



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Mason Tanzania

18th May to 2nd June 2013 (16 days)



Secretarybirds in Serengeti National Park by Wayne Jones

Tanzania is surely one of the top safari destinations on the world, providing the quintessential African experience. Our tour took in the vast wilderness of the famed Serengeti, the magic of the Ngorongoro Crater and the diversity of Tarangire – and everything in between. We recorded 388 bird species and 49 mammal species or subspecies, a very successful haul indeed!

Following a late evening arrival on the 18th, our Tanzanian birding adventure officially kicked off with a visit to Lark Plains the next morning. This large stretch of dry open grassland is located between two of Tanzania's highest peaks, Mt Meru and Mt Kilimanjaro. As we were passing the little village of Oldonyo-Sambu we spotted a Bearded Vulture drop down into a small ravine at the foot of Mt Meru. Short of pulling off a hand-brake turn, the safari vehicle was swiftly and immediately commandeered in the direction of the now out-of-sight scavenger. An unassuming spot, the ravine edge proved quite fruitful with sightings of White-fronted Bee-eater, White-necked Raven, Mourning Wheatear and our first endemics, Red-throated Tit and Kenya Sparrow. The Bearded Vulture reappeared, affording us magnificent close-up views of this wonderful raptor as it was harrassed by Pied Crows.



Careful not to get too side-tracked we continued on to Lark Plains where a pair of local Maasai guides was waiting to point out the area's most famous resident, Beesley's Lark. In addition to seeing two of these colourful (by lark standards!) and extremely localised birds our lark haul included Fischer's Sparrow-Lark and Red-capped, Rufous-naped, Athi Short-toed and Short-tailed Larks. The weather was pristine and we were able to see both Meru and Kilimanjaro rising up on either side of us.

The scrub bordering the plains gave us Foxy Lark – our SEVENTH lark of the day – as well as Northern and Red-faced Crombec, Red-faced Warbler, Eastern Chanting Goshawk, Mouse-coloured Penduline Tit, Taita Fiscal, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, Banded Parisoma, Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird, Beautiful Sunbird, Pygmy Falcon, Rufous Chatterer, Nubian Woodpecker, Tiny Cisticola, Straw-tailed Whydah and Southern Grosbeak-Canary.

We returned to our lodge mid-afternoon, giving David and Amanda time to adjust to the time zone, heat and children of East Africa! That afternoon, and over the next few days, the lush grounds of our lodge provided good birds like African Black Duck, Silvery-cheeked Hornbill, Little Grebe, Brown-hooded and Giant Kingfishers, Retz's Helmetshrike, White-browed Robin-Chat, Amethyst Sunbird, Red-backed Mannikin, Mountain Wagtail and White-eared Barbet.



The next day we ascended the lower slopes of Mt Meru as we travelled through Arusha National Park. The mix of wetlands, montane forest and grassland mosaic resulted in a high diversity of mammal and bird life with Blue Monkey, Maasai Giraffe, African Buffalo, Waterbuck, Bushbuck, Harvey's Duiker,

Warthog, Hartlaub's Turaco, Brown Snake Eagle, Grey Crowned Crane, Tambourine Dove, Spot-flanked Barbet, Green-backed Honeybird, Black Cuckooshrike, Fan-tailed Grassbird, African Moustached Warbler, Trilling and Singing Cisticolas, Montane White-eye, Kenrick's Starling, Olive Sunbird, Red-backed Mannikin and White-backed Duck all putting in an appearance. Whew! The high-lying soda lakes were chock-full of Lesser Flamingo (we estimated 3 000 birds), with a handful of Greater Flamingo and Cape Teal in between.



The next morning we headed south to Tarangire National Park, the extensive and dusty roadworks increasing the travelling time. Thankfully Tarangire is a birder's paradise and the diversity and abundance of species soon took our minds off the journey. Over the next couple of days we had our first sightings of Common Ostrich, the endemic Yellow-collared Lovebird, Black-faced Sandgrouse, Water Thick-knee, Bateleur, Mottled Spinetail, Martial Eagle, Bearded Woodpecker, African Hoopoe, the dull but elegant Ashy Starling, Grey

Kestrel, African Scops Owl, Spotted Palm Thrush, Bare-eyed Thrush, Freckled and Slender-tailed Nightjars, Silverbird, Green-winged Pytilia, Crimson-rumped Waxbill, Mosque Swallow, stunning Red-and-yellow Barbet and Three-banded Courser.

Aside from the biggest land animal of all, the African Elephant, most of the mammalian highlights from Tarangire were of smaller creatures – Banded and Dwarf Mongooses, Yellow-spotted Bush Hyrax, Kirk's Dik-dik, Ochre Bush Squirrel and Unstriped Ground Squirrel.

The Silale Swamp and riverine areas of the park produced some particularly exciting finds. We encountered at least 30 Lesser Moorhen at the former, along with Allen's Gallinule, African Swamphen, Long-toed Lapwing, African Marsh Harrier, Fulvous Whistling Duck, African Openbill, Southern Pochard and our first Lion, lazing in a tree bordering the extensive reedbed. Along the river we saw a pair of Rufous-bellied Heron nest-building, Golden-backed Weaver, Saddle-billed Stork, Goliath Heron, African Fish Eagle, Malagasy Pond Heron and a bizarre sighting of a Dwarf Bittern that flew into the top of a tall tree, sat for a minute or so then took off again.



On day six, after a picnic lunch at the Tarangire exit gate (ever on the look-out for marauding Vervet Monkeys!) we drove the short distance to our lodge overlooking Lake Manyara. We decided to take it easy that afternoon and target the fig forests, thickets and woodland of Lake Manyara National Park in the freshness of morning. Over the next two days we found Purple-crested Turaco, Collared Palm Thrush, Ashy Flycatcher, Silvery-cheeked Hornbill, Lesser Honeyguide, Meyer’s Parrot, D’Arnaud’s Barbet, African Green Pigeon, beautiful Collared Pratincole, fantastic views of African Quailfinch, Long-tailed Paradise Whydah, White-headed Barbet, Banded Parisoma, Hildebrandt’s Starling, Black Bishop and a juvenile Martial Eagle that was adamant he was not moving from his roadside perch no matter *how* close our vehicle got! In the afternoon we came across a pair of Lion right next to the track; unlike the eagle they *did* seem to mind our presence – we received a fierce mock charge from the male when we stuck our heads out the roof, bringing his boxy-silhouette impression of our safari vehicle to life.



After Manyara we continued to Ngorongoro National Park and its crater, the largest intact volcanic caldera in the world. We got our first view of the magnificent crater floor from Hero’s Lookout and found Golden-winged and Eastern Double-collared Sunbirds as well as Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater along the way to our lodge. That night after a sublime sunset over the crater (watched, trance-like, by almost every guest in the lodge) we enjoyed great flight views of Montane Nightjar.

The next morning the anticipation was running high as we made our way down to the bottom of the crater. The forested section near the rim yielded Brown Parisoma, Cape Robin-Chat and White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher. Further down, as the forest gave way to shrubs and grassland we recorded Bronzy,



Malachite and huge numbers of Golden-winged Sunbirds, and further on still, Common Waxbill, African Quailfinch and exquisite Rosy-throated Longclaw. The first big game to greet us as we reached the crater floor was a large group of African Buffalo. They were soon followed by some Spotted Hyena (complete with cubs) and one of the crater’s famous tuskers – a bull Elephant with massive, gleaming white tusks. We continued towards the swampy section in the far corner, finding the first of 18 Kori Bustards for the day. The wetland held two

Golden Jackals and a multitude of water birds, among them Grey-headed Gull, Kitlitz’s Plover, Banded Martin, Lesser Swamp Warbler, Long-toed Lapwing and the three teals – Red-billed, Hottentot and Cape.

The main waterbody in the crater, Lake Magadi, was flush with pink. In contrast to our experience at Arusha NP, Greater Flamingoes were now present in their thousands with just a sprinkling of their Lesser brethren among them. A gathering of vehicles in the distance alerted us to the presence of some Lion, but, having already had better views at Tarangire, we moved on to our lunch stop in the Fever Tree forest where an audacious Vervet Monkey was keen to relieve us of our meals. The eastern half of the crater was filled with game, and we encountered Blue Wildebeest, Kongoni, Grant’s and Thompson’s Gazelles, Eland, more Lion and two distant Black Rhinoceros.

After a quick stop at Ngoitokitok Picnic Site, where we picked up African Marsh Harrier, we returned to the rim of the crater, where we could enjoy a few hours of afternoon sun at the lodge while looking out over the magnificent landscape.

The next morning we set out pretty early, intent on covering the long, bumpy ride to Serengeti NP in good time, at which we excelled! It was a misty, miserable morning, so we didn’t do much forest birding along the way, however we did find some calling Hunter’s Cisticolas right next to the road. While still in the rain-shadow of the crater we found our first Cape Crows and Capped Wheatear. Rounding the crater we entered another, much drier world. We spotted some Maasai Giraffe, a species absent from the crater itself, feeding on low *Acacias* before we turned off to the historic Oldupai Gorge, site of some of the most important discoveries in mankind’s history. After birding the area for a bit we settled down to a quick lecture about the area, followed by a brief stroll through the neighbouring fossil museum. After some lunch we continued our journey towards the Serengeti, finding Short-tailed Lark and a flock of 44 Black-winged Lapwing on our way.



We reached Naabi Gate with much time to spare, an inadvertently fortuitous predicament since our lodge had apparently double-booked and we needed to reach it in time to secure our booking. Just inside the gate we saw a female Oribi, an uncommon sight, and a bit further on we had Greater Kestrel, our first White-bellied Bustard and Double-banded Courser. We passed through the Wildebeest migration, but due to time constraints decided to return to it at a later stage. After securing our spot at our lodge we had a restful night’s sleep so we could head out early to the west the

following morning.

The main target in the Western Serengeti was the localised Karamoja Apalis, of which we saw two delightful individuals while trying to maintain our sanity amidst a cloud of tsetse flies. Other goodies we found out that way included Black Coucal, Dark Chanting Goshawk, Steel-blue Whydah, a large Black Mamba, a female Harlequin Quail, White-tailed Lark, Black-necked Weaver and a pair of absolutely beautiful Black-headed Gonolek. We stopped at the Hippo Pools for lunch, where we marvelled at the spectacle of 250+ hippos crowded into the small confluence of three rivers.

We went for an afternoon drive a bit later to view the migration, finding a young Southern African Rock Python along the way, however our attention was diverted by some vehicles heading the opposite way. We gave hot pursuit and found a mother Leopard and her two cubs in a tree just metres from the road. One of the cubs had inexplicably gotten hold of a cushion and we watched enthralled as the youngster channelled his inner kitten, scrambling up and down the tree and playing with his new toy.



The next morning we again set out early to explore the surrounding Seronera area before we moved on to our other lodge further south in the Serengeti. The beauty of the broad, open plains in the morning air was exhilarating. We found Black-lored Babbler, Desert Cisticola, Fischer’s Lovebird, Purple Grenadier, Yellow-throated Longclaw, Grey-capped Social Weaver, Foxy Lark and much-improved sightings of White-headed Barbet. We also reconnected with the migration, finding thousands of Blue Wildebeest and Plains Zebra.

Our third full day in the sensational Serengeti was devoted to the Moru Kopjes and surrounds. We had breakfast at the unfenced rhino poaching headquarters, not far from where we’d just seen a sizeable male Lion! Thereafter we visited the Maasai rock paintings and the fascinating Gong Rock, where our musical talents (or lack thereof) were unleashed. Heading back to the lodge for lunch we picked up one of the major targets of the area – six Grey-crested Helmetshrikes! This can be quite a tough bird to find and we were delighted with the sighting.



Back at the lodge we found a day-roosting Senegal Galago as well as a

Yellow-winged Bat, certainly one of the most attractive of these flying mammals. Once the temperature cooled down it was time for another afternoon drive, the highlight of which was a single Bat-eared Fox which gave us extended views.

With the new possibilities in the Serengeti drying up we returned along the excessively corrugated road to Ngorongoro NP, where we paused at the entrance, finding Grey-capped Warbler and Brown-headed Apalis.

After a sumptuous lunch at our lodge near Karatu we took it easy for the rest of the afternoon. The following morning we were up good and early to begin our walk along the nearby Elephant Cave Trail, however the mountain slope was covered in mist. Large and dangerous animals were more likely to remain in the forest under cover of the mist, so we held off until a bit later which luckily did not impact the super birding that awaited us.

Assisted by an enthusiastic and knowledgeable local guide we were able to find Black-fronted Bushshrike, a pair of Narina Trogon, Mountain Greenbul, White-tailed Blue Flycatcher, African Hill Babbler, Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon, Black-throated Wattle-eye, Red-faced Cisticola, Grey-headed Nigrita, Common Scimitarbill, Crested Guineafowl, Mountain Wagtail, a pair of Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, a chance Ayre's Hawk-Eagle and the highlight, a dinky "prrrrrrapping" African Broadbill.



Having built up a healthy appetite on the 3hr+ walk we readily moved down the hill to Gibb's Farm where *the* most fabulous buffet spread awaited us. We took a post-prandial stroll around the grounds of this lush setting, where we had extraordinarily close views of Green-backed Honeybird, more White-tailed Blue Flycatcher, Southern Citril and our final new bird for the day, a pair of Green-headed Sunbirds.

We celebrated a successful day – and trip – that evening and had a restful night's sleep in preparation for the journey home the following day. As the drive was not too long we opted for a late breakfast – what a luxury! – before starting on our way to Arusha. On the way we picked up our two last trip lifers... a trio of stunning Rosy-patched Bushshrikes and three exquisite Temminck's Coursers, a wonderful way to wrap up two weeks in magical East Africa.

Photo credits: All photos taken by Wayne Jones on tour – Bearded Vulture being harassed by Pied Crow, Mt Kilimanjaro from Lark Plains, Silverbird, Lion, young Martial Eagle, African Elephant, Double-banded Courser, Southern African Rock Python, Leopard cub, Gong Rock, male Green-headed Sunbird.

Annotated List of Birds recorded

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows the IOC 2.7 list of: Gill, F. and Wright, M. *Birds of the World: Recommended English Names*. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press.

NR = National Reserve

NP = National Park

Total species recorded: 388 (386 seen 2 heard only)

Ostriches Struthionidae

Common Ostrich

Struthio camelus

The world's largest extant bird species was common in Tarangire, Ngorongoro, Serengeti and Manyara NPs.

Guineafowl Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl

Numida meleagris

We encountered this striking gamebird often in Tarangire, Serengeti and Manyara NPs.

Crested Guineafowl

Guttera pucherani

We flushed a few of the East African red-faced subspecies of this forest guineafowl along the Elephant Cave Trail.

Francolins & Quails Phasianidae

Coqui Francolin

Peliperdix coqui

We enjoyed numerous good sightings of this handsome little francolin in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

Crested Francolin

Dendroperdix sephaena

Most of our sightings of this bantam-like gamebird were in Tarangire NP.

Hildebrandt's Francolin

Pternistis hildebrandti

After our first sightings in Tarangire we had better views of birds along the Ngorongoro Crater rim.

Yellow-necked Spurfowl (Francolin)

Pternistis leucoscepus

The commonest francolin in Tarangire NP.

Grey-breasted Spurfowl (Francolin)

Pternistis rufopictus

This species replaced the previous spurfowl in the Serengeti ecosystem, where it was common.

Red-necked Spurfowl (Francolin)

Pternistis afer

Like its yellow-necked cousin, this spurfowl was common in Tarangire NP.

Harlequin Quail

Coturnix delegorguei

We had a few sightings of this quail, almost always females, and on one occasion, with chicks!

Ducks & Geese Anatidae

White-faced Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna viduata

We found this slender duck at Tarangire and Manyara NPs.

Fulvous Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna bicolor

Nine birds were seen at Tarangire NP.

White-backed Duck

Thalassornis leuconotus

We found three of these unexpected ducks in the Silale Swamp in Tarangire NP.

Spur-winged Goose

Plectropterus gambensis

We found this large anatid in Arusha and Ngorongoro NPs.

Knob-billed Duck

Sarkidiornis melanotos

We saw a total of three birds in Tarangire NP.

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiaca

The commonest waterfowl of the trip, seen at most waterbodies.

Cape Teal

Anas capensis

We encountered this pale duck at Arusha, Ngorongoro and Serengeti NPs.

African Black Duck *Anas sparsa*

A pair was present at our lodge near Arusha.

Red-billed Teal (Duck) *Anas erythrorhyncha*

This teal was spotted in Tarangire and Ngorongoro NPs.

Hottentot Teal *Anas hottentota*

This diminutive duck was found alongside the previous species.

Southern Pochard *Netta erythrophthalma*

A single male was observed in Tarangire NP.

Grebes Podicipedidae

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

This diminutive waterbird was seen at scattered waterbodies throughout the tour.

Flamingos Phoenicopteridae

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*

After our initial sighting of seven at Arusha NP, we found this flamingo at a few other waterbodies, including a couple thousand in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Lesser Flamingo *Phoenicopterus minor*

We saw 3000 of these lovely birds in Arusha NP's soda lakes, and smaller numbers alongside the previous species in the Serengeti and the Crater.

Storks Ciconiidae

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis*

We saw these storks on nine consecutive days, including huge flocks of 40-60 birds in Tarangire NP.

African Openbill *Anastoma lamelligerus*

We came upon a flock of five alongside Silale Swamp in Tarangire NP.

Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

We saw one of these magnificent birds in Tarangire NP.

Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

This grotesque species was seen on ten days of the tour, at various localities.

Ibises & Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

A common waterbird, which we saw in Arusha, Tarangire, Manyara and Ngorongoro NPs.

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash*

This noisy species was often found around our lodge near Arusha.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

We saw flocks numbering around a dozen in Tarangire, Manyara and Ngorongoro NPs.

African Spoonbill *Platalea alba*

We saw reasonable numbers in Lake Manyara and Ngorongoro NPs.

Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns Ardeidae

Dwarf Bittern *Ixobrychus sturmi*

A single bird stunned us as it landed on the top a tall *Acacia* and stayed there for a minute before flying on.

Striated (Green-backed) Heron *Butorides striatus*

We saw one of these attractive little herons over two days in Serengeti NP.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

Rather scarce, we encountered it only at our Arusha lodge and in Lake Manyara NP.

Malagasy Pond Heron *Ardeola idea*

We found a non-breeding individual in Tarangire NP.

Rufous-bellied Heron *Ardeola rufiventris*

We found a pair nest-building in Tarangire NP.

Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

A common species at various waterbodies throughout.

Note: Clements does not yet recognise the split of the Cattle Egret complex.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Seen at Tarangire, Lake Manyara, Ngorongoro and Serengeti NPs.

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala*

A common grassland heron, seen at various sites.

Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath*

We had distant views of the largest heron in the world at Tarangire NP.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

We encountered this large white heron in Tarangire, Lake Manyara and Ngorongoro NPs.

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*

More plentiful than the previous species, seen at the same localities.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Also seen at the same localities as the previous two species.

Hamerkop Scopidae

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*

This characterful monotypic species was seen often on tour, at various waterbodies and rivers.

Pelicans Pelecanidae

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

We had various sightings of small groups in Tarangire, Lake Manyara and Ngorongoro NPs.

Cormorants & Shags Phalacrocoracidae

Reed (Long-tailed) Cormorant *Phalacrocorax africanus*

We had a large flock of about 30 birds in Tarangire NP.

White-breasted Cormorant *Phalacrocorax lucidus*

Seen in Arusha and Lake Manyara NPs.

Note: Clements still regards this species as part of the Great Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo).

Secretarybird Sagittariidae

Secretarybird *Sagittarius serpentarius*

We found a total of seventeen of these curious, long-legged raptors in Tarangire, Serengeti and near Oldupai Gorge.

Hawks, Eagles & Kites Accipitridae

Black-winged (-shouldered) Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

A common little grassland raptor, especially abundant in the vast plains of the Serengeti.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Black-shouldered Kite. Some authorities lump this species with Australian Kite E. axillaris and the American E. leucurus White-tailed Kite.

Black Kite

Milvus migrans

A single bird was seen near our lodge overlooking Lake Manyara.

Yellow-billed Kite

Milvus aegyptius

We saw a handful of individuals around Lake Manyara and in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Note: Some authorities split this complex into Black Kite M. migrans and Yellow-billed Kite M. aegyptius. The IOC now recognises this split.

African Fish Eagle

Haliaeetus vocifer

We enjoyed several sightings of this African icon in Tarangire, Arusha, Lake Manyara and Serengeti NPs.

Bearded Vulture

Gypaetus barbatus

We had cripplingly close views of this magnificent creature in Oldonyo Sambu.

Hooded Vulture

Necrosyrtes monachus

We found this small vulture on a few occasions in Serengeti NP.

White-backed Vulture

Gyps africanus

The commonest raptor on tour, with reasonable numbers in all savanna areas.

Rüppell's Vulture (Griffon)

Gyps rueppellii

We had good views of this scaly-feathered vulture in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

Lappet-faced Vulture

Torgos tracheliotus

This huge scavenger was found in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

Black-chested (-breasted) Snake Eagle

Circaetus pectoralis

We found singletons in Tarangire, Lake Manyara and Serengeti NPs.

Brown Snake Eagle

Circaetus cinereus

We found this uniformly-coloured eagle in Arusha, Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

Bateleur

Terathopius ecaudatus

This short-tailed aerial acrobat was a common sight over savanna areas.

African Marsh Harrier

Circus ranivorus

We had excellent views of birds in Tarangire NP and in the Ngorongoro Crater.

African Harrier-Hawk

Polyboroides typus

We saw this raptor in Lake Manyara and Serengeti NPs.

Dark Chanting Goshawk

Melierax metabates

We encountered this upright raptor in the Western Serengeti.

Eastern Chanting Goshawk

Melierax poliopterus

Preferring drier habitat to the previous species, we found this goshawk in Tarangire NP and near Lark Plains.

Gabar Goshawk

Micronisus gabar

We saw this little raptor in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

African Goshawk

Accipiter tachiro

Seen once, in Arusha NP.

Black Sparrowhawk

Accipiter melanoleucus

We had a couple of sightings of this large accipiter around the Elephant Cave Trail and Gibb's Farm.

Augur Buzzard

Buteo augur

One of the most familiar raptors of the tour, seen at various sites and in various habitats.

Tawny Eagle

Aquila rapax

Apart from the Bateleur, the commonest eagle on tour, recorded in all savanna sites.

African Hawk-Eagle

Aquila spilogaster

Seen twice, in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

Ayre's Hawk-Eagle

Hieraaetus ayresii

We were stunned to find one of these small forest eagles soaring over the Elephant Cave Trail.

Martial Eagle

Polemaetus bellicosus

We had excellent views of this huge eagle, especially a seemingly immovable immature bird in Lake Manyara NP.

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis*

This attractive eagle showed well in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

Crowned (Hawk-)Eagle *Stephanoaetus coronatus*

We saw this large forest eagle in the vicinity of Lake Manyara and the Ngorongoro Crater.

Falcons & Kestrels Falconidae

Pygmy Falcon *Polihierax semitorquatus*

We found this lovebird-sized falcon in various dry savanna areas.

Common (Eurasian) Kestrel *Falco naumanni*

A single bird was seen on our way to Lark Plains.

NOTE: Some authorities split this species into Common Kestrel, F. tinnunculus which we observed (occurring in East and West Africa and the Palaearctic region) and Rock Kestrel, F. rupicolis which occurs in Southern Africa. Clements does not as yet recognize this split, while IOC does.

Greater Kestrel *Falco rupicoloides*

The grassy plains of the southern Serengeti were a good spot to look for this species.

Grey Kestrel *Falco ardosiaceus*

We enjoyed some very good sightings of this uncommon falcon in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera*

We couldn't believe our eyes when we found this normally drier-country species nibbling on some rodent prey in moist Tarangire NP.

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*

Seen in the Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti NP.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

Two birds were seen around Lake Manyara.

Bustards Otididae

Kori Bustard *Ardeotis kori*

We saw big numbers of these heaviest of all flying landbirds, including 18 in the Ngorongoro Crater and 22 on our way out of the Serengeti towards the end of the tour.

White-bellied Bustard *Eupodotis senegalensis*

Encountered almost daily in Serengeti NP.

NOTE: This species represents the northern form of White-bellied Bustard. IOC and Clements lump the northern form of White-bellied Bustard E. senegalensis with the Southern African endemic Barrow's or Southern White-bellied Bustard E. barrowi.

Black-bellied Bustard *Lissotis melanogaster*

A single bird was seen briefly in Tarangire NP.

Rails, Gallinules & Coots Rallidae

Black Crane *Amaurornis flavirostra*

Seen in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

African (Purple) Swamphen *Porphyrio madagascariensis*

One of these large rallids was seen in Silale Swamp in Tarangire NP.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

We found this species in Tarangire and Ngorongoro NPs and around our Arusha lodge.

Allen's Gallinule *Porphyrio alleni*

We saw two adults and a juvenile in Silale Swamp in Tarangire NP.

Lesser Moorhen *Gallinula angulata*

We found an incredible 30 (at least!) of these normally scarce rallids in Silale Swamp, Tarangire NP.

Red-knobbed Coot

Fulica cristata

We saw three in Ngorongoro Crater.

Cranes Gruidae

Grey Crowned Crane

Balearica regulorum

We saw this elegant bird on a few occasions, with biggest numbers recorded in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Thick-knees Burhinidae

Water Thick-knee (Dikkop)

Burhinus vermiculatus

A few were seen in Tarangire NP.

Stilts & Avocets Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt

Himantopus himantopus

Recorded at Lake Manyara, Ngorongoro and Serengeti NPs.

Plovers & Lapwings Charadriidae

Long-toed Lapwing

Vanellus crassirostris

We found this wetland lapwing in Tarangire, Lake Manyara and Ngorongoro NPs.

Blacksmith Lapwing (Plover)

Vanellus armatus

Recorded almost daily, always near water.

Spur-winged Lapwing (Plover)

Vanellus spinosus

Three birds were seen in Lake Manyara NP.

Black-winged Lapwing

Vanellus melanopterus

While scanning along the drive into the Serengeti we came across a flock of 44 of these lapwings!

Crowned Lapwing

Vanellus coronatus

Recorded almost every day in grassland habitat.

[African] Wattled Lapwing

Vanellus senegallus

We found a single immature bird in Serengeti NP.

Kittlitz's Plover

Charadrius pecuarius

We found this little plover in Lake Manyara, Ngorongoro and Serengeti NPs.

Three-banded Plover

Charadrius tricollaris

This boldly-marked little wader was found at waterbodies in Tarangire, Lake Manyara and Serengeti NPs.

Chestnut-banded Plover

Charadrius pallidus

We had very distant scoped views of a single bird in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Jacanas Jacanidae

African Jacana

Actophilornis africanus

We saw this “lily-trotter” at various waterbodies in the first half of the tour.

Sandpipers & Allies Scolopacidae

Common Greenshank

Tringa nebularia

A few birds were seen along the shores of Lake Manyara.

Courser & Pratincoles Glareolidae

Temminck's Courser

Cursorius temminckii

Our first views of a crippled bird alongside the road were quickly followed by a sighting of two healthier individuals on the other side of the road, en route back to Arusha.

Double-banded Courser *Rhinoptilus africanus*

The commonest courser, seen in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

Note: Clements places this species in a different genus to the IOC nomenclature, namely *Smutsornis*.

Three-banded Courser *Rhinoptilus cinctus*

We were thrilled to find a pair of these lovely coursers hiding in the grass in Tarangire NP.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*

We saw 25 of these elegant birds at Lake Manyara.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae

Grey-hooded (-headed) Gull *Larus cirrocephalus*

Three birds were present in Ngorongoro Crater.

Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica*

We saw four birds in the crater.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrid*

We encountered this tern in its attractive smoky grey breeding plumage in Tarangire, Lake Manyara and Ngorongoro NPs.

Sandgrouse Pteroclididae

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus*

We saw two birds well at Lark Plains.

Yellow-throated Sandgrouse *Pterocles gutturalis*

We saw big numbers of this large, colourful sandgrouse in Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti NP.

Black-faced Sandgrouse *Pterocles decoratus*

This bird was commonly found sitting on roads in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs

Doves & Pigeons Columbidae

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea*

Found often throughout the tour.

Eastern Bronze-naped (Delegorgue's) Pigeon *Columba delegorguei*

We enjoyed excellent views of two birds along the Elephant Cave Trail.

Dusky Turtle Dove *Streptopelia lugens*

Good numbers were seen around the Ngorongoro Crater rim.

Mourning Collared (African Mourning) Dove *Streptopelia decipiens*

Seen in savanna habitat of Tarangire, Lake Manyara and Serengeti NPs

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata*

This species was seen in areas of tall woodland around Arusha, the Ngorongoro Crater and the Elephant Cave Trail.

Ring-necked (Cape Turtle) Dove *Streptopelia capicola*

Very common, seen almost every day.

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*

Another common columbid, mostly seen in the Serengeti.

Emerald-spotted (Green-spotted) Wood Dove *Turtur chalcospilos*

This pretty little dove was seen in Tarangire, Lake Manyara and Serengeti NPs

Tambourine Dove

Turtur tympanistria

We saw these shy forest doves at Arusha and Lake Manyara NPs and along the Elephant Cave Trail.

Namaqua Dove

Oena capensis

This petite dove was most common in Tarangire NP.

African Green Pigeon

Treron calva

We found 13 of these stunners in Lake Manyara NP.

Parrots & Allies Psittacidae

Fischer's Lovebird

Agapornis fischeri

This cute little parrot delighted us in Lake Manyara and Serengeti NPs

Yellow-collared Lovebird

Agapornis personatus

This East African endemic was very common in Tarangire NP.

Meyer's (Brown) Parrot

Poicephalus meyeri

We had numerous sightings of this species in Tarangire, Lake Manyara and Serengeti NPs

Red-bellied (African Orange-bellied) Parrot

Poicephalus rufiventris

We saw mostly females in Tarangire NP.

Turacos Musophagidae

Hartlaub's Turaco

Tauraco hartlaubi

Two of these beautiful birds put in an appearance in Arusha NP.

Purple-crested

Tauraco hartlaubi

We saw three birds at Lake Manyara NP.

Bare-faced Go-away-bird

Corythaixoides personatus

This comical species was common in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

White-bellied Go-away-bird

Corythaixoides leucogaster

We had daily sightings of this turaco in Tarangire NP.

Cuckoos Cuculidae

White-browed Coucal

Centropus superciliosus

We encountered this skulker in Tarangire, Lake Manyara and Serengeti NPs.

Black Coucal

Centropus grillii

We saw a single bird in the western Serengeti.

Great Spotted Cuckoo

Clamator glandarius

We had two sightings of this cuckoo in Serengeti NP.

Jacobin (Pied) Cuckoo

Clamator jacobinus

We saw this cuckoo in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

Dideric Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx caprius

We saw this dazzling cuckoo in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

Klaas's Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx klaas

This small cuckoo was seen in the Serengeti.

Red-chested Cuckoo

Cuculus solitarius

We got views of this vocal yet reclusive cuckoo in Tarangire NP.

Owls Strigidae

African Scops Owl

Otus senegalensis

We had absolutely marvellous views from a few centimetres away of a day-roosting bird in Tarangire NP.

Pearl-spotted Owlet

Glaucidium perlatum

We saw just a single of these excitable little owls in Serengeti NP.

Nightjars Caprimulgidae

Montane Nightjar

Caprimulgus poliocephalus

We saw a single bird, and heard a few more, at our lodge overlooking Ngorongoro Crater.

Freckled Nightjar

Caprimulgus tristigma

We had terrific views of this large nightjar at our lodge in Tarangire.

Slender-tailed Nightjar

Caprimulgus tristigma

We had up to six of this nightjar alongside the previous species at our lodge in Tarangire.

Swifts Apodidae

Mottled Spinetail

Telacanthura ussheri

We saw this swift well in the baobab savanna of Tarangire, including a large flock of 15.

African Palm Swift

Cypsiurus parvus

This slender swift was common in the first half of the tour, particularly around palms.

Mottled Swift

Tachymarptis aequatorialis

We saw eight of these large swifts in Serengeti NP.

Nyanza Swift

Apus apus

We had two of these birds in the Serengeti.

African Black Swift

Apus barbatus

Four birds appeared around Lake Manyara.

Little Swift

Apus affinis

A common swift, it was seen almost every day.

Horus Swift

Apus affinis

We had good views of a 30-strong flock on our way to Lark Plains.

White-rumped Swift

Apus caffer

Along with the Little Swift, one of the commonest swift species of the tour.

Mousebirds Coliidae

Speckled Mousebird

Colius striatus

Common throughout the tour, and seen on most days.

Blue-naped Mousebird

Urocolius macrourus

We found this mousebird in Tarangire, Lake Manyara and Serengeti NPs.

Trogon Trogonidae

Narina Trogon

Apaloderma narina

We had a fabulous sighting of a pair along the Elephant Cave Trail.

Rollers Coraciidae

Purple (Rufous-crowned) Roller

Coracias naevia

We recorded singletons on two occasions in Serengeti NP.

Lilac-breasted Roller

Coracias caudata

This stunning species was common in savanna habitat throughout the tour.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

Grey-headed (-hooded) Kingfisher

Halcyon leucocephala

We encountered this beautiful kingfisher numerous times in Tarangire and Lake Manyara NPs.

Brown-hooded Kingfisher *Halcyon albiventris*

Seen on two consecutive days around our lodge near Arusha.

Striped Kingfisher *Halcyon chelicuti*

Our highest number of sightings came from Lake Manyara NP.

Woodland Kingfisher *Halcyon senegalensis*

This lovely bird dazzled us in Tarangire, Lake Manyara and Serengeti NPs.

African Pygmy Kingfisher *Ispidina picta*

We saw a single bird in Lake Manyara NP.

Malachite Kingfisher *Alcedo cristata*

Two of these bright little birds were seen at Tarangire NP.

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima*

Common around our lodge near Arusha, and also seen at Lake Manyara.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

This kingfisher was most plentiful in Tarangire NP.

Bee-eaters Meropidae

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus*

We saw this small bee-eater often throughout the tour, in moist grassland.

Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater *Merops oreobates*

After reasonable sightings around the Ngorongoro Crater, we had excellent views along the Elephant Cave Trail.

White-fronted Bee-eater *Merops bullockoides*

This colourful bird vied for our attention while we were watching the Bearded Vulture.

Hoopoes Upupidae

African Hoopoe *Upupa africana*

We found this characterful bird at Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

NOTE: The Hoopoe complex has had a confusing taxonomic history, with one to four species being recognised by various authorities. Clements splits the group into two forms, Madagascar U. marginalis and Eurasian U. epops. The most generally accepted treatment is that of three species, Madagascar, Eurasian and African. The IOC accepts the splits of Madagascar, African and Eurasian Hoopoes.

Wood Hoopoes Phoeniculidae

Green Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus*

Three of these comical cacklers were seen in Serengeti NP.

Common Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*

We observed singletons at Lake Manyara and on the Elephant Cave Trail.

Abyssinian Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus minor*

We had good views in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

Hornbills Bucerotidae

Crowned Hornbill *Tockus alboterminatus*

We found this hornbill in the moist woodland and forest that it prefers around Arusha and Lake Manyara.

African Grey Hornbill *Tockus nasutus*

Common in savannah and grassland habitat.

Northern Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus erythrorhynchus*

We found this hornbill in Tarangire NP.

Tanzanian Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus rauhae*

This western counterpart of the previous species was common in the Serengeti.

Von der Decken's Hornbill *Tockus deckeni*

We found this colourful hornbill in Tarangire, Lake Manyara and Serengeti NPs.

Silvery-cheeked Hornbill *Bycanistes brevis*

This large hornbill was common around our lodge near Arusha.

Note: Clements places this species in a different genus to the IOC nomenclature, namely Ceratogymna.

Ground Hornbills Bucorvidae

Southern Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus leadbeateri*

We saw a total of 14 of these charismatic chaps in Tarangire and Lake Manyara NPs.

African Barbets Lybiidae

White-eared Barbet *Stactolaema leucotis*

A couple of these barbets were present around our lodge near Arusha.

Red-fronted Barbet *Tricholaema diademata*

We had good views of juvenile birds at Oldupai Gorge and Serengeti NP.

Spot-flanked Barbet *Tricholaema lacrymosa*

We enjoyed good sightings of these characters in Arusha NP and later around Lake Manyara.

White-headed Barbet *Lybius leucocephalus*

We had distant views of a pair at Lake Manyara NP before enjoying excellent views of another pair in Serengeti NP.

Red-and-yellow Barbet *Trachyphonus erythrocephalus*

This striking barbet never failed to attract our gaze in Tarangire and Lake Manyara NPs.

D'Arnaud's Barbet *Trachyphonus darnaudii*

We recorded both forms of this barbet – the nominate in Tarangire and the Usambiro subspecies in the Serengeti.

NOTE: The drabber sub-species, Usambiro Barbet (T. d. usambiro), that we recorded in the Serengeti is sometimes treated as a full species. This is due to larger size, greyer bill, and greenish tone to the head and a darker breast band. IOC does not recognize this split, however Clement's does.

Honeyguides Indicatoridae

Green-backed Honeybird *Prodotiscus zambesiae*

We worked so hard to get our first sighting of this little species – if only we'd known what amazing, close views we'd have at Gibb's Farm!

Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor*

A pair of these birds was less than co-operative in Lake Manyara NP.

Greater Honeyguide *Indicator indicator*

We only heard this species giving its “victor” call at Tarangire and Lake Manyara NPs.

Woodpeckers & Allies Picidae

Nubian Woodpecker *Campethera nubica*

We found this woodpecker near Lark Plains and in Tarangire NP.

Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicos fuscescens*

This tiny woodpecker proved common in dry woodland throughout the tour.

Bearded Woodpecker *Dendropicos namaquus*

We enjoyed multiple sightings of this large woodpecker in Tarangire, Lake Manyara and Serengeti NPs.

African Grey Woodpecker *Dendropicos goertae*

We saw this colourful woodpecker in Tarangire NP.

Broadbills Eurylaimidae

African Broadbill *Smithornis capensis*

We had wonderfully close, if slightly obscured views of a displaying bird along the Elephant Cave Trail.

Wattle-eyes, Batises & Allies Platysteiridae

Chinspot Batis *Batis molitor*

Seen at Arusha NP, near Oldupai Gorge and along the Elephant Cave Trail.

Black-throated Wattle-eye *Platysteira peltata*

We found a pair along the Elephant Cave Trail.

Helmetshrikes Prionopidae

Grey-crested Helmetshrike *Prionops poliolophus*

We were thrilled to stumble upon six of this sought-after species in Serengeti NP.

Retz's Helmetshrike *Prionops retzii*

David and Amanda found several of these striking birds at our lodge near Arusha.

Bushshrikes Malaconotidae

Black-fronted Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus nigrifrons*

We had fabulous views of two birds along the Elephant Cave Trail.

Orange (Sulphur)-breasted Bushshrike *Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus*

We saw this stunner in Lake Manyara NP.

Rosy-patched Bushshrike *Telophorus cruentus*

We found three of these beauties on the last day while heading back to Arusha.

Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis*

We had multiple sightings of this bird at various localities including Arusha NP.

Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra senegala*

We saw this tchagra in moist thicket in Arusha NP and the Ngorongoro Crater.

Black-backed Puffback *Dryoscopus cubla*

We encountered this small shrike in Tarangire, Lake Manyara and Serengeti NPs.

Slate-coloured Boubou *Laniarius funebris*

A common bird of savanna thickets.

Tropical Boubou *Laniarius aethiopicus*

This boubou replaced the previous species in the moister forest habitat around Arusha, Karatu and Ngorongoro.

Black-headed Gonolek *Laniarius erthrogaster*

We saw two of these dazzling bushshrikes in riverine vegetation in the western Serengeti.

Brubru *Nilaus afer*

Our first sighting was in the dry savanna surrounding Lark Plains, and we also saw it later in the Serengeti.

Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae

Black Cuckooshrike *Campephaga flava*

We saw a single bird in Arusha NP.

Purple-throated Cuckooshrike *Campephaga quiscalina*

We had a brief sighting of a pair on the Elephant Cave Trail.

Shrikes Laniidae

Magpie (Long-tailed) Shrike *Urolestes melanoleucus*

A common, gregarious species in savanna habitats.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to the IOC nomenclature, namely Corvinella.

Northern White-crowned Shrike *Eurocephalus rueppelli*

Found in similar numbers and areas to the previous shrike.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is White-rumped Shrike.

Grey-backed Fiscal *Lanius excubitoroides*

We found this gregarious shrike in the Serengeti.

Long-tailed Fiscal *Lanius cabanisi*

This shrike was common in Tarangire NP.

Taita Fiscal *Lanius dorsalis*

We found this shrike in drier areas like around Lark Plains and near Oldupai Gorge.

Northern Fiscal *Lanius humeralis*

A common roadside species on tour.

NOTE: Common Fiscal *Lanius collaris* was recently split by IOC into Southern Fiscal *L. collaris* found in southern and south-central Africa, and Northern Fiscal *L. humeralis* (which we saw) found over much of east Africa and across to savannas in west Africa.

Old World Orioles Oriolidae

(African) Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus larvatus*

We had singletons in Arusha, Tarangire and Lake Manyara NPs.

Drongos Dicruridae

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis*

Widespread in woodland, savanna and forest areas.

Monarchs Monarchidae

African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*

Best views were obtained along the Elephant Cave Trail.

Crows, Jays & Magpies Corvidae

Cape (Black) Crow *Corvus capensis*

Our sightings of this species were obtained on travel days to and from the Serengeti.

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*

The commonest corvid, often close to human habitation.

White-necked Raven *Corvus albicollis*

We had quite a few sightings of this heavy-billed corvid, usually in higher-lying grassy areas.

Fairy Flycatchers Stenostiridae

White-tailed Blue Flycatcher *Elminia albicauda*

We saw an incredible 12 of these hyperactive little flycatchers in and around Gibb's Farm.

Tits Paridae

- White-bellied Tit** *Parus (Melaniparus) albiventris*
After much searching we eventually glimpsed one of these tits at our lodge overlooking Lake Manyara.
- Red-throated Tit** *Parus (Melaniparus) fringillinus*
We saw a trio of these tits at Oldonyo Sambu, with later sightings in the Serengeti.

Penduline Tits Remizidae

- Mouse-coloured Penduline Tit** *Anthoscopus musculus*
We enjoyed great views of one of these tiny birds alongside Lark Plains.
- Grey (African) Penduline Tit** *Anthoscopus caroli*
We were fortunate to find two of the Serengeti form of this species, sometimes called Buff-bellied Penduline Tit.

Larks Alaudidae

- White-tailed Lark** *Mirafraga albicauda*
We found five very responsive birds in Serengeti NP.
- Rufous-naped Lark** *Mirafraga africana*
This lark was common in grasslands throughout the tour, especially in the Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti NP.
- Flappet Lark** *Mirafraga rufocinnamomea*
We had some excellent views of this little lark in the bushveld of Tarangire NP.
- Foxy Lark** *Calendulauda alopex*
We had five of these attractive larks on the edges of Lark Plains.
NOTE: This species is treated as a race of Fawn-coloured Lark (M. africanoides) by some authorities.
- Beesley's Lark** *Chersomanes beesleyi*
We saw two of these incredibly range-restricted larks on the Lark Plains.
- Red-capped Lark** *Calandrella cinerea*
Good views were had in Ngorongoro Crater.
- Short-tailed Lark** *Psuedalaemon fremantlii*
We had a chance sighting of three of this nomadic species in Tarangire NP.
- Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark** *Eremopterix signatus*
We enjoyed excellent sightings of this species just metres from us at Lark Plains and near Oldupai Gorge.
- Fischer's Sparrow-Lark** *Eremopterix leucopareia*
These small larks were very common and often found sitting on the road in places like Tarangire and the Serengeti.

Bulbuls Pycnonotidae

- Dark-capped Bulbul** *Pycnonotus tricolor*
Found in woodland and forest, this species was seen on all but two days of the tour!
NOTE: Part of another very confusing polytypic species complex. In Africa the IOC nomenclature recognises the following good species: Common Bulbul (P. barbatus), Dark-capped Bulbul (P. tricolor), Somali Bulbul (P. somaliensis) and Dodson's Bulbul (P. dodsoni). Clement's lumps all of the above as Common Bulbul (P. barbatus).
- (Eastern) Mountain Greenbul** *Andropadus nigriceps*
Three of these attractive bulbuls put in an appearance on the Elephant Cave Trail.

Martins & Swallows Hirundinidae

- Black Saw-wing** *Psalidoprocne pristoptera*
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Apart from a few scattered sightings of birds near Ngorongoro and Karatu, we saw an incredible 120 (give or take!) around one of the lakes in Arusha NP.

Brown-throated (Plain) Martin *Riparia paludicola*

This small brown martin was seen around Arusha, Lake Manyara and Tarangire NPs.

Banded Martin *Riparia cincta*

We had 35 birds in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

We saw this dainty little swallow daily in Serengeti NP.

Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula*

This brown swallow was also seen daily in the Serengeti.

Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica*

A beautiful, boldly-marked bird, we found good numbers around Arusha, Tarangire, Lake Manyara and Serengeti NPs.

Mosque Swallow *Cecropis senegalensis*

We encountered four birds one morning in Tarangire NP.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

More common in higher-lying areas, especially along the Ngorongoro Crater rim.

Crombecs, African Warblers Macrosphenidae

Moustached Grass Warbler *Melocichla mentalis*

We found a single bird in a rank drainage line in Arusha NP.

Northern Crombec *Sylvietta brachyura*

We found four birds in the scrub around Lark Plains.

Red-faced Crombec *Sylvietta whytii*

Singletons were seen at Lark Plains, Lake Manyara and Serengeti NPs.

Leaf warblers & allies Phylloscopidae

Brown Woodland Warbler *Phylloscopus umbrovirens*

This lovely little bird showed nicely along the Elephant River Trail.

Reed Warblers & Allies Acrocephalidae

Lesser Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*

One bird was seen at a wetland in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Grassbirds & Allies Locustellidae

Little Rush Warbler *Bradypterus baboecala*

We heard this bird around our Arusha lodge and in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Fan-tailed Grassbird *Schoenicola brevirostris*

After being alerted to its presence by its “pinging” call, we saw a single bird in Arusha NP.

Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops*

We had our best views of a pair of birds along the Elephant Cave Trail.

Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans*

This was present in good numbers at Arusha NP.

Trilling Cisticola *Cisticola woosnami*

This cisticola was also common in Arusha NP.

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- Hunter's Cisticola** *Cisticola hunteri*
 We had close, if misty, views of this vocal species along the Ngorongoro Crater rim.
- Rattling Cisticola** *Cisticola chiniana*
 Common in savannah habitat everywhere.
- Winding Cisticola** *Cisticola marginatus*
 Found in rank grassland around Arusha and in Ngorongoro Crater.
NOTE: The IOC nomenclature has split this widespread African group into five species. Winding Cisticola (C. galactotes) that we observed is now C. marginatus and occurs in East, Central and West Africa. The other four species are Coastal Cisticola (C. haematocephalus) that occurs in coastal East Africa, Luapula Cisticola (C. luapula) occurring largely in Zambia, Rufous-winged Cisticola (C. galactotes) of coastal Southern Africa and Ethiopian Cisticola (C. lugubris) endemic to Ethiopia. Clements does not as yet recognise these splits.
- Croaking Cisticola** *Cisticola natalensis*
 This large cisticola was seen in Tarangire NP.
- Tiny Cisticola** *Cisticola nana*
 This aptly-named cisticola was seen alongside Lark Plains.
- Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*
 The common cisticola of grassland areas, we saw or heard it in Tarangire, Ngorongoro and Serengeti NPs.
- Desert Cisticola** *Cisticola aridulus*
 Seen and heard in Serengeti NP.
- Pectoral-patch Cisticola** *Cisticola brunnescens*
 Rounding out the trio of very similar-looking and habitat-sharing little birds, this species was recorded in Ngorongoro and Serengeti NPs.
- Tawny-flanked Prinia** *Prinia subflava*
 We had four in Arusha NP.
- Buff-bellied Warbler** *Phyllolais pulchella*
 We saw four of these tiny warblers in Tarangire NP.
- Yellow-breasted Apalis** *Apalis flavida*
 A colourful species, we saw this in Tarangire, Lake Manyara and Serengeti NPs.
- Karamoja Apalis** *Apalis karamojae*
 We braved the hordes of tsetse flies and found our prize – two of these highly sought-after birds doing their tail-wagging in the western Serengeti.
- Brown-headed Apalis** *Apalis alticola*
 This species showed well along the Elephant Cave Trail.
- Red-fronted Warbler** *Urorhipis rufifrons*
 We found an incredible nine of these critters in the short scrub of the Lark Plains.
- Grey-capped Warbler** *Eminia lepida*
 We enjoyed great views of this beautiful warbler along the Elephant Cave Trail.
- Grey-(Green) backed Camaroptera** *Camaroptera brevicaudata*
 A common species; seen or heard in shubby or tangled vegetation at various sites.
- Yellow-bellied Eremomela** *Eremomela icteropygialis*
 Four were seen along the periphery of Lark Plains.

Laughingthrushes Leithrichidae

- Rufous Chatterer** *Turdoides rubiginosa*
 Seen on two occasions, five apiece, at Lark Plains and around Lake Manyara.
- Black-lored Babbler** *Turdoides sharpei*
 Seen well in woodland of the Serengeti.
- Arrow-marked Babbler** *Turdoides jardineii*
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Seen in Tarangire NP and near Karatu.

Northern Pied Babbler *Turdoides hypoleuca*

This East African endemic was seen daily in Tarangire NP.

Sylvid Babblers Sylviidae

African Hill Babbler *Pseudoalcippe abyssinica*

Two birds were observed along the Elephant River Trail.

Brown Warbler (Parisoma) *Sylvia (Parisoma) lugens*

We found four birds on the descent into the Ngorongoro Crater.

Banded Warbler (Parisoma) *Sylvia (Parisoma) boehmi*

This attractive warbler was seen a few times, including at Tarangire NP and Oldupai Gorge.

White-eyes Zosteropidae

Montane White-eye *Zosterops poliogastrus*

This super-saturated yellow little fellow was seen in forest in Arusha NP and along the Elephant Cave Trail.

NOTE: Clements does not split this from the Broad-ringed White-eye, and instead names them Broad-ringed White-eye Z. poliogastrus.

Starlings Sturnidae

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea*

Seen in good numbers – and good plumage – at various sites.

Greater Blue-eared (Glossy-) Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus*

We had some marvellous views of these stunners right outside our rooms in Tarangire NP.

Rüppell's (Glossy-) Starling *Lamprotornis purpuroptera*

This long-tailed starling was common in Serengeti NP.

Superb Starling *Lamprotornis superbus*

Lovely, but common. Common, but lovely. This bird was seen almost daily in most places except true forest.

Hildebrandt's Starling *Lamprotornis hildebrandti*

Similar to the previous species, but less abundant, we had it in Lake Manyara and Serengeti NPs.

Ashy Starling *Lamprotornis unicolor*

This slender, endemic starling was common in Tarangire NP.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to IOC, namely: Spreo.

Red-winged Starling *Onychognathus morio*

This starling was present around our lodge in Tarangire NP.

Kenrick's Starling *Poeoptera kenricki*

A distant, scoped pair high up in Arusha NP's forest canopy kept us wondering for ages until we were finally able to obtain definitive looks.

Oxpeckers Buphagidae

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus*

Most common in Serengeti NP, with sightings from Lake Manyara and Ngorongoro Crater as well.

Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorhynchus*

Starting off with fabulous views of five birds alongside Lark Plains, we encountered this species almost daily in savannah habitats.

Thrushes & Allies Turdidae

Bare-eyed Thrush

Turdus tephronotus

Somewhat of a surprise, we saw two of these normally drier-country birds in Tarangire NP.

NOTE: The Olive Thrush complex has been split into 6 full species. Clements does not as yet recognise these splits.

Chats, Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

Cape Robin-Chat

Cossypha caffra

This species was common in higher-lying forests on Ngorongoro Crater rim and around Karatu.

White-browed Robin-Chat

Cossypha heuglini

Seen around Arusha and Karatu and in Serengeti NP.

Spotted Palm (Morning-) Thrush

Cichladusa guttata

Common and vocal around Tarangire and Lake Manyara NPs.

Collared Palm Thrush

Cichladusa arquata

We had great views in Lake Manayara NP of a pair in a palm tree!

White-browed Scrub Robin

Erythropgia leucophrys

Seen in scrubby *Acacia* vegetation at various sites, including Oldupai Gorge.

African Stonechat

Saxicola torquatus

Most common in and around the Ngorongoro Crater.

NOTE: Clement's does not recognise this as a full species and lumps it with Eurasian Stonechat.

Capped Wheatear

Oenanthe pileata

Commonly encountered on Lark Plains and in, and en route to, Serengeti NP.

Mourning Wheatear

Oenanthe lugens schalowi

We had initial views at Oldonyo Sambu, with more close-up sightings at our lodge near Karatu.

NOTE: The form we saw is sometimes split as Schalow's Wheatear *O. schalowi*, however this treatment is not followed by IOC or Clements.

(Northern) Anteater Chat

Myrmecocichla aethiops

Ten birds were seen in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Mocking Cliff Chat

Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris

A female bird was seen near our lodge overlooking Lake Manyara.

White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher

Dioptrornis (Melaenornis) fischeri

A common and conspicuous species in forest along the Ngorongoro Crater rim and near Karatu.

NOTE: Clements places this species in a different genus to the IOC nomenclature, namely *Melaenornis*.

African Grey Flycatcher

Bradornis microrhynchus

Common in Tarangire, Lake Manyara and Serengeti NPs.

Silverbird

Empidonis semipartitus

We saw this pretty flycatcher in Tarangire before encountering up to 13 in a day in Serengeti NP.

Ashy Flycatcher

Muscicapa caerulescens

We found one bird in Lake Manyara NP.

African Dusky Flycatcher

Muscicapa adusta

This confiding species was seen in forest habitat throughout the tour.

Sunbirds Nectarinidae

Eastern (Kenya) Violet-backed Sunbird

Anthreptes orientalis

We saw this sunbird near Lark Plains and Lake Manyara.

Collared Sunbird

Hedydipna collaris

We saw plenty of these short-billed sunbirds along the Elephant Cave Trail.

Green-headed Sunbird

Cyanomitra verticalis

After nearly giving up on this, we had phenomenally close views of two birds at Gibb's Farm.

(Eastern) Olive Sunbird

Cyanomitra olivacea

We saw two of these forest sunbirds in Arusha NP.

Amethyst Sunbird

Chalcomitra amethystina

A pair was seen at our lodge near Arusha.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird

Chalcomitra senegalensis

This species was seen a few times, with the best sighting of a dashing male outside our rooms in Tarangire NP.

Bronzy (Bronze) Sunbird

Nectarinia kilimensis

We enjoyed good views of this dazzler at Ngorongoro Crater and at our lodge near Karatu.

Malachite Sunbird

Nectarinia famosa

A gorgeous male gave quick views as we were heading down into the Ngorongoro Crater.

Golden-winged Sunbird

Drepanorhynchus reichenowi

We saw 18 of these stunners on our way down into the crater!

Eastern Double-collared Sunbird

Cinnyris mediocris

Quite common in highland forest along the slopes and rim of Ngorongoro Crater, and near Karatu.

Beautiful Sunbird

Cinnyris pulchella

Never sitting still long enough for a good photo we nevertheless had great views of these lovely birds.

Marico (Mariqua) Sunbird

Cinnyris mariquensis

We saw this sunbird in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

Variable Sunbird

Cinnyris venusta

The most widespread sunbird of the tour, and seen in a variety of habitats.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver

Plocepasser mahali

We saw one bird in Tarangire NP.

Rufous-tailed Weaver

Histurgops ruficauda

This East African endemic was common in Tarangire, Ngorongoro and Serengeti NPs.

Grey-capped (headed) Social Weaver

Pseudonigrita arnaudi

We saw these cute weavers near Lark Plains and Serengeti NP.

House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

Seen on many days of the tour, always in association with human settlement.

Kenya (Rufous) Sparrow

Passer rufocinctus

Our first views were of half a dozen birds near Olodonyo Sambu.

NOTE: Some authorities including Clements split this African sparrow into five species. Shelley's Sparrow (P. shelleyi) occurs largely in Ethiopia, Great Sparrow (P. motitensis) occurs in Southern Africa, Kenya Sparrow (P. rufocinctus) occurs in East Africa, Kordofan Sparrow (P. cordofanicus) occurs in Sudan and Socotra Sparrow (P. insularis) which is endemic to Socotra.

Northern Grey-headed Sparrow

Passer griseus

We saw this sparrow often in savannah habitats.

NOTE: The Clements common name for this species is Gray-headed Sparrow.

Chestnut Sparrow

Passer eminibey

Seen in small numbers at Lake Manyara and Serengeti NPs.

Yellow-spotted Petronia

Gymnoris (Petronia) superciliaris

Also seen in small numbers at Lake Manyara and Serengeti NPs.

Weavers & Allies Ploceidae

Red-billed Buffalo Weaver

Bubalornis niger

We saw up to 70 birds a day in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

White-headed Buffalo Weaver

Dinemellia dinemelli

This striking bird was also seen in good numbers in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

Speckle-fronted Weaver

Sporopipes frontalis

We found this dinky weaver in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

Thick-billed (Grosbeak) Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons*

Seen near Arusha and Lake Manyara.

Baglafaecht Weaver *Ploceus baglafaecht*

We encountered this forest weaver near Arusha, Karatu and Ngorongoro.

Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis*

We had sightings of this weaver in Arusha NP and along the Elephant Cave Trail.

Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus nigricollis*

We saw a marvellous male in the western Serengeti.

Holub's Golden Weaver *Ploceus xanthops*

We saw a single bird in Serengeti NP.

Taveta (Golden-) Weaver *Ploceus castaneiceps*

This bright, range-restricted species was seen at our lodge near Arusha.

Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus intermedius*

We had good views in Tarangire NP.

Vitelline Masked Weaver *Ploceus vitellinus*

Seen mostly in Serengeti NP.

Speke's Weaver *Ploceus spekei*

We saw two birds around Lake Manyara.

Golden-backed (Jackson's) Weaver *Ploceus jacksoni*

We had ten of these beautiful weavers nest-building alongside the river in Tarangire NP.

Chestnut Weaver *Ploceus rubiginosus*

Good numbers were seen en route to Lark Plains and Lake Manyara.

Red-headed Weaver *Anaplectes melanotis*

Singletons were observed at Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

NOTE: This species complex might be split into two, the southern nominate group would remain Red-headed Weaver and the northern black-faced form which we recorded in Tanzania would become Red-winged Weaver (A. leuconotos). IOC does not as yet recognize this split.

Cardinal Quelea *Quelea cardinalis*

Single birds were observed in Tarangire, Lake Manyara and Serengeti NPs.

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*

We were wowed by the sight and sound of thousands of these little birds going about their business in Tarangire NP.

Black Bishop *Euplectes gierowii*

We saw quite a few in Lake Manyara NP, more at Oldupai Gorge.

Southern Red Bishop *Euplectes orix*

We enjoyed excellent views at a lek en route to Tarangire NP.

Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis*

Seen at Arusha NP and near Karatu.

Fan-tailed (Red-shouldered) Widowbird *Euplectes axillaris*

We saw a dozen in the Ngorongoro Crater.

White-winged Widow *Euplectes albonotatus*

Just a single male was seen in Tarangire NP.

Red-collared Widowbird *Euplectes ardens*

Breeding males were seen in Arusha and Ngorongoro NPs.

Waxbills & Allies Estrildidae

Grey-headed Nigrita (Negrofinch) *Nigrita canicapillus*

This delightful songster entertained us on the Elephant Cave Trail.

Green-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia melba</i>
We had two sightings of these colourful birds in Tarangire NP.	
Cut-throat Finch	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>
Two birds were seen in Serengeti NP.	
Red-billed Firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>
Seen in small numbers in Arusha, Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.	
Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>
These blushing cuties were seen in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.	
Blue-capped Cordon-bleu	<i>Uraeginthus cyanocephalus</i>
We saw these cordon-bleus in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.	
Purple Grenadier	<i>Uraeginthus (Granatina) ianthinogaster</i>
We eventually had good views despite this species always seeming to give us the slip.	
Yellow-bellied Waxbill	<i>Estrilda quartinia</i>
Two birds were seen on the Elephant Cave Trail.	
Crimson-rumped Waxbill	<i>Estrilda rhodopyga</i>
We saw a dozen in Tarangire NP.	
Common Waxbill	<i>Estrilda astrild</i>
Distant views in Arusha NP, with far-improved sightings in the Ngorongoro Crater.	
Black-faced (cheeked) Waxbill	<i>Estrilda erythronotos</i>
Seen near Lark Plains and in Serengeti NP.	
African Quail-Finch	<i>Ortygospiza fuscocrissa</i>
We enjoyed superlative views of this flighty bird in the Ngorongoro Crater.	
African Silverbill	<i>Eudice cantans</i>
A pair showed nicely near Lark Plains.	
Bronze Mannikin	<i>Lonchura (Spermestes) cucullata</i>
A few were seen in Serengeti NP.	
Red-backed (Black-and-white) Mannikin	<i>Lonchura (Spermestes) nigriceps</i>
We had nine birds near Arusha.	

Indigobirds Viduidae

Village Indigobird	<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>
We encountered this species a few times, with most sightings from Lake Manyara NP.	
Pin-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>
Singletons were seen at various sites throughout the tour.	
Steel-blue Whydah	<i>Vidua hypocherina</i>
We saw an amazing three birds in great plumage in the Western Serengeti.	
Straw-tailed Whydah	<i>Vidua fischeri</i>
This lovely whydah was seen well near Oldupai Gorge.	
Long-tailed (Eastern) Paradise Whydah	<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>
Also seen a number of times, most notably at Lake Manyara NP.	

Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae

Mountain Wagtail	<i>Motacilla clara</i>
A single bird was seen at our lodge near Arusha. We later saw a pair along the Elephant Cave Trail.	
African Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>
Common at waterbodies and rivers throughout the tour.	
Yellow-throated Longclaw	<i>Macronyx croceus</i>

We had a sighting of one bird in the Serengeti.

Pangani Longclaw *Macronyx aurantiigula*

We enjoyed great sightings of this pretty bird in Tarangire and Serengeti NPs.

Rosy-throated (Pink-throated) Longclaw *Macronyx ameliae*

We saw two of these beauties in the Ngorongoro Crater.

African Pipit *Anthus cinnamomeus*

Recorded in Tarangire, Ngorongoro Crater, and the Serengeti.

NOTE: African pipit taxonomy is in rather disarray and much further research is required in the phylogeny of this grouping. Several forms which are considered subspecies are likely to become full species in their own rights and several new forms are surely still to be described.

Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys*

This species showed well in the Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti.

Finches Fringillidae

Southern Citril *Crithagra (Serinus) hyposticta*

Half a dozen birds were seen along the Ngorongoro Crater rim.

Reichenow's (Yellow-rumped) Seed-eater *Crithagra (Serinus) reichenowi*

One bird was seen en route to Lark Plains.

White-bellied Canary *Crithagra (Serinus) dorsostriata*

Common at Lark Plains and in the Serengeti.

Southern Grosbeak-Canary *Crithagra (Serinus) buchmanani*

A single bird was seen near Lark Plains.

Streaky Seedeater *Crithagra (Serinus) striolata*

A common species in the highland forest of the Ngorongoro Crater rim and Arusha NP.

Thick-billed Seedeater *Crithagra (Serinus) burtoni*

We saw four birds very well along the crater rim.

Buntings Emberizidae

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting *Emberiza tahapisi*

A singleton was seen in the Serengeti.

Golden-breasted Bunting *Emberiza flaviventris*

We had two birds around Lark Plains.

Annotated List of Mammals recorded

Note: Names and taxonomical order of the land mammals follow that of “The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals”; additional names are given in parenthesis and are likely to appear in other popular field guides.

Total species and forms recorded: 49 (48 seen, 1 heard only)

Fruit Bats Pteropodidae

Peter's Dwarf Epauletted Fruit Bat *Micropteropus pusillus*

We had quite a few roosting in trees at our Serengeti lodge.

Large-winged Bats Megadermatidae

Yellow-winged Bat *Lavia frons*

We saw this attractive bat species in the Serengeti.

Colobid Monkeys Colobidae

Guereza (Black-and-white) Colobus *Colobus guereza*

We found ten of these striking primates in Arusha NP.

Cheek-Pouch Monkeys Cercopithecidae

Olive Baboon *Papio [hamadryas] anubis*

We saw this species often, always in troops, in Arusha, Lake Manyara and Serengeti NPs.

Blue Monkey *Cercopithecus mitis*

We encountered this species along the Ngorongoro Crater rim and along the Elephant Cave trail.

White-throated/Sykes's Monkey *Cercopithecus albogularis*

The Tanganyika subspecies was seen at our lodge near Arusha and in Arusha NP.

NOTE: The taxonomy of Blue and Syke's monkeys is a little uncertain. Some authorities consider the latter a subspecies of the former, while others place both as subspecies within the Gentle Monkey C. nictitans complex. Current opinion suggests that they are actually separate species.

Vervet Monkey *Cercopithecus aethiops*

This light-grey monkey was common on tour, found in slightly drier habitats to the two previous species.

Galagos Galagonidae

Greater Galago (Thick-tailed Bushbaby) *Otolemur crassicaudatus*

We heard this nocturnal primate, but never managed to locate it at our lodge near Arusha.

Senegal Galago (Lesser Bushbaby) *Galago senegalensis*

We found a single day-roosting animal at our lodge in the Serengeti.

Hares Leporidae

African Savanna (Scrub) Hare *Lepus victoriae*

We saw one animal near Oldupai Gorge.

Squirrels Sciuridae

Unstriped Ground Squirrel *Xerus rutilus*

Seen a couple of times in Tarangire NP.

Tanganyika Mountain Squirrel *Paraxerus lucifer*

This species was seen at Lake Manyara and near Karatu.

Ochre Bush Squirrel *Paraxerus ochraceus*

This endearing rodent was common in Tarangire NP.

Rats & Mice Muridae

Acacia Rat *Thallomys paedulus*

This nocturnal rat was seen at our lodge in Serengeti NP.

African Grass Rat *Arvicanthis niloticus*

We encountered half a dozen of these unafraid rodents at Nabi Gate, the entrance to Serengeti NP.

Dogs & Allies Canidae

Bat-eared Fox *Otocyon megalotus*

We saw one of these delightful canines in Serengeti NP.

Golden Jackal *Canis aureus*

We found two animals in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Black-backed Jackal *Canis mesomelas*

We had sightings in Lake Manyara, Ngorongoro and Serengeti NPs.

Mongoose Herpestidae

Slender Mongoose *Herpestes sanguinea*

We glimpsed three of these solitary mongooses in one day in the Serengeti.

Dwarf Mongoose *Helogale parvula*

We saw these cute little critters in Tarangire, Lake Manyara and Serengeti NPs.

Banded Mongoose *Mungos mungo*

Aside from sightings in Tarangire and Lake Manyara NPs we also had a sighting of 60 of these gregarious creatures in Serengeti NP.

Hyaenas Hyaenidae

Spotted Hyena *Crocuta crocuta*

Seen especially nicely in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Cats Felidae

Lion *Panthera leo*

We enjoyed numerous sightings of the ‘King (and Queen!) of the Jungle’ in Lake Manyara, Ngorongoro and Serengeti NPs.

Leopard *Panthera pardus*

We (along with a dozen other vehicles!) had the most magical sighting of a mother and two cubs, one of which was playing with a cushion from God-knows-where in Serengeti NP.

Hyraxes Procaviidae

Rock Hyrax *Procavia capensis*

These hyraxes were present alongside the following species at our lodge in the Seronera area of the Serengeti.

Yellow-spotted Hyrax *Heterohyrax brucei*

This species, smaller and paler than the previous, was abundant around our Tarangire and Serengeti lodges.

Tree Hyrax *Heterohyrax arboreus*

We saw this nocturnal forest-dwelling hyrax along the Ngorongoro Crater rim.

Elephants Elephantidae

African Elephant *Loxodonta africana*

We saw these giants over 11 consecutive days, including some very close encounters in Tarangire NP.

Horses Equidae

Plain’s (Common) Zebra *Equus quagga*

Abundant in the Serengeti where it was found alongside thousands of wildebeest.

NOTE: We saw the subspecies *E. q. boehmi*.

Rhinoceroses Rhinocerotidae

Black Rhinoceros *Diceros bicornis*

We saw two distant individuals in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Hippopotamuses Hippopotamidae

Hippopotamus*Hippopotamus amphibious*

We enjoyed great sightings of these amphibious behemoths, including at least 250 at a river confluence in the Serengeti!

Pigs Suidae

Common Warthog*Phacochoerus africanus*

A common resident of savannah areas, we saw this species almost every day.

Giraffes Giraffidae

Maasai Giraffe*Giraffa camelopardalis tippelskirchi*

The tallest land animal in the world, we enjoyed many good sightings of this species in savannah habitat throughout the tour.

Bovids & Horned Ungulates Bovidae

Thomson's Gazelle*Gazella thomsonii*

These small gazelle were plentiful in the Serengeti.

Grant's Gazelle*Gazella granti*

This larger gazelle was also common in the Serengeti, where it was often found alongside the previous species.

Steenbok*Raphicerus campestris*

A single ram was spotted in Tarangire NP.

Oribi*Ourebia ourebi*

We briefly saw a doe shortly after entering Serengeti NP.

Harvey's Duiker*Cephalophus harveyi*

We saw one of these reddish antelope in Arusha NP.

Kirk's Dik-dik*Madoqua kirkii*

We encountered this delicate antelope often in savannah habitat.

Suni*Neotragus moschatus kirchenpaueri*

Two animals darted away from us in Arusha NP.

African Buffalo*Syncerus caffer*

We found hundreds of these hefty bovines in Ngorongoro, Arusha, Serengeti and Lake Manyara NPs – and one along the Elephant Cave Trail!

Bushbuck*Tragelaphus scriptus*

We saw this antelope in Arusha and Lake Manyara NPs.

Eland*Taurotragus oryx*

We encountered four of these massive beasts in the Ngorongoro Crater.

Bohor Reedbuck*Redunca redunca*

We saw three of these damp habitat-loving antelope in Tarangire.

Common Waterbuck*Kobus ellipsiprymnus ellipsiprymnus*

This antelope was common in Tarangire NP.

Defassa Waterbuck*Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa*

This fully white-buttocked waterbuck subspecies was seen in the Serengeti NP.

Coke's Hartebeest (Kongoni)*Alcelaphus buselaphus cokei*

Common in Serengeti NP.

Blue Wildebeest*Connochaetes taurinus*

We observed thousands of these strange antelope on their migration through the Serengeti.

NOTE: We saw the subspecies White-bearded Gnu/Wildebeest *C. t. albojubatus*.

Topi*Damaliscus korrigum jimela*

These fastest of African antelope were seen in the Serengeti.

NOTE: This antelope is sometimes treated as conspecific with Tsessebe *D. lunatus* in which case it would be *D. lunatus jimela*.

Impala*Aepyceros melampus*

A very widespread antelope that was seen in almost all wooded savannah areas.

Annotated List of Reptiles recorded

Total species recorded: 15

Leopard Tortoise*Geochelone pardalis*

We saw a total of two of this species, the largest African tortoise, in Serengeti NP.

Striped Skink*Trachylepis striata*

Seen around Tarangire and Lake Manyara NPs.

Variable Skink*Trachylepis varia*

We had a couple of these around Moru Kopjies in the Serengeti.

Red-headed Rock Agama*Agama agama*

This striking lizard was seen at Tarangire, Lake Manyara and Oldupai Gorge.

Mwanza Flat-headed Agama*Agama mwanzae*

This purple, pink and indigo lizard was common within the Serengeti ecosystem.

Tropical House Gecko*Hemidactylus mabouia*

Seen at Lake Manyara and in the Serengeti.

Tree/Flat-headed Gecko*Hemidactylus platycephalus*

Sometimes lumped with the previous species, this gecko was found at our lodge near Lake Manyara.

Rock Monitor*Varanus albigularis*

We found one of these large lizards in Tarangire NP.

Nile Monitor*Varanus niloticus*

We saw a couple of these aquatic equivalents of the previous species, also in Tarangire NP.

Nile Crocodile*Crocodylus niloticus*

Two of these ancient reptilians were seen in Serengeti NP.

Flap-necked Chameleon*Chamaeleo dilepsis*

We found one crossing the road just outside Tarangire NP.

Rwenzori Side-striped Chameleon*Chamaeleo rudis*

A large specimen was seen about 9m up a tree at the start of the Elephant Cave Trail.

Southern African Rock Python*Python natalensis*

We found a richly-coloured young snake while on an afternoon drive in the Serengeti.

Black Mamba*Dendroaspis polylepis*

We saw a medium-large (+-2,5m) individual crossing the road in the Serengeti.

Common Reed Frog*Hyperolius viridiflavus/glandicolor*

We saw a particularly tiny specimen of this already small frog at our lodge near Arusha.

NOTE: The Common Reed Frog species complex is a little uncertain, with many subspecies that may warrant full species status.

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