



*A sighting of the rare and localised Grey-crested Helmetshrike in the Serengeti was just one of the many tours highlights this trip. (Nik Borrow)*

# NORTHERN TANZANIA

**1 – 14 APRIL 2019**

**LEADER: NIK BORROW**

This incredible tour through Arusha and Tarangire National Parks, the Ngorongoro Crater and finally over the seemingly endless plains of the Serengeti surely has to be the ultimate wildlife travel experience out of anywhere in Africa if not indeed the whole world! The journey is simply one of those 'must-do' pilgrimages that all ecotourists should make at least once in their lifetimes. Our visit was supposedly in the wet season but this year the rains were either late or in the process of failing and it really only started to rain at Nduu whilst we were there and the east remained dry. During just fourteen days in the field we managed to record colourful endemics such as Grey-breasted Spurfowl, Fischer's and Yellow-collared Lovebirds, Ashy Starling, Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill and regional specialties such as Taveta and Rufous-tailed Weavers, the little-known Karamoja Apalis and the elusive Grey-crested Helmetshrike. To add to the bonanza of birds there was a wealth of mammals with cats featuring prominently during our game drives and we also gained a remarkable insight into the workings of this huge and almost untouched ecosystem. Under the panoramic

skies and across the expansive plains of the Ngorongoro and Serengeti, we were able to witness one of the greatest concentrations of large mammals on earth. After all the wildlife documentaries that have been made on the area the first-time visitor feels a sort of familiarity with the place but no widescreen television or Imax cinema can ever recreate or replace the amazing jaw-dropping and absolutely astonishing experience of actually being there! The sheer spectacle of being surrounded by grunting gnus and hee-hawing zebra combined with the obvious pleasures of a rich and vibrant avifauna, makes this tour a marvellous and deeply moving experience. Despite the huge number of tourists passing through the region it is still possible in this enormous space to escape the gaggles of vehicles that gather around sleepy lions, stealthy cheetahs or secretive leopards and set out in order to discover one's own wonders. It is indeed exhilarating to head off into the wide blue yonder in search of the next wildlife encounter travelling over huge tracts of country where one never sees another car or human being apart from perhaps the occasional Maasai warrior or cowherd draped in vivid red and striding purposefully across the apparently infinite landscape.



*You have to see the Ngorongoro Crater in order to believe it. The ever-changing light plays across the surface like an artist's brush and the animal encounters were amazing as always. (Nik Borrow)*

Our adventure began at Kilimanjaro airport where we actually started by heading eastwards, away from the Serengeti to an area of thorn bush that surrounds Nyumba Ya Mungu Reservoir. Here we enjoyed a great variety of species that frequent the acacia and commiphora habitats including specialities such as White-headed Mousebird, Pringle's Puffback, Scaly Chatterer and Pangani Longclaw. Returning westwards, our next stop was Lake Duluti where our comfortable lodge overlooked the lake itself and Taveta Golden Weavers were at an active colony by the lake. In the thick, tangled lakeside vegetation a roosting African Wood Owl in broad daylight was a real treat.

A morning visit to the plains at Engikaret gave us the exceedingly rare Beesley's Lark and we gained some prolonged views of this seriously threatened bird. We also found Short-tailed and Athi Short-toed Larks and our first large mammals with Eastern White-bearded Wildebeest and Eastern Thomson's Gazelles both present. We moved onto Tarangire National Park dominated by its enormous Baobabs, impressive gatherings of African Elephants and endemic Ashy Starlings and Yellow-collared Lovebirds. The weather conditions brought with it an unseasonal gathering of Eastern White Bearded Wildebeest with their calves and a night drive produced bouncing Northern Lesser Galagos, numerous Spring Hares and Bronze-winged Courser.

This year we were able to drive through Lake Manyara National Park and found colourful Southern Red, Black and Yellow-crowned Bishops all in breeding dress as well as spectacular Purple-crested Turacos en route. In the park we saw our first Hippos and large numbers of Lesser and Greater Flamingos and some

Chestnut-banded Plovers before climbing up the wall of the Great Rift Valley and continuing on to Ngorongoro.

Fortunately, the weather was clear for tremendous views of the crater and we managed to scope our first Black Rhino from the crater rim! In the forests that cloak the slopes we found Brown-headed Apalis and on the high grasslands watched displaying Jackson's Widowbirds and glittering Malachite, Golden-winged and Tacazze Sunbirds. Our day in the crater itself started with views of the unassuming Lynes's Cisticola whilst down below we witnessed the mass of herbivores and attendant Lions which did not fail to impress. From the crater rim the road led us down through stunted Whistling Thorn (*Vachellia drepanolobium*) and spiky wild Sisal (*Sansevieria ehrenbergii*) with amazing vistas towards the Serengeti itself where enormous numbers of Serengeti White-bearded Wildebeest and Plains Zebra were grazing. Our stay was split with three nights in the Seronera region in the heart the Serengeti and three nights at Ndutu on the borders with the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. We did well for cats generally and had multiple encounters with Lion, 1 Leopard, 16 Cheetahs and no less than three Servals; however, the real surprise was a pack of 5 African Wild Dogs! We also scored well with the bird specialties and found two pairs of Karamoja Apalis, a family of Grey-crested Helmetshrikes, a number of White-tailed Larks and endemic Grey-breasted Spurfowl, Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill and Fischer's Lovebirds. Other noteworthy species seen during the tour included Hildebrandt's Francolin, Yellow-throated and Black-faced Sandgrouse, Montane Nightjar, Nyanza Swift, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, Abyssinian Scimitarbill, Von der Decken's Hornbill, Moustached Tinkerbird (heard only), Spot-flanked, Black-throated, Red-and-yellow, D'Arnaud's and 'Usambiro' Barbets, Eastern Grey Woodpecker, Greater Kestrel, Amur Falcon, Red-bellied Parrot, Eastern Black-headed Batis, Rosy-patched Bushshrike, Long-tailed and Taita Fiscals, Red-throated Tit, Fischer's Sparrow-Lark, Pink-breasted and Foxy Larks, Dodson's Bulbul, Mountain and Grey-olive Greenbuls, Trilling and Hunter's Cisticolas, Bar-throated Apalis, 'Brown-tailed' Yellow-breasted Apalis, Grey-capped Warbler, Grey Wren-Warbler, Rufous Chatterer, Black-lored and Northern Pied Babblers, Banded Parisoma, 'Pale Scrub' Abyssinian and 'Mbulu' Montane White-eyes, Hildebrandt's Starling, Bare-eyed Thrush, Silverbird, Rüppell's Robin-Chat, 'Schalow's' Abyssinian Wheatear, Eastern Double-collared, 'Gorgeous' Beautiful and Tsavo Sunbirds, Kenya, Swahili and Chestnut Sparrows, Grey-capped Social Weaver, Speke's and Golden-backed Weavers, Blue-capped Cordon-bleu, Grey-headed Silverbill, Steel-blue and Straw-tailed Whydahs, Southern Citril, Reichenow's Seedeater and Southern Grosbeak-Canary.



*Serengeti White-bearded Wildebeest and Common Zebra on their incredible migration! (Nik Borrow)*

The tour started in the morning at a hotel near Kilimanjaro Airport from where we began our safari by travelling south-eastwards to an area of thornbush that borders the northern edge of Nyumba Ya Mungu reservoir. Although degraded in recent years by the clearance of bush for the charcoal industry and extensive building work connected to the dam the area still holds some interesting species that reach the southernmost limit of their range here. During the course of the remainder of our first day and the following morning we explored the area and spent our overnight stay in the unremarkable town of Same. The tour was timed to coincide with the rainy season but this year the rains were late and it remained dry in the east throughout our stay.

Two of the most wanted birds to be found amongst the Acacia, Euphorbia and Commiphora bushes were the characterful White-headed Mousebird and the ultra-skulking Scaly Chatterer and it was a great surprise that we saw the chatterer first at the end of our day. The members of the small family party were coerced out of their hiding place and amazingly were soon enough, and somewhat unusually, flaunting themselves in front of us!



*Scaly Chatterer is a sought-after species of the thorn bush that surrounds the North Pare Mountains. (Nik Borrow)*

The mousebird had eluded us that afternoon but the following morning they were seen easily and we enjoyed some excellent views of these beautifully marked birds. We also scored well with great looks at Pringle's Puffback, another often-secretive denizen of this habitat although in the breeding season they are often noisy and relatively easy to see. We were pleased to find a male Eastern Black-headed Batis that allowed good views as this is not a species we see commonly on our tours, a Temminck's Courser was spotted and more interesting specialties of the thorn scrub included Black-throated, Red-and-yellow and D'Arnaud's Barbets, Red-bellied Parrot, Pygmy Batis, Rosy-patched Bushshrike, Slate-coloured Boubou, Brubru, Northern White-crowned Shrike, Pink-breasted Lark, Dodson's Bulbul, the 'Brown-tailed' version of

Yellow-breasted Apalis, Red-fronted Warbler, Grey Wren-Warbler, Abyssinian White-eye (here of the yellow-bellied race *flavilateralis* which is sometimes considered part of a separate species; Pale Scrub White-eye), Bare-eyed Thrush, White-browed Scrub Robin, Eastern Violet-backed, Hunter's and Tsavo Sunbirds, Black-necked and Vitelline Masked Weavers and Somali Bunting.



*The attractive and localised White-headed Mousebird (left) put on an excellent show in the Nyumba Ya Mungu area as did this male Eastern Black-headed Batis (right) (Nik Borrow)*

Raptors were not particularly well represented but a superb juvenile Martial Eagle was seen and other more widespread bush country species included Helmeted Guineafowl, Black-faced Sandgrouse, Speckled Pigeon, Mourning Collared, Ring-necked and Namaqua Doves, Emerald-spotted Wood Dove, White-bellied Go-away-bird, White-browed Coucal, Klaas's Cuckoo, Blue-naped Mousebird, European Roller, Grey-headed Kingfisher, Little, Olive and European Bee-eaters, Common Scimitarbill, Northern Red-billed and Von der Decken's Hornbills, Cardinal Woodpecker, Brown-crowned Tchagra, Eurasian Golden Oriole, Fork-tailed Drongo, Sombre Greenbul, Northern Brownbul, Lesser Striped Swallow, Northern and Red-faced Crombecs, Willow and Eastern Olivaceous Warblers, Rattling Cisticola, Tawny-flanked Prinia, Buff-bellied Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher, Spotted Palm Thrush, Common Rock Thrush, Yellow-spotted Petronia, White-browed Sparrow-Weaver, Green-winged Pytilia, Red-billed Firefinch, Blue-capped Cordon-bleu, Purple Grenadier, Black-faced Waxbill and White-bellied Canary.

The Pangani River flows out of the dam and along its reedy banks were a number of Taveta Weavers, a restricted range species whose population dwells in the lowlands around the base of Mount Kilimanjaro. A Greater Painted-snipe here was a most welcome surprise and the reedbeds also held Black-crowned Night Heron and Striated Heron, Wire-tailed Swallow, Lesser Swamp Warbler and Winding Cisticola.

On the shores of the vast reservoir itself we found a large gathering of African Skimmers and numerous White-winged Terns in smart breeding plumage alongside Grey-headed Gulls and Gull-billed and Whiskered Terns. Other waterbirds included Knob-billed Duck, Egyptian Goose, Yellow-billed Stork, Western Cattle Egret, Grey and Black-headed Herons, Great and Little Egrets, Hamerkop, Pink-backed Pelican, Reed and White-breasted Cormorants, Western Osprey, African Fish Eagle, Black-winged Stilt, Blacksmith and Spur-winged Lapwings, Common Ringed, Kittlitz's and Three-banded Plovers, Ruff, Little Stint, Common and Marsh Sandpipers, Common Greenshank, Malachite and Pied Kingfishers and African Pied Wagtail.

After exploring the thorn scrub around Nyumba Ya Mungu we retraced our steps westwards towards Arusha. Along the way we noted our first intra-African migrant Abdim's Storks on their way to breeding grounds further north. Palearctic migrant Red-backed, Red-tailed and Lesser Grey Shrikes were much in evidence

and there were also resident Long-tailed and Northern Fiscals. The lack of raptors at the dam was made up for on the journey as we spotted Wahlberg's Eagle, African Hawk Eagle, Yellow-billed Kite, 'Steppe' Common and Augur Buzzards and Lanner Falcon. An area of cultivation was alive with Pin-tailed and Straw-tailed Whydahs in breeding plumage; a Pangani Longclaw was seen well and a small flock of Grey-headed Silverbills performed a brief fly-past! A surprise Great Reed Warbler was seen at our lunch spot and other wayside species included African Palm and Little Swifts, Lilac-breasted Roller, African Grey Hornbill, Pied Crow, Barn and Mosque Swallows, Zitting Cisticola, Superb and Red-winged Starlings, House Sparrow, Baglafaecht Weaver, Red-billed Quelea, Yellow Bishop and Reichenow's Seedeater.



*A male Somali Bunting (left) at Nyumba Ya Mungu was singing its heart out. At Lake Duluti we found a superb African Wood Owl (right) at its daytime roost. (Nik Borrow)*

By early afternoon we had arrived at our next destination, an extremely comfortable lodge overlooking the picturesque Lake Duluti, a small crater lake that nestles between the cultivation, busy towns and the peak of Mount Meru. In the garden the flowering trees were busy with Amethyst, Beautiful (sometimes split as Gorgeous) and Variable Sunbirds and Violet-backed Starlings. Down by the lake itself Taveta Weavers were busy with building their nests as were the noisy Thick-billed Weavers. Black Saw-wing and Common House Martin hawked over the deep crater-lake and there were numbers of White-breasted Cormorants loafing on the dead snags around the water's edge where Little Grebe, African Sacred and Hadada Ibises and Giant Kingfisher were also seen. The gardens and woodland that surrounds the lake are usually quite birdy and from the dense vegetation we hunted out African Goshawk, African Pygmy Kingfisher, White-eared Barbet, Golden-backed Woodpecker, Grey-olive Greenbul and Rüppell's Robin-Chat whilst a superb and amazingly close African Wood Owl at its daytime roost was a definite bonus and a sleepy Small-eared or Garnett's Greater Galago (a type of bushbaby) scored high in the 'cuddle stakes'! Other species seen during the afternoon included Red-eyed Dove, African Green Pigeon, Nyanza and White-rumped Swifts, Speckled Mousebird, Brown-hooded Kingfisher (heard only), Green Wood Hoopoe, Eurasian Hobby, Tropical Boubou, African Paradise Flycatcher, Dark-capped Bulbul, Grey-backed Camaroptera, Garden Warbler, White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher, Spectacled Weaver, Red-backed Mannikin and Southern Citril.

We bade farewell to Duluti and travelled north out of Arusha, gradually descending lower and lower until we reached our destination near the small settlement of Engikaret on the Lariboro Plains that is home to the incredibly rare endemic Beesley's Lark. One wonders how long this taxon will survive as perhaps only 50 of these birds are thought to survive and sadly, despite evidence that supports the validity of the species (IOC have split it) this taxon is not currently recognised as such by BirdLife International and HBW.



*The rarest bird of the trip was undoubtedly Beesley's Lark, with a total known population of perhaps no more than 50 birds! (Nik Borrow)*

The plains were dry and dusty and we met up with our local Maasai guide who suggested the best area to start searching. We set off on foot over the wide flat landscape and after a short while managed to locate a group feeding quietly just ahead of us. Once found the birds were easy to follow and ultimately everyone had great views of this truly rare bird. Following this great success, we were free to look for a series of other larks the most common of which appeared to be the Red-capped Larks that seemed to be absolutely everywhere. Another group of Beesley's Larks was found and eventually some Short-tailed Larks were also located whilst on the way back to the vehicle a few Athi Short-toed Larks landed in front of us. To complete this 'lark-fest' we also scored with Fischer's Sparrow-Lark and Rufous-naped Lark. During our meanderings across the plains there were also many Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse flying over and perky Capped Wheatears were common. Some dapper Taita Fiscals were seen and a Peregrine Falcon was a good find and watched sat on the ground, presumably with prey before it flew off. We also found Eastern Chanting Goshawk, Montagu's Harrier, Crowned Lapwing, Lesser Kestrel, Banded Parisoma, African Grey Flycatcher, Isabelline Wheatear and African Pipit. There was also some distant game dotted around with Eastern White-bearded Wildebeest and Eastern Thomson's Gazelles present. The morning was advancing rapidly and it was time to move on so we retraced our steps back towards Arusha but our progress was delayed by some attractive White-fronted Bee-eaters sat on the roadside wires and vegetation. Our first colourful Hildebrandt's Starlings and 'Schalow's' Abyssinian Wheatears were seen and other species noted on the journey towards Tarangire included Black-winged Kite, Pygmy Falcon, White-necked Raven, Rock Martin, Wattled Starling, Scarlet-chested Sunbird and Chestnut Weaver.

At the Tarangire National Park entrance gate there were endemic Ashy Starlings and Yellow-collared Lovebirds everywhere. The park is particularly well-known for its healthy population of African Elephants and we soon saw our first feeding amongst the enormous Baobabs that are also a feature of this beautiful park. Other mammals included herds of Eastern White-bearded Wildebeest with young calves, tail-twitching Impala, shaggy-coated Ellipsen Waterbuck, towering stately 'Maasai' Giraffes and tiny little 'Thomas's' Kirk's Dik-diks but the big surprise was the discovery of a pride of Lions which was not unusual in itself but as we watched them it was clear that three of the females were preparing to hunt some wildebeest that had come to drink. One female took the lead and began to stalk her prey and it was fascinating to watch the sheer

concentration in her eyes and body as she crept closer and closer. Unfortunately for her and her family the wildebeest took wind and although she made a gallant effort chasing the animals it was clear from the outset that the gap between them was too great and she lost the opportunity but for us the whole scenario was breathtaking.



*A Lioness sights her prey in Tarangire National Park but misses the kill and returns to the pride empty handed. (Nik Borrow)*

During the fairly short but action-packed drive to our lodge we also encountered a surprising number of new birds for the trip. Our first Common Ostrich were seen letting us know that we were truly in 'Safari Land' Africa! and other species included Spur-winged Goose, Yellow-necked and Red-necked Spurfowls, Marabou Stork, Hooded, Rüppell's and Lappet-faced Vultures, Bateleur, Tawny Eagle, Water Thick-knee, Senegal Lapwing, Wood Sandpiper, Double-banded Courser, Laughing Dove, Bare-faced Go-away-bird, Woodland Kingfisher, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, Nubian and Eastern Grey Woodpeckers, Magpie Shrike, Red-billed Oxpecker, Red-billed and White-headed Buffalo Weavers, Lesser Masked Weaver and Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu.



*The Ashy Starling (left) and Yellow-collared Lovebird (right) are both endemic to Tanzania and abundant in Tarangire National Park. (Nik Borrow)*



We were staying at the splendid Tarangire Safari Lodge for two nights and settled into our 'tents' which were more like huts made out of canvas. The lodge itself is set in an idyllic setting overlooking the Tarangire River and the 'awesome view' that is advertised on the approach road is well worth having a sundowner for!



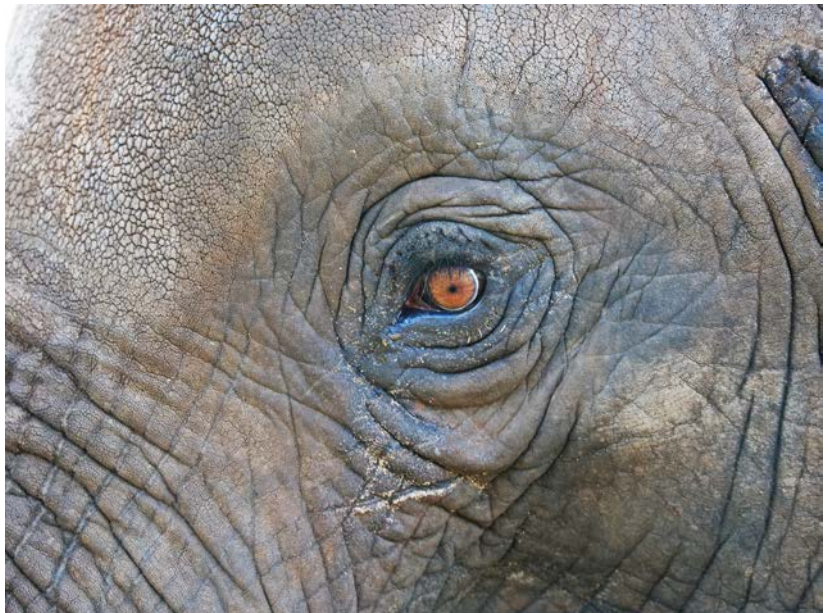
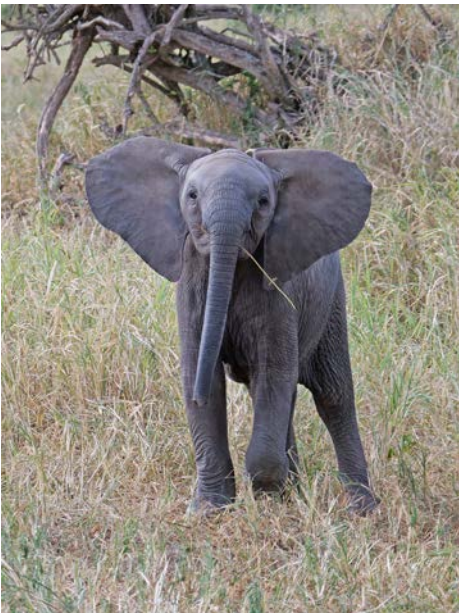
*The 'awesome' view from Tarangire Safari Lodge (with endemic Ashy Starlings thrown in for good measure) is certainly worth a sundowning or two! (Nik Borrow)*

The Tarangire ecosystem covers an area of approximately 20,000 square kilometres and comprises Baobab and Acacia woodland, *Commiphora* bushland and open grassland dotted with Real Fan Palms (*Hyphaene petersiana*) with swamps dominating the southern section. We opted for a full day drive that took us through open savanna and then followed the Tarangire River southwards to Silale Swamp. We started the day with a noisy Hildebrandt's Francolin advertising its presence just below the lodge. After breakfast we were shown a tiny African Scops Owl that had chosen a convenient tree by the rooms as its roost site before we set out for the day. On the road we found our first Rufous-tailed Weavers a species that is mainly found in Tanzania but has recently apparently extended its range into the Maasai Mara of Kenya. Other species included Coqui Francolin, Secretarybird, African Harrier-Hawk, White-backed Vulture, Brown Snake Eagle, Steppe Eagle, Diederik Cuckoo, Striped Kingfisher, Southern Ground Hornbill, White-crested Helmetshrike, Black-headed Oriole, Foxy Lark, Banded Martin, Desert Cisticola, Northern Pied Babbler, Greater Blue-eared Starling, Silverbird, Speckle-fronted Weaver, Red-headed Weaver and Long-tailed Paradise Whydah.

Of course, there were new mammals as well such as Yellow-spotted Hyrax, Common Dwarf and Banded Mongooses, Black-backed Jackal, Plains Zebra, Common Warthog, Impala, Grant's Gazelle, Cape Buffalo, Common Eland and beautiful 'Maasai' Giraffes. We also experienced two interesting and slightly un-nerving encounters with African Elephants. The first was a group that chose to feed within inches of the car and ended up surrounding us completely so that some literally eyeball to eyeball views were obtained and we could do nothing until they chose to move on. Further on we found the road blocked by an overly protective mother that dominated the road and simply would not let us pass, charging us if we tried to venture forwards so we had no choice but to retrace our steps and find another route round for it was totally clear who was the boss!

A pleasant picnic lunch was enjoyed overlooking the vast swamp where we enjoyed an intimate encounter with another pride of Lions and we spent some time watching them with their young cubs. An African Marsh Harrier quartered the expansive reedbeds, Fan-tailed Widowbirds were in breeding plumage and there were at least 4 Rufous-bellied Herons with large numbers of African Open-bills feeding in the shallows. A pair of

impressively huge Saddle-billed Storks was seen and other waterbirds included Intermediate Egret, Black Crane, Long-toed Lapwing and Collared Pratincole.



*Tarangire is the park where African Elephants can be best experienced and we had some amazing encounters that included some eyeball to eyeball views that were perhaps a little too close for comfort! (Nik Borrow)*

At night Tarangire were offering game drives for the somewhat extortionate sum of about \$100 per person (most of which is park fee!) but all of the group opted to take part. It was deemed well worth it as we had excellent views of Bronze-winged Courser and Slender-tailed Nightjar as well as Spotted Hyaena, Bat-eared Fox whilst small mammals included Northern Lesser Galago, African Savanna Hare, East African Spring Hare, White-tailed Mongoose and Common Genet.



*This sleepy African Scops Owl kept its eyes firmly shut all day (top left Nik Borrow). During the night drive we saw a number of bouncy Spring Hares (top right Carl Baer) and no less than five Bronze-winged Coursers (bottom Nik Borrow).*

A male lion had been roaring all night and sounded somewhat alarmingly close to our rooms and sure enough in the morning it could be seen below the lodge although somewhat further away than it had sounded in the night! A fine Pearl-spotted Owlet was also in the grounds before we left and during an early morning session in Tarangire we added a few species to the list including White-bellied Bustard, Abyssinian Scimitarbill and Yellow-billed Oxpecker but it was time to move on and the journey took us out of Tarangire and towards Lake Manyara National Park.

The road conditions were such that we were able to drive right through the park and we entered by the south gate stopping en route to admire Golden-backed Weaver, Village Indigobird and fantastic breeding plumaged White-winged Widowbirds and Southern Red and Yellow-crowned Bishops in the rice fields all fluffed up and buzzing around in great excitement whilst angry rice growers yelled at them trying to keep the numerous birds out of the crops. Further on we found breeding plumaged Black Bishops and in some fruiting fig trees we enjoyed great views of the intensely coloured Purple-crested Turaco whilst at the gate we found the far more sombrely dressed Trilling Cisticola as well as Yellow-breasted Apalis and Arrow-marked Babbler. The park itself stretches for 50 kilometres along the edge of the imposing Rift Valley escarpment and the lake shore and lower cliffs are cloaked in attractive acacia woodland that is the haunt of 'tree-climbing' Lions although we did not manage to find them this time round.



*In Lake Manyara National Park we were treated to good views of Lesser flamingo (left) and watched Black Heron performing its 'umbrella' fishing technique (right). (Nik Borrow)*

The lake itself provided us with large numbers of Great White Pelicans and Lesser Flamingos with small numbers of Greater Flamingo and Pied Avocet mixed amongst them. At the hot springs we obtained good close looks at the pretty little Chestnut-banded Plovers and lingering Palearctic migrant waders included Curlew Sandpiper and Little Stint. The dry woodlands provided us with views of Spot-flanked Barbet, Greater Honeyguide and Collared Sunbird whilst the D'Arnaud's type barbets here were showing more characters of Usambiro Barbet, which is sometimes treated as a separate species and has somewhat different vocalisations. We heard mixes of both song types and it seems that Manyara is firmly in the intergrade zone between the two forms. At the end of the day we chose to visit the freshwater hippo pools and the wooded areas around the northern end of the lake. The flooded watery area was alive with birds and in particular many Yellow-billed Storks in fine breeding plumage. A Black Heron was watched performing its peculiar 'umbrella-ing' fishing technique and other species included White-faced Whistling Duck, Glossy Ibis, Squacco Heron, Little Bittern, Purple Heron, Palm-nut Vulture, Common Moorhen, Grey Crowned Crane, Common Snipe, Brown-throated Martin and Red-rumped Swallow. A Highland Rush Warbler was teased out of the dense reedbeds and allowed some quite reasonable views whilst in the forest we found some enormous Silvery-cheeked Hornbills and the delicate Mountain Wagtail. Despite another group of elephants barring our way we exited the park exactly on closing time and drove the short distance up the wall of the Great Rift Valley to our comfortable lodge perched on the edge of the escarpment itself.

We woke the following morning to fantastic views over the Rift Valley towards Lake Manyara but it was a slow birding start on a dull morning with little activity. Colourful Mocking Cliff Chats brightened the day up and we also added Red-fronted Tinkerbird, Yellow-bellied Greenbul, White-browed Robin-Chat, Ashy Flycatcher and Bronze Mannikin. After a hearty breakfast we continued onwards, ever onwards to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area entering by the Lodoare Gate. Here we enjoyed excellent views of the unusual Grey-capped Warbler and eventually tracked down the sombre Brown-headed Apalis whilst Red-faced Cisticola was also seen, Moustached Tinkerbird heard and a little further into the forest we saw colourful Cinnamon-chested Bee-eaters, Mountain Greenbul, Bronzy Sunbird and glimpsed Waller's Starling flying through.



*Brown-headed Apalis (left) and Grey-capped Warbler (right) were both seen well as we entered the gate into the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. (Nik Borrow)*

Continuing up along the winding road through montane forest we eventually reached a viewpoint on the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater. Here the first word on everyone's lips was a synchronised "WOW" because for all of the media familiarity that one might feel for the crater, actually seeing it for the first time is simply awe inspiring! Stretching out down below us was the vast caldera itself, over 16 kilometres across, and even at that great distance we could make out Black (or Browse) Rhinoceros, elephants, buffalos and numerous Serengeti White-bearded Wildebeest wandering across the grasslands! We were lucky that our stop coincided with a marvellous Crowned Eagle gliding close by and we also saw a Mountain Buzzard and a pair of Mottled Swifts.

We ate our picnic lunch in the company of some Hunter's Cisticola and afterwards went on to explore the open grasslands that surround the crater and although they seemed to be a little overgrazed these days we soon found striking Red-collared Widowbirds and the desirable Jackson's Widowbird in breeding plumage which we watched performing their bizarre bouncing display rituals. Driving further we were on the lookout for stands of flowering *Leonotis* (or 'Lion's Paw') normally favoured by sunbirds however due to the lack of rain most of the clumps were not yet in flower however we did find some lovely Malachite Sunbirds holding territories and eventually one isolated stand of flowers that held the much-wanted Golden-winged Sunbird. We also managed to hunt out Brown Parisoma in their favoured flat-top Acacia trees and also saw Singing Cisticola, African Stonechat, Anteater Chat, Streaky Seedeater and Yellow-crowned Canary.

Our two nights stay was at the Serena lodge perched upon the very rim of the crater with rooms that had a view to die for! In the grounds we were delighted to see the glorious Schalow's Turaco and a pair of Brown-backed Woodpecker (which was a very good sighting) and we also noted Bar-throated Apalis, Eurasian

Blackcap, 'Mbulu' Montane White-eye, Abyssinian Thrush and Cape Robin-Chat before the chill of the late afternoon sent the birds to roost.

The next morning, we were up early and the expansive vista over the crater revealed itself as the day dawned and encouraged plenty of Dusky Turtle Doves to leave their roosts. Wasting little time, we headed straight for the 'Descent Road' where as usual our behaviour must have puzzled the numerous other passing tourist vans in the extreme as we stopped by the wayside hunting for Lynes's Cisticola rather than Lions! In fact, over the next few days it became an amusing experiment to see just how many tourists or their drivers would snarl in disgust or give us withering or sadly sympathetic looks upon discovering that we were merely looking at 'ndege' (the Swahili word for birds)! The cisticola initially played hard to get and we were also sidetracked by pairs of Black Sparrowhawk and superb Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawks right overhead but ultimately, we had close views from our vehicle of the cisticola which is named after the respected Rear-Admiral Hubert Lynes who was responsible for sorting out the taxonomy of this confusing group of warblers in a supplement to *The Ibis* way back in 1930.



*The early morning sun perfectly illuminated 'Schalow's' Abyssinian Wheatear (left) and the localised Lynes's Cisticola (right). (Nik Borrow)*

We then embarked on our drive down the steep and narrow road into the crater noting Anteater Chats, Schalow's Wheatear and Kenya Sparrows along the way and having reached the wide expanse of flat open grassland that spread over the floor of the crater we were even more aware of the space involved, as recognisable animals gradually diminished in size to dots that were scattered as far as the eye could see.

Big birds were a feature of the day with plenty of Common Ostrich and stately Kori Bustards striding across the plains as well as the smaller Black-bellied Bustard, the bizarre Secretarybird and numbers of Abdim's and White Storks. Also seen on the expansive grasslands where good numbers of Pectoral-patch Cisticolas made their little buzzing calls in display flight were Rosy-throated Longclaw and plenty of Quailfinch, some of which showed exceptionally well.

The shallow lake in the crater is called Lake Magadi which despite the dry conditions held quite a lot of water this year and this vast expanse of open water was sprinkled with numerous Lesser Flamingos, some Greater Flamingos and a small variety of waterfowl included Hottentot Teal and the pretty pink-billed Cape Teal. At the Hippo pools we found plenty of Hippopotamus wallowing in the waters and some impressive bull African Elephants as well as Red-billed Teal, African Swamphen and Red-knobbed Coot. However, the day was really about the mammals and our main quest was to see the rhinos better and eventually we caught up with several animals but sadly they were still fairly distant and typically inactive. What was once the humble,

common Golden Jackal has now been elevated to wolf status and renamed African Golden Wolf and we saw a good number as we explored the enormous space that is the crater floor covered with large numbers of game and in particular Serengeti White-bearded Wildebeest, Serengeti Thomson's Gazelles and smaller numbers of Grant's Gazelles. small numbers of Defassa Waterbuck, Bohor Reedbuck and Common Eland were seen but the somewhat dishevelled African (or Cape) Buffalos were common and often infested with Yellow-billed and Red-billed Oxpeckers. There were also somewhat menacing Spotted Hyaenas, some sleepy Lions and in the afternoon, we were treated to a wonderful Serval close beside our car.



*Cats and dogs on the plains; Serval (left) and Golden Jackal now renamed African Golden Wolf (right). (Nik Borrow)*

At the picnic site where we were joined for our lunch by the usual marauding Yellow-billed Kites and Rufous-tailed and Speke's Weavers, sneaking in for accidentally dropped scraps or even grabbing food from the hands of unsuspecting tourists unaware that being fed is strictly against the park rules! The somewhat grandly named Lerai Forest (which looks very sad these days as most of the once beautiful Yellow Fever Trees are dead or dying) delivered a Scaly-throated Honeyguide and other new birds for the trip during the day included Common Cuckoo, Grey Kestrel, Black-crowned Tchagra, Black-backed Puffback, Cape Crow, Holub's Golden Weaver and Tree Pipit. Back at the lodge we were able to see a Montane Nightjar from our balconies as night fell thus ending a wonderful day.

The next morning we woke to fine weather so we had another look at the lodge grounds before leaving and managed to see Tacazze and Eastern Double-collared Sunbirds well and also added African Olive Pigeon and Thick-billed Seedeater. We then set forth towards the Serengeti and as we descended from the crater rim of Ngorongoro the spectacular expanse of the plains unfolded before us until we reached the edge of the national park itself on a beautiful sunny day. The promise of big cats and the migration lay ahead of us and the next and final stages of our adventure beckoned. The late rains meant that the drive towards the Serengeti was pretty dry and dusty and devoid of big game and we were beginning to wonder if the wildebeest would be present en masse. There are nearly three million wildebeest in the Serengeti and almost all of them flood into the southeast corner of the ecosystem between January and April when the heavy long rains arrive.



*The view towards the Serengeti with Mount Lemakarot in the distance. (Nik Borrow)*

As we approached the lonely entrance to the Serengeti we found our first Greater Kestrel but the short grass plains beyond were mostly arid and empty apart from Kori Bustards and small numbers of Serengeti Thomson's and Grant's Gazelles. The name is derived from the word "Serengit" in the Maa language, which means "Endless Plains" and we certainly experienced this incredible feeling of space as we journeyed on.



*Road to somewhere – the entrance to the Serengeti! (Nik Borrow)*

At Naabi Hills we gazed out over the plains shimmering in the haze and in the far distance numerous black dots over the plains denoted the presence of the wildebeest. The rocks themselves were home to numerous Mwanza Flat-headed Agamas and a few birds also sought the shelter of the rocky outcrop and we found a



Black Cuckoo and Red-throated Tits as well as some 'pure' Usambiro Barbets, a family of Black-lored Babblers and some Black-faced Waxbills.

Entering into the Serengeti we drove for a short distance along the main road before heading out towards where the wildebeest migration promised to be. Along the way some splendid Spotted Thick-knees and small numbers of Black-winged Lapwing were seen as we continued onwards to the Central Serengeti. A breeding plumage Black Coucal was a good find considering it was quite dry and a small number of the seemingly scarce White-tailed Lark were found whilst other species included Western Marsh Harrier, Purple Roller, Lesser Kestrel, Grey-backed Fiscal, Whinchat, Grey-headed Wagtail and Plain-backed Pipit. Eventually our first Cheetahs were also spotted, a female with three youngsters but they were fairly distant and hidden well in the long grass and then before we knew it as we drove up onto slightly higher ground we were upon the migration for there, spread out before us were thousands of wildebeest and zebra as far as the eye could see with the expected pride of Lions gazing out over their prospective meals! We spent a long time watching the amazing scene that was happening all around us, a swarm of wildebeest on one side and long lines of animals heading off hopefully to richer pastures on the other. It seemed that nothing else could top this and as time was pushing there was little left to do except head for our lovely accommodation for the start of a three nights stay in the heart of the Serengeti.



*The migration of Serengeti Wildebeest and Common Zebra was stuck in the central Serengeti while they waited for rain. (Nik Borrow)*

The next day we headed straight to an area of Whistling Thorn where we soon found the highly localised Karamoja Apalis. This species is strictly linked with stands of this particular thorn tree and fortunately it did not take too long to track this scarce bird down. We then paid a visit to the Hippo pools which due to the low water levels was a particularly fetid experience as there was no running water to flush the toilet they were lying in! Watching hippos wasn't to everyone's taste so we resumed the game drive but little seemed to be

happening as we wound our way through the bush country but then one of the most fortuitous events of the tour happened as we pulled up behind another vehicle that was studying a hillside intently and we were informed that they had just seen a pack of African Wild Dogs but sadly they had disappeared from view having disappeared under the shade of a somewhat distant tree. These animals are a particularly rare sight on the Serengeti these days and actually the first time Birdquest has come across them on their Northern Tanzania tours so there was no other choice but to sit it out and wait for the dogs to move again. Luckily, we did not have to wait too long as they soon got up and walked a short distance away up the hill to another shade tree so that we managed to obtain some excellent views. It was only sad that they were not within good photographic range but that was obviously overridden by the pure luck at having encountered these creatures.



*Karamoja Apalis is a highly localised East African endemic restricted to Whistling Thorn (left). Our sighting of a pack of five African Wild Dogs was an extremely lucky encounter in the Serengeti (right). (Nik Borrow)*

The next best bird sighting of the day was of the endemic Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill and other new birds for the list included White-headed Vulture, Dark Chanting Goshawk, African Hoopoe, Meyer's Parrot, Croaking Cisticola, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Familiar Chat, Grey-capped Social Weaver and Golden-breasted Bunting. At the visitors centre we were able to compare the field features between some very tame Yellow-spotted and Rock Hyraxes and in the afternoon, we joined a queue of cars to view a male Leopard that had managed to catch a young zebra and haul it up into the branches of a large acacia. Although it had appeared to have taken a chunk of meat out of the animal's backside it seemed more intent in resting after its exertions. However, the arrival of a group of Spotted Hyaenas drove the Leopard out of the tree to seek safety hiding in the long grass. The disappearance of the Leopard was a cue for most of the other vehicles to also leave but we stayed on, waiting to see how the scenario would develop. Eventually the hyaenas who could not reach the carcass left the area and the Leopard returned to its kill and this time we had the place more or less to ourselves although the cat didn't seem to be interested in eating at this time and more intent on using the hapless zebra as a pillow! More than satisfied with the day's events we returned to the lodge quite elated.

There had been rain overnight and the following morning was a little dull and damp as we set off on a quest to find one of the very special birds of the Serengeti, the localised Grey-crested Helmetshrike. The first area we looked at produced nothing on this rather cool morning except a wet Flappet Lark that was new for the list so we decided to head for what we considered to be a more reliable area. We drove through numbers of wildebeest and zebra and attendant Lions and were particularly pleased to see a Marsh Owl that had been flushed by some hyaenas. Eventually we reached the location where we hoped to find the helmetshrike and sure enough, right on cue there they were a small family party of these striking birds sat on the trees all

around us. This scarce species is restricted to a small area stretching from northern Tanzania up into southern Kenya where it is particularly localised and appears there to hybridise with White Helmetshrike thus perhaps making the future of this characterful bird doubtful. A little further on we managed much better looks at the endemic Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill and some small flowering pea-like flowers proved attractive to some Golden-winged Sunbirds which was a great added bonus!



*A male Golden-winged Sunbird is surely a sight to behold! (Nik Borrow)*

Now it remained to decide what else we could do with our day and we heard news of another Leopard but sadly the animal had decided to disappear by the time we reached there, however yesterday's Leopard was still with its prey in the same tree and so we decided to pay another visit. This time he was busy eating and had managed to consume a vast amount of zebra since the previous sighting so once again we spent time with this marvellous cat watching him eat his fill and then cleaning up after the messy banquet and settling down on one of the lower limbs of the tree. We observed this with a gathering storm in the distance which was approaching with some speed and when the first drops started to fall it was time to close the roof and move on. The rain squall was violent but brief and as we drove on we found a rather soggy Verreaux's Eagle-Owl attempting to dry out as well as Red-fronted Barbet and at the end of the day a breeding male Steel-blue Whydah.

The journey from the Serengeti to Ndutu where we to spend our remaining three nights took us back across the Serengeti but the huge numbers of wildebeest had apparently moved overnight although we eventually found them way out past Maasai Kopjes where a Maasai Klipspringer appeared and having found the game we found three still rather distant Cheetahs and of course more Lions. Finding new birds was not easy but there were Yellow-throated Longclaw, a Black-chested Snake Eagle and our first Yellow-throated Sandgrouse. Our route took us through Gol Kopjes where we disturbed a family of Verreaux's Eagle-Owls

and watched a superb Cheetah on top of one of the Kopjes against a beautiful blue sky. At Naabi Hills we saw a melanistic Gabar Goshawk and we began to be aware of a spectacular movement of cuckoos which were predominantly Common Cuckoo but also included Great Spotted and Jacobin Cuckoos. Crossing the plains we disturbed numerous Spotted Hyaenas from their wallows along the way and re-entered the Ngorongoro Conservation Area arriving at the lovely Ndotu Lodge in good time to settle in, explore the grounds and enjoy a sundowner. Ndotu itself is a delightful spot and we all came to love this simple lodge in the middle of nowhere, complete with its lithe and beautiful Common Genets that arrived silently along the roof beams of the lodge each evening to rendezvous with their nightly snacks!



*A marvellous Cheetah (left) on top of Gol Kopjes and the hulking Yellow-throated Sandgrouse (right) were two of the attractions during our journey to Ndotu. (Nik Borrow)*

As in the Serengeti, we had two full days to explore the Ndotu area and here we could partake in some exciting off-road driving excursions in search of cats and more during our stay for here one isn't limited to simply driving along the tracks but can also take off into the wide blue yonder creating a great sense of adventure. Our explorations took us out over the endless plains, through acacia woodlands and around the two lakes Ndotu and Masek that lie on the border of the Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.

As the rains had so far pretty much failed in the Ndotu area the surrounding plains were devoid of wildebeest and indeed pretty much any game but there were still the resident big cats to find and we started with a female Cheetah hidden away under a dense thicket, suckling her three tiny kits. Nearby a sleepy pride of Lions were soaking up the early morning sun. Fischer's Lovebirds were numerous in the acacia woodlands that also gave us the restricted range Red-throated Tit as well as Long-crested Eagle, Rufous Chatterer and Marico Sunbird. A few Steenbok were seen and out on the plains we flushed a Harlequin Quail. The lodge itself provided great photographic opportunities in the middle of the day with sunbirds including more Golden-winged Sunbirds feeding in the flowering aloes and a variety of small birds coming down to drink. The afternoon game drive was fairly unproductive until dusk fell and we spotted another Serval and a splendid Spotted Eagle-Owl.

During our second day we started early and found a family of Bat-eared Foxes that still were still up and awake having not yet disappeared into their den after which we visited the gorgeous Eden Valley with its impressive vistas. A male Amur Falcon was found out on the plains and at the lodge we finally added Village Weaver to the list. We had actually gone in search of cats and by late morning we finally managed to track down another Cheetah but this event was superseded at the very end of the day for we found a female with two well grown youngsters. We watched her starting to hunt a Grant's Gazelle but the antelope got wise too

early and she returned to her disappointed youngsters. This was a fantastic finale to our stay in the Serengeti.



*This family of Cheetahs at the end of our last day at Ndutu was certainly a grand finale! (Nik Borrow)*

It was time to begin the long journey home and as we left Ndutu many of the animals that had become familiar to us were by the roadside to bid us farewell. However, we had one more stop to squeeze in and that was the famous Oldupai Gorge (named after the wild sisal that grows there), site of many important hominid discoveries by the Leakey family. At this historic place most of the group explored the interesting little museum now in a grand new building while birders found the hulking Southern Grosbeak Canary as well as European Honey Buzzard, Red-fronted Tinkerbird and Chinspot Batis.

The journey back to the airport now began and there was nothing else to do but baton down the hatches and head back to Arusha carrying home with us a myriad of marvellous experiences both on numerous memory cards but better still in our own internal memories! There are over 1.5 million wildebeest and 200,000 zebra in the Serengeti and almost all of them flood into the southeast corner of the ecosystem between January and April when the heavy long rains arrive and their calves and foals are born and numbers swell considerably and it felt that we must have seen a good proportion of them! It had been a stunning fortnight packed full of amazing wildlife encounters and the amount of time spent at each location had actually helped us feel a part of the Ngorongoro and Serengeti rather than just visitors. Our talented driver/guide had manoeuvred the car over all manner of difficult terrain and without his driving skills we might never have had the marvellous views of the wildlife that we had enjoyed on this tour. The Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater is home to one of the greatest wildlife scenarios on this planet and we were privileged to have witnessed it for ourselves.



*Fischer's Lovebirds are endemic to Tanzania and easily seen on the Serengeti and at Ndutu. (Nik Borrow)*

## 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).

### BIRDS

**Total of bird species recorded: 441**

**Common Ostrich** *Struthio camelus* Still common and easy to see in the parks.

**White-faced Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna viduata* Just 1 in Manyara NP.

**Spur-winged Goose** *Plectropterus gambensis* Small numbers in Tarangire and Ngorongoro.

**Knob-billed Duck** *Sarkidiornis melanotos* Small numbers at Nyumba Ya Mungu and in Tarangire.

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca* Commonly encountered.

**Hottentot Teal** *Anas hottentota* 4 in the crater.

**Cape Teal (C Wigeon)** *Anas capensis* Most numerous in the crater.

**Red-billed Teal (R-b Duck)** *Anas erythrorhyncha* Seen well in Ngorongoro.

**Helmeted Guineafowl** *Numida meleagris* Commonly encountered in the parks.

**Coqui Francolin** *Peliperdix coqui* Seen well Tarangire, in the Serengeti and around Ndutu.

**Crested Francolin** *Dendroperdix sephaena* Most numerous in Tarangire NP.

**Hildebrandt's Francolin** *Pternistis hildebrandti* Seen in in Tarangire NP and heard at Ngorongoro.

**Yellow-necked Spurfowl** *Pternistis leucoscepus* Easily seen in Tarangire NP

**Grey-breasted Spurfowl** *Pternistis rufopictus* A Tanzanian endemic easily seen in the Serengeti and around Ndotu.



*Coqui Francolin (left) and Grey-breasted Spurfowl – a Tanzanian endemic (right) were both seen easily. (Nik Borrow)*

**Red-necked Spurfowl** *Pternistis afer* Easily seen in Tarangire NP.

**Harlequin Quail** *Coturnix delegorguei* 1 flushed in the Ndotu area

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Most numerous in Manyara NP.

**Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus roseus* Seen well in Manyara NP, the crater and Ndotu.

**Lesser Flamingo** *Phoeniconaias minor* Flocks in Manyara NP, the crater and Ndotu.

**Yellow-billed Stork** *Mycteria ibis* The large nesting colony at Manyara was very busy and many round the lake.

**African Openbill (O-billed Stork)** *Anastomus lamelligerus* About 150 in Tarangire NP.

**Abdim's Stork** *Ciconia abdimii* This intra-African migrant was most numerous in the crater.

**White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia* Small numbers of this Palearctic migrant were noted in the Serengeti.

**Saddle-billed Stork** *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis* Seen in Tarangire, Manyara and the Serengeti.

**Marabou Stork** *Leptoptilos crumenifer* Small numbers from Tarangire to the Serengeti.

**African Sacred Ibis** *Threskiornis aethiopicus* Small numbers throughout the tour.

**Hadada Ibis** *Bostrychia hagedash* Noisy birds from Lake Duluti to Manyara NP.

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* Many at Manyara, 21 in the crater and a few in the Serengeti.

**Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus* (LO) Nik saw 1 briefly in flight in Manyara NP.

**Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* Large numbers in Manyara NP and more in the crater.

**Striated Heron (Green-backed H)** *Butorides striata* Singletons at Nyumba Ya Mungu, Duluti and Serengeti.

**Squacco Heron (Common S H)** *Ardeola ralloides* Good numbers in Manyara NP.

**Rufous-bellied Heron** *Ardeola rufiventris* 4 seen at Silale Swamp.

**Western Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* Widespread sightings throughout the tour.

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea* Widespread sightings but only small numbers.

**Black-headed Heron** *Ardea melanocephala* Widespread sightings throughout the tour.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea* 1 immature in Manyara NP.

**Great Egret** *Ardea alba* Good numbers at Nyumba Ya Mungu and Lake Duluti.

**Intermediate Egret (Yellow-billed E)** *Ardea [intermedia] brachyrhyncha* 4 at Silale Swamp.

**Black Heron (Black E)** *Egretta ardesiaca* 2 in Manyara NP.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* Good numbers at Nyumba Ya Mungu and Lake Duluti.

**Hamerkop** *Scopus umbretta* Scattered sightings throughout the tour.

**Great White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus* Hundreds at Manyara.

**Pink-backed Pelican** *Pelecanus rufescens* 20+ at Nyumba Ya Mungu.

**Reed Cormorant (Long-tailed C) *Microcarbo africanus*** Good numbers at Nyumba Ya Mungu and also at Duluti.  
**White-breasted Cormorant *Phalacrocorax lucidus*** Small numbers at Nyumba Ya Mungu and also at Duluti.  
**Secretarybird *Sagittarius serpentarius*** Singletons or pairs regularly seen in Tarangire, the crater and Serengeti.  
**Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*** 4 of these Palearctic migrants at Nyumba Ya Mungu.  
**Black-winged Kite (B-shouldered K) *Elanus caeruleus*** Scattered sightings from Tarangire to the Serengeti.  
**African Harrier-Hawk (Gymnogene) *Polyboroides typus*** Singletons in Tarangire and Serengeti.  
**Palm-nut Vulture (Vulturine Fish Eagle) *Gypohierax angolensis*** 1 in Manyara NP.  
**European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*** A Palearctic migrant at Oldupai Gorge.  
**Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus*** Small numbers from Tarangire to the Serengeti.  
**White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus*** Good numbers from Tarangire to the Serengeti.  
**Rüppell's Vulture (R's Griffon V) *Gyps rueppelli*** The most common and widespread of the vultures encountered.



*Abdim's Storks (left) were still making their way northwards. Rüppell's Vulture (right) is classified as Critically Endangered by BirdLife but they were still fairly numerous in the Serengeti. (Nik Borrow)*

**White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis*** Small numbers were seen in the Serengeti.  
**Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos*** Seen well in Tarangire and the Serengeti.  
**Black-chested Snake Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis*** 3 sightings in the Serengeti.  
**Brown Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinereus*** 1 was seen in Tarangire NP.  
**Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus*** Regularly encountered in the parks.  
**Crowned Eagle (African C E) *Stephanoaetus coronatus*** Excellent views of 2 from the crater rim.  
**Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus*** Juveniles seen at Nyumba Ya Mungu and in Tarangire NP.  
**Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis*** 2 seen at Ndotu.  
**Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraetus wahlbergi*** A pair near Same and 1 in the crater.  
**Ayres's Hawk-Eagle *Hieraetus ayresii*** An excellent sighting at Nyumba Ya Mungu.  
**Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax*** The most commonly encountered eagle.  
**Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis*** A few sightings of this Palearctic migrant from Tarangire to the Serengeti.  
**African Hawk-Eagle *Aquila spilogaster*** 3 sightings from Same and Tarangire NP.  
**Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar*** Just 3 sightings in the Serengeti.  
**Dark Chanting Goshawk *Melierax metabates*** Small numbers seen regularly in the Serengeti.  
**Eastern Chanting Goshawk *Melierax poliopterus*** 2 sightings at Engikaret and in Tarangire NP.  
**African Goshawk *Accipiter tachiro*** 1 seen well at Lake Duluti.  
**Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk *Accipiter rufiventris*** Excellent views of a pair on the crater rim.  
**Black Sparrowhawk (Great S) *Accipiter melanoleucus*** Brief views of a pair on the crater rim.  
**Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*** 3 of these Palearctic migrants seen in the Serengeti.  
**African Marsh Harrier *Circus ranivorus*** 1 over Silale Swamp.



**Montagu's Harrier** *Circus pygargus* Palearctic migrants seen in small numbers at Engikaret and in the Serengeti.  
**Yellow-billed Kite** *Milvus aegyptius* Small numbers encountered and a species to be wary of in Ngorongoro!  
**African Fish Eagle** *Haliaeetus vocifer* Small numbers noted throughout the tour.  
**Common Buzzard (Steppe Buzzard)** *Buteo [buteo] vulpinus* A few sightings of these Palearctic migrants.  
**Mountain Buzzard** *Buteo oreophilus* 1 seen on the crater rim.  
**Augur Buzzard** *Buteo augur* Commonly seen throughout the tour.  
**Kori Bustard** *Ardeotis kori* The widespread sightings were often close up and personal!  
**White-bellied Bustard** *Eupodotis senegalensis* Regularly encountered in Tarangire NP and the Serengeti.  
**Black-bellied Bustard** *Lissotis melanogaster* Sightings of small numbers in the crater and the Serengeti.  
**African Rail (A Water R)** *Rallus caerulescens* (H) Heard calling at Silale Swamp.  
**Black Crake** *Amaurornis flavirostra* An easy crake to see as it is not shy or skulking!  
**African Swamphen** *Porphyrio madagascariensis* 1 seen well in the crater.  
**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* Seen at Silale Swamp and in Manyara NP.  
**Red-knobbed Coot (Crested C)** *Fulica cristata* At least 6 in the crater.  
**Grey Crowned Crane** *Balearica regulorum* Small numbers from Manyara NP onwards.



We enjoyed terrific views of Kori Bustard (left) and the gorgeous Grey Crowned Crane (right). (Nik Borrow)

**Water Thick-knee** *Burhinus vermiculatus* Small numbers in Tarangire NP and 1 in the Serengeti.  
**Spotted Thick-knee** *Burhinus capensis* Small numbers seen well in the Serengeti and Ndutu.  
**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus* Commonly seen in suitable habitat.  
**Pied Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta* 2 in Manyara NP.  
**Long-toed Lapwing (L-t Plover)** *Vanellus crassirostris* Seen well at Silale Swamp and Lake Manyara.  
**Blacksmith Lapwing (B Plover)** *Vanellus armatus* A common and most striking lapwing throughout the tour.  
**Spur-winged Lapwing (S-w Plover)** *Vanellus spinosus* Numerous at Nyumba Ya Mungu and 1 in Tarangire NP.  
**Senegal Lapwing (S Plover)** *Vanellus lugubris* A flock of 15 in Tarangire NP.  
**Black-winged Lapwing** *Vanellus melanopterus* Small numbers in the Serengeti.  
**Crowned Lapwing (C Plover)** *Vanellus coronatus* A common lapwing in the parks.  
**Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula* Palearctic migrants seen at Nyumba Ya Mungu and Manyara NP.

**Kittlitz's Plover** *Charadrius pecuarius* Small numbers at Nyumba Ya Mungu, the crater and Serengeti.  
**Three-banded Plover** *Charadrius tricollaris* Widespread sightings throughout the tour.  
**Chestnut-banded Plover** *Charadrius pallidus* Small numbers in Manyara NP.  
**Greater Painted-snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis* A male at Nyumba Ya Mungu and a female in Tarangire NP.  
**African Jacana** *Actophilornis africanus* Good numbers at Silale Swamp and Lake Manyara.  
**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax* Good numbers of Palearctic migrants throughout the tour.  
**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea* 1 of these Palearctic migrants in Manyara NP.  
**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta* Numbers of Palearctic migrants throughout the tour.  
**Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago* 3 of these Palearctic migrants in Manyara NP.  
**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* Widespread sightings of these Palearctic migrants.  
**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis* 2 of these Palearctic migrants at Nyumba Ya Mungu.  
**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola* Widespread sightings of Palearctic migrants from Tarangire to Ndutu.  
**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* Small numbers of Palearctic migrants throughout the tour.  
**Temminck's Courser** *Cursorius temminckii* Singletons at Nyumba Ya Mungu and in the Serengeti.  
**Double-banded Courser** *Rhinoptilus africanus* Wonderful views of this delicate courser in Tarangire and Serengeti.



The pretty Chestnut-banded Plover (left) showed well at Lake Manyara and the delicate Double-banded Courser (right) was easy to see in Tarangire NP and in the Serengeti. (Nik Borrow)

**Bronze-winged Courser (Violet-tipped C)** *Rhinoptilus chalcopterus* 5 during the night drive in Tarangire NP.  
**Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola* 12+ in Tarangire NP.  
**African Skimmer** *Rynchops flavirostris* About 250 distantly at Nyumba Ya Mungu.  
**Grey-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus* Numerous at Nyumba Ya Mungu and Lake Manyara.  
**Gull-billed Tern** *Gelochelidon nilotica* 40+ at Nyumba Ya Mungu and also Lake Manyara and the crater.  
**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida* Some in breeding plumage at Nyumba Ya Mungu, Silale and the crater.  
**White-winged Tern** *Chlidonias leucopterus* Breeding plumaged birds at Nyumba Ya Mungu.  
**Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse** *Pterocles exustus* Seen on the plains at Engikaret and again in the Serengeti.  
**Yellow-throated Sandgrouse** *Pterocles gutturalis* Seen well in the Serengeti and around Ndutu.  
**Black-faced Sandgrouse** *Pterocles decorates* Best views were in Tarangire NP.  
**Rock Dove (introduced) (Feral Pigeon)** *Columba livia* Domestic birds only.  
**Speckled Pigeon** *Columba guinea* Most numerous in the Arusha area.  
**African Olive Pigeon (Rameron P)** *Columba arquatrix* 1 flew over the crater.  
**Dusky Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia lugens* Easily seen in the crater area.  
**Mourning Collared Dove (African M D)** *Streptopelia decipiens* Numerous at Nyumba Ya Mungu and the Serengeti.  
**Red-eyed Dove** *Streptopelia semitorquata* Arusha and Ngorongoro areas only.  
**Ring-necked Dove** *Streptopelia capicola* An abundant dove throughout the lower country.

**Laughing Dove** *Spilopelia senegalensis* Most numerous in the Serengeti.  
**Emerald-spotted Wood Dove** *Turtur chalcospilos* Small numbers in lower country.  
**Tambourine Dove** *Turtur tympanistris* (H) Heard at Duluti.  
**Namaqua Dove** *Oena capensis* Widespread sightings of this pretty dove in lower country.  
**African Green Pigeon** *Treron calvus* Seen well at Duluti.  
**Schalow's Turaco** *Tauraco schalowi* Excellent, prolonged views at the crater rim.  
**Purple-crested Turaco (Violet-crested T)** *Tauraco porphyreolophus* Wonderful looks near Lake Manyara.  
**Bare-faced Go-away-bird (Black-f G-a-b)** *Corythaixoides [personatus] leopoldi* Seen in Tarangire and Serengeti.  
**White-bellied Go-away-bird** *Corythaixoides leucogaster* Small numbers from Nyumba Ya Mungu to Tarangire NP.  
**White-browed Coucal** *Centropus superciliosus* Widespread sightings.  
**Black Coucal** *Centropus grillii* Good looks at 1 in the Serengeti.



*Schalow's Turaco (left) put on a good show for us on the crater rim and in the Serengeti, we enjoyed great views of this breeding plumaged Black Coucal (right). (Nik Borrow)*

**Great Spotted Cuckoo** *Clamator glandarius* 5 sightings in the Serengeti.  
**Jacobin Cuckoo (Black-and-white C)** *Clamator jacobinus* 1 near Same and small numbers in the Serengeti.  
**Diederik Cuckoo (Didric C)** *Chrysococcyx caprius* Widespread sightings.  
**Klaas's Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx klaas* 1 seen at Nyumba Ya Mungu.  
**Black Cuckoo** *Cuculus clamosus* Excellent views at Naabi Hills.  
**Red-chested Cuckoo** *Cuculus solitarius* Seen well in Tarangire NP.  
**African Cuckoo** *Cuculus gularis* At least 1 in Tarangire NP and heard at Ndotu.  
**Common Cuckoo (Eurasian C)** *Cuculus canorus* This Palearctic migrant was numerous in the Serengeti.  
**African Scops Owl** *Otus senegalensis* 1 at a daytime roost at Tarangire.  
**Spotted Eagle-Owl** *Bubo africanus* 1 at dusk at Ndotu.  
**Verreaux's Eagle-Owl** *Bubo lacteus* A number of excellent sightings in the Serengeti and Ndotu.  
**African Wood Owl** *Strix woodfordii* Brilliant views of a roosting bird at Duluti.  
**Pearl-spotted Owlet** *Glaucidium perlatum* 3 of these diurnal owls seen and more heard.  
**Marsh Owl** *Asio capensis* A lucky sighting of 1 flushed by a hyaena in the Serengeti.  
**Montane Nightjar** *Caprimulgus poliocephalus* 1 seen at dusk on the crater rim.  
**Slender-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus clarus* Great views in Tarangire and more in the Serengeti and at Ndotu.  
**African Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus parvus* Commonly encountered in areas with palms.  
**Mottled Swift** *Tachymarptis aequatorialis* First seen from the crater rim.  
**Nyanza Swift** *Apus niansae* Flocks seen at Duluti and again at Oldupai Gorge.  
**Little Swift** *Apus affinis* Commonly seen throughout the tour.  
**White-rumped Swift** *Apus caffer* Occasionally seen during the tour.

**Speckled Mousebird** *Colius striatus* This characterful bird was commonly seen throughout the tour.  
**White-headed Mousebird** *Colius leucocephalus* This localised species was seen well at Nyumba Ya Mungu.  
**Blue-naped Mousebird** *Urocolius macrourus* Small numbers seen throughout the tour.  
**Purple Roller (Rufous-crowned R)** *Coracias naevius* Singletons in the Serengeti and at Oldupai Gorge.  
**Lilac-breasted Roller** *Coracias caudatus* This gorgeous bird was commonly seen throughout the tour.



We had several encounters with huge Verreaux's Eagle-Owls (left) during the tour whereas colourful Lilac-breasted Rollers (right) seemed to be everywhere! (Nik Borrow)

**European Roller (Eurasian R)** *Coracias garrulus* Many of these Palearctic migrants were on the move.  
**Grey-headed Kingfisher** *Halcyon leucocephala* Several sightings at Nyumba Ya Mungu, Tarangire and Manyara.  
**Brown-hooded Kingfisher** *Halcyon albiventris* (H) Heard only at Lake Duluti.  
**Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti* Several sightings from Tarangire to the Serengeti.  
**Woodland Kingfisher** *Halcyon senegalensis* Small numbers in Tarangire.  
**African Pygmy Kingfisher** *Ispidina picta*. 1 was seen by some at Duluti.  
**Malachite Kingfisher** *Corythornis cristatus* Small numbers at Nyumba Ya Mungu, Duluti and Manyara.  
**Giant Kingfisher** *Megaceryle maxima* Excellent views at Lake Duluti.  
**Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis* A few at Nyumba Ya Mungu and 1 in the crater.  
**Little Bee-eater** *Merops pusillus* Widespread sightings.  
**Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater** *Merops oreobates* A few were seen in the Ngorongoro forests.  
**White-fronted Bee-eater** *Merops bullockoides* Good numbers seen between Engikaret and Arusha.  
**Blue-cheeked Bee-eater** *Merops persicus* Good numbers seen in Tarangire and Manyara NPs.  
**Olive Bee-eater (Madagascar B-e)** *Merops superciliosus* 2 were seen well at Nyumba Ya Mungu.  
**European Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster* Palearctic migrants at Nyumba Ya Mungu, Tarangire and elsewhere.  
**African Hoopoe** *Upupa africana* Small numbers in the Serengeti and Ndutu.  
**Green Wood Hoopoe** *Phoeniculus purpureus* Groups encountered from Duluti to the Serengeti.  
**Common Scimitarbill** *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas* Seen at Nyumba Ya Mungu and Manyara NP.  
**Abyssinian Scimitarbill** *Rhinopomastus minor* Sightings in Tarangire and the Serengeti.  
**Southern Ground Hornbill** *Bucorvus leadbeateri* Excellent views in Tarangire NP.

**Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill (Ruaha R-b H) *Tockus ruahae*** Small numbers in the Serengeti.  
**Northern Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus erythrorhynchus*** Common in Tarangire and Manyara NPs.  
**Von der Decken's Hornbill *Tockus deckeni*** Easily seen throughout the tour.  
**African Grey Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus*** Widespread sightings throughout the tour.  
**Silvery-cheeked Hornbill *Bycanistes brevis*** This impressive hornbill was seen well in Manyara NP.  
**White-eared Barbet *Stactolaema leucotis*** Small numbers seen at Lake Duluti.  
**Moustached Green Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus leucomystax* (H)** Heard in the Ngorongoro forests.  
**Red-fronted Tinkerbird *Pogoniulus pusillus*** Seen at Manyara and Oldupai Gorge.  
**Red-fronted Barbet *Tricholaema diademata*** Small numbers in the Serengeti.  
**Spot-flanked Barbet (Spotted-flanked B) *Tricholaema lacrymosa*** A few at Manyara.  
**Black-throated Barbet *Tricholaema melanocephala*** 6 at Nyumba Ya Mungu.  
**Red-and-yellow Barbet *Trachyphonus erythrocephalus*** Seen well at Nyumba Ya Mungu and in Tarangire NP.  
**D'Arnaud's Barbet *Trachyphonus darnaudii*** Sightings from Nyumba Ya Mungu to Tarangire NP.  
**Usambiro Barbet *Trachyphonus [darnaudii] usambiro*** Easily seen from Manyara (hybrids?) to the Serengeti.



The endemic Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill (left) was seen well in the Serengeti as was the distinctive Usambiro Barbet (right). (Nik Borrow)

**Scaly-throated Honeyguide *Indicator variegatus*** 1 was seen in the crater.  
**Greater Honeyguide (Black-throated H) *Indicator indicator*** A male was seen in Manyara NP.  
**Nubian Woodpecker *Campethera nubica*** Widespread sightings from Tarangire NP to Ndutu.  
**Golden-tailed Woodpecker *Campethera abingoni*** Singletons at Duluti and Manyara NP.  
**Bearded Woodpecker *Chloropicus namaquus*** 2 sightings at Ndutu.  
**Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens*** Small numbers at Nyumba Ya Mungu and in the Serengeti.  
**Eastern Grey Woodpecker *Dendropicos spodocephalus*** Good looks in Tarangire and the Serengeti.  
**Brown-backed Woodpecker *Dendropicos obsoletus*** A pair seen well on the crater rim.  
**Pygmy Falcon *Polihierax semitorquatus*** Small numbers from Engikaret to the Serengeti.  
**Lesser Kestrel *Falco neumanni*** Large numbers of this Palearctic migrant in the Serengeti.  
**Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*** Just 1 positively identified en route to the Serengeti.  
**Greater Kestrel (White-eyed K) *Falco rupicoloides*** Just 3 sightings in the Serengeti.  
**Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus*** Singletons in the crater and in the Serengeti.  
**Amur Falcon (Eastern Red-footed F) *Falco amurensis*** A male on the Ndutu plains.  
**Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*** Widespread sightings of this Palearctic migrant throughout the tour.  
**Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*** Seen near Same and again en route to Tarangire.  
**Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*** 1 was seen on the Engikaret Plains.  
**Meyer's Parrot (Brown P) *Poicephalus meyeri*** Small numbers in the Serengeti.  
**Red-bellied Parrot (African Orange-b P) *Poicephalus rufiventris*** Seen well in Nyumba Ya Mungu and Tarangire.

**Fischer's Lovebird** *Agapornis fischeri* No problems seeing this endemic in the Serengeti and at Ndutu.

**Yellow-collared Lovebird** *Agapornis personatus* No problems seeing this endemic in Tarangire NP.

**Chin-spot Batis** *Batis molitor* Seen at Oldupai Gorge and heard elsewhere.

**Eastern Black-headed Batis** *Batis minor* 1 male seen and heard well at Nyumba Ya Mungu.

**Pygmy Batis** *Batis perkeo* A pair seen well at Nyumba Ya Mungu.

**Orange-breasted Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus* (H) Heard from Nyumba Ya Mungu to Ngorongoro.

**Rosy-patched Bushshrike** *Telophorus cruentus* Seen well at Nyumba Ya Mungu and Engikaret.

**Brown-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra australis* Common but heard more often than seen throughout the tour.

**Black-crowned Tchagra** *Tchagra senegalus* Seen in the crater and heard elsewhere.

**Black-backed Puffback** *Dryoscopus cubla* Seen in the crater and heard elsewhere.

**Pringle's Puffback** *Dryoscopus pringlii* A pair seen well at Nyumba Ya Mungu.

**Slate-coloured Boubou** *Laniarius funebris* Easy to see throughout the tour.

**Tropical Boubou** *Laniarius major* Seen well at Duluti and in the Ngorongoro area.

**Brubru** *Nilaus afer* Widespread sightings throughout the tour.

**White-crested Helmetshrike** *Prionops plumatus* Flocks seen in Tarangire and Manyara NPs.

**Grey-crested Helmetshrike** *Prionops poliophus* A flock was found in the Serengeti, one of the avian highlights!

**Magpie Shrike** *Urolestes melanoleucus* Common and easily seen in Tarangire and the Serengeti.

**Northern White-crowned Shrike** *Eurocephalus rueppelli* Common and easily seen throughout the tour.

**Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio* Good numbers of these Palearctic migrants scattered throughout the tour.

**Red-tailed Shrike** *Lanius phoenicuroides* Small numbers of these Palearctic migrants up to Engikaret.

**Lesser Grey Shrike** *Lanius minor* Palearctic migrants seen throughout passing up from the south.

**Grey-backed Fiscal** *Lanius excubitoroides* Commonly encountered in the Serengeti.

**Long-tailed Fiscal** *Lanius cabanisi* Easily seen from Same to Manyara NP.

**Taita Fiscal** *Lanius dorsalis* Easily seen at Engikaret and in the Serengeti.

**Northern Fiscal** *Lanius humeralis* Widespread and often seen on journeys from Arusha to Ngorongoro.

**Eurasian Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus* 2 of these Palearctic migrants at Nyumba Ya Mungu.

**Black-headed Oriole (Eastern B-h O)** *Oriolus larvatus* Heard more than seen from Tarangire to Manyara NPs.

**Fork-tailed Drongo (Common D)** *Dicrurus adsimilis* Widespread sightings throughout the tour.

**African Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone viridis* First seen at Lake Duluti.

**Cape Crow (C Rook, Black C)** *Corvus capensis* Small numbers in the Serengeti.

**Pied Crow** *Corvus albus* Common but absent from Ngorongoro and the Serengeti.

**White-necked Raven (W-naped R)** *Corvus albicollis* Seen near Engikaret and the crater.

**Red-throated Tit** *Melaniparus fringillinus* These localised birds were seen well at Naabi Hills and Ndutu.



*Magpie Shrikes (left) are striking birds seen well in Tarangire and the Serengeti. The Red-throated Tit (right) is endemic to acacia woodland in southern Kenya and northern Tanzania. (Nik Borrow)*

**Beesley's Lark** *Chersomanes beesleyi* A minimum of 8 birds at Engikaret. BirdLife does not yet recognise the split.  
**Fischer's Sparrow-Lark** *Eremopterix leucopareia* One of the most abundant birds seen during the tour.  
**Pink-breasted Lark** *Calendulauda poecilosterna* Easily seen at Nyumba Ya Mungu.  
**Foxy Lark** *Calendulauda alopex* Small numbers seen in Tarangire and the Serengeti.  
**Rufous-naped Lark** *Mirafraga africana* Commonly seen and always heard on the various plains.  
**Flappet Lark** *Mirafraga rufocinnamomea* Displaying birds in the Serengeti.  
**White-tailed Lark** *Mirafraga albicauda* Small numbers singing and displaying in the Serengeti.  
**Short-tailed Lark** *Spizocorys fremantlii* At least 6 were seen on the plains at Engikaret.



*Fischer's Sparrow-Lark (left) was one of the most abundant birds seen during the tour. We had to work a little harder to find the Short-tailed Lark (right) on the plains at Engikaret. (Nik Borrow)*

**Red-capped Lark** *Calandrella cinerea* A common lark and particularly abundant in the Serengeti.  
**Athi Short-toed Lark** *Alaudala athensis* Just a few on the plains at Engikaret.  
**Dodson's Bulbul** *Pycnonotus dodsoni* Easy to see at Nyumba Ya Mungu.  
**Dark-capped Bulbul** *Pycnonotus tricolor* Widespread throughout the tour.  
**Mountain Greenbul (Black-headed M G)** *Arizelocichla nigriceps* Just 1 seen on the crater rim.  
**Sombre Greenbul (Zanzibar S G)** *Andropadus importunus*. Small numbers at Nyumba Ya Mungu.  
**Yellow-bellied Greenbul** *Chlorocichla flaviventris* 1 was seen in the garden at Manyara.  
**Northern Brownbul** *Phyllastrephus strepitans* 3 were seen well at Nyumba Ya Mungu.  
**Grey-olive Greenbul** *Phyllastrephus cerviniventris* Excellent views of this localised greenbul at Duluti.  
**Black Saw-wing (B Rough-wing)** *Psalidoprocne [pristoptera] holomelas* Small numbers at Duluti and Ngorongoro.  
**Brown-throated Martin (Plain M)** *Riparia paludicola* A couple seen in Manyara NP.  
**Banded Martin** *Riparia cincta* Small numbers from Tarangire to the Serengeti.  
**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* Large numbers of this Palearctic migrant on the move.  
**Wire-tailed Swallow** *Hirundo smithii* Small numbers at widespread localities but best views in Manyara NP.  
**Rock Martin** *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* Small numbers at widespread localities.  
**Common House Martin** *Delichon urbicum* A few of these Palearctic migrants seen during the tour.  
**Lesser Striped Swallow** *Cecropis abyssinica* Commonly encountered during the tour but absent from the Serengeti.  
**Mosque Swallow** *Cecropis senegalensis* Small numbers from Nyumba Ya Mungu to Tarangire.  
**Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica* Most numerous from the crater to Ndutu.  
**Northern Crombec** *Sylvietta brachyura* Easily seen at Nyumba Ya Mungu.  
**Red-faced Crombec** *Sylvietta whytii* Small numbers at Nyumba Ya Mungu.  
**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus* Widespread sightings of these Palearctic migrants.  
**Lesser Swamp Warbler** *Acrocephalus gracilirostris* Sightings at Nyumba Ya Mungu and in the crater.  
**Great Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* 1 of these Palearctic migrants en route to Duluti.

**Eastern Olivaceous Warbler** *Iduna pallida* A few of these Palearctic migrants at Nyumba Ya Mungu.  
**Cinnamon Bracken Warbler** *Bradypterus cinnamomeus* (H) Heard in the Ngorongoro forest.  
**Highland Rush Warbler** *Bradypterus centralis* Seen well at Manyara and another in the crater.  
**Red-faced Cisticola** *Cisticola erythrops* 1 sighting at Ngorongoro but heard elsewhere.  
**Singing Cisticola** *Cisticola cantans* Seen on the crater rim and heard elsewhere.  
**Trilling Cisticola** *Cisticola woosnami* Seen in Manyara NP.  
**Hunter's Cisticola** *Cisticola hunter* Seen well on the crater rim.  
**Rattling Cisticola** *Cisticola chiniana* Widespread and abundant.  
**Lynes's Cisticola** *Cisticola distinctus* Good looks in the crater.



*Cisticolas* are a much-maligned group to celebrate them we have Hunter's Cisticola (left). Bar-throated Apalis (right) on the crater rim.  
 (Nik Borrow)

**Winding Cisticola** *Cisticola marginatus* Widespread sightings and common in wet grassland in the Serengeti.  
**Croaking Cisticola** *Cisticola natalensis* Small numbers seen in the Serengeti.  
**Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis* Commonly encountered throughout the tour.  
**Desert Cisticola** *Cisticola aridulus* Seen in Tarangire NP and common in the Serengeti.  
**Pectoral-patch Cisticola** *Cisticola brunescens* Common in the Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti.  
**Tawny-flanked Prinia** *Prinia subflava* Small numbers seen from Nyumba Ya Mungu to Ngorongoro.  
**Buff-bellied Warbler** *Phyllolais pulchella* Small numbers seen at suitable widespread localities.  
**Bar-throated Apalis** *Apalis thoracica* Seen well on the crater rim.  
**Yellow-breasted Apalis (Black-breasted A)** *Apalis flavida* Encountered throughout the tour except...  
**Brown-tailed Apalis** *Apalis [flavida] viridiceps* Those seen at Nyumba Ya Mungu are of this taxon's song type.  
**Karamoja Apalis** *Apalis karamojae* Two pairs allowed excellent views in the Serengeti.  
**Brown-headed Apalis** *Apalis alticola* 1 showed well in the Ngorongoro forests.  
**Red-fronted Warbler** *Urorhipis rufifrons* Easily seen at Nyumba Ya Mungu and Engikaret.  
**Grey-capped Warbler** *Eminia lepida* A pair at the Lodoare Gate.  
**Grey-backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brevicaudata* Encountered from Duluti to Ngorongoro.  
**Grey Wren-Warbler** *Calamonastes simplex* Easy to see at Nyumba Ya Mungu.  
**Yellow-bellied Eremomela** *Eremomela icteropygialis* 1 seen in the Serengeti.  
**Scaly Chatterer** *Turdoides aylmeri* Surprisingly showy groups at Nyumba Ya Mungu.  
**Rufous Chatterer** *Turdoides rubiginosa* At least 2 at Nduu.  
**Black-lored Babbler (Sharpe's Pied B)** *Turdoides sharpei* Easy to see in the Serengeti and Nduu.  
**Arrow-marked Babbler** *Turdoides jardineii* Only seen in Manyara NP.  
**Northern Pied Babbler** *Turdoides hypoleuca* Easily seen in Tarangire NP.  
**Eurasian Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla* A female of this Palearctic migrant seen on the crater rim.  
**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin* 1 of these Palearctic migrants at Lake Duluti.



**Common Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis* Singletons of this Palearctic migrant at Nyumba Ya Mungu and Engikaret.  
**Brown Parisoma** *Sylvia lugens* A pair seen in the Ngorongoro area.  
**Banded Parisoma** *Sylvia boehmi* Seen well at Engikaret and heard in the Serengeti and Nduu.  
**Abyssinian White-eye (Pale Scrub W-e)** *Zosterops [abyssinicus] flavilateralis* Nyumba Ya Mungu and Oldupai.



The 'montane' white-eye in the crater highlands has recently been split as Mbulu White-eye (left) whilst the yellow-bellied forms of Abyssinian White-eye (right) are also deemed worthy of specific status and named Pale Scrub White-eye however the IOC have not yet accepted this taxonomy. (Nik Borrow)

**Montane White-eye (Mbulu W-e)** *Zosterops [poliogastrus] mbuluensis* Seen on the crater rim.  
**Wattled Starling** *Creatophora cinerea* Extremely common from Arusha to Nduu.  
**Greater Blue-eared Starling** *Lamprotornis chalybaeus* 1 in Tarangire NP.  
**Rüppell's Starling (R's Long-tailed S)** *Lamprotornis purpuroptera* Easy to see in the Serengeti.  
**Superb Starling** *Lamprotornis superbus* An abundant and colourful addition to the avifauna and seen throughout.  
**Hildebrandt's Starling** *Lamprotornis hildebrandti* Most numerous in the Serengeti.  
**Ashy Starling** *Lamprotornis unicolor* This endemic was very common in Tarangire NP.



Hildebrandt's Starling (left) and the lovely Silverbird (right). (Nik Borrow)

**Violet-backed Starling** *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* Sightings at Duluti, Manyara and in the crater.

**Red-winged Starling** *Onychognathus morio* Regularly encountered throughout the tour.

**Yellow-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus africanus* Seen in Tarangire, the Serengeti and Ndotu.

**Red-billed Oxpecker** *Buphagus erythrorhynchus* The more common oxpecker noted throughout the tour.

**Bare-eyed Thrush (African B-e T)** *Turdus tephronotus* 2 seen well at Nyumba Ya Mungu.

**Abyssinian Thrush (Mountain, Northern Olive T)** *Turdus abyssinicus* 1 seen on the crater rim.

**White-browed Scrub Robin** *Cercotrichas leucophrys* Widespread sightings in suitable habitat throughout.

**White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher** *Melaenornis fischeri* 1 at Duluti and more on the crater rim.

**African Grey Flycatcher** *Melaenornis microrhynchus* Seen at Engikaret, Tarangire and the Serengeti.

**Silverbird** *Empidornis semipartitus* This beautiful flycatcher was seen in Tarangire, the Serengeti and Ndotu.

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata* Widespread sightings of these Palearctic migrants.

**Ashy Flycatcher** *Muscicapa caerulescens* 1 was seen in the garden at Manyara.

**Cape Robin-Chat** *Cossypha caffra* 2 in the Ngorongoro area.

**Rüppell's Robin-Chat** *Cossypha semirufa* 1 seen at Duluti.

**White-browed Robin-Chat** *Cossypha heuglini* Common in the garden at Manyara.

**Spotted Palm Thrush (S Morning T)** *Cichladusa guttata* Widespread sightings in suitable habitat.

**Common Rock Thrush (Rufous-tailed R T)** *Monticola saxatilis* Widespread sightings of this Palearctic migrant.

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra* 1 of these Palearctic migrants was seen in the Serengeti.

**African Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus* Common in the Ngorongoro uplands.

**Mocking Cliff Chat (Cliff C)** *Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris* Seen well in the garden at Manyara.

**Anteater Chat (Northern A C)** *Myrmecocichla aethiops* Seen well in the crater.

**Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe* 1 of these Palearctic migrants was seen in the Serengeti.

**Capped Wheatear** *Oenanthe pileata* Common on the Engikaret Plains, Ngorongoro and the Serengeti.

**Isabelline Wheatear** *Oenanthe isabellina* Palearctic migrants on the Engikaret Plains and the Serengeti.

**Familiar Chat (Red-tailed C)** *Oenanthe familiaris* 1 was seen in the Serengeti.

**Abyssinian (Schalow's) Wheatear** *Oenanthe [lugubris] schalowi* Seen near Arusha and in the crater.

**Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird (Kenya V-b S)** *Anthreptes orientalis* Seen at Nyumba Ya Mungu.

**Collared Sunbird** *Hedydipna collaris* 1 in Manyara NP.

**Amethyst Sunbird** *Chalcomitra amethystina* 4 in the garden at Duluti.

**Scarlet-chested Sunbird** *Chalcomitra senegalensis* Most numerous in the Serengeti and at Ndotu.



Scarlet-chested Sunbird (left) at Ndotu. BirdLife and HBW split the melanogastrus form of Beautiful Sunbird as a separate species and call it Gorgeous Sunbird. (Nik Borrow)

**Hunter's Sunbird** *Chalcomitra hunteri* Small numbers at Nyumba Ya Mungu.

**Tacazze Sunbird** *Nectarinia tacazze* 2 seen on the crater rim.

**Bronzy Sunbird** *Nectarinia kilimensis* Small numbers seen in the Ngorongoro forests.

**Malachite Sunbird** *Nectarinia famosa* 6 seen along the Misigiyo road and 1 at Oldupai.

**Golden-winged Sunbird** *Drepanorhynchus reichenowi* Seen along the Misigiyo road, Serengeti and Ndotu.

**Eastern Double-collared Sunbird** *Cinnyris mediocris* Seen well on the crater rim.

**Beautiful Sunbird (Gorgeous S) *Cinnyris [pulchellus] melanogastrus*** Numerous in Tarangire and the Ndutu area.

**Marico Sunbird (Mariqua S) *Cinnyris mariquensis*** 1 seen in the central Serengeti.

**Tsavu Sunbird *Cinnyris tsavoensis*** Just 1 male seen at Nyumba Ya Mungu.

**Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus*** Widespread sightings throughout the tour.

**House Sparrow (Introduced) *Passer domesticus*** Noted on journeys in urban areas.

**Kenya Sparrow (Rufous S) *Passer rufocinctus*** Seen well in the crater and the Serengeti.

**Swahili Sparrow *Passer suahelicus*** Common and widespread.

**Chestnut Sparrow *Passer eminibey*** Widespread sightings from Tarangire to the Serengeti.

**Yellow-spotted Petronia *Gymnoris pyrgita*** Widespread sightings from Nyumba Ya Mungu to the Serengeti.

**Red-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis niger*** Commonly seen in Tarangire and the Serengeti.

**White-headed Buffalo Weaver *Dinemellia dinemelli*** Very common in Tarangire and again in the Serengeti.

**Rufous-tailed Weaver *Histurgops ruficauda*** This near endemic was easy to see from Tarangire to the Serengeti.

**Grey-capped Social Weaver *Pseudonigrita arnaldi*** Most common in the central Serengeti and Ndutu.

**Speckle-fronted Weaver *Sporopipes frontalis*** Very common in the central Serengeti and Ndutu.

**Thick-billed Weaver (Grosbeak-W) *Amblyospiza albifrons*** Nest-building at Duluti and Manyara.

**Baglafaecht Weaver *Ploceus baglafaecht*** The form concerned *reichenowi* was once treated as a separate species.

**Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis*** Just 1 at Duluti.

**Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis*** Small numbers at Nyumba Ya Mungu.

**Holub's Golden Weaver *Ploceus xanthops*** 1 male in the crater.

**Taveta Weaver *Ploceus castaneiceps*** Colonies of this near endemic at Nyumba Ya Mungu and Duluti.



*Rufous-tailed Weaver (left) is a common near-endemic to Tanzania that just creeps across the border into the Maasai Mara. The colourful Taveta Weaver (right) is endemic to the foothills and lowlands surrounding Mount Kilimanjaro. (Nik Borrow)*

**Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus intermedius*** Widespread sightings throughout.

**Vitelline Masked Weaver *Ploceus vitellinus*** Widespread sightings throughout.

**Speke's Weaver *Ploceus spekei*** Easily seen at the picnic site in the crater.

**Village Weaver (Black-headed W) *Ploceus cucullatus*** Seen at Ndutu.

**Golden-backed Weaver (Jackson's G-b W) *Ploceus jacksoni*** Seen well near Lake Manyara NP.

**Chestnut Weaver *Ploceus rubiginosus*** Breeding plumaged birds from near Engikaret to the Manyara area.

**Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes rubriceps*** Seen well in Tarangire.

**Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*** Most numerous in the Manyara area.

**Yellow-crowned Bishop *Euplectes afer*** A breeding plumaged male in the Manyara area.

**Black Bishop *Euplectes gierowii*** Breeding plumaged birds seen well in in the Manyara area and at Oldupai Gorge.

**Southern Red Bishop *Euplectes orix*** Breeding plumaged birds in the Manyara area.

**Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis*** Small numbers of breeding plumaged birds at widespread localities.

**Fan-tailed Widowbird** *Euplectes axillaris* Breeding plumaged birds from Silale Swamp to the crater.  
**White-winged Widowbird** *Euplectes albonotatus* Breeding plumaged birds in the Manyara area.  
**Red-collared Widowbird (R-naped W)** *Euplectes ardens* Breeding plumaged birds on the crater rim.  
**Jackson's Widowbird** *Euplectes jacksoni* Breeding plumaged birds on and in the crater.  
**Green-winged Pytilia** *Pytilia melba* Sightings at Nyumba Ya Mungu, Tarangire and the Serengeti.  
**Red-billed Firefinch** *Lagonosticta senegala* Seen from Nyumba Ya Mungu to Ngorongoro.  
**Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu** *Uraeginthus bengalus* Seen from Tarangire to the Serengeti.  
**Blue-capped Cordon-bleu** *Uraeginthus cyanocephalus* Widespread sightings throughout the tour.  
**Purple Grenadier** *Uraeginthus ianthinogaster* Small numbers at Nyumba Ya Mungu and in the Serengeti.  
**Common Waxbill** *Estrilda astrild* Seen in the crater and Serengeti.  
**Black-faced Waxbill** *Estrilda erythronotos* Widespread sightings throughout the tour.  
**African Quailfinch** *Ortygospiza [atricollis] fuscocrissa* We were lucky to see birds on the ground in the crater.



*Black-faced Firefinch (left) and African Quailfinch (right) both allowed some excellent views. (Nik Borrow)*

**Grey-headed Silverbill** *Odontospiza caniceps* A flock of 6 was seen in flight near Same.  
**Bronze Mannikin** *Lonchura cucullata*. Just 1 in the garden at Manyara.  
**Red-backed Mannikin (Rufous-backed M)** *Lonchura nigriceps* 3 in the garden at Duluti.  
**Village Indigobird** *Vidua chalybeata* Widespread sightings included birds in breeding plumage.  
**Pin-tailed Whydah** *Vidua macroura* Breeding plumaged birds throughout the tour, particularly numerous near Same.  
**Steel-blue Whydah** *Vidua hypocherina* 1 breeding plumaged male in the Serengeti.  
**Straw-tailed Whydah** *Vidua fischeri* Breeding plumaged birds particularly numerous near Same.  
**Long-tailed Paradise Whydah** *Vidua paradisaea* 1 male in breeding plumage in Tarangire NP.  
**Blue-headed Wagtail** *Motacilla [flava] flava* A Palearctic migrant and the most numerous *flava* type identified.  
**Black-headed Wagtail (Western Yellow W)** *Motacilla [flava] feldegg* At least 2 at Nyumba Ya Mungu.  
**Grey-headed Wagtail (Western Yellow W)** *Motacilla [flava] thunbergi* 1 was seen in the Serengeti.  
**Mountain Wagtail** *Motacilla clara* A pair in Manyara NP.  
**African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp* Widespread sightings throughout.  
**Yellow-throated Longclaw** *Macronyx croceus* 4 sightings in the central Serengeti.  
**Pangani Longclaw** *Macronyx aurantiigula* 1 seen near Same.  
**Rosy-throated Longclaw (R-breasted L)** *Macronyx ameliae* A few in the crater and more in the Serengeti.  
**African Pipit (Grassland P)** *Anthus cinnamomeus* Most numerous in the crater and the Serengeti.  
**Plain-backed Pipit** *Anthus leucophrys* The race *goodsoni* seen in the crater and Serengeti.  
**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis* A Palearctic migrant seen on the crater rim.  
**Southern Citril (East African C)** *Crithagra hyposticta* 2 seen in the garden at Duluti.  
**Reichenow's Seedeater** *Crithagra reichenowi* Small numbers near Same and in Tarangire NP.

**White-bellied Canary *Crithagra dorsostriatus*** Common in the Serengeti.  
**Southern Grosbeak-Canary *Crithagra buchmanani*** Heard at Nyumba Ya Mungu and seen well at Oldupai Gorge.  
**Thick-billed Seedeater *Crithagra burtoni*** 1 seen on the crater rim.  
**Streaky Seedeater *Crithagra striolata*** Easily seen in the Ngorongoro area.  
**Yellow-crowned Canary *Serinus flavivertex*** Seen in the Ngorongoro area.  
**Somali Bunting *Emberiza poliopleura*** Easy to see at Nyumba Ya Mungu.  
**Golden-breasted Bunting (African G-b B) *Emberiza flaviventris*** 1 in the Central Serengeti.



*Greater Kestrel (top left) in the Serengeti, Southern Grosbeak-Canary (top right) at Oldupai Gorge and Black-lored Babbler at Naabi Hills (bottom). (Nik Borrow)*



*This male Leopard had caught itself a young zebra and had managed to carry it out of reach in a large acacia. (Nik Borrow)*

## MAMMALS

Total of mammal species recorded: 57

**African Elephant** *Loxodonta africana* Wonderful encounters in Tarangire, the crater and the Serengeti.

**Yellow-spotted Hyrax (Bush H)** *Heterohyrax brucei* Easy to see in Tarangire and the Serengeti.

**Rock Hyrax (Black-necked R H)** *Procavia [capensis] johnstoni* Easy to see in the central Serengeti.

**Northern Lesser Galago (Senegal G)** *Galago senegalensis* Seen in Tarangire and Nduvu.

**Thick-tailed Greater Galago (G G)** *Otolemur crassicaudatus (H)* Heard at night at Manyara.

**Small-eared Greater Galago (Garnett's G G)** *Otolemur garnettii* 1 at a daytime roost at Duluti.

**Blue Monkey (Sykes's M)** *Cercopithecus [mitis] albogularis* Seen in Manyara NP.

**Vervet (Savanna Monkey)** *Chlorocebus pygerythrus* Commonly seen throughout.

**Olive Baboon** *Papio anubis* Commonly seen from Tarangire NP to the Serengeti.

**Cape Hare** *Lepus capensis* 1 seen on the Engikaret Plains.

**African Savanna Hare** *Lepus microtis* Seen in Tarangire NP, Serengeti and Nduvu.

**East African Spring-hare** *Pedetes surdaster* Great views during the Tarangire night drive.

**African Grass Rat** *Arvicanthis niloticus* Seen in the Serengeti and at Nduvu.

**Ochre Bush Squirrel** *Paraxerus ochraceus* Seen from Duluti to Manyara.

**Cheetah** *Acinonyx jubatus* 15 different individuals seen in the Serengeti and Nduvu.

**Serval** *Leptailurus serval* 3 individuals seen: 1 in the crater and 2 at Nduvu.

**Lion** *Panthera leo* Plenty of Lions (about 90) of all sizes and ages!

**Leopard** *Panthera pardus* Just 1 male but seen exceptionally well during this tour.

**Common Dwarf Mongoose** *Helogale parvula* Seen well in Tarangire and the Serengeti.

**Egyptian Mongoose (Ichneumon) *Herpestes ichneumon* (LO)** 1 ran across the track in the Serengeti.

**Slender Mongoose *Herpestes sanguineus*** Singletons briefly in the Serengeti and at Ndutu.

**White-tailed Mongoose *Ichneumia albicauda*** 1 on the Tarangire night drive.

**Banded Mongoose *Mungos mungo*** Seen well in Tarangire and the Serengeti.

**Spotted Hyaena *Crocota crocuta*** Some very close encounters with these fascinating animals.

**Common Genet (Small-spotted G) *Genetta genetta*** Seen on the Tarangire night drive and at Ndutu.

**African Wild Dog *Lycaon pictus*** An incredible sighting of a pack of 5 in the central Serengeti.

**African Golden Wolf *Canis anthus*** Seen well in the crater and the Serengeti.

**Black-backed Jackal *Canis mesomelas*** Seen from Tarangire to Ndutu.

**Bat-eared Fox *Otocyon megalotis*** Great looks at these enchanting creatures from Tarangire to Ndutu.

**Honey Badger (Ratel) *Mellivora capensis* (NL)** Seen by some of the group in the Serengeti.

**Plains Zebra (Common Z) *Equus quagga*** The race *boehmi* was seen from Tarangire to the Serengeti and Ndutu.

**Black Rhinoceros (Browse R) *Diceros bicornis*** We were privileged to see up to 2 or 3 in the crater.

**Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus*** Seen from Tarangire to the Serengeti and Ndutu.

**Common Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius*** Fascinating creatures seen in many a wallow!

**Impala (Common I) *Aepyceros melampus*** Common in Tarangire, the Serengeti and Ndutu.

**Eastern White-bearded Wildebeest *Connochaetes [taurinus] albojubatus*** Many in Tarangire and Manyara NPs.

**Serengeti White-bearded Wildebeest *Connochaetes [taurinus] mearnsi*** Many in the crater and Serengeti.

**Serengeti Topi *Damaliscus [lunatus] jimela*** Relatively small numbers in the Serengeti.

**Kongoni (Coke's Hartebeest) *Alcelaphus cokii*** Some in Tarangire and the crater but more in the Serengeti.



*Bat-eared Fox (left) has the 'cute' factor! Kongoni or Coke's Hartebeest (right) just look very odd! (Nik Borrow)*

**Eastern Thomson's Gazelle *Eudorcas [t.] thomsonii*** Seen on the plains at Engikaret.

**Serengeti Thomson's Gazelle *Eudorcas [thomsonii] nasalis*** Easily seen in the crater and Serengeti.

**Ellipsen Waterbuck *Kobus ellipsiprymnus*** Easy to see in Tarangire NP.

**Defassa Waterbuck *Kobus defassa*** Small numbers in the Ngorongoro area and Serengeti.

**Thomas's Dik-dik *Madoqua [kirkii] thomasi*** Seen well in Tarangire.

**Cavendish's Dik-dik *Madoqua [kirkii] cavendishi*** Easily seen in the Serengeti.

**Grant's Gazelle *Nanger granti*** Common and seen in Tarangire, the crater, Serengeti and Ndutu.

**Maasai Klipspringer *Oreotragus [oreotragus] schillingsi*** 1 in the Serengeti.

**Steenbok (Steinbuck) *Raphicerus campestris*** Up to 5 were seen in the Ndutu area.

**Bohor Reedbuck *Redunca bohor*** Small numbers in the crater and Serengeti.

**Harvey's Duiker *Cephalophus harveyi*** 1 was seen in Manyara NP.

**African Buffalo (Cape B) *Syncerus caffer*** Seen from Tarangire to the Serengeti.

**Common Eland *Taurotragus oryx*** Small numbers seen from Tarangire to the Serengeti.

**Cape Bushbuck** *Tragelaphus [scriptus] sylvaticus* Just 1 sighting in the crater.

**Giraffe (Maasai G)** *Giraffa [camelopardalis] tippelskirchi* Seen from Tarangire NP to the Serengeti and Ndutu.

**Mauritian Tomb Bat** *Taphozous mauritanus* Presumably these were the small bats leaving roost at Tarangire.

**Yellow-winged Bat** *Lavia frons* Seen in the Serengeti.

**Wahlberg's Epauletted Fruit Bat** *Epomophorus wahlbergi* (H) Heard at Same.



*The memories of the massive migration of Serengeti White-bearded Wildebeest and Plains Zebra and their predators will stay with us forever! (Nik Borrow)*