

# TANZANIA

## Birds & Big Cats

Sat 2nd – Wed 13th May 2015

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*A beautiful portrait of a Red-and-yellow Barbet in the Tarangire National Park © Dalton Gibbs, Birding Africa*

**report compiled by tour leader:  
Dalton Gibbs**

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*(Photos, clockwise from top): A surprise Caracal at Ndutu Lodge was very much admired... • ...and followed by this replete male Cheetah later in the day! • Rosy-throated Longclaws glow in the grasslands • A female Elephant and old calf in the rain on our last morning • Kirk's Dikdiks are very small and sweet • Fischer's Lovebirds and Superb Starlings, both quite common at times © Photos by tour leader Dalton Gibbs, Birding Africa*

**TANZANIA | Birds & Big Cats**

Tour Leader: **Dalton Gibbs**

*with Sue Cable, Ronnie Haar, Roger & Sylvia Morton and Colin & Caroline Perry*

Our tour to Northern Tanzania offers perhaps the ultimate wildlife experience. The landscape is varied with its forests, lakes and savannas that teem with birds, including a suite of Serengeti endemics, like Pangani Lonclaw and Hartlaub's Turaco. It is also home to an extraordinary number of large mammals, and we had great views of many, including Lion, Leopard and Cheetah, but also Caracal and Tsessebe. Even without this superabundance of wildlife, the backcloth to our tour is one of the most awe-inspiring and incredibly beautiful landscapes on Earth!

**Trip Diary****Day 1 – 3rd May 2015 Arusha – Arusha National Park – Arusha**

We started with a leisurely breakfast and left the lodge at 8:15, driving to Arusha National Park. There was lots to see: though birds like Superb Starling and Pin-tailed Whydah may prove to be common in East Africa, the first sighting of these beauties always warrants a pause to look at them properly. We arrived at the gates of the Arusha National Park with the imposing mass of Mount Meru above us. As we sorted out entrance permits in the parking lot we picked up Variable Sunbird, White-browed Coucal and very soon Ronnie spotted an Elephant standing in the vegetation a few dozen metres away. This turned out to be an extended group of some 15 Elephants that moved through the dense vegetation near us and we got further close-up views of these animals as we drove into the park.

We stopped at the large wetland area called 'The Little Serengeti'; here we found Plains Zebra, Giraffe, Bush Buck, Warthogs and Buffalos, along with accompanying Red-billed Oxpeckers. Travel was slow as we stopped every few metres due to birds constantly breaking cover in the bushes around us; we picked up Pangani Longclaw, Long-crested Eagle and Taveta Weaver amongst others. Later at our forest lunch we saw shy Hartlaub's Turaco and Kenrick's Starling in the trees nearby. After lunch, a drive took us to the top of the nearby crater rim for fantastic views of this landscape feature and cloud-covered views of the foot of Kilimanjaro. A family group of Guereza Colobus Monkeys greeted us as we descended to the valley. We toured the crater lakes seeing lots of Lesser and Greater Flamingos in the shallows.

We found other game species such as Hippopotamus, Common Waterbuck and the diminutive Kirk's Dikdik. Rounding a corner, we had an excellent view of a Serval cat as it stood momentarily transfixed in a wetland next to us; a truly amazing sighting. A Grey Crowned Crane strode alongside our vehicle for a while as we headed to complete the loop through the forest, ending the day in the park with a pair of African Crowned Eagles on a nest before heading back to Kia Lodge for an evening meal.

**Day 2 – 4th May 2015 Arusha – Lake Manyara**

We did some early morning birding around the lodge and did not have to go very far along the access road to pick up a dozen species or so. Northern Crombec, Superb Starling, Northern Grey-headed Sparrow and Grey-backed Camaroptera were about before breakfast. Once we had packed up we were off, picking up a number of new species before leaving the lodge and airport grounds: Yellow-throated Longclaw, Pin-tailed Whydah and our first hornbills, African Grey Hornbill, were all seen.

Today was to be a travelling day as we headed west toward the edge of the Rift Valley. We stopped briefly at a roadside pond to pick up Jackson's Golden-backed Weaver and then again for lunchtime at a large lake. Here whilst enjoying our food we had numerous water birds such as Hottentot Teal, White-faced Whistling Duck, Whiskered Tern, Glossy Ibis and Long-toed Lapwing. As we travelled westwards, the human settlements became smaller and we eventually turned off the main road into the conservation area adjacent to Lake Manyara, finding the tiny Pygmy Falcon. Here we came across game species such as Giraffe, Impala, Zebra and Blue Wildebeest. New birds appeared, with flocks of Yellow-collared Lovebird making their first appearance, Rufous-tailed Weavers in small groups and the ludicrous Long-tailed Paradise Whydah. Of the latter, there was a single male trying to impress a female and in so doing clearly demonstrating what a hindrance his tail is to flight! Crowned and Blacksmith Lapwings became more common as we approached our lodge and Lilac-breasted Rollers, Southern Red Bishop and Little Bee-eaters added colour to the tropical scene. Here African Palm Swift flew about amongst the tall palm trees and Mourning Collared Doves let out their appropriately named cry. We watched two male giraffes locked in ritualized combat; whacking each other with their long necks in what appeared to be slow motion.

We settled in at the lodge and took a walk around the grounds, finding some interesting birds such as Beautiful Sunbird (which didn't disappoint!), Southern Red Bishop and Brown-hooded Kingfisher, whilst families of Warthog roamed around. After an excellent evening meal we settled down to a night's sleep, which was interrupted by the roaring of a male Lion near the camp, who was intent on letting everyone know he was there!

### **Day 3 – 5th May 2015 Maramboi Lodge - Tarangire National Park – Maramboi Lodge**

Our early morning breakfast was regularly interrupted by Rufous-tailed Weavers and Superb Starlings landing on our outside table. These, however, did not obstruct the splendid view across Lake Manyara with the mountains of the Rift Valley on the opposite side. Today we were to visit the Tarangire National Park and on our drive we had to tear ourselves away from the birds that kept appearing. Black-faced Sandgrouse were on the road, whilst lovebirds, bee-eaters and Lilac-breasted Rollers occupied the trees.

A short drive took us to Tarangire, which was humming with activity. Many birds were busy with their breeding and the bush was still alive with their coming and going. The local endemic Ashy Starling met us at the entrance gate, along with White-headed Buffalo Weaver and White-browed Scrub-robin. In the park, the vegetation thinned out a bit and gave way to thornveld interspersed with magnificent Baobab trees. In the sky, White-headed Vultures and Bateleur were about, whilst Nubian Woodpecker, White-bellied Go-away-bird, Africa Harrier-hawk and Magpie Shrike worked the trees alongside the vehicles.

We had lunch overlooking a river, with Yellow-billed Stork and Bateleur soaring overhead. It wasn't long after lunch that we found our first Elephant and soon thereafter a pair of Lions under a tree, allowing good views. Further on, Dwarf Mongooses extracted themselves from their termite mound to have a look at us, while Warthogs moved through the veld.

A small rain shower passed over us as we continued through the park, finding another group of Elephants close to the road, which gave beautiful views as the rain fell over them. African Jacana chased each other across a wetland as a Pied Kingfisher hovered alongside us and Hadedda Ibis worked the shoreline. We returned to our lodge in the late afternoon after a great day, having seen a good selection of animals and birds in a last minute flush of activity before the rain ended.

We had a great supper at the lodge and then had our night's sleep interrupted by Spotted Hyena intent on telling the Lion that they were there too!

**Day 4 – 6th May 2015 Manyara – Nduvu Lodge**

We had a leisurely breakfast at 7:00 and picked up some birds around the camp before heading westwards again up the escarpment on the other side of Lake Manyara. Again, the going was slow out to the main road as we picked up many birds along the bush track we travelled. A Village Indigobird sang on top of a tree whilst Namaqua Doves flew ahead of our vehicle. Once on the tarred road, we made good time travelling westwards, stopping along the roadside for a leg stretch and later for a Rosy-patched Bushshrike.

At the base of the escarpment, we came across Blue Monkey and Olive Baboon on the roadside and watched them for a while as they fed on a large fig tree. The road provided magnificent views as we headed up the escarpment, stopping at a viewpoint to take in the Rift Valley below us. Beautifully marked butterflies were “hill topping” around us and we watched a pair of Verreaux’s Eagle soar across the ridge and then get harassed by a pair of Augur Buzzard. We travelled on, stopping for our packed lunches before reaching the gates to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area gate. Here we picked up African Dusky Flycatcher before heading up the side of the crater to the viewpoint above.

We stopped at the viewpoint and admired the view of the crater spread out below, with the animals and game drive vehicles showing up as tiny ants below us. We travelled on around the crater rim and had brief views of Schalow’s Turaco and White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher. By the time we started down the western side of the crater the vegetation had changed to short grassland and we descended to the Serengeti plains. Usambiro Barbet and Blue-capped Cordon Bleu were picked on the way down and then we were on the endless plains travelling westward. We started to pass Wildebeest and Zebra and lots of them too, traveling in lines as they constantly moved – we had found the migration! Groups of Grant’s and Thompson’s Gazelle completed the scene as we travelled through herds of animals. We paused at a dead Wildebeest calf that was being dispatched by a few dozen White-backed, Lappet-faced and Ruepell’s Vultures. A Marabou Stork muscled in and grabbed pieces of meat once the vultures had torn a piece off – there was much posturing, wing spreading and general jostling that would befit an international rugby loose ruck.

We travelled on, passing a pair of Common Jackal and a small pride of Lions before reaching Nduvu lodge. On cue, a pair of diminutive Kirk’s Dikdik were at the gates to welcome us. The lodge was located in the thornveld above Lake Nduvu and we witnessed a spectacular sunset from supper that was shared with a Common Genet calmly walking about the roof rafters of the dining room.

**Day 5 – 7th May 2015 Nduvu Lodge**

We were up for some early morning coffee and left early at 6:15 for a game drive with the sunrise. Chestnut-bellied and Yellow-throated Sandgrouse gave good views, as well as birds of the mudflats in the wetland areas such as Little Stint, Chestnut-banded and Three-banded Plovers. We also soon found Collared Pratincole and both Double-banded and Temminck’s Coursers. A number of Kori Bustards, the world’s heaviest flying bird, were about on the plains.

We stopped for breakfast overlooking the wetlands, finding Gabar Goshawk and Steenbok before moving on to the plains to search for Cheetah. We unfortunately didn’t find these but saw many others species of mammal and a few dozen bird species, including the enigmatic Secretarybird. A bonus was finding a pair of Bat-eared Foxes in their den and after waiting for a while we got good views of them as they yawned and stretched, oblivious to our presence.

After an excellent lunch, we watched from the dining room as birds came to the birdbath to drink and bathe. Several species appeared, including Hildebrandt’s Starling and good views of Von der Decken’s Hornbill. At 15:00 we set off for a game drive to the plains and found

that the thousands of animals that were there yesterday were still present. We also found Eland and Kongoni (Coke's Hartebeest) as we were surrounded by herds flowing across the plains. With the sun starting to set over this amazing spectacle we turned for home, supper and a mandatory Common Genet to oversee our dinner.

#### **Day 6 – 8th May 2015 Ndotu Lodge – Serengeti**

We again had an early morning coffee break and left at daybreak for a game drive, again looking for Cheetah. We headed west through the thornveld, out onto short-grass plains, where we were soon bumping into pairs of Harlequin Quail. It didn't take long before we flushed a Caracal that bounded ahead of us before posing and giving us the stare then slinking off into the low bushes. Soon thereafter we found a male Cheetah who allowed us to approach closely as he yawned and stretched. His belly was full and he rolled around and washed himself before slowly moving off. While this unfolded, as if on cue, the head of a Spotted Hyena appeared in the bushes to look at him.

This drama had only just unfolded when a Rosy-throated Longclaw was sighted nearby and then a Honey Badger. We drove over to search the site, but the Honey Badger had disappeared into the bush or an Aardvark hole, one of which we briefly got stuck in. With these memorable views we returned to Ndotu Lodge for breakfast and later to check out of our rooms. We set off across the plains, again passing herds and herds of animals as well as a lazy pride of Lions that was accompanied by a Hooded Vulture. We stopped at the Naabi Gate, entrance to the Serengeti National Park, for lunch. The gate is located at a granite kopje, an interesting geological granitic feature that rises up out of the grass plains of the Serengeti. Surrounding the hill were again thousands of animals visible across the plains, moving in orderly lines as if following some ancient, invisible highway written in the very soil.

We left Naabi Hill and its brightly coloured agama lizards behind and travelled northwards, toward the Seronera River, seeing White-bellied Korhaan, Taita Fiscal and the endemic Grey-breasted Spurfowl. We also found a Leopard up a tree and Topi antelope before reaching the Sopa Lodge to view the magnificent sunset.

#### **Day 7 – 9th May 2015 Serengeti**

Colin and Caroline had a balloon flight booked early for this day and they left before sunrise to the ballooning site. We saw the balloons rise many miles away across the plains from our breakfast table in the lodge overlooking the plains.

We set off to meet them at Seronera Info centre, finding a dead giraffe at the site where a Leopard was the day before. Little was left of the carcass and a number of vultures were busy with it as well as sitting well fed on nearby trees. We travelled further, finding a pool of Hippos and distant views of Lion. Rufous-naped Larks were calling from bush tops and we picked up an Amur Falcon before arriving at the Seronera Info Centre. Here we had a rest, admiring the Lesser Masked Weavers hard at work building their nests above us. Having found Colin and Caroline we set off north of the centre, entering slightly drier habitat. Black-faced Waxbill, Purple Roller, White-winged Widowbird and Village Indigobird made appearances before we returned to the Info Centre for lunch.

Whilst having lunch, we were surrounded by Grey-capped Social Weavers, Speckle-fronted Weavers, Kenya Sparrow, Black-necked Weaver and Bush Hyrax, which science tells us are closely related to Elephants. This is always hard to believe when one sees these small creatures scurrying about and having just seen Elephants towering above all else in the bush! After lunch and a walk through the info centre we started heading back, finding good views of a Leopard in a tree. Our return past the giraffe carcass yielded just a few vultures and demonstrated just how quickly and efficiently a carcass is consumed in the African veld; less than 24 hours before there had been a dead giraffe, a sizeable animal, now all that remained were a few bits of the rib cage.

Back at our lodge we found Little Epauletted Fruit Bats in trees near reception and then a pair of Senegal Lesser Bushbaby came out in the twilight to feed on the sap of the Acacia trees.

### **Day 8 – 10th May 2015 Serengeti to the crater**

Our travel today was southwards toward the Ngorongoro Crater. We left after breakfast, going past the hippo pool near Seronera. The large pod of Hippos wallowed about, splashing water across their backs and occasionally grunting and Spur-winged Lapwing made an appearance. A crocodile wisely chose to lie on the bank out of reach of the Hippos and basked in the sun.

We drove onward, finally getting good views of the strangely coloured, orange-and-grey Silverbird before stopping off at the Naabi gate. Here we took a walk up the hill, which was already occupied by a young male Elephant. He generally ignored us until another group of people arrived chatting noisily at which point we moved away and so did he.

Back across the plains we travelled, pausing every now and then to let long lines of Wildebeest, Zebra and gazelle cross our path; traffic can be terrible in the Serengeti during rush hour! We came to the Oldupai Gorge, home to the famous palaeontological dig, which has turned up hominoid fossils. Here we had our packed lunch, surrounded again by birds that hunted for our scraps. Amongst several species was Black Bishop, as well as Rock Martin and Red-rumped Swallows flying about. We had a short lecture on the gorge and the finds before visiting the museum then picking up Southern Grosbeak and leaving.

We travelled back up the western slope of the Ngorongoro Crater rim, the vegetation changing from grassland to mist forest as we left the plains behind and gained altitude. Once at the lodge, we checked into our rooms that had a magnificent view of the crater spread out below us. Setting up 'scopes, we could see Elephants, buffalo and a host of other animals as tiny figures on the floor below. Some of us used the last hour of day light for a walk around the hotel grounds, picking up Brown Parisoma, Golden-winged Sunbird and Brown-backed Woodpecker before retiring for an excellent dinner.

### **Day 9 – 11th May 2015 Ngorongoro Crater**

During breakfast we had an incredible view of the sun rising over the crater and its reflection coming off the crater floor lake. This made it appear as if the sun was rising out the ground as mist and cloud around the lodge blotted out the real sun from our view.

With an early morning start, we travelled the descent road into the crater, finding Red-collared Widowbird on the side of the road and Dusky Turtle Dove. A short stop at the entrance point we found White-necked Raven shadowing us and Streaky Seedeaters in the bushes. We descended the crater road, seeing Little Rock Thrush perched on the huge candelabra *Euphorbia* trees along the roadside. Schalow's Wheatear and Anteater Chat made appearances as Augur Buzzard soared overhead.

Once down on the crater floor we began to see large herds of animals - buffalo, zebra and Wildebeest. Grey Crowned Cranes strode across the short grass as Spotted Hyaena tried to chase some wily Thompson's Gazelles. After a short stop at the toilet block, with good views of Wire-tailed Swallow, we were off through a Fever Tree forest that brought several new birds. African Paradise Flycatcher, Grey-capped Warbler, Brown-crowned Tchagra, Holub's Golden Weaver appeared, along with White-headed Barbet, which was a target species for Roger who was chasing down the 1000<sup>th</sup> African bird species on his life list. Further on were good views of a female Saddle-billed Stork, Red-billed Teal, Egyptian Goose, Sacred Ibis and Little Egret on top of Hippos as we passed some wetlands. We moved toward the centre of the crater, finding four Black Rhino scattered amongst the herds of buffalo. These rhino were all some way off and in different directions, but after a while we managed to get side-on views where one could see their set of massive double horns.

We set off for lunch, stopping beside a small lake full of Hippos that splashed and wallowed about and generally ignored the people that were on the banks. Weavers, sparrows and starlings immediately turned up as we started to have lunch; we were rapidly set upon by Yellow-billed Kites that managed to snatch a chicken bone from my hand. After lunch we set off for the crater road, passing pairs of Kori Bustard along the roadside.

We drove up and out of the crater, passing through beautiful mountain Acacia forest and getting good views of Golden-winged Sunbird, Eastern Double-collared Sunbird and a Brown-headed Apalis that skulked in the canopy layer. We moved onwards, reaching the crater rim and travelling through the rainforest back towards our lodge. Just before the viewpoint we came across a Leopard with a very small cub in the road. They both quickly scampered off into the bush, but remained long enough for us to see an irritated tail twitching through the bushes next to our vehicle. These proceedings were watched by a Hildebrandt's Francolin that seemed to be awfully close to the mother Leopard but nonchalantly sauntered off once the Leopards were gone.

Once back at the lodge we again went for a short evening walk, finding a roosting group of Cinnamon-breasted Bee-eaters whilst Red-winged Starling, Mountain Greenbul and Hunter's Cisticola also made an appearance.

#### **Day 10 – 12th May 2015 Ngorongoro to Arusha**

Cloud had descended during the night and we had 'white out' conditions at breakfast, which were so different to the conditions of the day before. We birded a bit briefly around the lodge and picked up Tacazze Sunbird before leaving. Our drive out was interrupted along the crater rim by two male Lions lying on the side of the road in the mist. This was a narrow forest road, which meant that these animals were only three metres or so from us as they lounged in the wet grass. After a while they decided to set off into the forest, disappearing behind the first bush. As we drove on, we passed a road repair crew a hundred metres or so further on working on the road...

We reached the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Gate and stopped to check out, picking up White-tailed Blue Flycatcher in the forest above us. As we travelled on towards Arusha, the rain arrived and it was wet as we passed through various towns and their busy colourful markets. For us, this was confirmation on just how good the weather on the whole trip had been and although we had had some small showers of rain at no time was it a major hindrance.

We reached the Lake Duluti Hotel in Arusha just after noon and had an excellent lunch, reflecting on the remarkable diversity and fortunate sightings of the past 12 days. We left the hotel and checked into the KIA Lodge near the Kilimanjaro International Airport to freshen up before the flight. At 18:15 we said our goodbyes at the airport, sadly leaving the plains of Africa behind.

In terms of cats we had seen Serval, Caracal, Cheetah, Leopard (three occasions) and Lion on no less than six occasions; these cats were part of 51 mammal species that we had seen. Furthermore, well over 300 birds species were also sighted on this trip.

Thank you very much for your company and for making this a very pleasurable tour.

***Dalton Gibbs***

**Bird Species List**

**Common Ostrich** *Struthio camelus* - The world's largest bird was first seen in Tarangire NP and after then it was common in the Serengeti.

**Helmeted Guineafowl** *Numida meleagris* - Common and widespread and seen every day.

**Coqui Francolin** *Peliperdix coqui* - Seen once in the Serengeti

**Crested Francolin** *Dendroperdix sephaena* - Small numbers in bush country and seen well Tarangire

**Hildebrandt's Francolin** *Pternistis hildebrandti* - Seen well Ngorongoro Crater and Serena Lodge

**Yellow-necked Spurfowl** *Pternistis leucoscepus* - Common in Tarangire and seen well

**Grey-breasted Spurfowl** *Pternistis rufopictus* - This special bird was common in the Seronera and Ndutu areas.

**Red-necked Spurfowl** *Pternistis afer* - Seen very well in Tarangire and Ndutu.

**Harlequin Quail** *Coturnix delegorguei* - Numerous pairs and seen well at Ndutu.

**White-faced Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna viduata* - Seen well at ANP and Eluanata Dam

**Fulvous Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna bicolor* - Seen at Eluanata Dam and Ngorongoro Crater.

**Spur-winged Goose** *Plectropterus gambensis* - Seen well at ANP and in the Ngorongoro Crater

**Knob-billed Duck** *Sarkidiornis melanotos* - Seen well at Maramboi Eluanata Dam and Tarangire NP.

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca* - Common and widespread

**Cape Teal** *Anas capensis* - Seen at ANP, Eluanata Dam and other saline lakes.

**Red-billed Teal** *Anas erythrorhyncha* - Seen at Eluanata dam and well at Ngorongoro Crater.

**Hottentot Teal** *Anas hottentota* - Seen at Eluanata dam.

**Southern Pochard** *Netta erythrophthalma* - Seen at Eluanata dam

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* - Seen at ANP and Eluanata dam.

**Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus roseus* - Large numbers on many alkaline lakes

**Lesser Flamingo** *Phoeniconaias minor* - Large numbers on many alkaline lakes

**Yellow-billed Stork** *Mycteria ibis* - Seen at Lake Manyara.

**White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia* - Seen on the Serengeti plains

**Saddle-billed Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis* - A female seen well in the Ngorongoro Crater.

**Marabou Stork** *Leptoptilos crumenifer* - Small numbers in widespread places

**African Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus* - ANP and Ngorongoro Crater.

**Hadada Ibis** *Bostrychia hagedash* - Few around ANP and Tarangire NP.

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* - Seen Eluanata Dam

**African Spoonbill** *Platalea alba* - Seen Eluanata Dam and Manyara

**Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* - Common in ANP, Tarangire NP and Serengeti.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea* - Small numbers at many places near water

**Black-headed Heron** *Ardea melanocephala* - Quite common in grassy fields and towns, seen most days.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea* - Seen in Ngorongoro Crater

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba* - Seen Eluanata Dam.

**Intermediate Egret** *Egretta intermedia* - Seen ANP and Eluanata Dam

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* - Seen Eluanata Dam.

**Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta* - Small numbers at wetlands, often near their giant nests

**Great White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus* - Four seen soaring over the Serengeti.

**White-breasted Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax lucidus* - A few at ANP and on the last day.

**Secretarybird** *Sagittarius serpentarius* - Fantastic views of a number in Tarangire, the Serengeti and Ndutu.

**European Honey-buzzard** *Pernis apivorus* - A single bird at ANP.

**Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus* - Small numbers along roadsides at ANP, Lake Manyara and Tarangire NP.

**Yellow-billed Kite** *Milvus aegyptius* - Very close views at Ngongoro Crater lunch stop.

**Hooded Vulture** *Necrosyrtes monachus* - A single bird with lions in the central Serengeti.

**White-backed Vulture** *Gyps africanus* - The common vulture in the parks, widespread.

**Rueppell's Vulture** *Gyps rueppellii* - Smaller numbers of this cliff-nesting species in the Serengeti and Ngorongoro

**Lappet-faced Vulture** *Torgos tracheliotos* - Small numbers of this giant bird from Tarangire to the Serengeti

**Black-chested Snake Eagle** *Circaetus pectoralis* - Small numbers of this smart bird from Ndotu and Serengeti.

**Brown Snake Eagle** *Circaetus cinereus* - Two individuals in the Serengeti.

**Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus* - Wonderfully common in the big parks!

**African Harrier-Hawk** *Polyboroides typus* - Good views of a young bird in Tarangire NP.

**Dark Chanting Goshawk** *Melierax metabates* - Small numbers in the Serengeti

**Eastern Chanting Goshawk** *Melierax poliopterus* - Seen near Ndotu and the Serengeti.

**Gabar Goshawk** *Micronisus gabar* - Small numbers, seen hunting at a Ndotu water hole and Serengeti.

**African Goshawk** *Accipiter tachiro* - Brief views of an individual at Maramboi.

**Shikra** *Accipiter badius* - Good views of one at Ndotu breakfast stop.

**Little Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter minullus* - Seen at our Maraboi Lodge.

**Mountain Buzzard** *Buteo oreophilus* - Seen in Arusha NP

**Augur Buzzard** *Buteo augur* - Common in areas with cliffs and seen very well

**Tawny Eagle** *Aquila rapax* - Common in the big parks and seen most days

**Verreaux's Eagle** *Aquila verreauxii* - A pair seen well at the Lake Manyara viewpoint on both visits.

**African Hawk-eagle** *Aquila spilogaster* - Seen in ANP soaring.

**Wahlberg's Eagle** *Hieraetus wahlbergi* - One bird in ANP.

**Long-crested Eagle** *Lophaetus occipitalis* - Great views Arusha and Tarangire NP's.

**Crowned Eagle** *Stephanoaetus coronatus* - Incredible extended views at nest in Arusha NP!!!

**Pygmy Falcon** *Polihierax semitorquatus* - Great views near Maramboi and in the Serengeti.

**Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus* - Seen at Serengeti Seronera Lodge.

**Greater Kestrel** *Falco rupicoloides* - A few seen on the Serengeti plains

**Amur Falcon** *Falco amurensis* - Females seen twice in at Ndotu and Serengeti.

**Kori Bustard** *Ardeotis kori* - Fantastic views of the world's heaviest flying bird in Tarangire, Serengeti and crater

**White-bellied Bustard** *Eupodotis senegalensis* - Great views at Ndotu and the Serengeti.

**Black-bellied Bustard** *Lissotis melanogaster* - Seen well in the Serengeti.

**Black Crake** *Amaurornis flavirostra* - Good views in the Serengeti.

**Red-knobbed Coot** *Fulica cristata* - Seen at Eluanata Dam.

**Grey Crowned Crane** *Balearica regulorum* - Great views Arusha NP and Ngorongoro Crater.

**Spotted Thick-knee** *Burhinus capensis* - Seen well at Ndotu and in the Serengeti.

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus* - Small numbers at many waterbodies.

**Long-toed Lapwing** *Vanellus crassirostris* - Seen at Eluanata Dam.

**Blacksmith Lapwing** *Vanellus armatus* - Common around wetlands, seen every day.

**Spur-winged Lapwing** *Vanellus spinosus* - One bird seen well north of Seronera, Serengeti NP.

**Black-winged Lapwing** *Vanellus melanopterus* - Small flocks in the central Serengeti.

**Crowned Lapwing** *Vanellus coronatus* - Very common on dry grassy plains

**Kittlitz's Plover** *Charadrius pecuarius* - This distinctive plover was seen at Ndotu.

**Three-banded Plover** *Charadrius tricollaris* - Small numbers of this smart bird at fresh water wetlands

**Chestnut-banded Plover** *Charadrius pallidus* - Great views of this special plover at Ndotu.

**African Jacana** *Actophilornis africanus* - Seen at Eluanata Dam and well at Tarangire NP.  
**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola* - Seen at Eluanata Dam and Tarangire NP.  
**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* - Seen at Tarangire NP.  
**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta* - Seen at Arusha NP and in the Serengeti.  
**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax* - Seen at Arusha NP.  
**Temminck's Courser** *Cursorius temminckii* - Seen at Ndotu.  
**Double-banded Courser** *Rhinoptilus africanus* - Commonly seen at Ndotu and Serengeti.  
**Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola* - Fantastic views at Ndotu.  
**Grey-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus* - Small numbers at the Ngorongoro Crater.  
**Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica* - Fair numbers on the plains near Ndotu and Serengeti.  
**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida* - Seen at Eluanata Dam.  
**Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** *Pterocles exustus* - Seen well near Ndotu.  
**Yellow-throated Sandgrouse** *Pterocles gutturalis* - Seen well near Ndotu and Serengeti.  
**Black-faced Sandgrouse** *Pterocles decoratus* - One pair seen well in Tarangire NP.  
**Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia* - Seen near Arusha and Tarangire  
**Speckled Pigeon** *Columba guinea* - Small numbers throughout, often in rocky places or towns  
**African Olive Pigeon** *Columba arquatrix* - This fruit-eater seen in the crater rim forests  
**Dusky Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia lugens* - Occasional in open areas on the crater rim, including our hotel.  
**Mourning Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decipiens* - Quite common in acacia woodland from Tarangire to Ndotu, and the airport  
**Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata* - Seen near Arusha NP and Tarangire NP.  
**Ring-necked Dove** *Streptopelia capicola* - Very common and widespread, seen every day.  
**Laughing Dove** *Stigmatopelia senegalensis* - Very common!  
**Emerald-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur chalcospilos* - Seen Arusha NP and Ngorongoro.  
**Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis* - Small numbers in dry areas throughout the trip.  
**Fischer's Lovebird** *Agapornis fischeri* - Common Ndotu and also Serengeti!  
**Yellow-collared Lovebird** *Agapornis personatus* - Common Tarangire and Manyara  
**Red-bellied Parrot** *Poicephalus rufiventris* - Great views Tarangire NP.  
**Schalow's Turaco** *Tauraco schalowi* - Seen in the crater forest.  
**Hartlaub's Turaco** *Tauraco hartlaubi* - Eventually seen in Arusha NP.  
**Bare-faced Go-away-bird** *Corythaixoides personatus* - Great views Tarangire and central Serengeti  
**White-bellied Go-away-bird** *Corythaixoides leucogaster* - Seen near Maramboi.  
**White-browed Coucal** *Centropus superciliosus* - Widespread in small numbers throughout  
**Great Spotted Cuckoo** *Clamator glandarius* - Seen at Tarangire NP and Ndotu.  
**Levaillant's Cuckoo** *Clamator levaillantii* - Seen at Ndotu.  
**Jacobin Cuckoo** *Clamator jacobinus* - Seen Tarangire NP and Ndotu.  
**Diederik Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx caprius* - Seen very well at Manyara and many other places.  
**Klaas's Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx klaas* - Heard a few times but evaded a sight view!  
**Red-chested Cuckoo** *Cuculus solitarius* - Often heard - never seen!  
**African Cuckoo** *Cuculus gularis* - Seen Arusha NP.  
**Pearl-spotted Owlet** *Glaucidium perlatum* - Eventually seen at Ndotu Lodge.  
**Scarce Swift** *Schoutedenapus myoptilus* - Good views Arusha NP and on the crater rim. The nest has never been found!  
**African Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus* - This slender swift quite common around palms at Lake Manyara and Ndotu.  
**Mottled Swift** *Tachymarptis aequatorialis* - Seen in the Serengeti NP.  
**Common Swift** *Apus apus* - Seen over the Serengeti.  
**African Black Swift** *Apus barbatus* - Seen over the Serengeti.  
**Little Swift** *Apus affinis* - Very common especially around buildings where they nest.

**White-rumped Swift** *Apus caffer* - Seen en route to Lake Manyara.  
**Speckled Mousebird** *Colius striatus* - Very common!  
**Blue-naped Mousebird** *Urocolius macrourus* - Small numbers, seen well Tarangire NP and Serengeti.  
**Purple [Rufous-crowned] Roller** *Coracias naevius* - One bird north of Seronera, Serengeti NP.  
**Lilac-breasted Roller** *Coracias caudatus* - Very common, luckily for the photographers!  
**Grey-headed Kingfisher** *Halcyon leucocephala* - Seen at Lake Manyara  
**Brown-hooded Kingfisher** *Halcyon albiventris* - Seen ANP  
**Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti* - Seen Manyara and Serengeti.  
**Woodland Kingfisher** *Halcyon senegalensis* - Seen in small numbers from Manyara onwards  
**Malachite Kingfisher** *Corythornis cristata* - Seen Tarangire NP.  
**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis* - Good views in Tarangire NP.  
**Little Bee-eater** *Merops pusillus* - Very pleasantly common.  
**Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater** *Merops oreobates* - Seen in the Arusha and Ngorongoro crater forest  
**Blue-cheeked Bee-eater** *Merops persicus* - Seen Lake Manyara and in Tarangire NP.  
**Olive Bee-eater** *Merops superciliosus* - Widespread flocks in the Serengeti.  
**African Hoopoe** *Upupa africana* - Widespread and seen well many times, esp. Ndutu  
**Green Wood Hoopoe** *Phoeniculus purpureus* - Seen at Tarangire NP and well at Ndutu  
**Common Scimitarbill** *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas* - Seen en route to Maramboi.  
**Abyssinian Scimitarbill** *Rhinopomastus minor* - Seen leaving Ndutu and Serengeti.  
**African Grey Hornbill** *Tockus nasutus* - Seen in Arusha, Tarangire and in the Serengeti.  
**Northern Red-billed Hornbill** *Tockus erythrorhynchus* - Quite common in Tarangire.  
**Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill** *Tockus ruahae* - This special hornbill in the vicinity of our Serengeti lodge.  
**Von der Decken's Hornbill** *Tockus deckeni* - Small numbers from Tarangire onwards.  
**White-eared Barbet** *Stactolaema leucotis* - Seen near crater viewpoint at Arusha NP.  
**Red-fronted Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus pusillus* - One seen near Ndutu.  
**Red-fronted Barbet** *Tricholaema diademata* - Seen at Oldupai Gorge  
**Spot-flanked Barbet** *Tricholaema lacrymosa* - Seen by some at Arusha NP.  
**White-headed Barbet** *Lybius leucocephalus* - Seen in the Ngorongoro Crater.  
**Red-and-yellow Barbet** *Trachyphonus erythrocephalus* - Seen well at Tarangire NP.  
**Usambiro Barbet** *Trachyphonus [darnaudii] usambiro* - Fantastic views in the Serengeti. Sometimes considered a subspecies of D'Arnaud's.  
**Nubian Woodpecker** *Campethera nubica* - Seen Tarangire NP.  
**Cardinal Woodpecker** *Dendropicos fuscescens* - Seen at Arusha NP.  
**Bearded Woodpecker** *Dendropicos namaquus* - Seen Tarangire NP and Serengeti.  
**Eastern Grey Woodpecker** *Dendropicos spodocephalus* - A pair seen in Tarangire NP.  
**Brown-backed Woodpecker** *Picoides obsoletus* - Seen at Ngorongoro Hotel and in the crater.  
**Chin-spot Batis** *Batis molitor* - Seen at the Lake Manyara viewpoint.  
**Orange-breasted Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus* - A pair in the Ngorongoro Crater.  
**Rosy-patched Bushshrike** *Rhodophoneus cruentus* - Seen well near Lake Manyara viewpoint.  
**Brown-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra australis* - Widespread in small numbers  
**Slate-colored Boubou** *Laniarius funebris* - Quite common from Tarangire NP onwards.  
**Tropical Boubou** *Laniarius major* - Heard at Arusha NP and common around Ngorongoro Hotel.  
**Brubru** *Nilaus afer* - Seen Tarangire and the Serengeti  
**Magpie Shrike** *Urolestes melanoleucus* - Groups quite common from Tarangire onwards.  
**Northern White-crowned Shrike** *Eurocephalus ruppelli* - Groups quite common from Tarangire onwards.

**Grey-backed Fiscal** *Lanius excubitoroides* - Family groups common in the Serengeti.  
**Long-tailed Fiscal** *Lanius cabanisi* - Common from Arusha to Tarangire NP.  
**Taita Fiscal** *Lanius dorsalis* - Small numbers in the Serengeti and near Olduvai.  
**Northern Fiscal** *Lanius humeralis* - Common at Arusha and Ngorongoro. A recent split from Common Fiscal.  
**Black-headed Oriole** *Oriolus larvatus* - Seen well at Tarangire NP.  
**Fork-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus adsimilis* - Small numbers throughout bush country  
**African Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone viridis* - Seen at Arusha NP and in the Ngorongoro Crater forest.  
**Cape Crow** *Corvus capensis* - Small numbers west of the crater.  
**Pied Crow** *Corvus albus* - Common on roadsides through towns and farms.  
**White-necked Raven** *Corvus albicollis* - Two pairs along the Ngorongoro crater rim.  
**White-tailed Blue Flycatcher** *Elminia albicauda* - Seen Ngorongoro Crater forest at the park entrance.  
**White-tailed Lark** *Mirafra albicauda* - Seen at Lake Eluanata.  
**Rufous-naped Lark** *Mirafra africana* - Abundant, many in grasslands on most days!  
**Red-capped Lark** *Calandrella cinerea* - Very common on low grassy plains and road edges in the Serengeti and Ngorongoro  
**Athi Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella athensis* - Seen on the Serengeti short grass plains west of Ndutu whilst we were chasing Cheetah.  
**Fischer's Sparrow-Lark** *Eremopterix leucopareia* - Abundant in grasslands and bare ground throughout.  
**Dark-capped Bulbul** *Pycnonotus tricolor* - Common and widespread, seen every day!  
**Mountain Greenbul** *Arizelocichla nigriceps* - Seen at our Ngorongoro hotel.  
**Black Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne pristopectera* - Common ANP and the crater rim.  
**Grey-rumped Swallow** *Pseudhirundo griseopyga* - A few in Ngorongoro Crater at the toilet block.  
**Brown-throated [Plain] Martin** *Riparia paludicola* - Quite common around wetlands in Arusha NP.  
**Banded Martin** *Riparia cincta* - Common at Arusha NP and some in the crater.  
**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* - Small groups over the Serengeti.  
**Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii* - Common near water, excellent views in the crater.  
**Rock Martin** *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* - Quite common near cliffs and buildings, especially in the crater.  
**Lesser Striped Swallow** *Cecropis abyssinica* - Quite common around our lodges where they are making their long mud nests  
**Mosque Swallow** *Cecropis senegalensis* - One seen briefly over the crater viewpoint.  
**Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica* - Small numbers at Arusha NP, crater and Serengeti.  
**Northern Crombec** *Sylvietta brachyura* - Seen at Arusha NP.  
**Red-faced Crombec** *Sylvietta whytii* - This tailless bird seen at Arusha and near Ndutu.  
**Brown Woodland Warbler** *Phylloscopus umbrovirens* - Heard in Arusha NP  
**Dark-capped Yellow Warbler** *Iduna natalensis* - One bird seen well at Arusha NP.  
**Mountain Yellow Warbler** *Iduna similis* - Heard at the Ngorongoro hotel.  
**Trilling Cisticola** *Cisticola woosnami* - Good views at Arusha NP.  
**Hunter's Cisticola** *Cisticola hunteri* - Seen by some at the Ngorongoro hotel.  
**Rattling Cisticola** *Cisticola chiniana* - Very common and noisy in bush country!  
**Winding Cisticola** *Cisticola marginatus* - Seen in Arusha NP.  
**Croaking Cisticola** *Cisticola natalensis* - Seen buy some in the Serengeti.  
**Short-winged Cisticola** *Cisticola brachypterus* - Common in short grass of the Serengeti.  
**Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis* - Widespread in the Serengeti & Ngorongoro.  
**Desert Cisticola** *Cisticola aridulus* - Seen in the Serengeti.  
**Pectoral-patch Cisticola** *Cisticola brunnescens* - Common in the Serengeti and the crater.  
**Tawny-flanked Prinia** *Prinia subflava* - Seen well and small numbers throughout, seen every day.

- Bar-throated Apalis** *Apalis thoracica* - Seen by some near our crater lodge
- Yellow-breasted Apalis** *Apalis flavida* - This little warbler seen at the Lake Manyara viewpoint.
- Brown-headed Apalis** *Apalis alticola* - Seen in Ngorongoro crater forest.
- Grey-capped Warbler** *Eminia lepida* - One bird seen well in the crater forest.
- Grey-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brevicaudata* - Small numbers throughout but quite skulking
- Arrow-marked Babbler** *Turdoides jardineii* - Seen in Tarangire and Serengeti.
- Brown Parisoma** *Sylvia lugens* - Seen by some Ngorongoro hotel.
- Banded Parisoma** *Sylvia boehmi* - Seen at Tarangire and Ndutu.
- Abyssinian White-eye** *Zosterops abyssinicus* - Seen at Oldupai Gorge.
- Montane White-eye** *Zosterops poliogastrus* - Seen Ngorongoro hotel.
- Wattled Starling** *Creatophora cinerea* - Very common, and lots in Serengeti.
- Rueppell's Starling** *Lamprotornis purpuroptera* - This shiny bird was common in the central Serengeti.
- Superb Starling** *Lamprotornis superbus* - This beautiful species is abundant throughout, seen every day!
- Hildebrandt's Starling** *Lamprotornis hildebrandti* - Quite common in denser woodlands than Superb and seen at Tarangire, Serengeti and Ndutu
- Ashy Starling** *Lamprotornis unicolor* - This localised species was very common in Tarangire NP!
- Violet-backed Starling** *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* - Seen at our Arusha Lodge.
- Red-winged Starling** *Onychognathus morio* - Seen at our Ngorongoro hotel.
- Kenrick's Starling** *Poeoptera kenricki* - Seen in Arusha NP.
- Yellow-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus africanus* - Seen from Tarangire NP onwards.
- Red-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus erythrorhynchus* - Seen very well in Arusha and widespread.
- Abyssinian [Mountain] Thrush** *Turdus abyssinicus* - Seen at our Ngorongoro hotel.
- Cape Robin-Chat** *Cossypha caffra* - Seen Arusha NP and the crater rim.
- Rueppell's Robin-Chat** *Cossypha semirufa* - Seen in Arusha NP and Ngorongoro crater.
- Spotted Palm Thrush** *Cichladusa guttata* - Seen Lake Manyara.
- White-browed Scrub Robin** *Erythropygia leucophrys* - Seen Tarangire and Serengeti.
- African Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus* - Seen well Arusha NP, Serengeti and crater rim.
- Capped Wheatear** *Oenanthe pileata* - Very common on the open plains of the Serengeti.
- Abyssinian [Schalow's] Wheatear** *Oenanthe lugubris* - Great views on Manyara escarpment & crater.
- Anteater Chat** *Myrmecocichla aethiops* - Great views in the crater.
- Little Rock Thrush** *Monticola rufocinereus* - Seen Ngorongoro Crater descent road.
- White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher** *Dioptrornis fischeri* - Seen in the Ngorongoro crater forests.
- African Grey Flycatcher** *Bradornis microrhynchus* - Family groups in dry acacia country, from Tarangire onwards
- Silverbird** *Empidonax semipartitus* - Found from the Lake Manyara to the Serengeti.
- African Dusky Flycatcher** *Muscicapa adusta* - Good views of this dumpy flycatcher in Ndutu and the crater forests.
- Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris* - Seen Arusha NP & Manyara.
- Amethyst Sunbird** *Chalcomitra amethystina* - Seen in Arusha.
- Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra senegalensis* - This striking sunbird was common, often in lodge grounds!
- Tacazze Sunbird** *Nectarinia tacazze* - Great views at our crater rim lodge.
- Bronzy Sunbird** *Nectarinia kilimensis* - Seen Arusha NP.
- Malachite Sunbird** *Nectarinia famosa* - Seen in Arusha.
- Golden-winged Sunbird** *Drepanorhynchus reichenowi* - Amazing views of many males on the crater rim.
- Eastern Double-collared Sunbird** *Cinnyris mediocris* - Seen well in the crater forests and our crater lodge.

- Beautiful Sunbird** *Cinnyris pulchellus* - Small numbers in dry bush such as Lake Manyara and Ngorongoro.
- Variable Sunbird** *Cinnyris venustus* - Common in dry bush, mainly seen around the airport, Arusha NP and Ngorongoro.
- White-browed Sparrow-weaver** *Plocepasser mahali* - A few birds in Tarangire NP.
- Rufous-tailed Weaver** *Hirundo ruficauda* - This endemic very common from Tarangire onwards.
- Grey-capped Social Weaver** *Pseudonigrita arnaudi* - Very common in the Serengeti.
- House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* - Common around the Manyara, Olduvai, etc
- Kenya Sparrow** *Passer rufocinctus* - Widely seen from Arusha, Ndotu and Serengeti.
- Northern Grey-headed Sparrow** *Passer griseus* - Common east of the Rift, e.g. Arusha, Tarangire.
- Swahili Sparrow** *Passer suahelicus* - Common Serengeti and Ndotu.
- Chestnut Sparrow** *Passer eminibey* - Common near Manyara and Serengeti.
- Red-billed Buffalo Weaver** *Bubalornis niger* - Common from Tarangire onwards.
- White-headed Buffalo Weaver** *Dinemellia dinemelli* - Common - and especially conspicuous in flight!
- Speckle-fronted Weaver** *Sporopipes frontalis* - Small numbers in dry country throughout!
- Baglafaecht Weaver** *Ploceus baglafaecht* - Widespread. Seen well at Arusha and on the crater rim.
- Spectacled Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis* - One bird at Seronera, Serengeti NP and Ngorongoro.
- Black-necked Weaver** *Ploceus nigricollis* - One pair at Seronera, Serengeti NP.
- Holub's Golden Weaver** *Ploceus xanthops* - Small flock in the crater forest.
- Taveta Weaver** *Ploceus castaneiceps* - Seen Arusha NP.
- Lesser Masked Weaver** *Ploceus intermedius* - Seen Arusha, Manyara and Serengeti.
- Vitelline Masked Weaver** *Ploceus vitellinus* - Small numbers throughout
- Speke's Weaver** *Ploceus spekei* - Seen Arusha and in the crater.
- Village Weaver** *Ploceus cucullatus* - Common at Ndotu Lodge
- Golden-backed Weaver** *Ploceus jacksoni* - Seen near Arusha and lake Manyara.
- Chestnut Weaver** *Ploceus rubiginosus* - Big colonies en route to Manyara & Tarangire NP
- Red-headed Weaver** *Anaplectes rubriceps* - Seen at Naabi gate, Serengeti.
- Cardinal Quelea** *Quelea cardinalis* - Seen at Arusha and Serengeti.
- Red-billed Quelea** *Quelea quelea* - Flocks from Tarangire NP onwards.
- Yellow-crowned Bishop** *Euplectes afer* - Seen at Tarangire NP.
- Black Bishop** *Euplectes gierowii* - Seen well at Oldupai Gorge while we ate lunch.
- Southern Red Bishop** *Euplectes orix* - Seen in full plumage at Eluata Lake, Manyara & Tarangire
- Yellow Bishop** *Euplectes capensis* - Seen Arusha NP and Ngorongoro Crater.
- Fan-tailed Widowbird** *Euplectes axillaris* - Seen in the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater.
- White-winged Widowbird** *Euplectes albonotatus* - Seen in Tarangire and Serengeti.
- Red-collared Widowbird** *Euplectes ardens* - Common on crater rim in breeding plumage, also Arusha NP.
- Red-billed Firefinch** *Lagonosticta senegala* - Small numbers at Arusha NP and Ngorongoro crater.
- African Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rubricata* - Seen Arusha NP.
- Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu** *Uraeginthus bengalus* - Small numbers of this smart bird at Ndotu and Serengeti.
- Blue-capped Cordon-bleu** *Uraeginthus cyanocephalus* - Widespread in small numbers Tarangire onwards.
- Purple Grenadier** *Uraeginthus ianthinogaster* - Views of this handsome species in the Serengeti.
- Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild* - Seen Arusha NP and the Serengeti.
- Black-faced Waxbill** *Estrilda erythronotos* - Seen in Ndotu and the Serengeti.
- Grey-headed Silverbill** *Odontospiza caniceps* - Seen at the birdbath at Ndotu and in surrounding bush.

**Bronze Mannikin** *Lonchura cucullata* - Seen Arusha NP.  
**Village Indigobird** *Vidua chalybeata* - Seen Arusha, Taragire NP and Serengeti.  
**Pin-tailed Whydah** *Vidua macroura* - Good views of a male in plumage at Arusha; also Serengeti and Ngorongoro.  
**Steel-blue Whydah** *Vidua hypocherina* - Seen Taragire and Ndotu.  
**Long-tailed Paradise Whydah** *Vidua paradisaea* - Male in display near Manayara and Tarangire NP.  
**African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp* - Seen at Arusha NP and Lake Manyara.  
**Yellow-throated Longclaw** *Macronyx croceus* - Seen Lake Eluanata and the Serengeti.  
**Pangani Longclaw** *Macronyx aurantiigula* - Seen well Arusha NP.  
**Rosy-throated Longclaw** *Macronyx ameliae* - Seen well at Ndotu, Serengeti and in Ngorongoro Crater.  
**African Pipit** *Anthus cinnamomeus* - Quite common on open plains.  
**Plain-backed Pipit** *Anthus leucophrys* - Seen on the Serengeti plains.  
**Yellow-crowned Canary** *Serinus flavivertex* - Seen on crater rim.  
**Southern Citril** *Crithagra hyposticta* - Seen Arusha NP and crater.  
**Southern Grosbeak-Canary** *Crithagra buchani* - Seen at Oldupai Gorge.  
**White-bellied Canary** *Crithagra dorsostriata* - Common Maramboi, Tarangire and Ndotu.  
**Streaky Seedeater** *Crithagra striolata* - Seen on the crater rim.  
**Thick-billed Seedeater** *Crithagra burtoni* - Seen on the crater rim.

### Mammal checklist

**Guereza Colobus** *Colobus guereza* - We saw these at Arusha National Park near the crater look out point.  
**Olive Baboon** *Papio anubis* - Seen many times on the trip, from the crater highlands to the plains of the Serengeti where they were common.  
**Vervet Monkey** *Chlorocebus pygerythrus* - Seen daily once we reached Tarangire, the Serengeti and Crater Highlands.  
**Sykes's Monkey** *Cercopithecus [mitis] albogularis* - These stunning white-throated monkeys were seen in Arusha National Park.  
**Blue Monkey** *Cercopithecus mitis* - Seen once as we watched them feeding among a troop of Black-and-White Colobus monkeys at the foot of the eastern Rift.  
**Senegal Lesser Galago** *Galago senegalensis* - Seen in the parking area of our Serengeti Lodge where they were licking sap from holes they had bitten into the Acacia trees.  
**Little Epauletted Fruit Bat** *Epomophorus labiatus* - At our Serengeti lodge, groups of about 20 hung about in the Acacia trees, their dog-like faces curiously watching us. Many of them had a baby against their body, tucked away underneath their wings.  
**Yellow-winged Bat** *Lavia frons* - One Yellow-winged Bat treated us with some beautiful fast butterfly-like passages amongst the Acacia trees at our Serengeti Lodge.  
**Cape Hare** *Lepus capensis* - We flushed these hares several times whilst driving across the vast plains of the Serengeti.  
**African Savanna Hare** *Lepus victoriae* - On our drive out of the Serengeti we had one a few feet from us at a toilet break!  
**Ochre Bush Squirrel** *Paraxerus ochraceus* - This cute and tiny agile squirrel gave brief views in the trees at Arusha National Park.  
**Acacia Rat** *Thallomys paedulus* - This light-coloured tree rat was running on the trail of the Lesser Galago, along acacia branches, apparently in search of gum upon which it fed. Seen at sunset at our lodge in Serengeti.  
**African/Unstriped Grass Rat** *Arvicanthis niloticus* - We found one of these cute little rodents whilst descending from the Crater Highlands down onto the Serengeti Plains.  
**Common/Golden Jackal** *Canis aureus* - We had good views of this species, seeing them on five days, with close views on some occasions.

- Black-backed Jackal** *Canis mesomelas* - Seen on four occasions in Tarangire and the Serengeti.
- Bat-eared Fox** *Otocyon megalotis* - Great views of these charismatic animals emerging from a burrow near our Ndotu lodge.
- Ratel (Honey Badger)** *Mellivora capensis* - A brief view seen by few as we were distracted by a Cheetah at the time!
- Banded Mongoose** *Mungos mungo* - Several seen on a termite mound at Tarangire National Park.
- Dwarf Mongoose** *Helogale parvula* - Packs of this small, charismatic mongoose were seen at Tarangire and the Serengeti.
- Egyptian Mongoose** *Herpestes ichneumon* - One animal seen well in the Ngongoro Crater where it hunted through the grass in front of us.
- Slender Mongoose** *Herpestes sanguinea* - These slender, sleek 'mongeese' were at Maramboi and the Serengeti.
- Spotted Hyaena** *Crocuta crocuta* - First heard at night at Maramboi and then great views on several occasion in the Serengeti.
- Common/Small-spotted Genet** *Genetta genetta* - This delicate genet allowed us close looks during our evening at Ndotu.
- Serval** *Felis serval* - We had an incredible view of this long-legged cat out in the open on our first day at Arusha National Park.
- Caracal** *Felis caracal* - Great views near Ndotu Lodge, where we followed one for a while through the grass.
- Leopard** *Panthera pardus* - Great views of Leopard on four occasions this trip, including a mother with cubs that crossed the road whilst we were driving on the Ngongoro Crater rim.
- Cheetah** *Acinonyx jubatus* - Close views of a male near our Ndotu Lodge.
- Lion** *Panthera leo* - Lions were seen on six days, on most occasions next to the vehicle. Two males surprised us in the dense forest of the Ngongoro Crater rim; a very un-lion like habitat.
- Rock Hyrax** *Procavia capensis* - A few were seen at Seronera.
- Bush/Yellow-spotted Hyrax** *Heterohyrax brucei* - A few were seen at Seronera.
- African Savanna Elephant** *Loxodonta africana* - We had Elephant on seven days, the first being a large herd as we arrived at the Arusha National Park gate. A memorable experience was "meeting" a young bull Elephant when we reached the top of the Naabi Hill.
- Common Zebra** *Equus quagga* - Seen on every day; with tens of thousands in the Serengeti.
- Black Rhinoceros** *Diceros bicornis* - Four different individuals in the Ngorongoro Crater.
- Hippopotamus** *Hippopotamus amphibius* - A few hippo were seen first at Arusha National Park, then at hippo pools and nearby our lodge at Serengeti, a large pod at Seronera of about 20 hippo. Good views on foot at our lunch stop in the Ngongoro Crater.
- Common Warthog** *Phacochoerus africanus* - We saw warthog daily, although only a few in Serengeti and at Ndotu.
- Giraffe** *Giraffa camelopardalis* - Seen every day; with great views of males fighting (in slow motion) at Maramboi.
- African Buffalo** *Syncerus caffer* - Numbers were seen at the lush Arusha National Park. A few huge individuals were seen from our Serengeti lodge and other large bulls resting at a lake in Serengeti. Hundreds were seen in the crater.
- Bushbuck** *Tragelaphus scriptus* - Seen in the Arusha National Park and around our Ngorongoro Crater lodge.
- Eland** *Taurotragus oryx* - Small groups in the Serengeti on several occasions.
- Steenbok** *Raphicerus campestris* - Seen in small numbers around Ndotu and Serengeti.
- Kirk's Dikdik** *Madoqua kirkii complex* - Seen almost daily, with great views of pairs around Ndotu lodge.
- Bohor Reedbuck** *Redunca redunca* - Seen in Arusha National Park and then good views at Maramboi.
- Common Waterbuck** *Kobus [e.] ellipsiprymnus* - A harem of these large antelopes were seen in Arusha National Park and again at Tarangire.

**Defassa Waterbuck** *Kobus [ellipsiprymnus] defassa* - One or two small harems were seen daily in Serengeti National Park. In contrast to the - Common Waterbuck, these Defassa Waterbuck have fully white thighs.

**Thomson's Gazelle** *Gazella rufifrons* - Common and in numbers from Ndotu towards the Serengeti.

**Grant's Gazelle** *Nanger granti* - In fair numbers throughout the Serengeti.

**Impala** *Aepyceros melampus* - First seen at our lodge near Lake Manyara in small groups. Large harems and bachelor groups were seen in Tarangire. A few herds were scattered across the Ndotu and Serengeti woodlands. Males were rutting - they snorted and ran after each other, sometimes smashing their large horns together.

**Topi/Tsessebe** *Damaliscus lunatus* - A handful of these elegant chocolate-brown antelope were seen in the woodlands near the Serengeti Lodge.

**Kongoni/Hartebeest** *Alcephalus busephalus* - Common in small groups at Tarangire and throughout the Serengeti.

**Blue Wildebeest** *Connochaetes taurinus* - Our first wildebeest were seen from our lodge near Lake Manyara, in small herds less than hundred. We hit the migration nearer to Ndotu, where we encountered thousands. At times we drove past herds of hundreds in lines that went on across the horizon. From atop Naabi Hill, towards the south, we watched herds of tens of thousands of Wildebeest, colouring the landscape of Serengeti National Park as they mixed with Common Zebra.