

# Tanzania

Birds & Big Cats

Wed 3rd – Sun 14th May 2017

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*Relaxing Lions on our 2017 Tanzania tour*

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

## Tanzania | Birds & Big Cats

Leader – Dalton Gibbs

### (Day 1) 3 May 2017 Arrival

We met at Kilimanjaro international Airport on the 3 May at 20:00 after the direct flight from Amsterdam touched down. It had been raining and the warm moist air immediately signalled that we were in a tropical zone. Kia Lodge, our home for the next two days, was close by and soon we were settled into our rooms for an early night and a chance to catch up on any missed sleep.

### (Day 2) 4 May 2017 Arusha – Arusha National Park – Arusha

We had a leisurely breakfast at 07:00, with Superb and Violet-backed Starlings flitting around our dining room. We passed some Wahlberg's Epauletted Bats hanging in a tree as we met our driver, Alan Kweka and left the lodge at 08:00 for Arusha National Park. As so often happens in this part of the world, we had barely gone a few meters down the road when we stopped for a Gabar Goshawk and other interesting things. We by-passed the main town of Arusha in the rain and arrived at the gates of national park with the imposing mass of Mount Meru above us. At the park entrance, we picked up Cape Robin-chat, Wire-tailed Swallow and Augur Buzzard. Once in the park, we stopped at the large wetland area called "The Little Serengeti" where we soon found Plains Zebra, Giraffe, Bush Buck, Warhogs and Buffalos along with accompanying Red-billed Oxpeckers. Trilling Cisticola and Rattling Cisticola gave good views; these were the first in a number of Cisticola species that were seen on the tour.

With intermittent rain, we travelled on to the museum in the forest where we decided to have lunch since the weather had cleared. Numerous butterflies took the gap in the weather and we had these floating around us. Red-necked Spurfowl and White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher were about as we had a perfect fly past of Hartlaub's Turaco with its crimson wings. After lunch, a bit of rain fell as we drove to the top of the nearby crater rim for fantastic views of Ngurdoto Crater. A pair of Silvery-cheeked Hornbills flew in nearby for incredibly close views. We continued on and toured the crater lakes further on. The shoreline hosted thousands of Lesser Flamingos. We had a close encounter with a Giraffe that was just as surprised to meet us as we rounded a corner in the road. We also saw Hippopotamus, Common Waterbuck and the diminutive Kirk's Dikdik. A pair of Grey Crowned Cranes gave great views in the green fields as we headed back to Kia Lodge for an evening meal.

### (Day 3) 5 May 2017 Arusha – Lake Manyara

We had a leisurely start, with some early morning birding around the lodge grounds. Today was a bit of a travel day, as we headed west out of Arusha toward the eastern Rift Valley. Northern Grey-headed Sparrows were about as Mourning Collared Doves gave their distinctive call in the morning. We by-passed the main part of Arusha and were soon in the open countryside, stopping at a lake for lunch. Here we found Amur Falcons on the wing and Long-billed Pipit. Our lunch was interspersed with some rain and as soon as we got out of the vehicles we discovered the black "cotton" soils that the area is renowned for. These stuck to the bottom of our shoes and walking quickly became difficult. Never the less, we also picked up Grey-headed Gull and Whiskered Tern over the lake. We headed westwards, picking up Red-winged Lark on the way out to the main road.

Traveling on, we picked up breeding flocks of Red-billed Quelea, Cut-throat Finch and Chestnut Sparrow. Our first White-bellied Go-away-birds appeared alongside the road and we soon turned off to our lodge on the shores of Lake Manyara. Although the track to our lodge was only a few kilometres long, this took over an hour as there was just so much to see! Close views were had of Lilac-breasted Roller, African Harrier-hawk, Crowned and Blacksmith Lapwings as well as Dwarf Bittern. Ashy Starling and Rufous-tailed Weaver, both localized rift endemics, appeared along with Yellow-throated Spurfowl. Impala and Thompson's Gazelle made an appearance amongst the herds of Blue Wildebeest.

Flocks of Yellow-collared Lovebird and African Palm Swift greeted us at the lodge as we made our way through the herds of Zebra and family groups of Warhog that stood around our accommodation. Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse gathered at the water hole while in the distance the lake shore was pink and white from Lesser and Greater Flamingo, Yellow-billed Stork and Great White Pelican. Beautiful and Scarlet-chested Sunbirds flew between flowering bushes and were common at the lodge as the sun set and we took in the sunset over an evening drink. Here we saw Bohor Reedbuck and White-tailed Mongoose before having an excellent dinner.

**(Day 4) 6 May 2017 Tarangire National Park**

We had a lazy breakfast, which was interrupted by Lesser Masked Weaver and Superb Starlings who kept landing on the veranda and eyeing our breakfast enviously. We got our packed lunches and set off for nearby Tarangire National Park. Here we soon picked up African Speckled Pigeon in the parking area and White-headed Buffalo Weavers. In the park, we were soon immersed in light thornveld, interspersed with huge baobab trees. Dwarf and Banded Mongoose family groups peered at us from termite mounds as we came across our first African Elephants. In the sky, White-headed Vultures and Bateleurs were about, whilst Nubian Woodpecker, Magpie Shrike, White-widowbird and Wattled Starlings were around in numbers.

We came across a large Water Monitor, which scuttled off into the bush and then our first Lions of the tour. These were three females who were sleeping on an old termite mound some way off. Black-faced Sandgrouse and Orange-bellied Parrot made an appearance before we stopped for lunch. After lunch, we passed herds of Buffalo, Impala, Elephant, Thompson's and Grant's Gazelles. A good chance sighting gave us Three-banded Courser after we had picked up Two-banded Courser earlier.

We travelled back to the lodge and had time in the afternoon to take a walk down to the lake shore. Here huge flocks of flamingos were interspersed with Great White Pelican and Marabou Storks. Yellow-billed Storks flew across in flocks over the herds of Wildebeest and Zebra who crossed our path. A rainstorm in the distance gave us an amazing rainbow over the tropical palms near the lodge as we headed back for sundowners on the deck before another excellent dinner.

**(Day 5) 7 May, 2017 Lake Manyara – Nduvu Lodge**

We had a leisurely breakfast at 7:00 and left at 8:30, driving westwards up the escarpment on the other side of Lake Manyara. We stopped at the town of Mto wa Mbu, which translated means "The place of the mosquitoes". We fortunately didn't find any mosquitoes but rather hundreds of Yellow-billed and Marabou Storks on nests in fig trees along the main road. We travelled on and later stopped for magnificent views of Lake Manyara and the Rift valley below us. A number of beautifully marked butterflies took the gap in the rain to feed on flowering bushes at the vantage point.

After finding a roadside Bronzy Sunbird and Yellow Bishop, we reached the entrance gates to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Once through the gates we pushed on as the views of the Ngorongoro Crater were obscured in cloud. We stopped further on for lunch and caught glimpses of the crater through the mist while we enjoyed our packed lunches under the watchful eyes of a Marabou Stork. Reichenow's Seedeater, Yellow-billed Kite and Speckled Mousebird fed in the bushes nearby as we travelled onward along the crater rim and then descended on to the Serengeti Plains. Here the landscape changed abruptly into short grass plains with herds of Grant's and Thompson's gazelle. Eland, the world's largest antelope, appeared in small number. A pair of Common Jackals watched us, only to be watched from behind by a Spotted Hyena. Lappet-faced and White-backed Vulture soared high, whilst Secretary bird and Kori Bustard strode across the plains. We travelled further; passing flocks of Black-winged Lapwings, which flew about.

We reached our lodge and settled in before relaxing around the fire at sunset. Kirk's Dikdik came to visit while Northern White-crowned shrikes sat on our chairs, seemingly oblivious to our presence. After sunset, we proceeded to the dining room, where Common Genets, who were walking across the roof rafters, met us.

**(Day 6) 8 May, 2017 Nduvu Lodge**

We were up for some early morning coffee and by first light at 6:15 we were out on a wildlife drive. The early morning light was magnificent as it lit up the savanna. We travelled out of the Acacia woodland and onto the plains where we found two male lions, that strode across the plain and past our vehicle.

We had a packed breakfast with us so were quite self-sufficient. We soon found a pair of Cheetah who, over the next hour, stalked a herd of wildebeest that were moving across the plain. This didn't result in a hunt attempt but it was even more interesting when a Spotted Hyena popped its head up to watch the Cheetahs as they watched the wildebeest. During this time, we had Secretary bird and Kori Bustards about while Fischer's Sparrow-lark flew about in pairs.

We moved on, finding two Lionesses with two males in close attendance. These were sleepy animals and allowed us to approach closely. Moving on, we came across a mother Cheetah with four adolescent cubs who were devouring a recently killed Wildebeest calf. At times, the cubs literally climbed into the carcass to get choice pieces of meat; emerging covered in blood and looking far more gruesome than when they started. White-backed and Lappet-faced Vulture hung overhead, waiting for an opportunity to set down on the carcass. Amidst this spectacle, we had our packed breakfasts and enjoyed the cats right in front of us.

By midday we decided to head back, picking up a small flock of Yellow-throated Sandgrouse that settled near us. We arrived back at Ndotu Lodge at 12:45 for an excellent lunch and spent most of the afternoon watching the birdbath. Here, fresh water had been emptied in and we had the spectacle of wave after wave of birds come in to drink in front of us. Some 15 species visited the birdbath, from the tiny Blue-capped Cordon-bleu to the exotic-looking Straw-tailed Whydah with its massively long tail. Fischer's Lovebird and the Rift endemic Hildebrandt's Starling splashed and drank water.

In the late afternoon, we headed down to Lake Masek for a wildlife drive in the coolness of the afternoon. Lesser Flamingos lined this lake as we picked up brief views of Rufous Chatterer and White-bellied Canary coming in to drink. Hooded Vulture flew over as we passed a large herd of over 20 Giraffe. Back at the lodge, we took in the sunset with our usual accompanying flock of Northern White-crowned Shrikes and a few Kirk's Dikdiks. We had another excellent supper before settling in for the night.

#### **(Day 7) 9 May, 2017 Ndotu Lodge – central Serengeti**

Some of us elected to leave early after a coffee break to go on a short drive. The morning sun again painted the landscape a beautiful golden colour as we set out. We headed west through the thornveld and on to the edge of a marsh area. Here we came across a pair of Greater Painted Snipe making threatening displays to the Blacksmith Lapwings. Taita Fiscals appeared on small thorn bushes while Kori Bustards strode about. We came across several Spotted Hyena secreted in the vegetation. They appeared uninterested in us and we managed to get close views of these animals.

We returned for breakfast, allowing enough time to look around the lodge grounds before setting off further into the Serengeti. We headed north, briefly seeing a Serval, which refused to give close views. We located Nubian Woodpecker and then our first large herds of Wildebeest. They came in long lines that trailed dust, driven by deep instincts to move with the rains. Small groups in the herd would break into a rocking trot only to stop ahead and start grazing. These herds were several hundred strong and took a while to cross our path, often oblivious to our presence. We passed the remains of a Wildebeest calf that was being visited by Ruppell's Griffon, Lappet-faced and White-headed Vultures simultaneously, giving us good views of all of these species. We travelled on, eventually finding a lonely tree under which we stopped for lunch. A pair of Bat-eared Foxes darted off as we ate our packed lunches. Moving on, we came across more groups of Wildebeest, which crossed our path and held us up at times. Herds of Zebra came into view as we moved on, with Magpie and Grey-backed Shrike adorning low bushes.

We came across Defassa Waterbuck, the inland version of the Common Waterbuck that we had seen on the eastern side of the Rift Valley. A Black Mamba was on the road, whilst nearby, two male Topi sparred. A troop of Yellow Baboons performed their antics and Meyer's Parrots screeched in the trees. We soon found Von der Decken's Hornbill, a localized endemic species. Moving on again, we came to our lodge and settled in; at sunset we investigated the acacia trees and found Senegal Galago. These agile primates belong to a group of protosimians and represent an interesting group of primitive primates found in Africa. With views of this interesting species, we had an excellent supper before retiring for the night.

#### **(Day 8) 10 May, 2017 Central Serengeti**

We set off after a good breakfast to investigate the extensive plains in front of our hotel. Rufous-naped Larks were calling from almost every bush top as we travelled along the riverbeds heading towards Seronera. A large pod of Hippopotamus rolled about in a pool below the road and we could clearly smell them as they churned up the water. We found European Roller mixed in with the numerous Lilac-breasted Rollers. A short toilet break found Wire-tailed, Red-breasted and Lesser Striped Swallows on the toilet blocks. The peculiarly-coloured Silverbird was hawking insects from a tree where Rufous-tailed Weavers were nesting.

We headed toward the Seronera Info Centre, having excellent views of Rosy-throated Longclaw and then came across a Leopard on the ground with a kill. The animal was difficult to see however as it was in long grass. We had tantalizing views of ears and occasionally its head as it fed on its prey. At this stop, we also picked up Winding Cisticola. We travelled on to Seronera for lunch, finding a pair of Greater Painted-snipe startled by a crocodile. At our Seronera lunch stop, we investigated the rocky granite outcrops. Here we found both Rock and Yellow-backed Hyrax whilst the exotically-coloured Mwanza Flat-headed Rock Agama lay on the rocks. Speckle-fronted Social Weaver came to join us for lunch whilst Red-fronted Barbet called from the euphorbia trees.

After lunch we headed back toward our lodge, following up on a report of a Leopard in a tree. We found the male Leopard sleeping in a tree with his kill of a Wildebeest calf stashed high up in the branches. He was not comfortable and shifted position several times over the next half hour, finally settling down draped over a branch

that looked like it was going to snap. This didn't last long before he gave up and climbed to the top of the tree for a snack. With plenty of time with this Leopard, we headed back to our lodge for sundowners and to take in the sunset before supper.

#### **(Day 9) 11 May, 2017 Serengeti – Ngorongoro Serena Lodge**

Today we headed southward toward Olduvai Gorge and the Ngorongoro Crater. Our road was obstructed on several occasions by large herds of Wildebeest and Zebras crossing the road. We came across a lioness with three small cubs, who gazed at us on the side of the road. These were watched by Spotted Hyenas, who never seem to be far away from lions. As we approached Naabi Gate; the entrance of the Serengeti National Park, we were struck by the sheer numbers of Wildebeest that moved in long sinuous lines across the landscape.

At Naabi Gate, we climbed the low hill, which afforded us spectacular views across the animal-covered plains. Black-lored Babblers crept around in bushes as Scarlet-chested Sunbirds visited the Aloe plants. Moving on, we came to Olduvai Gorge where we had lunch and had a short lecture on the gorge and the paleontological finds before visiting the museum. We had Black Bishop and Lesser Masked Weaver visit during lunch and picked up Southern Grosbeak before 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. We found Schalow's Wheatear on the roadside before reaching our lodge, perched on the rim of the crater with amazing views of the landscape below.

A short afternoon walk turned up Tacazze Sunbird, Montane White-eye, Eastern Double-collared Sunbird, White-necked Raven and the spectacular Schalow's Turaco. With a rainstorm approaching, we made good time and the heavens opened up as we arrived back at the lodge. After local entertainment in the bar after sunset, we had a supper where one of our party had a birthday surprise! A large birthday cake appeared and the lucky person got serenaded by the chef and got to wear his hat!

#### **(Day 10) 12 May, 2017 Ngorongoro Crater**

Today we travelled to the descent road into the crater, finding Red-collared Widowbird on the side of the road and Dusky Turtle Dove. On the road down, we had good views of Hildebrandt's Francolin and Little Rock Thrush. Huge candelabra euphorbia trees grew along the descent road side. At the bottom, we found Schalow's Wheatear and Northern Ant-eater Chat, as well as Jacobin Cuckoo. Down below on the crater floor, we began to see large herds of animals, buffalo, zebra and wildebeest. Pairs of Grey Crowned Cranes dotted the landscape. A small herd of Zebras passed within meters of us before they paused at a water hole. A head of a lioness appeared in the low bushes at the waterhole and we held our breath as she fixed her gaze on a young Zebra who chose that exact moment to stop and scratch its ear in front of her! Before the lioness could launch her attack, the zebra moved on and there was a collective sigh of relief.

We made a short stop at the toilets before heading through a fever tree forest, finding Brown-streaked Tchagra, Red-faced Cisticola and White-headed Barbet. Passing through the forest and its attentive herds of elephants, we found hippos out of the water and sunning themselves on a bank. They were accompanied by Red-knobbed Coot, Northern Shoveler, Squacco Heron, Spur-winged Goose, Sacred Ibis and Yellow-billed Duck.

A pair of Lanner Falcons perched on rocky outcrops and small herds of Buffalo were scattered about. Towards the centre of the crater, we had distance views of Black Rhino, who came closer to us as they grazed. A large male elephant with a huge set of tusks slowly made his way past us, showing us what a "tusker" elephant should look like. 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. Superb Starling and Speke's Weavers tried to get food from us and we had to chase the latter out of the vehicle several times.

After lunch, we traveled around the northern portion of the crater floor, passing numerous pairs of Kori Bustard and a collection of over 30 Grey Crowned Cranes. A juvenile Saddle-billed Stork waded through the wetlands, accompanied by Pied Avocet and Black-winged Stilts. With the day heading on, we took the ascent road, passing through spectacular forest with beautiful views of the crater as we headed up the crater rim. We arrived back at the lodge in time to find Grey-capped Warbler before having sundowners and a great meal.

#### **(Day 11) 13 May, 2017 Ngorongoro crater rim – Lake Duluti (Arusha) – Kilimanjaro international Airport**

We awoke this morning to spectacular views of the crater from our breakfast table, with sunlight streaming in shafts through the clouds. Today was a traveling day back to Arusha and we birded briefly around the lodge before leaving. We reached the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Gate and stopped to check out before traveling on towards Arusha. As it was a Saturday, we passed through towns with busy, colourful markets.

After a few hours, we reached the Lake Duluti Hotel in Arusha just before noon and had an excellent lunch, reflecting on the remarkable diversity of life that we had seen. In terms of cats we had seen Serval (briefly), Cheetah (2 occasions), Leopard (2 occasions – both with kills) and Lion (4 occasions); these cats were part of 43 mammal species that we had seen.

Over lunch, we did a compilation of the birds and mammals we had seen, which each person nominating their top five birds and top three mammals. The votes were as follows:

**Birds:**

Rosy-throated long-claw (3)  
Saddle-billed stork (3)  
Secretarybird (2)  
Greater Painted Snipe (2)  
Crowned crane (2)  
White pelican (2)  
Lanner Falcon (2)

**Mammals:**

Lion (3)  
Giraffe (3)  
Zebra (2)  
Wildebeest (2)  
Cheetah (2)

After an excellent lunch, we left the hotel and checked in to the Kia Lodge near Kilimanjaro International Airport to freshen up before the flight. At 18:00 we said our goodbyes at the airport, leaving the plains of Africa behind.

### Bird Checklist (299 species recorded)

**Ostriches Family Struthionidae**

Common Ostrich *Struthio camelus* Seen well at Ndutu, Ngorongoro and Serengeti

**Ducks, Geese & Swans Family Anatidae**

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata* Good sightings at Lake Manyara  
Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor* Distant views in Ngorongoro Crater  
Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis* A few at Arusha and common in the Ngorongoro crater  
Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos* One group in Tarangire National Park  
Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca* Common and widespread  
Cape Teal *Anas capensis* Common at all saline water bodies  
Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* One in Ngorongoro  
Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhyncha* Seen at Serengeti and Ngorongoro  
Hottentot Teal *Anas hottentota* Small groups in Arusha and Ngorongoro

**Guineafowl Family Numididae**

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* Common and widespread and seen on all days

**Pheasants, Fowl & Allies Family Phasianidae**

Coqui Francolin *Peliperdix coqui* Common in Ndutu and Serengeti  
Crested Francolin *Dendroperdix sephaena* Few seen near Lake Manyara  
Scaly Francolin *Pternistis squamatus* One seen in Arusha  
Hildebrandt's Francolin *Pternistis hildebrandti* Seen well in Ngorongoro  
Yellow-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis leucoscepus* Few seen near Lake Manyara and Tarangire  
Grey-breasted Spurfowl *Pternistis rufopictus* Common in the Serengeti and Ndutu areas  
Red-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis afer* Seen once near Lake Manyara

**Grebes Family Podicipedidae**

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Seen only at Arusha National Park

**Flamingos Family Phoenicopteridae**

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* Large numbers on many alkaline lakes  
Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor* Large numbers on many alkaline lakes

**Storks Family Ciconiidae**

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis* Incredible views at their colony near Lake Manyara, also Ngorongoro  
Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* One juvenile at Arusha National Park  
White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* Few seen in Serengeti

Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis* A juvenile at Ngorongoro  
 Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumenifer* Common and widespread and seen on most days

#### **Ibises, Spoonbills Family Threskiornithidae**

African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus* Fairly common in Arusha and Ngorongoro  
 Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash* Seen well in Arusha area and Mkaramboi.  
 Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* Seen inside Ngorongoro crater  
 African Spoonbill *Platalea alba* Seen inside Ngorongoro crater

#### **Hérons, Bitterns Family Ardeidae**

Dwarf Bittern *Ixobrychus sturmii* Seen once near Lake Manyara  
 Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* Seen inside Ngorongoro crater  
 Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Seen near Lake Manyara and inside Ngorongoro Crater  
 Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* Small numbers at many places near water  
 Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala* Quite common in grassy fields and towns, seen almost every day  
 Great Egret *Ardea alba* Seen inside Ngorongoro crater  
 Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia* Seen near Lake Manyara and Tarangire National Park  
 Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* Seen Arusha National Park

#### **Hamerkop Family Scopidae**

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta* Small numbers seen at wetlands

#### **Pelicans Family Pelecanidae**

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* Many seen at Lake Manyara

#### **Cormorants, shags Family Phalacrocoracidae**

White-breasted Cormorant *Phalacrocorax lucidus* Seen at Lake Duluti, Arusha

#### **Secretarybird Family Sagittariidae**

Secretarybird *Sagittarius serpentarius* Fantastic views at Ndotu, Serengeti and Ngorongoro

#### **Kites, Hawks & Eagles Family Accipitridae**

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* Seen occasionally along roadsides, more common in Ndotu and Serengeti  
 African Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides typus* Arusha National Park, great views at Lake Manyara of a foraging bird  
 Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus* A pair seen Ndotu  
 White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus* Often seen at Ndotu, Serengeti and Ngorongoro  
 Rüppell's Vulture *Gyps rueppelli* Seen at Ndotu and Serengeti  
 White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis* One seen on a carcass near Ndotu, a pair in the Serengeti  
 Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos* Occasional at Tarangire, Ndotu, Serengeti and Ngorongoro  
 Black-chested Snake Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis* Seen near Lake Manyara, Ndotu and in the Serengeti  
 Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus* Regular at Ndotu, Serengeti and Ngorongoro  
 Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus* One seen near Lake Manyara  
 Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis* Good views at ANP and the Serengeti  
 Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* Fairly common at Tarangire, Ndotu and the Serengeti  
 Verreaux's Eagle *Aquila verreauxii* One juvenile bird at Tarangire National Park  
 Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar* Seen at Arusha, Ndotu and the Serengeti  
 Eastern Chanting Goshawk *Melierax poliopterus* Seen in the Serengeti  
 Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius* Seen at Ngorongoro  
 African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer* Seen only at Arusha National Park  
 Mountain Buzzard *Buteo oreophilus* Seen on the Ngorongoro Crater rim  
 Augur Buzzard *Buteo augur* Common with scattered sightings all over

#### **Bustards Family Otididae**

Kori Bustard *Ardeotis kori* Fantastic views at Ndotu, Serengeti and Ngorongoro  
 White-bellied Bustard *Eupodotis senegalensis* One sighting in the Serengeti  
 Buff-crested Bustard *Lophotis gindiana* Heard at the lark plains  
 Black-bellied Bustard *Lissotis melanogaster* Seen well in the Serengeti  
 Hartlaub's Bustard *Lissotis hartlaubii* One seen well near Ndotu

#### **Rails, Crakes & Coots Family Rallidae**

Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostra* Good views in the Serengeti  
 Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* Good views in Ngorongoro  
 Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata* Seen Arusha and Ngorongoro Crater

#### **Cranes Family Gruidae**

Grey Crowned Crane *Balearica regulorum* Seen almost daily, including a flock of 42 birds in Ngorongoro Crater

#### **Stone-curlews, Thick-knees Family Burhinidae**

Water Thick-knee *Burhinus vermiculatus* Seen Tarangire National Park  
 Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis* Heard Ndotu

#### **Stilts, Avocets Family Recurvirostridae**

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* Small numbers at several water bodies

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* Small numbers at Ndotu

#### **Plovers Family Charadriidae**

Long-toed Lapwing *Vanellus crassirostris* Two seen in the Ngorongoro crater

Blacksmith Lapwing *Vanellus armatus* Common, seen daily around wetlands

Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus* Seen at Tarangire National Park

Black-winged Lapwing *Vanellus melanopterus* Few seen en route to Ndotu

Crowned Lapwing *Vanellus coronatus* Seen every day on dry grassy plains

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius* Seen at Ndotu

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris* Seen at Ndotu, Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater

Chestnut-banded Plover *Charadrius pallidus* Great views of this localised plover at Lake Manyara

#### **Painted-snipes Family Rostratulidae**

Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* A pair near Ndotu; three birds in the Serengeti

#### **Sandpipers, Snipes Family Scolopacidae**

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* Seen in Arusha National Park

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* Seen in Arusha national Park and the Serengeti

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* Small numbers at scattered water bodies in the Serengeti

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* Small numbers Arusha, Tarangire, Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Crater

#### **Courasers, Pratincoles Family Glareolidae**

Double-banded Courser *Rhinoptilus africanus* Fairly common at Tarangire, Lake Manyara and the Serengeti

Three-banded Courser *Rhinoptilus cinctus* A pair seen well in Tarangire National Park

#### **Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Family Laridae**

Grey-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus* Small numbers en route to Lake Manyara and in the Ngorongoro crater

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* Small numbers at Tarangire and on the Serengeti plains

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* Seen en route to Lake Manyara and in the Ngorongoro crater

White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* Seen in the Ngorongoro Crater

#### **Sandgrouse Family Pteroclididae**

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus* Seen well near Lake Manyara and at Ndotu

Yellow-throated Sandgrouse *Pterocles gutturalis* A few seen at Ndotu

Black-faced Sandgrouse *Pterocles decoratus* A pair seen at Tarangire National Park

#### **Pigeons, Doves Family Columbidae**

Rock Dove *Columba livia* Seen in Arusha and near Lake Manyara in towns

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea* Seen at Tarangire National Park and Serengeti around rocky places

African Olive Pigeon *Columba arquatrix* One bird flying over at the Ngorongoro crater rim lunch stop

Dusky Turtle Dove *Streptopelia lugens* Seen along the Ngorongoro crater rim

Mourning Collared Dove *Streptopelia decipiens* Common seen almost daily in Acacia woodland

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata* Seen near Arusha and Ngorongoro Lodge

Ring-necked Dove *Streptopelia capicola* Very common throughout

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis* Common throughout

Emerald-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur chalcospilos* Brief view near Lake Manyara and Tarangire National Park

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis* Uncommon in Tarangire and Ndotu

#### **Turacos Family Musophagidae**

Schalow's Turaco *Tauraco schalowi* Seen in the forests of the Ngorongoro crater rim

Hartlaub's Turaco *Tauraco hartlaubi* Good views in Arusha National Park forest

Bare-faced Go-away-bird *Corythaixoides personatus* Great views Lake Manyara and Tarangire National Park

White-bellied Go-away-bird *Corythaixoides leucogaster* Good views in Arusha, Maraboi and Tarangire

#### **Cuckoos Family Cuculidae**

White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus* Widespread in small numbers throughout

Great Spotted Cuckoo *Clamator glandarius* Good views near Ndotu

Jacobin Cuckoo *Clamator jacobinus* Seen in Arusha National Park, Serengeti and in the Ngorongoro Crater

Diederik Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx caprius* Seen Arusha and well at Ndotu. Heard on many days.

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas* Heard only at ANP

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius* Heard near Lake Manyara

#### **Owls Family Strigidae**

Spotted Eagle-Owl *Bubo africanus* One seen in Arusha National park

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum* Good views at Lake Manyara feeding on prey

#### **Nightjars Family Caprimulgidae**

Slender-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus clarus* Heard at our lodge near Kilimanjaro International Airport

#### **Swifts Family Apodidae**

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus* Common around palms at Lake Manyara

Mottled Swift *Tachymarptis aequatorialis* Seen at Numbi Gate, Serengeti



Nyanza Swift *Apus niansae* Seen in the Serengeti

African Black Swift *Apus barbatus* Seen in Arusha

Little Swift *Apus affinis* Common throughout especially around buildings where they nest

Horus Swift *Apus horus* Few seen near Arusha

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer* Seen in the Serengeti

#### **Mousebirds Family Coliidae**

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus* Common and seen on most days

Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus* Seen well at Ndotu

#### **Rollers Family Coraciidae**

Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus* Common and conspicuous throughout, seen daily

European Roller *Coracias garrulus* Seen once in the Serengeti

#### **Kingfishers Family Alcedinidae**

Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala* Good views at Lake Manyara

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis* Seen in Tarangire National Park and the Serengeti

#### **Bee-eaters Family Meropidae**

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus* Seen at Lake Manyara, Ndotu, Serengeti and in the Ngorongoro Crater

White-fronted Bee-eater *Merops bullockoides* Seen once at Arusha National Park

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus* Seen in Arusha National Park

Olive Bee-eater *Merops superciliosus* Flocks at Ndotu

#### **Hoopoes Family Upupidae**

African Hoopoe *Upupa africana* Seen in Lake Manyara and Tarangire National Park

#### **Wood Hoopoes Family Phoeniculidae**

Green Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus* Seen in the Serengeti

Abyssinian Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus minor* Seen in Tarangire National Park

#### **Hornbills Family Bucerotidae**

Northern Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus erythrorhynchus* Seen in Tarangire National Park

Von der Decken's Hornbill *Tockus deckeni* Scattered sightings in Acacia dominated woodlands

African Grey Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus* Widespread in bush country of Ndotu and the Serengeti

Silvery-cheeked Hornbill *Bycanistes brevis* Great views in forests of Arusha National Park

#### **African barbets Family Lybiidae**

White-eared Barbet *Stactolaema leucotis* Seen in Arusha National Park

Red-fronted Barbet *Tricholaema diademata* Seen at Olduvai and the Serengeti

Spot-flanked Barbet *Tricholaema lacrymosa* Seen well in Arusha National Park

White-headed Barbet *Lybius leucocephalus* A pair in the Ngorongoro Crater

Red-and-yellow Barbet *Trachyphonus erythrocephalus* Heard en route to Lake Manyara

D'Arnaud's Barbet *Trachyphonus darnaudii* Good views at Tarangire and Ndotu

[Usambiro Barbet] *Trachyphonus [darnaudii] usambiro* Great views at Serengeti. Considered a subspecies of D'Arnaud's by some

#### **Honeyguides Family Indicatoridae**

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator* Heard several times at Lake Manyara

#### **Woodpeckers Family Picidae**

Nubian Woodpecker *Campethera nubica* Good views at Tarangire national Park

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicus fuscescens* Good views at Tarangire National Park lunch stop

#### **Falcons Family Falconidae**

Pygmy Falcon *Polihierax semitorquatus* Seen once in Tarangire National Park

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* A few near our Serengeti Lodge

Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus* Seen well in Ndotu and Serengeti

Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis* Seen en route to Lake Manyara

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus* Pair seen well in the Ngorongoro crater

#### **African & New World Parrots Family Psittacidae**

Meyer's Parrot *Poicephalus meyeri* Great views in the Serengeti

Red-bellied Parrot *Poicephalus rufiventris* Seen in Tarangire National Park

#### **Old World Parrots Family Psittaculidae**

Fischer's Lovebird *Agapornis fischeri* Common at Ndotu and the Serengeti

Yellow-collared Lovebird *Agapornis personatus* Common near Lake Manyara

#### **Wattle-eyes, Batises Family Platysteiridae**

Chin-spot Batis *Batis molitor* Seen in Arusha National Park

#### **Bushshrikes Family Malaconotidae**

Orange-breasted Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus* Seen Arusha National Park and the Serengeti

Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis* Seen at Tarangire and in the Ngorongoro Crater

Black-backed Puffback *Dryoscopus cubla* Seen in Tarangire and the Serengeti

Slate-coloured Boubou *Laniarius funebris* Seen in Tarangire, Nduu and the Serengeti

Tropical Boubou *Laniarius major* Seen in the Ngorongoro Crater

Brubru *Nilaus afer* Fairly common in the Serengeti

#### **Cuckooshrikes Family Campephagidae**

Black Cuckooshrike *Campephaga flava* Seen in Arusha National Park

#### **Shrikes Family Laniidae**

Magpie Shrike *Urolestes melanoleucus* Seen near Lake Manyara and in the Serengeti

Northern White-crowned Shrike *Eurocephalus ruppelli* Common near Lake Manyara, at Nduu and the Serengeti

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* One bird seen en route to Lake Manyara

Grey-backed Fiscal *Lanius excubitoroides* Common in the Serengeti

Long-tailed Fiscal *Lanius cabanisi* Seen en route to Lake Manyara and Tarangire National Park

Taita Fiscal *Lanius dorsalis* Small numbers in the Serengeti

Northern Fiscal *Lanius humeralis* Common in Arusha and Ngorongoro. A recent split from Common Fiscal.

#### **Orioles Family Oriolidae**

Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus larvatus* Seen in Arusha National Park

#### **Drongos Family Dicruridae**

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis* Small numbers throughout savanna country

#### **Crows Family Corvidae**

Cape Crow *Corvus capensis* Small numbers in the Serengeti

Pied Crow *Corvus albus* Common along roadsides and in towns, especially around Arusha

White-necked Raven *Corvus albicollis* Seen on the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater

#### **Larks Family Alaudidae**

Fischer's Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix leucopareia* Abundant in grasslands and bare ground throughout

Rufous-naped Lark *Mirafra africana* Abundant, many in grasslands on most days!

Singing Bush Lark *Mirafra cantillans* Seen calling while traveling towards the Serengeti

Red-capped Lark *Calandrella cinerea* Seen around Nduu, Serengeti and in the Ngorongoro crater

#### **Bulbuls Family Pycnonotidae**

Dark-capped Bulbul *Pycnonotus tricolor* Common and widespread, only absent in the Serengeti

Mountain Greenbul *Arizelocichla nigriceps* Seen at Arusha National Park

#### **Swallows, martins Family Hirundinidae**

Black Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne pristoptera* Seen in Arusha National Park and the Ngorongoro Crater rim

Grey-rumped Swallow *Pseudhirundo griseopyga* Seen in the Ngorongoro crater

Brown-throated Martin *Riparia paludicola* In wetlands at Arusha National Park

Banded Martin *Riparia cincta* Seen in the Ngorongoro Crater

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Small numbers in Arusha, Lake Manyara, Serengeti and Ngorongoro

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* Near water in Arusha, the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater

Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* Quite common near cliffs and buildings

Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica* Common throughout, mostly around our lodges

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* Small numbers throughout

#### **Crombecs, African warblers Family Macrosphenidae**

Moustached Grass Warbler *Melocichla mentalis* Good views at Arusha National Park

Red-faced Crombec *Sylvietta whytii* Seen near Nduu

#### **Cisticolas and allies Family Cisticolidae**

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops* Seen well in the Ngorongoro Crater

Trilling Cisticola *Cisticola woosnami* Seen well in the Arusha National Park

Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola chiniana* Very common and noisy in bush country!

Winding Cisticola *Cisticola marginatus* On wetland edge in the Serengeti

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* Seen and heard on the plains of the Serengeti

Desert Cisticola *Cisticola aridulus* Seen and heard on the plains of the Serengeti

Pectoral-patch Cisticola *Cisticola brunnescens* Seen and heard on the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava* Seen well and in small numbers throughout

Buff-bellied Warbler *Phyllolais pulchella* Seen in the canopy of Acacia trees at Lake Manyara

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida* Seen well in Nduu

Black-headed Apalis *Apalis melanocephala* Seen in Arusha National Park

Grey-capped Warbler *Eminia lepida* Seen at our lodge on the Ngorongoro crater rim

Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicaudata* Heard in Arusha and seen in the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater

Yellow-bellied Eremomela *Eremomela icteropygialis* Seen at Olduvai Gorge

#### **Typical Babblers Family Leiothrichidae**

Rufous Chatterer *Turdoides rubiginosa* Seen briefly at Nduu

Black-lored Babbler *Turdoides sharpei* Seen well at Nduu and the Serengeti

Arrow-marked Babbler *Turdoides jardineii* Seen briefly at the entrance gate to Tarangire National Park

#### **Sylviid Babblers Family Sylviidae**

Banded Parisoma *Sylvia boehmi* Seen at Lake Manyara and Olduvai Gorge

#### **White-eyes Family Zosteropidae**

Montane White-eye *Zosterops polioastrus* Seen at Arusha National Park and in the Ngorongoro Crater forests

#### **Starlings Family Sturnidae**

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea* Common in Nduvu, Serengeti and breeding flocks in Ngorongoro

Rüppell's Starling *Lamprotornis purpuroptera* Common in the Serengeti

Superb Starling *Lamprotornis superbus* This beautiful species is abundant throughout!

Hildebrandt's Starling *Lamprotornis hildebrandti* Fairly common at Tarangire, Nduvu, Serengeti and Ngorongoro

Ashy Starling *Lamprotornis unicolor* Seen only near Lake Manyara and Tarangire National Park

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* Seen at our lodge near Kilimanjaro International Airport

Kenrick's Starling *Poeoptera kenricki* Seen at Arusha National Park

#### **Oxpeckers Family Buphagidae**

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus* Seen in the Serengeti

Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorhynchus* Seen in Arusha National Park, Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater

#### **Chats, Old World Flycatchers Family Muscicapidae**

White-browed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas leucophrys* Scattered sightings in Arusha, Lake Manyara and good views at Olduvai Gorge

White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher *Melaenornis fischeri* Seen at Arusha National Park and the Ngorongoro Crater

African Grey Flycatcher *Melaenornis microrhynchus* Seen well at Tarangire and the Serengeti

Silverbird *Empidonax semipartitus* Great views near Lake Manyara, Nduvu and the Serengeti

African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta* Seen in Arusha National Park

Cape Robin-Chat *Cossypha caffra* Seen at Arusha National Park and the Ngorongoro Crater rim

White-browed Robin-Chat *Cossypha heuglini* Seen in the Ngorongoro crater

Collared Palm Thrush *Cichladusa arquata* Seen well at Lake Manyara

Spotted Palm Thrush *Cichladusa guttata* Seen well at Lake Manyara and at our lodge near Kilimanjaro International Airport

African Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus* Seen well in Arusha National Park and the Ngorongoro Crater rim

Anteater Chat *Myrmecocichla aethiops* Great views in the Ngorongoro Crater

Capped Wheatear *Oenanthe pileata* Common en route to Lake Manyara, Nduvu and the Ngorongoro Crater rim

Abyssinian Wheatear *Oenanthe lugubris* Good views on the Ngorongoro Crater rim and in the crater

#### **Sunbirds Family Nectariniidae**

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis* This striking sunbird was common, often in lodge grounds!

Tacazze Sunbird *Nectarinia tacazze* Great views at our lodge on the Ngorongoro Crater rim

Bronzy Sunbird *Nectarinia kilimensis* Seen en route to the Ngorongoro Crater rim

Malachite Sunbird *Nectarinia famosa* Seen on the Ngorongoro Crater rim

Golden-winged Sunbird *Drepanorhynchus reichenowi* Seen on the Ngorongoro Crater rim

Eastern Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris mediocris* Seen well in the forests at our lodge on the Ngorongoro Crater rim

Beautiful Sunbird *Cinnyris pulchellus* Common and seen almost daily

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus* Common and seen in Arusha, Lake Manyara and Ngorongoro

#### **Old World Sparrows Family Passeridae**

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser mahali* Seen at the lunch stop in Tarangire National Park

Rufous-tailed Weaver *Histurgops ruficauda* This endemic is common from Lake Manyara to the Serengeti

Grey-capped Social Weaver *Pseudonigrita arnaudi* Good sightings at Serengeti

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* Common in towns and around lodges most days

Kenya Sparrow *Passer rufocinctus* Seen at Arusha and Ngorongoro

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer griseus* Common east of the rift, eg Arusha and Lake Manyara

Swahili Sparrow *Passer suahelicus* Common in the Serengeti and at Nduvu

Chestnut Sparrow *Passer eminibey* Seen en route to Lake Manyara and Nduvu

#### **Weavers, Widowbirds Family Ploceidae**

Red-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis niger* Common in open woodland

White-headed Buffalo Weaver *Dinemellia dinemelli* Common and conspicuous at Tarangire and the Serengeti

Speckle-fronted Weaver *Sporopipes frontalis* Small numbers in open woodland at Tarangire and the Serengeti

Baglafaecht Weaver *Ploceus baglafaecht* Seen in Arusha, Nduvu and the Ngorongoro Crater rim

Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus intermedius* Common at Lake Manyara and Serengeti

Vitelline Masked Weaver *Ploceus vitellinus* Small numbers in open woodland, especially Nduvu and Olduvai

Speke's Weaver *Ploceus spekei* Seen near Lake Manyara and in the Ngorongoro crater

Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus* Seen at Nduvu and the Serengeti

Golden-backed Weaver *Ploceus jacksoni* Seen well near Lake Manyara

Chestnut Weaver *Ploceus rubiginosus* Seen en route to and around Lake Manyara  
 Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes rubriceps* Seen at Arusha and in the Serengeti  
 Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea* Small breeding flock near Lake Manyara  
 Black Bishop *Euplectes gierowii* Seen once near Lake Manyara and well at Olduvai Gorge  
 Southern Red Bishop *Euplectes orix* Seen once en route to Lake Manyara  
 Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis* Seen in Arusha, en route to Ngorongoro, on the Crater rim and in the Crater  
 Fan-tailed Widowbird *Euplectes axillaris* Seen in the Ngorongoro Crater  
 White-winged Widowbird *Euplectes albonotatus* Common in Tarangire National Park  
 Red-collared Widowbird *Euplectes ardens* Seen at Arusha and around the Ngorongoro Crater rim

#### **Waxbills, Munias & Allies Family Estrilidae**

Green-winged Pytilia *Pytilia melba* Seen in Tarangire National Park  
 Cut-throat Finch *Amadina fasciata* A small breeding flock en route to Lake Manyara  
 Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala* Seen in Arusha National Park  
 Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus bengalus* Small numbers seen in Tarangire National Park  
 Blue-capped Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus cyanocephalus* Small numbers in Tarangire and the Serengeti  
 Purple Grenadier *Uraeginthus ianthinogaster* Seen briefly in Tarangire National Park  
 Crimson-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda rhodopyga* Seen at the Ndotu bird bath!  
 Quailfinch *Ortygospiza atricollis* Seen well in the Ngorongoro Crater  
 Grey-headed Silverbill *Odontospiza caniceps* Seen at Ndotu  
 Bronze Mannikin *Lonchura cucullata* Seen at Arusha National Park  
 Red-backed Mannikin *Lonchura nigriceps* Seen at Arusha National Park

#### **Indigobirds, Whydahs Family Viduidae**

Village Indigobird *Vidua chalybeata* Seen near Lake Manyara  
 Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura* Seen near Lake Manyara and at Ndotu  
 Steel-blue Whydah *Vidua hypocherina* Seen at Ndotu  
 Straw-tailed Whydah *Vidua fischeri* Seen at Ndotu

#### **Wagtails, Pipits Family Motacillidae**

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp* Low numbers at various wetland localities  
 Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus* Seen well in the Serengeti  
 Rosy-throated Longclaw *Macronyx ameliae* Seen well in the Serengeti and Ngorongoro crater  
 African Pipit *Anthus cinnamomeus* Regular on open plains such as the Serengeti  
 Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis* Seen well en route to Lake Manyara at the lunch stop  
 Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys* Seen well near Ndotu and on the Serengeti plains

#### **Finches Family Fringillidae**

Reichenow's Seedeater *Crithagra reichenowi* Seen near Lake Manyara  
 White-bellied Canary *Crithagra dorsostriata* Common at Ndotu and the Serengeti  
 Southern Grosbeak-Canary *Crithagra buechanani* Seen on the Ngorongoro Crater rim  
 Thick-billed Seedeater *Crithagra burtoni* Seen along the Ngorongoro Crater rim  
 Streaky Seedeater *Crithagra striolata* Seen around the Ngorongoro Crater rim

### **Mammal Checklist**

Guereza Colobus *Colobus guereza* We saw these at Arusha National Park during our lunch stop.  
 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 pygeruthrus* Seen daily at Tarangire, the Serengeti and Crater Highlands.  
 Sykes's Monkey *Cercopithecus [mitis] albogularis* These stunning white-throated monkeys were seen in Arusha National Park.  
 Senegal Lesser Galago *Galago senegalensis* See amongst the acacia trees of our Serengeti Lodge at night.  
 Little Epauletted Fruit Bat *Epomophorus labiatus* At our Arusha Lodge and again at our Serengeti lodge, groups of about 20 hung about in the Acacia trees amongst seed pods.  
 Yellow-winged Bat *Lavia frons* Seen in Tarangire National Park; also at Ndotu and at our Serengeti Lodge.  
 Cape Hare *Lepus capensis* One flushed briefly on the plains near Ndotu.  
 African/Unstriped Grass Rat *Arvicanthis niloticus* Seen several times around the lodge at Ndotu.  
 Common/Golden Jackal *Canis aureus* We had good views of a pair on two occasions near Ndotu.  
 Black-backed Jackal *Canis mesomelas* Seen on two occasions near Tarangire and in the Serengeti.  
 Bat-eared Fox *Otocyon megalotis* A brief views of a pair at our lunch stop en route to the Serengeti.  
 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.

Slender Mongoose *Herpestes sanguinea* One dark coloured individual seen in the Ngorongoro Crater.

White-tailed Mongoose *Ichneumia albicauda* One individual seen at sunset from our Lake Manyara lodge.

Spotted Hyaena *Crocuta crocuta* Good views in the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater with up to 14 in a day.

Common/Small-spotted Genet *Genetta genetta* This delicate small-spotted genet allowed us close looks during our evening at Ndutu.

Serval *Felis serval* We had fleeting views of an individual that tried hard to evade us near Ndutu.

Leopard *Panthera pardus* Seen on two occasions. Great views of a leopard up a tree with a kill in the Serengeti.

Cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus* Close views of a pair; also a mother with four cubs at a wildebeest kill!

Lion *Panthera leo* Lions seen on four days, two males giving a close walk past near Ndutu. A mother was seen with 3 young cubs in the Serengeti. A total of 19 individuals were seen in total.

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 five days. This included a huge male "tusker" elephant which performed a close walk past in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Common Zebra *Equus quagga* Seen on every day; with tens of thousands in the Serengeti.

Black Rhinoceros *Diceros bicornis* Two individuals seen in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius* A few hippo were seen first at Arusha National Park, then a large pod near our Serengeti lodge. Common and close at our lunch stop in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus* We saw warthog daily in a variety of habitats.

Giraffe *Giraffa camelopardalis* Seen every day; including a total of 42 during one day near Seronera.

African Buffalo *Syncerus caffer* Numbers were seen at the lush Arusha National Park. Also common in the Ngorongoro Crater dotted across the landscape.

Bushbuck *Tragelaphus scriptus* Seen in the Arusha National Park and on the Ngorongoro Crater rim.

Eland *Taurotragus oryx* Small groups in the Serengeti on several occasions, including massive lone bulls.

Steenbok *Raphicerus campestris* Seen in small numbers around Ndutu and Serengeti.

Kirk's Dikdik *Madoqua kirkii complex* Seen almost daily, with great views of pairs around Ndutu lodge.

Bohor Reedbuck *Redunca redunca* Good views at Lake Manyara around our lodge. Also in the Serengeti.

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 from Tarangire, Ndutu and towards the Serengeti.

Grant's Gazelle *Nanger granti* In fair numbers from Ndutu and 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 and in scattered groups across the Serengeti woodlands.

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 Serengeti.

Blue Wildebeest *Connochaetes taurinus* Our first wildebeest were seen from our lodge near Lake Manyara, in small herds less than hundred. From Ndutu westwards we came across thousands in discrete groups. In the region of Naabi Hill we came across thousands moving across the landscape.