



Eastern Kenya

Private Tour

2021 Tour Report



Jackson's Francolin © Don MacGillivray

**Text by Michael Mills
Photos by Don MacGillivray**

SUMMARY

We were thrilled to be able to visit Kenya in these times, and the country completely opened up to travel just as we arrived in Nairobi. Our sweep through the south-east of Kenya took in arid savannas in the Tsavo parks, coastal forest at Sokoke, coastal shrub at Manda Islands, moist savannas at Nairobi NP and Lake Naivasha, and highland habitats of the Taita Hills, Gatamaiyu Forest, Kinangop and the Aberdares.

In Tsavo West conditions were perfect after the recent rains and we enjoyed excellent views of the unpredictable Friedmann's Lark and Fire-fronted Bishop. The diverse range of habitats visited meant that we logged 525 species, even with almost all migrants already departed.

Among the most memorable sightings were: Rosy-throated Longclaw, Shelley's Francolin and Jackson's Widowbird at Nairobi NP; Yellow-throated Sandgrouse and Red-throated Tit at Swara; Red-naped Bushshrike, Southern Grosbeak Canary, White-headed Mousebird, Hartlaub's Bustard, Steel-blue Whydah, Taveta Golden Weaver, Vulturine Guineafowl, Golden-breasted Starling and Pangani Longclaw in Tsavo West and surrounds; Taita Apalis, Taita Thrush, Taita

White-eye and Brown-breasted Barbet in the Taita Hills; Somali Bee-eater, Somali Courser, Violet-breasted Sunbird, Golden Pipit and Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark in Tsavo East; Eastern Green Tinkerbird, Sokoke Pipit, Malindi Pipit, Pallid Honeyguide, Fischer's Turaco, Kilifi Weaver and Sokoke Scops Owl at Sokoke; Manda Black Boubou and Scaly Babbler at Manda; Bar-tailed Trogon, Fine-banded Woodpecker and Hartlaub's Turaco at Gatamaiyu Forest; Sharpe's Longclaw and Golden-winged Sunbird at Kinangop; Jackson's Francolin and Abyssinian Ground Thrush in the Aberdares; and Hinde's Babbler on our way back to Nairobi.

Mammals highlights included a pack of ten African Wild Dog in Tsavo West, and Gerenuk, Lesser Kudu and Suni.

Scaly Chatterer © Don MacGillivray



Sokoke Pipit © Don MacGillivray

ESSENTIAL DETAILS

DATES

1–16 May 2021

ITINERARY

- 1 May: Arrive Nairobi
- 2 May: Nairobi NP to Swara
- 3 May: Swara to Tsavo West
- 4 May: Tsavo West
- 5 May: Tsavo West to Taita Hills
- 6 May: Taita Hills to Tsavo East
- 7 May: Tsavo East
- 8 May: Tsavo East to Malindi

8–9 May: Sokoke Forest and surrounds

10 May: Malindi to Lamu

11 May: Lamu to Nairobi

12 May: Nairobi to Gatamaiyu to Naivasha

13 May: Kinangop and Naivasha

14 May: Naivasha to Nairobi via the Aberdares

PARTICIPANTS

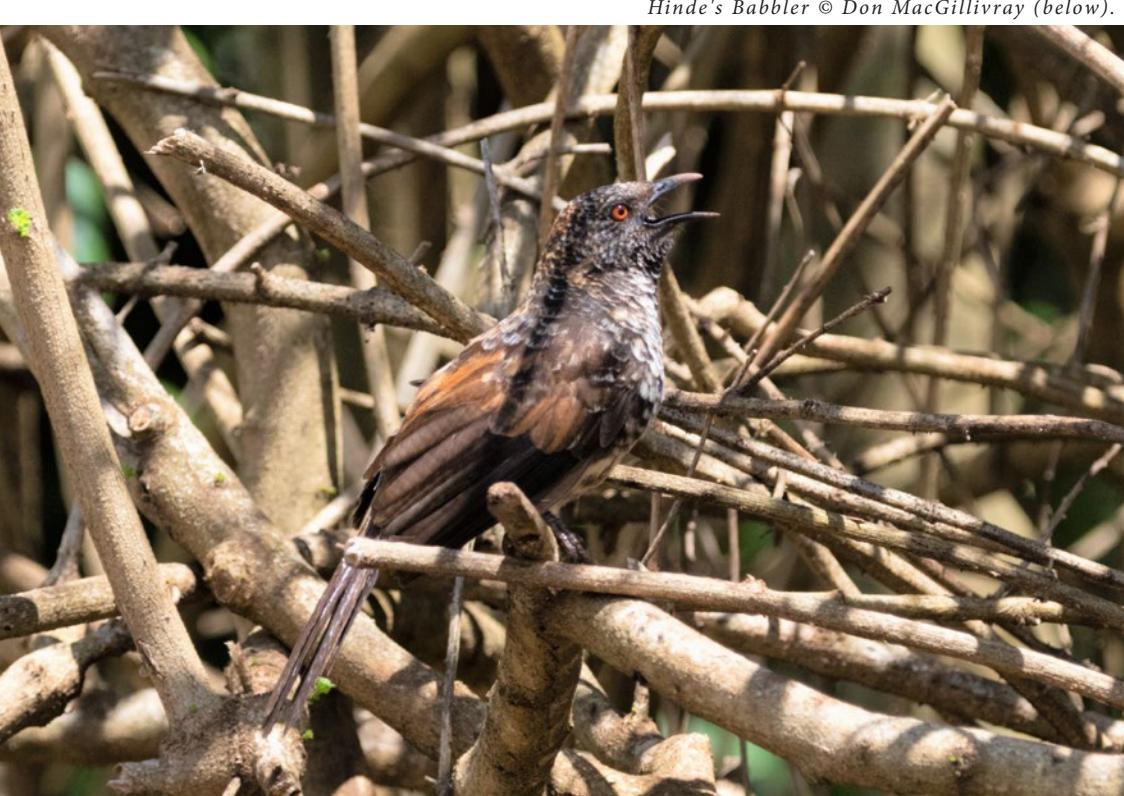
Don MacGillivray

Matthew Rathgeber

Gavin Simms



Friedmann's Lark © Don MacGillivray (above)



Hinde's Babbler © Don MacGillivray (below).



Sharpe's Longclaw © Don MacGillivray



Arabuko Sokoke Forest © Don MacGillivray

REPORT

After a spot of introductory, hotel-side birding for the early arrivals we were headed to the nearby Nairobi National Park. And what a great way it was to start our birding off in earnest. Weather was perfect as we explored the various tracks, logging a good range of common East African species. Among these the highlights were noisy parties of Northern Pied Babbler, a large lek of hopping-mad Jackson's Widowbirds, a fine male Rosy-throated Longclaw, Highland Rush Warbler, Common Ostrich, Grey Crowned Crane, Pectoral-patch Cisticola, Stout Cisticola, Grey-capped Warbler, Spot-flanked Barbet, Speke's Weaver, White-winged Widowbird, Kenya Rufous Sparrow, Dusky Turtle Dove, several shimmering Red-naped Widowbird, Yellow-crowned Bishop, Long-toed Lapwing, Shelley's Francolin beside the road and our first Pangani Longclaw.

After a full and productive morning, we picnic lunched near our chosen exit gate before making the shortish journey east to Swara Acacia Lodge on the eastern edge of the Athi Plains. We logged a flurry of new birds as we arrived, before settling into our birdy lodge with a group of Grant's Wood Hoopoes in attendance. Our time here was split between the open grasslands and Acacia woodlands near camp, and the combined habitats available brought Yellow-throated Sandgrouse, Long-tailed Fiscal, Short-tailed Lark, Temminck's Courser, Banded Parisoma, Nubian Woodpecker, Eastern Grey Woodpecker, Buff-bellied Warbler, Red-throated Tit, Red-fronted Barbet, White-bellied Canary, Grey-headed Silverbill, Red-and-yellow Barbet, Grey-capped Social Weaver, Chestnut Sparrow, Eastern Grey Woodpecker, White-bellied Bustard, Fischer's Sparrow-Lark,

Golden-winged Sunbird © Don MacGillivray



Southern Grosbeak-Canary © Don MacGillivray

White-bellied Tit and Red-faced Crombec as the best sightings.

Moving on eastwards we arrived at Tsavo West entrance with an almighty rainstorm brewing, and enjoyed our picnic lunch with Hildebrandt's Starling at the gates, waiting for the rain to abate. After the rain, birds were out in full force and it took us several hours to make the relatively short journey through Commiphora bush and grasslands to our intimate lodge in the bush. Highlights on the drive were superb views of the skulky Scaly Chatterer, Northern Red-billed Hornbill, Von der Decken's Hornbill, Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill, White-headed Buffalo Weaver, Grey Wren-Warbler, Hunter's Sunbird, Spotted Palm Thrush, Northern White-crowned Shrike, Somali Bunting, Brown-tailed Apalis, Tsavo Sunbird, Black-faced Sandgrouse, Hartlaub's Bustard, African Orange-bellied Parrot, D'Arnaud's Barbet, Red-winged Lark, Pangani Longclaw, Red-naped Bushshrike, Pygmy Batis, Pale Prinia, Pink-breasted Lark, Fischer's Starling, Eastern Chanting Goshawk and Grey-headed Silverbill. In the later afternoon, a Friedmann's Lark sang out of sight.

The next morning we started with a pre-dawn Plain Nightjar on the track, and in the lodge gardens found Gorgeous Sunbird, Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird, Black-necked Weaver and Northern Brownbul after breakfast. Back in the vehicle we quickly located a displaying Friedmann's Lark, which gave excellent views. The rest of the morning was spent exploring the thick bush of Tsavo West, with highlights including large flocks of Chestnut Weaver, Blue-capped Cordon-bleu, Vulturine Guineafowl, Black-throated Barbet, Golden-breasted Starling, Pygmy Falcon, Pringle's Puffback, Rosy-patched Bushshrike, Steel-blue Whydah, Straw-tailed Whydah, Ashy Cisticola, Red-fronted Warbler, Tiny Cisticola, Black-capped Social Weaver, fly-by Fire-fronted Bishop, Olive Bee-eater and a pack of 10 African Wild Dog. We exited Tsavo West before making our way to a nearby conservancy, where the afternoon turned up Eastern Black-headed Batis, Zanzibar Red Bishop and Cardinal Quelea.

The next day we headed back into Tsavo West to visit Lake Jipe, but only after finding the localised White-headed Mousebird, Crimson-rumped

Waxbill and Southern Grosbeak Canary along the way. The open grasslands were abuzz with bird activity, with large flocks of starlings, weavers and queleas active, and Harlequin Quails regularly flushing from the side of the road. We spotted a striking male Fire-fronted Bishop beside the road and saw our only Foxy Lark and first Golden Pipit of the trip on the journey to the lake, where we quickly found Taveta Golden Weaver and Double-banded Courser on arrival. Retracing our steps, we made our way to the Taita Hills in the afternoon, where a windy forest birding session produced Taita White-eye and poor views of Taita Thrush. Striped Pipit was seen in the road.

Early the next morning we were back at Ngangao Forest. A Hartlaub's Turaco got us off to a good start, before Stripe-faced Greenbul and more Taita White-eyes obliged. It took a bit longer to find a pair of scarce Taita Apalis, but with patience we all obtained good views as they crept through the vine tangle. Our session in the forest ended off on a high note with terrific views of the smart Taita Thrush, before we returned to our hotel for brunch after a detour for Usambara Double-collared Sunbird and roadside stops for Silvery-cheeked Hornbill and Brown-breasted Barbet.

It was now time to head back to the arid savannas,

African Wild Dog © Don MacGillivray



Taveta Golden Weaver © Don MacGillivray

and arriving at Tsavo East it was apparent that the good rains received in Tsavo West had not made it across the Taita Hills; most of the area was parched! Birding was much slower than at Tsavo West, and for much of the time it was quite windy, but with patience and persistence we added several sought-after birds to our tally. Top of the list was several groups of Somali Bee-eater, with other highlights including Somali Courser, Yellow-vented Eremomela, Black-headed Lapwing, Acacia Tit, Golden Pipit, a male Fire-fronted Bishop coming into breeding plumage, Golden-breasted Starlings, Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark, Singing Bush Lark, Parrot-billed Sparrow, Eastern Crombec, Taita Fiscal, African Silverbill, Somali Ostrich and more Pangani Longclaws. The biggest surprise of the trip came here in the form of a male Violet-breasted Sunbird, which seemed a bit out of range although birds have been recorded to wander. Our first sighting of the sunbird was in the late afternoon, but it didn't sit well with me so we returned the next morning to confirm all the salient features, and good views were obtained to rule out other possibilities.

It was now time to make our way to one of the top birding spots in Kenya, the beautiful and varied coastal forests at Soko. Now out of Tsavo West, Vulturine Guineafowl and a surprise group of foraging Madagascar Pratincole, 70 km inland!, enlivened the journey to the coast. On our way to our lodge (with Golden Palm Weaver in the garden) we stopped off at Arabuko Swamp where we scored Malindi Pipit, Coastal Cisticola, Ethiopian Swallow and Madagascar Pond Heron. The afternoon was spent very productively at the Sabaki River Mouth, where there was a long congregation of gulls and terns, and fairly good numbers of lingering waders. Although it was windy, with the sun behind us and a good telescope we enjoyed some good views of Slender-billed Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Heuglin's Gull, Gull-billed Tern, breeding plumage Saunders's Tern and Lesser Crested Tern among the more numerous Sooty Gulls and Greater Crested Terns. A surprise Pomarine Skua was seen several times, and wader highlights were a large group of Crab-Plovers, Pied Avocet, a full-plumage Greater Sand Plover, Dimorphic Egret, and several Terek Sandpiper.



Tsavo Sunbird © Don MacGillivray

The next two days we concentrated our efforts on the numerous forest birds for which Sokoke is famous. On the first morning we started off briskly with good views of Amani Sunbird, Little Yellow Flycatcher, Forest Batis, fly-over Sokoke Pipit, Black-headed Apalis and Chestnut-fronted Helmetshrike. A single Kenya Crested Guineafowl briefly crossed the track. Several flocks of Kilifi Weaver passed overhead, but it was only later in the morning that we managed to track down a fast-moving foraging flock of weavers. It took quite some time, but eventually we all obtained good views of a loose flock of weavers foraging among a much bigger bird party, including several males in breeding plumage. Other good birds over the morning included Mombasa Woodpecker (notable for being Matthew's 1600th African tick), Retz's Helmetshrike, Eastern Green Tinkerbird, Green Barbet, Southern Banded Snake Eagle, Fischer's Greenbul and Pale Batis. A quiet afternoon session

started and ended on a high, with little between the two lovely Sokoke Scops Owls on their roost and super views of Fischer's Turaco, a bird which was oddly quiet during our visit and was neither seen nor heard again.

The next morning our focus was on obtaining good views of Sokoke Pipit, which took a while to materialise. We entertained ourselves with Plain-backed Sunbird and Lowland Tiny Greenbul, before our Gallard friends (birding nearby) beckoned us to share their Sokoke Pipit sighting, which were enjoyed at close range for at least 15 minutes! The pressure was now off, and we could enjoy some general birding and leisure time over the rest of our visit, which added Red-tailed Ant Thrush, Green Yellowbill, Eastern Nicator, Pallid Honeyguide, Gorgeous Bushshrike, the curious-sounding Fischeri race of Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird and Northern Blue-mantled Flycatcher to our lists.

Next on the cards was a short flight to Lamu Island, where an afternoon and morning walk on Manda Island turned up several obliging pairs of Manda Black Boubou and co-operative group of Scaly Babbler. Also seen were Coastal Cisticola, Golden Palm Weaver, East Coast Boubou, Red-fronted Tinkerbird, Grey Sunbird, Three-streaked Tchagra, Rufous Chatterer, Purple-banded Sunbird, Bare-eyed Thrush, white-breasted form of Variable Sunbird and Red-faced Crombec.

A flight back to Nairobi brought us to the final section of the trip, which included getting our pre-departure covid test and waiting for the results. We used our time wisely, first visiting Gatamaiyu Forest. Fortunately, the heavy overnight rain had cleared to give us a gloriously

Little Yellow Flycatcher © Don MacGillivray



sunny morning in the forest. New birds came thick and fast, and included Scaly Francolin, Kikuyu White-eye, White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher, Hartlaub's Turaco, Olive-breasted Mountain Greenbul, Yellow-whiskered Greenbul, Placid Greenbul, Grey Cuckooshrike, Black-fronted Bushshrike, African Hill Babbler, Grey Apalis, Chestnut-throated Apalis, Black-throated Apalis, Black-collared Apalis, Thick-billed Seedeater, Eastern Double-collared Sunbird, Northern Double-collared Sunbird, White-browed Crombec, Mountain Oriole, Evergreen Forest Warbler, Brown Woodland Warbler, White-tailed Crested Flycatcher, Fine-banded Woodpecker, and a lovely male Bar-tailed Trogon. Moustached Green Tinkerbird was hard to spot against the pale sky.

We then journeyed to Lake Naivasha, stopping for a short session at Limuru Ponds where a lovely male Maccoa Duck and several White-backed Ducks were welcome. Around Naivasha we found Northern Red-headed Weaver, Brown Parisoma, White-headed Saw-wing, Black-lored Babbler and Scaly-throated Honeyguide, and nearby saw Abyssinian Wheatear, Lynes's Cisticola and Long-billed Pipit.

An extended session on Kinangop was enjoyed during another sunny morning, with Sharpe's Longclaw, Northern Anteater Chat, Long-tailed Widowbird, Yellow Bishop, Black-winged Lapwing, African Black Duck, Levaillant's Cisticola, Wing-

snapping Cisticola, Cinnamon Bracken Warbler, Hunter's Cisticola, Angola Swallow, Golden-winged Sunbird and a roosting Montane Nightjar as the highlights.

Finally, we returned to Nairobi via the Aberdares and Nyeri. Here new birds included numerous Jackson's Francolin, Moorland Chat, the localised Aberdares Cisticolas, Mountain Yellow Warbler, Yellow-crowned Canary, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, Rüpell's Robin-Chat, Brown-capped Weaver, Grey-headed Nigrita, White-starred Robin, Mountain Buzzard, Purple-throated Cuckooshrike, scarce Hinde's Babbler and Red-throated Wryneck.

Buff-crested Bustard © Don MacGillivray



Sokoke Scops Owl © Don MacGillivray

Mammals recorded are as follows: Golden-rumped Elephant Shrew, Southern Tree Hyrax, Bush Hyrax, Savanna Elephant, Senegal Lesser Galago, Small-eared Bushbaby (heard only), Sykes's Monkey, Vervet Monkey, Olive Baboon, Yellow Baboon, Black-and-white Colobus, Unstriped Ground Squirrel, Ochre Bush Squirrel, Red Bush Squirrel, Cheetah, Caracal, Lion, Common Genet, Common Dwarf Mongoose, White-tailed Mongoose, Spotted Hyaena, Black-backed Jackal, African Wild Dog, Bat-eared Fox, Honey Badger, Plains Zebra, White

Rhinoceros (introduced to Nairobi NP), Desert Warthog (north of the Galana River), Common Warthog, Common Hippopotamus, Giraffe, Common Impala, Kongoni/Coke's Hartebeest, Eastern White-bearded Wildebeest, Eastern Thomson's Gazelle, Southern Gerenuk, Kirk's Dik-dik, Grant's Gazelle, Peters's Gazelle, Coastal Suni, Cape Buffalo, Common Eland, Southern Lesser Kudu, Bush Duiker, Fringe-eared Oryx, Common Waterbuck, Defassa Waterbuck and Bohor Reedbuck.

ANNOTATED BIRD SPECIES LIST

Struthionidae

Common Ostrich *Struthio camelus* --- Seen at Tsavo West and Nairobi NP (*massaicus*)

Somali Ostrich *Struthio molybdophanes* --- Seen in Tsavo East

Numididae

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* --- Seen regularly (*reichenowi*)

Kenyan Crested Guineafowl [Crested Guineafowl] *Guttera [p.] pucherani* --- Seen very briefly at Sokoke Forest

Vulturine Guineafowl *Acryllium vulturinum* --- Great views in Tsavo West and between Malindi and Tsavo East

Phasianidae

Shelley's Francolin *Scleroptila [s.] shelleyi* --- Fantastic views in Nairobi NP, and also seen in the Tsavo West area (*uluensis*)

Crested Francolin *Dendropardix sephaena* --- Numerous sightings in both coastal (Kirk's Francolin *rovuma*) and inland areas (*grantii*)

Jackson's Francolin *Pternistis jacksoni* --- Excellent views of many in the Aberdares

Scaly Francolin *Pternistis squamatus* --- Seen well at Gataimaiyu (*maranensis*)

Hildebrandt's Francolin *Pternistis hildebrandti* --- Heard at Naivasha (*altumi*)

Yellow-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis leucoscepus* --- Many good sightings

Harlequin Quail *Coturnix delegorguei* --- Several males flushed in the Tsavo West area (*delegorguei*)

Anatidae

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata* --- Seen a few times

White-backed Duck *Thalassornis leuconotus* --- Seen at Limuru Ponds (*leuconotus*)

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis* --- First seen in Nairobi NP

Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis [m.] melanotos* --- Most were seen in the coastal areas

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca* --- Seen regularly

Blue-billed Teal *Spatula hottentota* --- Seen at Limuru Ponds. Previously called 'Hottentot Teal'

African Black Duck *Anas sparsa* --- Seen at Kinangop (*leucostigma*)

Yellow-billed Duck *Anas undulata* --- Seen at Limuru Ponds and Kinangop (*undulata*)

Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhyncha* --- Seen a few times

Maccoa Duck *Oxyura maccoa* --- One male seen at Limuru Ponds

Caprimulgidae

African Dusky Nightjar *Caprimulgus fraenatus* --- Heard, and probably seen, at Swara

Montane Nightjar *Caprimulgus [p.] poliocephalus* --- Fantastic views on a day roost at Kinangop

Plain Nightjar *Caprimulgus inornatus* --- A grey morph bird was seen well at Swara

Slender-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus clarus* --- A female at Swara, possibly more

Square-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus fossii* --- One at Swara appeared to be this species (*welwitschii*)

Apodidae

African Palm Swift *Cypsiurus [p.] parvus* --- Seen regularly (*laemostigma*)

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* --- Seen near the Chyulu Hills en route to Tsavo West (*africanus*)

Nyanza Swift *Apus nielsae* --- Seen at Naivasha (*niansae*)

African Black Swift *Apus [b.] barbatus* --- Seen at Naivasha (*roehli*)

Little Swift *Apus affinis* --- Seen regularly (*affinis*)

Horus Swift *Apus horus* --- Seen at Naivasha (*horus*)

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer* --- Seen a few times

Musophagidae

Fischer's Turaco *Tauraco fischeri* --- Great views of a single bird at Sokoke (*fischeri*)

Hartlaub's Turaco *Tauraco hartlaubi* --- Seen at the Taita Hills, Gataimaiyu and the Aberdares

White-bellied Go-away-bird *Corythaixoides leucogaster* --- Seen regularly in the arid savannas

Otididae

Kori Bustard *Ardeotis kori* --- Some great sightings, especially at Swara (*struthiunculus*)

White-bellied Bustard *Eupodotis senegalensis* --- Seen in good numbers in the savannas (*canicollis*)

Buff-crested Bustard *Lophotis gindiana* --- Seen regularly in the Tsavo area

Hartlaub's Bustard *Lissotis hartlaubii* --- One male seen well in Tsavo West

Cuculidae

White-browed Coucal *Centropus [s.] superciliosus* --- Seen regularly (*superciliosus*)

Green Yellowbill [Yellowbill] *Ceuthmochares [aereus] australis* --- Seen well at Sokoke

Jacobin Cuckoo *Clamator jacobinus* --- Seen a few times (probably mostly the local breeder, *pica*, but perhaps also some of the smaller Indian migrants, *jacobinus*)

Diederik Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx caprius* --- Recorded a few times

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas* --- Recorded a few times

African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus* --- Heard at Gataimaiyu

Black Cuckoo *Cuculus clamosus* --- Heard at Manda (*clamosus*)

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius* --- Heard a few times

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* --- One seen in the Tsavo West area (*canorus*)

Pteroclidae

Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus* --- Seen at Swara and Tsavo East (*olivascens*)

Yellow-throated Sandgrouse *Pterocles gutturalis* --- Great views at Swara (*saturatior*)

Black-faced Sandgrouse *Pterocles decoratus* --- Seen at Tsavo (*decoratus*)

Columbidae

Rock Dove or Feral Pigeon *Columba livia* --- Seen

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea* --- Seen regularly (*guinea*)

African Olive Pigeon *Columba arquatrix* --- Seen in the Aberdares

Lemon Dove *Columba larvata* --- Seen briefly at Taita Hills (*larvata*)

Dusky Turtle Dove *Streptopelia lugens* --- Seen in the Nairobi area

African Mourning Dove *Streptopelia decipiens* --- Seen in the Tsavos (*perspicillata*)

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata* --- Seen regularly

Ring-necked Dove *Streptopelia capicola* --- Seen regularly (*tropica* in the Nairobi area and *somalica* in the east)

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis* --- Seen often (*senegalensis*)

Emerald-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur chalcospilos* --- Seen often

Tambourine Dove *Turtur tympanistria* --- Seen at Sokoke and Gataimaiyu

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis* --- Seen in the arid savannas (*capensis*)

African Green Pigeon *Treron [calvus] calvus* --- Heard at Nairobi (*brevicera*)

Sarothruridae

Red-chested Flufftail *Sarothrura rufa* --- Heard in the Tsavo West area (*rufa*)

Rallidae

Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostra* --- Seen a few times

African Swamphen [Swamphen] *Porphyrio [porphyrio] madagascariensis* --- Seen at Limuru Ponds and Lake Jipe

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* --- Seen a few times (*meridionalis*)

Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata* --- Seen at Limuru Ponds and Kinangop

Gruidae

Grey Crowned Crane *Balearica regulorum* --- Seen several times (*gibbericeps*)

Podicipedidae

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus [r.] ruficollis* --- Seen a few times (*capensis*)

Phoenicopteridae

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* --- Seen at Sabaki River Mouth

Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor* --- Seen at Sabaki River Mouth, where more numerous than the previous species

Turnicidae

Common Buttonquail *Turnix sylvaticus* --- A few were flushed in the Tsavos (*lepurana*)

Burhinidae

Water Thick-knee *Burhinus vermiculatus* --- Seen at Lake Jipe (*vermiculatus*)

Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis* --- Seen at Nairobi NP (*capensis*)

Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus [h.] himantopus* --- Seen a few times

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* --- A flock of about 20 at Sabaki River Mouth

Charadriidae

Long-toed Lapwing *Vanellus crassirostris* --- Seen in Nairobi NP and at Lake Naivasha (*crassirostris*)

Blacksmith Lapwing *Vanellus armatus* --- Seen several times

Spur-winged Lapwing *Vanellus spinosus* --- Seen regularly

Black-headed Lapwing *Vanellus tectus* --- Seen at Tsavo East (*latifrons*)

Black-winged Lapwing *Vanellus melanopterus* --- Seen at Kinangop (*minor*)

Crowned Lapwing *Vanellus coronatus* --- Seen regularly (*coronatus*)

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* --- Seen at Sabaki River Mouth (*squatarola*)

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius* --- Seen at Lake Jipe and Tsavo East

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius [t.] tricollaris* --- Seen a few times

White-fronted Plover *Charadrius marginatus* --- Seen at Sabaki River Mouth (*mechowi*)

Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus* --- A few at Sabaki River Mouth (*pamirensis*)

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* --- Good numbers at Sabaki River Mouth, including one bird in full breeding plumage

Jacanidae

African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus* --- Seen a few times

Scolopacidae

Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius [phaeopus] phaeopus* --- Seen at Sabaki River Mouth (*phaeopus*)

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* --- One at Sabaki River Mouth (*interpres*)

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* --- Seen at Sabaki River Mouth

Sanderling *Calidris alba* --- One at Sabaki River Mouth

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* --- A few at Sabaki River Mouth

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* --- Several at Sabaki River Mouth

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* --- Seen in Tsavo East

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* --- Two at Sabaki River Mouth (*ussuriensis*)

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* --- Seen a couple of times

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* --- Seen at Sabaki River Mouth

Dromadidae

Crab-plover *Dromas ardeola* --- Many at Sabaki River Mouth

Glareolidae

Somali Courser *Cursorius somalensis* --- Good views in Tsavo East (*littoralis*)

Temminck's Courser *Cursorius temminckii* --- Nice views at Swara

Double-banded Courser *Rhinoptilus africanus* --- A pair seen well at Lake Jipe (*gracilis*)

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* --- One at Lake Jipe (*fuelleborni*)

Madagascar Pratincole *Glareola ocularis* --- A low-flying flock was seen along the Tsavo East-Malindi road, 70 km inland!

Laridae

Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei* --- One at the Sabaki River Mouth

African Grey-headed Gull [Grey-headed Gull] *Chroicocephalus [cirrocephalus] pojoccephalus* --- A few at Lake Naivasha

Sooty Gull *Ichthyaetus hemprichii* --- Good numbers at Sabaki River Mouth and a few at Lamu

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* --- About 20 adults and juveniles at Sabaki River Mouth (*fuscus*)

Heuglin's Gull [Lesser Black-backed Gull] *Larus [fuscus] heuglini* --- One adult and several juvenile birds seen at Sabaki River Mouth ('taimyrensis')

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon [n.] nilotica* --- Seen at Like Jipe and Sabaki River Mouth (*nilotica*)

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* --- A few at Sabaki River Mouth

Greater Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii* --- Many at Sabaki River Mouth (presumed *velox*)

Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis* --- Several at Sabaki River Mouth (*bengalensis*)

Saunders's Tern *Sternula saundersi* --- Good numbers in full breeding plumage at Sabaki River Mouth

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* --- A few at Sabaki River Mouth (*dougallii*)

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* --- Quite a few at Sabaki River Mouth

Stercorariidae

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus* --- One young bird at Sabaki River Mouth

Ciconiidae

Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis* --- Several sightings

African Openbill *Anastomus lamelligerus* --- One flock in Tsavo East (*lamelligerus*)

African Woolly-necked Stork [Woolly-necked Stork] *Ciconia [episcopus] microscelis* --- Seen along the coast

Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumenifer* --- Seen in Nairobi

Phalacrocoracidae

Reed Cormorant *Microcarbo africanus* --- Seen regularly (*africanus*)

White-breasted Cormorant [Great Cormorant] *Phalacrocorax [carbo] lucidus* --- Seen at Naivasha

Anhingidae

African Darter *Anhinga rufa* --- Seen a few times (*rufa*)

Threskiornithidae

African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus* --- Seen regularly

Hadada Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash* --- Seen regularly (*brevirostris*)

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* --- Seen at Limuru Ponds

African Spoonbill *Platalea alba* --- Seen a few times

Ardeidae

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* --- Seen in Nairobi NP (*nycticorax*)

Striated Heron [Green Heron] *Butorides [s.] striata* --- Seen twice (*atricapilla*)

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* --- Seen a few times

Madagascar Pond Heron *Ardeola idae* --- One at Arabuko Swamp

Western Cattle Egret [Cattle Egret] *Bubulcus [i.] ibis* --- Seen several times

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* --- Seen regularly (*cinerea*)

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala* --- Seen regularly

African Great Egret [Great Egret] *Ardea [alba] melanorhynchos* --- Seen a few times

Yellow-billed Egret [Intermediate Egret] *Ardea [intermedia] brachyrhyncha* --- Seen several times

Little Egret *Egretta [g.] garzetta* --- Seen a few times (*garzetta*)

Dimorphic Egret [Little Egret] *Egretta [garzetta] dimorpha* --- Seen at Sabaki River and on Lamu

Scopidae

Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta* --- Seen regularly (*umbretta*)

Pelecanidae

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* --- A couple at Naivasha

Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens* --- A couple at Naivasha

Sagittariidae

Secretarybird *Sagittarius serpentarius* --- Impressive numbers at Swara and Tsavo East

Accipitridae

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* --- Seen a few times (*caeruleus*)

African Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides typus* --- Seen a couple of times (*typus*)

White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus* --- Seen a few times

Rüppell's Vulture *Gyps rueppelli* --- Seen in Tsavo East (*rueppelli*)

Black-chested Snake Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis* --- Seen a few times

Brown Snake Eagle *Circaetus cinereus* --- Seen a few times

Southern Banded Snake Eagle *Circaetus fasciolatus* --- One at Sokoke Forest

Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus* --- Seen several times

Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus* --- Seen in good numbers

Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis* --- One at Kinangop

Wahlberg's Eagle *Hieraetus wahlbergi* --- Just one seen

Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* --- Seen in small numbers in the Tsavos (*rapax*)

African Hawk-Eagle *Aquila spilogaster* --- Good views in the Tsavos

Lizard Buzzard *Kaupifalco monogrammicus* --- Seen at Sokoke Forest (*monogrammicus*)

Gabar Goshawk *Micronisus gabar* --- Recorded a few times (*aequatorius*)

Eastern Chanting Goshawk *Melierax poliopterus* --- Seen regularly

African Goshawk *Accipiter [t.] tachiro* --- Seen at Nairobi NP (*sparsimfasciatus*)

Shikra *Accipiter badius* --- One at Sokoke Forest (*sphenurus*)

Black Sparrowhawk *Accipiter melanoleucus* --- Seen several times (*melanoleucus*)

Yellow-billed Kite [Black Kite] *Milvus [migrans] aegyptius* --- Seen regularly (*parasitus*)

African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer* --- Seen a few times

Mountain Buzzard *Buteo oreophilus* --- Two in the Aberdares

Augur Buzzard *Buteo [a.] augur* --- Seen regularly in small numbers

Strigidae

Sokoke Scops Owl *Otus ireneae* --- Two rufous birds seen at close range on a day roost at Sokoke

Verreaux's Eagle-Owl *Bubo lacteus* --- Seen at Tsavo West and Lake Naivasha

Pearl-spotted Owlet *Glaucidium perlatum* --- Seen twice (*licua*)

Marsh Owl *Asio capensis* --- A few in the Tsavo West area (*capensis*)

Coliidae

Speckled Mousebird *Colius striatus* --- Seen regularly, with *mombassicus* in coastal areas and *kikuyensis* elsewhere

White-headed Mousebird *Colius leucocephalus* --- Seen very well in the Tsavo West area (*leucocephalus*)

Blue-naped Mousebird *Urocolius macrourus* --- Seen regularly (*pulcher*)

Trogonidae

Narina Trogon *Apaloderma narina* --- Seen at Sokoke forest (*littorale*)

Bar-tailed Trogon *Apaloderma vittatum* --- A lovely male was seen well at Gatamaiyu

Upupidae

African Hoopoe [Hoopoe] *Upupa [epops] africana* --- Seen regularly in small numbers

Phoeniculidae

White-headed Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus bollei* --- Heard in the Aberdares (*jacksoni*)

Green Wood Hoopoe *Phoeniculus purpureus* --- Seen at Naivasha (*marwitzii*)

Grant's Wood Hoopoe [Violet Wood Hoopoe] *Phoeniculus [damarensis] granti* --- Seen at Swara and Tsavo East

Common Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas* --- Seen at Sokoke Forest and Manda (*schalowi*)

Abyssinian Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus minor* --- Seen regularly (*cabanisi*)

Bucorvidae

Southern Ground Hornbill *Bucorvus leadbeateri* --- Seen at Tsavo East

Bucerotidae

Northern Red-billed Hornbill [Red-billed Hornbill] *Tockus [erythrorhynchus] erythrorhynchus* --- Quite common in the Tsavos

Von der Decken's Hornbill *Tockus [deckeni] deckeni* --- Seen quite often in the Tsavos

Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill *Tockus flavirostris* --- Seen a few times in the Tsavos

Crowned Hornbill *Lophoceros albicularis* --- Heard at Gatamaiyu (*geloensis*)

African Grey Hornbill *Lophoceros nasutus* --- Seen a few times (*nasutus*)

Trumpeter Hornbill *Bycanistes bucinator* --- Seen at Sokoke Forest

Silvery-cheeked Hornbill *Bycanistes brevis* --- Seen a few times

Coraciidae

Purple Roller *Coracias naevius* --- Seen once (*naevius*)

Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus* --- Seen regularly (*caudatus*), with one Lilac-throated Roller (*lorii*) in the Tsavo West area

European Roller *Coracias garrulus* --- One in Tsavo East (*garrulus*)

Broad-billed Roller *Eurystomus glaucurus* --- Seen at Naivasha (ssp. uncertain)

Alcedinidae

Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala* --- Seen in small numbers, throughout (ssp. uncertain)

- Brown-hooded Kingfisher** *Halcyon albiventris* --- Seen at Tsavo East (*prentissgrayi*)
- Striped Kingfisher** *Halcyon chelicuti* --- Most conspicuous at Swara (*chelicuti*)
- Mangrove Kingfisher** *Halcyon senegaloides* --- Glimpsed at Sokoke Forest
- Malachite Kingfisher** *Corythornis [cristatus] cristatus* --- Seen only twice (*galeritus*)
- Giant Kingfisher** *Megaceryle maxima* --- Seen at Naivasha (*maxima*)
- Pied Kingfisher** *Ceryle rudis* --- Seen a few times (*rudis*)
- Meropidae**
- Little Bee-eater** *Merops pusillus* --- Seen a few times (*cyanostictus*)
- Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater [Blue-breasted Bee-eater]** *Merops [variegatus] oreobates* --- Seen in the Nairobi region
- White-fronted Bee-eater** *Merops bullockoides* --- Seen at Naivasha
- Somali Bee-eater** *Merops revoilii* --- Seen well at Tsavo East
- Olive Bee-eater** *Merops superciliosus* --- Seen several times, especially towards the coast (*superciliosus*)
- Lybiidae**
- Green Barbet** *Stactolaema olivacea* --- Seen well at Sokoke (*olivacea*)
- Eastern Green Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus simplex* --- Great views at Sokoke Forest
- Moustached Green Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus leucomystax* --- Seen at Gatamaiyu and heard in the Aberdares
- Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus [b.] bilineatus* --- Seen well at Sokoke (Coastal Tinkerbird *fischeri*)
- Red-fronted Tinkerbird** *Pogoniulus pusillus* --- Seen at Lamu (*affinis*)
- Red-fronted Barbet** *Tricholaema diademata* --- Seen a few times (*massaicana*)

- Spot-flanked Barbet** *Tricholaema lacrymosa* --- Seen regularly (*lacrymosa*)
- Black-throated Barbet** *Tricholaema melanoccephala* --- Seen in the Tsavos (*stigmatothorax*)
- Brown-breasted Barbet** *Lybius melanopterus* --- Good views in the Taita Hills and in the Tsavo West area
- Red-and-yellow Barbet** *Trachyphonus erythrocephalus* --- Seen well at Swara and Tsavo (*erythrocephalus*)
- D'Arnaud's Barbet** *Trachyphonus [d.] darnaudii* --- Seen regularly (*boehmi*)
- Indicatoridae**
- Pallid Honeyguide** *Indicator meliphilus* --- A fortunate encounter with one bird at Sokoke, where it gave very good views (*meliphilus*)
- Lesser Honeyguide** *Indicator [m.] minor* --- Recorded twice (*teitensis*)
- Scaly-throated Honeyguide** *Indicator variegatus* --- Seen at Naivasha
- Greater Honeyguide** *Indicator indicator* --- Recorded twice
- Picidae**
- Red-throated Wryneck** *Jynx ruficollis* --- Seen near Nyeri (*ruficollis*)
- Nubian Woodpecker** *Campetherina nubica* --- Seen regularly (*nubica*, but with *pallida* at Manda)
- Mombasa Woodpecker** *Campetherina mombassica* --- Great views at Sokoke
- Fine-banded Woodpecker [Tullberg's Woodpecker]** *Campetherina [tullbergi] taeniolaema* --- Great views at Gatamaiyu, and seen again in the Aberdares (*hausburgi*)
- Cardinal Woodpecker** *Dendropicos fuscescens* --- Seen in small numbers (ssp. uncertain, except *hemprichii* on Manda)
- Eastern Grey Woodpecker [Grey Woodpecker]** *Dendropicos [goertae] spodocephalus* --- Excellent views at Naivasha and Swara (*rhodeogaster*)

- Falconidae**
- Pygmy Falcon** *Polihierax semitorquatus* --- Seen in small numbers (*castanotous*)
- Lesser Kestrel** *Falco naumanni* --- One at Swara
- African Red-necked Falcon [Red-necked Falcon]** *Falco [chicquera] ruficollis* --- One in Tsavo East (*ruficollis*)
- Amur Falcon** *Falco amurensis* --- A few at Swara and Tsavo West
- Lanner Falcon** *Falco biarmicus* --- Seen at Tsavo West (*biarmicus*)
- Peregrine Falcon** *Falco [p.] peregrinus* --- One in Nairobi (presumed *minor*)
- Psittacidae**
- African Orange-bellied Parrot** *Poicephalus rufiventris* --- Seen a few times in the Tsavos (*rufiventris*)
- Psittaculidae**
- Fischer's Lovebird** *Agapornis fischeri* --- Feral birds at Swara and Naivasha
- Yellow-collared Lovebird** *Agapornis personatus* --- Feral birds nearing this species at Naivasha
- Platysteiridae**
- Forest Batis** *Batis [m.] mixta* --- Seen well at Sokoke (*ultima*)
- Chinspot Batis** *Batis molitor* --- Widespread sightings (*puella*)
- Pale Batis** *Batis soror* --- Seen well at Sokoke
- Eastern Black-headed Batis** *Batis minor* --- Seen well in the Tsavo West area
- Pygmy Batis** *Batis perkeo* --- Seen in Tsavo West
- Malacostridae**
- Grey-headed Bushshrike** *Malaconotus blanchoti* --- Seen in Tsavo West (*approximans*)
- Black-fronted Bushshrike** *Chlorophoneus nigrifrons* --- Good views at Gatamaiyu (*nigrifrons*)
- White-crested Helmetshrike** *Prionops plumatus* --- Good numbers in Tsavo East (*vinaceigularis*, the one without the white wing bar)
- Retz's Helmetshrike** *Prionops retzii* --- Seen at Sokoke (*graculinus*)
- Chestnut-fronted Helmetshrike** *Prionops scopifrons* --- Great views at Sokoke (*kirkii*)

Campephagidae

Grey Cuckooshrike *Ceblepyris caesius* --- Seen at Gatamaiyu (*pura*)

Purple-throated Cuckooshrike *Campephaga quiscalina* --- Seen well at the Aberdares (*martini*)

Laniidae

Northern White-crowned Shrike *Eurocephalus ruppelli* --- Seen regularly

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* --- A few at Nairobi NP

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor* --- Seen a few times

Grey-backed Fiscal *Lanius excubitoroides* --- Seen at Naivasha (*excubitoroides*)

Long-tailed Fiscal *Lanius cabanisi* --- Most conspicuous in the Tsavo East area

Taita Fiscal *Lanius dorsalis* --- Most numerous in Tsavo East

Northern Fiscal [Common Fiscal] *Lanius [collaris] humeralis* --- Seen several times (*humeralis*)

Oriolidae

Black-headed Oriole *Oriolus larvatus* --- Recorded regularly (*rolleti* inland, *reichenowi* along the coast)

Mountain Oriole *Oriolus percivali* --- Seen at Gatamaiyu

African Golden Oriole *Oriolus auratus* --- Seen at Sokoke Forest (*notatus*)

Dicruridae

Southern Fork-tailed Drongo [Fork-tailed Drongo] *Dicrurus [a.] adsimilis* --- Recorded regularly (*fugax*)

Monarchidae

Northern Blue-mantled Flycatcher [Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher] *Trochocercus [cyanomelas] bivittatus* --- Seen at Sokoke (*bivittatus*)

African Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone [v.] viridis* --- Recorded regularly (mostly *ferrei*, including all the ones with white, with *plumbeiceps* seen at Sokoke)

Corvidae

House Crow *Corvus splendens* --- Many in coastal areas

Cape Crow *Corvus capensis* --- Seen at Kinangop (*kordofanensis*)

Pied Crow *Corvus albus* --- Recorded regularly

Stenostiridae

White-tailed Crested Flycatcher *Elminia albonotata* --- Seen at Gatamaiyu and in the Aberdares (*albonotata*)

Paridae

White-bellied Tit *Melaniparus albiventris* --- Recorded several times

Red-throated Tit *Melaniparus fringillinus* --- Great views at Swara

Acacia Tit *Melaniparus thruppi* --- Good views of one in Tsavo East (*barakae*)

Nicatoridae

Eastern Nicator *Nicator gularis* --- Seen at Sokoke

Alaudidae

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix leucotis* --- Seen at Tsavo East (*madaraszi*)

Chestnut-headed Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix signatus* --- Seen in good numbers in Tsavo East (*signatus*)

Fischer's Sparrow-Lark *Eremopterix leucopareia* --- Seen well at Swara and Tsavo West

Pink-breasted Lark *Calendulauda poecilosterna* --- Seen regularly in the Tsavos

Foxy Lark [Fawn-coloured Lark] *Calendulauda [africanoides] alopecia* --- One seen at Tsavo West and one heard at Swara (*intercedens*)

Red-winged Lark *Mirafr'a hypermetra* --- Numerous in the Tsavos (*hypermetra*)

Rufous-naped Lark *Mirafr'a [a.] africana* --- Seen at Nairobi NP and Kinangop (*athi*)

Flapet Lark *Mirafr'a rufocinnamomea* --- One seen briefly in the Tsavo West area (*torrida*)

Singing Bush Lark [Horsfield's Bush Lark] *Mirafr'a [javanica] cantillans* --- Seen in Tsavo East (*marginata*)

Friedmann's Lark *Mirafr'a pulpa* --- Super views of a bird in display, and perched, in Tsavo West

Short-tailed Lark *Spizocorys fremantlii* --- Excellent views at Swara (*delamerei*)

Northern Red-capped Lark [Red-capped Lark] *Calandrella [cinerea] williamsi* --- Seen well at Swara

Pycnonotidae

Dodson's Bulbul [Common Bulbul] *Pycnonotus [barbatus] dodsoni* --- Seen regularly in arid areas, and in the Taita Hills

Dark-capped Bulbul [Common Bulbul] *Pycnonotus [barbatus] tricolor* --- Seen in the greater Nairobi area (*tricolor*) and at Sokoke (*layardi*)

Olive-breasted Mountain Greenbul [Eastern Mountain Greenbul] *Arizelocichla [nigriceps] kikuyuensis* --- Several seen well at Gatamaiyu

Stripe-faced Greenbul [Stripe-cheeked Greenbul] *Arizelocichla [milanjensis] striifacies* --- Seen well at Taita Hills

Yellow-whiskered Greenbul *Eurillas latirostris* --- Seen at Gatamaiyu (*latirostris*)

Sombre Greenbul *Andropadus importunus* --- Recorded commonly along the coast (*insularis*)

Yellow-bellied Greenbul *Chlorocichla flaviventris* --- Seen at Sokoke (*centralis*)

Terrestrial Brownbul *Phyllastrephus terrestris* --- Seen at Sokoke (*suahelicus*)

Northern Brownbul *Phyllastrephus strepitans* --- First seen in Tsavo West

Fischer's Greenbul *Phyllastrephus fischeri* --- Decent views at Sokoke

Placid Greenbul [Cabanis's Greenbul]

Phyllastrephus [cabanisi] placidus --- Seen at Taita Hills and Gatamaiyu

Lowland Tiny Greenbul *Phyllastrephus debilis* --- Seen well at Sokoke (*rabai*)

Hirundinidae

White-headed Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne albiceps* --- One female seen at Naivasha (*albiceps*)

Black Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne pristoptera* --- Seen in the greater Nairobi area (*massaica*)

Brown-throated Martin *Riparia [p.] paludicola* --- Seen several times (*ducis*)

Banded Martin *Riparia cincta* --- Seen at Swara (*suahelica*)

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* --- Recorded several times (*rustica*)

Angola Swallow *Hirundo angolensis* --- Seen well at Kinangop

Ethiopian Swallow *Hirundo aethiopica* --- Seen well along the coast (*amadoni*)

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* --- Seen a few times (*smithii*)

Red-throated Rock Martin [Rock Martin] *Ptyonoprogne [fuligula] rufigula* --- Seen regularly in the highlands (*rufigula*)

Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica* --- Seen regularly (*unitatis*)

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis [d.] daurica* --- Seen regularly in the highlands (*emini*)

Macrosphenidae

Eastern Crombec [Northern Crombec] *Sylvietta [brachyura] leucopsis* --- Seen at Tsavo East

Red-faced Crombec *Sylvietta whytii* --- Seen at Swara (*jacksoni*) and Manda (*minima*)

White-browed Crombec *Sylvietta [leucophrys] leucophrys* --- Seen at Gatamaiyu (*leucophrys*)

Erythrocercidae

Little Yellow Flycatcher *Erythrocercus holochlorus* --- Seen well at Sokoke

Phylloscopidae

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* --- Seen in Nairobi (*yakutensis*)

Yellow-throated Woodland Warbler *Phylloscopus ruficapilla* --- Seen at Taita Hills (*minullus*)

Brown Woodland Warbler *Phylloscopus umbrovirens* --- Seen at Gatamaiyu (*mackenzianus*)

Acrocephalidae

Lesser Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus gracilirostris* --- Heard at Nairobi NP (*parvus*) and Lake Jipe (*leptorhynchus*)

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* --- Seen at Nairobi NP

African Yellow Warbler *Iduna natalensis* --- Seen in Nairobi (*massaica*)

Mountain Yellow Warbler *Iduna similis* --- Seen in the Aberdares

Locustellidae

Evergreen Forest Warbler *Bradypterus lopezi* --- Seen well at Gatamaiyu (*mariae*), glimpsed at Taita Hills (*usambarensis*)

Cinnamon Bracken Warbler *Bradypterus cinnamomeus* --- Seen well at Kinangop and the Aberdares (*cinnamomeus*)

Little Rush Warbler *Bradypterus [b.] baboecala* --- Heard at Lake Jipe (*tongensis*)

Highland Rush Warbler [Little Rush Warbler] *Bradypterus [baboecala] centralis* --- Several seen in Nairobi NP (*elgonensis*)

Cisticolidae

Singing Cisticola *Cisticola cantans* --- Seen a couple of time in the Nairobi region (*pictipennis*)

Hunter's Cisticola *Cisticola hunteri* --- Seen well at Kinangop and the Aberdares

Rattling Cisticola *Cisticola chiniana* --- Recorded on several days, including at Nairobi (*humilis*)

Ashy Cisticola *Cisticola cinereolus* --- Very numerous in the Tsavo West area (*schillingsi*)

Lynes's Cisticola [Wailing Cisticola] *Cisticola [lais] distinctus* --- Great views near Naivasha

Winding Cisticola *Cisticola [galactotes]*

marginatus --- First seen at Nairobi NP; also in the Tsavo West area (*nyansae*)

Coastal Cisticola [Winding Cisticola] *Cisticola [galactotes] haematocephalus* --- Seen well at Sokoke and Manda

Levaillant's Cisticola *Cisticola tinniens* --- Seen at Kinangop (*oreophilus*)

Stout Cisticola *Cisticola robustus* --- Seen at Nairobi NP and Kinangop (*nuchalis*)

Aberdare Cisticola *Cisticola aberdare* --- Seen well in the Aberdares

Croaking Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis* --- One in Nairobi NP (*strangei*)

Tiny Cisticola *Cisticola nana* --- Seen at Tsavo West

Short-winged Cisticola *Cisticola brachypterus* --- Seen at Nairobi NP (*katonae*)

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* --- Seen in the Tsavo West area (*uropygialis*)

Desert Cisticola *Cisticola aridulus* --- Seen at Swara (*tanganyika*)

Pectoral-patch Cisticola *Cisticola brunneascens* --- Seen Nairobi NP (*hindii*)

Wing-snapping Cisticola *Cisticola ayresii* --- Seen at Kinangop (*mauenensis*)

Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava* --- Recorded regularly (*melanorhyncha*, with *tenella* at Manda)

Pale Prinia *Prinia somalica* --- Seen in the Tsavos (*erlangeri*)

Red-fronted Warbler *Prinia rufifrons* --- Seen in the Tsavos (*rufifrons*)

Black-collared Apalis *Oreolais [pulcher] pulcher* --- Good views at Gatamaiyu (*pulcher*)

Buff-bellied Warbler *Phyllolais pulchella* --- Seen at Swara and Naivasha

Taita Apalis [Bar-throated Apalis] *Apalis [thoracica] fuscigularis* --- A pair was seen reasonably well in the Taita Hills

Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis [f.] flavigula* --- Seen well at Nairobi NP and Naivasha (*pugnax*)

Brown-tailed Apalis [Yellow-breasted Apalis] *Apalis [flavida] flavocincta* --- Several good sightings in the Tsavos (*flavocincta*)

Black-throated Apalis *Apalis jacksoni* --- Seen well at Gatamaiyu and in the Aberdares (*jacksoni*)

Black-headed Apalis *Apalis melanocephala* --- Seen well at Sokoke (*melanocephala*)

Chestnut-throated Apalis *Apalis [porphyrolaema] porphyrolaema* --- Seen at Gatamaiyu

Grey Apalis *Apalis [c.] cinerea* --- Seen well at Gatamaiyu (*cinerea*)

Grey-capped Warbler *Eminia lepida* --- Seen well at Nairobi NP and Naivasha

Grey-backed Camaroptera [Bleating Camaroptera] *Camaroptera [brachyura] brevicaudata* --- Seen regularly (*erlangeri* at Sokoke, *griseigula* around Nairobi)

Grey Wren-Warbler *Calamonastes simplex* --- Seen regularly in the Tsavos

Yellow-bellied Eremomela *Eremomela [i.] icteropygialis* --- Seen well at Swara (*abdominalis*)

Yellow-vented Eremomela *Eremomela flavicrissalis* --- One was seen well in Tsavo East

Leiothrichidae

Rufous Chatterer *Argya rubiginosa* --- Seen at Tsavo West and Manda (*heuglini*)

Scaly Chatterer *Argya aylmeri* --- Great views in Tsavo West (*keniana*)

Arrow-marked Babbler *Turdoides jardineii* --- Seen at Naivasha (*emini*)

Scaly Babbler *Turdoides squamulata* --- Seen well at Manda, and briefly at Sokoke (*squamulata*)

Northern Pied Babbler *Turdoides hypoleuca* --- Good sightings in Nairobi NP (*hypoleuca*)

Black-lored Babbler *Turdoides sharpei* --- Seen well at Naivasha (*sharpei*)

Hinde's Babbler *Turdoides hindei* --- Seen well near Nyeri

Sylviidae

African Hill Babbler *Pseudoalcippe [abyssinica] abyssinica* --- Seen at Gatamaiyu (*abyssinica*)

Brown Parisoma *Sylvia lugens* --- Seen in Nairobi and at Naivasha (*jacksoni*)

Banded Parisoma *Sylvia boehmi* --- Seen well at Swara (*boehmi*)

Zosteropidae

Pale White-eye [Abyssinian White-eye] *Zosterops [abyssinicus] flavigularis* --- Seen regularly (*flavigularis*)

Taita White-eye [Montane White-eye] *Zosterops [poliogastrus] silvanus* --- Seen well in the Taita Hills

Kikuyu White-eye [Montane White-eye] *Zosterops [poliogastrus] kikuyuensis* --- Great views at Gatamaiyu

Sturnidae

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea* --- Seen in the Tsavos

Black-bellied Starling *Notopholia corrusca* --- Seen well along the coast (*corrusca*)

Greater Blue-eared Starling *Lamprotornis chalybaeus* --- Seen at Tsavo East and elsewhere (*sycobius*)

Rüppell's Starling *Lamprotornis purpuroptera* --- First seen at Swara (*purpuroptera*)

Golden-breasted Starling *Lamprotornis regius* --- Some great views in the Tsavos

Superb Starling *Lamprotornis superbus* --- Seen often

Hildebrandt's Starling *Lamprotornis hildebrandti* --- Seen well in the Tsavo West area

Fischer's Starling *Lamprotornis fischeri* --- Seen regularly in the Tsavos

Violet-backed Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* --- Seen a few times (*verreauxii*)

Red-winged Starling *Onychognathus [m.] morio* --- Seen at Naivasha (*morio*)

Buphagidae

Yellow-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus africanus* --- Seen a few times (*africanus*)

Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorhynchus* --- Seen regularly

Turdidae

Red-tailed Ant Thrush *Neocossyphus rufus* --- Great views at Sokoke (*rufus*)

Abyssinian Ground Thrush *Geokichla piaggiae* --- Seen well in the Aberdares (*kilimensis*)

Bare-eyed Thrush *Turdus tephronotus* --- First seen at Tsavo West and again at Manda

Northern Olive Thrush *Turdus abyssinicus* --- Seen in the Nairobi region (*abyssinicus*)

Taita Thrush *Turdus helleri* --- Great views in the Taita Hills

Muscicapidae

Bearded Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas quadrivirgata* --- Heard and seen briefly along the coast (*quadrivirgata*)

White-browed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas leucophrys* --- Seen regularly, including at Nairobi NP (*brunneiceps*) and the Tsavos (White-winged Scrub Robin *vulpina*)

White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher *Melaenornis fischeri* --- Seen at Naivasha and the Aberdares (*fischeri*)

Southern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis pammelaina* --- Seen at Swara (*pammelaina*)

Pale Flycatcher *Melaenornis pallidus* --- Seen at Manda and Sokoke (*subalaris*), and in the Taita Hills (*murinus*)

African Grey Flycatcher *Melaenornis microrhynchus* --- Seen a few times in the Tsavos (*taruensis*) and Nairobi area (*microrhynchus*)

Ashy Flycatcher *Muscicapa caerulescens* --- Heard at Sokoke (*cinereola*)

African Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta* --- Seen a few times, including at Taita Hills (*murina*) and the Aberdares (*pumila*)

Cape Robin-Chat *Cossypha caffra* --- Seen at Kinangop (*iolaema*)

Rüppell's Robin-Chat *Cossypha semirufa* --- Seen at Gatamaiyu and in the Aberdares (*intercedens*)

White-browed Robin-Chat *Cossypha heuglini* --- Seen at Naivasha (*heuglini*)

Red-capped Robin-Chat *Cossypha natalensis* --- Seen at Sokoke (*intensa*)

White-starred Robin *Pogonochichla stellata* --- Seen in the Aberdares (*intensa*) and at Taita Hills (*helleri*)

Spotted Palm Thrush *Cichladusa guttata* --- Seen regularly, inland (*rufipennis*) and at Manda (*rufipennis*)

African Stonechat [Common Stonechat] *Saxicola [t.] torquatus* --- Seen at Taita Hills and Kinangop (*axillaris*)

Moorland Chat *Pinarochroa sordida* --- Several in the Aberdares (*ernesti*)

Northern Anteater Chat *Myrmecocichla aethiops* --- Seen at Kinangop and Naivasha (*cryptoleuca*)

Capped Wheatear *Oenanthe pileata* --- Seen at Swara and Tsavo East (*livingstonii*)

Abyssinian Wheatear [Mourning Wheatear] *Oenanthe [lugens] lugubris* --- Seen well near Naivasha (Schalow's Wheatear *schalowi*)

Nectariniidae

Plain-backed Sunbird *Anthreptes reichenowi* --- Good views at Sokoke (*yokanae*)

Eastern Violet-backed Sunbird *Anthreptes orientalis* --- Seen well in the Tsavos

Collared Sunbird *Hedydipna collaris* --- Seen regularly, including at Manda (*elachior*) and Nairobi (*garguensis*)

Amani Sunbird *Hedydipna pallidigaster* --- Good views at Sokoke

Green-headed Sunbird *Cyanomitra verticalis* --- Seen at Gatamaiyu (*viridisplendens*)

Olive Sunbird *Cyanomitra olivacea* --- Seen at Gatamaiyu (*vincenti*) and Sokoke (*neglecta*)

Grey Sunbird *Cyanomitra veroxii* --- Seen at Manda (*fischeri*)

Amethyst Sunbird *Chalcomitra amethystina* --- Seen regularly, including at Nairobi NP (*doggetti*) and Manda (*kalckreuthi*)

Scarlet-chested Sunbird *Chalcomitra senegalensis* --- Seen in moister areas (*lamperti*)

Hunter's Sunbird *Chalcomitra hunteri* --- Seen well in the Tsavos

Tacazze Sunbird *Nectarinia tacazze* --- Seen in the Aberdares (*jacksoni*)

Bronzy Sunbird *Nectarinia kilimensis* --- Seen in Nairobi and at Kinangop (*kilimensis*)

Golden-winged Sunbird *Drepanorhynchus reichenowi* --- Some great views at Kinangop (*reichenowi*)

Northern Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris reichenowi* --- Seen well at Gatamaiyu (*reichenowi*)

Eastern Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris mediocris* --- Seen at Gatamaiyu and Kinangop

Usambara Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris usambaricus* --- Seen in the Taita Hills

Gorgeous Sunbird [Beautiful Sunbird] *Cinnyris [pulchellus] melanogastrus* --- Great views at Tsavo West

Marico Sunbird *Cinnyris mariquensis* --- Heard at Naivasha (*suahelicus*)

Purple-banded Sunbird *Cinnyris bifasciatus* --- Seen well at Manda (*microrhynchus*)

Tsavo Sunbird *Cinnyris tsavoensis* --- Seen well in Tsavo West

Violet-breasted Sunbird *Cinnyris chalcomelas* --- One of the biggest surprises of the trip was finding a male in Tsavo East. It was seen well on two occasions, and the longer bill, broader violet breast band (lacking turquoise) and slightly larger size ruled out Tsavo Sunbird

Variable Sunbird *Cinnyris venustus* --- Seen widely (*falkensteinii*), including the white bellied form at Manda (*albiventris*)

Passeridae

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* --- Seen

Kenya Sparrow [Rufous Sparrow] *Passer [cordofanicus] rufocinctus* --- Seen regularly in the Nairobi region

Parrot-billed Sparrow [Northern Grey-headed Sparrow] *Passer [griseus] gongonensis* --- Seen regularly

Chestnut Sparrow *Passer eminibey* --- Seen at Swara and Tsavo West

Yellow-spotted Petronia *Gymnoris pyrgita* --- Seen several times (*pyrgita*)

Ploceidae

Red-billed Buffalo Weaver *Bubalornis niger* --- Seen several times (*intermedius*)

White-headed Buffalo Weaver *Dinemellia dinemelli* --- Seen in the Tsavos (probably all *boehmi*)

White-browed Sparrow-Weaver *Plocepasser mahali* --- Seen often (*melanorhynchus*)

Grey-capped Social Weaver *Pseudonigrita arnaudi* --- Seen well at Swara

Black-capped Social Weaver *Pseudonigrita cabanisi* --- Seen in the Tsavos

Speckle-fronted Weaver *Sporopipes frontalis* --- Seen at Swara (*eminii*)

Thick-billed Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons* --- Seen at Nairobi (*montana*)

Baglafecht Weaver *Ploceus baglafecht* --- Seen in the Nairobi region (*reichenowi*)

Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis* --- Seen regularly (*suahelicus*)

Black-necked Weaver *Ploceus [nigriceps] nigriceps* --- Seen well at Manda and Tsavo West (*melanoxanthus*)

Eastern Golden Weaver *Ploceus subaureus* --- Seen in the Tsavo West area (*aureoflavus*)

Holub's Golden Weaver *Ploceus xanthops* --- Seen at Nairobi NP

- Golden Palm Weaver** *Ploceus bojeri* --- Great views at Manda and Watamu
- Taveta Golden Weaver** *Ploceus castaneiceps* --- Seen well at Lake Jipe
- Lesser Masked Weaver** *Ploceus intermedius* --- Seen in the Tsavos (*intermedius*)
- Vitelline Masked Weaver** *Ploceus vitellinus* --- Seen in Tsavo West (*uluensis*)
- Speke's Weaver** *Ploceus spekei* --- Seen well at Nairobi NP, Swara and Kinangop
- Village Weaver** *Ploceus cucullatus* --- Seen in breeding plumage at Sokoke (*paroptus*)
- Kilifi Weaver** *Ploceus golandi* --- Decent views of a feeding flock at Sokoke, including breeding-plumage males. Previously called Clarke's Weaver
- Chestnut Weaver** *Ploceus rubiginosus* --- Great numbers in breeding plumage at Tsavo West (*rubiginosus*)
- Dark-backed Weaver** *Ploceus bicolor* --- Seen at Sokoke (*kerstenii*)
- Brown-capped Weaver** *Ploceus insignis* --- Seen well in the Aberdares
- Northern Red-headed Weaver [Red-headed Weaver]** *Anaplectes [rubriceps] leuconotos* --- Seen at Naivasha
- Cardinal Quelea** *Quelea cardinalis* --- A few breeding plumage males were seen in the Tsavo West area (*rhodesiae*)
- Red-billed Quelea** *Quelea quelea* --- Many seen (*aethiopica*)
- Yellow-crowned Bishop** *Euplectes afer* --- One seen well in Nairobi NP (*ladoensis*)
- Fire-fronted Bishop** *Euplectes diadematus* --- Great views in Tsavo West
- Zanzibar Red Bishop [Southern Red Bishop]** *Euplectes [orix] nigroventris* --- Breeding-plumage birds seen in the Tsavo West area
- Yellow Bishop** *Euplectes capensis* --- Seen at Kinangop (*crassirostris*)

- White-winged Widowbird** *Euplectes albonotatus* --- Common in Nairobi NP and the Tsavo West area (*eques*)
- Red-naped Widowbird [Red-collared Widowbird]** *Euplectes [ardens] laticauda* --- Great views in Nairobi NP and at Kinangop (*suhellicus*)
- Long-tailed Widowbird** *Euplectes progne* --- Great views at Kinangop (*delamerei*)
- Jackson's Widowbird** *Euplectes jacksoni* --- A brilliant encounter at Nairobi NP where males were in full display, and seen again at Kinangop
- Estrildidae**
- Grey-headed Nigrita** *Nigrita canicapillus* --- Seen in the Aberdares (*diabolicus*)
- Green-winged Pytilia** *Pytilia melba* --- Several sightings (*soudanensis*)
- Cut-throat Finch** *Amadina fasciata* --- Seen at Tsavo East (*alexanderi*)
- Red-throated Twinspot** *Hypargos niveoguttatus* --- Heard and glimpsed at Sokoke (*macrospilotus*)
- Red-billed Firefinch** *Lagonosticta senegala* --- Seen regularly (*ruberrima*)
- Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu** *Uraeginthus bengalus* --- Seen regularly, including at Nairobi (*brunneigularis*) and Lamu (*littoralis*)
- Blue-capped Cordon-bleu** *Uraeginthus cianocephalus* --- Several good sightings in Tsavo West
- Purple Grenadier** *Uraeginthus ianthinogaster* --- Several good sightings
- Yellow-bellied Waxbill** *Coccycgia quartinia* --- Seen at Taita Hills (*kiliensis*)
- Crimson-rumped Waxbill** *Estrilda rhodopyga* --- Seen well at Tsavo West (*centralis*)
- Common Waxbill** *Estrilda [astrild] astrild* --- Seen in the Nairobi region (*massaica*)
- Black-faced Waxbill** *Estrilda [erythronotos] erythronotos* --- Seen at Swara and Tsavo West (*delamerei*)
- Orange-breasted Waxbill** *Amandava subflava* --- Seen at Lake Jipe, in flight (*clarkei*)

- African Quailfinch [Quailfinch]** *Ortygospiza [atricollis] fuscocrissa* --- Seen in Nairobi NP (*muelleri*)
- African Silverbill** *Euodice cantans* --- Seen at Tsavo East (*orientalis*)
- Grey-headed Silverbill** *Odontospiza caniceps* --- Seen in the Tsavo West area and at Swara
- Bronze Mannikin** *Lonchura cucullata* --- Seen several times (*scutata*)
- Red-backed Mannikin [Black-and-white Mannikin]** *Lonchura [bicolor] nigriceps* --- Seen at Taita Hills
- Viduidae**
- Pin-tailed Whydah** *Vidua macroura* --- Seen a few times
- Steel-blue Whydah** *Vidua hypocherina* --- Good views of a breeding-plumage male in Tsavo West
- Straw-tailed Whydah** *Vidua Fischeri* --- Incredible numbers in the Tsavo West region (more than 50 seen)
- Long-tailed Paradise Whydah** *Vidua paradisaea* --- Impressive numbers in the Tsavo West region
- Motacillidae**
- Cape Wagtail** *Motacilla capensis* --- Seen at Kinangop (*wellsi*)
- African Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla aguimp* --- Seen regularly (*vidua*)
- Golden Pipit** *Tmetothylacus tenellus* --- Quite a few seen well in the Tsavos
- Sharpe's Longclaw** *Macronyx sharpei* --- Super views at Kinangop
- Yellow-throated Longclaw** *Macronyx croceus* --- Seen at Nairobi National Park and near Naivasha
- Pangani Longclaw** *Macronyx aurantiigula* --- Great views in the Tsavos, and also seen at Nairobi NP
- Rosy-throated Longclaw** *Macronyx ameliae* --- Seen well at Nairobi NP
- African Pipit** *Anthus cinnamomeus* --- Seen several times, inland (*lacuum*) and at Sokoke (*annae*)
- Long-billed Pipit** *Anthus [similis] similis* --- Seen near Naivasha (*chyuluensis*)
- Striped Pipit** *Anthus lineiventris* --- Seen in the Taita Hills
- Sokoke Pipit** *Anthus sokokensis* --- Superb views at Sokoke
- Malindi Pipit** *Anthus melindae* --- Great views at Sokoke (*melindae*)
- Fringillidae**
- African Citril** *Crithagra citrinelloides* --- Seen in the central highlands (*kikuyensis*)
- Reichenow's Seedeater** *Crithagra reichenowi* --- Seen at Swara and Tsavo West
- Yellow-fronted Canary** *Crithagra mozambica* --- Seen along the coast (*mozambica*)
- White-bellied Canary** *Crithagra dorsostriata* --- Seen a few times (probably all *maculicollis*)
- Southern Grosbeak-Canary** *Crithagra buchanani* --- Great views in the Tsavo West area
- Brimstone Canary** *Crithagra sulphurata* --- Seen several times (*sharpii*)
- Thick-billed Seedeater** *Crithagra burtoni* --- Seen at Gatamaiyu (*albifrons*)
- Streaky Seedeater** *Crithagra [s.] striolata* --- Seen regularly in the highlands (*striolata*)
- Yellow-crowned Canary** *Serinus flavivertex* --- Seen at Kinangop and the Aberdares (*flavivertex*)
- Emberizidae**
- Cinnamon-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza [t.] tahapisi* --- Seen in Tsavo East (*tahapisi*)
- Somali Bunting** *Emberiza poliopleura* --- Seen in the Tsavos
- Golden-breasted Bunting** *Emberiza flaviventris* --- Seen at Naivasha (*kalaharica*)



Malindi Pipit (above) and White-headed Mousebird (below) © Don MacGillivray



Fire-fronted Bishop (above) and Taita Thrush (below) © Don MacGillivray

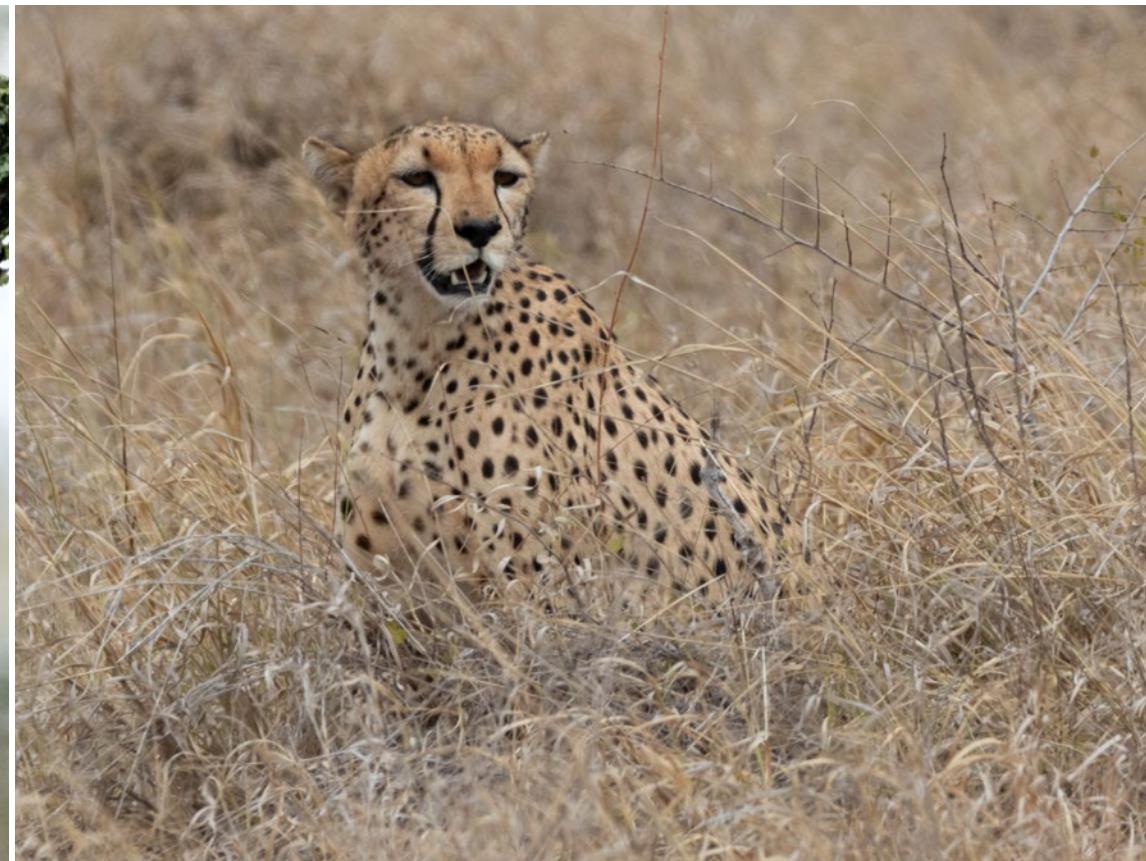




Lynes's Cisticola (above) and Bar-tailed Trogon (below) © Don MacGillivray



Golden Palm Weaver (above) and Cheetah (below) © Don MacGillivray





Long-toed Lapwing (above) and Somali Bee-eater (below) © Don MacGillivray.

