

# Tanzania

Birds & Big Cats

Thu 3rd – Mon 14th May 2018

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*African Harrier-hawk. © Dalton Gibbs*

**Report compiled by:  
Dalton Gibbs**

## Tanzania | Birds & Big Cats

**Tour Leader:** Dalton Gibbs

### 3 May 2018 Arrival

We met at Kilimanjaro international Airport at 20:05 after the direct flight from Amsterdam touched down. There had been lots of rain in the preceding week 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.

### 4 May 2018 Arusha – Arusha National Park – Arusha

We had a leisurely breakfast at 07:00, with Superb Starlings out in force like they were to be for the rest of the trip. We passed some Little Epauletted Bats hanging in a tree as we met Alan Kweka, our driver, then 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 Rosy-patched Shrike which showed well. This bird was some way off its usual habitat of dry thornveld, which showed how much rain the area had recently received. We by-passed the main town of Arusha in light rain and saw our first Lilac-breasted Rollers on the telephone wires, along with a rather out-of-place, immature Palmnut Vulture. We arrived at the gates of Arusha National Park in the rain and limited visibility. Once into the park, we stopped at the large wetland area called “The Little Serengeti” where we soon found Plains Zebra, Bushbuck, Warthogs and Buffalos. The adjacent bush held Trilling Cisticola and Rattling Cisticolas, whilst in the distance we could see a young Martial Eagle feeding on prey. With rain falling, we travelled on to the museum in the forest where a small gap in the weather allowed us views of the delightful Guerezas and a rather damp Long-crested Eagle. Scaly Francolin, Hartlaub’s Turaco and White-throated Monkey provided roadside views as we travelled on to the Momela crater lakes in the south of the park. Here the weather started to clear and we connected with Moustached Grass Warbler, White-browed Coucal, Grey Crowned Crane and Buffalos which had been wallowing and were mud covered.

We stopped at the Momela lakes for lunch, with Hippopotamus in the distance and a Lappet-faced Vulture soaring nearby. After lunch we circled the lakes, stopping to see the thousands of Lesser Flamingos which were put to flight by an African Fish Eagle which made a fly by. We left the lakes and headed uphill to the crater rim of the Ngurdoto Crater, with Cinnamon-breasted Bee-eaters in the trees and Scarce Swift along the crater walls. Our trip out of the park turned up a Suni antelope next the road, giving good views of this otherwise cryptic animal before we headed back to Kia Lodge for an evening meal.

### 5 May 2018 Arusha – Lake Manyara

The morning started with the characteristic sound of Mourning Collared Dove, whilst Northern Grey-headed Sparrows were about. Today was a bit of a traveling day as we headed west out of Arusha toward the eastern Rift Valley through old volcanic landscapes. We by-passed the main part of Arusha and were soon in open countryside. Here we stopped a few times for interesting birds along the way, which included Pygmy Falcon, Northern Fiscal and Lesser Grey Shrike.

We turned off to Maramboi, our lodge for the next two days which was nestled on the edge of Lake Manyara. We settled in, with Spotted Palm Thrush, Crested Francolin and Beautiful Sunbird around the lodge grounds. We had lunch, moving between the Plains Zebras, Blue Wildebeest and Thompson’s Gazelle that wandered around the open lodge grounds. After lunch we went for a short game drive, finding localized Rift endemics such as Ashy Starling and Rufous-tailed Weaver, whilst other new birds such as Black-faced Sandgrouse, Bare-faced Go-Away-bird, Double-banded Courser and African Harrier-Hawk were also about. A pack of Banded Mongeese crossed the road in front of us and foraged across the land. Flocks of Yellow-collared Lovebird and African Palm Swift wheeled around when we returned to the lodge before sunset.

We cast a scope onto the lake shore some way off and found both Lesser and Greater Flamingo, Yellow-billed Stork and Great White Pelican. Evening brought some bats out as we took in the magnificent African sunset and had supper in the open air of the rift valley.

### 6 May 2018 Maramboi Lodge - Tarangire National Park – Maramboi Lodge

We had a lazy breakfast which was interrupted only by Lesser Masked Weaver and a few Superb Starlings flying around the lodge veranda. After packing our lunches we set off for the nearby Tarangire National Park. Here we

soon picked up African Speckled Pigeon, Grey woodpecker and Grey Hornbill in the parking area along with the obviously marked 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, Lappet-faced Vulture and Bateleur Eagle were about. New bird species for us appeared thick and fast, such as Orange-bellied Parrot, Temminck's Courser, Pin-tailed Whydah and D'Arnauds Barbet. We found obliging Blue-capped Cordon-bleu and did well on kingfishers, finding Woodland, Striped, Pied and Brown-hooded. A view across the river showed Water Thick-knee and Hamerkop on an island that were suddenly confronted by a large Water Monitor which rose out of the water. The birds performed threat displays and the monitor eventually moved off. We had our lunch at a picnic stop and found Horus Swifts about whilst having to keep our eyes on our food due to the Vervet Monkeys.

After lunch, we passed herds of African Buffalo, Impala, African Elephant and Thompson's and our first Grant's Gazelles. We came by the remains of a buffalo carcass and found dozens upon dozens of White-backed, Ruppell's and Lappet-faced Vultures in trees and on logs on the ground. In their satiated state we managed to get close to them and watched as they slowly started to get into the air in ones and twos as they were ready. By the time we left there was a large kettle of these birds above us in the sky. We traveled back to the lodge in time to take the afternoon walk down to the lake shore. The clouds had cleared and we had a startling view of Mount Kilimanjaro in the distance with snow covering much of its slopes. Along the lake shore were large flocks of Great White Pelicans and flamingos interspersed with Yellow-billed and Marabou Storks. Collared Pratincole flew over the herds of mammals which moved across our path. A small rain storm in the distance produced amazing rainbows over the lodge as we headed back; taking in sundowners on the deck. At dusk the pratincoles came in and gave us some amazing displays as they swooped around us, catching insects as the sun set and we had dinner on the open deck.

### **7 May, 2018 Maramboi Lodge – Lake Ndutu Lodge**

We had a leisurely breakfast at 7:30 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 swamp of the mosquitoes". We fortunately didn't find any mosquitoes but large numbers of Marabou Storks were on nests in fig trees along the main road, while flocks of Yellow-billed Storks soared overhead. We travelled, stopping for the magnificent views of Lake Manyara and the Rift valley below us. A Verreaux's Eagle flew by close below us, while an Ochre Bush Squirrel gave close up views. We travelled on, stopping for lunch along the roadside, finding a breeding colony of Lesser Masked and Speke's Weavers. Further along we found a male Bronzy Sunbird on roadside flowers before arriving at the entrance gates to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Going through the gates we drove through the forest of the crater slopes and on to the lookout point on the crater rim. Here we were greeted by solid cloud, so we pushed on and stopped on the western side of the rim. The clouds parted and we could see the plains of the Serengeti below. Our view stop turned up some new birds; Golden-winged Sunbird, Yellow-bellied Waxbill, Reichenow's Seed-eater, Red-collared Widowbird and Dusky Turtle Dove.

We travelled further on and down on to the plains, where herds of Blue Wildebeest, Zebra and Thompson's Gazelles started to appear. Pairs of Fischer's Sparrow-Larks rose up from the roadside and Kori Bustards started to appear. We turned off the main dirt road and proceeded down a track of short grass which until recently was heavy with mud. Wildebeest moved out of our way as we travelled, with Ostrich and Secretarybirds dotting the landscape. Some kilometres on we entered a thorn veld area and Northern White-crowned Shrikes and Magpie Shrikes appeared on the bushes while an Eastern Pale Chanting Goshawk stared at us from a tree. Gull-billed Terns started to hawk over the veld as we headed on. We reached Lake Ndutu and forded one of its inlets to get to our lodge, in the processes chasing Kittlitz's and Three-banded Plovers out of the way. We settled in to our rooms, with the usual accompaniment of Superb Starlings and Rufous-tailed Weavers about. Sundowners on the deck overlooking the lake in the evening turned up a Penant-winged Nightjar for some whilst the bats kept the rest of us entertained before we all had an excellent supper.

### **8 May, 2018 Lake Ndutu Lodge – Ndutu Plains**

We were up for some early morning coffee and by first light at 6:30 we were out on a wildlife drive. At the entrance gate, some of us got on to a Barn Owl which made a brief appearance. No sooner had we left the camp when we came across a male lion in the low mist which hung about the trees. He was walking steadily and was probably trying to meet up with lions we had heard calling the night before in this general area. He was completely unperturbed by us as we followed him for a while until he slipped away in the misty grass.

We travelled out of the Acacia woodland and left the mist behind, soon finding a pair of Bat-eared Foxes lying around outside their den. Upon leaving them we crossed the lake shore, finding not one but two sets of two male

lions lying on the lake floodplain. They were young males and in magnificent condition. Finding four young male lions in close proximity to one another is unusual and they were probably related in a pride. After spending a while with these males, they got up and moved to the shade of a tree; all lying down together. While watching the lions we saw Martial Eagle and a variety of water birds down on the lake. Moving on from the lions we retired to a hilltop and spread out the picnic breakfast we had brought along. Our great breakfast was interrupted by Rufous-tailed Weavers and Superb Starlings who enviously eyed our food. Blue-capped Cordon-Bleus, Speckled-fronted Weavers and Black-lored Babbler also featured around our breakfast table before we headed off to the plains west of Lake Ndutu. Here we soon found Black-bellied Bustard and good views of Harlequin Quail. Rufous-naped Lark called from every small bush while Laughing and Turtle Doves were about.

We found some more lions and Spotted Hyena who were in the near vicinity. There were herds of wildebeest, gazelles, zebras, warthogs and Eland across the landscape as we came across two lionesses. They were staring intently at a family group of five warthogs some way off as well as at a Cheetah. We left the lionesses to take a closer look at the Cheetah, but it didn't take long before the lionesses stood up and started to stalk the warthogs. The one lioness came straight toward the Cheetah who, snarling and spitting, made off quickly in the opposite direction. We watched intently as one lioness in the distance put the warthog family to flight while the other used a fold in the earth to hide herself and wait in ambush. The waiting lioness flushed a guineafowl at the crucial moment, alerting the warthogs to the trap. A run and chase ensued with the lioness getting oh so close but in the end the warthogs made it to safety; their tails straight up in the air in indignation as they made off at high speed. It was great to see lions attempting a hunt and watch the whole scene unfold. With no words between the two animals they had never the less managed to act in perfectly harmony and we felt privileged to have witnessed this moment. By this time the sun was up high and we headed back to the lodge, finding White-bellied Bustard and flocks of Red-billed Quelea with the occasional Chestnut Weaver accompanying them.

Back at the lodge we had an excellent lunch after which we had a leisurely time birding around the lodge. Scarlet-chested Sunbird and Swahili Sparrows were about the buildings and Red-rumped Swallows flitted about. At 15:00 we left for an afternoon drive, traveling down to the lake and on through mature Acacia veld. We picked up a Serval near the lake and had a few moments viewing before this animal ran away from us. A follow up to refind it also gave brief views, but this shy animal soon disappeared in the bushes. Along the lake shore we found several wader species such as Little Stint, Greenshank and Wood Sandpiper. Plain-backed Pipit, one of the easier pipit species to identify, gave good views. In the mature acacia veld we found Abyssinian Scimitarbill, Augur Buzzard, Abyssinian White-eye, Fischer's Lovebird and the metallic looking Steel-blue Whydah, whilst a Leopard Tortoise also made an appearance.

We came across a Cheetah which had just killed an old male Impala; a large prey item for this cat. We spent a while with it as it started to feed on the carcass, completely ignoring a Grey-breasted Spurfowl which walked up to it while it was feeding. One of the target species for this habitat was Rufous Chatterer, which obliged and a pair of these birds gave us good views. Giraffe appeared amongst the thorn trees and a small boulder clump turned up Rock Hyrax. We had good views of a pair of the diminutive Kirk's Dikdik. With the sun setting we headed back to the lodge for sundowners on the deck, where Slender-tailed Nightjars appeared along with early evening bats. After sun downers we retreated to a table at a camp fire where we enjoyed supper under the blaze of the African night sky and its myriad of stars.

### **9 May, 2018 Lake Ndutu Lodge – Sopa Lodge**

We had a late breakfast this morning and were on the road at 8:30, traveling back across the plains toward the main Serengeti road. Here we started to come across the Wildebeest migration, with thousands of animals across the plains before us. Every so often we had to pause to allow animals lying on the road to move out of the way as we passed herd after herd of Wildebeest, Zebra and Thompson's and Grant's Gazelles. Cape Crows appeared amongst the herds and we found the first of the 24 lions which we would see today. We found a pride of lions lying on a termite mound with a line of Wildebeest not far away eyeing them suspiciously.

We travelled on and stopped at Naabi Gate, which is the entrance to the Serengeti National Park. Here we had our packed lunch and took a short walk up the hill. The brightly-coloured Mwanza Agama greeted us on the rocks, while Mottled Swift cruised the skies above us. Out on the vast plains below us we could see the masses of animals as they slowly moved across the plains. Traveling on towards the hills we came across Spotted Hyena and more lions on top of a rounded granite rock. This image gave them the iconic Serengeti appearance as they surveyed the plains below them. Further on, a small herd of Kongoni appeared with a single Topi amongst them. Meyer's Parrot screeched in the trees as we approached the final valley before our lodge. Here we started to meet tsetse flies who soon forced us to close the vehicle roof. Several had entered the vehicle and amusing antics ensued as we attempted to swat them. We travelled on with some speed but the flies outside the

vehicle persisted and we arrived at the lodge with a small cloud of them. The usual friendly hotel staff made a hasty retreat when they saw this, much to our amusement!

We settled into our rooms and at sunset went looking for Yellow-winged Bats which flitted amongst the trees like a giant butterfly. We found a pair of Senegal Galago and watched as they made an impressive leap on to the hotel flagpole and on into trees. These agile primates belong to a group of protosimians and represent an interesting group of primitive primates found in Africa. After this sunset display we had an excellent supper before retiring for the night.

#### **10 May, 2018 Sopa Lodge – Seronera Info Centre – Sopa Lodge**

We set off after a good breakfast to investigate the extensive plains laid out in front of our hotel and soon turned up a bird party. Amongst other things, this turned up African Penduline Tit and Northern Helmet Shrike which were new for us. Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill, a localized endemic species, made an appearance along with Grey Hornbill. At a bridge crossing we found Wire-tailed Swallow. A later stop at a toilet revealed Red-breasted Swallow nesting on the toilet block and Rufous-tailed Weaver breeding in the tree. Banded Parisoma put in an appearance along with the peculiarly-coloured Silverbird.

We headed toward the hills of Seronera, finding a small group of Hippopotamus, who were covered in a thick layer of mud. We could clearly smell them as they churned up the water near Three-banded Plover and Spur-winged Lapwing. We left the Seronera road and travelled southwards to the Masaai Kopies. This string of low granite hillocks at a distance look like a group of people and are covered with fig trees which grow out of their cracks. We found European Roller on the road mixed in with the numerous Lilac-breasted Rollers and then a Leopard up a fig tree. This animal looked awfully uncomfortable and changed positions frequently in the time we spent with it. We left the hillside for lunch, finding Dark Chanting Goshawk on the way.

At our Seronera lunch stop, we were quickly inundated by Yellow-backed Rock hyrax and Dwarf Mongoose who clambered under our table to see if there was any dropped food. Grey-capped Social Weaver and Usambiro Barbet joined in the food hunt along with Blue-capped Cordon-bleu. A Martial Eagle flew very low over our lunch spot and instantly every bird and hyrax disappeared as if a magic wand had been waved. This was a graphic demonstration of just how much these effective predators are feared. After lunch some of us explored the trail through the rocky granite outcrops, finding more of the exotically-coloured Mwanza Flat-headed Rock Agama.

We headed back in the afternoon, picking up Rosy-throated Longclaw and Flappet Lark on the roadside. Our trip back was quiet and we soon reached our lodge for sun downers and to take in the sunset before supper.

#### **11 May, 2018 Sopa lodge – Ngorongoro Serena Lodge**

After breakfast this morning we travelled via Seronera and then southwards toward Oldupai Gorge and the Ngorongoro Carter. We stopped for fuel at Seronera and had a chance to find birds around the camp. Purple Grenadier Finch showed well, along with Grey Woodpecker. Our road southwards was obstructed on several occasions by large herds of Wildebeest and Zebras crossing the road as we again met the migration. 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.

We stopped briefly at Naabi Gate to check out of the park before moving on to Oldupai Gorge where we had our packed lunch and a short lecture on the gorge and the paleontological finds before visiting the museum. As the landscape had changed somewhat, so had the birds and we turned up White-browed Scrub-Robin and White-bellied Canary. 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 arrived at our lodge after a stop to take in the views and then went for a short afternoon walk. This turned up Dusky Turtle Dove, Tacazze Sunbird, Eastern Double-collared Sunbird, White-necked Raven and brief views of the spectacular Schalow's Turaco. Our lodge was at 2300m - which was cool - and at sunset we retired to the bar with its cosy fire before taking in supper.

#### **12 May, 2018 Ngorongoro Serena Lodge – Ngorongoro Crater – Ngorongoro Serena Lodge.**

The morning dawned misty, with intermittent views of the crater below during our vantage point at breakfast. We set out and found Black Stork in the high altitude grasslands. Hunter's Cisticolas called from the tops of bushes while we had good views of Tacazze Sunbird. We descended the crater road, passing through bands of forest which changed as we descended toward the crater floor. African Olive Pigeon was out sunning itself on a tree which protruded through the forest canopy. Once on the crater floor we took a drive through the fever tree forest

which turned up, amongst others, White-headed Barbet, Grey-capped Warbler and Red-faced Cisticola. Northern Ant-eating Chats appeared on termite mounds as we moved through the grasslands amongst herds of buffalo, wildebeest, zebra and gazelles. At our toilet stop we had a pair of Hamerkops industriously carrying plant material up into a tree to build their enormous nest.

Moving on to the dry, western side of the crater we found Schalow's Wheatear and Jacobin Cuckoo on the lower slopes amongst the giant *Euphorbia* trees. A pair of Golden Jackals appeared some way off. Recent DNA analysis of this species shows that it is more closely related to wolves than jackals and should probably assume the name of Golden Wolf. We travelled on along the western side of the crater and found a superb display of Jackson's Widowbirds which entailed the male birds performing their "dance" together. This consisted of them bouncing up into the air above the low grass as if they were using a trampoline. Every now and then a male would fly off, trailing his long tail and be followed by the brown coloured female. A stop at some pools produced Hippopotamus and several new bird species. Malachite Kingfisher, Little Rush Warbler, Common Waxbill and Banded Martin all put in appearances. We continued to our lunch spot, having to take alternative roads since the recent heavy rains had inundated some routes. The water's edge provided a variety of water birds mixed in with the flamingos, with species such as Red-knobbed Coot, Spur-winged Goose, Sacred Ibis, Pied Avocet and Yellow-billed Duck. Spotted Hyena appeared in the road ahead of us and loped off into the tall grasses near herds of animals. Before reaching our lunch spot we came across a few bull elephants, one of which showed a huge set of tusks. This demonstrated something of what a "tusker" elephant should look like before elephant hunting reduced tusk size over the past century.

We stopped for lunch at a small lake full of hippos that splashed and wallowed about and generally ignored the people that were on the banks. Superb Starling, Rufous-tailed Weavers and Speke's Weavers tried to get food from us as we ate our packed lunches. After lunch, we travelled toward the centre of the crater and had a close encounter with a young Golden Jackal whose curiosity brought it close up to the vehicle. After some searching we found three Black Rhinos some distance off. These animals lumbered about as they fed, slowly moving closer to us after a while.

With the day getting on we started to head back through all the herds of animals before starting up the ascent road. Here we paused for a while to take in the magnificent views of the crater below. We reached our lodge in time for a short walk before the sun set. On this walk we finally got good views of Schalow's Turaco, Yellow-crowned Canary and Brown Parisoma. After sundowners and local entertainment in the bar, we had a supper where one of our party had a birthday surprise! A large birthday cake appeared and the lucky person got serenaded to by the restaurant staff. There is even photographic evidence of this historic event!

### **13 May, 2018 Ngorongoro Serena Lodge – Lake Duluti Hotel (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 travel day back to Arusha and we birded briefly around the lodge before leaving, picking up good views of White-necked Raven. Our drive out was held up by a truck which had got stuck on the dirt roads of the crater wall. There was a long tail back of vehicles and large crowds adding to the confusion and shouting advice. A carnival atmosphere ensued which although interesting didn't really get things moving. After a while, a road grader finally appeared and pulled the stricken truck back onto the road.

Although this solved the immediate problem, the other vehicles did not attempt to go forward due to the mud on the road. Our intrepid driver, Allen, however took up the challenge and we slipped our way forward. In order to balance the vehicle we all climbed over the one side of the vehicle which made an amusing site for those watching from the outside! We reached the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Gate with a considerable amount of mud on our vehicle where we stopped to check out before traveling on towards Arusha. At the Rift Valley escarpment edge we stopped at the view point, picking up a pair of Silvery-cheeked Hornbills in the valley below us. After a few hours, we reached the Lake Duluti Hotel in Arusha where we had an excellent lunch, reflecting on the remarkable diversity of wildlife that we had seen. In terms of cats we had seen Serval (briefly), Cheetah (2 occasions), Leopard (1 occasion) and Lion (52 seen in all!); these cats were part of 44 mammal species that we had seen. A total of 324 birds species was also sighted on this trip.

Over lunch, we did a compilation of the birds and mammals we had seen, which each person nominating their top five birds and top mammals. The results were surprising, hotly contested and more varied than others trips on this route experience. This was probably due to the wide variety of bird species and mammals that we were treated to. Another factor was that we saw mammals doing interesting things which increased the "popularity vote" for some species. The votes were as follows:

**Birds:**

Grey Crowned Crane (12)  
 Schalow's Turaco (9)  
 Jackson's Widowbird (8)  
 Secretarybird (8)  
 African Fish Eagle (5)  
 Verreaux's Eagle (5)  
 Spotted Thick-knee (5)  
 Purple Grenadier (5)

**Mammals:**

Cheetah (11)  
 Elephant (9)  
 Lion (9)  
 Golden Jackal (7)  
 Giraffe (4)  
 Serval (4)

We also listed our top experiences, which like the birds and mammals were varied:

Lions attempting a hunt (21)  
 The Wildebeest migration (19)  
 The Ngorongoro Crater experience (14)  
 Staying at Lake Maramboi and having to negotiate animals to get to your tent! (5)  
 Getting embarrassed with a birthday cake at dinner (this was an anonymous submission) (priceless)  
 As a notable mention the best roadside shop was also listed!

After an excellent lunch, we left the hotel and checked into the Kia Lodge near the Kilimanjaro International Airport to freshen up a few hours before the flight. There was time for a last moments birding, allowing us to add Violet-backed Starling and Northern Crombec to our trip totals! At 19:00 we said our goodbyes at the airport and sadly left the plains of Africa behind.

### Annotated List of Bird Species (321 species)

**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 Maramboi and Tarangire National Park

**Spur-winged Goose** *Plectropterus gambensis* Seen in the Ngorongoro Crater

**Knob-billed Duck** *Sarkidiornis melanotos* One group at Lake Ndutu

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca* Common and widespread; seen every day

**Hottentot Teal** *Spatula hottentota* Small groups in Arusha and Ngorongoro

**Cape Teal** *Anas capensis* Common at all saline waterbodies

**Red-billed Teal** *Anas erythrorhyncha* Seen at 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* Common at the Maramboi Lodge and Tarangire National Park

**Scaly Francolin** *Pternistis squamatus* One seen in Arusha

**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

**Common Quail** *Coturnix coturnix* Heard on the Ngorongoro Crater rim

**Harlequin Quail** *Coturnix delegorguei* Seen well near Ndutu.

**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 bird on the Ngorongoro Crater rim.

**White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia* Fair numbers seen in the Serengeti.

**Marabou Stork** *Leptoptilos crumenifer* Common and widespread and seen on most days

**Ibises, Spoonbills Family Threskiornithidae**

**African Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus* Fairly common at Lake Manyara, Arusha and Ngorongoro

**Hadada Ibis** *Bostrychia hagedash* Seen well in Arusha area and Maramboi.

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* Seen inside Ngorongoro Crater.

**African Spoonbill** *Platalea alba* Seen inside Ngorongoro Crater.

**Hérons, Bitterns Family Ardeidae**

**Dwarf Bittern** *Ixobrychus sturmi* A brief view of a fly by near Maramboi.

**Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* Seen near Maramboi 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 every day.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba* Seen at Tarangire National Park.

**Intermediate Egret** *Ardea intermedia* Seen near Maramboi and inside the Ngorongoro Crater.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* Seen at Maramboi, Lake Ndutu and inside the Ngorongoro Crater.

**Hamerkop Family Scopidae**

**Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta* Small numbers seen at wetlands at Tarangire and Ngorongoro.

**Pelicans Family Pelecanidae**

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

**Cormorants, shags Family Phalacrocoracidae**

**White-breasted Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax lucidus* Seen at Arusha National Park and Tarangire National Park.

**Secretarybird Family Sagittariidae**

**Secretarybird** *Sagittarius serpentarius* Fantastic views at Tarangire, Ndutu, Serengeti and Ngorongoro.

**Kites, Hawks & Eagles Family Accipitridae**

**Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus* Seen along roadsides but more common in Ndutu and Serengeti

**African Harrier-Hawk** *Polyboroides typus* Arusha National Park and in the Serengeti

**Palm-nut Vulture** *Gypohierax angolensis* One out of place immature bird in Arusha town

**African Cuckoo-Hawk** *Aviceda cuculoides* One individual at Arusha National Park

**Hooded Vulture** *Necrosyrtes monachus* Seen twice as over flying birds in the Serengeti

**White-backed Vulture** *Gyps africanus* Often seen at Ndutu, Serengeti and Ngorongoro

**Rüppell's Vulture** *Gyps rueppelli* Seen at Tarangire, Ndutu and Serengeti

**Lappet-faced Vulture** *Torgos tracheliotos* Seen numerous times at Arusha, Tarangire, Ndutu, Serengeti and Ngorongoro

**Black-chested Snake Eagle** *Circaetus pectoralis* Seen near Lake Manyara

**Brown Snake Eagle** *Circaetus cinereus* Seen at Seronera and the escarpment view point

**Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus* Regular at Tarangire, Ndutu, Serengeti and Ngorongoro

**Martial Eagle** *Polemaetus bellicosus* Seen Arusha, Lake Manyara and close over flying juvenile at Seronera

**Long-crested Eagle** *Lophaetus occipitalis* Good views at ANP and the Serengeti

**Tawny Eagle** *Aquila rapax* Seen almost daily at Tarangire, Ndutu, Serengeti and Ngorongoro

**Verreaux's Eagle** *Aquila verreauxii* Good views of a bird flying past the escarpment view point

**Gabar Goshawk** *Micronisus gabar* Brief views of one at Ndutu

**Dark Chanting Goshawk** *Melierax metabates* Good views of a obliging bird at the Masaai Kopies

**Eastern Chanting Goshawk** *Melierax poliopterus* Seen at Tarangire, Ndutu and the Serengeti

**African Goshawk** *Accipiter tachiro* One bird at Arusha National Park

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans* One bird near Maramboi

**Yellow-billed Kite** *Milvus aegyptius* Seen at Ngorongoro

**African Fish Eagle** *Haliaeetus vocifer* Seen at Arusha National Park and in the Ngorongoro Crater

**Mountain Buzzard** *Buteo oreophilus* Seen in the Ngorongoro Crater

**Augur Buzzard** *Buteo augur* Common with scattered sightings all over

**Bustards Family Otidae**

**Kori Bustard** *Ardeotis kori* Fantastic views at Ndutu, Serengeti and Ngorongoro

**White-bellied Bustard** *Eupodotis senegalensis* Seen at Ndutu in the Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Crater

**Black-bellied Bustard** *Lissotis melanogaster* Seen well in the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater

**Rails, Crakes & Coots Family Rallidae**

**Black Crake** *Amauornis flavirostra* Good views in the Serengeti

**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* Good views in Ngorongoro

**Cranes Family Gruidae**

**Grey Crowned Crane** *Balearica regulorum* Seen at Arusha, Ndutu and a pair nest building in Ngorongoro Crater

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

**Water Thick-knee** *Burhinus vermiculatus* Seen Tarangire National Park

**Spotted Thick-knee** *Burhinus capensis* Seen at Ndutu and near Seronera

**Stilts, Avocets Family Recurvirostridae**

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus* Small numbers at several waterbodies

**Plovers Family Charadriidae**

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

**Spur-winged Lapwing** *Vanellus spinosus* Seen at Arusha and the Ngorongoro Crater

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

**Kittlitz's Plover** *Charadrius pecuarius* Seen at Tarangire, Ndotu and near Seronera

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

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

**Jacanas Family Jacanidae**

**African Jacana** *Actophilornis africanus* One bird seen at Tarangire National Park

**Sandpipers, Snipes Family Scolopacidae**

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea* Small flocks at Lake Ndotu

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta* Small numbers at Lake Ndotu

**African Snipe** *Gallinago nigripennis* One bird flushed in the Ngorongoro Crater

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola* One bird at Lake Ndotu

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* Seen in Lake Maramboi and lake Ndotu

**Courser, Pratincoles Family Glareolidae**

**Temminck's Courser** *Cursorius temminckii* A pair of these birds on the Ndotu Plains

**Double-banded Courser** *Rhinoptilus africanus* Common on open plains at Tarangire, Maramboi and Serengeti

**Bronze-winged Courser** *Rhinoptilus chalcopterus* One pair at Tarangire National Park

**Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola* Flocks at Lake Maramboi and Lake Ndotu

**Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Family Laridae**

**Grey-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus* Small numbers on the shores of Lake Manyara

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus* One bird on the shores of Lake Manyara

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

**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida* 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 and in the Ngorongoro Crater

**Black-faced Sandgrouse** *Pterocles decoratus* A few pairs seen well at Tarangire National Park

**Pigeons, Doves Family Columbidae**

**Feral Rock Dove** *Columba livia* Seen in Arusha and near Maramboi in towns

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

**African Olive Pigeon** *Columba arquatrix* One bird on the morning descent into the Ngorongoro crater

**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 at our Ngorongoro Lodge

**Ring-necked Dove** *Streptopelia capicola* Very common throughout

**Laughing Dove** *Spilopelia senegalensis* Common throughout

**Emerald-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur chalcospilos* Brief views in Tarangire National Park

**Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis* Uncommon in Tarangire, Ndotu and the Serengeti

**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 at Maramboi, Tarangire National Park and Serengeti

**White-bellied Go-away-bird** *Corythaixoides leucogaster* Good views in Tarangire National Park

**Cuckoos Family Cuculidae**

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

**Black Coucal** *Centropus grillii* Two birds in the Serengeti

**Jacobin Cuckoo** *Clamator jacobinus* Seen in Tarangire Arusha National Park

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

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

**African Cuckoo** *Cuculus gularis* Seen at Ndotu at Seronera

**Barn Owls Family Tytonidae**

**Western Barn Owl** *Tyto alba* One bird at the entrance to Ndotu Lodge

**Nightjars Family Caprimulgidae**

**Montane Nightjar** *Caprimulgus poliocephalus* Seen at the Ngorongoro Crater rim

- Slender-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus clarus* Seen over the swimming pool at the Nduu Lodge
- Pennant-winged Nightjar** *Caprimulgus vexillarius* One bird seen by some over the swimming pool at Nduu
- Swifts Family Apodidae**
- Scarce Swift** *Schoutedenapus myoptilus* A few over the crater rim at Arusha National Park
- African Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus* Common around palms at Lake Manyara and at Seronera
- Mottled Swift** *Tachymarptis aequatorialis* Seen at Numbi Gate, Serengeti
- Nyanza Swift** *Apus niansae* Seen in the escarpment viewpoint over Lake Manyara
- African Black Swift** *Apus barbatus* Seen in Arusha
- Little Swift** *Apus affinis* Common throughout especially around buildings where they nest
- Horus Swift** *Apus horus* A flock seen over the river at Tarangire National Park
- 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 Nduu and at Oldupai Gorge
- Rollers Family Coraciidae**
- Purple Roller** *Coracias naevius* Seen near Maramboi and in the Serengeti
- Lilac-breasted Roller** *Coracias caudatus* Common and conspicuous throughout, seen almost daily
- European Roller** *Coracias garrulus* Seen once at the Massai Koppies in the Serengeti
- Kingfishers Family Alcedinidae**
- Grey-headed Kingfisher** *Halcyon leucocephala* Good views at Arusha and Maramboi
- Brown-hooded Kingfisher** *Halcyon albiventris* Good views of an obliging bird at Arusha National Park
- Woodland Kingfisher** *Halcyon senegalensis* Seen several times in Tarangire National Park and the Serengeti
- Malachite Kingfisher** *Corythornis cristatus* Seen at the hippo pool in the Ngorongoro Crater
- Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis* Seen at the river in the Tarangire National Park
- Bee-eaters Family Meropidae**
- Little Bee-eater** *Merops pusillus* Seen every day at Maramboi, Nduu, Serengeti and in the Ngorongoro Crater
- Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater** *Merops oreobates* Seen in the crater rim forest of Ngorongoro
- Hoopoes Family Upupidae**
- African Hoopoe** *Upupa africana* Seen in Arusha and Serengeti National Parks
- Wood Hoopoes Family Phoeniculidae**
- Green Wood Hoopoe** *Phoeniculus purpureus* Seen in the Serengeti
- Abyssinian Scimitarbill** *Rhinopomastus minor* Seen in the Serengeti
- Ground Hornbills Family Bucorvidae**
- Southern Ground Hornbill** *Bucorvus leadbeateri* A flock of these birds were seen in Tarangire National Park
- Hornbills Family Bucerotidae**
- Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill** *Tockus ruahae* This endemic was seen near our lodge in the Serengeti
- 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 Tarangire, Nduu and the Serengeti
- Silvery-cheeked Hornbill** *Bycanistes brevis* Distant views of two at the escarpment view point over Lake Manyara
- African barbets Family Lybiidae**
- White-eared Barbet** *Stactolaema leucotis* Seen in Arusha National Park
- Spot-flanked Barbet** *Tricholaema lacrymosa* Seen well in Arusha National Park and the Ngorongoro Crater
- White-headed Barbet** *Lybius leucocephalus* A pair in the Ngorongoro Crater
- Brown-breasted Barbet** *Lybius melanopterus* A pair seen in Arusha National Park
- Red-and-yellow Barbet** *Trachyphonus erythrocephalus* A pair seen in Tarangire National Park
- D'Arnaud's Barbet** *Trachyphonus darnaudii* Good views at Tarangire and Nduu
- [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 Maramboi
- Woodpeckers Family Picidae**
- Nubian Woodpecker** *Campethera nubica* Good views in the Serengeti
- Bearded Woodpecker** *Chloropicus namaquus* One bird in Tarangire National Park
- Cardinal Woodpecker** *Dendropicus fuscescens* Seen several times at Arusha and the Serengeti
- Eastern Grey Woodpecker** *Dendropicus spodocephalus* Seen at Tarangire and good views at Seronera in the Serengeti
- Falcons Family Falconidae**
- Pygmy Falcon** *Polihierax semitorquatus* Seen several times at Tarangire and the Serengeti National Park

- Common Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus* Seen at Ndutu and several times near our Serengeti Lodge
- Greater Kestrel** *Falco rupicoloides* One bird showed well on in the Serengeti
- Grey Kestrel** *Falco ardosiaceus* Seen well near Seronera in the Serengeti
- Amur Falcon** *Falco amurensis* Seen *en route* to Maramboi
- 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 Ndutu and the Serengeti
- Yellow-collared Lovebird** *Agapornis personatus* Common near Lake Manyara
- Wattle-eyes, Batises Family Platysteiridae**
- Chinspot Batis** *Batis molitor* Seen in Arusha National Park and well at Seronera in the Serengeti
- Bushshrikes Family Malaconotidae**
- Orange-breasted Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus* Hear in the Ngorongoro Crater
- Rosy-patched Bushshrike** *Telophorus cruentus* One on the road at our Arusha lodge
- Brown-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra australis* Seen in Arusha, Tarangire, Serengeti and in the Ngorongoro Crater
- Black-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra senegalus* Seen briefly in the Ngorongoro Crater
- Black-backed Puffback** *Dryoscopus cubla* Seen in Arusha and the Serengeti
- Slate-coloured Boubou** *Laniarius funebris* Seen in Tarangire, Ndutu and the Serengeti
- Tropical Boubou** *Laniarius major* Seen in Arusha and the Ngorongoro Crater
- Brubru** *Nilaus afer* Seen twice in the Serengeti
- Helmetshrikes Family Prionopidae**
- Grey-crested Helmetshrike** *Prionops poliophus* A flock of this localised species near our Serengeti lodge
- 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 Ndutu and Serengeti
- Lesser Grey Shrike** *Lanius minor* One bird near Ndutu
- Grey-backed Fiscal** *Lanius excubitoroides* Common in Tarangire National Park and the Serengeti
- Long-tailed Fiscal** *Lanius cabanisi* Seen several times near Maramboi 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**
- African Golden Oriole** *Oriolus auratus* Seen by some at our lodge in the Serengeti
- 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
- Tits Family Paridae**
- Red-throated Tit** *Melaniparus fringillinus* Seen in a bird party at Ndutu
- Penduline Tits Family Remizidae**
- Grey Penduline Tit** *Anthoscopus caroli* Some in a bird party near our Serengeti lodge
- Larks Family Alaudidae**
- Fischer's Sparrow-Lark** *Eremopterix leucopareia* Abundant in grasslands and bare ground from Tarangire throughout
- Rufous-naped Lark** *Mirafra africana* Abundant, many in grasslands on most days!
- Flappet Lark** *Mirafra rufocinnamomea* Seen clearly on two occasions in the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Carter
- Singing Bush Lark** *Mirafra cantillans* Seen in Tarangire National Park
- Red-capped Lark** *Calandrella cinerea* Seen around Ndutu, 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 on the Ngorongoro Crater rim
- Swallows, martins Family Hirundinidae**
- Black Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne pristoptera* Seen in Arusha National Park and the Ngorongoro Crater rim
- Grey-rumped Swallow** *Pseudhirundo griseopyga* A few birds seen in the Ngorongoro crater
- Brown-throated Martin** *Riparia paludicola* In wetlands at Arusha National Park and the Ngorongoro Crater
- Banded Martin** *Riparia cincta* Seen in the Ngorongoro Crater

- Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* Small numbers in at Arusha National Park
- Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii* Near water in Tarangire and the Serengeti
- Rock Martin** *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* Quite common near cliffs and buildings
- Lesser Striped Swallow** *Cecropis abyssinica* Common throughout, mostly around our lodges
- Red-breasted Swallow** *Cecropis semirufa* Seen in the Ngorongoro Crater
- Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica* Small numbers throughout the Serengeti
- Crombecs, African warblers Family Macrosphenidae**
- Moustached Grass Warbler** *Melocichla mentalis* Good views at Arusha National Park
- Northern Crombec** *Sylvietta brachyura* Good views at our Arusha lodge on the last day
- Red-faced Crombec** *Sylvietta whytii* Seen at our Arusha lodge and near Nduu
- Grassbirds and allies Family Locustellidae**
- Little Rush Warbler** *Bradypterus baboecala* One bird showed well at a pool in the Ngorongoro Crater
- Cisticolas and allies Family Cisticolidae**
- Red-faced Cisticola** *Cisticola erythropus* Seen well in the Ngorongoro Crater
- Trilling Cisticola** *Cisticola woosnami* Seen well in the Arusha National Park
- Hunter's Cisticola** *Cisticola hunteri* A pair showed well on the Ngorongoro Crater rim
- Rattling Cisticola** *Cisticola chiniana* Very common and noisy in bush country!
- Winding Cisticola** *Cisticola marginatus* On wetland edge at Arusha and in the Serengeti
- Croaking Cisticola** *Cisticola natalensis* This large Cisticola was seen near Seronera
- 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 plains of the Serengeti and Ngorongoro
- 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 Nduu
- Yellow-breasted Apalis** *Apalis flavida* Seen in Arusha National Park
- Grey-capped Warbler** *Eminia lepida* Seen well in the Ngorongoro crater
- Grey-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brevicaudata* Heard and seen in Arusha National Park
- Typical Babblers Family Leiothrichidae**
- Rufous Chatterer** *Turdoides rubiginosa* Seen well at Nduu
- Black-lored Babbler** *Turdoides sharpei* Seen well at Nduu and the Serengeti
- Sylviid Babblers Family Sylviidae**
- Brown Parisoma** *Sylvia lugens* Seen at our Ngorongoro Crater rim lodge
- Banded Parisoma** *Sylvia boehmi* Seen at Nduu and in the Serengeti
- White-eyes Family Zosteropidae**
- Abyssinian White-eye** *Zosterops abyssinicus* A pair nest building at Lake Nduu
- Montane White-eye** *Zosterops poliogastrus* Seen in the Ngorongoro Crater forests
- Starlings Family Sturnidae**
- Wattled Starling** *Creatophora cinerea* Seen briefly on the plains near Nduu
- 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, Nduu, 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
- Red-winged Starling** *Onychognathus morio* A pair seen in Arusha and in the Ngorongoro Crater rim forests
- Waller's Starling** *Onychognathus walleri* Seen in the Arusha National Park
- Kenrick's Starling** *Poeoptera kenricki* Seen at Arusha National Park
- Oxpeckers Family Buphagidae**
- Yellow-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus africanus* Seen at Maramboi and in the Serengeti
- Red-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus erythrorhynchus* Seen in Arusha National Park, Serengeti and Ngorongoro
- Thrushes Family Turdidae**
- Abyssinian Thrush** *Turdus abyssinicus* Seen at the Ngorongoro Crater rim
- Chats, Old World Flycatchers Family Muscicapidae**
- White-browed Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas leucophrys* Seen at Oldupai Gorge
- White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher** *Melaenornis fischeri* Seen in the Ngorongoro Crater forests
- Pale Flycatcher** *Melaenornis pallidus* Seen near Arusha and Maramboi
- African Grey Flycatcher** *Melaenornis microrhynchus* Seen well at Tarangire and the Serengeti
- Silverbird** *Empidonax semipartitus* Great views near Lake Manyara, Nduu and the Serengeti
- African Dusky Flycatcher** *Muscicapa adusta* Seen in Arusha National Park and Ngorongoro
- 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 at Maramboi

**Spotted Palm Thrush** *Cichladusa guttata* Seen well at Maramboi and at our lodge near Kilimanjaro Airport

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

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

**Capped Wheatear** *Oenanthe pileata* Common *en route* to Maramboi, Ndutu, Serengeti and on the Ngorongoro Crater rim

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

#### **Sunbirds Family Nectariniidae**

**Amethyst Sunbird** *Chalcomitra amethystina* Seen at our lunch stop on the last day

**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 and at our lodge

**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, Maramboi and Ngorongoro

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

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

**Kenya Sparrow** *Passer rufocinctus* Seen at Ndutu 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 Ndutu

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

**Red-billed Buffalo Weaver** *Bubalornis niger* Common in open woodland of Tarangire and the Serengeti

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

**White-browed Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser mahali* Seen 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 Maramboi and in the Serengeti

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

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

**Holub's Golden Weaver** *Ploceus xanthops* Seen by some at our Serengeti lodge

**Taveta Weaver** *Ploceus castaneiceps* Seen Arusha National Park

**Lesser Masked Weaver** *Ploceus intermedius* Common at Maramboi and Serengeti

**Vitelline Masked Weaver** *Ploceus vitellinus* Small numbers in the Serengeti

**Speke's Weaver** *Ploceus spekei* Seen at our lunch stop *en route* to Ndutu

**Village Weaver** *Ploceus cucullatus* Seen in the Serengeti

**Golden-backed Weaver** *Ploceus jacksoni* Seen well at Maramboi

**Chestnut Weaver** *Ploceus rubiginosus* Seen once in a mixed breeding flock at Ndutu

**Red-headed Weaver** *Anaplectes rubriceps* Seen at Arusha and in the Serengeti

**Red-billed Quelea** *Quelea quelea* Small flocks near Maramboi and larger flocks in the Serengeti

**Southern Red Bishop** *Euplectes orix* Seen near Lake Manyara, Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Crater

**Yellow Bishop** *Euplectes capensis* Seen on the Ngorongoro Crater rim

**Fan-tailed Widowbird** *Euplectes axillaris* Seen well in the Serengeti and in the Ngorongoro Crater

**White-winged Widowbird** *Euplectes albonotatus* Common in Tarangire National Park and the Serengeti

**Red-collared Widowbird** *Euplectes ardens* Seen on the Ngorongoro Crater rim

**Jackson's Widowbird** *Euplectes jacksoni* A wonderful display of courting males in the Ngorongoro Crater

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

**Red-billed Firefinch** *Lagonosticta senegala* Seen in Arusha National Park

**African Firefinch** *Lagonosticta rubricata* Seen in the Ngorongoro Crater

**Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu** *Uraeginthus bengalus* Small numbers at Maramboi and in Tarangire National Park

**Blue-capped Cordon-bleu** *Uraeginthus cyanocephalus* Small numbers in Tarangire and the Serengeti

**Purple Grenadier** *Uraeginthus ianthinogaster* Seen building a nest at Ndutu and a female at Seronera

**Yellow-bellied Waxbill** *Coccyzygia quartinia* A pair seen on the Ngorongoro Crater rim

**Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild* Seen in the Ngorongoro Crater

**Quailfinch** *Ortygospiza atricollis* Seen in the Serengeti and well in the Ngorongoro Crater

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

**Village Indigobird** *Vidua chalybeata* Seen often near Lake Manyara

**Pin-tailed Whydah** *Vidua macroura* Seen well near Lake Manyara and in the Ngorongoro Crater

**Steel-blue Whydah** *Vidua hypocherina* Seen well at Ndotu

**Long-tailed Paradise Whydah** *Vidua paradisaea* Seen briefly at Arusha National Park

**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

**Pangani Longclaw** *Macronyx aurantiigula* Seen at Arusha National Park

**Rosy-throated Longclaw** *Macronyx ameliae* Seen well in the Serengeti and Ngorongoro crater (The race known as "Jackson's Pipit" also seen)

**African Pipit** *Anthus cinnamomeus* Regular on open plains such as the Serengeti

**Long-billed Pipit** *Anthus similis* Seen well at the base of the Ngorongoro Crater

**Plain-backed Pipit** *Anthus leucophrys* Seen well near Ndotu and on the Serengeti plains

**Finches Family Fringillidae**

**Southern Citril** *Crithagra hyposticta* Seen at Arusha National Park

**Reichenow's Seedeater** *Crithagra reichenowi* Seen near Lake Manyara

**White-bellied Canary** *Crithagra dorsostriata* Common at Ndotu and the Serengeti

**Thick-billed Seedeater** *Crithagra burtoni* Seen along the Ngorongoro Crater rim

**Streaky Seedeater** *Crithagra striolata* Seen around the Ngorongoro Crater rim

**Buntings Family Emberizidae**

**Golden-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza flaviventris* One in Arusha National Park

**PRIMATES ORDER PRIMATES**

**Guereza Colobus** *Colobus guereza* We saw these at Arusha National Park.

**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 around Tarangire, the Serengeti and Crater Highlands.

**Sykes's Monkey** *Cercopithecus [mitis] albogularis* These stunning monkeys were seen in Arusha National Park.

**Senegal Lesser Galago** *Galago senegalensis* Seen amongst the acacia trees of our Serengeti Lodge at night.

**FRUIT BATS ORDER MEGACHIROPTERA**

**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.

**MICRO BATS ORDER MICROCHIROPTERA**

**Yellow-winged Bat** *Lavia frons* Seen at our Serengeti Lodge.

**HARES ORDER LAGOMORPHA**

**Cape Hare** *Lepus capensis* One flushed briefly on the lake shore at Maraboi.

**RODENTS ORDER RODENTIA**

**Ochre Bush Squirrel** *Paraxerus ochraceus* One with close views at the escarpment view point.

**Acacia Rat** *Thallomys paedulus* The larger rodent seen at Seronera is probably this species.

**African / Unstriped Grass Rat** *Arvicanthis niloticus* Seen several times around the lodge at Ndotu.

**CARNIVORES ORDER CARNIVORA**

**Golden Jackal** *Canis aureus* Two pairs in the Ngorongoro Crater as well as close ups of a curious youngster.

**Black-backed Jackal** *Canis mesomelas* Seen near Ndotu and on the plains of the Serengeti.

**Bat-eared Fox** *Otocyon megalotis* Good views of a pair at their den on the plains near Ndotu.

**Banded Mongoose** *Mungos mungo* Seen several times at Maramboi, Tarangire National Park and Serengeti.

**Dwarf Mongoose** *Helogale parvula* Packs of these small charismatic mongoose were seen at Tarangire and the Serengeti lunch stop.

**Spotted Hyena** *Crocuta crocuta* Good views in the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater.

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

**Leopard** *Panthera pardus* Good views of an individual up a tree at the Masaai Kopies in the Serengeti.

**Cheetah** *Acinonyx jubatus* Close views of an individual and another animal with an adult impala kill!

**Lion** *Panthera leo* Lions seen on four days, two males giving a close walk past near Ndotu. A mother was seen with 3 young cubs in the Serengeti. A total of 52 individuals were seen in total.

**HYRAXES ORDER HYRACOIDEA**

**Rock Hyrax** *Procavia capensis* A few were seen at Ndotu and Seronera.

**Bush / Yellow-spotted Hyrax** *Heterohyrax brucei* A few were seen at Seronera; including individuals who came very close during our lunch there.

**ELEPHANTS ORDER PROBOSCIDEA**

**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.

**ODD-TOED UNGULATES ORDER PERISSODACTYLA**

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

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

**EVEN-TOED UNGULATES ORDER ARTIODACTYLA**

**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 Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Crater dotted across the landscape.

**Bushbuck** *Tragelaphus scriptus* Seen in the Arusha National Park.

**Eland** *Taurotragus oryx* A large herd of over 110 near Ndutu as well as Small groups in the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater.

**Suni** *Neotragus moschatus* One close to the road in Arusha National Park. .

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

**Kirk's Dikdik** *Madoqua kirkii complex* Seen in Arusha, Ndutu and the Serengeti.

**Bohor Reedbuck** *Redunca redunca* A brief view of one crossing the road in front of us 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* Two small harems groups were seen in the Serengeti National Park. In contrast to the Common Waterbuck, these Defassa Waterbuck have fully white thighs.

**Thomson's Gazelle** *Gazella rufifrons* Common in numbers 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* Seen twice in the Serengeti, in the company of Kongoni.

**Kongoni / Hartebeest** *Alcephalus busephalus* Common in small groups throughout the 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 discreet groups. In the region of Naabi Hill we came across thousands moving across the landscape.