is that provided by A Field Guide to the Reptiles of East Africa by Spawls, Howell, Drewes & Ashe.

As promised, there are 5 pages in this report comparing birds and other animals seen on this tour with the identical trip I led immediately before. There were numerous additions/misses between the two tours – to be expected on a tour that now has a cumulative bird list of over 590 species. This tour saw 48 species that were missed on the previous trip. The earlier tour saw 46 species not seen on this tour -- remarkably close results statistically – I just hope that you consider “your” exclusive 48 birds as good or better than the first tour. The first tour found 6 species which were “firsts” for this trip (two of them were still in place at Speke’s Bay – Terek Sandpiper and Osprey – when we were there). We added a further 8 species to the cumulative list.



SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sandgrouse	Pteroclididae															
Yellow-throated Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles gutturalis</i>								2	25						
Black-faced Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles decoratus</i>						1			2				5	5	
Pigeons & Doves	Columbidae															
Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>						10			*	*	*	1		6	
Rameron (Olive) Pigeon	<i>Columba arquatrix</i>									2	*	*				
Dusky Turtle-Dove	<i>Streptopelia lugens</i>									*	*					
African Mourning Dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>			*	*	*	*	*	*	*				*	*	*
Red-eyed Dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>	*	*	*			*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*
Ring-necked Dove	<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>	*	*	*			*	*	*	*				*	*	*
Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>						*	*	*	*	1			*		
Emerald-spotted Wood-Dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>				1									2	1	
Tambourine Dove	<i>Turtur tympanistria</i>											h	1		4	
Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>							1								
African Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron calva</i>	2	1													
Macaws, Parrots & Allies	Psittacidae															
Fischer's Lovebird	<i>Agapornis fischeri</i>			2		*	20	*	*	*						
Yellow-collared Lovebird	<i>Agapornis personatus</i>													*	*	*
Meyer's Parrot	<i>Poicephalus meyeri</i>			1		3								10	4	4
Red (Orange)-bellied Parrot	<i>Poicephalus rufiventris</i>														5	
Turacos	Musophagidae															
Schalow's Turaco	<i>Tauraco schalowi</i>										1	1				
Hartlaub's Turaco	<i>Tauraco hartlaubi</i>		4													
Purple-crested Turaco	<i>Tauraco porphyreolophus</i>												1			
Bare-faced Go-away-bird	<i>Corythaixoides personatus</i>			1	2	4								1	2	2
White-bellied Go-away-bird	<i>Corythaixoides leucogaster</i>													10		
Eastern Plantain-eater	<i>Crinifer zonurus</i>			4												
Cuckoos	Cuculidae															
Pied (Jacobin) Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>			1			1	2						2	4	
Levaillant's Cuckoo	<i>Clamator levaillantii</i>				1											
Great Spotted Cuckoo	<i>Clamator glandarius</i>							1	1							
Red-chested Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>												h	1	h	1
African Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus gularis</i>				1			2						1	2	
Klaas' Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>											2				
African Emerald Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx cupreus</i>										h					h
Dideric Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>			h	2	2	2	10	10	5			1	5	4	
Black Coucal	<i>Centropus grillii</i>					1	1								1	
White-browed Coucal	<i>Centropus superciliosus</i>	2	4		4	5		2			2		2	5	6	1
Typical Owls	Strigidae															
Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>							2								
Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>					h	2	h	1					h	h	
Nightjars & Allies	Caprimulgidae															
Freckled Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus tristigma</i>														1	
Slender-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus clarus</i>			1												
Swifts	Apodidae															
Mottled Spinetail	<i>Telecanthura ussheri</i>														2	
African Palm-Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>		15	1										*	*	
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>					15									20	
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*			*		*	*	*	*	*
Horus Swift	<i>Apus horus</i>														5	
White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>									1		2	*	*		
Mousebirds	Colidae															
Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>	*	*	5	*	*				15	*	*	*	*	*	10

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Fischer's Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix leucopareia</i>			*		*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*		
Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>									*	10					
Swallows	Hirundinidae															
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		2													
Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>			10							10			10		
Banded Martin	<i>Riparia cincta</i>									1				10		
Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>					*	*	*	*	*	*			20	*	*
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>			*		*	*	*	*	*				*	*	*
Angola Swallow	<i>Hirundo angolensis</i>			*	*											
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	*	*	*			*	*	*	*					6	
Lesser Striped-Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>					5								*		*
Mosque Swallow	<i>Cecropis senegalensis</i>													2		
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>			2		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Black Sawwing	<i>Psalidoprocne pristoptera</i>		10							3	5	10				
Wagtails & Pipits	Motacillidae															
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>	2	2	4	4	2					2	4	4	6	4	2
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>			5	2					20	*		*			
Mountain Wagtail	<i>Motacilla clara</i>											1	1			
Yellow-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx croceus</i>				2											
Rosy-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx ameliae</i>					2				1	1					
Plain-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>					1		2		10						
African (Grassland) Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>					2	*	*	*	*	*					
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>										1					
Bulbuls	Pycnonotidae															
Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*	1		5	*	*	*	*	*	*
Eastern Mountain-Greenbul	<i>Andropadus nigriceps</i>		3									10				
Cabanis' Greenbul	<i>Phyllastrephus cabanis</i>			5												
Northern Brownbul	<i>Phyllastrephus strepitans</i>			2												
Thrushes & Allies	Turdidae															
Olive Thrush	<i>Turdus olivaceus</i>											1				
Cisticolas & Allies	Cisticolidae															
Red-faced Cisticola	<i>Cisticola erythrops</i>										5	2				
Singing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cantans</i>	1	2													
Hunter's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola hunteri</i>									4	15	10				
Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>		4	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*
Winding Cisticola	<i>Cisticola galactotes</i>	2		1	5	5	5	5	6	6	*			10	*	
Croaking Cisticola	<i>Cisticola natalensis</i>					*	*									
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>			h		*	*	*	*	*	*			h	*	
Desert Cisticola	<i>Cisticola aridulus</i>								1							
Pectoral-patch Cisticola	<i>Cisticola brunnescens</i>					*	*	*	*	*	*					
Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>										1	2		4	2	1
Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>						3								2	
Black-headed Apalis	<i>Apalis melanocephala</i>		1													
Brown-headed Apalis	<i>Apalis alticola</i>											2				
Gray-capped Warbler	<i>Eminia lepida</i>			1										1		
Green (Gray) - backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>				2	1	2	4	1			10	5	2	2	
Old World Warblers	Sylviidae															
Cinnamon Bracken-Warbler	<i>Bradypterus cinnamomeus</i>											h				
Moustached Grass-Warbler	<i>Melocichla mentalis</i>		1													
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>			1	1											
African Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>				2											
Great Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>			1	2									h	h	
Lesser Swamp-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>										2					

SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Amethyst Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra amethystina</i>	2											1			
Scarlet-chested Sunbird	<i>Chalcomitra senegalensis</i>		1		1		4									
Tacazze Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia tacazze</i>									3						
Bronze Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia kilimensis</i>											2	4			
Golden-winged Sunbird	<i>Drepanorhynchus reichenowi</i>									4	5	3				
Eastern Double-collared Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mediocris</i>									2	5	6				
Beautiful Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris pulchellus</i>					2	5	6	4				1	2	6	
Mariqua Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>			2												
Red-chested Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris erythrocerca</i>			6	10											
Variable Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris venustus</i>							1					1			2
White-eyes	Zosteropidae															
Broad-ringed (Montane) White-eye	<i>Zosterops poliogaster</i>		10								3	10				
Old World Orioles	Oriolidae															
African Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>	1														
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>															1
Shrikes	Laniidae															
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>				2											
Rufous-tailed (Isabelline) Shrike	<i>Lanius isabellinus</i>														1	
Gray-backed Fiscal	<i>Lanius excubitoroides</i>			*	10	*	10									
Long-tailed Fiscal	<i>Lanius cabanisi</i>												10	10	*	
Taita Fiscal	<i>Lanius dorsalis</i>												1	4		
Common Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>	6	*	1						*	*	*				
Magpie Shrike	<i>Corvinella melanoleuca</i>			*										*	*	
White-rumped (Wh.-crowned) Shrike	<i>Eurocephalus rueppelli</i>			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*
Bushshrikes & Allies	Malaconotidae															
Brubru	<i>Nilaus afer</i>		h				2	2		2			1			
Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>	1										2	2			
Black-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegala</i>				1											
Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>		5	2										h	4	
Tropical Boubou	<i>Laniarius aethiopicus</i>		2							h	4	5	4			2
Black-headed Gonolek	<i>Laniarius erythrogaster</i>			2	1											
Slate-colored Boubou	<i>Laniarius funebris</i>					4	4			h			1	h	6	
Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike	<i>Telophorus sulfureopectus</i>		1		h											
Drongos	Dicruridae															
Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>		2	4	6	4		2	4				2	6	8	
Crows, Jays & Magpies	Corvidae															
Cape Crow (Cape Rook)	<i>Corvus capensis</i>						6		4							
Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	10		4										4		4
White-necked Raven	<i>Corvus albicollis</i>									2	2	2				
Starlings	Sturnidae															
Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>			*	*	*	*	*	*	*				1		
Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>													5	2	
Rueppell's (Long-tailed) Glossy-Starling	<i>Lamprotornis purpuropterus</i>			*	*	*	10									
Superb Starling	<i>Lamprotornis superbus</i>			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*
Hildebrandt's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis hildebrandti</i>					10	*	*	*	*			1	6		
Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>		2													
Ashy Starling	<i>Spreo unicolor</i>														*	*
Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>	4											10	20	15	*
Waller's Starling	<i>Onychognathus walleri</i>										10	10				
Sharpe's Starling	<i>Pholia sharpii</i>											3				
Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>		10		2	5		1		*			*		*	
Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>				6		*	*		*	*				*	

