

Tanzania

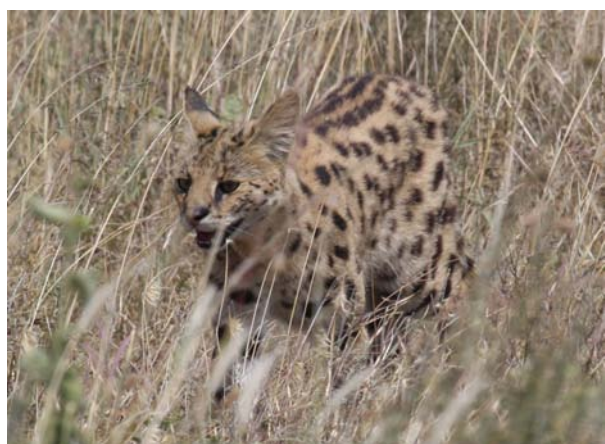
Birds & Big Cats

Sun 8th–Thu 19th May 2011



(Trip photos, clockwise from top left): A majestic Cheetah typically lazing on a prominent look-out • Migration of Wildebeest passes a statuesque Elephant • An Ostrich displaying is an odd sight as it swings its head and flaps its wings • A sleepy looking Verreaux's Eagle Owl flashing its milky pink eyelids • A splendid Leopard poses for the cameras • A very fine portrait of an Augur Buzzard © all photos courtesy of tour participant Jo Latham, wildlifephotocards.co.uk

**report compiled by tour leaders
Deirdre Vrancken & Callan Cohen**



(Trip photos, clockwise from top left): A pair of Heuglin's Coursers (the male with its crest raised) on the lookout in the early morning • Lilac-breasted Rollers are always pleasing • A close Crested Francolin walks past the group • A group of Zebra amongst Wildebeest sweeping majestically across the plain • Superb Starlings are...well superb! • One of several Servals walks stealthily through the long grass © all photos courtesy of tour participant Jo Latham, wildlifephotocards.co.uk

Trip Diary

Tour Leader: Callan Cohen and Dierdre Vrancken

with Janet Baylis, Georgina Calderwood, Jill Canning, Sophia Haydon, Dermot & Andrea Judge, Jo Latham, Jennifer Weeks and Ian & Mary White

The tour started with a day flight to Arusha in Tanzania. It was just too dark to see the peaks when the plane dropped low over Mt Kilimanjaro and landed near Arusha. Our lodge was just a short drive away, set in acacia savanna and directly in between the peaks of Kilimanjaro and Mt Meru.

Arusha National Park protects the lush montane forests on the slopes of Mt Meru and we spent the next day exploring this area. The vast Mt Meru volcano with its jagged peaks and clouds-swirled summits loomed overhead. The roads through the forest passed through montane forest, dripping with lichens, ferns and epiphytic orchids, which alternated with open patches and streams. A myriad of butterflies, such as Green-banded and Mocker Swallowtails, Soldier Pansies and Green-veined Emperors, scattered off the road edges as we approached. Bird highlights included great views of Martial Eagle (Africa's largest eagle), the bright red-and-green Narina Trogon, Hartlaub's Turaco, White-eared Barbet, African Moustached Warbler, the giant Silvery-cheeked Hornbill, the noisy Trilling Cisticola, Yellow Bishop, Augar Buzzard, Collared Sunbird, Wire-tailed Swallow and the local Taveta Golden Weaver. Other great sightings from the day were African Cuckoo Hawk, White-fronted Bee-eater, Cinnamon-breasted Bee-eater, Black-headed Apalis and Kenrick's Starling.

The mammals were superb too. At a lush swamp, we saw our first Cape Buffalo, Plains Zebra, Giraffe and Common Waterbuck (with the white toilet-seat buttocks), all attended by Red-billed Oxpeckers, while Cattle Egrets flew by! Beautiful Sykes's Monkey sat in the forest trees overhead, while shaggy Guereza Colobus Monkey swung between lichen-festooned trees, their fluffy white tails swaying along like ghosts in the forest. Harvey's Red Duiker scuttled off through the undergrowth. The tiny Kirk's Dik-dik and Bushbuck were also seen. It was a lot to take in on our first day and such is the diversity of East Africa's Rift Valley forests and plains. Our day was rounded off superbly by several Slender-tailed Nightjars sipping from the pool at sundown - while we sipped sundowners!

The following morning we opted for some garden birding before and after breakfast. The garden and nearby plains were bursting with birds and the lifers flowed quickly, some highlights being White-browed Coucal, African Mourning Dove, Blue-naped & Speckled Mousebirds, Scarlet-chested Sunbird, Long-tailed Fiscal, Pangani Longclaw, Reichenow's Seedeater and Northern Crombec.

The baobab-studded savannas of the Tarangire National Park and shores of Lake Manyara were the focus of our next two-night stay. We stayed in a superb camp on the edge of Lake Manyara for two nights, overlooking the shoreline and surrounding plains, and did a full day trip into Tarangire. We had wonderful views of herds of African Elephants as they moved among the giant baobab trees. Small herds of Impala were common. More raptors, such as African White-backed Vulture, Bateleur, Tawny Eagle and the tiny African Pygmy Falcon, were seen and the game drives were packed with a diversity of African woodland species – as well as the endemic Ashy Starling, Rufous-tailed Weaver and Yellow-collared Lovebird. Cardinal Queleas and White-winged Widows buzzed in the green grasslands. Black-faced Sandgrouse were seen on the edge of the track, and Double-banded Coursers were another highlight. We also saw our first Ostrich here. Probably the most exciting encounter was a superb Cheetah that climbed onto a nearby termite mound to survey his surroundings. Shortly after that, a very bedraggled Verreaux's Eagle Owl watched us from an acacia tree. The Southern Ground-Hornbills were great too.

Our lodge offered splendid views through Palm savanna, onto the shores of Lake Manyara and the escarpment above. From the expansive grounds, we watched Bohor Reedbuck whistle as it jumped through the reeds, Plains Zebra drink from the waterhole, Impala and Blue Wildebeest rock as they

chase each other in rut. During open-air meals, we were entertained by impressive Collared Pratincoles, Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu and Scarlet-chested Sunbirds. Also near here was Bare-faced Go-away-bird, Crowned Lapwing, Fischer's Sparrow-lark, Yellow-billed Stork, Knob-billed Duck, African Mourning Dove, Spotted Palm-thrush, Grey-headed Kingfisher, the very blue Woodland Kingfisher and Village Indigobird (a brood parasite of Red-billed Firefinch).

Next, we headed up via the Lake Manyara escarpment - stopping en-route to admire the scenery and Blue Monkeys in the fig trees. Ayres' Eagle soared overhead, and we called Diederik and Klaas's Cuckoos into a small tree. Purple Grenadier and Green-winged Pytilia were here too. Our picnic lunch was in the misty Ngorongoro crater mountains, where we thought it was only the Baglafacht Weaver that was watching our every move until a giant male Bushpig rushed into the group as we were seated! Luckily, we all stayed calm, and after a quick nibble on Callan's knee, it made off with some sandwiches and chocolate. It was quite unnerving to such a big creature among us, but he was quite elegant with his whiskers and ear tufts. We continued through the cool of the Ngorongoro crater rim (where we would spend our last two nights of the tour) and dropped down to the vast Serengeti and its short grass plains. Here are the nutritious grazing grounds for the migrating herds of Blue Wildebeest at this time of year. We would stay one night in Ngorongoro Conservation Area at Ndutu and three nights in Central Serengeti, to maximize our chances of catching the huge migrating herds and a diversity of birds.

Dropping off the edge of the Ngorongoro crater mountains and entering the short grass plains we watched the most incredible scenery unfold. The sun lit up the dry lands of the Gol Mountains up ahead, and below it stretched the timeless Olduvai Gorge. Masai herders were cloaked in their characteristic red shawls. Once we passed the current Maasai grazing lands, wildlife came streaming in: our first herds of thousands of Thomson's Gazelle, Grant's Gazelle, Plains Zebra, Golden Jackal, and Spotted Hyaena. Capped Wheatear, Fischer's Sparrow-lark, Rufous-naped & Red-capped Larks and African Pipits were common on the short-grass plains – with the world's largest flying bird: Kori Bustard. A Southern White-faced Owl was a lucky spot, hiding in an acacia tree.

Common Genet entertained us in the lodge grounds after dinner. The following morning were entertained by Bat-eared Foxes basking in the sun at their den, Secretarybird, and others. A saline lake held more flamingoes, Kittlitz's, Three-banded and Chestnut-banded Plovers, and some migrant waders including Ruff and Greenshank. Fischer's Lovebirds and Straw-tailed Whydah were at the bird-bath at the lodge. A Yellow-winged Bat also showed well! Nearby, we spotted a Leopard up a tree but it snuck down very quickly. More obliging was a Serval that showed well. This is a seldom seen cat and we were to have an incredible six sightings through the tour!

Once we headed northwards into the central Serengeti, the wildebeest migration began to unfold right in front of us. At this stage, smaller groups were moving across the plains. A tree-climbing lion watched them lazily, which a herd of elephants bathed in the river. Our next three nights would be at a lodge in the central Serengeti and we did forays from here to fully explore the area. The accommodation was fantastic with more than enough food to deal with. We would typically head out early after breakfast, have a picnic lunch in the field, and return for some time off in the late afternoon. A beautiful pool refreshed us in the warm afternoon and nocturnal wildlife (such as Yellow-winged Bats) entertained us before dinner.

On the granite rocks of the kopjes, blue-and-purple Mwanza Flat-headed Agamas tussled for dominance and Tawny Eagles soared over just above eye level. The vultures of the Serengeti were superb and included the giant Lappet-faced, White-headed, White-backed, Hooded and Rüppell's. Martial Eagle and Secretarybird were regulars.

Again, we spotted two Leopards mating in a tree, but as soon as they saw us stop, they quickly moved out of view and dropped into the grass. Luckily, our third leopard sighting was far more relaxed. A female was perched high in an open fever-tree and we were able to watch her for a while. The wildebeest migration was well underway and the thundering hooves and dust clouds were to impress

even more than the predators! We inched through the herds, wildebeest, zebra, dust and flies all around, and they moved north to the continual grunting of the males. And it was this sound that we awoke to on the last morning at our Serengeti lodge, as the herds pushed north right past the lodge!

We had wonderful views of a suite of localised species that are not often seen, such as Grey-breasted Spurfowl and Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill. Grey-crested Helmetshrikes flew like butterflies back and forth overhead and perched in the treetops around us. Colourful stunners such as Fischer's Lovebirds and Meyer's Parrots were common. Green Woodhoopoe, showed brilliantly as it fed from a log nearby with the shiny Rüppell's Long-tailed Starling. More specials included the perky Karamoja Apalis and glossy Steel-blue Whydahs. More focussed birding bouts brought about Von der Decken's Hornbills, Nubian Woodpecker, Red-throated Tit, Brubru, Pearl-spotted Owlet, African Grey Flycatcher, Tawny-flanked Prinia, Cardinal Woodpecker, Red-faced Crombec, Arrow-marked Babblers, Brown-crowned Tchagra, Beautiful Sunbird, Hildebrandt's Starling, Abyssinian Scimitarbill and Bare-faced Go-away-bird, among many more (see checklist below). Further amazing highlights were the dancing trio of Striped Kingfishers (has to be seen to be believed), the Schalow's Turaco that glided overhead, the Porcupine in the late afternoon from our lodge and the Martial Eagles at their nest.

Near the river, a pod of Hippopotamus wallowed - one even rolling over completely - and crocodile eyes popped up above the water. Rock and Bush Hyrax (or "dassies") soaked up the sun on the kopjes. Dwarf Mongoose dashed across the road and Banded Mongoose scouted from atop their termite mound. Heading back east, we stopped at Olduvai Gorge (sometimes spelled "Oldupai" to more accurately reflect the Masai word for wild sisal after which the area is named), which was interesting for its role in understanding human evolution, but also entertained with Black Bishops and Variable Sunbirds. Taita Fiscals sat on the greenthorn trees nearby.

Our next destination was the iconic Ngorongoro Ngorongoro crater, where our two nights in our Ngorongoro crater-edge hotel were perfect to explore the grassy caldera below and the ridge forests and grasslands. You'll need to see the Photo Gallery to believe the views from the restaurant and rooms. The Ngorongoro crater teemed with wildlife and despite the high expectations, it did not disappoint. Lazy Lions stretching next to the vehicle (as always, we had a vehicle with an open roof for great viewing), majestic bull elephants framed by the Ngorongoro crater cliff walls and thousands of pink Lesser Flamingo, vultures flapping off the kill, Kori Bustard sunning themselves, Spotted Hyenas (one even inspiring a poem!) and Golden Jackals, the highlights could go on. We also saw African Spoonbill, Cape Teal, Grey-headed Gull, Whiskered Tern, Red-billed Teal, White-necked Raven, Blacksmith Plover, Glossy Ibis, Grey Crowned Crane dancing and flying overhead, close Plains Zebra drinking, Red-collared Widowbird (with the red collar and long tail), and Fan-tailed Widowbird (with the red shoulders and short tail). And of course: Black Rhinoceros! Eastern Double-collared Sunbird, Mountain Thrush, White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher, Cape Robin-chat and Streaky Seedeater all showed in the hotel garden!

After two nights here, our journey back homewards towards Arusha took us back down along the Lake Manyara escarpment, where we celebrated our final lunch overlooking the lake (with Olive Baboons and Red-billed Firefinch drinking from the pool!).

A full and annotated bird and mammal lists follow below. We also identified many species of reptile, butterfly, dragonfly, flora and others, many of which we discussed at our evening listing sessions. Although there are no formal lists of these below, if you have photographs that need identifying, please let Callan know.

Callan Cohen and Dierdre Vrancken

ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS

(A total of 361 species recorded by the group)

Common Ostrich *Struthio camelus*

The world's largest bird was first seen in Tarangire NP and after then it was common in the Serengeti.

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*

Common and widespread and seen almost every day.

Coqui Francolin *Peliperdix coqui*

Good views in the Serengeti plains

Crested Francolin *Dendroperdix sephaena*

Small numbers in bush country and seen well Tarangire

Scaly Francolin *Pternistis squamatus*

Heard ANP (=Arusha National Park)

Hildebrandt's Francolin *Pternistis hildebrandti*

Heard Ngorongoro

Yellow-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis leucoscepus*

Common in Tarangire and seen well

Grey-breasted Spurfowl *Pternistis rufopictus*

This special common in the Seronera and Ndutu areas.

Red-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis afer*

Seen very well in Tarangire

Harlequin Quail *Coturnix delegorguei*

Seen at our airport lodge

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*

Seen well in ANP

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*

Seen Lake Manyara

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Common and widespread

Cape Teal *Anas capensis*

Seen in the Ngorongoro crater

Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhyncha*

Seen well in the Ngorongoro crater

Hottentot Teal *Anas hottentota*

Seen well in the Ngorongoro crater

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Seen ANP

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus*

Large numbers on many alkaline lakes

Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor*

Large numbers on many alkaline lakes

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis*

Seen at their colony near Lake Manyara

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Seen on the Serengeti plains among the wildebeest!

Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

Seen in the Ngorongoro crater

Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumenifer*

Common, esp Serengeti

African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Excellent views ANP and more later

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash*

Seen Manyara

- Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*
Seen Manyara
- African Spoonbill** *Platalea alba*
Seen Ngorongoro crater
- Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*
Quite common
- Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*
Small numbers at many places from ANP onwards
- Black-headed Heron** *Ardea melanocephala*
Quite common in grassy fields and towns
- Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*
Seen in the Ngorongoro crater
- Intermediate Egret** *Egretta intermedia*
Seen in the Ngorongoro crater
- Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta*
Small numbers at wetlands, often near their giant nests
- Great White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus*
Seen near Lake Manyara
- Pink-backed Pelican** *Pelecanus rufescens*
Seen near Lake Manyara
- Reed Cormorant** *Microcarbo africanus*
Seen Ngorongoro Ngorongoro crater
- African Darter** *Anhinga rufa*
Seen in the Ngorongoro Ngorongoro crater and ANP
- Secretarybird** *Sagittarius serpentarius*
Fantastic views of a number in the Serengeti and Nduu
- Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus*
Small numbers along roadsides, esp Nduu
- Yellow-billed Kite** *Milvus aegyptius*
Great views in the Ngorongoro Ngorongoro crater!
- African Fish Eagle** *Haliaeetus vocifer*
First seen in ANP and a number of times near water after that
- Hooded Vulture** *Necrosyrtes monachus*
A number seen in the central Serengeti
- White-backed Vulture** *Gyps africanus*
The common vulture in the parks
- Rüppell's Vulture** *Gyps rueppellii*
Smaller numbers of this cliff-nesting species in the Serengeti and Ngorongoro
- White-headed Vulture** *Trigonoceps occipitalis*
Seen 3 times: Tarangire, Nduu, Serengeti
- Lappet-faced Vulture** *Torgos tracheliotos*
Many seen from Tarangire to the Serengeti
- Black-chested Snake Eagle** *Circaetus pectoralis*
Seen 3 times, first en route to Manyara
- Brown Snake Eagle** *Circaetus cinereus*
Seen in the Serengeti and Ngorongoro crater
- Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus*
Wonderfully common in the big parks!
- African Harrier-Hawk** *Polyboroides typus*
Great views Nduu
- Dark Chanting Goshawk** *Melierax metabates*
Small numbers in the Serengeti
- Eastern Chanting Goshawk** *Melierax poliopterus*
Seen near Oluvai and a mixed pair at Nduu!

- Gabar Goshawk** *Micronisus gabar*
Small numbers throughout, seen well Nduu
- African Goshawk** *Accipiter tachiro*
A juvenile seen by some in ANP
- Little Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter minullus*
Seen Tarangire and Nduu
- Augur Buzzard** *Buteo augur*
Common in areas with cliffs and seen very well
- Tawny Eagle** *Aquila rapax*
Common in the big parks and seen most days
- African Hawk-Eagle** *Aquila spilogaster*
Seen soaring above Manyara
- Wahlberg's Eagle** *Hieraaetus wahlbergi*
At least one in Tarangire
- Ayres's Hawk-Eagle** *Hieraaetus ayresii*
Soaring near Manyara
- Martial Eagle** *Polemaetus bellicosus*
4 sightings, from a juv in ANP to a pair mating on the nest in the Serengeti!
- Long-crested Eagle** *Lophaetus occipitalis*
Seen ANP, Nduu and elsewhere
- Crowned Eagle** *Stephanoaetus coronatus*
Great views in the Ngorongoro crater!
- Pygmy Falcon** *Polihierax semitorquatus*
Great views Nduu and a number of times in the Serengeti
- Greater Kestrel** *Falco rupicoloides*
A few seen on the Serengeti plains
- Grey Kestrel** *Falco ardosiaceus*
Seen near Manyara
- Amur Falcon** *Falco amurensis*
Fantastic views of a female in the Ngorongoro Ngorongoro crater!
- Lanner Falcon** *Falco biarmicus*
Seen first near Manyara and a few other places
- Kori Bustard** *Ardeotis kori*
Fantastic views of the world's heaviest flying bird in the Serengeti and Ngorongoro crater
- White-bellied Bustard** *Eupodotis senegalensis*
Seen near Lake Manyara and the Serengeti
- Hartlaub's Bustard** *Lissotis hartlaubii*
Seen on the Serengeti plains
- Black Crane** *Amaurornis flavirostra*
Good views in the Serengeti
- Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*
Seen ANP
- Red-knobbed Coot** *Fulica cristata*
Seen ANP
- Grey Crowned Crane** *Balearica regulorum*
Fantastic views in the Ngorongoro crater! Also Serengeti
- Spotted Thick-knee** *Burhinus capensis*
Seen in the Serengeti
- Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*
Seen Nduu and Ngorongoro crater
- Pied Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*
Seen Ngorongoro crater
- Blacksmith Lapwing** *Vanellus armatus*
Common around wetlands

- Black-winged Lapwing** *Vanellus melanopterus*
Small numbers on the short grass plains near Ndotu
- Crowned Lapwing** *Vanellus coronatus*
Very common on dry grassy plains
- Kittlitz's Plover** *Charadrius pecuarius*
This distinctive plover seen in the Ngorongoro crater and Ndotu
- Three-banded Plover** *Charadrius tricollaris*
Small numbers of this smart bird at fresh water wetlands
- Chestnut-banded Plover** *Charadrius pallidus*
Great views of this special plover at Ndotu and the Ngorongoro crater
- Caspian Plover** *Charadrius asiaticus*
Great views on the plains near Ndotu
- African Jacana** *Actophilornis africanus*
Seen in ANP
- Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*
Seen Serengeti
- Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*
Seen Ngorongoro crater
- Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*
Seen Ngorongoro crater
- Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*
Just 2 in the Serengeti
- Double-banded Courser** *Rhinoptilus africanus*
Commonly seen!
- Three-banded Courser** *Rhinoptilus cinctus*
Great views Tarangire
- Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola*
Seen Manyara
- Grey-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*
Small numbers in the Ngorongoro crater
- Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica*
Common Manyara, also on the plains near Ndotu
- Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida*
Seen Manyara
- Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** *Pterocles exustus*
Seen well near Manyara and the Ndotu plains
- Yellow-throated Sandgrouse** *Pterocles gutturalis*
Good views on the Serengeti plains
- Speckled Pigeon** *Columba guinea*
Small numbers throughout, often in rocky places or towns
- African Olive Pigeon** *Columba arquatrix*
This fruit eater seen in the Ngorongoro crater rim forests
- Dusky Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia lugens*
Common in open areas on the Ngorongoro crater rim, including our hotel
- Mourning Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decipiens*
Quite common in acacia woodland from Tarangire to Ndotu, and the airport
- Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata*
Seen near ANP, and Karatu
- Ring-necked Dove** *Streptopelia capicola*
Very common!
- Laughing Dove** *Stigmatopelia senegalensis*
Very common!
- Emerald-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur chalcospilos*
Seen Tarangire

- Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistria*
Heard ANP
- Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis*
Quite common this year
- Fischer's Lovebird** *Agapornis fischeri*
Common Serengeti and Ndutu!
- Yellow-collared Lovebird** *Agapornis personatus*
Common Tarangire and Manyara
- Meyer's Parrot** *Poicephalus meyeri*
Great views Tarangire, also central Serengeti
- Red-bellied Parrot** *Poicephalus rufiventris*
Seen by some Tarangire
- Schalow's Turaco** *Tauraco schalowi*
Seen along a river in the Serengeti! Amazing views!
- Hartlaub's Turaco** *Tauraco hartlaubi*
Great views ANP
- Bare-faced Go-away-bird** *Corythaixoides personatus*
Great views Tarangire and central Serengeti
- White-bellied Go-away-bird** *Corythaixoides leucogaster*
Seen around the airport
- Eastern Plantain-eater** *Crinifer zonurus*
Seen along a river in the Serengeti! Amazing views!
- White-browed Coucal** *Centropus superciliosus*
Widespread in small numbers throughout
- Great Spotted Cuckoo** *Clamator glandarius*
Seen well at our airport lodge
- Jacobin Cuckoo** *Clamator jacobinus*
Seen Serengeti
- Diederik Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx caprius*
Seen Tarangire, Ndutu, etc
- Klaas's Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx klaas*
Seen at the escarpment viewpoint
- African Emerald Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx cupreus*
Fantastic views ANP!
- Black Cuckoo** *Cuculus clamosus*
Its mournful song heard ANP
- Red-chested Cuckoo** *Cuculus solitarius*
Seen Tarangire; heard many places
- African Cuckoo** *Cuculus gularis*
At least 5 around Ndutu
- Southern White-faced Owl** *Ptilopsis granti*
Superb views in the day near Ndutu
- Verreaux's Eagle Owl** *Bubo lacteus*
Great views of this giant near Ndutu
- Pearl-spotted Owlet** *Glaucidium perlatum*
Small numbers seen from Tarangire onwards; often mobbed by small birds
- Montane Nightjar** *Caprimulgus poliocephalus*
Heard around our Ngorongoro crater lodge and seen by some
- Slender-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus clarus*
Seen well at our airport lodge drinking from the pool!
- Scarce Swift** *Schoutedenapus myoptilus*
Good views Arusha NP and on the Ngorongoro crater rim. The nest has never been found!
- Mottled Spinetail** *Telacanthura ussheri*
Seen Tarangire

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus parvus*

This slender swift was quite common around palms in a few places including Lake Manyara and the Serengeti

Mottled Swift *Tachymarptis aequatorialis*

Seen well on the Ngorongoro crater rim

Nyanza Swift *Apus niansae*

Common around the Ngorongoro crater

African Black Swift *Apus barbatus*

There appeared to be some of this species in a mixed flock on the Ngorongoro crater rim but ID is tricky!

Little Swift *Apus affinis*

Very common especially around buildings where they nest

Horus Swift *Apus horus*

Small numbers along the gully at Hippo Pools in the Serengeti

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer*

Common around lodges where they breed in the mud nests of evicted Lesser Striped Swallows

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus*

Very common!

Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus*

Small numbers in acacia throughout, seen well near airport

Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina*

Fantastic views ANP!

Purple [Rufous-crowned] Roller *Coracias naevius*

Just a few of this large roller along roadsides

Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus*

Very common, luckily for the photographers!

European Roller *Coracias garrulus*

Two near Ndotu and one Serengeti

Brown-hooded Kingfisher *Halcyon albiventris*

Seen Arusha NP

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti*

Phenomenal views of display in the Serengeti!

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis*

Seen Manyara, Serengeti

Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristata*

Seen in the Ngorongoro crater

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

Seen Manyara

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus*

Very pleasantly common

Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater *Merops oreobates*

Seen in ANP and the Ngorongoro crater forest

White-fronted Bee-eater *Merops bullockoides*

Common near ANP

Olive Bee-eater *Merops superciliosus*

A small flock in the central Serengeti

African Hoopoe *Upupa africana*

Seen well Ndotu and elsewhere

Green Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus*

Scattered sightings from Tarangire to Serengeti

Common Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*

Seen in Lerai forest in the Ngorongoro crater

Abyssinian Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus minor*

Scattered sightings from Tarangire to Serengeti

- Crowned Hornbill** *Tockus alboterminatus*
Heard ANP
- African Grey Hornbill** *Tockus nasutus*
Widespread in bush country
- Northern Red-billed Hornbill** *Tockus erythrorhynchus*
Quite common in Tarangire
- Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill** *Tockus ruahae*
This special hornbill in the vicinity of our Serengeti lodge
- Von der Decken's Hornbill** *Tockus deckeni*
Small numbers from Tarangire onwards
- Silvery-cheeked Hornbill** *Bycanistes brevis*
Heard ANP
- Southern Ground Hornbill** *Bucorvus leadbeateri*
Great views Tarangire
- White-eared Barbet** *Stactolaema leucotis*
Great views ANP
- Moustached Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus leucomystax*
Seen briefly ANP
- Red-fronted Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus pusillus*
Heard Olduvai
- Red-fronted Barbet** *Tricholaema diademata*
Heard Serengeti
- Spot-flanked Barbet** *Tricholaema lacrymosa*
Seen at the escarpment
- White-headed Barbet** *Lybius leucocephalus*
Seen by some in the Ngorongoro crater
- Usambiro Barbet** *Trachyphonus [darnaudii] usambiro*
Fantastic views in the Serengeti. Sometimes considered a subspecies of D'Arnaud's.
- D'Arnaud's Barbet** *Trachyphonus darnaudii*
Seen Tarangire
- Lesser Honeyguide** *Indicator minor*
Seen well
- Greater Honeyguide** *Indicator indicator*
Great views Tarangire
- Nubian Woodpecker** *Campethera nubica*
Seen airport lodge and a number of places after then
- Cardinal Woodpecker** *Dendropicos fuscescens*
Seen Tarangire
- Bearded Woodpecker** *Dendropicos namaquus*
Seen Ndutu
- Eastern Grey Woodpecker** *Dendropicos spodocephalus*
Small numbers seen well, especially Ndutu. Sometimes called African Grey-headed Woodpecker, and sometimes lumped with African Grey Woodpecker.
- Chin-spot Batis** *Batis molitor*
Seen Tarangire and Serengeti
- Grey-crested Helmetshrike** *Prionops poliophus*
Great views in the central Serengeti
- Orange-breasted Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*
Seen Serengeti
- Brown-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra australis*
Widespread in small numbers
- Black-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra senegalus*
Seen on the edge of the Ngorongoro crater
- Black-backed Puffback** *Dryoscopus cubla*
Seen ANP

- Slate-coloured Boubou** *Laniarius funebris*
Quite common in the Serengeti
- Tropical Boubou** *Laniarius major*
Seen in the Ngorongoro crater forests
- Black-headed Gonolek** *Laniarius erythrogaster*
Good views in the Serengeti
- Brubru** *Nilaus afer*
Seen Tarangire and the Serengeti
- Black Cuckooshrike** *Campephaga flava*
Seen ANP
- Magpie Shrike** *Urolestes melanoleucus*
Groups quite common from Tarangire onwards
- Northern White-crowned Shrike** *Eurocephalus ruppelli*
Groups quite common from Tarangire onwards
- Grey-backed Fiscal** *Lanius excubitoroides*
Family groups common in the Serengeti
- Long-tailed Fiscal** *Lanius cabanisi*
Common at the airport and Tarangire
- Taita Fiscal** *Lanius dorsalis*
Small numbers near Olduvai
- Northern Fiscal** *Lanius humeralis*
Common from ANP onwards. A recent split from Common Fiscal.
- Black-headed Oriole** *Oriolus larvatus*
Heard ANP
- Fork-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus adsimilis*
Small numbers throughout bush country
- African Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone viridis*
Seen ANP
- Cape Crow** *Corvus capensis*
Small numbers west of the Ngorongoro crater
- Pied Crow** *Corvus albus*
Common on roadsides through towns and farms
- White-necked Raven** *Corvus albicollis*
Common along the Ngorongoro crater rim
- White-bellied Tit** *Parus albiventris*
Seen at the escarpment view
- Red-throated Tit** *Parus fringillinus*
Quite common Serengeti and Ndutu
- White-tailed Lark** *Mirafra albicauda*
Seen a few times in display above black-cotton soils in the Serengeti
- Rufous-naped Lark** *Mirafra africana*
Abundant, many in grasslands on most days!
- Flappet Lark** *Mirafra rufocinnamomea*
Small numbers in the Serengeti
- Foxy Lark** *Calendulauda alopex*
Small numbers in the Serengeti
- Red-capped Lark** *Calandrella cinerea*
Very common on low grassy plains and road edges in the Serengeti and Ngorongoro
- Short-tailed Lark** *Pseudalaemon fremantlii*
Heard in dusty grasslands near Olduvai
- Fischer's Sparrow-lark** *Eremopterix leucopareia*
Abundant in grasslands and bare ground throughout
- Dark-capped Bulbul** *Pycnonotus tricolor*
Common and widespread!

- Stripe-faced Greenbul** *Arizelocichla striifacies*
Seen in ANP
- Yellow-bellied Greenbul** *Chlorocichla flaviventris*
Seen at lunch on the last day (escarpment)
- Placid Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus placidus*
Heard ANP
- Black Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne pristoptera*
Common ANP and the Ngorongoro crater rim
- Brown-throated [Plain] Martin** *Riparia paludicola*
Quite common around wetlands
- Banded Martin** *Riparia cincta*
Common in the Ngorongoro crater
- Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*
Small numbers widespread
- Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii*
Common near water, excellent views in ANP
- Rock Martin** *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*
Quite common near cliffs and buildings
- Lesser Striped Swallow** *Cecropis abyssinica*
Quite common around our lodges where they are making their long mud nests
- Red-breasted Swallow** *Cecropis semirufa*
Small numbers in the central Serengeti
- Mosque Swallow** *Cecropis senegalensis*
Seen well Tarangire and small numbers Serengeti
- Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica*
Seen widely from ANP onwards and very common Ngorongoro crater
- Moustached Grass Warbler** *Melocichla mentalis*
Seen well ANP
- Northern Crombec** *Sylvietta brachyura*
1 near the airport
- Red-faced Crombec** *Sylvietta whytii*
Small numbers of this tail-less bird widespread!
- Brown Woodland Warbler** *Phylloscopus umbrovirens*
Heard in the Ngorongoro crater forests
- Lesser Swamp Warbler** *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*
Seen in the Ngorongoro crater
- Dark-capped Yellow Warbler** *Iduna natalensis*
Seen well ANP
- Fan-tailed Grassbird [Broad-tailed Warbler]** *Schoenicola brevirostris*
Great views ANP including aerial display!
- Little Rush Warbler** *Bradypterus baboecala*
Seen in the Ngorongoro crater
- Cinnamon Bracken Warbler** *Bradypterus cinnamomeus*
Heard Ngorongoro crater forests
- Red-faced Cisticola** *Cisticola erythrops*
Seen in Leraï forest in the Ngorongoro crater
- Singing Cisticola** *Cisticola cantans*
Great views ANP
- Trilling Cisticola** *Cisticola woosnami*
Great views ANP
- Rattling Cisticola** *Cisticola chiniana*
Very common and noisy in bush country!
- Winding Cisticola** *Cisticola marginatus*
Common on wetland edges, esp Tarangire and Ngorongoro crater

- Short-winged Cisticola** *Cisticola brachypterus*
Seen well in ANP
- Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*
Seen and heard Tarangire and Serengeti
- Desert Cisticola** *Cisticola aridulus*
Seen near the airport
- Pectoral-patch Cisticola** *Cisticola brunnescens*
Amazingly common in the Ngorongoro crater!
- Tawny-flanked Prinia** *Prinia subflava*
Seen well Serengeti
- Buff-bellied Warbler** *Phyllolais pulchella*
Small numbers in acacia trees Ndutu and Serengeti
- Bar-throated Apalis** *Apalis thoracica*
Seen around our Ngorongoro crater lodge
- Yellow-breasted Apalis** *Apalis flavida*
This little warbler seen in ANP
- Black-headed Apalis** *Apalis melanocephala*
Seen in ANP
- Karamoja Apalis** *Apalis karamojae*
Phenomenal views our our regular spot in the Serengeti
- Brown-headed Apalis** *Apalis alticola*
Heard at the Ngorongoro crater forest gate
- Grey-capped Warbler** *Eminia lepida*
Heard in the Serengeti along the river
- Grey-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brevicaudata*
Small numbers throughout but quite skulking
- Yellow-bellied Eremomela** *Eremomela icteropygialis*
1 in the Serengeti
- Rufous Chatterer** *Turdoides rubiginosa*
Seen well in the Serengeti
- Black-lored Babbler** *Turdoides sharpei*
Common Tarangire to Serengeti
- Arrow-marked Babbler** *Turdoides jardineii*
Seen around our lodge in the Serengeti
- Northern Pied Babbler** *Turdoides hypoleuca*
Seen Tarangire
- Banded Parisoma** *Sylvia boehmi*
Small numbers heard in the canopy of acacias
- Montane White-eye** *Zosterops poliogastrus*
Seen ANP and Ngorongoro crater forests
- Wattled Starling** *Creatophora cinerea*
Very common, and lots with the migrating wildebeest
- Greater Blue-eared Starling** *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*
Seen by some near airport
- Rueppell's Starling** *Lamprotornis purpuroptera*
Common in the central Serengeti
- Superb Starling** *Lamprotornis superbus*
This beautiful species is abundant throughout!
- Hildebrandt's Starling** *Lamprotornis hildebrandti*
Quite common in denser woodlands than Superb and seen Serengeti and Ndutu
- Ashy Starling** *Lamprotornis unicolor*
Very common Tarangire!
- Red-winged Starling** *Onychognathus morio*
Seen on the Ngorongoro crater rim

- Waller's Starling** *Onychognathus walleri*
Seen ANP and Ngorongoro crater rim forests
- Kenrick's Starling** *Poeoptera kenricki*
Seen ANP
- Yellow-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus africanus*
Seen in the Serengeti and Ndutu
- Red-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*
Very common from ANP onwards
- Abyssinian [Mountain] Thrush** *Turdus abyssinicus*
Seen on the Ngorongoro crater rim
- White-starred Robin** *Pogonocichla stellata*
Heard near ANP
- Cape Robin-Chat** *Cossypha caffra*
Seen ANP and the Ngorongoro crater rim
- Rüppell's Robin-chat** *Cossypha semirufa*
One seen well ANP
- White-browed Robin-chat** *Cossypha heuglini*
Seen Seronera
- Collared Palm Thrush** *Cichladusa arquata*
Seen near Manyara by some
- Spotted Palm Thrush** *Cichladusa guttata*
Seen near the airport and Manyara
- White-browed Scrub Robin** *Erythropygia leucophrys*
Seen well Olduvai
- African Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus*
Seen well ANP and Ngorongoro crater rim
- Capped Wheatear** *Oenanthe pileata*
Very common on the open plains of the Serengeti
- Abyssinian [Schalow's] Wheatear** *Oenanthe lugubris*
Great views in the Ngorongoro crater; also escarpment
- Familiar Chat** *Oenanthe familiaris*
One in the Serengeti
- Anteater Chat** *Myrmecocichla aethiops*
Great views in the Ngorongoro crater
- White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher** *Dioptrornis fischeri*
Seen ANP and Ngorongoro crater forests
- African Grey Flycatcher** *Bradornis microrhynchus*
Family groups in dry acacia country, from Tarangire onwards
- Silverbird** *Empidonax semipartitus*
Great views in the Serengeti
- African Dusky Flycatcher** *Muscicapa adusta*
Good views of this dumpy flycatcher in ANP
- Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird** *Anthreptes orientalis*
Seen on the escarpment
- Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris*
Seen ANP
- Amethyst Sunbird** *Chalcomitra amethystina*
Seen on the escarpment
- Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra senegalensis*
This striking sunbird was common, often in lodge grounds!
- Tacazze Sunbird** *Nectarinia tacazze*
Great views at our Ngorongoro crater rim lodge
- Bronzy Sunbird** *Nectarinia kilimensis*
Seen in the Ngorongoro crater

- Malachite Sunbird** *Nectarinia famosa*
Seen by some on the Ngorongoro crater rim
- Scarlet-tufted Sunbird** *Nectarinia johnstoni*
Seen by some on the Ngorongoro crater rim. This species is rare here and must have wandered from nearby areas.
- Eastern Double-collared Sunbird** *Cinnyris mediocris*
Seen well in the Ngorongoro crater forests and our Ngorongoro crater lodge
- Beautiful Sunbird** *Cinnyris pulchellus*
Small numbers in dry bush such as near Manyara
- Marico Sunbird** *Cinnyris mariquensis*
Small numbers in the Serengeti
- Variable Sunbird** *Cinnyris venustus*
Common in dry bush from the airport onwards
- Rufous-tailed Weaver** *Histurgops ruficauda*
This endemic very common from Tarangire onwards
- Grey-capped Social Weaver** *Pseudonigrita arnaudi*
Very common in the Serengeti
- House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*
Common around the airport, Nduvu, Olduvai, etc
- Kenya Sparrow** *Passer rufocinctus*
Seen in the Ngorongoro crater
- Northern Grey-headed Sparrow** *Passer griseus*
Common east of the rift, eg Arusha, Tarangire
- Swahili Sparrow** *Passer suahelicus*
Common Serengeti and Nduvu
- Chestnut Sparrow** *Passer eminibey*
Seen on the roadside from Manyara to Arusha
- Yellow-spotted Petronia** *Gymnoris pyrgita*
Seen escarpment view
- Red-billed Buffalo Weaver** *Bubalornis niger*
Very common!
- White-headed Buffalo Weaver** *Dinemellia dinemelli*
Very common!
- Speckle-fronted Weaver** *Sporopipes frontalis*
Very common in dry country!
- Thick-billed Weaver** *Amblyospiza albifrons*
Seen ANP and in the Ngorongoro crater
- Baglafaecht Weaver** *Ploceus baglafaecht*
Seen well on the Ngorongoro crater rim
- Spectacled Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis*
Heard Ngorongoro crater forest gate
- Black-necked Weaver** *Ploceus nigricollis*
Seen in the Serengeti
- Taveta Weaver** *Ploceus castaneiceps*
Great views of this local species in ANP
- Vitelline Masked Weaver** *Ploceus vitellinus*
Seen well Olduvai
- Speke's Weaver** *Ploceus spekei*
Seen very well in the Ngorongoro crater!
- Village Weaver** *Ploceus cucullatus*
Seen Nduvu
- Chestnut Weaver** *Ploceus rubiginosus*
Big flock near the airport
- Cardinal Quelea** *Quelea cardinalis*
Seen near the airport

- Red-billed Quelea** *Quelea quelea*
Thousands near Tarangire
- Black Bishop** *Euplectes gierowii*
Seen Tarangire, Serengeti, etc.
- Southern Red Bishop** *Euplectes orix*
Seen Tarangire
- Yellow Bishop** *Euplectes capensis*
Seen ANP and Ngorongoro crater
- Fan-tailed Widowbird** *Euplectes axillaris*
Seen Ngorongoro crater
- White-winged Widowbird** *Euplectes albonotatus*
Seen near the airport
- Red-collared Widowbird** *Euplectes ardens*
Seen near the airport
- Grey-headed Nigrita** *Nigrita canicapillus*
Seen by some ANP
- Green-winged Pytilia** *Pytilia melba*
Seen escarpment and Serengeti
- Cut-throat Finch** *Amadina fasciata*
Seen Tarangire
- Abyssinian Crimsonwing** *Cryptospiza salvadorii*
One seen briefly as it flushed off the road in the Ngorongoro crater forests
- Red-billed Firefinch** *Lagonosticta senegala*
Small numbers from Manyara onwards
- Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu** *Uraeginthus bengalus*
Small numbers of this smart bird from Manyara
- Blue-capped Cordon-bleu** *Uraeginthus cyanocephalus*
Small numbers in the Serengeti and Ndutu
- Purple Grenadier** *Uraeginthus ianthinogaster*
Small numbers of this beautiful species in acacias
- Crimson-rumped Waxbill** *Estrilda rhodopyga*
Common around the airport
- Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild*
Seen ANP
- Black-faced Waxbill** *Estrilda erythronotos*
Seen in the Serengeti
- African Quailfinch** *Ortygospiza fuscocrissa*
Seen in the Serengeti -- tricky to see well
- African Silverbill** *Euodice cantans*
Seen near the airport
- Grey-headed Silverbill** *Odontospiza caniceps*
Superb views in the Serengeti!
- Bronze Mannikin** *Lonchura cucullata*
Seen ANP
- Red-backed Mannikin** *Lonchura nigriceps*
Seen ANP
- Village Indigobird** *Vidua chalybeata*
Great views Manyara
- Pin-tailed Whydah** *Vidua macroura*
Males in breeding plumage in Tarangire and elsewhere
- Steel-blue Whydah** *Vidua hypocherina*
Great views of this local species in the Serengeti
- Straw-tailed Whydah** *Vidua fischeri*
Great views Ndutu and escarpment

Long-tailed Paradise Whydah *Vidua paradisaea*
Great views of a male in display at Tarangire

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp*
Low numbers at a few places

Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus*
Seen Serengeti

Pangani Longclaw *Macronyx aurantiigula*
Seen well near the airport

Rosy-throated Longclaw *Macronyx ameliae*
Seen well Serengeti and Ngorongoro crater

African Pipit *Anthus cinnamomeus*
Very common on open plains

Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis*
Seen Ngorongoro crater descent

Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys*
Seen on the Serengeti plains

Yellow-crowned Canary *Serinus flavivertex*
Seen on Ngorongoro crater rim

Southern Citril *Crithagra hyposticta*
Seen on Ngorongoro crater rim

Reichenow's Seedeater *Crithagra reichenowi*
Common airport

White-bellied Canary *Crithagra dorsostriata*
Common esp Serengeti

Streaky Seedeater *Crithagra striolata*
Seen on Ngorongoro crater rim and ANP

Mammal Species List

Guereza Colobus *Colobus guereza*
Three groups seen well at Arusha National Park

Olive Baboon *Papio anubis*
Two troops seen at Arusha National Park. A large troop patrolled the Lodware gate at the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.

Vervet Monkey *Chlorocebus pygerythrus*
Seen well at Tarangire. A few at Ndutu, central Serengeti and inside the Ngorongoro crater.

Sykes' Monkey *Cercopithecus [mitis] albogularis*
Nice views of two groups of these white-throated monkeys at Arusha National Park

Blue Monkey *Cercopithecus mitis*
Excellent views of a large troop as we entered the Ngorongoro Conservation area, a few troops in central Serengeti, some drinking from the pool at lunch above Lake Manyara

Yellow-winged Bat *Lavia frons*
A few were seen at our accommodation at Arusha, Ndutu and Serengeti.

Unstriped Ground Squirrel *Xerus rutilus*
One was seen at Tarangire.

Ochre Bush Squirrel *Paraxerus ochraceus*
This small and cute squirrel was seen running along the trees and lawn while we were having lunch overlooking Lake Manyara.

Cape/South African Porcupine *Hystrix africaeaustralis*
One expertly and distantly spotted by Callan, from the observation platform at our Serengeti accommodation.

African/Unstriped Grass Rat *Arvicanthis niloticus*
This small but large-eyed rodent was seen well running through the grass at Naabi Gate, at Ndutu and during lunch at Seronera.

Common/Golden Jackal *Canis aureus*

Two were seen on the Ndotu plains, a few approaching the Ngorongoro highlands and about five inside the Ngorongoro crater.

Black-backed Jackal *Canis mesomelas*

Three were seen in the Ngorongoro crater.

Bat-eared Fox *Otocyon megalotis*

Twelve of these endearing large-eared foxes were seen at Ndotu, basking in the morning or afternoon sun.

Banded Mongoose *Mungos mungo*

A small group was seen at Tarangire, a large group of about twenty at Ndotu woodlands and some in the Serengeti.

Dwarf Mongoose *Helogale parvula*

A group of about twenty seen while having lunch at central Serengeti.

Spotted Hyaena *Crocuta crocuta*

We saw our first hyena on our way to Ndotu, a few more in Ndotu and Serengeti and about twelve inside the Ngorongoro crater.

Common / Small-spotted Genet *Genetta genetta*

This delicate small-spotted genet afforded us close looks during our evening at Ndotu.

Serval *Felis serval*

Servals galore on this trip. We saw a pair at Ndotu, then another three, and a sixth one in the Ngorongoro crater near Lerai forest. A rare sighting!

Leopard *Panthera pardus*

Nearby our lodge at Ndotu, we spotted a Leopard up a tree. It snuck down very quickly. Again, we spotted two Leopards mating in a tree. And as soon as they saw us stop, they quickly moved out of view and dropped into the grass. Luckily, our third leopard sighting was far more relaxed. A female was perched high up a fever tree and we were able to watch her for a while.

Cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus*

We hit our luck on our first morning in the savanna. Entering Tarangire, we were soon watching cheetah walk through the tall grass and pose casually atop a termite mound.

Lion *Panthera leo*

We saw single lions at Serengeti, and small group of four inside the Ngorongoro Ngorongoro crater.

Rock Hyrax *Procavia capensis*

Seen well in the central Serengeti.

Bush/Yellow-spotted Hyrax *Heterohyrax brucei*

Seen well in the central Serengeti and two on the roofs of our Serengeti lodge.

Southern Tree Hyrax *Dendrohyrax arboreus*

Heard from our lodge on the Ngorongoro crater rim.

African Savanna Elephant *Loxodonta africana*

We saw our first signs of elephant presence at Arusha National Park. Beautiful views of elephant herds walking between the baobab-dotted landscape at Tarangire. We also saw a few on the Ngorongoro crater rim and groups of over fifty at Ndotu and Serengeti. One herd treated us with the beautiful spectacle of elephants bathing in the Seronera River. Finally, we watched a few giant bulls that roam inside the Ngorongoro crater.

Common Zebra *Equus quagga*

Seen daily. From about thirty in Arusha National Park and around our Lake manyara accommodation, to fifty in Tarangire, to hundreds in the Ngorongoro crater and thousands in Serengeti.

Black Rhinoceros *Diceros bicornis*

First three individuals and then another four seen in the Ngorongoro crater.

Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius*

Every day, except at Tarangire and especially large groups at Serengeti

Bush Pig *Potamochoerus larvatus*

As we tucked into our lunch on the Ngorongoro crater rim, a giant male Bushpig rushed into the group! Luckily, we all stayed calm, and after a quick nibble on Callan's knee, it made off with

some sandwiches and chocolate. It was quite unnerving to such a big creature among us, but he was quite elegant with his whiskers and ear tufts.

Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus*

Seen almost daily

Giraffe *Giraffa camelopardalis*

Seen almost daily, except at the Lake Manyara shores and at the Ngorongoro crater.

African Buffalo *Syncerus caffer*

Seen daily, except at Tarangire and lake Manyara shoreline.

Bushbuck *Tragelaphus scriptus*

A handful seen at Arusha National park. And one while having lunch inside the Ngorongoro crater.

Eland *Taurotragus oryx*

A few seen on the Ndutu plains, and en-route to the Ngorongoro crater rim.

Blue Duiker *Cephalophus monticola*

This dainty small duiker was seen in the forest of Arusha National Park.

Harvey's Duiker *Cephalophus harveyi*

Six of these reddish dumpy duikers were seen scuffling off in the forest of Arusha National Park.

Steenbok *Raphicerus campestris*

Seen on both days in the Ndutu woodlands.

Kirk's Dikdik *Madoqua kirkii complex*

Seen first at Arusha National Park. Again in the savanna bordering Lake Manyara. Also seen well at our lodges at Ndutu and Serengeti.

Bohor Reedbuck *Redunca redunca*

One seen well on the shores of Lake Manyara. Another seen by some in the Serengeti.

Common Waterbuck *Kobus [e.] ellipsiprymnus*

Two herds seen in Arusha National Park and another at Tarangire. One seen at our accommodation near Lake Manyara. Another handful seen near our Serengeti lodge.

Defassa Waterbuck *Kobus [ellipsiprymnus] defassa*

A handful seen near our Serengeti accommodation.

Grant's Gazelle *Nanger granti*

Seen well in scattered herds numbering fifty to hundred gazelles on the southern serengeti plains and on the Ngorongoro crater floor.

Thomson's Gazelle *Gazella rufifrons*

Seen first on the shores of Lake Manyara. Huge herds numbering over 500 on the southern Serengeti plains. Over hundred seen on the Ngorongoro crater floor.

Impala *Aepyceros melampus*

We saw several herds of these elegant antelopes in Tarangire, Ndutu, Seronera and our Serengeti lodge.

Topi / Tsessebe *Damaliscus lunatus*

Ten to twenty seen daily in Serengeti

Kongoni / Hartebeest *Alcephalus busephalus*

Ten to fifty seen daily at Ndutu and Serengeti. Also seen in the Ngorongoro crater.

Blue Wildebeest *Connochaetes taurinus*

First seen in excited herds of about fifty at our accommodation near Lake Manyara. Hundreds seen on the western slopes of the Ngorongoro crater. Ten to hundred thousands in Serengeti.

One morning, they arrived below our camp. Over thousand seen inside the Ngorongoro crater, and heard from our accommodation on the Ngorongoro crater rim.