

**VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS**

**NORTHERN TANZANIA**

**“The Greatest Wildlife Spectacle on Earth”**

**22 FEBRUARY – 10 MARCH 2008**



**(Photo: Croaking Cisticola )**

**Tour Report Compiled by Peter Roberts**

**VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS INC.**

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TOUR REPORT  
NORTHERN TANZANIA  
February 22–March 9, 2008

By Peter Roberts

This was my 17th Northern Tanzania tour, and it was every bit as exciting and inspiring as my first. In fact, I think I enjoy the tour and the country more each time I return. Our group included mostly people I had traveled with before, and mostly people who had never been to Africa; as a result, the tour emanated great companionship and tangible excitement throughout. “Best tour ever” was an oft-heard comment.

Our itinerary has worked so well over the years that I stayed with this “tried and tested” route again in 2008. We started in Arusha National Park, and then flew to the shores of huge Lake Victoria, steeped in explorer’s history (and all sorts of special birds we would find nowhere else on our tour). From there we worked our way back overland in two comfortable, specially adapted Land Cruisers with excellent local driver/guides—through the mythical and legendary Serengeti (a massive, intact ecosystem the size of some smaller U.S. states) and famous Ngorongoro Crater, to the lesser-known gems of Lake Manyara and Tarangire national parks.

As always, the tour produced some remarkable, easy birding with many spectacular, bright, and easily seen species for those less interested in all the wonderful complexity of the “LBJs” that we also recorded. This was our best year ever with 423 species seen, four of these found for the first time. Our cumulative bird list, over 17 tours, now stands at 595 species. The birding is so easy, so prolific, and so varied, with different treats at every new destination. But it is so much more than just “listing” and numbers. It is a truly varied and all-encompassing wildlife tour, with plenty of time and options to watch animal behavior.

We did very well with cats this year, recording all six possible species: lions aplenty, a single elusive leopard, good views of the much more rarely seen African wild cat, serval, and even caracal. But the cheetahs were popping up for us everywhere, with many family groups with all ages of cubs. The elephants in Tarangire were magical again, with many family groups with tiny babies, making us all far too soppy and anthropomorphic than was good for us!

But perhaps the centerpiece of our tour must be awarded to an unlikely star: the very awkward-looking brindled gnu, or wildebeest, purely because of its sheer numbers and its effect on the stunningly large, intact, and vibrant Serengeti ecosystem. Our 5–6 days in the vast Serengeti plains were, at times, dominated by this famous, yet strange, seemingly inept, yet stoic and determined creature. We spent whole mornings slowly driving alone over trackless, flat expanses of grasslands. Small dots on the horizon materialized into unbelievable and uncountable numbers of wildebeest grunting and meandering in mile-long lines and dense herds. Once engulfed there in the midst of tens of thousands of wildebeest, zebra, and Thomson’s and Grant’s gazelles, we realized there was no place in this uninterrupted panorama where you could put your binoculars up, swing around a full 360 degrees, and not have masses of wildebeest in your field of view: justification indeed for the tour’s “Greatest Wildlife Spectacle On Earth” epithet. None of us failed to be overawed by the sheer numbers, throng, noises, dramas, and panoply of life that was going on all around us.

Our lasting memories will no doubt include all the fantastic birds and the overwhelming array of big game, but I’m sure there will be a place for the smaller incidents and the quirky and unusual: the sad memory of wildebeest taking fatal “short-cuts” across lakes and becoming stuck in the mud; the industrious dung beetles rolling tennis-ball-sized spheres of elephant dung; the odd sight of a Barn Owl disturbed from its roost and being plucked out of midair by a marauding Tawny Eagle; the time spent gruesomely fascinated by the interactions and fights for supremacy by five vulture species, Marabou Storks, black-backed jackals, and spotted hyenas at kills and carcasses; the extended family of absurd Southern Ground Hornbills feeding their overgrown young with frogs as they meandered through Tarangire’s grasslands; the half-hearted attempts at hunting wildebeest by lions and hyenas already with full stomachs; the dazzling, noisy colonies of weavers making their intricately woven nests; and the wonderful clouds and stormy evening light at the onset of the long-awaited rains. So many stunning images—and so exciting for me to anticipate experiencing more in 2009!

## Daily Itinerary

**Wednesday 20 & Thursday, 21 February:** Some of us had already set out from home, bound for an early arrival into Tanzania.

**Friday, 22 February. Setting out from USA:** While this was "official start day" from the USA, 6 of us flew from Amsterdam today and arrived into Arusha a day ahead of time. The other 4 in the group were just on their way from USA.

**Saturday, 23 February. In Arusha:** Those of us at the lovely Arumeru River Lodge had a pleasant and leisurely day, wandering in for a relaxed breakfast, doing a little birding in the extensive and productive gardens, catching up on sleep and getting over jetlag. The local agents met me to go over details, popped me into a bank in Arusha and then left us to enjoy our surroundings. After lunch, naps and swims we birded the gardens and nearby land for a couple of hours. The expected, localised Taveta Golden Weavers were plentiful and in good breeding form - though apparently being pestered by Monitor Lizards that had moved in - we saw one small specimen. Mikell had views of Brown-breasted Barbet, another on the "want-list" here. Otherwise it was a pleasant introduction to typical garden birds. Black-backed Puffback, Collared Sunbird, Common Fiscal, Bronze Mannikin, Crowned Hornbills, Augur Buzzards, Sacred Ibis and even the first of (we hope!) many Cisticolas with brief sightings of Singing. Other weaver species were prevalent, with Village (Black-headed) and Baglafaecht noted.

I met our remaining four participants arriving off this evening's plane from Amsterdam when they reached the Lodge, to let them know about tomorrow's schedule.

**Sunday, 24 February. Arusha National Park:** We had a brief pre-breakfast birding walk around the lodge grounds starting in cloudy weather at 6.30am. Those who had arrived last night were caught up with Taveta Golden Weaver and African Green Pigeon, plus a small range of other birds such as Black-headed Oriole, Violet-backed Starling, Red-headed Weaver and Yellow-fronted Canary.

After a tasty breakfast (apparently the Tomatoes are very good!) we set off at 8.30am 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 Michael and Wilbert driving us today, and both understood our intent to get up into the forest with reasonable haste. We made some first stops and photos during the day for "the usuals": Giraffes, Cape Buffalo and Olive Baboons on the promise of lots more to come at a leisurely pace later. Once in the forested areas both buses managed great looks at more special mammals such as Blue/Sykes's Monkeys and especially lovely groups of Black & White Colobus Monkeys, the second group crossing the track in front of us at ground level - quite an unusual sight. Harvey's (Red) and Blue Duikers were seen briefly by some.

We were aiming for the wooded slopes of Mt. Meru in our sturdy vehicles and had one good birding stop on the way amidst all that amazing thick forest with strangler figs before reaching our turn around point at the Fig Tree Arch. We'd stopped to admire epiphytes and strangler figs when a couple of Bar-tailed Trogons flew in and perched above us. So, without having to resort to calling them up, one of the main goals of this diversion was showing off above our heads. Here too were more obscure treasures such as Stripe-cheeked and Mountain Greenbuls and Brown Woodland Warbler. 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 all sorts of calls and had a few of the hoped-for birds appear. Best of the bunch was Hartlaub's Turaco with its flashy red wings, further good looks at Brown Woodland Warbler, juvenile White-starred Robin, other Eastern Mountain Greenbuls and little groups of Montane White-eyes and a few Dusky Flycatchers. After a good long time here we headed out to lower, more open ground to do a circuit of the Momella Lakes. There was plenty to keep us occupied here and I had to "clock-watch" to ensure we kept to a sensible time. As we approached the lakes the bus behind called us back as they'd seen an owl in a tree. We reversed and I was delighted to find a "trip-first" in the shape of a Barn Owl. Great stuff, but the driver/guide was

adamant it was a Spotted Eagle Owl! The confusion changed to amazement when he pointed 10 feet below the Barn Owl to a splendid Spotted Eagle Owl at the base of the same tree! At this same area we found Bronze Sunbird where I'd never seen one before, then I caught an "odd bird" out of the corner of my eye and called up Moustached Grassbird. Both this and the Spotted Eagle Owl were very scarce sightings and had last been seen 2-3 years back in almost exactly the same spot!

Going around the soda lakes of Momella we saw much of the usual and expected birds. It was lovely to find for a second year running Grey Crowned Cranes with chicks. A few Lesser Flamingos were present along with masses of Cape Teal, Ruff, Little Stints, Black-winged Stilts, huge numbers of Little Grebes and "oddities" such as Northern Pintail, Eared Grebe and several Maccoa Ducks. A more striking sight were the thousands of hirundines and swifts feeding low over the lakes. We could have spent ages searching through these, but did very well in the short time we had. Sue was particularly keen-eyed throughout the day and picked out a rare Gray-rumped Swallow from the throng of Barn and Bank Swallows and House Martins. The Swifts were (at least to me) a particular delight, offering rare opportunities to watch them at eye-level over and over to really be able to see convincingly the subtle differences between several species. By the end of the day we'd seen Alpine, Mottled, European, African, Nyanza, Scarce, Little and White-rumped (and quite probably Horus too!). Other odds and ends around the lake edge were immature and washed out Pangani Longclaw, Winding Cisticola, Western Marsh Harrier, nesting Hadada Ibis, Tropical Boubous, Common Fiscal Shrikes, Brown-crowned Tchagra and more.

We were rapidly running out of time and headed fairly speedily to the exit gate as it began to rain lightly. At the last little freshwater lake we had a final flurry with many Taveta Golden Weavers amongst Grosbeak Weavers, a Hippo or two, African Jacanas and a scarce White-backed Duck. Hatches were battened down in the rain and we headed for Arumeru River Lodge after a very good, full and interesting day, arriving by 6.30pm (one bus rounding the day off with the first Long-crested Eagle). Supper and birdlist were at 7.30pm, during which we made plans for tomorrow and I tried to assure everyone that not every day would be so "manic" as this, with plenty of time to see, over and over, many of the species of birds and mammals seen briefly for the first time today.

**Monday, 25 February. Flying to Lake Victoria:** We were ready to leave the hotel by 7.30am, the flight having been put back until 9am. We did a brief detour to another lodge I'd staked out earlier for African Wood-Owl. The trees at the entrance gate had roosting birds when I stayed a couple of year's back and the gate guard knew where they were. We rolled up and slipped him a few dollars to point out the three-in-a-row sleepy owls before continuing on to the domestic airport. As it was our own plane, check in and checking weight of baggage was minimal. We eventually lifted off at 9.30am going directly to the far end of Serengeti at Grumeti airstrip (we couldn't land there last year due to excessive rain swelling the river crossing). We took a different, northerly route to pass by one of the small craters now actively puffing steam and smoke. We were packed and into our Landcruisers with our main driver/guides, Peter and Pokea by 11am and were soon finding plenty of birds to slow our progress westwards out of Serengeti to Lake Victoria. As always it was difficult to focus on the more special and unusual sightings when everything was new and exciting! A lovely Goliath Heron as we forded the Grumeti River was a bonus where first Crocodiles sunned themselves and huge, ugly Marabou Storks loitered. We tried a couple of places in the riverine forest for Eastern Plantain-eater, but had no luck. A picnic stop was made more pleasant by a comparative lack of Tsetse flies. We tried to head fairly swiftly west along the straight dirt road through the immense plains of the Serengeti and were on time to check out of the Park at the far gate by about 3pm. Along the way we managed numerous birding and mammal stops for a large range of regular and classic Serengeti fauna. Gray-backed Fiscals, White-rumped Shrikes, Superb, Long-tailed and Wattled Starlings, Chestnut Sparrows and Rufous-tailed Weavers, Ostriches, Secretarybird, nesting Double-banded Courser, Gray Kestrel and much more was briefly recorded as we sped along. The game animals were impressive with good herds of Wildebeest and Impala, huge wallowing Buffalo and lovely groups of Topi. At the Exit Gate near Lake Victoria, we paused and strolled for a break of the journey, calling in Pearl-spotted Owlet. From here it was a short run to Speke's Bay arriving by 4pm. We were quickly checked in by our host Melanie and were out birding on

the lake-front and extensive open savannah grounds by 4.30pm. There was plenty to see here and it kept us going (with short beer breaks) until gone 6.30pm: a pleasant slow ramble, the place alive with great new birds. Some of the localised Lake Victoria specials - Yellow-backed, Northern Brown-throated and Slender-billed Weavers, Swamp Flycatcher, Red-chested Sunbird and gaudy Black-headed Gonolek were found, along with the good old Heuglin's Courser and Slender-tailed Nightjars on exactly the same (nest?) spots as previous years. On the shore were a few standard species worth scoping: various terns and shorebirds, Pied Kingfishers and immense African Fish Eagles included. After a good supper we all got to our beds early in anticipation of a full day tomorrow

**Tuesday, 26 February. Lake Victoria and back to the central Serengeti:** Most of us were early birding in the extensive lodge grounds by dawn. We circled round to some of the large trees with colonies of weavers, sorting through the masses of noisy Village Weavers, to find occasional Golden-backed, Yellow-backed and plenty of Slender-billed. We had a couple of brief views in this area of African Pygmy Kingfisher and plenty of other regular species. We returned via the reeds and papyrus fringing the lake where more weavers were collecting nesting material. Despite playing for various skulking reed-dwellers none showed, but a scarce and "out of range" Blue-headed Coucal was seen briefly.

After breakfast we made another, longer excursion on foot before vacating rooms at 11am. The shoreline was productive on this visit, with good looks at many of the commoner species of shorebirds (Curlew Sandpiper, Ruff, Little Stint, Common Greenshank and Marsh Sandpiper) and terns, plus rarer finds - Lesser Sandplover, White-fronted Plover and a very odd record at the end of our morning here of either Little or Saunder's Tern - either species being possibly a "first" for the area. Inland were goodies such as Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, Plain-backed Pipit and adult Red-backed Shrike. Many of the more striking birds were just around the cabins, where brilliantly metallic Red-chested Sunbirds were a big hit, along with colorful Gray-capped Warbler and melodious Spotted Morning-Thrush. More esoteric finds included northern migrants - Sedge, Willow and Eastern Olivaceous Warblers - the latter seen particularly well as it bathed.

We had a prompt, early lunch at midday and set off for the Central Serengeti at 12.45pm. We had over 100 miles to travel through the National Park, so had to travel fairly fast and directly, pausing occasionally for anything new or "special". Our first groups of Spotted Hyenas glowered at us; nimble Black-backed Jackals were also new. Additional birds along the long drive east were numerous. Dark Chanting Goshawk, Montagu's Harrier and a good range of vultures on a hidden carcass caused a couple of stops. We tried one last time (in vain) for Eastern Plantain-eater before leaving the Grumeti River. Immense Kori Bustards and skinny Black-bellied giving its absurd popping/burping "song" were other occasions for brief halts.

Closer to the Sopa lodge, near to Seronera we came across a gathering of safari vehicles - sure sign of a big cat sighting. Indeed it had been, with a recent Leopard, now departed. We hung about and eventually other vehicles left disappointed. Not us! We were adequately compensated by stunning close views of Croaking Cisticola - life is sweet! We arrived at Sopa by 6pm and quickly settled into our rooms, looking forward to a more leisurely day of watching tomorrow without the rush and tear.

**Wednesday, 27 February. The Central Serengeti:** Another hot sunny day (drier here so far compared to this time last year). We took an early (6.30am) breakfast and headed out towards the Seronera area in our Landcruisers for a morning game drive at 7.15am. Peter and Pokea knew the best places to wander, with the chance of finding Leopard at the top of the "want list". First pleasant sighting was a band of delightful Dwarf Mongooses sunning themselves on their termite mound home. It was pleasant to meander along the winding lines of trees including many Yellowbark Acacia (Fever) Trees on the Seronera River. Birding was, of course, productive and after the dashing about of the previous two days it was good to take a slower pace and be able to stop for photo opportunities when Giraffes and Elephants crossed our tracks. It was catch-up time for us to have a good look at some of the species we'd raced past yesterday. White-rumped, Gray-backed and first Taita Fiscal Shrikes, Rufous-tailed &

Speckle-fronted Weavers, Red-billed and White-headed Buffalo-Weavers, Swaheli Sparrows, were all given their moment of fame in the spotlight of attention.

A particular bit of serendipity was coming across a very alert pacing Lioness - our first of the trip, before beginning to home in on activity further afield. As we neared a whole cavalcade of landcruisers, I knew we were onto our main goal. Everyone was admiring a totally oblivious, very fine Leopard resting high in a tall tree. We passed the scope around to gain better views and wondered why virtually none of the other people present (who had made the effort and paid the price to get here) even had a pair of binoculars between them?

After this we just pottered about a little bit on our way back, notching up a few more good birds – including good looks at first Nubian Woodpecker, Lesser Kestrel and Pallid Harrier. One of the large Hippo Pools was passed, where 20 or so stationary hippos were passing the heat of the day doing impersonations of large rocks in the muddy ooze. We were back late at gone 1pm, so we had lunch and offered some downtime until a 4.15pm afternoon game drive. Sue and I kept on birding in the grounds, looking out across a fine vista of lightly wooded savannah below us. We came across a quite impressive mixed flock of birds mobbing something in the grass below them - perhaps a snake? There was a total of 17 species: looking like Christmas decorations as they jumped and hopped and peered from the thorny acacias. Amongst them were Tawny-flanked Prinias, Gray-backed Camaropteras, Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike, Arrow-marked and Black-lored Babblers, Red-billed Hornbills, Slate-coloured Boubou, Bare-faced Go-away-birds and more,

After a quick cuppa at 4pm we drove out to a nearby Lake Magadi (meaning "soda"), seeing first Beautiful Sunbird (living up to its name) on the way. The skies were blackening and threatening rain, but it held off for us, but producing some intense lighting on flocks of Greater Flamingos on the lake. A good selection of shorebirds and waterfowl included our first Kittlitz's Plovers and Hottentot Teals. On the return, some of the group saw the first Verreaux's Eagle-Owl at roost. We tried for further owls after supper, but to no avail.

**Thursday, 28 February. To Ndutu through the Serengeti:** A bit of pre-breakfast birding produced good looks at Tawny-flanked Prinia and very close studies of Gray-backed Camaroptera and Lesser Masked Weavers. After breakfast we were away by 8.30am towards the S.E. Serengeti. Because our lodge was already well south of the Seronera area, we took a route to Ndutu that I'd not done before - very much off the beaten track via Moru Kopjes and Kusini where we saw very few other vehicles all day. Peter and Pokea did a great job in navigating us across over 70 miles of Serengeti wilderness, getting us to Ndutu lodge in good time at 5pm and showing us some wonderful birds and mammals along the way. It was a memorable day. At Moru Kopjes we came across a pride of 11 Lions all lounging on the huge, smooth, cool, flat granite rock outcrops. We were in less of a rush again today and had the opportunity to stop and check out at least some of the many birds we were passing. Between the two vehicles we notched up many great sightings: Lanner Falcons, Greater Kestrels and Martial Eagles; a memorably gory vulture group tucking into the entrails of a dead Wildebeest (just before our lunch!); Green Woodhoopoes, Yellow-throated Sandgrouse in close-up small flocks, African and Dideric Cuckoos called in, reasonable studies of Pectoral-Patch Cisticola, Pied and Capped Wheatears, Cape Crows. As we progressed through the Miombo-type woodland with its short sparse forest and far too big population of Tsetse Flies, we came out onto an extraordinarily wide horizon of endless short-grass plains. Here, from lunchtime to the end of our travels we were driving mostly off-road over flat grassy savannah, forever eastwards. Highlights were coming across our first encounters with large numbers of Wildebeest. Not the huge, massed tens-of-thousands, but still substantial herds mixed with Zebras meandering through open, lightly forested savannah to who-knows-where? At one point they were watched closely by an undetected Lion, at another they started a concerted gallop of "follow the leader" off into the far horizons - classic stuff, straight off the wildlife documentaries! Best of all was an afternoon of rare cats. A gorgeous Serval was found and watched closely. Then an African Wildcat - the best views I've ever had, but it disappeared back into its burrow on the huge open plain before others had much of a look. Finally, as we neared Ndutu and came back into the acacia scrub edge of the short-grass savannah there was a

lone lounging Cheetah. We were able to approach closely without causing any disturbance to this resting animal and spent a good time paying homage.

We were at Ndutu in time to wash the dust away and relax a little before a pleasant evening at this delightful, smaller, unassuming lodge in such a great location. We were treated to no less than 4 pretty Genets on the roof beams of the lounge during and after dinner.

**Friday 29 February. Ndutu:** Breakfast was at 7am, the morning's weather hot and sunny, with very dry and dusty conditions compared to this time last year. We did the drive along the edges of Lake Ndutu, weaving along the shore and inland over the grassy plains, returning for lunch. It was a productive morning, but evoking lots of emotions and anthropomorphism centred on how inept Wildebeest are! We first looked at the edge of Lake Masek, just a muddy quagmire in the dry, and were saddened to see several, probably doomed, Wildebeest stuck in the mud - worst of all with calves too light to get stuck, but of course waiting for their mothers. Why do they do it? It is so easy to go around! Later we watched a lost Wildebeest calf being "stalked" by a Spotted Hyena, which must have been so sated, that as soon as the calf showed any signs of running it gave up. A lone Lioness then chased the same unfortunate individual. Second time lucky, the calf easily escaped the half-hearted attempt from an admittedly limping Lion! As we circled Lake Ndutu we also witnessed another bizarre sight of 2-3 Tawny Eagles mobbing a Barn Owl, which was eventually just plucked out of the sky and taken off by one of them. Other notable events were brief sightings of a Caracal for some of us (the 6th and final cat possible for the tour) and towards the end of a long morning, a couple of great Cheetah sightings; the first being a couple of males, the second a female with three delightful young cubs. Other birding highlights included Verreaux's Eagle-Owl on nest, adult Martial Eagle, displaying Secretarybirds, a "complete set" of Wheatear species, all 5 of the "regular" vultures, and the first Yellow-bellied Eremomela (trying saying that quickly after a couple of beers!).

After a welcome break until 4pm, we went out for a shorter game drive around Lake Masek until dusk. We found a couple more Lionesses, caught up with Giraffe photography and generally had a pleasant "potter about", finding a number of additional and interesting birds. Bateleurs were numerous and showed well. A short burst of Owlet call brought in Red-throated Tit and Red-faced Crombec at a point where we found our first Bearded Woodpecker. Closely perched eagles gave us the chance to scope one with a particularly large gape - Steppe Eagle rather than Tawny. Around the shores of Lake Masek were small groups of pretty little Chestnut-fronted Plovers, the soda lake specialists of East Africa. After another good supper we tried for owls without result, but were mesmerised by the clear night skies with a vast panorama of bright stars on show.

**Saturday 1 March. Ndutu:** Another bright, clear sunny day, not too blisteringly hot, but with fine volcanic ash in the air from the gently puffing and erupting Oldoinyo Lengai volcano to our northeast. With a request to Peter and Pokea to show us the million Wildebeest out on the short-grass plains (half a million for each vehicle) we set off to the south at 8am. We first went out through the short bushy acacia clumps where Dideric Cuckoos and Rufous Sparrow showed well, then onto the truly vast open plains in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. From now until our return to the lodge at 12.40pm we were slowly driving off-road in a huge circle out across the short grass plains - not a track in sight - and virtually no other vehicles. As we proceeded across a seemingly empty world, little dots appeared on the horizon. Closer, they were endless lines and groups of Wildebeest. Within a short while we were in amidst the "Mother-load": a 360' vista of wall-to-wall animals. There were many calves and liberally scattered across the savannah were many groups of vultures, Marabous and Hyenas cashing in on the inevitable deaths. We watched in detail some of the gruesome interactions and wondered at the sheer scale of it all. We had two separate sightings of Cheetahs this morning. The first a mother with 5 or more small cubs, the second a mother with two well-grown cubs with heads blood-stained from a fresh Wildebeest calf kill. We stopped and checked at times for LBJs, getting proper views of Red-capped and Rufous-naped Larks. Larger finds included many raptors such as Black-shouldered Kites in groups, Lanner Falcon and Greater Kestrel. White and Abdim's Storks appeared in small numbers for the first time on the tour. Kori Bustards were out and about; some also finding White-bellied. We enjoyed watching the exploits of Dung

Beetles rolling huge dung balls across the savannah - a poignant contrast between a very small world in a very large landscape. It was a brilliant morning, which got us out to the places and amidst the vast herds that define what the Serengeti is all about.

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 at 4pm. I'd decided to return to the large swamp area we'd briefly visited yesterday, to give it a more thorough check. On the dusty drive we turned up great views of Great Spotted Cuckoo and Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse and found a troupe of 11 Elephants heading in the same direction - intent on a good drink. Once at the swamp, we slowly worked our way around stopping to check for waterbirds. This proved rewarding with really excellent views of 3-4 Greater Painted-Snipe. There was nothing else startlingly new, but it was very pleasant, quiet, the light was wonderful and good just to be out amongst it all. As we turned into the lodge we encountered a Tawny Eagle on the ground tucking into the remains of a dead Genet. Happily "our" 4 tame Genets that grace the dining room in the evening were all safe and sound tonight!

**Sunday, 2 March. To Ngorongoro:** We left lovely Ndotu Lodge by 8.am, eastwards across the short-grass plains to Olduvai Gorge in bright sunny weather, It was still dry and dusty here, so it was mostly just the drought-tolerant Thomson's and Grant's Gazelles present. We had a fascinating stop where 25-30 vultures were tucking into a dead Thomson's Gazelle, but battling with a snapping, snarling Golden Jackal to hold onto their dominant position. The Jackal eventually won the corpse back for a while, but had to nip at the vultures constantly to keep them away. Eventually more came in and it was outnumbered/overpowered. It gave up, taking with it a small morsel it took 50 yards away, leaving a huge Lappet-faced Vulture in control as it took its turn to rule the roost. Then a Spotted Hyena loomed on the horizon, loped straight in, scattered the vultures and nabbed the entire remains and wandered off some way from the still present Jackal and had his meal.

Other things of note on our journey this morning were good studies of Fischer's Sparrow-larks and Red-capped Larks. There were also plentiful flocks of Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse. We headed the more interesting round to Olduvai via the lone, shifting barchan sand dune out on the plains to the SE. Stopping along the way to photograph the flowers, we spied a pair of Temminck's Coursers and 1-2 Eastern (Pale) Chanting Goshawks: one bus found White-throated Robin (Irania) - quite a rarity here. At Olduvai we had plenty of time this year and first went into 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 weren'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 also had plenty of time here for some quite productive birding (accompanied by a pleasant young Maasai boy, presumably curious at our birding antics). Several new species were noted: good looks were had a bunch of interesting birds such as Rufous Chatterers, Banded Parisoma, Red-backed Scrub-Robin, Foxy (Fawn-colored) Lark, Chinspot Batis and Gray Flycatcher. Thereafter we ate our picnic in the shade of the overlooks at Olduvai where Vitelline Masked Weavers, Speckle-fronted Weavers, Southern Red Bishops, Purple Grenadier and Red-billed Firefinches pecked crumbs at our feet.

We then split into two groups - one going 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!). The rest of us went directly on to Ngorongoro Crater, passing up into the lovely cool Crater highlands where it was cloudy and began to rain for a while. Both groups made their way down into the Crater independently, both finding local specialities: Schalow's (Mourning) Wheatear and Northern Anteater Chat. Our group were thrilled (or was it just me?) to call in a Wailing (Lyne's) Cisticola - new for this tour and possibly only recently located on the Crater rim scrub. We all joined together again to drive through the Crater floor to the other side and the ascent to our lodge. It was still cool and cloudy at times, but we managed a good range of wetland birds in the marshes and the Hippo Pool: Hottentot Teal, brilliant pink-flushed Yellow-billed Storks, Fan-tailed Widowbirds, African Reed and Lesser Swamp Warblers, Purple Heron - and of course the wallowing Hippos. 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 other typical highland birds. We were checked in to the Sopa Lodge with time for some initial birding around the Lodge grounds finding several of the expected specials - Streaky Seedeater, White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher, Hunter's Cisticola, and Eastern Double-collared Sunbirds. Our evening meal was enlivened by some singing of local songs by the staff.

**Monday, 3 March. A day in Ngorongoro Crater:** A cool pre-breakfast birding in the grounds produced a few of the usual and expected species of the high altitude forest. Duetting Hunter's Cisticolas were admired along with Streaky Seedeaters, Cape Robin-Chats, White-eyed Slaty Flycatchers, Baglafaecht Weavers, African Stonechats and so on. More interesting was a pair or so of lovely Golden-winged Sunbirds when it warmed up a little. Olive (Rameron) Pigeons did plentiful fly-bys as we headed in for breakfast.

We headed down to the Crater by 8.am., spending much of the day there. Some productive pauses on the way down gave us great views of called-in Schalow's Turaco in the lovely moss-laden flat-topped acacia forest. We just about managed looks for all at uncooperative Red-collared Widowbirds and better sunlit views of Red-faced Cisticola. Once on the crater floor, with good sunlight, photos were taken of the common game animals - particularly confiding here. We drove slowly through the throngs of Zebra, Wildebeest, gazelles and antelopes with the prime aim of locating Rhino. 1-2 Lions were seen, including large adult males with fine manes. We worked our way to the shores of Lake Magadi (the soda lake, thronged with masses of brilliant pink Greater and (mostly) Lesser Flamingos). Sadly, the NCAA have repaired all the roads since a very wet VENT visit last year, when many vehicles were becoming stuck, and have decided not to allow vehicles close to the shore at any point. This made close views of shorebirds and ducks etc an impossibility. So we didn't linger here as long as anticipated, but instead continued our circuit towards an early lunch at the marsh picnic site. It seemed comparatively quiet here this year - both for birds and for vehicles. The troubles in Kenya explain fewer people - but I don't know why birds should be "down". We made it to the picnic site by 12pm and managed to avoid the attentions of the Black Kites, but welcomed those of the less aggressive Speke's Weavers. We continued down the eastern tracks to the Lerai Forest after lunch, passing further wetlands that now remain distant due to new road layouts. However we found first Great and Intermediate Egrets and African Spoonbills amongst many other gathered waterbirds. We made our way slowly through the tall Fever Tree (Yellowbark Acacia) forest calling for birds, and seeing a small, but interesting selection. White-headed Barbet was glimpsed, a Klaas Cuckoo responded well to playback and it was a delight to find a breeding plumaged White-throated Robin - partly because it was a splendidly bright bird, partly because it so seldom seen on this tour and partly because it gave Bill and I another chance to recall our trip to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan in public! Out on the open plain once more and heading north on the western side to our exit, we'd more or less sadly given up on Rhino. Pokea and Peter confirmed few recent sightings of the 20 or so animals in the Crater - and it began to rain from a thundery squall overhead. The rain eventually fizzled out and nicely settled the dust, the birds came out in the fresh cool air and we witnessed cock-fighting Scaly Francolins and the absurd display of Kori Bustard attempting to turn itself inside out. Another pride of Lions was seen along the way, all very drowsy and un-photogenic. We were now aiming fast for the exit to make a run along the high plateau grasslands where I'd found displaying Jackson's Widowbirds last year. Just as we'd put our foot down a magnificent and prehistorically lumbering Black Rhinoceros came into view actively feeding fairly close to the track. What wonderful last minute luck!

With the weather fine again, we left the Crater and set out over the open grassland dotted with Maasai bomas. Only a mile or two down the road Peter spotted a flock of small birds and halted: here were our targeted Jackson's Widowbirds in all their splendour and absurdity. Several males with crazily long foppish tails were being pursued by a fan-club of 15 or so females over the grasslands - all giving very acceptable views. While watching these avian show-offs a supremely drab Alpine (Moorland) Chat popped up-only the 3rd time we've recorded this high altitude species on the tour. This was a great point to call it a day and return to the lodge by 5.30pm. Su and I continued some birding in the grounds

finding Mountain Yellow Warblers. Others in our group, better at relaxing, took some well-deserved down time before supper.

**Tuesday 4 March. Birding at Gibbs Farm:** Pre-breakfast birding around the Sopa Lodge was difficult in low, cloudy/foggy conditions. A few nice things were seen including first Olive Thrush by Su and first (only) Tacazze Sunbird by me. Schalow's Turaco was present again and Mountain Greenbul showed up well this morning. With cool foggy weather persisting, we left early at 8am and then paused at the little pool just along the start of the Crater Rim road in hopes of bringing in some further birds. It wasn't hugely action-packed, but a gorgeous White-starred Robin put in a grand appearance and a pair of Gray Wagtails was a first for this tour, making it all worthwhile. We drove in fog around the Crater Rim road and sadly didn't bother to stop for a final nostalgic glance at the last viewpoint over the Crater, as there was zero visibility! We were soon down at the exit gate from the NCAA and on a smooth paved road to Karatu. We were in good time and so I had the vehicles make a short diversion to another lodge that could be potentially good for future tours when the lovely, cosy (and affordable) Gibbs Farm cottages are ripped out and replaced by 5-star excesses next year. The Plantation Lodge was impressive - lovely buildings and accommodation and expansive flower-rich grounds. We arrived at Gibbs Farm just after 11am and we lounged in the grounds, had tea and coffee and did some initial birding before a very tasty 12.30pm lunch - as always voted best meal of the trip!

The usual walk up into the NCAA was different to previous years, with an entrance fee now charged and an armed escort accompanying us against Buffalo and Elephant. We set out at 1.45pm returning by 5.45pm. We found a modest selection of the potential species in this lovely rich forest slope; some new and exciting birds and a very welcome chance to be birding out of the vehicles for a change and getting some gentle exercise. The localised White-tailed Blue Flycatcher was seen on numerous occasions both in the gardens and on the trail. Every visit brings up different species seen and missed, but always a good variety of very special birds. On this visit we found Brown-headed Apalis, Mountain Greenbul, Black and White Mannikin, Thick-billed Seed-eater, a lovely Grey-headed Negrofinch, Black Cuckoo-shrike, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eaters, various sunbirds, a Klaas Cuckoo fledgling being fed by Dusky Flycatcher and perhaps rarest of all a Gray Cuckoo-shrike. Sadly there were no Crowned Eagles for Bill. Back at the lodge we had an interesting "Art Opening" from local artist Robert Aswani (paintings were purchased!). Prior to supper we watched the Thick-tailed Bushbabies feeding at dusk and quickly called in Montane Nightjar (perched up in a nearby tree where it often stops) before a good supper.

**Wednesday 5 March. Lake Manyara:** There was prolonged and heavy rain overnight, which stopped at dawn. This allowed us to set out on some muddy paths for early-morning birding at Gibbs Farm before it proceeded to rain again, getting us all wet for few birds seen. Breakfast was welcome! 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. Weather down in the Rift was hot and sunny all day, and quite humid as the heat evaporated all the previous night's rain. The day was spent in a mix of birding, wildlife and photography. Baboons are everywhere here, and some token stops were made to watch their antics and behaviour. We also came across Elephants at various times, often very close to the track, with some splendid large males and mothers with small suckling calves. In the lovely groundwater forest with its huge trees we were on the lookout for 3 special birds: huge Silvery-cheeked Hornbills, the dazzling Narina Trogon and the very localised Purple-crested Turaco. We got them all - and well! Pokea was especially helpful in remembering exact locations and trees where we'd successfully called them in last year - and there they were again this year too. 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 in "mud, mud, glorious mud" and gave some exceptional views out of the water and fighting with their huge gaping mouths open bearing those enormous savage tusks. Birds here were great, with a good selection of shorebirds and ducks, but surprisingly no terns - just a single African Skimmer - only the second time recorded on the tour. Elsewhere we found good views of smaller species such as Lesser Striped and Red-rumped Swallows side-by-side and bright little Amethyst Sunbirds.

Bigger prizes were Saddle-billed Stork in a tree-top nest, great looks at last of a pair of African Hawk-Eagles (successfully called in!), young African Harrier-Hawk and adult Brown Snake Eagle, plus a splendid pair of Martial Eagles. At the picnic site the expected Red and Yellow Barbets were notably absent, but a good range of other birds kept up the momentum. Emphasising "small-world syndrome" we met up with the American couple I'd sat next to on the plane, who regaled us with stories of climbing Kilimanjaro. The afternoon was hot and as we'd already found many of our target species, we decided to aim to be at the Manyara Serena Lodge by 5pm. But we had time for a further twirl around the open acacia scrub forest circuits coming across Black and Red-chested Cuckoos playing hard to get. Once at the lodge, I was keen to check out the birding potential, as it was a new accommodation to me. I was joined by a couple of the "die-hards" in a pleasant stroll around the extensive grounds. Yellow and Southern Red Bishops were perched up well. Migrant Willow Warblers numerous and a stunning pair of Klaas Cuckoos were welcome in this very birdy environment. Some of us recuperated with cool drinks by the pool (and a dip into it for one) looking out over the Rift Valley escarpment to the valley floor below. Some very accomplished young acrobats kept us entertained here before supper when the thunder and lightning built up into rain showers by late evening.

**Thursday, 6 March. On to Tarangire:** We did a pre-breakfast bird walk for a while before breakfast, finding much of what we'd seen the previous evening: both Bishops, the cuckoos, the Cliffchat for some a little later, but nothing startlingly new - or are we just becoming blasé? As we packed up to depart at 8.30am for Tarangire National Park, we were treated to our 3rd lovely Chameleon species - this one quite large and identifiable as Flap-necked. Apart from a brief fuel stop (where Su found us Cuthroats) it was a fairly swift run along the smooth road to Tarangire, reaching the entrance by 10.30am. We had a good break and walk about the visitor area at the Tarangire entrance finding a bunch of new and interesting birds. Our first endemic Ashy Starlings were commonplace here, as everywhere in Tarangire. White-bellied Go-away birds and Yellow-collared Lovebirds were quickly added and lots of people caught up with Red-cheeked Cordonbleu. A first Gabar Goshawk was less cooperative. We set off for the Sopa Lodge at 11am, with warnings about difficult river crossings, there having been plenty of rain at times here in recent weeks. Peter and Pokea checked with drivers coming in the opposite direction and were assured the chosen route was OK. We had time on the way to make a few judicious photo-stops for the many strange Baobabs, all gouged by Elephants, some with holes through their middles. All was going according to plan until we came to the river crossing and found 2 Landcruisers stuck. Peter quickly pulled one out, but the other was stuck fast. We were only a couple of miles from the lodge if we went across the river - or 20 miles if we "played safe" and took the long detour to another bridge crossing. A tractor from the lodge arrived, and amid much advice from all and sundry (including Ed, who seemed to have the most experience of us all) it eventually pulled the vehicle out. Then it was a case of "hold on tight" as our vehicles gunned it across the river, all ending OK on the other side. Of course, this was a fortuitous halt, as we had excellent looks at Mottled Spinetails while waiting and enjoying the spectacle. We were not delayed that much and were checked in by 1.30pm and having lunch soon after with further great birds nipping about us all the time (Ashy Starlings coming in to feed at the Buffet!). Then there was down time in the heat of the day for most, until a 4pm game drive. Others potted about birding close to the lodge and wandering through the odd construction of the place. We found a pair of nest-building Holub's Golden Weavers, which was an unexpected bonus.

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: It was a very pleasant afternoon with various good birds popping up. We caught up with several "missing" francolins - Yellow-necked, Red-necked and (for some) Crested. A very close Verreaux's Eagle-Owl was admired while it occasionally gruffly hooted at its young squealing back, equally close in another tree. The most surprising aspect of the drive was a total lack of Elephants. I can't recall ever doing a game drive in Tarangire and not finding any. However, we did see a lounging trio of Cheetahs - quite unusual to see them here in the much taller grass and scrubby cover. The whole scene was very tranquil with lovely light and slowly building storm clouds cooling the afternoon down. Lots of photos were taken of baobabs against glowering dark blue skies.

**Friday, 7 March. Tarangire:** Some of us had a brief pre-breakfast birding session in the grounds, nothing of any significance was found, though the Holub's Golden Weaver pair was seen at their nest by the dining area. We had a very enjoyable long morning game drive in mostly pleasantly cool conditions with a fair amount of cloud cover. We set off at 8am and headed for Silale Swamp, not returning for lunch until about 1.15pm. All the way we were finding new birds, interesting birds, or better views of species seen previously. One vehicle found our first Black Storks along the river. Another had brief fly-by of Harlequin Quail. We called in and had brilliant studies of Brown (Meyer's) Parrot - and the more localised Orange-bellied Parrot towards the end of the morning, in the same location as last year. We managed to call in very flighty Red-chested Cuckoo as well as seeing/hearing 4 other cuckoo species. On the way out towards the swamp we encountered our first large Elephant herd complete with newborn calves - all a complete delight to pause for and watch. Several other groups were seen during the morning, including 50 or more far out into the vast swampy grassland itself. Our first Red & Yellow Barbet was spotted by driver Peter and sat preening and calling for all to enjoy. Driving along the track edging the swamp itself there were not huge numbers of waterbirds (mostly Jacanas and Long-toed Plovers), but it was still very productive. Black Coucals were spotted appearing and disappearing back into the tall papyrus and grasses. A fine male Western Marsh Harrier was seen here, and excellent photo opportunities were given by the flashy Blue-cheeked and Little Bee-eaters. Other bright stuff included displaying and nesting Jackson's (Golden-backed) Weavers, White-winged and Fan-tailed Widowbirds. Numerous LBJs were of course on offer and we managed a (final?) new Cisticola (Zitting) plus stunning views of Winding - it doesn't get much better than that.

It had become hot and sunny by early afternoon, so little was done until we went out for our final game drive at 4pm. Happily, by this time the wonderful cumulus storm clouds were building up again into amazing shapes and shades of blue and white in the skies, keeping it a little cooler. By our return to the lodge at 6.30pm thunder and lightning threatened and distant rainbows appeared. Tarangire finally lived up to its reputation this afternoon as the place to see and observe elephants as we drove up to several endearing family groups gently wandering back from the river and across the track as they fed on copious amounts of grass. In between were pleasantly relaxed diversions into birding: nothing new, but further nice views and final "catch-ups" of regularly seen species. It was good just to be here - not so good to think of boarding overnight flights this time tomorrow! It was pleasant to have Peter and Pokea join us for supper this evening.

**Saturday, 8 March. Back to Arusha and homeward:** A few of us persevered with pre-breakfast birding and found at least one really good species - a stunning Gray-headed Bushshrike singing its plaintive whistling song in good view from the treetops. After breakfast we were away to the exit of Tarangire National Park by 8.30am. Although we were well over the 400 bird species seen on the tour, there were still a few omissions and more to see. So we made good use of the journey, arriving at the gate two hours later in fine sunny weather after a surprisingly productive game drive. Just out of the lodge we halted for Northern Pied Babbler. Then a lark perched up and singing was carefully scrutinised. It was a very useful look at Fawn-colored (Foxy) Lark, which we'd only seen once before. Then a dashing melanistic Gabar Goshawk raced across the track. Further along a displaying pair of Striped Kingfishers was found - another first sighting of the tour, and exactly where our only birds of this species were seen last year. Our tour had been sadly deplete of Whydahs, so it was a delight to first find a remarkable Paradise Whydah male flying about with its bizarre bustle of a tail wavering behind it. Later an equally striking Steel-blue Whydah (always the scarcest of the group) was watched in display flight. After a couple of "false-alarms" we had side-by-side shape and size comparison of two eagles in the skies above: a fine pale Tawny Eagle as measuring stick to a smaller Wahlberg's. At the entrance gate we paused for the loos and to stretch our legs with a half hour or so wander for birds around the displays and pathways. We scoped our last Rattling Cisticolas, admired the song of White-browed Scrub-Robins, tried again to call in Red-chested Cuckoo and admired the real prize of the stop - a splendid Black-necked Weaver found by Sue. A few group photos were taken here, then it was "lets boogie" as we headed off for Arusha, arriving by 1pm at the Cultural Heritage shopping emporium. A good buffet lunch was followed by a little browsing and shopping before continuing to our day rooms at the Arumeru River Lodge by 3.15pm. Here, in these pleasant surrounds we sorted ourselves out, repacked and had time for a quick bit of final

birding in the grounds. We had a simple snack of soup, salad and sandwiches at 5.45pm, then nipped off with Pokea and Peter for a final journey in our Landcruisers to the airport at 6.30pm. Thereafter it was the usual routine of queues, form-filling, security checks and waiting for our evening flight via Dar Es Salaam to Amsterdam, which left on time.

**Sunday 9 March. Home:** We arrived an hour early 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 17th northern Tanzanian tour and it remains just about my most favourite destination in the world. This year it was particularly good to have onboard so many "familiar faces" of people who'd travelled with me before - also a pleasure to meet up with new and friendly folks. I think we were unanimous in feeling that Pokea and Peter were both excellent driver/guides: brilliant and sharp-sighted observers, good at helping substantially in finding birds and, equally importantly, great company. This year produced the highest bird list ever for this tour at 423 species, with 4 species recorded for the first time, bringing the cumulative total to 595 species. Special thanks are due to Sue for her unceasing alertness at finding birds and considerable ID skills for someone who'd never been to Africa before. It is always a bonus to travel with a keen, diversely interesting and compatible group who appreciated not only the birds, but the country, its people and the phenomenal and unique wildlife spectacles we witnessed: everything from the massive throngs of Wildebeest on the short-grass plains, the fascinating interactions between the different vulture species, jackals and Hyenas, the stumbling newborn Elephants, to frog-swallowing Ground Hornbills and Barn Owls being plucked out of the air by Eagles!

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. The list includes the "extra" day at Arumeru before the start of the tour. 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.

**And finally:** here is a random miscellany (or is that tautological?) of facts discovered about questions arising on the tour:

**People in Bird's Names:** Having a bird (or other organism) named after you happened mostly in the great period of explorations between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. It happened either because you went out and found it yourself, or you gave the name to your financial sponsor, mentor, wife, friend (probably in that order). Here are brief details of some we came across:

**D'Arnaud** (19<sup>th</sup> century) was a French explorer and big-game hunter in Africa, who looked for the source of the White Nile.

**Rueppell** (1794-1884) was a German collector who made two long expeditions to east and north Africa. **Abdim Bey** helped him in Egypt and got a stork named after him as thanks. **Kittlitz** accompanied him on his 2<sup>nd</sup> adventure.

**Narina** was a beautiful Hottentot girl who was probably a mistress to the collector **Levaillant** who's cuckoo we didn't see. He also named the **Klaas's** cuckoo after his Hottentot manservant!

**Von Der Decken** (1833-65) was a German explorer of Africa where he was killed by Somalis.

**Wahlberg** (1810-1856) was a Swedish collector who explored southern Africa and was killed by an elephant near the Limpopo River.

**Verreaux** (1807-1873) was one of three French collector/naturalist brothers. The whole family traded in large numbers of specimens and were heavily involved in taxidermy - to the point of stuffing a deceased local African chief who went on display in Barcelona.

**Hildebrandt** (1847-81) was a German collector who travelled in East Africa, Comores and Madagascar – like most of the others, he didn't live long.

**Hartlaub** (1814-1900) – yet another German academic and East African explorer, originally trained as a doctor.

**Heuglin** (1824-76) a German explorer of Central Africa who was strongly opposed to evolutionary theory.

**Hunter** (1861-1934) was a big-game hunter (presumably British) who (presumably) collected for museums too – though whether he actually collected the cisticola and sunbird named after him is not clear.

**Jackson** (1859-1929) was a “Sir” who was explorer, Governor/Administrator of various bits of the British Empire in Africa and keen amateur naturalist – the birds named for him were probably in his honour, rather than his own discoveries?

**Kenrick** (19<sup>th</sup> century) was a British Army Officer in Kenya. He collected the starling himself.

**Holub** (1847-1902) was a Czech naturalist, trained as a physician. He travelled extensively in Africa and collected over 30,000 specimens. He died from Malaria after a disastrous second African expedition.

**Speke** (1827-1864) is famous for proving that Lake Victoria was one of the Nile's sources, though he was apparently more interested in big-game hunting. After surviving the trials and tribulations of exploring Africa, he died when his shotgun went off and killed him as he stumbled over a stile back in England. The Weaver was named after him.

**Temminck** (1778-1858) was a Dutch ornithologist, illustrator and collector, who seemingly didn't go to Africa but just received large collections from others and studied them as a director of the Rijksmuseum.

**Fischer** (1848-86) explored East and Central Africa and was buddies with **Reichenow**.

**Meyer** (1767-1836) was a German physician with an interest in ornithology. He never went to Africa, so it is not clear how/why the parrot was named after him. (Not to be confused with A B Meyer who travelled extensively in S E Asia).

**Schalow** (1852-1925) was a German banker and amateur ornithologist who worked with **Cabanis** and **Reichenow**, but possibly never travelled in Africa.

(Those interested in how and why birds were named after people may be interested in the following books:

- *Whose Bird?* – Bo Beolens & Michael Watkins, 2003. Christopher Helm Press. This gives brief biographies and relevant notes to just about every person ever mentioned in a bird's name – common and scientific.
- *Biographies for Birdwatchers* – Barbara & Richard Mearns, 1988. Academic Press. This gives interesting accounts of the people in bird names for people occurring in European bird names.

- *From Audubon to Xantu* – Barbara & Richard Mearns, 1988. Academic Press. This gives interesting accounts of the people in bird names for people occurring in North American bird names.

**Meanings of other bird names:**

**Vitelline** relates to yolks of eggs – and the bright yellow color. So Vitelline Masked Weaver simply refers to its bright yellow body color.

**Isabelline** is a dingy yellowish-grey color and possibly refers to the colour of dirty underwear! Apparently Isabella, daughter of Philip II didn't change her underwear for 3 years while Ostend was being fought over – whether as a protest or because she didn't have the option of washing is yet to be researched!

**Bateleur** is French for a tight-rope walker who balances using a long pole – reminiscent of the way the bird flies.

**Bishop ID:** We were confused by bishops we saw at 1-2 sites (including Olduvai). They had the head pattern of Red Bishop, but buff under tail coverts like Black-winged Red Bishop. They were Black Bishops of the race *friedrichseni*. They have head colouration like Red Bishop and also have buffy undertail coverts, but the Field Guides don't seem to show the red coming down the back as does the more authoritative African Handbook.

**VENT: Northern Tanzania Checklist February-March 2008**

	<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>SCIENTIFIC NAME</b>	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
	<b>Ostrich</b>	<b>Struthionidae</b>																
1	Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>			*	10	10	*		10	*	*			10		10	
	<b>Grebes</b>	<b>Podicipedidae</b>																
2	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		*			*											
3	Eared Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>		1			10											
	<b>Pelicans</b>	<b>Pelecanidae</b>																
4	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>							1			3		*				
5	Pink-backed Pelican	<i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>													10			
	<b>Cormorants</b>	<b>Phalacrocoracidae</b>																
6	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		1	*	*												
7	Long-tailed Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>			*	*					1	1		10				
	<b>Herons, Egrets &amp; Bitterns</b>	<b>Ardeidae</b>																
8	Gray Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			1	1	1	2				5		15			1	
9	Black-headed Heron	<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>	2	6	10	5		15	*	15	*	15		*			5	
10	Goliath Heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>			1	1											1	
11	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>									1							
12	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>										1						
13	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>										1					2	
14	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			1	10								*				
15	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>				1											2	
16	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>			*	*				*	*	*		*			*	
17	Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	1				1										1	
18	Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		1		6												
	<b>Hamerkop</b>	<b>Scopidae</b>																
19	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	4	5	2	5									1	2	4	2
	<b>Storks</b>	<b>Ciconiidae</b>																
20	Yellow-billed Stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>			1				1	1	25	*		*	*			
21	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>															2	
22	Abdim's Stork	<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>								*	*	*						
23	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>				2		2		*	*	*		1				
24	Saddle-billed Stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalens.</i>				1								1				
25	Marabou Stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumeniferus</i>			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*			
	<b>Ibises &amp; Spoonbills</b>	<b>Threskiornithidae</b>																
26	Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	30	*					10	*	*			*			*	
27	Hadada Ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>		1	*	*								1			2	
28	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>			1	2						40		10				
29	African Spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>										5		6				
	<b>Flamingos</b>	<b>Phoenicopteridae</b>																
30	Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>		10			*	*	*	*	*							
31	Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus minor</i>		*				*			*			*				
	<b>Ducks, Geese &amp; Swans</b>	<b>Anatidae</b>																
32	White-faced Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>		1										40		30		
33	White-backed Duck	<i>Thalassornis leuconotus</i>		1														
34	Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>		*	2	10	15	*	*	*	*	8	2	*	*	20	10	
35	Spur-winged Goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>		10								6						
36	Comb Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>												1				
37	Cape Teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>		*			*											
38	Yellow-billed Duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>										2		5				
39	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>		1														
40	Red-billed Duck	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>		5			5					*		*				
41	Hottentot Teal	<i>Anas hottentota</i>					10				4	5		*				

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42	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>										1					
43	Southern Pochard	<i>Netta erythrophthalma</i>		*													
44	Maccoa Duck	<i>Oxyura maccoa</i>		6													
	<b>Hawks, Eagles &amp; Kites</b>	<b>Accipitridae</b>															
45	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>		1		2	2		4	15							
46	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>			1	4					2	*	*		1		2
47	African Fish-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>			3							h		h		1	h
48	Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>							6	*	5						2
49	White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*			
50	Rueppell's Griffon	<i>Gyps rueppellii</i>				4		*	*	*	*	*					2
51	Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>				4	2	8	6	*	*	2					
52	White-headed Vulture	<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>						2	3						1		
53	Black-breasted Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>			1	1			1		1			1			
54	Brown Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>												1			
55	Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>		2	2		2	4	*	6	2			1	5	5	6
56	Western Marsh-Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		2						5	2	4		2		2	
57	Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>					1	2		2		1					
58	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>				2	4	5	6	15	10	6					
59	African Harrier-Hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>												2			1
60	Dark Chanting-Goshawk	<i>Melierax metabates</i>				2	1										
61	Eastern Chanting-Goshawk	<i>Melierax poliopterus</i>							1		2				3		
62	Gabar Goshawk	<i>Micronisus gabar</i>													1		1
63	Eurasian Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	2							1				1			
64	Augur Buzzard	<i>Buteo augur</i>	4	4	1						3	4	6	4			
65	Tawny Eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>			1	2	1	10	*	*	10	6			2	5	*
66	Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>				1			1								
67	Wahlberg's Eagle	<i>Aquila wahlbergi</i>															1
68	African Hawk-Eagle	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>												2			
69	Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>						1	1					2			
70	Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>		1			1										
	<b>Secretary-bird</b>	<b>Sagittariidae</b>															
71	Secretary-bird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>			2	2	2	2	4	6	4					2	
	<b>Falcons &amp; Caracaras</b>	<b>Falconidae</b>															
72	Pygmy Falcon	<i>Polihierax semitorquatus</i>					1	1	1	1					1		
73	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>				2	1	5	*	2							
74	Eurasian Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>					1			1	2						
75	Greater Kestrel	<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>						2		1							
76	Gray Kestrel	<i>Falco ardosiaceus</i>			1						1						
77	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	1														
78	Lanner Falcon	<i>Falco biarmicus</i>						2		1							
79	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				1											
	<b>Pheasants &amp; Partridges</b>	<b>Phasianidae</b>															
80	Crested Francolin	<i>Francolinus sephaena</i>													2	7	
81	Scaly Francolin	<i>Francolinus squamatus</i>										3	2				
82	Yellow-necked Francolin (Spurfowl)	<i>Francolinus leucoscepus</i>													*	*	*
83	Gray-breasted Francolin (Spurfowl)	<i>Francolinus rufopictus</i>			10	*	*	*	*	*	*						
84	Red-necked Francolin (Spurfowl)	<i>Francolinus afer</i>													*	*	*
85	Harlequin Quail	<i>Coturnix delegorguei</i>														1	
	<b>Guineafowl</b>	<b>Numididae</b>															
86	Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		h	*	*	*

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	<b>Cranes</b>	<b>Gruidae</b>															
87	Gray Crowned-Crane	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>	2	4			1	2	10	15	*						
	<b>Rails, Gallinules &amp; Coots</b>	<b>Rallidae</b>															
88	Black Crake	<i>Amauornis flavirostra</i>				2	2								1		
89	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>								1							
90	Red-knobbed Coot	<i>Fulica cristata</i>		*			6					4		5			
	<b>Bustards</b>	<b>Otididae</b>															
91	Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>				2		1		8		15					
92	White-bellied Bustard	<i>Eupodotis senegalensis</i>								2	1				1		
93	Black-bellied Bustard	<i>Lissotis melanogaster</i>				2						1					
	<b>Jacanas</b>	<b>Jacanidae</b>															
94	African Jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>		10		1								4		25	
	<b>Painted-Snipes</b>	<b>Rostratulidae</b>															
95	Greater Painted-snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>								4							
	<b>Stilts &amp; Avocets</b>	<b>Recurvirostridae</b>															
96	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		*	10	*	*		*	*		*		6	2	2	
97	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		12								*	*				
	<b>Thick-knees</b>	<b>Burhinidae</b>															
98	Water Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>												6			
99	Spotted Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>			2	2											
	<b>Couriers &amp; Pratincoles</b>	<b>Glareolidae</b>															
100	Temminck's Courser	<i>Cursorius temminckii</i>									2						
101	Double-banded Courser	<i>Smutornis africanus</i>			1				15	*	10						
102	Three-banded (Heuglin's) Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus cinctus</i>			1	1			1								
103	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>						2						40			
	<b>Plovers &amp; Lapwings</b>	<b>Charadriidae</b>															
104	Long-toed Lapwing (Plover)	<i>Vanellus crassirostris</i>				6				1	10					20	
105	Blacksmith Plover	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>	4		4	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		8	15	*	
106	Spur-winged Plover	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>			1	10								10			
107	Black-winged Lapwing (Plover)	<i>Vanellus melanopterus</i>						6		15	10						
108	Crowned Lapwing (Plover)	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>			5			*	*	*	*	*					
109	Wattled Lapwing (Plover)	<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>			2	4											
110	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	1	12	*	1				5							
111	Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>					*		5		15						
112	Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>				1	10			6				1	2	1	
113	White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>				1											
114	Chestnut-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius pallidus</i>							10								
115	Lesser Sandplover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>				1											
	<b>Sandpipers &amp; Allies</b>	<b>Scolopacidae</b>															
116	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>				1	2			12				2			
117	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>												10			
118	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>												1			
119	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			2	6	2							4	4		
120	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>				1								1		2	
121	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			2	6			h	2				2	1		
122	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>			1	6	4			4				4			
123	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>			4	10	6			10	10	*					
124	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>		*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*		*			
125	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>				1	1										
126	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>		*	*	*	15		*	*	*	*		8			



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	<b>Typical Owls</b>	<b>Strigidae</b>															
168	Verreaux's Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo lacteus</i>					1		4						2	1	
169	Spotted Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo africanus</i>		1													
170	African Wood-Owl	<i>Strix woodfordii</i>			3												
171	Pearl-spotted Owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>			1				h	h	h			1		2	
	<b>Nightjars &amp; Allies</b>	<b>Caprimulgidae</b>															
172	Abyssinian (Montane) Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus poliocephalus</i>											1				
173	Slender-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus clarus</i>			1	1											
	<b>Swifts</b>	<b>Apodidae</b>															
174	Scarce Swift	<i>Schoutedenapus myoptilus</i>		2													
175	Mottled Spinetail	<i>Telecanthura ussheri</i>													2		1
176	African Palm-Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>			1		2							10	*		*
177	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>		10													
178	Mottled Swift	<i>Tachymarptis aequatorialis</i>		4				4									
179	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		*													
180	Nyanza Swift	<i>Apus niansae</i>		*													
181	African Swift	<i>Apus barbatus</i>		*						20		*					
182	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>		*				*						*	*	*	*
183	White-rumped Swift	<i>Apus caffer</i>		*										10			
	<b>Mousebirds</b>	<b>Coliidae</b>															
184	Speckled Mousebird	<i>Colius striatus</i>	*	*	*	*	10	*	*	6	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
185	Blue-naped Mousebird	<i>Urocolius macrourus</i>			2	1					1			2	2	15	
	<b>Trogon</b>	<b>Trogonidae</b>															
186	Narina Trogon	<i>Apaloderma narina</i>												1			
187	Bar-tailed Trogon	<i>Apaloderma vittatum</i>		2													
	<b>Kingfishers</b>	<b>Alcedinidae</b>															
188	African Pygmy-Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>				2											
189	Gray-headed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>			2	5								1			
190	Woodland Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>			1	5	4								5	6	4
191	Brown-hooded Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>												1			1
192	Striped Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>															2
193	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>			*	*									1		
	<b>Bee-eaters</b>	<b>Meropidae</b>															
194	White-fronted Bee-eater	<i>Merops bullockoides</i>		1													
195	Little Bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>		2		5	4	6							1	25	*
196	Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater	<i>Merops oreobates</i>								3		*					
197	Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	<i>Merops persicus</i>				2										25	
198	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>			1	1								h	2	15	5
	<b>Rollers</b>	<b>Coraciidae</b>															
199	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>		1				6		15	*			1	5	5	4
200	Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>				*	*	*	*	*	*				*	*	*
	<b>Hoopoes</b>	<b>Upupidae</b>															
201	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			1			1	1							1	1
	<b>Woodhoopoes &amp; Allies</b>	<b>Phoeniculidae</b>															
202	Green Woodhoopoe	<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>						4								1	1
203	Abyssinian Scimitar-bill	<i>Rhinopomastus minor</i>			1				2								
	<b>Hornbills</b>	<b>Bucerotidae</b>															
204	Red-billed Hornbill	<i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>			2		*	*	1						*	*	*
205	Von der Decken's Hornbill	<i>Tockus deckeni</i>				1	4	6	2		2				4		2
206	Crowned Hornbill	<i>Tockus alboterminatus</i>		2										1			
207	African Gray Hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>			2	2	4	4						*	10	10	6

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208	Silvery-cheeked Hornbill	<i>Ceratogymna brevis</i>												6			
209	Southern Ground-Hornbill	<i>Bucorvus leadbeateri</i>			3	5								1	4	9	3
	<b>Barbets</b>	<b>Capitonidae</b>															
210	Red-and-yellow Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus erythrocephalus</i>														2	1
211	D'Arnaud's Barbet	<i>Trachyphonus darnaudii</i>			5	2			1	2				2			
212	White-eared Barbet	<i>Stactolaema leucotis</i>		1													
213	Red-fronted Tinkerbird	<i>Pogoniulus pusillus</i>												2			
214	Spot-flanked Barbet	<i>Tricholaema lachrymosa</i>		1													
215	White-headed Barbet	<i>Lybius leucocephalus</i>										2			1	3	2
216	Brown-breasted Barbet	<i>Lybius melanopterus</i>	1														
	<b>Honeyguides</b>	<b>Indicatoridae</b>															
217	Greater Honeyguide	<i>Indicator indicator</i>												h			1
	<b>Woodpeckers &amp; Allies</b>	<b>Picidae</b>															
218	Nubian Woodpecker	<i>Campethera nubica</i>					1	1						1		1	1
219	Cardinal Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>		1		1							1	3	2		
220	Bearded Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos namaquus</i>							1								
221	Gray-headed (Gray) Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos spodocephalus</i>				1			4						2		
	<b>Larks</b>	<b>Alaudidae</b>															
222	Rufous-naped Lark	<i>Mirafr africana</i>					*	*	*	*	*	*					
223	Flappet Lark	<i>Mirafr rufocinnamomea</i>												h	2	2	
224	Foxy Lark	<i>Calendulauda alopex</i>									1						1
	Fawn-colored Lark	<i>Calend. (Mirafr) africanoides</i>															
225	Fischer's Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix leucopareia</i>			*		*	*	*	*	*	*					
226	Red-capped Lark	<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>						*	*	*	*	*					
	<b>Swallows</b>	<b>Hirundinidae</b>															
227	Black Sawwing	<i>Psalidoprocne pristoptera</i>		*								3	10				
228	Gray-rumped Swallow	<i>Pseudhirundo griseopyga</i>		1													
229	Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		*	*	*						10					
230	Plain Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>								2	2						
231	Banded Martin	<i>Riparia cincta</i>								1	1						
232	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
233	Angola Swallow	<i>Hirundo angolensis</i>			*	*											
234	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	5				5	1	4								*
235	Rock Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne fuligula</i>					4	6	5	5	10	*		*	*	*	*
236	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	*										*			10	
237	Lesser Striped-Swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>	5	10	10		10							*	*		*
238	Mosque Swallow	<i>Cecropis senegalensis</i>			6												
239	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>							1	10	*	*	*	10	*	*	*
	<b>Wagtails &amp; Pipits</b>	<b>Motacillidae</b>															
240	Plain-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>				1			1	1							
241	African (Grassland) Pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>					1		1	2		1					
242	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>										1					
243	Yellow-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx croceus</i>			2	2	2										
244	Pangani Longclaw	<i>Macronyx aurantiigula</i>		2													
245	African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>			5	*	*					1	4	1			
246	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		1	1	3					*	*		5		2	2
247	Gray Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>											2				
248	Mountain Wagtail	<i>Motacilla clara</i>											2				
	<b>Cuckoo-shrikes</b>	<b>Campephagidae</b>															
249	Gray Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina caesia</i>											1				
250	Black Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Campephaga flava</i>		1									3				1

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	<b>Bulbuls</b>	<b>Pycnonotidae</b>															
251	Common Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus barbatus</i>	*	*	*	*		2			*	*	*	*	*	*	*
252	Eastern Mountain-Greenbul	<i>Andropadus nigriceps</i>		5									*				
253	Stripe-cheeked Bulbul	<i>Andropadus milanjensis</i>		2													
	<b>Thrushes &amp; Allies</b>	<b>Turdidae</b>															
254	Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>							1	1							
255	Olive Thrush	<i>Turdus olivaceus</i>											1				
	<b>Cisticolas &amp; Allies</b>	<b>Cisticolidae</b>															
256	Red-faced Cisticola	<i>Cisticola erythrops</i>										6	*	2			
257	Singing Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cantans</i>	1	5													2
258	Trilling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola woosnami</i>		h													
259	Hunter's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola hunteri</i>									2	*	*				
260	Rattling Cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>		2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
261	Wailing (Lynes) Cisticola	<i>Cisticola lais</i>									2						
262	Winding Cisticola	<i>Cisticola galactotes</i>		5	*	*	5	5				5			*	*	*
263	Croaking Cisticola	<i>Cisticola natalensis</i>				1	5	h									
264	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>															2
265	Pectoral-patch Cisticola	<i>Cisticola brunnescens</i>					h	*	*	*	*	*					
266	Tawny-flanked Prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>				h	4	2	2					h	4	h	6
267	Yellow-breasted Apalis	<i>Apalis flavida</i>	1								1		1	1			
268	Black-headed Apalis	<i>Apalis melanocephala</i>	1														
269	Brown-headed Apalis	<i>Apalis alticola</i>											3				
270	Gray-capped Warbler	<i>Eminia lepida</i>				1						3					
271	Green-backed Camaroptera	<i>Camaroptera brachyura</i>		2		h	4	1	2	5	5	h	5	5	6	2	2
	(Gray-backed Camaroptera)																
	<b>Old World Warblers</b>	<b>Sylviidae</b>															
272	Moustached Grass-Warbler	<i>Melocichla mentalis</i>		1													
273	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>				3											
274	African Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>				h					1						
275	Lesser Swamp-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>									2						
276	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Hippolais pallida</i>			h	2								2	4	4	3
277	Mountain Yellow Warbler	<i>Chloropeta similis</i>										2					
278	Buff-bellied Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus pulchella</i>			2	*			5	2							
279	Yellow-bellied Eremomela	<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>							1								
280	Red-faced Crombec	<i>Sylvietta whytii</i>		2		1			2								2
281	Brown Woodland Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus umbrovirens</i>		2													
282	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>			2	5			1	2	1		2	5		2	2
283	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>										1					
284	Brown Warbler (Parisoma)	<i>Parisoma lugens</i>										2					
285	Banded Warbler (Parisoma)	<i>Parisoma boehmi</i>									2					2	2
	<b>Old World Flycatchers</b>	<b>Muscicapidae</b>															
286	Silverbird	<i>Empidonax semipartitus</i>			5		5	*	*	*	10						
287	Pale Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis pallidus</i>								1				2			
288	African Gray Flycatcher	<i>Bradornis microrhynchus</i>									1			1	2	2	2
289	White-eyed Slaty-Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis fischeri</i>		2							5	*	*	*			
290	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>					1	2				2		2	4	6	4
291	Swamp Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa aquatica</i>			10	*											
292	African Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa adusta</i>		4								2	6				
293	White-starred Robin	<i>Pogonocichla stellata</i>		1									1				
294	White-throated Robin	<i>Irania gutturalis</i>									1	1					
295	Cape Robin-Chat	<i>Cossypha caffra</i>										6	3	1			



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337	Long-tailed Fiscal	<i>Lanius cabanisi</i>		1						1				2	2	*	*
338	Taita Fiscal	<i>Lanius dorsalis</i>					1			2							
339	Common Fiscal	<i>Lanius collaris</i>	6	*						*	*	*	*	*	*		
340	Magpie Shrike	<i>Corvinella melanoleuca</i>				2	*	*							*	*	*
341	White-rumped Shrike (White-crowned Shrike)	<i>Eurocephalus rueppelli</i>			*	*	*	*	*	*	*			10	*	*	*
	<b>Bushshrikes &amp; Allies</b>	<b>Malaconotidae</b>															
342	Brubru	<i>Nilaua afer</i>		h			1							1			
343	Black-backed Puffback	<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>	1	1	1	1	4						2	1			
344	Brown-crowned Tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>		1		1	6	4	h			1		1	2	3	4
345	Tropical Boubou	<i>Laniarius aethiopicus</i>	h	*	1	4					5	*	*	10			
346	Black-headed Gonolek	<i>Laniarius erythrogaster</i>			6	6											
347	Slate-colored Boubou	<i>Laniarius funebris</i>		h	1	4		h		4					4	6	6
348	Sulphur-breasted Bushshrike	<i>Telophorus sulfureopectus</i>					2										
349	Gray-headed Bushshrike	<i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i>															1
	<b>Drongos</b>	<b>Dicruridae</b>															
350	Fork-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>				1	1	5	*	*	2			5	*	10	*
	<b>Crows, Jays &amp; Magpies</b>	<b>Corvidae</b>															
351	Cape Crow (Cape Rook)	<i>Corvus capensis</i>						2		4	5						
352	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>			*								*	*	*		*
353	White-necked Raven	<i>Corvus albicollis</i>									2	2	2				
	<b>Starlings</b>	<b>Sturnidae</b>															
354	Wattled Starling	<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>			2		*	*	*	*	*				20	*	
355	Greater Blue-eared Glossy-Starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>													1	2	2
356	Rueppell's Glossy-Starling (Long-tailed Glossy-Starling)	<i>Lamprotornis purpuropterus</i>			*	*	*	*									
357	Superb Starling	<i>Lamprotornis superbus</i>	20		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
358	Hildebrandt's Starling	<i>Lamprotornis hildebrandti</i>					*	*	10		5						
359	Violet-backed Starling	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>		1													
360	Ashy Starling	<i>Spreo unicolor</i>													*	*	*
361	Red-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus morio</i>		1										2	10	*	10
362	Kenrick's Starling	<i>Poeoptera kenricki</i>									2						
363	Red-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>		25	*		*							10			
364	Yellow-billed Oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>					4		10			5					
	<b>Old World Sparrows</b>	<b>Passeridae</b>															
365	House Sparrow ( I )	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			*						2				5		*
366	Kenya Rufous Sparrow	<i>Passer rufocinctus</i>								2	5						
367	Gray-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>	1										*	*	*	*	*
368	Swaheli Sparrow	<i>Passer suahelicus</i>			3		*	*	*	*	*				*		
369	Chestnut Sparrow	<i>Passer eminibey</i>			*	*	5	*						5		*	
370	Yellow-spotted Petronia	<i>Petronia pyrgita</i>												2			
	<b>Weavers &amp; Allies</b>	<b>Ploceidae</b>															
371	Red-billed Buffalo-Weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>				*	*	*	*	*	*						*
372	White-headed Buffalo-Weaver	<i>Dinemellia dinemelli</i>			*	*	*	*							*	*	*
373	Speckle-fronted Weaver	<i>Sporopipes frontalis</i>			*		*	*	10		*						
374	Rufous-tailed Weaver	<i>Histurgops ruficauda</i>			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*			5	*	20
375	Gray-headed Social-Weaver	<i>Pseudonigrita arnaldi</i>			*		*	*									
376	Red-headed Weaver	<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>		3									1		1	1	
377	Baglafaecht Weaver	<i>Ploceus baglafaecht</i>	2								10	*	*	*			
378	Slender-billed Weaver	<i>Ploceus pelzelni</i>			10	*											
379	Lesser Masked-Weaver	<i>Ploceus intermedius</i>				2		6		2	4				4		

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380	Spectacled Weaver	<i>Ploceus ocularis</i>				1	1						2				
381	Black-necked Weaver	<i>Ploceus nigricollis</i>															1
382	Holub's Golden-Weaver	<i>Ploceus xanthops</i>													2	2	2
383	Taveta Golden-Weaver	<i>Ploceus castaneiceps</i>	*	*	*												6
384	Northern Brown-throated Weaver	<i>Ploceus castanops</i>			5	4											
385	African (Vitelline) Masked-Weaver	<i>Ploceus (velatus) vitellinus</i>									*			*			
386	Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	10	5		*							2	*	*	10	*
387	Speke's Weaver	<i>Ploceus spekei</i>										*			5		
388	Black-headed Weaver (Yellow-backed Weaver)	<i>Ploceus melanocephalus</i>			1	1											
389	Golden-backed Weaver (Jackson's Weaver)	<i>Ploceus jacksoni</i>	2	1	1	2										5	1
390	Red-billed Quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>	5	10			10							*		*	*
391	Black Bishop	<i>Euplectes gierowii</i>									5						
392	(Southern) Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>											*	10	*		2
393	Yellow Bishop	<i>Euplectes capensis</i>		1								1		5	5		
394	Fan-tailed Widowbird	<i>Euplectes axillaris</i>									6	10					10
395	White-winged Widowbird	<i>Euplectes albonotatus</i>					10										25
396	Red-collared Widowbird	<i>Euplectes ardens</i>										2					
397	Jackson's Widowbird	<i>Euplectes jacksoni</i>										*					
398	Grosbeak Weaver	<i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>		10									6				4
	<b>Waxbills &amp; Allies</b>	<b>Estrildidae</b>															
399	Gray-headed Negrofinch	<i>Nigrita canicapilla</i>											1				
400	Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>				4									10		1
401	Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>			10	1					10	5					15
402	African Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rubricata</i>					1										
403	Red-cheeked Cordonbleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>						1							1		
404	Blue-capped Cordonbleu	<i>Uraeginthus cyanocephalus</i>			*	*	*		10	5				1	10	*	*
405	Purple Grenadier	<i>Granatina ianthinogaster</i>									4				1		
406	Crimson-rumped Waxbill	<i>Estrilda rhodopyga</i>															2
407	Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>															1
408	Black - (faced) cheeked Waxbill	<i>Estrilda erythronotos</i>									4				2		
409	African Quail-Finch	<i>Ortygospiza fuscocrissa</i>					6										
410	Bronze Mannikin	<i>Spermestes cucullata</i> ( <i>Lonchura cucullata</i> )	6			*	*						5	1			2
411	Black-and-White Mannikin	<i>Spermestes bicolor</i>	1														2
412	Cut-throat	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>													2		
	<b>Indigobirds</b>	<b>Viduidae</b>															
413	Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>			6	2								1	1		
414	Steel-blue Whydah	<i>Vidua hypocherina</i>															1
415	Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>		1	10	1							5	1		2	
416	Eastern Paradise-Whydah	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>															1
	<b>Siskins, Crossbills &amp; Allies</b>	<b>Fringillidae</b>															
417	Yellow-crowned (Cape) Canary	<i>Serinus (cani.) flavivertex</i>											2				
418	Southern Citril	<i>Serinus hypostictus</i>											*				
419	Reichenow's Seedeater (Yellow-rumped Seedeater)	<i>Serinus reichenowi</i> ( <i>Serinus atrogularis</i> )												3			
420	Yellow-fronted Canary	<i>Serinus mozambicus</i>		1	6	*	1		5						*		
421	White-bellied Canary	<i>Serinus dorsostriatus</i>				1			*	*	*						
422	Streaky Seedeater	<i>Serinus striolatus</i>		1							*	*	*				
423	Thick-billed Seedeater	<i>Serinus burtoni</i>										1	10				

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MAMMALS	SCIENTIFIC NAME	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>Colobid monkeys</b>	<b>Colobidae</b>															
Guereza (Black & White) Colobus	<i>Colobus guereza</i>		*	2	2											
<b>Cheek-pouch Monkeys</b>	<b>Cercopithecidae</b>															
Vervet Monkey	<i>Cerc. (aethiops) pygerythrus</i>			*	*	*	*	*			*			*	*	*
Gentle (Blue/Syke's) Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus (nictitans) mitis</i>		8								3		*			
Olive Baboon	<i>Papio anubis</i>		*	*	*	*	*			1	*	*	*			*
<b>Galagos or Bushbabies</b>	<b>Galagonidae</b>															
Greater Galago (Thick-tailed Bushbay)	<i>Otolemur crassicaudatus</i>											2				
<b>Large-winged Bats</b>	<b>Megadermatidae</b>															
Yellow-winged Bat	<i>Lavia frons</i>			6	4				1							
<b>Unidentified Small Bats</b>	<b>Microchiroptera</b>															
Bat sp.										*			*			
<b>Rabbits &amp; Hares</b>	<b>Leporidae</b>															
Scrub Hare / Cape Hare	<i>Lepus saxatalis / capensis</i>				1			1	2		2					
<b>Squirrels &amp; Chipmunks</b>	<b>Sciuridae</b>															
Unstriped Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus rutilus</i>													*		
Ochre Bush Squirrel	<i>Paraxerus ochraceus</i>											1		*	*	*
<b>Rats &amp; Mice</b>	<b>Muridae</b>															
Mouse sp.			1				5									
<b>Foxes, Jackals &amp; Dogs</b>	<b>Canidae</b>															
Common (Golden) Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>						5		2	2	6					
Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>				3		6	6	6	4	1					1
Bat-eared Fox	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>						3	1								
<b>Mongoose</b>	<b>Herpestidae</b>															
Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguinea</i>			2			1	1				2	1	1		
Dwarf Mongoose	<i>Helogale parvula</i>					8								1	2	1
Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>				10										5	
<b>Hyenas &amp; Aardwolf</b>	<b>Hyaenidae</b>															
Spotted Hyena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>				10	10	3	10	8	3	15					
<b>Genets &amp; Civets</b>	<b>Viverridae</b>															
Common (Small-spotted) Genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>						4	4								
<b>Cats</b>	<b>Felidae</b>															
African Wild Cat	<i>Felis sylvestrus</i>		1				1									
Serval	<i>Felis serval</i>						1		1							
Caracal	<i>Felis caracal</i>							1								
Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>					1										
Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>					1	13	3			7					
Cheetah	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>						1	6	9		1			3		
<b>Hyaxes</b>	<b>Procaviidae</b>															
Black-necked Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia johnstoni</i>													2	*	*
Tree Hyrax	<i>Dendrohyrax arboreus</i>										1					
Bush (Yellow-spotted) Hyrax	<i>Heterohyrax brucei</i>															*
<b>Elephants</b>	<b>Elephantidae</b>															
African Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>				4	15	10		12		10		20		120	
<b>Zebras, Asses &amp; Horses</b>	<b>Equidae</b>															
Common Zebra	<i>Equus africanus (burchellii)</i>		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*		
<b>Rhinoceroses</b>	<b>Rhinocerotidae</b>															
Black Rhinoceros	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>										1					
<b>Hippopotamidae</b>	<b>Hippopotami</b>															
Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>		4	*	5	30				6	25		*			

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<b>Pigs</b>	<b>Suidae</b>															
Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	5	5	
<b>Giraffe &amp; Okapi</b>	<b>Giraffidae</b>															
Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>		*	*	2	*	*	*	*	*			2	5	2	5
<b>Antelope &amp; Buffalo</b>	<b>Bovidae</b>															
African (Cape) Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>		*	*	*	*	*		*	*			*			5
Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>		10										1			
Common Eland	<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>						15		25	1	20					
Harvey's Duiker	<i>Cephalophus harveyi</i>		1													
Blue Duiker	<i>Cephalophus monticola</i>															
Bush (Common) Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>															
Steinbuck	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>							1	2					1		
Klipspringer	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>						1			5						
Kirk's Dik-dik	<i>Madoqua kirkii</i>	2	5	2	2	6		10	4	2			2	2	15	6
Bohor Reedbuck	<i>Redunca redunca</i>				1										1	1
Common Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>		10		*	10									6	4
Grant's Gazelle	<i>Gazella granti</i>			*	*		*	*	*	*	*				2	
Red-fronted (Thomson's) Gazelle	<i>Gazella rufifrons (thomsonii)</i>			*	*		*	*	*	*	*					
Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>			*	*	*	*	*	*	*			*	*	*	*
Topi	<i>Damaliscus lunatus</i>			25	*	*										
Kongoni (Coke's Hartebeest)	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>					5					30					
Brindled Gnu (Wildebeest)	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>			*	*		*	*	*	*	*		50			
<b>REPTILES</b>	<b>SCIENTIFIC NAME</b>		24	25	26	27	28	29	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Nile Crocodile	<i>Crocodilus niloticus</i>			10	5											
Nile Monitor Lizard	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>	1		4	2											1
Leopard Tortoise	<i>Geochelone pardalis</i>	1														
Helmeted (Marsh) Terrapin	<i>Pelomedusa subrufa</i>														1	
Flap-necked Chameleon	<i>Chamaeleo dilepis</i>												1	1		
Ruwenzori Side-striped Chameleon	<i>Chamaeleo rudis</i>											1				
Red-headed (Common) Rock Agama	<i>Agama agama</i>					*	*									
Mwanza Flat-headed Agama	<i>Agama mwanzae</i>												5	*		
Blue-headed Tree Agama	<i>Acanthocercus atricollis</i>							*	*	*						
Agamid Lizard sp.							*								*	
Striped Skink	<i>Mabuya striata</i>												1	*		*
Gecko sp.		1		*	*									*		*
Cape Dwarf Gecko	<i>Lygodactylus capensis</i>														*	*
Frog/Toad sp.												1		*	*	