

**THE BIRDER'S GUIDE TO AFRICA** presents the first comprehensive and detailed summary of bird watching in the African region, covering all mainland territories and associated islands. An overview of birding in the region is given in the **Introduction**, highlighting key destinations for different kinds of travellers. This is followed by **Country Accounts** in which details on travel and birding are provided for each territory, including a comprehensive list of important bird taxa to be targeted on a visit. In the **Family Accounts**, each family recorded from the region is briefly described and illustrated with spectacular photographs. Finally, the **Species Accounts** detail information on ease of seeing, distribution, status, habitat, subspecies, taxonomic issues and best places to see, for all species. Any serious world lister or keen African eco traveller will find an abundance of information of relevance to their interest.



**Michael Mills** is a freelance South African bird guide and bird conservationist with a close working relationship with Birding Africa. Since completing his Masters in Conservation Biology at the Percy FitzPatrick Institute/University of Cape Town, Michael has split his time between conducting various bird conservation and research projects in Angola for the A. P. Leventis Ornithological Research Institute and in collaboration with the BirdLife network, and guiding bird watching tours around Africa. He has a strong interest in recording bird vocalisations, and believes in the importance of publishing his research findings. When not exploring little-known regions of Africa, he can mostly be found dancing in a tutu with his partner Catherine and daughter Erin.



**Tasso Leventis** is a businessman with widespread involvement in wildlife conservation, substantially in Africa. His commitments to bird conservation have included the establishment of an avian research institute in Nigeria, as well as participation in and support for international and national conservation non-government organisations such as Birdlife International and a number of BirdLife's many country partner organisations. As an avowed amateur, he has enjoyed the challenge of attempting to photograph wildlife, birds in particular, and is happy to have contributed the vast majority of photographs for the book. He lives in London with his wife Myriam, their three grown up children and (so far) three grandchildren.

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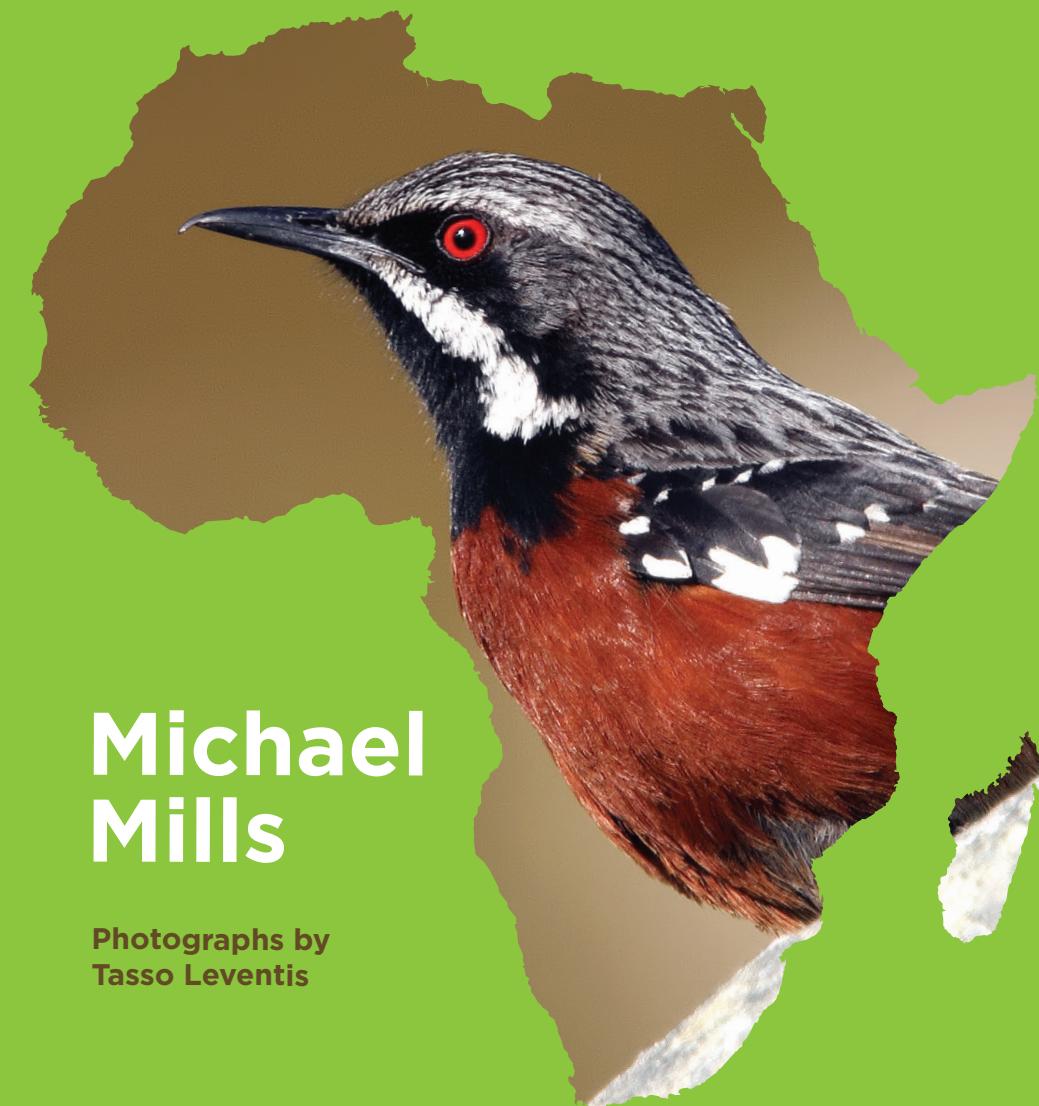
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The Birder's Guide to Africa

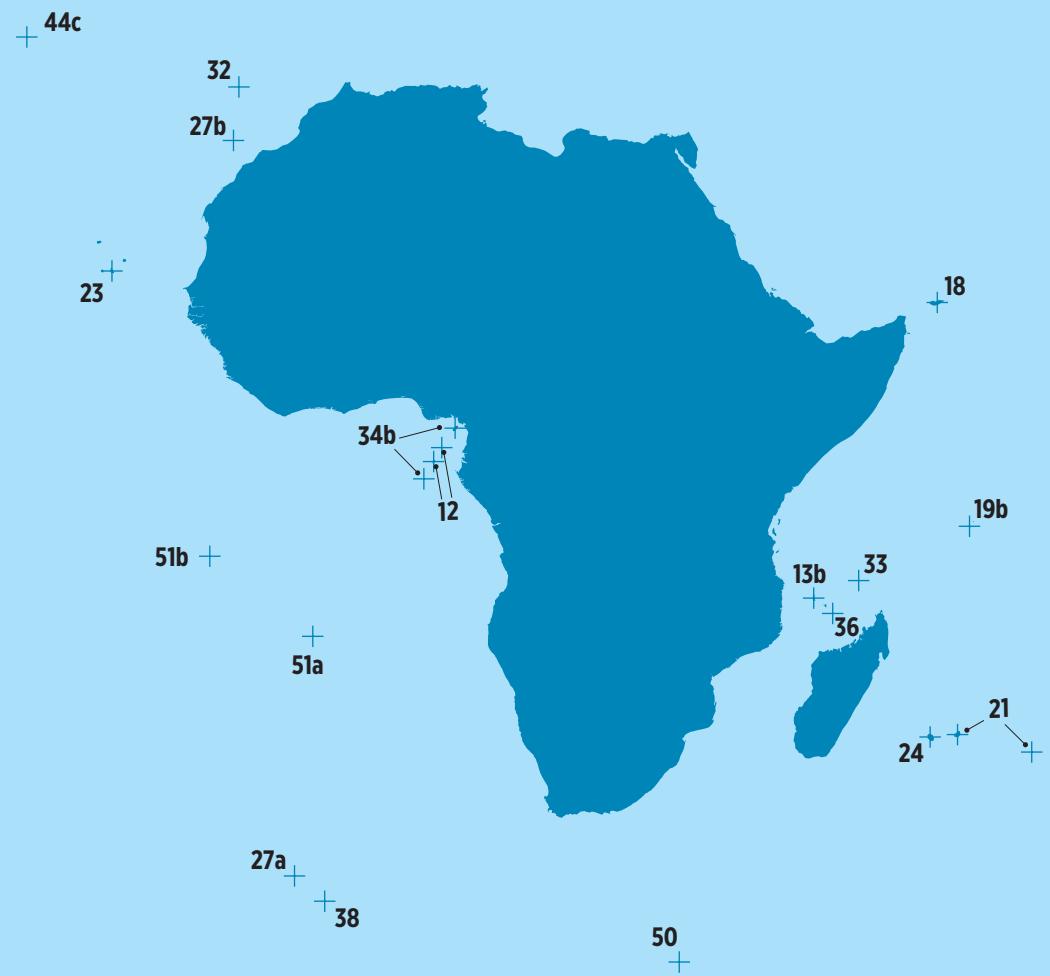
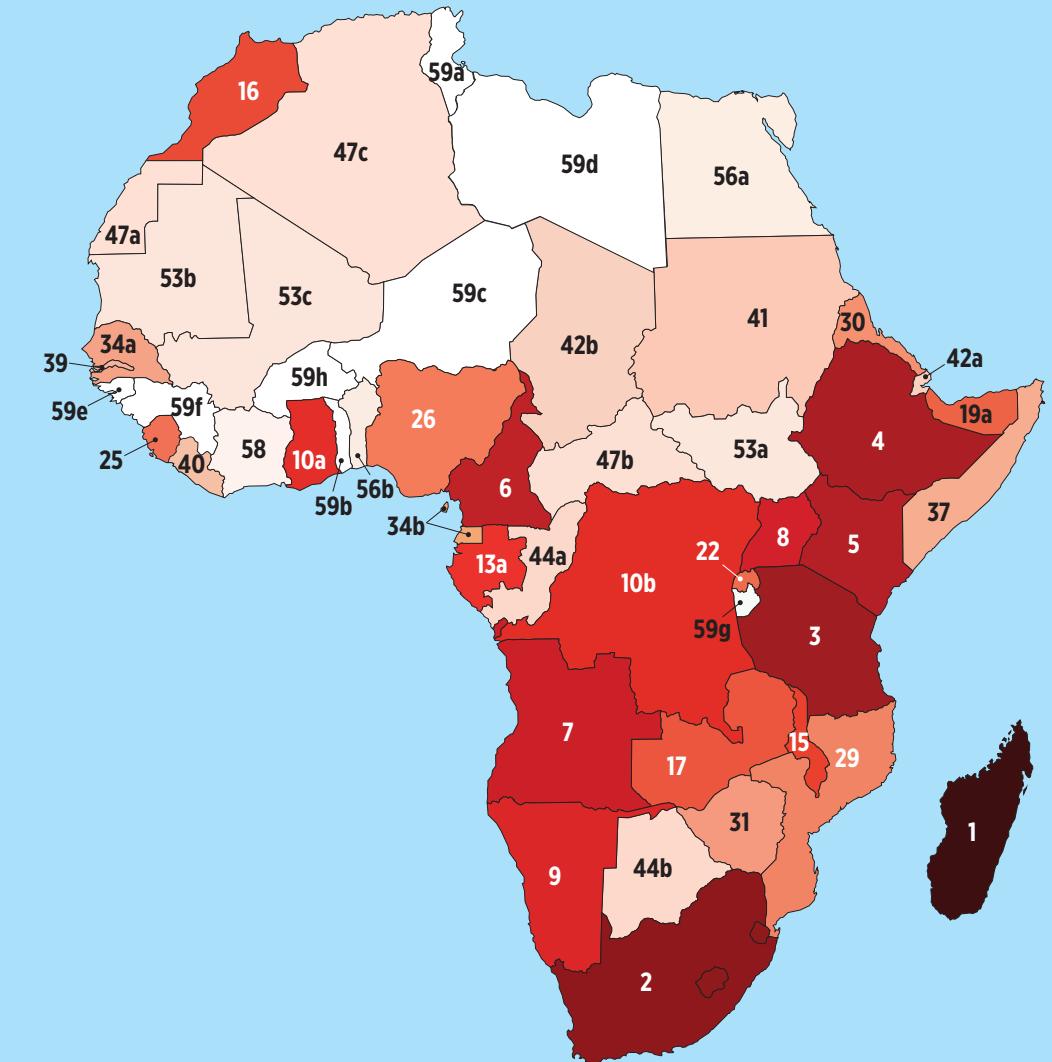
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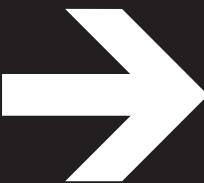


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## WEBSITES & EMAIL GROUPS

*Africa Infrastructure Knowledge Program* <<http://infrastructureafrica.opendataforafrica.org>>

*African Bird Club* <<https://www.africanbirdclub.org/>>

*African Birding Discussion Group* <<https://www.africanbirdclub.org/club/yahoo-group>>

*African Parks* <[http://www.african-parks.org/Park\\_6\\_43\\_Fauna+Flora.html](http://www.african-parks.org/Park_6_43_Fauna+Flora.html)>

*Aldabra Marine Programme* <<http://www.aldbabra.org>>

*Algerian Birds Yahoo Group* <<http://fr.groups.yahoo.com/group/oiseauxalgerie/>>

*Angola Birders Email Group* <<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/angolabirders>>

*Ascension Island Government* <<http://www ascension-island.gov.ac>>

*Association Nature Initiative* <<https://www.facebook.com/Association.Nature.Initiative>>

*Atlas of the Birds of Mauritania* <<http://atlasornmau.org/>>

*Azores Bird Club* <<http://www.birdingazores.com>>

*Bahr-el-Jebel Safaris* <<http://bahreljebelsafaris.blogspot.com.au>>

*Birding Africa* <<http://www.birdingafrica.com>>

*Bioko Biodiversity Protection Program* <<http://www.bioko.org>>

*Bird Watching in Senegal* <<http://birdwatchingsenegal.blogspot.com.au>>

*Birding Canarias* <<http://www.blog.birdingcanarias.com>>

*Birding in Rwanda* <<http://rwandabirdingguide.blogspot.com.au>>

*Birding Madeira* <<http://madeira.seawatching.net>>

*Birding Sudan* <<http://birdingsudan.blogspot.com.au>>

*Birding Tanzania* <<http://birdingtanzania.blogspot.com.au>>

*Birding Tunisia* <<https://www.facebook.com/Birding-Tunisia-294386720666390/>>

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*BirdLife South Africa Birding Routes* <<http://birdlife.org.za/gobirding/birding-routes>>

*Birds Angola* <<http://www.birdsangola.org>>

*Birdwatching in Eritrea* <[http://ibis.atwebpages.com/birdwatching\\_in\\_eritrea/](http://ibis.atwebpages.com/birdwatching_in_eritrea/)>

*Cape Birding Route* <<http://www.capecbirdingroute.org/>>  
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*Climate Data* <<http://en.climate-data.org/>>  
*Cloud Birders* <<http://cloudbirders.com>>  
*The Diamond Birding Route* <<http://www.diamondroute.com>>  
*Dzanga-Sangha NP* <<http://www.dzanga-sangha.org>>  
*Eastern Cape Birding* <<http://www.easterncapebirding.co.za>>  
*Ethiobirdsnet Yahoo Group* <<https://groups.yahoo.com/group/ethiobirdsnet>>  
*Foreign & Commonwealth Office Travel* <<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>>  
*Friends of Socotra* <<http://www.friendsofsocotra.org>>  
*Great Limpopo Birding Route* <<http://www.limpopobirding.com>>  
*Island Development Company* <<http://www.idc.sc>>  
*Kenya Birding Email Group* <<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/kenyabirding>>  
*Madeira Birds* <<http://www.madeirabirds.com>>  
*MaghrebOrnitho* <<http://www.magornitho.org>>  
*Mount Moco* <<http://www.mountmoco.org>>  
*Namibian Bird Club* <<http://www.namibiabirdclub.org>>  
*The Natural History Book Store* <<http://www.nhbs.com>>  
*Les Naturalistes de Mayotte* <<http://www.naturalistesmayotte.fr>>  
*Portuguese Rarities Committee* <<http://www.spea.pt/en/birdwatching/portuguese-rarities-committee/>>

*Reunion Island* <<http://www.reunionisland.net>>  
*Reunion Tourist Board* <<http://en.reunion.fr>>  
*Royal Mail Ship* <<http://rms-st-helena.com>>  
*Sahara Conservation Fund* <<http://saharaconservation.org>>  
*SGTM* <<http://www.sgtm.com/fr>>  
*St Helena Government* <<http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/visitors>>  
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*Southern African Bird Atlas Project* <<http://sabap2.adu.org.za>>  
*Southern African Birding* <<http://wiki.sabirding.co.za>>  
*Southern African Birdnet* <<http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/sabirdnet/info>>  
*Tanzania Bird Atlas* <<http://tanzaniabirds.net>>  
*Tanzania Bird Email Group* <<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/tanzaniabirds/info>>  
*Tiwai Island* <<http://www.tiwaiisland.org>>  
*The Tristan da Cunha Website* <<http://www.tristandc.com>>  
*XE Currency* <<http://www.xe.com>>  
*Xeno Canto* <<http://www.xeno-canto.org>>

*West African Bird Database* <<http://www.wabdab.org>>  
*Wiki Travel* <<http://www.wikitravel.org>>  
*Zululand Birding Route* <<http://www.zululandbirdingroute.co.za>>  
**BIRD LIFE PARTNERS**  
Aldabra: see Seychelles  
Ascension Island: see St Helena  
Botswana: *BirdLife Botswana* <<http://www.birdlifebotswana.org.bw>>  
Azores: *The Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds* <<http://www.spea.pt/en>>  
Burkina Faso: *Fondation des Amis de la Nature* <<http://www.naturama.bf>>  
Burundi: *Association Burundaise pour la protection de la Nature*  
Cameroon: *Cameroon Biodiversity Conservation Society*  
Canary Islands: *SEO Birdlife* <<http://www.seo.org>>  
Djibouti: *Djibouti Nature* <<http://www.djiboutinature.org>>  
Egypt: *Nature Conservation Egypt* <<http://sites.google.com/site/natconegy>>  
Ethiopia: *Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society* <<http://www.ewnhs.org.et>>  
Ghana: *Ghana Wildlife Society* <<http://www.ghanawildlifesociety.org>>  
Gough Island: see St Helena  
Ivory Coast: *SOS-FORETS* <<http://www.sosforets.ci>>  
Kenya: *Nature Kenya* <<http://www.naturekenya.org>>  
Liberia: *The Society for Conservation of Nature in Liberia* <<http://www.scnliberia.org>>  
Madagascar: *Asity Madagascar* <<http://www.asity-madagascar.org>>

Madeira Islands: *The Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds* <<http://www.spea.pt/en>>  
Malawi: *Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi* <<http://www.wildlifemalawi.org>>  
Mayotte Island: *Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux* <<http://www.lpo.fr>>  
Morocco: *Groupe de Recherche pour la Protection des Oiseaux au Maroc* <<http://www.grepom.org>>  
Mauritania: *Nature Mauritania* <<http://www.natmau.mr>>  
Nigeria: *Nigerian Conservation Foundation* <<http://www.ncfnigeria.org>>  
Réunion Island: *Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux* <<http://www.lpo.fr>>  
Rwanda: *Association pour la Conservation de la Nature au Rwanda* <<http://www.acnrwanda.org>>  
St Helena: *The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds* <<https://www.rspb.org.uk>>  
Seychelles: *Nature Seychelles* <<http://www.natureseychelles.org>>  
Sierra Leone: *The Conservation Society of Sierra Leone* <<http://www.conservationsocietysl.org>>  
South Africa: *BirdLife South Africa* <<http://birdlife.org.za>>  
Mauritius: *Mauritius Wildlife Foundation* <<http://www.mauritian-wildlife.org>>  
Tunisia: *Association Les Amis des Oiseaux* <<http://www.aao.org.tn>>  
Uganda: *Nature Uganda* <<http://www.natureuganda.org>>  
Western Sahara: see Morocco.  
Zambia: *BirdWatch Zambia* <<http://www.birdwatchzambia.org>>  
Zimbabwe: *BirdLife Zimbabwe* <<http://www.birdlifezimbabwe.org>>

**APPS**

*Collins Bird Guide App.* Available for Apple from App Store and Android from Google Play.

*eGuide to Birds of East Africa.* Available for Apple from App Store, Android from Google Play and Windows from Microsoft Store.

*eGuide to Mammals of Southern Africa.* Available for Apple from App Store, Android from Google Play and Windows from Microsoft Store.

*Kingdon eMammals of Africa.* Available for Apple from App Store and Windows from Microsoft Store.

*Rare Bird Alert.* Available for Apple from App Store and Android from Google Play.

*Roberts VII Multimedia Birds of Southern Africa.* Available for Apple from App Store and Android from Google Play.

*Sasol eBirds of Southern Africa.* Available for Apple from App Store, Android from Google Play and Windows from Microsoft Store.

King Quail *Excalfactoria chinensis*: native to India, se Asia & Australia. Introduced to Réunion & Mauritius (likely extinct).

Jungle Bush Quail *Perdicula asiatica*: native to India. Introduced to Réunion.

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*: native to India and se Asia. Introduced to Réunion.

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*: native to Asia. Introduced to St Helena, Azores, Canary Islands, Morocco and Madeira.

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*: native to India. Feral populations exist in South Africa.

African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*: native to Africa. Introduced to Canary Islands.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*: native to Africa & Eurasia. Introduced to St Helena.

Madagascar Buttonquail *Turnix nigricollis*: native to Madagascar. The population on Juan de Nova Is thought to be introduced.

Rock Dove *Columba livia*: native to North Africa & Eurasia. Introduced birds, called Feral Pigeon, can be found throughout sub-Saharan Africa and on many islands.

Madagascar Turtle Dove *Nesoenas picturatus picturatus*: native to Madagascar. Introduced to Mauritius, Réunion and the granitic Seychelles. It hybridises with the local subspecies (*rostrata*) in the Seychelles.

African Collared Dove *Streptopelia roseogrisea*: native to Africa. Introduced to Canary Islands.

Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis*: native to s Asia. Introduced to Mauritius.

Laughing Dove *Spilopelia senegalensis*: native to Africa, the Middle East & India. Introduced to Mauritius.

Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata*: native to se Asia. Introduced to Seychelles, Réunion, Mauritius & St Helena Is.

Western Barn Owl *Tyto alba*: native to Africa, Eurasia and the Americas. Introduced to Seychelles & St Helena.

Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus*: native to Australia. There is a feral population at Santa Cruz on Tenerife, Canary Islands (extinct?).

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*: native to Africa north of the equator and India. Introduced to Mauritius, Réunion, South Africa, Djibouti, Morocco & Macaronesia.

Red-headed Lovebird *Agapornis pullarius*: native to Africa. Introduced to São Tomé Is.

Fischer's Lovebird *Agapornis fischeri*: endemic to Tanzania. Feral populations exist in Kenya.

Yellow-collared Lovebird *Agapornis personatus*: endemic to Tanzania. Feral populations exist in Kenya.

Senegal Parrot *Poicephalus senegalus*: native to West Africa. Introduced to Canary Islands.

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus*: native to South America. Introduced to Canary Islands.

Nanday Parakeet *Aratinga nenday*: native to South America. Introduced to Canary Islands.

House Crow *Corvus splendens*: native to India. Introduced to the east coast of Africa, Mauritius and Madagascar.

Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus*: native to s Asia. Introduced to Mauritius, Réunion, Canary Islands & Seychelles.

Red-billed Leiothrix *Leiothrix lutea*: native to e Asia. Introduced to Réunion & Canary Islands.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*: native to s Asia. Introduced to South Africa and many islands.

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*: native to the Palearctic. Introduced to South Africa.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*: native to the Palearctic. Introduced to sub-Saharan Africa and many islands.

## Species Appendices

### INTRODUCED & FERAL

This is a list of introduced birds with extant populations in the region. It does not include reintroductions or introductions of native birds to other parts of a territory, made usually for conservation purposes on islands.

Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*: native to Africa, India and the Americas. Introduced to Réunion.

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*: native to Africa & South America. Introduced to Mauritius.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*: native to South America. Introduced to Canary Islands.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*: native to the northern hemisphere, including North Africa. Introduced to South Africa & Mauritius.

Meller's Duck *Anas melleri*: native to Madagascar. Introduced to Mauritius.

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*: native to Africa. Introduced to Cape Verde, Azores, Canary Islands, Madagascar, Mauritius & Comoros.

Northern Bobwhite *Colinus virginianus*: native to North America. Introduced to Azores.

Chukar Partridge *Alectoris chukar*: native to the Middle East & Asia. Introduced to Robben Is in South Africa & St Helena Is.

Barbary Partridge *Alectoris barbara*: native to North Africa. Introduced to Canary Islands.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*: native to sw Europe. Introduced to Algeria, Azores, Madeira & Canary Islands.

Grey Francolin *Francolinus pondicerianus*: native to India. Introduced to Mauritius, Réunion, Seychelles & St Helena Is.

Red-necked Spurfowl *Pternistis afer*: native to Africa. Introduced to Ascension.

Madagascar Partridge *Margaroperdix madagascariensis*: native to Madagascar. Introduced to Réunion & Mauritius, but possibly extinct.

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*: native to Africa, Madagascar & Eurasia. Introduced to Mauritius & Réunion.

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*: native to the w Palaearctic. Introduced to Madeira.

Spotted-backed Weaver *Ploceus collaris*: native to East & Southern Africa. Introduced to Mauritius & Réunion.

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*: native to Africa. Introduced to Réunion.

Streaked Weaver *Ploceus manyar*: native to s Asia. Introduced to the Nile Delta in Egypt.

Madagascar Fody *Foudia madagascariensis*: native to Madagascar. Introduced to most other Indian Ocean Islands & St Helena.

Golden-backed Bishop *Euplectes aureus*: native to Angola. Introduced to São Tomé.

Blue Waxbill *Uraeginthus angolensis*: native to Southern Africa. Introduced to São Tomé Is.

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*: native to Africa. Introduced to many islands.

Orange-cheeked Waxbill *Estrilda melpoda*: native to Africa. Introduced to Canary Islands.

Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava*: native to se Asia & India. Introduced to Nile Delta in Egypt, Canary Islands & Réunion.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*: native to s Asia. Introduced to Réunion & Mauritius.

Java Sparrow *Lonchura oryzivora*: native to Java Is of Indonesia. Introduced to St Helena and Pemba & Zanzibar Is off Tanzania.

Indian Silverbill *Euodice malabarica*: native to India. Introduced to the Middle East from where it spread into Egypt.

Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*: native to Africa. Introduced to Réunion.

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*: native to the Palaearctic. Introduced to sw South Africa (*gengleri*).

Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambica*: native to Africa. Introduced to Mauritius & Réunion.

Yellow Canary *Crithagra flaviventris*: native to Southern Africa. Introduced to St Helena & Ascension.

Cape Canary *Serinus canicollis*: native to Southern Africa. Introduced to Réunion.

European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*: native to the Palaearctic. Introduced to Azores.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*: native to the Palaearctic. Introduced Azores.

## UNCONFIRMED

This incomplete list includes sp that have been reported for the region, but for which the identification or origin (captive versus wild) is in question.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*: recorded from Morocco, where thought to have escaped from a wildfowl collection.

Falcated Duck *Anas falcata*: one record from the Canary Islands is probably of a bird escaped from captivity.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*: records from North Africa are probably of vagrant feral birds from s Europe.

Fulmar Prion *Pachyptila crassirostris*: one specimen collected in 1841 labelled as from 'Cape of Good Hope' may have been incorrectly labelled.

Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella certhiola*: one claimed sight record from Morocco.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja*: one unconfirmed report from the Azores.

Balearic Warbler *Sylvia balearica*: breeds on the Balearic Is off Spain and may occasionally visit the adjacent North African coastline. There are not any records yet.

Italian Sparrow *Passer italiae*: may occasionally occur in North Africa.

## Glossary and Abbreviations

\* - symbol indicating endemism (see pp 127 and 277 for details of usage and colours)

1/2 - One-of-Two territories (see p 278)

ATM - Automated Teller Machine (banking)

B2 - Best-Two territories (see p 278)

br - breeding

BT - Best-Territory (see p 278)

c - central

CAR - Central African Republic

**conspecific** - the same species

DNA - Deoxyribonucleic acid; the molecule that carries genetic instructions/codes

DR Congo - Democratic Republic of Congo

e / ec - eastern / eastern-central

EBA - Endemic Bird Area

EN - Endemic (see p 278)

**endemic** - confined geographically to a specific area or region

ESS - Endemic Sub-Species

GR - Game Reserve

GBP - British Pound (Sterling)

IAM - Intra-African Migrant

ID - identification

IOC - International Ornithological Committee

Is - Island or Islands

Mt / Mts - Mountain / Mountains

**molecular phylogeny** - an evolutionary tree constructed from molecular data, such as DNA

**monotypic** - of only one type; usually used when a species has only one subspecies, or a genus has only one species

N= notes on species (in red text)

n / nc / ne / nw - northern / north-central / north-eastern / north-western

NE - Near-Endemic (see p 278)

NP - National Park

NR - Nature Reserve

**paraphyletic** - of multiple origins; members of a group are not each other's closest relatives

**parent taxon/parent species** - the species or subspecies described first. This means that its scientific name takes priority if other species are lumped with it. The specific name of parent species is reported in square parentheses for splits from the IOC List

PM - Palaearctic Migrant

Res - Reserve

**sister taxon** - the closest relative; generally a species or subspecies

s / sc / se / sw - southern / south-central / south-eastern / south-western

SA - depends on the context; either South Africa or Secondary Area (in reference to Endemic Bird Areas)

sp - species

**specific name** - scientific names are usually given as a binomial; the first part is the genus name, the second part the specific name

SSA - Sub-Saharan Africa

**sympatric** - occurring together

**trinomial** - the scientific name is given in three parts, the usual genus and specific name, followed by the subspecies name.

USD - United States Dollar

UK - United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland

w / wc - western - western / western-central

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Blackcap	249, 447	Darter	153, 306	156, 307–13	
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Broadbill	209, 379	Duck	132, 280	Honeyguide	205, 370–1
Brownbul	234, 415	Eagle	156, 307–12	Hoopoe	195, 196, 362–3
Brubru	214, 389	Eagle-Owl	182, 348	Hornbill	199, 200, 363–6
Bulbul	234, 411–7	Egret	147, 302–3	Hylia	241, 424
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\*Ranks are the ranks of the Bird Importance Score for each territory; see p 9 for details. This map includes only smaller island territories; see the inside front cover for mainland states and Madagascar.