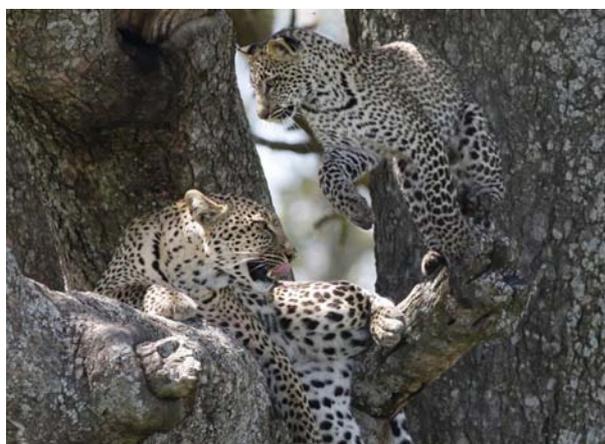


Tanzania

Birds & Big Cats

Tue 7th – Sat 18th May 2013



*(Trip photos, clockwise from top left): A majestic pair of **Crowned Eagles** at their nest in Arusha NP • A **Dwarf Bittern** takes flight at Lake Manyara • Two cute **Black-eared Foxes**, Ndotu • Dancing **Grey Crowned Cranes** • A studious **Secretarybird** watches the grass for prey • Two **Leopards** - a mother and her cub – stole the show at the Serengeti © all photos courtesy of tour leaders Callan Cohen & Dierdre Vrancken*

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



(Trip photos, clockwise from top left): Typically, **Grey-crested Helmetshrikes** move about in small groups, Serengeti • Spectacular in flight, a **Hartlaub's Turaco** flashes its red wings • Not quite so pretty, a **Wattled Starling** • Two **Zebra** take a drink as they rest from migration • A **Yellow-collared Lovebird** approaches its nest hole at Tarangire • Too cute for its own good – a **Senegal Lesser Galago** © all photos courtesy of tour leaders Callan Cohen & Dierdre Vrancken

Trip Diary

Tour Leader: Callan Cohen

with Keith Bedford, Jane Gardner, Mel Horner, Bob Jezzard, Keith Perry, Ruth Samways, Katharine Spry, Leo Tiernan and Robert & Ann Wallace

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. Airport formalities were easy, and we were soon heading to our accommodation. Overlooking a wetland in rural Tanzania, our lodge pleasantly welcomed us with a vibrant, night-time chorus of Painted Reed Frog and Bubbling Cassina. Barely checked in, some of us had a quick look to see the bouncy Small-eared Galago - whose cries later echoed through the night! This giant bushbaby looked more like a Madagascan lemur than any other African primate.

The next morning, our sunrise breakfast alongside the wetland was bursting with birds and the lifers flowed quickly, with more widespread species such as Grosbeak Weaver, White-browed Coucal, Black-crowned Night Heron, Purple Swamphen and dainty Black Crake, contrasting with Taveta Golden Weaver, a regional endemic, a rare overwintering Malagasy Pond Heron and two male Little Bittern displaying! Our lodge was situated on the edge of Arusha National Park, directly between the peaks of Kilimanjaro and Mt Meru, and on our first morning there, we could see Meru's jagged, volcanic peak from our breakfast table.

Arusha National Park protects the lush montane forests on the slopes of Mt Meru and we spent the next day exploring this area. Bird highlights include a nesting pair of Crowned Eagle right above us (one bird bringing branches to the nest!), African Cuckoo Hawk, Black Sparrowhawk, Martial Eagle, African Moustached Warbler and two stunning Hartlaub's Turacos. A male Tambourine Dove and White-necked Raven joined us at lunch. The Momella lakes were filled with Greater and Lesser Flamingoes, and en route we watched the beautiful White-fronted Bee-eater build its nest in the sandy bank, plus African Pygmy Kingfisher, Bronze Sunbird, Spot-flanked Barbet and several Brown-hooded Kingfisher perched at eye-level.

Inside the forest, the local Kenrick's Starlings perched beautifully in a dead tree, with White-eared Barbet, Black-headed Oriole and nearby a stunning pair of Narina Trogons. The mammals were superb too; beautiful Sykes's Monkeys sat overhead, while shaggy Guereza Colobus Monkeys swung between lichen-festooned trees, their fluffy white tails swaying along like ghosts in the forest - some carried fully white newborns. Harvey's Red Duiker and Suni scuttled off through the undergrowth. A Kirk's Dik-dik rubbed a twig along its pre-orbital gland to mark its territory, and at the lush swamp of Little Serengeti, we saw our first Cape Buffalo wallow, Plains Zebra harem, Giraffe tower, Common Waterbuck (with the white toilet-seat buttocks) and an elegant female Bushbuck. To end our Arusha safari, the normally shy Scaly Francolin posed in full view on the road, while Long-crested Eagle perched above.

The baobab-studded savannas of the Tarangire National Park and shores of Lake Manyara were the focus of our next two-night stay, and we enjoyed superb mammals and birding. We watched African Elephant just six feet from us - a mother with baby, rotating her trunk around a bunch of grass, as she slowly moved along with the herd. We watched another herd covered in chocolate-brown sand walk up the hill, while a big bull in musth crossed the river below us. It was a breathtaking scene showing the whole of Tarangire unfold, with the Acacia parkland dotted with Baobab trees below the Rift Valley mountains beyond. We added more raptors to our list, such as African Fish Eagle, Bateleur, Pygmy Falcon and the delightful Pearl-spotted Owlet, as well as the impressive Lappet-faced Vulture.

The game drives were packed with a diversity of African woodland species: Eastern Grey Woodpecker, Bare-faced Go-away-bird and White-bellied Go-away-bird, as well as the endemic Ashy Starling, Rufous-tailed Weaver and Yellow-collared Lovebird. Swarms of Red-billed Quelea buzzed in the green grasslands, while Black-faced Sandgrouse and Double-banded Courser allowed intimate

views. We encountered as many as three mongoose species: Egyptian, Banded and Slender Mongoose, plus welcoming us at the gate were Ochre Bush Squirrel and Vervet Monkey, the latter with bright blue testicles (!). Here, Olive Baboon gave us a particularly entertaining show: a large male, a female and several youngsters sat neatly in a line along a dead tree trunk. Chaos ensued when a cheeky young male rushed in, the female stormed down, flashing her pink eyelids and huge upper teeth - the youngsters all hiding and hanging on for dear life!

Our lodge nearby 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, Black-backed Jackal play around the rooms in the early morning, Plains Zebra drink from the waterhole, Impala and Blue Wildebeest rock as they chase each other in rut. During our open-air meals, we were entertained by the impressive African Harrier-hawk, Collared Pratincoles, Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu and Scarlet-chested Sunbirds.

Game drives from the lodge showed Striped Kingfisher and Grey Crowned Crane atop a tree, an immature Saddle-billed Stork, Black-faced Sandgrouse passing through, a V-shaped flock of more than 40 Sacred Ibis, Western Cattle Egret, 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 and the very blue Woodland Kingfisher. On the way out, we added excellent views of Village Indigobird (a brood parasite of Red-billed Firefinch), Golden-backed Weaver, Southern Red Bishop, Cardinal Weaver and then Dwarf Bittern - not just one but two! They popped up from the reeds and perched in two trees. We soaked up the fantastic 'scope views at length. More birds were Long-tailed Fiscal, Wattled Starling, White Stork and a Black-headed Heron striking for a rat that escaped through its legs!

Next, we headed up via the Lake Manyara escarpment - briefly stopping en route to admire the scenery and to spot any birds flying over the lush ground-water forest. We continued through the cool of the Ngorongoro crater rim (where we would spend our last two nights) and dropped down again to the western plateau 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. Entering the short grass plains we watched the most incredible scenery unfold. A storm hung in the air. The sun lit the dry lands of the Gol Mountains up under a threatening dark charcoal sky, interspersed by a few fluffy white clouds. Once we passed the current Maasai grazing lands, wildlife came streaming in: Spotted Hyena, Golden Jackal, our first herds of Thomson's Gazelle, a few Grant's Gazelle, Plains Zebra, Secretarybird, Black-winged Lapwing, Tawny Eagle, Northern White-crowned Shrike and Grey-breasted Spurfowl.

After some obligatory tea and cookies at the lodge, we had barely departed on a game drive when we encountered a pride of Lions lazing about just around the corner from the lodge! Heading onto the plains, we encountered our first few thousand Blue Wildebeest and found two Cheetah, taking turns to chew a Blue Wildebeest calf! On our way back, White-headed Vultures joined in, while Black-backed Jackal and African Hoopoe popped up along the way. In the beautiful soft evening light, an Elephant herd approached, all walking in one line, a huge herd of Blue Wildebeest and Plains Zebra stood behind, a few large flat-topped acacias rose in between and Ngorongoro crater featured in the background - what a scene!

The night was eventful, with Lion roaring so close to our windows that many of us woke up! And our morning game drive was superb, with Bat-eared Foxes playing at their den, young Lions sparring and then stalking Kongoni, Elephant trumpeting and superb birding. Kittlitz' Plover, Little Stint, Three-banded Plover, Chestnut-banded Plover, Yellow-throated Sandgrouse starred at a nearby wetland, while Pygmy Falcon, Lappet-faced Vulture, Fischer's Sparrow-lark, Double-banded Courser, Hildebrandt's Starling appeared in the surrounding woodland. Eventually, as we departed our very relaxed lodge, we enjoyed close views of Yellow-winged Bat.

En route across the southern Serengeti plains, we fell amidst the utterly moving spectacle of the great migration: thousands of Blue Wildebeest, hundreds of Eland, Topi, Grant's Gazelles and in between, black-and-white Plains Zebra leading the great move! From atop Naabi Hill, towards the north, we watched the herds spread across the vast Serengeti landscape. Further north, we soaked up the sounds and smells, as we stood amongst several thousands of Blue Wildebeest, intermingled with Plains Zebra, ruminating and resting,

Our next three nights would be at a lodge in the central Serengeti and we did forays from here to fully explore the area. Blue Wildebeest had just calved two months before and were accompanied by clumsy youngsters. Of course, large predators were out in full force to gorge on the satiating supply of tender meat. Amongst the greatest highlight was finding a female Leopard with her cub - who came down from a Sausage tree straight to us and spent the best part of 20 minutes exploring the road alongside us. The cub walked several times under our vehicle, and seemed still wary on its feet, keeping low when tip-toeing across the muddy spots. We watched them drink from the puddle of water formed in the tyre marks, rub faces against each other, and wind tails around each others, before they climbed up in another Sausage Tree. All of this without seeing another vehicle! Once the word got out that we had been the only vehicle to find Leopard that morning, we moved on. Lions were lazing about too.

One early morning, it was still and a big swathe of mist lay over the plains. The hilly kopjes stuck out in a clear blue sky. Then, in the thick mist, appeared two Lionesses. As they walked along the road, they allowed us to follow them and watch their early morning exploration. Their beautiful eyes lit up in the early morning sun, and with their nose sniffing the air, it looked as if they might hunt those baby Giraffe nearby. When a Spotted Hyena came on the scene and got scent of the lions, he suddenly turned 90 degrees and rushed off - flushing a Coqui's Francolin! Another morning, we watched a pair of Lions high up on a sandbank. They seemed to be lazing about. But suddenly, the female stood up, walked to the male and rubbed her face against his. Before we knew it, we watched them mate!

On top of all of this was our really great accommodation with more than enough food to deal with! We had a beautiful pool to refresh us in the warm afternoons, and nocturnal wildlife to entertain us before breakfast and dinner. One of the highlights was the lightning fast flashes of movement when we walked to dinner. Upon closer look, these were the very obliging Lesser Bush Baby or Senegal Galago that jumped around our rooms. They licked the gum of the Acacia trees and were followed by the fast and small Acacia Rat. Above these, we then spotted a group of about 20 Wahlberg's Epauletted Fruit Bats and a few Yellow-winged Bats.

The birds were superb. Large eagles and vultures were abundant, with five species of vulture recorded. 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.

Focused birding bouts brought about Von der Decken's and Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbills, Nubian Woodpecker, Red-throated Tit, Brubru, Pearl-spotted Owlet, African Grey Flycatcher, Tawny-flanked Prinia, Cardinal Woodpecker, Red-faced Crombec, Arrow-marked Babbler, Brown-crowned Tchagra, Beautiful Sunbird, Hildebrandt's Starling, Abyssinian Scimitarbill, Bare-faced Go-away-bird, the long-tailed Tabora Cisticola, and Red-headed Weaver. Near Seronera, a pod of Hippopotamus wallowed - one even rolling over completely - and crocodile eyes popped up above the water. Rock and Bush Hyrax (or "dassie"s) soaked up the sun on the kopjes. Dwarf Mongoose dashed across the road and Banded Mongoose scouted from atop their termite mound. A troop of Vervet Monkey climbed into an acacia, holding it with full might and scraping off and licking off the gum. On the plains, two Secretarybird nearly walked right past a family of White-bellied Bustard. Black-backed Jackal trotted past and the stunning Serval appeared only a few metres from us, before it snuck away into the tall grass.

In the riverine woodland, Green-backed Heron stood fishing, White-backed Vulture sat on its nest, and a huge troop of Olive Baboons ruled the road. Many youngsters, some riding jockey-style on another, and a few pink-faced newborns stole the show and surrounded our vehicles. Beautiful Defassa Waterbuck stood below the flat-topped Acacias and some Impala males snorted as they ran towards each other pushing horns against each other's. Enormous Cape Buffalo stood ruminating at the lake, alongside some Greater and more Lesser Flamingos. A group of Giraffe was particularly interesting. While the males were courting the females, the youngsters walked alongside them, observing closely. Each male followed his female closely. And when she stopped, just as he could mount her, she jumped forward and the poor fellow just landed on air and sand! And so the sequence repeated itself on and on, as they walked in huge circles.

When time had come to head out south, we encountered a large group of thousands of Blue Wildebeest on the move - impressive how quickly they moved and all turned in synchrony to soon disappear out of view. Predators were about; we spotted a Lion, another Serval, a Spotted Hyena trotting around with a Plains Zebra leg in its mouth, and another with a gazelle femur. Suddenly, an enormous front of Blue Wildebeest came thundering towards us. We found ourselves among thousands of wildebeest and hundreds of Plains Zebra and some Grant's Gazelle, wanting to cross the road. And from atop a nearby hill, we watched thousands more coming from the south. Here we also had some excellent focused birding: Silverbird, Superb and Hildebrandt's Starling and Black-faced Waxbill all posed obligingly. At our feet, Acacia Rats ran through the grass and the Mwanza Flat-headed Agama basked on the rocks.

Back on the short grass plains, Olduvai (named after the Maasai word for wild sisal, *oldupai*) Gorge museum brought insight into the discoveries that led to much of today's understanding of human evolution. It also entertained with Rufous Chatterer, Speckle-fronted Weaver, Viteline Masked Weaver, and Ground Agama. Continuing east, we admired the extravagant male Straw-tailed Whydah, in full breeding garb (this is a great time to visit Tanzania as all the birds are in breeding plumage!) and an Abyssinian Wheatear. Here, over 30 Giraffe treated us with another fantastic spectacle. Young males gathered, faced each other, and lowering their neck. With a sway of the head, they threw each other's horns onto each other's necks in a beautiful test of strength. This necking scene was only made more stunning as the Serengeti plains and Gol mountains could be seen in the distance below.

Our next destination was the iconic Ngorongoro Crater, where our two nights in the crater-edge hotel were perfect to explore the grassy caldera below and the ridge forests and grasslands. We sipped our sundowners, watching the light fade over the crater floor and hearing the hyenas whoop.

Leaving the Maasai grazing lands, we entered the crater rim forest. Augur Buzzard were numerous here, with White-browed Robin-chat in the shrubs and Rock Martin along the cliffs. The crater teemed with wildlife and despite the high expectations, it did not disappoint. Lazy Lions snoozed near the vehicle (we had a vehicle with an open roof for great viewing), majestic bull Elephants stood by the crater cliff walls, thousands of pink Lesser Flamingo fed on the lakeshore, vultures flapped off the kills, Kori Bustard sunned themselves, Black-bellied Bustard crept through the fields of yellow and pink flowers, Spotted Hyena and Golden Jackal trotted past, the highlights could go on. Jackson's Widowbirds danced like bouncing pingpong balls up and down the grasslands. We also saw African Spoonbill, Great White and Pink-backed Pelicans, 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).

Out in the distance, we spotted Eland on the plains, and further at the edge of Lerai Forest, a pair of Black Rhinoceros! A Vervet Monkey stripped grass seeds at our feet. And as we explored this beautiful forest with Flat-topped Acacia trees and Sausage trees, we watched an elegant male Bushbuck and a distant Lioness, lying lazily in a Sausage tree. Among a patch of flowers on the crater rim, we watched a feeding frenzy of tens of the stunning Golden-winged Sunbird, Tacazze Sunbird, Dusky Turtle Dove, Tropical Boubou, Beautiful Sunbird and Eastern Double-collared Sunbird.

After two nights here, our journey back homewards took us back down along the Lake Manyara escarpment, where we celebrated our final lunch overlooking the lake. Back at Arusha, we refreshed in our day rooms and toasted with drinks in front of the snow-capped peaks of Kilimanjaro, which put on an 11th-hour display for us in the late afternoon!

Full 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. If you have photographs that need identifying, please let Callan know.

Deirdre Vrancken & Callan Cohen

[Full 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 are unidentified, please let Callan know and he will do his best to fill in the gaps.]

ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS

(A total of 356 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 Ser (=Serengeti)

Shelley's Francolin *Scleroptila shelleyi* Heard at Ser lodge

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

Scaly Francolin *Pternistis squamatus* Seen well ANP (=Arusha National Park)

Hildebrandt's Francolin *Pternistis hildebrandti* Seen well Ngorongoto Crater, on the road

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

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix* Heard in the NC (=Ngorongoto Crater)

Harlequin Quail *Coturnix delegorguei* Many flushed at Ndutu with some great views!

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata* Seen well at Lake Manyara

Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor* Seen by some at Lake Manyara

White-backed Duck *Thalassornis leuconotus* Seen well in ANP

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis* Seen ANP and crater

Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos* Fantastic views Tarangire

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca* Common and widespread

Cape Teal *Anas capensis* Seen ANP and other saline lakes

Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhyncha* Seen well in the crater

Hottentot Teal *Anas hottentota* Seen Ser

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* Incredible views at their colony near Lake Manyara

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* Seen on the Serengeti plains among the wildebeest!

Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis* Seen Manyara and the crater

Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumenifer* Small numbers seen well, including feeding on a kill in the Serengeti

African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus* Excellent views ANP and more later

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash* Seen and heard ANP

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* Seen Serengeti

African Spoonbill *Platalea alba* Seen Serengeti and Manyara

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* Amazing views of displaying males at our lodge near ANP

Dwarf Bittern *Ixobrychus sturmii* Excellent views of this nomadic species at Lake Manyara

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* Seen near ANP

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* Seen Lake Manyara and Serengeti

Malagasy Pond Heron *Ardeola idae* Amazing views of two at our lodge near ANP

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* Quite common

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

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala* Quite common in grassy fields and towns

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

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* Seen in the Serengeti

Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens* Seen near Lake Manyara

White-breasted Cormorant *Phalacrocorax lucidus* Seen Lake Manyara

Secretarybird *Sagittarius serpentarius* Fantastic views of a number in the Serengeti and Nduu

African Cuckoo-Hawk *Aviceda cuculoides* Seen in ANP

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* Small numbers along roadsides, but large numbers Nduu & Serengeti

Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius* Great views in the crater!

African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer* First seen in ANP and then Tarangire

Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus* Seen in the central Serengeti

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

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

White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis* Seen by some Nduu and Serengeti

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

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

- Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus* Wonderfully common in the big parks!
- African Harrier-Hawk** *Polyboroides typus* Great views Manyara
- Dark Chanting Goshawk** *Melierax metabates* Small numbers in the Serengeti
- Eastern Chanting Goshawk** *Melierax poliopterus* Seen at Oldupai
- Gabar Goshawk** *Micronisus gabar* Small numbers, seen well Nduu
- Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter rufiventris* Seen flying past our crater lodge and also on ascent road
- Black Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter melanoleucus* Seen in ANP and near our Arusha lodge
- Mountain Buzzard** *Buteo oreophilus* Seen in ANP
- 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
- Martial Eagle** *Polemaetus bellicosus* Good views in ANP and in the Serengeti
- Long-crested Eagle** *Lophaetus occipitalis* Great views ANP
- Crowned Eagle** *Stephanoaetus coronatus* Incredible extended views at nest in ANP!!!
- Pygmy Falcon** *Polihierax semitorquatus* Great views Tarangire and a number of times in the Serengeti
- Greater Kestrel** *Falco rupicoloides* A few seen on the Serengeti plains
- Kori Bustard** *Ardeotis kori* Fantastic views of the world's heaviest flying bird in the Serengeti and crater
- White-bellied Bustard** *Eupodotis senegalensis* Great views in the Serengeti
- Black-bellied Bustard** *Lissotis melanogaster* Great views in the crater
- Red-chested Flufftail** *Sarothrura rufa*
- African Rail** *Rallus caerulescens* Heard at our lodge near ANP
- Black Crake** *Amaurornis flavirostra* Good views in the Serengeti, and near ANP
- Baillon's Crake** *Porzana pusilla* A crake seen too briefly in Tarangire was probably this species
- African Swamphen** *Porphyrio madagascariensis* Seen well near our ANP lodge
- Allen's Gallinule** *Porphyrio alleni* Seen well near our ANP lodge
- Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* Heard from the marsh at our ANP lodge
- Red-knobbed Coot** *Fulica cristata* Seen in the Serengeti
- Grey Crowned Crane** *Balearica regulorum* Great views ANP and crater
- Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus* Small numbers at many waterbodies
- Pied Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta* Seen by some at Manyara
- Blacksmith Lapwing** *Vanellus armatus* Common around wetlands
- Black-winged Lapwing** *Vanellus melanopterus* Small numbers on the short grass plains near Nduu
- Crowned Lapwing** *Vanellus coronatus* Very common on dry grassy plains
- Kittlitz's Plover** *Charadrius pecuarius* This distinctive plover seen in the crater and Nduu
- 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 Nduu

- African Jacana** *Actophilornis africanus* Seen in ANP
- Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* Small numberd at scattered sites e.g. Ndotu
- Little Stint** *Calidris minuta* Small numberd at scattered sites esp. Ndotu
- Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea* Seen Ndotu
- Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax* Small numberd at scattered sites esp. Ndotu
- Double-banded Courser** *Rhinoptilus africanus* Commonly seen, esp. Tarangire and Ndotu!
- Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola* Fantastic views Manyara!
- Grey-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus* Small numbers esp. crater
- Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica* Small numbers on the plains near Ndotu near the wildebeest herds
- Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida* Seen in breeding plumage in the crater
- Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** *Pterocles exustus* Seen well near Manyara esp. the Ndotu waterholes!
- Yellow-throated Sandgrouse** *Pterocles gutturalis* Good views on the Serengeti plains (also Ndotu and crater)
- Black-faced Sandgrouse** *Pterocles decoratus* Seen Manyara, great views Serengeti
- Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia* Seen near Tarangire
- Speckled Pigeon** *Columba guinea* Small numbers throughout, often in rocky places or towns
- African Olive Pigeon** *Columba arquatrix* This fruit-eater seen in the crater rim forests
- Dusky Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia lugens* Common in open areas on the crater rim, including our hotel
- Mourning Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decipiens* Quite common in acacia woodland from Tarangire to Ndotu, and the airport
- Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata* Seen near ANP
- Ring-necked Dove** *Streptopelia capicola* Very common!
- Laughing Dove** *Stigmatopelia senegalensis* Very common!
- Emerald-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur chalcospilos* Seen ANP and a few places afterwards
- Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistria* Seen ANP
- Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis* Small numbers in dry areas, mainly Tarangire onwards
- African Green Pigeon** *Treron calvus* This brightly-coloured species was quite camouflaged feeding on figs in the Serengeti
- Fischer's Lovebird** *Agapornis fischeri* Common Ndotu and also Serengeti!
- Yellow-collared Lovebird** *Agapornis personatus* Common Tarangire and Manyara
- Meyer's Parrot** *Poicephalus meyeri* Great views Serengeti
- Schalow's Turaco** *Tauraco schalowi* Seen in the crater forest
- 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* Great views Tarangire & Manyara
- White-browed Coucal** *Centropus superciliosus* Widespread in small numbers throughout
- Jacobin Cuckoo** *Clamator jacobinus* Seen Tarangire
- Diederik Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx caprius* Seen very well at Manyara and many other places

- Klaas's Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx klaas* Heard a few times but evaded a sight view!
- African Emerald Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx cupreus* Heard ANP
- Red-chested Cuckoo** *Cuculus solitarius* Seen Tarangire and Manyara and heard elsewhere
- African Cuckoo** *Cuculus gularis* Seen Ndutu
- African Scops Owl** *Otus senegalensis* Heard at our Serengeti lodge
- Verreaux's Eagle-Owl** *Bubo lacteus* Heard at Manyara
- African Wood Owl** *Strix woodfordii* Heard at our lodge near ANP
- Pearl-spotted Owlet** *Glaucidium perlatum* Small numbers seen well from Tarangire onwards; often mobbed by small birds
- Montane Nightjar** *Caprimulgus poliocephalus* Heard by Callan at our crater rim lodge just before dinner
- Slender-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus clarus* Amazing views at our Manyara lodge at dusk
- Scarce Swift** *Schoutedenapus myoptilus* Good views Arusha NP (=ANP) and on the crater rim. The nest has never been found!
- African Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus* This slender swift quite common around palms at Lake Manyara
- Little Swift** *Apus affinis* Very common especially around buildings where they nest
- Horus Swift** *Apus horus* Common in the river gully at ANP
- 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 Tarangire
- Narina Trogon** *Apaloderma narina* Fantastic views ANP!
- Lilac-breasted Roller** *Coracias caudatus* Very common, luckily for the photographers!
- Grey-headed Kingfisher** *Halcyon leucocephala* Seen Manyara and Serengeti
- Brown-hooded Kingfisher** *Halcyon albiventris* Seen ANP
- Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti* Seen Manyara
- Woodland Kingfisher** *Halcyon senegalensis* Seen in small numbers from Manyara onwards
- African Pygmy Kingfisher** *Ispidina picta* Good views in Arusha NP
- Malachite Kingfisher** *Corythornis cristata* Seen Manyara
- Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis* Seen Manyara
- Little Bee-eater** *Merops pusillus* Very pleasantly common
- Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater** *Merops oreobates* Seen in the crater forest
- White-fronted Bee-eater** *Merops bullockoides* Seen at their nest in ANP
- Blue-cheeked Bee-eater** *Merops persicus* Many flocks too high to say whether this species or Olive
- Olive Bee-eater** *Merops superciliosus* Flocks flying too high to say where this or Blue-cheeked
- African Hoopoe** *Upupa africana* Widespread and seen well many times, esp. Ndutu
- Green Wood Hoopoe** *Phoeniculus purpureus* Scattered sightings from Tarangire to Serengeti

- Abyssinian Scimitarbill** *Rhinopomastus minor* Scattered sightings from Tarangire to Serengeti
- 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* Great views ANP and crater rim
- White-eared Barbet** *Stactolaema leucotis* Great views ANP
- Moustached Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus leucomystax* Heard ANP & crater forests
- Red-fronted Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus pusillus* Seen by some in the Serengeti
- Red-fronted Barbet** *Tricholaema diademata* Heard only in the Serengeti (Naabi)
- Spot-flanked Barbet** *Tricholaema lacrymosa* Seen ANP
- Red-and-yellow Barbet** *Trachyphonus erythrocephalus* Seen Tarangire and near Manyara
- 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* Heard Tarangire
- Scaly-throated Honeyguide** *Indicator variegatus* Heard ANP
- Greater Honeyguide** *Indicator indicator* Heard Tarangire
- Nubian Woodpecker** *Campethera nubica* Seen Serengeti
- Golden-tailed Woodpecker** *Campethera abingoni* Heard ANP
- Cardinal Woodpecker** *Dendropicos fuscescens* Seen Serengeti
- Bearded Woodpecker** *Dendropicos namaquus* Seen Tarangire & Ndutu
- Eastern Grey Woodpecker** *Dendropicos spodocephalus* Small numbers seen well, Tarangire & crater. Sometimes called African Grey-headed Woodpecker, and sometimes lumped with African Grey Woodpecker.
- Chinspot Batis** *Batis molitor* Seen ANP
- Black-throated Wattle-eye** *Platysteira peltata* Heard ANP near the Crowned Eagle
- Grey-crested Helmetshrike** *Prionops poliophus* Great views in the central Serengeti
- Orange-breasted Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus* Heard a few places (e.g. Serengeti) but not seen
- Rosy-patched Bushshrike** *Rhodophoneus cruentus* Great views on top of a tree near Manyara!
- Brown-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra australis* Widespread in small numbers
- Black-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra senegalus* Heard on the edge of the crater
- Black-backed Puffback** *Dryoscopus cubla* Seen ANP and elsewhere
- Slate-colored Boubou** *Laniarius funebris* Quite common in the Serengeti
- Tropical Boubou** *Laniarius major* Seen in the crater forests; heard ANP
- Brubru** *Nilaus afer* Seen Tarangire and the Serengeti
- Magpie Shrike** *Urolestes melanoleucus* Groups quite common from Tarangire onwards

- Northern White-crowned Shrike** *Eurocephalus ruppelli* Groups quite common from Tarangire onwards
- Grey-backed Fiscal** *Lanius excubitoroides* Family groups common in the Serengeti
- Long-tailed Fiscal** *Lanius cabanisi* Common 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* Seen well ANP
- Fork-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus adsimilis* Small numbers throughout bush country
- African Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone viridis* Seen ANP and a few other times
- Cape Crow** *Corvus capensis* Small numbers west of the crater
- Pied Crow** *Corvus albus* Common on roadsides through towns and farms
- White-necked Raven** *Corvus albicollis* Common along the crater rim (and tame at ANP!)
- Red-throated Tit** *Parus fringillinus* Great views Serengeti
- Grey [African] Penduline Tit** *Anthoscopus caroli* Seen in the Serengeti
- Singing Bush Lark** *Mirafra cantillans* Heard in display near Manyara
- White-tailed Lark** *Mirafra albicauda* Seen 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 and Oldupai in bush country
- Red-capped Lark** *Calandrella cinerea* Very common on low grassy plains and road edges in the Serengeti and Ngorongoro
- Athi Short-toed Lark** *Calandrella athensis* Just one seen near Ndutu
- Fischer's Sparrow-Lark** *Eremopterix leucopareia* Abundant in grasslands and bare ground throughout
- Dark-capped Bulbul** *Pycnonotus tricolor* Common and widespread!
- Mountain Greenbul** *Arizelocichla nigriceps* Seen ANP
- Stripe-faced Greenbul** *Arizelocichla striifacies* Seen ANP
- Little Greenbul** *Eurillas virens* Heard ANP and elsewhere
- Yellow-bellied Greenbul** *Chlorocichla flaviventris* Heard in thickets near Manyara
- Placid Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus placidus* Heard in ANP
- Black Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne pristopectera* Common ANP and the crater rim
- Brown-throated [Plain] Martin** *Riparia paludicola* Quite common around wetlands in ANP
- Banded Martin** *Riparia cincta* A few in the Serengeti and common in the crater
- Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii* Common near water, excellent views in ANP
- Rock Martin** *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* Quite common near cliffs and buildings, esp crater
- Lesser Striped Swallow** *Cecropis abyssinica* Quite common around our lodges where they are making their long mud nests
- Mosque Swallow** *Cecropis senegalensis* Seen well Tarangire
- Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica* Small numbers crater and Serengeti

- Moustached Grass Warbler** *Melocichla mentalis* Amazing views ANP!
- Red-faced Crombec** *Sylvietta whytii* Small numbers of this tail-less bird widespread, esp. Serengeti!
- Brown Woodland Warbler** *Phylloscopus umbrovirens* Heard in the crater forests
- Lesser Swamp Warbler** *Acrocephalus gracilirostris* Seen at our lodge near ANP
- Dark-capped Yellow Warbler** *Iduna natalensis* Heard ANP
- Little Rush Warbler** *Bradypterus baboecala* Heard near ANP
- Cinnamon Bracken Warbler** *Bradypterus cinnamomeus* Seen in the crater forests
- Red-faced Cisticola** *Cisticola erythropis* Seen in the crater and near ANP
- Singing Cisticola** *Cisticola cantans* Great views ANP
- Trilling Cisticola** *Cisticola woosnami* Great views ANP
- Hunter's Cisticola** *Cisticola hunteri* Seen in the crater highlands
- Rattling Cisticola** *Cisticola chiniana* Very common and noisy in bush country!
- Winding Cisticola** *Cisticola marginatus* Common on wetland edges, esp Tarangire and crater
- Croaking Cisticola** *Cisticola natalensis* Great views of this huge cisticola in the Serengeti
- Short-winged Cisticola** *Cisticola brachypterus* Seen well in ANP
- Long-tailed Cisticola** *Cisticola angusticauda* Seen well in the central Serengeti
- Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis* Seen and heard Tarangire and Serengeti
- Desert Cisticola** *Cisticola aridulus* Seen in the Serengeti
- Pectoral-patch Cisticola** *Cisticola brunnescens* Amazingly common in the crater (and open plains of Ndotu)
- Tawny-flanked Prinia** *Prinia subflava* Seen well ANP and small numbers throughout
- Buff-bellied Warbler** *Phyllolais pulchella* Seen in the canopy of acacia trees from Tarangire to Serengeti
- Yellow-breasted Apalis** *Apalis flavida* This little warbler seen in the Serengeti
- Black-headed Apalis** *Apalis melanocephala* Seen in ANP
- Brown-headed Apalis** *Apalis alticola* Heard at the crater forest gate
- Grey-capped Warbler** *Eminia lepida* Heard in the crater forests
- Grey-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brevicaudata* Small numbers throughout but quite skulking
- Rufous Chatterer** *Turdoides rubiginosa* Great views at Oldupai
- Black-lored Babbler** *Turdoides sharpei* Common Ndotu to Serengeti
- Arrow-marked Babbler** *Turdoides jardineii* Seen around our lodge in the Serengeti
- Northern Pied Babbler** *Turdoides hypoleuca* Seen Tarangire
- African Hill Babbler** *Pseudoalcippe abyssinica* Heard ANP and crater rim forests
- Banded Parisoma** *Sylvia boehmi* Small numbers heard in the canopy of acacias
- Montane White-eye** *Zosterops polioastrus* Seen ANP and crater forests
- Wattled Starling** *Creatophora cinerea* Very common, and lots with the migrating wildebeest. Amazing displays at the nest
- 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 crater hotel
- Waller's Starling** *Onychognathus walleri* Seen crater rim
- Kenrick's Starling** *Poeoptera kenricki* Seen ANP
- Yellow-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus africanus* Mostly seen in the Serengeti
- Red-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus erythrorhynchus* Seen very well in ANP and Manyara
- Abyssinian [Mountain] Thrush** *Turdus abyssinicus* Seen crater hotel
- White-starred Robin** *Pogonocichla stellata* Seen ANP
- Cape Robin-Chat** *Cossypha caffra* Seen ANP and the crater rim
- Rueppell's Robin-Chat** *Cossypha semirufa* Heard ANP
- White-browed Robin-Chat** *Cossypha heuglini* Seen in crater
- Collared Palm Thrush** *Cichladusa arquata* Seen Manyara
- Spotted Palm Thrush** *Cichladusa guttata* Seen Manyara
- White-browed Scrub Robin** *Erythropygia leucophrys* Seen Tarangire and Serengeti
- African Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus* Seen well ANP and 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 crater
- Anteater Chat** *Myrmecocichla aethiops* Great views in the crater
- White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher** *Dioptrornis fischeri* Seen ANP and crater forests
- African Grey Flycatcher** *Bradornis microrhynchus* Family groups in dry acacia country, from Tarangire onwards
- Silverbird** *Empidonax semipartitus* Great views from Manyara to the Serengeti
- Ashy Flycatcher** *Muscicapa caerulea* Seen near Arusha
- African Dusky Flycatcher** *Muscicapa adusta* Good views of this dumpy flycatcher in ANP
- Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris* Seen ANP
- Olive Sunbird** *Cyanomitra olivacea* Heard ANP
- Amethyst Sunbird** *Chalcomitra amethystina* Seen ANP
- Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra senegalensis* This striking sunbird was common, often in lodge grounds!
- Tacazze Sunbird** *Nectarinia tacazze* Great views at our crater rim lodge
- Bronzy Sunbird** *Nectarinia kilimensis* Seen on the crater rim
- Malachite Sunbird** *Nectarinia famosa* Seen on the crater rim
- Golden-winged Sunbird** *Drepanorhynchus reichenowi* Amazing views of many males on the crater rim
- Eastern Double-collared Sunbird** *Cinnyris mediocris* Seen well in the crater forests and our crater lodge

- Beautiful Sunbird** *Cinnyris pulchellus* Small numbers in dry bush such as near Arusha
- Marico Sunbird** *Cinnyris mariquensis* Seen in the Serengeti
- Variable Sunbird** *Cinnyris venustus* Common in dry bush, mainly seen around the airport, ANP
- Rufous-tailed Weaver** *Hirundo ruficauda* This endemic very common from Tarangire onwards
- Grey-capped Social Weaver** *Pseudonigrita arnaudi* Very common in the Serengeti
- House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* Common around the Manyara, Olduvai, etc
- Kenya Sparrow** *Passer rufocinctus* Seen Serengeti and crater
- Northern Grey-headed Sparrow** *Passer griseus* Common east of the rift, eg Arusha, Tarangire
- Swahili Sparrow** *Passer suahelicus* Common Serengeti and Ndutu
- Chestnut Sparrow** *Passer eminibey* Seen near Manyara
- Yellow-spotted Petronia** *Gymnoris pyrgita* Seen Serengeti
- Red-billed Buffalo Weaver** *Bubalornis niger* Very common!
- White-headed Buffalo Weaver** *Dinemellia dinemelli* Very common - and especially conspicuous in flight!
- Speckle-fronted Weaver** *Sporopipes frontalis* Small numbers in dry country throughout!
- Thick-billed Weaver** *Amblyospiza albifrons* Seen ANP and near our lodge there
- Baglafaecht Weaver** *Ploceus baglafaecht* Seen well on the crater rim and ANP
- Spectacled Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis* Seen in the crater
- Holub's Golden Weaver** *Ploceus xanthops* Seen near our Serengeti lodge
- Taveta Weaver** *Ploceus castaneiceps* Great views of this local species in ANP, and at our lodge
- Lesser Masked Weaver** *Ploceus intermedius* Seen Tarangire
- Vitelline Masked Weaver** *Ploceus vitellinus* Small numbers throughout esp. Olduvai
- Speke's Weaver** *Ploceus spekei* Seen very well in the crater!
- Golden-backed Weaver** *Ploceus jacksoni* Seen at our lodge near ANP
- Chestnut Weaver** *Ploceus rubiginosus* Big colonies en route to Manyara
- Red-headed Weaver** *Anaplectes rubriceps* Seen in the Serengeti
- Cardinal Quelea** *Quelea cardinalis* Common around Manyara and Tarangire
- Red-billed Quelea** *Quelea quelea* Big numbers Tarangire
- Black Bishop** *Euplectes gierowii* Seen Tarangire and Oldupai
- Southern Red Bishop** *Euplectes orix* Seen in full plumage at Manyara
- Yellow Bishop** *Euplectes capensis* Seen ANP and crater
- Fan-tailed Widowbird** *Euplectes axillaris* Seen Serengeti and crater
- White-winged Widowbird** *Euplectes albonotatus* Common in the Serengeti
- Red-collared Widowbird** *Euplectes ardens* Common on crater rim in breeding plumage, also ANP.
- Jackson's Widowbird** *Euplectes jacksoni* Great views of the males dancing Masaai-style in the crater!
- Green-winged Pytilia** *Pytilia melba* Seen by some in Tarangire
- Red-billed Firefinch** *Lagonosticta senegala* Small numbers from Arusha onwards

Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu *Uraeginthus bengalus* Small numbers of this smart bird from near Tarangire onwards

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

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild* Seen ANP

Black-faced Waxbill *Estrilda erythronotos* Seen in the Serengeti

African Quailfinch *Ortygospiza fuscocrissa* Common in the Serengeti and tricky to see well

Bronze Mannikin *Lonchura cucullata* Seen ANP

Red-backed Mannikin *Lonchura nigriceps* Seen ANP

Village Indigobird *Vidua chalybeata* Great views Manyara

Dusky Indigobird *Vidua funerea* A singing male in ANP

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura* Males in breeding plumage Manyara and elsewhere

Straw-tailed Whydah *Vidua fischeri* Great views near Olduvai

Long-tailed Paradise Whydah *Vidua paradisaea* Male in display seen Tarangire

Mountain Wagtail *Motacilla clara* Seen well near our Arusha NP lodge

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

Pangani Longclaw *Macronyx aurantiigula* Seen well ANP

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

African Pipit *Anthus cinnamomeus* Quite common on open plains

Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis* Seen ANP and crater descent

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

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

Southern Citril *Crithagra hyposticta* Seen ANP and crater

Reichenow's Seedeater *Crithagra reichenowi* Seen Manyara

White-bellied Canary *Crithagra dorsostriata* Common Ndutu and Serengeti

Streaky Seedeater *Crithagra striolata* Seen on crater rim

MAMMALS

Guereza Colobus *Colobus guereza* These peculiar thumbless monkeys were seen well in Arusha National Park. Their dangling white fluffy tails, make them look like ghosts leaping through the forest, while their white beard (even females have it!) and swollen belly make them look like a monk. We watched a few groups of these black-and-white monkeys in Arusha National Park. Among the first group of about 10 individuals, there were the fragile newborns (completely white!), cute pied juveniles and a lone male Sykes' Monkey. The second troop counted about 20 colobus, again accompanied by about two Sykes' Monkeys.

Olive Baboon *Papio anubis* These cheek-pouch monkeys entertained us almost daily. On our first encounter at Arusha National Park we saw two big males en-route to the Momella Lakes, then a troop in the forest and another near the museum. Particularly memorable was the troop in Tarangire National Park, which contained many youngsters, all sitting in a line along a dead tree trunk, and being chased by a particularly cheeky young male, the female flashed her pink eyelids and hastily grabbed her young... Funny to know the big male does protect the youngsters, even though he actually didn't

father them all! At Ngorongoro Conservation Area gate we apprehensively watched baboons rule the road! A huge troop of more than 40 baboon spread out along the parking, and a dead infant lay among them. As the troop dispersed into the bushes, they left it lying on the ground. We saw several resident troops in the Serengeti, where not too far from our lodge, a huge troop sat in front and behind our vehicles, many youngsters playing about, riding other's backs and a few newborns stealing the show with their cute pink face.

Vervet Monkey *Chlorocebus pygerythrus* Our first Vervet Monkey was seen in at the entrance of Tarangire National Park. A male, and its striking blue testicles, amused us while we birded the parking area. In Serengeti NP, we were so lucky to have a few sit in the acacia trees between our rooms - the black face and long whiskers lit up in the beautiful evening light. At Serengeti, another intimate observation ensued as one climbed a Fever Tree to take the stem between both hands and, with all its might, scrape the gum off with his teeth - always apprehensive of any danger around - while another sat sunning in the early morning sun. On the Ngorongoro crater floor, in Lerai Forest, we watched one sit in the grass and strip grass through its teeth to harvest the seeds. He was particularly habituated in that we could watch it at just a meter from our feet!

Sykes' Monkey *Cercopithecus [mitis] albogularis* These stunning white-throated monkeys were seen in Arusha National Park. We watched them feeding among a troop of Black-and-White Colobus monkeys, and enjoyed a third sighting en-route to the museum.

Small-eared Galago *Otolemur garnetti* This was the first Tanzanian mammal we saw! Small-eared Galago welcomed us upon our arrival at our lodge and kept on luring us off our seats during dinner the next day. Some of us also heard it throughout the night - that is amidst the deafening concert of Bubbling Kassinas and Common Reed Frogs!

Senegal Lesser Galago *Galago senegalensis* Around our rooms, watching from our balconies or while walking to dinner, we could see more than 3 of these small nocturnal primates, licking gum, before they leaped lightning fast onto the next Acacia tree. All this at our Serengeti lodge.

Wahlberg's Epauletted Fruit Bat *Epomophorus wahlbergi* At our Serengeti lodge, groups of about 20 hung about in the Acacia trees, their dog-like faces curiously watching us. Many of them had a baby against their body, tucked away underneath their wings.

Yellow-winged Bat *Lavia frons* When we were about to depart from Ndutu, one Yellow-winged Bat took our attention as it hung from the canopy of a tall acacia tree, and then treated us with some beautiful fast butterfly-like passages. A few were also seen hanging from the Acacia trees at our Serengeti lodge - just a few meters from the fruit bats. They seemed quite relaxed and allowed us to compare their peculiar features from up close.

Ochre Bush Squirrel *Paraxerus ochraceus* This cute and tiny agile squirrel stole the show as it climbed up a tree while we birded the entrance of Tarangire National Park.

Acacia Rat *Thallomys paedulus* This light-coloured tree rat was seen running on the trail of the Lesser Galago, along acacia branches, apparently in search of gum upon which it fed. Seen at sunset at our lodge in Serengeti.

African / Unstriped Grass Rat *Arvicanthis niloticus* Many us got completely absorbed by these cute little rodents with rough-looking fur, large eyes and ears. They ran through the grass at Naabi Gate and at our lodge in Ndutu. Now and then they stopped, sat up on hindquarters, took the grass blades between front paws and nibbled the seeds.

Common / Golden Jackal *Canis aureus* We saw Golden Jackal twice in the short grass plains en-route to Ndutu, another on the plains the next day, two on our first full day in Serengeti, two nearby Marabous en-route to Oldupai and about three in the crater.

Black-backed Jackal *Canis mesomelas* One was seen at Tarangire, then two more at Manyara, playing around our rooms at sunrise, two more in the soft evening light on the Ndutu plains, two trotted near some young lions that sparred in the early morning sun as we left Ndutu, two more sightings on our first morning game drive at Serengeti.

Bat-eared Fox *Otocyon megalotis* During our morning at Ndutu, near the big marsh, we found two families of Bat-eared Foxes next to their den, warming up in the morning sun. One disappeared

underground inside the den, while others yawned, stretched and nipped each other behind the ear. We watched another few individuals curled up along Lake Masek - their ears sticking up above the grass.

Banded Mongoose *Mungos mungo* First seen on a termite mound at Tarangire. The next morning, near Mto Wa Mbu en-route to the crater gate, we spotted a troop trotting off a termite mound.

Approaching Seronera the next day, a few crossed the road, and in the Southern Serengeti plains, a troop was seen in their typical position scouting from a termite mound.

Dwarf Mongoose *Helogale parvula* We first saw these small and perky mongoose atop a termite mound at the start of our Tarangire safari. We saw another troop briefly on our first morning at Serengeti. And on our second Serengeti morning, we spotted a troop of five sit alertly behind us on the road, and trot off into the grass.

Egyptian Mongoose *Herpestes ichneumon* Seen early on our game drive at Tarangire while we had breakfast and in Serengeti, another ran in front of the first vehicle.

Slender Mongoose *Herpestes sanguinea* We saw two at Arusha National Park (one near the gate) and another three at Tarangire National Park, one of which was mobbed by Ashy Starling! Some of us had another sighting at Ngorongoro.

Spotted Hyaena *Crocuta crocuta* We saw more than five hyena on the short grass plains near Ndutu. At Serengeti, we first saw two while heading towards our lodge. Our first morning game drive gave us a beautiful encounter while we were watching lions, as a hyena trotted in the mist towards us, passed right next to our vehicle, until it noticed the lions and suddenly switched direction. Amidst the herds of wildbeest and zebra just north of Naabi Hill, we encountered one carrying a zebra leg! Just south of Naabi Hill, another - seemingly pregnant nervously trotted back-and-forth while carrying part of a gazelle. On the Ngorongoro Crater floor, we saw at least four spotted hyena.

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

Wild Cat *Felis sylvestris* One ran in front of the first vehicle during our final game drive through the southern Serengeti.

Serval *Felis serval* This stunning long-legged cat was seen twice. During our first morning's game drive in Serengeti National Park, we watched one walk about 10 meters from the car and disappear into the tall grass - a beautiful and breath-taking sight! During our last morning's game drive at Serengeti, we were so lucky to see another one, albeit briefly.

Leopard *Panthera pardus* We hit the jackpot on our first Serengeti morning: Leopard! Mother with cub! At about 70m from us, they stood on a low branch of a Sausage Tree. We watched them intently, as they played and rubbed against each other. Then suddenly they jumped down into the grass, but instead of disappearing, they walked straight to us! The cub came to sniff our wheels and walked several times under our vehicles! We watched it hop and lose its balance, not wanting to get its paws wet or stick to the mud. It tailgated its mum, ever watching her. She carefully bent over to drink from a puddle among the tyre tracks. We spend more than 20 minutes among them. Eventually they climbed another Sausage tree where we watched them another few minutes more before three other cars arrived and we left satisfied from our private leopard show.

Cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus* What an amazing cheetah sighting! We sat right near two cheetah that took turns eating a wildebeest calf. The late afternoon sunlight lit up a glint in their eyes, hundreds of wildebeest grunted nearby, a flat-topped Acacia tree broke the endless horizon that ended at the Ngorongoro Crater in the background.

Lion *Panthera leo* We had barely embarked on our afternoon game drive at Ndutu as we spotted our first pride of lions, about six subadults lay lazily on the ground just a few meters separated from the big male, while a large female and second adult male lay a bit more privately under a nearby bush. The next morning, we found a few subadults play fighting, all paws in the air, before moving into hunting formation and stealth mode. Their gaze was ever on the nearby Kongoni, hart-shaped horns heads sticking out over the embankment. Our third sighting was during our first morning's game drive at Serengeti. The mist hung over the valley and suddenly, two lionesses appeared in this atmospheric scene. They walked besides us, so confidently and at one point seemed to be stalking baby giraffe. Our fourth Lion sighting came about that next morning: two lions were spotted on a tall sandy bank next to the road. We could approach rather close and were rewarded with a very exciting event: mating! The female stood up, positioned herself, the male followed immediately, mounted her, they snarled and showed their huge canines. The whole event took just a few seconds, but what a treat! After all this,

our lion sightings haven't even ended yet. In the Ngorongoro crater, we encounter a few more, lazing about, with bellies full and paws up. And in Lerai Forest, we spot a lioness, paws and tail dangling from a Sausage tree!

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

Bush / Yellow-spotted Hyrax *Heterohyrax brucei* A few were seen at Seronera.

African Savanna Elephant *Loxodonta africana* We spotted our first signs of these gentle giants in Arusha National Park - in the form of big boluses of dung. It wasn't until the next day in Tarangire that we encountered our first herds. We got rewarded with fantastic close encounters. A mother with baby passed alongside our vehicles at only six feet from us! We watched them rotate their trunk around a bunch of grass. We encountered another herd, covered in brown sand. Deep below us, a big bull crossed the Tarangire river as the whole landscape unfolded: the woodland dotted with Baobab trees leading to the mountain behind. Some of us observed two old elephants on the crater rim wrap their thick and wrinkled trunks around bunches of tall grass, shake off the sand and bring it to their huge mouths. We watched another fifty elephants around Ndutu. On our evening game drive, lit by the soft sunlight, one of the herds walked in the stereotypical line, matriarch in front, and trunks holding tails. As they got close to some of us, they assembled in a tight cluster and a boisterous subadult raised its trunk and tusks towards us, ears wide! Another special encounter was at central Serengeti, where several herds came together, numbering over fifty elephants and moved alongside us, so silently in the tall grass. We also watched a family herd debarking a dead Fever tree, using feet, trunk and tusks to get to the best of the bark. Meantime, much commotion came from a nearby herd along the river. Underneath the palm trees, a herd was accompanied by a huge bull in musth. When a young male arrived, the herd moved into a front and trumpeting ensued. Inside the crater, we watched about ten enormous old bulls slowly move in a front, their large skull showing their pronounced hour-glass shape and a rounded forehead, atop bulky muscular shoulders.

Common Zebra *Equus quagga* A few harems were first seen at Little Serengeti in Arusha National Park and then at our lodge near Lake Manyara. Seen daily, and in hundreds to thousands in southern Serengeti among the migrating masses of wildebeest. Also seen very well on the crater floor, where we watched them drinking up close.

Black Rhinoceros *Diceros bicornis* From our lodge atop the crater rim, we spotted four rhinoceros through the scope. Once we were inside the crater, we saw five.

Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius* A few hippo were seen first at Arusha National Park, then at hippo pools and nearby our lodge at Serengeti, a large pod at Seronera of about 20 hippo, one of which one was rolling around itself! We also saw about five at the crater swamp.

Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus* We saw warthog daily, although only a few in Serengeti and at Ndutu.

Giraffe *Giraffa camelopardalis* We saw giraffe daily, except at the crater floor and rim. In a carpet of mist, we watched some very young ones being stalked by two lionesses in Serengeti. Further along, some males tried to mount some females, while the youngsters tailgated alongside them, perhaps taking notes. Repeatedly, the male walked to her and if she allowed him close enough, she stopped. Then he either propels himself in the air, upon which she jumps forward, and he simply starts the sequence again. Patiently, again and again. En-route back up the crater wall, a large group of giraffe was spread out, with several males necking, sometimes three around each other at once. What a thrilling special, and beautifully set, with the Oldupai Gorge, the Gol mountains and the Serengeti plains in the background below.

African Buffalo *Syncerus caffer* Two large herds were seen at the lush Arusha National Park. A few huge individuals were seen from our Serengeti lodge and other large bulls resting at a lake in Serengeti. Hundreds were seen in the crater.

Bushbuck *Tragelaphus scriptus* Two were seen in Arusha National Park and a beautiful male at close range in Lerai Forest in the crater (second vehicle only).

Eland *Taurotragus oryx* First seen near Ndutu, then a large herd of more than 200 was seen in the short grass plains between Ndutu and Naabi Hill. Another herd was seen distantly on the crater plains.

Harvey's Duiker *Cephalophus harveyi* About four of these red duikers were seen in Arusha National Park - a real skulker!

Suni *Neotragus moschatus* Two were seen briefly by some at Arusha National Park.

Steenbok *Raphicerus campestris* One Steenbok was seen at Ndotu by Deirdre only.

Kirk's Dikdik *Madoqua kirkii complex* Two were seen well at Arusha National Park, four at Ndotu (right on the lodge grounds!) and a few at Serengeti.

Bohor Reedbuck *Redunca redunca* A few were seen from our lodge near Lake Manyara, and another was seen leaping through the reeds in Serengeti.

Common Waterbuck *Kobus [e.] ellipsiprymnus* A harem of about fifteen of these large antelopes were seen in Arusha National Park. They look beautiful and healthy, with shaggy coats and a white ring around the thighs.

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

Thomson's Gazelle *Gazella rufifrons* A few were seen around the eastern shore of Lake Manyara, but we hit our first herds of hundreds of Thomson's Gazelle in the short grass plains between Oldupai and Ndotu. We saw only about fifty or so between Ndotu and Serengeti but more than hundred in the Ngorongoro crater.

Grant's Gazelle *Nanger granti* A few were first seen near Oldupai, then after watching the cheetah near Ndotu, we watched a nice herd of about fifty running back and forth, pronking and leaping in the air. A few more were seen the next morning in Ndotu woodlands and good numbers were seen among the migratory herds on the southern Serengeti plains. Hundreds were also seen in the Ngorongoro crater.

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

Topi, Tiang, Tsessebe *Damaliscus lunatus* A handful of these elegant chocolate-brown antelope were seen in Serengeti, either single or in groups of twos or threes.

Kongoni (Hartebeest) *Alcephalus busephalus* A few Kongoni were first seen at Ndotu, attracting the attention of some subadult lions. We watched a very relaxed herd of about fifteen on a sandy patch just after our first lunch in Serengeti National Park. A few more were seen in Serengeti, and another fifteen or so in the crater.

Blue Wildebeest *Connochaetes taurinus* Our first wildebeest were seen from our lodge near Lake Manyara, in small herds less than hundred. We hit the migration nearer to Ndotu, where we encountered thousands, at one point grazing nearby two cheetah chewing a wildebeest calf! From atop Naabi Hill, towards the north, we watch herds of thousands of Wildebeest, colouring the landscape of Serengeti National Park. Driving closer, we parked along several thousands of wildebeest, dotted with zebra inbetween, standing still, grazing and resting. We saw a few in central Serengeti, a herd of about two thousand in the woodland near the koppies, and a nervous herd of about hundred running and turning in unison. Returning south again, we watched wildebeest moving as a front all coming towards us. Shortly before we arrived at Naabi Hill, masses of wildebeest, with zebra inbetween, were moving through, crossing the road in front and behind us. Climbing atop Naabi Hill, we saw herds of wildebeest coming from the direction of Ndotu, then met again tens of thousands just north of Naabi Hill. In the Ngorongoro crater floor, we also watched a few hundred, spread out in small herds, graze the crater floor and observed them head-butting and ruminating up close.