



The stunning White-winged Apalis performed in the Udzungwas (all images in the report taken by Dani López-Velasco unless otherwise stated)

ULTIMATE TANZANIA

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Our 2020 “Tanzania’s Eastern Arc & Pemba” tour, including an Udzungwa Mountains extension, turned out to be a fantastic adventure that way-surpassed our expectations. Just being able to escape from Europe, its restrictions and the virus was a true highlight for everyone. During most of the tour we were accompanied by our ever reliable, super friendly and efficient local driver, Exaud, and excellent local guide, Elia, and were blessed with mostly good weather. With such a good set up and conditions, there were few excuses, so we efficiently set about our task of hoovering up the endemics, whilst enjoying the other wonders that this great country has to offer.

The main tour saw us first visiting the attractive Pemba Island and then travelling through the East and West Usambaras, the remote Uluguru and Ukaguru Mountains, the impressive Mikumi National Park and its surrounding miombo woodlands and the little explored Kilombero Plains. The good birds were almost too numerous to pick from, but special mention must go to the gorgeous Green-headed Orioles, rare Long-billed and Red-capped Forest Warblers, Pemba Scops Owl (and all other Pemba endemics), colourful Böhm’s Bee-eaters and striking Racket-tailed Rollers, the hulking Uluguru Bushshrike, the little-known Rubeho Akalat, the sneaky Spot-throat, the rare Usambara Weaver, both Winifred’s and Rubeho Warblers, Hofmann’s Sunbird and the uncommon Lesser Seedcracker. Our post-tour extension to the Udzungwa mountains was also a superb experience. Although more arduous, both in terms of the physical effort and living conditions, the targets all fell. The near-mythical Udzungwa Forest Partridge was the obvious star, but the stunning Swynnerton’s



Wonderful scenery in the remote Luala Valley in the Udzungwas. Here (inset) we found the near-mythical Udzungwa Forest Partridge, which showed exceptionally well during the extension and was of course one of the best birds of the tour.

Robin, unique Rufous-winged Sunbird, delightful White-winged Apalis, skulking Dapple-throat and cracking African Grass Owls were just a small part of the excellent supporting cast!

The tour started early in the morning at Dar-Es-Salaam airport, on the coast. From here we boarded our small plane and made the short hop over to the picturesque island of Pemba. Although relatively small, it still took quite some time to transit to the north of the island, adding a couple of smart Mangrove Kingfishers as we went. While looking at them, I decided to play the scops owl tape in case it attracted some birds and... unexpectedly an owl called back. It didn't take long to find it, and we enjoyed fantastic views of this uncommon endemic. Also in the same area we caught up with both Pemba Sunbird and Pemba White-eye. Once at the hotel, there was

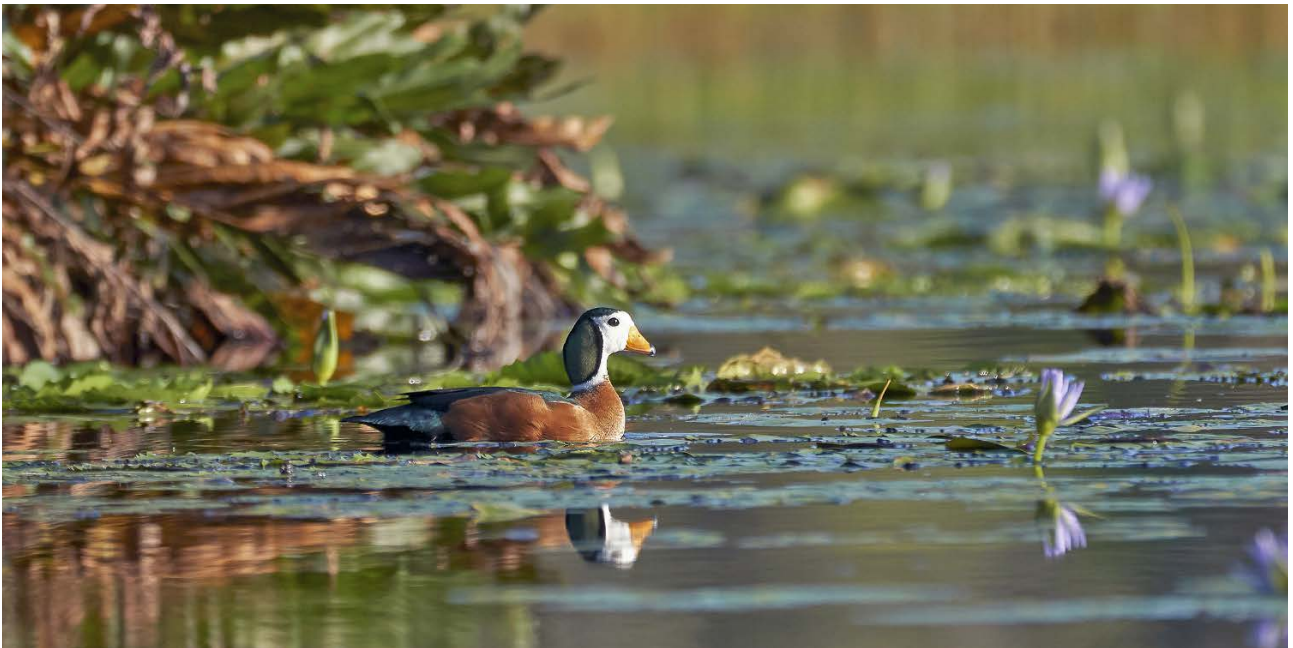


The delightful Pemba Sunbird.



As well as enjoying the beautiful island, all Pemba endemics were seen very well during our short stay in the island, including the endemic race of African Goshawk, as well as the scops owl, the green pigeon (all pictured) and the white-eye.





A delightful male African Pygmy Goose seen on Pemba.

no time to waste, and within 5 minutes of arriving we had seen a couple of elusive Pemba Green Pigeons in a fig tree. Wow, we had cleaned up in less than 3 hours in the island. Now we could relax and really enjoy our time here. After a good lunch, we went for a walk around a small lake, where we added White-faced Whistling Duck, delightful African Pygmy Goose, Little Grebe, some Brown-headed Parrots and Black-bellied Starling to our list. The endemic *pembaensis* subspecies of African Goshawk was also seen in the garden by some of us.

The following morning we did a bit of birding around our accommodation. Seawatching was productive, as there were lots of terns fishing in front of our cabins, including a breeding-plumaged adult White-cheeked Tern, as well as some Saunders's Terns. We then drove to the lighthouse, seeing a fantastic Dickinson's Kestrel on the way. From there, we saw a couple of Sooty Gulls and some Crab-Plovers, amongst other things. It was then time to head back for lunch at our wonderful lodge and retrace our steps back to Chake Chake Airport and then flew across to Tanga, via Zanzibar! Here, we were met by our excellent and friendly driver, Exaud, and our super knowledgeable local guide, Elia, and started the fairly long drive towards the East Usambaras. We eventually made it to the Amani Hills forest camp. After a well-deserved dinner we went owling, but things were very quiet, with the only thing of note being a Lesser Pouched Rat –thanks to Jono for the ID-.



Dickinson's Kestrels were easy to find in Pemba.



This stunning Half-collared Kingfisher was one of the star birds in Amani.

The East Usambaras are separated from the West Usambaras by a broad valley and the mountains themselves rise to a somewhat lower altitude. We had just over two days to explore this bird-rich area. For rarity value, the Long-billed Forest Warbler was perhaps top bird, and we had to visit several territories until we found a pair. For looks, the brilliant Green-headed Orioles, Fischer's Turacos and a gorgeous Half-collared Kingfisher took some beating! Distinctive but as yet undescribed drongos which seem not to be Fork-tailed Drongos but most likely a new species, 'Usambara' Drongo, obliged and the rare Kretschmer's Longbill played hard to get too, but eventually showed well. Attractive Uluguru Violet-backed and Banded Green Sunbirds also performed in the garden. We spent many night hours over 6 different attempts trying to find Usambara Eagle Owl at all of its regular sites, but unfortunately, failed. We only heard it very briefly and distantly, but It never gave us a chance.

We also spent some time lower down in the foothill forest. It was very, very quiet but we managed to find our main targets. Pride of place went to the pair of canopy-loving Usambara Hyliotas which eventually showed well in the scope. Other birds seen during our stay included Southern Banded Snake Eagle, good numbers of Silvery-cheeked and Trumpeter Hornbills, White-eared and Green Barbets, Pale Batis, Ashy, Little Yellow and Grey Tit-Flycatchers, Crowned Eagle, heard-only Buff-spotted Flufftail, Black Stork, Green and Moustached Tinkerbirds, a small flock of Chestnut-fronted Helmetshrikes, Golden-tailed Woodpecker and Yellow-streaked Greenbul.

We then headed towards the city of Lusotho, our base for the next 3 nights. The following two days were spent exploring the West Usambaras, mostly birding a productive logging road in the Magamba Forest Reserve. It wasn't all plain sailing, as some of the birds proved pretty tough, but with persistence and effort they finally gave themselves up. Attractive Red-capped Forest Warblers were often confiding, and the drab Usambara Akalat performed brilliantly, as did two White-chested Alethes. Fülleborn's (Black) Boubous were heard often, and a couple eventually showed well. The rare Usambara Weaver gave good views, and greenbuls were a focus as we eventually got great views of the rare Montane Tiny, subtle Shelley's and Stripe-faced Greenbuls. Usambara Thrush was hard to find this year, but we eventually had great views of a male on our second morning. Other more widespread species included the handsome Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon, Hartlaub's Turaco, Forest Batis, Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo, Grey Cuckooshrike, Black-fronted Bushshrike, Bar-tailed Trogon, showy Evergreen Forest Warblers, Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler and Waller's and Sharpe's Starlings. Several cracking chameleons, including West Usambara two-horned Chameleon, were seen too. We also explored a short trail, at a lower elevation, that ventured into some good forest. This proved an excellent move, as the place was full of Spot-throats, and everyone enjoyed great views of this notorious skulker.



A showy Usambara Thrush, and the skulking Spot-throat which was seen very well during the tour.



Having done so well here, we happily left towards our next base. We again paused in the valley below Lusotho where we found Eastern Golden Weavers, East Coast Boubou after a lot of searching, and, best of all, a pair of showy Grey-olive Greenbuls and a rare Brown-breasted Barbet. Moving on we stopped at a small grassy area that held the recently split Coastal Cisticola. Further along we had lunch by the impressive bridge over the Wami River. Here we had another target in mind, and soon a flash of colour yielded some gorgeous Böhm's Bee-eaters, busy doing what they do best! What a cracking bird. Also here we had Black-collared Barbet. It took a couple more hours before we reached our hotel in Morogoro.

The next day was mostly devoted in searching for the rare and critically endangered Uluguru Bushshrike, and luckily it turned out to be less demanding than what we had anticipated. We hiked above Tegetero in the Ulugurus, uphill, for a couple of hours, until we finally reached good forest. Once in the forest proper we found a few nice birds including our first Livingstone's Turacos and the rather colourful Loveridge's Sunbird. We finally reached the spot suggested by Elia, and, much to our surprise, the first bird Brad put his bins on was... an Uluguru Bushshrike! The bird was quite sneaky up in the canopy, but we all had decent views of this mega rarity. We spent the rest of the morning in the forest, but things were very quiet, although we did see Sharpe's Akalat, Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo and Dark-backed Weaver. After lunch, and just when we were about to leave, we heard the bushshrike again, and succeeded in getting better views, lower down. It was then time to head back, seeing some nice birds including Bertram's Weaver. We finally made it to the vehicles, tired but very happy, and drove back to our hotel.



Highlights of the Ulugurus and Ukagurus! Uluguru Bushshrike, the cute Rubeho Akalat and the localized Rubeho Akalat.



The following day we took a trip northwest to the remote Ukaguru Mountains. This proved to be an excellent plan! Almost upon arrival we found the little-known Rubeho Warbler calling from the roadside trees which it shared with Chapin's Apalis –of the nominate form-. A great start! A Yellow-throated Greenbul was also seen here, together with several colourful Moreau's Sunbirds, two goodies for those not participating in the Udzungu-wa Extension. Dark Batises moved stealthily through the undergrowth, and a little further on we had cracking views of rare Rubeho Akalat, normally a very shy bird.

We gave the Ulugurus one final shot the following day, where a pair of Winifred's Warblers gave great views, and we also enjoyed more views of many great birds such as Loveridge's Sunbird and a fantastic African Emerald Cuckoo. Heading back down Andy found a fantastic Moyer's Pygmy Chameleon. We then made our way through Mikumi National Park, and on to an area of miombo woodland just near to the town there. This was to be our first of 3 visits, and we found almost all of our targets. Smart Arnott's Chats posed, groups of Miombo Blue-eared Starlings moved around and flocks contained subtle Cinnamon-breasted Tits. Other more regular species included Red-throated Wryneck, Green Wood Hoopoe, a Crested Barbet found by Jesper, Cabanis's Bunting and Stierling's Wren-Warbler. We also found a pair of cracking Racket-tailed Rollers, much to everyone's delight. We then continued on to Hondo Hondo for the night.

The following morning we made our way further south to the isolated Kilombero Plains. This region is home to three relatively recently discovered species, though until now, two remain to be formally described. Kilombero Weaver (the one that has been described) was common, and we had great views of several breeding males. These were joined by attractive little Orange-breasted (or Zebra) Waxbills and Red-billed Firefinches. Both 'Kilombero' and 'White-tailed' Cisticolas were also easy to track down and it was remarkable just how distinct

these two species are. Also present were Coppery-tailed Coucals, first spotted by Steve, and a pair of White-crowned Lapwings. We then made it back to Hondo Hondo, where we had lunch. We explored an area of farmland near to our lodge, where it took a long time before we found our target, the rare Lesser Seedcracker. And then it was time to drive towards Mikumi National Park. Once we arrived to the park, we headed to the very pleasant Vuma Hills tented camp. This was a great place, and we all loved it. Food was particularly good, and mango mousse was simply incredible!

We spent the next morning doing a game drive through Mikumi National Park, seeing lots of new birds and mammals. In the bird front, highlights included Helmeted Guineafowl, Red-necked Spurfowl, Black-chested Snake Eagle, Bateleur, Grey Kestrel, Martial Eagle, African Hawk-Eagle, Rüppell's, Hooded and Lappet-faced Vultures amongst the more regular White-backed Vultures, a roosting Western Barn Owl expertly discovered by Jono, Three-banded Plover, hundreds of Collared Pratincoles with a rare Black-winged Pratincole mixed in (found when reviewing the photos!), Senegal and Crowned Lapwings, Black-bellied Bustard, Common Buttonquail, African Hoopoe, Southern Ground Hornbill, Rattling Cisticola, Green-capped Eremomela, Wattled Starling, both Yellow-billed and Red-billed Oxpeckers, Amethyst Sunbird, White-browed Sparrow Weaver, Lesser Masked Weaver, a pair of uncommon Orange-winged Pytilias, Jameson's Firefinch, Yellow-throated Longclaw and Golden-breasted Bunting. Mammals were also conspicuous, with large numbers of Impalas, Masai Giraffe, Eland, African Buffalos, African Elephants, Common Warthogs and, best of all, a couple of Lions and Black-backed Jackals. After dinner back at the lodge we tried for some nightbirding, but things were very quiet. In the afternoon, we paid another visit to the miombo along the Kilosa road. Here, we caught up with the localized Pale-billed Hornbill, which gave fantastic views, as well as Speckle-throated Woodpecker and a cracking Ovambo Sparrowhawk, found by Brad.

The following morning we again visited Mikumi National Park. Once in the park, we saw similar species to the previous day, and added Steppe Eagle, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Eastern Black-headed Batis, Northern Pied Babbler and Northern and Capped Wheatears to our list. We then made our back to Vuma Hills for a last lunch together, for this was the end of the 'main' tour, and we said good bye to Jean François. We then continued our way: destination Iringa! We did have a planned stop along the way. In a most bizarre setting, surrounded by colossal baobabs, we soon found several Ashy Starlings and, after a while, a pair of pale-eyed Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbills. Continuing on, passing numerous trucks moving at walking pace, we arrived at our lodge just after dusk.



The amazing Southern Ground Hornbill!!



More great wildlife sightings included Eland, Black-backed Jackal, Grey-headed Bushshrike, European Roller and Steppe Eagle.





The localized Reichard's Seedeater and a fine African Broadbill.

The intrepid group left now had to face up to and prepare for what lay ahead: some relatively strenuous hiking and several nights of camping in the remote Udzungwa Mountains! So we all enjoyed a decent dinner and set about re-organizing! Fully loaded the following morning, we embarked on the short but long drive to Uluti! Short in distance but long in time as we needed to negotiate some pretty rough and remote tracks! We did make a few stops along the way, notably adding smart Forest Double-collared Sunbirds and both Churring and Black-lored Cisticolas, as well as Brown-headed Apalis and Yellow-browed and Reichard's Seedeaters. Before reaching Uluti we made a stop to watch a pair of cracking White-winged Apalis, which showed extremely well. Once at the village, we organized our porters and soon set off on our way. It wasn't a particularly tough walk, the first bit through open country where Angolan Swallows flew over us. Once at the forest we were greeted by a huge sign and a barrier – quite what it could stop was anyone's guess, and a dead Red-faced Crimsonwing. We spent the rest of the afternoon walking slowly to our camp. Two particularly memorable sightings were made during this walk. One of those holy grail birds popped up... the superb and very little-known Rufous-winged Sunbird. Contrary to the popular field guide, the male turned out to be a deep blue bird, not green at all. A cracking Swynnerton's Robin obliged, and this was our only sighting here. The camp was comfortable enough and the food great –slightly improved by our two-flavored Tabasco bottles!- and we settled down for our first night of camping in the Udzungwas. None of us remembered setting an alarm, but right at the correct time, an African Broadbill did the job, right above our tents! We spent the next day and a half exploring the dense forests around our camp. Much of our time was spent chasing the elusive Dapple-throat, surely one of the shiest birds on Earth! They were very quiet this year, but after some long attempts with a couple of singing birds, everyone had secured at least some half decent views. Also near the camp, we found a pair of shy Iringa Akalats, as well as a flock of Pale-breasted Illadopsis of the *distans* race, known as Grey-breasted Illadopsis. Other species seen included more Livingstone's Turacos, several Dark Batises and some Orange Ground Thrushes. Heading back down, we saw the same pair of Rufous-winged Sunbirds from the first day, as well as a Cassin's Hawk Eagle, first discovered in Tanzania not long ago. Back to our accommodation we saw a pair of African Wood Owls, Giant Kingfisher, Purple-crested Turaco and an African Goshawk, while Jono also saw an African Finfoot in the river.

Next morning we set off again, this time on the relatively easy drive to Udekwa, in a different part of the Udzungwas. We paused for the first paperwork formalities, and then headed out into the attractive acacia-clad lower slopes, ready for the long walk into the Luala Valley. We were soon off and walking... It was a pretty hard slog,

up and down and up and down and up... and then it started raining heavily. Eventually we reached the forest, and luckily, after a while, rain stopped. And not only that, but, as luck would have it, we heard some Udzungwa Forest Partridges! After some careful positioning, we played the tape, and after some tense moments, one partridge came out to a rather open bamboo area. We had pretty good views of the bird, much to our relief. Exhausted, and very happy, we finally made it our camp, passing through a lot of fresh elephant and buffalo dung. We rested for a while, and then walked a short distance into the gorgeous Luala Valley for some nightbirding. What an amazing place, and the lack of human signs anywhere on sight was a highlight for everyone! Ruwenzori (Usambara) Nightjars fairly quickly obliged, and, even better, the resident pair of African Grass Owls put on a fantastic show for everyone. We had a rather interesting "ant experience" during the night, due to the fact that one of the tents was placed on top of a termite ant nest, but it was eventually solved. The moth trap also delivered some amazing moths.

We spent the whole day out birding. The partridges performed again, with a small and shy group seen foraging in the leaf litter, and we also added a smart Olive-flanked Robin-Chat to our list, although no Kipengere Seed-eaters could be found anywhere. A nesting Usambara Nightjar was a good bonus.

The walk out was equally long, and there was little to report other than a Cassin's Hawk Eagle. We finally made our way back to Mikumi.

Birders being birders, we couldn't just lie in bed for the last morning, so we returned to the miombo forest just north of Mikumi for a short time. It was a lovely final stroll in this great birding country, highlighted by a male Hofmann's Sunbird, which was our last new bird of the trip. It was then time to head towards Dar-Es-Salaam. The traffic on the road to Dar is legendary, and we wanted to leave ourselves plenty of time! Still, we encountered heavy traffic and an endless lane of trucks, but we made it to the airport with plenty of time for our flights. We said fond farewells to our excellent and invaluable driver Exaud and equally great Elia, and that was about it. It surely had genuinely been an epic adventure, and one that had far exceeded our expectations, through a beautiful country full of friendly people and brilliant birds! I really cannot wait to return to see my friends once more!



The stunning Swynnerton's Robin. Another Udzungwa speciality.



The gorgeous Rufous-winged Sunbird. One of the star birds of the remote Udzungwa Mountains.

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **IOC World Bird Names**. This list is updated several times annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>.

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Species which were seen only on the Udzungas extension are marked by the symbol (U).

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

Conservation threat categories and information are taken from *Threatened Birds of the World*, BirdLife International's magnificent book on the sad status of the rarest 10% of the world's avifauna, and updates on the BirdLife website: <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/home>

CR = Critically Endangered, **E** = Endangered, **V** = Vulnerable, **NT** = Near Threatened, **DD** = Data Deficient.

BIRDS

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata* Only seen in Pemba.

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* Plenty seen in Mikumi. [mitratus-group].

Scaly Francolin *Pternistis squamatus* (U) 1 seen in the Udzungwas.

Red-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis afer* Ssp melanogaster in Mikumi NP.

Udzungwa Forest Partridge ◊ *Xenoperdix udzungwensis* (U) (EN) Multiple great views in the Luala Valley, Udzungas.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Seen in Pemba. [capensis].

African Openbill *Anastomus lamelligerus* One in Dar. [nominat].

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* Seen in the Usambaras.



Helmeted Guineafowl, a common and widespread African species.

- Marabou Stork** *Leptoptilos crumenifer* Seen in Mikumi.
- Saddle-billed Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis* One in Mikumi.
- African Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus* Seen in Dar.
- Hadada Ibis** *Bostrychia hagedash* Fairly common. (brevirostris).
- Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* Seen in Mikumi.[nominate].
- Striated Heron** *Butorides striata* First seen on Pemba [atricapilla].
- Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides* Seen in Mikumi.
- Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* Widespread in small numbers.
- Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea* Widespread in small numbers.
- Black-headed Heron** *Ardea melanocephala* Widespread in small numbers.
- Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea* Seen a couple of times. [nominate].
- Great Egret** *Ardea alba* Scattered sightings of small numbers [melanorhynchos=African G E].
- Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* Scattered sightings of small numbers [nominate].
- Intermediate Egret (Yellow-billed E)** *Ardea [intermedia] brachyrhyncha* Seen in Mikumi.
- Dimorphic Egret** *Egretta dimorpha* A few on Pemba's beaches including several dark morphs.
- Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta* Small numbers seen.[nominate].
- Reed Cormorant** *Microcarbo africanus* Seen in Pemba. [nominate].
- Black-winged Kite** *Elanus caeruleus* Just one in Mikumi.
- African Harrier-Hawk** *Polyboroides typus* Small numbers seen at several sites [nominate].
- European Honey Buzzard (Eurasian H B)** *Pernis apivorus* One seen.
- Palm-nut Vulture** *Gypohierax angolensis* Small numbers seen at several sites, especially in the northeast.
- Hooded Vulture** *Necrosyrtes monachus* (CR) A few seen well at Mikumi NP.
- White-backed Vulture** *Gyps africanus* (CR) Some good flocks in Mikumi NP.
- Rüppell's Vulture** *Gyps rueppelli* (CR) A few seen well at Mikumi NP [nominate].
- Lappet-faced Vulture** *Torgos tracheliotos* (EN) A few seen well at Mikumi NP [nominate].
- Black-chested Snake Eagle** *Circaetus pectoralis* 1 seen in Mikumi.
- Southern Banded Snake Eagle** ◊ *Circaetus fasciolatus* (NT) One bird in the Usambaras.
- Bateleur** *Terathopius ecaudatus* (NT) Small numbers at Mikumi NP.
- Crowned Eagle** *Stephanoaetus coronatus* (NT) Seen well in the Usambaras.



Some of the raptors seen during the tour, clockwise from above: the localized Southern Banded Snake Eagle; Bateleur; Mountain Buzzard and a stunning juvenile African Crowned Eagle



- Martial Eagle** *Polemaetus bellicosus* (VU) Seen well in Mikumi.
- Long-crested Eagle** *Lophaetus occipitalis* Several seen during the trip.
- Ayres's Hawk-Eagle** *Hieraetus ayresii* Seen well in the Usambaras.
- Wahlberg's Eagle** *Hieraetus wahlbergi* Several seen well.
- Booted Eagle** *Hieraetus pennatus* A couple seen.
- African Hawk-Eagle** *Aquila spilogaster* One seen in Mikumi.
- Cassin's Hawk-Eagle** *Aquila africana* 2 adults in the Udzungwas, at Uluti and Luala.
- Steppe Eagle** *Aquila nipalensis* (EN) One in flight at Mikumi NP [orientalis].
- African Goshawk** *Accipiter tachiro* Seen in the mainland. Also the endemic ssp in Pemba, likely future split
- Ovambo Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter ovampensis* Great views of this rare bird in the miombo south of Mikumi.
- Black Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter melanoleucus* Widespread. [melanoleucus].
- Yellow-billed Kite** *Milvus aegyptius* Small numbers seen in the lowlands [parasitus].
- Mountain Buzzard** *Buteo oreophilus* (NT) Fairly common and widespread in the Eastern Arc.
- Augur Buzzard** *Buteo augur* A few seen. Many smart colour phases.
- Black-bellied Bustard** *Lissotis melanogaster* A few in Mikumi NP [nominata].
- Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* Seen in Pemba.
- Common Buttonquail (Small B)** *Turnix sylvaticus* A couple flushed in Mikumi.



This Black-winged Pratincole in Mikumi NP (centre) was a complete surprise!

- Water Thick-Knee** *Burhinus vermiculatus* Seen in Mikumi [nominate].
- Crab-Plover** *Dromas ardeola* Common in Dar and also seen in Pemba.
- Blacksmith Lapwing** *Vanellus armatus* Seen in Mikumi
- Senegal Lapwing** *Vanellus lugubris* A few in Mikumi NP.
- White-crowned Lapwing (W-headed Plover)** *Vanellus albiceps* 2 seen very well in the Kilombero floodplain.
- Crowned Lapwing** *Vanellus coronatus* Seen in Mikumi [nominate].
- African Wattled Lapwing (A W Plover)** *Vanellus senegallus* Seen in the Kilombero plain.
- Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola* Noted on Pemba Island [nominate].
- Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula* 1 on Pemba Island [tundrae].
- Three-banded Plover** *Charadrius tricollaris* Seen at Mikumi. [nominate].
- Lesser Sand Plover** *Charadrius mongolus* 1 on Pemba.
- African Jacana** *Actophilornis africanus* Seen in Pemba.
- European Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* Noted along the beaches on Pemba Island [nominate].
- Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* Noted in Pemba Island.
- Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* 1 seen.
- Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola* Seen at Mikumi NP.
- Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* Seen at a few sites.
- Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola* Hundreds in Mikumi [fuelleborni].
- Black-winged Pratincole** *Glareola nordmanni* One in Mikumi.
- Sooty Gull** *Ichthyaeetus hemprichii* A couple seen at Pemba.
- Greater Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bergii* Seen on Pemba Island [thalassinus].
- Lesser Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bengalensis* A few seen from the beach on Pemba Island [nominate].
- Saunders's Tern** \diamond *Sternula saundersi* Seen from the hotel on Pemba Island.
- Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo* Good numbers seen from the beach on Pemba Island [nominate].
- White-cheeked Tern** \diamond *Sterna repressa* One breeding plumaged adult in Pemba.
- Rock Dove (Feral)** *Columba livia* 'feral' Introduced nonsense!
- African Olive Pigeon** *Columba arquatrix* Seen at several locations, first in the East Usambaras.
- Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon** *Columba delegorguei* Seen well at several locations in the Eastern Arc [sharpei].
- Lemon Dove** *Columba larvata* (U) One seen briefly in the Udzungwa Mountains.



A stunning male African Emerald Cuckoo.

- Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata* Common and widespread.
- Ring-necked Dove** *Streptopelia capicola* Common and widespread.[tropical].
- Emerald-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur chalcospilos* Widespread in small numbers.
- Blue-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur afer* Seen in small numbers at several sites.
- Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistria* Seen in small numbers at several sites.
- African Green Pigeon** *Treron calvus* See note.
- Pemba Green Pigeon** ◊ *Treron pembaensis* (VU) Great views on the north of Pemba Island.
- Buff-spotted Flufftail** ◊ *Sarothrura elegans* (H) Heard in the Usambaras.
- African Finfoot** *Podica senegalensis* Seen by some in the extension.
- Livingstone's Turaco** *Tauraco livingstonii* Great views of many in the Ulugurus and Udzungwas [reichenowii].
- Fischer's Turaco** ◊ *Tauraco fischeri* (NT) Great views in Amani Nature Reserve, East Usambaras [nominata].
- Hartlaub's Turaco** ◊ *Tauraco hartlaubi* Great views in the West Usambaras.
- Purple-crested Turaco** *Tauraco porphyreolophus* (U) Best views in Masumbo Camp, Iringa [chlorochlamys].
- Coppery-tailed Coucal** *Centropus cupreicaudus* Seen well near Ifakara in the Kilombero Floodplain [songweensis].
- White-browed Coucal** *Centropus superciliosus* Pretty widespread in small numbers [loandae].
- Diederik Cuckoo (Didric C)** *Chrysococcyx caprius* Seen a few times
- Klaas's Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx klaas* A few noted, mostly heard.
- African Emerald Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx cupreus* Seen very well in the Ulugurus.
- Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo** *Cercococcyx montanus* Great views in the Ulugurus [patulus].
- Black Cuckoo** *Cuculus clamosus* Seen once.
- Red-chested Cuckoo** *Cuculus solitarius* One seen briefly, more heard.
- Pemba Scops Owl** ◊ *Otus pembaensis* (VU) One seen very well in Ngezi Forest, Pemba Island.
- Usambara Eagle-Owl** ◊ *Bubo vosseleri* (H) Only heard briefly and distantly after many long attempts.
- African Wood Owl** *Strix woodfordii* Seen well in the Udzungwas. [nigricantior].
- Pearl-spotted Owlet** *Glaucidium perlatum* Seen in Mikumi NP [licua].
- Western Barn Owl** *Tyto alba* One roosting in Mikumi.
- African Grass Owl** ◊ *Tyto capensis* (U) Brilliant views of 2 in Luala.
- African Barred Owlet** *Glaucidium capense* (H) Heard only in the Mikumi area. [scheffleri].
- Ruwenzori (Usambara) Nightjar** ◊ *Caprimulgus [ruwenzorii] guttifer* (U) Several seen in the Luala V, Udzungwas.
- Scarce Swift** *Schoutedenapus myoptilus* Small numbers seen in the Usambaras.
- Mottled Spinetail** *Telacanthura ussheri* Small numbers in Amani Nature Reserve, East Usambaras [stictilaema].
- Böhm's Spinetail** *Neafrapus boehmi* (NL)
- African Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus* Common and widespread.[parvus-group].



A day-roosting Ruwenzori (Usambara) Nightjar.

Common Swift (Eurasian S) *Apus apus* Some, presumably of this species, seen.

Little Swift *Apus affinis* Fairly common and widespread [affinis-group].

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer* A few seen.

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus* Fairly common and widespread [leucotis-group].

Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus* (H)

Bar-tailed Trogon *Apaloderma vittatum* Small numbers seen well at several sites in the Eastern Arc Mountains.

Racket-tailed Roller ◊ *Coracias spatulatus* Brilliant views of 2 in the miombo near Mikumi.

European Roller (Eurasian R) *Coracias garrulus* A few seen.

Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus* Fairly common and widespread in suitable habitat [nominate].

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus* Good numbers seen, especially common on Pemba [suahelicus].

Brown-hooded Kingfisher *Halcyon albiventris* First seen well in Amani. A few others noted [orientalis].

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti* Seen in Mikumi. [nominate].

Mangrove Kingfisher ◊ *Halcyon senegaloides* 4 seen and others heard on Pemba.

African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta* A few seen.

Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus* Several noted [galeritus].

Half-collared Kingfisher *Alcedo semitorquata* Great views of one in the Amani Nature Reserve, East Usambaras.

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima* Only 2 seen. [nominate].

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* A few noted. [nominate].

Little Bee-Eater *Merops pusillus* Good numbers seen in suitable habitat throughout [meridionalis].

Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater ◊ *Merops oreobates* Several in the Usambaras.

Böhm's Bee-eater ◊ *Merops boehmi* Brilliant views of c3 at the Wami Bridge, between Dar es Salam and Morogoro.

European Bee-Eater *Merops apiaster* Small flocks seen several times.

White-throated Bee-eater *Merops albicollis* Several flocks seen in the Kilombero area.

African Hoopoe *Upupa africana* Just 1 in Mikumi.

Green Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus* Small groups seen a couple of times in Mikumi. [marwitzji].

Southern Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus leadbeateri* (VU) Several seen well in and around Mikumi NP.

Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill ◊ *Tockus ruahae* Excellent views in the Baobab Valley between Mikumi and Iringa.

Von Der Decken's Hornbill ◊ *Tockus deckeni* Seen in the Baobab Valley.

Crowned Hornbill *Lophoceros alboterminatus* Quite a few. First in Pemba.

African Grey Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus* Small numbers on the main tour [epirhinus].

Pale-billed Hornbill ◊ *Lophoceros pallidirostris* A couple seen well in the miombo north of Mikumi [neumanni].

Trumpeter Hornbill *Bycanistes bucinator* Fairly common and widespread in small numbers.

Silvery-cheeked Hornbill *Bycanistes brevis* Very common and widespread.



Some great colour was provided by the stunning Böhm's Bee-eater, Mangrove Kingfisher, Brown-breasted Barbet and Black-collared Barbet.

- White-eared Barbet** *Stactolaema leucotis* Fairly common in the Usambaras. [kilimensis].
Green Barbet *Stactolaema olivacea* Fairly common and widespread. First seen in the Usambaras [nominata].
Green Tinkerbird ◊ *Pogoniulus simplex* Seen well in the lower Usambaras.
Moustached Tinkerbird ◊ *Pogoniulus leucomystax* Common and widespread (by voice!) in all montane forest.
Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird ◊ *Pogoniulus bilineatus* A couple noted, more heard. [fischeri].
Red-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus pusillus* (H) [affinis].
Spot-flanked Barbet ◊ *Tricholaema lacrymosa* Scattered sightings [radcliffei].
Brown-breasted Barbet ◊ *Lybius melanopterus* Seen very well near Lusocho.
Black-collared Barbet *Lybius torquatus* Seen at Wamu bridge. [irroratus].
Crested Barbet *Trachyphonus vaillantii* Seen in the miombo north of Mikumi [suahelicus].
Green-backed Honeybird (Eastern H) *Prodotiscus zambesiae* One sighting.
Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor* First recorded in the Amani Hills [teitensis].
Scaly-throated Honeyguide *Indicator variegatus* Recorded in the Usambaras and Ulugurus.
Greater Honeyguide (Black-throated H) *Indicator indicator* A couple of sightings.
Red-throated Wryneck *Jynx ruficollis* Seen well in the miombo south of Mikumi.



Speckle-breasted Woodpecker in the miombo at Mikumi.

- Speckle-throated Woodpecker** ◊ *Campethera scriptoricauda* A few seen well in the miombo north of Mikumi.
- Golden-tailed Woodpecker** *Campethera abingoni* First seen in the lower Usambaras. [suahelica].
- Bearded Woodpecker** *Chloropicus namaquus* A pair seen well.
- Cardinal Woodpecker** *Dendropicus fuscescens* Those in the Eastern Arc were of the form hartlaubii.
- Olive Woodpecker** *Dendropicus griseocephalus* Several along the Sawmill R in the West Usambaras [kilimensis].
- Dickinson's Kestrel** ◊ *Falco dickinsoni* Great views of 2 on Pemba and 1 around Mikumi NP. A real cracker!
- Grey Kestrel** *Falco ardosiaceus* One in Mikumi.
- Eurasian Hobby** *Falco subbuteo* A few in Mikumi.
- Lanner Falcon** *Falco biarmicus* 1 sightings [nominat].
- Brown-headed Parrot** ◊ *Poicephalus cryptoxanthus* Great views on Pemba Island [tanganyikae].
- African Broadbill** *Smithornis capensis* Particularly common in the Udzungwas [suahelicus].
- Forest Batis** *Batis mixta* Seen along the Sawmill Road in West Usambaras.
- Dark Batis** ◊ *Batis crypta* Seen well in the Ukagurus and Udzungwas.
- Pale Batis** *Batis soror* Reasonably widespread in small numbers. First noted below Sigi in the Amani Hills.
- Eastern Black-headed Batis** *Batis minor* Great views in Mikumi NP. [suahelica].
- Black-throated Wattle-Eye** *Platysteira peltata* First seen in the Usambaras. [cryptoleuca].
- Chestnut-fronted Helmetshrike** ◊ *Prionops scopifrons* A few seen in the East Usambaras. [kiriki].
- Grey-headed Bushshrike** *Malaconotus blanchoti* Seen well in the Ulugurus.
- Uluguru Bushshrike** ◊ *Malaconotus alius* (CR) Good views in the forest in the Ulugurus. Mega!
- Black-fronted Bushshrike** ◊ *Chlorophoneus nigrifrons* See note.
- Marsh Tchagra** *Bocagia minuta* Great views in the Udzungwas [reichenowi = Anchieta's].
- Brown-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra australis* Just 1 seen. [emini].
- Black-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra senegalus* Small numbers noted, mostly heard. [armenus].
- Black-backed Puffback** *Dryoscopus cubla* Widespread.
- Fülleborn's Boubou** *Laniarius fuelleborni* See note.
- Tropical Boubou** *Laniarius major* Small numbers throughout [nominat].
- East Coast Boubou** ◊ *Laniarius sublacteus* After some hard work, good views in the Uмба Valley.
- Grey Cuckooshrike** *Coracina caesia* A few noted. [pura].
- Black Cuckooshrike** *Campephaga flava* One seen in the miombo.
- Long-tailed Fiscal** ◊ *Lanius cabanisi* A few noted. Especially common in Mikumi NP.
- Northern Fiscal** *Lanius humeralis* Common and widespread in the north.[nominat].
- Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio* 2 noted.



A stunning Pale Batis on the nest, and a fine Black-fronted Bushshrike.



Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* 1 seen.

Green-headed Oriole ♦ *Oriolus chlorocephalus* Several seen well in the Amani Hills and in the Ulugurus.[amani].

Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus larvatus* A couple seen.

Square-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus ludwigii* Several in the Amani Hills and a few more in the Udzungwas [muenzneri].

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis* Common and widespread.[fugax].

'Usambara Drongo' ♦ *Dicrurus sp.nov* See note.

African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis* A few seen, many of the form ungujaensis.

House Crow *Corvus splendens* A common introduction along the coast [nominate].

Pied Crow *Corvus albus* Common and widespread.

White-necked Raven *Corvus albicollis* (U) Seen in Luala.

White-tailed Crested Flycatcher *Elminia albonotata* Common and widespread in the mountains [subcaerulea].

Cinnamon-breasted Tit ♦ *Melaniparus pallidiventris* Several seen brilliantly in the miombo near Mikumi [nominate].

Grey Penduline Tit *Anthoscopus caroli* A pair of buff-vented birds seen in the miombo near Mikumi [robertsi].



Greenbuls! Not everyone's favourites! Clockwise from above: Little Grey Greenbul, Green-throated Mountain Greenbul and Montane Tiny Greenbul.



Eastern Nicator *Nicator gularis* (H).

Dark-capped Bulbul *Pycnonotus tricolor* Common and widespread. [layardi].

Shelley's Greenbul ◊ *Arizelocichla masukuensis* Relatively common in the Eastern Arc Mountains [roehli].

Mountain (or Black-headed Mountain) Greenbul ◊ *Arizelocichla nigriceps* See note.

Yellow-throated Greenbul ◊ *Arizelocichla chlorigula* 4 in the Ukaguru Mountains and common in the Udzungwas.

Stripe-faced Greenbul ◊ *Arizelocichla striifacies* Relatively common and widespread in the Eastern Arc Mountains.

Little Greenbul *Eurillas virens* More often heard than seen. [zombensis].

Yellow-bellied Greenbul *Chlorocichla flaviventris* A couple seen. [centralis].

Grey-olive Greenbul ◊ *Phyllastrephus cerviniventris* Great views near to Lushoto [nominate].

Placid Greenbul ◊ *Phyllastrephus placidus* A skulker, relatively widespread in the Eastern Arc Mountains.

Yellow-streaked Greenbul *Phyllastrephus flavostriatus* Tenuirostris (widespread) and uzungwensis (Udzungwas).

Montane Tiny Greenbul ◊ *Phyllastrephus albigula* (NT) Brilliant views in the West Usambaras.

Black Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne pristopectera* Reasonably common and widespread [massaica].

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Fairly common and widespread. [nominate].

Angolan Swallow *Hirundo angolensis* (U) Only seen in small numbers in the Udzungwas.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* Small numbers seen at a number of sites [nominate]

Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* Just small numbers. [nominate].

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum* Small numbers seen.

Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica* Small numbers seen at a number of sites [unitatis].



Some warbler-types in the broad sense, clockwise from top left: the recently described Kilombero Cisticola; Chapin's Apalis; Winifred's Warbler, Bar-throated Apalis and the smart little Red-capped Forest Warbler



- Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica* Several in the Usambaras [emini].
- Moustached Grass Warbler** *Melocichla mentalis* A couple of sightings. [orientalis].
- Kretschmer's Longbill** ◊ *Macrosphenus kretschmeri* Great views in the Amani Nature Reserve [nominata].
- Red-faced Crombec** *Sylvietta whytii* Small numbers seen at a number of sites [jacksoni].
- Little Yellow Flycatcher** ◊ *Erythrocerus holochlorus* A few in flocks below Sigi in the Amani Hills.
- Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler** *Phylloscopus ruficapilla* Pretty common in the Eastern Arc forests [minullus].
- Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus* Small numbers seen [yakutensis].
- Lesser Swamp Warbler** *Acrocephalus gracilirostris* Seen in the Usambaras. [leptorhynchus].
- African Yellow Warbler** *Iduna natalensis* First seen above Tegetero in the Ulugurus [natalensis].
- Little Rush Warbler** *Bradypterus baboecala* Brief views of one in the Amani Nature Reserve [tongensis].

Cinnamon Bracken Warbler *Bradypterus cinnamomeus* Several heard, seen a couple of times [nyassae].

Evergreen Forest Warbler *Bradypterus lopezi* Common by voice. A few seen well [usambarae].

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops* A few seen and heard.[sylvia]

Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans* (U) Seen in the Udzungwas. [muenzneri].

Trilling Cisticola *Cisticola woosnami* (U) Heard near to the office at Udekwa [lufira].

'Kilombero' Cisticola ◊ *Cisticola sp. nov.* Excellent views of 2 near to Ifakara on the Kilombero Floodplain.

Black-lored Cisticola ◊ *Cisticola nigriloris* (U) Seen in the Udzungwas.

Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola chiniana* Common in Mikumi.

Churring Cisticola ◊ *Cisticola njombe* (U) Excellent views in the Udzungwas [nominate]

Coastal Cisticola ◊ *Cisticola haematocephalus* At least three seen near to Hale.

'White-tailed' Cisticola ◊ *Cisticola sp. nov.* Excellent views of a pair near to Ifakara on the Kilombero Floodplain.

Croaking Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis* Just one seen in Mikumi NP [nominate].

Neddicky Cisticola *Cisticola fulvicapilla* Seen in the miombo woodland near Mikumi [muelleri].

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* First seen in Pemba. [uropygialis].

Desert Cisticola *Cisticola aridulus* Seen in Mikumi NP [tanganyika].

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava* Pretty common and widespread.

Bar-throated Apalis *Apalis thoracica* See note.

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavida* Heard in Mikumi. [caniceps].

White-winged Apalis ◊ *Apalis chariessa* (VU) (U) Seen extremely well in Uluti in the Udzungwas. Stunner!

Black-headed Apalis *Apalis melanocephala* Pretty common, by voice at least, throughout the Eastern Arc [moschi].

Chapin's Apalis ◊ *Apalis chapini* See note.

Brown-headed Apalis ◊ *Apalis alticola* (E) (U) Great views in the Udzungwas [nominate].

Green-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brachyura* First seen in the Amani Hills, and a few other sightings.

Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brevicaudata* A few sightings.

Stierling's Wren-Warbler *Calamonastes stierlingi* Excellent views in the miombo woodland near Mikumi [nominate].

Winifred's Warbler ◊ *Scepomycter winifredae* (VU) Excellent views in the Bunduki Forest Reserve, Ulugurus.

Rubeho Warbler ◊ *Scepomycter rubehoensis* 2 pairs seen very well near Mandege in the Ukaguru Mountains.

Long-billed Forest Warbler ◊ *Artisornis moreaui* (CR) Stunning views in the Amani Nature Reserve [nominate].

Red-capped Forest Warbler ◊ *Artisornis metopias* Seen in the Usambaras, Ukagurus, Ulugurus and Udzungwas.

Yellow-bellied Eremomela *Eremomela icteropygialis* Seen near Mikumi [abdominalis].

Green-capped Eremomela *Eremomela scotops* A few sightings.

Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* One male seen.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* One migrant near Lusocho.

Pale (Grey)-breasted Illadopsis ◊ *Illadopsis rufipennis distans* (U) A group seen well in the Udzungwas.

Arrow-marked Babbler *Turdoides jardineii* Seen in Mikumi. [kirkii].

Northern Pied Babbler *Turdoides hypoleuca* 4 seen well in Mikumi NP [rufuensis].

African Hill Babbler *Pseudoalcippe abyssinica* See note.

African Yellow White-eye *Zosterops senegalensis* Fairly common at a number of sites [stierlingi].

Pemba White-eye ◊ *Zosterops vaughani* Common on Pemba with many seen brilliantly. A nice bird!

Spot-throat ◊ *Modulatrix stictigula* See note.

Dapple-throat ◊ *Arcanator orostruthus* (U)(VU) Seen well (for a dapple-throat), after a lot of effort at Uluti/Udzungwas!

Yellow-bellied Hyliota *Hyliota flavigaster* A group in the miombo near Mikumi [barbozae].

Usambara Hyliota ◊ *Hyliota usambara* (EN) A group of 3 seen very well in Amani Hills, East Usambaras.

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea* Seen in Mikumi.

Black-bellied Starling *Notopholia corrusca* 2 forms: nominate in the East Usambaras; vaughani on Pemba Island.

Greater Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus* Several noted in and around Mikumi NP [sycobius].

Miombo Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis elisabeth* Reasonably common in the miombo woodland near Mikumi.

Superb Starling *Lamprotornis superbus* Seen in Mikumi.

Ashy Starling *Lamprotornis unicolor* (U) Several seen in the Baobab Valley west of Mikumi.

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* Small numbers [verreauxi].

Red-winged Starling *Onychognathus morio* Just a few seen, the first near to Lushoto in the West Usambaras.

Waller's Starling *Onychognathus walleri* Fairly widespread in most of the Eastern Arc forests [nominate].

Kenrick's Starling ◊ *Poeoptera kenricki* A couple of sightings. [nominate].

Sharpe's Starling ◊ *Poeoptera sharpii* Just small numbers in the West Usambaras.

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus* Small numbers seen around Mikumi NP.

Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorhynchus* Small numbers seen around Mikumi NP.

Red-tailed Ant Thrush *Neocossyphus rufus* (LO) Seen in the Amani Nature Reserve, East Usambaras.
Orange Ground Thrush *Geokichla gurneyi* Seen a few times. [otomitra].
Usambara Thrush ◊ *Turdus roehli* (NT) Great views of one in the West Usambaras.
Abyssinian Thrush *Turdus abyssinicus* (U) Seen in the Udzungwas.
White-browed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas leucophrys* One near Lusothis.
Grey Tit-Flycatcher *Myioparus plumbeus* Seen in the Usambaras.
White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher *Melaenornis fischeri nyikensis* in the Eastern Arc mountains.
Southern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis pammelaina* A couple noted during the trip. [nominated].
Pale Flycatcher *Melaenornis pallidus* One sighting. [subalaris].
Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* A few seen. [striata-group].
Ashy Flycatcher *Muscicapa caerulescens* Just a couple in the low elevation forest in the Amani Hills.
African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta* Widespread. [murina].
White-chested Alethe ◊ *Pseudaethe fueleborni* Seen very well in the West Usambaras.
Olive-flanked Ground Robin ◊ *Cossypha anomala* (U) Great views in the Luala Valley, Udzungwas.
Cape Robin-Chat *Cossypha caffra* A few sightings. [jolaema].
White-browed Robin-Chat *Cossypha heuglini* Widespread. [nominated].
Swynnerton's Robin ◊ *Swynnertonia swynnertonii* (U) (VU) Brilliant views at Uluti [rodgersi].
White-starred Robin *Pogonocichla stellata* Widespread.
Sharpe's Akalat ◊ *Sheppardia sharpei* (U) 3 seen very well at Uluti in the Udzungwas.
Rubeho Akalat ◊ *Sheppardia aurantiithorax* (EN) Seen very well in the Ukaguru Mountains.
Usambara Akalat ◊ *Sheppardia montana* (EN) Eventually good views in the West Usambaras.
Iringa Akalat ◊ *Sheppardia lowei* (U) (VU) A couple seen very well at Uluti.
Collared Palm Thrush (C Morning T) *Cichladusa arquata* Seen in Mikumi.



The rare Usambara Akalat (Brad Hacker), White-starred Robin and the smart White-chested Alethe.





More smart chats... Arnott's Chat (above), Collared Palm Chat (left) and the often shy Olive-flanked Ground Robin.



- Spotted Palm Thrush** *Cichladusa guttata* A couple of sightings in dry habitat. [rufipennis].
- African Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus* Widespread in higher areas throughout the trip [axillaris].
- Mocking Cliff Chat** *Thamnoleae cinnamomeiventris* Great views of a pair near Lushoto [subrufipennis].
- Arnott's Chat** ◊ *Myrmecocichla arnotti* Great views of several in the miombo near Mikumi [nominata].
- Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe* One in Mikumi.
- Capped Wheatear** *Oenanthe pileata* Seen in Mikumi NP [livingstonii].
- Plain-backed Sunbird** ◊ *Anthreptes reichenowi* (NT) One in the Amani Hills [yokanae].
- Western Violet-backed Sunbird** *Anthreptes longuemarei* 1 seen at Wamu [nyassae].
- Uluguru Violet-backed Sunbird** ◊ *Anthreptes neglectus* Great views of several in the Amani Nature Reserve.
- Banded Green Sunbird** ◊ *Anthreptes rubritorques* (VU) A pair seen well in the Amani Nature Reserve.
- Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris* Widespread.
- Olive Sunbird** *Cyanomitra olivacea* Common and widespread [olivacea-group].
- Amethyst Sunbird** *Chalcomitra amethystina* Just a couple. [kirkii].
- Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra senegalensis* Just a few. [gutturalis].
- Usambara Double-collared Sunbird** ◊ *Cinnyris usambaricus* (NT) Great views in the West Usambaras.
- Forest Double-collared Sunbird** ◊ *Cinnyris fuelleborni* (U) At least 2 seen well on the way to Uluti [fuelleborni].
- Moreau's Sunbird** ◊ *Cinnyris moreaui* (NT) Excellent views in the Ukagurus and in the Luala Valley in the Udzungwas.
- Loveridge's Sunbird** ◊ *Cinnyris loveridgei* (EN) Seen very well at two sites in the Uluguru.
- Beautiful Sunbird** *Cinnyris pulchellus* A few in Mikumi NP [melanogastrus].
- Hofmann's Sunbird** ◊ *Cinnyris hofmanni* Good views of a male in the miombo near Mikumi.



Usambara Double-collared Sunbird, one of several localized sunbirds seen. Below, the recently discovered Kilombero Weaver (left), and Eastern Golden Weaver.



- Purple-banded Sunbird** *Cinnyris bifasciatus* Particularly common at Emau Hills [microrhynchus].
- Pemba Sunbird** ◊ *Cinnyris pembae* Common on Pemba with many seen brilliantly. A nice bird!
- Rufous-winged Sunbird** ◊ *Cinnyris rufipennis* (U) (VU) Great views of a pair in Uluti Forest. Blue, not green!
- Variable Sunbird** *Cinnyris venustus* Seen a few times. [falkensteini].
- White-browed Sparrow-Weaver** *Plocepasser mahali* Plenty in the north [pectoralis].
- House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* A fairly common introduction.
- Southern Grey-headed Sparrow** *Passer diffusus* A couple of sightings.
- Yellow-throated Petronia** *Gymnoris superciliaris* Fairly common in the Mikumi area [bororensis].
- Thick-billed Weaver** *Amblyospiza albifrons* Just one sighting. [montana].
- Baglafaecht Weaver** *Ploceus baglafaecht* Just a pair seen. [reichenowi].
- Bertram's Weaver** ◊ *Ploceus bertrandi* Seen very well in the Ulugurus.
- Spectacled Weaver** *Ploceus ocularis* Fairly widespread in small numbers [crocatus].
- Eastern Golden Weaver** *Ploceus subaureus* Good numbers near Lushoto. [aureoflavus].
- Kilombero Weaver** ◊ *Ploceus burnieri* (VU) Good numbers near Ifakara including breeding males.
- Lesser Masked Weaver** *Ploceus intermedius* Seen in Mikumi [nominata].
- Village (or Layard's) Weaver** *Ploceus [cucullatus] paroptus* Just a few. [nigriceps].
- Dark-backed Weaver** *Ploceus bicolor* Several in the Amani Nature Reserve and a few others [kersteni].
- Usambara Weaver** ◊ *Ploceus nicolli* (EN) See note.
- Yellow Bishop** *Euplectes capensis* Just one sighting. [crassirostris].

Fan-tailed Widowbird *Euplectes axillaris* Seen on the Kilombero Floodplain and Mikumi. [zanzibarcus].
Orange-winged Pytilia ◊ *Pytilia afra* Good views of a pair in Mikumi NP.
Red-faced Crimsonwing ◊ *Cryptospiza reichenovii* (LO) One briefly and a dead one. [australis].
Lesser Seedcracker ◊ *Pyrenestes minor* Brilliant views of one at Hondo Hondo. Took some searching!
Red-throated Twinspot ◊ *Hypargos niveoguttatus* One in Hondo Hondo. [macrospilotus].
Red-billed Firefinch *Lagonosticta senegala* A few seen. [ruberrima].
African Firefinch *Lagonosticta rubricata* A couple of sightings. [haematocephala].
Jameson's Firefinch *Lagonosticta rhodopareia* 1 noted in Mikumi NP [jamesoni].
Blue Waxbill *Uraeginthus angolensis* Fairly common in the south of the country [niassensis].
Yellow-bellied Waxbill *Coccopygia quartinia* Small numbers at a few sites [kilimensis].
Crimson-rumped Waxbill *Estrilda rhodopyga* Small numbers seen.
Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild* Just small numbers noted, the first near Lushoto [minor].
Orange-breasted Waxbill *Amandava subflava* Good numbers seen near to Ifakara. [clarkei].
Bronze Mannikin *Lonchura cucullata* Seen at several sites. [scutata].
Red-backed Mannikin *Lonchura nigriceps* Fairly common and widespread.
Magpie Mannikin *Lonchura fringilloides* A few seen very well near to Hondo Hondo.
Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura* A few seen.
Cuckoo-finch (Parasitic Weaver) *Anomalospiza imberbis* One in Mikumi.
Mountain Wagtail *Motacilla clara* A couple of sightings.
Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* One in the Ulugurus.
African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp* Widespread in small numbers. [vidua]
Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus* Seen in Mikumi.
African Pipit *Anthus cinnamomeus* Scattered sightings, first on Pemba. [cinnamomeus-group].
Southern Citril ◊ *Crithagra hyposticta* Small numbers at a number of sites. [nominata]
Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica* Noted at a few sites. [barbata].
Reichard's Seedeater ◊ *Crithagra reichardi* One seen very well on the way to Luala.
Yellow-browed Seedeater ◊ *Crithagra whytii* (U) Great views in the Udzungwas.
Golden-breasted Bunting *Emberiza flaviventris* Seen in Mikumi. [kalaharica].
Cabanis's Bunting *Emberiza cabanisi* 1 seen.



Lesser Seedcracker, another star performer!



We saw some other great wildlife including this fantastic Usambara Blade-horned Chameleon.

MAMMALS

- Iringa Red Colobus** *Piliocolobus gordonorum* Seen by some of us in the Udzungwas.
- Angola Pied Colobus** *Colobus angolensis* This elegant primate was seen several times.
- Yellow Baboon** *Papio cynocephalus* Widespread on the main tour.
- Vervet Monkey (Savanna M)** *Cercopithecus pygerythrus* A few seen at scattered sites.
- Gentle Monkey** *Cercopithecus mitis* Many good looks in the Eastern Arc Mountains.
- Small-eared Greater Galago** *Otolemur gamettii* A noisy species that was seen a couple of times.
- Southern Lesser Galago** *Galago moholi* One sighting.
- Pemba Flying Fox** *Pteropus voeltzkowi* Many impressive individuals on Pemba.
- Black-and Red Bush Squirrel (Tanganyika) Mountain Squirrel** *Paraxerus lucifer* A couple of sightings.
- Zanj Sun Squirrel (Eastern S S)** *Heliosciurus undulatus* A couple seen in the Usambaras.
- Lesser Pouched Rat** *Beamys hindei* One seen in the Usambaras. Thanks Jonathan for the ID!
- Black-backed Jackal** *Canis mesomelas* Seen in Mikumi.
- Dwarf Mongoose** *Helogale parvula* Seen in Mikumi.
- Lion** *Panthera leo* A pair in Mikumi NP.
- Eastern Tree Hyrax** *Dendrohyrax validus* (U) Recorded in the Udzungwas.
- African Elephant** *Loxodonta africana* Plenty in Mikumi NP.
- Common Zebra** *Equus quagga* Plenty around Mikumi NP.
- Hippopotamus** *Hippopotamus amphibius* Small numbers seen in Mikumi NP.
- Common Warthog** *Phacochoerus africanus* Good numbers seen in Mikumi NP.
- Masai Giraffe (Common G)** *Giraffa [camelopardalis] tippelskirchi* Small numbers seen in Mikumi NP.
- African Buffalo (Cape B)** *Syncerus caffer* Good numbers seen in Mikumi NP.
- Cape Bushbuck** *Tragelaphus sylvaticus* A few seen in Mikumi NP.
- Eland** *Taurotragus oryx* Seen in Mikumi NP.
- Bohor Reedbuck** *Redunca bohor* A few seen in Mikumi NP.
- Impala (Common I)** *Aepyceros melampus* Good numbers seen at Mikumi NP.
- Eastern White-bearded Wildebeest** *Connochaetes albojubatus* A few seen in Mikumi NP.

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

African Green Pigeon *Treron calvus*

The birds seen were of the 'Grey-breasted' [delalandii/granti].

Black-fronted Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus nigrifrons*

This attractive species was pretty common in the Eastern Arc forests with many of the various colour morphs seen well. First seen in the East Usambaras.

Fülleborn's Boubou *Laniarius fuelleborni*

Sneaky and more often heard than seen. A few seen well, the first along the Sawmill Road in the Mugamba Forest Nature Reserve, West Usambaras were of the form *usambaricus*. The form *fuelleborni* was largely heard in the Udzungwas though one or two were seen well at Uluti.

'Usambara Drongo' *Dicrurus sp. nov.*

Common in the Usambaras. This seems to be a distinct and new taxon, a forest species somewhat similar to Velvet-mantled Drongo. It has been known about for some time but has not yet been described.

Mountain (or Black-headed Mountain) Greenbul *Arizelocichla nigriceps*

'Usambara' Mountain Greenbuls [*usambarae*] were seen in the West Usambaras.

Bar-throated Apalis *Apalis thoracica*

The form *murina* (Mouse Apalis) was pretty common, especially by voice, on most forested areas visited .

Chapin's Apalis *Apalis chapini*

The nominate form was seen very well near Mandege in the Ukaguru Mountains. Those in the Udzungwa Mountains were supposed to belong to the *straussae* ssp, but they actually looked like *chapini* on plumage...

African Hill Babbler *Pseudoalcippe abyssinica*

The form *stierlingi* was often heard in the Eastern Arc and a few were seen. Best views were in the forest trail in the West Usambaras.

Spot-Throat *Modulatrix stictigula*

The first, of the nominate form, were seen very well in the in the forest trail in the West Usambaras. Then, *pressa* was heard near Mandege in the Ukaguru Mountains and at both sites in the Udzungwas. A skulker but not too shy!

Usambara Weaver *Ploceus nicolli*

We had good views of a bird of the nominate subspecies in the Mugamba Forest Nature Reserve, West Usambaras.



A fabulous tree frog!